Their books had become full of their names :
computer science textbooks and ‘big tech’.

Camille Akmut

Abstract

Part 2 of our research into big tech’s “best pals” in academic computer science. Preceded by : “*They danced to all songs* : double employments and conflicts of interest within academic computer science.” (Part 1)

Introduction : Come, listen, my men...

In our previous study, “*They danced to all songs*”, we had highlighted double employments and conflicts of interest within academic computer science.

We had look at fields such as, and as various as programming languages, operating systems, artificial intelligence and cryptography.

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But, in this study, entitled “*Their books had become full of their names*”, we do more and go further : we look at their literature, and concentrate on a field whose very nature should make it immune to politics : algorithms.

However, even here, we will show them – even here in their deepest retreat of abstraction – that politics are everywhere.

And, we continue to teach them lessons found in none of their books...

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Poor science, this computer science : It does not know itself.

Computer scientists :

Come, listen, my men, while I tell you again

The five unmistakable marks

By which you may know, wheresoever you go,

The warranted genuine Snarks.¹

Lewis Carroll had understood computer scientists better than many of them have, or will ever understand themselves.

¹ *The Hunting of the Snark. An Agony in Eight Fits.*

Algorithms

Description : *They counted steps, but meanwhile we counted them. They were too busy adding another log to the front of their algorithms, to care for their uses.*

Authors	Title (Year)	Google	FB	Apple	MS	Amazon
R. Sedgewick, K. Wayne	<i>Algorithms</i> (2011/4th ed.)	11	4	3	0	5
J. Kleinberg, E. Tardos	<i>Algorithm Design</i> (2005/1st)	0	0	0	1	1
J. Erickson	<i>Algorithms</i> (2019/pre-print)	4	0	0	0	0
T. Cormen	<i>Algorithms Unlocked</i> (2012)	2	0	0	0	0
R. Lafore	<i>D.S. & Alg. in Java</i> (2002/2nd)	0	0	0	5	0
Goodrich et al.	<i>D.S. & Alg. in Java</i> (2014/6th)	2	1	0	1	0
Goodrich et al.	<i>D.S. & Alg. in Python</i> (2013)	0	1	0	0	0
Cormen et al.	<i>Algorithms</i> (2009/3rd)	0	0	1	0	0
C. Osaki	<i>Purely functional...</i> (1998)	0	-	0	0	0

Table 1: Popular algorithms textbooks and references to companies.

NB. Most, if not all of these references are references to brands and (their) products i.e. not to algorithms such as **PageRank**, for instance.

Note also that we have not included textbooks whose publications had preceded the creation of these companies (the so-called ‘Big 4’ or 5) e.g. Aho/Hopcroft/Ullman, Wirth or Knuth.

For reference : Facebook was founded in 2004, Google in 1998, Amazon 1994, Apple 1976, Microsoft 1975.

“Don Knuth had lived, and died at Stanford.” – *so, perhaps, will his eulogy read one day. For, he had only ever danced to one song : His own (a slow song).*

References

—. 2019. “*They danced to all songs* : double employments and conflicts of interest within academic computer science.”