

Michal Valko

Stealth Startup
San Francisco, California, US
Paris, France

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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 \approx 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)

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|--------------------|---|
| RESEARCH | large language models, reasoning, fine-tuning, test-time computation, RLHF, world models |
| PROJECT
FUNDING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 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) |
| PREPRINTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chaoqi Wang, Zhuokai Zhao, Chen Zhu, Karthik Abinav Sankararaman, Michal Valko, Xuefei Cao, Zhaorun Chen, Madian Khabsa, Yuxin Chen, Hao Ma, Sinong Wang: Preference optimization with multi-sample comparisons, (preprint) ◇ Antoine Scheid, Étienne Boursier, Alain Durmus, Michael I Jordan, Pierre Ménard, Éric Moulines, Michal Valko: Optimal design for reward modeling in RLHF, (preprint) ◇ Pierre Perrault, Denis Belomestny, Pierre Ménard, Éric Moulines, Alexey Naumov, Daniil Tiapkin, Michal Valko: A new bound on the cumulant generating function of Dirichlet processes, (preprint) ◇ Yunhao Tang, Daniel Zhaohan Guo, Zeyu Zheng, Daniele Calandriello, Yuan Cao, Eugene Tarassov, Rémi Munos, Bernardo Ávila Pires, Michal Valko, Yong Cheng, Will Dabney: Local and adaptive mirror descents in extensive-form games, (preprint) ◇ Denis Belomestny, Pierre Ménard, Alexey Naumov, Daniil Tiapkin, Michal Valko: Sharp deviations bounds for Dirichlet weighted sums with application to analysis of Bayesian algorithms, (preprint) ◇ Tadashi Kozuno, Wenhao Yang, Nino Vieillard, Toshinori Kitamura, Yunhao Tang, Jincheng Mei, Pierre Ménard, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Michal Valko, Rémi Munos, Olivier Pietquin, Matthieu Geist, Csaba Szepesvári KL-entropy-regularized RL with a generative model is minimax optimal, (preprint) |
| PAPERS
2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Llama Team: A. Grattafiori, . . . , M. Valko, . . . , Zhiyu Ma: The Llama 3 herd of models, ◇ Aniket Didolkar, Anirudh Goyal, Nan Rosemary Ke, Siyuan Guo, Michal Valko, Timothy Lillicrap, Danilo Rezende, Yoshua Bengio, Michael Mozer, Sanjeev Arora: Metacognitive capabilities of LLMs: An exploration in mathematical problem solving, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2024) ◇ Côme Fiegel, Pierre Ménard, Tadashi Kozuno, Rémi Munos, Vianney Perchet, Michal Valko: Local and adaptive mirror descents in extensive-form games, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2024) |

- ◇ Rémi Munos*, **Michal Valko***, Daniele Calandriello*, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar*, Mark Rowland*, Daniel Guo*, Yunhao Tang*, Matthieu Geist*, Thomas Mésnard, Andrea Michi, Marco Selvi, Sertan Girgin, Nikola Momchev, Olivier Bachem, Daniel J. Mankowitz, Doina Precup, Bilal Piot: *Nash learning from human feedback*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2024) [spotlight]
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Daniel Guo, Remi Munos, Mark Rowland, Yunhao Tang, Bernardo Avila Pires, Pierre Harvey Richemond, Charline Le Lan, **Michal Valko**, Tianqi Liu, Rishabh Joshi, Zeyu Zheng, Bilal Piot: *Human alignment of large language models through online preference optimisation*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2024)
 - ◇ Yunhao Tang, Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Zeyu Zheng, Daniele Calandriello, Rémi Munos, Mark Rowland, Pierre Harvey Richemond, **Michal Valko**, Bernardo Ávila Pires, Bilal Piot: *Generalized preference optimization: A unified approach to offline alignment*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2024)
 - ◇ Tianlin Liu, Shangmin Guo, Leonardo Bianco, Daniele Calandriello, Quentin Berthet, Felipe Llinares, Jessica Hoffmann, Lucas Dixon, **Michal Valko**, Mathieu Blondel: *Decoding-time realignment of language models*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2024) [spotlight]
 - ◇ Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Mark Rowland, Bilal Piot, Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Daniele Calandriello, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *A general theoretical paradigm to understand learning from human preferences*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2024)
 - ◇ Alaa Saade, Steven Kapturowski, Daniele Calandriello, Charles Blundell, Pablo Sprechmann, Leopoldo Sarra, Oliver Groth, **Michal Valko**, Bilal Piot: *Unlocking the power of representations in long-term novelty-based exploration*, International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2024) [spotlight]
 - ◇ Daniil Tiapkin, Denis Belomestny, Daniele Calandriello, Éric Moulines, Alexey Naumov, Pierre Perrault, **Michal Valko**, Pierre Ménard: *Demonstration-regularized RL*, International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2024)
- PAPERS 2023
- ◇ Daniil Tiapkin, Denis Belomestny, Daniele Calandriello, Éric Moulines, Rémi Munos, Alexey Naumov, Pierre Perrault, **Michal Valko**, Pierre Ménard: *Model-free posterior sampling via learning rate randomization*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023)
 - ◇ Onno Eberhard, Thibaut Cuvelier, **Michal Valko**, Bruno Adrien De Backer: *Middle-mile logistics through the lens of goal-conditioned reinforcement learning*, NeurIPS 2023 Workshop: Goal-conditioned RL (NeurIPS 2023 - GCRL)
 - ◇ Côme Fiegel, Pierre Ménard, Tadashi Kozuno, Rémi Munos, Vianney Perchet, **Michal Valko**: *Adapting to game trees in zero-sum imperfect information games*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023) [best paper award]
 - ◇ Daniel Jarrett, Corentin Tallec, Florent Althé, Thomas Mesnard, Rémi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Curiosity in hindsight: Intrinsic exploration in stochastic environments*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
 - ◇ Yunhao Tang, Rémi Munos, Mark Rowland, **Michal Valko**: *VA-learning as a more efficient alternative to Q-learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
 - ◇ Daniil Tiapkin, Denis Belomestny, Daniele Calandriello, Éric Moulines, Rémi Munos, Alexey Naumov, Pierre Perrault, Yunhao Tang, **Michal Valko**, Pierre Ménard: *Fast rates for maximum entropy exploration*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
 - ◇ Yunhao Tang, Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Pierre Harvey Richemond, Bernardo Ávila Pires, Yash Chandak, Rémi Munos, Mark Rowland, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Charline Le Lan, Clare Lyle, András György, Shantanu Thakoor, Will Dabney, Bilal Piot, Daniele Calandriello, **Michal Valko**: *Understanding self-predictive learning for reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)

- ◇ Yunhao Tang, Tadashi Kozuno, Mark Rowland, Anna Harutyunyan, Rémi Munos, Bernardo Ávila Pires, **Michal Valko**: *DoMo-AC: Doubly multi-step off-policy actor-critic algorithm*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
 - ◇ Toshinori Kitamura, Tadashi Kozuno, Yunhao Tang, Nino Vieillard, **Michal Valko**, Wenhao Yang, Jincheng Mei, Pierre Ménard, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Rémi Munos, Olivier Pietquin, Matthieu Geist, Csaba Szepesvári, Wataru Kumagai: *Regularization and variance-weighted regression achieves minimax optimality in linear MDPs: Theory and practice*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
 - ◇ Thomas Mesnard, Wenqi Chen, Alaa Saade, Yunhao Tang, Mark Rowland, Thé ophane Weber, Clare Lyle, Audrunas Gruslys, **Michal Valko**, Will Dabney, Georg Ostrovski, Éric Moulines, Rémi Munos: *Quantile credit assignment*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
 - ◇ Mehdi Azabou, Venkataramana Ganesh, Shantanu Thakoor, Chi-Heng Lin, Lakshmi Sathidevi, Ran Liu, **Michal Valko**, Petar Veličković, Eva L. Dyer: *Half-Hop: A graph upsampling approach for slowing down message passing*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2023)
- PAPERS 2022
- ◇ Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Shantanu Thakoor, Miruna Pîslar, Bernardo Avila Pires, Florent Altché, Corentin Tallec, Alaa Saade, Daniele Calandriello, Jean-Bastien Grill, Yunhao Tang, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Bilal Piot: *BYOL-Explore: Exploration by bootstrapped prediction*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2022)
 - ◇ Daniil Tiapkin, Denis Belomestny, Daniele Calandriello, Éric Moulines, Rémi Munos, Alexey Naumov, Mark Rowland, **Michal Valko**, Pierre Ménard: *Optimistic posterior sampling for reinforcement learning with few samples and tight guarantees*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2022)
 - ◇ Daniil Tiapkin, Denis Belomestny, Éric Moulines, Alexey Naumov, Sergey Samsonov, Yunhao Tang, **Michal Valko**, Pierre Ménard: *From Dirichlet to Rubin: Optimistic exploration in RL without bonuses*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2022) [long talk: 2%]
 - ◇ Anirudh Goyal, Abram L Friesen, Theophane Weber, Andrea Banino, Nan Rosemary Ke, Adria Puigdomenech Badia, Ksenia Konyushkova, **Michal Valko**, Simon Osindero, Timothy P Lillicrap, Nicolas Heess, Charles Blundell: *Retrieval-augmented reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2022)
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Luigi Carratino, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**, Lorenzo Rosasco: *Scaling Gaussian process optimization by evaluating a few unique candidates multiple times*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2022)
 - ◇ Shantanu Thakoor, Corentin Tallec, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Rémi Munos, Mehdi Azabou, Eva L. Dyer, Petar Veličković, **Michal Valko**: *Large-scale representation learning on graphs via bootstrapping*, International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2022)
 - ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Omar Darwiche Domingues, Pierre Ménard, Matteo Pirota, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric: *Adaptive multi-goal exploration*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2022)
 - ◇ Yunhao Tang, Mark Rowland, Rémi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Marginalized operators for off-policy reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2022)
- PAPERS 2021
- ◇ Ran Liu, Mehdi Azabou, Max Dabagia, Chi-Heng Lin, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Keith B. Hengen, **Michal Valko**, Eva L. Dyer: *Drop, Swap, and Generate: A self-supervised approach for generating neural activity*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021) [oral presentation]

