Gabriele Tolomei, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

National Scientific Qualification (ASN)

Role: Professore di Seconda Fascia (Associate Professor)

Settore Concorsuale (Academic Field): 01/B1 - Informatica (Informatics)

From - To: 7 August 2018 - 7 August 2024

Role: Professore di Seconda Fascia (Associate Professor)

Settore Concorsuale (Academic Field): 09/H1 - Sistemi di Elaborazione delle Informazioni (Information Processing Systems)

From - To: 26 July 2018 - 26 July 2024

Ph.D. in Computer Science   *01/2008 - 11/2011*

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Date: 17 November 2011

Thesis Title: Enhancing web search user experience: from document retrieval to task recommendation

Supervisors: Salvatore Orlando and Fabrizio Silvestri

Main Results: Developed an algorithm to discover the set of *user tasks* (i.e., group of search queries having the same latent need) from historical data stored in search engine logs. This solution performed 16% better than traditional techniques in terms of F_1 score, and about 5% better than the very best state-of-the-art method known at that time.

Most valuable results published in ACM WSDM 2011 (best paper runner up) and ACM TOIS 2013.

M.Sc. in Computer Science (*summa cum laude*)   *10/2002 - 04/2005*

University of Pisa, Italy

Date: 21 April 2005

B.Sc. in Computer Science   *09/1999 - 10/2002*

University of Pisa, Italy

Date: 18 October 2002

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor   *09/2019 -*

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

From - To: 3 September 2019 -

Projects

Ongoing research projects related to the following, sometimes overlapping, main areas:

- *(Human-)Explainable Machine Learning*

    - Counterfactual explanations for learning-to-rank models (ongoing collaboration with Spotify).

    - Counterfactual explanations for (sequential) recommendations (ongoing collaborations with Stony Brook University and Amazon). Ongoing work on two distinct research papers is expected to be submitted to the upcoming SIGIR 2023 conference.

    - Counterfactual explanations for black-box machine learning models (in collaboration with Stony Brook University and Spotify): Development of two different techniques – i.e., one based on reinforcement learning and the other on anomaly detection – to generate model-agnostic explanations of ML predictions. The outcome of this work has produced three research papers. Two of them have already been accepted to the ACM CIKM 2022 conference and the IEEE

Transactions on Artificial Intelligence journal. The third paper is currently under review at the PAKDD 2023 conference.

– NEWRON: Proposal of a new artificial neuron that is interpretable by design and can be used as the building block of artificial neural networks (ANNs) in order to make them naturally interpretable. The result of this work has been accepted for publication in the IJCNN 2022 conference.

- *Robust, Trustworthy, and Verifiable Machine Learning*

  – Verifiable MLaaS: Investigating the problem of certifying ML training performed by third-party services in outsourcing through verifiable computing techniques.

- *Collaborative Machine Learning*

  – Covert channel attack to Federated Learning (FL): Implementation of a new attack to FL systems that allows two or more malicious edge clients to establish a covert channel by exploiting the standard FL protocol in combination with a hybrid data- and model-poisoning offensive. This research work has been accepted for publication in the IEEE Access journal.

- *Miscellanea*

  – *AInfostud*: Enriching *Infostud* – i.e., the Sapienza's online student platform – with ML/AI-empowered services. Currently, two sub-tasks are under consideration: student dropout prediction and community detection. The former could help Sapienza to better target resources and investments, whereas the latter could encourage serendipitous connections amongst students. The research work on student dropout prediction has been accepted for publication in the IEEE BigData 2022 conference.

  – Enhance cache page replacement policies with ML: Proposal of a new page replacement algorithm (for cache eviction) that leverages memory access predictions made by a multi-step ahead forecaster (e.g., LSTM-Encoder-Decoder). This research work has been submitted to MLSys 2023 and is currently under review.

