

# 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)  
◇ **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 International Conference on Machine Learning **2023 Best Paper Award**  
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 large language models, reasoning, fine-tuning, test-time computation, RLHF, world models
- SELECTED PUBLICATIONS ◇ Llama Team: A. Grattafiori, ..., **M. Valko**, ..., Zhiyu Ma: *The Llama 3 herd of models*,  
◇ R. Munos\*, **M. Valko**\*, D. Calandriello\*, M. Azar\*, M. Rowland\*, D. Guo\*, Y. Tang\*, M. Geist\*,  
..., B. Piot\*: *Nash learning from human feedback*, (ICML 2024)  
◇ 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 - Coeli et Terra, Volunteering: Association la Clé & PASS Senior  
◇ Sports: hiking, squash, racquetball, running, volleyball, swimming