

Xuechao ZHANG

Portfolio: sszxc.net

Research: [Google Scholar](#)

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EDUCATION

- **Arizona State University** Arizona, USA
Master, Robotics and Autonomous Systems GPA: 4.0/4.0 Jan. 2025 - Present
- **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** Shanghai, China
Master, Electronic Information GPA: 3.6/4.0 Sept. 2021 - Mar. 2024
- **Georgia Institute of Technology** Atlanta, USA
Exchange student in Atlanta Summer Program GPA: 3.9/4.0 Jul. 2018 - Aug. 2018
- **Southeast University** Nanjing, China
Bachelor, Robotics Engineering (Chien-Shiung Wu College) GPA: 3.7/4.0 Sept. 2017 - Jun. 2021
 - Chien-Shiung Wu College is a pilot college in Southeast University to cultivate top-notch undergraduate students selected from multiple science and engineering departments.

SKILLS SUMMARY

Robotics researcher with a background in both hardware and software, specializing in manipulation and active perception; proven through publications at top conferences (**CoRL**, **IROS**) and deployments in industry (**Apple**, **Bosch**, **Tencent**).

- **Programming Languages:** Python, MATLAB, C++; Additional: CUDA, Swift, Verilog
- **Theoretical Knowledge:** control theory, optimization, deep learning, computer vision
- **Robotics Experience:**
 - **Algorithms:** MPC, RRT, SLAM, NeRF, Gaussian Splatting, Diffusion
 - **Systems & Tooling:** PyTorch, Docker, ROS, simulation (Isaac Lab, MuJoCo, MATLAB Simulink, Webots)
 - **Hardware & Platforms:** PCB design, CAD, 3D printing; Franka Emika, Universal Robots, NVIDIA Jetson
- **Language Proficiency:** Chinese (native), English (TOEFL 101)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Yang W, Xie Z, **Zhang X**, et al. TwinTrack: Bridging Vision and Contact Physics for Real-Time Tracking of Unknown Dynamic Objects[J]. arXiv:2505.22882, 2025. [Paper](#) [Page](#) [Video](#)
2. **Zhang X**, Wang D, Han S, et al. Affordance-Driven Next-Best-View Planning for Robotic Grasping[C]//Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL). PMLR, 2023: 2849-2862. [Paper](#) [Page](#) [Video](#)
3. **Zhang X**, Ding X, Ren Y, et al. Toward Global Sensing Quality Maximization: A Configuration Optimization Scheme for Camera Networks[C]//2022 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS). IEEE, 2022: 13386-13391. [Paper](#) [Video](#)

SELECTED PROJECTS

- **Contact-Rich Dexterous Manipulation** Jan. 2025 - Jul. 2025
Research Associate @ [Intelligent Robotics & Interactive Systems Lab](#) *Advised by Prof. Wanxin Jin*
 - Conducted research on model-based planning for contact-rich dexterous manipulation, including fingertip in-air manipulation, and **LEAP Hand** on-palm reorientation.
 - Designed a real-time contact-implicit **Model Predictive Control (MPC)** framework based on a recently proposed complementarity-free multi-contact dynamic model. Implemented in **Python** with **CasADi**, sustaining **50–100 Hz** control, matching or exceeding reinforcement-learning baselines on challenging dexterous tasks.
 - Introduced a global sampling-based contact-position replanning layer on top of MPC, yielding a **bi-level** controller that escapes local minima; achieved **90.1%** average success on continuous-rotation tasks over a **20 object** test set.
 - Co-developed a **20 Hz 6-DoF pose tracker** for unknown dynamic objects in contact-rich scenes by integrating the contact dynamics into a visual-tracking pipeline; geometry is supervised via **Gaussian Splatting**, while physical parameters (mass, inertia, friction) are **updated online** via sampling-based optimization. Summarized in paper^[1].
- **Silicon Validation Automation System** Apr. 2024 - Jan. 2025
Robotics Engineering Intern @ [Apple Inc.](#)
 - Architected and delivered a **UR10e**-based automation system for USB interoperability validation. Task included device ports localization, cable plugging (e.g., Type-C, HDMI) and simulating user operations on HID devices .
 - Implemented and fine-tuned state-of-the-art **6-DoF visual localization**, achieving precision of **0.3 mm/2°** with marker and **2.0 mm/5°** without markers at 1 m working distance.
 - Fused camera and force/torque feedback for contact-aware control, reaching **99.2%** grasp success (universal boxes) and **96.5%** cable-insertion success over **200+** device SKUs in a full regression pass.

