



Hello,

We are writing with enthusiastic recommendation of Griffin McCauley. Griffin worked as a data scientist with us in 2022-23 through his capstone project at the University of Virginia's School of Data Science, then for several months afterwards on a Large Language Model training project. We recommend him for a data science and/or machine learning position with your organization, without hesitation, as he was a great asset to our team.

Our names are Will Fortin and Dylan DiGioia and we are the lead data scientist and lead software engineer at Hum. We directly managed and supported Griffin during his 2 projects with the company.

Griffin worked with 3 other students during his capstone project and stood out as a leader within the cohort. He asked remarkably insightful questions which helped define and shape their capstone effort. Griffin's initiative often led him to develop prototypes of unknown aspects of the project that provided a springboard for the rest of the team preventing any stalling of their project.

Griffin's excellent work and curiosity during the course of the capstone project led us to hire him to be the primary developer for an open-source long sequence length LLM, called Lodestone; we are using it as the foundation of our enterprise Artificial Intelligence capabilities. During the Lodestone project Griffin kept incredible focus and rapidly learned our systems, the complex world of building LLMs, and honored the core thrust and purpose of the project. He was resourceful in finding technical solutions inherent to state of the art models and diligent in asking for assistance when hurdles were slowing progress. The resultant model met the project's ambitions, is performing well relative to competing models on open leaderboards, but allows for 8 times the context size compared to most existing open source models. Griffin's work has significant business value for Hum as the content we ingest frequently exceeds legacy model limitations.

We are confident that Griffin would make a valuable addition to your team; he's sharp, capable, inquisitive making him a great fit for the demands of a data scientist and/or machine learning specialist.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions,

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