Assistant Professor   *07/2017 - 08/2019*
University of Padua, Italy
From - To: 18 July 2017 - 31 August 2019
Goals: Research activities on topics at the intersection of machine learning and computer security. Establishment of a multidisciplinary team focused on *adversarial machine learning* in collaboration with Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy.

Projects

- *Interpretability of machine learning models*: Formulated the problem of finding the "best" (i.e., less costly) perturbations of input features so as to switch the predictions output by an existing tree-based ensemble classifier (i.e., *counterfactual examples*). An algorithm to solve the problem has been proposed and its validity has been assessed on a real-world use case (i.e., online advertising). Results have been published in the ACM KDD 2017 conference; an extended manuscript has been submitted to the IEEE TKDE journal, and it is about to be submitted for second-round review.

- *Robustness of machine learning models*: Definition of the problem of training machine learning models that are insensitive to (i.e., robust against) input perturbations crafted by a malicious attacker, inspired by the notion of *non-interference* that is typical of the computer security domain. Proposal of a solution which is validated on public datasets. Results have been and will be submitted for review to the ACM CIKM 2019 and IEEE ICDE 2020 conferences, respectively.

- *CSRF attacks detection using machine learning*: CSRF attacks are one of the main web security threats. Supervised learning techniques have been used to train a prediction model (i.e., a binary

classifier) on a dataset of labeled HTTP requests, collected with a browser extension developed *ad hoc*. The classifier outperforms any (heuristic-based) baselines, scoring $F_1 = 0.72$. Results and dataset have been published to the IEEE EuroS&P 2019 conference.

- *IoT advertising*: Online advertising is possibly the most profitable Internet-based business model yet it is still "limited" to traditional devices (i.e., PCs and smartphones). A new idea of advertising has been sketched so as to extend Internet advertising business to emerging pervasive and ubiquitous interconnected *smart devices*, which are collectively known as the *Internet of Things* (IoT). Such a novel vision – along with the challenges to be addressed – are described in a manuscript which appears in the IEEE Communications Magazine.

Research Scientist *06/2014 - 07/2017*
Yahoo Labs, London, UK
From - To: 2 June 2014 - 14 July 2017
Goals: Improve the engagement of users with *Gemini*, the integrated Yahoo online advertising platform. Promote "high quality" advertisements using measures of post-click satisfaction, which go beyond the traditional Click-Through Rate (CTR). Analyze large-scale datasets from distributed computing environments and mine interesting patterns via statistical/machine learning solutions. Design, implement and test innovative prototypes into production buckets in response to internal challenges, in collaboration with Product and Engineering teams. Delivery results both internally and externally (e.g., research paper submissions to top conferences like SIGIR, KDD, CIKM, RecSys, WSDM, WWW, etc.).

Projects:

- *Accidental ad click discovery and discounting*: Design and implementation of a data-driven methodology to detect "accidental" clicks on CPC advertisements shown on Yahoo's properties, currently used in production. Proposal of a technique for discounting those clicks so to balance between inevitable drop in revenue and long-term satisfaction of advertisers. Proposed solution has been published to the International Journal of Data Science and Analytics (JDSA) and patented with the US Patent and Trademark Office.

- *Ad quality score*: Design and implementation of a mechanism to monitor and report to the advertisers the performance of their ad campaigns running on the Yahoo Gemini platform. Successfully tested on a pool of selected advertisers and patented with the US Patent and Trademark Office.

- *Ad feature recommendations*: Design and implementation of a system which is able to suggest actionable changes to ad landing pages so as to improve their *quality* perceived by users. The approach has been published to the ACM KDD 2017 conference and patented with the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow *01/2012 - 06/2014*
Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy
From - To: 13 January 2012 - 1 June 2014
Goals: Novel application of machine learning and data mining techniques to large scale, heterogeneous data sources with the aim of improving the effectiveness of web search engines.

