



London, UK

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Paolo Dragone

Work experience

2021 – now **Machine Learning Engineer**, *Twitter*, London, UK.

Worked on **tweet search retrieval** problems, developing and maintaining ML systems to retrieve and rank tweets from different indices and knowledge bases. Applied state-of-the-art NLP techniques for query understanding and embedding-based retrieval, such as **Word2Vec**, **Transformers** and **Annoy indices**.

2019 – 2021 **Machine Learning Engineer**, *Criteo*, Paris, France.

Was part of the applied ML team, worked closely with researchers to bring research ideas to production. Mainly worked on **crawling** and **text classification** systems to enable contextual advertising and brand safety.

2018 **Research Intern**, *Spotify*, London, UK.

Research on **contextual bandits/reinforcement learning** for **playlist recommendation**.

Education

2015 – 2019 **PhD, Computer Science**, *University of Trento*, Italy.

- Research on **recommendation/configuration systems** based on **online/structured machine learning** and **combinatorial optimization**. Both theoretical and experimental work, as well as live user studies.

- Conference and workshop papers at top AI conferences (**NeurIPS**, **AAAI**, **IJCAI**, **RecSys**, **WWW**) (see scholar.google.it/citations?user=12H7daMAAAAJ for a detailed list).

- Teaching assistant for a Machine Learning graduate course and co-supervised several master thesis.

- Initiated and contributed to various open-source projects (see github.com/paolodragone)

2013 – 2015 **MS, Computer Science**, *Sapienza University of Rome*, Italy, *110/110 cum laude*.

- One semester at the University of Melbourne.

- Master thesis at University of Oslo, on **natural language processing** and **dialog systems**.

2010 – 2013 **BS, Computer Science**, *Sapienza University of Rome*, Italy, *110/110*.

Skills & Technologies

ML & AI **Deep learning** · **recommender systems** · **convex optimization** · **constrained programming** · **data mining** · **natural language processing** · computer vision · reinforcement learning

CS Algorithms · data structures · computability and complexity · parallel computing · concurrent programming · distributed systems · databases

Math Linear algebra · calculus · probability theory and statistics · learning theory

Programming **Python** · **Cython** · **Java** · **Scala** · **SQL** · C/C++ · Javascript

SWE Large-scale system design · DevOps/MLOps · Agile · Test-driven development

Frameworks **Tensorflow/Keras** · **NumPy/Pandas/Sklearn** · Flask/FastAPI · Hadoop/Yarn/HDFS · Kafka/Spark · Docker/Kubernetes · Mesos/Marathon

Development **Linux/Bash** · **Git/GitHub/GitLab/Gerrit** · **Bazel/Pants** · **Jenkins/CircleCI** · Jira · GCP/AWS

Languages English (full) · Italian (native)

Organization Ability to plan and carry out research and engineering work, both autonomously and cooperatively.

Communication Ability to convey scientific findings and project execution plans/reports to both expert and non-expert audience, via written papers and oral presentations. Good visual presentation skills.

Leadership Ability to drive a technical project from conception to production and push software quality and best practices to team members. Ability to mentor more junior figures on technical topics.

Personal qualities

Open minded, sociable, lifelong learner. Strong work ethics. Passionate about science and technology in general. Hobbies include reading and learning about science and technology, strategy videogames, boardgames, RPG, outdoor activities.