Morris Alper, M.Sc.
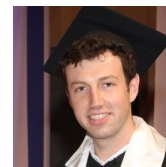
✉ morrisalper@mail.tau.ac.il   🌐 morrisalp.github.io

📑 Google Scholar   GitHub   in LinkedIn

I am interested in multimodal learning, particularly using linguistic knowledge combined with vision and other structured modalities for complex tasks that require high-level semantic understanding.

Education

2023 – ongoing	**Ph.D., Tel Aviv University** Electrical Engineering (Machine Learning) Advisor: *Dr. Hadar Averbuch-Elor*
2019 – 2023	**M.Sc. (cum laude), Tel Aviv University** Computer Science Advisor: *Dr. Hadar Averbuch-Elor* Thesis: *Learning Human-Human Interactions in Images with Weak Textual Supervision* GPA: 98 / 100
2012 – 2016	**B.Sc., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** Linguistics and Mathematics (dual major). GPA: 4.9 / 5

Employment History

2019 – 2023	**Data Science Lead and Lecturer,** Israel Tech Challenge. Designed syllabus, wrote, and delivered lectures on data science to industry professionals.
2019 – 2021	**NLP Data Scientist,** Pipl, Inc. Designed information extraction algorithms for unstructured textual web data.
2018 – 2019	**NLP Data Scientist,** Reverso-Softissimo. Designed NLP algorithms to automatically correct and enrich linguistic data.
2017 – 2018	**Software Developer,** K Dictionaries. Managed API for lexicographic data, and developed algorithms for data enrichment
2015 – 2016	**Software and Algorithm Developer,** Voiceitt. Prototyped speech recognition algorithms and integrated them into the company's API.
2016	**Algorithm Development Intern,** SECOM. Developed algorithms for improved facial recognition.
2012-2015	**Undergraduate Research in Cognitive Linguistics,** TedLab, MIT. Analyzed psycholinguistic survey data to study cognition and language.

Research Publications

* indicates equal contribution.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

1. **Morris Alper** and Hadar Averbuch-Elor. Kiki or Bouba? Sound Symbolism in Vision-and-Language Models. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2023. *(spotlight paper)*

2. **Morris Alper** and Hadar Averbuch-Elor. Learning Human-Human Interactions in Images from Weak Textual supervision. *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)*, 2023.

3. **Morris Alper***, Michael Fiman*, and Hadar Averbuch-Elor. Is BERT Blind? Exploring the Effect of Vision-and-Language Pretraining on Visual Language Understanding. *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023.

Miscellaneous Experience

Awards and Achievements

2011	**International Linguistics Olympiad**, first place internationally (both individual and team rounds), best solution (problem 2), Zhurinsky Memorial Prize.
2009	**International Linguistics Olympiad**, honorable mention (individual round), first place in team round.
2008	**International Linguistics Olympiad**, tied for 6th place individual round (silver medal).

Academic Teaching Experience

Spring 2024 (upcoming)	**Deep Learning**, teaching assistant, Tel Aviv University.
Fall 2023 (upcoming)	**Digital Signal Processing**, teaching assistant, Tel Aviv University.

Languages

English (native), **Hebrew** (professional), **French** (intermediate)

References

Available upon request