

## Education

- 2019 – 2024\* **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA  
**Ph.D. in Computer Science**, Advised by Christopher Potts & Matei Zaharia  
Research: Natural Language Processing (NLP), Information Retrieval (IR)  
\*Expected Graduation: June 2024
- 2015 – 2019 **Carnegie Mellon University** in Qatar (CMU-Q), Doha, Qatar  
**B.S. in Computer Science**, Advised by *Mohammad Hammoud*  
Research: Information Retrieval (IR), Parallel & Distributed Systems for ML  
Minor: Mathematical Sciences; GPA: 4.00 / 4.00

## Fellowships, Awards & Honors

- 2022–24 “Apple PhD Scholar in AI/ML” Fellowship. Approx \$200,000 in funding.
- 2022–23 HAI–Azure Cloud Credits Grant (\$50,000) for “Reliable Generation with Retrieval-Based Models”. Applied for and received with David Hall. Lead PI: Chris Potts.
- 2021–24 Industry grants (over \$300,000) for my work. Initiated collaborations with research teams at IBM & Oracle, and helped set up corresponding grants. PIs: Chris Potts & Matei Zaharia.
- 2021 “Top-5% of Stanford CS Course Assistants”: Stanford CS244u Spring 2021.
- 2021 Nominated by Stanford CS (one of four) to apply for the Microsoft PhD fellowship.
- 2019–20 The Eltoukhy Family Graduate Fellowship. Stanford CS Department.
- 2019 “Alumni Award for Undergraduate Excellence” for Senior Thesis. CMU (Pittsburgh).
- 2019 “Outstanding Academic Achievement in Computer Science”. CMU-Qatar.
- 2019 “Best Project”, Annual Meeting of the Minds”. CMU-Qatar.
- 2018 “Qatar Campus Scholar”. CMU-Qatar.
- 2016–19 Full-Tuition Merit Scholarship. Qatar Foundation.
- 2016–19 Dean’s List Awards. CMU-Qatar.
- 2015 “Top in the World” Outstanding Learner. Cambridge International Exams: A.S. Computing.

## Papers & Manuscripts

\* indicates co-first author, † indicates my students and mentees on the project

- ArXiv 2023 [DSPy: Compiling Declarative Language Model Calls into Self-Improving Pipelines.](#)  
**O Khattab**, A Singhvi†, P Maheshwari†, Z Zhang†, K Santhanam, S Vardhamanan†, S Haq†, A Sharma†, T Joshi†, H Moazam†, H Miller, M Zaharia, C Potts. ArXiv preprint arXiv:2310.03714. Under Submission.

- EMNLP 2023 UDAPDR: Unsupervised Domain Adaptation via LLM Prompting and Distillation of Rerankers.  
J Saad-Falcon<sup>†</sup>, **O Khattab**, K Santhanam, R Florian, M Franz, S Roukos, A Sil, M Sultan, C Potts. EMNLP 2023 (main conference).
- REML 2023 Resources and Evaluations for Multi-Distribution Dense Information Retrieval.  
S Chatterjee<sup>†</sup>, **O Khattab**, S Arora. REML 2023: SIGIR'23 Workshop on Retrieval-Enhanced Machine Learning.
- ACL 2023 Moving Beyond Downstream Task Accuracy for Information Retrieval Benchmarking.  
Findings K Santhanam, J Saad-Falcon, M Franz, **O Khattab**, A Sil, R Florian, S Roukos, A Sil, M Sultan, M Zaharia, C Potts. ACL 2023 Findings.
- TMLR 2023 Holistic evaluation of language models.  
P Liang, R Bommasani, T Lee, D Tsipras, D Soylu<sup>†</sup>, ..., **O Khattab**, ..., Y Zhang, Y Koreeda. Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR) 2023. This is a multi-component, 50-author project. I directed the Information Retrieval evaluation.
- ArXiv 2022 Demonstrate-Search-Predict: Composing retrieval and language models for knowledge-intensive NLP.  
**O Khattab**, K Santhanam, XL Li, D Hall, P Liang, C Potts, M Zaharia. ArXiv preprint arXiv:2212.14024.
- CIKM 2022 PLAID: An Efficient Engine for Late Interaction Retrieval.  
K Santhanam\*, **O Khattab\***, C Potts, M Zaharia. Proceedings of the 31st ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM).
- CIKM 2022 Introducing Neural Bag of Whole-Words with ColBERTer: Contextualized Late Interactions using Enhanced Reduction.  
S Hofstätter, **O Khattab**, S Althammer, M Sertkan, A Hanbury. Proceedings of the 31st ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM).
- NAACL 2022 ColBERTv2: Effective and Efficient Retrieval via Lightweight Late Interaction.  
K Santhanam\*, **O Khattab\***, J Saad-Falcon<sup>†</sup>, C Potts, M Zaharia. Proceedings of the 2022 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL).
- ICLR 2022 Hindsight: Posterior-guided training of retrievers for improved open-ended generation.  
A Paranjape, **O Khattab**, C Potts, M Zaharia, CD Manning. Proceedings of The Tenth International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).
- NeurIPS 2021 Baleen: Robust Multi-Hop Reasoning at Scale via Condensed Retrieval.  
**O Khattab**, C Potts, M Zaharia. Thirty-Fifth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS'21). Selected as a spotlight paper: top 3% of submissions.

