

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: Variation in speech synthesis: using generative models to control prosody Supervisor: Professor Simon King Prosody is challenging to control, not least because there is no “correct” prosody for isolated sentences. Can we learn a symbolic representation of prosody? Are we able to produce acceptable prosody by sampling from this space? And can we make these symbols interpretable for human users?
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: 1 ST CLASS HONOURS – 79%

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DEC. – MAY 2018 2019	Teaching Assistant – University of Edinburgh Course: Probabilistic Modelling and Reasoning.
APR. – AUG. 2018 2018	Software Engineering Intern – Google Researched prosody modelling in the <i>Text-To-Speech Research</i> team. Improving phoneme/silence duration models.
JAN. – APR. 2018 2018	Tutor – University of Edinburgh Course: Probabilistic Modelling and Reasoning.
SEPT. – DEC. 2017 2017	Demonstrator – University of Edinburgh Course: Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing.
JUNE – SEPT. 2015 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

INTER SPEECH ORAL	Z. Hodari , O. Watts, S. Ronanki, and S. King, <i>Learning interpretable control dimensions for speech synthesis by using external data</i> , INTERSPEECH, Hyderabad, India, 2018.
UK SPEECH	Z. Hodari , and S. King, <i>A learned emotion space for emotion recognition and emotive speech synthesis</i> , 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