

Stavros Niafas

Athens, GR - 19th May 1991

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Stavros Niafas has a major in Informatics Engineering while he also holds two Msc's, in Data Science and in Image Synthesis & Multimedia. As a professional ML practitioner has demonstrated experience in both R&D and production settings, from driving ML experiments and PoC's into mature codebases to support e2e ML pipelines and systems. He is a results oriented individual and perceives his craft as a mean to achieve a certain goal. While he keeps a high sense of ownership, he genuinely cares to promote and establish a healthy AI culture within the teams and seeks ways to translate in simple terms, complex notions to non-tech audiences. He specializes in computer vision while his research interests expand but not limited in domains of ML/DL and active learning. He is also actively engaged in FLOSS contributions, MLOps and systems engineering with strong foundations in Linux environments.

Working Experience

Convert Group

ML ENGINEER

November 2020 - January 2024

- Research for novel methods & drive PoCs towards product enhancements and operation improvements
- Develop, tune and maintain ML powered services for computer vision, timeseries and NLP
- Utilize MLOps and CI/CD to design and automate e2e the ML lifecycle
- Perform A/B testing, performance evaluations and automated reporting analyses
- Present engineering related talks, author engineering blogs & contribute to floss
- Supervise and mentor data science internship trainees

Deepmed I/O

SYSTEMS ENGINEER

March 2019 - May 2019

- Built, configured and maintained deep learning & network on prem/cloud infrastructure
- Tested & deployed company's projects
- Produced technical documentation and guidelines for reference and reporting

AI ENGINEER

September 2018 - February 2019

- Involved in company's outsourced project
- Performed exploratory data analysis, wrangling and cleaning in combined data schemes
- Implemented & improved image processing, machine & deep learning algorithms and models for computer vision
- Document & present deliverables in customer facing meetings

Education

NCSR Demokritos - University of Peloponnese

MSc DATA SCIENCE, GPA: 8.75

2019 - 2021

- Thesis Title: *Photography style analysis using Machine Learning* - Supervisors: Theodoros Giannakopoulos, Prof. Evaggelos Spyrou

University of West Attica - Université de Limoges

MSc INFORMATICS, IMAGE SYNTHESIS & GRAPHICS DESIGN INTERNET & MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY, GPA: 13.96/20

2014 - 2016

- Thesis Title: *Image Retrieval platform for building recognition in urban environments* - Supervisor: Prof. Anastasios Kesidis

University of Thessaly

BSc. INFORMATICS ENGINEER, GPA: 7.33

2009 - 2014

- Thesis Title: *Evaluation and development of Feature Extraction Methods in WCE Video* - Supervisor: Prof. Evaggelos Spyrou

Skills

Development Python, R, SQL, \LaTeX

Tools & Technologies Numpy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Tensorflow, Pytorch, MLFlow, OpenCV, HuggingFace, NVIDIA, Docker, AWS, GCP

Operating Systems GNU/Linux (Debian based), Unix, Windows

Other Scrum

Soft Skills Ownership, Teamwork, Proactiveness, Patience, Flexibility, Active Listening, Knowledge Sharing

Conferences

FOSSCOMM 2022 - University of Thessaly

DEMOCRATIZING ML, DEMOCRATIZING ML w/ HUGGINGFACE (WORKSHOP)

[link](#)

Nov 2022

FOSSCOMM 2021 - University of Macedonia

REAL-WORLD MLOPS w/ MLFLOW, MLOPS IN PRACTICE w/ MLFLOW (WORKSHOP)

[link1](#), [link2](#)

Nov 2021

FOSSCOMM 2020 - University of Western Macedonia

PHOTOGRAPHY STYLE ANALYSIS USING MACHINE LEARNING

[link](#)

Nov 2020

Other Academic Activities

Feb 2021 **Reviewer in scientific journals**, WILEY

[link](#)

Certificates

Mar, 2023 **Advanced AI: Transformers for CV**, LinkedIn

[link](#)

Jun, 2021 **Building Transformer-Based NLP Applications**, NVIDIA

[link](#)

Jun, 2018 **Deep Learning Specialization**, Coursera

[link](#)

Awards

Granted Visitor with team EA/AAK, FOSDEM 2017, Event organised by volunteers to promote the widespread use of free and open source software

Best contribution, Units of Excellence EA/AAK Awards - Money award for best contributed project.

Languages

English, English Speaking Board (C2)

German, Goethe Institut Athen - Zertifikat Deutsch (B1)

Publications

- [1] Spyrou, E., Iakovidis, D. K., Niafas, S., & Koulaouzidis, A. (2015). Comparative assessment of feature extraction methods for visual odometry in wireless capsule endoscopy. *Computers in biology and medicine*, 65, 297-307.
- [2] Mitsianis, E., Spyrou, E., Giannakopoulos, T., Niafas, S., & Perantonis, S. (2018, July). Deep learned features for image retrieval. In *Proceedings of the 10th Hellenic Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (pp. 1-4).