- arXiv 2021 On the opportunities and risks of foundation models.  
R Bommasani, DA Hudson, E Adeli, R Altman, S Arora, S von Arx, ..., **Omar Khattab**, ..., P Liang. ArXiv preprint arXiv:2108.07258. This is a multi-component, 114-author project. I co-authored the sections on Modeling and on Systems.
- SIGIR 2021 Learning passage impacts for inverted indexes.  
A Mallia, **O Khattab**, T Suel, N Tonellotto. Proceedings of the 44th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval. Short paper.
- TACL 2021 Relevance-guided Supervision for OpenQA with ColBERT.  
**O Khattab**, C Potts, M Zaharia. Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 9, 929-944.
- SIGIR 2020 ColBERT: Efficient and Effective Passage Search via Contextualized Late Interaction over BERT.  
**O Khattab**, M Zaharia. Proceedings of the 43rd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval.
- SIGIR 2020 Finding the best of both worlds: Faster and more robust top-k document retrieval.  
**O Khattab**, M Hammoud, T Elsayed. Proceedings of the 43rd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval.
- CIKM 2018 PolyHJ: A polymorphic main-memory hash join paradigm for multi-core machines.  
**O Khattab**, M Hammoud, O Shekfeh. Proceedings of the 27th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management.
- VLDB 2018 LA3: A scalable link-and locality-aware linear algebra-based graph analytics system.  
Y Ahmad, **O Khattab**, A Malik, A Musleh, M Hammoud, M Kutlu, M Shehata, T Elsayed. Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment 11 (8), 920-933.

## Technical Blog Posts

- SAIL 2021 Building Scalable, Explainable, and Adaptive NLP Models with Retrieval.  
**O Khattab**, M Zaharia, C Potts. Stanford AI Lab (SAIL) blog.
- HAI 2021 A moderate proposal for radically better AI-powered Web search.  
**O Khattab**, M Zaharia, C Potts. Stanford HAI blog.

## Industry Research Experience

- Jun–Sep 2022 **Research Ph.D. Intern at Apple AI/ML.**  
*Advised by Dr. Ruoming Pang, Distinguished Engineer at Apple AI/ML.*

## Invited Talks

- Talk Title** “DSPy: Compiling Declarative Language Model Calls into Self-Improving Pipelines.”  
— delivered at —
- 2023 Oct **UC Berkeley.** Guest Lecture.
- 2023 Sep **Google X.**

2023 Sep **Apple**.  
2023 Aug **Qatar University** (QU). BigIR group.  
2023 Aug **Avey**. Doha, Qatar.  
2023 July **SIGIR REML**. Invited talk at the REML workshop.

**Talk Title** “**Demonstrate–Search–Predict: Composing retrieval and language models for knowledge-intensive NLP.**”

— *delivered at* —

2023 April **UC Berkeley**. Research talk.  
2023 April **Databricks**.  
2023 April **Meta**.  
2023 March **Neeva**.  
2023 March **Netflix ML**.  
2023 March **Vectara**.  
2023 March **Google**.  
2023 Jan **Oracle Labs**.  
2023 Jan **Apple**.

**Talk Title** **CoBERT & “CoBERTv2: Effective and Efficient Retrieval via Lightweight Late Interaction.”**

— *delivered at* —

2023 Sep **UC Berkeley**. Guest Lecture.  
2023 Aug **Carnegie Mellon University Qatar** (CMU-Qatar).  
2023 July **SIGIR ReNeuIR**. *Keynote*.  
2022 Aug **Apple**.  
2022 July **NAACL**. Conference Talk on CoBERTv2.  
2022 May **Etsy**. Retrieval Research Group.

