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AI Research Engineer

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SUMMARY

- I have eight years of experience in AI, spanning academic research and practical industry solutions in computer vision, data engineering, LLMs, and classical machine learning.
- My work has been featured at conferences such as NeurIPS, and my contributions to open-source projects are [available on GitHub](#), reflecting my commitment to developing practical AI solutions and sharing knowledge with the community.

EXPERIENCE

- 2024 - Now

- **Co-Founder & AI Lead**
XPensAI - United Kingdom
Skills: Computer Vision · SaaS Development · Data Analytics · Cloud Infrastructure · API Integration
 - Launched an AI-powered SaaS platform designed to streamline and automate expense reporting for small and medium-sized businesses.
 - Lead the development and deployment of core AI algorithms that power automated expense tracking, real-time analytics, and receipt processing.
 - Oversee the integration of advanced machine learning and computer vision solutions into the product, ensuring accuracy and scalability.
- 2021 - Now

- **PhD AI Researcher**
University of Tennessee - US
Skills: Machine Learning · Computer Vision · Research · SQL · PyTorch · Statistical Modeling
 - Conduct research on self-supervised framework that employs evolving masking strategies and teacher-guided distillation to learn robust visual representations.
 - Enhanced research in masked image modeling by tailoring scale factors for remote sensing data, achieving an average accuracy improvement of 5% over the state-of-the-art across 4 datasets.
 - Developed novel fine-tuning strategies for a self-supervised model, reducing training time by 32% and improving Macro F1 scores by 5.4% for the client's phase detection pipeline.
 - Pioneered a contrastive learning model that improved state-of-the-art pixel-based semantic segmentation accuracy by 5.9%.
 - Implemented a Koopman-based method for transient event detection, improving the average temporal error by 21.5 days.
- 2019 - 2021

- **Associate Data Engineer**
Performance Technologies S.A - Greece
Skills: Python · Data Engineering · Software Engineering · Machine Learning · Apache Spark · SQL · TensorFlow · Team Leadership
 - Led the rapid completion of a critical terabyte-scale data replication project for Greece's leading [telecommunications provider](#), reducing replication time from days to minutes and ensuring real-time views for ETL and analytics.
 - Spearheaded the development of a machine learning model to predict order fulfillment times, which, following a comprehensive analysis of business operations and consultation with clients, resulted in a 34% reduction over previous baseline.
 - Managed the design and implementation of a SIP call quality benchmarking service, successfully deployed across vital public institutions, facilitating improved service monitoring and enabling the Greek government to credit service providers.
- 2018 - 2019

- **Associate Researcher**
University of Patras - Greece
Skills: Python · Community Detection · Algorithm Design · Machine Learning · Apache Spark · SQL · Research
 - Conducted intensive machine learning research, specializing in graph theory and network analysis.
 - Reduced the execution time of the Girvan-Newman community detection [algorithm](#) by 84%, creating the first scalable solution while maintaining high accuracy and securing [publication](#) in the Algorithms journal.
- 2017 - 2018

- **Junior Software Engineer**
Global Voices Ltd - UK
Skills: Python · Software Engineering · Operating systems · SQL
 - Played a pivotal role in developing and maintaining the company's proprietary content management system, significantly reducing bugs, implementing new features, overseeing code reviews, improving system functionality and user experience.
 - Optimized the company's continuous integration and deployment pipelines, enhancing the efficiency and reliability of product releases, resulting in a 50% reduction in rollbacks and ensuring a streamlined development cycle.

EDUCATION

- 2025

- **PhD in Data Science & Engineering**
University of Tennessee
 - Received Fellowship Award from the University of Tennessee Graduate School and Tickle College of Engineering, which recognizes academic excellence and research potential.
 - Led innovative research in LLM security, uncovering crucial ground rules for ensuring secure code generation (to be published).
 - Mastered the intricacies of ML by designing and implementing foundational models, including [CNNs](#) and [RL agents](#), and delving into advanced statistical concepts such as Bayesian formulation and hidden Markov models, setting a strong base for innovative solutions in the field.
- 2019

- **Integrated Master's in Computer Science & Engineering**
University of Patras
 - Developed an innovative distributed algorithm for community prediction in social graphs, achieving significant improvements in scalability and accuracy.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Improving Masked Image Modeling with Adaptive Masking and CLIP Distillation.* - [ICML 2025 \(Under Review\)](#)
- *Advancing Multi-scale Remote Sensing Analysis through Self-Supervised Learning Fine-tuning Strategies.* - [IEEE IGARSS 2024](#)
- *Koopman-based Transition Detection in Satellite Imagery.* - [IEEE IGARSS 2024](#)
- *Occasionally Secure: A Comparative Analysis of Code Generation Assistants.* - [Arxiv 2024](#)
- *Cross-Scale MAE: A Tale of Multi-scale Exploitation in Remote Sensing.* - [NeurIPS 2023](#)
- *Semantic Segmentation in Aerial Imagery using Multi-level Contrastive Learning with Local Consistency.* - [WACV 2023](#)
- *A Distributed Hybrid Community Detection Methodology for Social Networks.* - [Algorithms 2019](#)