Nicklas **Hansen**

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Education

University of California, San Diego
PhD student, Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 3.85/4.0
· Advised by Xiaolong Wang and Hao Su. NVIDIA Graduate Fellow.

San Diego, CA, USA
Fall 2021 - present

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

Berkeley, CA, USA
Spring 2020

Technical University of Denmark
MS Mathematical Modeling & Computation, GPA: 11.2/12.0
· Special topics in machine learning. Advised by Ole Winther.

Kongens Lyngby, Denmark
Feb 2019 - Jan 2021

Technical University of Denmark
BS Software Technology, GPA: 8.2/12.0, final year GPA: 10.8/12.0
· **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore** - semester abroad, Fall 2017.

Kongens Lyngby, Denmark
Sep 2015 - Dec 2018

Publications & Preprints (21)

Policy Learning with Large World Models
arXiv preprint
Ignat Georgiev, Varun Giridhar, **Nicklas Hansen**, Animesh Garg
https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.02466

Preprint
2024

Hierarchical World Models as Visual Whole-Body Humanoid Controllers
arXiv preprint
Nicklas Hansen, Jyothir S V, Vlad Sobal, Yann LeCun, Xiaolong Wang*, Hao Su*
https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.18418

Preprint
2024

A Simulation Benchmark for Autonomous Racing with Large-Scale Human Data
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems **(NeurIPS)**
Adrian Remonda, **Nicklas Hansen**, Ayoub Raji, Nicola Musiu, Marko Bertogna,
Eduardo E. Veas, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.16680

Poster
2024

A Recipe for Unbounded Data Augmentation in Visual Reinforcement Learning
Reinforcement Learning Conference **(RLC)**
Abdulaziz Almuzairee, **Nicklas Hansen**, Henrik I. Christensen
https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.17416

Poster
2024

TD-MPC2: Scalable, Robust World Models for Continuous Control
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)**
Nicklas Hansen, Hao Su*, Xiaolong Wang*
https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.16828

Spotlight
2024

Open X-Embodiment: Robotic Learning Datasets and RT-X Models
International Conference on Robotics and Automation **(ICRA)**
Open X-Embodiment Collaboration, [...], **Nicklas Hansen**, [...] (173 authors)
https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.08864

Best Conference Paper
2024

MoDem-V2: Visuo-Motor World Models for Real-World Robot Learning *Poster*
International Conference on Robotics and Automation **(ICRA)** *2024*
Patrick Lancaster, **Nicklas Hansen**, Aravind Rajeswaran, Vikash Kumar
https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.14236

Finetuning Offline World Models in the Real World *Oral*
Conference on Robot Learning **(CoRL)** *2023*
Yunhai Feng*, **Nicklas Hansen***, Ziyan Xiong*, Chandramouli Rajagopalan, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.16029

Multi-Task Real Robot Learning with Generalizable Neural Feature Fields *Oral*
Conference on Robot Learning **(CoRL)** *2023*
Yanjie Ze, Ge Yan, Yueh-Hua Wu, Annabella Macaluso, Yuying Ge, Jianglong Ye, **Nicklas Hansen**,
Li Erran Li, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.16891

On Pre-Training for Visuo-Motor Control: Revisiting a Learning-from-Scratch Baseline *Poster*
International Conference on Machine Learning **(ICML)** *2023*
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)** *2023*
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)** *2023*
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 & Poster*
IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters **(RA-L)** *2023*
International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems **(IROS)**
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 *Short Presentation*
International Conference on Machine Learning **(ICML)** *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 *Spotlight*
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)** *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 *Poster*
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems **(NeurIPS)** *2021*
Nicklas Hansen, Hao Su, Xiaolong Wang
https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.00644

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

Self-Supervised Policy Adaptation during Deployment *Spotlight*
International Conference on Learning Representations **(ICLR)** *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 *Poster*
IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Conference **(EMBC)** *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

University of California, San Diego *Teaching Assistant*
ECE285 Introduction to Visual Learning *Spring 2024*
· Held office hours, graded assignments.

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, graded assignments.

Current and Former Mentees

Rishabh Jangir (MS, UCSD -> ML Engineer, Skild AI) *2020 - 2022*
Mohit Jain (MS, UCSD -> ML Engineer, Pinterest) *2020 - 2022*
Xinyue Chen (BS, NYU Shanghai -> PhD, UC Berkeley) *2021 - 2022*
Sateesh Kumar (MS, UCSD -> Research Engineer, ByteDance) *2021 - 2023*
Jonathan Zamora-Anaya (BS, UCSD -> MS, USC) *2021 - 2023*
Sambaran Ghosal (MS, UCSD -> ML Engineer, BrainCorp) *2021 - 2023*
Zirui "Colin" Wang (BS, UCSD -> MS, Cornell) *2022 - 2023*
Ziyan Xiong (BS, Tsinghua University) *2022 - 2023*
Yanjie Ze (BS, SJTU -> PhD, Stanford) *2021 - 2023*
Yunhai Feng (MS, UCSD -> PhD, Cornell) *2022 - 2024*
Chandramouli Rajagopalan (MS, UCSD -> ML Engineer, Streamingo) *2022 - 2024*
Jyothir S V (MS, NYU) *2023 - 2024*
Adrià Lopez (MS, ETH) *2024 -*
Yutao Xie (MS, UCSD) *2024 -*

