

Keith Vertanen

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Cambridge, 2009
Thesis: “Efficient Correction Interfaces for Speech Recognition”
Supervisor: Sir David J.C. MacKay FRS
- M.Phil.** University of Cambridge, Computer Speech, Text and Internet Technology, 2004
Thesis: “Efficient Computer Interfaces Using Continuous Gestures, Language Models, and Speech”
Supervisors: Sir David J.C. MacKay FRS and Steve Young FEng
- M.S.** Oregon State University, Computer Science, 1999
Thesis: “A Parallel Implementation of a Fluid Flow Simulation using Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics”
Supervisor: Michael Quinn
- B.A.** University of Minnesota, Morris, double major in Computer Science (honors) and Mathematics, 1997
Undergraduate research project: “Scheduling Problems in a Practical Allocation Model”
Supervisor: Dian Lopez

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I specialize in designing intelligent interactive systems that leverage uncertain input technologies. A particular focus of my research is on systems that enhance the capabilities of users with permanent or situationally-induced disabilities. My broader interests include human-computer interaction (HCI), speech and language processing, mobile interfaces, and crowdsourcing.

Selected projects:

- An eyes-free mobile touchscreen keyboard typing interface.
- Using crowdsourcing to improve language modeling for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).
- A one-step voice correction method that simultaneously infers a correction’s location and content.
- The performance potential of dwell-free eye-typing for fast gaze communication.
- Parakeet, a system for speech recognition on a mobile touchscreen device.
- Speech Dasher, an interface that allows fast text entry via a combination of speech and eye gaze.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Student co-authors denoted by *. Conference acceptance rates listed where available.

- [1] **Vertanen, K.**, Fletcher, C.*, Gaines, D.*, Gould, J.*, Kristensson, P.O. The Impact of Word, Multiple Word, and Sentence Input on Virtual Keyboard Decoding Performance. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2018)*, to appear.
- [2] Walker, J.*, Li, B.*, **Vertanen, K.**, Kuhl, S. Efficient Typing on a Visually Occluded Physical Keyboard. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2017)*, 5457-5461. Acceptance rate: 25%
- [3] **Vertanen, K.**, Memmi, H.*, Emge, J.*, Reyal, S.*, and Kristensson, P.O. VelociTap: Investigating Fast Mobile Text Entry using Sentence-Based Decoding of Touchscreen Keyboard Input. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2015)*, 659-668. **Best paper**. Acceptance rate: 23%
- [4] Kristensson, P.O. and **Vertanen, K.** The Inviscid Text Entry Rate and its Application as a Grand Goal for Mobile Text Entry. In *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services (MobileHCI 2014)*, 335-338. Acceptance rate: 21%

- [5] Rough, D. *, **Vertanen, K.**, and Kristensson, P.O. An Evaluation of Dasher with a High-Performance Language Model as a Gaze Communication Method. In *Proceedings of the ACM International Working Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI 2014)*, 169-176. Acceptance rate: 28%
- [6] Weir, D. *, Pohl, H., Rogers, S., **Vertanen, K.**, and Kristensson, P.O. Uncertain Text Entry on Mobile Devices. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2014)*, 2307-2316. Acceptance rate: 23%
- [7] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Complementing Text Entry Evaluations with a Composition Task. *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI 2014)*, 21(2): Article 8, 33 pages.
- [8] Oulasvirta, A., Reichel, A., Li, W., Zhang, Y., Bachnynskiy, M., **Vertanen, K.**, and Kristensson, P.O. Improving Two-thumb Text Entry on Touchscreen Devices. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2013)*, 2765-2774. Acceptance rate: 20%
- [9] Trinh, H. *, Waller, A., **Vertanen, K.**, Kristensson, P.O., and Hanson, V.L. iSCAN: A Phoneme-based Predictive Communication Aid for Nonspeaking Individuals. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2012)*, 57-64. **Best student paper.** Acceptance rate: 28%
- [10] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Spelling as a Complementary Strategy for Speech Recognition, In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (Interspeech 2012)*, 2291-2294. Acceptance rate: 52%
- [11] Kristensson, P.O. and **Vertanen, K.** The Potential of Dwell-Free Eye-Typing for Fast Assistive Gaze Communication. In *Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on Eye-Tracking Research and Applications (ETRA 2012)*, 241-244. **Best paper honorable mention.** Acceptance rate (short papers): 65%
- [12] Kristensson, P.O. and **Vertanen, K.** Performance Comparison of Phrase Sets and Presentation Styles for Text Entry Evaluations. In *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI 2012)*, 29-32. Acceptance rate: 23%
- [13] Kristensson, P.O. and **Vertanen, K.** Asynchronous Multimodal Text Entry using Speech and Gesture Keyboards. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (Interspeech 2011)*, 581-584. Acceptance rate: 58%
- [14] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. The Imagination of Crowds: Conversational AAC Language Modeling using Crowdsourcing and Large Data Sources. In *Proceedings of the ACL Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2011)*, 700-711. Acceptance rate: 23%.
- [15] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. A Versatile Dataset for Text Entry Evaluations Based on Genuine Mobile Emails. In *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services (MobileHCI 2011)*, 295-298. Acceptance rate (short papers): 18%
- [16] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Getting it Right the Second Time: Recognition of Spoken Corrections. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Workshop on Spoken Language Technology (SLT 2010)*, 277-282. Acceptance rate: 52%
- [17] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Intelligently Aiding Human-Guided Correction of Speech Recognition. In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2010)*, 1698-1701. Acceptance rate: 25%
- [18] **Vertanen, K.** and MacKay, D.J.C. Speech Dasher: Fast Writing using Speech and Gaze. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2010)*, 595-598. Acceptance rate: 22%
- [19] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Automatic Selection of Recognition Errors by Respeaking the Intended Text. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Workshop on Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding (ASRU 2009)*, 130-135. Acceptance rate: 42%

