Víctor Abia Alonso

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EDUCATION

City, University of London PhD, AI Ethics Ongoing until 2027
City, University of London MSc Artificial Intelligence Final grade: 1:1
University College London Bsc Mathematics with Economics. Final grade: 2:1
IES Ramiro de Maeztu (Madrid) International Baccalaureate Final grade: 43/45
IES Villablanca (Madrid) Compulsory Secondary Education. Final grade: 9.9/10

HIGH SCHOOL HONOURS

- Silver medal (10th place) at the 2020 Spanish Mathematical Olympiad.
- **Bronze medal** (44th place) at the 2020 Spanish Physics Olympiad.
- **Merit** on the 2020 Spanish Chemistry Olympiad.
- Winner of the 2020 Joaquín Hernández Intercentros Mathematical Contest
- Winner of the 2018 Spring Mathematical Contest of Madrid (Level III).
- 1st prize in 2018 CienciaShow national scientific monologue contest.

EXPERIENCE

Applied Researcher, NATO's SAPIENCE Project (January 2024 - August 2024)

Initiative aimed at advancing autonomous multi-agent drone technology for disaster response, structured as an inter-university competition. Lead the Mathematical and Al sub-team, with a strategic focus on constructing and leveraging AirSim-based RL environments for enhanced drone decision-making capabilities. Also, developing Deep Learning architectures for precise territorial mapping and identification of hazards and individuals requiring aid. Part-time, flexible paid position. We won the competition.

Research Intern, Al Safety Camp (January 2024 - April 2024)

Worked in a 3 month part-time online paid research group supervised by Jett Janiak aimed to develop a repo to automatize for Small Language Models interpretability by studying the emergence of linguistic capabilities during training time. My tasks involve developing scripts for PyTorch models, managing datasets and writing-up results. Repo.

Research Intern, Al Safety Hub Labs (July 2023 - September 2023)

Participated in a 12-week research program, partially conducted in Oxford, investigating inductive biases of Language Models after finetuning via Reinforcement Learning, under the supervision of Bogdan-Ionut Cirstea. Duties involved replicating paper results, conducting literature review (utilizing Zotero software), drafting a preprint (with LaTeX), managing GPU allocation across local machines and v100s (using SSH keys), version control (with GitHub), and overall project organization. Paper published at SoLar 2023.

ARENA Virtual Program (May 2023 - June 2023)

Completed an intensive 6-week program designed to develop research engineering skills in AI Safety. Gained exposure to Mechanistic Interpretability, based on Anthropic's work on transformer circuits. Practiced causal interventions (path-patching and probing) on the activations of Large Language Models (LLMs) to decipher internal reasoning processes. Introduced to the principles of Reinforcement Learning. Read and replicated AI Safety papers.

Community Builder in London (February 2022 - October 2022)

Launched and facilitated 2 Effective Altruism (EA) Introductory Workshops and social events for EA UCL members, and organized a fundraising race which raised £3550 for the Against Malaria Foundation. Co-founded the London Existential Risk Initiative to foster x-risk communities at four London universities through reading groups, speaker events, and Machine Learning Upskilling Bootcamps. Recipient of a grant by Open Philanthropy.

♦ Machine Learning Safety Scholars (June 2022 - August 2022)

Participated in an 8-week online program centered on enhancing undergraduate proficiency in technical Machine Learning and introducing participants to Al Safety. Developed neural networks using PyTorch, tackled assigned problems, participated in weekly discussions with fellows, and summarized Machine Learning papers.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

❖ Second Year Project on Game Theory and cancer cells (June 2022)

Chosen to do a 2-week interdisciplinary research project with 4 UCL Maths students focused on mathematical modeling techniques from economics applied to biological systems.

* Red Teaming Challenge: "WELLBY calculation" (April 2022 - June 2022)

Selected by Training for Good to critically analyze the subjective well-being (SWB) estimates of the Happier Lives Institute related to malaria prevention via net distribution. Conducted a comprehensive review of SWB research papers.

Essay on Robert Nozick's ideas. Mark: 33/34 (October 2019 - April 2020)
I chose philosophy as the subject for my IB Extended Essay (4,000 words) to write about the implicit utilitarian foundation of Nozick's libertarian moral principles.

[All references are available upon request]