

# Aleksandr Petiushko, PhD

## Industry and Academia



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## Bio

Dr. Aleksandr Petiushko is a Director, Senior Research Manager at Autonomous Driving company [Nuro](#) (Mountain View, California), leading Machine Learning Research, an Adjunct Professor at [Sofia University](#) (Palo Alto, California) giving courses on Machine Learning, and a lecturer at Lomonosov MSU and MIPT, giving lectures on the Theory of Deep Learning. Before Nuro, worked as a Team Lead / Scientific Expert, Chief Scientist at Huawei, as a Managing Director / Leading Scientific Researcher at Artificial Intelligence Research Institute. The Ph.D. dissertation is at the intersection of Discrete Mathematics and Computer Linguistics. Research interests lie in the applications of empirical and theoretical robustness (publications at ECCV, IJCAI, AAAI, CVPR, NeurIPS).

## Education

- PhD in Theoretical CS · 2016
- MSc in Mathematics · 2006

## Interests

- Autonomous Driving
- Deep Learning
- Robustness Theory
- Discrete Mathematics

## Skills

- Research
- Leadership
- Lecturing

## Summary

Principal RnD Researcher (15+ years of experience), RnD Technical Leader (10+ years of experience), and RnD Manager (7+ years of experience). Running and managing industrial research and academic collaboration (35+ publications, 30+ patents). Inspired by theoretical computer science and how it changes the world.

## Experience

Present

### Director, Head of ML Research

NURO, USA/CA, Mountain View

Responsibilities:

- Managing and hiring the team of highly skilled diverse talents in ML (10+ FTEs, plus interns)
- Internal cross-collaboration and ideas brainstorming with other Behavior and Perception teams
- Technical Roadmaps
- State-of-the-Art frontier research
- Academia collaboration

Technical Directions:

- Prediction (including conditional and joint) and Planning (including Diffusion-based)
- Motion Selection (RL-based)
- Agent-centric and scene-centric encoders
- Scaling laws in Behavior
- Robustness and Uncertainty of Autonomy Stack
- Reward and issue predictor models
- LLM and VLM

Other achievements:

- Internal FTEs ML education through a series of Deep Learning Theory lectures
- Main ideologist and program owner of Nuro ML University (100+ FTEs involved)
- Created Nuro Tech Talks series (top robotics researchers share their ideas for Nuro)
- Made SotA exploration a working internal pipeline
- Constantly increasing Nuro's visibility (participation at conferences, workshops, seminars, etc)

Feb 2022

Feb 2022

### Managing Director, Leading Scientific Researcher

Artificial

Intelligence Research Institute, Russia, Moscow

Fusion Brain Research Director.

Responsibilities:

- Research roadmap formulation
- Research team hiring
- Leading the research team (6 people)
- Academia collaboration

Technical Directions:

