

Sangwon Seo

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Research Objectives

My research focuses on *Generative Models of Human Behavior*, *Human-Agent Collaboration*, *Theory of Mind*, and *AI-Assisted Decision Making*. During my PhD, I developed *imitation learning* and *reinforcement learning* algorithms for modeling generalized agent policies from diverse human behaviors, as well as an *AI-driven team coaching system* that automatically analyzes and improves human teamwork in real time.

Education

Rice University, Houston, TX

Aug 2019 – Aug 2025

Ph.D. in Computer Science

- Thesis: AI-Assisted Coordination of Human Teams

Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea

Mar 2013 – Feb 2015

M.S in Bioengineering

- Thesis: Performance Enhancement in Heart Rate Variability Analysis with Constrained Missing RR Interval Estimation

Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea

Mar 2009 – Feb 2013

B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

- Thesis: Multiplexing of Bead-Based Immunoassays using a BioMEMS

Experience

Human-Centered AI and Robotics Group, Rice University, Houston, TX

Aug 2020 – Present

Ph.D. Student & Research Staff (Advisor: Prof. Vaibhav Unhelkar)

- Proposed a team-coaching AI algorithm to enhance teamwork in real time during task execution
- Conducted human-subject experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of AI-driven team coaching
- Developed a sample- and label-efficient imitation learning algorithm for modeling team behavior
- Developed an efficient hierarchical imitation learning algorithm to model intentional human behavior using a factored approach
- Formulated a hierarchical reward design framework to train RL policies aligned with user preferences
- Built multiple teamwork simulators and research tools, including a web-based platform for interactive human experiments

Honda Research Institute USA, San Jose, CA

May 2024 – Aug 2024

Research Intern

- Developed imitation learning algorithms that consider continuous latent states in human-agent interaction settings

Coreline Soft, Seoul, South Korea

Apr 2016 – Jun 2019

Associate Research Engineer

- Responsible for developing algorithms for AVIEW MODELER, a medical 3D printing solution
- Developed geometric modeling and processing algorithms
- Implemented a volume and surface rendering pipeline

Agency for Defense Development, Daejeon, South Korea

Mar 2015 – Mar 2016

Researcher

- Developed a telemetry system for aircraft

Biomedical Signal and Information Lab, Seoul National University

Feb 2013 – Feb 2015

M.S Student (Advisor: Prof. Kwang Suk Park)

- Developed signal/image processing algorithms for daily monitoring of physiological signals
- Developed autoregressive moving average-based interpolation methods to enhance heart rate variability analysis corrupted with missing measurements

* My employment at the Agency for Defense Development and Coreline Soft is recognized as fulfilling the military service in South Korea.

Publications

- **S. Seo**, Z. Qian and V. V. Unhelkar, "AI-Assisted Coordination of Human Teams in Situated Tasks," *AAAI Spring Symposium on Human-AI Collaboration*, 2025
- **S. Seo** and V. V. Unhelkar, "Hierarchical Imitation Learning of Team Behavior from Heterogeneous Demonstrations," *24th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2025 (Acceptance rate 24.5%)
- **S. Seo**, B. Han, R. E. Harari, R. D. Dias, M. A. Zenati, E. Salas and V. V. Unhelkar, "Socratic: Enhancing Human Teamwork via AI-enabled Coaching," *24th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2025 (Acceptance rate 24.5%)
- **S. Seo** and V. V. Unhelkar, "IDIL: Imitation Learning of Intent-Driven Expert Behavior," *23rd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)* 2024 (Acceptance rate 25%)
- **S. Seo**, "AI-Assisted Human Teamwork," *AAAI-24 Doctoral Consortium*, 2024
- **S. Seo**, B. Han and V. V. Unhelkar, "Automated Task-Time Interventions to Improve Teamwork using Imitation Learning," *22nd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2023 (Acceptance rate 23.3%)
- **S. Seo** and V. V. Unhelkar, "Semi-Supervised Imitation Learning of Team Policies from Suboptimal Demonstrations," *31st International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*, 2022 (Acceptance rate 14.9%)
- **S. Seo**, L. R. Kennedy-Metz, M. A. Zenati, J. A. Shah, R. D. Dias and V. V. Unhelkar, "Towards an AI coach to infer team mental model alignment in healthcare," *2021 IEEE Conference on Cognitive and Computational Aspects of Situation Management (CogSIMA)*, pp. 39-44, 2021
- S. Kwon, D. Lee, J. Kim, Y. Lee, S. Kang, **S. Seo** and K. Park, "Sinabro: A smartphone-integrated opportunistic electrocardiogram monitoring system," *Sensors*, 16(3), p.361, 2016
- S. H. Hwang, **S. Seo**, H. N. Yoon, H. J. Baek, J. Cho, J. W. Choi, Y. J. Lee, D.-U. Jeong and K. Park, "Sleep period time estimation based on electrodermal activity," *IEEE journal of biomedical and health informatics (J-BHI)*, 21(1), pp.115-122, 2015
- S. Kang, S. Kwon, C. Yoo, **S. Seo**, K. Park, J. Song and Y. Lee, "Sinabro: Opportunistic and unobtrusive mobile electrocardiogram monitoring system," *15th Workshop on Mobile Computing Systems and Applications (HotMobile)*, pp. 1-6, 2014
- J. Kim, S. Kwon, **S. Seo** and K. Park, "Highly wearable galvanic skin response sensor using flexible and conductive polymer foam," *36th annual international conference of the IEEE engineering in medicine and biology society (EMBC)*, pp. 6631-6634, 2014

Working / Under-review Papers

- "Hierarchical Reward Design using Large Language Models" with Z. Qian and V. V. Unhelkar, *Under Review*

Honors & Awards

National Scholarship for Science and Engineering, Korea Student Aid Foundation

Mar 2009

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

COMP 646: Deep Learning for Vision and Language
COMP 440/557: Artificial Intelligence

Spring 2023

Fall 2021, Spring 2025

Advising & Mentoring

Arnav Adhikari, Highschool Student, Houston, TX

May 2023 – Dec 2023

Bing (Tim) Han, Undergraduate Student, Rice University

May 2022 – May 2024

Zhanyi Sun, Undergraduate Student, Rice University

Jan 2022 – Jun 2022

Reviewer

International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)

International Conference on Advanced Robotics and Its Social Impacts (ARSO)

Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction

Skills

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES Python | C | C++ | Javascript | HTML | Matlab

FRAMEWORKS & LIBRARIES OpenGL | Flask | PyBullet | PyTorch | Tensorflow

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT Git | Docker | CMake | Shell Script | VSCode | Jupyter

ROBOT DEVELOPMENT Motion Capture (OptiTrack) | ROS | MoveIt | OMPL

LANGUAGES English | Korean

Extra

AAMAS Student Volunteer

2023

Student Venture Network, Seoul National University

Mar 2012 – July 2012

College of Engineering Tennis Club, Seoul National University

Mar 2010 – Feb 2013

System Administrator, ECE Department, Seoul National University

Mar 2010 – Feb 2011

SNU Mentoring, Seoul National University

Sep 2009 – Feb 2010