Akash Sarayanan

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Applied Research Intern

Jan 2023 - Present

Georgian Partners

- Toronto, Canada
- \circ Led applied sessions on prompt engineering and RLHF for a Generative AI Bootcamp attended by 22 startups.
- $\circ \ \ \text{Created notebooks to showcase prompt engineering and RLHF using OpenAI, PaLM and HuggingFace APIs.}$
- \circ Led applied research on analyzing 34M blockchain transactions using graph ML and analytical techniques.
- Refactored a two year old multi-modal machine learning toolkit to support newer versions of libraries.
- o Tech Stack: Python, PyTorch, LangChain, Transformers, Pytorch Geometric, GCP, Git

Graduate Research Fellow

May 2021 - Dec 2022

Edmonton, Canada

University of Alberta

- Meta Discovery for Game Balance: Designed a reinforcement learning system for automated playtesting.
- **Debiasing Language Models:** Developed a framework, as a team of 3, to debias transformer models (BERT).
- Pixel VQ-VAE: Introduced a novel model to learn pixel art embeddings for image generation & transformation.
- o Tech Stack: Python, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Transformers, Git

Machine Learning Engineer

Aug 2019 - Nov 2020

Mad Street Den (Vue.ai)

Chennai, India

- o Trained language models (BERT, XLNet, USE) for classification and entity extraction.
- o Created an end-to-end config-driven framework for rapid prototyping of production-ready NLP models.
- Upgraded existing systems using ML to boost precision by 15% & optimized the codebase to reduce latency by 40%.
- Developed an experimental Sequence-to-Sequence model to generate retail product descriptions.
- Extracted keywords from 37 million retail products using a custom algorithm that combined NPMI and TF-IDF.
- Implemented Word2Vec across a dataset of 2 million retail product descriptions.
- o Tech Stack: Python, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Transformers, Django, Javascript, AWS, GCP, Git

EDUCATION

University of Alberta

Jan. 2021 - Dec. 2022

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

Edmonton, Canada

Chennai, India

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

Anna University (Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering) Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering; First Class.

Jun. 2015 – Apr. 2019

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

Programming Skills

- Languages & Databases: Python, MySQL, SQLite, MongoDB, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Markdown
- Frameworks & Libraries: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Transformers, LangChain, NumPy, Pandas, scikit-learn.
- Tools & Technologies: Git, LaTeX, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP)

PUBLICATIONS

- A Framework for Predicting the Impact of Game Balance Changes through Meta Discovery: First author. Under review.
- 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.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Homebrew Helper: Developed & deployed a Discord bot with database connectivity for online role-playing games.
- [Open Source] Multimodal Toolkit: Updated 2-year old codebase, added tests, resolved bugs & 10+ issues.
- [Open Source] poke-env: Identified & fixed several bugs, added example code.