Akash Sarayanan

akashsara@outlook.com +1 587-936-6416

Work Experience

Machine Learning Scientist

• Applied Research Intern

Georgian Partners

 $\rm Dec~2023$ - $\rm Present$

Jan 2023 - Dec 2023

Remote, Canada

- Led applied AI projects on information extraction, lead classification, & RAG using LLMs and analytics projects on insurance ML models and 34M+ blockchain transactions.
- Developed solutions for applied AI problems using fine-tuning, RAG, prompting, and text-to-SQL.
- Developed and led tutorials on prompting, RAG, and RLHF for 36+ startups resulting in 7+ POCs.
- Created a public repository containing guides & tutorials for LLM reasoning, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), model alignment, image-to-text models and text-to-image (diffusion) models.
- Benchmarked vector DBs for large datasets, and LLM performance for edge computing and information extraction.
- o Tech Stack: Python, PyTorch, LangChain, Transformers, GCP, Git, LLMs (GPT, Mistral), Vector DBs

Graduate Research Fellow

May 2021 - Dec 2022

University of Alberta

 $Edmonton,\ Canada$

Research on AI for video games (computer vision, reinforcement learning) and debiasing language models (NLP).

Machine Learning Engineer

Aug 2019 - Nov 2020

Mad Street Den (Vue.ai)

Chennai, India

- Created a machine learning model to extract keywords from 37+ million retail products.
- o Developed & deployed solutions for classification & entity extraction problems using language models like BERT.
- \circ Boosted precision of a rule-based classification system by 15% using ML & reduced codebase latency by 40%.
- Implemented Word2Vec across a dataset of 2+ million retail product descriptions.
- o Tech Stack: Python, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Transformers, Django, Javascript, AWS, GCP, Git

EDUCATION

University of Alberta

Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2022

Master of Science (Thesis) in Computing Science; CGPA: 3.75/4.0

Edmonton, Canada

• Thesis: Visualizing Characters and Evaluating their Balance in Competitive Video Games.

Anna University (Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering)

Jun. 2015 – Apr. 2019

Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering; First Class.

Chennai, India

• Thesis: Natural Language Generation using Generative Adversarial Networks (Awarded grant of INR 10,000)

SKILLS

- Languages & Databases: Python, MySQL, SQLite, MongoDB, Vector Databases (QDrant, LanceDB), Markdown
- Frameworks & Libraries: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Transformers, LangChain, NumPy, Pandas, scikit-learn
- Tools & Technologies: Git, LaTeX, AWS (Sagemaker, EC2, S3, Redis) GCP (VertexAI, Compute Engine)

PUBLICATIONS

- A Framework for Predicting the Impact of Game Balance Changes through Meta Discovery: First author. Under review.
- FineDeb: A Debiasing Framework for Language Models: Co-first author. AI4SG Workshop, AAAI 2023.
- Pixel VQ-VAEs for Improved Pixel Art Representation: First author. EXAG Workshop, AIIDE 2022.
- Facial Emotion Recognition using Convolutional Neural Networks: First author. AICV 2018.

PROJECTS & OPEN SOURCE WORK

- [Open Source] Multimodal Toolkit: Primary maintainer. Refactored codebase, added tests, resolved 30+ issues.
- Homebrew Helper: Developed & deployed a Discord bot with database connectivity for online role-playing games.
- [Open Source] poke-env: Identified & fixed several bugs, added example code.