Blerim Cici

CONTACT INFORMATION	Ph.D. Candidate Networked Systems University of California, Irvine Irvine, CA 92697	. mobile: +1 949 230 5362 e-mail: bcici@uci.edu http://tinyurl.com/blerimcici

EDUCATION

University of California - Irvine (UCI), U.S.A.

Ph.D. Student in Networked Systems Program, ICS/EECS Department.   *Sep. 2010 – May 2016*

M.Sc from Networked Systems Program, ICS/EECS Department.   *June 2012*
- GPA: 3.8/4

Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), Greece

B.Sc in Computer Science, from the Department of Informatics   *Sep. 2005 – Nov. 2009*
- GPA: 8.28/10
- Graduated in top-3 of my class.

PROJECTS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Google, Mountain View, USA

Intern   *June 2015 – Sep. 2015*

As part of the YouTube Video Ads team, I worked on automatic recommendations to video advertisers on how to improve their campaigns. Evaluation based on missing data showed that the machine learning algorithm proposed could recover over 80% of missing data.

University of California - Irvine (UCI), U.S.A

Research Assistant   *Sep. 2010 – Now*

In UCI my research interests have been focused on wireless and mobile networks. More specifically I have been working on the implementation of cooperative schemes and NC on Smartphones. The project on which I have been working is called MicroCast (http://tinyurl.com/microcast), and its goal is to improve the streaming experience of a group of mobile devices, by using cooperation between the devices. The implementation of this novel system has been quite challenging, but also very rewarding. MicroCast was presented in Mobisys 2012, and lead to the creation of a startup (http://www.shoelacewireless.com/). *Thanks to my work on MicroCast I expanded my knowledge on wireless networks, and I learned Android programming.*

Telefonica Research Labs, Barcelona, Spain

Intern   *June 2011 – Sep. 2011, Sep. 2012 – Sept. 2013*

My two internships in Telefonica Relsearch Labs were both focused on analysis of Call Description Records (CDRs), and the intersection between Big Data and intelligent transportation. More specifically, I used CDRs, as well as data from location based OSNs, to infer human mobility patterns and social connections between individuals users. Then I used this information to quantify the potential or ride-sharing in various cities – how many cars can be removed from the streets of a city if individual drivers were to rideshare. Moreover, I used the knowledge extracted from the data in order to design the next generation of ride-sharing applications. The results of the analysis were published in HotMobile 2013. *Thanks to these two internships I got valuable experience, on intelligent transportation, data mining, and big data.*

Mobile Multimedia Laboratory (MMlab), AUEB, Athens, Greece

Research Assistant   *Feb. 2009 – June 2010*

As part of the MMLab, I worked on Publish-Subscribe Internetworking Paradigm (PSIRP), a EU-funded project of the Future Internet program. My task was to design and implement a Socket API Emulator, a bridge between the document-based Publish-Subscribe Internetworking Paradigm and the connection-based TCP/IP Internet. The design and implementation of the Socket API Emulator was presented on Future Internet Symposium (FIS), 2010. *Thanks to PSIRP I gained a deep understanding of computer network architectures.*

PUBLICATIONS	B. Cici, A. Markopoulou, N. Laoutaris, "Designing an On-Line Ride-Sharing System", *SIGSPATIAL 2015 (short paper), Seattle, USA, Nov. 2015*

B. Cici, M. Gjoka, A. Markopoulou, C. T. Butts, "On the Decomposition of Cell Phone Activity Patterns and their Connection with Urban Ecology ", *MobiHoc 2015, Hangzhou, China, June 2015*

B. Cici, A. Markopoulou, E. Fras-Martnez, N. Laoutaris, "Assessing the Potential of Ride-Sharing Using Mobile and Social Data – A Tale of Four Cities", *UbiComp 2014, Seattle, Sept. 2014*
- **Best Paper Nominee Award** (top 5% of the papers)
- Referenced in MIT Technology Review's article on *Google could Reinvent Commuting*, July 2015.

B. Cici, A. Markopoulou, E. Fras-Martnez, N. Laoutaris, "Quantifying the Potential of Ride-Sharing using Call Description Records", *HotMobile 2013, Jekyll Island, GA, Feb. 2013*

L. Keller, A. Le, B. Cici, H. Seferoglu, C. Fragouli, A. Markopoulou , "MicroCast: Cooperative Video Streaming on Smartphones", *MobiSys 2012, Low Wood Bay, UK, June 2012.*
- Finalist for the **Best Paper Award** (top 5 papers)
- The android prorotype won first place in the general category of the AMASE competition

H.Seferoglu, L.Keller, B.Cici, A.Le, A. Markopoulou, "Cooperative Video Streaming on Smartphones", *Allerton 2011, Monticello, IL, Sept. 2011*

G. Xylomenos, B. Cici, "Design and Evaluation of a Socket Emulator for Publish/Subscribe Networks", *Future Internet Symposium (FIS) 2010, Berlin, Sept. 2010*

MACHINE LEARNING COMPETITIONS	Airbnb New User Bookings (Kaggle): Finished **60th** out of **1463** participants (Top 10%). Facebook Recruiting IV: Human or Robot? (Kaggle): Finished **84th** out of **985** participants (Top 10%). Santa's Stolen Sleigh (Kaggle): Finished **161st** out of **1127** participants (Top 25%).

COMPUTING SKILLS	Programming Languages: Python, C++, Java, Android programing, PHP, SQL, HTML, bash/csh Operating Systems: GNU/Linux, Windows XP/7

AWARDS	Best Paper Nominee Award in UbiComp 2014 A Mobile Application Showcase Event (AMASE) 2012 : First place in the general category (MicroCast team) Fellowship : UCI Networked Systems Fellowship 2010-2012 Student travel grants: (1) NSDI 2012, (2) CoNext 2013, (3) UbiComp 2014

TEACHING	Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Computer Networks (EECS148), Fall 2013 Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Computer Networks (EECS148), Spring 2012

OTHER	Web chair for the 2013 Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES	Athina Markopoulou Associate Professor, UC Irvine Ph.D. Supervisor athina@uci.edu (+1) 650-504-5582	Nikolaos Laoutaris Senior Researcher, Telefonica Telefonica Supervisor nikos@tid.es (+34) 682361847	Fabio Soldo Senior Software Engineer, Google Google Supervisor fsoldo@google.com (+1) 949-302-1842