- [20] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Recognition and Correction of Voice Web Search Queries. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (Interspeech 2009)*, 1863-1866. Acceptance rate: 58%
- [21] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Parakeet: A Continuous Speech Recognition System for Mobile Touch-Screen Devices. In *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI 2009)*, 237-246. Acceptance rate: 25%
- [22] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. On the Benefits of Confidence Visualization in Speech Recognition. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2008)*, 1497-1500. Acceptance rate: 22%
- [23] **Vertanen, K.** Combining Open Vocabulary Recognition and Word Confusion Networks. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP 2008)*, 4325-4328. Acceptance rate: 50%
- [24] **Vertanen, K.** Speech and Speech Recognition during Dictation Corrections. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (Interspeech 2006)*, 1890-1893. Acceptance rate: 64%
- [25] Hollermann, L., Hsu, T., Lopez, D., and **Vertanen, K.** Scheduling Problems in a Practical Allocation Model. *Journal of Combinatorial Optimization (1997)*, 129-149.

WORKSHOP, POSTER & DEMO PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

- [26] **Vertanen, K.** Towards Improving Predictive AAC using Crowdsourced Dialogues and Partner Context. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2017, poster)*, 347-348.
- [27] **Vertanen, K.** Towards Fluid Speech-based Text Interaction. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2017, workshop)*.
- [28] **Vertanen, K.**, Dunlop, M., Bi, X., Montague, K., Arif, A.S., Azenkot, S. Ubiquitous Text Interaction. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2017, workshop)*. Acceptance rate: 45%
- [29] **Vertanen, K.** Counting Fingers: Eyes-Free Text Entry without Touch Location. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2016, workshop)*.
- [30] Walker, J. *, Kuhl, S., **Vertanen, K.** Decoder-Assisted Typing using an HMD and a Physical Keyboard. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2016, workshop)*.
- [31] **Vertanen, K.**, Dunlop, M., Clawson, J., Kristensson, P.O., Arif, A.S. Inviscid Text Entry and Beyond. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2016, workshop)*. Acceptance rate: 45%
- [32] **Vertanen, K.** and MacKay, D.J.C. Speech Dasher: A Demonstration of Text Input Using Speech and Approximate Pointing. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2014, demo)*, 353-354.
- [33] Trinh, H., Waller, A., **Vertanen, K.**, Kristensson, P.O., and Hanson, V.L. Phoneme-based Predictive Text Entry Interface. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2014, demo)*, 351-352.
- [34] **Vertanen, K.**, Emge *, J., Memmi, H. *, and Kristensson, P.O. Text Blaster: A Multi-Player Touchscreen Typing Game. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2014, demo)*, 379-382.

