

# Pierre Vial

*Software engineer*

I am a **software engineer**, coming from Academia (**ENS Paris** alumnus, *agrégation* in mathematics, **PhD** in **Paris Diderot**, post-doc at **Inria Bretagne-Atlantique** in Nantes and **ENS Paris-Saclay**) and the domain **functional programming** and **formal methods**. I'm looking for a software engineer position, ideally in **program verification** and in **Machine Learning**, a field that I enthusiastically discovered recently and I have taken the study of, mostly on the [Fastai platform](#) and on Andrew Ng's [Coursera Deep Learning specialization](#), where I familiarized myself with TensorFlow and Numpy. I hope to do ML most of my activities in the years to come.

## Experience

- 10/22 – 1/23 **Software verification engineer**, *Formal Land*  
As one of the 7 member of the company, I was in charge of verifying the [Tezos blockchain protocol](#) (written OCaml) using the [Coq proof assistant](#). We coordinated our activities with bidaily online meetings and on slack, and our proofs were pipelined on Github to check that the whole project kept on compiling. We formally verified that internal error (= errors other than those caused by users) could not occur in the protocol.
- 2020 – 9/22 **Post-doc at Deducteam (Inria)**, *ENS Paris-Saclay*  
In a team of 4 (2 tenured researchers and 1 Phd student), I developed a Coq plugin called **Sniper**, which **automatized** some parts of proofs: actually, proof assistant, compared to automatic provers, such as SMT solvers, have a huge expressivity and can capture extremely rich specs, but they usually lack automation. We implemented automated proofs using various **metaprogramming** tools.
- 2018 – 2022 **Teacher**, *Université de Nantes, IMT Atlantiques, Polytech'Saclay, IUT d'Orsay*, 212 h  
Teaching full classes and hands-on mostly in computer science and programming, and a bit in mathematics, mostly undergraduate level.
- 2018 – 2019 **Post-doc in the Gallinette Team**, *LS2N (Inria and CNRS)*, Nantes  
Within ERC grant CoqHott, working on the theoretical termination and quantitative properties of the Coq proof assistant
- 2017 **Teaching and research assistant (“A.T.E.R.”)**, *Paris Diderot*
- 2014 – 2017 **Phd student - teaching assistant**, *Paris Diderot — Paris 7*  
Giving some “hands-on” to undergraduate students. 64 hrs per year
- 2009 – 2012 **Colleur de mathématiques**  
Preparation to oral examination in mathematics for Management Schools.
- 2007 – 2014 **Maths professeur agrégé**  
Mathematic teacher in the french public education system, mostly in high school and in Académie de Versailles

## Education

- 2014 – 2017 **PhD**, *IRIF, Paris Diderot*, Advisor: Delia Kesner. Co-advisor: Damiano Mazza.
- 2014 **M2 LMFI (Mathematical logic and computer science)**, *Paris Diderot*  
*Magna cum laude*
- 2007 **Master Stochastic Processes**, *Paris 6*
- 2005 **Agrégation de mathématiques**

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🌐 <https://pierrevial.github.io/> • Permis B

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- 2001 – 2007 **Élève fonctionnaire stagiaire**, *ENS Ulm*, Paris  
Provisional civil-servant and student in ENS Paris
- 1999 – 2001 **Classes préparatoires MPSI-MP\***, *Lycée Henri Poincaré*, Nancy  
Intensive preparation for the entrance exams of french Grandes Écoles
- 1999 **High school graduation**, *Lycée E. Bichat*, Lunéville

## IT Skills

- Langages OCaml, Coq, JavaScript, Python
- As a teacher Java, C (incl. some system programming), compilers, MySQL
- Misc. L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, emacs, shell, git, metaprogramming

## Software

- Sniper Coq plugin for automated reasoning (<https://github.com/smtcoq/sniper>)

## Languages

- French Native
- English Fluent
- German Basic communication skills (~ B1+)
- Yiddish Medium communication skills
- Hebrew Notions

## Personal interests

Literature (19th and 20th century), helping reviving Yiddish culture, films (from Hollywood Golden Age to now), music (classical, minimalist, punk, rock), yoga, partner dancing (Forró), running, trekking, climbing (as a beginner)

## Research and publications

My research has been focussed on typed functional programming languages, mainly through their archetypal model, the  $\lambda$ -calculus. A full list of my publications can be found there:

<https://dblp.org/pid/188/6177.html>

During my PhD, I worked on typing systems capturing quantitative aspects of functional programs and during my post-docs, I operated a thematic mobility towards the Coq proof assistant, notably by studying its termination (normalization) property and co-developing a plugin allowing Coq to call external solvers and thus enhancing its automated reasoning.

POPL and LiCS are A\* conferences, which are the two most important on logic applied to computer science (which in particular includes formal methods). FSCD does not have a ranking, but is the merge of two A conferences (RTA – TLCA). Two out of three of my papers accepted at LiCS were single-authored and one at FSCD.

- 2018 Invited speaker of HOR (Higher-order rewriting)
- 2021 Member of the POPL Artifact Evaluation Committee  
The role of this committee is to evaluate the software developments submitted to POPL

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