

Itai Shapira

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Education

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- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA Sept 2022 – Present
PhD in Computer Science (Expected graduation: 12/26)
- Advisor: Ariel D. Procaccia
 - Research in AI alignment, optimization for deep learning and computational social choice.
- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA 2022 – 2024
Master of Science in Computer Science
- Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Jerusalem, Israel 2016 – 2019
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Economics
- Summa Cum Laude (Ranked first in class)
 - Cumulative GPA: 99/100

Experience

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- Two Sigma**, New York, NY Jun 2025 – Aug 2025
Quantitative Research Internship
- WorldQuant**, Tel Aviv Nov 2018 – Sep 2022
Senior Quantitative Researcher

Publications

Notation:

- (α) authors listed alphabetically by last name (order not indicative of contribution).
 (r) order is randomized among the equal-contribution lead authors (marked with \dagger).

- [11] **How RLHF Amplifies Sycophancy** 2026
Itai Shapira, Gerdus Benadè, Ariel D. Procaccia
[\[Arxiv\]](#) [🔗 ICML 2026](#)
- [10] **Robust AI Evaluation through Maximal Lotteries** 2026
 (r) Hadi Khalaf, Serena Lutong Wang \dagger , Daniel Halpern \dagger , *Itai Shapira* \dagger , Flavio P. Calmon, Ariel D. Procaccia
[\[Arxiv\]](#) [🔗 ICML 2026](#)
- [8] **Incentives in Federated Learning with Heterogeneous Agents** 2026
 (α) Ariel D. Procaccia, Han Shao, *Itai Shapira*
[\[Arxiv\]](#) [🔗 ICLR 2026](#)
- [9] **Pairwise Calibrated Rewards for Pluralistic Alignment** 2025
 (α) Daniel Halpern, Evi Micha, Ariel D. Procaccia, *Itai Shapira*
[\[Arxiv\]](#) [🔗 NeurIPS 2025](#)
- [7] **SOAP: Improving and Stabilizing Shampoo using Adam** 2025
 Nikhil Vyas \dagger , Depen Morwani \dagger , Rosie Zhao, *Itai Shapira*, David Brandfonbrener, Lucas Janson, Sham Kakade
[\[Arxiv\]](#) [🔗 ICLR 2025](#)

- [6] **A New Perspective on Shampoo’s Preconditioner** 2025
(*r*) Depen Morwani[†], *Itai Shapira*[†], Nikhil Vyas[†], Eran Malach, Sham Kakade, Lucas Janson
[Arxiv] [↗](#) *ICLR 2025*
- [5] **Axioms for AI Alignment from Human Feedback** 2024
(α) Luise Ge, Daniel Halpern, Evi Micha, Ariel D. Procaccia, *Itai Shapira*, Yevgeniy Vorobeychik, Junlin Wu
[Arxiv] [↗](#) *NeurIPS 2024* (**Spotlight, 2.1% of submissions**)
- [4] **Learning Social Welfare Functions** 2024
(*r*) Kanad Shrikar Pardeshi[†], *Itai Shapira*[†], Ariel D. Procaccia, Aarti Singh
[Arxiv] [↗](#) *NeurIPS 2024* (**Spotlight, 2.1% of submissions**)
- [3] **Bias Detection Via Signaling** 2024
(α) Yiling Chen, Tao Lin, Ariel D. Procaccia, Aaditya Ramdas, *Itai Shapira*
[Arxiv] [↗](#) *NeurIPS 2024*
- [2] **Generative Social Choice** 2024
(α) Sara Fish, Paul Gözl, David C. Parkes, Ariel D. Procaccia, Gili Rusak, *Itai Shapira*, Manuel Wüthrich
[Arxiv] [↗](#) [OpenAI Blog] [↗](#) *EC 2024*
- [1] **Optimal Engagement-Diversity Tradeoffs in Social Media** 2024
(α) Fabian Baumann, Daniel Halpern, Ariel D. Procaccia, Iyad Rahwan, *Itai Shapira*, Manuel Wüthrich
[ACM] [↗](#) [Arxiv] [↗](#) *2024 ACM Web Conference*

Selected Honors & Awards

JPMorgan Chase PhD Fellowship (Research Award), 2025.

Nicole A. Chen and Karina A. Chen Graduate Student Research Fellowship, Harvard University, 2023.

CEO’s Circle Excellence Award, WorldQuant, 2021.

Rector’s List, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2019. Top 1% of students.

Dean’s Award, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, C++

ML / Data: PyTorch, TensorFlow or JAX

Systems: Linux, Git, Slurm, HPC clusters, Docker