
Education

2021 - **Stanford University**
Present PhD Student in Computer Science
MS in Computer Science (2024)
Advisor: Professor Karen Liu
GPA: 4.0

2017 - 2021 **Georgia Institute of Technology**
BS in Computer Science with highest honors
Minor in Mathematics
Major GPA: 4.0

Research Experience

- Jan 2024 - **The Movement Lab @ Stanford** *PHD STUDENT*
Present
 - Principal Investigator: Prof. Karen Liu.
 - Topic 1: Diffusion Policies for physics-based character animation. Result: Accepted to *SIGGRAPH Asia 2024*.
 - Topic 2: Loco-manipulation, Diffusion Models, Reinforcement Learning.
- Oct 2024 - **Hybrid Robotics Lab @ UC Berkeley** *VISITING RESEARCHER*
May 2025
 - Principal Investigator: Prof. Koushil Sreenath.
 - Topic: Multi-task RL for stylized locomotion on humanoid robots. Result: Under review.
- Apr - Sept 2022 **DeepMind** *STUDENT RESEARCHER*
 - Principal Investigators: Atil Iscen (DeepMind) and Prof. Koushil Sreenath (UC Berkeley).
 - Topic: Stylized locomotion for humanoid robots.

Industry Experience

- May - Aug 2021 **IBM Research** *RESEARCH INTERN*
 - Topic: Applying off-policy RL algorithms to optimize millimeter-wave communications in 5G cellular network.
 - Supervisor: Dr. Alberto Valdes Garcia.
 - Developed a system that learns to control the direction and power levels of multiple 5G cell towers in a simulated environment.

- May - Aug 2020 **Dropbox** *SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN*
- Topic: chrome extension for organizing workflow
 - Create the ML infrastructure for predicting tabs that are considered clutter and can therefore be closed.
 - Build the infrastructure for client-server interaction in Typescript, train the ML model using Python, and display the results on the front end using ReactJS.
- Jan - Mar 2020 **Facebook AI Research** *SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN*
- Topic: software development for [AI Habitat](#), a simulator for training embodied AI agents.
 - Supervisor: Prof. Dhruv Batra
 - Create a tool to collect image data from within the simulator, train semantic segmentation models on the image data, and develop a renderer to color semantish meshes.
- May - Aug 2019 **Amazon** *SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN*
- Topic: methods for image segmentation along linear boundaries.
 - Supervisor: Michael Lou
 - Develop a data labeling tool and implemented and trained novel vision architectures in Pytorch.
- May 2018 - Dec 2018 **Georgia Tech Research Institute** *RESEARCH INTERN*
- Topic: classify noisy radio signals using deep learning.
 - Supervisor: Dr. Jason Zutty
 - Implement convolutional and recurrent architectures as primitives into an existing optimization library based on genetic programming.

Teaching Experience

- Sept - Dec 2021 **Stanford University** *COURSE ASSISTANT*
- Course: CS 221: Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques.
 - Responsibilities: managing course content, hosting office hours, and grading assignments.
- Aug 2019 - May 2021 **Georgia Institute of Technology** *TEACHING ASSISTANT*
- Course: CS 7643: Deep Learning. Topics include vision and language models, generative models, and reinforcement learning.
 - Created and maintained course material, graded assignments, and assisted students in office hours.

Publications

1. Tara Sadjadpour, **Michael Pisen**, Diana Poplacenel, Justin Yu, Abigail O’Niell, Rika Antovona, Jeannette Bohg. *Topological and Geometric Representations of Deformable Point Clouds*. 2025 (Under Review).
2. **Michael Pisen**, Zhongyu Li, Alejandro Escontrela, Pieter Abbeel, Koushil Sreenath, Xue Bin Peng, and Atil Iscen. *Learning Stylized Locomotion for Bipedal Robots with Adversarial Motion Priors*. 2025 (Under Review).
3. Takara E. Truong, **Michael Pisen**, Zhaoming Xie, and C. Karen Liu. *PDP: Physics-Based Character Animation via Diffusion Policy*. *SIGGRAPH Asia*, 2024.

Awards and Honors

- Apr 2022 **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship**
Graduate fellowship award to pursue research on intelligent robotics. [Acceptance rate: 2%](#)
- May 2021 **Highest Honors, BS Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology**
Graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a BS in Computer Science with highest honors.
- Jul 2020 **Intel SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship**
Scholarship sponsored by Intel awarded through the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). More info [here](#).
- Jul 2020 **Tapia Conference Scholarship**
Awarded a scholarship to cover the cost of attendance to the [ACM Richard Tapia Conference](#).
- Jul 2020 **LSAMP Scholarship**
Scholarship awarded primarily to underrepresented students in STEM. Awarded by the [LSAMP](#) program through Georgia Tech.
- Apr 2020 **Generation Google Scholarship**
Awarded by Google for accomplishment in Computer Science. More info [here](#).
- Nov 2019 **Cisco Enterprise Scholarship**
Awarded a Cisco Enterprise Business Group Scholarship through a program in Georgia Tech's College of Computing.
- Aug 2019 **SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship**
Awarded a [SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship](#) for my involvement in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). This scholarship was awarded to roughly three dozen students.