

Pooyan Rahmanzadehgervi

Computer Science Ph.D. Fellow

✉ pooyan.rmz@gmail.com ◇  <http://pooyanrg.me> ◇  +1.334.471.0660

 @pooyanrg ◇  Profile

Biography: Pooyan is a Ph.D. candidate at Auburn University, AL, USA, advised by [Anh Nguyen](#). He has been awarded the prestigious Charles Gavin Research Fellowship for his Ph.D. studies. Previously, he completed his M.S. in 2021 at the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, working with [Ahad Harati](#) and [S.K. Ghiasi-Shirazi](#). His research focus is Deep Learning and Explainable AI, specifically understanding and improving Vision Language Models. The results of his research have also been covered by many media outlets, including [TechCrunch](#) and [ars Technica](#).

EDUCATION

Auburn University , AL, USA	2022 - Present
Ph.D. in Computer Science	Advisor: Anh Nguyen
Thesis: <i>Towards An Explainable and Editable Attention Bottleneck for Vision Language Models</i>	
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad , Mashhad, Iran	2017 - 2021
M.S. Artificial Intelligence and Robotics	Advisors: Ahad Harati and S.K. Ghiasi-Shirazi
Thesis: <i>Autonomous Quadrotor Navigation using End-to-End Deep Reinforcement Learning</i>	
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad , Mashhad, Iran	2012 - 2017
B.S. in Computer Engineering — Software	Advisor: S.K. Ghiasi-Shirazi
Thesis: <i>Training a Two-layer Feed-Forward Perceptron to Obtain a Reliable Initialization for an RBF Network</i>	

WORK EXPERIENCE

Google DeepMind	Aug 2026 - Present
<i>Student Researcher</i>	San Francisco, CA
ATN's AI Lab	Aug 2022 - Present
<i>Research Assistant</i>	Auburn, AL
Auburn University	Aug 2022 - May 2026
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Auburn, AL
Polaris LTD	Sep 2021 - Apr 2022
<i>Machine Learning Engineer</i>	Mashhad, Iran
Cognitive Computation Lab (CCL)	Sep 2017 - Sep 2021
<i>Research Assistant</i>	Mashhad, Iran
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad	Sep 2017 - Sep 2021
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Mashhad, Iran
Mazandaran Telecommunication Company	Jun 2015 - Sep 2015
<i>Software Engineering Intern</i>	Babol, Iran
Independent Computational Programming	Aug 2013 - Sep 2020
<i>Developer</i>	Mashhad, Iran

PUBLICATIONS

Full list of publications:  [Scholar profile](#)

Conference papers

- C1. Luo, D., Li, Y., Wang, M., Zhao, T., Wang, B., Wang, S., Feng, P., [Rahmanzadehgervi, P.](#), Ma, Z. and Deng, H., 2026. Vision language models cannot reason about physical transformation. *In Forty-third International Conference on Machine Learning*.
- C2. [Rahmanzadehgervi, P.](#), Nguyen, H.H., Liu, R., Mai, L., Nguyen, A.T., 2025. TAB: Transformer Attention Bottlenecks enable User Intervention and Debugging in Vision-Language Models. *In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision*.
- C3. [Rahmanzadehgervi, P.](#), Bolton, L., Taesiri, M.R., Nguyen, A.T., 2024. Vision language models are blind. *In Proceedings of the Asian Conference on Computer Vision*. **Oral** presentation (5.6% acceptance rate).
- C4. Nguyen, H.H., [Rahmanzadehgervi, P.](#), Mai, L., Nguyen, A.T., 2025. Improving zero-shot object-level change detection by incorporating visual correspondence. *In 2025 IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*.
- C5. [Rahmanzadehgervi, P.](#), Harati, A. and Ghiasi-Shirazi, S.K., 2021. Vision-based obstacle avoidance in drone navigation using deep reinforcement learning. *In 2021 11th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Knowledge (ICCKE)*. **Oral** presentation and **Best Paper Award**.

ACHIEVEMENTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022: [Charles E. Gavin Research Fellowship](#)
- 2011: National Olympiad of Physics - High School level - 1st round
- 2008 - 2012: National Organization for Exceptional Talents ([NODET](#)) (High School - $\leq 2\%$ acceptance rate)
- 2005 - 2008: National Organization for Exceptional Talents ([NODET](#)) (Middle School - 2% acceptance rate)

PRESS COVERAGE

- 2024: **TechCrunch**. [Are ‘visual’ AI models actually blind?](#).
- 2024: **Tech Xplore**. [Visual abilities of language models found to be lacking depth](#).
- 2024: **ars Technica**. [Can you do better than top-level AI models on these basic vision tests?](#)
- 2024: **TechSPOT**. [Study shows the best visual learning models fail at very basic visual identification tests](#).
- 2024: **News Bytes**. [Whatever be the claims, AI models can NOT actually see](#).

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Reviewing

- Conference papers: IEEE ICCKE 2019-2023-2025, CVPR 2025, ICLR 2026, ACCV 2026

Others

- 2026: Moderator at 2026 [Auburn University research symposium](#)
- 2022: [K6-AI Club Instructor](#): A completely free, voluntary, educational AI club for children around elementary-school age (K-6) to learn math, coding, robotics, and artificial intelligence.
- 2012 - 2016: Member of the Scientific Society of Computer Engineering Students (SSCES) at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran.

LANGUAGES

Farsi (Persian)	Native speaker
English	Fluent

REFERENCES

More available upon requests

Anh Nguyen: Associate Professor, Auburn University	anhnguyen at auburn.edu
Rosanne Liu: Research Scientist, Google DeepMind	rosanneliu at google.com
Ahad Harati: Associate Professor, Ferdowsi University of Mashahd,	a.harati at um.ac.ir