Jake Vasilakes

Place and Date of Birth: U.S.A. July 23, 1991
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Interests: Natural Language Understanding esp. semantic parsing, computational (formal and distributional) semantics, QA systems, natural language generation, ontologies, automatic speech recognition.

Education

Expected August 2015 | **MSc Speech and Language Processing** **University of Edinburgh**

Exams and marks:

- Advanced Natural Language Processing 77
- Speech Processing 78
- Statistics and Methodology using R 58
- Natural Language Understanding 80
- Automated Reasoning 70
- Topics in Natural Language Processing 79
- Introductory Applied Machine Learning 73
- Phonology & Phonetics 71
- Automatic Speech Recognition 77
- Machine Translation 70
- Semantic Web Systems 83

Thesis: Adding a semantic parser to the Python NLTK library. *Advisor:* Ewan Klein

June 2013 | **B.A. Philosophy with Honors** **Loyola University of Chicago**

GPA: 3.84/4.00 (Equivalent to UK first)
Minors: Classics, Italian
Thesis: "The World of Speech". *Advisor:* Hanne Jacobs
Honors and Awards: Outstanding Philosophy Senior Award 2013, 2^{nd} place Ancient Greek Translation Contest 2012, Member - Eta Sigma Phi Classical studies honor society

Work Experience

Aug 2013 - July 2014 | **Computer Technician** **PRO Computers - Chicago, IL**
Software and hardware troubleshooting and service across a variety of platforms

Hardware repair (including motherboard-level), solutions to software and OS issues on Windows, OS X, and Linux, data recovery, and user support.

Informatics Skills

Programming Languages

Python: Very good knowledge. Python 2 & 3, PEP 8 coding standards, unit-testing, scientific computing with numpy.
C/C++: General knowledge (core aspects of the language).
R: General knowledge (core aspects of the language, applications to machine learning).
Haskell: Some knowledge.
Regular Expressions: Good knowledge (Regex in Python, sed, awk, grep).
Bash shell scripting: Good knowledge.

Natural Language Processing:

- Machine learning (Discriminative and Bayesian modelling).
- Language modelling (n-grams, neural networks).
- Computational semantics (distributional semantics, semantic parsing).
- Syntactic parsing (constituent, dependency, CCG).
- Alignment models for machine translation.
- Automatic speech recognition (Hidden Markov Model framework, GMMs, DNNs), text-to-speech.

Ontologies: RDF, OWL, SPARQL.
Web technologies: HTML, CSS, XML (utilisation with Python), CGI (Python).
Software: HTK, Festival speech synthesis software, Praat, Wavesurfer, WEKA.
Operating Systems: Linux (Debian, Ubuntu, Arch Linux), OS X, Windows XP - 8.

Languages

English (native), Italian (conversational), some knowledge of German and Spanish, also 4 years study of Ancient Greek.