CHRIS KEDZIE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Made in California, January, 29th 1986

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GOAL

Gain insight into general and robust techniques for text understanding and their application to automatic summarization.

EDUCATION

2014-Present   Columbia University

Doctor of Philosophy

Natural Language Processing · Dept. of Computer Science · Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Science
Adviser: Prof. KATHLEEN MCKEOWN
Description: With Prof. MCKEOWN, I am working on event understanding from newswire and social media text. Specifically, we are exploring techniques for automatically summarizing natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other large-scale, catastrophic events. I am currently working on the learning of sentence representations and similarity methods that take into account event causality and correlation for use in text clustering. With Prof. MCKEOWN and Dr. FERNANDO DIAZ at Microsoft Research, I participated in the Text Retrieval Conference Temporal Summarization track, where I experimented with regression methods for predicting important information to be included in automatically generated summaries. I am also overseeing a masters student and two undergraduate students in an effort to modernize Prof. MCKEOWN's automatic news summarization system, Newsblaster.

2013-2014   Columbia University

Master of Science

GPA: 3.87 · *Natural Language Processing* · Dept. of Computer Science · Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Science
Adviser: Prof. KATHLEEN MCKEOWN
Description: I continued to pursue my interests in natural language processing, in addition to machine learning and statistics. In Prof. MCKEOWN's lab I worked on question-answering (QA) for the DARPA BOLT (Broad Operational Language Translation) project. My research focused on unsupervised methods of text similarity and the application of semantic web/linked open data for QA.

2012-2013   Columbia University

GPA: 3.95 · *Post Baccalaureate Studies* · School of Continuing Education
Description: While taking introductory courses in computer science, I also worked as a research assistant for Prof. KATHLEEN MCKEOWN and her student, SARA ROSENTHAL. Responsibilities included annotating research corpora for supervised learning systems, developing web crawlers to extract user discussions from online forums, and building research corpora for studies in automatic influence and agreement detection in natural language.

2011   Baruch College, CUNY

GPA: 4.0 · Continuing & Professional Studies
Description: I took two classes on Java and Oracle SQL development.

	2004-2008 Loyola Marymount University
Bachelor of Arts	GPA: 3.34 · *Music/Recording Arts Double Major* · College of Communication and Fine Arts/School of Film and Television Description: In my undergraduate degree, I pursued interests in both classical music and sound design/mixing for film. Within the music department, I concetrated on music theory/composition as well as guitar performance, culminating in two senior theses, an original composition, *String Quartet for Space Travel*, and a guitar recital, featuring works by Antonio Lauro, Roland Dyens, Leo Brouwer, Miguel Llobet, Antonio Vivaldi, and others. Within the film department, I scored and sound designed/mixed many student films (*The Cannibal Ad*, Golden Hamster(Best Overall) Award and 1st Place for Narrative Short, 2005 Northwest Projections Film Festival; *Lily*, Best Sound, Best Film, 2007 LMU School of Film and Television "Film Outside the Frame Festival.").

TALKS

	Nov. 2014 Columbia U. at TREC: Temporal Summarization
Temporal Summarization Track, TREC 2014	Abstract: In this talk, I present an overview of our participation in the temporal summarization track at the 2014 Text REtrieval Conference. Our submission was one of the top overall submissions for this track. Our performance gain came largely from our precision in the summary update selection stage; I outline the details of our salience regression model and affinity propagation clustering architecture, including their effect on our scores. I also address our current system shortcomings, especially our inability to explicitly control for redundancy. Joint work with FERNANDO DIAZ & KATHLEEN MCKEOWN.
	Aug. 2014 Summarizing Disasters Over Time
Bloomberg Data Frameworks Track, KDD 2014	Abstract: We have developed a text summarization system that can generate summaries over time from web crawls on disasters. We show that our method of identifying exemplar sentences for a summary using affinity propagation clustering produces better summaries than clustering based on K-medoids as measured using Rouge on a small set of examples. A key component of our approach is the prediction of salient information using event related features based on location, temporal changes in topic, and two different language models. Joint work with FERNANDO DIAZ & KATHLEEN MCKEOWN.

WORK EXPERIENCE

	Spring 2014 Teacher's Assistant, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Columbia University	I was the TA for the class *Semantic Technologies in IBM Watson*, taught by IBM researcher ALFIO GLIOZZO. The class covered the various inner workings of the Jeopardy playing computer. My responsibilities included teaching several lectures on foundational natural language processing tasks and problems, and an overview of the semantic web. Along with Dr. GLIOZZO, I helped guide and supervise the various student projects, one of which led to a publication in EMNLP 2014.
	2008–2011 Composer's Assistant, STIMMUNG — New York
Stimmung stimmung.tv	Performed audio engineering/mixing/editing and sheet music preparation for staff composers in a busy commercial music and sound post-production studio. Posted and presented work to clients. Provided general office support and correspondence. Organized and archived audio and video assets. Coordinated asset delivery to clients/post-production services. Worked on many CLEO and Emmy award winning commercial campaigns including several Super Bowl spots for such clients as: Coca-Cola, Mercedes-Benz, Kia, Levi's, and Monster.com. In addition to commercials, I also helped produce music for several independent films, documentaries, and television shows including

Reagan (HBO), *The Rising: Rebuilding Ground Zero* (Discovery Communications), and *Journey to the Stars* (Hayden Planetarium, American Museum of Natural History).

2006-2008   Production Director, KXLU — Los Angeles

KXLU 88.9FM
kxlu.com Worked with station directors and staff to plan concerts and events in the Los Angeles area, as well as the annual fundraiser. Supervised implementation of a new website. Coordinated the recording and broadcast of all live and pre-recorded performances and interviews at the station. Managed and researched equipment upgrades for the KXLU Production Studio.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Application Areas   Automatic Summarization, Text Clustering, Text Representation & Feature Learning, Machine Learning, Data Mining, Web Scraping

Languages (Adept)   English, C/C++, PYTHON, JAVA, PERL, HTML, LaTeX

Languages (Familiar)   Latin, MATLAB, X10, JAVASCRIPT, SQL, SPARQL, LINUX, BASH/shell scripting

OTHER INFORMATION

Interests   Experimental Music · Pop Music · Punk Rock

March 8, 2015