gavin leech

AI research / technical generalist

about

g@gleech.org
Site
Scholar
Twitter
Github
LinkedIn

programming (in production)

Python, Spark, Torch, PyMC3, Keras, *nix, Azure, C#, JS (ES6, node, TS), PHP, Pig, Powershell.

interests

Reviews
open science,
self-calibration,
failures of reasoning,
failures of reasoning about reasoning,
lists.

My strengths are breadth, writing, & judgment; see page 2.

publications

Mass mask-wearing notably reduces COVID-19 transmission (2021), preprint

Seasonal variation in SARS-CoV-2 transmission in temperate climates (2021), preprint

Government interventions in Europe's second wave (2021), preprint

Safety Properties of Inductive Logic Programming (2021), SafeAI @ AAAI

How robust are COVID-19 estimates? (2020), spotlight paper at NeurIPS

The effectiveness of nonpharmaceutical interventions against COVID-19 (2020), *Science*

projects

Reversals in psychology: Collated evidence of the replication crisis. (Heathers; Gelman)

AI safety in academia: estimates & models of how much safety might be done indirectly.

ProlexaPlus: Brought modern language modelling (Flair) into Prolog for some reason.

Hardening the browser: Guide to beginners' infosec with emphasis on cost-benefit.

Side effects in Gridworlds: Teamwork, implementing new environments + DQN and Max-Ent IRL in Tensorflow. Writeup, code, cites.

The First Computers: Deployed. Conceptual analysis to solve a historical question.

education

PhD Interactive Artificial Intelligence, University of Bristol.

Ongoing, 2023 finish. 1st year was a de facto research Master's, including uncertainty modelling, NLP, GOFAI, legal aspects. Thesis: learning rewards robust to exploitation.

MSc Software Development, University of Glasgow.

82% GPA. Java, SQL, HTML/CSS/PHP, assembly, design patterns, data structures & algos. Thesis: *Hidden Markov Models for Linguistic Accommodation*

MA (Hons) Philosophy & Economics, University of Aberdeen

85% GPA. Ethics, global justice, Continental philosophy, development policy, formal logic, social stats, health policy, development policy. Dissertation: *Evaluating aid abolitionism*.

experience

2020 – 2021 **Researcher** EpidemicForecasting.org

Member of a large collaboration on COVID epidemiology (Oxford / Imperial / Harvard / other). Led the masks project and helped drive on second-wave and seasonality. Probabilistic programming, also technical writing, data collection, literature reviews, conceptualisation.

Buzzwords: PyMC3, Bayesianism, AWS, Azure, Seaborn, post-stratification

2019 – Now **Assistant Teacher** University of Bristol

Solo instructor in tutorials + training TAs. Bayesian ML & Algorithms 2.

Buzzwords: Gaussian processes, Markov Random Fields, Bayesian optima, variational inference, dynamic programming, graph theory, complexities.

2016 – 2019 **Data Scientist** AXA Insurance, London

Built dozens of ML models (GLMs, GBMs, deep neural nets) for actuarial pricing, medical risk, & image recognition. Tech lead for 5 scientists & engineers; web scraping at scale; migration from SAS to Hadoop, & Hadoop to Azure.

Buzzwords: Python, Spark, Keras, XGBoost, Tableau, Avro, Pytest, GDPR

2015 – 2016 **Software Developer** Freetobook, Glasgow

Improved a large legacy accommodation engine: PHP back-end, JS front-end, REST APIs. Solo design of a PCI compliant card storage system.

Buzzwords: PHP 5 & 7, LAMP, SQL, Laravel, cURL, Gitlab, New Relic.

2015 **Software Developer** Stugo, Glasgow

Jumped into web dev; my code in worldwide production within 2 weeks. Products: a medicine pump device manager & a pharmacy record system.

Buzzwords: C#, WPF, node.JS, MEAN, Ractive, Mongo, Vagrant, VMware.

2014 **Assistant Statistician** The Scottish Government, Edinburgh

Made official statistics in Education Analytics. QA for a data viz platform for teachers: SAS/SQL. Prep for the Social Care Survey 2015.

breadth

Well-received work in epidemiology, philosophy, psychology, economics, ML, computational linguistics, software engineering. No background in psychology or epidemiology or linguistics or ILP. Breadth implies speed: $<$6 month ramp to top publications; 2 weeks from no web dev to production.

judgment

- Brier score of 0.16 after one year of PredictionBook.
- Top forecaster in Nuño Sempere's Value Forecasting Tournament.
- Resolution Council of Parallel Forecast, a short-lived AI prediction experiment.