Mina Akhondzadeh

Data Scientist

Phone: (412) 499-2523
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LinkedIn: @mina-akhondzadeh
Portfolio: mina-ak1.github.io/portfolio-rep

Recent graduate in Statistics and Data Science from UCF with a 4.0 GPA and hands-on experience in AI-driven business risk modeling, credit scoring, and NLP. Industry experience includes developing explainable neural network models and large language model fine-tuning. Technical expertise spans Python, R, SQL, AWS, and advanced statistical methods. Completed a 9-month Dataquest Data Science program (2022) and multiple applied projects in credit risk, churn prediction, and text classification.

EDUCATION

MS Statistics and Data Science
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL 2023 – 2025
GPA: 4.0/4.0

MA Interior Architecture
Chatham University
Pittsburgh, PA 2016 – 2018

BS Aerospace Engineering
Sharif University of Technology
Tehran, Iran 2010 – 2015

SKILLS

Certifications:
AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

Programming Languages & Tools:

- **Python (NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn, PyTorch, TensorFlow)**
- **R (Tidyverse, ggplot, Caret)**
- **SQL**
- **Excel, Power BI, Spark**

Machine Learning & Data Analysis:

- **Supervised & Unsupervised Learning**
- **NLP (Transformer Models, Large Language Models (LLMs))**
- **Deep Learning (Neural Networks, Attention Mechanisms)**
  Model Fine-Tuning (BERT, LLaMA)
- **LLM Frameworks: HuggingFace**
- **Exploratory Data Analysis**
  Hypothesis Testing, ANOVA

WORK EXPERIENCE

Worth AI **Orlando, FL | Summer 2024**
Data Scientist Intern

Investigated the impact of missing values on business credit scores and developed neural network models for prediction. Diagnosed reasons for high scores in data with over 60% missing values and proposed solutions. Compared SHAP and Integrated Gradients for explainability and used AWS Athena with SQL for data querying.

University of Central Florida **Orlando, FL | Fall 2023**
Graduate Teaching Assistant

Assisted Statistical Methods students with fundamentals like descriptive statistics, sampling distributions, probability, and hypothesis testing.

Tri-State Office Furniture Inc. **Pittsburgh, PA | 2021-2022**
Design Director

Led a team of 5 designers, ensuring project profitability and exceeding design expectations, while collaborating with 3 other departments.

Tri-State Office Furniture Inc. **Pittsburgh, PA | 2018-2021**
Interior Designer

Executed design-to-installation for 150+ projects, using 3D modeling.

PROJECTS

- **Feed Forward Neural Network for Business Credit Score Prediction (Internship)**
  Applied a Feed Forward Neural Network to predict business credit scores using financial, social, and economic data. Utilized SHAP and Integrated Gradients for model explainability, compared their algorithms and performance. (Python)
- **KNN for Pseudo Business Score Development (Internship)**
  Developed a pseudo business score using KNN on historical data grouped by industry to provide credit score ranges for potential SMB customers, promoting AI-powered underwriting solutions to enhance financial profiles and loan eligibility. (Python)
- **K-Means Clustering for Churn Prediction**
  Performed K-Means Clustering on credit card data for churn prediction, determining optimal clusters with WCSS. (Python)
- **Fine-tuning LLMs for Amazon Reviews Text Classification**
  Fine-tuned DistilBERT and trained a TF-IDF + logistic regression baseline to classify Amazon product reviews. Compared model accuracies, used t-SNE to visualize feature representations, and analyzed misclassified reviews to identify common errors. Examined attention weights to compare patterns between correctly classified and misclassified cases. (Python)

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COURSES

Data Preparation, Data Mining	(4/4)
Statistical Computing	(4/4)
Regression Analysis	(4/4)
Statistical Data Processing	(4/4)
Multivariate Statistical Methods	(4/4)
Theoretical Statistics	(4/4)
Experimental Design	(4/4)
Linear Algebra	
Algorithms: Design and Analysis	