Maya Avital

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EDUCATION

Stanford University | Stanford, CA
B.S. in Symbolic Systems (Human-Centered AI) | GPA: 3.62 | **Graduated:** 2024
M.S. Candidate in Computer Science
Relevant Courses: Cross Mobile App Development, Social Computing, Understanding Users, Computer Networking & Systems, Tech Ethics and Policy, Data Mining & Analysis, Statistics & Probability, Media Psychology, Linguistics, Hebrew

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: experienced in JavaScript, HTML, React Native, Firebase, Python, R, SQL, C++, and C
Fast-learning engineer who brings clear, structured thinking to building scalable, user-facing products in dynamic environments. High-agency problem solver who takes initiative, applies detail-oriented thinking, and thrives in collaboration. Effective communicator with proven low-ego leadership in team-based, high-pressure settings.

PROJECTS

SYNTH | CS 377U: Understanding Users   **SPRING 2025**
- Led end-to-end development of Synth, a multiplayer web app combining social music sharing and gameplay, applying user-centered design and full product lifecycle execution in a 10-week sprint. Conducted literature review, market analysis, generative user research on customer needs, usability testing, and a field study to guide post-launch iteration and improve user engagement outcomes. Built features enabling Spotify API-powered music guessing games, integrating real-time multiplayer interaction.
- Cross-functional collaboration on end-to-end research, product strategy, backend implementation, and UI development to deliver a fully deployed web app tailored for social discovery.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Course Assistant | CS 182: Ethics, Public Policy, & Technological Change   **Winter Quarter 2025**
- Worked under Professors Mehran Sahami & Daniel Ho, led weekly discussion sections, developed instructional content, and evaluated student work for a high-enrollment interdisciplinary tech ethics course.

Fellowship & Awards Intern | Mozilla Foundation   **June 2024 - Aug 2024**
- Placed at Mozilla through the Stanford Tech Ethics and Policy Fellowship.
- Worked on the F&A team to help project map the alumni and creative media awards programs, update data infrastructure, and build a community engagement strategy for Africa Mradi program.

Research Assistant | Stanford Social Media Lab   **May 2023 - Aug 2024**
- Co-authored a working research publication exploring how AI will affect the misinformation landscape
  - Conducted participant interviews, mixed-method data analysis, and synthesized findings to guide insights.
- Data analysis for research on public perception of social robots, to guide further design directions.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Stanford University NCAA Division 1 Women's Water Polo   **September 2020 - June 2025**
- Devoting an average of 30 hours per week to training, practices, meetings, travel, and competition while maintaining an intensive academic schedule. Contributing to the legacy of this historic trailblazing program.
  - **2022 & 2023 NCAA National Champion**
  - **Volunteer Assistant Coach 2025 season** (**National Champions**)
  - Starting goalkeeper & 3-time All-American (2022, 2023, 2024)
  - **Team Captain** (2024)
- **Founder & Co-President** of Stanford Maccabi (Jewish Student-Athlete Club)