

Katia Hayati

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Objective

A challenging position at an innovative software company.

Employment history

- **Broken Chord Media, LLC (July 2009-present):**

Founder. Responsible for all aspects of **Harmonious.ly**, a Web site to help music teachers and students find and connect to each other. Harmonious.ly launched on Halloween 2009. Highlights:

- Came up with the original idea and plan, teamed up with a friend, and launched on time. Currently generating revenue, although we're not quite profitable yet.
- Most interesting technical feature: the spelling correction in search.
- Current main challenge: search engine optimization, because the experimentation cycle is so long.

- **Polyvore (February 2010-April 2010):**

Lead engineer, data and analytics. I worked on all aspects of the data backend. Some projects were:

- Built an easy-to-use A/B test framework.
- Defined a quality evaluation process and built the tools to power it.
- Used machine learning techniques to surface the factors that lead to users completing a goal.
- Built a high-precision searcher to find abusive pages and automatically take them down.

- **Tellme, A Microsoft Subsidiary (May 2006-May 2009):**

Lead software development engineer. I managed the Search team. Our backend powers millions of voice and text business searches daily. In this role, I:

- Oversaw all technical aspects of the Search backend.
- Mentored the members of my team to guide their professional growth.
- Worked with product and client teams to define features and roadmaps.

Senior software engineer. Previously, I was an engineer on the Search team. I specialized in search relevance. In this role, I:

- Developed algorithmic performance improvements that tripled our backend capacity while keeping our search relevance constant.
- Led the development of algorithms for search relevance, spelling correction, and query parsing.

- Defined and implemented a search quality evaluation framework to quantify and measure our relevance.

Tellme was acquired in May 2007 by Microsoft.

- **Yahoo! (January 2005-May 2006):**

Technical lead at Yahoo! Search Marketing. I worked on contextual advertising, applying computational linguistics and machine learning techniques to the problem of finding relevant text ads to display on a webpage. In this role, I:

- Led the research and prototyping of keyword clustering algorithms for synonym detection.
- Implemented and tuned an algorithm for matching a webpage to relevant ads.

- **Overture/Yahoo! (June 2004-August 2004):**

Intern. I designed and implemented a novel classification algorithm to detect webpages on which displaying ads would be inappropriate.

Education

- **MSc in Computer Science:** University of California, Santa Cruz, June 2004
- **MSc in Mathematics:** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 2002
- **BSc in Mathematics, summa cum laude:** American University in Cairo, February 2000
Exchange student at UC Berkeley in 1998-1999.

Languages

- Used professionally: Perl, Python, C, C++.
- Used academically: Java, Scheme, OCaml, Prolog.
- Fluent in French (native language) and English. Knowledge of Arabic, Spanish, and Italian.

Publications

- [1] S. CHANG, S. BOYCE, K. HAYATI, I. ALPHONSO, B. BUNTSCHUH: “Modalities and Demographics in Voice Search: Learnings From Three Case Studies”. ICASSP 08, Las Vegas, NV, March 2008
- [2] KATIA HAYATI: “Language Identification on the World Wide Web”. Master’s project, University of California, Santa Cruz, June 2004
- [3] KATIA HAYATI AND MARTÍN ABADI: “Language-Based Enforcement of Privacy Policies”. PET 04, Toronto, ON, Canada, May 2004