

# Michael Piseno

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<https://www.michaelpiseno.com>

## Research Interests

My research focuses on learning models for human and object motion. I work on whole-body human motion tracking, dexterous manipulation, and generative motion models. I am also interested in human and object pose estimation from video.

## Current Positions

<b>Stanford University</b> , PhD Student	2025 – present
Computer Science Department	
Advised by Professor Karen Liu	
<b>The AI Policy Forum</b> , Co-Founder	2025 – present
Stanford HAI-sponsored group working on Science and Technology policy for AI	
Advised by Professor Allison Okamura	

## Education

<b>Stanford University</b>	2025 – present
PhD in Computer Science	
Advised by Professor Karen Liu	
<b>Stanford University</b>	2021 – 2024
MS in Computer Science	
<b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b>	2017 – 2021
BS in Computer Science	
Minor in Mathematics	
Minor in Chinese Language	
Major GPA: 4.0	

## Previous Positions

<b>Hybrid Robotics Lab, UC Berkeley</b> , Research Associate	2024 - 2025
PI: Professor Koushil Sreenath	
Policies for stylized locomotion humanoid robots. Culminated in a technical report.	
( <a href="#">more info</a> )	
<b>DeepMind</b> , Student Researcher	2022
PIs: Atil Iscen (DeepMind) and Professor Koushil Sreenath (UC Berkeley)	
Training infrastructure for humanoid robot locomotion.	

<b>IBM Research</b> , Research Intern	2021
Manager: Dr. Alberto Valdes Garcia	
RL for optimizing millimeter-wave communications in 5G cellular networks.	
<b>Dropbox</b> , Software Engineer Intern	2020
Manager: Tom Kleinpeter	
ML infrastructure for production user-facing products.	
<b>Facebook AI Research</b> , Software Engineer Intern	2020
Manager: Professor Dhruv Batra	
AI infrastructure for <a href="#">Habitat</a> .	
<b>Amazon</b> , Software Engineer Intern	2019
Manager: Michael Lou	
Applied research for visual search at Amazon A9.	
<b>Georgia Tech Research Institute</b> , Research Intern	2018
Manager: Dr. Jason Zutty	
ML engineering for an auto-ML framework.	

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

3. Tara Sadjadpour\*, **Michael Piseno\***, Diana Poplacenel, Justin Yu, Abigail O’Niell, Rika Antovona, and Jeannette Bohg. “Topological and Geometric Representations of Deformable Point Clouds”. 2025. (Under review)
2. Qingzhou Lu\*, Yao Feng\*, Baiyu Shi, **Michael Piseno**, Zhenan Bao, and C. Karen Liu. “GentleHumanoid: Learning Upper-body Compliance for Contact-rich Human and Object Interaction”. 2025. (Under review)
1. Takara E. Truong, **Michael Piseno**, Zhaoming Xie, and C. Karen Liu. “PDP: Physics-Based Character Animation via Diffusion Policy”. In Proceedings of SIGGRAPH Asia, 2024. [DOI](#).

## Teaching

<b>Stanford University</b> , Course Assistant	2021
CS 221: Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques	
Topics: Machine Learning, Search, Markov Decision Processes, Game Theory, Constraint Satisfaction Problems, Bayesian Networks, Logic.	
<b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b> , Teaching Assistant	2019-2021
CS 7643: Deep Learning	
Topics: CNNs, RNNs, Transformers, Generative models, Deep RL.	

## Honors and Awards

<b>NDSEG Fellowship</b>	2022
Graduate fellowship award to pursue research on intelligent robotics.	
Acceptance rate: 2%	
<b>Highest Honors, BS Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology</b>	2021
Graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a BS in Computer Science with highest honors.	
<b>Intel SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship</b>	2020
Scholarship sponsored by Intel awarded through the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). ( <a href="#">more info</a> )	
<b>Tapia Conference Scholarship</b>	2020
Awarded a scholarship to cover the cost of attendance to the <a href="#">ACM Richard Tapia Conference</a> .	
<b>LSAMP Scholarship</b>	2020
Scholarship awarded primarily to underrepresented students in STEM. Awarded by the <a href="#">LSAMP</a> program through Georgia Tech.	
<b>Generation Google Scholarship</b>	2020
Awarded by Google to approximately 30 Computer Science students each year. ( <a href="#">more info</a> )	
<b>Cisco Enterprise Scholarship</b>	2019
Awarded a Cisco Enterprise Business Group Scholarship through a program in Georgia Tech's College of Computing.	
<b>SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship</b>	2019
Awarded to roughly three dozen student for involvement in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). ( <a href="#">more info</a> )	

## Professional Activities

### Reviewing

ACM SIGGRAPH 2025

Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2026

IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2026

IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2026