

Matar Haller

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Tools

Proficient: Python, MATLAB, SQL, git

Familiar: Scala, Apache Hadoop ecosystem (Kafka, Spark, Kudu, Impala), R, Lisp, Tableau, bash, HTML

Experience

Data Scientist, Winton Capital, San Francisco, CA

2016-present

- Collaborated to engineer infrastructure to read and parse streams of data from Kafka into Kudu using Spark.
- Integrated Jupyter notebooks with Impala to provide simple access to rapidly changing distributed data to researchers in Zurich, London, and Oxford.

Data Science Fellow, Insight Data Science, Palo Alto, CA

2016

- Consulted for startup DeepGram to automatically segment unidentified speakers in recorded audio files.
- Engineered unsupervised algorithm combining spectral decomposition, PCA, and hierarchical clustering (matarhaller.com)
- Built novel validation dataset with known ground truth by scraping and splicing audiobooks (72% accuracy).
- Delivered code for use in existing predictive models and company proof of concept pitches.
- Accepted as talk to Strata-Hadoop 2017 in San Jose, CA.

Graduate Student Researcher, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, UC Berkeley

2010 – 2016

- Recorded activity from surgically implanted electrodes on human brains. Implemented time series analyses, PCA, clustering, ridge regression and permutation tests to link neuronal activity with behavior. In review at *Nature Human Behavior*.
- Developed method for extracting oscillatory components from power spectra using linear regression, k-means clustering, curve fitting and cross validation. Precision and recall match human performance.
- Supervised and mentored research assistants and graduate students. Taught experimental design, electrophysiology recording, and analysis pipeline using Python and MATLAB.

Graduate Student Instructor, UC Berkeley

2005 – 2013

- Collaborated with graduate students and professors to construct lesson plans for Neuropsychology, Drugs & the Brain, and Cognitive Science courses, each with 100-600 students each.
- Awarded Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor. Average evaluation: 6.7/7

Projects

OkNLP

2016

- Combined NLP (tf-idf, tokenization) with machine learning (non-negative matrix factorization, grid search, cross validation) to analyze free text and demographic information from online dating profiles.
- Identified unintentional signals of drug usage status in free text self-descriptions across 60k user profiles.
- Presented as talk at SciPy 2016 in Austin, Texas and published in conference proceedings.

Software Carpentry & Women in Tech

2014

- Taught scientific computing skills including Python, shell, and version control to Stanford graduate students.
- Taught programming using Jupyter notebooks to high school girls at PyData Silicon Valley.

Military

Tank Instructor, Armored Corps, Israel Defense Force

2007 – 2009

Trained recruits, commanders and officers on the weapons control system of the Merkava Mark II tank.

Education

Ph.D., Neuroscience, UC Berkeley

2010 – 2016

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

B.A., Cognitive Science; Psychology, UC Berkeley

2003 – 2007

Highest Distinction in General Scholarship, Departmental Citation in Cognitive Science