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Ivar Cashin Eriksson

Hello Stefan Sommer, I am writing to apply for the PhD position in Data Science and Geometric Models of Morphology. With a Master's degree in data science and applied mathematics, and 6 years of professional experience working with machine learning, I believe I would be a good fit for your open position.

After several years in industry, I have realised that while building commercial solutions is fun, it does not challange me in the way I would like. Being an extremely creative person, a PhD would allow me to investigate novel ideas that industry does not. I thoroughly enjoy environments of intellectual discussion and rigour, and wish to pursue research again. One strength I bring is the ability to grasp and model complex systems rapidly, which has shown itself in both my work and academic results. I attended The Royal Institute of technology (KTH) in Stockholm, where a lot of weight was placed on understanding the theory behind the methods we were using. In addition to this, I was interested in how this theory could be applied so I took on a bachelor in economics along side my main degree.

Directly after my studies I continued work at RaySearch Laboratories in Stockholm with whom I had written my Master's thesis. My experience at RaySearch as a Data Science Researcher left a strong, long-lasting impression. I developed probabilistic and ML-based methods for radiotherapy planning of cancer treatment. The work was challenging and rewarding, and involved building custom deep neural networks for computer vision. I particularly enjoyed collaborating with clinicians and all that I learnt in my work there. Though I had to leave Stockholm in 2021 to move to Copenhagen, my motivation to return to more research heavy work has only grown stronger.

I am drawn to MorphAI's and DIGIFABA's shared focus on modelling real-world structure, be it anatomical or agricultural, through statistical and machine learning based methods. I value theory-grounded approaches and enjoy building systems that reflect the structure of the world, rather than just fitting data. This is one of the reasons I am now seeking a role where I can contribute to AI research rather than high-level applications.

Outside of work, I live right by the Botanical Gardens and would love the chance to contribute to a research group embedded in this part of Copenhagen. I fill my free time with designing furniture, woodworking, coding, 3D-printing, climbing, road biking, ultimate frisbee, and board games, activities that keep my hands and mind sharp. I thoroughly enjoy picking up new skills and am self taught in all my hobbies. In my professional life, I now want to return to a research environment where I can follow ideas from early exploration to experimentation, refinement, and ultimately publication.

I hope to hear back from you soon. Regards,

Ivar Cashin Eriksson.