Afshin Rahimi

Education

2014–2018 **PhD in Computer Science**, *The University of Melbourne*, Melbourne, Australia.
Thesis: Analysing the Interplay of Location, Language and Links Utilising Geotagged Twitter Content.

2010–2013 **MSc. Computational Linguistics**, *Sharif University of Technology*, Tehran, Iran.
Thesis: An Information Theoretic Analysis of Phonetic Sequences, The Case of Sonority.

2002–2006 **BSc. Computer Science**, *Sharif University of Technology*, Tehran, Iran.
Thesis: Authorship Attribution of Persian Texts.

Work Experience

11/2022– **Applied Scientist, Alexa**, Amazon, Melbourne, Australia.
Now I work on customer-facing applications of NLP using large language models from ideation, design, and team-based collaborations, to A/B testing, data analysis and launching services in the production environment.

01/2020– **Lecturer (Assistant Professor)**, University of Queensland, Brisbane,
11/2022 Australia.

12/2018– **Associate Lecturer/Research Fellow in ARC Training Centre for Medical**
12/2019 **Technologies**, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia.
I hold a joint position as both an associate lecturer with lecturing and subject coordination responsibilities, and also a research fellow in ARC Training Centre in Cognitive Computing for Medical Technologies, where I'll be working on NLP for medical decision making. The research is a collaboration with researchers at The University of Melbourne (Tim Baldwin and Karin Verspoor) and IBM Research Australia.

04/2018– **Research Fellow in NLP**, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia.
03/2019 I've joined the NLP group at the University of Melbourne, working on NLP for low-resource languages as part of the Ariel project supervised by Trevor Cohn. I finalised my work in transfer learning for low-resource languages as a long paper in ACL 2019.

2016–2017	**Internship (4months)**, TELSTRA TELCO, Melbourne, Australia.
	I worked on customer intent prediction in interactive voice response (IVR) systems based on historical events (website visits, previous calls). My work involved working with technologies like GreenPlum and Theano to create learning models that can predict the intent of a customer (e.g. talking about billing, a problem with their Smart TV service or a failing modem) from their previous events (e.g. page visit, previous calls, previous bill) which improved routing of customers to agents resulting customer satisfaction and cost reduction. The CTO of the company mentioned the results of my work in a general meeting and supported the investment of the company in the same line of work to improve customer experience.
2013–2014	**Researcher**, LINNEAUS UNIVERSITY, Stockholm, Sweden.
	I worked on Information Retrieval, vector space models, feature extraction and classification/clustering of Stance/Sentiment in real time big data streams.
2011–2013	**Java Developer**, TELECOMFEED IRANIAN, Tehran, Iran.
	I was responsible for a team of 4 developers working on the crawler component of a large scale web search engine. I could improve the crawler's performance from just 1 million fetched URLs to 1 billion at the end. The crawler had about 2 billion URLs where 1 billion ones were fetched and updated regularly. The data was about 30 TB. We used Hadoop's HDFS, MapReduce and HBase. We built our web crawler on top of Apache Nutch an open source popular web crawler.
2006–2011	**Software Developer and System Administrator**, KECO, Tehran, Iran.
	Main responsibilities include: Software Development (Web and Desktop) using .NET (C# and ASP) and MSSQL. Cisco Switching Administrator (50+ access switches and 4 distribution switches in a 2 tier network architecture, 500+ nodes, vlan, portsec, spanning-tree, redundancy, architecture, load balancing, high-availability), Windows Network Administrator (Active Directory, High Availability, Centralised Management), ERP Administrator (Supply Chain, Salary, HR), Microsoft SQL Server Administrator and Developer. I learned to work with technology under heavy pressure where a medium sized company (2k+ users) relies on your design and administration 24/7.

Publications

Please see my Google Scholar at `https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=WhPw2I0AAAAJ&hl=en`

Academic Activities

- Reviewed for ACL, EMNLP and EACL in the last few years.
- Co-chair of ALTA2021 and W-NUT workshop in the last few years.
- Computational Social Science Area Chair for ACL, 2020.
- Coordinator for Introduction to Data Science, and Database Principles courses, 2020, 2021 and 2022, UQ.
- Supervised about ten bachelor and master thesis and three PhD students, UQ.

Technical skills

NLP	Hands-on experience in NLP (e.g. LLM, Pytorch)
Big Data	Experienced in Hadoop MapReduce, NoSQL and Hive
Programming	Experienced in Python, Java, SQL, and Dev. tools