- ◇ Tadashi Kozuno*, Pierre M  nard*, R  mi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Model-free learning for two-player zero-sum partially observable Markov games with perfect recall*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021) [spotlight]
- ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Runlong Zhou, Simon S. Du, Matteo Pirodda, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric: *Stochastic shortest path: minimax, parameter-free and towards horizon-free regret*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021) [spotlight]
- ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Matteo Pirodda, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric: *A provably efficient sample collection strategy for reinforcement learning*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021)
- ◇ Yunhao Tang*, Tadashi Kozuno*, Mark Rowland, R  mi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Unifying gradient estimators for meta-reinforcement learning via off-policy evaluation*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021)
- ◇ Adri   Recasens, Pauline Luc, Jean-Baptiste Alayrac, Luyu Wang, Florian Strub, Corentin Tallec, Mateusz Malinowski, Viorica Patraucean, Florent Altch  , **Michal Valko**, Jean-Bastien Grill, A  ron van den Oord, Andrew Zisserman: *Broaden your views for self-supervised video learning*, International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV 2021)
- ◇ Pierre M  nard, Omar Darwiche Domingues, Xuedong Shang, **Michal Valko**: *UCB Momentum Q-learning: Correcting the bias without forgetting*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2021) [long talk: 3%]
- ◇ Pierre M  nard, Omar Darwiche Domingues, Anders Jonsson, Emilie Kaufmann, Edouard Leurent, **Michal Valko**: *Fast active learning for pure exploration in reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2021)
- ◇ Tadashi Kozuno, Yunhao Tang, Mark Rowland, R  mi Munos, Steven Kapturowski, Will Dabney, **Michal Valko**, David Abel: *Revisiting Peng’s $Q(\lambda)$ for modern reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2021)
- ◇ Yunhao Tang, Mark Rowland, R  mi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Taylor expansion of discount factors*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2021)
- ◇ Xavier Fontaine, Pierre Perrault, **Michal Valko**, Vianney Perchet: *Online A-optimal design and active linear regression*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2021)
- ◇ Omar Darwiche Domingues, Pierre M  nard, Emilie Kaufmann, Matteo Pirodda, **Michal Valko**: *Regret bounds for kernel-based reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2021)
- ◇ Karl Tuyls, Shayegan Omidshafiei, Paul Muller, Zhe Wang, Jerome Connor, Daniel Hennes, Ian Graham, William Spearman, Tim Waskett, Dafydd Steele, Pauline Luc, Adria Recasens, Alexandre Galashov, Gregory Thornton, Romuald Elie, Pablo Sprechmann, Pol Moreno, Kris Cao, Marta Garnelo, Praneet Dutta, **Michal Valko**, Nicolas Heess, Alex Bridgland, Julien Perolat, Bart De Vylder, Ali Eslami, Mark Rowland, Andrew Jaegle, Remi Munos, Trevor Back, Razia Ahamed, Simon Bouton, Nathalie Beauguerlange, Jackson Broshear, Thore Graepel, Demis Hassabis: *Game Plan: Game plans: What AI can do for football, and what football can do for AI*, accepted with minor revisions to Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, (JAIR)
- ◇ Omar Darwiche Domingues, Pierre M  nard, Matteo Pirodda, Emilie Kaufmann, **Michal Valko**: *A kernel-based approach to non-stationary reinforcement learning in metric spaces*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2021)
- ◇ Omar Darwiche Domingues, Pierre M  nard, Emilie Kaufmann, **Michal Valko**: *Episodic reinforcement learning in finite MDPs: Minimax lower bounds revisited*, Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT 2021)
- ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Matteo Pirodda, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric: *Sample complexity bounds for stochastic shortest path with a generative model*, Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT 2021)

- ◇ Emilie Kaufmann, Pierre Ménard, Omar Darwiche Domingues, Anders Jonsson, Edouard Leurent, **Michal Valko**: *Adaptive reward-free exploration*, Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT 2021)
 - ◇ Guillaume Gautier, Rémi Bardenet, **Michal Valko**: *Fast sampling from β -ensembles*, Statistics and Computing (Statistics and Computing 2021)
 - ◇ Omar Darwiche Domingues, Corentin Tallec, Rémi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Density-based bonuses on learned representations for reward-free exploration in deep reinforcement learning*, in ICML Workshop on Unsupervised Reinforcement Learning (ICML-UnsupRL 2021)
- PAPERS
2020
- ◇ Jean-Bastien Grill, Florian Strub, Florent Altché, Corentin Tallec, Pierre H. Richemond, Elena Buchatskaya, Carl Doersch, Bernardo Avila Pires, Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Bilal Piot, Koray Kavukcuoglu, Rémi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Bootstrap Your Own Latent: A new approach to self-supervised learning*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2020)
 - ◇ Pierre H. Richemond, Jean-Bastien Grill, Florent Altché, Corentin Tallec, Florian Strub, Andrew Brock, Samuel Smith, Soham De, Razvan Pascanu, Bilal Piot, **Michal Valko**: *BYOL works even without batch statistics*, NeurIPS 2020 Workshop: Self-Supervised Learning - Theory and Practice (NeurIPS 2020 - SSL)
 - ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Matteo Pirodda, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric: *Improved sample complexity for incremental autonomous exploration in MDPs*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2020)
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello*, Michał Dereziński*, **Michal Valko**: *Sampling from a k -DPP without looking at all items*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2020)
 - ◇ Pierre Perrault, Etienne Boursier, Vianney Perchet, **Michal Valko**: *Statistical efficiency of Thompson sampling for combinatorial semi-bandits*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2020)
 - ◇ Anders Jonsson, Emilie Kaufmann, Pierre Ménard, Omar Darwiche Domingues, Edouard Leurent, **Michal Valko**: *Planning in Markov decision processes with gap-dependent sample complexity*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2020)
 - ◇ Jean-Bastien Grill, Florent Altché, Yunhao Tang, Thomas Hubert, Yunhao Tang, **Michal Valko**, Ioannis Antonoglou, Rémi Munos: *Monte-Carlo tree search as regularized policy optimization*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Yunhao Tang, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Taylor expansion policy optimization*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Rémy Degenne, Pierre Ménard, Xuedong Shang, **Michal Valko**: *Gamification of pure exploration for linear bandits*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Pierre Perrault, Zheng Wen, Jennifer Healey, **Michal Valko**: *Budgeted online influence maximization*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Evrard Garcelon, **Michal Valko**, Matteo Pirodda, Alessandro Lazaric: *No-regret exploration in goal-oriented reinforcement learning*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Aadirupa Saha, Pierre Gaillard, **Michal Valko**: *Improved sleeping bandits with stochastic action sets and adversarial rewards*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Luigi Carratino, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**, Lorenzo Rosasco: *Near-linear time Gaussian process optimization with adaptive batching and resparsification*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)
 - ◇ Anne Manegueu, Claire Vernade, Alexandra Carpentier, **Michal Valko**: *Delayed bandits with different and unknown delay distributions with unbounded support*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2020)

