ALON JACOVI

Curriculum Vitae

Givatayim, Israel ⋄ (+972) 050-9297995 ⋄ alonjacovi@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning   *2019–Present*
Bar Ilan University
Advisor: Prof. Yoav Goldberg
Research Topics: Explainable Artificial Intelligence, Learning from Imperfect Supervision

M.Sc in Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning   *2017–2019*
Bar Ilan University
Advisor: Prof. Yoav Goldberg
Final Grade: 95.85
Dissertation Topic: Understanding Convolutional Neural Networks for Text Classification

B.Sc in Computer Science   *2014–2017*
Bar Ilan University
Graduated *cum laude* with final grade 95.2.
Final Project: Deep Reinforcement Learning Agent for the AI-BIRDS Angry Birds Competition

EXPERIENCE

Student Researcher at IBM Research, Israel   *2017–2020*
Conversation and Language Team
Work on improving graph-based virtual dialogue assistants, based on in-production conversation logs
that were escalated to a human agent. Resulted in a paper presented at KDD Converse 2020.

Research Intern at RIKEN, Japan   *Spring 2019*
Imperfect Information Learning Team
Advisors: Dr. Gang Niu and Prof. Masashi Sugiyama
Topic: Scalable Evaluation and Improvement of Document Set Expansion via Neural Positive-
Unlabeled Learning

Student Researcher at IBM Research, Israel   *2016–2017*
Machine Learning Technologies Team
Work on integration of non-differentiable systems in neural pipelines (e.g., knowledge bases and program
interpreters in semantic parsing) for end-to-end learning. Resulted in a paper presented at ICLR 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

Towards Faithfully Interpretable NLP Systems: How should we define and evaluate faithfulness?
Alon Jacovi and Yoav Goldberg.
In ACL 2020.

Improving Task-Oriented Dialogue Systems in Production with Conversation Logs
Alon Jacovi*, Ori Bar El*, Ofer Lavi, David Boaz, David Amid, Inbal Ronen, Ateret Anaby-Tavor.
In the KDD Converse workshop at KDD 2020.

Neural network gradient-based learning of black-box function interfaces
Alon Jacovi, Guy Hadash, Einat Kermany, Boaz Carmeli, Ofer Lavi, George Kour, Jonathan Berant.
In ICLR 2019.
Also in AI Week 2019.

(Extended Abstract) **Learning and Understanding Different Categories of Sexism Using Convolutional Neural Network Filters**
Sima Sharifirad, <u>Alon Jacovi</u>, Stan Matwin.
In the Widening NLP workshop at ACL 2019.

Understanding Convolutional Neural Networks for Text Classification
<u>Alon Jacovi</u>, Oren Sar Shalom, Yoav Goldberg.
In the BlackboxNLP workshop at EMNLP 2018 (oral presentation).
Also in ISCOL 2018 (oral presentation).

SERVICE

Reviewer: ACL 2020

Assistant Reviewer: IJCAI 2018, IJCAI 2019

HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2019–2023	The President's Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Fellows
2016	The Miryam and Ezra Sofer Scholarship for Excellent Students
2016	Dean's Honors
2015	The Grace Shua and Jacob Ballas Scholarship
2015	Dean's Honors

LANGUAGES

Native	Hebrew
Fluent	English
Conversational	Japanese