LUIS VELA VELA PHD

Sr. AI Weather Scientist & ML Team Lead | AI-NWP, Satellite Data & Renewable Energy Forecasting

CONTACT

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CORE COMPETENCIES

AI Weather Models & Foundation Models

- AI-NWP Deployment (AIFS, Aurora, FourCastNet, GraphCast) ●●●●●
- AI Data Assimilation (system design) ●●●●○
- S2S Forecasting (weather regimes, ensemble methods) ●●●●○
- Probabilistic Verification (CRPS, ensemble statistics) ●●●●○

Satellite Data & Observations

- Satellite Data Processing (Spire Global satellite constellation) ●●●●●
- Radio Occultation (RO) ●●●●○
- GRIB2 & Data Pipelines ●●●●●
- ERA5 Reanalysis ●●●●●
- Model Intercomparison ●●●●○

Renewable Energy Forecasting

- Weather-to-Energy Pipelines ●●●●○
- Wind & Solar Prediction ●●●●○

ML Engineering & HPC

- PyTorch / TensorFlow ●●●●●
- GPU Computing (A100, H200, mixed precision) ●●●●●
- Distributed Computing (CuPy, Dask, RAPIDS, Numba) ●●●●○
- MLflow / Experiment Tracking ●●●○○

Programming & Data

- Python (xarray, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Cartopy) ●●●●●
- Bash ●●●●○
- FORTRAN ●●●○○
- Git / CI/CD / Conda ●●●●●

Leadership

- ML Team Management (2 direct reports) ●●●●○
- Cross-functional Collab ●●●●○

LANGUAGES

- Spanish — Native ●●●●●
- English — Fluent / Professional ●●●●●
- French — Conversational ●●●○○
- Serbian — Conversational ●●●●○
- Czech — Conversational ●●●○○
- German — Working knowledge ●●○○○

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- **AI weather model deployment at scale**
- **Satellite-to-forecast pipeline expertise**
- **Scientific rigor & operational delivery**
- **Cross-functional team builder**

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Sr. AI Weather Scientist leading a team that builds and deploys AI-powered weather forecasting systems at a global satellite data company. Deep expertise in AI numerical weather prediction models (AIFS, Aurora, FourCastNet), satellite observational data processing, and weather-to-energy production forecasting. PhD in Computational Physics with production experience spanning the full NWP pipeline — from satellite data ingestion and AI model inference to ensemble-based renewable energy forecasts. Combines scientific depth with hands-on ML engineering, HPC operations, and team leadership.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

📅 Nov 2022 – Present
● Spire Global, Luxembourg

Sr. AI Weather Scientist

Lead a team of ML engineers at a global satellite data and analytics company, building AI-powered weather forecasting systems that serve energy, maritime, aviation, and smart agriculture markets.

- **AI Weather Models:** Architected and deployed production infrastructure for multiple AI numerical weather prediction models (AIFS, Aurora), including full pipeline management from satellite data ingestion through ensemble-based forecast delivery.
- **Satellite Data Integration:** Process and integrate satellite observational data — including radio occultation profiles — into AI weather forecasting workflows, bridging raw satellite observations with ML model inputs.
- **Renewable Energy Forecasting:** Develop weather-to-energy production forecast pipelines, translating atmospheric predictions into actionable wind and solar energy output estimates.
- **Subseasonal Forecasting:** Built S2S forecasting pipelines with weather regime classification and ensemble probability tracking across 46-day forecast horizons.
- **Model Verification:** Created Python-based forecast intercomparison tooling for multi-model evaluation across ensemble statistics, spatial fields, and weather regime projections.
- **Data Engineering:** Deep expertise in GRIB2 format handling, ERA5 reanalysis processing, and multi-model data pipelines at scale.
- **AI-Assisted Development:** Pioneered Claude Code adoption on HPC infrastructure, achieving 6–12x speedup in model repository development.
- **Team Leadership:** Established engineering practices including experiment tracking (MLflow), shared repositories, code review standards, and documentation workflows.

📅 Feb 2021 – Nov 2022
● LuxProvide, Luxembourg

Sr. Solutions Engineer

Designed and delivered custom HPC/AI solutions for clients, including GPU infrastructure evaluation (H200), technical discovery, and solution architecture for compute-intensive scientific workloads.

📅 Oct 2019 – Jan 2021
● Amazon, Luxembourg

Research Scientist

- Applied advanced ML and statistical methods to deliver actionable business insights at scale.

EDUCATION

📅 Sep 2013 – Feb 2019
● UC3M, Madrid | UGent, Ghent

PhD in Computational Physics

Specialized in computational methods for complex physical systems. Developed algorithms for HPC environments.

📅 Sep 2011 – Jul 2013
● UC3M, Madrid | UGent, Ghent

MSc in Plasma Physics

Statistical analysis and modeling of complex dynamic systems.

📅 Sep 2007 – Jul 2010
● Charles University, Prague

BSc in Physics

Foundation in computational physics and simulation methods.

ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITION

- 🏆 Outstanding Colombian Abroad — Award by the Colombian Government
- 🏆 Summa Cum Laude — PhD Thesis
- 🏆 Greatest Distinction — 2013 Erasmus Mundus Master
- 🏆 UNESCO Fellowship — Bachelor Studies Scholarship

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Magneto-hydrodynamical nonlinear simulations of magnetically confined plasmas using smooth particle hydrodynamics (SPH)
- A positioning algorithm for SPH ghost particles in smoothly curved geometries
- ALARIC: An algorithm for constructing arbitrarily complex initial density distributions with low particle noise for SPH/SPMHD applications