- ◇ Jean Tarbouriech, Matteo Pirotta, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric: *Reward-free Exploration beyond finite-horizon*, Theoretical Foundations of RL Workshop @ ICML 2020 (ICML 2020 - RL Theory)
 - ◇ Pierre Perrault, Vianney Perchet, **Michal Valko**: *Covariance-adapting algorithm for semi-bandits with application to sparse rewards*, Conference on Learning Theory (COLT 2020)
 - ◇ Xuedong Shang, Rianne de Heide, Emilie Kaufmann, Pierre Ménard, **Michal Valko**: *Fixed-confidence guarantees for Bayesian best-arm identification*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2020)
 - ◇ Côme Fiegl, Victor Gabillon, **Michal Valko**: *Adaptive multi-fidelity optimization with fast learning rates*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2020)
 - ◇ Victor Gabillon, Rasul Tutunov, **Michal Valko**, Haitham Bou Ammar: *Derivative-free & order-robust optimisation*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2020)
 - ◇ Julien Seznec, Pierre Ménard, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**: *A single algorithm for both restless and rested rotating bandits*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2020)
 - ◇ Tomáš Kocák, Rémi Munos, Branislav Kveton, Shipra Agrawal, **Michal Valko**: *Spectral Bandits*, accepted for publication to Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR 2020)
 - ◇ Branislav Kveton, Zheng Wen, Azin Ashkan, **Michal Valko**: *Learning to act greedily: Polymatroid semi-bandits*, accepted for publication to Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR 2020)
- 2019
- ◇ Jean-Bastien Grill*, Omar Darwiche Domingues*, Pierre Ménard, Rémi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Planning in entropy-regularized Markov decision processes and games*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2019)
 - ◇ Mark Rowland, Shayegan Omidshafiei, Karl Tuyls, Julien Pérolat, **Michal Valko**, Georgios Piliouras, Rémi Munos: *Multiagent evaluation under incomplete information*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2019)
 - ◇ Michał Dereziński*, Daniele Calandriello*, **Michal Valko**: *Exact sampling of determinantal point processes with sublinear time preprocessing*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2019)
 - ◇ Guillaume Gautier, Rémi Bardenet, **Michal Valko**: *On two ways to use determinantal point processes for Monte Carlo integration*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2019)
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Luigi Carratino, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**, Lorenzo Rosasco: *Gaussian process optimization with adaptive sketching: Scalable and no regret*, Conference on Learning Theory (COLT 2019)
 - ◇ Pierre Perrault, Vianney Perchet, **Michal Valko**: *Exploiting structure of uncertainty for efficient combinatorial semi-bandits*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2019)
 - ◇ Peter Bartlett, Victor Gabillon, Jennifer Healey, **Michal Valko**: *Scale-free adaptive planning for deterministic dynamics & discounted rewards*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2019)
 - ◇ Xuedong Shang, Emilie Kaufmann, **Michal Valko**: *A simple dynamic bandit-based algorithm for hyper-parameter tuning* Workshop on Automated Machine Learning at International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2019 - AutoML)
 - ◇ Julien Seznec, Andrea Locatelli, Alexandra Carpentier, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**: *Rotting bandits are no harder than stochastic ones*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2019) [full oral]

- ◇ Andrea Locatelli, Alexandra Carpentier, **Michal Valko**: *Active multiple matrix completion with adaptive confidence sets*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2019)
 - ◇ Pierre Perrault, Vianney Perchet, **Michal Valko**: *Finding the bandit in a graph: Sequential search-and-stop*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2019)
 - ◇ Peter Bartlett, Victor Gabillon, **Michal Valko**: *A simple parameter-free and adaptive approach to optimization under a minimal local smoothness assumption*, Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT 2019)
 - ◇ Xuedong Shang, Emilie Kaufmann, **Michal Valko**: *General parallel optimization without metric* Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT 2019)
 - Guillaume Gautier, Rémi Bardenet, **Michal Valko**: *DPPy: Sampling determinantal point processes with Python*, Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR 2019)
 - ◇ Guillaume Gautier, Rémi Bardenet, **Michal Valko**: *Les processus ponctuels déterminantaux en apprentissage automatique*, (Gretsi 2019)
- 2018
- ◇ Jean-Bastien Grill, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Optimistic optimization of a Brownian*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2018)
 - ◇ Edouard Oyallon, Eugene Belilovsky, Sergey Zagoruyko, **Michal Valko**: *Compressing the input for CNNs with the first-order scattering transform*, European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV 2018)
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Ioannis Koutis, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**: *Improved large-scale graph learning through ridge spectral sparsification*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2018)
 - ◇ Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori, Peter Bartlett, Victor Gabillon, Alan Malek, **Michal Valko**: *Best of both worlds: Stochastic & adversarial best-arm identification*, Conference on Learning Theory (COLT 2018)
 - ◇ Xuedong Shang, Emilie Kaufmann, **Michal Valko**: *Adaptive black-box optimization got easier: HCT needs only local smoothness*, European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning (EWRL 2018)
- 2017
- ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**: *Efficient second-order online kernel learning with adaptive embedding*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2017)
 - ◇ Zheng Wen, Branislav Kveton, **Michal Valko**, Sharan Vaswani: *Online influence maximization under independent cascade model with semi-bandit feedback*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2017)
 - ◇ Guillaume Gautier, Rémi Bardenet, **Michal Valko**: *Zonotope hit-and-run for efficient sampling from projection DPPs*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2017)
 - ◇ D. Calandriello, A. Lazaric, **M. Valko**: *Second-order kernel online convex optimization with adaptive sketching*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2017)
 - ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**: *Distributed adaptive sampling for kernel matrix approximation*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2017)
 - ◇ Akram Erraqabi, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**, Emma Brunskill, Yu-En Liu: *Trading off rewards and errors in multi-armed bandits*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2017)
- 2016
- ◇ Jean-Bastien Grill, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Blazing the trails before beating the path: Sample-efficient Monte-Carlo planning*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2016)

- ◇ Akram Erraqabi, **Michal Valko**, Alexandra Carpentier, Odalric-Ambrym Maillard: *Pliable rejection sampling*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2016)
- ◇ Tomáš Kocák, Gergely Neu, **Michal Valko**: *Online learning with noisy side observations*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2016) [full oral]
- ◇ Tomáš Kocák, Gergely Neu, **Michal Valko**: *Online learning with Erdős–Rényi side-observation graphs*, Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2016)
- ◇ Daniele Calandriello, Alessandro Lazaric, **Michal Valko**: *Analysis of Nyström method with sequential ridge leverage scores*, Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2016)
- ◇ Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Yaakov Engel, **Michal Valko**: *Bayesian policy gradient and actor-critic algorithms*, Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR 2016)
- ◇ Alexandra Carpentier, **Michal Valko**: *Revealing graph bandits for maximizing local influence*, International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2016)

- 2015
 - ◇ Jean-Bastien Grill, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Black-box optimization of noisy functions with unknown smoothness*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2015)
 - ◇ Alexandra Carpentier, **Michal Valko**: *Simple regret for infinitely many armed bandits*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2015)
 - ◇ Manjesh Hanawal, Venkatesh Saligrama, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Cheap Bandits*, The 32th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2015) [oral presentation]
 - ◇ Julien Audiffren, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh: *Maximum Entropy Semi-Supervised Inverse Reinforcement Learning*, The 24th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI 2015) [oral presentation]

- 2014
 - ◇ Tomáš Kocák, Gergely Neu, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos: *Efficient learning by implicit exploration in bandit problems with side observations*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2014)
 - ◇ Alexandra Carpentier, **Michal Valko**: *Extreme bandits*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2014)
 - ◇ Gergely Neu, **Michal Valko**: *Online combinatorial optimization with stochastic decision sets and adversarial losses*, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2014)
 - ◇ Julien Audiffren, **Michal Valko**, Alessandro Lazaric, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh: *MESSI: Maximum Entropy Semi-Supervised Inverse Reinforcement Learning*, NeurIPS Workshop on Novel Trends and Applications in Reinforcement Learning (NeurIPS 2014 - TCRL)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos, Branislav Kveton, Tomáš Kocák: *Spectral bandits for smooth graph functions*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2014)
 - ◇ Tomáš Kocák, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos, Shipra Agrawal: *Spectral Thompson Sampling*, The 28th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2014) [oral presentation]
 - ◇ Philippe Preux, Rémi Munos, **Michal Valko**: *Bandits attack function optimization*, IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC 2014)
 - ◇ Tomáš Kocák, **Michal Valko**, Rémi Munos, Branislav Kveton, Shipra Agrawal: *Spectral Bandits for Smooth Graph Functions with Applications in Recommender Systems*, AAAI Workshop on Sequential Decision-Making with Big Data (AAAI 2014 - SDBMD) [oral presentation]

- 2013
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Alexandra Carpentier, Rémi Munos: *Stochastic simultaneous optimistic optimization*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2013) [oral presentation]
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Nathan Korda, Rémi Munos, Ilias Flaounas, Nello Cristianini: *Finite-Time Analysis of Kernelised Contextual Bandits*, The 29nd Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2013)

