Jin Cheng

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Education

Doctoral student in Computer Science, ETH Zürich, Switzerland since 10/2023
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Stelian Coros (ETH Zürich), Prof. Dr. Guanya Shi (Carnegie Mellon University)

M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering, ETH Zürich, Switzerland 09/2020 – 07/2023

B.E. in Vehicle Engineering, Tsinghua University, China 09/2016 – 07/2020

Research Experience

Scientific Assistant, ETH Zürich since 10/2023
Computational Robotics Lab (CRL), supervised by Prof. Dr. Stelian Coros

Research Intern, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems 04/2023 - 09/2023
Autonomous Learning Group, supervised by Prof. Dr. Georg Martius

Research Assistant, ETH Zürich 11/2022 - 03/2023
Computational Robotics Lab (CRL), supervised by Prof. Dr. Stelian Coros

Semester and Master Thesis, ETH Zürich 03/2022 - 11/2022
Robotic Systems Lab (RSL), supervised by Prof. Dr. Marco Hutter

Research Assistant and Bachelor Thesis, Tsinghua University 09/2019 - 05/2020
State Key Laboratory of Intelligent Green Vehicle and Mobility, supervised by Prof. Dr. Qing Zhou

Publications

Learning Steerable Imitation Controllers from Unstructured Animal Motions (Under Review)
Dongho Kang, Jin Cheng, Fatemeh Zargarbashi, Taerim Yoon, Sungjoon Choi, Stelian Coros 07/2025

RAMBO: RL-augmented Model-based Whole-body Control for Loco-manipulation (Under Review)
Jin Cheng, Dongho Kang, Gabriele Fadini, Guanya Shi, Stelian Coros 04/2025

CAIMAN: Causal Action Influence Detection for Sample-efficient Loco-manipulation (Under Review)
Yuanchen Yuan, Jin Cheng, Núria Armengol Urpí, Stelian Coros 02/2025

Spatio-Temporal Motion Retargeting for Quadruped Robots (Under Review)
Taerim Yoon, Dongho Kang, Seungmin Kim, Minsung Ahn, Jin Cheng, Stelian Coros, Sungjoon Choi 02/2025

SATA: Safe and Adaptive Torque-Based Locomotion Policies Inspired by Animal Learning (RSS 2025)
Peizhuo Li, Hongyi Li, Ge Sun, Jin Cheng, Xinrong Yang, Guillaume Bellegarda, Milad Shafiee, Yuhong Cao, Auke Ijspeert, Guillaume Sartoretti 02/2025

DARE: Diffusion Policy for Autonomous Robot Exploration (ICRA 2025)
Yuhong Cao, Jeric Lew, Jingsong Liang, Jin Cheng, Guillaume Sartoretti 02/2025

RobotKeyframing: Learning Locomotion with High-Level Objectives via Mixture of Dense and Sparse Rewards (CoRL 2024)
Fatemeh Zargarbashi, Jin Cheng, Dongho Kang, Robert Sumner, and Stelian Coros 09/2024

Offline Diversity Maximization Under Imitation Constraints (RLC 2024)
Marin Vlastelica, Jin Cheng, Georg Martius, Pavel Kolev 05/2024

Learning Diverse Skills for Local Navigation under Multi-constraint Optimality (ICRA 2024)
Jin Cheng, Marin Vlastelica, Pavel Kolev, Chenhao Li, Georg Martius 02/2024

RL + Model-based Control:
Using On-demand Optimal Control to Learn Versatile Legged Locomotion (RA-L)
Dongho Kang, Jin Cheng, Miguel Zamora, Fatemeh Zargarbashi, Stelian Coros 09/2023

Haptic Teleoperation of High-dimensional Robotic Systems
Using a Feedback MPC Framework (IROS 2022)
Jin Cheng, Firas Abi-Farraj, Farbod Farshidian, Marco Hutter 10/2022

Invited Talks

Frontier AI & Robotics (FAR) @ Amazon 05/2025
Robotics and AI Institute (RAI) @ Zurich 04/2025
Biomimetic Robotics Laboratory @ MIT 11/2023

Teaching Experience

Probabilistic Artificial Intelligence (263-5210-00) 08/2025 - 02/2026
Learning & Adaptive Systems Group (LAS) at ETH Zürich, lectured by A. Krause

Computational Models of Motion (263-5807-00) 02/2025 - 07/2025
Computational Robotics Lab (CRL) at ETH Zürich, lectured by S. Coros

Probabilistic Artificial Intelligence (263-5210-00) 08/2024 - 02/2025
Learning & Adaptive Systems Group (LAS) at ETH Zürich, lectured by A. Krause

Introduction to Machine Learning (252-0220-00) 02/2024 - 08/2024
Learning & Adaptive Systems Group (LAS) at ETH Zürich, lectured by F. Perez Cruz, F. Yang

Dynamic Programming and Optimal Control (151-0563-01) 08/2022 - 02/2023
Institute for Dynamic Systems and Control (IDSC) at ETH Zürich, lectured by R. D'Andrea

Recursive Estimation (151-0566-00) 02/2022 - 08/2022
Institute for Dynamic Systems and Control (IDSC) at ETH Zürich, lectured by R. D'Andrea

Dynamic Programming and Optimal Control (151-0563-01) 08/2021 - 02/2022
Institute for Dynamic Systems and Control (IDSC) at ETH Zürich, lectured by R. D'Andrea

Skills and Services

Language: Chinese (Native), English (C1), German (B2)
Programming: Python, C++, Git, Docker, LaTeX, PyTorch, ROS
Journal Reviewer: RA-L
Conference Reviewer: CoRL, ICRA, IROS, RLC, SIGGRAPH
Workshop Reviewer: EXAIT@ICML2025

Scholarships and Awards

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award 03/2022
ETH Zürich *Zürich, Switzerland*

Friends of Tsinghua Scholarship – German Scholarship 10/2019
Tsinghua University *Beijing, China*

Academic Excellence Scholarship 10/2018, 10/2019
Tsinghua University *Beijing, China*

Volunteer Public Service Scholarship 10/2018
Tsinghua University *Beijing, China*

Integrated Excellence Scholarship 10/2017
Tsinghua University *Beijing, China*

02.07.2025