

# Matthew Ryan

9/o 37 The Rydes,  
Bodicote, BANBURY,  
OX15 4EJ, ENGLAND

+86 136 59637137  
matt@mdryan.net  
www.mdryan.net

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## Personal Information

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- Location:** I currently live in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China.
- Languages:** I am a native English speaker and have functional French and Chinese language skills, but am by no means fluent in either. I am actively studying Mandarin Chinese.
- Transport:** I have a full clean UK driving license and until moving to China owned my own car and drove extensively for many years.
- Nationality:** British
- Date of Birth:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 1979
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## Education

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**MSc Machine Perception and Neurocomputing**  
2000 – 2001 *Mackay Institute of Communication and Neuroscience* *Keele University*

This one year masters course ran for a number of years for small groups of students at the Mackay Institute at Keele and attracted EPSRC funding. It was divided equally into a taught course component and project work. The taught course provided a firm grounding in the subject,

- Computational Methods
- Pattern Recognition
- Mathematical Foundations
- Biology and Psychology of Perception
- Knowledge Engineering
- Machine Vision
- Speech Processing
- Advanced Neural Networks
- Speech and Hearing

My 21 week project and dissertation "Automatic Confidence Scoring for Cluster Based Concatenative Synthesis" extended the *Festival Speech Synthesis System* and was based on a proposal by HP Labs in the UK.

**BSc (2.1) Computer Science and Neuroscience with Psychology**  
1997 – 2000 *Departments of Neuroscience and Computer Science* *Keele University*

Degrees at Keele are joint honours degrees, students dividing their time equally between two departments and also studying a subsidiary subject in a different discipline to their primary subjects. The course is modular, with a higher weighting given to the final year modules. Modules taken included,

- Computer hardware
- Program design
- Algorithms
- Data structures
- Advanced data structures
- Discrete mathematics
- Human factors
- Distributed computing
- Digital image processing
- Database design
- Database implementation
- Neural networks
- Physiology and pathology
- The visual system
- Human and animal behaviour
- Artificial neural networks
- Basis of brain disease
- The philosophy of science

I completed final year projects and dissertation in both subjects, experimenting with fractal video compression and running and analysing psycho-physical experiments.

**A-Level Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics**  
1995 - 1997 *The Royal Grammar School* *High Wycombe*

The Royal Grammar School is one of England's few remaining state grammar schools and entrance is by examination. I scored a total of 26 UCAS points across all subjects.

**GCSE English, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, French, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics**  
1993 – 1995 *Dame Allan's Boys' School* *Newcastle Upon Tyne*

Dame Allan's is an independent fee paying school in the North East of England with entrance by examination. I scored high grades and participated actively in a range of extra curricular activities.

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## Technical Skills

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- Programming** I have a firm grasp of a variety of object orientated, procedural, query and scripting languages, and am able to use the full power of newly seen languages within a short period of time. My best knowledge is currently of Java, the primary language of the taught course at Keele. Other languages were introduced at Keele as appropriate. Since leaving Keele I have spent much time maintaining and writing programs on a voluntary basis, largely in C and PHP.
- Systems Maintenance and Administration** I have a long history of maintaining and administrating computer hardware and operating systems, including the administration of network services and a variety of large software packages. I routinely use and administer a network of Windows and Linux based PCs and associated software and thus have a good knowledge of Unix server tools and shell scripts, as well as PC desktop utilities.
- Mark-up Languages** I have a good knowledge and experience in the use of HTML and XML and a working knowledge of Latex. I have administered a number of websites and XML databases for society and personal use. The Hong Meigui website ([www.hongmeigui.net](http://www.hongmeigui.net)) is mostly generated on the fly in PHP and XSL from a variety of sources, including XML documents, MySQL databases and our own specialist formats. The writing and maintenance of the back end is a team project and allows us to publish a wealth of information from the field with very little time spent preparing documents.
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## Teaching Experience

