How to stand out in your job search?

April 1, 2023

Abinaya Mahendiran

- AI/ML Consultant (Freelancer)
- (Ex) Manager, Data Science & Applied AI, NEXT Labs, Mphasis
- M.Tech IT, International Institute of Information and Technology Bangalore
- Mentor at TeamEpic, Springboard, Topmate.io
- Volunteer at WTM, Data Conversations, GHCI, WAI, Women Who Code
- Technical blogger, Public Speaker
- Interests : Building NLP/NLU/MLOps systems, Open source, Applied Research

@freakynut

https://abinayam02.github.io

https://medium.com/@abinayamahendiran

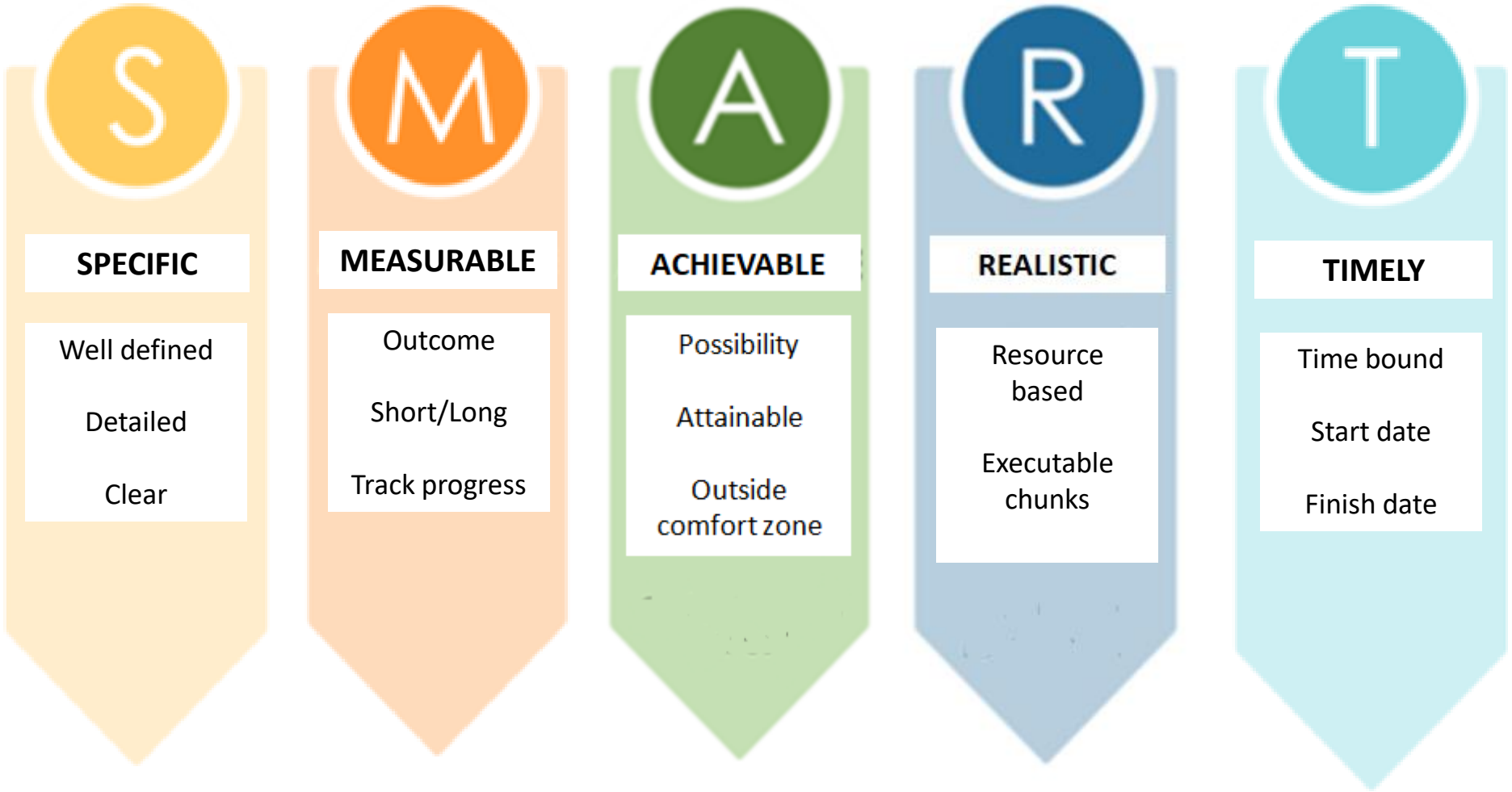
https://www.linkedin.com/in/abinayamahendiran/

https://topmate.io/abinaya_mahendiran

Agenda

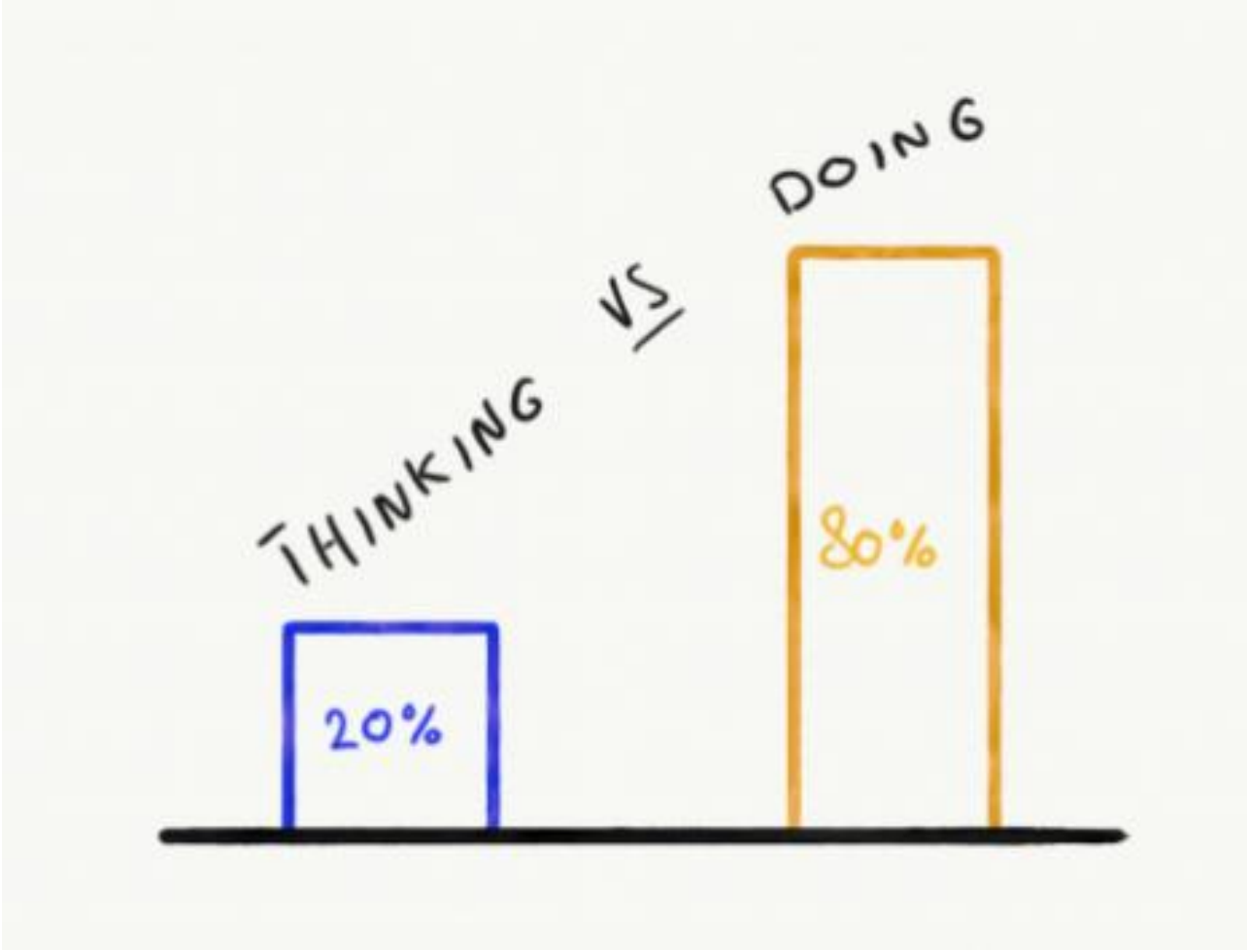
- Define your career goals
- Develop your skills
- Build a strong resume
- Showcase your portfolio
- Create a brand for yourself
- Build a professional network
- Most important takeaways!

