

NATHAN LUDLOW

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Education

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| Carnegie Mellon University <i>Masters of Science in Robotics</i> Advised by Dr. Katia Sycara | Expected Jul. 2026 <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i> GPA: 4.00/4.00 |
| Brigham Young University <i>Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering</i> <i>Emphasis in Dynamic Systems, Controls, and Robotics</i> <i>Minor in Computer Science</i> <i>Minor in Mathematics</i> | Apr. 2024 <i>Provo, UT</i> GPA: 3.79/4.00 |

Research Experience

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| CMU Advanced Agent Robotics Technology (AART) Lab <i>Research Assistant (with Dr. Katia Sycara)</i> | September 2024 – Present <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed Knowledge Graph-Augmented Reinforcement Learning (KG-RL) methods that leverage semantic relationships to improve agent learning efficiency on complex tasks. <i>Led to first-author paper submission at AAMAS 2026.</i> Collaborative research with Honda Research Institute.Investigating Temporal Knowledge Graph representations for reinforcement learning, enabling agents to reason over dynamic state evolutions and temporal dependencies. | |
| BYU Crop Biomechanics Laboratory <i>Capstone Research Project Team Lead (with Dr. Douglas Cook)</i> | September 2023 – April 2024 <i>Provo, UT</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Led research team developing automated robotic system for measuring maize stalk stiffness. Designed novel strain gauge sensor package and data processing algorithms to convert strain measurements into stiffness metrics. Implemented autonomous navigation and data collection control algorithms for robotic platform. <i>Publication at MDPI Sensors 2025.</i> | |
| CMU Driverless Intelligent Vehicles Lab (DRIVE) Lab <i>Research Assistant (with Dr. John M. Dolan)</i> | August 2023 – August 2024 <i>Pittsburgh, PA/Remote</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed risk-aware Voronoi cell approach inspired by control barrier functions for safe multi-agent navigation under motion uncertainty. Enables collision-free path planning around dynamic obstacles including humans, unknown agents, and moving objects with uncertain trajectories. | |
| CMU Robotics Institute Summer Scholars (RISS) <i>RISS Research Fellow (with Dr. John M. Dolan)</i> | June 2023 – August 2023 <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed behavioral model for simulating human drivers in autonomous vehicle testing frameworks. Introduced forward-looking Gaussian risk metric incorporating social pooling-based trajectory prediction with learned parameters. <i>RISS Fellowship project; first-author publication at ICRA 2024.</i> | |
| BYU Robotics And Dynamics (RAD) Laboratory <i>Research Assistant (with Dr. Marc Killpack and Dr. John Salmon)</i> | February 2022 – June 2023 August 2023 – June 2024 <i>Provo, UT</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed dynamic control methods for physical human-robot co-manipulation enabling cooperative swinging, throwing, and tossing of large objects.Designed ROS software architecture and implemented robust control algorithms for omnidirectional mobile platform for safe human-robot interaction and physical co-manipulation. <i>UCUR 2023 workshop presentation.</i>Built VR experimental platform with force/torque sensing for analyzing human-human interaction dynamics during cooperative manipulation tasks. | |

Publications and Presentations

Conference Publications

- N. Ludlow, V. Tadiparthi, H. N. Mahjoub, Y. Xie, W. Kim, K. Sycara, S. Stepputtis, "Knowledge Graph-Augmented Reinforcement Learning" 2026 Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (AAMAS) (In review)
- N. Ludlow, Y. Lyu and J. Dolan, "Hierarchical Learned Risk-Aware Planning Framework for Human Driving Modeling," 2024 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), Yokohama, Japan, 2024, pp. 2223-2229, doi: 10.1109/ICRA57147.2024.10610354

Journal Publications

- C. Noh, K. Smith, C. Shamo, J. Porter, K. Steele, N. Ludlow, R. Hall, M. Holst, A. Williams, D. Cook, "Measurement of Force and Position Using a Cantilever Beam and Multiple Strain Gauges: Sensing Principles and Design Considerations." MDPI Sensors 2025, 25, 6561. PMID: 41228787

Workshop Presentations

- N. Ludlow, M. D. Killpack, J. L. Salmon, "Mobile Base for Physical Human-Robot Interaction and Co-manipulation," 2023 Utah Conference for Undergraduate Research (UCUR), 2023

Professional Experience

Altitude AI

May 2022 – June 2023

August 2023 – September 2023

Salt Lake City, UT

Robotics Software Engineer

- Designed perception, path planning, and control algorithms for automated pork belly skin removal using industrial robotic arms with electric cutting tools.
- Developed domain-specific programming language enabling LLMs to generate executable code for industrial robotic arms from natural language instructions, enabling rapid prototyping of manipulation tasks.

Awards

CMU Robotics Institute Graduate Research Assistantship

Winter 2025 – Fall 2026

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2024

(GRFP) Honorable Mention

BYU Full Tuition Scholarship Recipient

2021 – 2022

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, C++, C, MATLAB, Java, Julia, Rust

Robotics: ROS, Gazebo, MuJoCo, PyBullet, OpenCV, RealSense SDK

ML/RL: PyTorch, TensorFlow, RLlib, Weights & Biases, OpenAI Gym

Robot Platforms: Yaskawa, XArm, Universal Robots, Franka Panda, KUKA, Farm-ng

Tools: Linux, Git, Docker, LaTeX

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Fluent)

Service and Leadership

Ecclesiastical Leader for Church of Jesus

Oct 2025 – Current

Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Coordinate volunteer programs including youth activities, missionary support, and community outreach for 150+ member congregation.

Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute

August 2023 – February 2024

RoboLaunch Outreach Program

- Participated in outreach with students in Chile and the US to promote RoboLaunch and RISS.
 - Managed email campaign and website for the 2023 CMU RoboLaunch program.

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| BYU Mechatronics Club Team Lead | September 2021 – April 2022 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed competition materials for club competitions.• Led trainings in software, electrical, and mechanical design for robotic systems and controls. | |
| Full Time Volunteer Representative for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | May 2019 – May 2021 |
| BYU Mars Rover Robot Arm Design Team | September 2018 – April 2019 |
| BYU SAE Baja Off-Roading Vehicle Design Team | September 2018 – April 2019 |
| FIRST Robotics Team Mentor | September 2018 – April 2019 |