

# ALON JACOVI

Curriculum Vitae

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

## EDUCATION

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**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

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**Research Intern** at the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, USA *Fall 2020 (current)*

MOSAIC Team

Advisor: Dr. Swabha Swayamdipta

Topic: Contrastive Explanations of Neural Classifiers

**Student Researcher** at IBM Research, Israel *2016–2020*

- 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. Work published in KDD Converse 2020.

- 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. Work published in ICLR 2019.

**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.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *PEER-REVIEWED*

**When Bert Forgets How To POS: Amnesic Probing of Linguistic Properties and MLM Predictions.**

Yanai Elazar, Shauli Ravfogel, Alon Jacovi, Yoav Goldberg.

In TACL 2020.

**Exposing Shallow Heuristics of Relation Extraction Models with Challenge Data.**

Shachar Rosenman, [Alon Jacovi](#), Yoav Goldberg.  
In EMNLP 2020.

**Towards Faithfully Interpretable NLP Systems: How Should We Define and Evaluate Faithfulness?**

[Alon Jacovi](#), 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 KDD Converse @ 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.

**Learning and Understanding Different Categories of Sexism Using Convolutional Neural Network Filters. (*Extended Abstract*)**

Sima Sharifirad, [Alon Jacovi](#), Stan Matwin.  
In Widening NLP @ ACL 2019.

**Understanding Convolutional Neural Networks for Text Classification.**

[Alon Jacovi](#), Oren Sar Shalom, Yoav Goldberg.  
In BlackboxNLP @ EMNLP 2018. (*oral presentation*)

*IN SUBMISSION*

**Formalizing Trust in Artificial Intelligence: Prerequisites, Causes and Goals of Human Trust in AI.**

[Alon Jacovi](#), Ana Marasović, Tim Miller, Yoav Goldberg. arXiv:2010.07487

**Aligning Faithful Interpretations with their Social Attribution.**

[Alon Jacovi](#), Yoav Goldberg. arXiv:2006.01067

**Scalable Evaluation and Improvement of Document Set Expansion via Neural Positive-Unlabeled Learning**

[Alon Jacovi](#), Gang Niu, Yoav Goldberg, Masashi Sugiyama. arXiv:1910.13339

**PATENTS**

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**Computerized dialog system improvements based on conversation data.** *Filed, 2020*

Alon Jacovi, Ateret Anaby-Tavor, David Amid, David Boaz, Inbal Ronen, Ofer Lavi, Ori Bar El.  
US Patent: P202001942 US01

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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Reviewer: ACL 2020, HAMLETS 2020

Assistant Reviewer: IJCAI 2018, IJCAI 2019

**INVITED TALKS**

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**Microsoft, Oct 2020:** *Formalizing Properties of Interpretability in NLP.*

**ACL, Aug 2020:** *Towards Faithfully Interpretable NLP Systems: How Should We Define and Evaluate Faithfulness?*

**ISCOL, Sep 2018:** *Understanding Convolutional Neural Networks for Text Classification.*

## HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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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

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Native	Hebrew
Fluent	English
Conversational	Japanese