







Fazli Imam

AI Researcher (Level II) at MBZUAI

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EDUCATION

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence <i>Master of Science in Machine Learning (Fully funded scholarship)</i>	Aug 2022 – May 2024 GPA 3.60/4.00
Sri Lankan Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) <i>Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Information Technology with specialization in Data Science</i>	Jan 2016 – Dec 2020 GPA 3.81/4.00

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages & Libraries: Python, R, SQL, Scikit-learn, XGBoost, BeautifulSoup, Selenium, LangChain, FastAPI, Streamlit, Flask NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, Keras, TensorFlow
AI/ML Frameworks & Tools: HuggingFace, OpenAI API, MLflow, RAGs, Weights & Biases, Google Analytics
Data Engineering & Platforms: ETL, Databricks, Docker
Cloud Platforms: AWS (S3, EC2, SageMaker), Microsoft Azure (ML Studio, Databricks), Google Cloud Platform
Data Visualization Tools: Tableau, Power BI, Seaborn, Matplotlib
Developer Tools: Git, Bash scripting

EXPERIENCE

Machine Learning Researcher <i>Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Led research initiatives on multimodality and visual-temporal reasoning in vision-language models notably experimenting with LLAMA, LLAVA, GPT-4o, QwenVL, InternVL and Gemini-1.5 Pro.Contributed to grassroots AI initiatives aimed at enhancing cultural and linguistic diversity in AI systems, including the development of the CVQA Benchmark, a culturally-diverse multilingual VQA dataset covering 31 languages and 13 scripts across 30 countries, and the SEACrowd project, a multilingual multimodal data hub and benchmark suite designed to support 36 Southeast Asian languages.Collaborated with external research groups, notably Google Research, IBM Research, Cohere, and Alibaba Research, as well as interdisciplinary teams, to advance cutting-edge research in AI.	Jul 2024 – Present
Data Science Fellow <i>Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC - Panorama Department)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Led and built an SARIMAX time series model on 6.59 million entries to forecast gas cracker flow rates, enhancing process efficiency. Performed end-to-end data preprocessing, cleaning, exploratory data analysis (EDA), feature engineering, and modeling.Engineered an NLP-based Q&A system for oil drilling reports using LLM APIs to extract insights and improve decision making. Experimented with embeddings from DaVinci, GPT-3.5-turbo, Bard, Falcon-13B/40B for query-context matching, evaluated on speed, cost, performance, and compute efficiency. CODE	Jun 2023 – Jul 2023
Data Scientist <i>STAX Inc</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted due diligence for private equity firms across five investment opportunities, leveraging data-driven insights and market analysis to evaluate potential deals and support strategic decision-making.Engineered pipelines to scrape 100K+ reviews and listings from major platforms, enabling in-depth analysis of market trends, competitors, and consumer sentiment to deliver actionable business intelligence for clients.Synthesized insights from multiple diverse data sources, including web scraping and survey data, to deliver strategic recommendations supporting clients' data-driven investment decisions.	Jul 2021 – Jul 2022
Data Scientist <i>National Intensive Care Surveillance Unit (NICST)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Led exploratory data analysis (EDA) and data transformation on clinical trial datasets comprising 96 variables for 800+ patients across 17 medical clinics, enabling analysis to support evidence-based decision-making in healthcare.Engineered automation scripts to streamline data mapping across five systems and formats, cutting the processing time of the previously implemented system by half and significantly reducing manual effort in clinical workflows.	Nov 2020 – Jun 2021

SELECTED PROJECTS

Label-free Adaptation of CLIP for Remote Sensing [LINK](#)

Masters Thesis

- Engineered and deployed a label-free adaptation method for **Remote Sensing Scene Classification (RSSC)**, which outperformed the prior state-of-the-art by **5%** across **10** benchmarks.
- Explored the efficacy of auto-labelled prompt tuning by leveraging contextual knowledge from LLMs including **GPT-4o**, **LLAMA**, and **Gemini** to generate pseudo labels and adapt **CLIP** for remote sensing context.

Automating Automobile Accident Claim Process [LINK](#)

Bachelors Thesis

- Spearheaded the design of a machine learning pipeline to automate the automobile accident claim process using computer vision and predictive modeling, significantly reducing manual intervention and operational delays.
- Developed a multi-stage pipeline integrating **automobile make and model classification**, **damage component localization**, **cost estimation via regression modeling**, and **churn prediction for customer retention** using tabular and image-based data.

Domain Adaptation for RGB to Thermal Images [CODE](#)

- Proposed a novel **Unsupervised Domain Adaptation (UDA)** approach for urban road scenes by transferring knowledge from RGB to thermal imagery using a triple-branch transformer architecture.
- Experimented with multiple transformer backbones (**DeiT**, **CvT**, **SWIN**) to classify pedestrians, cars, and bicycles across RGB and thermal domains; incorporated adversarial adaptation with a discriminator network and evaluated performance across various loss function combinations.

Football Game Outcome Prediction [CODE](#)

- Engineered and assessed the effectiveness of a machine learning models to predict football match outcomes using **35** player attributes, **13** team-level variables, and **11** previous match statistics.
- Scraped data for all **32 teams** participating in the **FIFA 2021 World Cup** using **BeautifulSoup** and **Selenium**, generating predictions from group stage matches to the grand finale.
- Experimented with various models including **tree-based classifiers**, **Gaussian Naive Bayes**, **regression models**, **SVM**, **XGBoost**, and **neural networks** to evaluate prediction performance.

Optimizing Direct Mail Fundraising

- Engineered a pipeline to optimize direct mail fundraising for a fictional organization using **8000+** data entries with **18** variables, including donation amount, neighborhood statistics, household demographics, and employment data.
- The pipeline included a classification model for predicting the likelihood of donation and a regression model for estimating the donation amount, experimenting with models such as **logistic regression**, **decision trees**, **random forests**, and **XGBoost**.

IoT Temperature Prediction with Dashboard

- Led the development of a **Node-RED** dashboard on **IBM Cloud** to visualize 12-month temperature forecasts based on **5000+** historical data points.
- Designed and implemented time series models, including **ARIMA** and **Prophet (Facebook)**, to predict temperatures in major Sri Lankan cities.

Visual Analytics with Batch and Streaming Data

- Deployed a mock hotel website with tracking codes to analyze user sessions via **Google Analytics** and **Data Studio**.
- Performed real-time streaming analytics on **190K+** Uber-Lyft data points using **Siddhi** and **MySQL**. Visualized insights using **Tableau** and **Power BI**, providing actionable insights for potential stakeholders.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Led a research team during the Undergraduate Research Internship Program (UGRIP) at MBZUAI, which won the prestigious **Best Team Award** for outstanding innovation and collaboration.
- Earned a competitive **fully-funded Master's scholarship** at MBZUAI, awarded for demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and strong research potential in Artificial Intelligence.
- Consistently ranked among the top performers and featured on the **SLIIT Dean's List** for six consecutive semesters across the second, third, and final years.

PUBLICATIONS

For a complete list of my publications, please visit my [Google Scholar profile](#).

REFERENCES

- Available on request