email: tony.dear@columbia.edu

August 2018 - present

Employment Columbia University, Department of Computer Science

January 2019 - present Lecturer in Discipline Associate in Discipline July 2018 - December 2018

Education Carnegie Mellon University, The Robotics Institute

Doctor of Philosophy, Robotics August 2018 Master of Science, Robotics $May\ 2015$

- Thesis: Extensions of the Principal Fiber Bundle Model for Locomoting Robots
- Completed Future Faculty Program at the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence

University of California, Berkeley

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) May 2012

- Graduated with highest honors (summa cum laude)
- Completed EECS Honors Program, minor program in Physics

Teaching Columbia University

COMS 4701, Artificial Intelligence Summer 2021 Total enrollment 180. Course evaluation 4.23/5, instructor evaluation 4.53/5. Spring 2021 COMS 4733, Computational Aspects of Robotics Total enrollment 115. Course evaluation 4.52/5, instructor evaluation 4.59/5. COMS 3251, Computational Linear Algebra Total enrollment 199. Course evaluation 3.91/5, instructor evaluation 4.28/5. COMS 4701, Artificial Intelligence Fall 2020 Total enrollment 267. Course evaluation 4.68/5, instructor evaluation 4.85/5. COMS 3251. Computational Linear Algebra Spring 2020 Total enrollment 126. Evaluations unavailable due to COVID-19 pandemic. COMS 4701, Artificial Intelligence Fall 2019 Total enrollment 358. Course evaluation 4.25/5, instructor evaluation 4.45/5. COMS 4733, Computational Aspects of Robotics Spring 2019 Total enrollment 80. Course evaluation 4.09/5, instructor evaluation 4.41/5. COMS 3203, Discrete Mathematics Total enrollment 102. Course evaluation 3.89/5, instructor evaluation 4.28/5. COMS 4701, Artificial Intelligence Fall 2018

Carnegie Mellon University

Fall 2013 - Summer 201816-384, Robot Kinematics and Dynamics Course developer and TA with Prof. Howie Choset. www.robotkinematics.org

Total enrollment 301. Course evaluation 4.06/5, instructor evaluation 4.21/5.

Grants Collaboratory Fellows Fund

August 2020 - present Received \$100,000 over three years with Yi Zhang (Columbia IEOR) for the development of an interdisciplinary, data-driven decision-making course. The course will cover ideas and examples from artificial intelligence and business analytics to give students a solid foundation in decision theory, dynamic programming, reinforcement learning, and model estimation. Applications will include practice with real data sets for business analytics.

Research Columbia University

Currently pursuing several directions of research related to robot locomotion and reinforcement learning. We are interested in integrating geometric methods with model-based and model-free learning methods. Our ultimate goal is to develop locomoting robots that can learn in real time and in real life.

Carnegie Mellon University

September 2012 - August 2018

Advisor: Prof. Howie Choset. Expanded applicability of geometric methods for modeling and controlling locomoting systems, including wheeled, snake, and swimming robots. We applied intuitive motion planning techniques to systems that deviate from ideal conditions, such as those with passive joints or those that have to coordinate their degrees of freedom with environmental interactions. We also validated the newly established theory through experiments on simple but representative robots, such as a multi-link wheeled snake robot with compliant joints.

University of California, Berkeley

February 2011 - February 2012

Advisor: Prof. Stuart Russell. Developed and tested a seismic inference system in accordance with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) to detect nuclear explosions and seismic events worldwide; first system of its kind to use Bayesian inference. Implemented algorithms and computation through parallel and distributed computing on Amazon EC2, with results of up to 30 times speedup.

Journal Publications

- **T. Dear**, B. Buchanan, R. Abrajan-Guerrero, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Locomotion of a multi-link non-holonomic snake robot with passive joints". The International Journal of Robotics Research 39(5), 598-616, 2020. https://doi.org/10.1177/0278364919898503
- R. L. Hatton, **T. Dear**, and H. Choset. "Kinematic Cartography and the Efficiency of Viscous Swimming". IEEE Transactions on Robotics 33(3), 523-535, 2017.

