Akash Sarayanan

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Work Experience

Machine Learning Scientist

• Applied Research Intern

Georgian Partners

Dec 2023 - Present Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 Edmonton, Canada

- Led 15+ applied AI projects for 10+ portfolio companies, solving problems on entity extraction, question answering, summarization & classification using LLM techniques like RAG (vector & hybrid search, reranking), prompting, & fine-tuning with models including OpenAI, Mistral & Llama
- Supported 10+ projects across 8+ companies using LLMs, computer vision, graph ML, & traditional ML.
- GenAI Bootcamps (Organizer): Led 3 iterations involving 80+ companies, 450+ participants, 50+ projects (10+ in-production). Developed technical content & led sessions on RAG, Alignment (RLHF), & prompt engineering.
- o Multimodal Toolkit (500+ stars): Owner & primary contributor. Resolved 35+ issues, added new features & tests

Graduate Research Fellow

May 2021 - Dec 2022

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Canada

 \circ Research on AI for video games (computer vision, reinforcement learning) and debiasing language models (NLP).

Machine Learning Engineer

Aug 2019 - Nov 2020

Mad Street Den (Vue.ai)

Chennai, India

- Developed & deployed solutions for 10+ classification & entity extraction problems using BERT & XLNet.
- Created a machine learning model to extract keywords from 37+ million retail products.
- Boosted precision of a rule-based classification system by 15% using ML & reduced codebase latency by 40%.
- \circ Implemented Word2Vec across a dataset of 2+ million retail product descriptions.

SKILLS

- Languages & Databases: Python, Relational Databases (MySQL, SQLite), Document Databases (MongoDB), Key-Value Databases (Redis), Vector Databases (LanceDB, QDrant, Chroma), Markdown
- Machine Learning: PyTorch, LangChain, LlamaIndex, Transformers, Tensorflow, Keras, NumPy, Pandas, scikit-learn
- Tools & Technologies: Git, Docker, AWS (Sagemaker, EC2, S3, Redis) GCP (VertexAI, Compute Engine), LaTeX

EDUCATION

University of Alberta

Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2022

Master of Science (Thesis) in Computing Science; CGPA: 3.75/4.0

Edmonton, Canada

• Thesis: Visualizing Characters and Evaluating their Balance in Competitive Video Games.

Anna University (Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering)

Jun. 2015 – Apr. 2019

 $Bachelor\ of\ Engineering\ in\ Computer\ Science\ and\ Engineering;\ First\ Class.$

Chennai, India

• Thesis: Natural Language Generation using Generative Adversarial Networks (Awarded grant of INR 10,000)

Publications

- A Framework for Predicting the Impact of Game Balance Changes through Meta Discovery: First author. IEEE Transactions on Games.
- FineDeb: A Debiasing Framework for Language Models: Co-first author. AI4SG Workshop, AAAI 2023.
- Pixel VQ-VAEs for Improved Pixel Art Representation: First author. EXAG Workshop, AIIDE 2022.
- Facial Emotion Recognition using Convolutional Neural Networks: First author. AICV 2018.

Projects & Open Source

- Homebrew Helper: Developed & deployed a Discord bot with database connectivity for online role-playing games.
- [Open Source] poke-env: Identified & fixed several bugs, added example code.