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Paula Dolores Rescala

Data Scientist

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LLM Researcher, EPFL's Data Science Lab | Lausanne, Switzerland | Code, Paper

Sept 2023 - Mar 2024

- Assessed the efficacy of open- and closed-source state-of-the-art LLMs in identifying persuasive arguments based on demographic cues in zero-shot settings.
- Engineered apt prompts through empirical evaluation of how structure and supplementary data impact LLM performance.
- Established evaluation metrics using logistic regression, gradient boosting classifiers, and crowdsourced validation tasks on Amazon MTurk.
- Configured outputs of various LLMs as features in a stacked model that outperforms individual LLMs in predicting content persuasiveness.

Data Science Intern, Schindler Group | Lausanne, Switzerland

Feb 2023 - Aug 2023

- Collected 7920 RSSI measurements from 3 BLE/LoRa beacons by coding drivers to transmit data to a Raspberry Pi and developing a reproducible data collection protocol.
- Trained neural network models on both my own and an existing dataset using contrastive learning and physics-informed frameworks in Azure ML which achieved results as performant as state-of-the-art.
- Implemented a localization strategy with an extended Kalman Filter to integrate IMU and beacon position estimates using kinematics and trained model.
- Led and participated in Agile SCRUM sprint planning, task estimation, and retrospective meetings.
- Supervised a new student to validate and refine project outcomes.

Data Science Intern, IDIAP Research Institute | Lausanne, Switzerland

Sept 2022 – Jan 2023

- Conducted a focus group to identify the needs of the migrant community in Lausanne with regard to media and local news.
- Mapped the findings of the focus group to technical results found by analyzing thousands of web-scraped articles using sentiment analysis, information retrieval, topic modeling, and text readability methods.

EDUCATION

M.S. in Data Science, EPFL | Lausanne, Switzerland

Sept 2021 - Feb 2024

- GPA: 5.3/6.0
- Relevant Coursework: Computer Vision, Natural Language Processing, Large-Scale Data, Distributed Information Systems

B.A. in Computational and Applied Math, Rice University | Houston, TX

Aug 2017 – May 2021

- GPA: 3.7/4.0
- Awarded Trustee Distinguished Scholarship (half-tuition merit scholarship for full four years)
- Differential Equations Grader: Produced answer keys & graded weekly problem sets.
- STEM Camp Instructor: Taught data visualization to 8th grade students.

SKILLS

Technologies: Python, Git, Tableau, R, SQL, HTML, Spark, Apache (Hive, Kafka), Azure (DevOps, ML), Docker Libraries: PyTorch, Tensorflow, NumPy, Pandas, scikit-learn, SciPy, Keras

CERTIFICATIONS

Completed: Data Science Associate, Data Literacy, AI Fundamentals

In progress: AWS Certified Machine Learning - Specialty, Tableau Certified Data Analyst