Mehrad Ansari

Personal website: https://mehradans92.github.io

Summary: A detail-oriented chemical engineer with a strong background in computational modeling, data science and scientific software development, supported by research and professional work experience in process design and optimization.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering (May 2023)

Master of Science in Chemical Engineering (Oct 2021)

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Thesis: *"Physics-informed Machine Learning in Chemical Engineering". Advisor: Andrew White*

Master of Science in Environmental Engineering (May 2018)

Missouri University of Science and Technology (UMR), Rolla, MO

Thesis: *"Numerical Modeling of Capillary-driven Flow in Open Microchannels: An Implication of Optimized Wicking Fabric Design"*

Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (July 2015)

University of Tehran, Iran

Thesis: *"Experimental Setup and Optimization for Electro-catalytical Generation of Hydroxyl Radicals in Wastewater Treatment"*

Work Experience and Practical Training

Research Assistant (2019 - present)

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

- Developed a HuggingFace app that answers questions from scientific papers using OpenAI's large language models
- Developing edge-computing deep learning frameworks for semi-supervised classification of the activity of antimicrobial peptides via positive-unlabeled learning
- Developed a disease modeling module to predict future disease spreads and infer location of patient-zero
- Developed an automated framework in CFD modeling that reduces the number of simulations using active learning and generates a symbolic equation for the system of interest via symbolic regression
- Contributed to development of a simulation-based inference framework via maximum entropy re-weighting
- Contributed to development of a plugin with TensorFlow GPU-accelerated operations combined with HOOMD-Blue molecular dynamics simulation engine (HOOMD-TF)
- Developed a web-app for peptide-based gelator transparency classification using Kernel ridge regression
- Developed an automated module on a Raspberry-Pi for real-time monitoring of HPC using Python, JS and HTML
- Implemented finite difference analysis in Python to study 2D shallow water dynamics
- Implemented Monte Carlo simulations in MATLAB to study evolution of spin configurations of a ferromagnet using the Ising model

Energy & Materials Research Engineer (May 2022 - present)

Toyota Research Institute, Los Altos, CA

- Developed deep learning frameworks to predict degradation of used batteries with unknown cycling histories

Teaching Assistant of "Advanced Transport Phenomena" (Aug - Dec 2020)

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

- Tutored students on homework related problems

Teaching Assistant of "Fundamentals of Fluid Mechanics" (Jan - May 2020)

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

- Tutored students on homework related problems and organized laboratory experiments

Lead CFD Analyst at Missouri S&T Solar Car Design Team (2016 - 2018)

Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO

- Developed validated wind tunnel simulations in STAR-CCM+ for aerodynamic optimization of the solar car
- Improved aerodynamic design efficiency prior to manufacturing

Manufacturing Process Modeling Intern (May-Dec 2017)

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, OH

- Phase-change heat transfer modeling and optimization of tire vulcanization process in ANSYS
- Model verification based on plant data and analytical solution
- Utilized assets more efficiently through MATLAB post processing and automating the simulation process using OPTIMUS
- Provided faster simulation results using Adaptive Mesh Refinement and High-Performance Computing
- GUI development and coupling ANSYS with MATLAB for time-effective post processing

Research Assistant (2016 - 2018)

Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO

- Numerical modeling of multiphase flow in open microfluidics using ANSYS and STAR-CCM +
- Reduced simulation run-time by developing an algorithm for Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR)
- Increased solver's stability by developing an algorithm for Adaptive Time Step

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Work Experience and Practical Training

Teaching Assistant of "Applied Numerical Methods in CFD" (Jan-May 2017)
Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO

- Organized CFD and programming workshops for ANSYS and Star-CCM +

Engineering Intern (July-Sept 2014)
Emden-Leer University of Applied Sciences, Emden, Germany

- Design of experiments in advanced oxidation process (AOP) for wastewater treatment

President of IAESTE Iran (Apr 2013-July 2014)
International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience

- Led a team of college students that organized technical internships internationally

Computer Skills

Scientific Softwares Developed:
- *MaxEnt*
- *AL-CFD*
- *Py0*
- *Peptide.bio*
- *HOOMD-TF*
- *GTP*
- *Decode-ELM*
- *Bye-Cycle*

Other tools: AWS, STAR-CCM+, ANSYS, TensorFlow, Sk-learn
Languages: Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

Honors and Awards

1st place winner at Battery Informatics & ML Competition (Dec 2022)
Materials Research Society, Boston, MA

Kwang-Yu and Lee-Chien Wang Fellowship (Nov 2021)
Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Rochester

Earl W. Costich Graduate Fellowship (May 2020)
Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Rochester

1st place winner: 2017 Mike Alizadeh Scholarship (Aug 2017)
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Recognized reviewer: *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering* (May 2016)

MATLAB Programming Contest (Mar 2014)
Sharif Computer-Aided Chemical Engineering Contest (SC_3), Sharif University of Technology, Iran

Publications and Patents

1. Learning Peptide Properties with Positive Examples Only (Preprint available upon request)
   ***M Ansari**, AD White*
2. History-agnostic Battery Degradation Inference (Patent & paper submitted)
   Journal of Energy and AI
   ***M Ansari**, S Torrisi, A Trewartha, S Sun*
3. Serverless Prediction of Peptide Properties with Recurrent Neural Networks (Submitted Dec 2022)
   Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling
   ***M Ansari**, AD White*
4. Assessment of Chemistry Knowledge in Large Language Models that Generate Code (Jan 2023)
   Digital Discovery
   *AD White, GM Hocky, HA Gandhi, **M Ansari**, S Cox, GP Wellawatte, S Sasmal, Z Yang, K Liu, Y Singh, WJ Peña Ccoa*
5. Book chapter: Hyper-parameter Optimization in Deep Learning (July 2022)
   Deep Learning for Molecules and Materials, Living Journal of Computational Molecular Science
   ***M Ansari**, AD White.*
6. Inferring Spatial Source of Disease Outbreaks using Maximum Entropy (July 2022)
   American Physical Society, Physical Review E
   ***M Ansari**, D Soriano-Paños, G Ghoshal, AD White.*
7. Iterative Symbolic Regression for Learning Transport Equations (March 2022)
   AIChE Journal, Special Edition for AI
   ***M Ansari**, HA Gandhi, DG Foster, AD White*
8. Simulation-based Inference with Approximately Correct Parameters via Maximum Entropy (Apr 2022)
   Machine Learning in Science and Technology
   *R Barrett, **M Ansari**, G Ghoshal, AD White*

Presentations and Talks

1. Maximum Entropy Inference in Chemical Reaction Networks with Unknown Kinetic Parameters (Nov 2022)
   AIChE, Phoenix, AZ
2. Wang Lecture: Rescuing Physics-based Model with Maximum Entropy Reweighting (Sept 2022)
   Department of Chemical Engineering, Rochester, NY
3. Positive Unlabeled Learning of Peptide Properties (July 2022)
   Fundamentals of Molecular Modeling and Simulation, Delavan, WI
4. Serverless Prediction of Peptide Properties with Recurrent Neural Networks (June 2022)
   Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Ewing Township, NJ
5. Simulation-based Inference with Approximately Correct Parameters via Maximum Entropy (Dec 2020)
   Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 33: Workshop on Machine Learning for Structural Biology