Neil Kaushikkar

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign   **Champaign, IL**
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, GPA: 3.9/4.0   *May 2024 (expected)*
- Engineering James Scholar
- Relevant Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms, System Programming, Computer Architecture, Probability & Statistics for Computer Science, Database Systems, Software Design Studio

WORK EXPERIENCE

Country Financial   **Champaign, IL**
Software Engineering Intern   *Jan 2021 - Aug 2021*
- Designed an end-to-end system to automate authenticating clients in call centers with **Azure Natural Language Understanding** & **Speech-to-Text** saving over 200 hours/week of manual customer validation
- Developed a **REST API** with a **Java**-based **Azure Functions App** and a **PostgreSQL** database to securely stream audio between cloud & on-premise systems and cross-check callers' spoken identifying information
- Re-platformed **Java Spring Boot** applications to **Azure Cloud** using **Traffic Manager**, **Redis Caching**, & **Service Bus Queues**, assisting the company's transition to the cloud and saving $6 million in operating costs

NASA Ames Research Center   **Mountain View, CA**
Software Engineering Intern   *Jun 2019 - Aug 2020*
- Formulated a ranking algorithm to rank drones for a specific task, favoring well-rounded performances
- Developed **Python** code to generate building instructions & calculate performance benchmarks for all modes of modular drones, assisting NASA's Aeronautics Research Institute's UAV Traffic Management Initiative
- Co-wrote a conference paper with Dr. Parimal Kopardekar for the AIAA 2020 Multidisciplinary Design Optimization Forum detailing this project's work in optimizing modular drones

LEADERSHIP

Undergraduate Instructor   **Champaign, IL**
CS 128-H: Introduction to Computer Science II Honors   *Jan 2022 - Present*
- Lead instructor for an undergraduate course at UIUC that supplements the introductory CS curriculum
- Presenting weekly lectures covering memory safety and concurrency in the **Rust** language to 200 students

Instructor   **Champaign, IL**
Gies College of Business Disruption Lab Incubator Program   *Dec 2021 - Present*
- Teaching 20 undergraduates interested in CS in non-technical majors the fundamentals of programming
- Delivering weekly lectures and mini-projects to teach syntax and proper usage of Python, Bash, Git, & Flask

Course Assistant   **Champaign, IL**
CS 196: Freshman Honors   *Jan 2021 - Dec 2021*
- Created coding homeworks with automated grading in **Bash**, **Python**, **Rust**, and more for over 300 students
- Held weekly office hours & mentored small groups of students to produce full-stack apps

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Stock Market Chatbot: *Rust Web-Based Chatbot*   *Mar 2021 - Present*
- A text-message-based chatbot that texts users when tracked stocks prices drop, sends performance updates of owned stock options, and allows users to subscribe via text built with a **Rust**, **Tokio,** and **Azure Functions**

LCTRS: *Python NLP Tool to Summarize Lectures*   *Sep 2020 - Feb 2021*
- Fine-tuned Google's T5 language model to improve recall & accuracy of summaries of academic text by 20%

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Languages: C++, Rust, Java, Python, Bash
Frameworks, Tools, & Platforms: Docker, Django, Spring Cloud, Bootstrap, Azure Cloud
Other Skills: Agile/Scrum, Git, CI/CD Pipelines, MVC/MVT, Test Automation