

Lekan Molu

AI / Robotics / Control Systems

Full Legal Name: [Olalekan Ogunmolu](#).

Rerum Cognoscere Causas: To know the causes of things.

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Preamble *First-class, productivity-oriented* research scientist, engineer, and roboticist with experience in machine learning, the technology service industry, manufacturing, and automation sector. Experience includes universities across disciplines (i) creating processes out of ambiguity; (ii) driving technical innovation via problem identification and solutions ideation, problems streamlining, team building, process and solutions optimization for volume scale-up.

Professional Experience

Research

05/2021 - Present **Senior Researcher**, Machine Learning Group, [Microsoft Research](#), New York, NY, USA.

- Part of the NYC RL group that drove state representation reinforcement learning research efforts for decision-making: Contributed to the team's fiscal year 2022 DTR presentation to company's senior leadership; co-authored papers which were presented at ICLR, ICML, and Neurips with NYC Research and Engineering colleagues; earned one Microsoft patent award.
- Successfully led, coordinated, and executed back-to-back global research meetings in Redmond, WA (2023 – 2024) that unified research workstreams (reinforcement learning, agentic LLMs, AI4Science, robotics) across different company organizations – spanning Amsterdam, Madrid (Spain), Cambridge (UK), Redmond, and Montreal.
- Consistent contributor to advancing the state of research efforts across machine learning, robotics and control theory with publications at the flagship conferences at these venues: ICRA, IROS, Neurips, ICLR, ICML, CDC, ACC etc. Proven leader with consistent invitation at the biggest venues to lead efforts surrounding safety and control of nonlinear dynamical systems.
- Proven track record mentoring junior researchers including postdocs, interns, and external PhD candidates. Proven track record with former interns, postdocs, and externally mentored PhDs now assistant professor at UMontreal, postdoctoral scholar at MIT, PhD student at Yale, Cornell Tech, Caltech, research scientist at Reliant Robotics (Bay Area), Embodied AI engineer at Wayve Technologies Ltd etc.
- Member of the global robotics steering team (spanning Redmond, Beijing, NYC, Cambridge, Zurich) driving a new robotic foundation model for bimanual objects retrieval in MSFT datacenters.
- Contributed to the reduced-order mathematical model of soft robot continua and devised the layered nonlinear backstepping singular perturbation theory technique for the fast control of soft embodied systems.
- Wrote the GPU-accelerated safety verification library for dynamical systems, levelsetpy (published in the 2025 ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software).

- 08/2019 - **Postdoctoral Scholar**, [The University of Pennsylvania](#), Philadelphia, PA, USA.
- 05/2021 Led the [conception, fabrication, and control of a soft robot for assisted MRI-based cancer radiation therapy](#) at Penn Medicine; was associate editor for Penn Editors (a Penn medical school publication for academics); led our lab's efforts on the engineering side of parallel robot patient irradiation mechanism at the Penn Center for Advanced Medicine; Designed trajectory optimization and machine learning routines for adaptive head immobilization during radiation therapy; mentored junior students in the lab; multiple first-author and mid-author publications at the American Association for Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) annual meetings around the USA, and ICRA/IROS conferences etc.
- 06/2018 - **Research Intern**, Robotics Team, [Preferred Networks](#), Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.
- 09/2018 Developed and implemented a stable imitation learning policy of nonlinear trajectory tracking on the Tokyo Robotics manipulation arm. Introduced the deep learning robotics team to nonlinear backstepping control methods for data-driven robot behavior enhancement. Made two technical presentations about my work to company senior leadership.
- 09/2017 - **Research Assistant**, Medical Artificial Intelligence and Automation Laboratory, Division of Medical Physics and Engineering, Radiation Oncology Department, UT Southwestern Medical Center.
- Research Assistant for Dr. Steve Jiang, Barbara Crittenden Professor of Cancer Research, UTSW Department of Radiation Oncology.*
- Developed a multidisciplinary approach (spanning Deep learning, optimal control, dynamic programming, and game theory) in order to solve the classic beam orientation optimization (BOO) problem.
- 06/2017 - **Research Assistant**, Dr. Tyler Summers, Mechanical Engineering, UT Dallas.
- 09/2017 *Dynamic Programming, Decision Theoretic Control, Machine/Reinforcement Learning.*
- Developed a game-theoretic controller for mitigating the lack of robustness in multi-stage decision policies on physical robots (P3DX).
- 09/2014 - **Research Assistant**, Dr. Nick Gans, Electrical Engineering, University of Texas at Dallas.
- 05/2019 *Control Systems, Systems Identification, State Estimation and Computer Vision.*
- Conceived the prototypical testbed, procured hardware, integrated components to simulate soft robot compensating systems for patients in intensity modulated radiotherapy.
- Summer 2016 **Hardware Integration Intern**, Amazon Robotics LLC.
- SLAM, Software and Hardware Integration Intern for Tye Brady, Chief Technology Officer.*
- Integrated the sensing and control components and software stack for the navigation of a mobile robot (Adept's Pioneer 3-DX) used as a recreational robot in the Amazon Robotics' North Reading, MA office.
- Spring 2016 **Hardware Integration Intern**, Advanced Robotics Lab, Amazon Robotics LLC.
- Hardware Integration Intern for Dr. Andy Stubbs, Senior Hardware Systems Engineer.*
- Computer vision (point cloud, depth, and RGB) integration for objects sorting, and pick and place line scanners at a prototype fulfillment center (later adopted for the Cataret, NJ fulfillment center). Collaborated closely with the robotic manipulation team: helped with emerging fulfillment centers end-of-arm-tooling (EOAT) design reviews, amazon robotics 2016 challenge problems design, helped other interns on their projects etc.

