# **Akash Patel**

LinkedIn | GitHub

Location: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Email: akash.p23897@gmail.com | Mobile: 4317775028

## MACHINE LEARNING SCIENTIST

Machine Learning Engineer with 2+ years of experience applying machine learning to real-world business and government problems. Strong foundation in LLM, GenAI, time-series modeling, and model deployment. Proven ability to deliver production-grade ML systems with measurable impact across analytics pipelines, cloud environments, and regulated domains.

#### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**Languages** : Python, R programming, SQL,

Frameworks : Pytorch, Tensorflow, FastAPI, Streamlit, Hydra

Libraries : scikit-learn, Hugging Face Transformers, XGBoost, spaCy, NLTK Numpy, Pandas

**Databases** : MySQL, SQLite, PostgreSQL

Cloud & DevOps: Google Cloud Platform (Vertex AI, Cloud build, GKE), AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, CI/CD

pipelines

Tools & Platforms: Visual Studio Code, SHAP, Weights & Biases, Tableau, Power BI

**Skills**: Machine Learning, Large Language Models (LLMs), NLP, Time-Series Forecasting, Model Evaluation,

A/B Testing, Explainability, Fairness Audits, Active Learning, Model Deployment, Data Visualization

## **EXPERIENCE**

#### **Machine Learning Scientist**

Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC)

Jan 2025 – Present Ottawa , ON, Canada

- Designed and implemented an end-to-end ML pipeline for scrapping, collecting and processing large volumes of open-source intelligence data, incorporating summarization, text classification, and topic modeling.
- Built microservices using **Flask** and containerized the pipeline with **Docker**, deploying on **Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)** for efficient orchestration and scalability.
- Integrated LLMs into a GenAI-powered web dashboard used for geopolitical risk assessment and automated reporting.
- Enabled analysts to reduce manual effort by **over 90%** in discovering relevant information, generating reports, and extracting insights.

#### **Junior Data Scientist**

Canadian Intellectual Property Office (ISED)

May 2024 – Jan 2025 Gatineau , QC, Canada

- Developed production-grade BERT-based classification models to assign NAPCS codes to trademark applications, deployed using AWS microservices.
- Engineered a **few-shot learning pipeline** combining pseudo-labeling, synthetic data generation, and active learning to address low-resource short-text classification, improving accuracy from 30% to over 80%.
- Created explainability and QA dashboards using SHAP and Streamlit to support human-in-the-loop review workflows.

# **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Carleton University

Sept 2023 – Present Ottawa, ON, Canada

- Led tutorials and lab sessions for graduate-level courses in machine learning, optimization algorithms, and deep learning, supporting over 100 students for four consecutive semester
- Delivered guest lectures and assisted in curriculum development, incorporating visual aids, coding demos, and real-world applications to enhance comprehension.
- Provided one-on-one mentoring and academic support, contributing to improved student performance and engagement.

## Enhancing Neural Topic Models with Reinforcement Learning and Count-Based Exploration

Technologies used: PyTorch, SBERT, VAE, REINFORCE algorithm

- \* Designed a topic modeling framework using reinforcement learning with count-based intrinsic rewards to improve topic diversity and coherence.
- \* Framed topic inference as an MDP and applied REINFORCE with neural density bonuses to avoid mode collapse.
- \* Outperformed baselines (ProdLDA, ETM) with **20% higher coherence** and **0.975 diversity**, with minimal compute overhead.

#### **Nowcasting Canadian Labour Market Indicators - Statistics Canada**

Technologies used: MySQL, Chronos, SARIMAX, REST APIs, Seaborn library

- \* Led Statistics Canada's initiative to implement statistical models for real-time forecasting of Canadian labor market indicators, reducing their reporting lag by 50% to 21 days.
- \* Applied **SARIMAX** and **Chronos models** to optimize accuracy in economic analysis, supporting more informed decision-making processes and strategic planning.
- \* Integrated critical external variables such as GDP by industry, stock market indices, and immigration data into project planning, optimizing strategic decision-making and project outcomes.

#### Trip Destination Prediction by Cross-City Data with Graph neural network

Technologies used: Jupyter Lab, MySQL, Git, Matplotlib library

- \* Implemented **optimized Neural Network** architectures for trip type prediction.
- \* Applied **Graph Neural Network (GNN)** technique for enhanced destination predictions.

# **Development of Advanced Fake Statement Detection Model using Truth-Seeker Dataset**

Technologies used: Hugging face, Weights and Biases, Trello, Git, NLP models

- \* Performed EDA, fine-tuning with **PyTorch**, and leveraged **Weights and Biases** for tracking and optimization.
- \* Utilized **BERT, DistilBERT, ConvBERT, and ensemble stacking** with Random Forest Classifier for enhanced performance.
- \* Curated fake statement detection model using TruthSeeker dataset, beating state-of-the-art by achieving 96.9% accuracy in two-way and 50.5% in four-way classification.

# Few-Shot Learning for Images using Vision Language Models with Angular Margin Techniques

Technologies used: Hydra framework, Pytorch, Git

- \* Developed and implemented **CosFace-CLIP**, integrating angular margin with Proto-CLIP for state-of-the-art few-shot learning in vision-language models.
- \* Led extensive experiments across diverse datasets, achieving competitive results in 4-shot and 8-shot scenarios, demonstrating adaptability and robust performance.
- \* Conducted meticulous error analysis, proposing future research directions to refine and optimize **angular margin-based few-shot learning models**.

#### **EDUCATION**

Carleton UniversityOttawa, ON, CanadaMaster of Engineering: Data Science, Analytics, and Artificial IntelligenceSept 2023 – April 2025

Georgian College Barrie, ON, Canada

Artificial Intelligence – Architecture, Design, and Implementation

May 2022 – Dec 2022

The University of ManitobaWinnipeg, MB, CanadaApplied Business ManagementMay 2019 – May 2020

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Pandit Deendayal Petroleum UniversityGandhinagar, GJ, IndiaBachelor of Engineering in Electrical EngineeringAug 2014 – May 2018

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

- AWS Academy Cloud Foundations
- AWS Academy Machine Learning Foundations