

Taavi Tajjala

DATA SCIENTIST

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science

Advisor: Joseph A. Konstan
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
May 2020 (expected)

M.S. Computer Science

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
May 2017

B.A. Mathematics / French & Francophone Studies

Humboldt State University
Arcata, CA
May 2014

TECHNICAL

Expert

Python (10+ years)

Proficient

Pytorch, Keras, Scikit-learn,
Stan, JAGS, R, Java, SQL,
HTML, CSS, Javascript,
RStudio, Jupyter notebook

Familiar

TensorFlow, LensKit, IntelliJ

SKILLS

Research

- 5 years experience in:
- Experimental design and hypothesis testing.
 - Collecting qualitative and quantitative data.
 - Data interpretation and analysis.
 - Using data visualization to communicate results to a wide audience.

Communication

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Experienced presenter.
- Proven leadership, team-building, and interpersonal skills.

Machine Learning

Proven ability to creatively apply a wide range of supervised and unsupervised machine learning techniques to solve diverse problems, including personalization, classification, regression, recommendation, and time-series forecasting.

Math and Statistics

Formal education in math and statistics, including calculus I, II, III and linear algebra. Multiple years experience in frequentist and bayesian statistics.

Bayesian Inference

Strong knowledge of bayesian inference, modeling, and parameter estimation. Proficient in state-of-the-art bayesian modeling tools, like Stan and JAGS. Experience performing both model comparisons and model convergence diagnostics.

Web Development

Skilled at designing and coding interactive tools and apps using standard web technologies, such as HTML, CSS, Javascript, python, and Java.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist Intern

Infinite Campus Inc., Blaine, MN | 3/2018 - Present

- Developed bayesian models, including item response theory and state-space models, to estimate course/teacher difficulty and student proficiency over time.
- Applied RNNs w/attention to time series data to forecast student outcomes.
- Built models and tools able to handle noisy, missing, and unreliable data.
- Focused on prototyping marketable machine learning products and services.

President, Board of Directors

Como Student Community Cooperative, Minneapolis, MN | 7/2015 - Present

- 4 years leading and recruiting for a diverse 18-member board of directors.
- Fostered inclusive, collaborative, and consensus-oriented governance.
- Focused on building governance capacity and institutional knowledge retention in a small, high-turnover environment.

Teaching Assistant, Recommender Systems Course

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN | Fall 2015 & Fall 2017

- Presented lectures, held office hours, and prepared/graded assignments.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

MovieExplorer: Building an Interactive Exploration Tool from Ratings and Latent Taste Spaces

📄 Download on taavi.tajjala.com

T. Tajjala, M. Willemsen, J. Konstan. Published 2018. SAC '18, Pau, FR. 10 pages.

Bayesian Inference in Education

📄 Download on taavi.tajjala.com

T. Christie and T. Tajjala. Presented 2018. Big Data Tech, Minneapolis, MN. 45 min.