

Michael Pisen

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<https://www.michaelpisen.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

Stanford University, PhD Student 2025 – present
Computer Science Department
Advised by Professor Karen Liu

The AI Policy Forum, Co-Founder 2025 – present
Stanford HAI-sponsored group working on Science and Technology policy for AI
Advised by Professor Allison Okamura

Education

Stanford University 2025 – present
PhD in Computer Science
Advised by Professor Karen Liu

Stanford University 2021 – 2024
MS in Computer Science

Georgia Institute of Technology 2017 – 2021
BS in Computer Science with Highest Honors
Minor in Mathematics
Minor in Chinese Language

Previous Positions

Hybrid Robotics Lab, UC Berkeley, Research Associate 2024 - 2025
PI: Professor Koushil Sreenath
Policies for stylized locomotion humanoid robots. Culminated in a technical report.
([more info](#))

DeepMind, Student Researcher 2022
PIs: Atil Iscen (DeepMind) and Professor Koushil Sreenath (UC Berkeley)
Training infrastructure for humanoid robot locomotion.

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

Peer-Reviewed Publications

3. Tara Sadjadpour*, **Michael Pisen***, 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 Pisen**, 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 Pisen**, Zhaoming Xie, and C. Karen Liu. “PDP: Physics-Based Character Animation via Diffusion Policy”. In Proceedings of SIGGRAPH Asia, 2024. [DOI](#).

Teaching

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

Honors and Awards

Stanford HAI Student Affinity Group Selection	2025
The AI Policy Forum was selected as one of twelve groups to partake in the Institute for Human-Centered AI Student Affinity Group Program.	
Department of Defense National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)	2022
Graduate fellowship award to pursue research on intelligent robotics.	
Highest Honors, BS Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology	2021
Graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a BS in Computer Science with highest honors.	
Intel SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship	2020
Scholarship sponsored by Intel awarded through the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).	
Tapia Conference Scholarship	2020
Awarded a scholarship to cover the cost of attendance to the ACM Richard Tapia Conference .	
LSAMP Scholarship	2020
Scholarship awarded primarily to underrepresented students in STEM. Awarded by the LSAMP program through Georgia Tech.	
Generation Google Scholarship	2020
Scholarship awarded by Google to approximately 30 Computer Science students each year.	
Cisco Enterprise Scholarship	2019
Awarded a Cisco Enterprise Business Group Scholarship through a program in Georgia Tech's College of Computing.	
SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship	2019
Scholarship awarded to roughly three dozen student for involvement in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).	

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