TAHA MERGHANI

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SUMMARY

AI Research Engineer focused on LLM robustness and evaluation. Publications at NeurIPS/NAACL, 4.0 GPA, built Siri tooling at Apple still in production 8 years later. Combining linguistic expertise with modern engineering (Ollama, Whisper).

EXPERIENCE

Independent AI Research Engineer | April 2023 – Present
- Authored technical analysis on LLM limitations achieving >200k views, recognition from Google Chief Scientist Jeff Dean
- Built local voice interfaces using Whisper, Ollama, Mistral 7B optimizing for latency/privacy on consumer hardware

Solutions Architect, Mesa Associates | Nov 2022 – Apr 2023
- Deployed computer vision models on Oracle Cloud for automated electrical equipment inspection

AI Software Engineer, Decooda | Jul 2019 – Aug 2020
- Built ETL pipelines using Matillion and Snowflake for customer analytics and ML model training

Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology | Aug 2017 – May 2019
- Published Geolinguistic Analysis via Twitter (NeurIPS 2018 Workshop) and NAACL 2018 Workshop
- Research on conversational AI under Dr. Mark Riedl

Software Engineering Intern, Apple | Summer 2016
- Built debugging and visualization tools for Siri NLU pipeline, **still in production** use after 9 years

Research Intern, MIT CSAIL | Summer 2015
- Developed lexical models for Egyptian Arabic ASR under James Glass; grapheme lexicon outperformed diacritized approaches

EDUCATION

M.S. Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology | 2017–2019 | GPA: 3.87/4.0
B.S. Computer Engineering, Jackson State University | 2013–2017 | GPA: 4.0/4.0 | Jacksonian Award (Highest GPA)

PUBLICATIONS & WRITING

- From Sudan to Silicon Valley: Beyond the Resume (Shared by Jeff Dean)
- What 5,000 Hours of Mastering Tekken Taught Me About AI Research (#1 on r/ArtificialIntelligence)
- Balusu, Merghani, Eisenstein. Stylistic Variation in Social Media POS Tagging. NAACL Workshop 2018

SKILLS

Python, PyTorch, Hugging Face, LLMs (Ollama, Whisper), SQL, Snowflake, Docker | Arabic (Native), English (Near-native)