



DAVID KURODA

Staff data scientist with 13 years building production ML for ads, search, and healthcare. Spends about half my time on technical strategy and half writing code. Track record of cutting model count, not growing it.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Portland, OR

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Operations Research
UC Berkeley, 2011

B.S. Mathematics
Harvey Mudd College, 2006

SKILLS

- Python, SQL, Go (production services)
- Two-tower retrieval, learning to rank, deep learning
- Experiment design, offline evaluation, calibration
- Technical strategy, ML review, hiring
- Roadmap negotiation with product and engineering leadership

EXPERIENCE

- **Staff Data Scientist, Ranking, Halcyon Health Platform | Austin, TX | 2021-Present**
 - Set the technical direction for clinician matching, current system serves 1.6M patient requests per month with a 27% lift in completed visits.
 - Consolidated four legacy ranking models into a single two-tower architecture, reducing serving cost by about \$1.8M per year.
 - Wrote the org's ML review rubric, now used in every launch readiness meeting across three product groups.
 - Mentor four senior data scientists and run a monthly design review for the broader ML org.
 - Killed two in-flight projects after writing one-page memos showing the expected lift would not clear maintenance cost.
- **Principal Data Scientist, Meridian Search Co. | San Diego, CA | 2017-2021**
 - Led the relevance team's move from hand-tuned LambdaMART to a learned retrieval + reranker stack, improving NDCG@10 by 11% on the head queries.
 - Designed the long-running holdout that became the standard offline evaluation across four ranking teams.
 - Partnered with infra on a feature store rollout that cut new-feature ship time from weeks to days.
 - Wrote post-mortems for two costly launch regressions and turned them into a required reading list for new hires.
 - Represented the team in quarterly business reviews with the CFO and CPO.
- **Senior Data Scientist, Ads, Meridian Search Co. | San Diego, CA | 2014-2017**
 - Built the click model that powered ads ranking through three major UI redesigns.
 - Created a calibration layer that fixed a long-standing overprediction issue on tail advertisers.
 - Hired and onboarded six data scientists over the period.
 - Co-presented model methodology at an internal conference attended by 400+ engineers.
- **Data Scientist, Sandpiper Analytics | San Diego, CA | 2011-2014**
 - Built churn and LTV models for three telecom clients on contract.
 - Wrote the company's first internal Python style guide.
 - Promoted twice in three years.