SPECIAL

AI for π-day - March 14th - planetwide conference.

Welcome to the special issue of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics User Group (AIDA) Forecaster! Designed for AIDA User Group members, AI and Data Analytics enthusiasts. This publication contains timely and relevant information to the AI and Data Analytics community.

Editorial

When is Pi-day? 14th of march, next monday - easy to remember. And the best about this is that it does not change over time.

What's the buzz about AI on Pi-day? AIDAUG is hosting a virtual conference with an epic line-up.

Find inside
- Schedule for different timezones
- Wrap up for each talk
- Speakers Bio

How to join the conference? Nothing easier then that. Just join - https://aidaug.org/join - it's free and you will receive the conference invitation link on sunday.

In your confirmation email, you will also receive your personal invitation to slack as well as your offical AIDAUG membership card.

Call to Action

Spread the word. **Send this Forecaster Special issue to your colleagues and ask them to join.**

Thank you for reading in and helping us to make this world a little better.

Looking forward to see you on Monday.

Ralf Roeber
AIDA Forecaster Editor
ralf@aidaug.org

Epic Pi-day Schedule

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST	Title	Speaker
13:45	06:45	09:45	14:45	19:15	Introduction & Welcome	Jean-Georges Perrin
14:00	07:00	10:00	15:00	19:30	Intelligent planning process automation at Siemens	Robin Richter
14:30	07:30	10:30	15:30	20:00	Boost your financial planning with automatic forecasting	Anders Kramer Knudsen
15:00	08:00	11:00	16:00	20:30	Perfecting the last mile of analytics supply chain	Ryan Dolley
15:30	08:30	11:30	16:30	21:00	Forecasting at Scale - an Automated Approach	David Trist
16:00	09:00	12:00	17:00	21:30	Why and When should I use IBM Business Analytics vs. PowerBI?	Rikke Jacobsen
16:30	09:30	12:30	17:30	22:00	Thethering AI with Blockchain	Karen Kilroy
17:00	10:00	13:00	18:00	22:30	AI for Agave	E. Ulises Moya Sánchez
17:30	10:30	13:30	18:30	23:00	Why is data quality important in an NLP project?	Piere-Nicolas Perrin
18:00	11:00	14:00	19:00	23:30	**Keynote**	**Seth Dobrin**
19:00	12:00	15:00	20:00	00:30	Informix data analysis by Cloud Pak for Data	Jan Musil
19:30	12:30	15:30	20:30	01:00	Is it time to switch to Linux on your desk?	Michael Mikowski
20:00	13:00	16:00	21:00	01:30	Detecting Icy Bridges with Cloud image processing and AI	John Fred Davis
20:30	13:30	16:30	21:30	02:00	Panel discussion	various

Keynote by Dr. Seth Dobrin

Chief AI Officer, IBM will talk at AIDAUG

His talks are legendary, inspiring, calm and well paced. No need to mention that content is king where Seth appears on stage.

We are so happy to have him with us for a full hour.

Have you seen his nine advisory engagements on various boards? Calyxt, LF AI & DATA, Women Leaders in Data & AI, responsible AI Institue, XPRIZE, Protocol and Baruch College.

Hint: **Make sure to bring your questions!**

Seth is well-known for answering with profound knowledge underlined by facts. So, don't miss out on this opportunity to ask him, whatever you want to know about AI, ethical AI, future of AI.

This foto shows Seth with a delagation from Dubai, United Arab Emirates for Roads and Transportation authority.

Why not ask him what he learned from that meeting?

>>> see Seth Dobrin post about the meeting on linkedin

Intelligent planning process automation at Siemens

The sales forecast at Siemens business unit showed low reliability with negative effects on inventory and delivery reliability. In a three-hour workshop, Avantum and Siemens evaluated opportunities for improvement, after which Siemens decided to implement ML algorithms to forecast sales volumes.

Together with the plant's logistics experts, Avantum developed a predictive model. This was created with the software solution APOLLO, which is based on IBM SPSS Modeler. As a result of using the model, Siemens was able to increase the reliability of its forecast by more than 50 percent and thus reduce working capital and significantly increase delivery reliability.

Robin Richter

>>> LinkedIn

Robin Richter is a solution expert in the data science team at avantum. He has more than ten years of experience with data science projects and has extensive know-how in project implementation, product development and consulting.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
14:00	07:00	10:00	15:00	19:30

Boost your financial planning with automatic forecasting

How to implement financial planning models which leverage historical data to forecast the next periods. These models include internal as well as external data sources to the forecast process. I will precent ways to model effects from past data. This includes classical forecasting techniques such as exponential smoothing and ARIMA modelling. But also, bring in Fourier transformations, to enrich data understanding.

For larger and more complex scenarios neural network models are introduced to handle very large numbers of time series, that needs to be forecasted.

