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Alex Chojnacki

LinkedIn
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I specialize in bringing ML workflows from prototype to production, most often with incomplete, messy, geospatial data. I am seeking full-time opportunities on data teams. Remote, hybrid, or in person.

Work Experience

Co-founder, CTO Rhizome Data ..... **October 2022 — Present**
- » Quantify socio-economic impacts of power outages using parcel, census, and meter data.
- » Developed technical, hiring strategy, pitch to customers and investors.
- » Delivered on successful pilots while prototyping geospatial analytics application.

Founding Engineer, BlueConduit ..... **September 2020 — October 2022**
- » Standardized model training and batch prediction workflows with command line tools.
- » Implemented SWE best practices, shared libraries, CI/CD, and agile planning.
- » Full stack contributions to geospatial multi-tenant SaaS application for water utilities.
- » Created an equitable, successful hiring process for engineering, informed by DEI Committee meetings.
- » Managed and retained a remote team of diverse and talented engineers.

Contractor Developer, self-employed ..... **May 2021 — August 2021**
- » Sourced, cleaned, and typed NYC open real estate data (PLUTO and BoBA).
- » Supported the development of a prototype geospatial real estate analytics application.
- » Full stack clojure/script, datalog graph database, and tileserver, with map search frontend.

Machine Learning Engineer, Urbint ..... **October 2018 — July 2020**
- » Supported data science team model development with shared libraries and tools.
- » Prototyped and deployed computer vision models for video classification product.
- » Damage prevention product I prototyped and maintained contributed to half of ARR in 2019.

Junior Software Engineer, Urbint ..... **January 2018 — October 2018**
- » Full stack contributor to a react, haskell, and custom graph database product.
- » Switched from vim to emacs, got hardcore about functional programming.

Developer, University of Michigan & the City of Flint ..... **March 2017 — January 2018**
- » Built web application used to record and manage water service line replacement effort.
- » Used labels from application database to train models, guiding inspection and replacement efforts.
- » Collaborated with Michigan National Guard to guide development to their needs.

Software Engineering Intern, Nordstrom ..... **June 2016 — August 2016**
- » Collected, analyzed, and modeled data to predict fraud incidence at POS terminals with payments team.

Web Developer, Computer Aided Engineering Network ..... **May 2015 — August 2015**
- » Independently designed and implemented a RESTful JSON API for UM Data Warehouse.

Technical Expertise

	Skilled	*Proficient*	*Capable*
Development	MLOps, Data Engineering	DevOps, Web Services	Computer Security
Machine Learning	Un/Supervised Learning	CV, NLP, Time Series	Causality
Languages	Python, SQL, JS/TS	Clojure, Julia	Haskell
Tools & Tech	`git`, `bash`, `emacs`	AWS, Kubernetes, Postgres	Nix

Ask me about Docker, ETL, Airflow, python package management, react hooks, Vue3js, Postgres and PostGIS, tileservers, mapbox and maplibre, serverless infrastructure, data science platforms, model deployment, schema management, parquet, prestodb, duckdb, pandas, apache superset, causal inference, data science team management, data products, data lakehouses, nestjs, AWS, GCP, and fly.io. I've got opinions and I'd love to hear what you think.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI ..... **September 2013 — June 2017**

» LS&A, B.S. in Computer Science
» Machine Learning, Web Applications, Cognitive Science, French

Research & Teaching Experience

Research Assistant, advised by Prof. Eric Schwartz ..... **Summer 2017 — Winter 2017**

» Researched active learning methods to guide the lead pipe replacement effort in the city of Flint.
» Built simulator in Python to compare proposed methods to historical performance.

Instructional Aide, EECS 398, Computing for Computer Scientists .. **Winter 2016 — Winter 2017**

» Lectured on `git`, virtual private servers, debuggers, `bash`, and being the best nerd one can be.
» Worked with fellow TAs to craft an original syllabus for this new course.
» Over 1000 students have matriculated from this course, now EECS 201 Computer Science Pragmatics.
» Personally taught 600+ students over 3 semesters in lecture and office hours.

Research Assistant, advised by Prof. Eric Schwartz ..... **Fall 2015 — Winter 2015**

» Created a mock news website with real user tracking to measure efficacy of native advertising.

Grader & Tutor, EECS 183, Introduction to Programming Concepts ..... **Fall 2014 — Winter 2015**

» Assisted students in on-on-one meetings with all course material.
» Graded homework, and projects for both correctness and code style.

Publications

» J. Abernethy, **A. Chojnacki**, et al, **"The Search for Lead Pipes in Flint, Michigan"** *KDD Conference 2018 (Awarded "Best Student Paper in Applied Data Science Track")*
» J. Abernethy, **A. Chojnacki**, et al, **"A Data Science Approach to Understanding Residential Water Contamination in Flint"** *KDD Conference 2017*
» J. Stroud, **A. Chojnacki**, J. Abernethy, **"The Michigan Data Science Team: A Student Organization for Machine Learning Challenges"** *NIPS 2016 Workshop "Challenges in Machine Learning: Gaming and Education"*
» J. Abernethy, C. Anderson, **A. Chojnacki**, et al, **"Data Science in Service of Performing Arts: Applying Machine Learning to Predicting Audience Preferences"** *Bloomberg Data For Good Exchange 2016*

Campus Involvement

Communications Chair, Michigan Data Science Team ..... **Fall 2015 — Summer 2017**

» Managed club growth for two years, gaining 40 active members and 400 subscribers to team newsletter.
» Organized and officiated prediction challenges by meeting with competition sponsors and partners.

Organizer, Michigan Machine Learning Reading Group ..... **Summer 2015 — Fall 2016**

» Co-organized reading group for undergraduate and non-CS graduate students.
» Read machine learning textbook chapters and papers.

Officer, Michigan Student Artificial Intelligence Lab ..... **Fall 2015 — Fall 2016**

» Presented paper reviews on introductory machine learning topics.