

Mia Teixeira (she/they)

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

M.A. Linguistics

Relevant Coursework: Computational Linguistics, Computational Models of Syntax, Probabilistic Grammars

Los Angeles, CA

September 2022

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

B.S. Physics; Focus in Computational Neuroscience; Minor in Linguistics

Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Computer Representation of Knowledge

Cambridge, MA

June 2018

Experience

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Graduate Researcher

Los Angeles, CA

Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2022

- Constructed and maintained a department-internal database with the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Employed distributional frequency, word-word co-occurrence matrices, and sentiment analysis for cross-domain comparison of semantics of the word “cancer”.
- Collected 50+ hours of speech in 3 languages from 6 speakers through experimental and fieldwork tasks of my own design, extracted relevant acoustic measures (duration, VOT, formant values, etc.), and annotated intonation contours (ToBI) for various research projects.
- Collected 60+ tokens of lingual ultrasound of Dschang (Grassfields Bantu) speech, and performed data analysis on tongue contour height in contrasting phonemes.

Teaching Assistant

Jul. 2019 – Sep. 2022

- Created, maintained, and administered grading scripts written with the Haskell QuickCheck library for three different final projects ranging from CFG parsing to Part-of-Speech (POS) tagging using Strictly-Local Grammars (SLGs), as well as FSA design and parsing for a UCLA undergraduate course.
- Assisted 7 UCLA Linguistics faculty in course material design, assessment, and running class sections outside of lecture for 750+ UCLA undergraduates for courses covering Introductory Linguistics, Computational Linguistics, and Semantics.

Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison

Oct. 2021 – Sep. 2022

- Served as a founding member on the UCLA Linguistics Climate Committee along with various UCLA faculty to collaborate on creative short- and long-term solutions to concerns raised in a department-wide climate survey.

MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (MIT CSAIL)

Undergraduate Researcher

Cambridge, MA

Jan. 2017 – Jun. 2018

- Utilized Tregex/Tsurgeon to identify and correct grammatical errors via transformational grammars in automatically generated credit reports.
- Devised “knowledge of language” dataset consisting of test sentences to act as benchmark for Google’s SyntaxNet RNN parser to identify a typology of errors made by the parser, and collaborated on a procedure for flagging parses containing such errors.
- Consulted on the creation of engaging Computational Linguistics projects for 100+ MIT undergraduates involving the design of Context-Free Grammars (CFGs) and Finite-State Automata (FSAs), as well as designing semantic ontologies and traversing existing ones.

European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) & MIT Laboratory for Nuclear Science (LNS)

Undergraduate Researcher

Geneva, CH & Cambridge, MA

Jan. 2015 – Sep. 2016

- Maintained modules that identified particular events out of raw collision data from the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector. Collaborated with researchers and graduate students across various time zones to analyze the data and write up the results.

Skills

Programming languages & computing: Python, C/C++, Haskell, SQL, Git, UNIX/Linux, LaTeX, Praat

Natural languages: English (native), Spanish (native), Portuguese (beginner), Tsotsil (research), Dschang (research), Mam (research)