Nicklas **Hansen**

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Research Interest

I am broadly interested in developing intelligent agents that continuously learn, generalize, and adapt.
My work is at the intersection of **reinforcement learning**, **robotics**, and **computer vision**.

Education

University of California, San Diego   *San Diego, CA, USA*
PhD student, Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 3.85/4.0   *Fall 2021 - present*
 · Advised by Xiaolong Wang and Hao Su.

University of California, Berkeley   *Berkeley, CA, USA*
Visiting Student, GPA: 4.0/4.0   *Spring 2020*
 · Spar Nord Fonden's FinTech scholarship recipient, SCET's Collider Cup finalist.

Technical University of Denmark   *Kongens Lyngby, Denmark*
MSc Mathematical Modeling & Computation, GPA: 11.2/12.0   *Feb 2019 - Jan 2021*
 · Special topics in machine learning. Advised by Ole Winther.

Technical University of Denmark   *Kongens Lyngby, Denmark*
BSc Software Technology, GPA: 8.2/12.0, final year GPA: 10.8/12.0   *Sep 2015 - Dec 2018*
 · **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore** - semester abroad, Fall 2017.

Publications & Preprints

On Pre-Training for Visuo-Motor Control: Revisiting a Learning-from-Scratch Baseline   *Preprint*
arXiv preprint   *2022*
Nicklas Hansen*, Zhechen Yuan*, Yanjie Ze*, Tongzhou Mu*, Aravind Rajeswaran^, Hao Su^,
Huazhe Xu^, Xiaolong Wang^
https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.05749

MoDem: Accelerating Visual Model-Based Manipulation with Demonstrations   *Poster*
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)**   *2022*
Nicklas Hansen, Yixin Lin, Hao Su, Xiaolong Wang, Vikash Kumar, Aravind Rajeswaran
https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.05698

On the Feasibility of Cross-Task Transfer with Model-Based Reinforcement Learning   *Poster*
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)**   *2022*
Yifan Xu*, **Nicklas Hansen***, Zirui Wang, Yung-Chieh Chan, Hao Su, Zhouwen Tu
https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.10763

Visual Reinforcement Learning with Self-Supervised 3D Representations   *Journal*
IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters **(RA-L)**   *2023*
Yanjie Ze*, **Nicklas Hansen***, Yinbo Chen, Mohit Jain, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.07241

Graph Inverse Reinforcement Learning from Diverse Videos   ***Oral***
Conference on Robot Learning **(CoRL)**   *2022*
Sateesh Kumar, Jonathan Zamora*, **Nicklas Hansen***, Rishabh Jangir, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.14299

Temporal Difference Learning for Model Predictive Control
International Conference on Machine Learning **(ICML)**
Short Presentation
2022
Nicklas Hansen, Xiaolong Wang*, Hao Su*
https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.04955

Look Closer: Bridging Egocentric and Third-Person Views with Transformers for Robotic Manipulation
IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters **(RA-L)**
Journal & Poster
International Conference on Robotics and Automation **(ICRA)**
2022
Rishabh Jangir*, **Nicklas Hansen***, Sambaran Ghosal, Mohit Jain, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.07779

Learning Vision-Guided Quadrupedal Locomotion with Cross-Modal Transformers
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)**
Spotlight
2022
Ruihan Yang*, Minghao Zhang*, **Nicklas Hansen**, Hauzhe Xu, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.03996

Stabilizing Deep Q-Learning with ConvNets and Vision Transformers under Data Augmentation
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems **(NeurIPS)**
Poster
2021
Nicklas Hansen, Hao Su, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.00644

Generalization in Reinforcement Learning by Soft Data Augmentation
International Conference on Robotics and Automation **(ICRA)**
Poster
2021
Nicklas Hansen, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.13389

Self-Supervised Policy Adaptation during Deployment
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)**
Spotlight
2021
Nicklas Hansen, Rishabh Jangir, Yu Sun, Guillem Alenyà, Pieter Abbeel, Alexei A. Efros,
Lerrel Pinto, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.04309

