Geza Kovacs

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Education

Stanford University
PhD, Computer Science. GPA: 4.0/4.0 *September 2013 – present*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MEng, Computer Science. GPA: 4.9/5.0 *September 2012 – June 2013*
BS, Computer Science and Engineering. GPA: 5.0/5.0 *September 2008 – June 2012*

Industry Experience

Microsoft Research – Research Intern, Beijing *Summer 2014*
Designed and implemented a quiz-directed lecture viewing system. User studies show it improves engagement and retention of questions compared to Coursera's in-video quizzes.

Google – Software Engineering Intern, Mountain View *Summer 2013*
Designed and implemented novel ways to input text on Android phones and tablets.

Google – Software Engineering Intern, Mountain View *Summer 2012*
Designed and implemented a system to detect and provide definitions for specialized vocabulary in books.

Google – Software Engineering Intern, Mountain View *Summer 2011*
Developed a system that predicts the quality of user reviews on the Android Marketplace (now Google Play), based on textual and metadata features. It was deployed and used for ordering reviews on Google Play.

Microsoft Corporation – Software Development Engineer Intern, Redmond *Summer 2010*
Implemented the Intellisense API and Visual Studio code completion plugin for a new programming language.

Google Summer of Code – FFmpeg (Video transcoding library) *Summer 2009*
Developed a playlist and concatenation API and parsers for several playlist formats for FFmpeg.

Research Experience

Stanford HCI Group – PhD student. Leading the following research projects: *Fall 2013 – present*

FeedLearn: Microlearning in Facebook Feeds
FeedLearn helps you learn vocabulary as you browse your Facebook feed, by inserting interactive quizzes which you can answer without leaving your feed. User studies show increased vocabulary retention and engagement with quizzes, compared to the email and link approaches used by Duolingo.

QuizCram: Question-Driven Video Viewing
QuizCram is a viewer for MOOC lectures that enables quiz-driven video navigation and reviewing. Materials can be generated from existing in-video quizzes on Coursera. User studies show improved engagement with quizzes, increased reviewing, and improved test scores compared to Coursera's in-video quiz format.

MIT UID Group – Undergraduate/MEng research. Led the following projects: *Fall 2011 – Spring 2013*

Smart Subtitles for Foreign Language Learning
Smart Subtitles helps you learn vocabulary while you watch foreign-language videos. It features an interactive transcript with mouse-over definitions and dialog-based navigation. User studies show increased vocabulary learning and increased satisfaction compared to bilingual subtitles.

GrammarVis: Visualizing the Grammar of Foreign Languages
GrammarVis lets users interactively explore the syntactic structure of sentences.

ScreenMatch: Visual Context for Software Translators
ScreenMatch matches translatable strings to screenshots, to illustrate how they are used in the software.

Open-source Projects

UNetbootin (LiveUSB Creator) *January 2007 – present*
Built a utility to create bootable USB flash drives for a variety (50+) of Linux distributions.
40 million downloads, http://unetbootin.sourceforge.net/

Wubi (Ubuntu Installer for Windows) *November 2006 – August 2007*
Built the first versions of the Windows-based Ubuntu Installer, which allows Windows users to safely install Ubuntu Linux without repartitioning. This work is now part of Ubuntu.
Ships on the official Ubuntu CD, http://wubi.sourceforge.net/

PUBLICATIONS

Geza Kovacs. "FeedLearn: Using Facebook Feeds for Microlearning." ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2015, Extended Abstracts (to appear).

Geza Kovacs. "QuizCram: A Question-Driven Video Studying Interface." ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2015, Extended Abstracts (to appear).

Geza Kovacs and Robert C. Miller. "Smart Subtitles for Vocabulary Learning." ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2014, Full Paper.

Joseph Jay Williams, **Geza Kovacs**, Caren Walker, Samuel G Maldonado, Tania Lombrozo. "Learning Online via Prompts to Explain." ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2014, Extended Abstracts.

Geza Kovacs and Robert C. Miller. "Foreign Manga Reader: Learn Grammar and Pronunciation while Reading Comics." ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) 2013, Demo.

Geza Kovacs. "Smart Subtitles for Language Learning." ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2013, Extended Abstracts.

Geza Kovacs. "ScreenMatch: providing context to software translators by displaying screenshots." ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2012, Extended Abstracts.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant – Natural Language Processing (6.863) at MIT *Fall 2012*
Helped write assignments, managed the course infrastructure, and graded assignments. I developed new tools to make the assignment grading process faster, semi-automatic, and paper-free.

Instructor – Introduction to C++ IAP (6.096) at MIT *January 2011*
Gave lectures, helped write and grade assignments, and helped students in lab for a student-run, for-credit introductory C++ course. The teaching materials I produced have been made available on OpenCourseWare:
http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/electrical-engineering-and-computer-science/6-096-introduction-to-c-january-iap-2011

Software Director – Maslab Autonomous Robotics Competition at MIT *January 2011*
As the software director for the competition, I gave the software-related lectures, managed the software for the competition, and helped students in lab.

AWARDS

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship, 2013-2016
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (declined in favor of NDSEG), 2013
1st place, Most Useful, ACM UIST (User Interface Software and Technology) Student Innovation Contest 2012
1st place, ACM CHI (Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems) Student Research Competition 2012
1st place, MIT Maslab Autonomous Robotics Competition 2010

Updated on February 3, 2015. Latest version: http://www.gkovacs.com/resume.pdf