

# Zack HODARI

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## EDUCATION

Current	<b>PhD</b> in Data Science – School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh <b>Thesis:</b> Sampling methods for speech synthesis: using generative models to vary prosody <b>Supervisor:</b> Professor Simon King Can we produce distinct waveforms given the same text? By addressing assumptions made in existing speech synthesis systems, waveforms can be sampled from these generative models. Plan to focus on prosody variation.
2016 – 2017	<b>MScR</b> in Data Science – School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh <b>Thesis:</b> A learned emotion space for emotion recognition and emotive speech synthesis <b>Supervisor:</b> Professor Simon King <b>Result:</b> DISTINCTION – 81% Developed an emotion space to address issues with existing descriptions of emotion. Investigated methods to improve interpretability. Performed listening test evaluation using style adaptation for expressive text-to-speech.
2013 – 2016	<b>BSc</b> in Computer Science – Durham University <b>Result:</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS HONOURS – 79%

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current	<b>Demonstrator</b> – University of Edinburgh <b>Course:</b> Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing
JUNE – SEPT. 2015 2015	<b>Research internship</b> – FootClicks Created error model for mobile phone's gyroscope: collected data using Inertial Measuring Unit and mobile phone for a range of device usage conditions; analysed gyro signal to determine contribution of hardware error.
JULY – SEPT. 2013 2013	<b>Bulk testing &amp; RMA</b> – Brinkley Services Categorised faulty hardware using diagnostic tools. Handled and filed RMA requests.

## VOLUNTARY WORK

SEPT. – JULY 2015 2016	<b>President</b> – Durham University Quidditch Club Managed team of 14 people. Ran sports club with 2 teams. Liaised with Students Union & Athletics Union staff.
SEPT. – JULY 2014 2016	<b>Societies representative</b> – Durham University societies committee Chaired meetings of society presidents. Represented societies on the Students Union democratic body.
SEPT. – JULY 2014 2015	<b>Treasurer</b> – Durham University Quidditch Club Handled all financial transactions. Managed budget and procured equipment for a 200-person 3-day sports event.
SEPT. – JULY 2014 2015	<b>Tutor</b> – Durham student community action Tutored A2 students in maths and further maths.

## AWARDS

JULY 2016	Top 5 in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences
NOV. 2015	Outstanding Achievement Award (performed top in the year)
OCT. 2015	Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Academic Excellence

## PUBLICATIONS

POSTER	<b>Z. Hodari</b> , and S. King, <i>A learned emotion space for emotion recognition and emotive speech synthesis</i> , UK Speech, 2017.
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## SKILLS

SKILLED	Python, NumPy, Matplotlib, TensorFlow, Merlin, <del>LaTeX</del>
PROFICIENT	Pandas, Java, C, Keras, Theano, HTML, JavaScript, CSS, PHP, SQL