

Soysal Degirmenci

San Francisco, CA, 94133 • 314-915-8525 • soysald@gmail.com • <https://degirmenci.me>

Summary

Experienced Machine Learning technical leader with proven track record in driving AI strategy and delivering impactful AI solutions.

Experience

Fieldguide

San Francisco, CA

Staff Machine Learning Engineer

2023/07 - current

- Founding member of the AI team. Grew the team from 0 to 7 engineers.
- Significantly Increased AI Weekly Active Users (WAU) from single digits to over three digits; boosted AI usage from double to four digits, contributing to significant ARR growth.
- Delivered numerous AI features, achieving product market fit (PMF) on customer surveys. (>40% would be disappointed without AI features)
- Provided architectural and technical guidance, mentored team members, and set development processes, enhancing team productivity and performance. Increased predictability from 20-25% deviation to 6%.
- Owned end-to-end AI feature lifecycle, from business problem mapping to full stack implementation (including ML) and observability.
- Collaborated with CTO and Product Management to set OKRs, prioritize features and align AI strategy with business goals.

Amazon

San Diego, CA

Senior Machine Learning Scientist

2021/01 - 2023/07

- Technical ML Lead in an applied science team under retail division, focusing on enhancing Amazon's safety and supporting selling partners.
- Worked on managing fraud risk with ML and employing LLM-based agents to address Amazon selling partner issues.
- Developed a Reinforcement Learning based approach that improved top line by 11% while reducing scientist hours spent by 80%.
- Prototyped and supported deployment of autoregressive offline simulators for several risk programs, increasing the top line by an estimated 5% on average.
- Lead author of NeurIPS 2022 Offline RL Workshop paper: "Benchmarking offline reinforcement learning algorithms for e-commerce order fraud evaluation".

Brain Corp.

San Diego, CA

Machine Learning Engineer

2020/01 - 2021/01

- Led ML work on inventory scan project for real-time shelf inventory insights in grocery stores, leveraging data collected by robots.
- Utilized image metadata enrichment, object detection, image processing, data monitoring and visualization, supervised machine learning to improve insight accuracy.
- Developed technical requirements of AI products for external partnerships.
- Supported pilots with retail companies, now deployed in over 500 stores in the US.

ID Analytics, a Lexis-Nexis Risk Solutions company

San Diego, CA

Senior Data Scientist

2016/04 - 2020/01

- Developed credit risk assessment ML models used by large US companies across industries.
- Designed and developed a novel ML-based identity verification product for efficient customer onboarding.
- Led the initiative to build an internal tool for end-to-end model building tool for identity fraud risk assessment, reducing model development time by 85%.
- Oversaw a team of 4 scientists, evaluating data sources to improve core ML product performance; reduced data evaluation time by 75% on average.

Education

Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

PhD, Electrical Engineering

2011/08 - 2016/04

- Dissertation: A General Framework of Convex Optimization Using Jensen Surrogates and Acceleration Techniques

Middle East Technical University

Ankara, Turkey

BS, Electrical and Electronics Engineering

2006/08 - 2011/06

Skills

- Coding: Python, SQL, TypeScript, C, C++, Java, JavaScript, MATLAB, Rust
- Machine Learning and Data Science: Pandas, Jupyter, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, XGBoost, LightGBM, scikit-learn, Sagemaker, Kafka, Spark, Hive, Snowflake, Tableau, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, Supabase
- Other: AWS, Docker, LaTeX, Git, ROS, Next.js, React, CSS, HTML, bash