

Sheikh Abdur Raheem Ali

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EDUCATION

- **Stanford University** Palo Alto, CA, USA
Advanced Software Systems, Dropped out after one Quarter, Moved to Microsoft Canada Dec 2020 – Apr 2021
- **American University of Sharjah** Sharjah, UAE
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Minor in Applied & Computational Math Sep 2017 – Dec 2020

EXPERIENCE

- **Coming soon 🚧** London, England, United Kingdom
Independent Researcher May 2024 – Present
 - I'll be working on something new. Come say hello at the London Initiative for Safe AI (LISA) offices!
- **Microsoft** Vancouver, BC, Canada
Software Engineer II Apr 2021 – May 2024
 - Youngest engineer ever hired to my level in Canada. Typically requires a PhD or equivalent experience.
 - Co-owned impersonation protection in Defender for Office 365. Worked with the FBI, NYPD, U.S DoD to protect 250m+ people against phishing threats. Cut mailbox intelligence false positive rates by 55%.
 - Reduced download time for Substrate (the #2 largest monorepo in MS) from 2-3 hours to ≈ 20 minutes. Used by over 10% of all developers at the company and saves at least \$1m per annum.
 - Climbed to rank #14/36,210 members on our internal bug reporting platform. My feedback has been used by 86 teams (including Github Copilot, Bing Chat, Azure OpenAI) to fix issues before customer impact.*Software Engineering Intern* Jul. 2020 – Apr 2021
 - Built priority accounts. Was asked to stay on contract after the end of my internship until I graduated.
- **SWVL** Swvl Headquarters, Dubai, UAE
Quantitative Finance Intern Feb 2020 – Apr 2020
 - Rewrote the system that prices how much a ride-sharing startup unicorn charges for each transaction.
- **Dubai Electronic Security Center** Cyber Intelligence Lab, University of Dubai, Dubai, UAE
ML Research Intern Dec 2019 – Jan 2020
 - Recruited by the Government's Head of Research & Innovation. Did a 5-week project in my first weekend.

PROJECTS

- **Scaling Laws for Refusal Mechanisms in Llama-2-70b**: Accepted poster at (TAIS 2024). Produced as part of my stream in Berkeley AI Safety's Supervised Program in Alignment Research (SPAR) - Spring 2024 Cohort. In this period my students made submissions to NeurIPS, EMNLP, ICML MI Workshop, and are working on a paper for ICLR 2025.
- **Interpretable Forecasting with Transformers**: Eliciting accurate, well-calibrated, and honest predictions from gpt-4-base. Supported by independent grants and mentored by Nuño Sempere. External partnership with SERI MATS (Cyborgism stream) building high-bandwidth interfaces for human-LLM collaboration. More details at manifold page.

AWARDS & SCORES

- **2nd place (USD 35,000) @ HITB+ CyberWeek AI Challenge**: Captain of a team including students from Harvard and UToronto that used genetic algorithms to modify existing malware to defeat virus detection agents.
- **Full Scholarship @ European Summer Program on Rationality**: Invited to the UK to attend seminars on topics related to applied mathematics, AI safety, and cognitive science. Taught by ex-Google employees and MIT graduates.
- **Perfect Score @ ACT**: First attempt. Out of 2.03m students who took the 2017 ACT, about 2000 got a full 36/36.

SKILLS

- Transformer Inference, Torch Streams, Pipelining Systems, Distributed Profiling, Python Dataclasses, Information Security, Content Filtering, Developer Tools, Data Visualization, Performance Optimization