

Dávid Pál

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

Sep 2014 – present

Sr. Research Scientist at Yahoo/Oath Research, New York, NY

I am the lead of the anti-spam and anti-phishing research team for Yahoo Mail. I build machine learning models that filter spam and phish emails. The work is done in Java, Scala, and Python. I also do research in online algorithms for machine learning and in statistical machine learning. I publish at top machine learning conferences (NIPS, ICML, COLT). This year, I am an area research chair for NIPS 2018.

Sep 2011 – Sep 2014

Software Engineer at Google, New York, NY

I was a backend engineer on the Google Ad Exchange team. I co-designed, co-patented and implemented the “passback” ad auction algorithm, which—to this day—processes all the 100+ billion AdX impressions per day and generates revenue of tens of billions of dollars per year. I also worked on the data pipelines for reserve price optimization for AdX. The work was done in C++ and Python.

Jul 2007 – Sep 2007

Research Internship at Google, New York, NY

I co-designed an ad auction algorithm for AdWords that unifies GSP (generalized second price) and VCG (Vickrey-Clarke-Groves) auctions and proved mathematical theorems about it. The end result was an academic paper with description of the algorithm and its properties that Google later used.

Jun 2004 – Dec 2004

Programmer at Applied Software Consultants, Bratislava, Slovakia

I was a software engineer in a small family-run company that develops software for elementary schools and high schools. I worked on a desktop application that keeps track of students, their grades, etc. The work was done in C# and PHP.

Education

- Jul 2009 – Jun 2011 **Postdoctoral Fellow at Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada**
Advisor: Prof. Csaba Szepesvári
I did research in online algorithms for machine learning and in statistics. I also worked on automated creation of schedules for nurses in the Canadian province of Alberta. The project was later spun off into a start-up of which I am a co-founder.
- Jan 2005 – May 2009 **Ph.D. in Computer Science, School of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada**
Advisor: Prof. Shai Ben-David
Ph.D. Thesis: Contributions to Unsupervised and Semi-Supervised Learning
- Sep 1999 – May 2004 **“Magister Degree” in Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia**
Advisor: Prof. Martin Škoviera Thesis: Steiner Colorings of Cubic Graphs

Skills

- C, C++, C#, Python, Java, Scala, PHP, Perl, HTML, CSS, Matlab, Maple, LaTeX
- Language skills: fluent English, basic German, native Slovak, quasi-native Czech

Service

- Area chair of NIPS 2018
- Program Committee member of COLT 2017
- Reviewer for ICML 2016–2018, NIPS 2008–2014, 2016, COLT 2007, 2008, 2016, AISTATS 2017–2018, STOC 2008, AAAI 2016, IJCAI 2016
- Organizer of the Internet Problem Solving Contest, <http://ipsc.ksp.sk/>, 2000 – 2004, 2007
- Organizer of correspondence seminars in mathematics and computer science for Slovak high school students 1999 – 2004.

Awards

- co-author of a patent: “Allocation of content inventory units” (US 20160364766 A1)
- co-author of a patent: “Passback auction” (US 20140316922 A1)
- David R. Cheriton Scholarship, 2007 – 2009
- COLT 2006 Best Student Paper Award
- 15th place in ACM ICPC 2000, Central European Region
- 14th place in ACM ICPC 1999, Central European Region

- Bronze Medal, Central European Olympiad in Informatics 1999
- Winner of Internet Problem Solving Contest 1999, High School Division
- Top 10 at Slovak National Olympiad in Informatics in 1997, 1998, 1999
- Top 10 at Slovak National Olympiad in Physics in 1999

Personal

- Citizenship: Slovak Republic
- U.S. Visa status: Permanent Resident (Green Card)

References

Prof. Shai Ben-David
 David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science
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Publications

