

Sebastian Ruder

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Experience

- **AYLIEN** **Dublin, Ireland**
10/2015 – Present
Research Scientist
 - Developed new aspect-based sentiment analysis (ABSA) endpoint¹ from scratch; created data collection and training pipeline; implemented semi-supervised convolutional neural networks.
 - Developed multi-lingual models for sentiment analysis on-par with state-of-the-art².
 - My current work focuses on developing efficient domain adaptation and semi-supervised learning algorithms as well as making models more robust to new inputs.
- **IBM** **Munich, Germany**
08/2015 – 09/2015
Extreme Blue Intern, Watson
 - Design and implementation of text analysis ML components applied to customer data of leading German insurance company *Versicherungskammer Bayern*; automatically identifies structural semantics and sentiment of incoming e-mails, e.g. complaints and classifies email based on reason for complaint.
 - Pitched project to audience at European Expo and was chosen as one of eight teams to pitch to IBM customers; project was referred to as a "lighthouse project for Watson in Europe" by jury members.
 - Project was awarded Digital Thought Leadership award in leading contest of German insurance industry by leading German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and Google³ and covered by *Süddeutsche Zeitung*⁴.
- **Microsoft** **Dublin, Ireland**
02/2015 – 06/2015
Linguistic Engineering Intern, XBox
 - Contributed to developing an ML system for analyzing linguistic complexity of strings in C# for localization prioritization during testing; performed feature analysis and framed problem as anomaly detection.
 - Created proof of concept and implemented terminology validation algorithm using morphology generation.
 - Evangelized customer sentiment analysis efforts, drove cross-team collaboration, and provided insights to stakeholders.
- **The OpenCog Foundation** **opencog.org**
Summer 2014
Google Summer of Code Intern
 - Enabled system to make common-sense inferences using deductive reasoning, e.g. *All men are mortal. Socrates is a man. → Socrates is mortal.*
 - Applied inference using probabilistic logic networks on the output of a relationship extractor.
 - Documented and extended Python code for temporal inference.
- **Lingenio GmbH** **Heidelberg, Germany**
Spring 2014
Software Engineering Intern
 - Created a converter from TBX to Lingenio native format and vice versa.
 - Integrated TBX term bases in Dictionary Server; created localized web service using Jinja2, Flask-Babel, and lighttpd.
- **SAP** **Walldorf, Germany**
02/2013 – 02/2014
Working Student, Development University
 - Created content for internal programming and Design Thinking courses.
 - Automated reporting processes, e.g. reduced expenditure of work for monthly training report by > 75%, i.e. from 8 hours to 2 hour using Excel / VBA scripts.
- **TEMIS** **Heidelberg, Germany**
02/2013 – 10/2013
Freelancing Developer

¹<https://developer.aylien.com/text-api-demo?tab=absa>

²<https://developer.aylien.com/text-api-demo?tab=sentiment>

³<https://www.sv-veranstaltungen.de/site/fachbereiche/versicherungs-leuchtturm>

⁴<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/wirtschaft/kuenstliche-intelligenz-aerger-fuer-watson-1.2772927>

- Created a cosine metric-based word sense disambiguation system leveraging tens of GB of text extracted from Wikipedia and DBpedia in Python; achieved performance comparable to the state-of-the-art.

Education

- **National University of Ireland** **Galway, Ireland**
College of Engineering and Informatics, Ph.D. Natural Language Processing *10/2015 – Present*
 - Research in domain adaptation and transfer learning for Natural Language Processing.
 - I am interested in adapting models and making them more robust to handle inputs from unknown distributions and new languages.
- **University of Copenhagen** **Copenhagen, Denmark**
Natural Language Processing Group, Department of Computer Science *04/2017 – 06/2017*
 - Research visit invited by Anders Søgaard.
 - Research on Multi-task Learning as well as cross-lingual. and cross-domain learning.
- **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg** **Heidelberg, Germany**
Institute of Computational Linguistics, B.A. Computational Linguistics, English Linguistics *10/2012 – 09/2015*
 - Final grade: 1.0 (German scale), i.e. GPA 4.0; thesis: *Construction and Analysis of an Emotion Proposition Store*
 - Relevant courses: Statistics, Algorithms and Data Structures, Machine Learning, Formal Syntax & Semantics
 - Relevant online courses: Machine Learning (Stanford), AI (MIT), Intro to Algorithms (Berkeley), Deep Learning for NLP (Stanford), Deep Learning (Oxford)
- **Trinity College** **Dublin, Ireland**
School of Computer Science and Statistics, Computer Science and Language *09/2014 – 01/2015*
 - Semester abroad
 - relevant courses: AI, Fuzzy Logic, High-Tech Entrepreneurship

