Akash Saravanan

https://akashsara.github.io/

EDUCATION

Anna University (Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering)

Chennai, India

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

Jun. 2015 - Apr. 2019

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o Relevant Coursework: Artificial Intelligence, Information Retrieval, Design and Analysis of Algorithms, Graph Theory and Applications, Discrete Math, Transforms and Partial Differential Equations, Probability and Queuing Theory.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Natural Language Generation using Generative Adversarial Networks

Chennai, India

 $Undergraduate\ Thesis$

Dec 2018 - Apr 2019

- o Intra-Mural Funding: Our proposal was the only one granted intra-mural funding of Rs. 10,000 from nearly 90 teams in the department.
- Summary: Performed a comparative study of existing text generation methodologies. Established a baseline performance by allowing the network to write short paragraphs after independently training each model on (1) "Alice in Wonderland" and (2) "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". Developed a Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) using an LSTM generator and a fully connected discriminator. While the network generated coherent sentences, sequence models and transformers retained the best performance.

Facial Emotion Recognition using Convolutional Neural Networks

Chennai, India

1st International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence & Computer Vision (AICV'18)

Feb 2018 - May 2018

- Single Blind Peer Review: Presented on 28th September 2018. Published in the conference proceedings.
- Summary: State-of-the-Art models utilized large datasets with large models & complex architectures. We proposed a new CNN model that utilized a simple architecture & a small dataset to achieve near State-of-the-Art accuracy (0.60) on the FER-2013 dataset.

Work Experience

Mad Street Den (Vue.ai) Machine Learning Engineer

Chennai, India

Aug 2019 - Present

- o MVP Team: Developing new products using natural language processing, traditional machine learning, and large-scale transformer-based models as part of a Minimum Viable Product team.
- End-to-End Proof-of-Concept: Developed an end-to-end proof-of-concept of our tagging capabilities using both image and text data. Trained, tested and deployed the models. Scraped a new corpus of data to use as a test set.
- o Product Attribute Classification: Worked on rule-based product attribute classification engine. Deployed systems on Amazon Web Services (AWS) & Google Cloud Provider (GCP). Optimized the codebase to reduce latency by 10% - 60% across the board. Introduced new features including machine learning algorithms to complement the engine and boost the performance by over 15%.
- Named Entity Recognition: Created a Named Entity Recognition system using a pre-trained BERT model to identify key entities in new client catalog data. Manually annotated 2,000 products to form a training and testing dataset. Achieved an F-Score of 0.95+ for each entity.
- Text Generation: Developed a Sequence-to-Sequence (Seq2Seq) model for automated generation of product descriptions. Utilized LSTM layers for both the encoder and the decoder. Trained custom word embeddings on a large corpus to represent input data for the model.

Mad Street Den (Vue.ai)

Chennai, India

Engineering Intern

May 2019 - Aug 2019

- Word Embeddings: Implemented the Word2Vec algorithm on a catalog of 2 million fashion retail products for use in text generation, named entity recognition and classification tasks.
- Keyword Extraction: Analyzed 37 million fashion retail products across 15 clients to extract important keywords per product type. Implemented Normalized Pointwise Mutual Information (NPMI) to identify bigrams and designed a modified TF-IDF algorithm that accounted for the different product types in a catalog.

CPC Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd.

Chennai, India

Software Development Intern - Python

Nov 2017 - Jan 2018

- Patient Management System: Automated the paper-based patient management system by developing an end-to-end system. Used Python to remotely interface with medical instruments, retrieve data and map it to existing patients within a SQLite Database.
- Report Generation: Developed an analytical tool to automatically process test data, identify abnormal parameters create graphs, & generate a hematology report for use by medical professionals.

PROJECTS

- PokéGAN: An exploratory project into Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) for generating new Pokémon using data from the Pokémon video games. (PyTorch)
- pH7: Collaborated with a team of 6 to build a dynamic social platform that provided gamified & personalized healthcare for our Smart India Hackathon 2019 project. Created a custom food dataset and achieved 87% accuracy on a CNN classification model. Developed the back-end and setup database access via an internal API. (Keras, Flask, Scrapy)
- Whatsapp Message Analyzer: Analyzes WhatsApp group chats to generate statistics and graphs on user activity, frequent words etc. (Python, Seaborn)
- Reddit Comment Analysis Bot: Designed a bot to analyze a user's comment history and provide facts and graphs about their activity. (Python, PRAW, MatPlotLib)
- Conway's Game of Life: Implemented a fully functional cellular automaton, The Game of Life. (Python)
- Unbeatable Tic Tac Toe: Developed using the Minimax algorithm. (Javascript, HTML, CSS)

Programming Skills

- Languages & Databases: Python, Javascript, HTML, CSS, C, C++, Markdown, MySQL, SQLite, Redis, MongoDB.
- Frameworks & Libraries: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, NumPy, Pandas, scikit-learn, Flask, Django, Bootstrap.
- Tools & Technlogies: Git, LaTeX, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Adobe Photoshop.

CERTIFICATIONS

DeepLearning.ai Oct 2019

Coursera Five Course Specialization on Deep Learning.

- Neural Networks and Deep Learning
- o Improving Deep Neural Networks: Hyperparameter tuning, Regularization and Optimization
- Structuring Machine Learning Projects
- o Convolutional Neural Networks
- Sequence Models
- Selected Course Projects: Object Detection, Neural Style Transfer for Art Generation, Face Recognition, Character-Level Name Generation, Sentiment Classification with Emoji, Neural Machine Translation.

FreeCodeCamp Front End Development Certification

Apr 2017

400 Hours of Coursework on HTML, CSS & Javascript.

ACADEMICS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

• Peer Reviewer: The Journal of Supercomputing, Springer Nature.

Dec 2018 - Present

• Speaker: The Hitchhiker's Guide to Sequence Models - MAD Journal Club.

Jan 2020

• Mentor: Yet Another Hackathon 2K19, Chennai, India. Sep 2019

• Chairman: Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, ACM Student Chapter.

Jun 2018 - May 2019

• Seminar: 'Welcome to CS! Now What?', Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering. Feb 2019

• Review Panel: The Knowledge Initiative: Project Presentation, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering. Dec 2018

• Seminar: 'Data Privacy & Password Security: Best Practices', Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering. Sep 2018

• Executive Member: Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, ACM Student Chapter. Jun 2016 - May 2018

Honors & Awards

• Finalist: Smart India Hackathon 2019, Coimbatore, India,

Mar 2018

• Winner: Hatch-a-thon 2017, Chennai, India

Mar 2017

OTHER INTERESTS

Quizzing, Tabletop, Board, Card & Video Games (both playing & designing!), and Reading.