

# Seyedeh Zahra Razavi

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## Interests

Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Natural Language Understanding and Reasoning, Conversational Virtual Agents, Text Understanding, Machine Learning

## Education & Qualifications

Sep. 2014 – now      **University of Rochester**, Rochester, NY.  
PhD student in Artificial Intelligence.  
**Advisor:** Prof. Lenhart K. Schubert

**Research Topic:** Designing a dialogue manager for a conversational virtual agent

Modules Studied

Logical Foundations of AI Natural Language Understanding Computational Semantics	Operating Systems Programming Language Design and Implementation	Machine Learning Advanced Algorithm Computational Complexity
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Sep. 2008 – Sep.2011      **University of Tehran**, Tehran, Iran.  
M.S. in Electrical Engineering-Control (Intelligent Control)

**Final Thesis:** Design of local decision makers for improvement of quality of learning attention control and decision fusion.

Sep. 2003 – Sep. 2008      **Sharif University of Technology**, Tehran, Iran.  
B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (Control Engineering)

**Final Project:** Analysis and Simulation of Cooperative Robot Systems

## Work Experience

- Jan. 2012- Jun. 2014      Work in R&D part by “Tamas Gostar Kish Company (TGKCO)”; the pioneer in “Building Management System” in Iran.  
Programming and testing the sensor and control board for zone control, central control and data transfer applications in a smart building. (Using C code in AVRStudio)
- Sep. 2006– Dec. 2007      Worked as a researcher by “Researchers of Nanotechnology” corporation, Tehran, Iran.  
Project title: “Feasibility study on Application of smart total analysis systems to reservoir fluid characterization”
- Jul. 2006 – Sep. 2006      Worked as a programmer by TAM (Advanced Manufacturing Technology in Automotive industry) Iran Khodro Company, Tehran, Iran.  
Project title: “Design and test of the L90 Break control system”
- Jul. 2004 – Sep 2005      Worked as education consulter in Roshangar Pre-University Center, Tehran, Iran.

## Teaching Experience

Fall 2016      Assistant of Logical foundations of AI, Course professor: Lenhart Schubert  
Spring 2016      Assistant of Advanced Algorithm, Course professor: Daniel Stefankovic

Fall 2015 Assistant of Undergraduate seminar, Course Professor: James Allen  
Fall 2010 Assistant of Pattern recognition and machine learning, Course professor: Babak Araabi

### Language

**English:** Good fluency    **German:** Intermediate    **Persian:** Native fluency  
**GRE test result:**  
Verbal: 145/170    Quantitative: 170/170    Analytical writing: 3.0/6.0

### Computer Skills

**Software:** Matlab and Simulink, Microsoft Office, Orcad, LabView.  
**Programming:** Lisp, Python, C/C++, familiar with Prolog, Dr. Scheme, Haskell, Ruby.

### Honours and Awards

Sep. 2014-Nov    University Of Rochester **Graduate Scholarship**  
Winter 2008    MSc. University entrance exam: **rank 6 among near 30000** participants  
in electrical engineering group  
Summer 2008    BSc. GPA: **rank 1 among 33 students** in Control Engineering in Sharif  
University.  
Summer 2003    BSc. University entrance exam: **rank 100 among 300,000 participants**  
in “Mathematics and Physics” field in the whole country

### Publication

**S. Z. Razavi**, L. K. Schubert, M. R. Ali, and M. E. Hoque, “Managing Casual Spoken Dialogue Using Flexible Schemas, Pattern Transduction Trees, and Gist-clauses”, In 5th Ann. Conf. on Advances in Cognitive Systems (ACS 2017), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, May 12-14, 2017.

**S.Z. Razavi**, M.R. Ali, T.H. Smith, L.K. Schubert, M.E. Hoque, “The LISSA virtual human and ASD teens: An overview of initial experiments”, Proc. of the 16th Int. Conf. on Intelligent Virtual Agents (IVA 2016), Sept. 20-13, 2016, Los Angeles, CA, pp. 460-463.

**S.Z. Razavi**, “Designing an automatic dialogue manager for a virtual conversational agent”, Position paper, in Proceedings, Young Researchers Roundtable on Spoken Dialogue Systems (YRRSDS 2016), ICT, Los Angeles, Sept.16, 2016, pp. 22-23

**S.Z. Razavi** and L.K. Schubert, “An automated virtual human for helping teens with ASD improve their conversational skills” (abstract), ACM New York Celebration of Women in Computing (NYCWIC 2017), RIT, Henrietta, NY, Apr. 21-22.

### Submitted Publication

M.R. Ali, **S.Z. Razavi**, A. A. Mamun, R. Langevin, R. Rawassizadeh, L.K. Schubert, and M. E. Hoque. “A Virtual Conversational Agent for Teens with Autism: Experimental Results and Design Lessons.”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:1811.03046*, 2019.

**S.Z. Razavi**, L.K. Schubert, B. Kane, M.R. Ali, K. Van Orden, T. Ma. “Dialogue Design and Management for Multi-Session Casual Conversation with Older Adults.”, In preparation, 2019.