

Sanjana Pendharkar

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Education

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Computer Science, Minors in Math and Biology

August 2022

New Brunswick, NJ

Experience

MITRE

McLean, VA

Technical Research & Advisory Firm for 42 National FFRDCs and DoD

Intermediate Data Scientist

Dec. 2021 – Present

- Led the evaluation and testing of the Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) Pipeline for a DoD sponsor, using Ragas and ARES methods to boost LLM output accuracy by 15%, significantly improving model evaluation reliability and driving informed decision making
- Developed the codebase for Septar, a Dockerized Flask/SQL application hosted on AWS, designed to quantify AI trust and trustworthiness through a Likert survey, streamlining testing and evaluation workflows and significantly boosting sponsor interest
- Curated a presentation that highlighted the features of Septar and delivered technical briefings to potential collaboration teams, fostering 2 strategic partnerships for additional funding
- Tools: Python, SQL, JavaScript, Docker, AWS

Lead Researcher, "The Third Eye"

Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023

- Secured \$95,000 in grant funding for an iOS application designed to improve navigation for low-vision individuals in train stations
- Prototyped an iOS application that used customizable haptic and audio feedback, with AI object detection and distance capture, using Agile methodologies and Software Defined Life Cycle (SDLC) guidelines
- Fine-tuned a Hugging Face Transformers object detection model for use case, improving object detection accuracy to 98%, and developing a confusion matrix that increased model explainability
- Advanced the accessibility research space with 2 manuscript submissions for academic journals, supported by a comprehensive literature review of 55+ journal papers and 20+ public sector companies in the space
- Tools: Swift, PyTorch, Hugging Face

Loyal For Dogs

San Francisco, CA

Series A Biotech; First FDA Approved Drug for Dog Longevity

Software Engineer Intern

Aug. 2021 – Dec. 2021

- Enhanced user experience and operational efficiency by contributing to the development of a production website using TypeScript, React, and GraphQL, achieving a 15% improvement in runtime, and supporting the company's goal of delivering a high-performance, interactive website to 1,000+ dog owners
- Pioneered an innovative independent experiment using computer vision algorithms (ResNet, AlexNet, VGG16) and data science techniques (PCA, Bayesian statistics) to detect emotions in dogs, expanding potential market applications
- Tools: Python, TypeScript, React, GraphQL

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Postgres, Next.js, Swift, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML/CSS, Java, C

Technologies/Frameworks: Spark, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Hugging Face, React, Jekyll, Git, Figma, GraphQL, MongoDB

Leadership

Catalysts For Change

New Brunswick, NJ

Founder

March 2021 – Oct. 2022

- Description: A summer social justice fellowship for high school students to build technical projects or research studies for funding opportunities
- Led go-to market strategy and primary research on market segments, quantifying market opportunity, resulting in customer acquisition rate of 65%
- Developed a software development project curriculum for technical instructors to adapt in the creation of their course structure, outlining object oriented programming, Twitter API integration and database management; enabled the successful launch of 15 new courses within one month
- Formulated sales pipeline to generate ~\$5,000 revenue for first cycle