

Aaron Gonzales

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Summary

Data and machine learning professional with a blend of statistics, machine learning, engineering, research, and leadership skills who is comfortable working across the machine-learning lifecycle.

Selected Experience



Senior Machine Learning Research Engineer, Twitter

June 2020 –current

Remote - USA

Tech Lead for the Machine Learning Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability (META) team tasked with Responsible Machine Learning development and research at Twitter.

- As a technical lead, provided process improvement, technical guidance, mentorship, review, roadmap planning, and organization-wide improvements.
- Designed and built a data collection system that automated enabled researchers to measure phenomenon more rapidly. Reduced time for future research projects **from months of manual effort to < 1 week**.
- Led workstream to design and build tools for machine learning practitioners to identify weaknesses in model performance that have been used internally by multiple teams.
- Presented at conferences (ACM FAccT [2], The Data Science Conference [3]) about building and scaling an applied ML research team.
- Active member of company working groups that support Python development, data infrastructure problems, and Latinx employees.



Senior Data Scientist, Twitter

May 2019 –June 2020

Boulder, CO

Tech Lead for the Health data science team, which worked on anti-abuse, spam, fake accounts, and misinformation problems at Twitter.

- As tech lead, provided process improvement, mentorship, technical guidance, roadmap planning, and organization-wide improvements.
- Developed tooling, education, and processes that allowed data scientists to work more effectively with heterogeneous data sources. Tools are still used by hundreds of unique data scientists and ML engineers per week.
- Formed team to support formal development of tools for data scientists to work more effectively.
- Developed measurement strategy and pipeline for estimating numbers of compromised accounts on the platform.
- Served as a Global Lead for Twitter's Alas BRG for Hispanic and Latinx employees, as a co-chair for our Latinx engineers group at Twitter, and on company working group for large data architecture problems.



Data Scientist, Twitter

July 2017 –May 2019

Boulder, CO

Worked with the Developer and Enterprise Solutions group to help improve Twitter's developer platform, vet new product ideas, and make datasets that enabled teams to generate insights and make decisions quickly.

- Developed an open-source python API for our premium and enterprise search products ([6]) which has been downloaded and used many thousands of times.
- Led project to develop real-world guides using Twitter data to help external developers and data scientists build their own solutions with Twitter data products [8].
- Identified clusters of applications abusing Twitter's APIs using time-series mining, allowing programmatic action to be taken against offenders.
- Identified risk factors in developer applications to enable programmatic review of applications to use Twitter APIs.



Data Scientist, TripAdvisor

July 2016–July 2017

Greater Boston Area, MA

Data Scientist for the Vacation Rentals group building scalable models to tackle business problems.

- Designed and built a computer vision system that includes models to detect people, content (e.g., beach, bedroom, kitchen), and rate aesthetic quality.
- Above system was adopted by other groups at TripAdvisor and powered multiple systems. In Vacation Rentals, it lead to a **4.8% increases** in primary click-through rate metric and a **10.4% increase** in return on ad spend.
- Built an app that enables natural-language queries (e.g. "girls getaway") to find collections of destinations, which led to a **6.1% improvement** in a primary metric and was used by many teams.
- Developed methods to extract high-information snippets from reviews to display on search-result pages to boost SEO rankings.
- Developed a common team codebase providing shared tools, common access methods, and other utility code that allowed our data scientists and engineers to get up-to-speed more quickly and iterate faster on projects.



Data Scientist Intern, TripAdvisor

Summer 2015

Greater Boston Area, MA

Data scientist intern with the Vacation Rentals team. Developed a novel ranking system for 720,000+ rental properties and used gradient-boosting machines to predict how well new properties will perform.

- The model scaled with millions of daily visitors and self-tunes to fluctuations in visitor usage patterns.
- A/B testing showed that the model **increased a key visitor conversion rate by 3.46%, decreased visitor bounce rate by 0.46%, and increase revenue per visitor by 9.57%.**
- The model was put into production across all of TripAdvisor Vacation Rentals' sites

Analyst/Programmer, The University of New Mexico

2011–2014

Albuquerque, NM

Lead analyst in a neuroscience research lab run by Elaine Bearer, MD—PhD, managing various research projects and lab members.

