Marcel Torne Villasevil

marceltorne.github.io

EDUCATION

• Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Master's Thesis and Cross-registered student; GPA 4.00/4.00

Aug. 2021 -- May. 2023

Email: marcelto@mit.edu

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- o Relevant courses @MIT: Robotic Manipulation (Prof. Russ Tedrake), Sensorimotor Learning (Prof. Pulkit Agrawal), Advances in Computer Vision (Prof. Philip Isola, Prof. Bill Freeman), Natural Language Processing (Prof. Jacob Andreas, Prof. Yoon Kim)
- I did my Master's Thesis with Prof. Pulkit Agrawal and Prof. Abhishek Gupta at the ImprobableAI lab, MIT CSAIL

• Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Master of Engineering in Computational Science and Engineering; GPA: 4.00/4.00

Aug. 2021 – May 2023

- o Relevant courses @Harvard : Statistical Decision Making (Prof Susan Murphy), Stochastic Method for Data Analysis Inference and Optimization (Dr Weiwei Pan)
- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Grade: 5.62/6 (top < 3%)

Lausanne, Switzerland

Sept. 2018 -- July. 2021

• International Baccalaureate (IB Diploma)

Reus, Spain

IES Gabriel Ferrater I Soler de Reus; Grade: 42/45 (highest score in the school's history)

Sept. 2016 – June 2018

O Relevant courses: Physics HL (Grade 7/7), Mathematics Higher Level (HL) (Grade 6), Catalan Literature HL (Grade 6), Chemistry Standard Level (SL) (Grade 7), English SL (Grade 7), Philosophy SL (Grade 6)

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- Breadcrumbs to the Goal: Goal-Conditioned Exploration from Human-in-the-loop feedback
 Marcel Torne Villasevil, Max Balsells I Pamies, Zihan Wang, Samedh Desai, Tao Chen, Pulkit Agrawal, Abhishek Gupta
 Advances in Neural Information Processing (NeurIPS) 2023 / paper / website
- Autonomous Robotic Reinforcement Learning with Asynchronous Human Feedback
 Max Balsells I Pamies*, Marcel Torne Villasevil*, Zihan Wang*, Samedh Desai, Pulkit Agrawal, Abhishek Gupta
 Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL) 2023 paper/website
- Finetuning real-world policies in sim through real-to-sim transfer. Marcel Torne Villasevil, Marcel Torne Villasevil, Anthony Simeonov, Steven Li, Tao Chen, Pulkit Agrawal*, Abhishek Gupta* In preparation for Robotics Science and Systems 2024
- Finetuning foundation models with crowdsourced human-in-the-loop feedback.
 Carrie Yuan*, Marcel Torne Villasevil*, Abhishek Gupta
 In preparation for Robotics Science and Systems 2024
- * indicates equal contribution

OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS

• DISCO: Distributed Collaborative Machine Learning

MLO-iGH EPFL. Project started by Marcel Torne Villasevil and Paul Mansat supervised by Professor Martin Jaggi GitHub repository available at github.com/epfml/disco (105 stars on GitHub)/ Bachelor thesis available here

Play with DISCO at: https://epfml.github.io/disco/

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

• Massachusetts Institute of Technology, CSAIL, Improbable AI Lab

Cambridge, MA

Graduate researcher supervised by Prof. Pulkit Agrawal and Prof. Abhishek Gupta

Feb 2022 – Present

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 I worked on three main projects, i) leveraging crowdsourced non-expert human feedback from annotators worldwide to guide exploration; 2) real world finetuning in the real world using human feedback; 3) leveraging real-to-sim transfer of real world scenes for robustifying policies through simulation.

• Microsoft Bellevue, WA

Data Scientist Intern

June 2022 - August 2022

 Microsoft Bing: Built the first implementation of Extreme Classification algorithms by Microsoft Research in the Image ranker of Bing.

• EPFL - Machine Learning and Optimization Lab (MLO)

Lausanne, Switzerland

Bachelor's Thesis research supervised by Prof. Martin Jaggi and Prof. Mary-Anne Hartley

Feb 2021 - July 2021

o Developed an open source platform in JavaScript for privacy-preserving decentralized Machine Learning in medical image classification. [https://github.com/epfml/disco]

• EPFL - Formula Student Racing Team

Autonomous driving team

Feb 2021 - July 2021

At the EPFL Racing Team, I pursued an individual Machine Learning Research Project. More concretely, I
developed an algorithm for the Control and Planning of an autonomous vehicle using Deep Reinforcement
Learning.

SELECTED HONORS

• Harvard Real Colegio Complutense Scholarship

Aug. 2021 - May 2023

Merit-based scholarship for Spanish students studying at Harvard. Covers around 70% of the Master's tuition.

• Harvard IACS Master Thesis proposal award

Aug. 2021 - May 2023

Award given to a small, selected number of students in the master's program at Harvard for their excellent Master's thesis proposal. Covers around 30% of the second year's master tuition.