Projects:

- *Classification of web authentication cookies*: Automatic discovery of *authentication cookies* from those stored in web browsers using a supervised learning technique. Design of a (semi-) automatic method to build a ground truth of authentication cookies. Evaluation of four state-of-the-art solutions proposed to detect authentication cookies. Development of a binary classifier, which outperforms existing solutions by increasing the overall F_1 score from 14% up to 23%.

- *Trending topics vs. web search*: Analysed the impact of Twitter *trending entities* on user search behaviour. Time-series regression revealed that signals from Twitter are useful to predict Google

Hot Trends and Wikipedia page requests or edits about 60% of times. Results published in CIKM 2013 workshop, ASE/IEEE SocialCom 2013.

- *Task-oriented web search and recommendation*: Developed a graph-based model of *task-based* user search behaviour. Implemented the prototype of a *task recommender system*, which suggested tasks to web users instead of "traditional" queries, with about 50% precision. Results published in OAIR 2013 conference and the ACM TOIS journal (**ACM 2013 Computing Reviews Notable Article**).

Research Assistant   *01/2008 - 01/2012*
ISTI-CNR, Pisa, Italy
From - To: 16 January 2008 - 8 January 2012
Goals: Research on high performance computing with application to web search and mining.

Projects:

- *Task-oriented web search*: Developed an algorithm to discover *user tasks* (i.e., group of queries having the same latent need) from search engine logs. Evaluated F_1 score 16% better than traditional techniques, and about 5% better than the very best method known at that time. Results published in ACM WSDM 2011 conference (**best paper runner up**).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Journals[1]

- Chen, Z., Silvestri, F., Tolomei, G., Wang, J., Zhu, H., and Ahn, H. *Explain the Explainer: Interpreting Model-Agnostic Counterfactual Explanations of a Deep Reinforcement Learning Agent.* In IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence (TAI) [*to appear*].

- Costa, G., Pinelli, F., Soderi, S., and Tolomei, G. *Turning Federated Learning Systems into Covert Channels.* In IEEE Access, Vol. 10, pp. 130642–130656 (2022) [**impact factor = 3.367**].

- Tolomei, G. and Silvestri, F. *Generating Actionable Interpretations from Ensembles of Decision Trees.* In IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE), Vol. 33, no. 4, pp. 1540–1553 (2021) [**impact factor = 3.857**].

- Calzavara, S., Lucchese, C., Tolomei, G.. Abebe, S., and Orlando, S. *Treant: Training Evasion-Aware Decision Trees.* In Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, 34(5): 1390–1420 (2020) [**impact factor = 2.629**].

- Calzavara, S., Conti, M., Focardi, R., Rabitti, A. and Tolomei, G. *Machine Learning for Web Vulnerability Detection: The Case of Cross-Site Request Forgery.* In IEEE Security & Privacy, 18(3): 8–16 (2020) [**impact factor = 1.596**].

- Tolomei, G., Lalmas, M., Farahat, A., and Haines A. *You Must Have Clicked on this Ad by Mistake! Data-Driven Identification of Accidental Clicks on Mobile Ads with Applications to Advertiser Cost Discounting and Click-Through Rate Prediction.* In International Journal of Data Science and Analytics, Vol. 7, Issue 1, pp. 53–66.

- Aksu, H., Babun, L., Conti, M., Tolomei, G., and Uluagac, A. S. *Advertising in the IoT Era: Vision and Challenges.* In IEEE Communications Magazine, Vol. 56, Issue 11, pp. 138–144 [**impact factor = 10.435**].

- Calzavara, S., Tolomei, G., Bugliesi, M., and Orlando, S. *A Supervised Learning Approach to Protect Client Authentication on the Web.* In ACM Transactions on the Web (TWEB), Vol. 9, Issue 3 - June 2015, Article No. 15, pp. 1–30 [**impact factor = 1.526**].

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[1]impact factor JCR 2017 (when available).

