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education

Ph. D., Electrical Engineering (thesis)

McGill University & Mila, Montréal, Canada, 2020 - Present.

Research interests: neural art, differentiable image parameterizations, differentiable self-organizing systems.

Supervisors: Dr. Derek Nowrouzezahrai and Dr. Christopher Pal.

M. Sc., Computer Science

York University, Toronto, Canada, 2016 - 2018.

Thesis: Two-stream convolutional networks for dynamic texture synthesis. (Nominated for best thesis award).

Supervisors: Dr. Marcus A. Brubaker and Dr. Konstantinos G. Derpanis.

Honours B. Sc., Computer Science (co-op) with minor in Mathematics

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2011 - 2016.

CGPA: 4.24 / 4.33

publications

Tesfaldet, M., Pal, C., Nowrouzezahrai, D. Attention-based Neural Cellular Automata. In review, NeurIPS, 2022.

Tesfaldet, M., Snelgrove, X., Vazquez, D. <u>Fourier-CPPNs for Image Synthesis</u>. In ICCV Workshops (Computer Vision for Fashion, Art, and Design), 2019.

Snelgrove, X., **Tesfaldet, M.** <u>Interactive CPPNs in GLSL</u>. In NeurIPS Workshops (Machine Learning for Creativity and Design), 2018.

Tesfaldet, M., Saftarli, N., Brubaker, M.A., Derpanis, K.G. <u>Convolutional photomosaic generation via multi-scale perceptual losses</u>. In ECCV Workshops (Computer Vision for Fashion, Art, and Design), 2018.

Tesfaldet, M., Brubaker, M.A., Derpanis, K.G. <u>Two-stream convolutional</u> <u>networks for dynamic texture synthesis</u>. In CVPR, 2018.

Presented at:

- ModiFace Inc., 2018. (Invited talk).
- Ryerson Science Literacy Week 2017. (Poster presentation).
- Ryerson GRADShowcase 2017. (Poster presentation).
- International Computer Vision Summer School 2017 (ICVSS). (Poster and oral presentation). (Best presentation award).
- Deep Learning Summer School 2017 (DLSS). (Poster presentation).

awards & achievements

FRQNT B2X Doctoral Research Scholarship

McGill University, Montréal, Canada, Apr 2022 - Jan 2025, 56000 CAD.

McGill Engineering Doctoral Award (MEDA)

McGill University, Montréal, Canada, Jan 2020 - Jan 2023, 20000 CAD (adjusted from 72000 CAD due to NSERC).

Vista Doctoral Scholarship

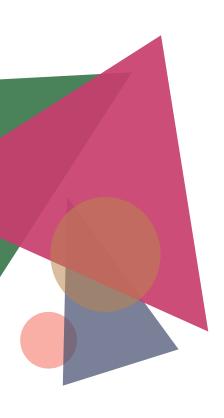
York University, Toronto, Canada, Sept 2018 - Sept 2022, 40000 CAD (stopped Jan 2019).

NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS-D)

York University, Toronto, Canada, Sept 2018 - Sept 2021, 105000 CAD.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

York University, Toronto, Canada, Sept 2018 - Sept 2019, 15000 CAD (declined in favour of NSERC CGS-D).



Computer Vision for Fashion, Art, and Design Artwork Award (runner-up)

ICCV, Munich, Germany, Sept 2018, 1000 EUR.

Awarded to the top submitted AI artwork to the ICCV workshop on Computer Vision for Fashion, Art, and Design, as determined by a jury. https://computervisionart.com

Vector Affiliate/Fellowship

Vector Institute, Toronto, Canada, Feb 2018 - Feb 2020, 4000 CAD. Awarded to top applicants doing research on novel methods or applications in the area of deep learning and/or machine learning.

Best Presentation Award

International Computer Vision Summer School (ICVSS), Sicily, Italy, Jul 2017, 525 EUR.

