SwissText 2017
2nd Swiss Text Analytics Conference

Program

9th June 2017
Preface

Welcome to the 2nd Swiss Text Analytics Conference!

The first edition of SwissText was an overwhelming success. Originally, we were hoping for merely 50 participants and some talks from our close community – but then we were literally overrun by academic partners, sponsors, and more than 170 participants. Nonetheless, what would happen if we did it again? Could we maintain the high standards and expectations?

As of now, I can say that we succeeded. SwissText has even slightly grown in many dimensions: more submissions, more parallel tracks, more space at the venue, more sponsors and partners, etc. Even the figures for number of participants are very promising at this time of writing.

Based on the positive feedback from last year, we kept the major setting of the conference: an appealing combination of keynotes, presentations and posters, combined with several breaks for networking and discussions. We only made some minor adaptions, which were suggested by the participants of last year: extended time for the poster session; a one-minute-presentation for each poster; distinction between technical and business tracks; and more technical talks.

There were more than 40 submissions, thus, we had to make a selection, due to time and space limitations at the conference day. It was a hard choice, since we had to reject several interesting abstracts, but in the end, we conducted a program that – as we hope – provides a good overview of the state of the art in text analytics.

One of the hot (and new) topics this year are chatbots – we decided to invite a keynote on this topic already in February, and independently there were several submissions on chatbots and dialogue systems, from both industry and research. It seems like there is a new trend in text analytics.

There was a tremendous amount of work necessary to make this conference happen, and I would like to thank the program committee and the local organizing committee here at ZHAW for their support and great work! A special thanks goes to our partners and, of course, to our sponsors, who are generously supporting our conference.

I am now looking forward to an exciting conference with fascinating presentations and lots of interesting discussions!

Mark Cieliebak
Conference Chair
Content

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Schedule

08:30   Registration + Coffee/Gipfeli
09:00   Welcome Message: Mark Cieliebak (ZHAW)
09:30   Keynote: From dialogue systems to social chatbots: reinforcement learning, seq2seq, and back again. Verena Rieser (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh)
10:10   Break
10:40   Parallel Track 1
        Business Track
        Twan Sevriens: Less AI is more. A couple of simple NLP experts.
        Rudolf M. Moos, Drazenko Djordjevic: Predicting ICD-10 (diagnosis) codes with a state of the art large scale machine learning application
        Gerold Baudinot: Project funding in Switzerland (NTN)
        Technical Track 1
        Jan Deriu: Deep learning for NLP – Where do we stand?
        Prakhar Gupta, Matteo Pagliardini, Martin Jaggi: Unsupervised learning of sentence embeddings using compositional n-gram features
        Nikolaos Pappas, Andrei Popescu-Belis: Labeling news in several languages using hierarchical attention networks
        Technical Track 2
        Andrei Popescu-Belis, Xiao Pu, Lesly Miculicich Werlen, Laura Mascarell: Using context to improve the machine translation of nouns and pronouns
        Alireza Ghasemi, Silvia Quarteroni: Sentiment analysis the Swiss way
        Tanja Samardzic: Basic natural language processing for Swiss German texts
11:40   Lunch Break
13:00   Parallel Track 2
        Business Track
        Tim vor der Brück, Marc Pouly, Markus Unternährer: Targeted marketing using unsupervised natural language processing
        Richard Forster, Samuel Pasquier: Process automation with semantic text analytics
        Technical Track 3
        Dina Vishnyakova, Raul Rodriguez-Esteban, Fabio Rinaldi: Author name disambiguation in MEDLINE based on domain of research
        Pius von Däniken, Nicole Falkner, Stefano Dolce: Named entity recognition on data sets with little annotated data
        Special Session: Chatbots
        Hamza Harkous, Kassem Fawaz, Rémi Lebret, Florian Schaub, Kang G. Shin, Karl Aberer: Pribot: A chatbot for privacy policies
        Dorothee Reinhard: YPEA: A cognitive Watson chatbot
13:40   Break
13:55   Keynote: Highly scalable and adaptive text analytics solutions for production. Peter Stengard (Microsoft)
14:35   Poster Presentation
15:05   Afternoon Break
15:35   Poster Session
16:20   Keynote: Computer, summarize service record. Margot Mieskes (University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt)
17:00   Closing
17:20   Apero
From dialogue systems to social chatbots: reinforcement learning, seq2seq, and back again.

Abstract. Spoken dialogue systems have experienced a revolution over the past decade: they went from being completely hand-crafted to using data-driven methods, including techniques like reinforcement learning (RL) and deep learning (seq2seq modelling). In this talk, I will review this current development, including my own work on optimising dialogue strategies using RL. I will then review recent seq2seq models for response generation (aka social chatbots). Finally, I will discuss the opportunities and pitfalls for future dialogue research.

Biography. Verena is an Associate Professor at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, where she leads the NLP research group working on spoken dialogue systems and natural language generation. She holds a PhD from Saarbrücken University in Germany (2008) and an MSc from the University of Edinburgh, where she also worked as a postdoctoral research fellow. Her research aims to create accessible, interactive natural language interfaces, by using and developing data-driven domain-independent methods. She has pioneered work in using reinforcement learning for multimodal dialogue systems and language generation. She currently serves as a faculty advisor for the Amazon Alexa Challenge and as an area chair for ACL 2017.

