

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 for Computer Vision and Data Centric AI. He is also actively engaged in MLOps, systems engineering, and FLOSS contributions.

Working Experience

Convert Group

ML ENGINEER

November 2020 - Now

- Design and maintain ML services and systems, for computer vision, NLP and timeseries forecasting
- 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 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 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

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).