Define your career goals



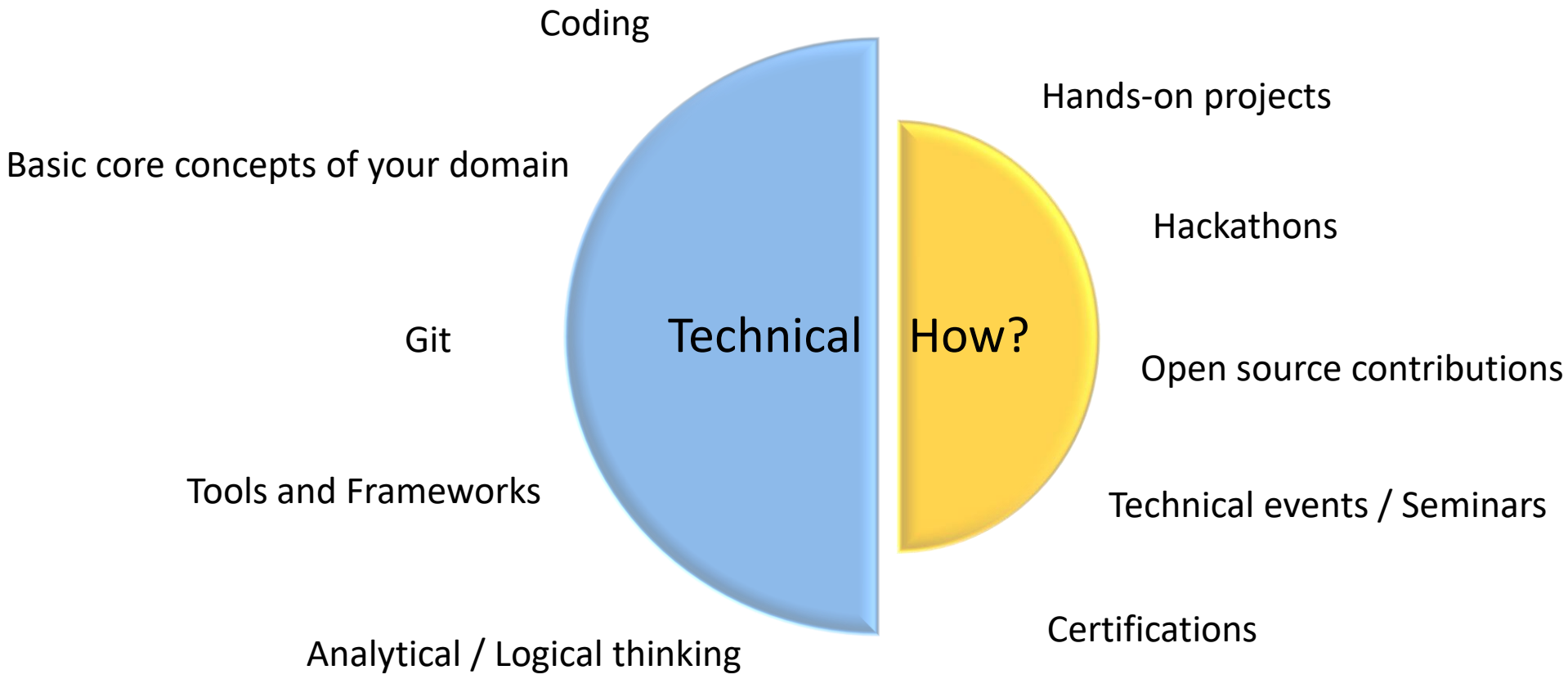
Credit: https://www.101planners.com/smart-goals-template/

Doer’s Mindset



Credit: https://dariusforoux.com/20-80-rule-of-effective-thinking/

Develop your skills



Resources for developing technical skills

Teach yourself Programming in Ten Years :
https://norvig.com/21-days.html

- TopCoder: https://www.topcoder.com/
- Leetcode: https://leetcode.com/
- CodeChef: https://www.codechef.com/
- HackerRank: https://www.hackerrank.com/
- Hackerearth: https://hackerearth.com/
- Kaggle: https://www.kaggle.com/
- Git: https://git-scm.com/docs/gittutorial

CLOUD NATIVE COMPUTING FOUNDATION

Contributing to Open Source

good-first-issues

help-wanted

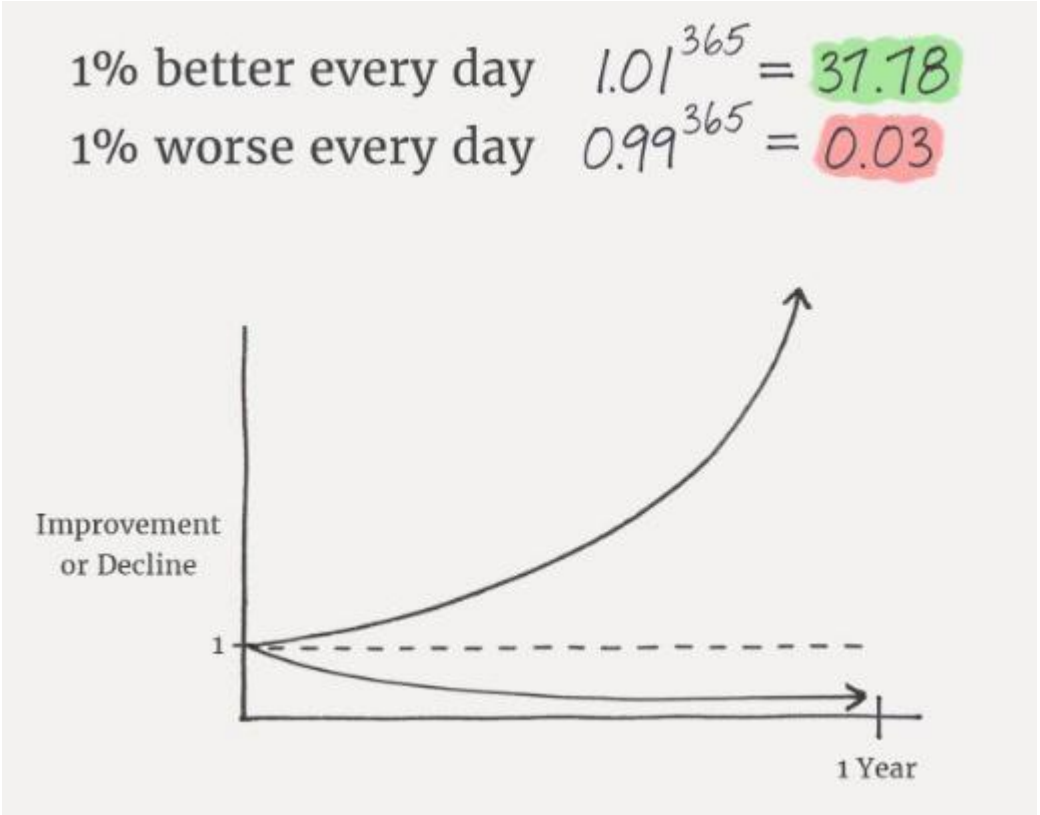
- Find a project of your interest
- Get familiar with codebase
- Start small
- Follow the project guidelines
- Ask for help and be patient