Organization. Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

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Keynote

Peter Stengard

Highly scalable and adaptive text analytics solutions for production

Abstract. Microsoft Social Engagement analyzes high-volume social media feeds in real-time for thousands of customers. We perform Sentiment Analysis, Intentions Analysis, Custom Tagging, Content Recommendation, Geocoding, Event Detection and more, across multiple languages, sources and domains.

In this talk, I will provide an overview of our design and highlight some challenges and solutions when developing large-scale text analytics solutions in general. Focusing on the task of sentiment analysis in particular, I will present deeper insights pertaining to our implementation and architecture using cloud services. Finally, with the relatively recent successes of deep learning, I will attempt to gauge its impact on the field of NLP and text analytics and will touch on our ongoing efforts towards applying deep learning techniques to our production services.

Biography. Peter Stengard is working on large-scale solutions for text analytics at Microsoft and develops industry solutions using Artificial Intelligence for Social Analytics and Text Mining. He previously led the development of Oracle Predictive Analytics and was lead data scientist for BMW Oracle Racing during the team's victorious challenge of the 33rd America's Cup. He is particularly interested in fully automated, self-learning, machine learning systems and holds several patents in the fields of Data Mining and Predictive Analytics.

Organization. Microsoft

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Abstract. Information overload is a problem that has been discussed and researched for roughly 60 years. Recently, it has become a more important issue, with the availability of a wide range of resources providing information, opinions and statements. Research in summarization so far has primarily focused on extracting information from homogeneous sources, such as news. But in reality, when looking for information on a specific topic, we turn to all the various information sources available. My presentation will have two parts: First, I will present an overview on problems that have been faced in these 60 years and solutions that have been developed. These solutions are not necessarily suitable for real scenarios as experienced today. Therefore, in the second part I will present current work on extracting information from heterogeneous sources, which is being researched in the context of our DFG-funded research training group AIPHES (Adaptive Preparation of Information from Heterogeneous Sources).

Biography. Margot Mieskes is a Professor for information science at the University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt. Her research aims at extracting information from natural language sources (both written and spoken) for interdisciplinary applications of NLP. She did her PhD at EML Research, Heidelberg in collaboration with the University Erlangen-Nuremberg on the summarization of multi-party-dialogues. Afterwards, she developed industrial applications for speech synthesis and speech recognition, before returning to academia. Currently she works on applying NLP methods to improve psychotherapy (PARANOIA) and is an associated researcher in the DFG-funded research training group on the adaptive preparation of information from heterogeneous sources (AIPHES).

Organization. University of Applied Sciences, Darmstadt

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Less AI is more. A couple of simple NLP experts.

Abstract. How UBS makes people understand, believe and like what we write by using simple but effective NLP techniques (experts) in a scalable way. UBS has trillions of invested assets and to ensure the best return for our clients, we have over 900 analysts who are having a close look at the world’s markets. As a result, we write a lot! We publish hundreds of multi-page documents a day. In multiple languages. In this presentation we talk about how we use NLP techniques to scale writing, so that our clients understand, interpret and make informed decisions about their investments. We will present our overarching three-year strategy, how we started this journey, which experts we have launched already, and the challenges faced by UBS. And so far, we have had more challenges than results.

But less is more . . .

Biography. Twan Sevriens is leading the machine intelligence initiative within the content digitization team situated at wealth managements Chief Investment Office at UBS. Twan has a B degree in computer science from Fontys University of Applied Science and a MA degree in computational linguistics from Tilburg University, The Netherlands. He started his career in language technology at a language service provider in Switzerland and works for UBS since 2014.

Organization. UBS Switzerland AG

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Rudolf M. Moos, Drazenko Djordjevic

Predicting ICD-10 (diagnosis) codes with a state of the art large scale machine learning application

Abstract. During hospital stays large amounts of structured and unstructured data are collected, such as medical conditions, examination results and given medication. After a patient leaves the hospital, these data are transformed into codes as per the ICD-10 classification representing the patients diagnoses (e.g. for billing purposes). This is done manually by certified medical coders. The manual classification is error-prone and resource-constraining. Missing codes might lead to profit loss. In order to improve the quality and to identify possible errors we developed a new solution that is able to read and interpret the medical records of a hospital and to suggest ICD-10 codes automatically. Our approach is fully machine learning based and designed to achieve remarkable results no matter what language is used inside the documentation. The performance achieved by combining text features with numerical and categorical features has already outperformed reported and established approaches published in literature. Within our demonstration we want to report how our approach has been designed and how patients will benefit from that in the future.

Biography. Dr. Rudolf M. Moos graduated in medicine and business studies and used to work as a physician in visceral and trauma surgery, before he started to work within the medical directorate of the university hospital in Zurich. He has a strong academic experience and regularly publishes scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals. Deep learning projects and improving the quality of patient treatments, patient safety and billing processes are his current main scientific goals using big data analysis methods.

Drazenko Djordjevic has a Master Degree in Computer Science and Software Development from the University of Applied Sciences Constance, Germany. He has an affinity for new technologies and a deep know-how and experience in big data analysis with machine learning on multiple platforms.