- Giummolè, F., Orlando, S., and Tolomei, G. *A Study on Microblog and Search Engine User Behaviors: How Twitter Trending Topics Help Predict Google Hot Queries.* In ASE Human Journal, Vol. 2, Issue 3 - September 2013, pp. 195–209.

- Lucchese, C., Orlando, S., Perego, R., Silvestri, F., and Tolomei, G. *Discovering Tasks from Search Engine Query Logs.* In ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS), Vol. 31, Issue 3 - July 2013, pp. 1–43 [**impact factor = 2.312; ACM 2013 Computing Reviews Notable Article**[2]]

- Miori, V., Tarrini, L., Manca, M., and Tolomei, G. *An Open Standard Solution for Domotic Interoperability.* In IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics, Vol. 52, Issue 1 - February 2006, pp. 97–103 [**impact factor = 1.694**].

Conferences and Workshops[3]

- Bassetti, E., Conti, A., Panizzi, E., and Tolomei, G. *ISIDE: Proactively Assist University Students at Risk of Dropout.* In Proc. of IEEE BigData 2022, *to appear*, [**rank = B**].

- Chen, Z., Silvestri, F., Wang, J., Zhu, H., Ahn, H., and Tolomei, G. *ReLAX: Reinforcement Learning Agent Explainer for Arbitrary Predictive Models.* In Proc. of ACM CIKM 2022, pp. 252–261 [**rank = A**].

- Siciliano, F., Bucarelli, M.S., Tolomei, G., and Silvestri, F. *Newron: A new generalization of the artificial neuron to enhance the interpretability of neural networks.* In Proc. of IEEE IJCNN 2022, (*to appear*) [**rank = B**].

- Lucic, A., ter Hoeve, M., Tolomei, G., de Rijke, M., and Silvestri, F. *CF-GNNExplainer: Counterfactual Explanations for Graph Neural Networks.* In Proc. of AISTATS 2022, PMLR 151:4499–4511 [**rank = A**].

- Calzavara, S., Lucchese, C., and Tolomei, G. *Adversarial Training of Gradient-Boosted Decision Trees.* In Proc. of ACM CIKM 2019, pp. 2429–2432 [**rank = A**].

- Calzavara, S., Conti, M., Focardi, R., Rabitti, A., and Tolomei, G. *Mitch: A Machine Learning Approach to the Black-Box Detection of CSRF Vulnerabilities.* In Proc. of IEEE Euro S&P 2019, pp. 528–543.

- Conti, M., Gangwal, A., Gochhayat, S. P., and Tolomei, G. *Spot the Difference: Your Bucket is Leaking : A Novel Methodology to Expose A/B Testing Effortlessly.* In Proc. of IEEE CNS 2018, pp. 1–7.

- Tolomei, G., Silvestri, F., Haines, A., and Lalmas, M. *Interpretable Predictions of Tree-based Ensembles via Actionable Feature Tweaking.* In Proc. of ACM KDD 2017, pp. 465–474 [**rank = A***].

- Lucchese, C., Nardini, F. M., Orlando, S., and Tolomei, G. *Learning to Rank User Queries to Detect Search Tasks.* In Proc. of ACM ICTIR 2016, pp. 157–166.

- Lalmas, M., Lehmann, J., Shaked, G., Silvestri, F., and Tolomei, G. *Promoting Positive Post-Click Experience for In-Stream Yahoo Gemini Users.* In Proc. of ACM KDD 2015, pp. 1929–1938 [**rank = A***].

- Calzavara, S., Tolomei, G., Bugliesi, M., and Orlando, S. *Quite a Mess in My Cookie Jar! Leveraging Machine Learning to Protect Web Authentication.* In Proc. of WWW 2014, pp. 189–200 [**rank = A***].

[2] http://www.computingreviews.com/recommend/bestof/notableitems_2013.cfm
[3] ranking CORE 2018 [http://portal.core.edu.au/conf-ranks/] (when available).

