

Shikib Mehri

mehrishikib@gmail.com
http://www.shikib.com

EDUCATION

M.S. Language Technologies, August 2018 - Present
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

- A member of the Dialog Research Center, supervised by Professor Maxine Eskenazi.
- Selected coursework:
 - Sequence-to-Sequence Networks, Machine Learning (PhD), Neural Networks for NLP, Computational Semantics, Multimodal Machine Learning
- 4.0 GPA

B.Sc. Honours Computer Science, September 2013 - May 2018
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

- Cumulative average in Computer Science courses: 91.1%
- Selected coursework:
 - Machine Learning and Data Mining, Intelligent Systems, Advanced Algorithms Design and Analysis, Computer Vision

Early Entrance to University, September 2011 - June 2013
University Transition Program, Vancouver, BC

- Completed five years of high school in two years as one of 20 students to attend this rigorous, highly-accelerated program.
- Graduated high school and subsequently entered university at the age of 15.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Shikib Mehri**, Maxine Eskenazi. *Multi-Granularity Representations of Dialog*. EMNLP 2019.
- **Shikib Mehri**, Tejas Srinivasan, Maxine Eskenazi. *Structured Fusion Networks for Dialog*. SIGdial 2019. (**Best Paper**)
- Prakhar Gupta, **Shikib Mehri**, Tiancheng Zhao, Amy Pavel, Maxine Eskenazi, Jeffrey P Bigham. *Investigating Evaluation of Open-Domain Dialogue Systems With Human Generated Multiple References*. SIGdial 2019.
- **Shikib Mehri**, Alan W Black, Maxine Eskenazi. *CMU GetGoing: An Understandable and Memorable Dialog System for Seniors*. DiGO 2019.
- **Shikib Mehri**, Evgeniia Razumovskaia, Tiancheng Zhao, Maxine Eskenazi. *Pretraining Methods for Dialog Context Representation Learning*. ACL 2019.
- **Shikib Mehri**, Leonid Sigal. *Middle-Out Decoding*. NeurIPS 2018.
- **Shikib Mehri**, Giuseppe Carenini. *Chat Disentanglement: Identifying Semantic Reply Relationships with Random Forests and Recurrent Neural Networks*. IJCNLP 2017.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Applied Scientist Intern May 2018 - August 2018
Alexa Conversational AI, Amazon Lab126 (Sunnyvale, CA)

- As a scientist intern within Alexa AI, I was responsible for doing research into contextual speech recognition.
- Developed novel methods that showed significant quantitative and qualitative improvements over a strong baseline.

Research Assistant August 2016 - May 2018
Wasserman Lab, Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics
Supervisors: Prof. Wyeth Wasserman, Alice Kaye

- Worked as a bioinformatics research assistant in the Wasserman Lab, on the development of novel algorithms for DNA sequence alignment on a graph based representation of a genome.
- Implemented complex bioinformatics algorithms to run efficiently on consumer-grade hardware.

Machine Learning Consultant June 2017 - July 2018
Vancouver, BC

- Performed consulting and freelancing services for numerous projects in the realm of deep learning and natural language processing.
- Advised numerous international customers on applications of machine learning and natural language processing for their business needs.
- Implemented custom deep learning solutions for applications such as stock price prediction and information extraction.
- In the process of developing various deep learning approaches for image segmentation and classification.

Data Scientist Intern June 2017 - September 2017
Microsoft (Redmond, WA)

- Worked on the Windows Feedback Analysis team, part of the Windows Core Data organization.
- Designed and implemented a deep learning based semantic similarity model for the purposes of feedback clustering.
- Implemented an LSTM sequence-to-sequence architecture for the purposes of the abstractive summarization of feedback text. The architecture was shown to be extremely effective through qualitative analysis.
- Developed a generic and re-usable framework for applying state of the art deep learning strategies to language understanding problems. I applied the framework to the problem of classifying customer feedback into feedback-types (e.g., suggestion, problem, complaint) and outperformed existing methods.

Software Engineering Intern January 2017 - March 2017
Facebook (Menlo Park, CA)

- Worked on the Translation team, part of the Applied Machine Learning organization.
- Responsible for the development of numerous subword Neural Machine Translation models. I implemented various algorithms for learning language-specific subword vocabularies, segmenting an input into subwords and reconstructing an output from subword units.

- Ultimately, improved the quality of translations on Facebook by 2+ BLEU for certain language directions.

Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer October 2015 - July 2017
IntelliMed (Vancouver, BC)

- Co-founded a startup to utilize technology to improve various pharmacy workflows, obtaining funding at a \$750,000 valuation.
- I led developers in building an application which fully automates the process of writing pharmacy medication reviews for patients.

Software Engineering Intern May 2016 - July 2016
Facebook (Menlo Park, CA)

- Worked on the Ads Targeting Modeling team developing algorithms to generate and evaluate user-interest mappings given data on user-page interactions.
- Constructed an incredibly accurate classification model to predict the appropriate categorization of a given interest.

Software Engineering Intern September 2015 - December 2015
Arista Networks (Vancouver, BC)

- Implemented functionality to detect incorrectly configured network switches.
- Developed strategies to change assignment strategies for linerate capable ports in order to decrease downtime.

TEACHING

Graduate Course Teaching Assistant January 2018 - April 2018
Computer Science Department, UBC

- Appointed as a teaching assistant for CPSC 532L: Multimodal Learning with Vision, Language and Sound.
- Helped design/develop assignments. Assisted students during office hours.
- One of very few undergraduate students to have ever been appointed as a TA for a graduate course.

Technical Interview Workshop Facilitator May 2017 - January 2018
Computer Science Co-op Office & ECESS Student Society

- Ran numerous technical interview workshops for the Computer Science Co-op program and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Science student society teaching students strategies for solving algorithmic problems in an interactive learning environment.

Teaching Assistant September 2014 - December 2016
Computer Science Department, UBC

- I have worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant for 6 terms for the following courses: Relational Databases (CPSC 304), Operating Systems (CPSC 313), Computer Systems (CPSC 213) and Introductory Programming (CPSC 110).
- My responsibilities include lecturing sections ranging from 15 - 40 students, holding office hours, invigilating exams and grading course materials.