Miscellaneous

- 08/2009 - **Supply Chain Manager, Apapa Plant**, *Coca-Cola Bottling Company*, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 09/2011 Minimized glass breakages by 40%, assured efficiency in supply chain operations by coordinating with the Ikeja/Head Office Logistics teams, supervised 3 Coca-Cola mega warehouse managers leading to a reduction in waste by 35% after a 9-month stint at Apapa mega-plant. Introduced new standard operating procedures company-wide and country-wide to formalize waste minimization processes, and improve production supply chain processes. This led to the Apapa plant being the highest selling plant for all Coca-Cola products for two consecutive quarters

- 01/2020 - **Adjunct Instructor, RBOT 250- Robot manipulation, planning and control**, *Brandeis University*
- 11/2021
 - *Teaching Impact:* Developed course modules in core robotics concepts including common robot configurations, kinematic geometry of mechanisms, position and velocity kinematics, and force and torque kinetic control of (non)-holonomic robotic systems. Pfeiffer constraints, Paden-Kahan subproblems in IK computation; continuum mechanics for soft robotic systems; reduced Cosserat partial-integro-differential equations for deformable continua (towards their tractable computing).
 - *Practical Impact:* Conceived, procured, and assembled the robot form factor used to teach our Masters students; shipped the built robots to remote students during the pandemic; integrated the NVIDIA Isaac Sim software system for easy programmability for students with little engineering background. Taught the course back-to-back for three semesters.
- 09/2014 - **Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Robotics**, *University of Texas at Dallas*
- 09/2016 Guided students during laboratories in programming the Robai Cyton 300R2 Robot and graded homework.
- 01/2015 - **Teaching Assistant, Linear Systems (M.S. Class)**, *University of Texas at Dallas*
- 05/2015 Responsible for helping Masters students with linear control theory applications; graded homework and midterms.

Technical Skills

- Software 2.0** Software infrastructure build-up for (large) research/products; neural scaling laws, subsystems testing and calibration via (quick) prototype, test, refine cycle. Multi-node, multi-gpu deployment of large and deep foundation models: training, testing, finetuning for automation problems. Cloud computing (Azure blob container system, MSFT's Amulet, and Pytoch's DDP); interprocess threads optimization; distributed training scaling and consistent GPU utilization maximization across inter-geographic cloud clusters.
- OS** OSX, Debian, Ubuntu, Windows, Raspian.
- Programming** C++, Python, Mathematica, MATLAB, LabVIEW.
- Learning** Deep networks, Azure cloud (blob storage, k8s, docker) with tools internal to Microsoft Research, PyTorch, and CuPy. Foundation models evaluation, Transformers, recurrent networks, convolutional neural networks, Gaussian Processes, computer vision (SAM, DINO etc).
- Libraries** Point Cloud, OpenCV, Eigen, Docker, PyTorch, Numpy, CuPy, SciPy, Scikit-Learn, C++11/14/17. ROS 1 (ROSCpp and ROSPy); and ROS 2 (rclcpp & rclpy); Bash.
- CAD** Solid Works, AutoDesk Inventor, Blender, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe After Effects.
- Prototyping** Experience in components selection (including design and control of soft actuators, programmable linear actuators, robot mechanism design, harmonic drives, 3D custom parts printing), sensors (line and RGB-D cameras, and optical systems) selection and integration, microcontrollers (National Instruments, Raspberry Pi's, Arduinos). Components specification, schematic design: assembly, test, debug, and integrate. Devices communication standards including TCP/IP, UDP, SPI, I^2C . Enjoy being hands-on in the lab, in the details, and a thriving gusto for engineering.

Education

- 2019 - 2021 **Postdoctoral Scholar**, [The University of Pennsylvania](#), Philadelphia, PA, USA.
Design, build, and control of a soft robot for assisted MRI-based cancer radiation therapy.
- 2014 - 2019 **PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering**, *University of Texas at Dallas*, Richardson, USA. "[A Multi-DOF Soft Robot Mechanism for Patient Motion Correction and Beam Orientation Selection in Cancer Radiation Therapy](#)"
- 2011 - 2013 **Master of Science in Engineering in Control Systems**, *The University of Sheffield*, Sheffield, United Kingdom. "[Autonomous Navigation of a Rotorcraft Unmanned Aerial Vehicle using Machine Vision](#)"

Addendum

- Epilogue** Please see my [web presence](#) and my [resume addendum](#) for a full delineation of up-to-date publications, invited workshops, awards and honors, community service and community leadership.