

# Dian Wang

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## EDUCATION

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### Northeastern University

*Ph.D. in Computer Science*

*M.S. in Computer Science; GPA: 4.00/4.00*

### Sichuan University

*B.Eng. in Computer Science and Engineering; GPA: 3.56/4.00*

Boston, MA, USA

*Jan. 2020 – Present*

*Sept. 2017 – Dec. 2019*

Chengdu, China

*Sept. 2013 – June 2017*

## EXPERIENCE

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### The Helping Hands Lab, Northeastern University

*Research Assistant*

Boston, MA, USA

*Jan. 2018 – Present*

#### **Equivariant reinforcement learning in robotic manipulation**

- Defined the symmetric properties of reinforcement learning in robotic manipulation.
- Proposed neural network architectures for improving training efficiency in robotic manipulation tasks.

#### **BulletArm reinforcement learning environments**

- Implemented an open-sourced robotic reinforcement learning environment library using PyBullet.
- Built a real-world experimental platform using a UR5 arm.

#### **Policy learning in SE(3) action spaces**

- Designed a reinforcement learning framework for robotic manipulation tasks.
- Proposed an imitation learning algorithm for large action spaces.

#### **Assistive robotic pick-and-place system**

- Built an assistive robotic system to assist people with disabilities in household manipulation tasks.
- Conducted pick-and-place experiments in an open world environment.

### Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

*Research Intern*

Beijing, China

*July. 2016 – Aug. 2026*

- Led team of 4 interns to implement a user dynamic detection app based on data from gravity sensor.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 18 **Dian Wang**, Xupeng Zhu, Jung Yeon Park, Robert Platt, and Robin Walters. A general theory of correct, incorrect, and extrinsic equivariance. Under review. [Link](#)
- 17 Hai Huu Nguyen, David Klee, Andrea Baisero, **Dian Wang**, Robert Platt, and Christopher Amato. Equivariant reinforcement learning under partial observability. Under review
- 16 Haojie Huang, **Dian Wang**, Arsh Tangri, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. Leveraging pick and place symmetries. Under review
- 15 Xupeng Zhu, **Dian Wang**, Guanang Su, Ondrej Biza, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. On robot grasp learning using equivariant models. Under review
- 14 **Dian Wang**, Jung Yeon Park, Neel Sortur, Lawson L.S. Wong, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. The surprising effectiveness of equivariant models in domains with latent symmetry. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2023. **Spotlight**. Acceptance Rate 8%. [Link](#)
- 13 Mingxi Jia\*, **Dian Wang**\*, Guanang Su, David Klee, Xupeng Zhu, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. Seil: Simulation-augmented equivariant imitation learning. In *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2023. \*Equal contribution. Acceptance Rate: 43%. [Link](#)
- 12 Haojie Huang, **Dian Wang**, Xupeng Zhu, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. Edge grasp network: A graph-based SE(3)-invariant approach to grasp detection. In *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2023. Acceptance Rate: 43%. [Link](#)
- 11 **Dian Wang**, Mingxi Jia, Xupeng Zhu, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. On-robot learning with equivariant models. In *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2022. Acceptance Rate: 39%. [Link](#)
- 10 Hai Huu Nguyen, Andrea Baisero, **Dian Wang**, Christopher Amato, and Robert Platt. Leveraging fully observable policies for learning under partial observability. In *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2022. Acceptance Rate: 39%. [Link](#)

- 9 **Dian Wang\***, Colin Kohler\*, Xupeng Zhu, Mingxi Jia, and Robert Platt. Bulletarm: An open-source robotic manipulation benchmark and learning framework. In *The International Symposium on Robotics Research (ISRR)*, 2022. \*Equal contribution. Acceptance Rate 49%. [Link](#)
- 8 Haojie Huang, **Dian Wang**, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. Equivariant transporter network. In *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2022. Acceptance Rate 32%. [Link](#)
- 7 Xupeng Zhu, **Dian Wang**, Ondrej Biza, Guanang Su, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. Sample efficient grasp learning using equivariant models. In *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2022. Acceptance Rate 32%. [Link](#)
- 6 **Dian Wang**, Robin Walters, and Robert Platt. SO(2)-equivariant reinforcement learning. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2022. **Spotlight**. Acceptance Rate 5%. [Link](#)
- 5 **Dian Wang**, Robin Walters, Xupeng Zhu, and Robert Platt. Equivariant  $Q$  learning in spatial action spaces. In *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2021. Acceptance Rate: 34%. [Link](#)
- 4 Alexander Wilkinson, Michael Gonzales, Patrick Hoey, David Kontak, **Dian Wang**, Noah Tormane, Sam Laderoute, Zhao Han, Jordan Allspaw, Robert Platt, and Holly Yanco. Design guidelines for human-robot interaction with assistive robot manipulation systems. *Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics*, 2021. [Link](#)
- 3 Ondrej Biza, **Dian Wang**, Robert Platt, Jan-Willem van de Meent, and Lawson LS Wong. Action priors for large action spaces in robotics. In *International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2021. Acceptance Rate: 25%. [Link](#)
- 2 **Dian Wang**, Colin Kohler, and Robert Platt. Policy learning in SE(3) action spaces. In *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2020. Acceptance Rate: 34.7%. [Link](#)
- 1 **Dian Wang**, Colin Kohler, Andreas ten Pas, Alexander Wilkinson, Maozhi Liu, Holly Yanco, and Robert Platt. Towards assistive robotic pick and place in open world environments. In *The International Symposium on Robotics Research (ISRR)*, 2019. [Link](#)