Organization. University Hospital of Zurich
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Gerold Baudinot

Project Funding in Switzerland

Abstract. Financial support is one of the primary concerns/objectives while formulating a research proposal. We bring together at this platform session, experts from the funding agency for Innovation in Switzerland under whose umbrella hundreds of projects are funded every year, the federal Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI). The talk is about how CTI's funding works, CTI’s expectation with regard to the proposal content, innovation and the business aspect for the Swiss industry involved in the project. Join this session to hear from and meet the experts.

Biography. Prof. Baudinot is Managing Director of the Data+Service alliance. He is currently head of InIT at ZHAW. Prof. Baudinot’s research expertise and teaching interests include Data Warehousing and Big Data. Prof. Baudinot has several years of experience in creating and leading Swiss SME. He held high-ranking corporate positions in companies like Conexus, Logical CH, SAS and UBS.

Organization. Data+Service Alliance

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Abstract. There is much hype around deep learning and its capabilities. In the course of the past few years deep learning approaches outperformed the classical machine learning approaches on many tasks. In our research, we apply deep learning on a variety of tasks, such as: sentiment analysis, age & gender detection, community question answering, and question-question similarity. In this talk we will present how these tasks can be tackled using deep learning, show how well they perform, and outline the limitations of the deep learning approaches. The talk is intended to present an easy-to-digest overview of the research in deep learning for NLP.

Biography. Jan Deriu works as a research assistant at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). His main interests lie in natural language processing and deep learning. During his master thesis at ETH he was part of the team that won the SemEval2016 task for sentiment analysis. He already presented at several international conferences on the topic of sentiment analysis.

Organization. Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

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Prakhar Gupta, Matteo Pagliardini, Martin Jaggi

Unsupervised learning of sentence embeddings using compositional n-gram features

Abstract. The recent tremendous success of unsupervised word embeddings in a multitude of applications raises the obvious question if similar methods could be derived to improve embeddings (i.e. semantic representations) of word sequences as well. We present a simple but efficient unsupervised objective to train distributed representations of sentences. Our method outperforms the state-of-the-art unsupervised models on most benchmark tasks, and on many tasks even beats supervised models, highlighting the robustness of the produced sentence embeddings. These representations can be suitably used as features for different supervised tasks such as sentiment analysis, question answering etc. and thus, can be the building blocks of many NLP applications.

Biography. Ph.D. student - Machine Learning and Optimization Laboratory Computer and Communication Sciences, EPFL

Organization. Iprova SA, Switzerland
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Labeling news in several languages using hierarchical attention networks

Abstract. Knowledge transfer from high to low resource languages is a desirable objective for many multilingual text processing tasks. We present here a deep-learning architecture for document classification in a multilingual setting, on a news data set from Deutsche Welle with about 600’000 news documents in 8 languages, and around 5’000 labels that are disjoint across languages. We combine hierarchical neural networks with an attention mechanism to learn document structures, and enable the sharing of encoders and/or of the attention mechanisms across languages. We use multi-task learning and a cross-language aligned semantic space as input. The proposed multilingual models outperform strong monolingual ones in low-resource as well as full-resource settings, and use fewer parameters than monolingual models that are trained separately. This confirms the utility of cross-language transfer.

Biography. Nikolaos Pappas is a postdoctoral researcher at the Idiap Research Institute group, working on natural language understanding. In 2016, he obtained a PhD from EPFL, and in 2011 an MSc in information management from the University of the Aegean. His fields of interests are natural language processing (document modeling, text classification, sentiment analysis) and machine learning (sequence modeling, multiple-instance learning).

Organization. Idiap Research Institute

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Presentation

Tanja Samardzic

Basic natural language processing for Swiss German texts

Abstract. In this talk, I will present Swiss German resources and tools developed at the University of Zurich. The main resource is the ArchiMob corpus of transcriptions aligned with the sound source and annotated. The tools include the systems developed to process the corpus at different steps: a) speech-to-text conversion, b) normalisation of spelling variants based on character-level machine translation, c) part-of-speech tagging. All the systems are implementations of machine learning algorithms. The corpus and the models trained on it represent typical up-stream natural language processing resources necessary for the development of text-analytic applications. The intended audience includes both researchers and professionals interested in applying our resources in their own work.

Biography. Dr. Tanja Samardzic is the director of CorpusLab, URPP Language and Space, at the University of Zurich. She received her PhD degree in computational linguistics from the University of Geneva in the group Computational Learning and Computational Linguistics led by Prof Paola Merlo and Dr James Henderson. She received her MA and BA degree in linguistics at the University of Belgrade.

Organization. University of Zurich

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Abstract. One of the consequences of the sentence-by-sentence paradigm in machine translation (MT) is that numerous dependencies across sentences are lost, by definition. We will present several approaches that extract features from a wider context than statistical MT systems are able to consider. These features are broadly related to co-reference relationships between nouns and/or pronouns. We will first present a solution to enforce the consistent translation of lexical chains, specifically of nouns repeated within and across sentences, based on syntactic and semantic features, addressing the challenge of when and how to enforce this consistency. Then, we will generalize the solution to the translation of co-reference chains, computed automatically. We will show that automatically computing co-reference similarity between source and target texts and using this metric as an optimization criterion for MT is a tractable approach that improves translation, particularly for pronouns.

