Zack HODARI

ADDRESS: Room 3.25, Informatics Forum
EH8 9AB, Edinburgh, UK
EMAIL: zack.hodari@ed.ac.uk
HOMEPAGE: zackhodari.github.io

EDUCATION

Current	**PhD** in Data Science — School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh
	Thesis: Sampling methods for speech synthesis: using generative models to vary prosody
	Supervisor: 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	**MScR** in Data Science — School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh
	Thesis: A learned emotion space for emotion recognition and emotive speech synthesis
	Supervisor: Professor Simon King **Result:** 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	**BSc** in Computer Science — Durham University **Result:** 1ST CLASS HONOURS — 79%

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

APR. – AUG. 2018	Software Engineering Intern — Google
	Researched prosody modelling in the *Text-To-Speech Research* team. Improving phone/silence duration models.
JAN. – APR. 2018	Tutor — University of Edinburgh
	Course: Probabilistic Modelling and Reasoning.
SEPT. – DEC. 2017	Demonstrator — University of Edinburgh
	Course: Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing.
JUNE – SEPT. 2015	Research Internship — 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.

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

SEPT. – JULY 2015 2016	President — 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	Societies representative — Durham University societies committee
	Chaired meetings of society presidents. Represented societies on the Students Union democratic body.
SEPT. – JULY 2014 2015	Tutor — 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

INTERSPEECH ORAL	**Z. Hodari**, O. Watts, S. Ronanki, and S. King, *Learning interpretable control dimensions for speech synthesis by using external data*, INTERSPEECH, Hyderabad, India, 2018.
UK SPEECH	**Z. Hodari**, and S. King, *A learned emotion space for emotion recognition and emotive speech synthesis*, UK Speech, Cambridge, UK, 2017.

SKILLS

SKILLED	Python, NumPy, Matplotlib, TensorFlow, Merlin, LaTeX
PROFICIENT	Java, C, C++, HTML, JavaScript, CSS, PHP, SQL, Pandas, Keras, Theano