Google Summer of Code

OpenSSF
OPEN SOURCE SECURITY FOUNDATION

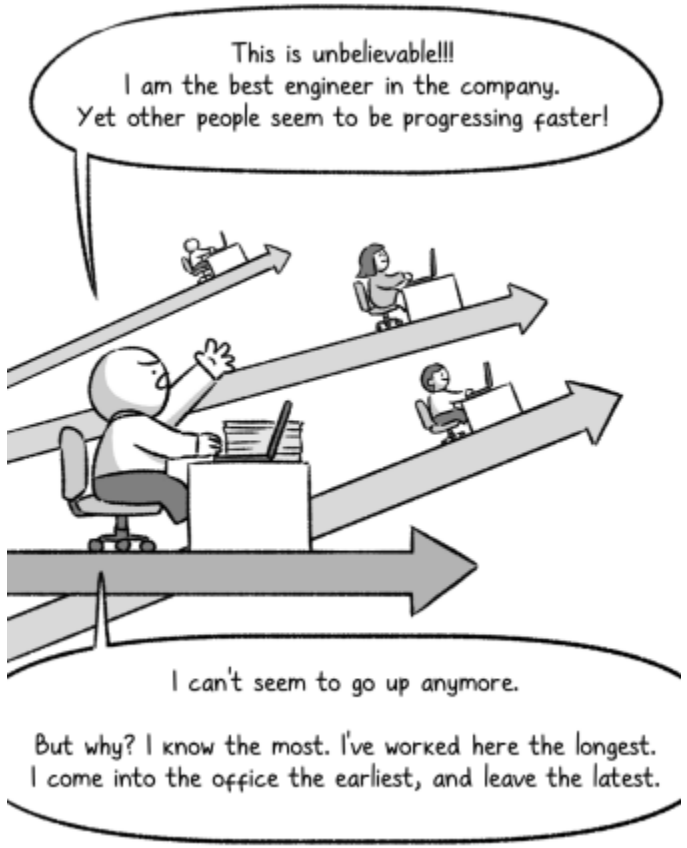
OpenJS Foundation

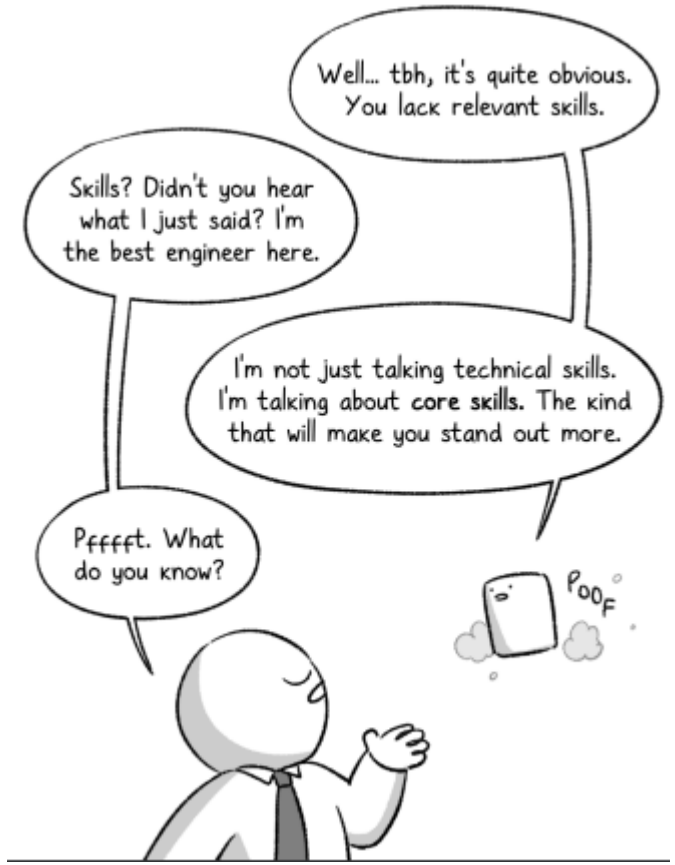
Consistency is the key!



Credit: JamesClear.com

I am good at my job. But why am I not being promoted?
TAP
TAP
TAP
COMIC BY THE WOKE SALARYMAN


This is unbelievable!!! I am the best engineer in the company. Yet other people seem to be progressing faster!
I can't seem to go up anymore.
But why? I know the most. I've worked here the longest. I come into the office the earliest, and leave the latest.


Well... tbh, it's quite obvious. You lack relevant skills.
Skills? Didn't you hear what I just said? I'm the best engineer here.
I'm not just talking technical skills. I'm talking about **core skills**. The kind that will make you stand out more.
Pfffft. What do you know?
POOF

