Jim W. Barrett, PhD

Data Scientist

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Summary

I am a data scientist and developer with 5 years of professional experience and a PhD in astrophysics. I am a highly skilled Python programmer, as well as having had experience in several other languages (C++, JavaScript, SQL). I am a strong problem solver, with a passion for breaking down complex problems into simpler ones, as well as an advocate for good software practices in data science. I love to collaborate with and learn from my colleagues, as well as mentoring and developing the skills of more junior colleagues.

Experience

Uppsala Monitoring Centre / Senior Data Scientist

MARCH 2020 - PRESENT, UPPSALA

I am a senior data scientist in the research department at UMC. We collaborate with the WHO to analyse reports of suspected side effects to medicines. I have worked on a diversity of projects.

Most recently, I have been working on the detection of duplicate reports. We are developing a model to detect when two reports are talking about the same patient. Since we have a large dataset of 35M reports, we must balance model performance with complexity.

I have also been the data science lead on a project developing a tool to assist with the in depth analysis of reports by our medical doctor and pharmacist colleagues. We have implemented a number of algorithms and visualisations in a web app written in the Streamlit framework. I have been championing the development of such apps within our group.

Klarna / Software Engineer

MAY 2018 - MARCH 2020, STOCKHOLM

I was working in a research and development team, developing new, machine learning driven tools to enhance users' online shopping experience. This involved developing models to interpret web data and programs to interact with and interpret web pages on the users' behalf.

Education

University of Birmingham / PhD Astrophysics
AUGUST 2014 - JUNE 2018, BIRMINGHAM, UK

I worked in the gravitational waves group, where we developed software in C++ to simulate the evolution of pairs of stars. My specific project was building a machine learning emulator model in Python with which we could conduct Bayesian inference studies to relate experimental data to our simulations.

I also helped teach a number of courses in C++, from introductory to masters level.

University of Birmingham / MSci Physics
MONTH 2009 - MONTH 2013, BIRMINGHAM, UK

I achieved an average grade of ~75% (1st Class with Honours), specialising in theoretical and mathematical physics.

Other Interests and Skills

I spend my free time socialising with friends, running, playing chess, playing video games, reading and listening to podcasts. I also listen to a great deal of music.

I also have a handful of hobby coding projects that I tinker with from time to time.

I am a native English speaker, and can speak Swedish conversationally.