Ethan Chau

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
M.S., Computer Science
Expected Jun. 2021 | Seattle, WA
GPA: 4.00
B.S. with Distinction,
Computer Science (Data Science)
B.A., Linguistics
Sept. 2016 - Jun. 2020 | Seattle, WA
Thesis: Towards Resource-Efficient
Contextual Word Representations for
Parsing
GPA: 3.97 (CS), 3.98 (Linguistics)

SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (ETH)
Exchange Student, Computer Science
Sept. 2019 - Feb. 2020 | Zürich, CH

COURSEWORK

Natural Language Processing
Advanced NLP • NLP Capstone
Artificial Intelligence
Reliable and Interpretable AI
Advanced ML • Information Retrieval
Data Structures • Algorithms
Operating Systems • Security

SKILLS

PROGRAMMING
Proficient
Java • JavaScript • Python
Familiar
Bash • C/C++ • C# •Google Protobuf
Hack • HTML/CSS • Ruby • SCSS • SQL

TECHNOLOGIES
AllenNLP • AssertJ • Cloudbees Jenkins
EasyMock • Fisheye • Git • JIRA
Mercurial • NumPy • PyTorch • React.js
Spring Framework • Upsource

LANGUAGES
English (Native) • Mandarin (Fluent)
Cantonese (Proficient) • Spanish
(Intermediate) • German (Beginner)

LEADERSHIP

CORE TEAM MEMBER
Common Ground Fellowship
Aug. 2017 - Aug. 2018

EXPERIENCE

FACEBOOK | Machine Learning Engineering Intern
Jun. 2020 - Present | Seattle, WA

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON | NLP Research Assistant
Mar. 2018 - Present | Seattle, WA | Advisors: Prof. Noah A. Smith, Lucy H. Lin
- Leading the design of informed model training methods for **low-resource** contextual word **representation**
- Developing a system for parsing nonstandard dialects of English
- Investigated methods for **domain adaptation** in natural language inference

FACEBOOK | Software Engineering Intern (Backend)
Jun. 2019 - Sep. 2019 | Menlo Park, CA
- Architected a modular, interpretable, and configurable suggestion system in **Hack** with a **37%** higher success rate than previous versions
- Engineered **ML** features that achieved **~80%** accuracy and F1 on the task
- Developed a multi-stage model training pipeline tailored to the application

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON | Teaching Assistant
Jan. 2019 - Mar. 2019 | Seattle, WA | Instructor: Prof. Noah A. Smith
- Course: CSE 447/547M (Natural Language Processing)
- Developed a new **PyTorch** - and **AllenNLP** -based text classification assignment
- Planned and **led** a weekly discussion section and office hours for 35 students
- Published a comprehensive, **officially featured** tutorial for AllenNLP

INDEED.COM | Software Engineering Intern (Backend/Data)
Jun. 2018 - Aug. 2018 | Seattle, WA
- Integrated an **NLP** library into a **backend** suggestion service and developed a text extraction-based heuristic, yielding **6x** the number of acceptances and reaching **2x** as many users as the next best source
- Architected and developed a **Java-Protobuf** service infrastructure for machine learning evaluation that decreased required service calls by **5x**
- Deployed a **Jenkins-** and **Mesos-** based continuous integration system

INDEED.COM | Software Engineering Intern (Full Stack)
Jun. 2017 - Sept. 2017 | Seattle, WA
- Built and stylized a custom **React** frontend to minimize server load
- Implemented an extensible **Java** data storage and retrieval model
- Developed a set of **REST API** controllers with a test coverage of **over 90%**

PROJECTS

WHERE'S MY BUS? | Full-Stack Web App
- A lightweight transit tracker for the Seattle area
- Designed and built a responsive **React** user interface and **Python** API wrapper
- Configured a **Brunch** and **Azure App Service** deployment pipeline

ECHAU18.GITLAB.IO | Personal Portfolio
- A configuration-driven personal portfolio generator
- Designed a modular, responsive frontend with **React** and **SCSS**
- Defined a lightweight **JSON** configuration format for code-free site generation

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EVANGELICAL CHINESE CHURCH | Taiwan/AWANA Youth Leader
Sept. 2013 – Sept. 2018 | Redmond, WA & New Taipei City, Taiwan
- **Designed** and taught daily English classes to 20+ under-resourced youth
- **Facilitated** daily re-evaluations with fellow teachers of content and methods
- Supervised and **mentored** incoming youth leaders