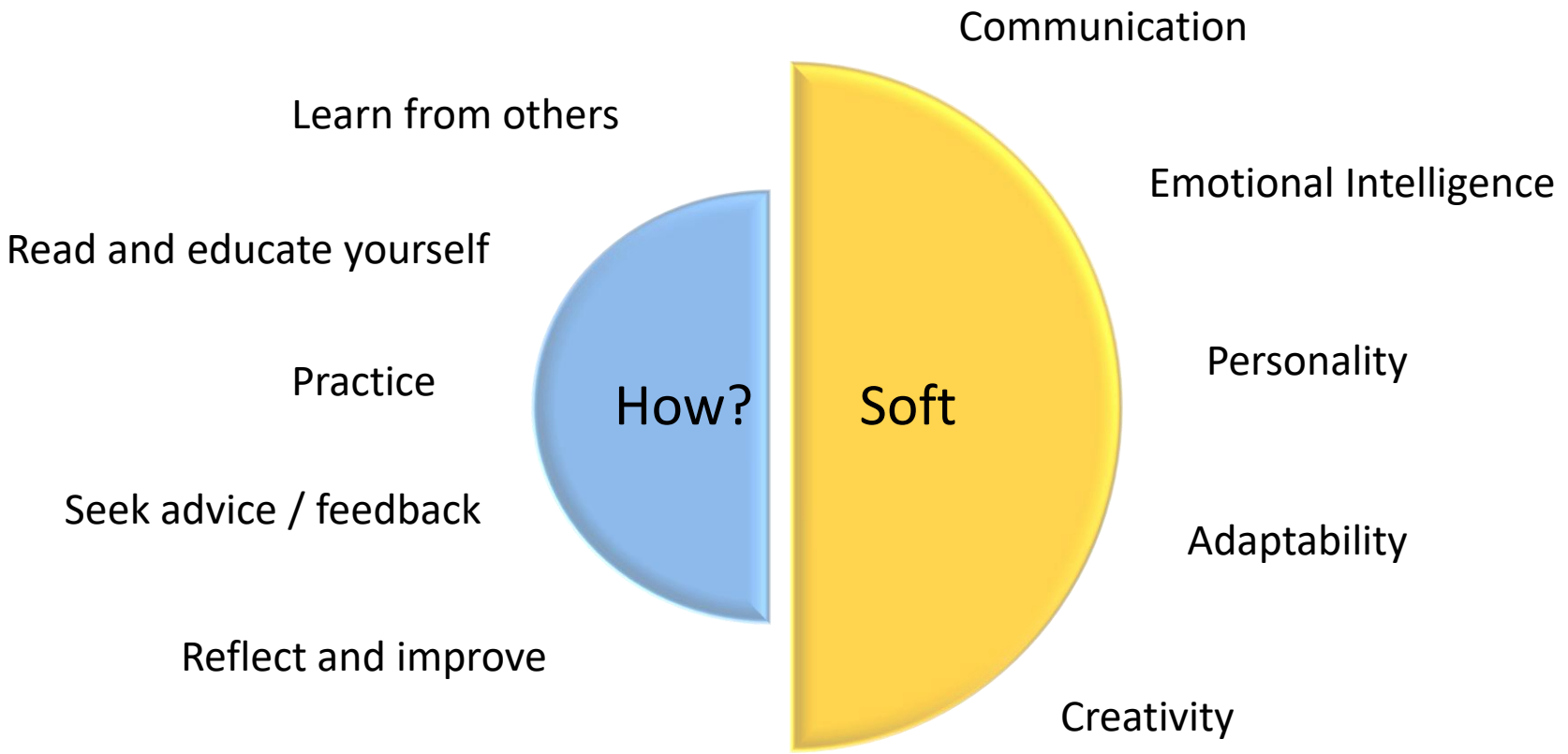
1. You lack communication skills

2. You lack critical thinking and creativity

3. You lack adaptability

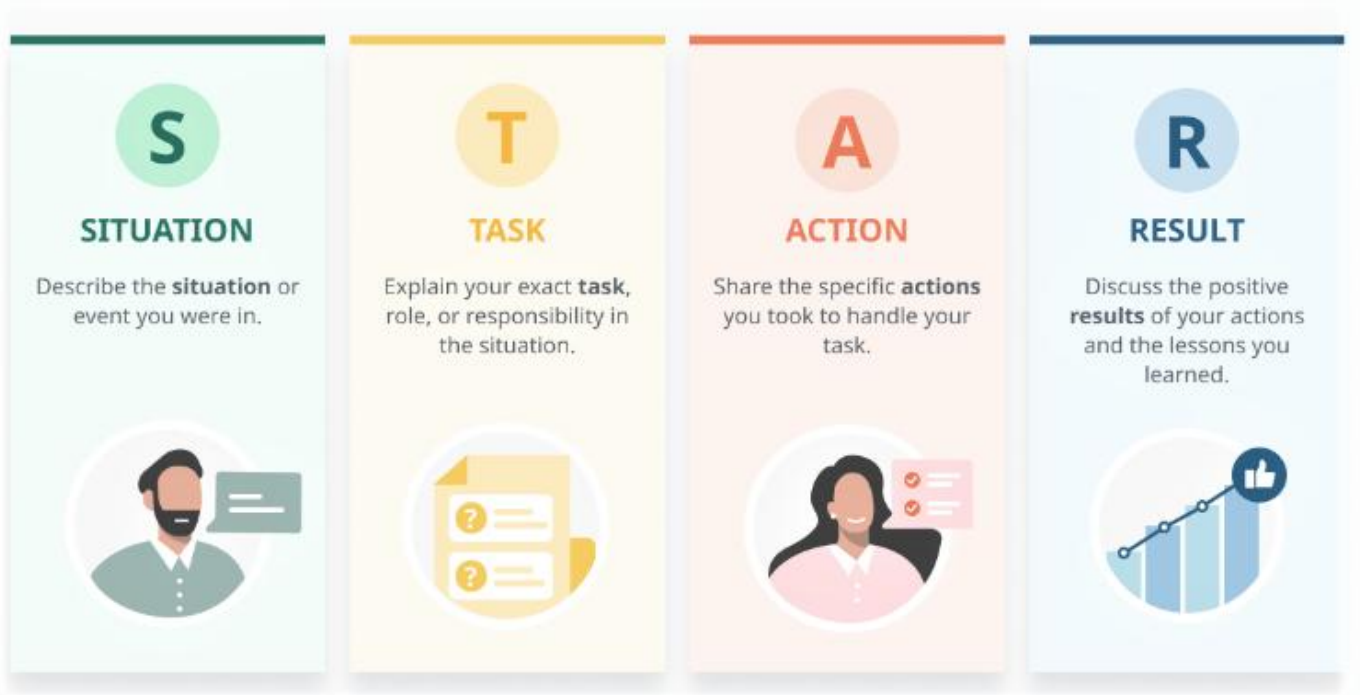
4. You lack empathy and interpersonal skills

Develop your skills



Build a strong resume

- Tailor your resume to the job
- Keep it concise
- Use strong action verbs
- Highlight your accomplishments
- Include relevant skills
- Use STAR method



Build a strong resume

- Use a professional format (1 page/2 page)
- Proofread for errors
- Include relevant education and experience
- Keep it up to date
- Include your GitHub

a. **Introduction**
   i. Your name
   ii. Email id
   iii. Phone number
   iv. *Place*
   v. **Github** profile/ personal website
   vi. LinkedIn profile

b. **Objective or Statement of Purpose (SoP)**

c. **Work experience/Internship**
   i. List your work experience in chronologically decreasing order. Recent job/internship should be first.
   ii. State the designation, company name and the duration of your work
   iii. Add projects worked on during internship/work
   iv. Add technologies used in project

d. **Education**
   i. List your education in chronologically decreasing order (college first, 12th followed by 10th).
   ii. State the degree, name of the college, duration of study, and the recent grade for college. For school, state the standard, school name, year of passing and percentage [remove this later once you start working].

e. **Skills/Tools**
   i. Programming language: Python, JAVA, C
   ii. OS: Ubuntu/Windows/iOS
   iii. Tools/frameworks: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Angular,
   iv. Areas of interest: Operating system, NLP

f. **Publications/Patents/Certifications** [optional]
   i. List publications/patents/certifications in chronologically decreasing order. Recent publication first.

