



Alex Laitenberger

AI / NLP RESEARCH ENGINEER · LANGUAGE MODELS, RETRIEVAL-AUGMENTED GENERATION, AGENTS, EVALUATION

✉ alex.laitenberger@googlemail.com | 🏠 alex-laitenberger.github.io | 📧 alex-laitenberger | 🌐 laitenberger | 🎓 Alex

Laitenberger

“Guided by integrity, curiosity, and the belief that technology can serve the greater good.”

Summary

NLP researcher with a focus on language models, agentic pipelines, and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG). First author of a Stanford-affiliated preprint co-authored with Christopher D. Manning (Stanford) and Nelson F. Liu (OpenAI), under submission to EMNLP 2025. Currently seeking research roles focused on the development and training of language models and their application in RAG and agentic multi-step reasoning systems.

Work Experience

Stanford University

Stanford, US / Cologne, Germany

NLP RESEARCH COLLABORATION (REMOTE)

June 2024 - Today

- First-author research project co-supervised by Christopher D. Manning and Nelson F. Liu, resulting in a Stanford-affiliated preprint: “Stronger Baselines for Retrieval-Augmented Generation with Long-Context Language Models”, under submission to EMNLP 2025.
- arXiv:2506.03989 | Code on GitHub

Blicity Inc.

San Francisco, US / Cologne, Germany

FOUNDER & FULL-STACK ENGINEER

May. 2022 - Aug. 2024

- Built and launched a collaborative mapping app (iOS + Elixir backend), leading product, infra, and early investor outreach.

Community Maps Project — Gründerstipendium NRW Grant

Bonn, Germany

TECHNICAL FOUNDER

Mar. 2019 - May 2022

- Secured a competitive German government grant to prototype a community-driven mapping platform and lead a small cross-functional team.

cundus AG / PwC

Duisburg, Germany

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE CONSULTANT

Apr. 2013 - Sep. 2014

- Supported finance clients with IBM TM1 BI solutions and delivered hands-on training sessions for financial planning teams.

IBM

Berlin, Germany / Shanghai, China / Boston, US

GLOBAL PARTNER SALES & IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Oct. 2008 - Sep. 2011

- Supported international sales and PMO activities for enterprise infrastructure projects across three continents.

Education

University of Applied Sciences Bonn-Rhein-Sieg

Sankt Augustin, Germany

M.Sc. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE — FOCUS: COMPLEX SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

2014 – 2018

- Master’s thesis: “Evaluating Product-Market Fit for a Consumer-Oriented App Startup” — user interviews and quantitative web experiments.

Berlin School of Economics and Law / IBM Germany

Berlin, Germany

B.Sc. IN BUSINESS INFORMATICS (DUAL STUDY PROGRAM)

2008 – 2011

- Bachelor’s thesis on the automated analysis of news articles using natural language processing techniques.

Stanford University — Artificial Intelligence Programs

Stanford, US / Remote

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL COURSEWORK IN AI / NLP

Spring 2024

- CS224N (Graduate, A): NLP with Deep Learning — LLMs, transformers, attention, training dynamics.
- XCS221 (Professional): AI principles & Techniques — machine learning, core AI paradigms, state-based models, variable-based models.

Writing

“Stronger Baselines for Retrieval-Augmented Generation with Long-Context Language Models”

arXiv / Stanford University

FIRST AUTHOR

June 2025

- Co-authored with Christopher D. Manning (Stanford) and Nelson F. Liu (OpenAI), under review for EMNLP 2025.
- arXiv:2506.03989 | Code on GitHub

“Expanding Horizons in RAG: Exploring and Extending the Limits of RAPTOR”

Stanford University

RESEARCH PROJECT (STANFORD CS224N)

June 2024

- Final course project that critically evaluated and redesigned RAPTOR’s retrieval-tree construction for stronger RAG performance.
- PDF: web.stanford.edu/class/cs224n/final-reports/256925521.pdf

Presentation

CS224N Poster Session, Stanford University

Stanford, US

POSTER PRESENTER FOR “Expanding Horizons in RAG: Exploring and Extending the Limits of RAPTOR”

June 2024

- Presented final CS224N research to faculty, TAs, and peer researchers at Stanford’s official course poster session.
- Poster: alex-laitenberger.github.io/poster_cs224n.pdf

Digital Hub Bonn

Bonn, Germany

PRESENTER FOR *Startup Pitch at Summer Slam Demo Day*

May 2019

- Pitched an early-stage mapping app to founders, mentors, and investors, outlining product vision and prototype.

Honors & Awards

2019

Grant Recipient, Awarded the competitive “Gründerstipendium NRW” by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, North Rhine-Westphalia, to develop a research-based community maps platform

Bonn, Germany