

Praneet Jayant Kala

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EXPERIENCE

Internship: Master Thesis – Digital Product Strategy & Analytics

Piab Group

February 2024 - June 2024

Stockholm, SWE

- Conducted comprehensive analysis of AI chatbot adoption trends, identifying key drivers behind an 84% increase in usage and 97% growth in interactions.
- Analysed complex datasets using PowerBI and advanced statistical methods, uncovering insights that boosted productivity by 1.42%.
- Designed and implemented real-time reporting mechanisms, enabling prompt identification of bottlenecks; achieved 5.41% time savings and a 5.71% productivity increase over 16 weeks.
- Collaborated cross-functionally with IT, UX, and data teams to align reporting tools with strategic product goals.

Team Lead/Project Manager - Digital Enablement

Opti-Num Solutions

July 2021 - July 2022

Johannesburg, ZA

- Led a team of 7 direct and indirect reports across sales, marketing, and management to drive business objectives and enhance customer satisfaction.
- Developed tailored solutions addressing operational inefficiencies revealed during client consultations, enabling actionable insights that improved productivity.
- Executed strategic initiatives resulting in a 25% increase in client satisfaction ratings, maintained 100% client retention, and expanded the portfolio by 50%.
- Acted as the bridge between clients, developers, and internal stakeholders to ensure transparency, prioritisation, and continuous delivery.

Senior Consultant/Project Manager

Opti-Num Solutions

July 2020 - June 2021

Johannesburg, ZA

- Delivered five software projects utilising MATLAB and Simulink to enhance industry-specific workflows for key clients including Incomar, Hensoldt, and CSIR.
- Developed a customised system architecture following comprehensive requirements analysis for a defence client, improving project timelines by 20%.
- Crafted tailored solutions through rigorous needs assessments, resolving critical challenges during complex project implementation phases.
- Ensured system-level traceability, compliance, and scalability by integrating ingestion logic within digital frameworks.

Consultant

Opti-Num Solutions

February 2018 - June 2020

Johannesburg, ZA

- Delivered tailored software and control solutions for educational institutions, enabling scalable adoption of modelling and simulation technologies.
- Facilitated workshops and training programmes to enhance platform utilisation and customer self-sufficiency.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to assess business challenges and design integration roadmaps aligned with digital education goals.

Junior Application Engineer

Opti-Num Solutions

June 2016 - January 2018

Johannesburg, ZA

- Started career in application engineering, delivering low-cost hardware solutions (Raspberry Pi, Arduino) to the Education sector and leading large-scale seminars and workshops.

EDUCATION

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

MSc in Innovation Management and Product Development

Stockholm, SWE

August 2022 – September 2024

University of the Witwatersrand

BSc in Mechanical Engineering

Johannesburg, ZA

February 2010 – April 2016

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Systems Engineering
 - Project Management
 - Customer Relationship Management (CRM)
 - Data Visualisation
 - Collaboration and Team Building
 - Data Visualisation & Storytelling (Power BI)
 - Requirements Gathering & User Story Mapping
 - Agile Methodologies (Scrum)
 - Cross-functional Team Leadership
 - Data Processing
 - Mentorship and Talent Development
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Product Ownership & Backlog Management
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

- MATLAB, Simulink, Bash, Python, C/C++, VHDL, R, HTML, SQL, Microsoft Suite, Linux, DevOps, CI/CD, PowerBI, Git, Docker, VMWare, Pandas, Numpy, Scikit, Shiny.
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PUBLICATIONS

Nonlinear control of quadrotor UAV using Takagi-Sugeno fuzzy logic technique

Publisher: IEEE; Published in: 2015 10th Asian Control Conference (ASCC)

Date Published: 10 September 2015; Authors: Jimoh O. Pedro; Praneet J. Kala

CERTIFICATIONS

Project Management - Project Planning: Putting It All Together

Google

May 2025

Agentic AI and AI Agents for Leaders

Vanderbilt University

February 2025

Prompt Engineering for ChatGPT

Vanderbilt University

February 2025

Project Management - Foundations of Project Management

Google

January 2025

Project Management - Project Initiation: Starting a Successful Project

Google

January 2025

Agile Crash Course: Agile Project Management; Agile Delivery

Udemy

October 2020