# Anurag Ajay

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## Education Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

MIT Presidential fellowship

University of California, Berkeley

B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Graduated with Highest Honors (top 3%)

### Experience

## Improbable AI Lab

(Adviser: Pulkit Agarwal)

- Building deep RL algorithms that leverages past interactions to learn priors that promote behavior
- Identifying and fixing key optimization bottlenecks in deep RL

## Google Brain Research Internship

June 2020 - August 2020

September 2017 - Present

August 2013 - May 2017

September 2019 - Present

GPA: 5.00/5.00

GPA: 3.95/4.00

(Advisers: Ofir Nachum and Sergey Levine)

• Worked on leveraging (unlabelled) offline data to extract skills which allows for improved offline reinforcement learning, online reinforcement learning and few-shot imitation learning.

# Learning and Intelligent Systems Group

September 2017 - September 2019

(Advisers: Leslie Kaelbling and Josh Tenenbaum)

- Worked on leveraging physics engine for dynamics model learning and control
- Worked on curiosity driven exploration for reinforcement learning in environment with sparse rewards

## Madry Lab (with Aleksander Madry)

March 2019 - September 2019

- Worked towards understanding the fundamentals of deep learning and on designing adversarially robust deep learning models.
- Worked on robust style transfer for images and videos

## Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research Lab

October 2014 - May 2017

(Advisers: Pieter Abbeel and Sergev Levine)

- Worked on deep learning for state estimation
- Developed model-based sample efficient reinforcement learning algorithm

# **Publications**

## Is Conditional Generative Modeling all you need for Decision Making?

Anurag Ajay\*, Yilun Du\*, Abhi Gupta\*, Josh Tenenbaum, Tommi Jaakkola, Pulkit Agrawal. International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), Kigali, Rwanda, May 2023 (In Submission).

## Parallel-Q-Learning: Scaling Off-policy Reinforcement Learning

Zechu Li, Tao Chen, Zhang-Wei Hong, Anurag Ajay, Pulkit Agrawal.

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), Kigali, Rwanda, May 2023 (In Submission).

# Distributionally Adaptive Meta Reinforcement Learning

Anurag Ajay\*, Abhishek Gupta\*, Dibya Ghosh, Sergey Levine, Pulkit Agrawal.

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), New Orleans, USA, December 2022.

#### Offline RL Policies should be trained to be Adaptive

Dibya Ghosh, Anurag Ajay, Pulkit Agrawal, Sergey Levine.

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Baltimore, USA, July 2022.

# Overcoming The Spectral Bias of Neural Value Approximation

Ge Yang\*, Anurag Ajay\*, Pulkit Agrawal.

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), Virtual, May 2022.

# Understanding the Generalization Gap in Visual Reinforcement Learning

Anurag Ajay\*, Ge Yang\*, Ofir Nachum, Pulkit Agrawal.

ICML Reinforcement Learning for Real Life Workshop, July 2021.

### OPAL: Offline Primitive Discovery for Accelerating Offline Reinforcement Learning

Anurag Ajay, Aviral Kumar, Pulkit Agrawal, Sergey Levine, Ofir Nachum.

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), Vienna, Austria, May 2021.

## Learning Action Priors for Visuomotor transfer

Anurag Ajay, Pulkit Agrawal.

ICML Inductive biases, invariances and generalization in RL workshop, July 2020.

# Long-Horizon Prediction and Uncertainty Propagation with Residual Point Contact Learners Nima Fazeli, Anurag Ajay, Alberto Rodriguez.

IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Paris, France, May 2020.

# Learning Skill Hierarchies from Predicate Descriptions and Self-Supervision

Tom Silver\*, Rohan Chitnis\*, **Anurag Ajay**, Josh Tenenbaum, Leslie Pack Kaelbling. AAAI Workshop on Generalization in Planning (GenPlan), 2020.

## Learning to Navigate Endoscopic Capsule Robots

Mehmet Turan, Yasin Almalioglu, Hunter B Gilbert, Faisal Mahmood, Nicholas J Durr, Helder Araujo, Alp Eren Sar, Anurag Ajay, Metin Sitti.

Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L), 2019.

# Combining Physical Simulators and Object-Based Networks for Control

**Anurag Ajay**, Maria Bauza, Jiajun Wu, Nima Fazeli, Joshua B. Tenenbaum, Alberto Rodriguez, Leslie P. Kaelbling.

IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Montreal, Canada, May 2019.

# Augmenting Physical Simulators with Stochastic Neural Networks: Case Study of Planar Pushing and Bouncing

**Anurag Ajay**, Jiajun Wu, Nima Fazeli, Maria Bauza, Leslie P. Kaelbling, Joshua B. Tenenbaum, Alberto Rodriguez.

IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Madrid, Spain, October 2018. Best Paper for Cognitive Robotics

# Reset-Free Guided Policy Search: Efficient Deep Reinforcement Learning with Stochastic Initial States

Anurag Ajay\*, William Montgomery\*, Chelsea Finn, Pieter Abbeel, Sergey Levine. IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Singapore, May 2017.

## Backprop KF: Learning Discriminative Deterministic State Estimators

Tuomas Haarnoja, Anurag Ajay, Sergey Levine, Pieter Abbeel.

Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), Barcelona, Spain, December 2016.

Technical Skills Python, ROS, Caffe, Tensorflow, Pytorch, JAX, Spark