ZHIQUAN XU(ZACH)

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Master of Science in Business Analytics, Gies College of Business   August 2023 - May 2024

Big Data Analysis in Finance; Machine Learning in Finance; Enterprise Database Management   3.75/4.0

Financial Data mgt & Analysis; Data Analytics for mgt Acct; Fundamental Analysis for Accountancy

Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics

Bachelor of Management in Accounting, International School   September 2018 - July 2022

Intermediate Financial Accounting; Management Accounting; Auditing   3.6/4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Champaign, Illinois

Research Assistant, Business Administration Department   March 2024 - Present

- Conduct extensive literature research on mortgage default risk analysis using Google Scholar to identify relevant ideas and methodologies
- Perform data analysis on the National Mortgage Database, comprising over 40,000 rows and 500+ columns, to uncover insightful relationships by developing regression models and graphs

Ernst & Young Advisory Limited   China, Shanghai

Business Consultant, Financial Service   August 2022 - November 2022

- Conducted desk research to gather a decade of financial data for top five insurance products, utilized bar charts and tables to visualize trends, contributing to overhaul decision-making and financial outcomes
- Analyzed user feedback, reported software bugs, and collaborated with 3 software engineers during the User Acceptance Test and End-to-End Test phases to ensure seamless execution of programs, fostering effective testing processes with weekly reports

PwC Certified Public Accountants LLP   China, Shenzhen

Assurance Intern   July 2021 - August 2021

- Identify and rectify discrepancies in financial statistics, resulting in a 100% error-free mid-term Financial Statement Report submission with a team of 5 members
- Calculated 2 months of project expense invoices for reimbursement increased by 15 % capital flow flexibility

Pan-China Certified Public Accountants LLP   China, Beijing

Assurance Intern   January 2021-February 2021

- Enhanced report accuracy by meticulously extracting over 200 financial vouchers with substantial amounts from income statement accounts, cross-referenced accounting vouchers with original documents, and initiated client communication for external confirmation
- Conducted a thorough reconciliation of fixed assets valued at over $100,000, rectifying discrepancies. Provided substantive audit recommendations, guided clients to adopt corrective measures for process improvement and audit readiness

PROJECTS

Recommendation model building, Univar Solution   Remote

Project Leader   August 2023 - Present

- Enhance data quality for a dataset of 40,000 rows by addressing missing values and outliers in multiple columns, resulting in a more robust and reliable dataset for subsequent analysis
- Deploy three machine learning models on GitHub by leveraging Jupyter Notebook to assure accessibility, and author README files for clear usage instructions and documentation

NFT Database Mini Project, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Champaign, Illinois

Team Member   October 2023 – December 2023

- Ingested over 100,000 rows of JSON-format data into a MongoDB NoSQL database and implemented a robust data pipeline for cloud integration to increase data processing and accessibility
- Developed over 20 queries to extract business insights from NFT transaction data, and leveraged KNIME to create visualization graphs, offering a comprehensive view of derived business value through insightful analytics

Property Tax Model Building, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Champaign, Illinois

Team Member   September 2023 - December 2023

- Improved data quality in a 10,000-row dataset by removing variables with high missing values and scatter data to increase model performance
- Applied decision tree and linear regression models for analysis, employing Mean Squared Error (MSE) to accurately compare model accuracies, and streamlined model efficiency by reducing variables from 55 to 12, optimizing performance

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Skills: Microsoft office 365; Python; SQL; R; Wolfram; SAS; SPSS

Certificate: Microsoft Azure Fundamental; Basic Proficiency in KNIME; Tableau Desktop Specialist; (CPA exam eligible)