

DR. EMANUEL LACIĆ

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/in/elacic/



EXPERIENCE

Infobip

Principal Engineer

June 2023 – Current

Zagreb, Croatia

Expanding the AI strategy with a focus on Generative AI and analyzing the impact of Large Language Models (LLMs).

Know-Center GmbH

Operations Area Manager

January 2021 – May 2023

Graz, Austria

Leading the research area Fair-AI with a strong focus on applied recommender systems and social network analysis.

Senior Researcher & Recommender Systems Architect

September 2016 – December 2020

Graz, Austria

Management, lead development and consulting on industry projects in the domain of recommendation systems.

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Visiting Scholar

January 2018 – July 2018

Los Angeles, USA

Research on the utilization of Deep Learning methods for session-based recommendation.

Graz University of Technology

University & Project Assistant

October 2013 – August 2016

Graz, Austria

Knowledge extraction, construction and utilization of social network data with the objective to deliver relevant information to businesses and users. EU funded project Learning Layers, supported by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Program.

1&1 Internet AG

Junior Software Developer

January 2013 – September 2013

Karlsruhe, Germany

Ruby development on internal central administration and monitoring solution used by the Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) and IT Operations (ITO) departments. Project development through Scrum.

FZI Forschungszentrum Informatik

Java Developer

May 2012 – November 2012

Karlsruhe, Germany

Developing for the Mirror project (co-funded by European Commission IST 7th Framework Program).

EDUCATION

Graz University of Technology

PhD in Computer Science

2013 – 2022

Graz, Austria

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

M.Sc. in Software Engineering and Information Systems

2010 – 2012

Zagreb, Croatia

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

B.Sc. in Software Engineering and Information Systems

2007 – 2010

Zagreb, Croatia

SERVICES

Journal Editor

Frontiers in Big Data

2023

Programm Committee Member

ACM UMAP

2021, 2022, 2023

Programm Committee Member

ACM Hypertext

2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Programm Committee Member

ACM Web

2022, 2023

Reviewer

Bias Workshop at ACM ECIR

2023

Track Chair

Neural Recommendation track at ACM CIKM

2018

Organizer & Workshop Chair

Recommender Systems Workshop at ACM i-KNOW

2016, 2017

MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Lacic, E., Duricic, T., Fadljevic, L., Theiler, D. & Kowald, D. **Uptrendz: API-Centric Real-time Recommendations in Multi-Domain Settings**. In Proceedings of the 45th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR'2023). Springer
2. Lacic, E., Fadljevic, L., Weissenboeck, F., Lindstaedt, S. & Kowald, D. **What Drives Readership? An Online Study on User Interface Types and Popularity Bias Mitigation in News Article Recommendations**. In Proceedings of the 44th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR'2022). Springer
3. Kowald, D. & Lacic, E. **Popularity Bias in Collaborative Filtering-Based Multimedia Recommender Systems**. In Proceedings of the BIAS Workshop co-located with the 44th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR'2022). Springer
4. Lovric, M., Duricic, T., Tran, H. T., Hussain, H., Lacic, E., Rasmussen, M. A. & Kern, R. **Should We Embed in Chemistry? A Comparison of Unsupervised Transfer Learning with PCA, UMAP, and VAE on Molecular Fingerprints**. In the Journal of Pharmaceuticals, 14(8), 758. (2021)
5. Lacic, E., Reiter-Haas, M., Kowald, D., Darededy, M., Cho, J., & Lex, E. **Using Autoencoders for Session-based Job Recommendations**. In User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction (UMUAI) Journal. Springer 2020
6. Duricic, T., Hussain, H., Lacic, E., Kowald, D., Helic, D., & Lex, E. **Empirical Comparison of Graph Embeddings for Trust-Based Collaborative Filtering**. In Proceedings of the 25th International Symposium on Intelligent Systems (ISMIS'2020). Springer
7. Lacic, E., Reiter-Haas, M., Duricic, M., Slawicek, V. & Lex, E. **Should we Embed? A Study on the Online Performance of Utilizing Embeddings for Real-Time Job Recommendations**. In Proceedings of the 13th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'2019). ACM
8. Lacic, E., Kowald, D. & Lex, E. **Neighborhood Troubles: On the Value of User Pre-Filtering To Speed Up and Enhance Recommendations**. In International Workshop on Entity Retrieval (EYRE'2018) Workshop co-located with CIKM'2018
9. Kowald, D., Lacic, E., Theiler, D. & Lex, E. **AFEL-REC: A Recommender System for Providing Learning Resource Recommendations in Social Learning Environments**. In Social Interaction-Based Recommender Systems (SIR'2018) Workshop co-located with CIKM'2018
10. Duricic, T., Lacic, E., Kowald, D. & Lex, E. **Trust-Based Collaborative Filtering: Tackling the Cold Start Problem Using Regular Equivalence**. In Proceedings of the 12th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys'2018). ACM
11. Lacic, E., Traub, M., Duricic, T., Haslauer, E. & Lex, E. **Gone in 30 days! Predictions for car import planning**. In it - Information Technology Journal, 2018, 60(4), pp. 219-228.
12. Lacic, E., Kowald, D., Reiter-Haas, M., Slawicek, V. & Lex, E. **Beyond Accuracy Optimization: On the Value of Item Embeddings for Student Job Recommendation**. In the International Workshop on Multi-dimensional Information Fusion for User Modeling and Personalization co-located with WSDM'2018
13. Lacic, E. **Real-Time Recommendations in a Multi-Domain Environment**. ACM SIGWEB Newsletter (Autumn 2017).
14. Reiter-Haas, M., Slawicek, V. & Lacic, E. **Studo Jobs: Enriching Data With Predicted Job Labels**. In Workshop on Recommender Systems and Social Network Analysis co-located with i-KNOW'2017

LANGUAGES

Croatian (Native)

English (C1)

German (C1)

Russian (A1)

CERTIFICATION



Agile Software Engineering (ASE)

Agile software development process and Scrum at Andrena Objects AG. Karlsruhe, Germany. August, 2012

SUPERVISED THESES

Fadljevic, L. (2017) Analysis and Prediction of Movie Preferences. **Master Thesis**. University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (cooperation with the Know-Center in Graz, Austria).

Duricic, T. (2015) Real-time recommendations based on social trust. **Master Thesis**. University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (cooperation with the Know-Center in Graz, Austria).

AWARDS AND GRANTS



2022 Diversity Award

Research on fairness in AI and bias in recommender systems was awarded with the TU Graz diversity award.



2018 Marshall Plan Fellowship

Visiting Scholar Fellowship to conduct individual in-depth research on the topic of session-based recommendation at University of California, Los Angeles.



2016 Travel Grant

For the 27th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (Hypertext'16) in Halifax, Canada.



2015 Project Grant

For Data Market Austria (DMA), IKT der Zukunft, 286k€ for the Know-Center as technology contributor for the recommender system-based brokerage platform.



2015 Best Demo Honourable Mention

At the 15th International Conference on Knowledge Technologies and Data-Driven Business (i-KNOW'15) in Graz, Austria.



2014 Best Poster Award

At the 25th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (Hypertext'14) in Santiago, Chile.