

Leo Salkind

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, School of Engineering and Applied Science - New York, NY

Fall 2026 - Fall 2027

Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence

- Robotics and Perception concentration

Columbia University - New York, NY

Fall 2022 - Spring 2026

Bachelor of Arts

- Double Major in Physics and Mathematics-Statistics
- GPA - 3.6/4.0
- Dean's List - Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AI Engineer (internship) - Israel

Summer 2026

Lumana

- Developed 10 machine-learning models for license-plate OCR and plate-type classification; of which 2 models replaced existing production models, while others enabled new product capabilities
- Benchmarked CRNN, PP-OCRv5, PARSeq, ResNet, EfficientNet, MobileNet, and K-means, evaluating accuracy against inference latency, compute requirements, and model size
- Built an end-to-end data pipeline across hundreds of thousands of license-plate images, including data sourcing, cleaning, YOLOv8-based crop-quality analysis, dataset curation, and model evaluation
- Built a multi-LLM automated labeling pipeline through OpenRouter to address missing ground-truth labels, combining predictions through per-character majority voting to generate higher-confidence plate strings and plate-type labels

Research Analyst and Data Engineer (Part-time) - New York, NY

Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

Firgun Ventures

- Conducted technical research on emerging quantum-computing modalities, including trapped-ion processors, and translated findings into investor-facing analysis and presentations for prospective LPs
- Collaborated with the Head of AI & Data Science on data mapping workflows and automation code, strengthening the firm's quantum technology ecosystem database and analytical capabilities

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant - New York, NY

Summer 2025 - Spring 2026

National Quantum Virtual Laboratory (NQVL) Project, Columbia University

- Contributed to the NSF-funded SCY-QNet network, which is planned to be the largest U.S. quantum internet testbed
- Analyzed network characteristics such as photon polarization drift, phase shift, and attenuation loss across the NYC fiber

PROJECTS

Robot Data Glove for Humanoid Control

Fall 2026

- Currently building a sensor glove for teleoperation and data capture for humanoid robot arm control, which will include pressure sensors, IMUs, an STM32 microcontroller, and 3D-printed components to support rapid prototyping

AI Copilot UI Application

Spring 2026

- Built a context-aware AI copilot that reads user-authorized workspace context, including PDFs, webpages, emails, screenshots, and selected screen regions, to assist users with the material they are working on through Claude's API

Autonomous Vehicle Development

Fall 2024

Columbia Robotics Club

- Integrated Nvidia Jetson NX, LiDAR system, and RRT* motion planning for an autonomous racing vehicle

SKILLS & EXTRACURRICULARS

Programming and Technical Skills: Python, Java, R, GitHub, LaTeX, CAD, soldering, 3D printing, oscilloscope testing

Extracurriculars: Columbia Robotics Club, Columbia Computer Science Mentorship Program (ADI)