

Alex Zhao

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New **UC Berkeley computer science alum** experienced in data visualization and machine learning.
Currently studying intersection of tech/policy & looking for **software roles** with social impact.

EDUCATION

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, SCHWARZMAN SCHOLAR

MASTER'S IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Expected June 2022 | Beijing, China

An elite international scholarship designed to prepare global leaders. One of 154 scholars from over 3,600 applicants.

Thesis topic: How can artificial intelligence improve education in China?

UC BERKELEY

B.S. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

B.S. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

May 2021 | Berkeley, CA

GPA: 3.82 / 4.0

Management, Entrepreneurship, & Technology Program (M.E.T.)

Honors: Regent's & Chancellors' Scholar, four-time Dean's List, Accel Scholars 2020-21, EECS Honors Program

SIDE PROJECTS

NEXPOINTS Health app that provides a preliminary health check based on symptoms.

RECLAB Simulation framework for online evaluation of recommender systems.

PUBLICATIONS

[1] **A. Zhao**, K. Kumaravel, E. Massaro, M. Gonzalez, "A Network-based Group Testing Strategy for Colleges." Accepted at Applied Network Science, Sep 2021.

[2] K. Krauth, **A. Zhao***, S. Dean*, W. Guo*, M. Curmei*, B. Recht, M. Jordan, "Do Offline Metrics Predict Online Performance in Recommender Systems?" Presented at NeurIPS workshop, 2020. RecSys working group, 2021.

[3] K. Hajjar, J. Laserre, **A. Zhao**, R. Shirvany, "Attention Gets You the Right Size & Fit in Fashion." Presented at Recsys workshop, 2020.

[4] **A. Zhao**, Y. Yang, X. Yue, Z. Liu, J. Gonzalez, K. Ramchandran, K. Keutzer. "AugPrune: Robust Network Pruning via Augmented Data." Under review, ICLR 2021.

RESEARCH

BERKELEY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH (BAIR)

Aug 2019 - present | Berkeley, CA

Undergraduate researcher advised by **Michael I. Jordan**, focusing on recommender systems and computer vision.

- Develop simulation framework for online, feedback-aware evaluation of recommender systems.
- Co-authored three papers on recommender systems in **NeurIPS** and **RecSys** workshops (see Publications).
- First author of a paper under review on AugPrune, a novel pruning algorithm for finding compact, robust networks.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CORAL GENOMICS | MACHINE LEARNING INTERN

June 2020 - Aug 2020 | San Francisco, CA

YCombinator-funded startup applying artificial intelligence to personalize medicine.

- Collaborate with two other engineers to create computational pipeline for product launch.
- Develop novel autoencoder model for genotype imputation on 1000 Genomes data and patient samples.

ZALANDO | MACHINE LEARNING INTERN

June 2019 - Aug 2019 | Berlin, Germany

Largest e-commerce company based in Europe, headquartered in Berlin.

- Applied the Transformer model in Pytorch to customize size & fit recommendations for customers, outperforming existing models across all accuracy metrics.
- Co-authored paper on recommendation algorithms (accepted at Workshop on Recommender Systems in Fashion 2020).

PIVOTAL SOFTWARE | SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN

May 2018 - Aug 2018 | San Francisco, CA

- Updated & integrated command line interface written in Golang to support new Cloud Controller API.
- Pair-programmed daily with small team for 12 weeks on Cloud Foundry, an open source multi-cloud platform.

EXTRACURRICULARS

POLITICO | DATA SCIENCE INTERN

June 2021 - Aug 2021 | Washington, D.C.

- Published stories on federal politics featuring interactive graphics on a small team of data journalists.
- Analyzed large datasets with Python and coded data visualizations for articles using React and D3.js.

THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN | DATA PROJECTS EDITOR

January 2020 - June 2021 | Berkeley, CA

- Report on challenges in higher education through data-driven journalism and lead team of ten developers.
- Awarded Best Multimedia Package (1st) and Best Interactive Graphic (2nd place) by California College Media Association.