Parand Alizadeh Alamdari

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EDUCATION

- **University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada** — Sep 2020 – Nov 2025 (expected)
  Affiliated with Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence
  Ph.D. in Computer Science, advisor: Prof. Sheila McIlraith

- **Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran** — 2015 – 2020
  B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Major in Software Engineering

PUBLICATIONS

- Toryn Klassen, Parand Alizadeh Alamdari, and Sheila McIlraith. Epistemic Side Effects: An AI Safety Problem. *In Proceedings of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2023.

- Toryn Klassen, Parand Alizadeh Alamdari, and Sheila McIlraith. Epistemic Side Effects and Avoiding Them (Sometimes). *NeurIPS Workshop on ML Safety*, 2022.

- Parand Alizadeh Alamdari, Toryn Q. Klassen, Rodrigo Toro Icarte, and Sheila A. 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 Alizadeh 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.

- Parand Alizadeh Alamdari, Guy Avni, Thomas A Henzinger, and Anna Lukina. Formal Methods with a Touch of Magic. In *Proceedings of the 20th Conference on Formal Methods in Computer-Aided Design*, 2020.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Research Assistant at University of Toronto** — Sep 2020 – Present
  Supervisor: Sheila McIlraith
  Developing techniques to characterize and build AI technologies that are properly aligned with human values.

- **Research Assistant at Sharif University of Technology** — Sep 2019 – Jun 2020
  Supervisor: Mahdieh Soleymani Baghshah
  Designed and trained a graph representation model using graph neural networks and clustering techniques.

- **Research Intern at IST Austria in Henzinger Group** — Jul 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** — Jul 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** — Jul 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 **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. — 2022 – 2023

- Recipient of **AI Risk Analysis Award** in NeurIPS Workshop for ML Safety. 2022

- **Ranked 3rd** in cumulative GPA among all 150 students of Computer Engineering, 2015 beginners, Sharif University of Technology. 2020

- **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). 2019

- **Ranked 150th** in Iran's university entrance exam among over 181,000 participants. 2015

- Recipient of the **Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies** from Iranian National Elites Foundation, for outstanding academic success. 2014 – 2020

- **4th Place** in the International RoboCup Competitions, Rescue Simulation League, as a member of Poseidon team, Eindhoven, Netherlands. 2013

Working Experience

- **Data Scientist at Cafébazaar AI and Infrastructure Services, Tehran, Iran**   Feb 2020 – Sep 2020
  Trained and released text-to-speech and speech-to-text tools for Persian language using Kaldi.

- **Data Engineer at Cafébazaar AI and Infrastructure Services , Tehran, Iran**   Oct 2017 – Mar 2018
  Designed and developed Big Data analytics tools.

- **Software Engineer at Cafébazaar, Tehran, Iran**   Jul 2016 – Jun 2017
  Released an application recommender system for Cafébazaar android app store with 37 million users.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Assistant**
  - **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (CSC384)**, University of Toronto   Fall & Winter 2021 & 2022
  - **Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (CSC486/2502)**, University of Toronto   Fall 2021
  - **Design of Algorithms (Head TA)**, Sharif University of Technology   Fall 2019
  - **Data Mining (Graduate Course)**, Sharif University of Technology   Fall 2018
  - **Discrete Mathematics (Head TA)**, Sharif University of Technology   Winter 2017, 2018 and 2019

- **Lecturer at Farzanegan 1 Highschool**   Jun 2015 – Mar 2016
  Taught Algorithms and Data Structures to students preparing for National Informatics Olympiad (INOI).

Skills

- **Programming Languages**: Python, Java, Scala, C/C++, and R.
- **Machine Learning Frameworks**: Pytorch, Keras, Tensorflow, Scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy.
- **Languages**: Persian (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), Turkish (Intermediate).
- **Miscellaneous**: Git, Bash, Scrum, Django framework, and LaTeX.

Related Courses

- **Graduate Courses**:

- Reinforcement Learning (A+)
- AI Planning and Search (A+)
- Algorithms for Private Data Analysis (A+)

- Trustworthy Machine Learning (A)
- Online Learning and Sequential Decision Theory (A+)
- Introduction to Causality (A)

- **Undergraduate Courses**:

- Machine Learning (A+)
- Artificial Intelligence (A+)

- Deep Learning (A)
- Social and Economic Networks (A+)