- ◇ Branislav Kveton, **Michal Valko**: *Learning from a Single Labeled Face and a Stream of Unlabeled Data*, The 10th IEEE International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG 2013) [**spotlight**]
- ◇ Milos Hauskrecht, Iyad Batal, **Michal Valko**, Shyam Visweswaran, Gregory F. Cooper, Gilles Clermont: *Outlier detection for patient monitoring and alerting*, Journal of Biomedical Informatics (JBI 2013)
- ≤ 2012
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Alessandro Lazaric: *Semi-supervised apprenticeship learning*, in European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning (EWRL 2012)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Hamed Valizadegan, Branislav Kveton, Milos Hauskrecht: *Conditional Anomaly Detection with Soft Harmonic Functions*, International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM 2011)
 - ◇ Thomas C. Hart, Patricia M. Corby, Milos Hauskrecht, Ok Hee Ryu, Richard Pelikan, **Michal Valko**, Maria B. Oliveira, Gerald T. Hoehn, and Walter A. Bretz: *Identification of Microbial and Proteomic Biomarkers in Early Childhood Caries*, International Journal of Dentistry (IJD 2011)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**: *Adaptive Graph-Based Algorithms for Conditional Anomaly Detection and Semi-Supervised Learning*, Ph.D. thesis, University of Pittsburgh, (PITT 2011)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Hamed Valizadegan, Branislav Kveton, Gregory F. Cooper, Milos Hauskrecht: *Conditional Anomaly Detection Using Soft Harmonic Functions: An Application to Clinical Alerting*, Workshop on Machine Learning for Global Challenges in The Twenty-Eight International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2011 - Global)
 - ◇ Branislav Kveton, **Michal Valko**, Ali Rahimi, Ling Huang: *Semi-Supervised Learning with Max-Margin Graph Cuts*, The 13th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2010)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Branislav Kveton, Ling Huang, Daniel Ting: *Online semi-supervised learning on quantized graphs*, Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2010)
 - ◇ Milos Hauskrecht, **Michal Valko**, Shyam Visweswaram, Iyad Batal, Gilles Clermont, Gregory Cooper: *Conditional outlier detection for clinical alerting*, Annual American Medical Informatics Association conference (AMIA 2010) [**Homer Warner best paper award**]
 - ◇ Branislav Kveton, **Michal Valko**, Matthai Phillipose, Ling Huang: *Online Semi-Supervised Perception: Real-Time Learning without Explicit Feedback*, The Fourth IEEE Online Learning for Computer Vision Workshop in The 23rd IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR 2010 - OLCV) [**Google best paper award**]
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Milos Hauskrecht: *Feature importance analysis for patient management decisions*, 13th International Congress on Medical Informatics (MEDINFO 2010)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Gregory Cooper, Amy Seybert, Shyam Visweswaran, Melissa Saul, Milos Hauskrecht: *Conditional anomaly detection methods for patient-management alert systems*, Workshop on Machine Learning in Health Care Applications in The Twenty-Fifth International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2008 - MLHealth)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Milos Hauskrecht: *Distance metric learning for conditional anomaly detection*, Twenty-First International Florida AI Research Society Conference (FLAIRS 2008)
 - ◇ **Michal Valko**, Richard Pelikan, Milos Hauskrecht: *Learning predictive models for combinations of heterogeneous proteomic data sources*, AMIA Summit on Translational Bioinformatics (STB 2008) [**best paper award**]
 - ◇ Milos Hauskrecht, **Michal Valko**, Branislav Kveton, Shyam Visweswaram, Gregory Cooper: *Evidence-based Anomaly Detection in Clinical Domains* in Annual American Medical Informatics Association conference (AMIA 2007) [**nominated for the best paper award**]

- ◇ Wendy W. Chapman, John N. Dowling, Gregory F. Cooper, Milos Hauskrecht, **Michal Valko**: *A Comparison of Chief Complaints and Emergency Department Reports for Identifying Patients with Acute Lower Respiratory Syndrome* in Proceedings of the National Syndromic Surveillance Conference (ISDS 2006)
- ◇ Milos Hauskrecht, Richard Pelikan, **Michal Valko**, James Lyons-Weiler: *Feature Selection and Dimensionality Reduction in Genomics and Proteomics*. Fundamentals of Data Mining in Genomics and Proteomics, eds. Berrar, Dubitzky, Granzow. Springer (2006)
- ◇ **Michal Valko**, Nuno C. Marques, Marco Castalani: *Evolutionary Feature Selection for Spiking Neural Network Pattern Classifiers* in Proceedings of Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence (EPIA 2005), eds. Bento et al., IEEE, p. 24–32
- ◇ **Michal Valko** *Evolving Neural Networks for Statistical Decision Theory*, Comenius University, Bratislava, master thesis, advisor: Radoslav Harman (2005)

- OLDER PREPRINTS ◇ Zhaohan Daniel Guo, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Alaa Saade, Shantanu Thakoor, Bilal Piot, Bernardo Avila Pires, **Michal Valko**, Thomas Mesnard, Tor Lattimore, Rémi Munos: *Geometric entropic exploration*, (preprint)
- ◇ Mehdi Azabou, Mohammad Gheshlaghi Azar, Ran Liu, Chi-Heng Lin, Erik C. Johnson, Kiran Bhaskaran-Nair, Max Dabagia, Bernardo Avila Pires, Lindsey Kitchell, Keith B. Hengen, William Gray-Roncal, **Michal Valko**, Eva L. Dyer: *Mine Your Own view: Self-supervised learning through across-sample prediction*, (preprint)
- ◇ Pierre Perrault, Jennifer Healey, Zheng Wen, Michal Valko **Michal Valko**: *On the approximation relationship between optimizing ratio of submodular (RS) and difference of submodular (DS) functions*, (preprint)

- STUDENTS ◇ *Côme Fiegel*, 2022 – 2025, ENS Ulm/MVA, Ph.D. student with P. Ménard and Vianney Perchet
- ◇ *Daniil Tiapkin*, 2023 – 2025, X, Ph.D. student with A. Naumov, D. Belomestny, É. Moulines, and P. Ménard
- ◇ *Lisa Bedin*, 2021 – 2025, ENS Ulm/X, Ph.D. student with É. Moulines

- POSTDOCS ◇ *Pierre Ménard*, 2019 – 2020, ENS Rennes/U . Toulouse, postdoc, Inria, with E. Kaufmann
- ◇ *Edouard Oyallon*, 2017 – 2018, ENS Rennes/ENS Ulm, postdoc, Inria

- PAST STUDENTS ◇ *Daniel Jarrett*, 2022, University of Cambridge, visiting Ph.D. student, with C. Tallec
- ◇ *Jean Tarbouriech*, 2019 – 2022, X/MVA, Ph.D. student, Inria/FAIR, with Alessandro Lazaric
- ◇ *Omar Darwiche Domingues*, 2018 – 2022, EC Paris/MVA, Ph.D. student, Inria, with E. Kaufmann
- ◇ *Xuedong Shang*, 2017 – 2021, ENS Rennes, Ph.D. student, Inria, with E. Kaufmann
- ◇ *Julien Seznec*, 2017 – 2020, ENS Ulm/MVA, Ph.D. student, Inria/Lelivrescolaire.fr, with Alessandro Lazaric and Jonathan Banon
- ◇ *Pierre Perrault*, 2017 – 2020, ENS Paris-Saclay/MVA, Ph.D. student, Inria/ENS Paris-Saclay, with Vianney Perchet
- ◇ *Guillaume Gautier*, 2017 – 2020, EC Lille/MVA, Ph.D. student, Inria/CNRS, with R. Bardenet
- ◇ *Jean-Bastien Grill*, 2014 – 2019, ENS Ulm/MVA, Ph.D. student, Inria/ENS Paris, with R. Munos
- ◇ *Yunhao Tang*, 2019 – 2020, Columbia University, visiting PhD student, with R. Munos
- ◇ *Aadirupa Saha*, 2019 – 2020, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, visiting PhD student, with P. Gaillard
- ◇ *Kaige Yang*, 2019, University College London, visiting PhD student, with P. Ménard
- ◇ *Rianne de Heide*, 2019, visiting PhD. student, CWI/Leiden University, with E. Kaufmann

- ◇ *Daniele Calandriello*, 2014 – 2017, PhD. student, Polimi, **AFIA, 1st prize** Inria, with Alessandro Lazaric
- ◇ *Tomáš Kocák*, 2013 – 2016, Comenius University, Ph.D. student, Inria, with R. Munos
- ◇ *Côme Fiegel*, 2019, ENS Ulm, M2 student, with P. Ménard and Vianney Perchet
- ◇ *Robert Müller*, 2020, Technical University of Munich, M2 student, with P. Ménard
- ◇ *Ahmed Choukara*, 2020, ENS Ulm, L3 student, with P. Ménard
- ◇ *Côme Fiegel*, 2019, ENS Ulm, L3 student, with V. Gabillon
- ◇ *Axel Elaldi*, 2018, master student, École Centrale de Lille
- ◇ *Xuedong Shang*, 2017, master student, ENS Rennes, with E. Kaufmann
- ◇ *Guillaume Gautier*, 2016, master student, ENS Paris-Saclay, with R. Bardenet
- ◇ *Andrea Locatelli*, 2015 – 2016, master student, ENS Paris-Saclay, with A. Carpentier
- ◇ *Akram Erraqabi*, 2015, master student, École Polytechnique, Paris
- ◇ *Souhail Toum*, 2015 – 2016, master student, École Centrale de Lille, with R. Bardenet
- ◇ *Mastane Achab*, 2015, master student, École Polytechnique, Paris, with G. Neu
- ◇ *Jean-Bastien Grill*, 2014, master student, ENS Paris, with R. Munos
- ◇ *Alexandre Dubus*, 2012 – 2013, master student, Université Lille1 - Sciences et Technologies
- ◇ *Karim Jedda*, 2012–2013, master student, École Centrale de Lille
- ◇ *Alexis Wehrli*, 2012–2013 master student, École Centrale de Lille

