

DENIZ TURKCAPAR

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EDUCATION

The University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

Cumulative GPA: 3.4 / 4.0

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Data Science Specialization in Economics

Expected, Jun 2021

Honors & Accomplishments: Facebook University Data Analytics Batch Day Finalist 2019, Google Engineering Practicum Finalist 2019, Dean's List 2017-2019 (awarded to highest-achieving students at University of Chicago), Jeff Metcalf Fellow 2017-2019, University of Chicago Grace Hopper Scholarship (awarded to highest-achieving 5 students in a STEM field)

SKILLS AND RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Skills: Fluent in Python, SQL, R, Java, Ruby; experienced in C, STATA, JavaScript, C++, Arduino C, statistical modeling, A/B testing, market/user research, project management

Technologies: Kafka, Linux, Kubernetes, Docker, Capistrano, Git, Jenkins, AWS (Amazon EMR & S3)

Relevant Courses: Intro to Software Development, Data Science for Computer Scientists, Big Data Analysis, Discrete Math, Statistical Models/Methods, Intro to Computer Science I-II, Linear Algebra, Calculus I-II-III

WORK EXPERIENCE

PayPal

Chicago, IL

Software Engineering Intern in the Data Engineering Division

Jun 2019 - Aug 2019

- Implemented a Cronjob in Kubernetes to send heartbeat messages every 5 seconds and defined a DataDog plug-in, enabling the team to have data on Kafka topic lags in an interactive graph in terms of seconds of lag rather than message count for the first time
- Created and deployed sane memory related defaults and a dynamically adjusting heap size for certain topics in Kafka to eliminate crash loop back off completely in Kubernetes pods
- Maintained Kafka replication over multiple data centers and AWS regions to make all Kafka data (across physical data centers & AWS) readily accessible to all teams and applications

Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics

Chicago, IL

Data Scientist

Sep 2018 - Jun 2019

- Performed data cleaning and exploration using Python, R, and SQL to investigate the influence of the perception of Saudi husbands on the female labor force participation in Saudi Arabia
- Implemented scalable algorithms for similarity detection across analysis units with ~60% gain in speed
- Worked on feature engineering and analyzed several datasets in detail to detect anomalies, outliers, and underlying patterns to increase model performance

Girls Who Code

San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Teaching Assistant

Jun 2018 - Aug 2018

- Taught a class of 20 minority female high school students, all of whom later placed into top colleges to study computer science, utilizing a project-based curriculum on foundational computer science at Walmart Labs to develop programming skills and soft skills
- Self-taught Javascript and Arduino C before the start of the internship and mastered Javascript, HTML, and CSS through personal projects
- Mentored and assisted coding projects, including large scale data analysis projects using JSON files and development of an IOS mobile app

PROJECTS

Developing Kafka Tooling for managing and monitoring Kafka data replications and topics

Jun - Jul 2019

- Reduced load on Kafka brokers by 75% by implementing various Kafka tools, leading to reduction in redundant monitoring-mode time
- Designed and implemented a notification system infrastructure to alert all downstream dependents when a Kafka topic is misbehaving in a production environment using Capistrano task deployment system
- Set up a new cloud-based infrastructure to decrease load on Kafka brokers by 43% and keep Kafka tooling separate for other teams' usage

Predicting Yelp Elite status

Mar - Jun 2019

- Ingested large amounts of Yelp data via MapReduce jobs and used natural language processing (NLP) to assess whether elevated language in reviews help to become an Elite Yelp member
- Trained a logistic regression model using various hypothesized key factors to predict Elite status with 97.8% prediction accuracy
- Implemented a k-nearest-neighbors algorithm to find the most similar users with 95% accuracy in grouping Elite Yelp members together

Spellcheck tool that runs on Redis servers

Mar - Jun 2018

- Implemented a Trie data structure in C to efficiently spellcheck in an uploaded file in O(n) time
- Integrated the spellchecker tool to run on Redis servers to minimize latency and maximize performance via asynchronous replication

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

University of Chicago FEMMES (Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, and Science)

Chicago, IL

Executive Board Member, Events Lead, Professor Outreach Lead

Oct 2017 - Present

- Organized the design and weekly training sessions for the Tech Capstone event, which encourages female middle school students to get involved with computer science and technology fields
- Taught computer science concepts to middle school students and introduced them to the field of computer science