g. **Projects**
   i. List projects in chronologically decreasing order. Recent project first.
   ii. Add project title, and duration of the project. If it's done during internship/work, add the company name as well as title.
   iii. Describe the project in one or two lines. What is it about and what is your part in the project? Keep it short and succinct. Write the description in active voice.
   iv. Add the tools/technology used in the project.
   v. Repeat the same for all the projects you want to list.
   vi. You should only add the projects that you're comfortable with.

h. **Extra-curricular activities**
   i. Mention all the additional achievements (choose the ones that you really want to showcase)

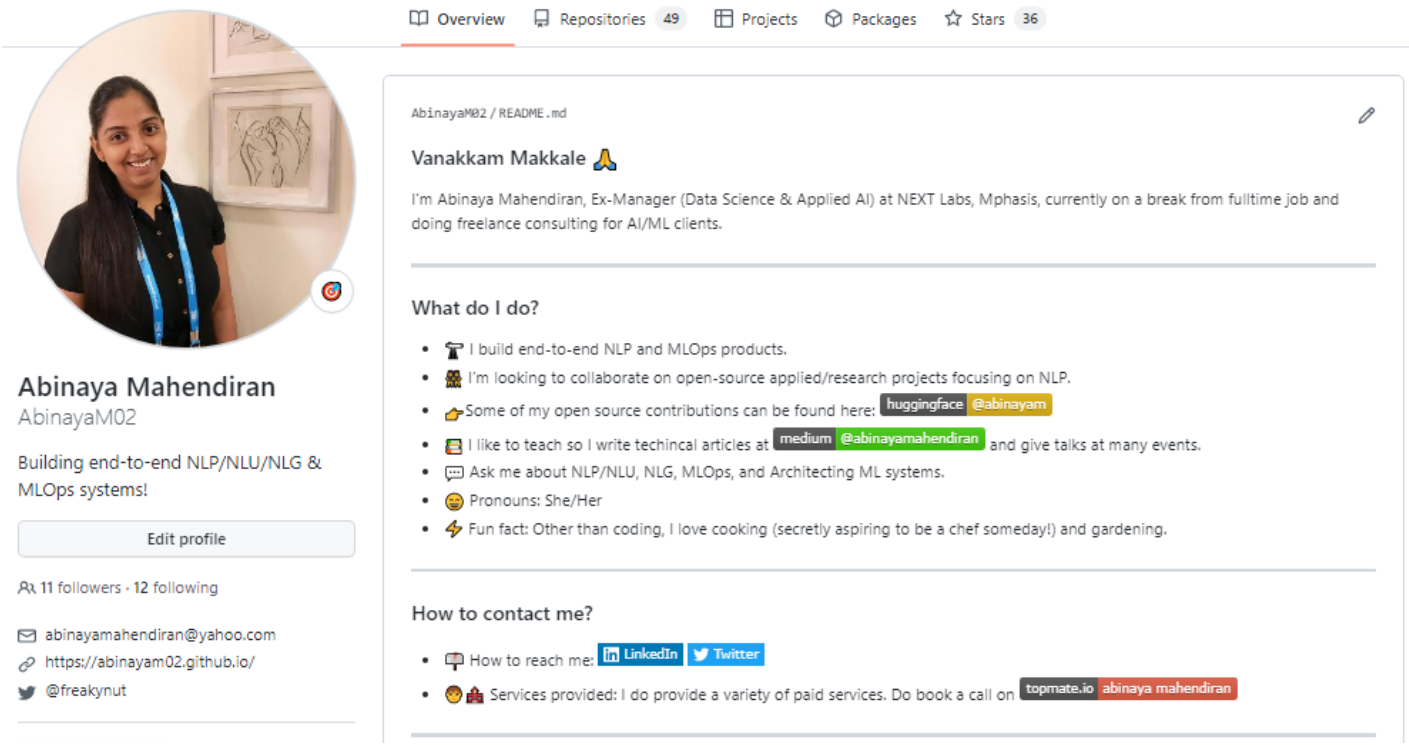
Showcase your portfolio

- Organize your work to make it navigable
- Highlight your best work
- Use visuals
- Provide context
- Keep it up-to-date

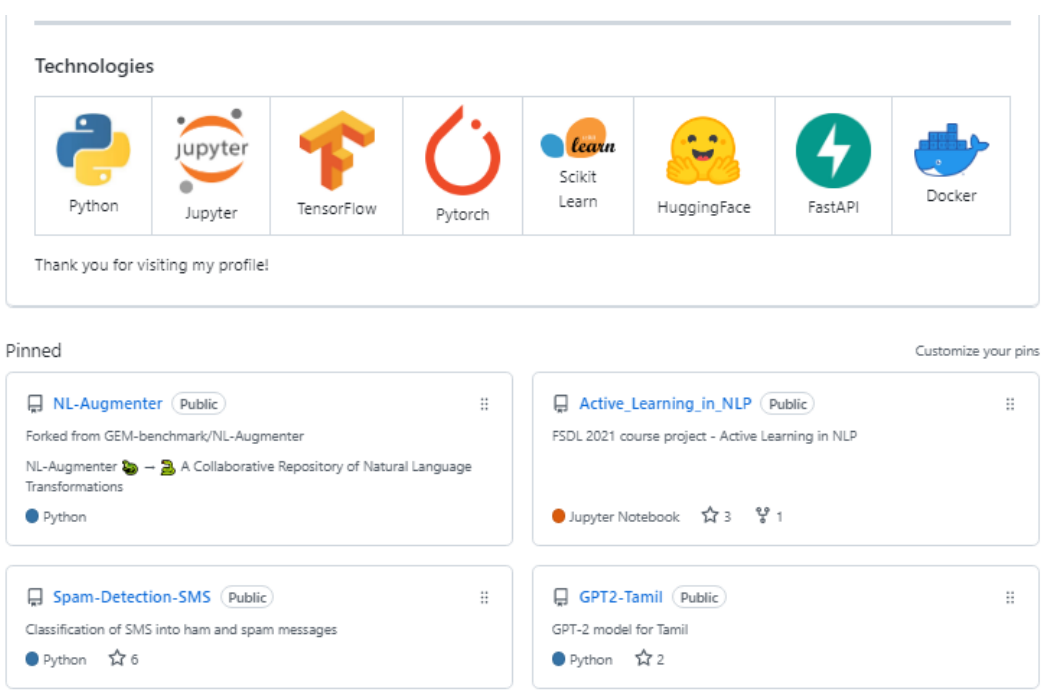
Best options:

