

Cristian Marian VICAS, PhD

Shadow CV

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FAILURES

Failures that hurt, failures that shaped my path. Because it is never easy!

School period

1997 - 2007

- Finished 7 years of training as a physician but failed to thrive as a physician. Luckily I somehow anticipated that and started to prepare for an engineering career.
- Failed to raise above the 1/2 of the leaderboard at ACM International Collegiate Programming Contests. (participated in 2003 and 2004)

Computer Vision Researcher at TUCN

2006 - present

- Failed to make fractals understand the medical ultrasound image.
- My papers got rejected from many journals, sometimes with only one sentence at the review.
- As a team, we failed to find/win a grant program that would allow our team to continue in the medical image processing field. Switched to another field, electronic microscopy.
- Managed to get a really low score at 2021 TE competition held by UEFISCDI Romania (PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2021)
- After the PhD defense, I spent 2 more years doing fundamental research. Although I published in a highly ranked journal, I pushed the domain only by a small amount and gained little attention (few citations).
- My results in fundamental image processing research were rendered obsolete by the new and shiny deep learning approaches.

Software Engineer at Catalysts GmbH

2014 - 2018

- Failed to elaborate and train a purely analytical model to detect clouds. Backtracked to what others did to get a decent level of performance.
- Failed to find the right balance between clean code and rapid domain exploration and so I failed to explore more approaches to the cloud detection problem.

Freelancing, startups and other extra

- Startup: Deep learning fashion aggregator. We had clients and some revenue. Unfortunately the revenue happened because we did better SEO and not because of the core business value. We decided to pull the plug after 1.5 years (2016).
- Startup: Quality control in clinical laboratory. Worked one summer for a solution that afterwards had zero users. The system was too complex for those day to day needs (2001).
- Startup: Patient management for a dentistry office. No clients, even the team members didn't use it. (2003)
- NOAA Right Whale Recognition, Kaggle competition. I tried "old school" image processing but I didn't rise above 200'th place. Since then I have focused more on deep learning.
- Failed to get a nice score to online class Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Udacity
- Failed to get a C1 at spoken English. Still failing to upgrade my English skills and learning German.

Other job applications (that mattered)

- Google, 2012, 2013. Rejected after on-site interviews (twice!)
- Carl Zeiss, 2014. No interview, rejection letter
- Google, 2015, Postponed the reply to a new interview invitation