Felice Antonio Merra, Ph.D.

Applied Scientist

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SKILLS

5+ years of experience in developing machine learning applications in academic and enterprise environments with a particular focus on Recommender Systems and Search Engines.

Deep knowledge of Python (version 2+ and 3+) and use of other languages, e.g. Java and .Net, for developing and deploying AI/ML solutions.

Knowledge and use of the AWS suite of products for machine learning applications, including, AWS Lambda, AWS Sagemaker, and AWS Step Functions.

Experience using supercomputers (Marconi 100) and large database query languages via PySpark and DynamoDB.

Experience in modeling solutions for solving ambiguous problems using state-of-the-art ML techniques.

Experience in managing junior resources gained through mentoring junior applied scientists at Amazon and junior researchers during their Ph.D. Experience in conducting interviews for Scientist positions.

Prolific publication activity with 30+ scientific papers to conferences and high-end journals (A and Q1).

Fluency in English (5+ years of international work/experience). Elementary knowledge of German.

EXPERIENCE

Amazon, Berlin (DE) - *Applied Scientist*

From November 2021

- Development and production testing of AI/ML techniques for Amazon Search improvement.
- Point of contact in conducting 3+ projects with international teams (Japan, India, and the US).
- Mentoring junior applied scientists.

Amazon, Berlin (DE) - *Junior Applied Scientist*

July 2020 - October 2020

- Development of a state-of-the-art solution for filter recommendation used in Amazon.com.

Politecnico di Bari, Bari (IT)- *Ph.D. Student*

November 2018 - October 2021

- Scientific Consulting in projects with public and private partnerships for the realization of scientific prototypes and deliverables.

Knowledge Media Institute, Milton Keynes (UK)- *Visiting Researcher*

April 2016 - August 20218

- Implementation of an Artificial Intelligence prototype for anonymizing user data for a British healthcare company.

Fincons Group, Bari (IT) *- .Net Junior Developer*

September 2016 - October 2018

- Management and development of an inventory management Web App for an international client.

EDUCATION

Politecnico di Bari, Italia *- Ph.D.*

Graduated cum Laude

November 2018 - October 2021

Dissertation: "Adversarial Machine Learning in Recommender Systems".

Politecnico di Bari, Italia *- Master Degree in Computer Engineering*

110 cum Laude

December 2016 - October 2018

Politecnico di Bari, Italia *- Bachelor Degree in Computer Engineering*

110 cum Laude

October 2014 - July2016

AWARDS

- [MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab best paper award](): Understanding the Effects of Adversarial Personalized Ranking Optimization Method on Recommendation Quality at AdvML@KDD 2021
- [Best Short Paper Runner Up](): A Formal Analysis of Recommendation Quality of Adversarially-trained Recommenders at CIKM 2021