INVITED
TALKS

- ◇ *Math reasoning with metacognitive capabilities of LLMs*, September 21–25, 2025, Castiglione della Pescaia, Italy (IAISS 2025)
- ◇ *Powerful LLM alignment* (keynote), Sep 12–13, 2025, Yerevan, Armenia (DataFest 2025)
- ◇ *Maths of LLMs (mini-course)*, June 29 – July 6, 2025, Tsaghkadzor, Armenia (MSS 2025)
- ◇ *World AI Conference Day* June, 2025, Shanghai, China (WAIC 2025)
- ◇ *Ghost Day* May 9-10, 2025, Poznań, Poland (GHOST 2025)
- ◇ *AI strategy and investment insights* May 9-10, 2025, Poznań, Poland (GHOST 2025)
- ◇ *Thinking about thinking*, (keynote) April 2025, Stockholm, Sweden (SEB 2025)
- ◇ *Uncertainty in LLMs*, (keynote) April 5-6 2025, Abu Dhabi, UAE (ATML 2025)
- ◇ *ESET World*, (keynote) March 26, 2025, Las Vegas, USA (ESET 2025)
- ◇ *Foundation Models in Science*, March 18, 2025, Berlin, Germany (ELLIS 2025)
- ◇ *Enterprise AI Summit Europe*, March 9-11, 2025, Munich, Germany (EAI 2025)
- ◇ *DeepMind & Beyond: Czech and Slovak Scientists at the AI Frontier*, February 26, 2025, Prague, Czech Republic (Kaya 2025)
- ◇ *Microsoft AI Tour*, February 20, 2025, Lisbon, Portugal (MSR 2025)
- ◇ *LLM and deep RL masterclasses*, February 20, 2025, Lisbon, Portugal (MSR 2025)
- ◇ *Intricacies of game-theoretical LLM alignment*, February 17-22, 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia (FEI Paris 2025)
- ◇ *Thinking about thinking in LLMs*, February 6-7, 2025, Paris, France (AI Action Summit 2025)
- ◇ *Metacognitive Capabilities of LLMs* Jan 29–30, 2025, Jacksonville, Florida, USA (xTelliGent 2025)
- ◇ *Metacognition for the new generation of models*, Dec 3, 2024, Paris, France (GenerationAI 2024)
- ◇ *Deep reinforcement learning masterclass*, Dec 3, 2024, Paris, France (IASD 2024)

- ◇ *Llama 4 training*, Nov 15, 2024, Humenné, Slovakia (TEDx 2024)
- ◇ *Mathematics of Large Language Models* Nov 13, 2024, Humenné, Slovakia (Connections 2024)
- ◇ *Alligning LLMs with human preferences* Nov 9, 2024, Porto, Portugal (Sword 2024)
- ◇ *Graphs in ML* (minicourse), November 4–8, 2024, Eindhoven, Netherlands (EURANDOM 2024)
- ◇ *Llama 3 and its alignment*, October 23-24 2024, Stockholm, Sweden, (NDSML 2024)
- ◇ *New era of open-source AI*, September 30, 2024, Prague, Czech Republic (CZU 2024)
- ◇ *Algorithmic LLM alignment* (keynote), September 22–25, 2024, Castiglione della Pescaia, Tuscany (LOD 2024)
- ◇ *Uncertainty in LLM alignment*, September 18-19, 2024, Copenhagen, Denmark (GenU 2024)
- ◇ *Gamification of Large Language Models* (keynote), June 30–July 3, 2024, Edmonton, Canada (COLT 2024)
- ◇ *Nash learning from human feedback* (keynote), April 4–6, 2024, Poznań, Poland (Ghost 2024)
- ◇ *Algorithmic LLM alignment*, February 1st, 2024, Princeton PLI, USA (Princeton 2024)
- ◇ *Curious world models*, (keynote) September 14–16, 2023, Brussels, Belgium (EWRL 2023)
- ◇ *Learning by bootstrapping: Reinforcement Learning* (keynote), September 2–3, 2023, Yerevan, Armenia (DataFest 2023)
- ◇ *Deep reinforcement learning* (plenary) June 10-14, 2023, Tuscany, Italy (ACDL 2023)
- ◇ *World Models: Curiosity driven exploration* (two master classes), January 26-27, 2023, Marrakesh, Morocco (Tech'Innov 2023)
- ◇ *Learning by bootstrapping*, Vedatour, Bratislava, Slovakia (ESET 2022)
- ◇ *Learning by bootstrapping* (keynote), Runtime Verification, September 28-30, 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia (RV 2022)
- ◇ *Best of both worlds for best-arm identification*, Simons program on Data-driven decision processes, September 12-16, 2022, Simons institute, Berkeley, California, USA (Berkeley 2022)
- ◇ *Model-free learning for two-player zero-sum partially observable Markov games with perfect recall*, ELLIS unit Milan workshop, September 8-9, 2022, Milan, Italy (Milan 2022)
- ◇ *Reinforcement learning (lecture) and BYOL-Explore (talk)*, Eastern European Machine Learning Summer School, July, 6-14, 2022, Vilnius Lithuania (EEML 2022)
- ◇ *Bootstrap your own latent*, Presented on September 11th, 2021 at DataFest Yerevan (DataFest 2021)
- ◇ *Bootstrapped representation learning on graphs*, Presented on June, 23rd 2021 at Science Academy of Turkey Machine Learning Summer School (BAYÖYO 2021)
- ◇ *Graphs in Machine Learning*, Invited guest lecture at Medical University Graz, Austria, June 2021 (HCAI 2021)
- ◇ *Bootstrap Your Own Latent: A new approach to self-supervised learning* Presented in January 2021 at MIST conference in Rajecá Lesná (MIST 2021)
- ◇ *Bootstrap Your Own Latent: A new approach to self-supervised learning*, Presented in December 2020 at Reinforcement Learning seminar at Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS 2020)
- ◇ *Bootstrap Your Own Latent: A new approach to self-supervised learning*, Presented in December 16th, 2020 at Google, (GOOG 2020)
- ◇ *BYOL works even without batch statistics* Presented in December 2020 at Deep learning seminar at UPJS, Košice, Slovakia (UPJS 2020)
- ◇ *Reinforcement learning* (minicourse), Presented during Math of Machine Learning Winter School during in February 19-18, 2020 in Sochi, Russia (Sochi 2020)