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- Private Tutoring** **Private and Small Group English Tuition**  
2002 – 2003 *Yangshuo and Chengdu* *Peoples' Republic of China*
- Since coming to China I have occasionally been, and currently am, involved in tutoring individuals and small groups of students in all aspects of the English language and to students of varying standards.
- Demonstrator** **Computing for Life Scientists**  
1999 – 2000 *Biochemistry department* *Keele University*
- As a final year student I heavily assisted the management and running of a computing module in another department. As well as assisting in lectures and the running of practical sessions I was involved the construction of examples, practical sessions and exam topics and the assessment of coursework and practicals.
- Tutorials** **Computer Science Departmental Helpdesk**  
1999 – 2000 *Computer Science Department* *Keele University*
- As a final year student at Keele I was one of two students paid by the department to provide assistance to other students within the department. This was not a conventional technical helpdesk, but a tutoring scheme in which students could come and discuss departmental coursework they were struggling with. Students problems were many and various and the work proved to be genuinely interesting.
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## Other Employment

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- Researcher** **Cave Specialist**  
2002 – 2003 *Hong Meigui* *Peoples' Republic of China*
- Hong Meigui have for the last two years been exploring and mapping previously unexplored caves in China. In addition to self and grant funded expeditions we have on several occasions been asked to comment on the suitability of new and potential show-caves for the tourism industry.
- Various Duties** **Part time and temporary positions**
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|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1999 – 2000 | <i>Duco Personnel</i> | <i>Amersham, Buckinghamshire</i>     |
| 1998        | <i>Self Employed</i>  | <i>High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire</i> |
| 1997        | <i>Maritz</i>         | <i>Marlow, Buckinghamshire</i>       |
| 1996 – 1997 | <i>J Sainsbury</i>    | <i>High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire</i> |
- During Easter, Summer and Christmas vacations as a student I worked as an agency temp in a variety of roles and capacities for numerous companies and industries, gaining valuable experience over Easter, Summer and Christmas vacations.
- An shortage of agency jobs during my first long summer vacation prompted a friend

and I to successfully arrange work most days by way of personal contacts and leaflets delivered door to door. Jobs ranged from gardening to painting and decorating.

The summer prior to starting university, I entered change of address response forms into a multilingual pan-european database for a large mailing house.

Throughout my A-level studies I worked for a large supermarket chain. Originally employed as a frozen meat stock assistant, I rapidly progressed to a meat assistant with some butchery skills - to the extent I was trusted to run all aspects of the meat department at all times when only a single member of staff was required. I also worked in other departments as appropriate.

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## ***Sports, Hobbies and Interests***

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- University Sports** At Keele I have been an active member of a number of clubs and societies and amongst other committee positions have served as the president of both the Canoeing and Sub-Aqua clubs. I have successfully organised numerous days, weekends and longer trips away for both clubs, including an Alpine trip for members of the canoe club. I have been heavily involved in the administration of both sports within the University with a particular interest in representing the less competitive sports within the Athletics Union in general, serving on the AU finance committee amongst other AU positions.
- Caving** I am an enthusiastic and regular caver and it was caving which originally drew me to China. Until moving to China I was an active member of both Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club and of the Technical Speleological Group. I am also a committed team and committee member of the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation. Following the 1999 earthquake in Turkey I travelled out as part of a rescue expedition with three other members. I served for a number of years as the training officer for the Crewe CPC and later also for the Derbyshire CRO, retiring from both only with my decision to move to China. I am now a leading member of the Hong Meigui Exploration Society and am the inaugural treasurer. I am involved in the development of the open source cave surveying package "Survex" and am involved in the administration of the Crewe and Hong Meigui websites.
- Other Sports** In addition to kayaking, diving and caving I am a keen hill walker and recently walked coast to coast across Scotland for charity. I enjoy travelling and during the summer between A-levels and University I visited Tanzania for four weeks as part of a World Challenge expedition which included the successful ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro and a week's volunteer work building a kitchen for a village primary school.

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## ***References***

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Please e-mail for details.