

METE (MAHAMMAD) ISMAYILZADA

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My interests broadly lie within the nature of robust artificial intelligence, language, creativity, and mind. Currently, my research focuses on understanding and improving the creative capabilities of machines.

Experience




Research

- 2023 – Present  **Research Assistant.** Idiap Research Institute. *Martigny, Switzerland.*
Research on computational creativity.
- Fall 2022  **Research Assistant.** AI Lab. EPFL. *Lausanne, Switzerland.*
Research on causal reasoning. Work published at ACL Findings.
- Summer 2022  **Research Intern.** Sony Inc. *Tokyo, Japan.*
Developed a dialogue system that can imitate characters.

Engineering

- 2019 – 2021  **Software/ML Engineer.** integrate AI. *Toronto, Canada.*
Designed and built ML tools to automate model training, prediction, and deployment.
- 2017 – 2019  **Co-founder/CTO.** Destin AI. *Toronto, Canada.*
Designed and developed a chatbot and marketplace platform. Participation in startup incubators Next AI and DMZ.
- 2017 – 2018  **Software Engineer.** Bluecat Networks. *Toronto, Canada.*
- 2016 – 2017  **Software Engineer.** Cisco Systems. *Ottawa, Canada.*
- Summer 2015  **Software Engineer Intern.** Freescale Semiconductors. *Ottawa, Canada.*
- Summer 2014  **Software Engineer Intern.** TD Bank Securities. *Toronto, Canada.*
- Summer 2013  **Software Developer Intern.** Azercell MMC. *Baku, Azerbaijan.*

Education

- 2023 – Present  **Ph.D. Computer Science.** EPFL, Switzerland.
Research on computational creativity.
- 2021 – 2023  **M.Sc. Data Science.** EPFL, Switzerland.
Thesis: *CRoW: Benchmarking Commonsense Reasoning in Real-World Tasks* (Published at EMNLP 2023).
- 2012 – 2016  **B.Sc. Computer Science, With Distinction.** University of Waterloo, Canada.

Research Publications

Preprint

- 1 **M. Ismayilzada**, D. Paul, A. Bosselut, and L. van der Plas, “Creativity in ai: progresses and challenges”, (2024).
- 2 **M. Ismayilzada**, D. Circi, J. Sälevä, H. Sirin, A. Köksal, B. Dhingra, A. Bosselut, L. van der Plas, and D. Ataman, “Evaluating morphological compositional generalization in large language models”, (2024).

Conference Proceedings

- 1 **M. Ismayilzada**, D. Paul, S. Montariol, M. Geva, and A. Bosselut, “CRoW: benchmarking commonsense reasoning in real-world tasks”, in Proceedings of the 2023 conference on empirical methods in natural language processing (Dec. 2023), pp. 9785–9821.

- 2 **M. Ismayilzada** and A. Bosselut, “Kogito: a commonsense knowledge inference toolkit”, in Proceedings of the 17th conference of the european chapter of the association for computational linguistics: system demonstrations (May 2023), pp. 96–104.
- 3 D. Paul, **M. Ismayilzada**, M. Peyrard, B. Borges, A. Bosselut, R. West, and B. Faltings, “REFINER: reasoning feedback on intermediate representations”, in Proceedings of the 18th conference of the european chapter of the association for computational linguistics (volume 1: long papers) (Mar. 2024), pp. 1100–1126.
- 4 S. Gao, **M. Ismayilzada**, M. Zhao, H. Wakaki, Y. Mitsufuji, and A. Bosselut, “DiffuCOMET: contextual commonsense knowledge diffusion”, in Proceedings of the 62nd annual meeting of the association for computational linguistics (volume 1: long papers) (Aug. 2024), pp. 4809–4831.
- 5 S. Cui, L. Milikic, Y. Feng, **M. Ismayilzada**, D. Paul, A. Bosselut, and B. Faltings, “Exploring defeasibility in causal reasoning”, in Findings of the association for computational linguistics acl 2024 (Aug. 2024), pp. 6433–6452.

Skills

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| Languages | English, French, Turkish, Russian, Azerbaijani |
| Coding | Python, Java, C, C++ |
| Databases | MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB |
| Web Dev | HTML, CSS, JavaScript, node.js, React.js |
| ML | pytorch, pandas, transformers, scikit-learn, seaborn |
| Misc. | git, linux, MLOps, DevOps, L ^A T _E X |

Misc

Teaching

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| Spring 2023, 2024 | Teaching Assistant. Modern NLP. EPFL. |
| Fall 2023 | Teaching Assistant. Applied Data Analysis. EPFL. |

Service

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| 2024 | Reviewer. ACL ARR, SEM, EACL Student Research Workshop. |
| | Volunteer. Perspectives on AI Symposiums, Idiap Research Institute. |

Awards

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| 2012–2016 | Full State Scholarship , Full funding for undergraduate studies at the University of Waterloo, Government of Azerbaijan. |
| 2012 | Certificate of Distinction , Euclid Mathematics Contest, University of Waterloo. |
| 2010 | Presidential Scholarship , Awarded to top students entering university studies, Government of Azerbaijan. |

Projects

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| 2024 | Parrot , Educational toolkit to interact with OpenAI models. |
| 2022 | kogito , A Python Commonsense Knowledge Inference Toolkit. |