- ◇ *Graphs are the new gold: The power of graphs in speeding up online learning and decision making*, Presented during October 16-18, 2019 in FAST, Yerevan, Armenia (GIF 2019)
- ◇ *Gaussian process optimization with adaptive sketching: Scalable and no regret*, Presented during September 26-28, 2019 at Recent developments in kernel methods, UCL, London, UK (LanDeep 2019)
- ◇ *Rotting bandits are not harder than stochastic ones*, Presented during September 25-26, 2019 in Lancaster and Deepmind Bandit Workshop, Imperial, London, UK (LanDeep 2019)
- ◇ *Graphs are the new gold: The power of graphs in speeding up online learning and decision making*, Presented on July 23th, 2019, for Cisco in Kraków, Poland (Cisco 2019)
- ◇ *How the negative dependence broke quadratic barrier for learning with graphs and kernels*, Presented July 5th, 2019 at Yandex HQ, Moscow, Russia (Yandex 2019)
- ◇ *Invited talk on research achievements in machine learning*, Presented during July 3-8th, at RAAI Summer School, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia (RAAI 2019)
- ◇ *How the negative dependence broke quadratic barrier for learning with graphs and kernels*, Presented during June 14-15th, at ICML workshop on negative dependence, Long Beach, California, USA (ICML 2019)
- ◇ *Active block-matrix completion with adaptive confidence sets*, Presented on May 28th, 2019 at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia (CU 2016)
- ◇ *10-year road to breaking the quadratic barrier for graphs and matrices*, Presented on February 22nd, 2019 at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia (CU 2016)
- ◇ *Graphs are the new gold*, Presented on February 20th, 2019 at P.J. Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia (UPJS 2016)
- ◇ *The power of graphs in speeding up online learning and decision making*, Presented on January 25th, Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, University of Cambridge, UK (Cambridge 2019)
- ◇ *The power of graphs in speeding up online learning and decision making*, Presented on January 8th, Verimag, CNRS Grenoble, France (CNRS 2019)
- ◇ *A simple parameter-free and adaptive approach to optimization under a minimal local smoothness assumption*, Presented on January 7th, Verimag, CNRS Grenoble, France (CNRS 2019)
- ◇ *The power of graphs in speeding up online learning and decision making*, Presented on October 23rd, DeepMind, London, UK (DeepMind 2018)
- ◇ *Active block-matrix completion with adaptive confidence sets*, Presented on September 10–13th, 2018, International Workshop on Optimization and Machine Learning, CIMI, Toulouse (CIMI 2018)
- ◇ *Online influence maximization*, Presented on May 14th, 2018, Workshop on Graph Learning, LINC, Paris (LINC 2018)
- ◇ *Recommender systems*, Presented on March 22nd, 2018, Journée Big data, Polytech'Lille (Polytech'Lille 2018)
- ◇ *Pliable rejection sampling*, Presented on February 8th, 2018 at GDR Isis, Télécom ParisTech in Paris (ISIS 2018)
- ◇ *Graph Bandits*, Presented on January 7th, 2018 at MIST conference in Rajecá Lesná (MIST 2018)
- ◇ *SequeL, graphs in ML, and online recommender systems*, Presented on November 9th, 2017 at Plateau Inria Euratechnologies in Lille, France (Euratechnologies 2017)
- ◇ *Sequential sampling for kernel matrix approximation and online learning* Presented on September 19th, DeepMind, London, UK (DeepMind 2017)

- ◇ *Active learning on networks and online influence maximization*, Presented on September 18th, 2017, Decision Theory and Network Science: Methods and Applications, Lancaster, UK (STOR-i 2017)
- ◇ *Side observation in graph bandits*, Presented on July 11th, 2017, ICML 2017 workshop on Picky Learners, Sydney, Australia (ICML 2017)
- ◇ *Distributed sequential sampling for kernel matrix approximation*, Presented on June 28th, 2017, L'Institut de Mathématiques de Toulouse, France (IMT 2017)
- ◇ *Online sequential solutions for recommender systems*, Presented on June 14th, 2017 at Journées Scientifiques Inria 2017 in Nice, France (JS 2017)
- ◇ *Comment maximiser la détection des influenceurs sur les réseaux sociaux ?*, popularization talk, Presented on May 30th, 2017 at 13 France (Inria 13:45 2017)
- ◇ *Where is Justin Bieber?*, Presented on March 30th, 2017 at Dating day in Lille, France (Dating 2017)
- ◇ *Distributed sequential sampling for kernel matrix approximation*, Presented on March 22nd, 2017, for Universität Potsdam at Amazon (Berlin 2017)
- ◇ *Graphs in online machine learning*, Presented on December 21st, 2016 at Textkernel talk series in Amsterdam, Netherlands (TK 2016)
- ◇ *Where is Justin Bieber?*, Presented on September 22nd, 2016 at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia (CU 2016)
- ◇ *Bandit learning*, Presented on September 15–19th, 2016 at Information technologies - Applications and Theory, at Tatranské Matliare, High Tatras, Slovakia (ITAT 2016)
- ◇ *Decision-making on graphs without graphs*, Presented on June 16-17th, 2016 at Graph-based Learning and Graph Mining workshop, at Inria Lille, France (GBLGM 2016)
- ◇ *Sequential learning on graphs with limited feedback*, Presented on May 11–13th, 2016 at Data Driven Approach to Networks and Language, at ENS Lyon, France (NETSpringLyon 2016)
- ◇ *Benefits of Graphs in Bandit Settings*, Presented on January 11–12th, 2016 at Multi-armed Bandit Workshop 2016 at STOR-i, Lancaster University, UK (STOR-i 2016)
- ◇ *Online decision-making on graphs: Smoothness and Side Observations*, Presented at DaSciM, LIX, École Polytechnique, France, April 14th, 2015 (X 2015)
- ◇ *Bandits on Graphs: Exploiting Smoothness and Side Observations*, Presented at CMLA, ENS Paris-Saclay, France, December 16th, 2014 (ENS 2014)
- ◇ *Optimistic Optimization*, Presented at MIST conference, Fačkovské sedlo, Slovakia, January 7th, 2014 (MIST 2014)
- ◇ *Sequential Face Recognition with Minimal Feedback*, Presented at 30 minutes of Science, Lille, May 2nd, 2013 (Inria 2013)
- ◇ *One Class Learning From Streams of Unlabeled Data*, Presented at Large-scale Online Learning and Decision Making Workshop, April 28th, 2012 (LSOLDM 2012)
- ◇ *Scaling Graph-Based Algorithms*, Presented at LAMPADA workshop, July 20th, 2012 (LAMPADA 2012)
- ◇ *Large Scale Sequential Learning*, opening speaker at Slovak Oxford Science, April 28th, 2012 (Oxford UK 2012)
- ◇ *Adaptive Graph-Based Algorithms*, Presented on July 6th, 2011 at Microsoft Research Redmond (MSR Redmont 2011)
- ◇ *Online Semi-Supervised Learning*, Presented in 2011 at MPI Tübingen, Germany (MPI Tübingen 2011)
- ◇ *Semi-supervised Learning with Random Walks on Graphs*, Presented at 6th Comenius University Alumni conference (TAM 2009)

DEMOS,
PRESENTATIONS

- ◇ **Michal Valko:** *Graph-Based Anomaly Detection with Soft Harmonic Functions*, Presented at CS Department Research Competition (2011), also at CS Day (2011) and Grad Expo (2011) [1st place]
- ◇ Branislav Kveton, **Michal Valko**, Matthai Philiposse: *Real-Time Adaptive Face Recognition*, Presented at 23rd Neural Information Processing Systems conference (NeurIPS 2009), Demonstration
- ◇ **Michal Valko**, Branislav Kveton, Matthai Philiposse: *Robust Face Recognition Using On-line Learning*, Presented at 9th University of Pittsburgh Science conference (SCIENCE 2009) Live Demo (CS Day 2010) Poster (Grad Expo 2010) Talk
- ◇ **Michal Valko:** *Conditional anomaly detection with adaptive similarity metric*, Presented at CS Department Research Competition (2008) [1st place]
- ◇ **Michal Valko**, Milos Hauskrecht, G. Cooper, S. Visweswaran, M. Saul, A. Seybert, J. Harrison, A. Post: *Conditional Anomaly Detection*, Presented at (CS Day 2008), Poster [1st place by people's choice, 2nd by faculty] also at (Grad Expo 2008)

MEDIA

- ◇ Forbes Cover: Slovak AIInstein Valko: I want to use AI to alleviate the suffering around us (March 2025)
- ◇ He worked for Zuckerberg, now he's launching his own startup: Slovak Michal is a top expert in the field of AI – StartItUp (February 2025)
- ◇ The AI Book – Ringier (February 2025)
- ◇ DeepSeek, what's going on? – Forbes (February 2025)
- ◇ Tronche de Tech podcast (January 2025)
- ◇ Farewell, Mark Zuckerberg. Slovak Michal Valko has left Meta, starting his own business – Forbes (January 2025)
- ◇ Famous Slovaks Abroad – Book (December 2024)
- ◇ What is AI brining for Christmas 2025 and for NYE 2025 – Slovak Radio (December 2024)
- ◇ Slovak Scientist Valko: AI won't replace us, but people who use will – SME Closer, Slovakia (November 2024)
- ◇ Michal Valko reveals machine-learning endgame –Slovak Spectator (October 2024)
- ◇ Science podcast Vedátor with Michal Valko –Slovak Spectator(October 2024)
- ◇ I wanted to learn in detail how large language models work, says Michal Valko –Journal N, Slovakia (September 2024)
- ◇ Michal Valko starting at Meta, GenAI on Llama team (2024)
 - The Information: Meta Pursues AI Talent With Quick Offers, Emails From Zuckerberg
 - NY Post: Sergey Brin, Mark Zuckerberg have personally recruited AI staffers as talent war heats up
 - Business Insider: Mark Zuckerberg is writing personal emails to AI researchers at Google's DeepMind to recruit them: report
 - conTXTto: Zuckerberg Targets Google's DeepMind Talent for Meta's AI Ambitions
 - AOL: Sergey Brin, Mark Zuckerberg have personally recruited AI staffers as talent war heats up
 - Les Echos: IA : la guerre des talents fait rage dans la Silicon Valley
 - Weixin: Crazy rush for AI talent! Meta does not require an interview!
- ◇ Michal Valko: Guest of Radio Slovakia Interview with Nora Gubková - Radio Slovakia (November 2023)
- ◇ Tom Cruise's mother had no children. Wait, what? Interview with Matúš Beňo - Sme/Slovak Spectator (November 2023)