Biography. Andrei Popescu-Belis is a senior researcher at the Idiap Research Institute, a lecturer at EPFL, and the head of Idiap’s natural language processing (NLP) group. His research interests are in natural language processing, machine translation, and information retrieval.

Organization. Idiap Research Institute
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Abstract. Sentiment analysis in particular, and many text analysis tasks in general, face unique challenges when adapting to the Swiss market and its linguistic characteristics. Unlike monolingual countries, the language of a product review in an e-commerce website cannot be assumed a priori, and the use of colloquial speech and dialectal variations makes it more challenging to use traditional techniques. However, applying language detection as a pre-processing step is not a robust solution, since it introduces an additional source of error, especially for short pieces of text. Therefore, it is desirable to avoid any language assumption and directly develop a model tailored for text analysis in a language-agnostic setup. In this talk, we introduce the problem of language-agnostic sentiment analysis, its challenges, and its application in Swiss industrial and business services. We then study different solutions and compare them on product review data acquired from Swiss e-commerce providers.

Biography. Alireza Ghasemi is a data scientist at ELCA, working on industrial machine learning, business intelligence, and big data projects. He received his PhD in computer science from Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne. He has worked on various areas within artificial intelligence and machine learning including active learning, one-class learning, text categorisation and human computation. His works have won various awards, including the Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship 2015.

Organization. ELCA Informatique SA

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Abstract. Scientific publications are often queried by author name. However, author names can be highly ambiguous, which complicates any author search and posterior analysis. Moreover, information about the author affiliation or/and email address is often missing. In cases where such information is not available, identifying the authorship of publications becomes very challenging. Consequently, there have been attempts to resolve such cases by utilizing external resources as references. However, such external resources are heterogeneous and are not always reliable regarding the correctness of information. Thus, to solve the author name disambiguation task (AND), especially when information about an author is missing or incomplete we suggest a set of new features that describe the domain of research of a publication, based on journal descriptors and semantic types. These new features allow us to surpass state-of-the-art performance for AND for biomedical publications. Audience: biomedical text and data mining scientists; human resource specialists; life-sciences industry with focus on competitive intelligence.

Biography. Dr. Dina Vishnyakova is a postdoctoral fellow at the Roche Innovation Center Basel, Switzerland. In 2014, she obtained a PhD in computer sciences at the University of Geneva working on biomedical text mining. Currently she is focused on developing new algorithms to track the scientific work of biomedical scientists, companies and institutions over time and across multiple types of publications. She is also interested in other applications of text mining to the biomedical field, such as the development of search engines.

Organization. F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

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Abstract. In our project we try to reach better performance for named entity recognition on data sets with little annotated data. On a bidirectional LSTM using word and character level features we evaluate different approaches to improve the performance of our system. These approaches include transfer learning on cross language data sets as well as training with partially annotated data which is generated using a simple matching approach. The result is a framework which takes a list of names for each named entity type, a set of fully annotated documents as well as a set of unannotated documents of the target domain. Taking this input our framework generates / trains a tool which will find named entities in new documents. This could be interesting for companies that would like to do named entity recognition on their domain, have a lot of documents available, but very little of them annotated.

Biography. Pius von Däniken is a machine learning intern at SpinningBytes AG. He is pursuing an Msc in Computer Science at ETHZ and earned his BSc in computer science from EPFL. He is interested in machine learning, AI in general, and their application to real-world tasks.

Organization. SpinningBytes AG
Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

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Pribot: A chatbot for privacy policies

Abstract. If people read all the privacy policies they face online, they will need 255 hours per year. Thus, it is rarely the case. With the emergence of the small screen and voice-activated devices, this problem is further amplified: privacy policies cannot be easily communicated in such channels. We propose to fix these issues with a conversational interface. Pribot is the first question-answering (QA) chatbot for privacy policies. It takes a previously unseen privacy policy and uses it to answer, in real time with high accuracy and relevance, user questions that are posed in free form. It further simplifies the policy with high-level summaries generated from the legalese text. Its applications range from customer service settings to giving the customers a way to compare various providers based on a specific question. Its main advantage is saving humans work that that can take from minutes to hours. The audience is a general one, with business or technical background.

Biography. Hamza Harkous (hamzaharkous.com) is a final year Ph.D. candidate at EPFL. His research is on "Data-Driven, Usable Privacy". This entails using data analysis to build privacy enhancing technologies and personalized privacy notices. His recent research uses deep learning models for building Pribot, the first QA chatbot for answering questions about company’s privacy practices. His earlier work was PrivySeal, which allows users to see the far-reaching insights of sharing their data with cloud apps.

