PhD Student in Information Technology Ghent University, Department of Information technology Belgium.

Description

The "WAVES" research group (<u>waves.intec.ugent.be</u>) of the department of Information technology of imec-Ghent University is the expertise center in Belgium for recommender systems, personalization and information filtering (which are subtopics in the research domain of machine learning).

Current research within the WAVES group is focused around the recent trends emerging in the current online and offline world where users have to cope with an overload of information (blogs, social networks, audio-visual content providers, ...). At the same time, we observe that the presence on the web becomes more personal and online identity and activities gain importance. As a result, assisting and adaptive intelligent software tools and techniques get an increasingly important role in online services. Recommender systems are such commonly used solutions that generate personal suggestions for users based on their preferences, thereby alleviating the problem of information overload.

The researcher will work within an Inter-University project on artificial intelligence in collaboration with other Flemish Universities. This project will investigate if AI systems can really equal human performance when it comes to complex tasks. AI systems have to be capable of complex reasoning in a way that is autonomous, intelligent and trustworthy. Therefore, we need systems that can integrate and interpret, represent and understand their complex environment in multiple domains, over large timescales and in shared human-machine contexts. A good example of human-machine interaction based on AI is the automatic generation of content recommendations, used by systems such as Amazon and Netflix. The focus of our research group in this project is on this topic of recommender systems.

The researcher will specialize in the domain of recommender systems and the usage of AI for this. This research will be part of a conversational agent that facilitates the human-computer interaction.

This job position will thus focus on this topic of recommender systems, personalization and artificial intelligence. The research will exist among other things of:

Study and design of self-learning algorithms

User-modeling and data set analysis / processing

Initiation of experimental set-ups investigating new recommender/personalization techniques

Profile of the candidate

We are looking for enthusiastic candidates to perform research in the domains above in the context of projects thereby collaborating with other research groups of Ghent University and other universities, as well as with companies in the private sector. Candidates with a Master degree in Computer engineering, Electrical engineering, and Informatics qualify for this research job.

Experience in the domain of recommender systems is not necessary but interest in machine learning and data analysis is a definite plus.

Programming skills (Java or Python) are required.

Good written and oral English skills are required and knowledge of the Dutch language is a plus.

How to apply

What do we offer?

We offer a pleasant work climate within a young dynamic team and the possibility of obtaining a PhD. If you are interested in joining our research team, address your application letter and curr. vitae to:

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