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Summary: Robotics researcher advancing foundation-model pipelines by combining VLM open-vocabulary perception, LLM-generated reward design, and early VLA policies grounded in prior multi-sensor (RGB-D/LiDAR/multispectral) perception work.

Interests: VLMs, VLAs, Robotic manipulation, Open-vocabulary & 3D perception and Data generation & sim-to-real.

Education

02/2022 – 07/2025

PhD in Computer Science, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain
Focus: RGB, RGB-D, LiDAR and multispectral perception and analytic grasping methods
Dissertation: *Multisensorial perception for grasping objects with multifingered grippers*, directed by [Prof. Santiago T. Puente](#)
8+ international conference papers (ICRA, IFAC, VISAPP), 4 journal articles (T-RO, JINT)
Final grade: 10.0/10.0 (Cum laude)
Merits: [NOVA Talent 2024](#)

12/2023 – 05/2024

Research Stay at ISIR¹, Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
Focus: Grasping dataset generation using evolutionary algorithms
Collaboration with [Prof. Stéphane Doncieux](#)

09/2020 – 07/2021

Master's in Automation and Robotics, University of Alicante, Spain
Focus: Using controllers on spatial humanoids
Master thesis: Design, simulation, and control of a humanoid space robot
Final grade: 9.56/10.0 *1st in class, class average: 8.33*
Merits: [Extraordinary Master's Award](#) and [EPS-UA Hall of Fame](#)

09/2016 – 06/2020

Bachelor's in Robotics Engineering, University of Alicante, Spain
Focus: Image-based satellite control for on-orbit operations
Bachelor thesis: Guiding robotic satellites using image-based control
Final grade: 7.69/10.0 *Top 6 out of cohort, class average of 7.1*
Merits: [COITIA² Best Final Thesis](#) and [SEDEA³ Academic Excellence Ranking 2020: 6th in Other Engineering](#)

¹Institut des Systèmes Intelligents et de Robotique

²Colegio Oficial de graduados e Ingenieros Técnicos Industriales de Alicante

³Sociedad Española de Excelencia Académica

Work Experience

Since 12/2025	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Cognitive Robotics Lab , Automation Technology and Mechanical Engineering Unit, Tampere University Exploring ViT multi-patch-size analysis for VLM-based perception, targeting open-vocabulary recognition across scales Investigating fault-tolerant manipulation strategies, with an emphasis on recovery behaviors in cluttered scenes
12/2024 - 12/2025	Adjunct Lecturer / Docent, Department of Physics, Systems Engineering and Signal Theory , University of Alicante Lectured on teleoperation and robot design techniques
12/2024 - 11/2025	Research Assistant, Automation, Robotics and Computer Vision (AUROVA) Lab , University Institute for Computer Research, University of Alicante Developed a new robotic platform Designed a force feedback system for a haptic sensor
04/2022 – 12/2024	Research Assistant, Automation, Robotics and Computer Vision (ARVC) Lab , Systems Engineering and Automation Department, Miguel Hernández University of Elche Derived an analytic grasping method for multi-fingered grippers Designed RGB, RGB-D, LiDAR and multispectral perception algorithms to analyze the environment
09/2021 – 02/2022	Technical Research Assistant, Automation, Robotics and Computer Vision (AUROVA) Lab , University Institute for Computer Research, University of Alicante Developed a complete robotic pipeline to collect household waste outdoors

Extracurricular activities

Since 2020	IEEE Robotics and Automation Society member
Since 2017	IEEE member

Further Education

11/2023	Deep Reinforcement Learning Course , Hugging Face
06/2023	Advanced Course on Data Science & Machine Learning , University of Cambridge & University of Florida, held in Italy
08/2022	Building AI , University of Helsinki, Finland
07/2022	Robotics and AI , Institut de Robòtica i Informàtica Industrial / CSIC UPC, Spain
11/2021	Robot Perception for interacting with humans and for manipulating soft objects , The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
07/2021	Elements of AI , University of Helsinki, Finland

Languages

Spanish	Native speaker
English	C2
Catalan	C1
French	A2

Computer Skills

Programming Languages	C, C++, Python
ML/FM	TensorFlow, PyTorch
Robotics	ROS/ROS 2, Gazebo, RViz, OpenCV, MATLAB
Ops	Docker, Singularity, Slurm

Publications (selected)

- [J1] S.T. Puente, **I-L. Páez-Ubieta** and M. Fernández-Herrero (2025). “Comparative of LLM-generated rewards for training RL agents in robot manipulation tasks” in *IEEE Transactions on Robotics (T-RO)*. Under review. [LLMs, Grasping, Rewards]
- [J2] **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, D. Frau-Alfaro and S.T. Puente (2025). “GeoGraspEvo: Multifinger Grasp Pose Estimation” in *Journal of Intelligent and Robotic Systems (JINT)*. Under review. [Grasping, Analytic, Multifinger]
- [J3] **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, J. Castaño-Amorós, S.T. Puente and P. Gil (2023). “Vision and Tactile Robotic System to Grasp Litter in Outdoor Environments” in *Journal of Intelligent and Robotic Systems (JINT)*. doi: [10.1007/s10846-023-01930-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10846-023-01930-2). [Pipeline]
- [IC1] J. Huber, F. Hélénon, M. Kappel, **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, S.T. Puente, P. Gil, F.B. Amar and S. Doncieux (2025). “QDGset: A Large Scale Grasping Dataset Generated with Quality-Diversity” in *42nd IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*. doi: [10.1109/ICRA55743.2025.11127427](https://doi.org/10.1109/ICRA55743.2025.11127427). [Dataset, Grasping, Evolutionary algorithms]
- [IC2] **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, D. Frau-Alfaro and S.T. Puente (2025). “Transferability of labels across multispectral imagery” in *20th International Conference on Computer Vision Theory and Applications (VISAPP)*. doi: [10.5220/0013154100003912](https://doi.org/10.5220/0013154100003912). [Multispectral, Data Label]
- [IC3] **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, E.P. Velasco-Sánchez and S.T. Puente (2025). “LiCAR: pseudo-RGB LiDAR image for CAR segmentation” in *5th International Conference on Robotics, Computer Vision and Intelligent Systems (ROBOVIS)*. doi: [10.1007/978-3-032-00986-9_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-00986-9_5). [LiDAR, Data Generation]
- [IC4] **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, E. Velasco-Sánchez, S.T. Puente. and F. A. Candelas (2023). “Detection and depth estimation for domestic waste in outdoor environments by sensors fusion” in *22nd IFAC World Congress*. doi: [10.1016/j.ifacol.2023.10.211](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ifacol.2023.10.211). [Depth Estimation, LiDAR, RGBD]
- [IC5] E. Velasco-Sánchez, **I-L. Páez-Ubieta**, F. A. Candelas and S. T. Puente (2023). “LiDAR data augmentation by interpolation on spherical range image” In *28th IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation (ETFA)*. doi: [10.1109/ETFA54631.2023.10275512](https://doi.org/10.1109/ETFA54631.2023.10275512). [LiDAR, Data Generation]

References

Roel Pieters	Postdoc advisor at Tampere University
Santiago T. Puente Méndez	PhD advisor at University of Alicante
Stéphane Doncieux	Research stay responsible at Sorbonne Université