

# Reza Babanezhad Harikandeh

## Curriculum vitae

### RESEARCH INTEREST

My main research interests are: Stochastic Optimization, Generative Models, Game Optimization, and Reinforcement Learning (RL).

### WORK EXPERIENCE

*Nov 2019-present*

Samsung AI Lab, Montreal, Canada

**Research Scientist** Stochastic Optimization, Game Optimization, Causality, RL.

*Aug-Nov 2019*

Huawei, Montreal, Canada

**ML Researcher** Compression techniques to compress Deep Neural Networks

*Sep-Dec 2017*

Google Brain, Montreal, Canada

**Research Intern in ML group** Robust stochastic gradient descent

*Jan-Apr 2017*

Dwave System, Vancouver, Canada

**Research Intern in ML group** Understanding and improving generalization in Deep Neural Networks

*Jun-Sept 2016*

Inria research center, Paris, France

**Research Intern (MITACS Globalink Award):** Research Intern under supervision of **Francis Bach**, specifically working on stochastic algorithms using monotone operators for saddle point problem

*2013-2014*

Recon, Vancouver, BC, Canada

**MITACS Intern:** Enabling Spark as new big data processing engine for the company

*2010-2011*

Miad Company, Tehran, Iran

**Software Designer, Developer, Documenter**

*2006-2009*

Avaan Company, Tehran, Iran

**Software Designer, Developer**

✉ Reza Babanezhad Harikandeh  
Samsung AI Lab  
Montreal, Canada  
✉ [babanezhad@gmail.com](mailto:babanezhad@gmail.com)  
✉ [babanezhad.ca](mailto:babanezhad.ca)  
✉ [Google Scholar](#)

### EDUCATION

AUG 2020 – JUN 2022 **MILA**  
POST-DOC

2014 – 2019 **Machine Learning group**  
PHD COMPUTER SCIENCE  
*Computer Science, UBC*

2011 – 2014 **Software Practice Lab**  
MSC(AND 1ST YEAR OF PHD) COMPUTER SCIENCE  
*Computer Science, UBC*

2008 – 2011 **Software group**  
M.SC. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING  
*Software Engineering, Sharif University, Tehran/Iran*

2001 – 2006 **Software group**  
B.SC. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING  
*Software Engineering, Sharif University, Tehran/Iran*

### PUBLICATIONS

- S. V., A. K., R. B., N. L., Decision-Aware Actor-Critic with Function Approximation and Theoretical Guarantees, DP4ML workshop ICML23.
- B. Z., Y. S., R. B., Fast Online Node Labeling for Very Large Graphs, ICML23.
- J. L., S. V., R. B., M. S., N. L., Target-based Surrogates for Stochastic Optimization, ICML23.
- B. D., S. V., R. B., Towards Noise-adaptive, Problem-adaptive (Accelerated) Stochastic Gradient Descent, ICML, 2022.
- A. J., S. V., R. B., C. S., D. P., Towards Painless Policy Optimization for Constrained MDPs, UAI, 2022.

