Geza Kovacs

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gkovacs.com

2013 - now

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**EDUCATION** 

**Stanford University** PhD Computer Science GPA: 4.0/4.0 2013 – now **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** BS+MEng Computer Science GPA: 5.0/5.0 2008 – 2013

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

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

I built HabitLab (http://habitlab.stanford.edu/), an app for Chrome + Android with 12,000+ daily active users which helps users reduce time online. I used HabitLab for a variety of machine learning and data science 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)

Smart Subtitles for Foreign Language Learning - published at CHI 2014

• An interactive video viewer which uses **natural language processing** to improve vocabulary learning. Extracts transcripts via OCR, models users' knowledge, and provides personalized learning support.

Other work published at CSCW 2017 (EduFeed), UIST 2017 (Crowd Research), CHI 2015 (FeedLearn, QuizCram), UIST 2013 (GrammarVis), CHI 2013 (ScreenMatch) – complete publication list on page 2.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE Microsoft Research - Research Intern, Redmond

Summer 2015

Designed and built an educational social feed app usable by pre-literate children. Published at CSCW 2017.

Microsoft Research - Research Intern, Beijing

Summer 2014

Built a quiz-driven MOOC lecture viewer that improved learning outcomes. Published at CHI 2015.

**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)

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

1<sup>st</sup> place, MIT Autonomous Robotics Competition (Maslab), 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE **Understanding Users (CS 377U)** – Teaching Assistant, at Stanford

Spring 2019

Human Computer Interaction Research (CS 376) – Teaching Assistant, at Stanford

Fall 2018

Natural Language Processing (6.863) – Teaching Assistant, at MIT

Fall 2012

Introduction to C++ IAP (6.096) – Instructor, at MIT

January 2011

My lectures and teaching materials for this course are available on MIT OpenCourseWare:

http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/electrical-engineering-and-computer-science/6-096-introduction-to-c-january-iap-2011

MASLAB Mobile Autonomous Systems Lab (6.186) – Software Director, at MIT

January 2011

Gave lectures on computer vision and managed the software stack for an autonomous robotics competition.

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 Crowd-sourcing 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.