Organization. École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
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Abstract. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a cognitive assistant who answers your everyday questions, proposes personalised choices according to your specific needs, performs simple tasks for you, speaks and understands your individual language and even detects your sentiment similar to a human being? Let me introduce you to: YPEA Your Personal Event Assistant. IBM has created a broad set of specialised services that offer various cognitive functionalities for enriching your applications in order to become cognitive as well. All services are available in the cloud, accessible via APIs and can be freely combined with each other. A cognitive chatbot can be easily built by utilizing the Watson Conversation Service (WCS). This service is based on a straightforward data concept and a decision-tree dialog flow with a machine learning component for enabling anyone - no matter which background - to build a powerful and flexible chatbot. The beauty of WCS is the fact that it offers an intuitive and instantly ready interface for inputting your data, training the system, planning user conversations and testing it out. You can learn how to do that in only 5 minutes. What would YOU like to ask YPEA? Have a try!

Biography. Dorothee Reinhard is a Watson Cognitive Engineer at IBM Switzerland since 2017. She is responsible for the building and training of Watson cognitive chatbots and other Watson Platform services. In 2008, she finished her Magistra Artium in Computational Linguistics and Anglistics at the University of Heidelberg. For the past 9 years, she has worked in various research institutions, universities, startups as well as companies in the field of semantic data mining, semantic structuring, semantic databases, dialogue, question-answering and usability.

Organization. IBM Switzerland

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Targeted marketing using unsupervised natural language processing

Abstract. Specifying campaigns and appropriate communication channels for previously identified target groups belongs to the key competences of human marketers. However, difficulties arise when later on individuals must be assigned to their most relevant target group in order to trigger the corresponding campaign. We investigate methods to computationally derive such a mapping using unsupervised NLP techniques. Our business partner promoted an online contest that requests participants to elaborate on a perfect holiday at a destination of their choice. Three professional marketers from different youth marketing companies labelled this dataset independently with the best matching target groups. To establish such matches automatically, we compare individual contest answers with attributed descriptions of all target groups by means of several semantic similarity measures based on word2vec and ESA. Hereby, we are reaching almost human-like performance with runtimes that even qualify for online campaigns.

Biography. Tim vor der Brück is a senior research associate at HSLU with more than a decade of research experience in machine learning and statistics. He studied computer science with a focus on artificial intelligence at Saarland University until 2001. In 2011, he obtained his PhD on knowledge acquisition from texts by means of machine learning methods and logic at the Distance University of Hagen. Additionally, he has reviewed numerous articles for conferences in the area of language technology.

Jaywalker Digital is all about loving to work with data and crafting fascinating analysis and products. We’re passionate about getting the most out of data and people. Our focus is on using data to help companies getting deeper insights about their daily business and customers.

Organization. Jaywalker Digital AG
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Abstract. The claims process is a core process in the insurance industry. We show how, by using Cogito, the semantic engine developed by Expert System, insurance companies bring process automation to a new level. By using a semantic engine to analyse and understand text, we are able to extract the relevant facts from various complex documents, analyse them deeply and speed up case management by dimensions. Close collaboration with human subject matter experts does not only help to teach the semantic engine, but the experts themselves also gain unexpected insights into their work. As a result, the business does not only save time and resources on case processing, but also benefits from improved quality and consistency. We present the actual benefits that can be gained with a semantic approach and lessons learned in such a project.

Biography. Richard Forster is responsible for cognitive computing and semantics at Wabion AG. He holds a PhD in computational linguistics (with a thesis on document clustering) and an MA in economics and computer science from the University of Zurich. For the past 15 years he has worked in different areas of text retrieval, text presentation, text processing, text localisation and text analysis.

Samuel Pasquier is business partner and co-founder of Wabion AG. He graduated from ETH Zurich with a Master’s degree in engineering. He has led and implemented dozens of projects across various industries and applications, with a particular focus on the implementation of search solutions and other Google products.

Organization. Wabion AG

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Posters

 Aspect-based sentiment analysis to extract organoleptic wine profile

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Machine translation of film and TV subtitles

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Improving the tourism marketing strategies by predicting the behavior of travellers using social media networks

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Hierarchical classification for economic news articles

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Concept molecules as basis for text analytics and its comparison to corpus based methods

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We have answered this before: a study of the characteristics and solutions of the question retrieval and equivalence detection problem

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Improving product development and customer journey through text analytics

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Making chatbots for the Swiss industry: lessons learned

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BBDia: diachronic visualisation of semantically related n-grams using word embeddings

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Taxonomy induction using hypernym subsequences

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A twitter corpus and benchmark resources for German sentiment analysis

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Designing cognitive computing architectures for domain-specific decision support systems

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Assessing keyness by permutation tests

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An end-to-end pipeline for detecting and categorising customer complaints

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KuBu - a chatbot for Swiss public transport information

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Privacy in the time of bots: answering free-form questions about privacy policies with deep learning

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Weighted word overlap and word embeddings: a practical ensemble approach to question matching in a dialogue simulator

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Exploiting inheritance based lexicons for sentiment analysis

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Four different ways to build a chatbot about movies

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We turn data into valuable insights

SpinningBytes offers smart software for automatic text and data analysis. The resulting insights can be used for business decisions, process optimization or even new data products.

We are experts in machine learning, data mining and software engineering, and we deliver ready-to-use software for your data analytics task.

The Company. SpinningBytes AG was founded in 2015 by researchers from ETH and Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). We offer: Brainstorming Workshops to find the best solution for your business problem; Smart Software Libraries for tasks such as sentiment analysis, entity extraction and topic detection; and Custom Projects for solving your specific data understanding task efficiently and effectively.

