Julian Skirzyński

Curriculum Vitae — March 2025

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EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego — 2022 – Present
Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science & Engineering
Thesis: Designing AI for Better Decision-Making
Advisor: Berk Ustun

McGill University — 2017 – 2020
M.S. in Computer Science
Thesis: Language-Conditional Imitation Learning
Advisor: David Meger

University of Warsaw — 2012 – 2018
M.S. in Cognitive Science
B.S. in Mathematics, Cognitive Science
Advisors: Andrzej Skowron; Piotr Wasilewski

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Germany — 2019 – 2023
Research Scientist
Projects: Interpretable RL Policies, Improving Human Planning, Discovering Human Planning Strategies
Advisor: Falk Lieder

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas: Machine Learning, Cognitive Science, Human-Computer Interaction
Topics: Decision-Making, Interpretability, Explainability, Reinforcement Learning, Experimental Design
Applications: Social Sciences, Medicine, Consumer Finance, Criminal Justice

AWARDS & HONORS

Pierre Arbour Foundation Scholarship	2018 – 2019
McGill University Graduate Excellence Award	2018
McGill - University of Warsaw Exchange Scholarship	2015
University of Warsaw Academic Excellence Scholarship	2014 – 2017

PREPRINTS

1. On the Value of Interpretability in Human Decision-Making
Julian Skirzyński, Elena Glassman, Berk Ustun
In Submission, 2025

2. Discrimination Exposed? On the Reliability of Explanations for Discrimination Detection
Julian Skirzyński, Davind Danks, Berk Ustun
In Submission, 2025

PAPERS

EQUAL CONTRIBUTION

G Google Scholar

3. Automatic Discovery and Description of Human Planning Strategies
Julian Skirzyński, Yash Raj Jain, Falk Lieder
Behavior Research Methods, 2023

4. Boosting Human Decision-making with AI-Generated Decision Aids
Frederic Becker*, **Julian Skirzyński***, Bas van Opheusden, Falk Lieder
Computational Brain & Behavior, 2022

5. Automatic Discovery of Interpretable Planning Strategies
Julian Skirzyński, Frederic Becker, Falk Lieder
Machine Learning, 2021

6. Object [Re] Cognition with Similarity

Łukasz Sosnowski, **Julian Skirzyński**
International Conference on Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems, 2018

7. [A Framework for Analysis of Granular Neural Networks](#)
Julian Skirzyński
International Joint Conference on Rough Sets, 2017

REFEREED WORKSHOP PAPERS

8. [On Interpretability and Overreliance](#)
Julian Skirzyński, Elena Glassman, Berk Ustun
Interpretable AI: Past, Present and Future, NeurIPS Workshop, 2024

9. [Language-Conditional Imitation Learning](#)
Julian Skirzyński, Bobak Baghi, David Meger
Visually Grounded Interaction and Language, NAACL Workshop, 2021

TEACHING

UCSD Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute 2023
[DSC291 – Interpretability & Explainability in Machine Learning](#)
Guest Lecturer & Teaching Assistant
Co-designed curriculum and held weekly office hours for serving 20+ PhD/MS students. Delivered guest lectures on ML interpretability methods and cognitive biases in AI-assisted decision-making. Completed teaching development workshop on graduate-level instruction.

SOFTWARE
 GitHub

[Strategy Extraction from RL Policies](#) – Algorithm to extract interpretable decision trees from RL policies
[Human Planning Strategy Analysis](#) – Framework for identifying strategies used in human planning tasks

SELECTED INDUSTRY POSITIONS

Educational Entertainment One, Warsaw, Poland 2021 – 2024
Lead Technical Architect
Designed algorithms (AI, NLP) and supported the production process for a story-driven mobile game for learning English.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

JOURNAL REVIEWING
Machine Learning 2022

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
NeurIPS – Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2023 – PRESENT
ICML – International Conference on Machine Learning 2025 – PRESENT
ICLR – International Conference on Learning Representations 2024 – PRESENT
FAccT – ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency 2022 – PRESENT
ICML Workshop RL4RealLife – International Conference on Machine Learning 2021
IPMU – Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems 2018

PERSONAL

Language Skills : English, Polish, German (Conversational)
Software Skills : Python, R, C++, Flask, AWS, PyTorch, CPLEX, JavaScript, Jira
Interests : Soccer, Groundhopping, Traveling, Fantasy Literature, Record Collecting
Other : Peer tutoring, Co-author of "Triozy polskie", a textbook for learning Polish by foreigners