Kevin Z. Hong

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Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *Champaign, Illinois*
First Year Master's Student - B.S. ('18), **M.S ('19)** in Computer Science, minor in Statistics *Aug. 2015 - May. 2019*
- Technical GPA: **3.74/4.00** - Honors: James Scholar, Dean's List
- Selected Past Coursework: Data Structures, Computer Architecture, Systems Programming, Algorithms and Models of Computation, Graduate Algorithms, Applied Machine Learning, Programming Languages and Compilers, Applied Regression and Design
- Current Coursework: Machine Learning, Applied Parallel Programming, Programming Studio

Experience

Jump Trading *Champaign, IL*
Software Engineering Intern - Trading Platforms Team *Aug 2017 - Present*
- Working on decreasing internal latency to improve trading performance.
- Refactoring portions of the platform to improve reliability and failover, and decrease performance overhead.

RetailMeNot *Austin, TX*
Software Engineering Intern - Data Science Team *May 2017 - Aug 2017*
- Designed an NLP model to extract keywords from millions of instances of offer data and implemented an API that allowed engineering and analytics teams to access the model along with previously unleveraged data.
- Wrote batch scripts to create multiple datasets for analytical and ML use.
- Opened new set of user interactions for the company to build upon, improving user success rate and personalization efficacy.

UIUC CS 241: Systems Programming *Champaign, IL*
Course Assistant *Jan 2017 - Present*
- Co-teach weekly lab sections and run office hours focusing on both concepts and code
- Lecture for honors section and mentor students on their semester long honors project

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *Champaign, IL*
Research Assistant *Jan 2017 - Present*
- Working with Prof. Sanmi Koyejo (Computer Science) and Prof. Naveen Narisetty (Statistics)
- Expand upon general framework for constructing prior distributions with structured variables, in particular, sparse structure

State Farm Research and Development Center *Champaign, IL*
Systems Intern - Business Analytics *Jan 2017 - May 2017*
- Created flow from segregated data sources to collate business performance data for accurate reporting to leadership.

HackIllinois *Champaign, IL*
Director & Outreach Staff (Past) *September 2015 - Present*
- Facilitate planning of a 1000+ attendee event across 45 staff members and position the organization for continued advancement
- Establish and maintain external relations with HackIllinois sponsors, Open Source groups, and other partners

Personal Projects

IlliniGuide
- Free and open source web application created for UIUC students to provide curriculum guidance
- Delivers feedback on classes and professors through review aggregation and rating and predicts performance based on past grades

UIUC Open Data API
- Unofficial API for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign providing data for services on campus such as dining and laundry.

Skills

Proficient: C, C++, Java, Python (+ Django & Flask), HTML/CSS, R
Novice: Javascript (+ Node.js), Android