NICK McKENNA

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github.com/nighttime

OBJECTIVE: Seeking a research opportunity in NLP starting Fall 2019, 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, 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.