

Gaurav Ragtah

Product Lead

San Francisco, CA, United States | [LinkedIn](#)

Product-focused founder and engineer building AI products and platforms. Experienced in product strategy, machine learning, and cross-functional leadership across early-stage startups and established tech companies.

EXPERIENCE

Product Lead (AI product engineer)

Milana

Feb 2026 — Present

San Francisco, California, United States

Wearing multiple hats across product strategy, design, early GTM, analytics, and engineering. Drive improvements to a multimodal agent's output quality by pressure-testing failures, curating ground truth for evaluations, and tuning system behavior. Ship user-facing features like session replay, search UX, and MCP-based agent skills. Built a multi-step agentic report generator for e-commerce shopper behavior analysis. Manage design-partner program end-to-end including requirements discovery, compliance reviews, and feedback loops. Run analyses to identify improvements for customer launches, such as an onboarding fix that lifted completion from 23% to 32%.

Founder & CEO: Product/ML/Eng

CatalyzeX

Aug 2020 — Aug 2026

Remote

Built a search and discovery platform for open-source AI research and code implementations, featured in Nature, Forbes, CNBC, and TechCrunch. Grew to approximately 1M monthly active users through product-led growth, technical and programmatic SEO, and partner integrations like ArXiv. Owned all aspects: product, growth, engineering, machine learning, partnerships, fundraising, recruiting, and PR while managing a team of 6. Shipped webapp, crawlers, ML classifiers, PDF-processing pipeline, search and recommendations engine, API, and browser extensions.

Angel Investor

Self

Jan 2019 — Present

Sabi, Pika, Perplexity, Jar, Stripe, SpaceX, Anduril, Hallparty, Sandbox VR, and others

TED Resident

TED Conferences

Jan 2018 — Jan 2019

TED speaker and entrepreneur-in-residence, machine learning and AI.

Founder: Product/ML/Eng

Profillic

Jan 2018 — Jan 2020

Remote

Iterated on multiple MVPs exploring AI-powered technical recruiting, data science, and IP/tech transfer to achieve product-market fit.

Product Management

Yelp

Feb 2017 — Jul 2017

Remote

Owned and led payment fraud prevention across Yelp and Eat24, achieving a >50% drop in chargebacks. Unified fraud efforts, infrastructure, and operations workflows. Canonized and automated company-wide metrics reports. Led vendor pilot evaluations and coordinated across engineering, operations, data analytics, machine learning, legal, policy, and external vendors.

Machine Learning and Data Engineering

Google

May 2016 — Aug 2016

Remote

Worked on Nest's machine learning models and drove data anonymization to balance privacy with analytical insights. Coordinated across data platform, data science, and algorithms teams on a cross-functional initiative supporting product marketing and e-commerce strategy through user purchasing behavior pattern mining.

Graduate Student Researcher

Columbia University in the City of New York

Jan 2015 — Jan 2016

Probabilistic modeling, topic models, bayesian inference, and recommendation systems with researchers from Blei Lab (David Blei) - machine learning lab at Columbia University.

Software, Research Engineering, Product

Lithium Technologies

Apr 2014 — May 2015

San Francisco Bay Area

(Continued initiatives for Klout For Business, Klout Perks, and data platform powering social/topical influence scoring, topical analyses, search, recommendations, and personalization)

Lithium provides a complete social platform to >400 well-known brands like Google, Microsoft, Twitter, eBay, HP, Sony, Fitbit, Sephora, and Autodesk. These brands rely on the platform to power customer communities, respond to social conversations at scale, and derive comprehensive social analytics.

Lithium has one of the largest digital footprints in the world, processing 45 billion interactions daily, with >100 million monthly visitors and 750 million user profiles.

Product & Data Science, Data Engineering

Klout (acquired by Lithium Technologies)

Jun 2013 — May 2015

San Francisco Bay Area

Worked on the data platform powering Klout's social influence score serving 12B daily social signals for 620M+ users and 40B+ API hits monthly. Managed serving infrastructure and API enabling brands to build targeted audiences and run campaigns. Owned Klout Perks' business analytics and led a re-architecture of the analytics pipeline improving performance, robustness, and recoverability through greater parallelization and efficient resource utilization, reducing query time from 9 to 3 hours. Launched a promoted post ad-targeting system and shipped klou.tt URL shortener, which generated 25M+ shares. Built a hashtag recommendation system for shared links.

Co-Founder & CTO: Product/Eng

Aug 2012 — Aug 2015

ThisYaThat.com

Remote

Led design and development of a webapp comparing book prices, delivery times, and payment options across online Indian bookstores. Drove over \$1M in book sales and 12K+ monthly unique visitors with national press coverage in India. First non-US venture backed by Wharton Innovation Fund and won Wharton Entrepreneurship's VIP Seed Award.

Software, API & Analytics

May 2012 — Aug 2012

Klout

San Francisco Bay Area

Built scalable APIs serving Klout web and mobile clients as well as third-party partners including Microsoft Bing, Gnip, KISSmetrics, MailChimp, and HootSuite. Optimized database queries achieving a 15x increase in requests handled per second and 5x increase in concurrent requests. Enhanced user-session logging and analytics for web and mobile API.

