

Francesco Nidito

Curriculum Vitae

Personal and Contacts

First Name :

Francesco

Family Name :

Nidito

Nationality :

Italian

Summary

I am a product and customer focused software engineer with experience as a manager and team leader. I have been working for more than 10 years in the search engines space (Ask.com, Bing and the News Search in the Bloomberg Terminal) and I saw many aspects of that world: crawling, classification, data-mining, clustering, language models, feature engineering, classification and ranking.

Experience

Bloomberg LP

Team Lead

Research & Development Department, London (UK)

January 2015 – June 2018



In my experience at Bloomberg LP, I have been a Team Lead in the R&D News Search Experience team in the London office where my team and I focused on the relevance and qualitative aspects of the news search. My team owned various pieces of news search pipeline ranging from relevance (i.e. ranking) to trends detection, query refinement and knowledge-graphs. Under my supervision two major initiatives took place, first the creation of the relevance logging system, including the real-time logs collection infrastructure and the offline processing pipelines in Hadoop, and the learn-to-rank project for news, contributed back as Open Source to the Lucene/Solr community, together with this last one, the very first generation of Machine-Learning powered rankers. [Data Mining, Feature Engineering, Machine Learning, C++, Java, Perl, Python]

Bing.com – Microsoft Ltd

Senior Software Development Engineer

Search Technology Center, London (UK)

November 2009 – December 2014



In my work at Bing, I have been both an Individual Contributor and a Manager/Development-Lead. I worked in many aspects of search ranging from the usage of machine learning for multimedia documents classification and ranking for both the Image and Video search verticals, contributed to the design and prototyping of the clustering strategy used by the Bing News product, contributing to the online Speller, first, automating the training infrastructure and, later, on the improvement of the online Speller itself focusing on non-English and non-US markets. In the last two years, I have been working mainly on the AutoSuggest product where I worked on both data-mining and relevance engineering roles. For the first one, I have been owning the mining of the query logs in order to create the main datasets used by AutoSuggest. For the second one, I have been implementing, ground up, a ranking system to be used in conjunction with the new non-prefix based lookup system for AutoSuggest. All my activities at Bing involved a deep and fruitful collaboration with Microsoft Research with a particular attention to temporal data analysis, clustering, classification and ranking. Moreover, in the years 2012 and 2013, I have been the contact person between HR and the R&D team in London coordinating the hiring for the Bing office. [Data Mining, Feature Engineering, Machine Learning, C++, C#, Perl, Python]

Ask.com

Senior Software Engineer

Ask.com R&D Office, Pisa (Italy)

October 2007 – July 2009



During my work at the Ask.com R&D Office in Pisa, I worked on a variety of different projects. I was involved in both the Image and News search. In Image Search, I was involved in the image processing for feature extraction and engineering (face recognition, etc.). In News Search, I was involved in the crawling and reverse-template/text-extraction parts of the system. Moreover, I was involved in the development of the tools used for the 24/7 monitoring and alert of our distributed processing system. [Machine Learning, Image Processing, C++, Perl, Unix Shell Scripting]

Education

- Ph.D. (Diploma di Dottore di Ricerca) in Computer Science, Università di Pisa, 2008.
- Master Degree (M.Sc. – Laurea Specialistica), Tecnologie Informatiche, Università di Pisa, 2004.
- Bachelor Degree (B.Sc – Laurea), Informatica, Università di Pisa, 2003.

Technical Skills

- Programming languages: C/C++, Perl, Unix Shell Scripting, Python, Java and C#
- Operating systems: Linux, Solaris, Windows (both client and server)
- System, distributed and parallel programming on both Win32 and Posix
- Generative and generic programming
- “Big Data” processing and knowledge extraction from TB scale datasets
- Machine Learning and Feature Engineering for ranking and classification
- Deep knowledge of the Unicode standard (UTF-8, UCS-2...), i18n, L10n, and Regular Expression
- Working with legacy code and applications, Unix to Linux / Windows porting

Patents

Temporal visualization of query results – United States 8,515,953
Kyriakos Karenos (STC-E), Francesco Nidito (STC-E), Igor Nitto (STC-E), Milad Shokouhi (MSR)
Issued November 29, 2011

Awards

- “Golden Star” at Microsoft Bing
- “Rock Star” at Ask.com

Affiliations

- ACM Professional Member (2008 – Present)
- ACM Student Member (2006 – 2007)
- Perl.it member (since 2004)

Technical Writing

I do not run a blog, anyway, I like writing about technological topics and my “posts” can be found at the following address: <http://www.di.unipi.it/~nids/documents.html>

Research Activity

Long time ago, during my Ph.D., my research area was the one of Wireless Sensors Networks (now know under the name of “Internet of Things”). More recently, during my work at Bloomberg, I co-authored a paper which has been presented at SIGIR 2016. A list of publications and copy of the papers are available on request.

References

References are available on request.