

Yarden As

Research Scientist

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Portuguese and Israeli citizenship



About

I am inspired by science and how it can be applied in real life to contribute to society and human well-being. Naturally curious about tech and about people.

Education

Sep 2019 – **MSc, Robotics, Systems and Control**, *ETH Zürich*, Zürich, Switzerland.

Sep 2021 Focusing on **machine learning** and algorithms for online decision making.

- Scored a mark of **6.0/6.0** for my master's thesis with **Prof. Andreas Krause**.

Oct 2014 – **BSc, Mechanical Engineering**, *Technion*, Haifa, Israel.

Feb 2018 ○ Formal class ranking: **#3 out of 156 students**; top 3% during all semesters; **graduated summa cum laude**.

Experience

Aug 2021 – **Research Scientist**, *Learning & Adaptive Systems group*, Zürich.

Present ○ Developed a **state of the art algorithm** for safe reinforcement learning, significantly outperforming previous methods.

Mar 2021 – **CTO, Co-Founder, CTO**, *Obol*, Tel-Aviv.

Present Obol is a SaaS solution that helps enterprises optimize their multi-currency cash-flow.

- Devised Obol's strategy from the technological challenges perspective to solve an open-ended problem. This led to a **\$750K** pre-seed fundraise.

Sep 2019 – **Principal Software Engineer**, *Robotemi*, Tel-Aviv.

Jul 2021 Led the development of the product's new generation software stack.

- Developed autonomy stack deployed in one of the **few profitable** consumer robotics products. This work enabled the robot to **robustly** navigate and interact in **uncertain** domains such as exhibitions.

- My code runs on **tens of thousands** of units worldwide.

Feb 2018 – **Software Engineer**, *Robotemi*, Tel-Aviv.

Sep 2019 Developed **computer vision** algorithms for an indoor robotic application.

- My path-planning module implementation increased the navigation task success rate across the company's robot fleet from **less than 65% to ~90%**.

Skills (Selected)

Software C++ (proficient), Python (proficient), code optimization, ML frameworks (Tensorflow, JAX, Torch)...

Relevant coursework Machine Learning (Introduction & Advanced), Probabilistic Artificial Intelligence, Deep Reinforcement Learning (Berkeley CS285), Dynamic Programming and Optimal Control.

Other Strong interpersonal relations that translate into **fruitful collaborations** with different stakeholders.

Publications

- "Constrained Policy Optimization via Bayesian World Models." **Yarden As**, Ilnura Usmanova, Sebastian Curi, Andreas Krause. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2022, **spotlight talk** (~150/3500).

Awards and Honors

Technion *KLA-Tencor* merit-based scholarship; given annually to the highest ranking student in class.

Technion *M. Darlo* award; given to the best final project in class.

Other

Trad rock climber; climbed a 200m high route in Wadi Rum, in charge of our protection from A to Z.