

Jan Matas

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EDUCATION

Oct 2014	Imperial College LONDON
Oct 2018	MEng Computing (<i>Artificial intelligence</i>)
	Governors' prize for top graduating student with MEng degree in 2018 (87.5% , best overall in class)
	Other: Formicary Software Engineering Prize, G-Research prize (twice), Morgan Stanley IT prize

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sep 2023 now	KONTEXT Co-founder, CTO	Palo Alto, CA / Prague, Czechia
	- Founded an AI-native advertising platform that uses LLMs to serve contextually relevant ads inside GenAI apps; raised ~\$10M seed; hired and now lead a team of 7 engineers - Built the full serving stack on our own finetuned models running on vLLM on custom GPU infrastructure, delivering 20M+ hyperpersonalized ads/day and 2k+ RPS of DSP traffic - Designed eval harness and ran post-training (SFT + DPO + GRPO) on open-weight base models to deliver brand-safe, on-policy ads even in NSFW and adversarial contexts	
Jan 2019 Sep 2023	DEEPNOTE Founding CTO	San Francisco, CA / Prague, Czechia
	- Co-founded Deepnote, a collaborative data science notebook; architected the original platform (still in production today) and grew engineering from 2 to 20 through Seed and Series A - Scaled to 500k+ users across enterprise (Fortune 500), regulated industries (e.g. Norway's sovereign wealth fund), non-profits (e.g. Gates Foundation), and academia (e.g. MIT robotics) - Owned SOC 2 Type II and HIPAA-compliant deployments to unblock regulated enterprise sales; built out security, compliance, and multi-cloud deployment infrastructure	
Aug 2018 Jan 2019	TWO SIGMA Software Engineer	London, United Kingdom
	Built new execution scheduler to speed up model prediction (Java); adapted internal build mechanisms for new Python APIs	
Mar 2017 Oct 2017	PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES Software Engineering Intern	London, United Kingdom
	Full stack development of data analytics tool for a customer (Java, TypeScript, Elasticsearch); shipped content-similarity recommendation system	
Jul 2016 Sep 2016	GOOGLE Site Reliability Engineering Intern	Zurich, Switzerland
	- Created a system for analyzing per-video resource usage in YouTube ContentID - Built an AB load-testing infrastructure using traffic replays for a new ContentID index	

PUBLICATIONS

- Matas, J., James, S., Davison, A.J. **Sim-to-Real Reinforcement Learning for Deformable Object Manipulation**. CoRL 2018 – **500+ citations** – <https://arxiv.org/abs/1806.07851>

NOTABLE AWARDS

- Forbes 30 Under 30 Slovakia; O-1 Visa** (US “extraordinary ability” classification)
- People's Choice Award** for best final year project at Imperial; **Palantir Forward Group Project Prize** for outstanding third year group project (UAV traffic management with Altitude Angel + Microsoft)
- Intel ISEF 2012** finalist and **RoboCup Jr. 2011** world champion with AREROS autonomous rescue robot

SKILLS

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES:	Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, Java, SQL
TECHNICAL:	ClickHouse, GCP, Postgres, Kubernetes, LLM post-training (SFT, DPO, GRPO), evals, PyTorch, vLLM, AWS