

Dhia Garbaya

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Profile

Currently focusing on transfer learning, pre-training LLMs, and reasoning. I am interested in how far we can push deep learning and generally interested in how to model learning: from experience (RL) and from imitation.

I'm seeking research internship opportunities (April 2026), ideally with a PhD follow-up.

Education

ENS Paris-Saclay, MVA: Math, Vision, Learning 2025 – 2026

- **Coursework:** Optimal transport · Convex optimization · Reinforcement learning · RMT · Probabilistic graphical models · Deep learning theory · Geometric deep learning · Graphs in ML · Vision · Robotics ...

Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (IP Paris), MS in Applied Math and ML 2022 – 2026

- **Coursework:** Machine learning (JAX) · Deep learning (torch) · Optimization · Operations research (Julia) · Advanced algorithmics (C++) · Vision · Stochastic processes · Statistical physics · Stats in high dimensions · PDEs · Game theory...

Esprit Prépa, Tunis, Prepa for Grandes Ecoles 2020 – 2022

- **Coursework:** General, Linear Algebra/ Topology/ Analysis/ Theoretical Physics/ Eng sciences
- **Project:** Optical and thermodynamical optimization of solar cells.
- **Distinction:** Valedictorian

Experience

Visiting Student | Research Intern, EPFL, Switzerland Feb 2025 - Now

- **Lab:** MLO
- **Supervisor:** Prof. Martin Jaggi
- Core member of **Swiss AI Initiative** LLM team (training on ALPS cluster).
- Focus: pre-training, transfer learning, low-precision training, model architecture.
- Member of **Apertus LLM** core team.

Research Intern, Technology Innovation Institute – Abu Dhabi Jul 2024 – Jan 2025

- Focus: Knowledge distillation, Optimization algorithms at scale (1st and 2nd order)
- Large-scale transformer parametrization, Param-free learning, Pre-training (5k GPUs)
- Core contributor to **Falcon3** family of models.

Club Project Manager, Junior Entreprise – Ile-de-France 2023 – 2024

- Responsible for technical and AI related studies

Publications

FOG Architectures: Towards Pure FP8 LLM Training at Scale · **NeurIPS'25** Preprint - V1

Apertus: Democratizing Open, Compliant, and Multilingual LLMs Technical Report

Falcon3 family of Open Models: Showcasing transfer learning efficiency Undisclosed Report
Blogpost

Coding skills

Languages: Python, C++, Julia, R.

Tools, frameworks: GIT, AWS, cluster computing, linux, Pytorch, JAX, Megatron-LM, NeMo, HF libraries

Academic Projects

Solving PDEs with PINNs, ENPC+Airbus

github/dhia680/pinns-24

- Studied Physics-Informed-Neural-Networks for solving Helmholtz PDEs.

Deep RL for optimizing traffic using autonomous vehicles

github/.../HighwayEnv

- Inspired from CIRCLES project (Berkley, Rutgers, Ecole des Ponts..).
- Studied phantom traffic jam, drivers behaviour. Used existing codebase to train a policy with DQN, PPO.
- Tools: Pytorch, Sumo simulator.

RNN-based NMT model

github/dhia680/NMT

- Trained an LSTM-based machine translation toy model (20M) and integrated it in a web interface
- Tools: Tensorflow, Pandas.

Operations Research

2023-2024

- Optimizing an offshore wind electrical network for RTE, FR
- Optimizing a car manufacturing chain for Renault, FR
- Tools: Python, C++, Julia, Gurobi (MIP), S.Annealing

Distinctions, Online certificates

- **French government excellence scholarship:** Among 7 national holders of this scholarship, 2022-2026.
- NLP with Python, Udemy.
- **Supervised Learning, RL**, deeplearning.ai.
- **In progress:**
 - Accelerated computing with cuda (python and C++), Nvidia.
 - Advanced RL in python, DQNs, Udemy.
 - Diffusion Models, Nvidia.

Languages

- **Arabic:** Native
- **French:** Fluent
- **English** Fluent
- **German:** Intermediate