- Giummolè, F., Orlando, S., and Tolomei, G. *Trending Topics on Twitter Improve the Prediction of Google Hot Queries*. In Proc. of ASE/IEEE SocialCom 2013, pp. 39–44 [**rank = B; among the top-5% best papers**].

- Lucchese, C., Orlando, S., Perego, R., Silvestri, F., and Tolomei, G. *Modeling and Predicting the Task-by-Task Behavior of Search Engine Users*. In Proc. of OAIR 2013, pp. 77–84.

- Orlando, S., Pizzolon, F., and Tolomei, G. *SEED: A Framework for Extracting Social Events from Press News*. In Proc. of WWW-WoLE 2013, pp. 1285–1294 [**rank = A***].

- Ferrari, A., Gnesi, S., and Tolomei, G. *Using Clustering to Improve the Structure of Natural Language Requirements Documents*. In Proc. of REFSQ 2013, pp. 34–49 [**rank = B; best paper runner-up**].

- Bruni, E., Ferrari, A., Seyff, N., and Tolomei, G. *Automatic Analysis of Multimodal Requirements: A Research Preview*. In Proc. of REFSQ 2012, pp. 218–224 [**rank = B**].

- Ferrari, A., Gnesi, S., and Tolomei, G. *A clustering-based approach for discovering flaws in requirements specifications*. In Proc. of ACM SAC 2012, pp. 1043–1050 [**rank = B**].

- Ceccarelli, D., Gordea, S., Lucchese, C., Nardini, F.M., and Tolomei, G. *Improving Europeana Search Experience Using Query Logs*. In Proc. of TPDL 2011, pp. 384–395 [**rank = B**].

- Lucchese, C., Orlando, S., Perego, R., Silvestri, F., and Tolomei, G. *Identifying Task-based Sessions in Search Engine Query Logs*. In Proc. of ACM WSDM 2011, pp. 277–286 [**rank = A*; best paper runner-up**].

- Lucchese, C., Orlando, S., Perego, R., Silvestri, F., and Tolomei, G. *Detecting Task-based Query Sessions using Collaborative Knowledge*. In Proc. of WI-IAT 2010, pp. 128–131 [**rank = B**].

- Tolomei, G., Orlando, S., and Silvestri, F. *Towards a Task-based Search and Recommender Systems*. In Proc. of IEEE ICDE 2010, pp. 333–336 [**rank = A***].

- Mordacchini, M., Dazzi, P., Tolomei, G., Baraglia, R., Silvestri, F., and Orlando, S. *Challenges in designing an interest-based distributed aggregation of users in P2P systems*. In Proc. of IEEE ICUMT 2009, pp. 1–8.

- Tolomei, G. *Search the web x.0: mining and recommending web-mediated processes*. In Proc. of ACM RecSys 2009, pp. 417-420 [**rank = B**].

- Miori, V., Tarrini, L., Manca, M., and Tolomei, G . *DomoNet: a Framework and a Prototype for Interoperability of Domotic Middlewares based on XML and Web Services*. In Proc. of IEEE ICCE 2006, pp. 117–118.

INVITED SPEAKER

- Keynote Speaker at the "Yahoo Tech Pulse 2016" Conference
  Title: "A Taste of Machine Learning"

EVENT ORGANIZATION

- Chair of the "2022 Workshop on Federated Learning for Private Web Search and Data Mining" (FL4P-WSDM)
  Details: FL4P-WSDM 2022

- Executive Director of the "2019 International Summer School on Machine Learning and Security"
  Details: 2019 ML&S School

- General Program Chair of the "IEEE Security and Privacy in Digital Advertising Workshop" (IEEE CNS SPA 2017)
  Details: IEEE CNS SPA 2017

- Program Co-Chair of the "IEEE Cyber-Physical Systems Security Workshop" (IEEE CNS CPS-Sec 2018)
  Details: IEEE CNS CPS-Sec 2018

