Rayane Bencharef

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Skills

Machine Learning: Data Science, Model Optimization/Efficiency (Distillation, Finetuning), Multimodality (VQA), Computer Vision (Classification & Segmentation), Natural Language Processing (Tokenization & Language Model), Time Series (Analysis & Forecasting), Data Engineering & Preprocessing, Data & Features Analysis, Distributed computing/training
Software Development: Full-stack Web Development, Database Design & Implementation
Programming Languages: Python, R, JavaScript, Java, PostgreSQL
Frameworks/Libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, OpenCV, ReactJS/Native, Node.js, Bootstrap
Developer Tools: Git, CUDA, Visual Studio, GitHub, HuggingFace, Slurm, Android Studio
Language: French (Native), English

Experience

Student Researcher in Multimodality & Efficiency (Master's Research Project) Jan. 2024 – Nov.2025
Synchromedia, ÉTS *Montreal, QC*

- Reduced the computational cost of a **Large Vision-Language Model** in DocVQA by studying two **distillation** approaches between **heterogeneous architectures**, which halved the latency (**896ms → 446ms**).*
- Fine-tuned the **GEMMA** LLM decoder with a hierarchical visual encoder for DocVQA, using QLoRA, **improving the performance from 80.20 to 82.67 ANLS**.*
- Investigated positional encoding in Vision Transformer (ViT) using 2D Fourier features, increasing performance **from 83 to 84 ANLS**.
- Studied how VQA models handle structure and layout understanding through document classification and layout analysis tasks (**interpretability**).*
- Adapted single-page Document Understanding VLM to process multi-page documents **without adding parameters** for industrial applications.
- Developed a lightweight OCR Transformer with **a new decoder approach** in this field.
  Presented at the 22nd Conference of the International Graphonomics Society (**IGS 2025**), at Montréal
- Read and wrote scientific articles.
- *Presented & published at the **VisionDocs workshop (ICCV2025)** and received the **best paper award**.

Intern Machine Learning Engineer Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023
Atout Majeur Concept *Toulouse, France*

- Engineered and analyzed patient data for **feature selection**.
- Built an SVM model to predict hospital stay duration from patient symptoms and characteristics, achieving **78% accuracy** with **limited data**.
- Developed a full pipeline to **automatically process** new patient data and generate predictions.

Independent Data Analyst Dec. 2022
Linkypharm.fr *Remote*

- Cleaned and preprocessed large pharmacy statistics datasets for downstream analysis.
- Created data-driven **geographic visualizations** of France to highlight pharmacy usage and distribution patterns.

Independent Data Engineer Sep. 2022 – Nov. 2022
TrainPreddict *Remote*

- Designed and implemented a data model for cycling-related datasets.
- Built an interactive web application for **statistical data visualization** using React and Redux.

Intern Data Scientist in Time Series May 2022 – Aug. 2022
CHU Toulouse *Toulouse, France*

- Engineered and preprocessed emergency call datasets from SAMU31 (emergency medical service).
- Conducted **exploratory feature analysis** using geographic and statistical visualizations.
- Built ARIMA and LSTM forecasting models (Keras) to predict call volumes, **reaching 80% accuracy**.

Front-End Developer Sep. 2021 – Aug. 2022
Horus HealthCare Systems *Castres, France*

- Built a Django web application for the Castres Olympique rugby club to manage training sessions, matches, and events.
- Designed responsive, user-centric interfaces with HTML5, JavaScript, and Bootstrap.
- Worked in a 15-member team using Trello for project coordination and GitHub for collaborative development.

Full Stack Developer Jan. 2021 – Sep. 2021
TrainPreddict *Castres, France*

- Built full-stack web and mobile applications (React, React Native, Redux, Node.js) to assist cyclists during training sessions.

Back-End Developer Jul. 2020 – Feb. 2021
Horus HealthCare Systems *Castres, France*

- Built a web application with a 10-member team using Sails.js for the French National Cancer Institute (INCA), enabling psychologists to track patient progress during treatment.

Peer-Reviewed Publication

International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), VisionDocs Workshop Oct. 2025
*Spotlight/**Best Paper Award*** *Honolulu, Hawaï*

- *DIVE-Doc: Downscaling foundational Image Visual Encoder into hierarchical architecture for DocVQA.*
  Code Repository: *github.com/JayRay5/DIVE-Doc*
  Model Weights: *huggingface.co/JayRay5/DIVE-Doc-FRD*

Education

École de Technologie Supérieure de Montréal (ÉTS) Montreal, QC
Master of Science (M.Sc) in Artificial Intelligence with thesis *Sept. 2023 – Nov. 2025*

- Mention Excellent (Table of Honor)
- Jury recommendation for the Master's Excellence Award

ISIS Castres (INSA partner) Castres, France
Master's of Engineering (M.Eng) in Software Engineering (CTI-accredited degree) *Sep. 2019 – Nov. 2025*

European University of Cyprus Nicosia, Cyprus
Student Exchange in Software Engineering (Erasmus) *Feb. 2023 – June 2023*