Contact

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Information

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EDUCATION

## University of California, Berkeley (August 2016 - present)

- MSc/PhD in CEE Systems Engineering
- Advised by Alexandre M. Bayen
- Area of research: Applications of deep reinforcement learning (RL) to mixed-autonomy traffic control
- Courses Taken: Deep Reinforcement Learning; Nonlinear Systems: Analysis, Stability, and Control; Statistical Models: Theory and Application

#### American University of Beirut (September 2012 - May 2016)

- Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering
- Courses Taken: Intro to Analysis; Computer Vision; Robotics; Electronics; Instrumentation; Control Systems; Dynamic Systems Analysis; Thermodynamics; Fluid Mechanics; Mechanical Design

SKILLS

Computer Skills: Expert: Python, TensorFlow, Linux — Proficient: C++, Matlab, AWS, SQL, Mongo Languages: Fluent in English and Arabic.

EXPERIENCE

# Graduate Student Researcher | UC Berkeley (May 2017 - present)

- Developing an open-source computational framework for running deep reinforcement learning experiments in traffic microscopic simulators, see: https://github.com/flow-project/flow.
- Utilizing reinforcement learning to generate meaningful control strategies for automated vehicles.
- Designing, implementing, and testing hierarchical reinforcement learning algorithms for traffic control and robotics problems, see: https://github.com/AboudyKreidieh/h-baselines.

## Research Intern, Smart City AI | Nissan Alliance SV Lab (September 2021 - December 2021)

- Designed a framework for V2V communication and macroscopic traffic state estimation on the cloud.
- Implemented various traffic state estimators, and conducted hyperparameter studies on these estimators to determine the effect of certain features on key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Developed visualization tools for monitor the state of traffic in real time.

# Intern - Connected Vehicle Research | Toyota InfoTech Labs (June 2021 - August 2021)

- Developed a lightweight tool for numerically analyzing the performance benefits of various lane assignment strategies in simulations of multi-lane, throughout-restricted traffic.
- Formulated and patented a multi-level hierarchical control mechanism for cooperative lane change assistance across multiple coordinating segments of traffic.

#### Visiting Student Researcher | Glaser Lab, UC Berkeley (May 2015 - August 2015)

- Assisted in the design of a communication protocol to allow for wireless system-level communication of sensors in the Sierra Nevada.
- Programmed an earthquake simulator with LabVIEW to perform position/force PID controlled tasks, as well as prevent failures and faults.

Teaching

Course: Deep multi-agent reinforcement learning with applications to autonomous traffic (Aug-Dec 2018)

- Developed the course curriculum and designed homework problems in TensorFlow.
- Provided lectures on various topics in multiagent RL, including non-stationary, communication, and its connections to hierarchical RL.
- Guided students through their semester-long projects.

Course: Introduction to Computer Programming for Scientists and Engineers (Jan-May 2017)

- Led lab sessions consisting of around 20 students and mentored their development.
- Formulated homework and exam problems in Matlab.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS  $Flow: A \ Modular \ Learning \ Framework \ for \ Mixed \ Autonomy \ Traffic. \ \textit{IEEE Transactions on Robotics} \ (2021).$ 

Inter-Level Cooperation in Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:1912.02368 (2019).

Dissipating stop-and-go waves in closed and open networks via deep reinforcement learning. *IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems* (2018).

Emergent Behaviors in Mixed-Autonomy Traffic. Conference on Robot Learning (2017).

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

AWS Machine Learning Research Award (2017, 2019)

**2019 Summer Fellow** UC Berkeley, CEE Department (April 2019)

Outstanding Graduate Student Award UC Berkeley, Institute of Transportation Studies (December 2018)

Siemens Future Makers Challenge Placed 3rd (April 2018)

Jane Lewis Fellowship UC Berkeley, Graduate Division (Fall 2016 - Spring 2017)

Dean's Honor List Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, AUB (2012 - 2016)

#### Volunteer Work

### STEM Outreach Visit (July 2019)

• Prepared and hosted a tour of four research labs within UC Berkeley to a group of high school students.

Lebanese Red Cross, Youth Department (August 2011 - March 2013)

- Assisted with workshops in schools, environmental awareness projects, and various other activities.
- Organized the center's inventory and prepared an inventory list.