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 a 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 keeps a high sense of ownership and helps to promote and establish a healthy AI culture within the teams. His research interests expand in the domains of Machine/Deep Learning & Computer Vision as well. He is also actively engaged in MLOps, FLOSS contributions and systems engineering with strong foundations in Linux environments.

Working Experience

Convert Group

ML Engineer — *November 2020 - Now*

- 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 (TCP/IP, subnetting) 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 *link*

Democratizing ML, Democratizing ML w/ HuggingFace (workshop) *Nov 2022*

FOSSCOMM 2021 - University of Macedonia *link1, link2*

Real-world MLOps w/ MLFlow, MLOps in practive w/ MLFlow (workshop) *Nov 2021*

FOSSCOMM 2020 - University of Western Macedonia *link*

Photography Style Analysis using Machine Learning *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 ΕΛ/ΛΑΚ, FOSDEM 2017, Event organised by volunteers to promote the widespread use of free and open source software

Best contribution, Units of Excellence ΕΛ/ΛΑΚ 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).