- Multi-modality
- Multi-tasking
- Retrieval-based systems

Sep 2021

Sep 2021

### Chief Scientist, Team Leader

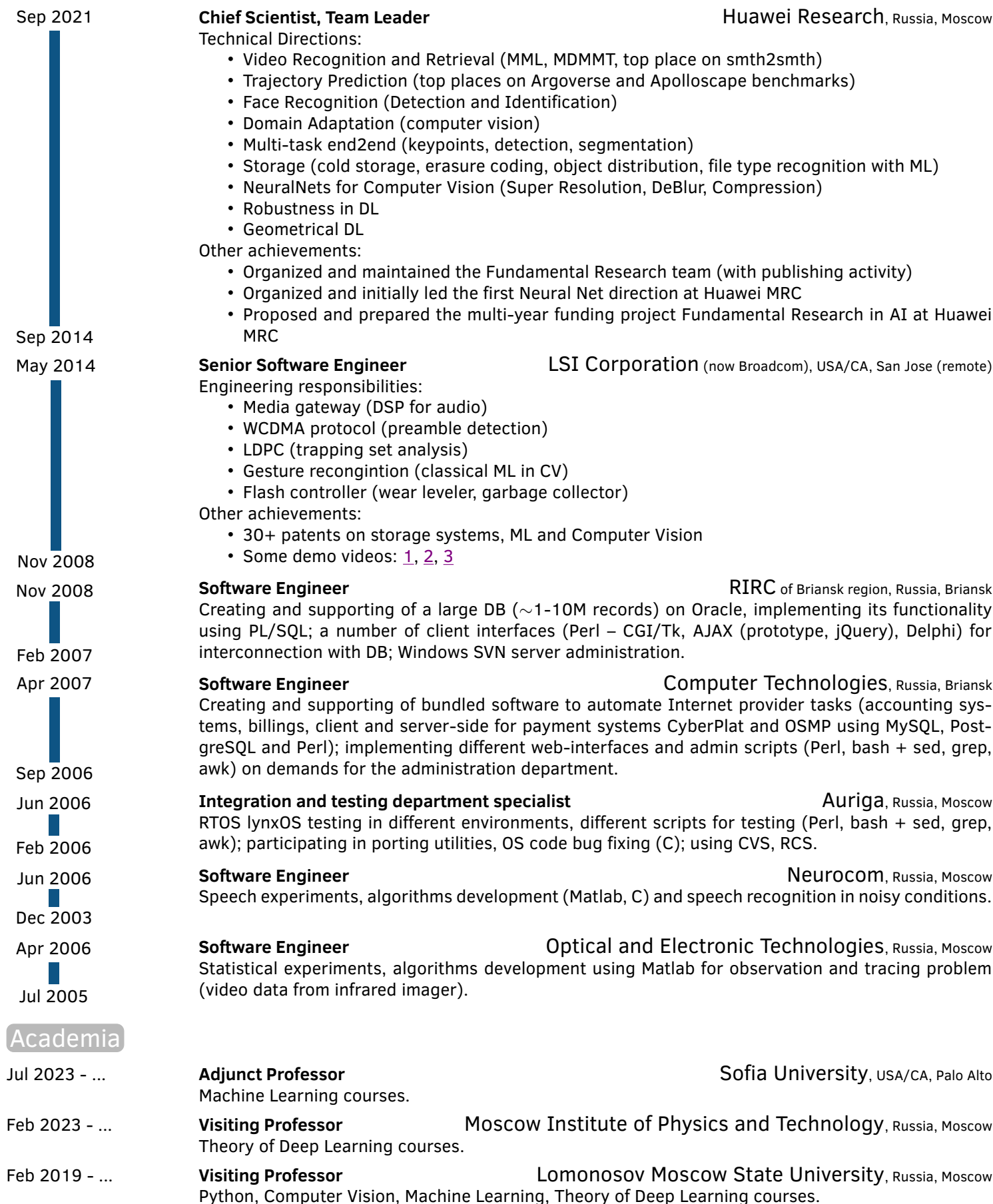
Huawei Research, Russia, Moscow

Technical Lead and Research Manager.

Responsibilities:

- Video Intelligence direct management (~15 people, plus interns)
- Fundamental Research (~25 experts from different groups) team leadership
- Academia collaboration projects on Fundamental Research in AI
- Interviewing young talents
- Mentoring interns
- Remote work coordination

Sep 2014



## Education

Mar 2016	<b>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)</b>	Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia, Moscow Russian name - "Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences", defended at Lomonosov MSU, Department of Mechanics and Mathematics. Dissertation " <a href="#">Bigram Languages</a> ", major 01.01.09 - Discrete Mathematics and Mathematical Cybernetics. <a href="#">Abstract</a> . Youtube <a href="#">recording</a> (all links are in Russian).
Nov 2012	<b>Postgraduate Student</b>	Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia, Moscow Postgraduate study at Lomonosov MSU, Department of Mechanics and Mathematics. Major 01.01.09 - Discrete Mathematics and Mathematical Cybernetics.
Sep 2009		
Jul 2006	<b>Master of Science (M.Sc.)</b>	Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia, Moscow Russian name - "specialist" (theoretical and applied mathematics), major in the discrete mathematics at Lomonosov MSU, Department of Mechanics and Mathematics. Thesis "Dynamic adjustment of signals". Incomplete (but the best that I could find) <a href="#">text</a> (in Russian). GPA 4.89/5, Diploma with honors.
Sep 2000		
Jul 2000	<b>High School</b>	Briansk Pushkin's Lycee, Russia, Briansk High School, Briansk Pushkin's Lycee, Physics and Mathematics major. Gold medal.
Jan 1997		

## Academic services

Apr 2023 - ...	<b>Conference Reviewer</b> Serving as a reviewer for publications at conferences <a href="#">NeurIPS</a> , <a href="#">ICLR</a> .
May 2021 - ...	<b>Journal Reviewer</b> Serving as a reviewer for publications in <a href="#">Neurocomputing</a> .

## Publications

Selected conference/journal/patent publications. For the full list (35+ publications, 30+ patents, about 70 in total), please refer either to the [Goggle Scholar](#) or [Personal Webpage](#).

