Ross E. Kirsling

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Contact Information

(available upon request)

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Research Interests

Natural language understanding
Machine translation
Computational approaches to semantics, pragmatics, and discourse

Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

M.A., Linguistics — **September 2010 – December 2012**

- Prelim Paper: *Phrasal Restrictions on Noncontrastive Topic: The Case of Japanese*
- Advisor: Mürvet Enç
- Cumulative GPA: 3.9 / 4.0

B.A. *with Distinction*, Japanese — **September 2005 – May 2009**

- Certificate: Computer Sciences
- Study Abroad: Keio University, Tokyo, Japan ('07-'08)
- Cumulative GPA: 3.9 / 4.0

Professional Experience

Sony Network Entertainment, Middleton, Wisconsin, USA

Associate Software Engineer (initially Technical Analyst) — **May 2009 – present**

- Co-developed front-end of three web-based media management applications, one of them a component in a high-profile online store.
- Handled bilingual (English/Japanese) internal documentation and support on a media software team.
- Assisted in various facets of a desktop software project across 16 releases, from localization issue tracking to website/application testing.

Honors, Awards, Certifications

- Phi Beta Kappa, University of Wisconsin-Madison — May 2009
- Level 1 (highest) of Japanese Language Proficiency Test — December 2008
- Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT) scholarship for study abroad at Keio University in Tokyo, Japan — September 2007 – July 2008
- Chicago-Osaka Sister Cities Special Award (for one-week homestay in Osaka, Japan), 20th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest, Chicago, IL — March 2006

Publications

In press. Applying formalized aboutness conditions to Japanese topic structures. *LSO Working Papers in Linguistics, Vol. 9*, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Presentations

April 2, 2011. Applying formalized aboutness conditions to Japanese topic structures. 9th Workshop in General Linguistics (WIGL), University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Manuscripts

May 10, 2012. Probabilities without paradigm-shifting: Recognizing gradience in natural language syntax. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Natural Languages

English (native), Japanese (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate), Korean (intermediate), French (reading)

Programming Languages

Traditional:	Python, Scala, Haskell, Java, C/C++
Web Development:	JavaScript, HTML, CSS
Typesetting:	LaTeX

Portfolio Projects

Modal Logic Playground
a graphical semantic calculator for modal propositional logic

Live URL:	rkirsling.github.com/modallogic
Language:	JavaScript
Libraries used:	D3, MathJax, Twitter Bootstrap, Underscore

Relevant Open Online Education Participation

Fully participated MOOCs:

Functional Programming Principles in Scala (*in progress*)	*Martin Odersky* Coursera, September–November 2013
Introduction to Parallel Programming (*highest distinction*)	*John Owens & David Luebke* Udacity, June 2013
Computational Neuroscience (*99.3%*)	*Rajesh P. N. Rao & Adrienne Fairhall* Coursera, April–June 2013
Introduction to Theoretical Computer Science (*highest distinction*)	*Sebastian Wernicke* Udacity, October 2012
Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Computation (*91.4%*)	*Umesh Vazirani* Coursera, July–September 2012
Web Application Engineering (*highest distinction*)	*Steve Huffman* Udacity, August 2012
Introduction to Logic (*100%*)	*Michael Genesereth* Coursera, April–June 2012
Natural Language Processing (*90.6%*)	*Dan Jurafsky & Christopher Manning* Coursera, March–May 2012
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (*91.1%*)	*Sebastian Thrun & Peter Norvig* pre-Udacity, October–December 2011

Audited MOOCs:

Compilers (*watched all video lectures*)	*Alex Aiken* Coursera, April 2013
Probabilistic Graphical Models (*watched all video lectures*)	*Daphne Koller* Coursera, September–December 2012
Machine Learning (*watched all video lectures*)	*Andrew Ng* Coursera, October–December 2011