

Mercer Chen

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Employment

2024 *Microsoft GenAI*

Research Software Engineer II, Jan. 2024 - present.

- Research engineer on the OpenAI Model Training team, responsible for implementing and maintaining custom training code to mid-train and post-train the latest OpenAI model checkpoints with RLHF and other methods, aligning with OpenAI's internal research environment, not with their public-facing API.
- Drive OpenAI model customization for internal customers, powering GitHub Copilot, Bing Chat, and Microsoft 365 Copilot.
- Explore different methods for improving model quality in post-training, such as rule-based reward and reversed KL.

2021 *Microsoft Azure AI Platform*

Research Software Engineer II, Aug. 2023 - Jan. 2024.

Data & Applied Scientist, Jun. 2021 - Aug. 2023.

- Member of AI Platform's science team on Copilot, Azure OpenAI, and Microsoft - OpenAI collaboration. Worked on applied research and ML engineering tasks for large language/multimodal models.
- Core contributor in the early internal evaluation of GPT-3, GPT-3.5, and later GPT-4.
- Closely collaborated with OpenAI on model evaluation and human data.
- Launched the first internal automated model evaluation platform, from the evaluation pipeline to a full-stack web app for result visualization and comparison. The evaluation platform has been productionized to gate the release of OpenAI and Microsoft Research models before they enter the Microsoft ecosystem.

2020 *Microsoft Azure AI Platform*

Software Engineer Intern, May 2020 - Aug. 2020.

2019 *Microsoft Outlook IOS*

Explorer (Software Engineer & Program Manager Intern), May 2019 - Aug. 2019.

Talks

Mar 2024 Talk, Microsoft Research workshop on Evaluating AI Models and Systems.

Dec 2023 Talk, Microsoft Machine Learning, AI and Data Science Conference.

Apr 2022 Tutorial, Microsoft Machine Learning, AI and Data Science Conference.

Education

2018 *Washington University in St. Louis*

Bachelor of Science in *Computer Science, Statistics*, Aug. 2018 - May 2021.