AINAZ EFTEKHAR

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EDUCATION

University of Washington (UW) — Seattle, WA
Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering — 09/2022 - present
- Advisor: **Prof. Ali Farhadi** and **Prof. Ranjay Krishna.**

University of Washington (UW) — Seattle, WA
M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering — 09/2022 - 12/2024
- **GPA: 3.8/4.0**, Advisor: **Prof. Ali Farhadi** and **Prof. Ranjay Krishna.**

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) — Lausanne, Switzerland
Visiting Student Researcher in VILAB — 09/2021 - 08/2022
- Advisor: **Prof. Amir Zamir**

Sharif University of Technology — Tehran, Iran
B.S. in Computer Engineering — 09/2017 - 08/2022
- **GPA: 19.22/20**

PUBLICATIONS

PointArena: Probing Multimodal Grounding Through Language-Guided Pointing
Long Cheng*, Jiafei Duan*, Yi Ru Wang, Haoquan Fang, Boyang Li, Yushan Huang, Elvis Wang, (Under Submission)
Ainaz Eftekhar, Jason Lee, Wentao Yuan, Rose Hendrix, Noah A. Smith, Fei Xia, Dieter Fox, Ranjay Krishna

The One RING: a Robotic Indoor Navigation Generalist
Ainaz Eftekhar, Luca Weihs, Rose Hendrix, Ege Caglar, Jordi Salvador, Alvaro Herrasti, **ICRA 2026**
Winson Han, Eli VanderBil, Aniruddha Kembhavi, Ali Farhadi, Ranjay Krishna, Kiana Ehsani, Kuo-Hao Zeng.

Convergent Functions, Divergent Forms
Ainaz Eftekhar*, Hyeonseong Jeon*, Aaron Walsman, Kuo-Hao Zeng, Ali Farhadi, Ranjay Krishna. **NeurIPS 2025**

Selective Visual Representations Improve Convergence and Generalization for Embodied-AI
Ainaz Eftekhar*, Kuo-Hao Zeng*, Jiafei Duan, Ali Farhadi, Ani Kembhavi, Ranjay Krishna. **ICLR 2024 (Spotlight)**

Omnidata: A Scalable Pipeline for Making Multi-Task Mid-Level Vision Datasets from 3D Scans
Ainaz Eftekhar*, Alexander Sax*, Jitendra Malik, Amir Zamir. **ICCV 2021**

Puzzle-AE: Novelty Detection in Images through Solving Puzzles
Mohammadreza Salehi, Ainaz Eftekhar*, Niousha Sadjadi*, Mohammad Hossein Rohban, Hamid R. Rabiee Arxiv, 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2) — Seattle, WA
Student Researcher, Team: PRIOR — 03/2025 – present
- ★ [Project] RoboMolmo (*Ongoing*): A dual-system vision-language-action (VLA) model with a pointing interface for whole-body long-horizon mobile manipulation

Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2) — Seattle, WA
Research Intern — Summer 2023 – Summer 2024

Supervisors: Kuo-Hao Zeng, Kiana Ehsani (2024); Ani Kembhavi, Ranjay Krishna (2023)

- ★ **[Project] 2024 – The One RING: a Robotic Indoor Navigation Generalist** (*Under Submission*): A generalist embodiment-agnostic navigation policy trained entirely in simulation with large-scale randomized embodiments, demonstrating strong transfer to real robot platforms.
- ★ **[Project] 2023 – Selective Visual Representations for Embodied-AI** (*ICLR 2024 Spotlight*): A parameter-efficient method for selectively filtering visual stimuli in Embodied-AI tasks, inspired by selective human attention.

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL)   Lausanne, Switzerland

Research Intern, Visual Intelligence and Learning Lab (VILAB), Supervisor: Amir Zamir   06/2021 – 08/2022

★ [Project] Omnidata: A Pipeline for Making Multi-Task Mid-Level Vision Datasets (*accepted at **ICCV 2021***): a pipeline to generate "steerable" multi-task vision datasets by parametrically sampling and rendering 3D scans, providing a pathway to explore various data sampling effects and create better vision datasets.

Sharif University of Technology   Tehran, Iran

Research Assistant, Mohammad Hossein Rohban   09/2019 – 09/2020

★ [Project] Self-Supervised Approaches for Anomaly/Novelty Detection in Images and Videos

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)   Kharagpur, India

Research Intern, Supervisors: Abir Das, Pabitra Mitra   07/2019-09/2019

★ [Project] Reducing effects of severe dataset imbalance using an end-to-end CycleGAN-Classifier architecture

HONORS AND AWARDS

UW + Amazon Science Hub Fellowship,	2024
EPFL Summer Research Fellowship, Ecole polytechnique federale de Lausanne	2021
Top 5% Academic Ranking, Sharif University of Technology	2020
Ranked 92th in Iranian Nationwide University Entrance Exam (Among +300,000),	2017
Bronze Medal, Iranian National Math Olympiad	2015, 1016
Gold Medal in the 9th International Mathematics Contest, IMC (Singapore) **[certificate]**	2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington

Deep Learning   Winter 2024

Sharif University of Technology

Artificial Intelligence, Discrete Structures, Data Structures and Algorithms, Advanced Programming   2018-2020

SKILLS

Programming: Python, Java, C/C++, LaTeX
Machine Learning Tools: PyTorch, OpenCV, scikit-learn, NumPy, pandas, matplotlib
Distribution and Deployment Tools: Kubernetes, Docker, Github's CI/CD
Languages: Persian (native), English (advanced, TOEFL score:109), French (Basic)

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

University of Washington

- *Deep Robotic Learning (CSE 599 G), Deep Learning (CSE 493G1), Computational Neuroscience (CSE 528 A)*

Sharif University of Technology

- *Digital Image Processing (graduate), Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Signals and Systems, Advanced Information Retrieval, Linear Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Design of Algorithms, Data Structures*

Online MOOCs

- *CS231n: Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition by Stanford, Deep Learning Specialization by deeplearning.ai, Machine Learning by Stanford-Online.*

Machine Vision and Learning Winter School

- *Brain Engineering Center and Cognitive Science School, IPM, Iran **[certificate]***

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Reviewer of CVPR 2024/2025, CORL 2025, NeurIPS 2025   2024-2025
Reviewing papers in Embodied-AI and Computer Vision

Student Volunteer at ICCV 2023   10/2023
Helped with different logistic tasks at the conference [certificate]

Member of Executive Team in Sharif Artificial Intelligence Challenge   03/2018
Sharif University of Technology

Member of Executive Team in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest   12/2017
Sharif University of Technology