

# Sahand REZAEI-SHOSHTARI

## PhD Student in Computer Science

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### EDUCATION

Present Sep. 2020	<b>PhD, SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal, Canada</b> Supervisors : Doina Precup, David Meger CGPA : 4.00/4.00
Dec. 2019 Sep. 2017	<b>Master of Engineering - Thesis, MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal, Canada</b> Supervisors : Inna Sharf, David Meger CGPA : 4.00/4.00 Thesis : Learning Manipulator Dynamics for Control and Interaction Inference
Sep. 2016 Sep. 2012	<b>Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN, Tehran, Iran</b> Supervisor : Masoud Shariat Panahi CGPA : 3.98/4.00 Thesis : Online Path Planning for a Mobile Robot in Dynamic Environments using Reinforcement Learning

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Present Apr. 2022	<b>Research Intern, SAMSUNG AI CENTER, Montreal, Canada</b> ‣ Meta imitation learning and meta reinforcement learning for continuous control and robotics
Sep. 2020 Mar. 2020	<b>Research Intern, SAMSUNG AI CENTER, Montreal, Canada</b> ‣ Multimodal generative modeling for learning intuitive physics using the senses of touch and vision ‣ Deep reinforcement learning for load balancing of 5G networks
Mar. 2020 Jan. 2020	<b>AI Programmer, UBISOFT LA FORGE, Montreal, Canada</b> ‣ Deep reinforcement learning for automated video game testing
Aug. 2019 Mar. 2019	<b>Research Intern, SAMSUNG AI CENTER, Montreal, Canada</b> ‣ Object detection neural networks for human hand-wave motion detection
Apr. 2019 Sep. 2017	<b>Teaching Assistant, MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal, Canada</b> ‣ Courses : System Dynamics and Control, Numerical Methods, Machine Element Design

### PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Rezaei-Shoshtari, S., Morissette, C., Hogan, F.R., Dudek, G. and Meger, D., 2023. "Hypernetworks for Zero-shot Transfer in Reinforcement Learning". In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (Vol. 37).
- 2022 Rezaei-Shoshtari, S., Zhao, R., Panangaden, P., Meger, D. and Precup, D., 2022. "Continuous MDP Homomorphisms and Homomorphic Policy Gradient". In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. 2022.
- 2021 Rezaei-Shoshtari, S., Hogan, F.R., Jenkin, M., Meger, D. and Dudek, G., 2021, May. "Learning Intuitive Physics with Multimodal Generative Models". In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (Vol. 35, No. 7, pp. 6110-6118).
- 2021 Hogan, F.R., Jenkin, M., Rezaei-Shoshtari, S., Girdhar, Y., Meger, D. and Dudek, G., 2021. "Seeing Through your Skin : Recognizing Objects with a Novel Visuotactile Sensor". In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision* (pp. 1218-1227).
- 2020 Rezaei-Shoshtari, S., Meger, D. and Sharf, I., 2020. "Learning the Latent Space of Robot Dynamics for Cutting Interaction Inference". In *2020 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)* (pp. 5627-5632). IEEE.
- 2020 Molamohammadi, M., Rezaei-Shoshtari, S. and Quitoriano, N., 2020. "Jacobian of generative models for sensitivity analysis of photovoltaic device processes". In *Machine Learning for Engineering Workshop at NeurIPS (Vol. 2020)*.
- 2019 Rezaei-Shoshtari, S., Meger, D. and Sharf, I., 2019, November. "Cascaded gaussian processes for data-efficient robot dynamics learning". In *2019 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)* (pp. 6871-6877). IEEE.











## SELECT HONORS AND AWARDS

2022 – Present	Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral (CGS-D) Award. Amount of \$105,000. NSERC.
2022 – Present	Fonds de Recherche du Quebec - Nature et Technologies (FRQ-NT) Award. Amount of \$70,000. FRQ.
2022 – Present	Grad Excellence Award. Amount of \$7,000 per year. McGill University.
2022	NeurIPS 2022 Outstanding Reviewer (Top 8%). NeurIPS.
2022	ICML 2022 Outstanding Reviewer (Top 10%). ICML.
2020 – 2021	DeepMind Grad Award. Amount of \$25,000. DeepMind and McGill University.
Nov. 2019	IROS Student and Developing Countries (SDC) Travel Award. Amount of \$800. IEEE/RSJ IROS 2019.
2017 – 2018	Grad Excellence Award. Amount of \$5,000. McGill University.
Jul. 2012	National University Entrance Exam. Ranked <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> . Iran.

## SKILLS

Programming	Python, C++, C#, MATLAB, Simulink
Machine Learning Frameworks	PyTorch, TensorFlow, GPyTorch, Jax, GPFlow
Platforms	ROS, Docker
Robotic Software	Mujoco, Bullet, Gazebo, MoveIt, RViz, OpenCV
Other Software	Unity 3D, SolidWorks, <del>LaTeX</del>

## SELECT PROJECTS

CONTEXTUAL DEEPMIND CONTROL SUITE	2022
 <a href="#">Paper</a>  <a href="https://github.com/SAIC-MONTREAL/contextual-dm-control">github.com/SAIC-MONTREAL/contextual-dm-control</a> > Implemented a series of contextual MDPs based on DeepMind Control Suite.	
DEEP HOMOMORPHIC POLICY GRADIENT ALGORITHMS	2022
 <a href="#">Paper</a>  <a href="#">Webpage</a>  <a href="https://github.com/sahandrez/homomorphic_policy_gradient">github.com/sahandrez/homomorphic_policy_gradient</a> > Extended the theory of MDP homomorphism to continuous states and actions. > Derived the novel homomorphic policy gradient theorem. > Proposed a novel algorithm for state-action abstraction and representation learning in deep RL.	
MULTIMODAL GENERATIVE MODELING AND VISUOTACTILE SIMULATION	2020
 <a href="#">Paper</a>  <a href="#">Webpage</a>  <a href="https://github.com/SAIC-MONTREAL/multimodal-dynamics">github.com/SAIC-MONTREAL/multimodal-dynamics</a> > Multimodal generative modeling for learning intuitive physics using the senses of touch and vision. > Developed a visuotactile simulator for robotic manipulation in PyBullet.	
GYM FOREST FIRE	2020
 <a href="https://github.com/sahandrez/gym_forestfire">github.com/sahandrez/gym_forestfire</a> > Fully-vectorized OpenAI Gym forest fire simulation based on cellular automaton for tackling wildfires with RL.	
CONTROL AND MOTION PLANNING UTILITIES FOR KINOVA JACO 2 ROBOT	2018-2019
 <a href="https://github.com/sahandrez/jaco_control">github.com/sahandrez/jaco_control</a> > Developed a ROS package for Kinova Jaco 2 robot with unified interface for the real and simulated robot. > Implemented impedance control, torque control, velocity control, and motion planning utilities.	

## SELECT COURSES

IFT 6135	Representation Learning, Université de Montréal - 4.30/4.30
IFT 6760	Reinforcement Learning and Optimal Control, Université de Montréal - 4.30/4.30
COMP 766	Probabilistic Graphical Models, McGill University - 4.00/4.00
COMP 765	Intelligent Robotics, McGill University - 4.00/4.00

## CERTIFICATIONS

Mar. 2021	ANITI Reinforcement Learning Virtual School (RLVS) 2021, Virtual
Oct. 2020	Simons Institute Mathematics of Online Decision Making Workshop, Virtual
Aug. 2019	CIFAR Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning (DLRL) Summer School, Edmonton, Canada