The theory is coupled with two implementations of forecast models, that has been implemented using IBM TM1 planning software together with open source tools to predict forecasts. How to evaluate the predictive power of the forecast systems will also be covered

Anders Kramer Knudsen

>>> LinkedIn

I'm a data scientist working at Cognitech. I have been working with data science fore more than 6 years. In that period, I have implemented multiple AI/ML solutions for customers in different industries. Several of them have won national as well as international credit. Before joining Cognitech I worked with complex business analysis within the financial sector.

	GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
	14:30	07:30	10:30	15:30	20:00

AIDAUG Slack is available at
>>> https://aidaug.org/slack/

Perfecting the last mile of the analytics supply chain

The target audience is data analytics and data leaders looking to understand and how to have meaningful data conversations with business people.

Talk with cover the concept of the analytics supply chain, review advances made in the last five years in terms of data engineering, and invite viewers to consider how the last mile of the supply chain - data delivery - needs to move beyond 'here's your dashboard, lmk if you have any questions'

Ryan Dolley

>>> LinkedIn

Ryan Dolley is Head of Data at Count.co and a partner at analytics consulting firm PMsquare. His areas of expertise focus on business intelligence, data visualization and building data literate teams.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
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Forecasting at Scale – an Automated Approach

The presentation's mainly addressing forecasting through the lens of AutoML. Additionally, some information on avantum & our approach to Automated Forecasting is given.

Target audience:
- In a nutshell: anyone interested in AutoML for time series.
- Or, more detailed: anyone interested in how to generate automated forecasts utilizing a broad selection of techniques ranging from neural nets over traditional methods like SARIMAX to tree based algorithms such as LightGBM. The perfect candidate would be someone looking to augment his or her decision-making capabilities, possibly having a finance background.

Prerequisites:
- No specific prerequisites though a basic familiarity with time series forecasting would be beneficial.

Take-aways:
- Automated ML for forecasting problems is not only possible but also a cost efficient yet effective way of bolstering decision making.

David Trisl

>>> LinkedIn

For most of his professional and academic career David has been interested in distilling data and making subsequent insights accessible.

Focusing primarly on economic data analysis, he is currently working on making time series forecasting more accessible to everyday business users that stand to benefit from simplified access to state-of-the art forecasting solutions.

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Join AIDAUG - it's free
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Why and When should I use IBM Business Analytics vs. PowerBI?

This session is about using the right tool to the right task. I will take a look at Planning and Cognos vs. PowerBI.

You don't take your lawn mower to the supermarket and you don't use a screwdriver to the nails.

We get a lot of questions about the differences between Cognos, Planning and PowerBI and I will give you an overview in this session without dissing any of the great products.

Rikke Jacobsen

>>> LinkedIn

Rikke Jacobsen is the CEO and Founder of CogniTech A/S, a Danish IBM Business Gold Partner. Keeping her employees happy and motivated and getting more people to use and get the most value out of IBM Analytics is her passion.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
16:00	09:00	12:00	17:00	21:30

Tethering AI with Blockchain

Software architects, developers and technical managers will learn about the principles of designing and building AI that is tethered by blockchain.

We will discuss why you want to be able to track and trace AI, and how you might use blockchain to reverse changes AI makes to itself.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
15:30	08:30	11:30	16:30	21:00

Kilroy Blockchain's CEO, is a life-long technologist with heart. Living in Austin, Texas, she has invented several products including CASEY, FLO, Kilroy Blockchain PaaS, RILEY, and CARNAK. Karen believes that artificial intelligence doesn't have to be scary and that technology can be proactively designed to be used for good. Karen's background includes working as an open source software engineer, which has prepared her for the new world of cognitive intelligence and tamper-evident ledgers. Named IBM Champion in the blockchain and AI categories, Karen is an experienced public speaker and author. She is the author of O'Reilly Media publications "Blockchain as a Service" (2019) and "AI and the Law" (2021), and the forthcoming "Blockchain-Tethered AI" (2022). Karen is also a professional dragon boat coach.

Karen Kilroy

>>> LinkedIn

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>>> https://aidaug.org/join/

AI for Agave

Agave is one of the most emblematic crops of Mexico. Jalisco is home of the Tequila designation of origin, with only some municipalities in other parts of the country being also eligible to produce Tequila.

Tequila production and agave cultivation are very important for the economic development of the state. In this context it is vital to develop strategies for monitoring the agave production. AI (Deep Learning) can conduct automatic monitoring of agave crops and plants.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
17:00	10:00	13:00	18:00	22:30

Eduardo Ulises Moya Sánchez

>>> LinkedIn

Ulises is the Director of Artificial Intelligence of the General Coordination of Innovation in the State of Jalisco, Mexico. Being the first director of this area in the public administration in Mexico.

He holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from CINVESTAV, a master's degree in Medical Physics from UNAM, and a Bachelor of Science in Physicist from the University of Guadalajara. He is a member of the National System of Researchers of CONACYT level 1. Last but not least, he is a founding partner of Nética, a company that seeks scientific dissemination for the training of young talents in STEAM.

