

Lawrence Lai

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Skills

Programming Languages

Python, Ruby, Java, MATLAB

Data Engineering Specific Tools

PostgreSQL, Kafka

Tools and Packages

Git, AWS, Rails, Devise, Django, Numpy, Pandas, Keras

Languages

Native in English and Cantonese Chinese

Experience

PatientsLikeMe

Data Engineer, Cambridge, MA

September 2019 – Present

- Designed and implemented database infrastructure for upcoming features of the PatientsLikeMe website and IOS App using Ruby on Rails.
- Maintained of over 100 extract/transform/load (ETL) tasks written in Ruby, Java, Python, and the overall server infrastructure using AWS tools EC2, S3, Lambda, and RDS.
- Developed small scale web apps to improve information transfer towards science team, leveraging Ruby on Rails, Devise with SSO, React etc.

Insight Data Science

Data Engineering Fellow, Boston, MA

June 2019 – August 2019

- Developed data pipeline to analyze real time chat room traffic and sentiment for over 100 channels, highlighting media content with high audience participation, visualized using chrome extensions and Flask
- Deployed chat bot written in JavaScript to ingest messages and save sentiments for data pipeline usage
- Optimized pipeline to process over 2000 messages per minute with cloud computing using AWS EC2: data ingestion and allocation by Kafka, database management by PostgreSQL
- Built classification model for chat room reaction utilizing Python packages Pandas, Numpy, and Keras, capable of identifying disappointment, laughter, and questions from chat room messages

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Graduate Research Assistant, Cambridge, MA

September 2013 – June 2019

- Characterized chemical details of reactive systems through computational generation of chemical models containing over 200 species and 4000 reactions
- Developed open-source freeware Reaction Mechanism Generator by contributing > 3000 chemical parameters as training data towards convolutional neural network prediction algorithm for chemical characteristics
- Developed methods of rapid and efficient estimation of unknown chemical parameters using group additivity methods and decision trees to achieve thermochemistry accuracy of < 3 kcal/mol, leveraging computational tools Numpy and Pandas

University of Michigan

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Ann Arbor, MI

May 2011 – December 2012

- Improved isobutanol tolerance of E.coli to produce potent fuel source by introducing over 90 mutations to E.coli in high throughput introduction of mutagens and transformation
- Designed multiplex screening method to identify mutations in polymerase chain reaction and gel electrophoresis, capable of detecting up to 30 mutations per procedure

Education

PhD in Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

June 2019

BSE in Chemical Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

December 2012