

Ghazaal Sheikhi

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Education

Eastern Mediterranean University

Famagusta, North Cyprus

PhD, Computer Engineering

2014-2020

- **Thesis title:** Feature Selection in High Dimensional Spaces

Amirkabir University of Technology

Tehran, Iran

MSc. Biomedical Engineering

2004-2007

- **Thesis title:** Syllable Segmentation of Farsi Continuous Speech

University of Isfahan

Isfahan, Iran

BSc. Biomedical Engineering

1999-2003

- **Graduation Project Title:** Design of a Holter monitoring emulator using x8051

Work Experience

Department of Computer Engineering, Final International University

Kyrenia, North Cyprus

Assistant Professor

Feb. 2024 - Present

- Teaching bachelor and master courses: Linear Systems, Analysis of Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence Tools, Computer Programming.
- Supervising bachelor graduation project: "Computer and Electrical Engineering"

Check24 GmbH

Munich, Germany

Data Scientist

Feb. 2023 - Jan. 2024

- Strategy and design of automated chat solutions: Data cleaning, Conversational data analysis, Proof of concept
- Development of AI-based live chat solutions: Training, testing and evaluating LLM conversational models for deployment in different verticals.
- Improvement techniques: State-of-the-art solutions to improve and ensure factual correctness (Reinforcement learning from human feedback, decoding techniques).

Institute for Natural Language Processing, University of Stuttgart

Stuttgart, Germany

Visiting Research Scholar

Oct. 2022 - Nov. 2022

- Collaboration with FIBISS Project: Automated fact-checking for biomedical information in social media and scientific literature.
- Preparation of a publication and a prototype/demo on named entity-based factual error correction for biomedical information.

Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen

Bergen, Norway

Postdoc Research Fellow

Sep. 2021 - Jan. 2023

- Member of WP3, Task 3.1: Content Analysis & Provision, MediaFutures: Research Centre for Responsible Media Technology & Innovation.
- Conducting research on NLP-based automated assistant for fact-checking.
- Supervising Master Thesis: "Question Answering for Factual Error Correction."
- Collaboration with NORDIS Project: NORDic Observatory for Digital Media and Information Disorder.

Department of Computer Engineering, Final International University

Kyrenia, North Cyprus

Assistant Professor

Sep. 2020 - Aug. 2021

- Teaching bachelor courses: Analysis of Algorithms, Computer Architecture, Operating Systems, Microprocessors, Electrical Machines and Energy.
- Supervising bachelor graduation project: "A Python-based Contact Tracing Desktop Application for Health Authorities."

Department of Computer Engineering, Final International University

Kyrenia, North Cyprus

Lecturer/Faculty Member

Sep. 2019 - Aug. 2020

- Teaching bachelor courses: Analysis of Algorithms, Computer Architecture, Operating Systems, Digital Logic Design, Engineering Mathematics, Control Systems, Electrical Machines and Energy.

Department of Computer Engineering, Cyprus International University

Nicosia, North Cyprus

Part-time Lecturer

Sep. 2017 - Aug. 2019

- Teaching bachelor courses: Computer Programming, Information technologies.

Department of Computer Engineering, Eastern Mediterranean University

Famagusta, North Cyprus

Teaching Assistant

Sep. 2015 - Jun. 2020

- TA of bachelor courses: Computer Programming, Introduction to Data Science, Operating Systems.

Digital Signal Processing Research Lab, Isfahan University of Technology

Isfahan, Iran

Research Engineer

Sep. 2013 - Aug. 2014

- Conducting a comprehensive literature review on speech coding algorithms for NUCLEUS cochlear implants.
- Implementing six different coding algorithms in MATLAB.
- Designing a GUI using MATLAB to simulate the NUCLEUS cochlear implant.

Jooyeshgar Pardis Eram Company

Co-founder and R&D Manager

Isfahan, Iran
May. 2008 - Aug. 2013

- Managing industrial automation (PLC and/or microcontroller-based) tech projects.
- Preparing the budget of the team-negotiations with potential investors/clients.
- Raising capital by applying for loan under government schemes.

University of Applied Science and Technology

Lecturer/Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Isfahan, Iran
Sep. 2008 - Aug. 2011

- 2010-2011: Leadership for carrying out educational policies, implementing programs, and supervising curricular, instructional, and other academic activities.
- Teaching bachelor courses: Digital Control Systems, Linear Control Systems, Accurate Devices, Signals and Systems, Digital Logic Design.

Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Islamic Azad University

Part-time Lecturer (Daran Branch)

Isfahan, Iran
Sep. 2006 - March 2008

- Teaching bachelor courses: Circuit Theory, Digital Logic Design, Electronics.

Tehran Nika Company

Biomedical Equipment Technologist and Sales Manager

Tehran, Iran
Nov. 2004 - May 2005

- Installing and maintaining medical ventilators; Giving educational seminars on jet ventilators; Building and maintaining relations with clients from state and private hospitals.

MediTech Company

Biomedical Equipment Technologist and Sales Manager

Isfahan, Iran
May. 2003 - Aug. 2004

- Installing, maintaining, and repairing medical equipments; Building and maintaining relations with clients from state and private hospitals.

Honors and Grants

2022	Granted the faculty fund , visiting foreign institutions, a two-month research stay	Norway
2014	Granted the postgraduate scholarship , Eastern Mediterranean University	North Cyprus
2004	Ranked 205th , Higher Education National Universities Entrance Exam (Electrical Engineering) among nearly, 10000 undergraduate students	Iran
1999	Ranked 450th , National Universities Undergraduate Entrance Exam among more than 160,000 applicants in Mathematics and Physics	Iran

Notable Projects

Live-chat Tool: An LLM-based API to Assist Customer Support Team during Live-chat

Check24 GmbH, Holding (Process Optimization)

Munich, Germany
Sep. 2023

- Text data cleaning and processing.
- Fine-tuning large language models to detect the relevant customer information and generate automated answers.
- Developing an API to connect to the front end for travel packet vertical.

