

# SAEED NAJAFI

🏠 BenchSci, 559 College St, Toronto, ON M6G 1A9

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Alberta, Canada** 2016 - 2018

M.Sc. in Computing Science GPA: 3.9/4.0

**Advisors:** [Greg Kondrak](#) & [Colin Cherry](#)

**Thesis:** “Sequence Labeling and Transduction with Output-Adjusted Actor-Critic Training of RNNs”

**Area:** Natural Language Processing, Reinforcement Learning

**TA:** Database Systems (*SQLite*, *SPARQL*), *C* Programming Language

**Widely Used:** *Python*, *PyTorch*, *Tensorflow*

**Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran** 2012 - 2016

B.Sc. in Software Engineering GPA: 17.7/20.0

**Advisor:** [Reza Safabakhsh](#)

**Project:** “Predicting ATM Machines Faults”

**TA:** Web Development, Computer Architecture

## INTERESTS

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Enjoy problem-solving, mathematics and developing efficient software.

Keen interest to model the language through machine learning.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**BenchSci, Toronto** Sep 2018 - Present

*Machine Learning Engineer*

- Developing natural language processing techniques for entity and relation extraction within biomedical papers to gather use cases of reagents.

**ML Models:** *RNN*, *CRF*, *Transformer*, *BERT*, *Adversarial Multi-Tasking*, *Cross-View Training*, *VAE Language Modelling*, *PositionRank*, *BPE Encoding*, *Deep SVM*, *Variational Dropout*, *Optimal Completion Distillation*

- Developing data pipelines to apply ML models in a distributed environment (10 workers, 20 GPUs)

**Tech Stack:** *PySpark*, *Airflow*, *Ansible*, *BigQuery*

## PUBLICATIONS

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- “Efficient Sequence Labeling with Actor-Critic Training” [paper](#)
- “String Transduction with Target Language Models and Insertion handling” [paper](#)
- “Combining Neural and Non-Neural Methods for Low-Resource Morphological Reinflection” [paper](#)
- “Comparison of Assorted Models for Transliteration” [paper](#)

## HONOURS & AWARDS

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- Travel grants for ACL & CAIAC conferences. August 2017 & May 2019

- Honorary direct admission to the graduate school of Amirkabir U of Technology

having high undergraduate GPA. June 2016

- Ranked among the top 0.5% in the university entrance exam. July 2012

- Participated in the second round (2/3) of Iranian Mathematical Olympiad. 2010

## MISC.

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- Talks: Bag of Tasks in NLP & Introduction to NER Summer School, U of Alberta, 2018

- Reviewer: NAACL-HLT & EMNLP 2018

(Last update: January 2020)