Sebastian Ruder

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Experience

- **AYLIEN** **Dublin, Ireland**
  Research Scientist *10/2015 – Present*
  - Developed new aspect-based sentiment analysis (ABSA) endpoint[1] 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-art[2].
  - My current work focuses on developing efficient methods to adapt text classification systems to new domains and languages.
- **IBM** **Munich, Germany**
  Extreme Blue Intern, Watson *08/2015 – 09/2015*
  - 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 Google[3] and covered by *Süddeutsche Zeitung*[4].
- **Microsoft** **Dublin, Ireland**
  Linguistic Engineering Intern, XBox *02/2015 – 06/2015*
  - 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
  Google Summer of Code Intern *Summer 2014*
  - Enabled system to make common-sense inferences using deductive reasoning, e.g. *All men are mortal. Socrates is a man.* $\rightarrow$ *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**
  Software Engineering Intern *Spring 2014*
  - 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**
  Working Student, Development University *02/2013 – 02/2014*
  - 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**
  Freelancing Developer *02/2013 – 10/2013*

[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 of ML and deep learning techniques with applications to cross-lingual sentiment analysis, question answering, and dialogue modeling.
- **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), Into 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, 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

- NLP Dublin meetup, December 2016: NIPS 2016 Highlights[5]
- INSIGHT SIG NLP meetup, August 2016: A Hierarchical Model of Reviews for Aspect-based Sentiment Analysis[6]
- NLP Dublin meetup, August 2016: Softmax Approximations for Learning Word Embeddings and Language Modelling[7]

[5] http://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/nips-2016-highlights-sebastian-ruder
[6] http://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/a-hierarchical-model-of-reviews-for-aspectbased-sentiment-analysis
[7] http://www.slideshare.net/SebastianRuder/softmax-approximations-for-learning-word-embeddings-and-language-modeling-sebastian-ru