# Sailendra Akash Bonagiri

# **EXPERIENCE**

Applied Machine Learning Researcher - C2 Research Lab

Jan 2023 - Present

Technologies Used: Pytorch, RAG, LangChain, Transformers, Gen AI LLMs, GCP

California, USA

- Investigated ICL and Instruction fine-tuning of open & closed source LLMs & Multimodal models in few-shot learning for harm detection in video platforms like Youtube etc., achieving 30% higher accuracy compared to SOTA LLMs
- Engineered NLP4GOV , an advanced open-source NLP based search and retrieval library for long document retrieval reducing document search time by 60% and enhancing precision by 25% compared to traditional methods

Lead Machine Learning Engineer- EvaluAItor 🗹

Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

Technologies Used: Python, RAG, LangChain, GCP, Vertex AI, node.js, prompt engineering

California, USA

- Developed virtual interviewer AI agents with RAG & LLMs using LangChain, and the OpenAI API, enhancing the conversational capabilities for video interviews and improving accuracy by 50%
- Optimized NLU by LLM fine-tuning and prompt engineering, leading to a 20% increase in ROUGE score

Machine Learning Engineer - PepsiCo

Jan 2021 - Sep 2022

Technologies Used: TensorFlow, FastAPI, Streamlit, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, Hadoop

Hyderabad, India

- Led the development of Precision-Agro SaaS ML application to evaluate potato plant health, addressing inefficiencies in manual assessment through multimodal text and image recognition, resulting in a 35% increase in crop yield
- Built a data-driven recommendation system using ML models, enhancing overall Gross Margin by 15%
- Developed an Azure-based app for field workers to input potato leaf images, reducing Time to Conversion by 40%

Machine Learning Engineer - Innoviti Payment Solutions 🗹

 $\rm Jul~2020$  -  $\rm Dec~2020$ 

Technologies Used: Python, EDA, Predictive Models, Recommendation Systems, ML

Bengaluru, India

- Utilized Exploratory Data Analysis(EDA) for feature engineering, predictive modeling and time series forecasting to estimate future merchant trends, optimizing merchant selection and improving retrieval algorithms efficiency
- Leveraged ML insights on merchant preferences, enabling tailored offerings and increasing customer retention by 35%

#### PROJECTS

HanumaGPT - A completely optimized PEFT fine-tuned nanoGPT 🗹 | Pytorch, QA-SQuAD Mar 2024 - Jun 2024

- Enhanced nanoGPT architecture by PEFT fine-tuning, reducing key and query vector sizes, implementing sliding window attention, multihost training with 15% improvement in generation efficiency compared to SOTA LLMs
- $\bullet \ \, \text{Modified MLP layers achieving a $\bf 12\% \ loss \ reduction \ by \ element-wise \ product, \ outperforming \ similar \ SOTA \ models$
- Experimented with alternative Softmax approximations leading to a 20% reduction in computational complexity

BnBGenie: Unlocking Airbnb with EDA & ML Insights 🗹 | EDA, ML, Analytics Mar 2024 - Jun 2024

- Conducted EDA on 38,000+ Airbnb listings, identifying key factors like room types and amenities affecting appeal
- Applied ML models- XGBoost, Random Forest etc., to predict optimal pricing strategies, using R-squared metrics
- Performed sentiment analysis on guest reviews and time series analysis of demand trends, providing actionable insights for both hosts and tourists regarding listing features and pricing dynamics

Aletheia - Hindi Fake News Detection System 🗹 | Python, NLP, React, Flask

Jun 2019 - May 2021

- Curated a dataset of 15,000 Hindi news articles, applied Word2vec and TF-IDF for feature extraction, and trained models including Logistic Regression, and Deep Neural Networks for Fake News Detection in Hindi Language
- Developed a responsive web application using **React.js** and **Flask**, featuring user authentication, input forms, interactive result display, and integrated visualizations to enhance user experience

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- "Few Shots, Big Impact: Improved Social Media Moderation with LLMs" in ACL ARR 2024 Under Review
- "NLP4Gov: A Comprehensive Search & Retrieval Library for Computational Policy Analysis." In CHI, 2024 🗹
- "Aletheia: FakeNews Detection System for Hindi." In ACM IKDD CODS COMAD, 2022 [ (Best Paper Award)
- "Learnings from Attempt to Build NLP Fake News Classification system for Hindi." In ACM SIGCAS, 2021 🗹

## **EDUCATION**

University of California, Davis

PhD in Computer Science

Sep 2022 - Present Davis. California

• Coursework: Machine Learning, Advanced Deep Learning, NLP, Web & Data Analytics, Distributed Databases

Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS PILANI)

ted Databases

Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communication

Aug 2017 - May 2021 Hyderabad, India

• Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms, OOP, Operating Systems, Statistics, AI, HCI, Stochastic Optimization **TECHNICAL SKILLS** 

Languages: Python, C, C++, Java, SQL, Javascript, R, HTML

Technologies: Git, Linux, FastAPI, AI Agent Builder, GCP, Elasticsearch, Kubernetes, Docker, Swagger, Postman SWE, ML Tools: Tensorflow, Pytorch, PySpark, OpenCV, NLTK, RAG, LangChain, HuggingFace, LLMs, Transformers, Spark, Scikit-learn, numpy, pandas, seaborn, matplotlib, Github actions - CI/CD, Flask, React, RESTful API, PostgreSQL