Our Products. Our core product is DeepText: ready-to-use software libraries for text analytics tasks. DeepText uses state-of-the-art machine learning and deep learning algorithms to analyze texts in arbitrary languages.

Winner of SemEval 2016! In collaboration with ETH and ZHAW, our team has developed the state-of-the-art text sentiment analyzer, powered by deep-learning techniques on 1 billion Twitter messages. This approach outperformed all other competitors at SemEval 2016, one of the most important international competitions on semantic analysis.

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The CTI is the Confederation’s innovation promotion agency. It provides consultancy and networking services and financial resources to help turn scientific research into economic results.

Its main instrument is the funding for joint R&D projects between higher education institutions and SMEs (CHF 186.5m in 2016). Innovation mentors help companies to find public research institutions and to jointly launch successful innovation projects.

Mr Jürg Attinger is a mechanical engineer and an experienced CTI Innovation Mentor with extensive knowledge of the medical device sector. He is committed to innovation and is your point of contact to find out how you too can benefit from the CTI’s innovation promotion measures.

For more information, meet him at our stand or visit www.kti.admin.ch.
Expert System & Wabion

**Expert System** is a leading provider of cognitive computing and text analytics software based on the proprietary and patented semantic technology of Cogito. The company has been included by Gartner in the latest Magic Quadrant dedicated to solutions for enterprise search, and in The Forrester Wave™ Big Data Text Analytics Platform. Expert System serves some of the world's largest industries and it's distinguished by a leadership in providing solutions based on its Cogito technology, available in several languages, patented in the US and implemented based on more than 20 years of experience.

**Wabion** is the leading Expert System Platinum Partner and the leading Google for Work Premier Partner in the “DACH” countries, with local offices and staff in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. A specialized integrator for Expert System Cogito, enterprise search, business automation, mapping applications and cloud services, the company helps its customers achieve true Digital Transformation. Wabion provides expert consulting, know-how and support for all challenges concerning intelligent text processing, retrieval and analytics.

Thanks to their strategic partnership, Expert System and Wabion offer innovative solutions making information management more effective, with particular support for process optimization in the banking and insurance world. Our semantic solutions include:

- Process automation and optimization by reading and categorizing masses of text (e.g. Insurance Claims Handling)
- Process automation and optimization by understanding and answering questions with a knowledge base (e.g. Customer Support)
- Knowledge Management and Semantic Enrichment in combination with Enterprise Search to provide insights and self service portals
- Social Media analytics including sentiment analysis
- … and many more

If you are interested in a deeper discussion what semantics can do for your business, get in touch with Dr. Richard Forster (Head of Semantics, Wabion, richard.forster@wabion.ch) or Pamela Negosanti (Technical Director Strategic Partnerships, Expert System, pnegosanti@expertsystem.com)
Die Mobiliar is Switzerland’s oldest private insurer, and the market leader in several major insurance segments. Every third household and every fourth company in Switzerland is insured with us.

Our presence in over 160 locations throughout the country cements our reputation as Switzerland’s most personal insurance company.

The Data Science & Analytics team at Die Mobiliar works on solving problems centered around insurance data. We combine our expertise on

- machine learning,
- text mining,
- natural language processing,
- image analysis, and
- recommender systems

with Die Mobiliar’s nearly 200-year-old expertise on the insurance business.

The result: analytics solutions that optimise processes and support decision-making for Die Mobiliar and the wider insurance industry.

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per company

per desk

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DONE Solutions AG, Sihlfeldstrasse 58, 8003 Zürich, d1-solutions.com
What to do with 70+ data scientists?
The ZHAW Data Science Laboratory, Datalab, is a virtual research group spanning three departments and five institutes of one of Switzerland’s biggest universities of applied sciences. Being very strong in research, it brings together all researchers engaged in the particular aspects of data science under one roof for collaborative research and industry projects.

Founded in early 2013 as one of Europe’s first groups dedicated to data science, ZHAW Datalab currently comprises more than 70 researchers from as diverse areas as law, analytics, computer science and entrepreneurship. It is one of the leading data science research centers in Switzerland and beyond.

Our offer: R&D projects
ZHAW Datalab offers the perfect team composition for any individual data science project. From our pool of domain experts, we form interdisciplinary project teams with the right mix of methodical and industry expertise. We are used to working together and crossing departmental borders.

Possible project settings are third party- or directly funded R&D projects as well as student’s thesis projects, feasibility studies and consulting. Typical project durations vary from a few weeks to several years. We adopt our processes, tools and technologies to our partner’s needs.

Our service: education & community building
ZHAW Datalab designed one of the first dedicated data science curricula in Europe: The “Master of Advanced Studies in Data Science” for professional education. Our associates also commit considerable amounts of time to various Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. degree programmes, thus sustaining the idea interchange between projects, students and industry.

We are committed to the Swiss data science community by means of several events and conferences we (co-) organize. One particular example is the “Swiss Conference on Data Science” series since 2014. We highly value this chance for idea exchange, trend spotting and passing on of lessons learned.