Full-Stack Software

May 2011 — Aug 2011

SlideShare (acquired by LinkedIn, then Microsoft)

San Francisco Bay Area

Implemented social tracking, logging, and metrics. Handled conversion of PowerPoints to HTML5 and newsletter spam and bounce handling.

Software Engineer

Jan 2010 — Jan 2010

Trilasoft Solution Pvt Ltd

New Delhi Area, India

- Assisted development team in coding and testing various project modules for software designed for clients in the relocation industry to handle all sales, operational and financial reporting requirements.
- Worked with JSP, servlets, MySQL, and Tomcat.
- Deployed a customized open-source timesheet management system (eHour) on the company's local network.

EDUCATION

Columbia University in the City of New York

Sep 2015 — Jun 2017

Master of Science (M.S.) in Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing

Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellow

Colgate University

Sep 2009 — Jun 2013

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Computer Science, Applied Mathematics

Dean's Award for Academic Excellence (2010–2013)

University of California, Berkeley

Global Founder (SkyDeck)

Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd

Exchange semester in Computer Science

Springdales School

Springdales School, India

PROJECTS

Music Genre Classifier

- Identifying genres of songs is an important problem in music information retrieval.
- Used different machine learning techniques - Gaussian Mixture Modeling, Multi-class SVM, sparse representation classification to classify songs on the basis of their genre.
- Used leave-one-out cross validation for evaluation and compared the validation rate across classifiers.

Tweaked LDA to jointly model user preferences and sensor noise, Collaborative Filtering with Attribution Error Research at Blei Lab exploring collaborative filtering from noisy GPS check-ins. Developed a modified LDA approach to jointly model user preferences and sensor noise, enabling more accurate inference of latent preferences and personalized place recommendations.

Automated Skill-Validation and Testing (SaaS prototype)

Built a web-based skill testing service POC that seeks to eliminate the subjectivity of resumes and false positives and negatives in the screening/hiring process. We provide relevant, standardized skill tests, allow independent, approved test-creators to auto-conduct their tests, and provide sophisticated candidate and test analytics. The website was implemented

using the MEAN stack, and we worked on the business model and disruptive edge, drew up financial projections, performed competitive analysis, iterated on product design+dev, and created a full-fledged business plan over the course of the semester. Our work received the top grade for the Principles of Innovation and Entrepreneurship course at Columbia University.

Cloud 9 - Intelligent Dating App

Cloud 9 is an end-to-end dating application that helps sets up potential dates with matches through Tinder, uses NLP against the chat text to infer the match's interests, preferences, time availability, etc. and helps schedule a date night at a great venue at a perfect time by leveraging Yelp and Google Calendar APIs, and calls an Uber for you when it's time to leave for the date.

Evaluation of iOS App Development Frameworks

- Compared development of iOS apps in Swift and Xamarin, i.e. native vs non-native frameworks.
- Analyzed various API and system level calls' effects on app performance, fluidity, and user experience.

Colgate Calendar

Students at Colgate are usually overwhelmed with campus event emails and have a hard time finding events that match their individual interests. Colgate Calendar allows students to keep a list of keywords as filter criteria, and to only be notified of campus events matching their individual criteria.

Github repo: <https://github.com/gragtah/ColgateCalendar>

Patent for user-centric search and targeting, System and Apparatus for an Application Agnostic User Search Engine
Co-invented a user search engine powering user targeting, personalized content feeds, topical expert recommendations, and social media follow suggestions across applications.

Temporal analysis of information diffusion in social networks, When-To-Post on Social Networks

Acknowledged contributor on research analyzing the temporal dynamics of information diffusion across social networks and determining optimal posting times to maximize audience engagement.

CERTIFICATIONS

NOVUS Summit Delegate at UN General Assembly, NOVUS Summit	Jul 2016
Beast NYC Startup Incubator, Columbia Business School Entrepreneurship Center & Beast NYC	Apr 2016
Y Combinator Startup School,	Jan 2016
When-To-Post on Social Networks,	

SKILLS

Machine Learning · Artificial Intelligence (AI) · Product Management · Python · Large Language Models (LLM) · Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) · Natural Language Processing (NLP) · MySQL · PostgreSQL · Entrepreneurship · Ruby on Rails · JavaScript · MapReduce · RStan · Redis · Word Embeddings · Topic Modeling · Knowledge Graphs · Metrics & deliverables · Cross-functional leadership · Product-led growth · Data science · Agents · MCPs · Agentic coding · Claude · Devin · Codex · Cursor · Technical SEO · Programmatic SEO · UI/UX prototyping · Strategic partnerships · Conversion funnels · User journey optimization · Web optimization · App store optimization · Mixpanel · Google Analytics · Search Console · PostHog · Looker · Tableau · Hex · Balsamiq · Figma · Canva · n8n · Zapier · Retool · Airtable · Ruby · TypeScript · Scala · Java · PHP · C · C++ · MATLAB · R · Haskell · Bash · SQL · HTML · XML · MongoDB · BigQuery · PyTorch · Spark · Elasticsearch · HBase · Kafka · RabbitMQ · AWS · GCP · Heroku · Replit