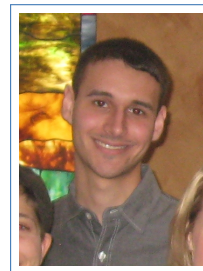


# Chris Thomas

## Curriculum Vitae

University of Pittsburgh  
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🏠 [cs.pitt.edu/~chris](http://cs.pitt.edu/~chris)  
PhD Student



*"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." – Robert Frost*

### Education

- 2013– **Ph.D. Computer Science**, *The University of Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh, *Computer Science*.  
Advisor: Adriana Kovashka. GPA: 3.958 / 4.0
- 2009–2013 **B.S. Computer Science**, *The University of Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh, *Computer Science*.  
Magna Cum Laude and Departmental Honors.

### Experience

#### Academic Appointments

- 2018 **CS50 Merit Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (Mellon Fellowship)**,  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh.  
Awarded based on research and academic merit by University
- 2014–Present **Graduate Student Researcher**, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh.
- 2014 **Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Postgraduate Fellowship**,  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh.  
Awarded based on academic merit by University
- 2013–2015 **Teaching Assistantship**, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh.
- 2012–2013 **Undergraduate Researcher**, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh.

#### Industry Experience

- 2017 **Research Intern**, YAHOO! RESEARCH, New York City, New York.  
Computer vision research with Yale Song ([link](#)) as part of the video team
- 2013 **A.I. Programmer**, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh.  
Helped design and implement the peer-reviewed TBI-DOC NLG system
- 2012 **Consultant**, GENESIS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC., Philadelphia, PA.  
Designed start-up company backend database system and accounting system
- 2008–2012 **Support Lead**, SUPPORTSPACE, INC., San Francisco, CA.  
Worked as a consultant to provide technical services on behalf of SupportSpace directly to customers and businesses; Later worked as consultant to demonstrate the platform to other businesses to convince them to outsource their IT to SupportSpace

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## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

- 2015 ○ Chang, S. K., Chen, W. H., Lin, W. C., & Thomas, C. L. Application of Slow Intelligence Framework for Smart Pet Care System Design. IJSEKE 2015. International Journal of Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Volume 25, Number 09n10, Pages 1429–1442.

### Peer-Reviewed Conference Publications

**Note:** CVPR is considered the top conference in computer vision.

- 2018 ○ Christopher Thomas and Adriana Kovashka. Persuasive Faces: Generating Faces in Advertisements. *To appear*, Proceedings of the British Machine Vision Conference (BMVC), Newcastle upon Tyne, England, September 2018. Acceptance rate 29.9%.
- 2017 ○ Zaeem Hussain, Xiaozhong Zhang, Mingda Zhang, Keren Ye, Christopher Thomas, Zuha Agha, Nathan Ong, and Adriana Kovashka. Automatic Understanding of Image and Video Advertisements. Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Honolulu, Hawaii, July 2017. **Spotlight**. Acceptance rate 8%.
- 2016 ○ Christopher Thomas and Adriana Kovashka. Seeing Behind the Camera: Identifying the Authorship of a Photograph. Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Las Vegas, NV, June 2016. Acceptance rate 29.9%.
- 2015 ○ Chang, S. K., Chen, W. H., Lin, W. C., & Thomas, C. L. Application of Slow Intelligence Framework for Smart Pet Care System Design. SEKE 2015. Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, 74–79.
- 2014 ○ Jordan, P., Green, N., Thomas, C., & Holm, S. TBI–DOC: Generating Patient & Clinician Reports From Brain Imaging Data. INLG 2014. Proceedings of the Eighth International Natural Language Generation Conference, 12–16.

### Peer-Reviewed Workshop Publications

- 2016 ○ Christopher Thomas, Adriana Kovashka, Donald Chiarulli and Steven Levitan. A Visual Attention Algorithm Designed for Coupled Oscillator Acceleration. The Twelfth IEEE Embedded Vision Workshop, held in conjunction with the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), June 2016. **Oral**.

### Technical Reports

- 2016 ○ OpenSALICON: An Open Source Implementation of the Salicon Saliency Model. Christopher Thomas. Technical Report. University of Pittsburgh Department of Computer Science.
- 2015 ○ Hand Posture’s Effect on Touch Screen Text Input Behaviors: A Touch Area Based Study. C. Thomas and B. Jennings. arXiv preprint arXiv:1504.02134, 2015.
- 2014 ○ Student Response Analysis. S. Myers, T. Parenti, C. Thomas. Technical Report. University of Pittsburgh Department of Computer Science.

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## Awards

- 2018 CS50 Merit Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (Andrew Mellon Fellowship)

- 2016 Orrin E. and Margaret M. Taulbee Award
- 2016 CS Department Best Research Poster Runner-Up. [Click here to download.](#)
- 2015 CS Department Teaching Assistant Award
- 2015 CS Department Best Research Poster Award. [Click here to download.](#)
- 2014 CS Department Teaching Assistant Award
- 2014 CS Department Best Research Poster Award. [Click here to download.](#)
- 2014 University of Pittsburgh Elizabeth Baranger Excellence In Teaching Award
- 2014 Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Postgraduate Fellowship

## Computer Skills

Languages Java, C, PHP, Python, SQL, Javascript/AJAX, CSS, Matlab  
 Technologies  $\LaTeX$ , Linux, Microsoft Windows, Hadoop, Weka, OpenCV, Caffe, Theano, Torch, TensorFlow

## Languages

English **Mothertongue**

Spanish **Basic**

*Basic words and phrases only*

## Selected Projects

- Project Page **Photographer Identification** – Project page containing dataset, downloadable models, and more for our *Seeing Behind the Camera: Identifying the Authorship of a Photograph* CVPR 2016 paper.
- GitHub **OpenSALICON** – An open source implementation of the SALICON saliency algorithm containing trained saliency models and a modified version of the Caffe deep learning library.
- Download **My Google** – A distributed search and indexing program I wrote to compare performance with a Hadoop based word count program available online. Searching and indexing is done completely in a decentralized manner, through the nameservers, clients, slave servers, and master servers.
- Download **My Java** – A basic Java compiler written in C that I wrote to learn Lex and Yacc. Generates MIPS 32-bit assembly code runnable in the SPIM simulator.
- Download **My DBMS** – A toy implementation of SAP HANA's L1-delta and L2-delta from *this* paper.

## Selected Press

- 2018 "Using machine learning to generate persuasive faces for ads." August 6, 2018. [Click here to visit.](#)
- 2015 "Who's behind the camera: computer vision and author identification." August 24, 2015. [Click here to visit.](#)
- 2015 "New photographs from dead photographers with convolutional neural networks." November 12, 2015. [Click here to visit.](#)