NICK McKENNA

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OBJECTIVE: Seeking a research opportunity in Natural Language Processing before entering a PhD program.

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, USA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NLP Research

Independent research on representation learning with natural language.
Read it here: nmckenna.me/research

Brown Computational Cognitive Science Reading Group

Led by Ellie Pavlick. Discuss current research in cognitive science and language processing.

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 development roadmap. Identified business needs, researched solutions, and prioritized work for the 10-person dev team.
- Transformed the core business model with innovative technologies and new user experiences. 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, reducing time spent by restaurant hosts by 88%.

SKILLS

- Highly analytical and research-oriented
- Proficient in Python, C++, Swift/iOS, 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.