

# Rohan Chitnis

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## Education

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA

**GPA: 4.8 / 5.0.** Minor: Econometrics.

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, 2021 (expected).

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, May 2018.

**University of California, Berkeley**, Berkeley, CA

**Graduated with Highest Honors (GPA in top 3%). GPA: 3.95 / 4.0.**

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, May 2016.

## Experience

**MIT Learning & Intelligent Sys. Lab** (Adviser: Leslie Kaelbling) 09/16 - Present

- Conduct research in artificial intelligence for robotics, toward a PhD.
- Focus on inference, planning, and learning for human-robot interactive settings.

**Facebook AI Research, Robotics** (Research Intern with Abhinav Gupta) 06/19 - 09/19

- Researched formulations of intrinsic motivation for learning synergistic tasks in robotics via deep reinforcement learning.
- Built and tested my algorithms in real-world bimanual manipulation environments.

**Google Brain, Robotics** (Research Intern with Sergey Levine) 05/17 - 09/17

- Researched methods for speeding up deep reinforcement learning for robotics, by regressing on event outcomes to improve exploration.

**Airbnb Inc., Search Ranking** (Software Engineering Intern) 06/16 - 08/16

- Worked on incorporating mobile data into machine learning models used by the Search Ranking team. Collected and organized data using tools in Hive, Presto, and Scala.

**UC Berkeley Robot Learning Lab** (Adviser: Pieter Abbeel) 02/13 - 05/16

- Performed work in hierarchical combined task and motion planning.
- Lead coordinator of lab outreach program, providing tours to visitors of varied ages.

**eBay Inc., Checkout** (Software Engineering Intern) 05/14 - 08/14

- Developed an end-to-end pipeline to create a model that classifies checkout transactions.
- Collected data using Hadoop MapReduce under the Apache Pig framework.

## Selected Publications

**Learning Quickly to Plan Quickly Using Modular Meta-Learning.** Rohan Chitnis, Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Tomás Lozano-Pérez. 2019 Int'l Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA).

**Learning What Information to Give in Partially Observed Domains.** Rohan Chitnis, Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Tomás Lozano-Pérez. 2018 Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL).

**Finding Frequent Entities in Continuous Data.** Ferran Alet, Rohan Chitnis, Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Tomás Lozano-Pérez. 2018 Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI).

**Guided Search for Task and Motion Plans Using Learned Heuristics.** Rohan Chitnis, Dylan Hadfield-Menell, Abhishek Gupta, Siddharth Srivastava, Edward Groshev, Christopher Lin, Pieter Abbeel. 2016 Int'l Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA).

**Variable-Length Word Encodings for Neural Translation Models.** Rohan Chitnis, John DeNero. 2015 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP).

## Honors / Awards

NSF GRFP Fellow, 2016. Awarded NDSEG Fellowship (declined).

Hertz Fellowship Finalist, 2016. One of 40 finalists nationwide.

Runner-up for the CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award, 2016.

Sole recipient of the EECS Mark D. Weiser Excellence in Computing Scholarship, 2015.

Member of the EECS Honors Degree Program.

UC Berkeley Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (OGSI) Award recipient, 2015.

UC Berkeley Regents' and Chancellor's Scholar.

National Merit Scholar.

## Technical Skills

**Languages:** Python, Java, Scala, C, C++, LaTeX.

**Software:** PyTorch, TensorFlow, Theano, Unix/Linux, Robot Operating System (ROS), OpenCV, Apache Pig, Apache Spark, Hadoop MapReduce.