CHRIS SAMARINAS

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EDUCATION

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece   October 2013 - Jun 2017
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Computer Science

- GPA: **9.67**/10.00, ranked **1**/120, highest GPA since **1992** out of 2,500+ CS graduates, top **0.04%**
- Ranked **1**/120 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*

Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom   October 2017
Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Advanced Computing
- Courses towards an M.Sc. degree with main focus on Machine Learning
- Thesis: *Personalized news recommendations using neural networks*

Hellenic Mathematical Society Summer School, Greece   July 2010

- Preparation program for the International Mathematical Olympiad.
- Lectures on advanced topics in number theory and Euclidean geometry.

WORK EXPERIENCE

National University of Singapore, Singapore   February 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 a framework for large-scale semantic search that returns text snippets related to questions or statements and deployed it 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   October 2018 – January 2020
Research Engineer

- Plural AI is a fintech start-up 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 productionization 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   June 2018 – January 2019
Research Engineer

- Donaco is an online advertising start-up 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.

Freelance Software Engineer (early stuff)   2009 – November 2018

- My first YouTube utility app got over **1M** downloads and was **acquired** by a small company in Poland.
- Developed a metasearch engine for a client in Germany.
- Developed a location-based web search interface for a client in Canada.
- Developed and sold a script that bypassed Google's Custom Search API limitations and offered an interface for 'instant search', which among others was also used by a company in Turkey that got **$2.5M** government funding.
- I was a short-term contractor for the development of the new version of the *historical* HotBot metasearch engine.

PUBLICATIONS

Improving Evidence Retrieval for Automated Explainable Fact-Checking
Chris Samarinas, Wynne Hsu, Mong Li Lee (under review for *NAACL 2021*)

Latent Retrieval for Large-Scale Fact-Checking and Question Answering with NLI Training
Chris Samarinas, Wynne Hsu, Mong Li Lee, Long paper at *IEEE ICTAI 2020*, **25%** acceptance rate
[code] [demo 1, demo 2] [news] [blog post]

WAMBy: An Information Retrieval Approach to Web-Based Question Answering
Chris Samarinas, Grigorios Tsoumakas, Long paper at *SETN 2018*, **33%** acceptance rate

AWARDS

Bioengineering Hackathon, 1st place, *EMB IEEE Student Chapter AUTH, StudentGuru*   2018

- 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, *Municipality of Thessaloniki*   2014

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

Great Moment for Education Scholarship, Award, *Eurobank Ergasias*   2013

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

National Mathematical Olympiad, First Prize, *Hellenic Mathematical Society*   2009

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

GRANTS

Tensorflow Research Cloud Program, *Google*   2020

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

Innovate UK Smart Grant, *UK Research and Innovation,* **1%** acceptance rate   2019

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

Horizon 2020 Grant, *EU Funding for Research and Innovation,* **16%** acceptance rate   2019

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

SKILLS

Programming languages	Python, Java, C, C++, Prolog
Web development	JavaScript, HTML5, PHP, MySQL, MongoDB
Machine Learning	Tensorflow, PyTorch
Others	Kubernetes, neo4j, GCP, Latex, Android development

REFERENCES

- **Wynne Hsu,** Professor of CS at *National University of Singapore*, Director of *IDS*, co-founder of *EyRIS*

- **Jaron Collis**, co-founder and former CTO at *Plural AI*

- **Grigorios Tsoumakas**, Associate Professor of Machine Learning and Knowledge Discovery at *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*, Greece, co-founder of *Medoid AI*