

# NICK MCKENNA

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## FIND ME:

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## EDUCATION



### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence, Aug 2019  
*Natural Language Processing Specialism*



### BROWN UNIVERSITY

B.Sc. Computer Science, 2017  
*Core GPA 3.7*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### NLP and Cognition Research Blog

Independent research on representation learning with natural language.  
Read it here: [nmckenna.me/research](http://nmckenna.me/research)

### Brown Computational Cognitive Science Reading Group

Led by Ellie Pavlick. Discuss current research in cognitive science and representation learning.

## 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 adaptation of the game 2048. Ranked in Top 100 Strategy Games in US, Canada, and Switzerland.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



### TAPTOBOOK *Product Manager* June 2017 – Aug 2018

- Directed the product roadmap and lead development efforts. As the PM I identified business needs, researched solutions, and prioritized work.
- Transformed the core business model with innovative technologies and user experiences to find product-market fit. TapToBook is now nearly profitable.
- Scaled the platform to power 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, reducing time spent by restaurant hosts by 88%.

## SKILLS

- Highly analytical and research-oriented
- Proficient in Python, Swift/iOS, C++, Java
- Technical knowledge of machine learning techniques and passionate about deep learning research

## 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.