

# Vasilis Pollatos [email](#) | [Website](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Computational game theory, online learning, optimization, and multi-agent reinforcement learning; learning dynamics and equilibrium computation in non-convex games and Markov games; bandit and zeroth-order feedback; efficient learning with large combinatorial action spaces; computational complexity of stationarity and equilibrium notions.

## EDUCATION

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**National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Department of Mathematics** Athens, Greece  
PhD in Mathematics Sep. 2023 – Present

- Advisory Committee: [Panayotis Mertikopoulos](#), [Ioannis Panageas](#), and [Constantinos Daskalakis](#).

**National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), School of ECE** Athens, Greece  
M.Eng. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, specialization in Computer Science Sep. 2015 – Mar. 2022

- GPA: **9.1/10**, First-Class Honours.
- Diploma thesis: *Learning Mixtures of Selective Mallows Models*. Advisor: [Dimitris Fotakis](#).
- Selected coursework: Advanced Algorithms, Discrete Mathematics, Convex Optimization, Algorithmic Game Theory, Stochastic Processes, Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks, Pattern Recognition.

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Archimedes AI, Athena Research Center** Sep. 2023 – Present  
Academic Fellow / PhD Researcher

- Research mentors and collaborators (alphabetically): [Kimon Antonakopoulos](#), [Anas Barakat](#), [Constantinos Daskalakis](#), [Gabriele Farina](#), [Andreas Kontogiannis](#), [Panayotis Mertikopoulos](#), [Ioannis Panageas](#), [Aris Pagourtzis](#), and [Antonios Varvitsiotis](#).
- Co-organized study groups on optimization and machine learning.

**Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS)** Saarbruecken, Germany Sep. 2022 – Aug. 2023  
Research Assistant

- Supervised by [Goran Radanovic](#).
- Worked on robust minimax optimization and performative reinforcement learning under corrupted data.

**NTUA, Computation and Reasoning Laboratory (CoReLab)** Sep. 2020 – Mar. 2022  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Worked on learning mixtures of Selective Mallows Models as part of my M.Eng. thesis, supervised by [Dimitris Fotakis](#).

**NCSR Demokritos, IIT, Software and Knowledge Engineering Lab** Sep. 2019 – Dec. 2021  
Research Intern / Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Worked on land-cover semantic segmentation of satellite images and adaptive focused web crawling with reinforcement learning.

## ACADEMIC VISITS

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**EPFL, LIONS Group** Lausanne, Switzerland Visiting Doctoral Fellow; host: [Volkan Cevher](#) Oct. 2025

- Worked on higher-order methods for convex optimization problems with latent combinatorial structure, in collaboration with [Kimon Antonakopoulos](#). Work in progress.

**University of California, Irvine** Irvine, CA, USA Visiting Doctoral Fellow; host: [Ioannis Panageas](#) Nov. 2025

- Worked on the computational complexity of coarse correlated equilibria in Markov games. Work in progress.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Teaching Assistant & Auxiliary Lectures

- [Special Topics on Algorithms: Nonlinear Programming](#) (Fall 2024)

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Efficient Swap Regret Minimization in Combinatorial Bandits.** A. Kontogiannis\*, [V. Pollatos\\*](#), P. Mertikopoulos, and I. Panageas. *AISTATS 2026*. [\[paper\]](#)

**Efficient Kernelized Learning in Polyhedral Games Beyond Full-Information: From Colonel Blotto to Congestion Games.** A. Kontogiannis\*, [V. Pollatos\\*](#), G. Farina, P. Mertikopoulos, and I. Panageas. *NeurIPS 2025*. [\[paper\]](#)

**On Corruption-Robustness in Performative Reinforcement Learning.** [V. Pollatos](#), D. Mandal, and G. Radanovic. *AAAI 2025*, *Oral presentation*. [\[paper\]](#)

**The Computational Complexity of Finding Second-Order Stationary Points.** A. Kontogiannis\*, [V. Pollatos\\*](#), S. Kanellopoulos, P. Mertikopoulos, A. Pagourtzis, and I. Panageas. *ICML 2024*. [\[paper\]](#)

**Land Cover Semantic Segmentation Using ResUNet.** [V. Pollatos](#), L. Kouvaras, and E. Charou. *AINST 2020*. [\[paper\]](#)

\* Equal contribution.

## PREPRINTS

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**Online Learning on Hidden-Convex Losses via Algorithmic Equivalence: Optimal Regret, Geometric Barrier, and Bandit Feedback.** A. Barakat, A. Kontogiannis, [V. Pollatos](#), I. Panageas, and A. Varvitsiotis. *Under review*. [\[paper\]](#)

**The Computational Complexity of Avoiding Strict Saddle Points in Constrained Optimization.** A. Kontogiannis, I. Panageas, and [V. Pollatos](#). *Under review*. [\[paper\]](#)

**Tree-based Focused Web Crawling with Reinforcement Learning.** A. Kontogiannis, D. Kelesis, [V. Pollatos](#), G. Paliouras, and G. Giannakopoulos. *Under review*. [\[paper\]](#)

## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HIGHLIGHTS

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- PhD fellowship for 4 years (2023 - 2027) by Archimedes AI.
- Thomaidis Award 2021: awarded to NTUA students with distinguished publications.
- “The Great Moment for Education” Award: received from the President of the Hellenic Republic for excellence in the Nationwide University Entrance Examination.
- Second position in the theoretical phase of the National Biology Competition 2015.

## LANGUAGES

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Greek: native, English: C2, German: C1.