- Streamlined lab data processing and analytical techniques, including a method that speed up a critical data processing step by approximately 360x (3 hours to 30 seconds). Implemented numerous other batch data processing steps for other tasks.
- Designed and conducted a pilot study that helped win a \$2.7 million dollar NIH R01 grant to study the etiology of post traumatic stress disorder.
- Lead author on several research papers, three conference abstracts and presentations, coauthor on many more submitted and pending papers and abstracts.
- Trained and mentored 10 undergraduate and graduate student employees and volunteers.

Education

Master of Science, Computer Science

2016

The University of New Mexico

3.7 cumulative GPA

Concentration in data mining and machine learning.

Bachelor of Science, Psychology

2010

The University of New Mexico

Concentration in neuroscience; minored in computer science.

Selected Publications

References

- [1] Measuring disparate outcomes of content recommendation algorithms with distributional inequality metrics
Tomo Lazovich, Luca Belli, **Gonzales, Aaron**, Amanda Bower, Uthaiapon Tantipongpipat, Kristian Lum, Ferenc Huszár, Rumman Chowdhury
Patterns (N Y) 3.8 (Aug. 2022) p. 100568. Elsevier BV

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- . [2] Research, Meet Engineering or: How i stopped worrying about scaling and love the process
Aaron Gonzales, Luca Belli. Conference Talk, ACM FAccT, 2022
 - [3] Enabling, Accelerating, and Scaling Data Science for ML Ethics
Aaron Gonzales. Invited Talk, The Data Science Conference, 2022
 - [4] Investing in privacy enhancing tech to advance transparency in ML
Aaron Gonzales, Rumman Chowdhury. Company blog post, Twitter, Inc., 2022. (https://blog.twitter.com/engineering/en_us/topics/insights/2022/investing-in-privacy-enhancing-tech-to-advance-transparency-in-ML)
 - . [5] Unraveling Network-Induced Memory Contention: Deeper Insights with Machine Learning
Taylor Liles Groves, Ryan E. Grant, **Gonzales, Aaron**, Dorian Arnold
IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems 29.8 (2018) pp. 1907–1922
 - . [6] Search Tweets Python library
Aaron Gonzales, Fiona Pigott, Jim Moffitt, Josh Montague. Python library, Twitter, Inc., 2018. (<https://github.com/twitterdev/search-tweets-python>)
 - . [7] Alterations of functional circuitry in aging brain and the impact of mutated APP expression.
Elaine L Bearer, Brett C Manifold-Wheeler, Christopher S Medina, **Aaron Gonzales**, Frances L Chaves, Russel E Jacobs
Neurobiol. Aging 70 (Oct. 2018) pp. 276–290
 - . [8] Do more with Twitter data: Evaluating time series and identifying trends
Aaron Gonzales. Company blog post, Twitter, Inc., 2018. (https://blog.twitter.com/developer/en_us/topics/tips/2018/evaluating-time-series-and-identifying-trends)
 - . [9] Automated computational processing of 3D MR images of mouse brain for phenotyping of living animals.
C S Medina, B Manifold-Wheeler, **A Gonzales**, E L Bearer
Curr Protoc Mol Biol 119.29A (July 2017) pp. 1–29
 - . [11] A simple, rapid process for semi-automated brain extraction from magnetic resonance images of the whole mouse head
Adam Delora*, **Aaron Gonzales***, Christopher S Medina, Adam Mitchell, Abdul Faheem Mohed, Russell E Jacobs, Elaine L Bearer
Journal of Neuroscience Methods (2015). * - these authors contributed equally
 - . [13] A Principled Approach to HPC Monitoring
A. Gonzales, Michael Mason, Prabhu Khasla, Abdullah Mueen, Dorian Arnold
4th Workshop on Extreme-Scale Programming Tools at Supercomputing 2015, 2015, Austin, Texas
 - . [19] Quantitative measurements and modeling of cargo-motor interactions during fast transport in the living axon
Pamela E Seamster, Michael Loewenberg, Jennifer Pascal, Arnaud Chauviere, **Aaron Gonzales**, Vittorio Cristini, Elaine L Bearer
Physical Biology 9.5 (2012) p. 055005

Other Interests and Accolades

Olympic Weightlifting

- 2014 New Mexico Games: Gold Medalist, 94kg class
- 2013 New Mexico Games: Silver Medalist, 85kg class
- 2013 Barnholth Memorial Invitational: Silver Medalist, 85kg class