Michal Valko

Stealth Startup
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EXPERIENCE	⬦ **Stealth Startup**, San Francisco, USA & Paris, France Chief Models Officer (2025)
	⬦ **Meta, GenAI**, Paris, France Principal Llama Engineer (2024)
	⬦ **Google DeepMind**, Paris, France Senior Staff Research Scientist (2021 – 2023) Staff Research Scientist (2019 – 2021)
	⬦ **ENS Paris-Saclay – Master 2 MVA**, Paris-Saclay, France External Lecturer - CEV (2014 – . . .)
	⬦ **Inria – team SequeL**, Lille, France Tenured Experienced Junior Scientist - CR1/CRCN (2013 – . . .) External Collaborator - CR1/CRCN (2019 – . . .) Tenured Junior Scientist - CR2 (2012 – 2013) Postdoctoral Researcher (2011 – 2012), Advisor: *Rémi Munos*
	⬦ **Intel Research**, Santa Clara, CA, USA Research Intern (2009, 2010), Advisor: *Branislav Kveton*
TEACHING	⬦ **Graphs in machine learning**, École normale supérieure de Paris-Saclay, Cachan, France, 2013 — 2024, graduate course ≈ 60–170 students
EDUCATION	⬦ **École normale supérieure de Paris-Saclay**, Paris-Saclay, France HdR in Mathematics, June 2016. Thesis: *Bandits on Graphs and Structures*, Jury: *Nicolas Vayatis, Aurélien Garivier, Vianney Perchet, Nicolò Cesa-Bianchi, Gábor Lugosi, Mark Herbster, Rémi Munos*
	⬦ **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA PhD in Machine Learning, August 2011. Thesis: *Adaptive Graph-Based Algorithms*, Advisor: *Milos Hauskrecht*
	⬦ **Comenius University Bratislava**, Slovakia MSc., summa cum laude in Computer Science, June 2005. Majors: Artificial Intelligence and Mathematical Methods of CS Thesis: *Evolving Neural Networks for Statistical Decision Theory*, Advisor: *R.Harman*
SELECTED AWARDS	International Conference on Machine Learning 2023 Best Paper Award
	Inria award for scientific excellence: Prime d'excellence scientifique (2018 - 2021)
	Inria award for scientific excellence: Prime d'excellence scientifique (2014 - 2017)
	International Conference on Machine Learning *Top 10* Reviewer Award (2018)
	International Conference on Machine Learning Reviewer Award (2015)
	Distinguished Alumni of Comenius University, Slovakia (2015)
	Google best paper of online learning in vision (2010)
	Homer Warner Award by AMIA and OMG (2010)
	Compunetix Best Research Award at Computer Science Department (2008 and 2011)

University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation Recognition (2009)

Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship (Fall 2008, Summer 2009)

Slovak Academy of Sciences Fellowship (2003 – 2005)

RESEARCH	large language models, reasoning, fine-tuning, test-time computation, RLHF, world models

PROJECT FUNDING

◇ DELTA (EU CHIST-ERA), 2018 - 2022 (Project Coordinator, PI: A. Jonsson)

◇ PGMO-IRMO grant of Fondation Mathématique Jacques Hadamard: Theoretically grounded efficient algorithms for high-dimensional and continuous reinforcement learning

◇ CompLACS (EU FP7), 2011 - 2015 (PI: J. Shawe-Taylor)

◇ BOLD (ANR), 2019 - 2023 (Project Coordinator, PI: V. Perchet)

◇ BoB (ANR), 2016 - 2020 (PI: R. Bardenet)

◇ Extra-Learn (ANR), 2014 - 2018 (PI), after A. Lazaric

◇ LeLivreScolaire.fr - Sequential Learning for Educational Systems, 2017–2020 (PI)

◇ EduBand - (with CMU), 2015 - 2018 (coPI, with A. Lazaric and E. Brunskill)

◇ Inria/CWI, Sequential prediction & Understanding Deep RL, postdoc funding (2016–2018)

◇ Allocate (with Universität Potsdam), 2017 - 2019 (PI) with A. Carpentier

◇ Intel/Inria - Algorithmic Determination of IoT Edge Analytic (PI) - 2013

◇ NIH grants (1R01LM010019-01A1, 1R21LM009102-01A1), 2009 - 2013 (PI: M. Hauskrecht)'

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

◇ **Intel Labs**, Intel, Santa Clara, CA (2010)
Multi-manifold learning. Large scale semi-supervised learning.

