Uri Berger

PhD candidate, NLP, Computer Science

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EDUCATION

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – University of Melbourne   2021 - Present
- Joint Ph.D - Computer Science
  Research topic: Human-Inspired Multimodal Language Modeling
  Advisors: Prof. Omri Abend, Dr. Gabriel Stanovsky, Dr. Lea Frermann

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem   2018 - 2021
- M.Sc. - Computer Science; GPA: 97.57 (magna cum laude)
  Thesis title: Competition-based Spiking Neural Networks
  Advisor: Prof. Ari Rappoport

Tel-Aviv University   2013 - 2017
- B.Sc. - Computer Science; GPA: 96 (summa cum laude)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon   2025 - Present
- Applied Science Intern (Part-time)
  Aligning video comparison to human preferences, improving diversity in LLMs

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem   2023 - 2025
- Teaching Assistant (Part-time)
  Course name: *Advanced Natural Language Processing*

IBM   2022
- Research Intern (Summer Internship)
  Improving factuality in Data-to-Text models

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem   2020 - 2022
- Teaching Assistant (Part-time)
  Course name: *Human Language from a Computational Perspective*

eBay   2020 - 2021
- Research Intern (Part-time)
  Using NLP techniques to provide insights to sellers

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem   2019
- Grader (Part-time)
  Course name: *Probabilistic Methods in Artificial Intelligence*

Cadence Design Systems, Inc.   2016 - 2018
- Software Engineer (Full-time)
  Developing parsing tools for the Verilog Compiler

Rocketick Technologies   2014 - 2016
- Software Engineer (Part-time)
  Developing parsing tools for the Verilog Compiler

PUBLICATIONS

U. Berger, G. Stanovsky, O. Abend, and L. Frermann
A computational acquisition model for multimodal word categorization
North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL 2022)

U. Berger, L. Frermann, G. Stanovsky and O. Abend
A Large-Scale Multilingual Study of Visual Constraints on Linguistic Selection of Descriptions
Findings of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL 2023)

L. Mahon, O. Abend, **U. Berger**, K. Demuth, M. Johnson and M. Steedman
A Language-agnostic Model of Child Language Acquisition
Computer Speech & Language

U. Berger, EM. Ponti
Cross-Lingual and Cross-Cultural Variation in Image Descriptions
North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL 2025)

U. Berger, T. Baumel and G. Stanovsky
In-Context Learning on a Budget: A Case Study in Named Entity Recognition
Workshop on Insights from Negative Results in NLP

U. Berger, G. Stanovsky, O. Abend and L. Frermann
Surveying the Landscape of Image Captioning Evaluation: A Comprehensive Taxonomy and Novel Ensemble Method
Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)

N. Eckhaus, **U. Berger** and G. Stanovsky
Time to Talk: LLM Agents for Asynchronous Group Communication in Mafia Games
Findings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2025)

S. Neuberger, N. Eckhaus, **U. Berger**, A. Taubenfeld, G. Stanovsky, A. Goldstein
SAUCE: Synchronous and Asynchronous User-Customizable Environment for Multi-Agent LLM Interaction
arXiv preprint

U. Berger, O. Abend, L. Frermann and G. Stanovsky
Improving Image Captioning by Mimicking Human Reformulation Feedback at Inference-time
arXiv preprint

Awards and Scholarships

Scholarships

• The Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBD) scholarship program for outstanding data science PhD students

M.Sc.

• Graduated with distinction (magna cum laude)

• Dean's Honor

B.Sc.

• Graduated with distinction (summa cum laude)

• Dean's Honor

Skills

• **Languages**: Python, C, C++, C#, Java, SQL, Matlab

• **Frameworks**: Scikit, NLTK, SpaCy, PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace

• **Environments**: Linux, Windows, GIT