Linas Baltrunas

Personal information

Nationality	Lithuanian
Place of Birth	Vilnius, Lithuania
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Profile

I love to make things happen and understand how they work. I enjoy seeing it all start from an idea that is finally used by millions of people. Often I prefer to start from scratch and create the theory together with the final product. I strive to make the technically sound choices on the way, learn from the best and self improve. For example, my last big accomplished project is Frappé - an open source app recommendation engine that is currently deployed on Mozilla marketplace, which serves 3-5M unique users a month. To make it a success, I learned how to lead the team. I learned how to deploy the software and make it scale. I made decisions that I was sure about, I made errors, and I asked the best people in the industry of their opinions. It was an amazing learning experience and a way to self improve on technical and personal levels.

Professional Experience

Researcher	2014-present Telefonica Research and Development. Research on Machine Learning, Personalisation and Recommender Systems. Technical Lead of IPTV related innovation project.
Associate Researcher	2011-2014 Telefonica Research and Development. Lead of the Frappé project, research and consultation on Recommender Systems.
Teaching Assistant	2010-2011 TA for "Information Search and Retrieval" post-graduate course at the Faculty of Computer Science, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.
Teaching Assistant	2008-2011 TA for "Internet Technologies" undergraduate course at the Faculty of Computer Science, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.
Development	2006 extending Secondo DBMS system for spatio-temporal data import at Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy.
Development	2004-2005 Research and development of temporal aggregation operators with C/C++ at Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy.
Engineering	2003-2004 Engineering and development of J2EE applications at "Megalogika" Inc, Lithuania
Development	2002-2003 Development of mobile and web applications at "Megalogika" Inc, Lithuania.

Development	2000-2001 Development of an internal warehouse management database using C++ at "B.G.M." Inc, Lithuania.

Education

Ph.D.	2007-2011 Ph.D. in Computer Science at Free University of Bolzano, Italy. Department of Database Information Systems. Thesis title: "Context-Aware Collaborative Filtering Recommender Systems". Advisor: prof. Francesco Ricci.
Intern	2010 Intern at Telefónica Investigación y Desarrollo, Barcelona. Working on time dependent music recommendations and Tensor Factorization. Advisor: Xavier Amatriain.
Master of Science	2004-2006 Master of Science in Computer Science at Free University of Bolzano, Italy. Department of Database Information Systems.
Bachelor of Science	2000-2004 Bachelor of Computer Science at Vilnius University, Lithuania.
Erasmus	2003 studied Databases, Database Management Systems, Data Mining at Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece.

Academic Commitments

Tutorial	Learning to rank for recommender systems at Recsys 2013 (16K views on slideshare).
PC member	Member of the Programme Committee of the 5th,6th,7th,8th,9th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems, WWW[2014,2015], UMAP[2015], AAAI[2013]
CARS	Organiser of the 3rd International Workshop on Context-Aware Recommender Systems, Member of the program commity for the first and second edition.
Supervising	2011 Co-Supervisor of master thesis of Omar Moling on Reinforcement Techniques for Music Recommendations.
Supervising	2010 Co-Supervisor of bachelor thesis of Stefan Peer called "Real-Time Context-Aware Recommendations for Mobile Users".

Selected List of Publications

Recsys 2014	S. Vargas, L. Baltrunas, A. Karatzoglou, P. Castells: Coverage, redundancy and size-awareness in genre diversity for recommender systems. RecSys 2014: 209-216
CIKM 2013	Y. Shi, A. Karatzoglou, L. Baltrunas, M. Larson, A. Hanjalic: GAPfm: optimal top-n recommendations for graded relevance domains. CIKM 2013: 2261-2266
SIGIR 2012	T. V. Nguyen, A. Karatzoglou, L. Baltrunas: Gaussian process factorization machines for context-aware recommendations. SIGIR 2014: 63-72
Recsys 2012	O. Moling, L. Baltrunas, F. Ricci: Optimal radio channel recommendations with explicit and implicit feedback. RecSys 2012: 75-82
Recsys 2012	Y. Shi, A. Karatzoglou, L. Baltrunas, M. Larson, N. Oliver, A. Hanjalic: CLiMF: learning to maximize reciprocal rank with collabo-

rative less-is-more filtering. RecSys 2012: 139-146 **(best paper award)**.

RecSys 2011	L. Baltrunas, B. Ludwig, F. Ricci. Matrix Factorization Techniques for Context Aware Recommendation. RecSys 2011: Proceedings of the fourth ACM conference on Recommender systems.
PUC 2011	L. Baltrunas, B. Ludwig, S. Peer, F. Ricci. Context relevance assessment and exploitation in mobile recommender systems. Personal and Ubiquitous Computing, pages 1–20, 2011
RecSys 2010	A. Karatzoglou, X. Amatriain, L. Baltrunas, N. Oliver. Multiverse recommendation: n-dimensional tensor factorization for context-aware collaborative filtering. In RecSys 10: Proceedings of the fourth ACM conference on Recommender systems, pages 79–86, New York, NY, USA. ACM.
RecSys 2010	L. Baltrunas, T. Makcinskas, F. Ricci. Group recommendations with rank aggregation and collaborative filtering. In RecSys 10: Proceedings of the fourth ACM conference on Recommender systems, pages 119–126, New York, NY, USA. ACM.
RecSys 2009	L. Baltrunas and F. Ricci. Context-based splitting of item ratings in collaborative filtering. In L. D. Bergman, A. Tuzhilin, R. Burke, A. Felfernig, and L. Schmidt-Thieme, editors, RecSys, pages 245–248. ACM, 2009.

Technical Skills

Python	Standard libraries, scipy, numpy, theano.
Java	Spring MVC, Eclipse, Maven, Jblas.
Scrum	Since 2013 I used Scrum for software management in Owner and Master roles.
Software Architecture	Designed several Recommendation Serving Systems that scale to millions of users.
Databases	Microsoft Certified Professional in Designing and Implementing Databases with Microsoft SQL Server (exam no. 70-029), year 2001. Knowledge of PostgreSQL, mySQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle.

Languages

Lithuanian	Native speaker.
English	Excellent oral and writing skills.
Russian	Excellent oral and good reading skills.
Catalan	Good oral skills.
Italian	Basic communication skills.
German	Basic communication skills.

Barcelona, Spain, June 16, 2015