Awarded to the top-3 (out of 60) ranked posters submitted to the summer school. The selected winners are given an opportunity for an oral presentation. http://iplab.dmi.unict.it/icvss2017/PresentationPrize

NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGS-M)

York University, Toronto, Canada, Apr 2017 - Apr 2018, 17500 CAD.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

York University, Toronto, Canada, Apr 2017 - Apr 2018, 15000 CAD (declined in favour of NSERC CGS-M).

York Graduate Scholarship

York University, Toronto, Canada, Sept 2016, 6000 CAD.

Awarded to top-ranked applicants in the first year of study based on their academic merit.

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (NSERC USRA)

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, May 2016 - Aug 2016, 11295 CAD.

Sony Canada Charitable Foundation Scholarship

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2014 - 2015, 1500 CAD.

Presented to a student currently enrolled in fourth year of the
Computer Science program on a full-time basis with a clear academic
standing; must have the highest CGPA at the end of the third year.

Sudharakan Aerath Memorial Award

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2013 - 2014, 200 CAD.

Presented to a student currently enrolled full-time in Computer

Science and who has the highest overall standing in Mathematics in the first four semesters.

Department of Computer Science Award

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2013 - 2014. Presented to the three students with the strongest academic performance in second year.

Alumni Award

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2013 - 2014. For best overall performance in CPS 213 Computer Organization I and CPS 310 Computer Organization II.

James H. Rattray Memorial Award

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2012 - 2013, 200 CAD. Awarded for academic excellence in first year.



Faculty of Science Dean's List

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2012 - 2016. Maintained a GPA above 3.5 during the academic year.

Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2011 - 2014, 14000 CAD. Awarded for outstanding academic achievement upon secondary school graduation.

Top entrance scholarship

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 2011 - 2014, 16000 CAD. Awarded for entering Ryerson University with an average above 95%.

Ryerson Scholar

Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, 2011 - 2012. Recognition for entering Ryerson University as an Ontario Scholar.

summer schools attended

International Computer Vision Summer School (ICVSS)

Sicily, Italy, Jul 2017.

Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning Summer School (DLSS/RLSS)

Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada, Jun 2017 - Jul 2017.

work experience

Research intern

Element Al, Montréal, Canada, Jan 2019 - Jan 2020. Published Fourier-CPPNs for Image Synthesis. Researched few-shot generative models for image synthesis.

Research assistant (NSERC USRA)

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, May 2016 - Aug 2016. Researched computer vision applications using machine learning under the supervision of Dr. Konstantinos G. Derpanis.

Software developer

D2L, Toronto, Canada, Jan 2015 - Aug 2015.

Helped design and develop solutions for enhancing the learning experience in the corporate workspace.

Software developer

RL Solutions, Toronto, Canada, May 2014 - Aug 2014.

Responsible for designing and developing product administration tools; supported the Product Development team with troubleshooting. Developed a migration tool supporting large-scaled data migration for clients upgrading from the legacy product to the latest version.

Research assistant

Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, Jan 2014 - Apr 2014.

Researched under Dr. Alireza Sadeghian and collaborated with St. Michael's Hospital in ideating surgery-assistance software solutions with Google Glass and Microsoft Kinect.

Software developer

D2L, Toronto, Canada, May 2013 - Aug 2013.

Developed a comment and rating system for the Integration & Extensibility team's application store. Helped maintain and develop an online application store for clients to easily locate and install extensions to their Learning Management Systems.



volunteer experience

Organizer

<u>Fifth Workshop on Machine Learning for Creativity and Design</u> (lead), Online, NeurIPS, Dec 2021

<u>Machine Learning: An Introduction to Python</u> (lead), Eastern Bloc, Montréal, Canada, May 2021.

<u>Fourth Workshop on Machine Learning for Creativity and Design.</u> Online, NeurIPS, Dec 2020.

Resistance Al Workshop, Online, NeurIPS, Dec 2020.

<u>Machine Learning: An Introduction to Python</u> (lead), Eastern Bloc, Montréal, Canada, Feb 2020.