Short Term Blood Glucose Prediction Based on Continuous Glucose Monitoring Data
IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Conference **(EMBC)**
Poster
2020
Ali Mohebbi, Alexander R. Johansen, **Nicklas Hansen**, Peter E. Christensen, Jens M. Tarp,
Morten L. Jensen, Henrik Bengtsson, Morten Mørup
https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.02805

Teaching

Technical University of Denmark
Co-organizer
Reinforcement Learning
Jan 2021
· Special course that I co-organized w/ Prof. Ole Winther for a group of students. Three weeks of full-time study.

Technical University of Denmark
Teaching Assistant
02456 Deep Learning
Fall 2019, Fall 2020
· Significant course material contributions, **supervised 100+ students' projects** on reinforcement learning.
02454 Introduction to Cognitive Science
Fall 2019
· Assisted tutorial sessions, corrected assignments.

Current and Former Mentees

Rishabh Jangir (MS UCSD -> Robotics Engineer, Nimble)
2020 - 2022
Mohit Jain (MS UCSD -> ML Engineer, Pinterest)
2020 - 2022
Xinyue Chen (BS NYU Shanghai -> PhD, UC Berkeley)
2021 - 2022
Chandramouli Rajagopalan (MS UCSD)
2022 -
Yunhai Feng (MS UCSD)
2022 -
Zirui "Colin" Wang (BS UCSD)
2022 -
Ziyan Xiong (BS Tsinghua University)
2022 -
Sateesh Kumar (MS UCSD)
2021 -

Jonathan Zamora-Anaya (BS UCSD)   *2021 -*
Yanjie Ze (BS SJTU)   *2021 -*

Invited Talks

MILA/ServiceNow	"World Models with Behavioral Priors"	*Feb 2023*
Georgia Tech	"Towards Sample-Efficient Robot Learning with World Models"	*Jan 2023*
Meta AI (FAIR)	"Pretraining for Control: Current Challenges and Solutions"	*Jan 2023*
TU Delft	"Model-Based Reinforcement Learning: A Path Towards Generalist Agents?"	*Oct 2022*
UCSD RoboGrads	"Model-Based Reinforcement Learning: A Path Towards Generalist Agents?"	*Oct 2022*
Generally Intelligent	Podcast: https://generallyintelligent.com/podcast/2022-12-16-podcast-episode-25-nicklas-hansen/	*September 2022*
Intel AI	"Temporal Difference Learning for Model Predictive Control"	*April 2022*
Intel AI	"Agents that Generalize"	*August 2021*
G-Research	"Agents that Generalize and Adapt"	*February 2021*
Neural AI	"An Introduction to Reinforcement Learning"	*June 2019*

Academic Service

2023	IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (**RA-L**)	*Reviewer*
2023	International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (**IROS**)	*Reviewer*
2023	International Conference on Computer Vision (**ICCV**)	*Reviewer*
2023	International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)	*Reviewer*
2023	Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (**CVPR**)	*Reviewer*
2023	International Conference on Representation Learning (**ICLR**)	*Assisted review*
2023	IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation (**ICRA**)	*Reviewer*
2022	Self-Supervised Learning - Theory and Practice, Workshop @ **NeurIPS**	*Reviewer*
2022	Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)	*Reviewer*
2022	European Conference on Computer Vision (**ECCV**)	*Reviewer*
2022	IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (**RA-L**)	*Reviewer*
2022	Generalizable Policy Learning in the Physical World, Workshop @ **ICLR**	*Reviewer*
2022	International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)	*Reviewer*
2022	Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (**CVPR**)	*Reviewer*
2022	IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (**RA-L**)	*Reviewer*
2021	Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI**)	*Reviewer*
2021	International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)	*Assisted review*
2020	Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**)	*Assisted review*
2020	SIGNLL Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (**CoNLL**)	*Assisted review*

