

# Parham M. Panahi

[panahiparham.github.io](https://panahiparham.github.io) • [parham1@ualberta.ca](mailto:parham1@ualberta.ca) • [Github](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

780-937-1410


Edmonton Alberta Canada

## Education

2022 – Present     **University of Alberta** – Edmonton, Canada  
M.Sc. in Computing Science (GPA: 4.0/4.0)  
Advisor: [Adam White](#)  
Research Topic: Reinforcement Learning

2016 – 2021     **Azad University** – Tehran, Iran  
B.Sc. in Computer Science (GPA: 3.93/4.0)  
Advisor: Mohammad Ali Fariborzi Araghi

## Publications

Jan 2024     **Tuning for the Unknown: Revisiting Evaluation Strategies for Lifelong RL**  
Golnaz Mesbahi, Olya Mastikhina, **Parham M. Panahi**, Martha White, Adam White  
*Under Review at* 

Jan 2024     **Goal-Space Planning With Subgoal Models**  
\*Chunlok Lo, \*Kevin Roice, \***Parham M. Panahi**, Scott Jordan, Adam White, Gabor Mihucz, Farzane Aminmansour, Martha White.  
*Under Review at JMLR 2024*

## Experience

Sept 2022 – Present     **Graduate Student** University of Alberta  
I work on **Reinforcement Learning**; a machine learning paradigm for sequential decision making and control. I currently work on:

1. Efficient **reuse of past experience** to improve sample efficiency.
2. Addressing limitation of Neural Networks for **non-stationary** problems.
3. Using **temporally abstract models** to improve sample efficiency.

Sept 2023 – Present     **AI Career Accelerator Program Participant** Amii  
Contributed through 100 hours+ of work-integrated learning and collaboration with [Adam White](#) and [Alona Fyshe](#) and amii's training team to create [AI Everywhere](#), an introductory AI course for all students at University of Alberta.

- Sept 2022 – Apr 2023     **Teaching Assistant** University of Alberta  
Course: CMPUT 175 - Introduction to the Foundations of Computation II  
Conducted Labs to assist and test students, Marked Labs and Assignments, helped students during Office Hours.
- Nov 2021 – July 2022     **Content Creator** Caspian Net Pars  
Designed and Produced Online Courses on Programming and Machine Learning.
- Dec 2020 – Sep 2021     **Research Assistant** Azad University  
Implemented a Deep Learning Audio/Visual Speech Recognition system for Farsi.
- Sept 2018 – Apr 2019     **Teaching Assistant** Azad University  
Course: Introductory and Advanced Programming  
Conducted Labs and gave supplementary lectures on Programming Paradigms.

### Selected Course Projects

- Fall 2022     **Average Reward Methods in Continuing Control**  
Empirical study of differential Q-learning on continuing Catch and Pendulum tasks.  
Instructor: Adam White • [Project Report](#)
- Fall 2022     **Novel Content Generation with Machine Learning**  
Controlling generation of blended content via genetic algorithm and VQ-VAEs.  
Instructor: Matthew Guzdial • [Project Report](#)

### Honors and Scholarships

- 2023     University of Alberta FGSR Graduate Travel Award 2023 - 2024
- 2023     Admitted to the DLRL2023 Summer School Organized by CIFAR/MILA
- 2022     University of Alberta Graduate Recruitment Scholarship FALL 2022/23
- 2021     Rank 25 in National Mathematical Olympiad for University Students in Iran

### Other Skills

**Programming Languages:** Python, Julia, C++, and many Machine Learning and Scientific Computing Packages, including Torch, TensorFlow, and Jax.

**Languages:** English (IELTS band 8), Farsi (native).