Aida Afshar

@ aafshar@bu.edu • AidaAfshar.github.io in LinkedIn/aida-afshar

Curriculum Vitae

Research Interests

- Sequential Decision Making
- Reinforcement Learning
- Foundation Models

EDUCATION

Boston University Boston, MA, USA PhD - Computing & Data Science

Sharif University of Technology

Bachelor of Science

- Major: Applied Mathematics - Minor: Computer Science

Tehran, Iran 2018-2023

Research Experience

Learning rate-free Reinforcement Learning via Model Selection

RLC 2024 Workshop on Failure Modes of Sequential Decision-Making in Practice

Link to paper preprint §

- Link to GitHub repo 😯

- Presented at TTIC 2024 Workshop on Adaptive Learning in Complex Environments

DeLF: Designing Learning Environments with Foundation Models

AAAI 2024 Workshop on Synergy of Reinforcement Learning and Large Language Models

Link to paper preprint §

- Link to GitHub repo

A Reinforcement Learning Approach to Lightning Network Fee Policy

Bachelor Thesis at Sharif University of Technology

Link to paper preprint §

- Link to GitHub repo

Reward Design of Virtual Biomechanical Model

Research Internship at Aalto University

− Link to video demos 𝚱

Link to project presentation slides •

Boston, MA Fall 2023

Boston, MA

Spring 2024

2023-current

Tehran, Iran Fall 2021-Fall 2022

> Espoo, Finland August 2023

Hierarchical Potential-based Reward Shaping for highway environment

Research Internship at Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien)

Vienna, Austria Summer 2022

- Link to HPRS GitHub repo 😯
- Link to HPRS paper preprint §

AWARDS

 $\bullet\,$ Srinivasa Krishnamurthy PhD Fellowship

- College of Engineering, Boston University
- Boston University Distiguished Computer Engineering Fellowship
 - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boston University
- Third place in !Optimizer Competition of SOAL Optimization Lab ${\cal G}$
- Department of Mathematical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology

Summer 2021

Fall 2023

Fall 2023

SKILLS

- Programming:
 - 1. Julia
 - 2. Python
 - 3. Java
 - 4. C++
 - 5. Matlab

- ML:
 - 1. PyTorch
 - 2. TensorFlow
 - 3. Keras
- Optimization:
 - 1. JuMP
 - 2. MathOptInterface
 - 3. CVXPY

Relevant Courses

- 1. Algorithmic Game Theory
- 2. Automata Theory
- 3. Machine Learning Theory
- 4. Advanced Programming
- 5. Data Structures

- 1. Advanced Linear Algebra
- 2. Convex Optimization
- 3. Semidefinite Programming
- 4. Stochastic Processes
- 5. Bayesian Statistics

LANGUAGES

- English: Proficient (TOEFL iBT: 107/120)
- Persian: Native

References

References are available upon request.