

# 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, B.S. ('18) IN STATISTICS

Aug. 2015 - May. 2019

- Technical GPA: **3.74/4.00** - Honors: James Scholar, Dean's List
- Selected Past Coursework: Systems Programming, Algorithms and Models of Computation, Graduate Algorithms, One Dimensional Computational Topology, Applied Machine Learning, Machine Learning, Applied Parallel Programming, Applied Regression and Design

## Experience

### UIUC CS 374: Algorithms and Models of Computation

Champaign, IL

COURSE ASSISTANT

Jan 2018 - Present

- Assist during weekly discussion sections supplementing lecture and grading weekly homework assignments

### 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

### Jump Trading

Champaign, IL

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN - TRADING PLATFORMS TEAM

Aug 2017 - Dec 2017

- Worked on decreasing internal latency to improve trading performance.
- Refactored portions of the platform to improve reliability and failover, decrease performance overhead, and increase extensibility.

### 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.

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, IL

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jan 2017 - May 2017

- Worked with Prof. Sanmi Koyejo (Computer Science) and Prof. Naveen Narisetty (Statistics)
- Expanded 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:** Python (+ Django & Flask), C, C++, Java, HTML/CSS, R

**Novice:** Javascript (+ Node.js & React), Haskell, Android, SAS