

# ALEX ZHAO

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## EDUCATION

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### University of California, Berkeley

*Expected May 2021*

B.S. Electrical Engineering & Computer Science/B.S. Business Administration || GPA: 3.75/4.00

Management, Entrepreneurship, & Technology Program (M.E.T.)

Honors: Regent's & Chancellors' Scholar, Dean's List from 2018-19

## EXPERIENCE

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### Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR)

August 2019 - present

#### *Undergraduate Researcher*

*Berkeley, CA*

- Develop an environment for online, feedback-aware evaluation of new recommendation systems with Professor Michael Jordan (named world's most influential computer scientist by *Science*) & the BAIR group.
- Evaluate different recommender systems based on rating accuracy, algorithmic fairness, & performance on sparse data in the context of dynamic user behavior.
- Perform research on robust machine learning to identify fault-tolerant image features resistant to malicious attackers.
- Experiment with domain generalization techniques as defense against adversarial perturbations in image classification.

### Zalando

June 2019 - August 2019

#### *Data Science Intern*

*Berlin, Germany*

*Largest e-commerce company based in Europe, headquartered in Berlin*

- Applied machine learning models to customize size & fit recommendations for customers, outperforming existing models across all accuracy metrics.
- Co-authored paper on attention-based recommendation algorithms & submitted to *ACM SIGIR* Conference 2020 (currently under review).
- Built end-to-end data pipeline to pull raw data from Exasol database, process data, & train deep learning models.
- Coded machine learning model from scratch in PyTorch based on recent deep learning publications in attention-based natural language processing (Vaswani et al, 2017).

### Pivotal Software

May 2018 - August 2018

#### *Software Engineering Intern*

*San Francisco, CA*

- Pair-programmed daily with small team for 12 weeks on Cloud Foundry, an open source multi-cloud platform.
- Updated & integrated command line interface written in Golang to support new Cloud Controller API.
- Released 3 new command line interface versions (v6.37.0-6.39.0) for general deployment with over a million downloads.
- Gained experience in distributed architecture, test-driven development, & continuous deployment to AWS & GCP.
- Developed continuous integration pipelines to enable agile rapid deployment at scale for component teams.

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

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### Berkeley Consulting

September 2017 - present

#### *Internal Vice President*

*Berkeley, CA*

*Student-run consulting firm working with Fortune 500 companies, startups, & non-profits (bc.berkeley.edu)*

- Designed & built public-facing website for national non-profit lobbying for CO2 removal.
- Created data visualizations for client's presentation to Senate Environment & Public Works Committee in April 2018 (sample available at axyzhao.github.io).

### The Daily Californian

December 2019 - present

#### *Data Journalist*

*Berkeley, CA*

- Analyze data & create visualizations in Tableau & D3.js to tell stories for the data desk (projects.dailycal.org/)
- Publish & maintain stories on website with thousands of daily visitors through HTML/CSS & Ruby on Rails.
- Currently analyzing prosecutorial data from California's Justice Department to find disparities in law enforcement in different neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area.

## SKILLS

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### Computer Languages

Python, Golang, Java, C/C++, SQL, Lisp

### Tools

git, PyTorch, tensorflow, data visualization (D3.js, matplotlib, & Tableau), AWS/GCP, Apache Spark, Google BigQuery