Geza Kovacs

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PhD

gkovacs.com

Massachusetts Institute of Technology BS+MEng RESEARCH

Stanford University

Computer Science Computer Science

GPA: 4.0/4.0 GPA: 5.0/5.0

2013 - now 2008 - 2013

EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION

Stanford – PhD – led several research projects published at top-tier venues, including:

2013 - now

Large-scale Experiments for Online Behavior Change – published at CHI 2019 and CSCW 2018

Built HabitLab (https://habitlab.stanford.edu), an online experimentation platform with 12,000+ daily active users. I have used it to conduct a variety of data science experiments and machine learning work:

- Predicted changes in users' intervention preferences over time (using **LSTM Networks**; Python/PyTorch)
- Analyzed time redistribution effects caused by interventions (using Mixed Models; R/Python/SciPy)
- Analyzed effects of rotating interventions on effectiveness and attrition (Cox Regression and LMM; R)
- Personalized interventions to each user based on effectiveness (using **Reinforcement Learning**; Python)
- Predicted time spent on webpages, based on browsing visit history data (using **Random Forests**; Python/H2O)

Effects of In-Video Quizzes on MOOC Lecture Viewing – published at Learning at Scale 2016

• A large-scale data mining analysis of Coursera's in-video interaction logs in Machine Learning courses, analyzing effects of in-video quizzes on users' video viewing and seeking behavior (Python/Hadoop/Pandas)

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE Microsoft Research – Research Intern, Redmond – work published at CSCW 2017 Summer 2015 Microsoft Research – Research Intern, Beijing – work published at CHI EA 2015 Summer 2014

Google Research – Software Engineering Intern, Mountain View Summer 2013

Developed a machine learning system for detecting taps on the phone bezel, for use in Android input methods.

Google – Software Engineering Intern, Mountain View Summer 2012

Developed an NLP system to detect vocabulary and generate glossaries from book text (used MapReduce).

Google - Software Engineering Intern, Mountain View Summer 2011 Developed a machine learning system to predict the quality of user reviews, now deployed on Google Play.

Microsoft – Software Development Engineer Intern, Redmond – worked on compilers Summer 2010

Google – Summer of Code – worked on FFmpeg (open-source video transcoding library) Summer 2009

OPEN-SOURCE PROJECTS

UNetbootin (LiveUSB Creator) - http://unetbootin.github.io/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNetbootin 40 million downloads. UNetbootin creates bootable USB flash drives for various (50+) Linux distributions.

Ubuntu Installer for Windows (Wubi) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wubi_(software)

Now part of Ubuntu. Built the first versions of Wubi, which allows Ubuntu to be installed from Windows.

RELEVANT **COURSEWORK** Deep Learning (CS 230), Natural Language Processing (6.864, 6.863), Artificial Intelligence (6.034), Data Mining (CS 224w), Statistical Models (6.804), Statistics (18.440), Linear Algebra (18.700), Security (6.857), Bioinformatics (6.047), HCI (6.803), Algorithms (6.006, 6.046), Linguistics (24.900), Compilers (CS 143)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE Natural Language Processing (6.863 at MIT, Fall 2012 TA), Human-Computer Interaction Research (CS 376 at Stanford, Fall 2018 TA), Understanding Users (CS 377U at Stanford, Spring 2019 TA)

SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES Programming: Python, R, JavaScript, C/C++, Java, Scala, C#, Ruby, TypeScript, CoffeeScript, Haskell, Bash Machine Learning: PyTorch, scikit-learn, Keras, TensorFlow, Deep Learning (RNN/LSTM/CNN/GAN), RL Natural Language Processing: NLTK, skip-grams, word2vec, GloVe, Attention Networks, HMM, PCFG Data Mining: NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, NetworkX, Hadoop, MapReduce, H2O, SQL, NoSQL (MongoDB/Redis) Data Science: Mixed models, Survival analysis, Experiment design, A/B testing, Multi-armed bandits, mTurk Data Analysis: Jupyter, RStudio, Visualization (D3.js/ggplot2/Plotly/Bokeh), Clustering, Sentiment Analysis Full-Stack Engineering: Node.js, Flask, MongoDB, Redis, PostgreSQL, Flow, Webpack, Vagrant, AWS EC2 Web + Mobile: HTML/CSS/JS, Polymer, React, Android (Java, Cordova, NativeScript), Responsive Design Languages: Fluent English and Chinese (Mandarin). Intermediate Hungarian, Vietnamese, Japanese, Spanish.

AWARDS AND Honors

Stanford Human-Centered AI Grant (for my research project HabitLab), 2018

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship, 2013

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 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 Autonomous Robotics Competition (Maslab), 2010

JOURNAL AND Conference PAPERS

Geza Kovacs, Drew Mylander Gregory, Zilin Ma, Zhengxuan Wu, Golrokh Emami, Jacob Ray, Michael Bernstein. "Conservation of Procrastination: Do Productivity Interventions Save Time Or Just Redistribute It?" ACM annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2019.

Geza Kovacs, Zhengxuan Wu, Michael Bernstein. "Rotating Online Behavior Change Interventions Increases Effectiveness But Also Increases Attrition." ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW) 2018.

Rajan Vaish, Neil Gaikwad, Geza Kovacs, Andreas Veit, Ranjay Krishna, Imanol Arrieta Ibarra, Camelia Simoiu, Michael Wilber, Serge Belongie, Sharad Goel, James Davis, Michael Bernstein. "Crowd Research: Open and Scalable University Laboratories." ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) 2017.

Kiley Sobel, Geza Kovacs, Galen McQuillen, Andrew Cross, Nirupama Chandrasekaran, Nathalie Riche, Ed Cutrell, Meredith Morris. "EduFeed: A Social Feed to Engage Preliterate Children in Educational Activities." ACM annual conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Work (CSCW) 2017.

Geza Kovacs. "Effects of In-Video Quizzes on MOOC Lecture Viewing." ACM annual conference on Learning at Scale (L@S) 2016.

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

PEER-REVIEWED EXTENDED **ABSTRACTS**

Stanford Crowd Research, Geza Kovacs, Rajan Vaish, Michael Bernstein. "Daemo: A Self-Governed Crowdsourcing Marketplace". ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) 2015, Poster.

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

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

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.

PRESS COVERAGE HabitLab FOR MY PROJECTS

Wired: HabitLab Browser Extension Curbs Your Time Wasted on the Web (Jan 28, 2019) The New York Times: Finding it Hard to Focus? Maybe It's Not Your Fault (Aug 14, 2018) Lifehacker: Be More Mindful of the Time You Waste Online With HabitLab (Aug 5, 2018)

Crowd Research / Daemo

Wired: Amazon Mechanical Turk Workers Have Had Enough (Aug 23, 2017)

UNetbootin

Forbes: How To Try Linux Without Making Any Changes To Your PC (Sep 18, 2018) Lifehacker: How to Get Started With the Ubuntu Linux Distro (Nov 17, 2017)

Wubi

Ars Technica: Wubi arrives: a look at Ubuntu 8.04 alpha 5 (Feb 24, 2008)

Lifehacker: Install Ubuntu on a Windows Netbook, No Partitioning Needed (May 19, 2010)