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San Diego, CA, 92110

February 9, 2026

Decagon
2261 Market St, Suite 5378
San Francisco, California, 94114

To the Hiring Team at Decagon,

I'm a senior undergrad CS major at Georgia Tech specializing in product AI and agents. I am excited to bring my dual experience in engineering and research to the Agent Software Engineer New Grad role at Decagon. My previous experiences merge research and engineering skills: I have presented on language models, reasoning, and explainable agents in top AI/ML conferences such as ACL and MLsys, components crucial to improving AI agents such as those in Decagon's conversational AI platform. I previously interned as a Software Engineer at Two Sigma and Machine Learning Engineer at Raytheon, enabling me to bring strong technical machine learning expertise to collaborative environments.

Interning at Two Sigma deepened my knowledge of how to present useful metrics based on a deep understanding of data flows in production pipelines, essential expertise for understanding, measuring, and explaining the functionality of AI agents at Decagon. During my project, I designed a system for detailed evaluation of external traders' stock ideas, providing insights into high-performers and identifying misaligned externals. The data empowering this analysis was sourced from multiple, large-scale pipelines, and was efficiently analyzed and visualized in a clear leaderboard. As I iteratively improved the system, I effectively incorporated feedback from traders, account managers, and my team to achieve an excellent final product. Designing this new framework from scratch taught me the entire development process, and has prepared me for the technical rigor and building mindset in startups like Decagon.

While my work at Two Sigma developed my engineering rigor, my research has prepared me for the ideation. I have worked on research projects both by myself and in teams, and pushed multiple first author papers to top AI/ML conferences. My recent work centers around explainable AI for agentic systems, which is crucial for Decagon as consumers and businesses need to be able to trust the AI products that they buy. Researching better ways to build trustworthy and explainable features into the AI products directly will greatly help me in future product work at Decagon, as I already have experience in creating helpful products that users enjoy. I also have research projects around agentic AI, so I am familiar with agentic concepts similar to those used in industry, like at Decagon. I believe that this experience sets me up perfectly for a meaningful contribution to Decagon's products and future features.

In conclusion, I believe that my experiences make me well suited for the Agent Software Engineer role at Decagon. Given Decagon's collaborative culture and winning mindset, I think that my past experiences in quantitative finance and research will help me excel in such an environment. I hope to be able to apply my background in engineering and research to help Decagon's conversational AI platform soar to new heights.

Best regards,
Mika Okamoto

Role I am applying for: <https://jobs.ashbyhq.com/decagon/2a435dd5-1212-42bb-ae5a-d7432902acd2>