Michal Valko

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Experience

- **Meta, GenAI**, Paris, France, Principal Llama Engineer (2024 – . . .)
- **DeepMind**, Paris, France, Senior Staff Research Scientist (2019 – 2023)
- **ENS Paris–Saclay – Master 2 MVA**, France, External Lecturer - CEV (2014 – . . .)
- **Inria – team SequeL**, Lille, France, Tenured Research Scientist (2011 – . . .)
- **Intel** – Intel Labs (Summer 2010) and Intel Research (Spring 2009)

Education

- **École normale supérieure de Cachan**, HdR in Mathematics, June 2016.
  Thesis: *Bandits on Graphs and Structures*, Advisor: *Nicolas Vayatis*
- **University of Pittsburgh** (GPA 4.0) PhD in Machine Learning, August 2011.
  Thesis: *Adaptive Graph-Based Algorithms*, Advisor: *Milos Hauskrecht*

Selected Awards

Inria award for scientific excellence: Prime d'excellence scientifique (2014-2017, 2018-2021)
Distinguished Alumni of Comenius University, Slovakia (2015)
Compunetix Best Research Award at Computer Science Department (2008 and 2011)
Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship (Fall 2008, Summer 2009)

Research Interests

large language models, fine-tuning and alignment, self-supervised learning, reinforcement learning, bandit theory, minimal feedback, online learning, graph ML

Selected publications

- R. Munos*, **Michal Valko***, D. Calandriello*, M. Azar*, M. Rowland*, D. Guo*, Y. Tang*, M. Geist*, . . . , B. Piot*: *Nash learning from human feedback*, (preprint)
- C. Fiegel, P. Ménard, T. Kozuno, R. emi Munos, V. Perchet, **Michal Valko**: *Adapting to game trees in zero-sum imperfect information games*, (ICML 2023) [**best paper award**]
- J.B. Grill, F. Strub, F. Altché, C. Tallec, P.H.. Richemond, E. Buchatskaya, C. Doersch, B.A. Pires, D. Guo, M.G. Azar, B. Piot, K. Kavukcuoglu, R. Munos, **M. Valko**: *Bootstrap Your Own Latent: A new approach to self-supervised learning*, (NeurIPS 2020)
- Daniele Calandriello, Alessandro Lazaric, **M. Valko**: *Distributed adaptive sampling for kernel matrix approximation* (AISTATS 2017)
- Tomáš Kocák, Gergely Neu, **M. Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Efficient learning by implicit exploration in bandit problems with side observations*, (NeurIPS 2014)
- **M.Valko**, Rémi Munos, Branislav Kveton, Tomáš Kocák: *Spectral bandits for smooth graph functions* (ICML 2014)

Students and postdocs

Edouard Oyallon (postdoc, 2018) *Pierre Ménard* (postdoc, 2019) *Daniele Calandriello* (2017), *Omar Darwiche Domingues* (2022), *Côme Fiegel* (2025), *Guillaume Gautier* (2020), *Jean-Bastien Grill* (2017), *Tomáš Kocák* (2016), *Pierre Perrault* (2020), *Julien Seznec* (2020), *Jean Tarbouriech* (2022), and *Xuedong Shang* (2021), and *Daniil Tiapkin* (2020)

Service Activities

- Elected member of Inria Evaluation Committee (CE Inria 2014 – 2015, 2015 – 2019)
- Organizer: EEML (2023) , JFPDA (2013), Grant reviewer: FNRS (2014 – 2020)
- AE: TMLR (2022-2024) AC and SPC: NeurIPS (2018–2020), ICLR (2021), IJCAI (2017), Program Committee: COLT (2019), ICML (2018), AISTATS (2016–2017, 2019), AAAI (2012, 2015), IJCAI (2015), RLDM (2015), EWRL (2012, 2015–2016), JFPDA (2014)
- Reviewer: TPAMI (2017), JMLR (2016), Automatica (2016–2017), NeurIPS (2012–2017), ICLR (2019), ICML (2012–2016, 2019), COLT (2014, 2017–2018), ALT (2019), UAI (2011–2012), IJCAI (2009), KDD (2011), AAAI (2009, 2014), ECML (2012), MEDINFO (2010)
- INTEL/Inria - Algorithmic Determination of IoT Edge Analytic - 2013 (project leader)
- European FP7 grant (CompLACS), Chist-ERA (DELTA), ANR grants (BoB, ExtraLearn, BOLD), NIH grants

Skills & Hobbies

- Choir Singer - Tenor IIa - Cœli et Terra, Volunteering: Association la Clé & PASS Senior
- Sports: hiking, squash, racquetball, running, volleyball, swimming