## PRESENTATIONS

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<b>The Surprising Effectiveness of Equivariant Models in Domains with Latent Symmetry</b>	Kigali, Rwanda
<i>International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2023</i>	May 2023
<b>Equivariant Learning for Robotic Manipulation</b>	Providence, RI, USA
<i>Department of Computer Science, Brown University</i>	Apr. 2023
<b>Equivariant Learning for Robotic Manipulation</b>	Boston, MA, USA
<i>Boston Robotics Speaker Series, presented by Universal Robots</i>	Mar. 2023
<b>On-Robot Learning with Equivariant Models</b>	Auckland, New Zealand
<i>Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL) 2022</i>	Dec. 2022
<b>Graph-Based SE(3)-invariant Approach to Grasp Detection</b>	Auckland, New Zealand
<i>CoRL 2022 Workshop on Sim-to-Real Robot Learning</i>	Dec. 2022
<b>SEIL: Simulation-augmented Equivariant Imitation Learning</b>	Auckland, New Zealand
<i>CoRL 2022 Workshop on Sim-to-Real Robot Learning</i>	Dec. 2022
<b>Equivariant Reinforcement Learning for Robotic Manipulation</b>	Providence, RI, USA
<i>The Multi-disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making 2022</i>	June 2022
<b>Equivariant Q Learning in Spatial Action Spaces</b>	New York City, NY, USA
<i>RSS 2022 Workshop on Scaling Robot Learning</i>	June 2022
<b>SO(2)-Equivariant Reinforcement Learning for Robotic Manipulation</b>	Philadelphia, PA, USA
<i>ICRA 2022 Workshop on Scaling Robot Learning</i>	May 2022
<b>SO(2)-Equivariant Reinforcement Learning</b>	Online
<i>International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2022</i>	Apr. 2022
<b>Equivariant Q Learning in Spatial Action Spaces</b>	Online
<i>Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL) 2021</i>	Nov. 2021
<b>Policy Learning in SE(3) Action Spaces</b>	Online
<i>Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL) 2020</i>	Nov. 2020
<b>Imitation Learning with Pixel-Wise Action Parametrization</b>	Boston, MA, USA
<i>M.S. Thesis Defense, Khoury College of Computer Sciences, Northeastern University</i>	Dec. 2019
<b>Towards Assistive Robotic Pick and Place in Open World Environments</b>	Hanoi, Vietnam
<i>The International Symposium on Robotics Research (ISRR) 2019</i>	Dec. 2019

## TEACHING

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### **Guest Lecture on Leveraging SE(2) Symmetries in Robot Learning**

*Robotics Science and Systems (Northeastern CS5335), Prof. Robert Platt*

*Mar. 2022*

### **Guest Lecture on Equivariant Learning for Robotic Manipulation**

*Geometric Deep Learning (Northeastern CS7180), Prof. Robin Walters*

*Apr. 2023*

## MENTORING

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Mingxi Jia M.S. Student at Northeastern University

*Dec. 2021 - Present*

Guanang Su M.S. Student at Northeastern University

*Dec. 2021 - Present*

Neel Sortur Undergraduate Student at Northeastern University

*May 2021 - Oct. 2022*

Zhengyi Ou M.S. Student at Northeastern University

*Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2021*

Yida Niu M.S. Student at Northeastern University

*Sept. 2020 - Aug. 2021*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Lead Organizer**, RSS 2023 Workshop on Symmetries in Robot Learning

**Reviewer**: ICRA 2023, 2022, 2019. IROS 2023, 2021. CoRL 2022. RAL 2022. T-RO 2022.

## HONERS & AWARDS

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**Best Paper Award Finalist** ICRA 2022 Workshop on Scaling Robot Learning

*May 2022*

**Khoury College Graduate Research Fellowship** Northeastern University

*Aug. 2019*

**First Place of Outstanding Bachelor's Thesis** Sichuan University

*June 2017*

## SKILLS

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**Programming:** Python, Java, C++

**Tools:** PyCharm, IntelliJ IDEA, Git, LaTeX, Final Cut Pro

**Robotics:** UR5, Baxter, Robotic Operating System (ROS), PyBullet, OpenRave

**Machine Learning:** PyTorch, NumPy