- ◇ Slovak scientist develops AI in the Google laboratory. Is the panicked fear of AI misplaced? Interview with Maroš Žofčín - ŽIVÉ.SK (September 2023)
- ◇ EEML (July 2023)
 - TASR: VIDEO: The summer school brought world experts in AI to Košice
 - RTVS: Slovak National Public TV news on EEML
 - Polish coverage: Instead of holidays, they chose science. In Košice they learn about learning
 - SME: Artisans of artificial intelligence in a steel city
 - StartItUp: Recognized world experts for artificial intelligence came to Košice
 - Rádio Košice: Košice gets European gets leaders in artificial intelligence to lecture
 - NexTech: The summer school brought to Košice the world leaders in the field of artificial intelligence
 - DennikN: How to apply in IT when artificial intelligence is already programming? Cultivate logical thinking, advises the head of DeepMind research
 - PC Revue: Video: Summer school of machine learning
 - TA3: In Košice, they are tackling artificial intelligence. They cooperate with the world's leading experts
 - HN Online: We have already seen the future today
- ◇ We have a chance to improve humanity's access to energy and medicine, says an artificial intelligence expert - Interview with Zuzana Vitková, Journal "Denník N", Slovakia (October 2022)
- ◇ Scientist Valko on AI and curiosity - Interview with Braňo Dobšínský - Journal "Aktuality.sk", Slovakia (October 2022)
- ◇ Science in the world - Interview with Dáša Omastová - Radio Slovakia (October 2022)
- ◇ Interview in the TV show "Science and technology", Slovakia (October 2022)
- ◇ Interview - Morning TV News, RTVS, Slovakia (October 2022)
- ◇ Vedec Valko: Empatická umelá inteligencia je sci-fi - Journal Sme, Slovakia (December 2021)
- ◇ O umelej inteligencii a strojovom učení s Michalom Valkom: .týždeň .jednoducho veda (October 2021)
- ◇ Slovenský vedec Michal Valko žije vo Francúzsku, kde sa špecializuje na výskum umelej inteligencie - Rádio Expres (October 2021)
- ◇ Veda podľa Valka najviac prosperuje, keď si vedci majú čas klásť otázky - Rozhovory ZKH (October 2021)
- ◇ L'apprentissage automatique apprivoise les graphes - Data Analytics Post (July 2021)
- ◇ BYOL and self-supervised learning - Data Analytics Post (April 2021)
- ◇ Discussion Science helps - Covid-19 (December 2020)
- ◇ Slovak national TV: Zaostrené - Správy RTVS - profil (November 2020)
- ◇ Slovak journal: Pravda (November 2020)
- ◇ Slovak journal: Hospodárske noviny - AI (October 2020)
- ◇ Slovak national radio: RTVS Rádio DEVÍN - Akadémia (October 2020)
- ◇ Radio Slovakia International - Slovakia Today with Jonathan McCormick (October 2020)
- ◇ ESET Science Awards (October 2020)
- ◇ Forbes - Nahradia roboti lekárov a budú obchody bez pokladní?(October 2020)

- ◇ Slovak national radio: Rádio FM - Hľadáme algoritmy na pomoc klíme či opravu tkaniva, zaujímajú nás veľké problémy - video (October 2020)
- ◇ SME podcast Klik - Klik špeciál: Aj umelá inteligencia zvykne katastroficky zabúdať (October 2020)
- ◇ Forbes Technologies - Ako algoritmy a AI menia náš každodenný život (October 2020)
- ◇ Wall Street Journal (August 2020) — Self-supervised learning
- ◇ Denník N - Slovak national newspaper (July 2020) — We want to solve problems that would deserve a Nobel Prize
- ◇ #NEWSam - Armenian national TV (November 2019) — AI will be much more communicative in next 5-10 years
- ◇ Invited to speak at ARTE on AI (October 2019)
- ◇ *Invited to speak at France Culture — La Méthode scientifique* (April 2019)
- ◇ *Daniele Calandriello wins the prize for the Best AI Thesis in France in 2018* at outlets of Inria, CNRS, Lille1, Actu, La Voix du Nord, Newstank (April 2018)
- ◇ *Adobe research highlights our work on online influence maximization presented at NeurIPS 2017* (January 2018)
- ◇ *CNRS publishes a French article about zonotope sampling presented at ICML* (2017)
- ◇ *Julien Seznec, our PhD student publishes an article in Les Echos that discusses ML for education* (November 2017)
- ◇ *Interview A. Lazaric about our work on ML for education*, at inria.fr (December 2016)
- ◇ *Interview with N. Vayatis and M. Valko Graphs in ML course at ENS/MVA* (July 2015)
- ◇ *Interview with Rue89 about machine learning at Inria* (June 2015)
- ◇ *Intel advertising face recognition* (February 2015) (February 2015)
- ◇ *Biometric applications will soon be part of our daily life* at ARTE Future (November 2014)
- ◇ *Face Recognition* at Sciences et Avenir (July 2014)
- ◇ *Ford and Intel Mobii project using Face Recognition*, at engadget.com (June 2014)
- ◇ *Ford prototype using Face Recognition* at intel.com (June 2014)
- ◇ *Intel collaborates with Inria on Face Recognition*, at inria.fr (March 2013)
- ◇ *Studying abroad* at Bussiness Magazine Profit/Trend (2010)

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 ◇ Organizing co-chair: EEML (Slovakia 2023)
- ACTIVITIES ◇ 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)
- THESIS ◇ *Pierre Clavier*, École Polytechnique, November 2024 —Apprentissage par renforcement robuste: théorie et pratique. *Examiner*
- COMMITTEES ◇ *Florian Felten*, University of Luxembourg, June 2024 — Multi-objective reinforcement learning. *Reviewer and Examiner*
- ◇ *Rémi Jézéquel*, Inria / École Normale Supérieure, March 2023, *Examiner*
- ◇ *Yoan Russac*, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, March 2022, *Examiner*

- ◇ *Nicolas Vecoven*, The University of Liège, Belgium, January 2022, *Examiner*
- ◇ *Guillaume Salha*, École Polytechnique, Paris, January 2022, *Examiner*
- ◇ *Mastane Achab*, Télécom ParisTech, July 2019, *Reviewer*
- ◇ *Stratis Limnios*, École Polytechnique, Paris, July 2019, *Examiner*
- ◇ *Aristide Tossou*, Chalmers University of Technology, December 2019, Sur la notion d'optimalité dans les problèmes de bandits stochastiques. *Reviewer and Opponent*
- ◇ *Tommaso Renato Cesari*, Università degli studi di Milano, November 2019 — Algorithms, Learning, and Optimization. *Reviewer*
- ◇ *Zhenyu Liao*, CentraleSupélec, Gif-sur-Yvette — Theorie des matrices aléatoires pour l'apprentissage automatique en grande dimension et les reseaux de neurones, September 2019. *Examiner*
- ◇ *Pierre Ménard*, Université Toulouse 3 Paul Sabatier, June 2018 — Sur la notion d'optimalité dans les problèmes de bandits stochastiques. *Reviewer*
- ◇ *Clément Bouttier*, Université Toulouse 3 Paul Sabatier, June 2017 — Optimisation globale sous incertitude: algorithmes stochastiques et bandits continus avec application aux performances avion. *Reviewer*
- ◇ *Thibault Liétard*, Université Lille, September 2018 — Adaptive graph learning with application to natural language processing, *Ph.D. mid-term evaluation reviewer*
- ◇ *Mariana Vargas Vieyra*, Université Lille, September 2017 — Adaptive graph learning with application to natural language processing, *Ph.D. mid-term evaluation reviewer*
- ◇ *Benoît Choffin*, LRI/CentraleSupélec - Université Paris-Saclay, July 2019 — Planning pedagogical activities on an e-learning platform for sustainable learning, *Ph.D. mid-term evaluation reviewer*
- ◇ *Guillaume Salha*, École Polytechnique, Paris, November 2020 — Contributions to Representation Learning on Graphs with Autoencoders, *Ph.D. mid-term evaluation reviewer*
- ◇ *Georgios Dasoulas*, École Polytechnique, Paris, November 2020 — The expressive power of graph neural networks and its impact on structured representation learning *Ph.D. mid-term evaluation reviewer*

