

NAOMI SAPHRA

Natural Language Processing / Machine Learning PhD Student

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@nsaphra

github.com/nsaphra



RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Johns Hopkins University

2013 – 2015

Baltimore, Maryland

- Supervisors: Raman Arora, Adam Lopez, and Sanjeev Khudanpur.
- Normalization and representation of informal language text.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Carnegie Mellon University

2010 – 2013

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- Supervisors: Chris Dyer and Noah Smith.
- Twitter dependency parsing; multithreaded language models; &c.

Undergraduate Research Fellow

CLSP Summer Workshop at Johns Hopkins University

Summer 2012

Baltimore, Maryland

- Supervisor: Matthew Blaschko.
- Unsupervised methods to verify image annotations.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Contractor

Koko

Summer 2017

New York, New York

- Developed neural classifiers for informal text at anti-abuse startup.

Software Engineering Intern

Google

Summer 2015

Mountain View, California

- Supervisor: Marius Pasca (Common Sense, Machine Intelligence).
- Unsupervised discovery of paraphrases of compositional noun phrases.

Software Engineering Intern

Google

Summer 2013

Mountain View, California

- Supervisor: Eric Altendorf (Common Sense, Machine Intelligence).
- Integrated models of real-world knowledge into entity linking.

Engineering Intern

Facebook

Summer 2011

Palo Alto, California

- Supervisor: Jen Burge (Engagement Team).
- Engineered new features for the People You May Know model.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Informatics

Edinburgh University

Ongoing

Supervisor: Adam Lopez.

Thesis: Learning dynamics of NLP models.

M.Sc. in Computer Science

Johns Hopkins University

2015

B.Sc. in Computer Science

Carnegie Mellon University

2013

Minor in Language Technologies

Sabbatical

The Recurse Center

2017

Unstructured programming retreat.

AWARDS

- Daniella Sciama Award for Achievement through Adversity 2019.
- Google Europe Scholarship for Students with Disabilities 2017.
- Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science Dragon Award 2013.
- National Merit Semifinalist 2009.
- Nannina Rasulo Memorial Scholarship Award for Technology 2009.

SKILLS & HOBBIES

Python

C++

Julia

pytorch

dynet

keras

bokeh

numpy

NLP

informal text

interpretability

Roller Derby

Tea Society

Standup

Radical Utopian SciFi Enclave

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Conference Proceedings

- Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2019). "Understanding Learning Dynamics Of Language Models with SVCCA". in: *NAACL*.
- Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2015). "AMRICA: an AMR Inspector for Cross-language Alignments". In: *NAACL*.
- Vedaldi, Andrea et al. (2014). "Understanding Objects in Detail with Fine-grained Attributes." In: *CVPR*.

Workshop Proceedings

- Saphra, Naomi and Adam Lopez (2019). "Sparsity Emerges Naturally in Neural Language Models". In: *ICML Workshop on Identifying and Understanding Deep Learning Phenomena*.
- Saphra, Naomi and Lopez, Adam (2016). "Evaluating Informal-Domain Word Representations With UrbanDictionary". In: *ACL Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP*.
- Saphra, Naomi and Raman Arora (2015). "Domain Adaptation for Word Embeddings With Matrix Factorization". In: *Women in Machine Learning Workshop at NIPS*.
- Cotterell, Ryan et al. (2014). "An Algerian Arabic-French Code-Switched Corpus". In: *LREC Workshop on Free/Open-Source Arabic Corpora*.
- Schneider, Nathan et al. (2014). "A framework for (under) specifying dependency syntax without overloading annotators". In: *ACL Linguistic Annotation Workshop*.
- Saphra, Naomi and Matthew Blaschko (2012). "Automatic verification of boundary annotations from mechanical turk". In: *Women in Machine Learning Workshop at NIPS*.

SERVICE

ILCC Weekly Cookie Czar

Edinburgh University

 2017 -

 Edinburgh, UK

ML4NLP Reading Group Organizer

Edinburgh University

 2018 -

 Edinburgh, UK

Communications committee

Auld Reekie Roller Derby

 2017 -

 Edinburgh, UK

Student social co-chair

ACL

 2014

 Baltimore, Maryland

Puzzle tester and local organizer

North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad

 2012 - 2014

NLP/ML Instructor & Course Designer

Carnegie Mellon TechNights (outreach for middle school girls)

 2013

 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

TEACHING

Tutor

University of Edinburgh

 2016 -

Informatics Research Review
Probabilistic Modeling & Reasoning
Machine Learning & Pattern Recognition

Course Assistant

Johns Hopkins University

 2013

Natural Language Processing

Teacher's Assistant

Irvington High School

 2008 - 2009

Ancient Greek

INVITED TALKS

Blackbox NLP Panel Discussion

ACL Blackbox NLP Workshop

 Aug 1, 2019

 Florence, Italy

Learning Dynamics of Language Models

City University of New York


 May 28, 2019

 New York, New York

Paying the Panopticon (standup)

The Stand Edinburgh Comedy Club


 Feb 26, 2019

 Edinburgh, UK

Learning Dynamics of Text Models With SVCCA

University of Amsterdam

 Jan 25, 2019

 Amsterdam, Netherlands

REVIEWING SERVICE

- EMNLP
- NAACL
- NeurIPS (secondary)
- BlackboxNLP
- RepEval
- Learning With Limited Data
- Women in Machine Learning
- WinLP