

YUXIN CHEN

PHD · CONTROL · ROBOTICS · MACHINE LEARNING

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SUMMARY

I build safe and agile embodied agents that intelligently perceive, interact with, and collaborate within the physical world while adhering to human values. My research emphasizes human-robot interaction, dexterous manipulation, and whole-body loco-manipulation, leveraging state-of-the-art advancements in reinforcement learning, generative models, optimization, and control.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

PH.D. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (CONTROL)

Aug 2022 – May 2027

- Advisor: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka
- Minors: Machine Learning, Optimization

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, MI

M.S. ROBOTICS

Aug 2020 – May 2022

- Advisor: Prof. Ram Vasudevan

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, MI

B.S.E. AEROSPACE ENGINEERING (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

Sep 2018 – May 2020

- Minor: Computer Science

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Shanghai, China

B.S. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Sep 2016 – Aug 2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

Aug 2022 – Present

Faculty member: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka

Affiliation: Mechanical Systems Control (MSC) Laboratory & Berkeley AI Research (BAIR) & Berkeley DeepDrive (BDD)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, MI

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

May 2020 – Jul 2022

Faculty member: Prof. Ram Vasudevan

Affiliation: Robotics and Optimization for the Analysis of Human Motion (ROAHM) Laboratory

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, MI

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Oct 2018 – May 2020

Faculty member: Prof. Ella Atkins & Prof. Brent Gillespie

Affiliation: Autonomous Aerospace Systems (A2SYS) Laboratory & HAPTIX Laboratory

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Robotics and AI Institute

Cambridge, MA

RESEARCH INTERN. (MENTOR: JIUGUANG WANG)

Mar 2025 – Present

Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories

Cambridge, MA

RESEARCH INTERN. (MENTOR: DEVESH JHA & DIEGO ROMERES)

May 2024 – Aug 2024

Zoox, Inc.

Foster City, CA

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN. (MENTOR: RICK ZHANG)

May 2021 – Aug 2021

Honda R&D Americas, LLC

Ann Arbor, MI

STUDENT MEMBER, MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGN PROGRAM (MENTOR: TYLER NAES)

Jan 2021 – Dec 2021

ZF (China) Investment Co., Ltd

Shanghai, China

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT & TESTING INTERN. (MENTOR: YI ZHANG)

Jan 2018 – Mar 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Journal

- [J1] P. Ewen, A. Li, **Y. Chen**, S. Hong and R. Vasudevan, "These Maps are Made for Walking: Real-Time Terrain Property Estimation for Mobile Robots," *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)*, vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 7083-7090, 2022.

Conference Proceeding

- [C7] **Y. Chen**, D. Jha, M. Tomizuka, D. Romeres, "FDPP: Fine-tune Diffusion Policy with Human Preference," *2025 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2025. (acceptance rate: 38.7%)
- [C6] T. Zhang, Z. Wu, **Y. Chen**, Y. Wang, B. Liang, S. Moura, M. Tomizuka, M. Ding, W. Zhan, "Physics-Aware Robotic Palletization with Online Masking Inference," *2025 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2025. (acceptance rate: 38.7%)
- [C5] Y. Xu*, **Y. Chen***, J. Nie, Y. Wang, H. Zhuang, M. Okumura, "Advancing Cross-domain Discriminability in Continual Learning of Vision-Language Models," *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2024. (acceptance rate: 25.8%)
- [C4] **Y. Chen**, C. Tang, R. Tian, C. Li, J. Li, M. Tomizuka and W. Zhan, "Quantifying Interaction Level Between Agents Helps Cost-efficient Generalization in Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning," *Proceedings of the 1st Reinforcement Learning Conference (RLC)*, 2024. (acceptance rate: 40%)
- [C3] **Y. Chen**, C. Tang, R. Tian, C. Li, J. Li, M. Tomizuka and W. Zhan, "Quantifying Agent Interaction in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Cost-efficient Generalization," *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, pp. 2201-2203, 2024. (Extended Abstract, acceptance rate: 45.1%)
- [C2] P. Ewen, J.P. Sleiman, **Y. Chen**, W.C. Lu, M. Hutter and R. Vasudevan, "Generating Continuous Motion and Force Plans in Real-Time for Legged Mobile Manipulation," *2021 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, pp. 4933-4939, 2021. (acceptance rate: 43.6%)
- [C1] M. Romano, **Y. Chen**, O. Marshall, and E. Atkins, "Nailed it: Autonomous Roofing with a Nailgun-Equipped Octocopter," *AIAA Aviation 2021 Forum*, pp. 3211, 2021.

Preprints

- [P4] P. Wang, X. Zhu, **Y. Chen**, C. Xu, M. Tomizuka, C. Li, "Residual Policy Gradient: A Reward View of KL-regularized Objective," *under review*, 2025.
- [P3] R. Jalayer, **Y. Chen**, M. Jalayer, C. Orsenigo, M. Tomizuka, "Testing Human-Hand Segmentation on In-Distribution and Out-of-Distribution Data in Human-Robot Interactions Using a Deep Ensemble Model," *under review*, 2025.
- [P2] S. Zhao*, X. Zhu*, **Y. Chen**, C. Li, X. Zhang, M. Ding, M. Tomizuka, "DexH2R: Task-oriented Dexterous Manipulation from Human to Robots," *under review*, 2024.
- [P1] **Y. Chen***, C. Tang*, J. Wei, C. Li, R. Tian, X. Zhang, W. Zhan, P. Stone, M. Tomizuka, "MEREQ: Max-Ent Residual-Q Inverse RL for Sample-Efficient Alignment from intervention," *under review*, 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley

ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEM I (MECENG 232) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka

Berkeley, CA

Fall 2024

ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEM II (MECENG 233) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka

Spring 2024

AI FOR AUTONOMY (MECENG 292B) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Dr. Wei Zhan

Spring 2024

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

SELF-DRIVING CARS: PERCEPTION AND CONTROL (ROB 535) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Prof. Ram Vasudevan

Ann Arbor, MI

Fall 2021

MOTION PLANNING (EECS 598) - COURSE ASSISTANT

Instructor: Prof. Dmitry Berenson

Winter 2021

INTRODUCTION TO AEROSPACE SYSTEMS (AERO 201) - COURSE ASSISTANT

Instructor: Prof. Ella Atkins

Fall 2019

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Journal Reviewer

- IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)

2024 – Present

Conference Reviewer

- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)

2025

- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2025
- IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2024 – 2025
- IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2023 – 2025
- Reinforcement Learning Conference (RLC) 2025
- Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC) 2025

Program Committee

- Co-organizer of IAVVC workshop on Scenario and Behavior Diversity in Simulation for Autonomous Vehicle Validation 2023
- Program Committee of ICRA workshop on Human-Centered Robot Learning in the Era of Big Data and Large Models 2025

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2020 **Outstanding Graduates of Shanghai (top 3%),** *Ministry of Education of Shanghai*
- 2020 **Capstone Design Gold Award (top 1%),** *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*
- 2020 **James B. Angell Scholar,** *University of Michigan*
- 2019 **Roger King Scholarship,** *University of Michigan*
- 2018 **Longey-SJTU Global Elite Scholarship,** *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*
- 2017 **Rongchang Science and Technology Innovation Scholarship,** *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*
- 2017 **Undergraduate Academic Excellence Scholarship,** *Shanghai Jiao Tong University*