Alexander **van Grootel**

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Summary

Senior PM with 9+ years in AI. Specialized in physical systems (manufacturing, materials). Took enterprise product from 0 to thousands of enterprise customers. Previously as an AI engineer deployed AI solutions on live factory floors that delivered $10M+ annual savings. Looking to work on multi-domain, technical products.

Work Experience

FUTURE OF LIFE FOUNDATION — *Remote*
Fellow - AI for Human Reasoning — *July 2025 - January 2026*

- Built AI agents for government foresight and strategic planning units. Conducted 80+ interviews with policy analysts, scenario planners, and foresight leads across RAND, OECD Foresight, Centre for Strategic Studies, and others. Validated the tools with experts.

MICROSOFT - FABRIC (DATA & AI PLATFORM) — *Berkeley, California*
Senior Product Manager — *Feb 2023 - Aug 2024*

- Owned the AI Skill (now Data Agent), an enterprise LLM product making analytics dramatically more accessible by allowing analysis via natural language. Took from 0->1 to production with hundreds of enterprise customers. Led the vision, roadmap, execution.
- Productized the AI SQL solution adopted by four major product groups, becoming the central NL2SQL capability for Azure Data. See paper.
- Built a continuous feedback network of 80 enterprise customers for beta testing over 6 months. Ran workshops, hackathons, roundtables.
- Created the accuracy and safety framework for our data copilot, which became the standard for responsible AI in Azure Data.

MICROSOFT - BONSAI, AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS — *Berkeley, California*
Senior Product Manager - Reinforcement Learning — *May 2022 - Feb 2023*

- Brought Reinforcement Learning features to market as the lead AI PM. Notable features include Offline RL, which opened up new market opportunities, and a Training Accelerator, which reduced time and compute cost by 80% for high-fidelity simulations (the majority of our workload).
- Led a cross-functional project spanning GTM, Marketing, Product, Engineering, and Operations that reduced time-to-value from months to days for our HVAC Buildings projects. Set strategy, scope, milestones.

Applied AI Engineer — *Jan 2021 - May 2022*

- Developed and deployed a Reinforcement Learning AI solution for a complex chemical industrial control problem. Outperformed experts on head-to-head tests and secured approval from the head safety officer. Saved $10M/year per line.
- Led cross-functional team on technical deployment of an AI Reinforcement Learning solution on an active, mission-critical, multi-million dollar manufacturing line. Implemented on-site. Projected added revenue of $4M/year per line.
- Trained and mentored teams of 3rd party data scientists on using reinforcement learning for industrial process control problems.

CITRINE INFORMATICS — *Redwood City, California*
Data Scientist & Tech Lead — *Aug 2019 - Jan 2021*

- Led technical teams on multiple 6-7 figure enterprise AI projects. Deeply embedded with customers—weekly sessions with engineers and scientists, monthly executive roll-ups—to translate complex R&D workflows into AI-driven solutions.
- Supported GTM on strategic deals as the technical lead, translating AI capabilities for executive and technical audiences.
- Delivered active learning algorithms that recommended next experimental actions for scientists. Breakthrough insights in glass etching predicted 2 years of R&D time savings.
- Built bespoke analytical tools for customer materials scientists and process engineers.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY — *Cambridge, Massachusetts*
Graduate Researcher - Olivetti Group — *Aug 2016 - June 2019*

- Co-engineered end-to-end data pipeline to extract and analyze materials data from millions of scientific articles.
- Applied state-of-the-art NLP techniques for classification and sequence-to-sequence predictions on millions of documents.

Education

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY — *Cambridge, Massachusetts*
Master of Science - Technology and Policy — *2016 - 2019*
Master of Science - Electrical Engineering and Computer Science — *2016 - 2019*
Master of Engineering - Advanced Manufacturing and Design — *2015 - 2016*

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH — *Edinburgh, Scotland*
B.Eng Mechanical Engineering with Management (First Class Honours, Class Medal) — *2011 - 2015*