◇ **Intel Research**, Intel, Santa Clara, CA (2009)
Online semi-supervised learning. Max-margin structured prediction.

◇ **Research Assistant**, University of Pittsburgh (2007 – 2011)
Conditional Anomaly Detection project: System for Anomaly Detection in Medicine

◇ **Research Assistant**, University of Pittsburgh (2006)
Bioinformatics: Tools for preprocessing, analysis of high-throughput proteomic and genomic data and biomarker discovery.

◇ **Teaching Assistant**, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2005)
CS7 course: Introduction to Programming

◇ **Research Assistant**, Institute of Normal and Pathological Physiology (2003 – 2005)
Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia

◇ **Research Fellow**, Centro de Inteligência Artificial, (Spring 2005)
Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

◇ **Organizer and Lecturer**, Math Seminars in Slovakia (1998 – 2005)
Math Competitions, Math Summer Camps, Slovakia

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

◇ Organizing co-chair: EEML (Slovakia 2023)

◇ Organizing co-chair: TS Workshop: Optimizing Human Learning (ITS 2018, 2019)

◇ Organizing co-chair: The power of graphs in machine learning and sequential decision-making workshop (GPOWER 2019)

◇ Organizing committee: JFPDA (2013), EWRL (2018), RLSS (2019)

◇ Program Co-chair: CNRS summer school (RESCOM 2018)

◇ Research grant reviewer: FNRS (2014–now), ISF (2019–now)

◇ Area chair and senior program committee: NeurIPS (2018–2020), ICLR (2021)

⋅ Senior program committee: 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), GRL+ (2020), GNNSys (2021)

⋅ IEEE TPS (2018), IEEE TPAMI (2017), JMLR (2016,2018,2020), Automatica (2016–2018), 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)

⋅ DeepMind mentorship program

⋅ INTEL/Inria - Algorithmic Determination of IoT Edge Analytic - 2013 (project leader)

⋅ European FP7 grant (CompLACS), ANR grant (ExtraLearn), NIH grants

⋅ Erasmus agreement between EC Lille and CU Bratislava in Computer Science.

⋅ Committee of experts for hiring junior faculty at CMLA, ENS Paris-Saclay (2017)

⋅ National Inria acceptance committee for hiring junior researchers (2017)

⋅ Elected member of Inria Evaluation Committee (CE Inria 2014 – 2015, 2015 – 2019)

⋅ Hiring committee for junior researchers at Inria Nancy (2015)

⋅ Hiring committee for junior researchers at Inria Sophia Antipolis (2016)

⋅ Hiring committee for junior researchers at Inria Saclay (2017)

⋅ National committee for the secondments at Inria (2018)

⋅ Selection committee for Inria award for scientific excellence - juniors (2015 – 2017)

⋅ Selection committee for Inria award for scientific excellence - confirmed (2016 – 2018)

⋅ Inria work group for avoiding conflicts of interest (2015 – 2019)

⋅ Inria work group for the creation of team RandOpt (2017-2018)

⋅ Promotion committee for junior researchers at Inria (2014, 2015, 2018)

⋅ Member of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists Scientific Society (2000 – present)

⋅ Member of Slovak Chemical Society (1997 – 2002)

CONTESTS

⋅ 1$^{\text{st}}$ place, Slovak Mathematical Olympiad, regional final 1993, 1994, 1996

⋅ 9$^{\text{th}}$ place, Programming Contest Zenit (national final) 1998

⋅ Correspondence seminars in Computer Science and Math 1992 – 2000 consistently ranked in top 10 nation–wide

SKILLS & HOBBIES

⋅ Certificate in Academic Entrepreneurship

⋅ English, French, Czech and Slovak (native language),

⋅ Academic Senate Member, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia (2003 – 2005)

⋅ Volunteer, Tree of Life, environmental group (2003)

⋅ Volunteer, Comptoir de Cana (2018 – now)

⋅ Volunteer, Association la Clé (2014 – 2017)

⋅ Volunteer, PASS Senior (2013 – 2017)

⋅ Sports: hiking, squash, racquetball, running, volleyball, swimming

⋅ Organizer of various correspondence math seminars (KMS, STROM, SKMS) (1998 – 2005)

⋅ Volleyball Player, TU Slavia, Kosice (1998 – 2000)