

Joshua Zhanson

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Education

Carnegie Mellon University Language Technologies Institute

M.Sc., Master's of Language Technologies

QPA: 3.74

Advisor: Yonatan Bisk

11-747 Neural Networks for NLP ~ 11-777 Multimodal Machine Learning ~ 11-711 Algorithms for NLP

Pittsburgh, PA

Aug 2020 - Aug 2022

Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science

B.S. Computer Science, minor in Machine Learning

QPA: 3.95 Dean's List: Fall 2016 - Spring 2019 College & University Honors

Senior thesis: [*Investigating and Robustifying Proximal Policy Optimization*](#)

Advised by Emilio Parisotto, Adarsh Prasad, and Ruslan Salakhutdinov

15-410 Operating Systems ~ 16-831 Statistical Techniques in Robotics

15-418 Parallel Computer Architecture & Programming ~ 15-458 Discrete Differential Geometry

15-462 Computer Graphics ~ 15-312 Programming Languages ~ 10-703 Deep Reinforcement Learning

Pittsburgh, PA

Aug 2016 - May 2020

Publications

[*On Proximal Policy Optimization's Heavy-tailed Gradients*](#)

August 2019 - May 2020

Saurabh Garg, **Joshua Zhanson**, Emilio Parisotto, Adarsh Prasad, J. Zico Kolter, Zachary C. Lipton, Sivaraman Balakrishnan, Ruslan Salakhutdinov, Pradeep Ravikumar

ICML 2021

[*Proprioceptive Spatial Representations for Generalized Locomotion*](#)

June 2018 - July 2019

Joshua Zhanson, Emilio Parisotto, Ruslan Salakhutdinov

Workshop on Structure & Priors in Reinforcement Learning at ICLR 2019.

Teaching + Service

CMU Language Technologies Institute Diversity & Equity Committee

Fall 2021 - present

15-213 Introduction to Computer Systems TA

Summer 2019, Summer 2020

15-300 Research and Innovation in Computer Science TA

Fall 2019, Fall 2020

10-703 Deep Reinforcement Learning and Control TA

Fall 2019

Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

April 2020

Employment

Merit International, Inc. (formerly Sigma Accolade, Inc.)

Software Engineer Intern

Millbrae, CA

May 2018 - Aug 2018

Vizio Inc.

Software Development Intern

Seattle, WA

May 2017 - Aug 2017

Skills

Python ~ Pytorch, Tensorflow, Numpy, Pandas, CV2, Matplotlib ~ C/C++