# Andrea Madotto

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**EDUCATION** 

University of Pisa, Italy

M.Sc. in Computer Science, 2015 - 2017 Final mark: 110/110 (Honours)

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

M.Sc. in Advanced Information Systems, 2014 - 2015 GPA: 3.86/4

University of Perugia, Italy

B.Sc. in Computer Science, 2011 - 2014 Final mark: 110/110 (Honours)

**EXPERIENCE** 

Research Assistant HKUST

Sept 2017 – present Hong Kong, HK

Conducted research on Deep Learning Algorithms to model end-to-end task oriented dialogue.

- building an end-to-end architecture to models dialogue which includes: entity manipulation through reasoning, querying ability and natural language generation
- participated in the Dialog State Tracking Challenge 6 (DSTC6)

Teaching Assistant UniPi Mar 2017 - Jun 2017

Advanced Programming TA of the M.Sc. in Computer Science held in University of Pisa.

- developed several seminars presented during the course, including lab exercises and class slides
  - participated in the creation of writing assignments as well as grading the final exam

Adjunct Lecturer UniPi

Jan 2017 – Mar 2017 Pisa, IT

Taught Databases course in the Specialization School in Medical Physics of

- developed course material, including lab exercises and class slides
- created writing assignments
- evaluated student course work, as well as grading the final project

Research Assistant **HKBU** 

Aug 2015 - Feb 2016 Hong Kong, HK

Conducted research on algorithms to predict disease spreading in Complex Networks.

- analysed Optimization Algorithms and basic Statistical Learning Theory
- designed and implemented novel algorithms for middle size Complex Networks
- teacher assistant for several courses, mainly lab classes and paper grading

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Wu, CS., Madotto, A., Winata, GI., Fung, P. (2017). End-to-End Recurrent Entity Network for Entity-Value Independent Goal-Oriented Dialog Learning. Dialog System Technology Challenges (DSTC6). URL: http://workshop.colips.org/dstc6/papers/track1\_paper02\_wu.pdf.

Madotto, A. and Attardi, G. (2017). Question Dependent Recurrent Entity Network for Question Answering. NL4AI: 1st Workshop on Natural Language for Artificial Intelligence (NL4AI). URL: http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-1983/paper\_07.pdf.

Attardi, G., Carta, A., Errica, F., Madotto, A., and Pannitto, L. (2017). Fa3l at semeval- 2017 task 3: A three embeddings recurrent neural network for question answering. In Proceedings of the 11th International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation (SemEval-2017), pages 290295, Vancouver, Canada. Association for Computational Linguistics. URL: http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/S17-2048

Madotto, A and Liu, J. Super-Spreader Identification Using Meta-Centrality. Nature Scientific

Pisa, IT

Report 6, 38994; DOI: 10.1038/srep38994 (2016).

Chiancone, A. and **Madotto**, A., 2015. A Multistrain Bacterial Model for Link Prediction. In Proc. 11th International Conference on Natural Computation (ICNC'15).DOI: 10.1109/ICNC.2015.7378141. (Co-author and slides presentation)

#### **SKILLS**

Theoretical Background: Machine Learning • Deep Learning • Natural Language Processing • Algorithms • Statistical Learning • Optimization Methods

Programming: Python (Scipy, Numpy, Pytorch, Tensorflow, Theano, Keras, Pandas, SciKit learn)

• C++ • LATEX• JavaScript • Matlab (basic) • Java (basic)

Data bases: SQL • MySQL • PostgreSQL • Xquery • neo4j

Operating Systems: Unix • Linux • Windows • Mac OS.

**Languages**: Italian (mother tongue) • English (IELTS 6.5) • Chinese (basic)

# **THESIS**

Question Dependent Recurrent Entity Network for Question Answering: Master degree thesis: a memory network model for question answering that requires reasoning.

- extensive literature review of question answering models.
- modified and improved the core component of the original Recurrent Entity Network.
- experimented the proposed model in bAbI task and CNN news article datasets.
- improved state-of-the-art in bAbI tasks (1K setting)

Human Mobility and Disease Spread Simulation: Master degree final project: a disease spread simulation based on SIR model.

- implemented a computational model for contact social network.
- experimented with countermeasures to control the propagation, with a focus on the individual vaccination decision.
- simulated human mobility by flights to analyse how diseases spread in the world.

Facility location problem in a bi-dimensional mesh: Bachelor degree thesis: finding the optimal position of one or more facilities in a bi-dimensional mesh, using the Manhattan distance.

- found the optimal position of a maximum of two facilities with a closed formula
- placed three facilities using two heuristic algorithms: one finds an almost optimal solution with a quadratic cost, and the other one finds a good approximation with a linear cost

#### **PROJECTS**

Neural Network: An implementation of a Feed-Forward Neural Network using Theano.

- implemented Momentum and L2 regularization
- benchmarked using MONKs datasets, and compared to a Keras implementation, a linear model and a SVM/SVR (using scikit-learn)
- implemented a K-cross fold validation

**Jacobi Method**: A parallel version of the Jacobi Iterative Method.

- implemented three versions of the code using C++: sequential, Pthread based, and using FastFlow library
- evaluated code version using different matrix sizes, and measures (e.g., Completion Time, Scalability, Speed up, and Efficiency).
- conducted experiments using a Xeon Phi coprocessor (60 cores 4 contexts)

PythonITA: A fork of the Cpython repository to use Italian keywords as native constructors.

- modified the language interpreter, such as: the EBNF grammar (i.e. adding new production), the AST, and the built-in functions.
- modified the IDLE to highlight and predict the new added words.

Dynamic HTML render and a Recursive Descent Parser: Implementation of a Web Com-

ponents library similar to React.JS.

- implemented an efficient representation of a Virtual DOM
- optimised the DOM element render in the HTML page.
- implemented a recursive descent parser to express components in JSX.

TagCloud Sentimental Analysis: A data visualization challenge organised by FWD Hong Kong.

- designed a Tagcloud visualization based on Google Books Ngram.
- showed the word size based on chronological relevance, and displayed the words polarity (positive or negative sentiments) with colours.

Others have a look on my personal website and my GitHub.

# **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Mentor
Feb 2016 – Jun 2017
CODERDOJO
Pisa, IT

A volunteering activity to teach programming languages to children (mostly Scratch and Python). Pisa CoderDojo is part of the CoderDojo international initiative. I was also one of the organizers of the first Toscana DojoCon held in Pisa.