Catherine Wah

Contact Information

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Professional Experience

Google Inc., San Francisco, CA — 10/2014–present
Staff Software Engineer, Google Assistant

- *Natural Language Understanding for the 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

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 over 3800 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

- Presented results at WACV 2015; awarded *Best Paper: Vision and Learning*

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 image processing, computer vision, machine learning topics
Language Skills: Proficient in Mandarin Chinese

Service

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, ECCV, BMVC, WACV

Other

U.S. Citizen