

Computational Structures in Data Science

Ask Me Anything

Week 7, Summer 2024. 7/31 (Wed)

Lecture 24

Berkeley
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Announcements

- "Official" course evaluation survey released
 - <https://course-evaluations.berkeley.edu/Berkeley/>
 - Filling this out will be a huge help for the Data/DSUS department with regard to course development, so please fill this out :)
- Project02 ("Ants") due this Thursday (8/1)!
- Ed post: ["What's Left in C88C?"](#)

Announcements: Final Exam

- Final exam "primary" time: **Wednesday August 7th, 3PM – 5 PM PST**
- Final exam scheduling form released
 - Gradescope: ["\(Urgent\) Final Exam Scheduling"](#)
 - Due: **Wednesday July 31st 11:59 PM PST**
 - Please fill this out ASAP! For more info, see [Ed post](#).
 - DSP students: you should have received an email for a separate Final exam scheduling form. Please fill this out – if you didn't receive an e-mail, let us know!
- Final exam will have the same style as the Midterm
 - Zoom+Gradescope

Computational Structures in Data Science

(Serious-ish) Ed Questions

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Question

I've struggled in this class and worry about my ability to keep up in future data science / computer science courses. Is there still a place or path for me in data science / computer science?

Question

Any advice about how to get your 1st job in tech? What if you have a data science / other science background, instead of CS?

Answer:

Network, connections.

Internships.

There are many data science/analyst roles in tech, many of them have backgrounds in stats/data-science rather than a "traditional computer science" degree.

Idea: Work on interesting personal/side projects that demonstrate your ML/DS/CS skills in an interesting way. Ideally, an intersection of ML/DS/CS and some of your personal interests.

Question

Is there something Berkeley didn't teach you that, in hindsight, you wish you'd learned sooner?

Technical things:

Embrace and rely on INTUITIONS, rather than "cold hard math/numbers". Example: developing "visual" intuitions of ML/math/CS concepts rather than relying on "symbol pushing" (eg brute-forcing algebraic symbol manipulation) to prove things.

Don't be afraid of math (related to above).

Non-technical things

Learn effective organizational skills

"80 / 20" rule: "80% of the wins are due to 20% of the work". Aka learn how to prioritize things I need to do/learn. Only 24 hours in a day!

Question

<https://cdss.berkeley.edu/academics#academicenrichment>

<https://cdss.berkeley.edu/data-science/student-opportunities>

Data Science Discovery

Computational Structures in Data Science

Fun Ed Questions



Question

How did you decide to be a DS instructor while balancing work?

Question

what fun things should we do before graduating from Berkeley?!

Question

How did you create that sweet page

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(Un)solicited Advice

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Sam Bankman-Fried Is Found Guilty of 7 Counts of Fraud and Conspiracy

The case against the founder of the failed FTX exchange had come to symbolize the excesses of the volatile cryptocurrency industry.

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The FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried, shown in February, was convicted on Thursday after a federal jury in Manhattan deliberated for more than four hours. Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times

Integrity and honesty are just as important (if not more so) than technical skills.

Other Corporate Scandals... Bears doing Good [NYT]

Who's Who in the Elizabeth Holmes Trial



Erin Woo

📍 Reporting from San Jose, Calif.

Tyler Shultz and **Erika Cheung** are former Theranos employees and were whistleblowers. They worked at the start-up in 2013 and 2014. Shultz is a grandson of George Shultz, a former secretary of state who was on the Theranos board.

—
Jeff Kravitz/FilmMagic, via Getty Images



Overall advice

- Above all: **be kind**
- Whether you're in academia, industry, etc
- Good indicator of success is: do people enjoy working **with** you?
 - Angle 1: are you good at collaborating + working with people?
 - Angle 2: are you agreeable / nice / kind / fun / etc?
- Interestingly, I've worked (and enjoyed!) working with people with more of (1) than (2). Ideal when you have both (1) and (2) of course!

Overall advice: pedigree/status

- UC Berkeley is a bubble
- Bay Area is also a bubble
- Tech/CS/DS is also a bubble
- Big, big world out there!
- Advice: keep an open mind when working on new problems/domains, or when working with people with all kinds of backgrounds.
 - "A closed-off mind is a small mind"

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C88C teaching staff: Thank you!!



Thank you Data C88C teaching staff!

Head Teaching Assistant



John Teng [he/him]

Office Hours: Mon 5pm - 6pm, Wed
4pm - 5pm

johnteng9@berkeley.edu

Hi, I'm John, a third year CS major from Pennsylvania. I like playing video games, soccer, and working out. Looking forward to this semester!

Tip: You can also find this info on the [course Staff Page](#)

Thank you Data C88C teaching staff!



Satleen Gill [she/her]

Office Hours: Mon 11am - 1pm

satleen@berkeley.edu

Hello! My name is Satleen. I'm a third-year majoring in Data Science and Computer Science from Sonoma County, CA. I love listening to music, reading, day trips, and being with friends. I'm excited for an amazing summer! <3



Mia Lopez

Office Hours: Tues 11am - 12pm, Thurs 11am - 12pm

mglopez@berkeley.edu

🌸 hello! My name's Mia and I'm a 3rd year studying CS! Some of my favorite artists are Childish Gambino, Chappell Roan, and Sabrina Carpenter. My favorite movies are Arrival and Lego Batman, but I also have a thing for Wes Anderson movies! This is my 3rd semester teaching, so feel free to reach out whenever! 🌸



Naveen Nathan [he/him]

Office Hours:

Thurs 4:30pm - 5:30pm

naveen.nathan@berkeley.edu

Hi everyone! I am Naveen, a rising 4th year CS major. I love to hike and bike in my free time. I look forward to working with you all this summer!

Tip: You can also find this info on the [course Staff Page](#)

Thank you Data C88C teaching staff!



Jiayi Li [she/her]

Office Hours: Tues 5pm - 6pm, Wed
5pm - 6pm

jjayi.li@berkeley.edu

Hi! I'm Jiayi, a senior studying
Statistics and Data Science. I love
photography, traveling, and road trips!
Looking forward to meeting you all and
enjoying this summer!



Mira Wagner

Office Hours: Wed 11am - 1pm

mirawagner@berkeley.edu

Hi! I am a sophomore planning to
major in data science/statistics and
linguistics. I love reading, especially
mysteries, swimming and baking!
Excited for this semester :)

Thank you Data C88C teaching staff!



Michael Ball [he/him]

Office Hours: See Calendar, usually
Weds 4pm

cs88@berkeley.edu &
ball@berkeley.edu



Professor John DeNero
<https://denero.org/>

Extra thanks to Michael Ball for developing + improving core C88C course materials, and for helping me (Eric K) onboard onto teaching this summer!

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Anything Else?

