

CHIKA MADUABUCHI

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2022 – 2024

Master of Science in Nuclear Science and Engineering

Cambridge, MA

- Awarded \$91,000 research funding from Mathworks for developing computer vision models for autonomous boiling.

University of Nigeria Nsukka

2014 – 2019

Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering

Nsukka, EN

Relevant Coursework

- Advanced Machine Learning
- Modelling with Machine Learning
- Advanced Numerical Methods
- Advanced Calculus
- Computer Programming
- Complex Analysis
- Probability and Statistics
- Advanced Linear Algebra
- Computational Algorithms

Research Interests

- Machine Learning
- Computer Vision
- Natural Language Processing
- Generative AI
- Foundation Models
- Reinforcement Learning

Experience

MIT Red Lab

September 2022 – Present

Research Fellow

Cambridge, MA

- Implemented transfer learning techniques using U-Net CNNs from pre-trained biological cell models to boiling videos for accurate segmentation (over 98% Dice coefficients and Jaccard index) of bubbles to enable autonomous systems control.
- Fine-tuned state-of-the-art vision transformer (ViT-H) foundation model, META SAM, on PyTorch to enhance generalization capabilities on new boiling images with complex patterns.
- Quantified uncertainty in the vision model predictions by implementing a randomized sorting algorithm which evaluated the error on the boundaries of the model predictions.
- Attended weekly group meetings and met my research advisor twice a week to share research updates and receive scholarly feedback.

Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

October 2021 – August 2022

Research Lead

Nsukka, EN

- Led a team of data scientists to implement neural networks, support vector machines, boosting and bagging ML models in scikit-learn to forecast global weather parameters and solar power in strategic cities across the 7 continents.
- Conducted exploratory data analysis (EDA) and recursive feature elimination (RFE) on the 2 years time series data to determine the most relevant features for ML forecast of the system power and efficiency.
- Tuned the models to give the best prediction output based on numerous regression performance metrics including the relative root mean squared error (RRMSE) and Pearson correlation coefficient (R^2)
- Validated the ML forecasts with year ahead ground-truth data from NASA and submitted the developed manuscript for publication consideration in Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence.

Projects

Generative AI - Diffusion Models | Python, PyTorch, CNNs, Einops

October 2023

- Developed a PyTorch-based implementation of Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models (DDPMs) to generate high-quality samples from noise through a reverse noising process as an implementation of the paper by Ho et al.
- Designed a custom U-Net CNN architecture with sinusoidal positional embedding to condition the denoising process on the diffusion timestep for effective image denoising on MNIST and Fashion-MNIST datasets.
- Utilized a sophisticated training loop with noise application at random timesteps and hyperparameter optimization to ensure accurate noise prediction and efficient learning.
- Created dynamic visualization tools for the diffusion process and model evaluation, offering intuitive insights into the model's generative capabilities and performance.

Reinforcement Learning - Policy Gradients | Python, PyTorch, gym-minigrid, ACModel

November 2023

- Developed and implemented the REINFORCE algorithm using PyTorch by training the model to solve a door-key task in a custom MiniGrid environment.
- Designed and implemented an Actor-Critic model with convolutional neural networks for feature extraction and policy and value function approximation in PyTorch.

- Conducted experiments with both REINFORCE and Vanilla Policy Gradient methods, incorporating baselines to reduce variance and improve learning stability through hyperparameter tuning.
- Created utility functions for preprocessing observations, collecting experiences, and visualizing model performance, along with integrating `sensorimotor-checker` for testing algorithm correctness.

Character-Level Language Modeling - GPT Architecture | *Python, PyTorch, Transformers* December 2023

- Engineered a character-level text generation model using PyTorch, encapsulating the core principles of Transformer architectures, to autonomously generate text in the style of Shakespeare with over 0.209 million parameters.
- Implemented and optimized a simplified GPT-like architecture, including self-attention mechanisms, multi-head attention, and feedforward networks, tailored for understanding and generating Shakespearean text.
- Employed character-to-index and index-to-character mappings (*stoi* and *itos*) for efficient text encoding and decoding, facilitating the model's learning process from the Tiny Shakespeare dataset through supervised learning techniques.
- Demonstrated the model's generative capabilities by training it to predict subsequent characters, achieving coherent text generation, and showcased through a custom text generation function post-training, the model's ability to synthesize new textual content stylistically similar to the training dataset.

Technical Skills

Machine Learning Libraries: PyTorch, scikit-learn, OpenCV, TensorFlow

Languages: Python, C++, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, MATLAB, R, SQL

Developer Tools: VS Code, Jupyter Notebook, Google Colab, CUDA, ImageJ/Fiji

Technologies/Frameworks: Linux, GitHub, Flask, AWS EC2

Leadership / Extracurricular

Enrai	Summer 2022 – Present
<i>President</i>	<i>University of Nigeria</i>

- Founded and lead Enrai, an organization dedicated to providing research experience in computer programming and optimization, focusing on solving societal problems and contributing to open-source projects.
- Direct and mentor a diverse team of 10+ members, fostering a collaborative environment to enhance skills in advanced computational techniques and real-world problem-solving.
- Successfully guided three members through comprehensive research projects and skill development, resulting in their acceptance into fully-funded Ph.D. programs at prestigious universities in the United States.