Mahdi Zarour

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SUMMARY

Machine Learning Engineer · Data Scientist

- With 4 years in Data Science and Machine Learning, dedicated to continuous learning and staying up to date with the
 latest advancements in machine learning and data science. Enjoy tackling new problems without being afraid to explore
 solutions directly from research papers to deliver the most effective results.
- Technically Strong with a focus on Mathematics, Statistics, and Probability.
- Effective collaborator and Listener with experience working in cross-functional teams. Proficient in understanding
 requirements, conducting comprehensive data analysis, and providing insightful recommendations to help make
 decisions.
- **Proactive and helpful team player** who contributes and shares his ideas, whether when asked or when a need is perceived. Always ready to provide assistance and make meaningful contributions to the team.

EDUCATION

Université de Montréal

Montréal, QC 2020-2023

Master of Science, Computer Science

- Coursework: Data Science · Fundamentals of Machine Learning · Probabilistic Graphical Models · Representation Learning · Theory of Deep Learning.
- **GPA**: 3.7.
- Scholarships: International Students Scholarship worth \$27,000 CAD.

Université Oran 1 Ahmed Ben Bella (IGMO)

Oran, Algeria

Licence (Bachelor of Science), Mathematics & Computer Science

2015-2018

• Top 5% of the program in GPA.

EXPERIENCE

Machine Learning Engineer / Data Scientist Skylar

Montréal, QC Jan/2023 - Now

Skylar is a startup enterprise with the main mission of pushing the boundaries of AI in Industry. They deliver tailored AI powered models as products. During my time there, I had the chance to work on various projects and manipulate many types of data. I worked on Marketing Campaigns Optimization with Machine Learning, Object Detection with Deep Learning, and Chat-based Question Answering with LLM.

Marketing Campaigns Optimization (Jan/2023 - Feb/2023):

- Collaborated within a cross-functional team as part of an Agile Framework to select relevant features and compromise between performance and bias risk, then to establish robust CI/CD practices on AWS.
- Cleaned and preprocessed raw marketing data utilizing Big Data tools Apache Spark (Pyspark) and Hadoop on AWS EMR, before Securely storing the data in AWS S3 buckets.
- Built and trained Machine Learning XGBoost pipelines specifically for ad targeting tasks, using AWS Sagemaker for model training.
- Successfully deployed the trained machine learning models using AWS **Lambda**, and created a responsive REST API, for convenient invocation.

Object Detection (Feb/2023 - Mars/2023):

- Collaborated with the machine learning team at Skylar to architect and implement a real-time object detection system based on the YOLO paper (You Only Look Once).
- Focused on developing a **Python** and **PyTorch** solution tailored to meet the client's specific needs and requirements, by using the client's data to fine-tune the pre-trained classification model for the detection task.
- Deployed with AWS **Lambda**, ensuring the object detection system operated seamlessly in a cloud environment, since the system was used in real-time applications.
- Diligently trained the model until it achieved a performance level deemed acceptable and met project benchmarks for mAP.

Q&A with LLM (Mars/2023 - Now):

Built with other team members a tailored chat bot for a dental clinic, utilizing Large Language Models (LLM) and Python.
This involved formulating user questions as prompts for OpenAI GPT-3 and enriching them with pertinent context coming from a 400-page comprehensive book stored as embeddings in a vector database. This process included comparing the user's prompt against the database and extracting the most relevant segments to add to the prompt using LangChain.

- Integrated a real-time speech-to-speech interface via the Microsoft **Azure** API to enable users to verbally pose questions and receive spoken responses.
- Collaborated within a **cross-functional** team as part of an **Agile** Framework to ensure continual client engagement through regular progress demonstrations and feedback integration.
- Skills: Agile, CI/CD, Big Data, AWS, EMR, SageMaker, Lambda, S3, Python, R, PyTorch, Spark, Hadoop, XGBoost, Supervised Learning, Data Cleaning, Data Preparation, Object Detection, Computer Vision, NLP, Model Training, Deep Learning, LangChain, OpenAi, Vector Database, Microsoft Azure, Embeddings, Jupyter Notebook.