Workshop Presentations

On Pre-Training for Visuo-Motor Control: Revisiting a Learning-from-Scratch Baseline   *Poster*
Pre-Training Robot Learning @ CoRL   *2022*

On the Feasibility of Cross-Task Transfer with Model-Based Reinforcement Learning   *Poster*
Pre-Training Robot Learning @ CoRL   *2022*
Foundation Models for Decision Making @ NeurIPS   *2022*
Deep RL Workshop @ NeurIPS   *2022*

MoDem: Accelerating Visual Model-Based Reinforcement Learning with Demonstrations   *Poster*
Pre-Training Robot Learning @ CoRL   *2022*
Deep RL Workshop @ NeurIPS   *2022*

Look Closer: Bridging Egocentric and Third-Person Views with Transformers for Robotic Manipulation *Poster*
Workshop on Deployable Decision Making in Embodied Systems @ NeurIPS   *2021*
Deep RL Workshop @ NeurIPS   *2021*

Learning Vision-Guided Quadrupedal Locomotion End-to-End with Cross-Modal Transformers   *Poster/Oral*
Deep RL Workshop @ NeurIPS   *2021*
Visual Learning and Reasoning for Robotics Workshop @ RSS   *2021*

Stabilizing Deep Q-Learning with ConvNets and Vision Transformers under Data Augmentation   *Poster/Oral*
Unsupervised RL Workshop @ ICML   *2021*
Visual Learning and Reasoning for Robotics Workshop @ RSS   *2021*

Self-Supervised Policy Adaptation During Deployment   *Poster*
Microsoft Research RL Day   *2021*
Deep RL Workshop @ NeurIPS   *2020*
Workshop on Robot Learning @ NeurIPS   *2020*

Work Experience

Meta AI (FAIR)   *Menlo Park, CA, USA*
Student Researcher   *June 2022 - Dec 2022*
 · Model-Based Reinforcement Learning. Mentored by Aravind Rajeswaran.

raffle.ai   *Copenhagen, Denmark*
Machine Learning Intern   *Summer 2019*
 · I built and open-sourced a cross-domain text-to-SQL parser in PyTorch.

Retune DSP   *Kongens Lyngby, Denmark*
Student Assistant   *Feb 2019 - Dec 2019*
 · I helped a team of engineers build and maintain deep learning pipelines for embedded voice control.

Nordic Transition   *Gentofte, Denmark*
Student Software Developer   *July 2016 - Dec 2019*
 · I developed and maintained a data management and analysis platform for the HR industry.

Awards and Scholarships

2021   **Robotics Summer School Scholarship**   *Scholarship*
　　　 · A scholarship to participate in a two-week summer program in Denmark.
2020   **Spar Nord Fond Scholarship**   *Scholarship*
　　　 · A scholarship to study a semester at UC Berkeley (5 recipients nation-wide).
2020   **UC Berkeley's SCET Collider Cup Finalist**   *Award*
　　　 · Biannual startup competition. Best student project from each class is nominated.
2020   **Innovation Center Denmark's SPARK Winner**   *Award*
　　　 · Best project in a 6-month entrepreneurial program in the Bay Area.
2017   **Otto Mønsted Fonds Legat**   *Scholarship*
　　　 · A grant for high-achieving students (GPA >= 8.0) that wish to study a semester abroad.

Volunteering

2022   **UC San Diego GradAMP Mentor (PhD Applications)**   *Mentorship*
　　　 · Supported prospective students through weekly mentor-mentee meetings in Fall.

Misc. Open-Source Projects

DMControl Generalization Benchmark   *2020*
 · Benchmark for generalization in continuous control from pixels.
https://github.com/nicklashansen/dmcontrol-generalization-benchmark

Optimization in Deep Learning   *2019*
 · Implementation and benchmark of deep learning optimization algorithms.
https://github.com/nicklashansen/neural-net-optimization

How to build RNNs and LSTMs from scratch with NumPy   *2019*
 · Educational material on recurrent neural networks.
https://github.com/nicklashansen/rnn_lstm_from_scratch

March 2023