YANDONG JI

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EDUCATION

University of California at San Diego, USA   Sep 2023 - present
· PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering

University of California at Berkeley, USA   Aug 2021 - May 2022
· MEng in Mechanical Engineering

Nankai University, China   Aug 2017 - June 2021
· BEng in Intelligent Science and Technology

WORK EXPERIENCE

UC San Diego, USA   Jul 2024 - present
· Graduate Student Researcher

Google Deepmind, USA   Jun 2025 - Sep 2025
· Student Researcher

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA   Jun 2022 - Jun 2023
· Technical Associate

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

An-Chieh Cheng*, **Yandong Ji***, Zhaojing Yang*, Xueyan Zou, Jan Kautz, Erdem Biyik, Hongxu Yin†, Sifei Liu†, Xiaolong Wang†. NaVILA: Legged Robot Vision-Language-Action Model for Navigation. RSS 2025

Minghuan Liu*, Zixuan Chen*, Xuxin Cheng, **Yandong Ji**, Rizhao Qiu, Ruihan Yang, Xiaolong Wang. Visual Whole-Body Control for Legged Loco-Manipulation. CoRL 2024

Xuxin Cheng*, **Yandong Ji***, Junmin Chen, Ruihan Yang, Ge Yang, Xiaolong Wang. Expressive Whole-Body Control for Humanoid Robots. RSS 2024, Media: UC San Diego Today.

Tiffany Portela, Gabriel Margolis, **Yandong Ji**, Pulkit Agrawal. Learning Force Control for Legged Manipulation. ICRA 2024

Gabriel Margolis, Xiang Fu, **Yandong Ji**, Pulkit Agrawal. Learning to See Physical Properties with Active Sensing Motor Policies. CoRL 2023

Yandong Ji*, Gabriel Margolis*, Pulkit Agrawal. DribbleBot: Dynamic Legged Manipulation in the Wild. ICRA 2023, CoRL workshop 2022, Media: MIT News, IEEE Spectrum, WHDH, TechCrunch

Yandong Ji*, Zhongyu Li*, Yinan Sun, Xue Bin Peng, Sergey Levine, Glen Berseth, Koushil Sreenath. Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning for Precise Soccer Shooting Skills using a Quadrupedal Robot. IROS 2022, **Best RoboCup Paper Award Finalist**.

Yandong Ji, Bike Zhang, Koushil Sreenath. Reinforcement learning for collaborative quadrupedal manipulation of a payload over challenging terrain. IEEE CASE 2021.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer for CoRL, ICRA, IROS, EMNLP, RA-L, Soft Robotics