Beam Me Up Inc.Montréal, QCData Scientist InternJan/2022 - Dec/2022

- Implemented a python library (with **NumPy**, **Pandas**, and **Matplotlib**) to process raw Eye Tracking and EEG data by applying the latest feature extraction algorithms to data captured from consumer grade VR and EEG devices, and to visualize the results.
- Developed a virtual environment in **Unity** using **C**# language and successfully conducted experiments on 31 individuals at BMU labs.
- Facilitated **Agile** product development with BMU team, and implemented **CI/CD** practices to increase deployment release frequency and decrease deployment time.
- Developed a state-of-the-art distraction detection system in terms of accuracy (84%, best among those present in the literature) by combining features from EEG and Eye Tracking and applying a machine learning classification algorithm, SVM with **Scikit-learn**.
- Developed the first (in the literature) numerical indicator of the levels of distraction by combining linear dimensionality reduction techniques (Linear Discriminant Analysis) and interpolation for effective Supervised Learning.
- Skills: Agile, CI/CD, Data Analysis, Data Visualization, Data Acquisition, Data Cleaning, Data Preparation, C#, Unity, OOP, Python, R, EEG, Eye Tracking, Scikit-learn, PyTorch, Numpy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Virtual Reality, Supervised Learning, Unsupervised Learning, Signal Processing, Jupyter Notebook.

Data ScientistOran, AlgeriaBetobexJun/2018 - Jan/2020

Betobex is one of the oldest concrete building materials manufacturers and suppliers in Algeria. I mainly collaborated within cross-functional teams to manage the databases, optimize the inventory management, and translate data analysis results.

- Managed and optimized part of the database effectively using **PostgreSQL**, to ensure data security.
- Leveraged Business Intelligence and Dashboarding tool Tableau to perform data visualization and data analysis, extracting insights to inform business strategies at the company.
- Assisted the senior members in optimizing inventory management by employing NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-learn and XGBoost for Data Processing and Supervised Learning.
- Collaborated in bi-weekly sprints and daily stand-ups as part of an Agile framework, to enhance team motivation and communication.
- Effectively communicated complex data insights to non-technical management teams, ensuring clear interpretation and understanding of mathematical results, while backing my analysis with **Matplotlib** plots.
- Skills: Python, R, Scikit-learn, Matplotlib, Pandas, XGBoost, Tableau, Business Intelligence, Agile, PostgreSQL, Data Analysis, Data Visualization, Data Acquisition, Data Cleaning, Data Preparation, Machine Learning, Supervised Learning, Jupyter Notebook.

SKILLS

- Proficient in recent Machine Learning algorithms by implementing from scratch SVM, Logistic Regression, Naive Bayes, XGBoost, and Decision Trees using only Numpy and Scikit-learn.
- Proficient in recent Deep Learning architectures by implementing from scratch MLP, CNN, RNN, and LSTM using only Numpy.
- Proficient in Pytorch library after implementing in Pytorch DL architectures including CNN, Transformers, Vision Transformers (ViT), Variational Autoencoders (VAE), and Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN).
- Experience with other Deep Learning Libraries Tensorflow and Keras.
- Experience in applying machine learning to Computer Vision for Image Classification and Object Detection.
- Experience in applying machine learning to Natural Language Processing (NLP) for Text Classification with NLTK and SpaCy, Language Modeling, Sentiment Analysis, and Topic Modeling..
- Competent with Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services (AWS) SageMaker, Lambda, and S3.
- Familiar with Google Cloud Platform (GCP).
- Competent with Big Data tools Apache Spark (Pyspark), Hadoop, and Hive.
- Proficient with Data Manipulation, Visualization, and Analysis tools Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, and Tableau...
- Familiar with Git for code collaboration and version control.
- Strong Foundation in Statistics, Probability, Calculus and Linear Algebra.
- Proficient with OOP, Algorithms, and Data Structures.
- Proficient in Programming with Java and Python.

- Experienced in Programming with C, C++, and R.
- Experience in Generative AI with ChatGPT, Llama, Stable Diffusion and GANs.

SOFT SKILLS

- Strong problem-solving and analytical skills.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.
- Proficient in English, fluent in French and Arabic.