SAEED NAJAFI

✉ snajafi@ualberta.ca ⋄ ⌗ saeednajafi

EDUCATION

University of Alberta, Canada — 2020 - expected
Ph.D. in Computing Science
Advisors: Alona Fyshe
Area: Question-Answering

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

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

BenchSci, Toronto — Sep 2018 - 2020
Machine Learning Engineer

- Developing natural language processing techniques for entity and relation extraction within bio-medial 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

- "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

- The University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Award — $5000 - September 2020
- Honorary direct admission to the graduate school of Amirkabir U of Technology
having high undergraduate GPA. — June 2016

MISC.

- Talks: Bag of Tasks in NLP & Introduction to NER — Summer School, U of Alberta, 2018
- Reviewer: {NAACL-HLT EMNLP EACL AACL-IJCNLP} — 2018 & 2020
(Last update: December 2020)