Thomas Jiralerspong

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Education

Université de Montréal/Mila
M.Sc. – Computer Science – Co-supervised by ***Prof. Yoshua Bengio*** *&* ***Prof. Doina Precup*** *Sep 2023 – Present*
- **Awards:** NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship (17 500$), UdeM Discovery Scholarship (5 000$)

McGill University
B.Sc. – Honours Computer Science – ***GPA:4.00/4.00*** *Sep 2020 – May 2023*

Research Experience

Waabi PyTorch, Python
Deep Learning Research Intern - Toronto, Canada *Jun 2023 – Sep 2023*
- **Project:** Realistic and controllable traffic simulation using a transformer based variational autoencoder

Reasoning and Learning Lab – Mila/McGill University TensorFlow, Python
Research Intern – Montreal, Canada – Supervised by ***Prof. Doina Precup*** *Jan 2022 – Aug 2023*
- **Project:** Model-based reinforcement learning with affordance aware tree-search planning directly from pixels

Learning in Neural Circuits Lab – Mila/McGill University PyTorch, Python
Research Intern – Montreal, Canada – Supervised by ***Prof. Blake Richards*** *Sep 2022 – Aug 2023*
- **Project:** Contrastive learning to discover critical states for reinforcement learning in sparse reward environments

Vector Institute for A.I. PyTorch, Python
Machine Learning Research Intern – Toronto, Canada *Sep 2022 – Dec 2022*
- **Project:** Model-based reinforcement learning for HVAC control

Project X - Machine Learning Research Competition PyTorch, Python
Co-leader of McGill's Team – Received highest score out of 25 submitted papers *Jun 2021 – Feb 2022*
- **Project:** Deep offline conservative reinforcement learning for mechanical ventilation treatment

Software Development Experience

Amazon Web Services (AWS) – S3 Team Python, JavaScript
Software Development Engineer Intern – Vancouver, Canada *May 2022 – Jul 2022*
Square Enix C#
Software Development Intern – Montreal, Canada *May 2021 – Aug 2021*
Expedia Group JavaScript, TypeScript, React
Software Development Intern – Montreal, Canada *Jun 2019 – Aug 2019*

Selected Publications

Efficient Causal Graph Discovery Using Large Language Models (Submitted)
T. Jiralerspong*, X. Chen*, Y. More, V. Shah, Y. Bengio ***ICML 2024***

Delta-AI: Local Objectives for Amortized Inference in Sparse Graphical Models (Accepted)
J. Falet*, H. Lee*, N. Malkin*, C. Sun, D. Secrieru, **T. Jiralerspong**, D. Zhang, G. Lajoie, Y. Bengio. ***ICLR 2024***

Contrastive Retrospection: honing in on critical steps for rapid learning and generalization in RL
C. Sun, W. Yang, **T. Jiralerspong**, D. Malenfant, B. Alsbury-Nealy, Y. Bengio, B. Richards. ***NeurIPS 2023***

Forecaster: Towards Temporally Abstract Tree-Search Planning from Pixels
T. Jiralerspong*, F. Kondrup*, D. Precup, K. Khetarpal. ***GenPlan Workshop at NeurIPS 2023***

Towards Safe Mechanical Ventilation Treatment Using Deep Offline Reinforcement Learning
F. Kondrup*, **T. Jiralerspong***, E. Lau*, N. de Lara, J. Shkrob, M.D. Tran, D. Precup, S. Basu. ***AAAI 2023***

*Equal Contribution

Awards & Achievements

Chosen as one of the 200 most promising young researchers in the world by the **Heidelberg Laureate Forum** 2023
Winner of **Project X 2021** (25 000$) 2021