ALEXA BENSON

DATA ANALYST | DATA SCIENTIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am educated in the field of geochemistry, using speleothems for past climate research. I enjoy working with data. I always try to expand my knowledge of analytics and visualization tools such as pandas, scikit-learn, SQL and Tableau because I love learning and improving my skillset. I am seeking transition to industry because I want to support companies as they transition to modern business models.

WORK HISTORY

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER, 2015-2022

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUTE FOR EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY
Leipzig, Germany

Stalagmites contain a wealth of proxy data that help us understand past climates. My research used speleothem growth rate, with stable isotope and trace element data to understand water availability for western coastal Iberia between 75.000 to 22.000 years ago.

- Geochemical processing of calcite samples for Uranium-Thorium age estimations.
- Data cleaning/pre-processing in Excel.
- Distance-age modeling prediction using the StalAge algorithm in R. U-Th ages and corresponding errors, in conjunction with stratigraphic information are used to constrain the age model, using 3 point linear interpolation.
- Data visualization, presentation of research at international conferences, 10+ publications in peer-reviewed international journals. Thesis formatted in La TeX.

LABORATORY MANAGER & RESEARCH ASSISTANT, 2014-2015

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
Melbourne, Australia

This project used macro and microfossils collected from Tasmanian lake sediments to understand the ecological changes in relation to fire over the last 12.000 years.

CERTIFICATES

UDEMY– The Data Science Course 2022 – Complete Data Science Bootcamp
COURSERA – IBM Data Science Professional Certificate
UDEMY – Data Analysis with Python, SQL and Tableau

PROJECTS

- **Data cleaning in SQL** – Transforming raw housing data from Tennessee to make it more usable for analysis.
- **Covid 19 data exploration** –SQL Queries and exploration with a data summary in Tableau Dashboard.
- **Movie Correlation** – Assessing the correlation of factors for box office hits in Python
- **Absenteeism in the workplace** – Exploring data in python

SKILLS

- Data Analysis using Python (Pandas, Numpy) and MySQL
- Data Visualization using Tableau, Python Pyplot and Seaborn
- Data cleaning and analysis using Microsoft Excel
- Communicating in both technical and non-technical language

EDUCATION

PH.D.

University of Leiden

Topic – Natural Sciences

'Investigating palaeoclimate variability in the Iberian Peninsula during the last glacial period and implications for Neanderthals.'

M.Sc. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE
Australian National University

'Laser ablation depth profiling of U-series and Sr isotopes in human fossils.'

B.A. ARCHAEOLOGY & SPANISH
University of Queensland

B.A. SOCIOLOGY
University of California at Santa Barbara

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH – Native speaker

GERMAN – C1 level

SPANISH – B2 level