- Program Co-Chair of the "IEEE Cyber-Physical Systems Security Workshop" (IEEE CNS CPS-Sec 2017)
  Details: IEEE CNS CPS-Sec 2017

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial Board Membership

- Research Topic Editor for "Human-Interpretable Machine Learning" (Frontiers in Big Data)
- Associate Editor for the Journal of The Franklin Institute

Regular Reviewer for the following journals (most relevant, last five years)

- IEEE TKDE
- ACM TKDD
- ACM TOIS
- ACM TWEB

Program Committee Membership (most relevant, last five years)

- AAAI 2021: PC member
- ASONAM 2017-21: PC member
- CIKM 2022: senior PC member (CIKM 2021 Applied)
- CIKM 2021: senior PC member (CIKM 2021 Applied)
- CIKM 2020: PC member (CIKM 2020 Applied Research Track), PC member (CIKM 2020 Short Research Paper Track)
- CIKM 2018: PC member (Industry / Case Study Track)
- CIKM 2017: PC member (Case Studies ACM CIKM 2017)
- ECIR 2021: PC member (ECIR 2021 demo track)
- ECML/PKDD 2018-2019: PC member
- KDD 2021: PC member
- ICTIR 2017: PC member (ICTIR Long Papers ML Track), PC member (ICTIR Short Papers ML Track)
- IJCAI 2021-22: PC member
- SIGIR 2021: PC member (Short paper), PC member (Long paper)
- SIGIR 2020: PC member (SIGIR 2020 Full Papers)
- SIGIR 2019: PC member (Short Papers), PC member (Long Papers)

- SIGIR 2018: PC member (Short Paper - Applications of IR), PC member (Applications of IR)

- WSDM 2017-22: PC member

- TheWebConf 2022: senior PC member (Systems and Infrastructure), PC member (Search), PC member (Web Mining and Content Analysis)

- TheWebConf 2021: PC member (Search), PC member (Web Mining and Content Analysis), PC member (Social Network Analysis and Graph Algorithms)

- TheWebConf 2020: PC member (Social Network Analysis and Graph Algorithms), PC member (Web Mining and Content Analysis)

- TheWebConf 2019: PC member (Search)

- WWW 2018: PC member (Web Search and Mining)

- WWW 2017: PC member

TEACHING

Big Data Computing [60 hours]   *2020-23*
M.Sc. in Computer Science (2nd year, 2nd semester)
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Theory of Algorithms [48 hours]   *2021*
M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics (1st year, 2nd semester)
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Systems and Networking I [60 hours]   *2021-22*
B.Sc. in Applied Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (2nd year, 1st semester)
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Operating Systems [60 hours]   *2019-20 - 2022*
B.Sc. in Computer Science (2nd year, 1st semester)
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Python Programming for Data Science [40 hours]   *2018-19*
(within **Fundamentals of Information Systems**)
M.Sc. in Data Science (1st year, 1st semester)
University of Padua, Italy

Introduction to Computer Programming [32 hours]   *2018-19*
B.Sc. in Computer Science (1st year)
University of Padua, Italy

Python Programming for Data Science [44 hours]   *2017-18*
(within **Fundamentals of Information Systems**)
M.Sc. in Data Science (1st year, 1st semester)
University of Padua, Italy

Introduction to Computer Programming [32 hours]   *2017-18*
B.Sc. in Computer Science (1st year)
University of Padua, Italy

Databases [teaching assistant - 25 hours]   *2016-17*
B.Sc. in Computer Science (2nd year)
University of Padua, Italy

Java Enterprise Edition [60 hours]   01/2014 - 02/2014
Master "SIVE Formazione"
Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, at SIPE S.r.l.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Supervised the work of: **1** Ph.D. (co-advisor), **14** M.Sc., and **10** B.Sc. students, so far.

