

Daniel C. Burfoot, PhD.

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SUMMARY Full-stack data architect who can handle big data systems, data analysis, and ML algorithm design. Ability to develop complex software systems from scratch. Research emphasis on natural language processing, machine learning, statistics, information theory, and philosophy of science. Strong academic background in mathematics and computer science. Excellent communication skills in both written and spoken English.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Founder, <https://WebWidgets.io> (6/2023-Present). Built platform for light-weight web app development, and wrote several tools using it. Saved clients thousands of hours by optimizing important workflows. Backend code is in Java, frontend is vanilla JavaScript.
- Senior ML Engineer, LinkedIn. (5/2019-6/2023). Built data engineering pipelines and ML systems for Knowledge Graph team. Achieved multiple order of magnitude boost in coverage for language inference (500K to 50M for Chinese, 0 to 17M for Hindi). Accelerated important migration of People Search system by skillful use of Java language features and code generation that enabled reuse of prior codebase.
- Founder, Ozora Research. (7/2013 - 5/2019). Primary developer for Ozora's advanced English text analysis and data compression system. This work involved algorithm design, NLP and linguistics research, statistical modeling, AWS architecture, performance tuning, web crawling, database design, and Java software engineering. Successfully developed a working, good-quality sentence parser without the use of labelled training data; this achievement appears to be unprecedented in the field. Parser can be viewed at <http://ozoraresearch.com/crm/public/parseview/UserParseView.jsp>
- NLP Contractor, Cargo Chief. (part-time, 1/2018 - 12/2018). Developed algorithms in Python to extract truck information (location, truck type, etc) from email text; key challenge is building robustness to widely varying email text layout. Built a suite of evaluation, management, and analysis tools for the system using MySQL, EC2, and CI tool. Created an admin web app console in Flask to help developers control, analyze, and debug the core NLP components.
- NLP/ML Contractor, UserTesting Inc. (part-time, 8/2017 - 12/2017). Research engineer for sentiment analysis tools using deep neural networks with Python and Keras. Obtained good results in spite of limited labelled training data by finding creative ways to exploit related data owned by client.
- Lead Scientist, Diligent Inc. (full-time 7/2011 - 7/2013, part-time 7/2013 - 7/2014). Primary developer for Audience Index, one of the Diligent's main data science offerings. This system involved work in machine learning, big data crunching on Hadoop and AWS, SQL database design, and visualization. Wrote the first version of the big data ETL system for Diligent's reporting solution that allowed customers to visualize their advertising usage statistics.

EDUCATION

University of Tokyo, Hongo, Bunkyo-Ku, Japan

Ph.D., Machine Learning (graduation date: April 2010)

- Thesis Title: Statistical Modeling as a Search for Randomness Deficiencies
- Areas of Study: Statistical Learning, Computer Vision, Robot Motion Control

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

M.Sc., Computer Science (graduation date: September 2006)

- Thesis Title: Limitations of and Extensions to Heuristic Search Planning

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA

M.Sc., Physics. (graduation date: June 2004)

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

B.A., Applied Math, specialization in Comp. Sci. (Graduation Date: June 1999)

AWARDS

- Japanese Government Monbusho Scholarship (2006-2010).
- Best Philosophy Paper Award, 10th International Conference on Simulation of Adaptive Behavior (2008).
- Dean's Honor List for M.Sc. Thesis, McGill University (2006).
- Andre J. Courtemanche Graduate Fellowship, McGill University (2005-2006).
- Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honor Society) Invitee, University of Connecticut (2004).
- Graduated *Cum Laude*, Harvard University (1999).
- Runner-up in "Best Web-Only Tool" category of Digital Awards competition of Magazine Publishers of America for SmartCoach (2007).

KEY

PUBLICATIONS

- *Notes on a New Philosophy of Empirical Science*. Book describing a philosophy of science based on large scale lossless data compression. The philosophy was developed to address chronic, serious limitations in the evaluation methodologies used in fields such as NLP and computer vision. Online at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1104.5466>
- *Statistical Modeling as a Search for Randomness Deficiencies*. PhD Thesis. Formulate an approach to statistical modeling based on process of 1) transform data set into encoded form (analogous to compressed bit stream) and 2) search encoded form for non-randomness.

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Highly Proficient: Java, Python, SQL, Web programming, ML engineering
Significant Experience: Hadoop, Spark, Scala, JavaScript, HTML, AWS, Unix.

TECHNICAL

SCREENINGS

TopTal Core, TopTal AI, TripleByte

ACTIVITIES

President, Berkeley Entrepreneurial Toastmasters. Help to organize a club dedicated to the practice of public speaking.