

# Niko Yasui

✉ yasuiniko@gmail.com • 📄 Google Scholar

## Education

### University of Alberta

Edmonton

*Ph.D. Computing Science (incomplete), Advised by Dr. James Wright.*

*Sep 2019 – Aug 2023*

GPA: 4.0. Coursework and research in Game Theory with a focus on Multi-Agent Learning. Left in good standing.

*M.Sc. Computing Science, Advised by Dr. Martha White and Dr. Adam White*

*Sep 2017 – Jan 2020*

GPA: 4.0. Thesis: [An Empirical Study of Exploration Strategies for Model-Free Reinforcement Learning](#).

○ Awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships.

### McGill University

Montréal

*B.Sc. Statistics and Computer Science, GPA: 3.6*

*Sep 2013 – Apr 2017*

## Professional Experience

### AI Consultant

Edmonton

*Artificial.Agency*

*Jan 2024*

- Made a graph forecasting future LLM inference costs for the pitch deck in a \$16M USD seed round.
- Wrote a key report supporting the company's financial thesis while operating on an accelerated timeline.
- Tasks included reviewing literature, aggregating data from disparate sources, and developing predictive models.

### Personal Tutor

Edmonton

*Self-employed*

*Jul 2023 – present*

- Started a tutoring business for university students that helped over 20 clients reach their academic goals.
- Earned several multi-semester contracts and word-of-mouth recommendations.

### Extra-curricular ML Research

Various

*Institute for Statistical Mathematics, McGill, University of Alberta*

*May 2014 – Aug 2023*

- Refactored a behavioural game theory analysis program to support automatic differentiation in PyTorch.
- Created a real-world reinforcement learning demo on an iRobot Create, which ran Robot Operating System and used real-time camera data to perform a learning update every 0.1s.
- Worked in a cross-functional team to write a Python program for imputing missing data in phylogenetic trees and evaluating the quality of the imputation.
- Wrote a Python program that imputed missing SNPs from large datasets of genomic data.

### Course Developer

Edmonton

*Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute*

*Jan 2019 – Sep 2019*

- Worked in a team to develop a collection of four courses that has reached over 90,000 students.
- Designed teaching assets, wrote scripts, and presented in video lectures.

## Leadership and Service

*University of Alberta and Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute*

*Sep 2018 – Aug 2023*

- By invitation, mediated a conflict between student groups that had blocked operations for 8 months.
- Co-chaired the University's Suicide Prevention: Education and Awareness subcommittee.
- Advocated for students in department meetings and with external funding organizations.
- Organized a volunteer data science team to serve non-profits, including United Way and City of Edmonton.

## Skills

- Python for machine learning (5+ years)
- Excellent visualizations in R (3 years)
- Some experience with Julia, C++, SQL
- Some experience with PyTorch, Jax
- Reinforcement learning; sim and real
- Thrives in a collaborative environment
- Detail oriented
- Creative problem-solver
- Parallelizing large machine learning experiments to run on compute clusters