

Aleks Hughes

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Education

MSC ECONOMICS | TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN AND UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM | AUGUST 2014

- Thesis title: ‘How do Oil Price Shocks Affect Scottish Real Economic Activity?’
- Selected for the Trinity College’s ‘Econometric Game’ team 2014, econometricgame.com.
- Writer for student run newsletter ‘Nottingham Economic Review’, neronline.co.uk.

A/AS LEVELS | ST. PETERS SCHOOL, YORK | JULY 2008

- Maths (A), Further Maths (A), Economics (A), History (B) and Politics (a).
- UK Maths Trust Olympics team. Silver in UKMT Senior Challenge. Vice-Captain of Rowing.

Experience

DATA SCIENTIST | PARKER FITZGERALD | APRIL 2017 TO PRESENT

- Natural Language Processing (NLP) engineer. Developed Python NLP applications for text classification, sentiment analysis, topic modelling and entity recognition. Used a range of techniques including explainable results, text processing pipelines, pre-trained language models and embedded word vectors. Applications have won and been shortlisted for two industry awards: risk.net and mca.org.uk.
- Topological Data Analysis (TDA) developer. Used Python and TDA to segment customers spending habits into 400 densely populated segments. Model is now used as an input for alternative credit scoring and suspicious account activity models. Backtesting demonstrated a 10% precision boost to suspicious activity model. Also built TDA model to triage mortgage fraud investigations, improving effectiveness by 15%.
- Data visualisation developer. Built Python Bokeh and R-shiny server hosted and standalone HTML visualisation tools. Coded custom JavaScript user interactions and viz extensions (using vis.js and D3 JavaScript libraries). Developed advanced analytics to find signal among millions of rows and unsupervised learning algorithm for rogue employee behaviour.
- Time series predictive modeler. Model highlight statistically significant poor risk management behaviours across bank business lines. 2018 backtesting showed that client could have caught 4 high material events.
- Developed R-shiny robust sampling tool based on population suspected failure rate to inform audit planning. Application won an industry award for “best use of technology”, auditandrisk.org.uk.
- Experience using different coding languages and paradigms: Python, R, Java (Kotlin), JavaScript (TypeScript), Microsoft and UNIX servers and Solidity Ethereum blockchain. Database languages and technologies: SQL (Oracle, MySQL), and Q (KDB+). And tools: git, Docker, Travis CI, AWS ML (Sagemaker), Ayasdi TDA platform, Kortical automated ML.
- Leadership: recruited and line manage 2 consultant Data Scientists and 1 intern.

VOLUNTEER NLP ENGINEER | FULL FACT | OCTOBER 2018 TO FEBRUARY 2019

- Project to “Automate Fact Checking” through NLP. Developed model to parse a claim for geography, claim direction (e.g. up, down or not applicable) and time frame. Incremental model development with benchmarking and explainable results. Deployed model using Travis CI and Docker.
- Project was led and architected by a core maintainer of a leading Python NLP package “genism”.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT | IBM CONSULTING | OCTOBER 2014 TO APRIL 2017

- Graduate Managers Choice Award, October 2016. IBM Europe Award 'Putting Client First', August 2015.
- Python Developer and Business Analyst on Data Remediation, large universal bank.
Scripted lightweight and multi-threaded Python application. Git version control, test executed in Bluemix. Gathered requirements, wrote sections of solution design document.
- Business Analyst and Python Developer on Data Migration, large UK credit card platform.
Built application to map 300,000+ end customers to 1,500+ target billing and payment configurations.
- Commercial Manager for IBM internal account, large universal bank.
Modelled resourcing and prices for 40+ contracts with a value range of £100k to £10million. Scripted VBA macros to automate project financial trackers. Resolved 3 longstanding issues around invoicing, debt collection and purchase order issuance, ensuring inflow of funds.
- Organised 17 Lunch and Learns, topics include DevOps, Design Thinking, Agile and Blockchain. Also organised Excel training and a joint NHS-IBM healthcare hackathon.

Skills

TECHNICAL

- Machine Learning and statistical techniques
NLP: text classification, topic modelling, entity recognition, text parsing, word vectors, and universal language models (e.g. BERT and ELMo).
Neural Networks: CNNs, RNNs and LSTMs, building and parameterising different architectures.
TDA: Unsupervised learning and segmentation of long and wide customer datasets.
General: regression, classification (multi-class, multi-label and ordinal), imbalanced datasets, time series.
- Python packages and techniques
ML: SciPy, numpy, pandas, numba, keras and tensorflow, pyspark, scikit-learn processing model pipelines, AWS Sagemaker and controlled model release pipelines.
NLP frameworks: spaCy, genism, pyText, allenNLP and NLTK.
General: test driven development, building my own class hierarchy object model, modular applications, function decorators, SQL interfaces and data layer abstractions, API integrations, web scraping, regex matching and application logging.
- Familiar with diverse programming paradigms and patterns, e.g. distributed and multi-threaded execution, concurrency, building reactive GUIs and web frontends and lazy evaluation.
- Miscellaneous: Advanced Microsoft Office skills. Windows, Mac and POSIX operating systems. 85 words per minute typing speed.

LANGUAGES

Native English, fluent Spanish, strong Dutch.

INTERESTS

Keen cyclist and swimmer. University Basketball 2nd team. 6 months volunteer English teacher in rural Mexican primary school. Combined 10 weeks Spanish immersion in Cuba and Spain. Biked 4,500Km through Alaska, hiked length of Pyrenees, through Patagonia and Atlas Mountains and spent 2 weeks dogsledding in Yukon.