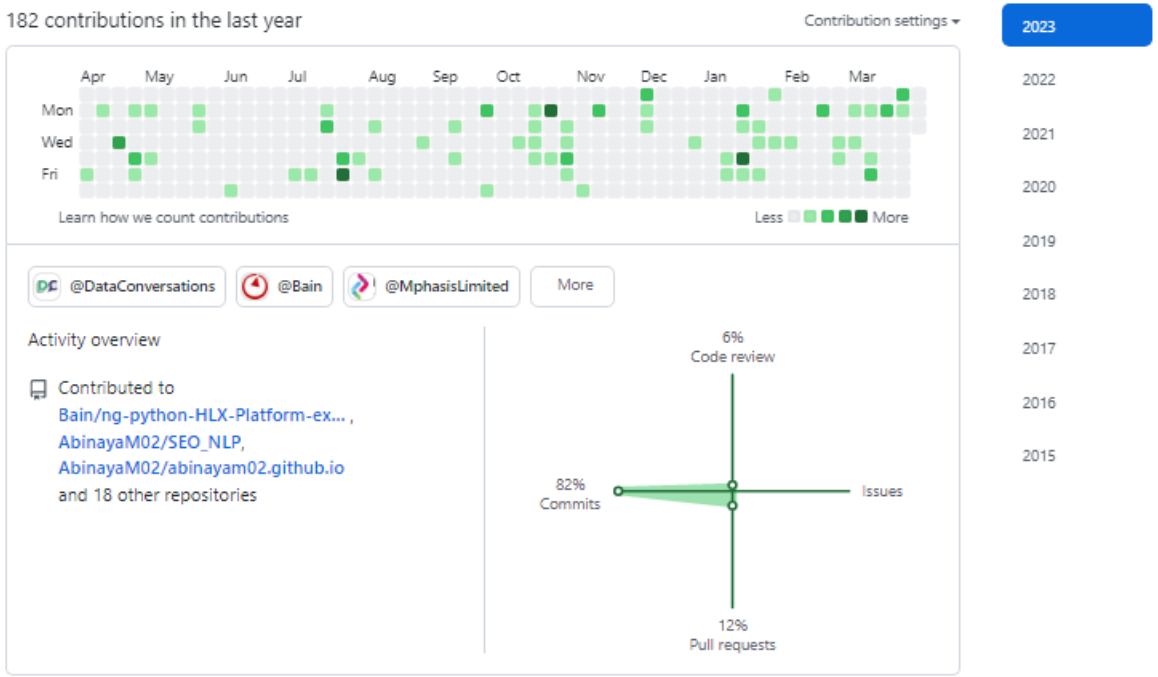
- Github (github.io & GitHub actions)

- Personal website

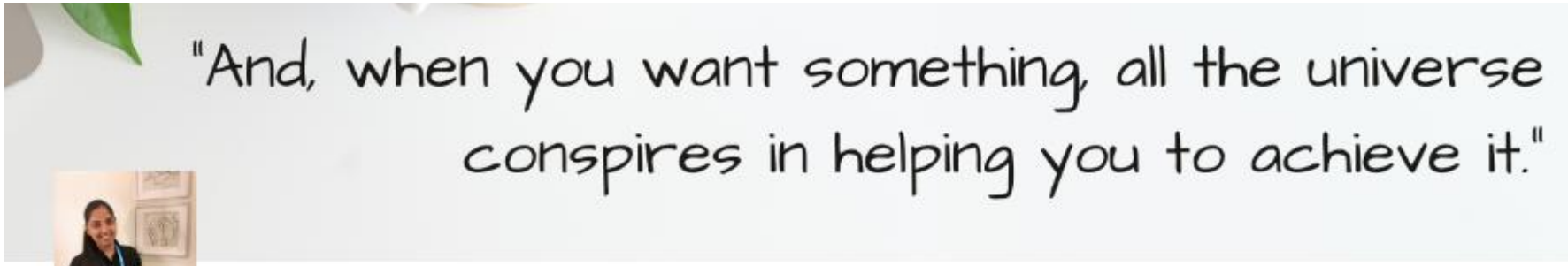


Showcase your portfolio





Showcase your portfolio



Abinaya Mahendiran

Hi All, Welcome to my personal homepage!

I'm a seasoned engineer with right blend of software engineering and machine learning skills. Having worked in the industry for more than nine years, I'm currently on a break from my full time job and utilizing my time to do open source work, mentoring professionals and students and paid part-time consultation.

I'm a former Manager Data science based out of India with 10 years of experience in both software engineering and data science. My areas of expertise include **NLP/NLU/NLG**, **Deep Learning**, **Machine Learning**, **Explainability** and **MLOps**. I have successfully built and delivered end-to-end client projects and managed and mentored diverse distributed teams.

Contact

abinayamahendiran@yahoo.com
twitter.com/freakynut
linkedin.com/in/abinayamahendiran
github.com/AbinayaM02
topmate.io/abinaya_mahendiran
youtube/abinayamahendiran

Work Experience

Timeline view

AI/ML Consultant	Jan 1, 2024	Freelancer
Manager - Data Science	Jan 1, 2021 → Nov 11, 2022	NEXT Labs, Mphasis
Assistant Manager - Data Science	May 15, 2017 → Dec 31, 2021	NEXT Labs, Mphasis
Software Engineer II	Aug 4, 2014 → Apr 29, 2017	Cisco Systems, Inc.
Programmer Analyst Trainee	Jul 4, 2010 → Apr 17, 2011	Cognizant

Education

M. Tech (Information Technology)

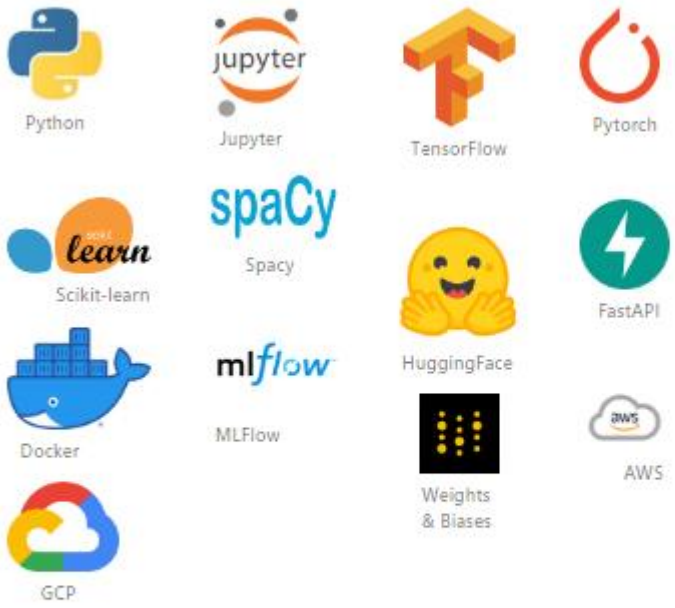
International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, Bangalore, *2012 - 2014* — CGPA: 3.61/4.0

B. Tech (Information Technology)

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, *2006 - 2010* — CGPA: 8.17/10.0

Showcase your portfolio

Skills



Languages

- English
- Tamil
- Hindi
- Kannada

Publications

Research

Projects

Projects

Content

Blogs

Talks

Talks

Certifications

Completion Certificate for Introduction to TensorFlow for Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning
This certificate verifies my successful completion of DeepLearning.AI's "Introduction to TensorFlow for
https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishmen... utm_source=link&utm_medium=certificate&utm_c...

