# Ben Zhang

ben.zhang@uwaterloo.ca benzhang.xyz (7) /ben-z

(Some also call me "Chuan Tian")

#### TL;DR

- · Hands-on experience with autonomous vehicles from working with WATonomous (a student team in the AutoDrive challenge) and Waterloo Autonomous Racing (a student team in the Indy Autonomous Challenge).
- Previously Bachelor of Computer Science, AI Option @ UWaterloo (graduated in 2020).
- Received an "Outstanding" (highest) evaluation on University of Waterloo's coop system during all 5 work terms.
- Able to quickly adapt to and thrive in different work environments through experiences at companies of all sizes.
- Practical understanding of embedded systems and real-time programming obtained through building a real-time microkernel from scratch in CS 452 (Real-Time Programming, aka "Trains").

#### **Serious Stuff**

#### Team Captain @ Waterloo Autonomous Racing

July. 2020 - present

Autonomous vehicles for racing, with a focus on planning and control.

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

- Integrated and improved upon a Nonlinear Model Predictive Path Following Controller.
- Set up the infrastructure for communicating with the simulator, racing line optimization, docker-based development environment, website, data pipeline, and the data visualization platform.
- The team placed 4th (out of 18 teams) in the 3rd mini-competition in Jan. 2021.

#### Path Planning @ WATonomous

Jan. 2020 - present

Member: Jan.-Apr. 2020, Manager: May-Aug. 2020, Advisor: Sep. 2020-Waterloo, Ontario, Canada present

- Implemented efficient obstacle avoidance algorithms by generating trajectories in the Frenet frame.
- Experimented with PID and Model Predictive Control algorithms.
- Introduced Dockerized development environment to the team. This enabled everyone to work remotely during the pandemic.

#### Software Engineer (Intern) @ Apple Inc.

May 2019 - Aug. 2019

"He is a self motivated, focused engineer who strives to look at problems Cupertino, California in depth..."

- Implemented network bandwidth prediction infrastructure and bandwidth recording optimizations that improved the time to reach HD and UHD tiers by over 30% in Apple's HTTP Live Streaming video
- Created a Media Source Extensions conformance suite to streamline the certification process for external hardware.

#### Software Engineer (Intern) @ Hive.AI

Jan. 2019 - Apr. 2019

"Ben is the best intern we have ever had on our team and one of the strongest engineers at the company."

San Francisco, California

- Rewrote a data export pipeline and over 50x'd the speed for large exports by making use of idle resources and optimizing caching and concurrency.
- Invented a polygon consensus algorithm using vertex-voting and multi-density clustering techniques. This algorithm landed the company multiple large-scale projects.
- Implemented a Node JS Streams library with batching, bucketing and concurrency control capabilities.

## Languages & Frameworks

Experienced So-so Novice



**J**avascript

React

A C

Node.js ARM asm C++

Python Docker SQL

OCaml PHP **D** Java

Bash **▼** Nix

**I** Go Swift

#### **Not-So-Serious Stuff**

# Free Sidecar

- Enables Sidecar on Unsupported iPads and Macs running iPadOS 13 and macOS Catalina.
- Received 700+ stars and 30K+ downloads on GitHub.

## Vocode (Hackathon Project)

- 100% voice-enabled, Javascript-based text editor. Powered by Nuance's Natural Language Understanding
- First place winner of the Nuance API prize at McHacks 2016.

# Waterloo Warriors Band (nontechy, ongoing)

- Lead trumpeter
- Deputy Chief Centurion (Vice-president) and Technomancer (Webmaster)