

Zaheen Farraz Ahmad

CONTACT INFORMATION	1206-11147 82 Ave NW Edmonton, AB, T6G 0T5 <i>Email: zfahmad@ualberta.com</i>
RESEARCH INTERESTS	My research interests lay in artificial intelligence with a focus on combinatorial search, planning, machine learning and reinforcement learning.
EDUCATION	University of Alberta , Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Ph.D., Computing Science, 2017 - 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisors: Michael Bowling, Levi Lelis University of Alberta , Edmonton, Alberta, Canada M.Sc., Computing Science, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis Topic: “Action Selection for Hammer Shots in Curling: Optimization of Non-convex Continuous Actions With Stochastic Action Outcomes”• Advisor: Robert C. Holte Islamic University of Technology , Gazipur, Dhaka, Bangladesh B.Sc.Engg., Computer Science and Engineering, 2012
ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE	University of Alberta , Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Graduate Research Assistant Fellow May, 2017 - Present Teaching Assistant Sep, 2013 - Dec, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMPUT 101 - Introduction to Computing• CMPUT 175 - Introduction to the Foundations of Computation II
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	AB Sciex Pte. Ltd. Data Science Consultant Dec, 2017 - Feb, 2018 Islamic University of Technology , Gazipur, Dhaka, Bangladesh Lecturer Dec, 2012 - Jul, 2013
HONORS AND AWARDS	Graduate Student Teaching Award , 2018 Award for outstanding teaching performance as a Graduate student IUT Gold Medal Award , 2012 Award for graduating with the highest GPA in the department at the Islamic University of Technology
SCHOLARSHIPS	IUT Scholarship , 2008 Scholarship for covering 3 years of academic tuition at the Islamic University of Technology.

ACADEMIC
SERVICES

Program Committee

NeurIPS (2022, 2023)

AAAI (2022, 2023)

ICML (2023, 2024)

ICLR 2024

University of Alberta

Vice-President, Computing Science Graduate Student Association **2015**

Islamic University of Technology

Treasurer, IUT Computing Society **2012**

Organizing Member, National ICT Fest **2012**

OUTREACH

University of Alberta

Presenter, Iverson Day demos for high school students **2014 - 2019**

Panelist, WP Wagner Panel on further education for high school students. **2015**

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journals

[1] Milson, N., Tashchilina, A., Ooi, T., Czarnecka, A., **Ahmad, Z.F.**, LeBlanc, L.J., “High-dimensional reinforcement learning for optimization and control of ultracold quantum gases”, *Machine Learning: Science and Technology*. 2023

[2] Durksen, T.L., Chu, Man-Wai., **Ahmad, Z.F.**, Radil, A.I., Daniels, L.M., “Motivation in a MOOC: a probabilistic analysis of online learners’ basic psychological needs”, *Social Psychology of Education*, pp.1-10. 2016

Refereed Conferences

[1] Sokota, S., Ho, C., **Ahmad, Z.F.**, Kolter, J.Z., “Monte Carlo Tree Search With Iteratively Refining State Abstractions”, *NeurIPS 2021*.

[2] **Ahmad, Z.F.**, Lelis, L.H.S., Bowling, M., “Marginal Utility for Planning in Continuous and Large Discrete Action Spaces”, *NeurIPS 2020*

[3] **Ahmad, Z.F.**, Holte, R., Bowling, M., “Action Selection for Hammer Shots in Curling”, *IJCAI 2016*.

Other Publications

[1] **Ahmad, Z.F.**, “Action Selection for Hammer Shots in Curling: Optimization of Non-convex Continuous Actions With Stochastic Action Outcomes” *M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Computing Science, Islamic University of Alberta*. 2017

[2] Durksen, T.L., Chu, Man-Wai., **Ahmad, Z.F.**, Radil, A.I., Daniels, L.M., “Probabilistic analysis of academic engagement: Exploring student motivation through a massive open online course” (Abstract only), *Australian Association for Research in Education and New Zealand Association for Research in Education*. 2014

[3] **Ahmad, Z.F.**, Hossain, M.Md., “Communication Requirements for Safety Applications in Low Visibility for VANETs” *B.Sc. Thesis, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Islamic University of Technology*. 2012