Parand Alizadeh Alamdari

Website: https://praal.github.io Email: parand@cs.toronto.edu

EDUCATION

• University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
Affiliated with Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence
Ph.D. in Computer Science, advisor: Prof. Sheila McIlraith

2020- Present

• Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Summa Cum Laude (top 2%) 2015-2020

Conference Publications

- Parand A. Alamdari, Soroush Ebadian, and Ariel Procaccia. Policy Aggregation. In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2024.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Yanshuai Cao, and Kevin Wilson. Jump Starting Bandits with LLM-Generated Prior Knowledge. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2024.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Toryn Klassen, Elliot Creager, and Sheila McIlraith. Remembering to Be Fair: Non-Markovian Fairness in Sequential Decision Making. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2024.
- Toryn Klassen, **Parand A. Alamdari**, and Sheila McIlraith. Epistemic Side Effects: An AI Safety Problem. In *Proceedings of International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2023.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Toryn Q. Klassen, Rodrigo Toro Icarte, and Sheila McIlraith. Be Considerate: Avoiding Negative Side Effects in Reinforcement Learning. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2022.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Guy Avni, Thomas A Henzinger, and Anna Lukina. Formal Methods with a Touch of Magic. In Proceedings of the Conference on Formal Methods in Computer-Aided Design (FMCAD), 2020.

SELECTED WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

- Toryn Klassen, **Parand A. Alamdari**, and Sheila McIlraith. Pluralistic Alignment Over Time. *NeurIPS Workshop on Pluralistic Alignment*, 2024.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Toryn Klassen, Rodrigo Toro Icarte, and Sheila McIlraith. Being Considerate as a Pathway Towards Pluralistic Alignment for Agentic AI. NeurIPS Workshop on Pluralistic Alignment, 2024.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Toryn Klassen, Elliot Creager, and Sheila McIlraith. Remembering to Be Fair: On Non-Markovian Fairness in Sequential Decision Making (Preliminary Report). NeurIPS Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness through the Lens of Time, 2023.
- Toryn Klassen, **Parand A. Alamdari**, and Sheila McIlraith. Epistemic Side Effects and Avoiding Them (Sometimes). NeurIPS Workshop on ML Safety, 2022.
- Parand A. Alamdari, Toryn Klassen, Rodrigo Toro Icarte, and Sheila McIlraith. Avoiding Negative Side Effects by Considering Others. NeurIPS Workshop on Safe and Robust Control of Uncertain Systems, 2021.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

• Research Intern at Borealis AI

Feb 2024–June 2024

Supervisors: Yanshuai Cao, Kevin Wilson

Analyzed the capabilities of large language models (LLMs) to simulate human preferences. Developed an initialization algorithm for contextual multi-armed bandits using LLMs to simulate human behavior and reduce online learning regret.

• Research Assistant at University of Toronto and Vector Institue

Sep 2020-Present

Supervisor: Sheila McIlraith

Developing techniques to characterize and build AI technologies that are properly aligned with human values.

• Research Intern at IST Austria in Henzinger Group

July 2019-Sep 2019

Supervisors: Thomas Henzinger and Guy Avni

Designed and implemented a controller which is provably correct and efficient, with explainable decisions using an intermediate concise model to approximates the neural network.

• Research Intern at EPFL in DIAS Lab

July 2018–Sep 2018

Supervisors: Anastasia Ailamaki and Eleni Tzirita Zacharatou

Designed a tree-based data structure and a packing algorithm for indexing spatial data with several categories.

• Research Intern at EPFL in DATA Lab

July 2017-Sep 2017

Supervisors: Christoph Koch and Amir Shaikhha

Redesigned and optimized an SQL query compiler DBToaster by introducing a new materialization algorithm.

Honors and Awards

• Recipient of Google DeepMind Fellowship for PhD studies.

2021 - 2025

• Recipient of General Motors Women in Science and Mathematics Award.

2023

- Recipient of Graduate Fellowship from Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society,
 University of Toronto.
- Recipient of AI Risk Analysis Award in NeurIPS Workshop for ML Safety.

2022

- Ranked 3^{rd} in cumulative GPA among all 150 students of Computer Engineering, 2015 beginners, Sharif University of Technology.
- Silver Medal in the 24th Iranian National Olympiad in Informatics (INOI).

2014

- Recipient of **Research Scholarship** from the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education & Research (OeAD-GmbH).
- Ranked 150th in Iran's university entrance exam among over 181,000 participants.

2015

• 4th Place in the International RoboCup Competitions, Rescue Simulation League, as a member of Poseidon team, Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Working Experience

- Machine Learning Engineer at Cafebazaar AI and Infra Services, Tehran, Iran Feb 2020–Sep 2020
 - Led the development of the natural language processing part of text-to-speech and speech-to-text products for Persian language.
- Software Engineer at Cafebazaar, Tehran, Iran

June 2016–March 2018

- Released an application recommender system for Cafébazaar android app store with 37 million users.
- Designed and developed Big Data analytics tools for internal usage.

Professional Service

• Reviewer for ICLR 2025, NeurIPS 2024, ACL 2024, AIES 2024, and AAMAS 2023.

SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Python, Java, Scala, C/C++, and R.
- Machine Learning Frameworks: PyTorch, Keras, Tensorflow, Scikit-learn, Pandas, and NumPy.
- Miscellaneous: Git, Bash, Scrum, Django framework, and LATEX.