

IMAN MIRZADEH

✉ hey@imirzadeh.me 🔗 <https://imirzadeh.me/>

EXPERIENCE

- Apple** - Senior Machine Learning Researcher May. 2023 - Present
- Member of the AIML organization.
 - Research focus: Intelligence and reasoning for the frontier AI models.
- Google DeepMind** - Research Scientist Intern Aug. 2021 - Dec. 2021
- Host: [Mehrddad Farajtabar](#)
 - Research focus: continual learning, meta learning, and multitask learning.
- Washington State University** - Graduate Research Assistant Aug. 2018 - Aug. 2022
- Member of Embedded & Pervasive Systems Lab (EPSL).
- Sokhan AI** - Machine Learning Engineer Aug. 2017 - Aug. 2018
- Technical Lead. Worked on context-aware natural language understanding engine.

EDUCATION

- Washington State University** Aug. 2018 - Aug. 2022
- Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science, EECS Department
- Dissertation: “Alleviating Catastrophic Forgetting in Continual Learning”
- Washington State University** Aug. 2018 - Dec. 2020
- Master of Science, Computer Science, EECS Department
- Thesis: “Improved Knowledge Distillation for Deep Neural Networks”
- University of Tehran** Aug. 2013 - Mar. 2018
- Bachelor of Science, Information Technology Engineering, ECE Department
- Thesis: “Design and Implementation of a Deep Learning Based Question Answering System”

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- The Illusion of Thinking: Understanding the Strengths and Limitations of Reasoning Models.**
Thirty-Ninth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**), 2025.
P. Shojaei*, I. Mirzadeh*, K. Alizadeh, M. Horton, S. Bengio, & M. Farajtabar
- GSM-Symbolic: Understanding the Limitations of Mathematical Reasoning in LLMs.**
Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**), 2025.
I. Mirzadeh, K. Alizadeh, H. Shahrokhi, O. Tuzel, S. Bengio, & M. Farajtabar
- OpenELM: An Efficient Language Model Family with Open Training and Inference Framework.**
The Forty-First International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**) workshops, 2024.
S. Mehta, M. Sekhvat, Q. Cao, M. Horton, Y. Jin, C. Sun, I. Mirzadeh, M. Najibi, D. Belenko, P. Zatloukal, & M. Rastegari
- LLM in a flash: Efficient Large Language Model Inference with Limited Memory.**
The 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**), 2024.
K. Alizadeh, I. Mirzadeh, D. Belenko, K. Khatamifard, M. Cho, C. Del Mundo, M. Rastegari, & M. Farajtabar
- ReLU Strikes Back: Exploiting Activation Sparsity in Large Language Models.**
Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**), 2024.
I. Mirzadeh, K. Alizadeh, S. Mehta, C. Del Mundo, O. Tuzel, G. Samei, M. Rastegari, & M. Farajtabar
***Selected for oral presentation (top 1.2%).*
- Architecture Matters in Continual Learning.**
ArXiv, abs/2202.00275 (preprint), 2022.
S.I. Mirzadeh, S. Chaudhry, D. Yin, T. Nguyen, R. Pascanu, D. Gorur, M. Farajtabar
- Wide Neural Networks Forget Less Catastrophically.**
Thirty-ninth International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**), 2022.
S.I. Mirzadeh, S. Chaudhry, D. Yin, H. Hu, R. Pascanu, D. Gorur, M. Farajtabar

CL-Gym: Full-Featured PyTorch Library for Continual Learning.

The IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (**CVPR**) Workshops, 2021.

S.I. Mirzadeh, H. Ghasemzadeh

Linear Mode Connectivity in Multitask and Continual Learning.

Ninth International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**), 2021.

S.I. Mirzadeh, M. Farajtabar, R. Pascanu, D. Gorur, H. Ghasemzadeh

Understanding the Role of Training Regimes in Continual Learning.

Thirty-fourth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**), 2020.

S.I. Mirzadeh, M. Farajtabar, R. Pascanu, H. Ghasemzadeh

Dropout as an Implicit Gating Mechanism For Continual Learning.

The IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (**CVPR**) Workshops, 2020.

S.I. Mirzadeh, M. Farajtabar, H. Ghasemzadeh

***Selected for oral presentation and received runner-up best paper award.*

Optimal Policy for Deployment of Machine Learning Models on Energy-Bounded Systems.

Twenty-Ninth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**IJCAI**), 2020.

S.I. Mirzadeh, H. Ghasemzadeh

Improved Knowledge Distillation via Teacher Assistant.

Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI**), 2020.

S.I. Mirzadeh, M. Farajtabar, A. Li, N. Levine, A. Matsukawa, H. Ghasemzadeh

HONORS AND AWARDS

(2021) Recipient of the [NeurIPS 2021 Outstanding Reviewer Award](#) given to the top 8% of the reviewers.

(2020) Recipient of the [runner-up best paper award](#) in CVPR Workshop on Continual Learning.

(2020) [Top 2%](#) of stackoverflow community contributors with a positive impact on more than 1,500,000 people.

(2018) Received Fellowship for CS PhD program from Washington State University.

(2017) Best B.Sc. thesis project award in the cognitive science field of the University of Tehran.

(2013) Top 99.7th percentile in national university entrance exam among 291,956 participants.

INVITED TALKS

[Machine Learning Street Talk](#), Dec 2024.

“Discussion on intelligence and reasoning of current GenAI models”

[The AutoML Podcast](#), May 2022.

“Continual Learning”

[ICML’21 Workshop on Theory and Foundation of Continual Learning](#), July 2021.

“Linear Mode Connectivity in Multitask and Continual Learning”

[Continual AI Seminars](#), February 2021.

“Linear Mode Connectivity in Multitask and Continual Learning”

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conference Reviewer: NeurIPS (21-23), ICML (22-23), ICLR (22-23), AISTATS’22, AAAI’22

Journal Reviewer: Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR) (2022), Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR) (2022), IEEE Sensors Journal (2020), Springer Neural Processing Letters (2019)