

NICK MCKENNA

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FIND ME:

nmckenna.me
github.com/nighttime

CURRENTLY: Master's student doing research in NLP, seeking research opportunities starting Fall 2019

EDUCATION



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence, Aug 2019
Natural Language Processing Specialism
Edinburgh, United Kingdom



BROWN UNIVERSITY

B.Sc. Computer Science, 2017
Providence, RI, United States

SELECTED COURSEWORK

Accelerated NLP • Formal Semantics
Machine Learning • Deep Learning
Computational Cognitive Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation in Computational Semantics

Advised by Mark Steedman.
Researching novel methods in computational semantics for negation scope and presupposition detection with a large-scale entailment graph.

Independent NLP Research

Research on representations of lexical semantics.
Read it here: nmckenna.me/research

Brown Computational Cognitive Science Reading Group Summer 2018

Led by Ellie Pavlick.
Discussed current research in language processing and concept learning.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



TAPTOBOOK Product Manager June 2017 – Aug 2018

- Directed the product development roadmap. Identified business needs, researched solutions, and prioritized work for the 10-person development team.
- Overhauled the core business model with new technologies and user experiences, separating out from competing products. TapToBook is now growing rapidly and is nearly profitable.
- Adapted the platform to power large-scale national brands including Planet Fitness, Gold's Gym, and Buffalo Wild Wings.



YELP Product Management Intern Summer 2016

- Planned yelp.com notifications. Experimented with ML Group, growing review highlights engagement by 13%.



YELP Engineering Intern Summer 2015

- Built research-driven manager for Yelp Reservations on iPad, reducing restaurant hosts' time spent by 88%.

SKILLS

- Proficient in Python, C++, Swift/iOS, Java
- Skilled in TensorFlow and Keras ML frameworks

IMPACT

Teaching Assistant, Brown 2015 – 2017

Hands-on with 570 students over 4 Computer Science courses. Designed curriculum, held office hours and labs, and mentored student projects.

Sponsorship Organizer, Hack@Brown

Raised \$45,000 for Brown's hackathon from partners Google, Microsoft, and TwoSigma.

PROJECTS

Document Summarizer, Python & TensorFlow 2016

Summarizes documents using a deep convolutional neural network to extract meaningful sentences, based on Google DeepMind paper.

High-Frequency Trading Agent, Java 2017

Automatic trading algorithm for a simulated market. Traded securities with 14 agents for net-positive, 2nd best outcome in the group.

StingRay Renderer, OpenGL & C++ 2015

Real-time GPU raytracer that renders interactive 3D scenes using alternative on-device caching to accelerate render time.

Two to Infinity, iOS 2014 ☆ 14,000 Downloads

Mobile game of 2048. Ranked Top 100 Strategy Games in US and Canada.