Fazli Imam

Research Engineer at MBZUAI

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EDUCATION

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)	Aug 2022 – May 2024
Master of Science in Machine Learning (Fully funded scholarship)	*GPA 3.60/4.00*
Sri Lankan Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT)	Jan 2016 – Dec 2020
Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Information Technology with specialization in Data Science	*GPA 3.81/4.00*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages & Libraries: Python, R, SQL, Scikit-learn, XGBoost, BeautifulSoup, Selenium, FastAPI, Streamlit, Flask NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, Keras, TensorFlow
AI/ML Frameworks & Tools: HuggingFace, OpenAI API, RAGs, Weights & Biases, Google Analytics
Data Engineering & Platforms: ETL, Databricks, Docker
Cloud Platforms: AWS (S3, EC2, SageMaker), Microsoft Azure (ML Studio, Databricks), Google Cloud Platform
Data Visualization Tools: Tableau, Power BI, Seaborn, Matplotlib
Developer Tools: Git, BASH scripting

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Mohamed Fazli Imam, Rufael Fedaku Marew, Jameel Hassan, Mustansar Fiaz, Alham Fikri Aji, Hisham Cholakkal, "CLIP meets DINO for Tuning Zero-Shot Classifier using Unlabeled Image Collections" in ***BMVC, 2025***. Available Here

Mohamed Fazli Imam, Chenyang Lyu, Alham Fikri Aji, "Can Multimodal LLMs do Visual Temporal Understanding and Reasoning? The answer is No! ", Under Review ***ICASSP, 2026***. Available Here

Ahmed Elshabrawy, Thanh-Nhi Nguyen, Yeeun Kang, Lihan Feng, Annant Jain, Faadil A. Shaikh, Jonibek Mansurov, **Mohamed Fazli Imam**, Jesus-German Ortiz-Barajas, Rendi Chevi, Alham Fikri Aji, "Encoder-only Models are Efficient Crosslingual Generalizers" in ***ACL Findings, 2025***.

Samuel Cahyawijaya, Holy Lovenia, Joel Ruben Antony Moniz...**Mohamed Fazli Imam**,..Börje F. Karlsson, Peerat Limkonchotiwat. "Crowdsource, Crawl, or Generate? Creating SEA-VL, a Multicultural Vision-Language Dataset for Southeast Asia" in ***ACL***, 2025. Available Here

David Orlando Romero Mogrovejo, Chenyang Lyu, Haryo Akbarianto Wibowo,..**Mohamed Fazli Imam**,..Thamar Solorio, Alham Fikri Aji, "CVQA: Culturally-diverse Multilingual Visual Question Answering Benchmark" in ***NeurIPS*** *Datasets and Benchmarks Track*, 2024. Available Here

EXPERIENCE

AI Researcher	Jul 2023 – Present

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)

- Led research initiatives on multimodality and visual-temporal reasoning in vision-language models notably experimenting with **LLAMA**, **LLAVA**, **GPT-4o**, **QwenVL**, **InternVL** and **Gemini-1.5 Pro**.
- Contributed to **grassroots AI initiatives** aimed at enhancing cultural and linguistic diversity in AI systems, including the development of the CVQA Benchmark, a culturally-diverse multilingual VQA dataset covering **31** languages and **13** scripts across **30** countries, and the SEACrowd project, a multilingual multimodal data hub and benchmark suite designed to support **36** Southeast Asian languages.
- Collaborated with external research groups, notably **IBM Research**, **Cohere**, and **Alibaba Research**, as well as interdisciplinary teams, to advance cutting-edge research in AI.
- Served as a reviewer for ACL conferences

Intern   Jun 2023 – Jul 2023

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC - Panorama Department)

- Led and built an **SARIMAX** time series model on **6.59 million** entries to forecast gas cracker flow rates, enhancing process efficiency. Performed end-to-end data preprocessing, cleaning, exploratory data analysis (EDA), feature engineering, and modeling.
- Engineered an NLP-based Q&A system for oil drilling reports using LLM APIs to extract insights and improve decision making. Experimented with embeddings from **DaVinci**, **GPT-3.5-turbo**, **Bard**, **Falcon-13B/40B** for query-context matching, evaluated on speed, cost, performance, and compute efficiency. CODE

Data Scientist   Jul 2021 – Jul 2022

STAX Inc

- Conducted due diligence for private equity firms across **five** investment opportunities, leveraging data-driven insights and market analysis to evaluate potential deals and support strategic decision-making.
- Engineered pipelines to scrape **100K+** reviews and listings from major platforms, enabling in-depth analysis of market trends, competitors, and consumer sentiment to deliver actionable business intelligence for clients.
- Synthesized insights from **multiple** diverse data sources, including web scraping and survey data, to deliver strategic recommendations supporting clients' data-driven investment decisions.

Data Scientist   Nov 2020 – Jun 2021

National Intensive Care Surveillance Unit (NICST)

- Led exploratory data analysis (EDA) and data transformation on clinical trial datasets comprising **96** variables for **800+** patients across **17** medical clinics, enabling analysis to support evidence-based decision-making in healthcare.
- Engineered automation scripts to streamline data mapping across **five** systems and formats, cutting the processing time of the previously implemented system by **half** and significantly reducing manual effort in clinical workflows.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Label-free Adaptation of CLIP for Remote Sensing LINK   Masters Thesis

- Engineered and deployed a label-free adaptation method for **Remote Sensing Scene Classification (RSSC)**, which outperformed the prior state-of-the-art by **5%** across **10** benchmarks.
- Explored the efficacy of auto-labelled prompt tuning by leveraging contextual knowledge from LLMs including **GPT-4o**, **LLAMA**, and **Gemini** to generate pseudo labels and adapt **CLIP** for remote sensing context.

Domain Adaptation for RGB to Thermal Images CODE

- Proposed a novel **Unsupervised Domain Adaptation (UDA)** approach for urban road scenes by transferring knowledge from RGB to thermal imagery using a triple-branch transformer architecture.
- Experimented with multiple transformer backbones (**DeiT**, **CvT**, **SWIN**) to classify pedestrians, cars, and bicycles across RGB and thermal domains; incorporated adversarial adaptation with a discriminator network and evaluated performance across various loss function combinations.

Optimizing Direct Mail Fundraising

- Engineered a pipeline to optimize direct mail fundraising for a fictional organization using **8000+** data entries with **18** variables, including donation amount, neighborhood statistics, household demographics, and employment data.
- The pipeline included a classification model for predicting the likelihood of donation and a regression model for estimating the donation amount, experimenting with models such as **logistic regression**, **decision trees**, **random forests**, and **XGBoost**.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Led a research team during the Undergraduate Research Internship Program (UGRIP) at MBZUAI, which won the prestigious **Best Team Award** for outstanding innovation and collaboration.
- Earned a competitive **fully-funded Master's scholarship** at MBZUAI, awarded for demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and strong research potential in Artificial Intelligence.
- Consistently ranked among the top performers and featured on the **SLIIT Dean's List** for six consecutive semesters across the second, third, and final years.

REFERENCES

- Available on request