Zaid Sayed

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Education

University of British Columbia — Vancouver, BC
B.A. in Computer Science, Minor in Data Science — *September 2023 – November 2027*

- International Student Scholarship Winner (2024)
- GPA: 3.7/4.0
- Teaching Assistant - CPSC 210 (Software Construction) & CPSC 121 (Models of Computation), Resident Advisor

Experience

AI Software Engineer → Program Manager — August 2023 – August 2024
VENU AI | Python, LLMs — *San Jose, CA*

- Redesigned the **LLM prompt-engineering layer**, improving response reliability and reducing debugging time by 40%.
- Enhanced internal **Python** codebase to improve efficiency, reduce bugs, and support smoother model operations.
- Managed **GitHub** issue tracking, sprint planning, and cross-functional deliverables across engineering and product teams.
- Scaled the **LLM pipeline** by 25%, enabling clients to complete 30 successful sales calls in 30 days.
- Contributed to internal outreach infrastructure that increased startup **ARR** by 85%.
- **Promoted** from Intern to Program Manager within 7 months based on ownership and performance.

IT Intern — May 2025 – June 2025
Grant Thornton | ITGC, Excel, Python — *Dubai, UAE*

- Streamlined audit data review workflows using **Excel** (**VLOOKUP**, **Pivot Tables**), reducing manual processing time by 30%.
- Performed **ITGC** audit testing, validating **access controls**, **security compliance**, and system configurations.
- Cleaned and transformed large **financial datasets** using **Python** scripts to improve sampling accuracy and audit efficiency.

Projects

Adaptive Game Difficulty Engine (Reinforcement Learning) | *Python* — Jan 2025 – Current

- Designed and implementing a reinforcement learning–based game difficulty adjuster that dynamically adapts enemy behavior based on player performance.

Credit Card Default Prediction | *Python, scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy* — September 2025 - November 2025

- Built and evaluated multiple classification models to predict next-month credit default on **30,000+ customer records**, using **stratified cross-validation** and a held-out test set.
- Achieved best performance with **Gradient Boosting**, reaching **CV ROC-AUC = 0.773 ± 0.007** and **Test ROC-AUC of 0.785**, demonstrating **strong generalization** and minimal overfitting.
- Performed **feature engineering** and analysis, identifying the strongest predictors of default risk.

AI Email Assistant | *React, TypeScript, Gmail API, OpenAI, Ionic* — January 2025

- Generated **context-aware email reply drafts** using **structured prompts** with full threads, sender metadata, and intent cues.
- Implemented **prompt constraints and external logic** to control tone/length and suppress low-confidence or irrelevant replies.

Sudoku Solver | *Python* — May 2024 – June 2024

- Implemented a **backtracking + DFS** algorithm with **constraint propagation** to reduce branching and improve solving efficiency.

Finance Budget Tracker | *Java, JUnit, Swing* — January 2024 – May 2024

- Developed a GUI-based desktop application using **Java Swing** to track expenses, earnings, and cash flow.
- Implemented data persistence via **JSON** and built an **MVC**-structured codebase with full **JUnit** test coverage.

Maternal Health Risk Classifier | *R, Jupyter Notebook* — September 2023 – December 2023

- Developed a classifier to predict **maternal health risk levels** using physiological indicators.
- Evaluated performance using a **confusion matrix** with emphasis on **recall for high-risk patients** to reduce false negatives.
- Benchmarked **K-Nearest Neighbors** against a **baseline classifier**, analyzing suitability for **imbalanced medical data** and sensitivity-specificity trade-offs.

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, C++, R, SQL, HTML/CSS, Swift
Frameworks & Tools: React.js, TensorFlow, JUnit, Swing, Git/GitHub, Jupyter, VS Code, Power BI
Areas: Machine Learning, Data Analysis, Prompt Engineering, Software Testing, Multithreading, Synchronization