Invited Talks

KEA Copenhagen	"Data-Driven Algorithms for Robotics"	*Dec 2024*
USC	"Data-Driven World Models for Robots"	*Oct 2024*
HuggingFace	"TD-MPC, TD-MPC2, and beyond"	*Jun 2024*
BeNeRL Seminar	"Data-Driven World Models for Robots"	*Jun 2024*
TILOS Institute	"Large Datasets and Models for Robots in the Real World"	*May 2024*
Univ. Michigan	"Robot Learning with (Generalist) World Models"	*Jan 2024*
Georgia Tech	"Building Generalist World Models"	*Jan 2024*
Tech. Univ. Denmark	"Data-Driven World Models at Scale: Why, What, and How?"	*Dec 2023*
Tsinghua IIIS	"The Next Generation of World Models"	*Mar 2023*
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/	*Sep 2022*
Intel AI	"Temporal Difference Learning for Model Predictive Control"	*Apr 2022*
Intel AI	"Robots that Generalize"	*Aug 2021*
G-Research	"Agents that Generalize and Adapt"	*Feb 2021*
Neural AI	"An Introduction to Reinforcement Learning"	*Jun 2019*

Academic Service

2025	International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)	*Reviewer*
2025	International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**)	*Reviewer*
2024	IEEE Transactions on Robotics (**T-RO**)	*Reviewer*
2024	Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (**TPAMI**)	*Reviewer*
2024	IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (**RA-L**)	*Reviewer*
2024	Workshop on X-Embodiment Robot Learning @ **CoRL**	*Reviewer*
2024	Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)	*Reviewer*
2024	European Conference on Computer Vision (**ECCV**)	*Reviewer*
2024	International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)	*Reviewer*
2024	Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (**CVPR**)	*Reviewer*
2024	International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**)	*Reviewer*
2024	IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation (**ICRA**)	*Reviewer*
2023	Foundation Models for Decision-Making, Workshop @ **NeurIPS**	*Reviewer*
2023	Self-Supervised Learning - Theory and Practice, Workshop @ **NeurIPS**	*Reviewer*
2023	Journal of Machine Learning Research (**JMLR**)	*Reviewer*
2023	International Journal of Computer Vision (**IJCV**)	*Reviewer*
2023	Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)	*Top Reviewer*
2023	Learning Dexterous Manipulation, Workshop @ **RSS**	*Reviewer*
2023	International Conference on Computer Vision (**ICCV**)	*Reviewer*
2023	Structural and Compositional Learning on 3D data, Workshop @ **CVPR**	*Reviewer*
2023	IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (**RA-L**)	*Reviewer*
2023	International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (**IROS**)	*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

Musculoskeletal Control with TD-MPC2 — *Poster*
MyoSuite Symposium @ NeurIPS (2nd place Locomotion track + Physiological Award) — *2024*

TD-MPC2: Scalable, Robust World Models for Continuous Control — *Poster*
Foundation Models for Decision-Making @ NeurIPS — *2023*
Robot Learning @ NeurIPS — *2023*
Pre-Training Robot Learning @ CoRL — *2023*

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*
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*
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

NVIDIA Research — *Seattle, WA, USA*
Research Intern — *June 2024 -*
· Robot Learning. Mentored by Yashraj Narang and Dieter Fox.

Meta AI (FAIR) — *Menlo Park, CA, USA*
Research Intern — *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

2023	**NVIDIA Graduate Fellowship 2024-25**	*Fellowship*
	· An award of $60,000 to cover stipend and tuition for 1 year (10 recipients worldwide).	
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 students with a GPA >= 8.0 who wish to study a semester abroad.	

Volunteering

2024	**Queer in AI, Graduate Application Financial Assistance**	*Organizing*
	· Reviewed applications for microgrants to cover fees associated with graduate applications.	
2024	**UC San Diego, Graduate Women in Computing Mentor**	*Mentorship*
	· Mentor for first-year PhD students that identify with a gender minority.	
2023	**UC San Diego, GradAMP Mentor (PhD Applications)**	*Mentorship*
2022	· Supported prospective students through weekly mentor-mentee meetings in Fall.	

Misc. Open-Source Projects

Puppeteer Official Implementation (⭐158) *2024*
· Public code release for "Hierarchical World Models as Visual Whole-Body Humanoid Controllers".
https://github.com/nicklashansen/puppeteer

TD-MPC2 Official Implementation (⭐413) *2024*
· Public code release for "TD-MPC2: Scalable, Robust World Models for Continuous Control".
https://github.com/nicklashansen/tdmpc2

TD-MPC Official Implementation (⭐378) *2022*
· Public code release for "Temporal Difference Learning for Model Predictive Control".
https://github.com/nicklashansen/tdmpc

DMControl Generalization Benchmark (⭐168) *2020*
· Benchmark for generalization in continuous control from pixels.
https://github.com/nicklashansen/dmcontrol-generalization-benchmark

PAD Official Implementation (⭐113) *2020*
 · Public code release for "Policy Adaptation During Deployment".
https://github.com/nicklashansen/policy-adaptation-during-deployment

How to build RNNs and LSTMs from scratch with NumPy (⭐254) *2019*
 · Educational material on recurrent neural networks.
https://github.com/nicklashansen/rnn_lstm_from_scratch