

# Reza Babanezhad Harikandeh

## Curriculum vitae

### RESEARCH INTEREST

My main research interests are: Stochastic Optimization, Generative Models, Game Optimization, and Reinforcement Learning (RL).

### WORK EXPERIENCE

*Nov 2019-present*

Samsung AI Lab, Montreal, Canada

**Research Scientist** Stochastic Optimization, Game Optimization, Causality, RL.

*Aug-Nov 2019*

Huawei, Montreal, Canada

**ML Researcher** Compression techniques to compress Deep Neural Networks

*Sep-Dec 2017*

Google Brain, Montreal, Canada

**Research Intern in ML group** Robust stochastic gradient descent

*Jan-Apr 2017*

Dwave System, Vancouver, Canada

**Research Intern in ML group** Understanding and improving generalization in Deep Neural Networks

*Jun-Sept 2016*

Inria research center, Paris, France

**Research Intern (MITACS Globalink Award):** Research Intern under supervision of **Francis Bach**, specifically working on stochastic algorithms using monotone operators for saddle point problem

*2013-2014*

Recon, Vancouver, BC, Canada

**MITACS Intern:** Enabling Spark as new big data processing engine for the company

*2010-2011*

Miad Company, Tehran, Iran

**Software Designer, Developer, Documenter**

*2006-2009*

Avaan Company, Tehran, Iran

**Software Designer, Developer**

✉ Reza Babanezhad Harikandeh  
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✉ [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=...)

### EDUCATION

AUG 2020 – JUN 2022 **MILA**  
POST-DOC

2014 – 2019 **Machine Learning group**  
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE  
*Computer Science, UBC*

2011 – 2014 **Software Practice Lab**  
MSC(AND 1ST YEAR OF PHD) COMPUTER SCIENCE  
*Computer Science, UBC*

2008 – 2011 **Software group**  
M.Sc. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING  
*Software Engineering, Sharif University, Tehran/Iran*

2001 – 2006 **Software group**  
B.Sc. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING  
*Software Engineering, Sharif University, Tehran/Iran*

### PUBLICATIONS

- J. L., S. V., R. B., M. S., N. L., Target-based Surrogates for Stochastic Optimization, OPTML workshop (NeurIPS 2022), submitted to AIS-TAT'23.
- B. D., S. V., R. B., Towards Noise-adaptive, Problem-adaptive (Accelerated) Stochastic Gradient Descent, ICML, 2022.
- A. J., S. V., R. B., C. S., D. P., Towards Painless Policy Optimization for Constrained MDPs, UAI, 2022.
- B. D., S. V., R. B., M. S., S. L. J., SVRG meets AdaGrad: Painless Variance Reduction, JML, 2022.

- L. L., Y. Z., Z. Y., R. B. , Z. W., Infinite-Dimensional Optimization for Zero-Sum Games via Variational Transport, ICML, 2021.
- R. L., B. R.,et al., An Analysis of Causal Models Adaptation Speed, AISTAT, 2021.
- V. S., B. R.,et al., To Each Optimizer a Norm, To Each Norm its Generalization, NeurIPS workshop on optimization, 2020.
- R.B., S. L. J., Geometry-Aware Universal Mirror-Prox, Arxiv, 2020.
- A. D, A. D. B. R.,et al., Reducing the variance in online optimization by transporting past gradients, NeurIPS,2019.
- D. A., B. E., B. R., Manifold Preserving Adversarial Learning, ArXiv, 2019.
- B., R., et. al., "MASAGA: A Linearly-Convergent Stochastic First-Order Method for Optimization on Manifolds", ECML, 2018.
- L. I., B. R.,et.al.,Domain Adaptation with Deep Metric Learning, ICML DAVU workshop, 2018.
- L. N., B. R. , et. al., Online Variance Reduction, ICLR workshop track, 2018.
- Z. Z., B. R. , Potinger, R., A Generic Top-N Recommendation Framework For Trading-off Accuracy, Novelty, and Coverage, ICDE, 2018.
- K. M. E., B. R., et. al., Faster Stochastic Variational Inference using Proximal-Gradient Methods with General Divergence Functions, UAI, 2016.
- B. R., et.al, Stop wasting my gradient: Practical SVRG, NIPS, 2015.
- S. M., B. R., et. al. , Non-uniform stochastic average gradient method for training conditional random fields. AISTAT 2015.
- E. W., B. R., Denormalization Middleware for Database-as-a-Service, SOCA 2013.
- B. R., Y. M., R. R., Process Pattern for Web Engineering, COMPSAC 2010.

## REFERENCES

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- Simon Lacoste-Jullien
- Mark Schmidt
- Francis Bach
- Nicolas Le-Roux
- Eric Wholfstadtre
- Raman Ramsin

## SKILLS

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PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE	Java, Python, Matlab
TOOLS	Apache Spark, Tensor-Flow
LANGUAGE	English, Farsi