

# CHRIS SAMARINAS

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## EDUCATION

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**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece**

October 2013 - Jun 2017

*Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science*

- GPA: **9.67**/10.00, ranked **1**/130, highest GPA since **1992** out of 2,500+ CS graduates, top **0.04%**
- Ranked **1**/130 in national university entrance exam in my department and top **0.2%** nationwide.
- Thesis: *Mining answers from the web using information retrieval techniques and machine learning*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**National University of Singapore, Singapore**

Feb 2020 – Present

*Research Assistant*

- Research on *latent retrieval for large-scale fact-checking and question answering* with prof. Wynne Hsu, president of [IDS](#) and prof. Mong Li Lee, president of [CTIC](#). Published our work at IEEE ICTAI 2020.
- Developed Quin, a framework for *large-scale semantic search* that returns text snippets related to questions or statements. Deployed in a real-world semantic search engine for COVID-19, launched by the president of NUS.
- Research on *multi-stage evidence retrieval for large-scale fact-checking*.

**Plural AI, London, United Kingdom**

Oct 2018 – Jan 2020

*Research Engineer*

- [Plural AI](#) is a fintech startup that builds a *knowledge engine* for the finance industry. The company focuses on extracting content from corporate websites and financial statements to enrich a financial *knowledge graph*, and support question answering on complex financial queries.
- Developed a novel framework for *concept extraction* and *saliency scoring* from corporate websites. Owned the whole machine learning pipeline, from the *annotation tool development* and website crawling, to the production-ization and deployment.
- Developed a smart tool for efficient curation of an industrial *category graph*.
- Developed a scalable semantic search service of companies using a novel *topic modeling* technique.

**Donaco LTD, London, United Kingdom**

Jun 2018 – Jan 2019

*Research Engineer*

- [Donaco](#) is an online advertising startup that tries to revolutionize online donations.
- Designed a system for *contextual recommendation* of charity campaigns in news articles.
- Worked on the advertising platform and tried to utilize the real-time user behavior for better ad serving.

**Foshan.io, Remote Software Consultant**

Aug 2018 – Nov 2018

- Responsible for the development of the new version of the *historical* HotBot metasearch engine.

## PUBLICATIONS & PREPRINTS

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**Latent Retrieval For Large-Scale Fact-Checking and Question Answering with NLI Training**

[[code](#)] [[demo 1](#), [demo 2](#)] [[news](#)] [[blog post](#)]

Chris Samarinas, Wynne Hsu, Mong Li Lee - IEEE ICTAI 2020, **25%** acceptance rate

Funded by the *Institute of Data Science* and supported by the *Tensorflow Research Cloud Program*

**WAMBy: An Information Retrieval Approach To Web-Based Question Answering**

Chris Samarinas, Grigorios Tsoumakas - SETN 2018, **33%** acceptance rate

**Personalized high quality news recommendations using word embeddings and text classification models** (preprint)

Chris Samarinas, Stefanos Zafeiriou

## AWARDS

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### **Bioengineering Hackathon, 1st place**

2018

*EMB IEEE Student Chapter AUTH, StudentGuru*

- 1st place for developing DropSense in 48 hours, a platform that monitors and connects elderly with their relatives and paid carers using Wear OS smartwatches.

### **Hackathon Thessaloniki, Honor**

2014

*Municipality of Thessaloniki*

- Awarded for developing CityReport in 24 hours, an online responsive web application for instant issues reporting.

### **Great Moment for Education Scholarship, Award**

2013

*Eurobank Ergasias*

- A scholarship for achieving the highest grade at school at the national university admission examination.

### **National Mathematics Competition, First Prize**

2009

*Hellenic Mathematical Society*

- Awarded for competing in the final stage “Archimedes”, top 50 out of 20,000 participants.

## GRANTS

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### **Tensorflow Research Cloud Program**

2020

*Google*

- Granted free access to TPU pods for 6 months for our project on large-scale latent retrieval.

### **Innovate UK Smart Grant ~ 1% acceptance rate**

2019

*UK Research and Innovation*

- £400,000 for our work at Plural AI, building a knowledge engine for the finance industry.

### **Horizon 2020 Grant ~ 16% acceptance rate**

2019

*European Union Funding for Research and Innovation*

- £50,000 for our research at Plural AI on entity extraction and semantic search.

## SKILLS

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### **Programming languages**

Python, Java, C, C++, Prolog

### **Web development**

JavaScript, HTML5, PHP, MySQL, MongoDB

### **Machine Learning**

Tensorflow, PyTorch

### **Other**

Kubernetes, noe4j, GCP, Latex, Android development