CATHERINE WAH

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Information *Phone:* +1 (217) 377-5120

Professional Experience

Google Inc., San Francisco, CA

10/2014-present

Staff Software Engineer, Google Assistant

- Technical Lead/Manager, Natural Language Understanding for Assistant (2018–present): Drove NLU launches on a new surface (Android Auto) for multiple locales.
- Photos Machine Intelligence (2015–2018): Led end-to-end infra/algorithm design and implementation of "smart sharing" features in the Photos app; built dashboards to track metrics
- Photo Search (2014–2015): Developed ranking algorithms for Search features
- Filed 2 patents

Technical Lead, Google.org Software Engineering Fellow 9/2021–3/2022

• Led 9-person team in building a data platform solution for a non-profit organization, as part of a selective 6-month fellowship

Google Inc., Venice, CA

Software Engineering Intern, Visual Search

6/2013-9/2013

• Worked on attribute-based visual classification of shopping images

eBay Inc., San Jose, CA

Research Intern, eBay Research Lab

6/2012-9/2012

 Investigated visual retrieval of fine-grained clothing types and styles, resulting in an academic conference workshop presentation (CVPR 2013)

Amazon A9.com, Palo Alto, CA

Software Development Intern, Visual Search

6/2011-9/2011

- Prototyped an algorithm for mobile visual product search of visually similar items, aided by user input
- Filed patent "Drawn Gesture Based Search to Identify Item"

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego (UCSD), La Jolla, CA

PhD, Computer Science, June 2014 C.Phil, Computer Science, June 2012 M.S., Computer Science, December 2011

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Urbana, IL

B.S., Electrical Engineering with Honors, August 2008

• Computer Science Minor, Mathematics Minor

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Computer Science and Engineering Department, UCSD, La Jolla, CA

Graduate Student Researcher, advised by Serge Belongie 9/2008–6/2014

- Visipedia: Interactive visual recognition of fine-grained categories
- Published at top-tier computer vision conferences (see Google Scholar)
- Work has been cited 4000+ times
- Supported by NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and UCSD Powell Foundation Fellowship

Toyota Technological Institute, Chicago, IL

Visiting Research Intern, hosted by Subhransu Maji 1–3/2014, 2–5/2013

- Investigated interactive visual recognition of fine-grained categories from similarity-based comparisons with multiple perceptual similarity metrics
- Awarded Best Paper: Vision and Learning at WACV 2015

Electronic Engineering Dept., Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Visiting Research Staff, hosted by Xiaogang Wang 6/2010–8/2010

• Supported by NSF International Research and Education in Engineering (IREE) Award

Skills Languages: C++, Java, Python

Environment: Linux/UNIX, MacOS

Other: MATLAB, SQL, JavaScript, HTML/CSS

Familiar with computer vision, machine learning, image processing topics

COMMUNITY Elected to Women in Machine Learning (WiML) Board of Directors (2022-2023)

Program Committee Member, Fine-Grained Visual Categorization (FGVC) Workshop

2013, 2015, 2017

Have reviewed for computer vision/machine learning conferences and journals (2013–

present), including: ICCV, IJCV, CVPR, ICLR, ECCV, BMVC, WACV

Mentorship: MAGIC (More Active Girls in Computing) (2015-2019), Lumiere research

program for high school students (2021-present)

SERVICE Volunteer at: San-Francisco Marin Food Bank, 18 Reasons non-profit cooking school,

826 Valencia tutoring, The Marine Mammal Center harbor seal crew

OTHER U.S. Citizen