**Talk Title** “**Baleen: Robust Multi-Hop Reasoning at Scale via Condensed Retrieval.**”

— *delivered at* —

2021 Dec **NeurIPS**. Conference talk.  
2021 Feb **Stanford NLP**.

**Talk Title** **CoBERT & “Relevance-guided Supervision for OpenQA with CoBERT.”**

— *delivered at* —

2021 Oct **Google Research**. IR Group.  
2021 Aug **ACL**. Conference talk.  
2021 Jun **Google Research**. N2Formal RG.  
2021 Mar **IBM Research**. NLP RG.  
2020 Nov **Univ. of Glasgow**.

**Talk Title** “ColBERT: Efficient and Effective Search via Contextualized Late Interaction over BERT.”

— *delivered at* —

2020 Jul **SIGIR**. Conference talk.

2020 Jun **DAWN Retreat**.

2020 Jul “**Finding the Best of Two Worlds: Faster and More Robust Top-k Document Retrieval.**” Conference talk at **SIGIR**.

2019 Apr “**IRg: A Distributed Graph-based Framework for Information Retrieval.**” Senior Thesis Public Talk at **CMU-Qatar**.

2018 Oct “**PolyHJ: A Polymorphic Main-Memory Hash Join Paradigm for Multi-Core Machines.**” Conference talk at **CIKM**.

2018 Aug “**LA3: A Scalable Link- and Locality-Aware Linear Algebra-Based Graph Analytics System.**” Conference talk at **VLDB**.

## ■ Panels, Podcast Episodes, & Tutorials

2023 Oct **UC Berkeley SkyCamp 2023**. Tutorial.

2023 Oct **DemandBase**. Webinar.

2023 Oct **MLOps Learners**. Webinar.

2023 Oct **LlamaIndex Webinar**.

2023 July **SIGIR GenIR**. Panel on LM behavior.

2023 June **Vertex**. Podcast episode with hosts Sandeep Bhadra & Chase Roberts.

2023 June **Cohere4AI**. Webinar.

2023 June **LlamaIndex Webinar**.

2023 May **LangChain Panel**.

2023 May **DataBrew**. Podcast episode.

2023 Jan **Samaya**. Webinar.

2022 May **Stanford CS224U Guest Podcasts**. Podcast episode with host Prof. Christopher Potts.

## ■ Teaching Assistant Experience

Spring 2022 Stanford CS224u: Natural Language Understanding (Prof. Christopher Potts)

Spring 2021 Stanford CS224u: Natural Language Understanding (Prof. Christopher Potts)

Spring 2019 CMU 15-210: Parallel & Sequential Data Structures & Algorithms (Prof. Kemal Oflazer)

Fall 2018 CMU 11-785: Introduction to Deep Learning (Prof. Bhiksha Raj)

Fall 2018 CMU 15-451: Algorithms Design & Analysis (Prof. Christos Kapoutsis)

Spring 2018 CMU 15-210: Parallel & Sequential Data Structures & Algorithms (Prof. Kemal Oflazer)

## Research Students & Mentees

Sep 2023– Luca Scheerer  
Jun 2023– Herumb Shandilya  
Jun 2023– YoungJu Choi  
May 2023– Arnav Singhvi  
Apr 2023– Alberto Mancera  
Apr 2023– Chuyi Zhang  
Apr 2023– Saron Samuel  
Mar 2023– Saiful Haq  
Mar 2023– Ashutosh Sharma  
Mar 2023– Sri Vardhamanan  
Nov 2022– Thejas Venkatesh

### — Past Students —

2023 Zhiyuan (Eric) Zhang  
2023 Paridhi Maheshwari (subsequently: Applied Scientist at Amazon Alexa AI)  
2022–23 Kaili Huang (subsequently: Applied Scientist at Microsoft)  
2022–23 Soumya Chatterjee  
2022–23 Xinran Song  
2022 Dilara Soylu (subsequently: PhD student at Stanford)  
2021–23 Jon Saad-Falcon (subsequently: PhD student at Stanford)  
2021–22 Atem Aguer

## Services

Peer 2023: NeurIPS, ICLR, ACL/NAACL (ARR)  
Review 2022: TOIS, IP&M. (Top IR journals.)  
2021: TOIS, IP&M. (Top IR journals.)

Application Jan 2023: Stanford CS PhD admissions in NLP  
Review Jan 2022: CSLI Summer Internships  
Committee Jan 2021: CSLI Summer Internships  
Nov 2020: Student-Applicant Support Program

Mentorship 2023: for three Stanford CURIS Interns  
2021: for a CSLI Summer Intern