Eric Xiao

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Education

University of California San Diego, Jacobs School of Engineering　　　　*3.88 GPA, Cum Laude*

B.S./M.S. in Computer Science, B.S. in Cognitive Science, B.A. in Linguistics, and Minor in Chinese Studies　　　*Sep. 2018 - Jun. 2024*

- Chancellor's Scholarship: Awarded to first-generation, low-income students who demonstrate academic excellence. $5000 annual award.
- Provost Honors: Awarded to undergraduate students based on academic excellence.

Experience

UC San Diego Computer Science and Engineering Department　　　　*La Jolla, CA*

Teaching Assistant, Tutor　　　*Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2021, Jan. - Jun. 2022,*
Apr. - Jun. 2023, Sep. 2023 - Jun. 2024

- Served as a TA for courses on CS education research, object-oriented programming in Java, social computing, and systems programming in C.
- Served as a tutor for courses on object-oriented programming in Java and Python, data structures in C++, and theory of computation.
- Coordinated midterm and final exam logistics for a class of 600+ students. Developed lab activities weekly for a class of 200+ students.

Apple Inc.　　　　*Seattle, WA*

AI/ML Intern, Siri Information Intelligence　　　*Jun. - Sept. 2021/2022/2023*

- Developed new features using Golang for Spotlight Search to improve user experience.
- Utilized named entity recognition to provide high-quality search results to the user.
- Conducted manual data analysis using Pandas and Matplotlib of 1000 anonymous search queries to identify project use cases.
- Leveraged internal LLMs to generate a meteorologist persona for Siri weather dialog.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography　　　　*La Jolla, CA*

Natural Language Processing Undergraduate Researcher　　　*Dec. 2020 - Jun. 2021*

- Applied natural language processing techniques to 161 national climate action plans.
- Fine-tuned state-of-the-art language models (BERT) in PyTorch to create labels and create skill metrics.
- Presented at the Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning Workshop at ICML 2021.

UC San Diego Cognitive Science Department　　　　*La Jolla, CA*

Cognitive Neurolinguistics Undergraduate Researcher　　　*Oct. 2020 - Sept. 2021*

- Worked with Brain and Cognition Lab to study mismatch negativity and cortical syntax tracking using in-lab experiments, computational modeling, analyses of EEG data.
- Wrote R and Python code to calculate language I-complexity over cross-linguistic datasets.
- Developed experiments using PsychoPy to present sound event stimuli to research subjects.

Publications

Tom Corringham, Daniel Spokoyny, **Eric Xiao**, Christopher Cha, Colin Lemarchand, Mandeep Syal, Ethan Olson,
Alexander Gershunov (2021). "BERT Classification of Paris Agreement Climate Action Plans." *Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning workshop at ICML 2021*.

Leadership

ACM @ UCSD　　　　*La Jolla, CA*

Technical Event Director　　　*Sept. 2021 - Jun. 2022*

- Hosted technical workshops on practical skills in computational linguistics, machine learning, and data science.

IEEE Student Branch at UC San Diego　　　　*La Jolla, CA*

Vice Chair Projects, Quarterly Projects Chair　　　*Apr. 2019 - Jun. 2021*

- Supported quarter-long electronics and software projects to build technical experience for students.
- Organized and requested funds for project materials. Managed team of mentors to provide oversight and experience to project teams. Hosted kickoffs, end-of-quarter showcases, and bi-weekly workshops for projects.
- Reached quarterly record of over 250 applicants, formed 40 project teams.

Honors & Awards

Jan. 2021 **CS Research Mentorship Program Scholar**, Google

Jun. 2020 **The Professor Mel Green Peer Mentoring Award**, UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program