

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 whole-body control of mobile robots, dexterous manipulation, and human-robot interaction, 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

Sep 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 – Jul 2025

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

(The superscript * indicates equal contribution.)

Journal

- [J2] 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," *Mechatronics*, 2025.
- [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 Proceedings

- [C9] **Y. Chen***, X. Zhu*, L. Sun*, F. Niroui, S. Le Cleac'h, J. Wang, K. Fang, "Versatile Loco-Manipulation through Flexible Interlimb Coordination," *2025 Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2025. (acceptance rate: 35.8%, **Oral: 5.69%**)
- [C8] **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," *2025 Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2025. (acceptance rate: 35.8%)
- [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%, **Best Paper Award in Automation: 1/1606**)
- [C5] **Y. Chen***, Y. Xu*, 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.

Workshop

- [W4] **Y. Chen***, X. Zhu*, L. Sun*, F. Niroui, S. Le Cleac'h, J. Wang, K. Fang, "Versatile Loco-Manipulation through Flexible Interlimb Coordination," *RSS 2025 Workshop on Whole-body Control and Bimanual Manipulation: Applications in Humanoids and Beyond (WCBM)*, 2025.
- [W3] **Y. Chen***, J. Wei*, C. Xu, B. Li, M. Tomizuka, A. Bajcsy, R. Tian, "Reimagination with Test-time Observation Interventions: Distractor-Robust World Model Predictions for Visual Model Predictive Control," *RSS 2025 Workshop on Out-of-Distribution Generalization in Robotics (OOD)*, 2025. (**Oral, Best Paper Finalist**)
- [W2] **Y. Chen**, D. Jha, M. Tomizuka, D. Romeres, "Adapting Diffusion Policies to Human Preferences via Reward-Guided Fine-Tuning," *ICRA 2025 Workshop on Safely Leveraging Vision-Language Foundation Models in Robotics: Challenges and Opportunities (Safe-VLM)*, 2025. (**Oral**)
- [W1] P. Wang, X. Zhu, **Y. Chen**, C. Xu, M. Tomizuka, C. Li, "Residual Policy Gradient: A Reward View of KL-regularized Objective," *ICRA 2025 Workshop on Safely Leveraging Vision-Language Foundation Models in Robotics: Challenges and Opportunities (Safe-VLM)*, 2025. (**Spotlight**)

Preprints and Working Papers

- [P4] **Y. Chen***, J. Wei*, C. Xu, B. Li, M. Tomizuka, A. Bajcsy, R. Tian, "Reimagination with Test-time Observation Interventions: Distractor-Robust World Model Predictions for Visual Model Predictive Control," *under review*, 2025.
- [P3] S. Zhao, K. Yang, **Y. Chen**, C. Li, Y. Xie, X. Zhang, C. Wang, M. Tomizuka, "DexCtrl: Towards Sim-to-Real Dexterity with Adaptive Controller Learning," *under review*, 2025.
- [P2] 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.
- [P1] 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley	Berkeley, CA
ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEM I (MECENG 232) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR	Fall 2024
Instructor: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka	
ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEM II (MECENG 233) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR	Spring 2024
Instructor: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka	
AI FOR AUTONOMY (MECENG 292B) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR	Spring 2024
Instructor: Dr. Wei Zhan	
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor, MI
SELF-DRIVING CARS: PERCEPTION AND CONTROL (ROB 535) - GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR	Fall 2021
Instructor: Prof. Ram Vasudevan	
MOTION PLANNING (EECS 598) - COURSE ASSISTANT	Winter 2021
Instructor: Prof. Dmitry Berenson	
INTRODUCTION TO AEROSPACE SYSTEMS (AERO 201) - COURSE ASSISTANT	Fall 2019
Instructor: Prof. Ella Atkins	

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
• Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)	2025
• Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)	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
• Program Committee for the 40th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-26)	2025

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025	Departmental Block Grant Fellowship , <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
2025	ICRA 2025 Best Paper Award in Automation , <i>IEEE Robotics and Automation Society</i>
2025	Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Finalist , <i>Qualcomm Incorporated</i>
2020	Outstanding Graduates of Shanghai (top 3%) , <i>Ministry of Education of Shanghai</i>
2020	Capstone Design Gold Award (top 1%) , <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i>
2020	James B. Angell Scholar , <i>University of Michigan</i>
2019	Roger King Scholarship , <i>University of Michigan</i>
2018	Longey-SJTU Global Elite Scholarship , <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i>
2017	Rongchang Science and Technology Innovation Scholarship , <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i>
2017	Undergraduate Academic Excellence Scholarship , <i>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</i>