VALA ZEINALI

(440)799-3504 ⋄ vzeinali@kent.edu ⋄ valazeinali.com

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I yearn to explore the fields of probability, statistics, and computer science in regards to analyzing the ever growing amount of data our society creates. We as a society create more data than we can analyze. In order to understand our society further, we must analyze our data. I am interested in applying my quantitative, leadership, and soft skills to explore socio-technical systems in industry and education.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science *Fall 2017 - Spring 2020*
Minor in Applied Mathematics
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. GPA : 3.6

SOFTWARE TOOLS

Platforms   Python, MySql, R Studio, LaTeX.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Assistant at Carnegie Mellon University *Summer 2019*
Supervision under Dr. Herbsleb, Dr. Bogart, and Dr. Klug. Our research digs deeper to see how new and old contributors in the Rust compiler team on github evolve. We then raise the question: what helps new users stick around for their second year? Will completing issues with E-Easy labels help new users stay contributing after their matriculation in the Rust compiler repository? We mine nine years worth of github data and run multi-linear regression, logistic regression, time-series analysis, and machine learning algorithms to answer our question. Paper in progress

Undergraduate Research Assistant *Fall 2018 - Spring 2019*
Assisted Gokarna Sharma, PhD at Kent State with artificial intelligence research. Created new algorithm to produce closer approximation in an online tethered robot to cover area in a planar environment with unknown obstacles. Published Paper.

Quantitative Researcher *Fall 2018 - Spring 2019*
AlgoTech Financial is a startup company that specializes in algorithmic trading strategies that use machine learning in the cryptocurrency markets. I helped implement predictive mathematical models for different cryptocurrencies. In addition, I helped with the algorithmic development of the high frequency and machine learning strategies. Lastly, I built automated software to do descriptive and inferential statistical on PnL percentages.

PUBLICATIONS

[1] Gokarna Sharma, Pavan Poudel, Ayan Dutta, Vala Zeinali, Tala Talaei Khoei, and Jong-Hoon Kim. A 2-Approximation Algorithm for the Online Tethered Coverage Problem. The 2019 Robotics: Science and Systems Conference (RSS), Freiburg, Germany, 9 pages, June 2019.

TEACHING

Course Lead Tutor *Fall 2019 - Present*
Responsible for tutoring other tutors at Kent States Academic Center on new methods of tutoring mathematics to students.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant *Fall 2018 - Present*
Assisted statistics Professor Vezvaei and Pham at Kent State with teaching three sections of MATH 10041 Introductory Statistics for the Fall 2018 semester. Taught one section of Introductory Statistics and MATH 11012 Intuitive Calculus for Spring 2019. Assisting with MATH 30011 Basic Probability and Statistics for Fall 2019.

Mathematics Tutor *Spring 2018 - Present*

Employed through the Academic Success Center. Help students by taking complicated topics and finding ways to break them down in a way that makes the most sense to the student. Our goal is to foster independent learning.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Student Body President *Spring 2019 - Present*

Student government. Campaigned and elected by undergraduate student body of Kent State University. Currently working with higher administration to scale up our initiative of providing free menstrual products at Kent State. Help develop survey to gather both quantitative and qualitative data on menstruation. The data was analyzed and presented in pitch-book form to higher administration to secure more funding for our Period Project initiative.

Presidential Search Committee Member *Fall 2018 - Spring 2019*

Selected by Kent State upper administration and Board of Trustees to represent the entire undergraduate student body to help elect the 13th university president. Responsible for gathering students concerns and communicating them with the committee.

Director of Business & Finance *Spring 2018 - Spring 2019*

Student government. Campaigned and elected by the undergraduate student body. Handled a 7 figure budget used for events for the student body, as well as, funding students to go to conferences. Created UI and database to store allocation applications digitally, opposed to previous paper method. Helped launch and fund free menstrual products for the student body in bathrooms

HONORS/AWARDS

Student Body President Stipend - $6,424/year *Spring 2019 - Present*
Director of Business & Finance Stipend - $4,424/year *Spring 2018 - Spring 2019*
Choose Ohio First Scholarship - $7,368/year *Fall 2017 - Present*
Receiving significant funding to present research annually under faculty supervision, while pursuing a CS degree.
Trustee Scholarship - $3,750/year *Fall 2017 - Present*
Merit-based yearly tuition scholarship offered to talented high school students.

HOBBIES

Bass fishing, playing any instrument with strings, kombucha, aquaponics, yoga.