Awards

- Scholarship of the Irish Research Council *10/2015 – Present*
- Cusanuswerk scholarship of the German state *04/2014 – 09/2015*
- Microsoft Certified Professional (Programming in C#) *06/2015*
- Best Delegate award in various Model United Nations conferences *11/2012 – 01/2014*

Languages and Technologies

Programming Languages: Python, Java, C#, R, C, \LaTeX , Prolog, JavaScript, SPARQL

Technologies: SciPy, NumPy, Keras, TensorFlow, DyNet, scikit-learn, NLTK, CoreNLP, MALLET, Weka, UNIX, Git

Natural Languages: Fluent in German and English, advanced in French and Spanish, beginner in Portuguese and Latin

Open Source Contributions: The OpenCog Foundation

Publications

- Sebastian Ruder, Parsa Ghaffari, John G. Breslin (2017). Data Selection Strategies for Multi-Domain Sentiment Analysis. arXiv preprint arXiv:1702.02426.
- Sebastian Ruder, Parsa Ghaffari, John G. Breslin (2017). Knowledge Adaptation: Teaching to Adapt. arXiv preprint arXiv:1702.02052.
- Sebastian Ruder, Parsa Ghaffari, John G. Breslin (2016). Towards a continuous modeling of natural language domains. In *Uphill Battles in Language Processing, EMNLP*, Austin, Texas, US.

- Sebastian Ruder, Parsa Ghaffari, John G. Breslin (2016). A Hierarchical Model of Reviews for Aspect-based Sentiment Analysis. In *EMNLP*, Austin, Texas, US.
- Ian D. Wood and Sebastian Ruder (2016). Emoji as emotion tags for tweets. In *Emotion and Sentiment Analysis Workshop*, LREC, Portorož, Slovenia.
- Sebastian Ruder, Peiman Barnaghi, John G. Breslin (2016). Analysis and Applications of a Novel Corpus of Influencers on Twitter. In *Twitter for Research Conference*, Galway, Ireland.
- Sebastian Ruder, Parsa Ghaffari, John G. Breslin (2016). INSIGHT-1 at SemEval-2016 Task 4: Convolutional Neural Networks for Sentiment Classification and Quantification. In *Proceedings of the 10th International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation (SemEval 2016)*, San Diego, US.
- Sebastian Ruder, Parsa Ghaffari, John G. Breslin (2016). INSIGHT-1 at SemEval-2016 Task 5: Convolutional Neural Networks for Multilingual Aspect-based Sentiment Analysis. In *Proceedings of the 10th International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation (SemEval 2016)*, San Diego, US.
- Sebastian Ruder (2016). An overview of gradient descent optimization algorithms. arXiv preprint arXiv:1609.04747.

Talks

- Accenture Tech Talk, March 2017: Transfer Learning – The Next Frontier for Machine Learning
- LinkedIn Tech Talk, March 2017: Transfer Learning – The Next Frontier for Machine Learning⁵
- NLP Dublin meetup, December 2016: NIPS 2016 Highlights⁶
- INSIGHT SIG NLP meetup, August 2016: A Hierarchical Model of Reviews for Aspect-based Sentiment Analysis⁷
- NLP Dublin meetup, August 2016: Softmax Approximations for Learning Word Embeddings and Language Modelling⁸

⁵<https://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/transfer-learning-the-next-frontier-for-machine-learning>

⁶<http://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/nips-2016-highlights-sebastian-ruder>

⁷<http://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/a-hierarchical-model-of-reviews-for-aspectbased-sentiment-analysis>

⁸<http://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/softmax-approximations-for-learning-word-embeddings-and-language-modeling-sebastian-ruder>