Introduction to TensorFlow for Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning, Coursera March 4, 2023

Certifications/ml-observability-fundamentals-certification.pdf at master - AbinayaM02/Certifications
Certificates of MOOCs. Contribute to AbinayaM02/Certifications development by creating an
https://github.com/AbinayaM02/Certifications/blo... observability-fundamentals-certification.pdf

ML Observability Fundamentals, Arize University February 22, 2023

Full Stack Deep Learning - Spring 2021 | Full Stack Deep Learning
Verified is an online platform owned by Sertifier. It allows recipients to see their digital credentials on one
https://verified.sertifier.com/en/verify/5454107500...

Full Stack Deep Learning - Spring 2021, FSDL LLC., June 21, 2021

Certifications/Introduction to Databases.pdf at master - AbinayaM02/Certifications
Certificates of MOOCs. Contribute to AbinayaM02/Certifications development by creating an
https://github.com/AbinayaM02/Certifications/blo...

Introduction to Databases, Jennifer Widom December, 2011

Volunteering

- Executive Committee Member, Data Conversations (Jan 2023 - Present)
  As part of the executive committee, I help in planning and organizing the events for the Data Conversations initiative.
- Data Science Mentor, TeamEpic (Jan 2023 - Present)
  As a mentor, I manage a cohort of grads by guiding and mentoring them on real-world data science projects.
- Women Techmakers Ambassador, Google (Nov 2023 - Present)
  As an ambassador of the WTM Coimbatore chapter, I help organize tech focused community events and also talk at various events to share knowledge and expertise.
- Mentor, Springboard India (Apr 2020 - Present)
  As a mentor for the Data Science Career track, I mentor students/professionals) on the curriculum based learning.
- AI/ML Committee Core Member, GHCI, AnitaB.org (Mar 2015 - Present)
  As an ambassador of the WTM Coimbatore chapter, I help organize tech focused community events and also talk at various events to share knowledge and expertise.

Showcase your portfolio

Abinaya Mahendiran / Projects

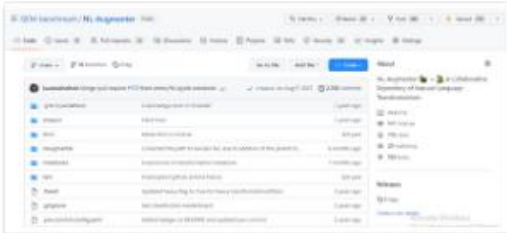
Projects

All the open source projects that I have worked on will be updated here.

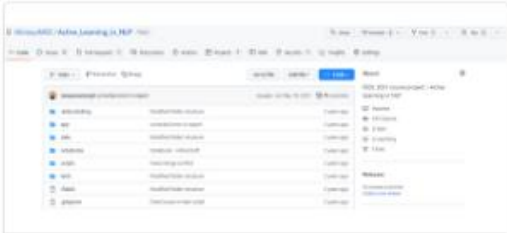
Open Source | Academic Projects | Hackathon

Filter Sort

GPT-2 for Tamil
Jul 23, 2021
Open Source



GEM-Benchmark/NL-Augmenter
Jun 20, 2021
Open Source

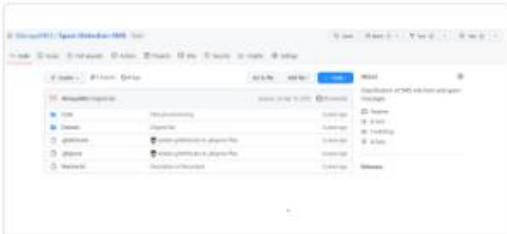


Active Learning in NLP
May 15, 2021
Open Source

She-Hack - Runner up
Apr 30, 2017
Hackathon

Digital Duchess Hackathon - Runner up
Mar 10, 2017
Hackathon

Thesis: Text Summarization using Deep Belief Networks
Jun 15, 2014
Course Work



SMS Spam Detection
Dec 31, 2013
Course Work

Inverse Chess
Aug 1, 2012
Course Work

Activate Windows

Showcase your portfolio

Abinaya Mahendiran / Talks

Talks

All the technical talks and presentations that I have given till data will be present here.

Technical Talks

Filter Sort

Building an end-to-end NLP application

Jun 5, 2022

WiDS Mysuru

How to transition into Data Science

Apr 16, 2022

WiDS Mysuru

Building Human-in-the-loop pipeline in MLOps

Mar 8, 2022

Tech(K)now Day

A Primer on MLOps

Mar 8, 2021

Tech(K)now Day

Demystifying MLOps

Sep 27, 2020

WiDS Mysuru

Entry level data science jobs

Feb 21, 2020

Springboard

Showcase your portfolio

Blogs

All the technical content (blogs and whitepapers) that I have written till date will be updated here.

Articles

Machine Learning Model Training Mistakes: How to avoid them
This blog highlights some important mistakes that one can make while training a machine learning model.
https://medium.com/mlearning-ai/machine-learning-model-training-mistakes-how-to-avoid-them-f6fa5c11efa5

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Avoiding Machine Learning Pitfalls: From a practitioner's perspective—Part 5
The idea of this blog is to show how to report your results once you're done with building models and have a way to
https://medium.com/wicds/avoiding-machine-learning-pitfalls-from-a-practitioners-perspective-part-5-a59b7d42e0a

JANUARY 19, 2023

Avoiding Machine Learning Pitfalls: From a practitioner's perspective-Part 4
This blog will throw light on how to compare the models that you have built fairly. As part of any ML project, a data
https://medium.com/wicds/avoiding-machine-learning-pitfalls-from-a-practitioners-perspective-part-4-fbbf8f1e0292

AUGUST 9, 2022

Whitepapers

Data Augmentation Techniques for Tabular Data

Machine Learning & IT Operations to Manage End-to-End Machine Learning Life Cycles

A Framework for Code Vulnerability Detection

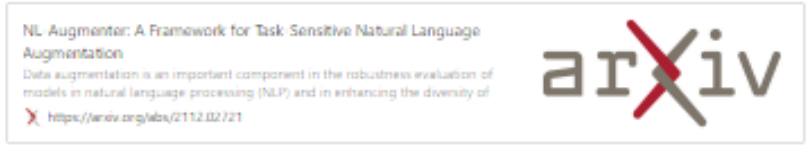
Improving Search Relevance in Question Answering Engine

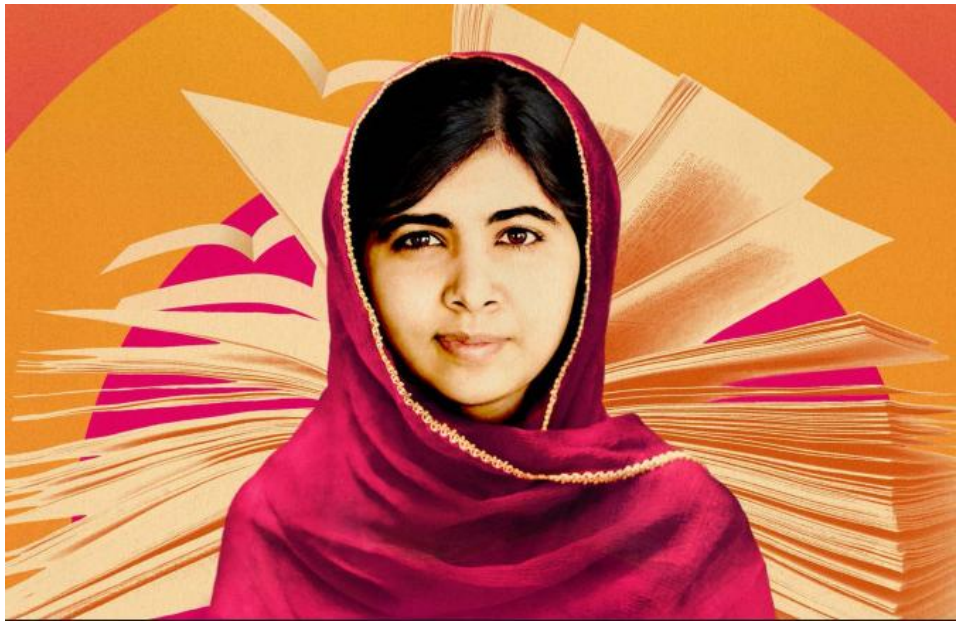
Research

All the open source research work and the papers will be updated here.