2023	D. Bakshandaeva, D. Dimitrov, V. Arkhipkin, A. Shonenkov, M. Potanin, D. Karachev, A. Kuznetsov, A. Voronov, V. Davydova, E. Tutubalina, and A. Petiushko. "Many heads but one brain: FusionBrain – a single multimodal multitask architecture and a competition". In: <i>Computer Optics</i> 47.1 (2023), pp. 185–195
2022	M. Pautov, O. Kuznetsova, N. Tursynbek, A. Petiushko, and I. Oseledets. "Smoothed Embeddings for Certified Few-Shot Learning". In: <i>Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)</i> . vol. 35. 2022, pp. 24367–24379
2022	N. Muravev and A. Petiushko. "Certified Robustness via Randomized Smoothing over Multiplicative Parameters of Input Transformations". In: <i>Proceedings of the Thirty-First International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, (IJCAI)</i> . 2022, pp. 3366–3372
2022	M. Pautov, N. Tursynbek, M. Munkhoeva, N. Muravev, A. Petiushko, and I. Oseledets. "CC-Cert: A probabilistic approach to certify general robustness of neural networks". In: <i>Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)</i> . vol. 36. 7. 2022, pp. 7975–7983
2022	F. Pavutnitskiy, S. O. Ivanov, E. Abramov, V. Borovitskiy, A. Klochkov, V. Vyalov, A. Zaikovskii, and A. Petiushko. "Quadric Hypersurface Intersection for Manifold Learning in Feature Space". In: <i>Proceedings of The 25th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)</i> . vol. 151. 2022, pp. 10999–11013
2021	M. Dzabraev, M. Kalashnikov, S. Komkov, and A. Petiushko. "MDMMT: Multidomain Multimodal Transformer for Video Retrieval". In: <i>Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) Workshops</i> . 2021, pp. 3354–3363
2021	S. Komkov and A. Petiushko. "AdvHat: Real-World Adversarial Attack on ArcFace Face ID System". In: <i>2020 25th International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR)</i> . 2021, pp. 819–826
2020	A. Razzhigaev, K. Kireev, E. Kaziakhmedov, N. Tursynbek, and A. Petiushko. "Black-box face recovery from identity features". In: <i>2020 European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV) Workshops</i> . Vol. V. 16. 2020, pp. 462–475
2016	A. Petiushko, D. Parfenov, I. Mazurenko, and A. Kholodenko. <i>Methods and apparatus for merging depth images generated using distinct depth imaging techniques</i> . US Patent App. 14/233,943. 2016
2015	A. Petiushko. "On context-free bigram languages". In: <i>Intelligent Systems</i> 19.2 (2015), pp. 187–208
2015	A. Petiushko. "On Markov Random Fields and Their Relationship with Markov Chains". In: <i>Intelligent Systems</i> 14.1–4 (2010), pp. 225–236

## Public Tech Talks

Selected technical talks. For the full list (35+ talks in total), please refer to the [Personal Webpage](#).

Jun 2023	<a href="#"><i>Behavior Modeling and Learned Motion Selection for Safe Driving</i></a> Invited speaker at 2023 CVPR SSAD Workshop
Jun 2023	<i>Artificial Intelligence for Autonomous Driving</i> A panel <a href="#">discussion</a> at 2023 IEEE Conference on Artificial Intelligence
Oct 2022	<a href="#"><i>Autonomy Challenges</i></a> A Berkeley Deep Drive Lecture
Nov 2021	<a href="#"><i>Effective Multi-modal Multi-task models</i></a> Invited speaker at Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technologies Workshop, Sirius Educational Center
Oct 2021	<a href="#"><i>Certified Robustness, High Dimensions and Computer Vision</i></a> Invited speaker at SAMPLE - Statistics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Probability, Learning Theory Event
Feb 2021	<a href="#"><i>CNN Robustness research: Application to face detectors and face ID systems</i></a> Invited speaker at 2021 Open conference on Artificial Intelligence by OpenTalks.AI

## Projects

Some projects that I'm proud of.

Jul 2023 - Nov 2023	<b>Nuro ML University (NMLU)</b> The main ideologist and the program owner of <a href="#">Nuro ML University</a> : 100+ full-time employees involved, 3 parallel tracks (novice, average, and SotA).	Nuro, USA/CA, Mountain View
Apr 2023 - ...	<b>Nuro Tech Talks</b> The creator of <a href="#">Nuro Tech Talks</a> series where top robotics researchers share their research ideas for Nuro: 20+ talks with speakers from multiple countries, universities, and companies.	Nuro, USA/CA, Mountain View
Sep 2019 - Dec 2021	<b>School of Huawei Advanced Research Education (SHARE)</b> The main technical coordinator and the owner of Machine Learning and Computer Vision specialization of the School of Huawei Advanced Research Education (briefly <a href="#">SHARE</a> ) at Lomonosov Moscow State University, the biggest Russian University.	Huawei Research, Russia, Moscow
Jul 2019	<b>Hackathon: Metric Learning for facial descriptors</b> I was invited by the Russian Association for Artificial Intelligence to organize and run a <a href="#">hackathon</a> to find the best similarity metric for the FaceID system.	Huawei Research, Russia, Moscow
Jan 2017	<b>Python's imresize()</b> I wrote a Python <a href="#">code</a> mimicking the MatLab imresize() function which is often used for super-resolution challenges. Project has aprpx 150 stars on github.	Russia, Moscow
Jan 2008	<b>FTP Search Engine</b> I wrote two versions of the ftpsearch engine: <a href="#">one</a> running on the ftp server itself, <a href="#">another</a> for scanning ftp servers remotely. All versions include an indexer and a web-interface for the search itself. These two versions were deployed on two main Briansk Internet providers of that time: BryanskTel and BKS-TV.	Russia, Briansk

## Professional Awards

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia, Moscow

2022 [Top-10](#) MIPT Publishing Scientists

Huawei Research, Russia, Moscow

2020	Best Mentor, Fundamental Research Incentive, Team Golden Medal, Future Star
2019	Outstanding Individual, Future Star, Team Golden Medal, Top Selling Point Delivery
2018	Technology Innovation and Breakthrough, Quality Star, Golden Luban, Excellent Delivery and Customer Success
2017	Outstanding Contractor

## Hobbies

Traveling, biking, modern physics, math puzzles, adventure games, family.