

Mohamad Tarifi

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Formal Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science (Machine Learning). Advisers: Dr Meera Sitharam, Dr Jeffery Ho, University of Florida, 2012
M.S in Computer Science. Research adviser: Dr Meera Sitharam. Co-adviser: Dr Oscar Boykin, University of Florida, 2007
B. Eng. in Computers and Communications, Minors in Mathematics and Physics, American University of Beirut, 2004
Visiting student of Computer Science for two semesters, University of Waterloo, 2003.

Industry Experience *(acquired concurrently with graduate school)*

Director of Research and Development at Identified.com March 2012-Present
Designed and implemented machine learning algorithms. Contributed to data collection and normalization. Developed product vision and strategy for the company.

Founder, Consultant at FriendLabz, Jan 2010-March 2012
Consulted for several start ups on their technology and business development. Designed, prototyped, and patented new technologies. Project areas included web development, machine learning, data mining, algorithms, peer2peer networks, and video game development.

Team Lead, Senior Software Engineer at Convert Global (a web start-up), Jan 2009-Jan 2010
Responsible for the overall technical side of the company. Built and managed the engineering team and lead development using statistical and machine learning techniques to provide web solutions.

Technical Manager, R&D Software Engineer at Ignition Entertainment (video games), Dec 2007-Jan 2009

1. *Technical Manager* (April 08-Jan 09): responsibilities include technical direction and management of a team of 14 software engineers, researching/designing new technologies, and algorithms/code review.
2. *R&D Software Engineer* (Dec 07-April 08): specialized in gaming AI development using Unreal Engine 3, C++, and the investigation and integration of middleware solutions and algorithms s.a. pathfinding and reinforcement learning.

Data Analyst Associate at Capital One (financial data mining). Jan 2007-Dec 2007.
Specialized in Data Mining, web analysis, and data exploration using SQL, SAS, and Python.

Software Development Intern at Amazon.com, (web development, video processing) Summer 2006
Developed a scalable video solution for the web and researched OCR and content-based image retrieval.

R&D Programmer Intern, UW Ford Research (machine Learning, optimization), Summer 2003
Designed and implemented machine learning and optimization algorithms for control of high speed fatigue testing.

Skills Highlight

Programming Skills:

Proficient: Python, C++, Matlab, SQL, LISP, Javascript, jQuery, XML, SVN, P4, LAMP, Unix, and Linux.
Some experience: Java, MapReduce, Perl, CUDA, Haskell, R, PHP, SAS, HTML5, CSS, Flash, Windows,

R&D Skills:

1. Author of several publications in Machine Learning, Networking, Quantum Computing, and Coding Theory.
2. Research experience in Algorithms, Computational Neuroscience, Signal Processing, Search Heuristics, Bioinformatics, Biomedical devices,, Computer Graphics, and many Mathematical areas s.a. Optimization, Approximation Theory, Discrete Structures, Linear Algebra, Group Theory, Algebraic Geometry, Combinatorics, Statistics, & Complexity.
3. Received several Research Assistantships for work with Dr Linda Hermer, Dr Meera Sitharam, and Dr Oscar Boykin.

Tech Leadership:

1. Managed and lead 14 software engineers at Ignition Entertainment.
2. Built and lead the engineering team of 7 engineers (including interns) at Convert Global, a technology start-up.
3. Consulted for several startups and research projects.
4. Lead a team of 9 peers at AUB Final Year Project. Organized the Algorithms and Theory Group at UF.

Teaching Experience:

1. Full Instructor for Applications of Discrete Structures (University of Florida, 2010).
2. Technical Instructor on Web Development (Dignet Corp. 2009).
3. Instructor for a lecture series on Compressed Sensing in Dimension Reduction (University of Florida, 2009).
4. Co-Instructor, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Outreach Summer Course (University of Florida 2008).
5. Technical Instructor on Video Game Development. Ignition Entertainment Corp. 2008.

Selected Awards:

Programming (AUB competitions), Creative Problem Solving (LES-BST). Dean's Academic Achievement. Public Speaking (High school). Drawing (Fabriano). Mathematics (Putnam prep at UW). Several research and travel awards.

Languages & Hobbies:

Fluent in English and Arabic. Basic in French, Japanese, and Farsi. Interested in Literature, Realtime Art, Classical music (piano), Philosophy, Psychology, Meditation, Exercise, Sports, Running, Cooking.

References are available upon request.