• Nova 111 Student List 2022 Spain

May 2022

I was selected as one of the top 11 best students from Spain in Computer Science aged between 18-25

• Excellence in the University Entrance Exam (top < 1%)

Award given by the Catalan president himself

July 2018

• Bronze Medal Spanish National Physics Olympiad 2018

June 2018

• City of Reus High School Academic Excellence Award

September 2016

Price given to the best student of each high school by the mayor

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

• École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL

Lausanne, Switzerland

Teaching Assistant in Computer Architecture

Sept. 2020 – Jan. 2021

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 Lead a team of a dozen highly skilled graduate students. I owned the major project of the course, programming the Game of Life by John Horton Conway in assembly code.

• École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL

Teaching Assistant in General Physics I: Mechanics

Lausanne, Switzerland Sept. 2019 - Dec. 2019

 Weekly meetings with a group of 20-40 students, I assisted reviewing lectures and helping students out with problem sets.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

• Amazon

Barcelona, Spain

May 2020 - September 2020

 $Software\ Engineering\ Intern$

• Amazon Search, Science and AI: Developed browser plugin tool using Angular JS to help ML engineers debug the Amazon ranking algorithm. Tool used by more than 100 times per day by more than 20 engineers.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

• Quiz.Fit

Lausanne, Switzerland

Co-founder and main developer

June 2019 – January 2021

• Developed a mobile application in Swift for improving users' health through gamification of healthy habits. Convinced early investor, a professional in health insurance.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

• MIT Robotics Seminar Student Volunteer (Fall 2023)

I am the student co-host of the MIT Robotics Seminar, which gives me the great pleasure of meeting and touring the invited Professors around MIT as well as organizing the related activities for the speaker throughout the day (student roundtables, student lunch, meeting with MIT Professors, preparing the speaker's slides).

Hosted professors: Prof. Chelsea Finn (Stanford University), Prof. Nima Fazeli (University of Michigan),
 Prof. Cynthia Yu (University of Pennsylvania), Prof. Yu Sun (University of Toronto)

• Volunteering for Chromosomic Disorders

I am particularly concerned about chromosomal disorders. I have participated in multiple events to raise awareness, collect money for research, and better integration of these individuals into society.

o Regatta Carla for the RETT syndrome 2018

Helped with the social media and promotion of a sailing regatta to raise funds for research on the RETT syndrome.

Nastic Genuine 2018

Volunteered in the organization of a Spanish National football tournament for people with Down syndrome.

o La Marato de TV3 2012-2018

On multiple occasions, I performed in music, both playing the baroque guitar and singing, to collect money for multiple causes, one of which was collecting money towards research on chromosomic disorders.

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• Mentorship for students 2018 - Present

Other things I care about is helping students from Spain achieve their maximal academic potential, mentor students to get into top programs in Europe and the US, and mentor them on career path.

o Google Developer Student Club of Lausanne November 2022

Gave a talk explaining my experience during my internship at Microsoft and the whole process of job finding in the United States.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

• Running Cambridge, MA 2022 - Present

I started running seriously in November 2022, and it has become a big part of my weekly routine to train my mind and body.

Cambridge Half-Marathon 2023

November 5th 2023

Cape Cod Marathon 2023

October 8th 2023

I ran my first full Marathon in Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA. I completed it in 4 hours 33 minutes, and I am really excited to improve my time in the near future.

Nice Ironman 70.3 2023

June 26th 2023

I ran a half-ironman in the city of Nice. This is one of the toughest triathlon races there are, consisting in a total of 70.3 miles between swimming, biking and running, and I completed it in under 6hours 43 minutes.

Boston Half Marathon 2022

Sailing

November 13th 2022

The BBA, Boston Half Marathon was my first running race ever. I am proud of my performance having ran it in 1 hour 42 minutes.

Salou, Spain 2008 - 2018

Windsurf World Championship 2017 & 2018

I competed at the highest level in windsurfing for three years. I was sailing in the Raceboard modality; this is a longer table for upwind and downwind sailing.

29er National Championship 2015 & 2016

I competed at international level in 29er sailboat. This is a two-handed sailboat, considered one of the toughest boats to sail because of its instability.

Optimist Catalan Championship 2010 – 2014

I competed at regional level in the optimist sailboat. This is a single-handed sailboat for kids up to the age of 16. This modality gets very competitive, and I participated at the international regatta of Riva del Garda, Italy, with up more than 1000 participants.

• Undergraduate Music degree

Vila-seca, Spain

Conservatory of music

2008 - 2018

Music used to be a very big part of my life, I did to years of music degree, which used to take from three to five afternoons per week depending on the semester. I specialized in Baroque Guitar and the Lute and learned from an internationally known musician in the field, William Waters. I played in Chamber Music accompanied by both voice and other string instruments, guitars, and violins.

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SKILLS

• Languages

- o Catalan mother tongue
- o **Spanish** mother tongue.
- English professional proficiency
- French professional proficiency
- o German beginner

• Programming Languages

- o Python, Javascript, C, C++, Scala, Spark, Kotlin SQL, HTML, CUDA, VHDL, MIPS assembly
- o ML libraries: Pytorch, JAX, TensorFlow, Pytorch Lightning, Weights and Biases
- o Robotics Simulators: Mujoco, Pybullet, Drake

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