RESEARCH FUNDINGS

European Research Projects   01/2008 - 01/2012
Name: FP7 Network of Exellence S-CUBE: Software Services and Systems Network
Unit: ISTI-CNR, Pisa, Italy
Role: Participant
Details: http://www.s-cube-network.eu/

Faculty Research Projects
Progetto di Ricerca Grande del Bando di Ateneo Sapienza 2021
University: Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Name: Drones as a Service for First Emergency Response
Role: Participant

Bando per il finanziamento di Assegni di Ricerca (SID 2021)
University: University of Padua, Italy
Name: Enhancing CAPTCHAs for User Fun and Profit
Role: Co-Proponent

Bando per il finanziamento di Assegni di Ricerca (SID 2019)
University: University of Padua, Italy
Name: Distributed Algorithms for Large-Scale Graphs: Theory and Practice
Role: Co-Proponent

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Patent US20170154356A1 (Co-Inventor)
Title: "Generating actionable suggestions for improving user engagement with online advertisements".
Details: https://patents.google.com/patent/US20170154356A1/en
Patent US20170004542A1 (Co-Inventor)
Title: "Method and system for providing content supply adjustment".
Details: https://patents.google.com/patent/US20170004542A1/en
Patent US20170004541A1 (Co-Inventor)
Title: "Method and system for analyzing user behavior associated with web contents".
Details: https://patents.google.com/patent/US20170004541A1/en
Patent US20180247222A1 (Co-Inventor)
Title: "Changing machine learning classification of digital content".
Details: https://patents.google.com/patent/US20180247222A1/en

Spin-off at University of Padua, Italy (Co-founder)
Name: "CAPTCHAd"
Description: CAPTCHAd aims to allow entities which make use of CAPTCHA services (e.g., web portals, blogs, and – more generally – any service that needs to prevent automatic software bots to access their resources) to monetize by means of "sponsored challenges", namely CAPTCHA challenges that embed advertising contents.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Role:* Member of the Scientific Committee of the Ph.D. program in Data Science
  Institution: Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

- *Role:* Member of the Selection Committee of International Student Applicants
  Institution: Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

- *Role:* Responsible of organizing the class timetable for the Computer Science Department
  Institution: Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Software Engineer *07/2006 - 01/2008*

Company: Sysdat Informatica s.r.l., Pisa, Italy
Main responsibilities: Analysis, development, test, and deployment of Java Enterprise (J2EE-compatible) applications, specifically designed for third-party customers.

Projects:

- *Supermarket logistics*: Developed a web-based software to manage the dispatching of goods for the logistic department of "Conad" (i.e., one of the largest supermarket chains in Italy). Regularly interfacing with clients during the whole development stage up to the first product release.

- *Motorway payment system*: Developed the invoicing software system for "Autostrade per l'Italia S.p.A." (i.e., the Italian Concessionaire for toll motorway construction and management handling about 5 million daily customers, on average).

Software Engineer *12/2005 - 06/2006*

Company: NETikos S.p.A., Pisa, Italy
Main responsibilities: Analysis, development, test, and deployment of Java Enterprise (J2EE-compatible) applications, specifically designed for third-party customers.

Projects:

- *Mobile network provider web portal*: Developed the online recharge secure system for prepaid SIM cards of private customers inside the web portal of "Telecom Italia Mobile" (i.e., the largest Italian mobile telecommunications company counting more than 30 million subscribers). Implemented the electronic shopping cart and the interaction with the electronic payment gateway *GestPay*, powered by "Banca Sella S.p.A."

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages	Python, Java, C/C++, R, Unix scripting (`bash`, `awk`, `sed`, etc.), SQL, Pig Latin, HiveQL, PHP, JavaScript
Libraries (Python)	Tensorflow, Keras, PySpark, Scikit-Learn, Pandas, Numpy, Scipy, Matplotlib, Seaborn
Development Environments	JupyterLab, Visual Studio Code, Eclipse, NetBeans
Frameworks	Hadoop, Spark
Databases	MySQL
Other Technologies	HTML/CSS, Git, LaTeX