



FARIS HIJAZI

Machine Learning Engineer

@ theeFaris@gmail.com

+966-505501494

in linkedin.com/in/theeFaris

@theeFaris

github.com/FarisHijazi

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

EDUCATION

B.Sc. in Computer Engineering

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM)

August 2015 - June 2020 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Major-GPA: 3.5/4 | **SECOND HONORS**

PROJECTS

Applied research in audio generation

Reimplemented State-of-the-art audio generation paper: before code was available and improved results, making the model require **30x** less data to train.

Face Generation DCGAN PyTorch

github.com/FarisHijazi/Face-Generation-GAN

MultiModal Emergency classifier (Absherthon 2nd place)

github.com/FarisHijazi/multimodal-emergency-classification

Differentially-Private KMeans clustering

github.com/FarisHijazi/PrivacyEnhancingTechnologies-projects

Selfhosted GitHub Copilot alternative

Open source GitHub-Copilot alternative by redirecting traffic from the VSCode copilot extension to an OSS LLM backend.

github.com/FarisHijazi/PrivateGitHubCopilot

Extended LlamaIndex (OSS contribution)

Acknowledged contributor to *LlamaIndex*. Developed image-captioning connectors allowing LLMs to "see". here

github.com/jerryliu/llama_index/pull/1330

Unity Network Simulator (Packet Tracer)

github.com/FarisHijazi/UnityNetworkPacketTracer

Setup guide for running edge-AI on NVIDIA Jetson

github.com/Nommas/nvidia-jetson-setup

PUBLICATIONS

ArabLegalEval: A Multitask Benchmark for Assessing Arabic Legal Knowledge in Large Language Models – ArabicNLP2024 - ACL2024

SKILLS

Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Engineer Associate (2023)

TensorFlow Developer Certification TensorFlow.org, (2023)

FullStackDeepLearning Course 2022 (certificate), (2022)

Generative Adversarial Networks Specialization Coursera.org, (2022)

Deep Learning with PyTorch - NanoDegree Udacity, (2019)

Tools: Python (PyTorch, Tensorflow, LangChain, LlamaIndex, OpenCV, Scikit-Learn, Numpy, plotting), JavaScript, C#, Java, MATLAB, SQL, LaTeX, Docker, Kubernetes, Rancher+ArgoCD, WandB, MLOPs, Git, GitHub, Neo4j, ROS

EXPERIENCE

Research & Development Lead Specialist

THIQA Business Services

May 2022 - Present

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Development and implementation of the company's AI strategy and roadmap, identifying and creating AI technology-driven products and services; established strategic partnerships with leading entities (**KAUST**, **KSU**, **SDAIA**, **LISAN**) to foster AI collaboration and participated in AI ethics initiatives.
- Led the development of **LegalGPT**, a question-answering engine for Saudi Arabic legal data using LLMs and RAG; co-authored the **ArabLegalEval** research paper published at *Arabic-NLP 2024*, enabling startups in this space and positioning the company as an AI leader.
- Developed and deployed AI and MLOps toolstack, including locally hosted LLM servers on **Kubernetes**, utilizing tools such as **DVC**, **WandB**, **FastAPI**, **Celery+RabbitMQ**, **Redis** and **Azure CI/CD pipelines**, enhancing deployment and scalability.
- Upskilled internal talent across various roles, and mentoring the R&D technical team of 8 members, fostering a culture of learning and agility.
- Built AI solutions including a National ID **OCR** system and an AI Logo Generator **MVP** by fine-tuning and comparing models (**Stable Diffusion**, **DALL-E**, etc.).

Software Engineer (intern)

Magic Leap

Jul 2023 - Sep 2023

San Jose, CA United States

- Designed and developed data tools for processing of Magic Leap device's recordings and tracking systems to be used for training of hand-tracking AI models
- Single-handedly built tests and **refactored** a crucial python data pipeline component and made it run up to **3x faster**: by reducing excess logging and by parallelization.
- Reduced lines of code from **3000** to **400** (86% reduction)

Co-Founding CTO

Nommas AI

Oct 2020 - Oct 2021

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Co-Founded **Nommas**: a computer vision startup providing plug-n-play quality inspection for manufacturing. Managed team to build first **MVP** from scratch - containing hardware and software. Lead major **design decisions**. **Hired and trained** new engineers and setup **IT infrastructure**

Machine Learning Research Engineer

International Systems Engineering - ISE

Jun 2020 - May 2022

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Implemented **AI papers**, experimented with custom training techniques, custom layers, loss functions, datasets, and monitored experiments and evaluated models.
- Interviewed, hired, supervised, onboarded, and trained recruits.
- Worked in depth with a team of 3 on **Deep Generative Models** for image generation (transformers, hybrid **GANs** (**Generative Adversarial Networks**) to adversarial **VAEs**)