

Saeed Najafi

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CONTACT

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RECENT INTERESTS

Natural Language Processing:

Question Generation, Relation Extraction, Reading Comprehension, Semantic Parsing, Sequence Labeling, Structured Prediction

Machine Learning:

Time Series, State-Space Models, Approximate Inference

WORK EXPERIENCE

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

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computing Science

2020 -

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

- **Advisor:** [Alona Fyshe](#)
- **Current Project:** “Question Generation for Relation Extraction”
- **Taken Courses:**
Probabilistic Graphical Models, Combinatorial Optimization

M.Sc. in Computing Science

2016-2018

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

- **Advisors:** [Greg Kondrak](#) & [Colin Cherry](#)
- **Thesis:** “Sequence Labeling and Transduction with Output-Adjusted Actor-Critic Training of RNNs”
- **Taken Courses:**
Natural Language Processing, Reinforcement Learning for AI
Data Mining in Rich Data, Software Product Lines
Managing Big Text Data, Teaching & Research Methods

Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering
Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

2012-2016

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

PUBLICATIONS

- “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](#))

HONOURS & AWARDS

- The University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Award (*\$5000 - September 2020*)

MISC.

- **Reviewer:** *ACL, NAACL-HLT, EMNLP, IJCNLP, EACL*
- **TOEFL:** *106/120*
- **Languages:** *English, Persian, Azeri*