# Stavros Niafas

*Athens, GR - 19th May 1991*

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Stavros Niafas received his BSc degree from the Department of Informatics Engineering at the University of Thessaly. Additionally, he holds an MSc in Image Synthesis & Multimedia and an MSc in Data Science. As a professional ML engineer, he has demonstrated experience in both R&D and production settings. He has a proven track record of driving project experiments and PoCs into mature codebases, handling large volumes of data, as well as designing, developing, and deploying models into end-to-end ML production systems. His research interests expand into the domains of Machine/Deep and Active Learning, Data Centric AI, and Computer Vision. He is also actively engaged in MLOps, systems engineering, and FLOSS contributions.

## Working Experience

**Convert Group**

ML Engineer                                                                                    *November 2020 - Now*

- Develop, tune and maintain ML powered services for computer vision, NLP
- Utilize MLOps to design and automate ML lifecycle
- Perform A/B testing, performance evaluations and reporting analyses
- Research for novel methods, drive experiments & PoCs towards product enhancements and operations improvements
- Present engineering related talks, author engineering blogging & 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*

- Participated and 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
- Document & present project progress 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

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|---:|:---|
| **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).