Get in touch
Find more information at www.zhaw.ch/datalab (e.g., about individual team members and projects), contact us directly via datalab@zhaw.ch, or follow us on Twitter:

@DataScienceCH
Institute of Information Systems

Presentation

The Institute of Information Systems of the HES-SO Valais-Wallis is closely related to the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree courses of the same name and specialises in the development of information systems for companies in any industry. The Institute is active in high value-added areas of the local economy such as eHealth, eServices (digitization of services), eGovernment, eEnergy (energy management) or ERP. The Institute of Information Systems oversees the continuing education programmes in information technology.

Research teams interested in text analytics

Data Semantics Lab – www.hevs.ch/datasetemlab

The Data Semantics Lab has been at forefront of Semantic Web and Data Integration research since 2003. In data semantics, the focus is on how a data object represents a concept or object in the real world. We believe that the explicit presentation of data semantics facilitates data interoperability in the way how information is accessed, aggregated and organized on the Web. In particular, resolving semantic heterogeneity, gathering and sharing data among autonomous and heterogeneous data sources are key to the new pattern. Our lab focuses on scientific research and practical applications of Semantic Computing, Linked Data, Information Extraction, Knowledge Management, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Data Visualization, Business process modeling and Mobile technologies. We are working both with domestic and international partners from different organizations, enterprises and government.

DUDE-LAB : Data Understanding Data Explained – www.hevs.ch/dude-lab

This lab of computer science is built with people mind. People to build it people to use its results. We would like to help people drowned in the ocean of data that is available today on different supports and different media. So we tackle the problem of making sense of data, information, and knowledge to provide tools that will help us human to gain a better understanding of our environment and help us to take better decisions. We address here practical problems that can be solved with data intelligence analysis like: prediction of energy consumption, storage and production (solar, wind), pattern recognition of biological signals, social media knowledge extraction, modular information systems imbedding data analysis.

MedGIFT – www.hevs.ch/medgift

The MedGIFT project started at the medical faculty of the University of Geneva, Switzerland in 2002 and is since 2007 located in the Institute of Information Systems at the HES-SO in Sierre (Valais), Switzerland. The name stems originally from the use of the GNU Image Finding Tool (GIFT) for medical applications. Over the years the GIFT has been used less frequently and a large set of tools and applications have been developed to advance the field of medical visual information retrieval. All developed tools are open source and can be requested by email. Some very old tools might not be available anymore. A very strong collaboration with medical informatics and the University Hospitals and University of Geneva, Switzerland continues to keep the group activities in medical information analysis and at the interface between computer science and medicine.
Bern University of Applied Sciences

IDE Research Group

The Information and Data Engineering Research Group is part of the Institute for ICT-based Management at the Bern University of Applied Sciences. Our interdisciplinary team consists of scientists and technical staff with backgrounds in computer science, mathematics, and economics.

Competencies and Reference Projects

We conduct data-centric R&D projects and offer consulting services to our Swiss and international partners. In detail, we cover

- Data Science for structured and unstructured data (statistics, mathematical modeling, machine learning, and text mining), e.g.,
  - consulting on data modeling and text mining for the PostFinance AG
  - analysis of blood pressure sensor data for the STBL Medical Research AG and EMPA
  - data visualization for the Canton of Bern
- Linked Data and semantic Web technologies, e.g.,
  - Linked Data platform for the EU research projects Fusepool / Fusepool P3
  - modeling and execution of data transformation workflows for CTI project DOW
- Web and mobile applications technologies, e.g.,
  - mobile application myBFH
- Social networks and applications, e.g.,
  - collaborative learning platform for Linked Data technologies for the Hasler foundation project EDULOD

We are experienced software developers for different technology stacks (MATLAB, Java, .NET, SQL, Hadoop, Spark, etc.). Our staff is also teaching courses for computer science students on bachelor- and master-level.

Contact

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Vogel
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Institute for ICT-based Management
Bern University of Applied Sciences
http://ictm.bfh.ch
The Information Systems and Networking Institute (ISIN) is part of the Department of Innovative Technologies at SUPSI. ISIN carries out teaching (Bachelor, Master and Continuing education) and applied research activities in the information and communication technology domain with a special focus of Internet of Things applications.

The robust research portfolio of the Institute spans many disciplines, including:

- Data and semantic analysis
- Multimedia processing
- Natural User Interfaces
- Cyber-security
- Pervasive communication

The wide range of competences is mostly exploited in Internet of Things projects involving local companies and other organizations.

Since it was established, the institute has considerably grown in terms of people, projects and applied research activity reaching about 40 employees and 3 Mio CHF yearly in applied leading-edge research projects. In the last few years dozens of KTI, EU and SNF projects have been acquired and completed.
Idiap Research Institute

Founded in 1991 by the State of Valais, the City of Martigny, the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), the University of Geneva, and the Telecom PTT (now Swisscom), the Idiap Research Institute (www.idiap.ch) is an independent, non-profit research foundation devoted to advanced research, training, developments and technology transfer in the areas of multimedia information management, perceptual and cognitive systems, social media, biometric person recognition, multimodal information interfaces, and large-scale machine learning.

Considered as part of the ETH Strategic Domain, Idiap is accredited and co-funded by the Federal Government, the State of Valais, and the City of Martigny, for a total averaging 40-45% of its annual budget, the remainder coming from competitive projects and industry. The Idiap budget has been steadily growing over the last 25 years, and now reaches over 10 MCHF/year.

