Data, Tech, & AI

Transitioning from Academia to Tech

\*\*Starting Off:\*\* My first brush with programming came around 2009-10, when I started wrangling and analyzing the data I collected for my PhD research. By the end of my PhD, I acquired quite a handsome set of skills required for data scientist roles in the industry.

\*\*Diving Deeper:\*\* But I decided to continue my research on behavior science and joined Venki Murthy’s lab at Harvard for my postdoc in 2018. It quickly became clear that mastering Python and automation was essential to streamline my workflows and scope of my research. Thanks to the supportive learning environment at Venki’s lab, this period was pivotal as I honed my skills in data collaboration, environment management, and version control, which are crucial for ensuring reproducibility and efficiency in research. In a short time, I started venturing into the realms of computer vision and artificial intelligence, fascinated by their potential to transform conventional research methodologies.

\*\*Teaching to Master It:\*\* Drawing inspiration from Richard Feynman, once I felt confident in my grasp of computer vision and AI, I decided to deepen my understanding through teaching. In 2020, I developed and began teaching a course titled "Computational Ethology." Teaching this course proved to be a dual learning journey—it not only refined my technical skills but also enhanced my capabilities in team management and educational delivery.

\*\*Moving Further:\*\* Curious about how the internet stitches together data and interfaces, I started learning about website data architectures, then progressed to big data, and gradually to data engineering. Each step was like a new door opening, broadening my understanding of the vast potential of data.

\*\*Generative AI – The Frontier: \*\* Since early 2023, I’ve been immersed in the intriguing world of Generative AI. This thrilling field is ripe with potential, poised to revolutionize our interactions with technology and how we harness its capabilities.

From my PhD days to now, every step has fueled my desire to harness technology not just as a tool, but as a cornerstone for building a smarter, better-connected world. As we continue to expand our horizons, let's commit to forging pathways that promise a better world for all. Here's to the relentless pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and meaningful impact!