

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests are in the areas of robotics and machine learning. More specifically, my research centers around reinforcement learning, control theory, and computer vision. I study explainable artificial intelligence and safe learning based control algorithms for autonomous vehicles and robots.

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology

Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, PI: Evangelos A. Theodorou

– Thesis: “Robust Deep Vision-based Control Algorithms with Probabilistic Learning”

Atlanta, GA, USA

Aug. 2016–Present

Georgia Institute of Technology

M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, PI: Evangelos A. Theodorou

Atlanta, GA, USA

Aug. 2016–Aug. 2018

Hanyang University

B.S. in Electrical Engineering

– Summa Cum Laude

Seoul, S. Korea

Feb. 2009–Feb. 2016

EXPERIENCE

Honda Research Institute, USA (HRI-US)

Research Intern

– Machine Learning/AI-based autonomous driving: Machine Learning for path planning

San Jose, CA, USA

May. 2021–Present

Georgia Institute of Technology

Graduate Research Assistant at Autonomous Control and Decision Systems Lab.

– AutoRally: Offroad autonomous driving

– AlphaPilot: Lockheed Martin AI Drone Racing Innovation Challenge

– Virtual Sully: Autopilot for handling large uncertainties

Atlanta, GA, USA

Aug. 2016–Present

HONORS AND AWARDS

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|-----------------|---|-----------|
| • Amazon.com | Amazon Web Services Machine Learning Research Awards & Scholarship (75,000 USD) | 2018–2019 |
| • RSS 2018 | Finalist to Best Systems Paper Award | 2018 |
| • South Korea | Government Scholarship to Study Abroad (80,000 USD) | 2016–2018 |
| • Hanyang Univ. | Capstone Design Fair Best Award | 2015 |
| • Hanyang Univ. | Techno-Business Capstone Design Best Award | 2014 |
| • Hanyang Univ. | Dean’s List & Scholarship | 2013–2015 |

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **K. Lee**, B. Vlahov, J. Gibson, J. M. Rehg, and E. A. Theodorou, “Approximate inverse reinforcement learning from vision-based imitation learning”, in *2021 International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, Jun. 2021.
- [2] Z. Wang, O. So, **K. Lee**, and E. A. Theodorou, “Adaptive risk sensitive model predictive control with stochastic search”, in *3rd Annual Learning for Dynamics and Control Conference (L4DC)*, Jun. 2021.
- [3] **K. Lee**, J. Gibson, and E. A. Theodorou, “Aggressive Perception-Aware Navigation using Deep Optical Flow Dynamics and PixelMPC”, *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)*, 2020.
- [4] **K. Lee**, G. N. An, V. Zakharov, and E. A. Theodorou, “Perceptual attention-based predictive control”, *3rd Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2019.
- [5] **K. Lee**, K. Saigol, and E. A. Theodorou, “Early failure detection of deep end-to-end control policy by reinforcement learning”, in *2019 International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2019, pp. 8543–8549.
- [6] **K. Lee**, Z. Wang, B. I. Vlahov, H. K. Brar, and E. A. Theodorou, “Ensemble bayesian decision making with redundant deep perceptual control policies”, *18th IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, 2019.
- [7] Y. Pan, C.-A. Cheng, K. Saigol, **K. Lee**, X. Yan, E. A. Theodorou, and B. Boots, “Imitation learning for agile autonomous driving”, in *International Journal of Robotics Research (IJRR)*, 2019.
- [8] Z. Wang, **K. Lee**, M. A. Pereira, I. Exarchos, and E. A. Theodorou, “Deep forward-backward sdes for min-max control”, *The 58th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, 2019.
- [9] G. Williams, B. Goldfain, **K. Lee**, J. Gibson, J. M. Rehg, and E. A. Theodorou, “Locally weighted regression psudo-rehearsal for adaptive model predictive control”, *3rd Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2019.
- [10] **K. Lee**, K. Saigol, and E. A. Theodorou, “Safe imitation learning for end-to-end control”, in *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) Workshop: Adversarial Robotics*, 2018.
- [11] Y. Pan, C.-A. Cheng, K. Saigol, **K. Lee**, X. Yan, E. A. Theodorou, and B. Boots, “Agile autonomous driving using end-to-end deep imitation learning”, in *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2018.
- [12] Y. Pan, C.-A. Cheng, K. Saigol, **K. Lee**, X. Yan, E. A. Theodorou, and B. Boots, “Deep autorally: Agile autonomous driving via end-to-end imitation learning”, in *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) Workshop on Learning from Demonstrations in High-Dimensional Feature Spaces*, 2017.
- [13] Y. Pan, C.-A. Cheng, K. Saigol, **K. Lee**, X. Yan, E. A. Theodorou, and B. Boots, “Learning deep neural network control policies for agile off-road autonomous driving”, in *2017 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Deep Reinforcement Learning Symposium*, 2017.

PROJECTS

Machine Learning/AI-based autonomous driving:

Machine Learning for path planning

HRI-US.

May. 10. 2021–Present

- Developing ML-based algorithms for safe autonomous driving
- Funding sources: Honda Research Institute USA, Inc.
- Keywords: Deep Inverse Reinforcement Learning, Cost function Learning, Model Predictive Control, Explainable AI
- Publications: 1 Journal under review

AutoRally: Safe ML-based off-road high-speed autonomous driving

Georgia Tech.
Aug. 15. 2016–May. 9. 2021

- Developing ML-based algorithms and controllers for safe autonomous driving
- Funding sources: Amazon Web Services Machine Learning Research Awards, Komatsu Ltd.
- Keywords: Model Predictive Control, DDP, MPPI, Online Imitation Learning, Bayesian Neural Networks, Reinforcement Learning, Online model adaptation, Perceptual Control, Vision-based Control, Explainable AI
- Publications: 1 Journal, 5 Conferences, 3 Workshops

Virtual Sully: Autopilot for Handling Large Uncertainties

Georgia Tech.
Oct. 1. 2019–May. 9. 2021

- Developing ML-based autopilot systems for safe landing under uncertain situations
- Collaborative Research with UIUC
- Funding sources: NSF Award 1932288
- Keywords: Cyber Physical Systems, Costmap Learning
- Publications: 1 Conference

Deep Perceptual Adaptive Control for Safe Autonomy

Georgia Tech.

AlphaPilot: Lockheed Martin AI Drone Racing Innovation Challenge

Feb. 1. 2019–Dec. 6. 2019

- AlphaPilot Qualifier; Top 9 out of 430 teams worldwide
- Funding sources: NASA Langley Research Center Grant 80NSSC19M0211
- Keywords: Visual Servoing, MPPI, Object Detection, YOLO, Deep Optical Flow Dynamics, PixelMPC
- Publications: 1 Journal, 1 Conference

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C++, MATLAB
- **Version Control:** Git
- **Deep Learning Tools:** PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras
- **Operating Systems:** Linux, Windows
- **Robotics:** ROS, MuJoCo, OpenAI Gym, CARLA
- **Cloud Computing:** AWS

TEACHING

Georgia Institute of Technology

- **Guest Lecturer** in Robotics and Autonomy (AE4803) Spring 2020, Fall 2020
Lectures on Differential Dynamic Programming and Model Predictive Control
- **Teaching Assistant** in Feedback Control Systems (ECE3550) Spring 2019

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Reviewer

- IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L) 2020, 2021
- IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2019, 2021
- IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) 2021
- IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2021
- Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) 2019