ALEX ZHAO

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley *Expected May 2021*

B.S. Electrical Engineering & Computer Science/B.S. Business Administration
Management, Entrepreneurship, & Technology Program (M.E.T.)
Honors: Regent's & Chancellors' Scholar, Dean's List from 2018-19, Accel Scholars 2020-21, EECS Honors Program

Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR) August 2019 - present
Undergraduate Researcher *Berkeley, CA*

· Develop a simulation framework (github.com/berkeley-reclab) for evaluating fairness & accuracy of recommender systems with Ben Recht & Michael I. Jordan.

Berkeley Laboratory for Information & System Sciences (BLISS)) August 2019 - present
Undergraduate Researcher *Berkeley, CA*

· Work with Kannan Ramchandran & Yaoqing Yang to construct novel neural pruning algorithm for boosting model robustness against adversarial perturbations (conference submission pending).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Coral Genomics June 2020 - August 2020
Machine Learning Intern *San Francisco, CA*
YCombinator-funded startup applying artificial intelligence to personalize medicine

· Collaborate with two other engineers to create computational pipeline for product launch.
· Develop novel autoencoder model for genotype imputation on 1000 Genomes data and patient samples.
· Devise unsupervised clustering methods for high-dimensional clinical genotype data with missing values.

Zalando June 2019 - August 2019
Data Science Intern *Berlin, Germany*
Largest e-commerce company based in Europe, headquartered in Berlin

· Applied machine learning models in Pytorch to customize size & fit recommendations for customers, outperforming existing models across all accuracy metrics.
· Co-authored paper on recommendation algorithms (accepted at Workshop on Recommender Systems in Fashion 2020).

Pivotal Software May 2018 - August 2018
Software Engineering Intern *San Francisco, CA*

· Updated & integrated command line interface written in Golang to support new Cloud Controller API.
· Pair-programmed daily with small team for 12 weeks on Cloud Foundry, an open source multi-cloud platform.
· Gained experience in distributed architecture, test-driven development, & continuous deployment to AWS & GCP.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The Daily Californian February 2020 - present
Data Journalist | Projects Editor *Berkeley, CA*

· Report on challenges in higher education through data-driven journalism (dailycal.org/author/alexzhao/).
· Analyze data & create compelling visualizations in Tableau & D3.js to tell stories in a web-first format.

Berkeley Consulting September 2017 - present
Internal Vice President | Project Manager *Berkeley, CA*
Student-run consulting firm working with Fortune 500 companies, startups, & non-profits

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

K. Hajjar, J. Laserre, **A. Zhao**, R. Shirvany, "Attention Gets You the Right Size & Fit in Fashion." Paper presented at *Workshop on Recommender Systems in Fashion at Recsys*, 2020.

K. Krauth, **A.Zhao***, S. Dean*, W. Guo*, M. Curmei*, B. Recht, M. Jordan, "Do Offline Metrics Predict Online Performance in Recommender Systems?" Paper presented at *NeurIPS Workshop on Consequential Decision Making in Dynamic Environments*, 2020.

A. Zhao, K. Monroe. "Integrative Complexity in Election Cycles: Lessons from American Presidential Candidates." *Annual Conference of the International Society on Political Psychology*, 2017.