He recently collaborated at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center in the high-performance artificial intelligence group, in deep learning projects for Retinopathies. In 2019, he was recognized with the Fulbright García-Robles grant to collaborate with the Quantitative Bioimaging Laboratory at the University of Texas in Dallas and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Why is data quality important in an NLP project?

Topic: NLP data pre-processing
Audience: Data scientists, data engineers, students, anyone working with data. This talk might be a little too basic for some, or too advanced for others. Knowledge of basic ML techniques is useful, and even more useful is some knowledge of basic NLP.
Description: Data is everywhere, and in NLP data can come from any source: the web, your favorite book, linguist-compiled datasets, or even just your speech. When working with so much text data, it is important to clean up and normalize your text. This talk will cover the basics of data pre-processing in NLP, will introduce methods such as Word2Vec, and most importantly explain why NLP data requires pre-processing to be the most useful.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
17:30	10:30	13:30	18:30	23:00
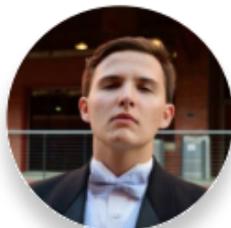
Pierre-Nicolas Perrin

>>> LinkedIn

Pierre-Nicolas Perrin is a senior at UNC-CH studying computer science and mathematics, where he studied and performed ML/NLP research in classes on ML, NLP, Reinforcement Learning, Language and Learning, Optimization w/ focus on ML, and more.

He interned at Capital One during the summer of 2021, and he is starting his Master's degree with a focus on ML and NLP in the fall of 2022.

Join AIDAUG at
>>> https://aidaug.org/join/

Informix data analysis by Cloud Pak for Data

We will demonstrate how some of CloudPak for Data (CP4D) services can consume Informix data and how these services can be used for the simple analysis.

Services like Watson Studio, SPSS or Data Refinery will be used as an examples for analyzing of the traditional relational data or TimeSeries data.

We will focus on the analyzing of the Titanic passengers data and also native Time Series data processed first by Informix database. No prerequisites are required, the most part will be life demos and no PowerPoint.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
19:00	12:00	15:00	20:00	00:30

Is it time to switch to Linux on your desk?

There are substantial advancements in Linux desktop usability which may make it an excellent choice for you.

Mike will share the secret sauce in how their team developed and delivered just-works Linux clients for professionals. This should be of interest to anyone that deploys to Linux.

Modest prior experience with Linux environments is recommended. To find out more visit http://kfocus.org.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
19:30	12:30	15:30	20:30	01:00

Jan Musil
>>> LinkedIn

Jan Musil is working 30 years in IBM as a IT specialist focusing on the database technologies, mainly Informix. Before entering to IBM he worked as a technical support engineer in Informix Software company.

He has also experiences with database security products like IBM Guardium, Test Data Management solutions like IBM Optim or database virtualization. His current main interest is in Kubernetes platforms, not only vanilla Kubernetes but also RedHat OpenShift. He is supporting Cloud Pak for Data solution and some micro services deployed there.

He loves walking or riding in the Czech magic nature with his wife, three kids and dog.

Michael Mikowski
>>> LinkedIn

Best-selling author of Single Page Web Application: JavaScript end-to-end.

Frequent conference presenter: FOSDAM, Chris Titus Tech, Manning.com Developer Tools and BigDaddyLinux.

Web Application Architect, System Administrator, U.S. Patent-holder, Software consultant and designer.

To find out more visit: https://michaelmkowski.com

Join AIDAUG at
>>> https://aidaug.org/join/

Detecting Icy Bridges with Cloud image processing and AI

My submission to the Disaster Response hackathon.

I'll use this git repo for the basis of my talk.

GMT	PST	EST	CET	IST
20:00	13:00	16:00	21:00	01:30

John Davis

>>> LinkedIn

MSEE, Embedded/Systems Developer and Computing Enthusiast

Notes

The link to the conference will be sent via e-Mail to AIDAUG members only.

So, if you have not signed up yet, you should do so. It's free to register.

Join AIDAUG at
>>> https://aidaug.org/join/

Closing & Credits

Thanks for reading - make sure to sign up to the AIDAUG.org website to receive discounts on various events. And as I wrote in the Foreword, you will have access to curated topics on weekly basis from now on.

There is so much going on in AI and Data Analytics, that it is sometimes hard to filter out the good stuff from the marketing buzz. I truly hope that curating the topics helps you to learn interesting details.

This newsletter has been carefully crafted in Barcelona for AIDAUG members. Let the editor know your thoughts. You can reach out to him via email at ralf@aidaug.org

Let's get in touch on AIDAUG Slack

Save the Date

14th of March - AI for PI-day, 24h planetwide conference.