MASTER THESIS COMMITTEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ <i>MVA M2 master</i>, 10 students, 2019, <i>Tutor and Jury Member</i> ◇ <i>MVA M2 master</i>, 8 students, 2018, <i>Tutor and Jury Member</i> ◇ <i>MVA M2 master</i>, 6 students, 2017, <i>Tutor and Jury Member</i>
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CONTESTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 1st place, Slovak Mathematical Olympiad, regional final 1993, 1994, 1996 ◇ 9th place, Programming Contest Zenit (national final) 1998 ◇ Correspondence seminars in Computer Science and Math 1992 – 2000 consistently ranked in top 10 nation-wide
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SKILLS & HOBBIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 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)
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- ◇ Volleyball Player, TU Slavia, Kosice (1998 – 2000)
- ◇ Choir Singer - Tenor 2a: Coeli et terra (chœur de chambre, 2012 – now) Madrigal de Lille (2011 – 2014), Chœur Régional Nord-Pas-de-Calais Madrigal de Lille (2011 – 2013) University of Pittsburgh Men’s Glee Club (2009 – 2011), First Baptist Choir (2007 – 2009), St. Paul’s Choir (2007), Dominik Choir (1990–1991). Taken private lessons with Noémi Capron (2013 – now), Maurice Bourbon (2012–2015), Richard Earl Teaster (2007 – 2011), and Claudia Pinza (2007)

RESEARCH
PROJECTS

- ◇ **Graph Bandits** with Gergely Neu, Tomáš Kocák, Rémi Munos, Shipra Agrawal, Alexandra Carpentier, Branislav Kveton, Zheng Wen (2013 - present)
Bandit problems are online decision-making problems where the only feedback given to the learner is a (noisy) reward of the chosen decision. In early sequential decision-making research, we treated each of the decisions independently. While this is enough when the number of actions is very small, it becomes impractical (both theoretically and in practice) when the set of potential actions comprises larger sets, such as a set of movies or products in a recommender system. The minimax regret guarantees scale as $\Theta(\sqrt{NT})$ where N is the number of actions and T is the time horizon. If N happens to be large (such as the number of movies that is in millions), these guarantees are weak. Luckily, the problems become easier if there is efficient information sharing between the actions. For graphs structure, We study the benefits of homophily (similar actions give similar rewards) under the name spectral bandits, side information (well-informed bandits), and influence maximization (IM bandits). In the algorithms, we take advantage of these similarities in order to (provably) learn faster. With respect to the guarantees my colleagues and I derived, we replaced N (number of actions = number of nodes in a graph) with some graph-dependent quantity, possibly smaller than N if the graph structure is helpful.
- ◇ **SQUEAK: Online sparsification of kernels and graphs** with Daniele Calandriello, Alessandro Lazaric, Yiannis Koutis (2009 - 2018)
My PhD thesis ended with an open direction, whether efficient spectral sparsifiers can fuel online graph-learning methods to make online learning with similarities even possible, i.e., with guaranteed performance and non-increasing time-step complexity. In the offline case, this was done already by Spielman et. al (2004). The difficulty of the online case is that we need to deal with the relevance of the data that we have not seen yet. For the problem of spectral approximation in a RKHS, we introduce the first dictionary-learning streaming algorithm that operates in a single-pass over the dataset. Previous results (Alaoui and Mahoney, 2015; and Bach 2013) had either a quadratic-time complexity, or a space complexity that scaled with the coherence of the dataset, a quantity always larger than the effective dimension. Prior methods have also two major drawbacks: (1) they require multiple passes over the data or alternatively random access to the dataset, and (2) they have inherent bottlenecks that make it difficult to parallelize them. We introduce a new single-pass streaming RLS sampling approach that sequentially constructs the dictionary, where each step compares a new sample only with the current intermediate dictionary and not all past samples. We prove that the size of all intermediate dictionaries scales only with the effective dimension of the dataset, and therefore guarantee a per-step time and space complexity independent from the number of samples. This reduces the overall time required to construct provably accurate dictionaries from quadratic to near-linear, or even logarithmic when parallelized. Finally, for many non-parametric learning problems (e.g., K-PCA, graph SSL, online kernel learning) we show that we can use the generated dictionaries to compute approximate solutions in near-linear that are both provably accurate and empirically competitive.
- ◇ **Sample efficient Monte-Carlo tree search: TrailBlazer, SmoothCruiser, StoSOO, POO, and OOB** with Jean-Bastien Grill, Rémi Munos, Alexandra Carpentier (2011 - now)
Monte-Carlo planning and Monte-Carlo tree search has been popularized in the game of computer Go (Coulom 2007, Gelly 2006, Silver 2016) and shown impressive performance in many other high dimensional control and game problems (Browne 2012). The empirical

success of UCT on one side but the absence of performance guarantees for it on the other, incited research on similar but theoretically founded algorithms. Our first contribution are generic *black-box function optimizers* for extremely difficult functions (extremely nonsmooth, no derivatives?) with guarantees with main application to hyper-parameter tuning. The second set of contributions in *planning*. The first example is *TrailBlazer*, adaptive planning algorithm in MDPs (Markov decision process).

- ◇ **Adaptive structural sampling** with Alexandra Carpentier, Andrea Locatelli, Akram Erraqabi, Alessandro Lazaric, Rémi Bardenet, Guillaume Gautier (2013 - 2020)

Many of the sequential problems require adaptive sampling in some particular way. One example is using learning to improve rejection rate in rejection sampling by learning the proposal. [Erraqabi et al. ICML 2015]. Another one is sampling with two contradictory objectives such as when we have to trade off reward and regret [Erraqabi et al. AISTATS 2016]. Other examples include extreme [Carpentier and Valko, NeurIPS 2014] and infinitely many-arm bandits. [Carpentier and Valko, ICML 2015]. Finally, we have worked on an efficient sampling of determinantal point processes [Gautier et al, ICML 2016] and applying them to diverse recommendation and numerical integration.
- ◇ **Semi-supervised apprenticeship learning** with J. Audiffren, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh and Alessandro Lazaric, (2011 - now)

In apprenticeship learning we aim to learn a good behavior by observing an expert or a set of experts. We assume a setting where the expert is maximizing an unknown true reward function, which is often a linear combination of known state features. We consider a situation when we observe many trajectories of behaviors but only one or a few of them are labeled as experts' trajectories. We investigate the assumptions under which the remaining unlabeled trajectories can aid in learning a policy with a good performance.
- ◇ **Composing Learning for Artificial Cognitive Systems** with Rémi Munos, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Alessandro Lazaric, and Daniil Ryabko (2011 - 2015)

The purpose of this project is to develop a unified toolkit for intelligent control in many different problem areas. This toolkit will incorporate many of the most successful approaches to a variety of important control problems within a single framework, including bandit problems, Markov Decision Processes (MDPs), Partially Observable MDPs (POMDPs), continuous stochastic control, and multi-agent systems.
- ◇ **Large-scale semi-supervised learning** with Branislav Kveton, A. Saluja (2010 - 2013)

We parallelized online harmonic solver to process 1 TB of video data in a day. I am working on the multi-manifold learning that can overcome changes in distribution. I am showing how the online learner adapts as to characters' aging over 10 years period in Married ... with Children sitcom. My research was part of Everyday Sensing and Perception (ESP) project.
- ◇ **Anomaly detection** with Milos Hauskrecht (2007 - 2011)

Statistical anomaly detection methods for identification of unusual outcomes and patient management decisions. I combined max-margin learning with distance learned to create and anomaly detector, which outperforms the hospital rule for Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia detection. I later scaled the system for 5K patients with 9K features and 743 clinical decisions per day. At the recent study, from 222 alerts 50% were highly relevant.
- ◇ **Online semi-supervised learning** with Branislav Kveton (2009)

Extended graph-based semi-supervised learning to the structured case and demonstrated on handwriting recognition and object detection from video streams. Regularized harmonic function solution: The algorithm outputs a confidence of inference and uses it for learning. I came up with an online algorithm that on the real-world datasets recognizes faces at 80–90% precision with 90% recall.
- ◇ **Odd-Man-Out** with Wendy Chapman, Roger Day and Gregory Cooper (2007 - 2011)

We hypothesized that clinical data in emergency department (ED) reports would increase sensitivity and specificity of case identification for patients with an acute lower respiratory

syndrome (ALRS). We designed a statistic of disagreement (odd-man-out) to evaluate the machine learning classifier with expert evaluation in the cases when the gold standard is not available.

- ◇ **High-throughput proteomic and genomic data and biomarker discovery** with Milos Hauskrecht, Richard Pelikan, Shuguang Wang (2005 - 2007)
We built a framework for the cancer prediction from high-throughput proteomic and genomic data sources. I found a way to merge heterogeneous data sources: My fusion model was able to predict pancreatic cancer from Luminex combined with SELDI with 91.2% accuracy.
- ◇ **Evolutionary feature selection algorithms** with Nuno Marques (2005)
I enhanced the existing FeaSANNT neural feature selection with spiking neuron model to handle inputs noised with up to 10% Gaussian noise.
- ◇ **Plastic Synapses** with Juraj Pavlasek (2003 - 2005)
I was modelling basic learning function at the level of synapses. I designed a model that is able to adapt to the regular frequencies with different a rate as the time flows. I used genetic programming to find biologically plausible networks that distinguish different gamma distribution and provided explanation of the strategies evolved.