Lucas Yao

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EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY
MS, Data Science   Expected Spring 2027
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY), New York, NY
BS, Computer Science & Information Security, Minor in Mathematics | GPA: 4.00   Expected May 2025

PROJECTS

PlantID Care Companion | Streamlit app   Mar 2025 - Present
- Collaborating in a team of 4 and building a full-stack plant identification tool using Python, Streamlit, and PlantNet API, enabling accurate species recognition from user-uploaded images.
- Engineering a fuzzy-matching system linking plant IDs to care guides with personality profiles and traits, enhancing instruction relevance by **65%**.
- Integrating LLM-based chat, allowing users to "talk" to their plants through personalized, character-driven interactions.

Emotionfy | GitHub-Repo   Sep 2024 - Dec 2024
- Collaborated in a team of 3 to develop a real-time emotion detection system using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and integrated with Spotify's API to create dynamic playlist recommendations based on facial expressions.
- Engineered a full-stack application using React for the frontend interface and Flask backend to process facial recognition data and handle API communications.
- Implemented deep learning models trained on **35,000+** facial images to classify **7** distinct emotions, achieving **85%** accuracy in real-time emotion detection.

BMCCConnect | Website   May 2023 – Jul 2023
- Developed a dynamic website with Django and Python to showcase analytical insights, in a team of 5.
- Created a user-friendly curriculum search & course planner page with Django framework, JavaScript, SQL, CSS, and HTML for CIS department students.
- Analyzed STEM enrollment and graduation rates in colleges in the US using SQL, JavaScript, and Pandas.

EXPERIENCE

College Assistant | BMCC | New York, NY   Sep 2023 - Dec 2023
- Assisted Computer Science 101 professor with lectures and provided one-on-one tutoring for **20** students on subjects such as information technology and computation, enhancing their overall learning experience.

BMCC Technology Learning Community Intern | BMCC | New York, NY   May 2023 – Jul 2023
- Implemented key features such as a curriculum search function, live chat support, and data analysis visualizations, providing comprehensive resources for academic and career guidance and aiding in informed decision-making for **~1,500** students in the CIS department.
- Collaborated with a team to design and develop a user-friendly website for BMCC.

LEADERSHIP / ACTIVITIES

John Jay Computer Science Society Club - Web Developer, CSS Website   Sep 2024 – Present
CUNY Tech Prep Data Science Fellow   Jul 2024 – Present
CUNY Peer Leadership Program   Sep 2022 – May 2023

CERTIFICATIONS & RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Technical Coursework:
- Object-Oriented Programming (C++), Data Structures & Algorithms, Software Development, Probability & Statistics, Cryptanalysis, Programming Languages, Machine Learning
- Google Data Analytics Certificate, Coursera, June 2024 - Link
- Databases for Data Scientists Specialization, Coursera, July 2024 - Link