



STAVROS NIAFAS

Data Scientist/ML Engineer

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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 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. Stavros is a results oriented individual and perceives his craft as a mean to achieve a certain goal. While he keeps a high sense of ownership, he is genuinely dedicated to promote and establish a healthy AI culture within the teams and bridge the gap between technical complexity to non-technical audiences. Stavros is also actively engaged in FLOSS contributions, MLOps and systems engineering with strong foundations in Linux environments.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Machine Learning Engineer

Convert Group (3yrs 3mos)

Nov 2020 - Jan 2024 Athens, GR

- Developed, tuned and deployed ML powered services in computer vision, time series forecasting, NLP and LLMs.
- Streamlined the end-to-end ML lifecycle with MLOps and CI/CD, automating processes for efficient model deployment.
- Conducted A/B testing and automated analyses, delivering key performance insights for ML models.
- Collaborated with cross-functional stakeholders on PoCs for product and operational enhancements.
- Developed and maintained 4 major and provided PoCs for 6 minor company projects, reaching expected deliverable timelines in all 10 projects.
- Developed, tuned and maintained an end-to-end deep learning based image similarity service that increased up to 30% the performance in customer's content compliance and reduced up to 70% of annotation time.
- Developed a campaign sales seasonal forecasting service that increased usage and feature adoption by 50%.
- Presented technical talks, authored engineering blogs, and contributed to FLOSS, establishing thought leadership.
- Supervised and mentored data science interns, guiding them through project execution and industry best practices.

Systems Engineer

DeepMed IO (9 mos)

Mar 2019 - May 2019 Athens, GR

- Built, configured and maintained deep learning & networking on both on-prem/cloud infrastructure
- Tested & deployed company's projects
- Produced technical documentation and guidelines for reference and reporting

AI Engineer

DeepMed IO

September 2018 - February 2019

- Involved in company's project outsourced to external vendor
- Conducted exploratory data analysis, data wrangling and cleaning in within combined data schemas
- Implemented & improved image processing, machine & deep learning algorithms and models for computer vision
- Documented & presented deliverables in customer meetings

EDUCATION

MSc Data Science, GPA: 8.75

NCSR Demokritos - University of Peloponnese

2019 - 2021

Thesis Title: *Photography style analysis using Machine Learning* - Supervisors: Theodoros Gianakopoulos, Prof. Evaggelos Spyrou

MSc Informatics, Image synthesis & Graphics Design Internet & Multimedia Technology, GPA: 13.96/20

University of West Attica - Université de Limoges

2014-2016

Thesis Title: *Image Retrieval platform for building recognition in urban environments* - Supervisor: Prof. Anastasios Kesidis

BSc. Informatics Engineer, GPA: 7.33

University of Thessaly

2009-2014

Thesis Title: *Evaluation and development of Feature Extraction Methods in WCE Video* - Supervisor: Prof. Evaggelos Spyrou

SKILLS

Python R SQL Numpy Pandas
Scikit-Learn Pytorch Tensorflow MLflow
OpenCV HuggingFace OpenAI NVIDIA
git Docker AWS GCP

Ownership Teamwork Proactiveness
Patience Flexibility Active Listening
Knowledge Sharing

LANGUAGES

English ●●●●●

German ●●●●●

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- E. Spyrou, D. K. Iakovidis, **S. Niafas**, and A. Koulaouzidis, “Comparative assessment of feature extraction methods for visual odometry in wireless capsule endoscopy,” *Computers in biology and medicine*, vol. 65, pp. 297–307, 2015.
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Conference Proceedings

- E. Mitsianis, E. Spyrou, T. Giannakopoulos, **S. Niafas**, and S. Perantonis, “Deep learned features for image retrieval,” in *Proceedings of the 10th Hellenic Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2018, pp. 1–4.




OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

 Reviewer in scientific journals
WILEY, [link](#)

CONFERENCES

-  Democratizing ML, Democratizing ML w/ HuggingFace (workshop)
FOSSCOMM 2022 - University of Thessaly, [link](#)
-  Real-world MLOps w/ MLFlow, MLOps in practice w/ MLFlow (workshop)
FOSSCOMM 2021 - University of Macedonia, [link1](#), [link2](#)
-  Photography Style Analysis using Machine Learning
FOSSCOMM 2020 - University of Western Macedonia, [link](#)

CERTIFICATES

-  LinkedIn: Advanced AI: Transformers for CV
[link](#)
-  NVIDIA: Building Transformer-Based NLP Applications
[link](#)
-  Coursera: Deep Learning Specialization
[link](#)