



Temple University

ANNOUNCES A
COLLOQUIUM

Dr. Alexander Yates

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will speak on

Learning Representations for Language for Domain Adaptation

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Date: Friday, March 4, 2011

Place: Alter Hall 746

Abstract

Supervised NLP systems traditionally rely on carefully-engineered, manually-tuned features for accuracy. This paradigm has led to rapid progress in the field. However, recent experiments have shown that such systems have difficulty generalizing to language that differs from the small subset of language observed during training. This is especially true for systems that are trained on one domain, such as newswire text, and tested on another, like biomedical text. Both empirical evidence and theoretical arguments point to traditional feature sets as the culprits.

In this talk we describe our recent efforts at automatically learning features for supervised NLP tasks. We describe a new paradigm in which language models are trained on a large unlabeled corpus, and then used to embed sentences in a novel feature space. By carefully designing our language models, we can combat problems --- like sparsity --- that plague traditional representations, and we can take advantage of linguistic intuitions to improve our representations. Experiments in a variety of domain adaptation settings and for a variety of NLP tasks show that this paradigm leads to state-of-the-art performance.

Guest Parking Available in the **Liacouras Garage**
(Located on **15th Street between Montgomery and Cecil B. Moore Avenues**)