1. **GEMv2: Multilingual NLG Benchmarking in a Single Line of CodeGEMv2: Multilingual NLG Benchmarking in a Single Line of Code**
   Arxiv - Jun 22, 2022
   Evaluation in machine learning is usually informed by past choices, for example which datasets or metrics to use. This standardization enables the comparison on equal footing using leaderboards, but the evaluation choices become sub-optimal as better alternatives arise. This problem is especially pertinent in natural language generation which requires ever-improving suites of datasets, metrics, and human evaluation to make definitive claims. To make following best model evaluation practices easier, we introduce GEMv2. The new version of the Generation, Evaluation, and Metrics Benchmark introduces a modular infrastructure for dataset, model, and metric developers to benefit from each others work. GEMv2 supports 40 documented datasets in 51 languages. Models for all datasets can be evaluated online and our interactive data card creation and rendering tools make it easier to add new datasets to the living benchmark.

2. **NL-Augmenter: A Framework for Task-Sensitive Natural Language Augmentation**
   Arxiv - Dec 6, 2021
   Data augmentation is an important component in the robustness evaluation of models in natural language processing (NLP) and in enhancing the diversity of the data they are trained on. In this paper, we present NL-Augmenter, a new participatory Python-based natural language augmentation framework which supports the creation of both transformations (modifications to the data) and filters (data splits according to specific features). We describe the framework and an initial set of 117 transformations and 23 filters for a variety of natural language tasks. We demonstrate the efficacy of NL-Augmenter by using several of its transformations to analyze the robustness of popular natural language models. The infrastructure, datacards and robustness analysis results are available publicly on the NL-Augmenter repository.





How dare you!

Create a brand for yourself

Define who you are!

Speak up and share your knowledge!

Be consistent!

Build your network!

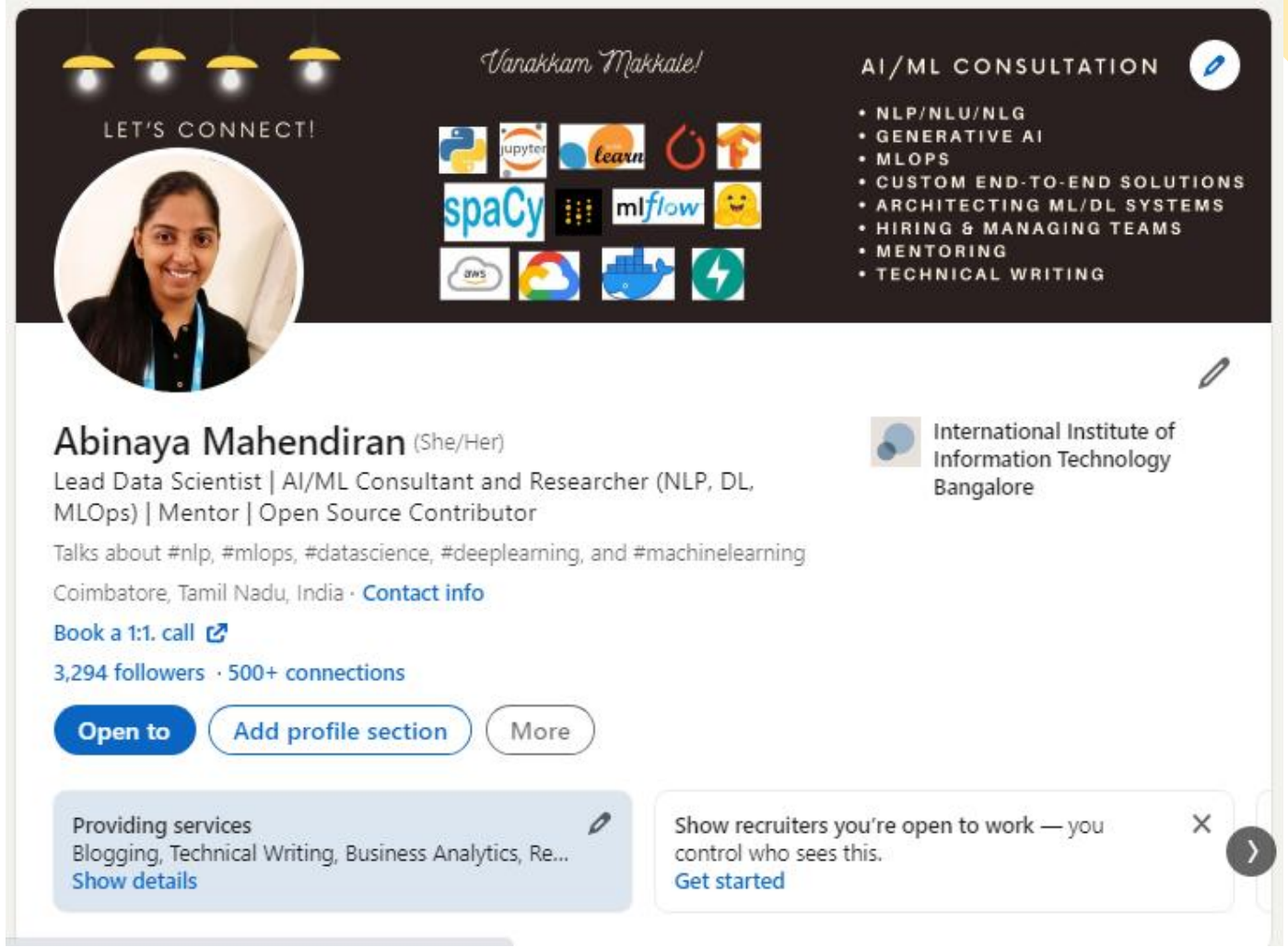
Provide high quality content!

Engage with the audience!

Image credit: https://www.business2community.com/branding/personal-branding-more-than-an-elevator-speech-02252096

Build a professional network

- Attend networking events
- Join professional organizations
- Offer value
- Be authentic
- Stay in touch
- Find a sponsor / mentor



LinkedIn Etiquette!

- Do your due research about your need
- Have the job descriptions link handy
- Reach out only to someone you know
- Introduce yourself or greet while connecting
- Share your portfolio
- Be concise about the ask
- Be courteous
- Do not spam

Most important takeaways!

Have any questions?!