- [35] Clawson, J., Brewster, S., Dunlop, M., Kristensson, P.O., Isokoski, P., Oulasvirta, A., **Vertanen, K.**, and Waller A. The Usability of Text Entry Systems Now and in the Future. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2014, special interest group)*, 1139-1142.
- [36] **Vertanen, K.**, Memmi, H. *, and Kristensson, P.O. The Feasibility of Eyes-Free Touchscreen Keyboard Typing. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2013, poster)*, Article No. 69. Acceptance rate: 60%
- [37] **Vertanen, K.** A Collection of Conversational AAC-like Communications. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2013, poster)*, Article No. 31. Acceptance rate: 60%
- [38] Reyal, S. *, **Vertanen, K.**, and Kristensson, P.O. Developing Efficient Text Entry Methods for the Sinhalese Language. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2013, workshop)*.
- [39] Kristensson, P.O., Brewster, S., Clawson, J., Dunlop, M., Findlater, L., Isokoski, P., Martin, B., Oulasvirta, A., **Vertanen, K.**, and Waller, A. Grand Challenges in Text Entry. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2013, workshop)*, 3315-3318. Acceptance rate: 40%
- [40] Trinh, H. *, Waller, A., **Vertanen, K.**, Kristensson, P.O., and Hanson, V.L. Applying Prediction Techniques to Phoneme-based AAC Systems. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Speech and Language Processing for Assistive Technologies (SLPAT 2012, workshop)*, 19-27. Acceptance rate: 62%
- [41] Kristensson, P.O., Clawson, J., Dunlop, M., Isokoski, P., Roark, B., **Vertanen, K.**, Waller, A., and Wobbrock, J. Designing and Evaluating Text Entry Methods. In *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2012, workshop)*, 2747-2750. Acceptance rate: 62%
- [42] **Vertanen, K.** and Kristensson, P.O. Parakeet: A Demonstration of Speech Recognition on a Mobile Touch-Screen Device. In *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI 2009, demo)*, 483-484.

THESES

- [43] **Vertanen, K.** Efficient Correction Interfaces for Speech Recognition. *Ph.D. thesis (2009), University of Cambridge.*
- [44] **Vertanen, K.** Efficient Computer Interfaces using Continuous Gestures, Language Models, and Speech. *M.Phil thesis (2004), University of Cambridge.*
- [45] **Vertanen, K.** A Parallel Implementation of a Fluid Flow Simulation using Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics. *Master's thesis (1999), Oregon State University.*

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- [46] **Vertanen, K.** Baseline WSJ Acoustic Models for HTK and Sphinx: Training Recipes and Recognition Experiments. *Technical report (2006), Cavendish Laboratory.*
- [47] **Vertanen, K.** Genetic Adventures in Parallel: Towards a Good Island Model under PVM. *Technical report (1998), Oregon State University.*

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Assistant Professor, Michigan Technological University</i>	2015-present
<i>Assistant/Associate Professor, Montana Tech</i>	2011-2015
Teaching and research in the Department of Computer Science.	

Consistently received outstanding student feedback on teaching performance.
Received the 2014 distinguished researcher award.

Lecturer, Princeton University 2010-2011
Teaching and advising students in the Department of Computer Science.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Cambridge 2009-2010
Research into novel speech and eye-tracking based user interfaces.

Instructor, Oregon State University 1999
Responsible for planning and teaching an undergraduate computer science course.

Teaching Assistant, Oregon State University 1997-1999
Teaching and grading for undergraduate and graduate computer science courses.

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- PhD advisor (1 PhD student), Michigan Tech (2016-present).
- Undergraduate research advisor (4 undergraduate students), Michigan Tech (2016-present).
- PhD co-advisor (1 student), University of St Andrews (2012-present).
- Undergraduate research advisor (3 undergraduate students), Montana Tech (2013).
- Undergraduate research advisor (1 undergraduate student), Princeton University (2010-11).

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Software Consultant, Wildfire Communications 2002-2003
Designed and built new features for Wildfire's voice-driven virtual assistant.

Software Engineer, etrieve, Inc. 1999-2002
Lead designer of voice application for mobile access to email, contact, and calendar information.

- Team leader of the voice application group, including developing and instituting best practices.
- Responsible for reviewing the usability of etrieve's voice, web, and mobile device interfaces.
- Designed the dialog flow, prompts and grammars for the voice application.
- Created hardware and software architecture for scalable and high availability 24x7 service.

Computer Specialist, In Time 1990-2016
Responsible for computing and web publishing tasks within the company.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Associate editor:

- International Journal of Human Computer Studies (2014-present)

Associate chair / senior program committee:

- CHI: ACM International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (2017-18)
- IUI: International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (2015)
- MobileHCI: ACM International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services (2014)

Doctoral consortium co-chair:

- ASSETS: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (2018)

Vice-president:

- SIG-SLPAT, Special Interest Group, Speech and Language Processing for Assistive Technologies (2015-2016)

Program committee:

- ASSETS: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (2018)

- IUI: International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (2014)
- SLPAT: Workshop on Speech and Language Processing for Assistive Technologies (2012-13)
- MobileHCI: ACM International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services (2011)
- CHI Workshop on Text Entry (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017)
- BCS-HCI: British Computer Society Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (2010)

Student research competition judge:

- ASSETS: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (2014)

Reviewer:

- TOCHI: ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (2017)
- International Journal of Human Computer Studies (2016)
- IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems (2015)
- IEEE Pervasive Computing (2017)
- Computer Speech and Language (2012)
- CHI: ACM International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (2010-16)
- IUI: International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (2012-13, 2017)
- UIST: ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017)
- MobileHCI: ACM International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017)
- NordiCHI: Nordic Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (2012)
- ICASSP: IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (2011)
- ICMI: ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (2013)
- BCS-HCI: British Computer Society Conference on Human Computer Interaction (2009)

GRANTS & AWARDS

“Less is More: Investigating Abbreviated Text Input via a Game”, Google Faculty Research Award
Grant to investigate improving touchscreen text input by allowing users to abbreviate their input, \$47,219.

