MANUEL ANTONIO RUFINO

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Education

August 2014 - June 2018

University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines
*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, **Cum Laude***

Work Experience

July 2018 - PRESENT

Samsung R&D Institute Philippines (SRPH), Taguig City, Philippines
Engineer

- Currently involved in a project utilizing natural language processing and deep learning for a customer service chatbot that handles over 9000 sessions daily across five countries. Has resolved critical bugs that affected users across five countries.
- Worked on a project where I had to develop pipelines for automated data analysis requiring skills in statistics, data engineering, and research. In particular, I developed an automated pipeline for root cause analysis on over 18GB of data weekly on the performance of over three hundred mobile games on flagship phones.
- Has worked on various projects as a backend web developer spanning several frameworks and technologies
- Taught and mentored students at UP Rural High School as part of SPARK11 2024 and 2025, a program where Samsung engineers taught algorithms concepts to senior high school students.
- Served as problem setter/judge for Samsung AlgoChallenge 2019 and for various internal contests.
- Currently does research into possible future products of the company involving deep learning, computer vision, and multimodal AI. This has currently resulted in two patent applications.
- Designed and taught an algorithms course for software engineers within the company which was well-rated by students.

June 2017 - July 2017

Freelancer.com Philippines Inc., Taguig City, Philippines
Software Engineering Intern

- Worked on various features, bug fixes, and A/B Tests for the main website of freelancer.com.

Publications

March 2025

Crowdsource, Crawl, or Generate? Creating SEA-VL, a Multicultural Vision-Language Dataset for Southeast Asia

Samuel Cahyawijaya, Holy Lovenia, Joel Ruben Antony Moniz, Tack Hwa Wong, Mohammad Rifqi Farhansyah, Thant Thiri Maung, Frederikus Hudi, David Anugraha, Muhammad Ravi Shulthan Habibi, Muhammad Reza Qorib, Amit Agarwal, Joseph Marvin Imperial, Hitesh Laxmichand Patel, Vicky Feliren, Bahrul Ilmi Nasution, Manuel Antonio Rufino, et al.

https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.07920
Accepted for publication at ACL 2025

November 2024

Samsung R&D Institute Philippines @ WMT 2024 Low-resource Languages of Spain Shared Task

Dan John Velasco*, Manuel Antonio Rufino*, Jan Christian Blaise Cruz
* equal contribution
Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation

November 2024

Samsung R&D Institute Philippines @ WMT 2024 Indic MT Task

Matthew Theodore Roque, Carlos Rafael Catalan, Dan John Velasco, Manuel Antonio Rufino, Jan Christian Blaise Cruz
Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation

Patents

WO2024128677A1

Method and apparatus processing visual media

Juan Raphael S. Seña, Amielle B. Dulay, Manuel Antonio P. Rufino, Luis Miguel Flores
Patent Application

PH1/2022/00050589

System and Method for Conversion and Interoperability of Non-fungible Tokens

Juan Raphael S. Seña, Luis Miguel Flores, Manuel Antonio P. Rufino,
Patent Application

Extracurricular Activities and Volunteer Service

August 2015 - June 2018

UPLB Competitive Programming Team

- Competed in various programming contests as a representative of UPLB.

September 2015 - June 2018

Volunteer Peer Tutor, Office of Student Affairs, UPLB

- Taught math and IT subjects to students with academic difficulties.

Awards and Honors

June 2018

Samsung Research Excellence Award
Samsung R&D Institute Philippines

Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and research.

June 2018

Member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 045, University of the Philippines

Only those in the top 10% of seniors and the top 7.5% of juniors are selected for membership in the honor society.

February 2018

1st Runner-up, Hackzilla in Manila III
Freelancer.com Philippines Inc.
Theme: Pioneering the Future of Work for Filipinos

My teammates and I created an app that allows event coordinators/planners to assemble event staff from Freelancer.com's pool of freelancers using their API.

February 2018

3rd Place, Algolympics 2018
Association for Computing Machinery - UP Diliman Student Chapter

February 2018

3rd Highest General Weighted Average among B.S. Computer Science Seniors
Institute of Computer Science, UPLB.

October 2017

3rd Place, ACM-ICPC Philippine National Programming Contest 2017
ACM-ICPC Philippines

April 2017

1st Runner-up, Hackzilla in Manila II
Freelancer.com Philippines Inc.
Theme: Explore Possibilities with Artificial Intelligence

My teammates and I created a chatbot using API.ai (now called DialogFlow) that serves as an all-in-one food ordering solution. It makes use of machine learning, particularly the K-Nearest Neighbors algorithm, to recommend food to users based on the choices of other users with similar tastes.

February 2017

3rd Highest General Weighted Average among B.S. Computer Science Juniors
Institute of Computer Science, UPLB.

October 2016

Champion, 2016 ACM-ICPC Southern Luzon Invitational Programming Contest
ACM-ICPC

2014-2018

RA 7687 Scholarship
Department of Science and Technology, Philippines

This scholarship is given to talented and deserving students whose families' socio-economic status does not exceed the set cut-off values of certain indicators.