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Summary

- Interested in building Machine Learning and Data products and infrastructure at scale.
- Work experience in Machine Learning infrastructure particularly on model training and hosting solutions.
- Contributed to several Open Source projects like Apache Airflow, Kubeflow, TFX and Triton Server.

Experience

- **Block Inc** *L6 Machine Learning Engineer, September 2024 - Present*
  - Co-authored and launched initial version for automatic model monitoring, tracking input and output drift.
  - Led support for hosting FAISS approximate nearest neighbors within our model hosting solution.
  - Collaborated across teams to evaluate next generation model training platforms to scale up further.
  - Mentored new team members for growth and continued development.
- **Block Inc** *L5 Machine Learning Engineer, March 2023 - September 2024*
  - Developed automatic inference request storage system for statistical analysis and model debugging.
  - Co-authored initial version for multi-model hosting endpoints reducing cost by 50%.
  - Co-author of Python SDK for automatic model deployment reducing deploy times to hours instead of days.
  - Developed initial support for hosting LLM within Block.
  - Presented in industry conference about scaling up model hosting at Block.
  - Co-authored initial next-gen training stack evaluation with the creation of Slurm cluster in GCP as POC.
- **Twitter/X** *Senior Machine Learning Engineer, April 2022 - February 2023*
  - Co-authored and launched initial version of X Inc large scaling training cluster with Slurm and Ansible.
  - Technically led team of 8 engineers on ML Pipelines team, defining roadmap and execution cadence.
  - Led internal adoption of Kubeflow Pipelines for model retraining.
  - Designed and implemented next-gen re-training pipeline components API for both TFX and KFP.
  - Worked with industry collaborators from Spoify and Google for alignment on reusable components for automatic model re-training pipelines.
- **Twitter** *Machine Learning Engineer II, October 2020 - April 2022*
  - Led adoption and migration to production model retraining scheduling framework on top of Kubeflow clusters.
  - Led development for comprehensive automatic CI/CD systems.
  - Developed automatic Python wheel extractor program to help develop code in interactive environments outside of the monorepo.
  - Authored VSCode Twitter monorepo intergration for Python developers, speeding development time.
  - Co-authored evaluation for next-gen ML Training Service on GCP.
  - Taught internal class on improving model quality by setting up automatic model re-training.
  - Collaborated with Ads team to launch Ads Click model in GCP with improved developer iteration, leading to faster model improvements.
- **Twitter** *Machine Learning Engineer, September 2019 - October 2020*
  - Co-authored internal hyperparameter optimization framework for using Bayesian optimization with Ax.
  - Supported ML research work for "Tuning Word2vec for Large Scale Recommendation Systems" (RecSys2020).
  - Worked on evaluation of industry ML model automatic retraining solutions and eventual adoption of TFX for defining end-to-end ML pipelines.
- **Project EPIC, University of Colorado Boulder** *Research Assistant, February 2017 - August 2019*
  - Analyzed 2000 tweets/minute of real time data by building Big Data pipeline using Spark, Kafka and Cassandra.
  - Deployed system prototype with Kubernetes using custom microservices written in Go and Python.
- **Twitter** *Software Engineering Intern, May 2018 - August 2018*
  - Developed CLI to deploy Apache Airflow instances internally.
  - Helped reduce ML model training and deploy time by 1/4 developing ML Workflows.
- **inLab FIB** *Web Development Intern, March 2015 - January 2017*
  - Built REST API for faculty data - Average usage of 25.000 daily accesses. (Django, Python)
  - Reduced Oracle SQL query response time by 1/3 using non-blocking updates and materialized views.
- **con terra GmbH** *Intern, Summer 2015*
  - Developed bike share routing app using OpenStreetMap open data and Citibikes API. (Javascript)

Education

- **University of Colorado Boulder** Boulder, CO
  M.S., Computer Science (GPA 3.97) *August 2017 - August 2019*
  - **Courses:** Analysis and Design of Algorithms, User Centered Design, Database Systems, Big Data Architecture, Machine Learning, Computational Genomics, Natural Language Processing.
- **Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya** Barcelona, Spain
  B.S., Computer Science (8.8/10) *September 2013 - July 2017*
  - **Courses:** Data Mining, Data Compression, Programming Languages, Software architecture, Databases, Parallelism, Project Management, Web architecture, Android, NoSQL databases, Reflective programming.

Volunteering

- **TFX Addons SIG** *Core Contributor, May 2021 - March 2023*
  - Release manager from version 0.1.0 to date.
  - Contributor and maintainer for project CI/CD system, XGBoostEvaluator, FeastExampleGen and others.
  - Collaborator for ModelCardToolking migration mentoring Twitter team members to contribute to project.
- **AIP-31: Airflow functional DAG definition / "Taskflow API"** *Core Contributor, January 2020 - July 2020*
  - Proposed and implemented improvement for Airflow DAG user experience adding explicit XCom data.
  - Released in Airflow 2.0.0 and used in one of the main tutorials for the project.
- **HackCU, University of Colorado Boulder** *Tech director, February 2017 - April 2019*
  - Co-led Colorado's biggest student hackathon with 600 attendees and a 15 people core team.
- **HackUPC, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya** *Co-Director, November 2015 - September 2018*
  - Co-led Spain's biggest student hackathon with 500 attendees and a 20 people core team.
  - Led web development team with 5 people for 2 years, developing the event website and registration platform.

Awards

- **Google OSS Peer Bonus for contributions to TFX and TFX Addons** (2022)
- **Denver Government award winner at ETHDenver.** (2018)
- **Grant winner at MD5 Physical Cyber Hackathon.** (2018)
- **Balsells Fellowship.** (2017-2019, two years of funding for graduate studies)
- **Balsells Mobility program.** (2017, five months of funding for research)
- **52North Innovation Incentive Award.** (2013)

Publications

- Jennings A., Gerard C., Kenneth M. A., Leysia P., and Rebecca M. **Incorporating Context and Location Into Social Media Analysis: A Scalable, Cloud-Based Approach for More Powerful Data Science.** *HICSS 52 (accepted).*
- Gerard C. **Social Media Analysis for Crisis Informatics in the Cloud** *MS Thesis*

Skills

- **Programming:** Java, Python, GoLang **Experience with:** Kubeflow Pipelines, Django, Apache Airflow, Apache Beam, Spark, Kafka, Kubernetes, gRPC, Triton Server, Slurm, GCP, AWS
- **Native:** Catalan, Spanish. **Advanced:** English.
- **Hobbies:** Skiing, Running, Photography, Roller hockey, Piano, Swim.