

Jingyi Xiang

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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D. in Computer Science

June 2024 – Present

- Advisor: [Wenzhen Yuan](#)
- Research focus: Tactile Sensing and Robotic Manipulation

B.S. in Electrical Engineering & Minor in Computer Science

August 2020 – May 2024

- Graduated with Highest Honor
- Relevant courses: Introduction to Robotics, Introduction to Machine Perception, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Control Systems, Digital & Analog Signal Processing, Design Optical-Based Sensors

Publications

1. H.J. Huang, **J. Xiang**, and W. Yuan, “Kitchen Artist: Precise Control of Liquid Dispensing for Gourmet Plating”, in *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2024. [[Paper](#), [Website](#), [Video](#)]
2. **J. Xiang**, H. Dinkel, H. Zhao, N. Gao, B. Coltin, T. Smith, and T. Bretl, “TrackDLO: Tracking Deformable Linear Objects Under Occlusion with Motion Coherence”, *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, August 2023. [[Paper](#), [Video](#), [Code](#)]
3. **J. Xiang** and H. Dinkel, “Simultaneous Shape Tracking of Multiple Deformable Linear Objects with Global-Local Topology Preservation”, in *Workshop on Representing and Manipulating Deformable Objects, IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2023. [[Paper](#), [Video](#), [Poster](#), [Code](#)]
4. H. Dinkel*, **J. Xiang***, H. Zhao, B. Coltin, T. Smith, and T. Bretl, “Wire Point Cloud Instance Segmentation from RGBD Imagery with Mask R-CNN”, in *Workshop on Representing and Manipulating Deformable Objects, IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2022. [[Paper](#), [Video](#)]

* Equal Contribution

Research Experience

RoboTouch Lab

Urbana, Illinois

Supervisor: [Wenzhen Yuan](#), Assistant Professor of UIUC Computer Science

Undergraduate Research Assistant

September 2023 – May 2024

- **Robotic Liquid Dispensing System for Food Art** *September 2023 – May 2024*
 - Trained multi-layer perceptron models to estimate liquid properties from haptic signals.
 - Built a robotic system capable of drawing line arts on food items using arbitrary sauces unknown to the system.

Bretl Research Group

Urbana, Illinois

Supervisor: [Timothy Bretl](#), Professor of UIUC Aerospace Engineering

Undergraduate Research Assistant

January 2022 – April 2024

- **Tracking Deformable Linear Objects in RGB-D Imagery** *August 2022 – April 2024*
 - Developed a new deformable linear object tracking algorithm, TrackDLO, for robust deformable linear object tracking under occlusion without external state information or physics simulation.

- Developed a non-rigid point set registration based method for tracking multiple deformable linear objects simultaneously.
- Created open-source C++ ROS (Robot Operating System) packages for the tracking methods developed.
- **Instance Segmentation of Deformable Linear Objects** *February 2022 – May 2022*
 - Implemented and evaluated two state-of-the-art deformable linear object instance segmentation algorithms: FASTDLO and Ariadne+.

Projects

Tracking Deformable Linear Objects with Geodesic-Based Bayesian Coherent Point Drift

CS 498 Machine Perception Final Project [[Report](#), [Code](#)]

April 2023 - May 2023

- Implemented a recently published non-rigid registration algorithm, Geodesic-Based Bayesian Coherent Point Drift (GBCPD), in both Python and C++.
- Extended the GBCPD algorithm to account for correspondence priors.
- Integrated the GBCPD algorithm into existing deformable linear object tracking algorithms to improve the tracking performance in edge cases.

Skills

Operating Systems: Windows, Ubuntu Linux

Programming Languages: Python, C++/C, LaTeX, MATLAB

Software: Robot Operating System (ROS), PyTorch, Autodesk Fusion 360, OnShape, Autodesk Inventor

Hardware: Intel RealSense Camera, ABB IRB120 Industrial Robot Arm, UR5e Industrial Robot Arm

Honors and Awards

UIUC Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

- *Marcia Peterman Memorial Award* *March 2024*
- *Indira Gunda Saladi Engineering Research Prize* *August 2023*
- *Ellery B. Paine Outstanding Junior Award* *March 2023*
- *A.R. "Buck" Knight Scholarship* *September 2022, August 2023*
- *Oakley Scholarship in Electrical and Computer Engineering* *September 2021*

VEX Robotics Competition World Skills Standing College Division

- *Top 5 Worldwide, Top 3 in the US* *May 2021, May 2022*

Mentoring and Outreach

Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research

Illinois Undergraduate Research Ambassador

March 2023 – May 2024

- Work as a peer mentor to guide underclassmen through the process of finding research opportunities.
- Assist workshops that aim to introduce undergraduate research to new students.
- Represent and assist the Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research in campus-wide events to promote undergraduate research on campus.

Illini VEX Robotics at UIUC

Co-Founder & Competition Team Lead

December 2020 – March 2023

- Mentored multiple high school teams in the community to help them get started in robot programming.

- Organized weekly events such as workshops, build meetings, social events, and general meetings.
- Collaborated with teams from other institutions to create a knowledge base for competitive robotics.
- Created guides and documentation for new member onboarding.
- Oversaw robot design, manufacturing, and programming.

John Carroll School Robotics Team

Alumni Mentor

June 2020 – April 2022

- Produced a series of tutorial videos on how to use Autodesk Fusion 360 to design robot mechanisms.
- Produced tutorial documents on basic robot programming and control algorithms.
- Held mentoring appointments with the current team members to provide guidance on various technical topics.

Presentations

Bretl Research Group

- 1-hour slide presentation: “Deformable Linear Object Tracking as Non-Rigid Point Set Registration” [[Presentation](#)]
- 1-hour slide presentation: “Tracking Deformable Linear Objects Under Occlusion” [[Presentation](#)]

February 2023

September 2022