

Soroush Nasiriany

soroush@cs.utexas.edu
snasiriany.me
github.com/snasiriany

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D., Computer Science 2020 – present
Adviser: Prof. Yuke Zhu
GPA: 4.0/4.0

University of California, Berkeley

M.S., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science 2019 – 2020
Adviser: Prof. Sergey Levine
GPA: 4.0/4.0
B.A., Computer Science 2015 – 2019
GPA: 3.97/4.0

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Robot Perception and Learning Lab (RPL), UT Austin

2020 – present
Advised by Professor Yuke Zhu
Research Focus: Robot Learning, Robot Manipulation, Imitation Learning

Robotic AI & Learning Lab (RAIL), UC Berkeley

2016 – 2020
Advised by Professor Sergey Levine
Research Focus: Deep Reinforcement Learning, Planning, Representation Learning

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, NVIDIA

Sept 2024 - present
Generalist Embodied Agent Research group

Research Intern, Google DeepMind

Oct 2023 - July 2024
Foundation models for robotics

Research Intern, NVIDIA

June 2022 - Jan 2023
Scaling imitation learning with automatically generated robot demonstrations

Software Engineering Intern, Facebook

May 2017 - Aug 2017
Managing distributed systems at scale with Apache ZooKeeper

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

RT-Affordance: Affordances are Versatile Intermediate Representations for Robot Manipulation

Soroush Nasiriany, Sean Kirmani, Tianli Ding, Laura Smith, Yuke Zhu, Danny Driess, Dorsa Sadigh, Ted Xiao
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2025

RoboCasa: Large-Scale Simulation of Everyday Tasks for Generalist Robots

Soroush Nasiriany, Abhiram Maddukuri*, Lance Zhang*, Adeet Parikh, Aaron Lo, Abhishek Joshi, Ajay Mandlekar, Yuke Zhu
Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2024

DROID: A Large-Scale In-The-Wild Robot Manipulation Dataset

Alexander Khazatsky, Karl Pertsch, Suraj Nair, Ashwin Balakrishna, Sudeep Dasari, Siddharth Karamcheti, Soroush Nasiriany, ..., Yuke Zhu, Thomas Kollar, Sergey Levine, Chelsea Finn
Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2024

PIVOT: Iterative Visual Prompting Elicits Actionable Knowledge for VLMs

Soroush Nasiriany*, Fei Xia*, Wenhao Yu*, Ted Xiao*, Jacky Liang, Ishita Dasgupta, Annie Xie, Danny Driess, Ayzaan Wahid, Zhuo Xu, Quan Vuong, Tingnan Zhang, Tsang-Wei Edward Lee, Kuang-Huei Lee, Peng Xu, Sean Kirmani, Yuke Zhu, Andy Zeng, Karol Hausman, Nicolas Heess, Chelsea Finn, Sergey Levine, Brian Ichter*
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2024

MimicGen: A Data Generation System for Scalable Robot Learning using Human Demonstrations

Ajay Mandlekar, **Soroush Nasiriany***, Bowen Wen*, Iretiayo Akinola, Yashraj Narang, Linxi Fan, Yuke Zhu, Dieter Fox
Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL), 2023

Robot Learning on the Job: Human-in-the-Loop Manipulation and Learning During Deployment

Huihan Liu, **Soroush Nasiriany**, Lance Zhang, Zhiyao Bao, Yuke Zhu
Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2023
Best Paper Award Finalist

Learning and Retrieval from Prior Data for Skill-based Imitation Learning

Soroush Nasiriany, Tian Gao, Ajay Mandlekar, Yuke Zhu
Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL), 2022

Augmenting Reinforcement Learning with Behavior Primitives for Diverse Manipulation Tasks

Soroush Nasiriany, Huihan Liu, Yuke Zhu
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2022
Outstanding Learning Paper

What Matters in Learning from Offline Human Demonstrations for Robot Manipulation

Ajay Mandlekar, Danfei Xu, Josiah Wong, **Soroush Nasiriany**, Chen Wang, Rohun Kulkarni, Li Fei-Fei, Silvio Savarese, Yuke Zhu, Roberto Martín-Martín
Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL), 2021
Oral Presentation

robosuite: A Modular Simulation Framework and Benchmark for Robot Learning

Yuke Zhu, Josiah Wong, Ajay Mandlekar, Roberto Martín-Martín, Abhishek Joshi, **Soroush Nasiriany**, Yifeng Zhu
Technical report, 2020

DisCo RL: Distribution-Conditioned Reinforcement Learning for General-Purpose Policies

Soroush Nasiriany*, Vitchyr H. Pong*, Ashvin Nair*, Alexander Khazatsky, Glen Berseth, Sergey Levine
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2021

Planning with Goal-Conditioned Policies

Soroush Nasiriany*, Vitchyr H. Pong*, Steven Lin, Sergey Levine
Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2019

OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS

RoboCasa: large-scale robot simulation framework featuring diverse tasks, scenes, and robots

github.com/robocasa/robocasa

Role: Project lead

RoboSuite: a modular simulation framework and benchmark for robot learning

github.com/ARISE-Initiative/robosuite

Role: Core developer

RoboMimic: open-source library of datasets and algorithms for imitation learning and offline RL

github.com/ARISE-Initiative/robomimic

Role: Core developer

MimicGen: a system for automatically generating robot demonstration datasets

github.com/NVlabs/mimicgen

Role: Contributor

TEACHING AND SERVICE

- **CS 391R: Robot Learning**, UT Austin
- **CS 343: Artificial Intelligence**, UT Austin
- **CS 189: Machine Learning**, UC Berkeley
Lead developer of official course guide: snasiriany.me/files/ml-book.pdf
- **CS 285: Deep Reinforcement Learning**, UC Berkeley
- Reviewer for CoRL, ICRA, NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, IROS, IJRR
- Organizer of [UT Robot Learning Reading Group](#)
- Member of admissions committee, UT Austin Computer Science Master's program

MENTORSHIP

- Aditya Arjun (2021)
- Tian Gao (2022 - 2024; now PhD student at Stanford)
- Lance Zhang (2023 - 2024)
- Adeet Parikh (2023 - 2024)
- Aaron Lo (2023 - present)
- Abhiram Maddukuri (2023 - present)