KENNETH LLONTOP

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley *Expected May 2027*
B.S. Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences GPA**:** 3.865/4.000

EXPERIENCE

Interactive Perception and Robot Learning (IPRL) Lab Stanford, CA
Undergraduate Researcher, *Advised by Prof. Jeannette Bohg* *May 2025 - Present*

- Worked on the problem of open world interactive navigation with mobile manipulators, building MessyNav, a zero-shot framework that enables navigation in messy environment, improving real world success from 40% to 67%
- Contributed to the problem formulation of NavWorld, a long-horizon language-conditioned outdoor navigation system that auto-labels crowdsourced street imagery with grounded instructions, subtasks, and stopping conditions
- Leading an independent research project on robotic failure recovery and continual learning with agentic systems

Intelligent and Interactive Autonomous Systems Group (ILIAD) Stanford, CA
Undergraduate Researcher, *Advised by Prof. Dorsa Sadigh* *August 2025 - Present*

- Deployed TidyBot in Stanford's East Asian Library to autonomously scan 2,103 shelves, collecting a catalog annotated dataset of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean book images used to fine-tune a vision-language model (VLM)
- Dataset improved multilingual book identification from 32.0% to 71.8% and multilingual OCR benchmarks from 24.8% to 46.6% (English) and 30.8% to 38.0% (Chinese), while saving an estimated 18.7 hours of human labor
- Exploring gamified robot data collection to scale and diversify robotic datasets, and studying how unstructured "play" data compares with task-specific data for training action-conditioned JEPA world models

Amazon Berkeley, CA
Software Engineering Intern *September 2025 - December 2025*

- Contributed to an open-source auto-scaling system that allocates right-sized Kubernetes clusters on AWS for DeltaCAT's Ray-based compaction and conversion jobs, bringing Amazon's internal infrastructure to external users
- Collaborated with Amazon engineers through weekly meetings to discuss cluster sizing heuristics and integration

PUBLICATIONS

[1] **Kenneth Llontop***, Cherie Ho*, Dylan Zhou, Anuva Banwasi, Priya Sundaresan, Carlota Parés-Morlans, Jeannette Bohg. MessyNav: Zero-Shot Interactive Navigation via Manipulation in Messy Environments. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL 2026)*. [website]

[2] Hung-Chieh Fang, Amber Xie, Jennifer Grannen, **Kenneth Llontop**, Dorsa Sadigh. DexDrummer: In-Hand, Contact-Rich, and Long-Horizon Dexterous Robot Drumming. *ICRA Workshop on Dexterity with Multifingered Hands, 2026* (Workshop). [website]

[3] Jennifer Grannen, Michelle Pan, **Kenneth Llontop**, Cherie Ho, Mark Zolotas, Jeannette Bohg, Dorsa Sadigh. Robot-Powered Data Flywheels: Deploying Robots in the Wild for Continual Data Collection and Foundation Model Adaptation. arXiv:2511.19647. [website]

TEACHING

UC Berkeley EECS Department, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Berkeley, CA
CS 189/289A: Introduction to Machine Learning *August 2026 - Present*

- Teach six 1-hour discussion sections of 40-80 students each over the semester and record video walkthroughs, covering lecture content and practice problems for an upper-division and graduate course of ~600 students
- Lead a Student Support Team of two course staff tutors, coordinating DSP accommodations, processing weekly extension requests, hosting one-on-one meetings with students facing extenuating circumstances, and proactively reaching out to at-risk students with additional academic support
- Design midterm and final exam questions assessing core **machine learning** concepts and hold weekly 1-hour office hours to help students with homework or conceptual questions

UC Berkeley College of Computing, Data Science, and Society, Tutor Berkeley, CA
Data 6: Introduction to Computational Thinking with Data *July 2024 - December 2024*

- Led weekly 1-hour lab sections for 30-50 students and held office hours, reviewing lecture content and guiding students through **Python** practice problems on functions, iteration, table manipulation, and data visualization
- Taught students to apply their skills to real-world datasets, prompting them to examine how data affects conclusions
- Graded homework, labs, projects, and exams, providing feedback to strengthen students' conceptual understanding
- Invited back for Fall 2024 based on recommendations from both Summer 2024 instructors and student feedback

Computer Science Mentors (CSM), Section Instructor — Berkeley, CA
CS 88: Computational Structures in Data Science — *February 2023 - May 2023*

- Taught a weekly 1-hour small-group section of 5 students in a **Hispanic Affinity section**, delivering mini-lectures and guiding students through **Python** problems to build problem-solving skills and conceptual understanding
- Recorded video walkthroughs of practice problems, giving students additional resources outside of section

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EXTRACURRICULARS

SEED Honors Scholars Program, Mentor — *August 2025 - Present*

- Served as a cohort mentor to 21 first-year students in the SEED Honors Scholars Program and personal mentor to 4, helping them navigate the academic, professional, and personal challenges of their first year at Berkeley
- Delivered presentations on campus resources and held one-on-one meetings to guide students' academic plans
- Invited back to advise the new cohort of mentors while mentoring the incoming class of 10 SEED Scholars

CodeBase, Project Advisor & Research Division Lead — *August 2025 - Present*

- Lead the development of a new research division focused on bridging the gap between coursework and research
- Connect members with alumni for research guidance and design projects that build research skills
- Advise a team of students with no prior software engineering experience to deliver a full-stack web application for a nonprofit organization

Machine Learning @ Berkeley, Education Committee Officer — *January 2023 - Present*

- Helped organize and create content for a two-day high school bootcamp featuring Python and machine learning workshops, speaker sessions, and hands-on projects for underrepresented students in the Bay Area
- Developed lectures and lab content, including a 3-hour lecture covering Python fundamentals
- Recruited students by presenting the program in classrooms at under-resourced schools

The Gates Scholarship, Squad Leader — *June 2023*

- Co-led a squad of 6 first-year Gates Scholars through the 4-day Gates Scholarship Summer Institute Conference
- Held daily check-ins with scholars throughout the Summer Institute to support their transition to college and encourage personal and professional growth

Berkeley ANova, Education Committee Officer — *August 2022 - August 2023*

- Brought computer science education to underrepresented and under-resourced communities in the Bay Area
- Created and taught weekly Python lab assignments at Bay Area middle and high schools
- Mentored high school students through college applications and helped host a hackathon for program participants

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AWARDS

- Accel Scholars Program, UC Berkeley — 2026
- Computing Research Association REU Award — 2026
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Stanford University — 2025
- CS Scholars Program, UC Berkeley — 2022
- Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) EECS Honor Society, UC Berkeley — 2022
- SEED Scholars Honors Program, UC Berkeley — 2022
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) Scholar Program — 2022
- The Gates Scholarship — 2022

CERTIFICATIONS

- DeepLearning.AI Neural Networks and Deep Learning
- DeepLearning.AI Improving Deep Neural Networks: Hyperparameter Tuning, Regularization and Optimization
- DeepLearning.AI Structuring Machine Learning Projects