TweetSearcher: A Web-based Application Prototype to Assist Twitter Fact-checking

MediaFutures, Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen

Bergen, Norway
Mar. 2022

- Implementing a textual content analyzer to extract a query from a given tweet.
- Implementing a web scrapper and a ranker to return the most relevant news items.
- Automatically extracting the sentences/paragraphs from the news items most related to the content of the tweet.

Analysis of Cost Overrun in World Bank Hydrodam Projects

With Prof. Glenn P. Jenkins, Cambridge Resources International Inc.

Famagusta, North Cyprus
Jul. 2019 - Jul. 2020

- Data preparation from the reports on World Bank Hydrodams.
- Impelmenting single and multiple linear regression models, backward elimination and correlation analysis.
- Analysing the significance of causes of cost overrun.

A Comprehensive Analysis of Patients' Data in Kaggle and NHANES EHRs

MERAC Lab, Department of Computer Engineering, Eastern Mediterranean University

Famagusta, North Cyprus
Sep. 2014 - Mar. 2016

- Data preparation, cleaning and preprocessing from Kaggle and NHSNES Electronic Health Records.
- Conducting data anlysis and visualizaton.
- Implementing feature selection and classification for diebetes detection and prediction.

Publications

G. Sheikhi, A. L. Opdahl, S. Touileb, V. J. Setty. "Making Sense of Nonsense: Integrated Gradient-based Input Reduction for Check-worthy Claim Detection," NAIS 2023: The 2023 symposium of the Norwegian AI Society, Bergen, Norway, 2023.

G. Sheikhi, S. Touileb, S. Ahmed Khan. "Automated Claim Detection for Fact-checking: A Case Study using Norwegian Pre-trained Language Models," The 24rd Nordic Conference on Computational Linguistics, Torshavn, Faroe Islands, 2023.

S. Ahmed Khan, G. Sheikhi, A. L. Opdahl, F. Rabbi, S. Stoppel, C. Trattner, and D.T. Dang-Nguyen. "Visual User-Generated Content Verification in Journalism: An Overview," IEEE Access (2023).

H. Ghaderi Zefrehi, G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "Threshold Prediction for Detecting Rare Positive Samples Using a Meta-Learner," Pattern Analysis and Applications (2022).

G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "A Novel Dissimilarity Metric based on Feature-to-Feature Scatter Frequencies for Clustering-based Feature Selection in Biomedical Data," Computational Intelligence 37.4 (2021): 1865-1889.

G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "Supervised Feature Embedding for Classification by Learning Rank-based Neighborhoods," 2020 25th International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR). IEEE, 2021.

G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "Maximum-Relevance and Maximum-Diversity of Positive Ranks: A Novel Feature Selection Method," Expert Systems with Applications 158 (2020): 113499.

G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "Using the Distance in Logistic Regression Models for Predictor Ranking in Diabetes Detection," International Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering- CMBEI2019, Banja Luka, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, 2019.

N. Hajarolasvadi, G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "Employing Data from Diagnosed Patients for Undiagnosed Type 2 Diabetes Detection," Unifying the Applications and Foundations of Biomedical and Health Informatics 2016, Athens, Greece, 75-78, 2016.

G. Sheikhi and H. Altınçay. "The Cost of Type II Diabetes Mellitus: A Machine Learning Perspective," XIV Mediterranean Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing 2016, Cyprus, 818-821, 2016.

G. Sheikhi and F. Almasganj. "Segmentation of Speech into Syllable Units using Fuzzy Smoothed Short Term Energy Contour," IEEE Proceeding of 18th Iranian Conference on Biomedical Engineering, Iran, 195-198, 2011.

Thesis Supervision

Master thesis: Question Answering for Factual Error Correction (Øystein James Berglund Place)

Bergen, Norway

Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen

Jun. 2023

- Transformer-based question generation from factual claims.
- Transformer-based question answering based on textual evidence.
- Heuristic factual error correction using answered questions.
- Evaluation and testing by transformer-based fact-checking models.

Public Outreach

Invited guest speaker

Bergen, Norway

MCB Fact, Future Week 2022, NCE Media/MCB, Media City Bergen

Jan. 2022

Where we stand in pursuit of automated fact-checking: the promise and pitfalls of AI-based solutions.

Organizer and the host

Bergen, Norway

Future Week 2022, MediaFutures/NCE Media, Media City Bergen

Jun. 2022

MediaFutures Workshop: Towards responsible media technology & innovation.

Invited guest speaker

Bergen, Norway

Twenty Minutes of Fighting Disinformation, NCE Media/MCB

May 2022

Trained to Deceive: When AI is a blessing and a curse for online disinformation.

Invited guest speaker

Bergen, Norway

World Press Freedom Day, Seminar for the visitors from the Norwegian Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs, NCE Media/MCB

May 2022

Automated fact-checking technology and the positive social impact.

Speaker

Bergen, Norway

UiB AI Seminar Series, University of Bergen

Apr. 2022

But, why? - make AI answer!

Speaker

Bergen, Norway

MediaFutures Online Seminar Series, MediaFutures, University of Bergen

Jan. 2022

Automated Fact-checking: the scope of the problem in the state-of-the-art.

Languages

English Advanced

Turkish Intermediate

German Basic

Farsi Native