

# CHRIS SAMARINAS

innovation 4.0, 04-06, Singapore, 117602

[chris.samarinas@gmail.com](mailto:chris.samarinas@gmail.com) - [algotprog.com](http://algotprog.com)

## 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 **1/120**, 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*

**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

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**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 & PREPRINTS

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**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

## Personalized High-Quality News Recommendations Using Word Embeddings and Text Classification Models

Chris Samarinas, Stefanos Zafeiriou (Preprint)

## AWARDS

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**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

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**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

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**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

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- [Wynne Hsu](#), Professor of Computer Science at *National University of Singapore*, Director of *Institute of Data Science*, 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*