

# Michael Pisen

[mpisen@stanford.edu](mailto:mpisen@stanford.edu)

<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  
Minor in Mathematics  
Minor in Chinese Language  
Major GPA: 4.0

## 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.

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

<b>Stanford University</b> , 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
<b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b> , Teaching Assistant CS 7643: Deep Learning Topics: CNNs, RNNs, Transformers, Generative models, Deep RL.	2019-2021

## Honors and Awards

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

## 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