Ha Dang Vu

DATA SCIENCE INTERN — MACHINE LEARNING — STATISTICS

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Education

HEC Montréal — **Sep 2025 – Present**
Master of Data Science and Business Analytics — *Montréal, Québec*

University of Waterloo — **Sep 2020 – Dec 2024**
Bachelor of Mathematics in Computational Mathematics — *Waterloo, Ontario*

- Minor in Computing, Combinatorics and Optimization

Vector Institute — **Jul 2024**
CIFAR Deep Learning Reinforcement Learning 2024 – Summer School — *Toronto, Ontario*

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, R, SQL, MATLAB. **ML & Data**: NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-learn, PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace. **Tools**: Git, Linux, Jupyter, Power BI, Tableau.

Experience

Research Assistant — **Nov 2025 – Present**
HEC Montréal — *Montréal, Québec*

- Performed large-scale analysis of **Machine Learning applications in Information Systems**, systematically extracting structured features (data types, algorithms, contexts) from academic studies using **Covidence**.
- Built a reproducible review pipeline using **Covidence**, applying consistent inclusion criteria and data schemas - mirroring real-world **data curation and feature engineering** workflows.

Undergraduate Research Assistant — **Sep 2024 – Dec 2024**
WiM Directed Reading Program @ UWaterloo — *Waterloo, Ontario*

- Applied **convex optimization** methods (PGD, FISTA, ADMM) to **image denoising** and **deblurring tasks**, modeling sparse signal recovery via L_1-regularization.
- Implemented and evaluated **image restoration** algorithms in MATLAB, comparing convergence, stability, and reconstruction quality across iterative solvers.

Projects

BIXI Montréal Trip Behavior Analysis | *R, RMarkdown, GLM, Logistic Regression*

- Modeled **trip duration** and **rush-hour usage** using interpretable **log-linear** and **binomial GLMs**, incorporating temporal and weather effects.
- Found weekend trips ∼**10% longer**, rush-hour odds ∼**50% lower** on weekends, and **heavy rain reducing rush-hour activity** on Fridays/Saturdays; identified strong **station-level heterogeneity** motivating mixed models.

MNAR Sensitivity Analysis for Predictive Modeling | *R, Monte Carlo Simulation, Logistic Regression, Missing Data*

- Built a **Monte Carlo framework** to analyze **MNAR effects**, separating degradation by **feature importance** and **missingness intensity** (25%–70%).
- Showed **PMM failure under MNAR** (up to **11% accuracy loss**) and that **delta adjustment** recovers ∼**87%** of signal, while **mis-specified corrections** amplify bias.

Efficient Financial Sentiment Modeling via Knowledge Distillation | *Python, PyTorch, HuggingFace Transformers*

- Built a lightweight financial text classification model using **Knowledge Distillation** to transfer knowledge from a large model to a smaller one, reducing model size by **10×** (109.5M → 11.7M) with minimal performance loss.
- Achieved **97.35% test accuracy** and **0.9626 macro-F1** on real financial news data, with **no increase in prediction time** (∼2.0 ms per document), making the model suitable for large-scale or real-time use.

ASA DataFest Winner – CourseKata Learning Platform | *Python, R, Jupyter Notebook*

- Won **Best Insight** at ASA DataFest 2024 (48-hour datathon), earning a **$2000 award** for data-driven recommendations.
- Analyzed a **3M+ record** educational dataset, defining and validating student performance metrics via **correlation analysis** and **statistical hypothesis testing**, while assessing key data limitations.