Conference Publications

- J. Shi, **T. Dear**, and S. D. Kelly. "Deep Reinforcement Learning for Snake Robot Locomotion". Proceedings of the 21st IFAC World Congress (virtual), July 2020.
- J. Grover, J. Zimmer, **T. Dear**, M. Travers, H. Choset, and S. D. Kelly. "Geometric Motion Planning for a Three-Link Swimmer in a Three-Dimensional Low Reynolds-Number Regime". Proceedings of the 2018 American Control Conference. Milwaukee, WI, June 2018.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Locomotion of a Multi-link Nonholonomic Snake Robot". Proceedings of the ASME 2017 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. Tysons Corner, VA, October 2017.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, and H. Choset. "Control and Locomotion of Hydrodynamically Coupled Rigid Spheres". Proceedings of the 2017 American Control Conference. Seattle, WA, May 2017.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Locomotive Analysis of a Single-Input Three-Link Snake Robot". Proceedings of the 55th IEE Conference on Decision and Control. Las Vegas, NV, December 2016.
- H. Salman, **T. Dear**, S. Babikian, E. Shammas, and H. Choset. "A Physical Parameter-Based Skidding Model for the Snakeboard". Proceedings of the 55th IEE Conference on Decision and Control. Las Vegas, NV, December 2016.
- A. Agrawal, H. Zaini, **T. Dear**, and H. Choset. "Experimental Gait Analysis of Waveboard Locomotion". Proceedings of the ASME 2016 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. Minneapolis, MN, October 2016.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, and H. Choset. "Variations on the Role of Principal Connections in Robotic Locomotion". Proceedings of the ASME 2016 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. Minneapolis, MN, October 2016.
- R. Shu, A. Siravuru, A. Rai, **T. Dear**, K. Sreenath, and H. Choset. "Optimal Control for Geometric Motion Planning of a Robot Diver". Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems. Daejon, South Korea, October 2016.

- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "The Three-Link Nonholonomic Snake as a Hybrid Kinodynamic System". Proceedings of the American Control Conference. Boston, MA, July 2016.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Motion Planning and Differential Flatness of Mechanical Systems on Principal Bundles". Proceedings of the ASME 2015 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. Columbus, OH, October 2015.
- J. Dai, M. Travers, **T. Dear**, C. Gong, H. C. Astley, D. I. Goldman, and H. Choset. "Robot-Inspired Biology: The Compound-Wave Control Template". Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation. Seattle, WA, May 2015.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Snakeboard Motion Planning with Viscous Friction and Skidding". Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation. Seattle, WA, May 2015.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Dissipation-Induced Self-Recovery in Systems on Principal Bundles". Proceedings of the ASME 2014 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. San Antonio, TX, October 2014.
- **T. Dear**, R. L. Hatton, and H. Choset. "Nonlinear Dimensionality Reduction for Kinematic Cartography with an Application toward Robot Locomotion". Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems. Chicago, IL, September 2014.
- **T. Dear**, R. L. Hatton, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Snakeboard Motion Planning with Local Trajectory Information". Proceedings of the ASME 2013 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. Stanford, CA, October 2013. Nominated for Best Student Paper.
- **T. Dear**, S. D. Kelly, M. Travers, and H. Choset. "Mechanics and Control of a Terrestrial Vehicle Exploiting a Nonholonomic Constraint for Fishlike Locomotion". Proceedings of the ASME 2013 Dynamic Systems and Control Conference. Stanford, CA, October 2013.

Fellowships

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship

Jim & Donna Gray Endowment Award (UC Berkeley)

2014 - 2017

2011 - 2012

Service

CS@CU Bridge to MS Program in Computer Science Program Director, 2019 - present

Advisor for Columbia undergraduate student groups, including Application Development Initiative (ADI) Labs and Columbia Space Robotics, as well as undergraduate and MS students on independent research projects

Reviewer for refereed journals, including MDPI Robotics, IEEE T-ASE, and NODY, and refereed conferences, including ICRA, IROS, CDC, ACC, DSCC, among others.

Mentor for undergraduate students (including international) participating in the Robotics Institute Summer Scholars (RISS) program to perform research in the laboratory.

Organized tour groups of Robotics Institute labs, including for K-12 students of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh program.

Professional Affiliations Tau Beta Pi, Initiated CA-Alpha Chapter, Fall 2009 IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu, Initiated CA-Alpha Chapter, Spring 2009

Skills

Programming/Tools: Python, Java, C, Mathematica, MatLab, LATEX Languages: English, Mandarin, Cantonese, conversational Spanish