Second Black in Al Workshop, NeurIPS, Montréal, Canada, Dec 2018.

Reviewer

Computer Vision and Image Understanding (CVIU) journal, Jul 2022.

ICCV 2021, Virtual, Oct 2021.

<u>First Workshop on Ethical Considerations in Creative Applications of Computer Vision (E3CV)</u>, Virtual, CVPR, Jun 2021.

<u>Second Workshop on Computer Vision for Fashion, Art, and Design</u> (CVFAD), Seoul, Korea, ICCV, Oct 2019.

<u>First Workshop on Computer Vision for Fashion, Art, and Design</u> (CVFAD), Munich, Germany, ECCV, Sept 2018.

Advisor

IN SITU: a research study to evaluate & address the digital challenge of cocreation between the arts and artificial intelligence, Mitacs, Canada, Jan 2022.

Committees served

IT committee, Mila, Montréal, Canada, Jun 2021 - present.

Founding member

Hydrogen @ Element AI, Jan 2019.

Hydrogen is a collective of researchers and creatives aiming to explore the intersection of human creativity and artificial intelligence. First public event - <u>Hydrogen One</u>.

Black in AI member

Black in AI, 2017 - present.

Engaging with the black AI community in sharing ideas, fostering collaborations, and discussing initiatives to increase the presence of black people in the field of AI. Helping to seek funding for the Black in AI workshop at NIPS 2018.

ML Ensemble 002/003

ML Ensemble, Toronto, Ontario, Jan 2018 & Jun 2018.

ML Ensemble is a one-day meeting for machine learning researchers and practitioners to learn from each other. In charge with setting up and operating the PA system.



Director of Science

Ryerson Students' Union, Toronto, Ontario, May 2015 - May 2016. The Board of Directors is the representative body for all full-time undergraduate and all graduate students at Ryerson University. Ensure that the concerns of students from individual faculties and programs are well represented at the RSU.

Vice-President Careers & Outreach

Ryerson Computer Science Course Union, Toronto, Ontario, May 2015 - May 2016.

Consult with the Co-op Program Director on issues identified by members with the co-op program. Act as a liaison between the Office of Co-operative Education, the Career Centre, the Office of Science Outreach and Enrichment and the organization. Help plan and organize career oriented events in consultation with the Vice President Operations and Events.

Tutor

Pointers Homework Help Club, Toronto, Ontario, Sept 2014 - Dec 2014. Led the Ryerson Computer Science Course Union's "Pointers" Homework Help Club for 1st and 2nd Year Computer Science students looking for help in their Math and/or Computer Science courses.

4th Year Representative

Ryerson Computer Science Course Union, Toronto, Ontario, May 2014 - Jan 2015.

Acted as a liaison and representative between the fourth-year students and the faculty. Responsible for effectively communicating the wishes and concerns of the students to the faculty.

published artworks & other artistic collaborations

LaRochelle, L., Shadpey, R., Tesfaldet, M., QT.Bot - Sitting Here With You in the Future, 2020.

Presented at:

- MUTEK AI Art Lab 2020. MUTEK festival, Online, 2020.
- MUTEK Distant Arcades 2020. MUTEK festival, Online, 2020.
- <u>QT.Bot | Lucas LaRochelle Residency Presentation</u>. Ada X, Montréal, Canada, 2020.

Tesfaldet, M., Snelgrove, X., Latent Space Interpolation, 2019.

Presented at:

- METAMORPHOSIS METAVERSE Exhibition. ELEKTRA, Online, 2022.
- <u>Human Learning What Machines Teach Us.</u> Kiasma, Castelnau-le-Lez, France, 2022.
- <u>METAMORPHOSIS Exhibition</u>. ELEKTRA festival & Arsenal Contemporary Art Gallery, Montréal, Canada, 2020.
- <u>Human Learning What Machines Teach Us</u>. Centre Culturel Canadien, Paris, France, 2020.