

Pouya Pezeshkpour

✉ pezeshkp@uci.edu

🌐 <https://pouyapez.github.io>

Education

- 2015 – Present 📖 **Ph.D., Electrical Engineering/Machine Learning**, University of California, Irvine,
Advised by Prof. Sameer Singh.
M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering/Machine Learning.
- 2010 – 2015 📖 **B.Sc., Electrical Engineering**, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.
Minor in Pure Mathematics.

Internships

- Summer 2021 📖 **Research Intern, Semantic Machines at Microsoft Research.**
Supervisor: Benjamin Van Durme.
- Summer 2020 📖 **Research Intern, Siri Knowledge Group at Apple.**
Supervisor: Xiao Ling.
"Adversarial Augmentation for Query Understanding", improving robustness and performance of SIRI question answering system through creating adversarial samples.
- Summer 2019 📖 **Research Intern, Allen Institute for AI.**
Supervisor: Prof. Doug Downey.
"Question Generation and Targeting for Assisted Flashcard Study of Scientific Papers", providing a personalized memory assistant technology for helping researchers in remembering semantic scholar papers by designing an automatic question generation model and active spaced repetition algorithm.
- Summer 2018 📖 **Research Intern, Fujitsu Laboratories of America.**
Supervisor: Ramya Srinivasan.
"Generating User-Friendly Explanations", generating a user-friendly explanation for models' prediction over loan denial application.
- Summer 2014 📖 **Research Intern, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.**
Supervisor: Prof. Chandra Nair.
"Hypercontractivity Calculations for the Binary Symmetric Case".

Research Interests

- Knowledge Graphs 📖 Completion, Interpretability, Adversarial Attacks, and Classification.
- NLP 📖 Interpretability, Adversarial Attacks, Question Answering, and Text Generation.
- Vision 📖 Interpretability, Active Learning, and Few-Shot Learning.

Honors and Awards

- 📖 NEC Laboratories Student Research Fellowship 2021-2022 (80,000 \$).
- 📖 Best Paper Runners Up at AKBC 2020.
- 📖 AWS Research Award 2019-2020 (2,500 \$).
- 📖 Henry Samueli Fellowship, University of California, Irvine, 2015-2016.
- 📖 Member of "Society for Exceptional Talents" at Sharif University of Technology.

Research Publications

Journal Articles

- 1 Khashabi, D., Cohan, A., Shakeri, S., Hosseini, P., **Pezeshkpour, P.** et al. (2021). "*ParsiNLU: A Suite of Language Understanding Challenges for Persian*". Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL).

Conference Proceedings

- 1 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Jain, S., Wallace, B., & Singh, S. (2021). "*An Empirical Comparison of Instance Attribution Methods for NLP*", Proceedings of the 2021 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL).
- 2 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Tian, Y., & Singh, S. (2020). "*Revisiting evaluation of knowledge base completion models*", Automated Knowledge Base Construction (AKBC). (nominated for best paper award).
- 3 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Tian, Y., & Singh, S. (2019b). "*Investigating Robustness and Interpretability of Link Prediction via Adversarial Modifications*", Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL).
- 4 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Chen, L., & Singh, S. (2018). "*Embedding Multimodal Relational Data for Knowledge Base Completion*", Proceedings of the 2018 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP).
- 5 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, & Behroozi, H. (2014). "*Optimal tradeoff between source and state distortions over a Gaussian channel using single and hybrid digital analog codes*". IEEE, 7th International Symposium on Telecommunications (IST).

Workshop and Symposia



- 1 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Zhao, Z., & Singh, S. (2020a). "*On the Utility of Active Instance Selection for Few-Shot Learning*". NeurIPS Workshop on Human, Model in the Loop Evaluation, and Training Strategies (HAMLETS).
- 2 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Zhao, Z., & Singh, S. (2020b). "*Using Data Importance for Effective Active Learning*". CVPR workshop on Visual Learning with Limited Labels (VL3).
- 3 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Tian, Y., & Singh, S. (2019a). "*Integrating Local Structure into Knowledge Graph Embeddings*". SoCal NLP Symposium.
- 4 Srinivasan, R., Chander, A., & **Pezeshkpour, P.** (2018). "*Generating user-friendly explanations for loan denials using GANs*". NeurIPS Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities for AI in Financial Services.
- 5 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Guestrin, C., & Singh, S. (2017). "*Compact factorization of matrices using generalized round-rank*". Southern California Machine Learning Symposium.

Patents





- 1 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Malur Srinivasan, R., & Chander, A. (2020a). "*Explanations Generation with Different Cognitive Values Using Generative Adversarial Networks*". US Patent App. 16/278,609.
- 2 **Pezeshkpour, P.**, Malur Srinivasan, R., & Chander, A. (2020b). "*User-Friendly Explanation Production Using Generative Adversarial Networks*". US Patent App. 16/278,604.

Professional Experience


Workshop Organizing

- 2020  Co-organized Knowledge Bases and Multiple Modalities workshop at AKBC
- 2019  Co-organized Knowledge Bases and Multiple Modalities workshop at AKBC



Review Service

- 2021  Reviewer at NeurIPS, NAACL.
- 2020  Reviewer at NeurIPS, ICLR, AAAI, EMNLP.
- 2019  Reviewer at NeurIPS, ICLR, EMNLP.
- 2018  Reviewer at EMNLP.

Relevant Courses

-  Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Neural Networks, Probabilistic Learning, Information Theory, Random Processes, Linear Algebra, and Convex Optimization.

Skills

- Coding  Python (Primary), Matlab.
- Frameworks:  Pytorch (Primary), Keras, Tensorflow, Scikit-Learn, AllenNLP.