shawntan
aspiring computer scientist

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languages
english (proficient)
mandarin

programming
♥ Python, JavaScript,
Java, Ruby, C, Perl

technical skills
HTML & CSS, LaTeX,
Linux System
Administration

about

I'm currently a Masters student at the University of Montreal, where I work at the Montreal Institute of Learning Algorithms (MILA). I enjoy working on machine learning projects, and keeping up with the latest in neural networks research. I maintain a blog where I write about my machine learning projects.

research interests

artificial intelligence, recurrent neural networks, machine learning,
reinforcement learning, graphical models, natural language processing, data mining

experience

2016-present — **Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms, University of Montreal** — Masters Student
Working on deep learning research.

2014-2016 — **Speech Recognition Group, National University of Singapore** — Research Assistant
Working on the machine learning aspects of speech recognition using neural networks, with applications to speaker adaptation and noise robustness.

2013-2014 — **Semantics3** — Software/Data Engineer

- Classification of products into a hierarchical taxonomy using a cascading naive bayes model built using the Lucene index.
- Name equivalency model used as part of the disambiguation process to determine if two product names are referring to the same thing.
- Experimented with using conditional random fields for attribute extraction from product names.

2010-2012 — **Web Information Retrieval and NLP Group (WING), NUS** — Undergraduate researcher
Did two undergraduate research projects (see next page)

2008-2009 — **Singapore Armed Forces** — Manpower Officer
Administrative position managing National Servicemen

01-06 2007 — **RHyMeS Center, Ngee Ann Polytechnic** — Research/Teaching Assistant

- Provided technical support for students working on the RHyMeS project.
- Facilitated workshops on using the RHyMeS SDK and API.
- Taught students working on their projects how to use the Java Swing UI API

education

2016-present	**Masters of Computer Science**	University of Montreal

2009-2012	**Bachelors of Computing (BComp)**	National University of Singapore
	Major in Computer Science - Upper 2nd Class Honours	
	Special Programme in Computing (Turing Programme)	
	Focus Area: Artificial Intelligence	
	CAP: 4.39 / 5	
2004-2007	**Diploma in Information Technology**	Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore
	Specialisation in Software Engineering - Diploma with Merit	
	GPA: 3.8 / 4	
2003	**GCE 'O' Levels**	Mayflower Secondary School, Singapore

projects

10 2014	**Neural Turing Machines implementation in Theano**
	Implementation of system described in "Neural Turing Machines." by Alex Graves, Greg Wayne, and Ivo Danihelka.
2012	**Predicting Web 2.0 Thread Updates**
	A method to estimate arrival times of new posts to forum discussion threads and an evaluation metric for measuring the effectiveness of an incremental crawler of a site with time-sensitive data.
04 2012	**Focused Web Crawling using Markov Decision Processes**
	Using the least-squares policy iteration algorithm and some heuristics to perform focused crawling. For CS4246R AI for Planning and Decision Making (Research Project)
2010 - 2011	**grabsmart: A User-centric Web Information Extraction System**
	An integrated system that allows users to easily select portions of a page to extract, and subsequently extracts the data in a manner that is robust to site layout changes.
04 2011	**LSPI Tetris Agent**
	Application of the least-squares policy iteration algorithm to play Tetris as part of the CS3243 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence course. The agent can complete 100,000 lines on average, and up to a maximum of about a million lines.

organisations

2010-2012	**NUS Hackers**	Coreteam Member (Member of Executive Committee)
	Duties include facilitating NUS Hacker activities: Hack & Roll 2012, Friday Hacks (a weekly tech talk), and maintaining the download.nus.edu.sg mirror service.	
2003-2012	**Singapore Scouts Association**	Assistant Venture Scout Leader
	Attached to the Mayflower Secondary School Boy Scouts Group. Duties a include facilitating camps, weekly meetings, and mentoring both scouts and ventures.	