# RYAN SELESNIK

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### **EDUCATION**

The University of the Witwatersrand

BSc (Eng) Electrical & Infromation Engineering (with Distinction)

Johannesburg, South Africa

2019 to 2022

Johannesburg, South Africa

2014 to 2018

King David High School, Linksfield National Senior Certificate (Independent Examination Board)

# **SKILLS**

**Programming:** C/C++, Python, MATLAB, Mathematica, Ruby

Simulation: LTspice, SIMULINK Version Control: Git, GitHub

Data Analysis and Visualisation: Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib,

Shell and Unix: Bash/Zsh, Unix core utilities

### NOTABLE PROJECTS

## **Final Year Investigation Project**

Machine Learning

- Conducted an investigation into a low-cost AI toy that can assist in Early Childhood Development.
- · Implemented speech recognition and natural language understanding capabilities using modern ML models such as OpenAI's Whisper and Transformers.
- · Ported the speech recognition model to a Raspberry Pi and used a children's speech dataset to assess the performance of offline children's speech recognition.

## **Final Year Design Project**

Machine Learning

- Designed a therapeutic chatbot using GPT-2 and Reinforcement Learning.
- Adapted the input context of GPT-2 and used an empathetic reward function as part of the training objective.

# **Switch-mode Power Supply**

Power/Control Systems, Electronics

- · Simulated and built a switch-mode power supply based on the buck converter topology, achieving an output ripple of less than 1%.
- Implemented negative feedback by modulating the duty cycle to ensure a constant output of 5V, independent of the load.

# Sensor Measurement Analysis using MPI

Big Data

- Wrote a script to compute statistical indicators for a given data set generated by a sensor in an Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU).
- Achieved a speedup of approximately 4x by leveraging Python bindings for the Message Passing Interface (MPI) as well as a computer cluster to parallelize the computation.

#### **Temperature Sensor**

Embedded Systems

· Designed and built a temperature sensor using the ATmega328P and programmed the logic in Assembly.

### Multi-player Worlde

Full-stack Web Development

· Collaborated with a team of five to develop MultiWordle, a multiplayer version of Wordle. The tech-stack included JavaScript, Express, HTML, CSS, GitHub Actions, and MongoDB.

Centipede++ Software Development

• Collaborated with a team of two to develop the Centipede computer game in C++.

## **EXPERIENCE**

# Stream - A Division of VAT IT

Software Engineering Intern

Johannesburg, South Africa

Nov 2020 to Jan 2021

• Developed a versatile PDF generation system using Ruby, JSON, and Microsoft's Mail Merge.

• Enabled non-technical employees to generate customer-specific PDFs, without relying on the software development team, thereby minimising Stream's opportunity costs.

### Stream - A Division of VAT IT

Johannesburg, South Africa

Dec 2021 to Jan 2022

Software Engineering Intern

- Wrote a Ruby script to parse PDFs to structured data. This eliminated the tedious task of looking up duty and tax information for imported products.
- Developed a customisable message dashboard system using a headless Content Management System, Vue, Node.js, HTML, and CSS, enabling non-technical employees to edit Stream's website directly.
- · Wrote two sets of comprehensive documentation for the dashboard system. One for the developers and another for the non-technical employees.

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

February 14, 2023

# Isazi Prize

Awarded to the top 5 information engineering students who achieved an aggregate of 70% and above in their third year of study.

The Dean's List

University of the Witwatersrand

The Dean's list recognises the top 10% of students provided that a minimum average/aggregate of at least 70% is obtained on a full curriculum.

# **Wits Mathematics Competition**

University of the Witwatersrand

University of the Witwatersrand

Selected to represent King David High School, Linksfield at the Wits mathematics competition in 2018.