- Developed a **Python**-based robotics toolkit covering system calibration, front-end task management, robot path planning and visualization, plus robust fault-recovery and logging, enabling **24/7** reliable operation.
- Deployed across labs in **Shanghai/Tokyo/Cupertino**; results presented to **VP**-level leadership.

- **Autonomous Driving Car Demonstration Model** Aug. 2023 - Jan. 2024
Strategic Intern (Part-time) @ [Bosch \(China\) Investment Ltd.](#)
 - Designed and implemented an autonomous indoor navigation platform using a Raspberry Pi-powered demonstration vehicle, equipped with onboard camera for real-time perception and control.
 - Developed educational materials and documentation as part of the global Bosch AI Learning Curriculum, and conducted online and offline training sessions for internal staff, reaching over **100** employees.
- **Active Perception and Robotic Grasp Prediction** Sept. 2022 - Aug. 2023
Research Intern @ [Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory](#)
 - Conducted research on **robotics grasping prediction** in cluttered desktop scenes, focusing on active perception under partial observability.
 - Proposed **ACE-NBV**, an affordance-driven next-best-view policy that actively selects next camera poses which guide the arm toward feasible grasps for target objects.
 - Formulated a **multi-task learning** scheme over a shared implicit neural representation to couple grasp affordance and 3D reconstruction; leveraged the paradigm of novel view imagery from **NeRF** to predict grasp affordances for previously unobserved views.
 - Demonstrated significant improvements over current state-of-the-art methods by consistently identifying more informative views, resulting in a comparable grasp success rate with **32.4%** fewer observations.
 - Published a paper^[2] as the first author in **CoRL 2023**.
- **Swarm Robots System for Cooperative Construction** Jun. 2022 - Sept. 2022
Research Intern @ [Tencent Robotics X Lab](#)
 - Contributed to the development of a digital-twin system for heterogeneous robots, including **quadruped robots and Mecanum wheeled robots**, which can transport blocks/slopes to construct multi-layer buildings.
 - Designed the mechanical and electrical systems and developed the embedded software based on the Robot Operating System (ROS) to enable Mecanum wheeled robots to operate blocks/slopes under centralized control.
 - Integrated the visual sensors and IMU of the robots using Kalman filtering to enable autonomous localization, reducing positioning error by **43%** and improving positioning information reporting rate by **57%**.
- **Real-Time Digital Twin Platform of Multi-Robots** Feb. 2021 - Mar. 2022
Graduate Researcher @ Shanghai Jiao Tong University [IWIN-FINS Lab](#) Advised by Prof. Jianping He
 - Contributed to the development of a multi-robot testbed that exploits the ideas of digital-twin system.
 - Designed and implemented a distributed PTZ camera network and AprilTag visual positioning system which can achieve **120 Hz** tracking frequency, **10 ms** delay, and **0.5 mm** tracking error.
 - Proposed a multi-camera sensing quality model and an optimization strategy for camera network configuration based on this model, which improves the overall positioning performance of the platform.
 - Published a paper^[3] as the first author in **IROS 2022**, and submitted an invention patent.
- **Competition Robots Software and Hardware Development** Apr. 2019 - Nov.2020
Team Leader @ Southeast University Smart Car Team
 - Designed a Mecanum wheeled chess-playing robot, which utilizes IMU and cameras for self-positioning, an electromagnetic system for moving chess pieces, and algorithms for solving the Eight Queens problem and playing the Quoridor. [Video](#)
 - Designed an intelligent car which is powered by supercapacitors, capable of wireless charging at 30 W through self-made circuits, and utilized inductors to detect alternating currents for navigation. [Video](#)
 - Designed a self-balancing bicycle robot, which was manufactured using 3D printing and utilizes an IMU and a flywheel system for balancing. [Figure](#)
 - Won the **Second Prize** of the 14th National College Student “NXP Cup” Smart Car Competition and **First Prize** of the 10th Jiangsu Provincial College Student Robotics Competition. Submitted **two** invention patents.

Full list with demos & code: sszxc.net

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| • Outstanding Graduate of Shanghai Jiao Tong University | Mar. 2024 |
| • First Class Academic Scholarship from Shanghai Jiao Tong University | Sept. 2021&2022 |
| • SMC Corporation Scholarship | Sept. 2022 |
| • “Chien-Shiung Student” of Southeast University (Top 1%) | Jan. 2021 |
| • Huawei Scholarship (Top 3%) | May 2020 |
| • Second Prize of the 14th National College Student “NXP Cup” Smart Car Competition | Aug. 2019 |
| • Second Prize of Zhengbao Education Scholarship | Jun. 2019 |