Idiap is active in numerous national and international projects, with an average of 45 projects active every year. From 2001 to 2013, Idiap was the Leading House of the National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) on Interactive Multimodal Information Management (IM2).

With a staff of more than 100 people, mainly composed of senior researchers, post-docs, and PhD students, Idiap generates more than 100 high-quality peer-reviewed international publications per year.

Idiap has a strong focus on technology transfer activities and research contracts with industry mainly through its incubator IdeArk SA and through other innovation intensive activities such as the International Create Challenge, a startup creation event initiated by Idiap three years ago.

http://www.idiap.ch

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Switzerland
Lucerne School of Information Technology

The Lucerne School of Information Technology is one of the six Schools of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. It is the regional University of Applied Sciences for the six cantons in Central Switzerland and is the biggest educational institution situated in the heart of the country. There are over 5,900 bachelor’s and master’s students, 4,400 students in continuing and executive education and over 550 projects in research and development.

The Lucerne School of Information Technology offers bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, continuing and executive education programs, research and development, and services in Information Technology and Business Information Technology on a single campus. It is the only dedicated School for Information Technology in Switzerland.

The new facilities on the Suurstoffi site in Rotkreuz are a central part of this growth strategy. With the Campus in Rotkreuz, the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts is creating one of the most advanced learning centers in Switzerland.

Besides its broad portfolio of educational offerings, the Lucerne School of Information Technology has also a strong research profile with projects including the following areas:

- Machine Learning
- Image Processing
- Natural Language Processing
- Constraint Satisfaction and Discrete Optimization
- Mobile Computing

For more information about this institution please contact Prof Dr René Hüsler, Dean of the Lucerne School of Information Technology (rene.huesler@hslu.ch) or Dr Tim Weingärtner, Vice Dean and Head of Research of the Lucerne School of Information Technology (tim.weingaertner@hslu.ch).
HE-Arc is part of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO), the largest University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland and the second largest higher education institution of Switzerland. HE-Arc undertakes research projects with a wide range of partners, including research centres and universities in Switzerland or abroad, as well as public or private companies and institutions. Strongly anchored in the regional economy of the “Arc jurassien”, territories of Neuchâtel/Bern/Jura Cantons, HE-Arc collaborates closely with SMEs, and its R&D also extends to certain aspects of industrial-scale production.

Dedicated to computer sciences applied to different areas varying from industrial-driven applications to research and academic-driven issues, Data Analytics Group - DAG at HE-Arc is a research group active in the fields of Data Mining, Big Data Predictive Analytics, High Performance Computing and Complex Numeric Algorithms. DAG has a solid theoretical and practical background in cutting edge technologies and latest advancements in the state of the art of Natural Language Processing such as textual data classification, clustering and regression algorithms deployed in CPU and GPU architectures. DAG has recently realised several solutions to solve concrete industrial problems related to big data analytics and genetic optimization on distributed ecosystems such as Hadoop/Yarn and Spark.
Institute of Computational Linguistics

Computational Linguistics

Computational Linguistics investigates how human language is used as a means of transmitting, storing and processing information, and how these processes can be modeled on a computer and made available to specific applications. Searching information in the World Wide Web, analyzing texts in blogs and forums to gain insight in people’s opinions, automatic text summarization or machine translation – Computational Linguistics attempts to make information available for our knowledge-based society.

Study

Computational Linguistics combines linguistics and information science and is the right choice for everyone that is interested in both areas.

Research

Research topics of our institute include:

- Multilingual Text Analysis
- Machine Translation
- Sentiment Analysis and Opinion Mining
- Automated Media Analysis
- Biomedical Text Mining

Further information

Detailed information about our research and studying Computational Linguistics can be found at:

www.cl.uzh.ch
Special Interest Group of the Swiss Informatics Society for Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science

The Special Interest Group for Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science (SGAICO) brings together researchers, practitioners and other parties interested in the subjects of artificial intelligence and cognitive science (AI/CO).

SGAICO pursues the goal of promoting intelligent technologies for innovation in our society. It provides a platform for exchange between industry and universities. You are cordially invited to join in our various activities and become a member of our Swiss network of experts as a platform for your ideas and initiatives.

- Discussion and dissemination of AI/CO-related knowledge
- Exchange on application problems occurring in Swiss enterprises and establishment of contacts between users and experts in Switzerland
- AI/CO methods and technologies in interdisciplinary contexts such as for example engineering, medicine, psychology and law
- Successful applications of AI/CO around the world and their relevance for Switzerland
- Topics and needs of AI/CO education in Switzerland

SGAICO supports and participates in many different events on AI /CO-related topics. It also supports Swiss researchers in a wide range of activities such as community exchange, establishing contacts, or the organization of events.

SGAICO is a member of the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI), which is coordinating the European national AI/CO societies.


Contact: sgaico@s-i.ch

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Deputy Presidents: Jean-Daniel Dessimoz, HESSO-HEIG-VD, Marc-Oliver Gewaltig, EPFL, Thilo Stadelmann, ZHAW
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https://www.swisstext.org/2017/feedback
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