

# Saeed Najafi

(June 5, 2021)

## CONTACT

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Machine Learning Engineer** 2018-2020  
*BenchSci, Toronto, Canada*

- Developing NLP models for entity and relation extraction within bio-medical papers in order to gather use cases of protein reagents.
- Developing big data pipelines applying ML models in a distributed environment.  
**Tech Stack:** PySpark, Airflow, Ansible, BigQuery

**Research Internship** Summer 2018  
*Diffbot, U of Alberta, Canada*

- Worked on fine-grained Named Entity recognition having thousand tags.
- Advisor: [Denilson Barbosa](#)

**Python Developer** Summer 2015  
*RCDAT, Tehran, Iran*

- Developed web application to control TV gateway.

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Computing Science** 2020 -  
*University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada*

- **GPA:** 3.85/4
- **Advisor:** [Alona Fyshe](#)
- Tentative Area: "Reasoning in NLP for Automatic Question Answering"
- **Taken Courses:**  
Probabilistic Graphical Models (A), Combinatorial Optimization (A-)

**M.Sc. in Computing Science** 2016-2018  
*University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada*

- **GPA:** 3.88/4
- **Advisors:** [Greg Kondrak](#) & [Colin Cherry](#)
- **Thesis:** "Sequence Labeling and Transduction with Output-Adjusted Actor-Critic Training of RNNs"

- **Taken Courses:**

Natural Language Processing (A), Reinforcement Learning for AI (A-)  
Data Mining in Rich Data (A), Software Product Lines (A)  
Managing Big Text Data (A-), Teaching & Research Methods

## **Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering**

*2012-2016*

*Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran*

- **GPA:** 17.69/20
- **Advisor:** [Reza Safabakhsh](#)
- **Thesis:** “Predicating ATM Machines Faults”

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- “Efficient Sequence Labeling with Actor-Critic Training”  
(CAIAC 2019, [paper](#))
- “String Transduction with Target Language Models and Insertion handling”  
(SIGMORPHON @ EMNLP 2018, [paper](#))
- “Combining Neural and Non-Neural Methods for Low-Resource Morphological Reinflection”  
(CoNLL-SIGMORPHON @ EMNLP 2018, [paper](#))
- “Comparison of Assorted Models for Transliteration”  
(NEWS @ ACL 2018, [paper](#))
- “If you can’t beat them, join them: the University of Alberta system description”  
(CoNLL-SIGMORPHON @ ACL 2017, [paper](#))

## **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

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- Introduction to Database Systems – U of Alberta (*Falls 2016 & 2017 & 2020*)
- Advanced Database Systems – U of Alberta (*Winters 2017 & 2018*)
- C Programming Language – U of Alberta (*Winter 2018*)
- Web Development – Amirkabir U of Technology (*Fall 2015*)
- Computer Architecture – Amirkabir U of Technology (*Spring 2015*)

## **HONOURS & AWARDS**

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- The University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Award (*\$5000 - September 2020*)
- Travel grant for CAIAC conference. (*May 2019*)
- Travel grant for ACL conference. (*August 2017*)
- Honorary direct admission to the graduate school of Amirkabir U of Technology having high undergraduate GPA (10/120). (*June 2015*)
- Ranked among the top 0.5% in the university entrance exam. (*July 2012*)

## MISC.

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- **Talks:**  
*Bag of Tasks in NLP (Summer School, U of Alberta, Summer 2018)*  
*Introduction to NER (CMPUT 650, U of Alberta, Fall 2018)*
- **Reviewer:** *NAACL-HLT, EMNLP, ACL, IJCNLP, EACL*
- **Current Dev Stack:** *Python, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Spark, Airflow, C/C++, SQLite*
- **TOEFL:** *106/120*
- **Languages:** *English, Persian, Azeri*
- **Sports:** *Soccer, Running, Cycling, Volleyball*