

## Research Interests

My research spans reinforcement learning, multiagent learning, and composition of models (e.g. mixture of experts) with applications in robotics.

## Education

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

*Bachelor of Science in **Computer Science and Engineering** (Course 6-3)*

Sep. 2022 - May. 2025

*Bachelor of Science in **Mathematics** (Course 18)*

**GPA: 5.0/5.0**

**Graduate coursework:** Multiagent Learning, Sensorimotor Learning, High-Dimensional Statistics, Symmetry Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Quantum Computation, Programming Synthesis, Secure Hardware Design

### Sharif University of Technology

Tehran, Iran

*Transferred to MIT after second year; **GPA: 3.9/4.0***

Sep 2020 - May 2022

## Publications

### Probabilistic Homotopy Optimization for Dynamic Motion Planning

published in IROS 2024

Shayan Pardis\*, Matthew Chignoli\*, Sangbae Kim

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.12490>

## Research Experience

### Research in Video Language Planning

Cambridge, MA

*MIT; Supervised by Prof. Leslie Kaelbling and Yilun Du*

Sep. 2024 - Present

- Developing methods for interactive plan refinement that enables high quality long-horizon planning
- Hierarchical composition of a diffusion policy and vision language model utilizing ELBO values
- Finetuning a goal conditioned diffusion policy to generate subgoal images with a dynamic horizon length

### Research in Trajectory Optimization

Cambridge, MA

*MIT; Supervised by Prof. Sangbae Kim*

Feb. 2023 - May 2024

- Designed an optimization method inspired by Curriculum Learning and Probabilistic Roadmaps (PRM) that traverses the multi dimensional homotopy space from a relaxed (easy) problem to the original (hard) problem. This framework automates the discovery of highly dynamic trajectories (e.g. acrobatic maneuvers for humanoids), which previously required handcrafted expert initialization and heuristics. Published in IROS 2024.
- Enhanced the throughput of the QP-based controller for the MIT Humanoid robot by 4x through parallel programming techniques.

## Awards

**Gold medal (rank 10)** in International Olympiad in Informatics (2020)

**ICPC 2021 World Finalist** (Asia-Tehran region champion)

**Gold medal (rank 1)** in Iran National Olympiad in Informatics (2019)

**Silver medal (rank 24)** in Asia-Pacific Informatics Olympiad (2020)

## Work Experience

### Citadel LLC

New York City, NY

*Quantitative Developer Intern in Central Risk Engineering*

Jun. 2024 - Aug. 2024

- Developed distributed system infrastructure tools utilizing Kubernetes, gRPC, multiprocessing, Cloud Run, Redis; Secured a return offer.
- Designed a parallel testing framework that identified performance bottlenecks, achieving a 2x speedup by optimizing queuing mechanism.

### Google Summer of Code

Mountain View, CA (Remote)

*Julia CUDA Developer*

Jun. 2023 - Sep. 2023

- Developed CUDA kernels for [QuantumClifford.jl](#), a Julia package for Quantum Error-Correcting Codes; achieved 10x speedup ([details](#))

### SIMCON

Wuerselen, Germany (Remote)

*Geometric Algorithm Design Intern*

Sep. 2021 - Mar. 2022

- Designed a 3D mesh contraction algorithm to convert meshes into skeleton graphs with enhanced accuracy and 2x speedup (in C++)

Carriot

Data Science Intern

Designed and trained a model to map addresses to their corresponding locations (geocoding problem) utilizing OSM and Elasticsearch.

Tehran, Iran  
Jul. 2021 - Sep. 2021


Abarkelas

Web Developer (Part-Time)

Developed backend (Django) and frontend (NuxtJs). Set up Prometheus and Grafana for monitoring. Created PWA for the website

Tehran, Iran  
Oct. 2020 - Jun. 2021

Projects

Novel Shape Generation with SO3-Equivariant Auto-Encoders (MIT 6.S966, Symmetry ML) |  [Repository](#)

Designed an SO(3) equivariant autoencoder using spherical harmonics and a latent space traversal that separates rotation from deformation.

Apr. 2024 - May 2024

Better Offline RL with S4 Models (MIT 6.8200, Sensorimotor Learning) |  [Repository](#)


Reimplemented Decision Transformer replacing transformer with S4 model and demonstrated improved performance in credit assignment tasks.

Apr. 2024 - May 2024

Formal Complexity Verification (MIT 6.S981, Programming Synthesis) |  [Repository](#)


Formulated time complexity verification of a program as synthesizing a fix-point function. The demo uses a custom language with Python syntax.

Oct. 2023 - Dec. 2023

FaceExplore (Personal Project, to be used at MIT Ring Delivery) |  [Repository](#)

Developed a face search engine using a pretrained ResNet for feature extraction and a custom hierarchical clustering method to identify faces of over 500 students in a large (40GB) dataset of images. Utilized MTCNN for face detection and React, Flask, Nginx, and Docker for the website.

Jun. 2023 - Aug. 2023

Scripty (HackMIT 2024) |  [Repository](#)


Developed an educational tool to track student performance on projects, providing live feedback and tips, and automating infrastructure setup for instructors. Built with Python, DSPy, Kubernetes, and React; won Warp and Orystack challenge prizes.

Sep. 2024 - Sep. 2024

Sharif AI Challenge |  [Repository](#)

Developed AI agents for a multiagent game, achieving 4th place in the competition. Used Huffman code for cost-efficient communication and A\* algorithm for planning under uncertainty.

Mar. 2021 - May 2021

ShelveBot (MIT 6.4210, Robotics Manipulation) |  [Repository](#)

Demonstrated pick-and-place capabilities on the PR2 robot. Integrated RRT, Inverse Kinematics, and Trajectory Optimization for motion planning. Utilized a custom DSP for symbolic planning and optimized grasp selection. Recieved the Outstanding Project Award.

Oct. 2023 - Dec. 2023

Teaching and Service

Teaching Assistant for Natural Language and Computation (MIT 6.S051, Prof. Robert Berwick)

Revised and created new lab practices including: Segmentation, Parsers, Semantic Parsing with Lambda Calculus, and Grammar Inference.

Sep. 2022 - Dec. 2022

Algorithm Course Coordinator (Iranian National Olympiad in Informatics Summer Camp)

Main Organizer, lecturer, and problem setter for the algorithm course in Iran National Olympiad in Informatics 2021. Delivered lectures on flow algorithms, number theory, and dynamic programming. Designed 3 out of 9 final exam problems.

Jul. 2021 - Aug. 2021

Author of Olympiad Graph Theory Book

Initiated and was the main contributor to an online book on graph theory in Persian, available at [gtoi.shazzz.ir](https://gtoi.shazzz.ir), with a focus on algorithmic approaches to graph theory concepts.

Feb. 2020 - Dec. 2021