Ameer Hassan Saadat-Yazdi

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github.com/ameertg

EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh   United Kingdom
PhD Argument Mining for Argumentation-Based Decision Making   *Oct. 2021 – Present*
- Bridge gaps between argument mining and symbolic argumentation
- Operationalise theories of argumentation in computational settings for the automatic evaluation of argument soundness

University of Edinburgh   United Kingdom
BSc(Hons) Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics: First Class Honours   *Sep. 2018 – July 2021*

PROJECTS

Expliciting Inferences in Natural Argumentation | *NLP, Argumentation Theory*   Oct 2021 - Ongoing
- Drew from the philosophical literature to identify theories that can be operationalised for the automatic identification of hidden premises
- Recruited and trained annotators to build a dataset of arguments annotated according to the Periodic Table of Arguments
- Co-organised Scottish Argumentation Day Workshop 2024

A Topological Study of Brain Ageing | *MRI, Computer Vision, Topological Data Analysis* Sep 2020 - Apr 2021
- Final year project
- Explored applications of topological data analysis to engineer features for age prediction
- Identified relationships between topological changes and known biomarkers
- Used these insights to detect Alzheimer's and built a classifier with state-of-the-art prediction accuracy

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EXPERIENCE

Research Intern   Apr 2023 - Jul. 2023
Huawei R&D   *Edinburgh, UK*
- Surveyed existing research on long-form QA
- Evaluated several existing and novel unsupervised techniques for long-form QA
- Performed a systematic analysis of the limitations of LLMs as foundation for deploying long-form QA systems

Teaching Support   Jun 2019 – Present
University of Edinburgh   *Edinburgh, UK*
- Developed & marked course materials and assessments
- Provided support to students during lab sessions as a demonstrator
- Tutored course materials and problem sheets

Data Analysis Intern   Jun 2020 – Sep 2021
eybou.com   *London, UK (remote)*
- Independently developed an end-to-end pipeline to aggregate customer data using AWS and BigQuery
- Designed a data lake solution on AWS
- Created automated reports using SQL and google studio

Business Analytics Intern   Jun – Sep 2017
afiniti   *London, UK*
- Designed solutions to simplify workflow for new employees
- Edited and maintained SQL queries to identify anomalies in the AI system
- Prepared reports and presentations for meetings with clients

Volunteering

Council Member   Ongoing
Baha'i Council for Scotland
- Developed and implemented strategies to build capacity in communities across Scotland
- Identify and strengthen channels of communication to share insights across different communities

Animator   Ongoing
Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program
- Work with 12-15 year olds to understand their role within society
- Facilitate discussions on important social issues
- Guide them to identify solutions to problems facing their communities, plan and undertake lines of action and reflect on what was accomplished

Year of Service   Sep 2017 – Aug 2018
Baha'i Community of Germany   *Offenbach am Main, Germany*
- Engage with local communities to identify and develop latent capacities to improve social harmony
- Focused on working with Arabic-speaking refugees and their surrounding community to find ways for them to integrate and develop the capacity to contribute meaningfully to their environment

Publications

1. Ameer Saadat-Yazdi and Nadin Kökciyan. Beyond recognising entailment: Formalising natural language inference from an argumentative perspective. In *Proceedings of the 62nd Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Main Volume*, Bangkok, Thailand, 2024. International Conference on Computational Linguistics

2. Ameer Saadat-Yazdi, Jeff Z. Pan, and Nadin Kökciyan. Uncovering implicit inferences for relational argument mining. In *Proceedings of the 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Main Volume*, Online & in person in Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 2023 in press. International Conference on Computational Linguistics

3. Sandrine Chausson, Ameer Saadat-Yazdi, Xue Li, Jeff Z. Pan, Vaishak Belle, Nadin Kökciyan, and Björn Ross. A web-based tool for detecting argument validity and novelty. In *Proceedings of the 2023 International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems*, AAMAS '23, page 3053–3055, Richland, SC, 2023. International Foundation for Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems

4. Ameer Saadat-Yazdi, Xue Li, Sandrine Chausson, Vaishak Belle, Björn Ross, Jeff Z. Pan, and Nadin Kökciyan. KEViN: A knowledge enhanced validity and novelty classifier for arguments. In *Proceedings of the 9th Workshop on Argument Mining*, pages 104–110, Online and in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, October 2022. International Conference on Computational Linguistics

5. Ameer Saadat-Yazdi, Rayna Andreeva, and Rik Sarkar. Topological detection of alzheimer's disease using betti curves. In *Interpretability of Machine Intelligence in Medical Image Computing, and Topological Data Analysis and Its Applications for Medical Data: 4th International Workshop, iMIMIC 2021, and 1st International Workshop, TDA4MedicalData 2021, Held in Conjunction with MICCAI 2021, Strasbourg, France, September 27, 2021, Proceedings 4*, pages 119–128. Springer, 2021