NICK MCKENNA

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CURRENTLY: Master's student and Natural Language Processing researcher, seeking NLP opportunities for 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

Research in Computational Semantics

Advised by Prof. Mark Steedman.

- **Master's dissertation** in a novel method for negation scope detection in sentences.
- Research in pragmatic inference of presupposition via 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 Prof. 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 TTB from competing products. The company is now growing rapidly and 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

- Formal analysis of language semantics and design of practical computer models for language understanding
- Proficient in Python, C++, Swift/iOS, Java
- Skilled in Machine Learning frameworks: PyTorch, TensorFlow, and Keras

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

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

Deep Q-Network for Virtual Soccer, Python & PyTorch

Reinforcement algorithm with neural Q-function approximation for player control.

High-Frequency Trading Agent, Java

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++

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

Two to Infinity, iOS ☆ *16,000 Downloads*

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