- [1] Satyen Kale, Zohar Karnin, Tengyuan Liang, and Dávid Pál. Adaptive feature selection: Computationally efficient online sparse linear regression under rip. In Doina Precup and Yee Whye Teh, editors, *International Conference on Machine Learning, 6–11 August 2017, International Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia*, volume 70, pages 1780–1788, 2017.
- [2] Francesco Orabona and Dávid Pál. Scale-free online learning. *Theoretical Computer Science*, 2017. Available at <http://arxiv.org/abs/1601.01974>, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tcs.2017.11.021>.
- [3] Chansoo Lee, Satyen Kale, and Dávid Pál. Hardness of online sleeping combinatorial optimization problems. In D. D. Lee, M. Sugiyama, U. V. Luxburg, I. Guyon, and R. Garnett, editors, *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 29 (NIPS 2016)*, 2016.
- [4] Francesco Orabona and Dávid Pál. From coin-betting to parameter-free online learning. In D. D. Lee, M. Sugiyama, U. V. Luxburg, I. Guyon, and R. Garnett, editors, *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 29 (NIPS 2016)*, 2016.
- [5] Francesco Orabona and Dávid Pál. Open problem: Parameter-free and scale-free online algorithms. In Vitaly Feldman, Alexander Rakhlin, and Ohad Shamir, editors, *Proceedings of 29th Annual Conference on Learning Theory (COLT 2016)*, New York, NY, USA, 2016.

- [6] Francesco Orabona and Dávid Pál. Scale-free algorithms for online linear optimization. In Kamalika Chaudhuri, Claudio Gentile, and Sandra Zilles, editors, *Algorithmic Learning Theory, 26th International Conference, ALT 2015, Banff, AB, Canada, October 4-6, 2015*, pages 287–301, 2015.
- [7] Gábor Bartók, Dean Foster, Dávid Pál, Alexander Rakhlin, and Csaba Szepesvári. Partial monitoring – classification, regret bounds, and algorithms. *Mathematics of Operations Research*, 39(4):967–997, June 2014.
- [8] Yasin Abbasi Yadkori, Dávid Pál, and Csaba Szepesvári. Online-to-confidence-set conversions and application to sparse stochastic bandits. In Neil Lawrence and Mark Girolami, editors, *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2012), La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain*, pages 1–9, 2012.
- [9] Gábor Bartók, Dávid Pál, and Csaba Szepesvári. Minimax regret of finite partial-monitoring games in stochastic environments. In Sham M. Kakade and Ulrike von Luxburg, editors, *Proceedings of 24th Annual Conference on Learning Theory (COLT 2011), Budapest, Hungary*, 2011.
- [10] Yasin Abbasi Yadkori, Dávid Pál, and Csaba Szepesvári. Improved algorithms for linear stochastic bandits. In J. Shawe-Taylor, R. S. Zemel, P. L. Bartlett, F. Pereira, and K. Q. Weinberger, editors, *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 24 (NIPS 2011), December 12-17, 2011, Granada, Spain*, 2011.
- [11] Gábor Bartók, Dávid Pál, and Csaba Szepesvári. Toward a classification of partial monitoring games. In Marcus Hutter, Frank Stephan, Vladimir Vovk, and Thomas Zeugmann, editors, *ALT 2010, Canberra, Australia*, 2010.
- [12] Shai Ben-David, Tyler Lu, Teresa Luu, and Dávid Pál. Impossibility theorems for domain adaptation. In Yee Whye Teh and Mike Titterton, editors, *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2010), Chia Laguna Resort, Sardinia, Italy*, volume 9, pages 129–136, 2010.
- [13] Tyler Lu, Dávid Pál, and Martin Pál. Contextual multi-armed bandits. In *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2010), Chia Laguna Resort, Sardinia, Italy*, volume 9, pages 485–492, 2010.
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- [15] Gagan Aggarwal, S. Muthukrishnan, Dávid Pál, and Martin Pál. General auction mechanism for search advertising. In *Proceedings of 10th Annual Conference on World Wide Web (WWW 2009), Madrid, Spain*, pages 33–44, 2009.
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