Distinguished Researcher Award, Montana Tech
Honors faculty who have contributed to the success of campus research and scholarly activity, \$1,000.

New Faculty Seed Grant, Montana Tech
Competitive grant stimulating research among new Montana Tech faculty, \$5,000.

“Creating Enjoyable and Fluid Mobile Phone Touch-Screen Interfaces”, Nokia Corporation
Grant to investigate interaction techniques and language modeling for mobile devices, \$17,700.

Conference Travel Grant, PASCAL Network
Grant to attend ASRU '09 conference, \$1,500.

“A Mobile Speech Recognition Correction Interface”, Nokia Corporation
Grant to investigate speech recognition on the Nokia N800 mobile device, \$9,500.

Conference Travel Grant, International Speech Communication Association
Grant to attend Interspeech '06 conference, \$1,200.

Clerk Maxwell Scholarship, University of Cambridge
Scholarship awarded by the Cavendish Laboratory, \$120,000.

Overseas Research Student Award
Scholarship awarded in UK-wide competition, \$40,000.

Fellow of the Cambridge Overseas Trust, University of Cambridge

Katherine E. Sullivan Scholarship, University of Minnesota

The University's most prestigious study abroad award funding study at a foreign university, \$14,000.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, University of Minnesota

Funded undergraduate research project with faculty mentor, \$1,400.

INVITED & CONFERENCE TALKS

VelociTap: Investigating Fast Mobile Text Entry using Sentence-Based Decoding of Touchscreen Keyboard Input
CHI '15: ACM International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 2015.

Complementing Text Entry Evaluations with a Composition Task

CHI '14: ACM International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 2014.

The Feasibility of Eyes-Free Touchscreen Keyboard Typing

Department of Computer Science, University of Washington, October 2013.

Efficient Correction Interfaces for Speech Recognition

School of Computer Science, University of St Andrews, June 2013.

The Potential of Dwell-Free Eye-Typing for Fast Assistive Gaze Communication

ETRA '12: ACM Symposium on Eye-Tracking Research and Applications, March 2012.

Intelligently Aiding Human-Guided Correction of Speech Recognition

AAAI '10: AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, July 2010.

Efficient Correction Interfaces for Speech Recognition

MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab, May 2010.

Efficient Correction Interfaces for Speech Recognition

Google, April 2010.

Speech Dasher: Fast Writing using Speech and Gaze

CHI '10: ACM International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 2010.

Recognition and Correction of Voice Web Search Queries

Interspeech '09: International Conference on Spoken Language Processing, September 2009.

Parakeet: A Continuous Speech Recognition System for Mobile Touch-Screen Devices

IUI '09: ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces, February 2009.

On the Benefits of Confidence Visualization in Speech Recognition

CHI '08: ACM International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 2008.

POSTERS & DEMOS

Towards Improving Predictive AAC using Crowdsourced Dialogues and Partner Context

ASSETS '17: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, October 2017.

Speech Dasher: A Demonstration of Text Input using Speech and Approximate Pointing

ASSETS '14: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, October 2014.

The Feasibility of Eyes-Free Touchscreen Keyboard Typing

ASSETS '13: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, October 2013.

A Collection of Conversational AAC-like Communications

ASSETS '13: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, October 2013.

Spelling as a Complementary Strategy for Speech Recognition

Interspeech '12: International Conference on Spoken Language Processing, September 2012.

Getting it Right the Second Time: Recognition of Spoken Corrections

SLT '10: IEEE Workshop on Spoken Language Technology, December 2010.

Automatic Selection of Recognition Errors by Respeaking the Intended Text

ASRU '09: IEEE Workshop on Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding, December 2009.

Parakeet: A Demonstration of Speech Recognition on a Mobile Touch-Screen Device

IUI '09: ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces, February 2009.

Combining Open Vocabulary Recognition and Word Confusion Networks

ICASSP '08: IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing, March 2008.

Speech Dasher – A Novel Interface for Correcting Speech Recognition Errors

ICASSP '08: IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing, March 2008.

Speech and Speech Recognition during Dictation Corrections

Interspeech '06: International Conference on Spoken Language Processing, September 2006.

Speech Dasher: An Efficient Interface Using Speech and Gestures

NIPS '04: Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, December 2004.

REFERENCES

Furnished upon request.