

# Will Thibault






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## Education

- **PhD, Mechatronics Engineering (Expected Graduation: Aug 2026)** Sept 2022 to Present  
University of Waterloo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, 93% GPA
    - Research on humanoid whole-body motion generation and control using combined model-based and model-free approaches with the REEM-C and TALOS humanoid robots
    - Courses include: Cognition-enabled Robot Manipulation ([EASE Fall School 2022](#) – University of Bremen, Germany), Reinforcement Learning, Optimal and Learning-based Control, Deep Learning
  - **MASc, Mechatronics Engineering** Sept 2020 to Aug 2022  
University of Waterloo, 93% GPA
    - Research on whole-body manipulation and loco-manipulation with the REEM-C humanoid robot
    - Courses include: Statistical Learning – Classification, Human Movement Neuromechanics, Modelling/Simulation/Optimization in Robotics and Biomechanics, Humanoid Robotics
  - **BASc, Mechatronics Engineering** Sept 2015 to April 2020  
University of Waterloo, Degree Honours: With Distinction and Dean's Honours List, 90% GPA
    - Projects include: drone battery swapping station (Capstone), magnetic wall-climbing robot
    - Courses include: Robot Manipulators- Kinematics/Dynamics/Control, Autonomous Mobile Robots, Multi-sensor Data Fusion, Digital Control Applications
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## Research and Publications

- **Research Assistant in Humanoid Robotics** Apr 2020 to Present  
University of Waterloo, [HCRMI](#)
  - Developing loco-manipulation motions with REEM-C using reinforcement learning techniques
  - Created whole-body bimanual motions for REEM-C manipulating objects using an extended manipulability-stability metric for improved manipulation abilities
- **RoboHub Specialist in Humanoid Robotics** Apr 2024 to Present  
University of Waterloo, [RoboHub](#)
  - Developing humanoid robot motion generation and control tools to enable research on humanoids
  - Supporting research and development on the TALOS humanoid robot
- **Publications**
  - [1] **W. Thibault**, V. Rajendran, W. Melek and K. Mombaur. Learning Skateboarding for Humanoid Robots through Massively Parallel Reinforcement Learning. *40th Anniversary of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA@40)*, 2024.  
  - [2] **W. Thibault**, W. Melek, and K. Mombaur. Learning Velocity-based Humanoid Locomotion: Massively Parallel Learning with Brax and MJX. *International Conference on Climbing and Walking Robots and the Support Technologies for Mobile Machines (CLAWAR 2024)*, 2024.  
  - [3] **W. Thibault**, F. J. Andrade Chavez, and K. Mombaur. “A standardized benchmark for humanoid whole-body manipulation and loco-manipulation,” Poster presented at EUROBENCH Summit, Jun 21-22, 2022, Madrid, Spain. 

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- [4] **W. Thibault**, F. J. Andrade Chavez, and K. Mombaur. A standardized benchmark for humanoid whole-body manipulation. *IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots*, 2022.  
- [5] **W. Thibault**, V. Rajendran and K. Mombaur. Bimanual Manipulation Workspace Analysis of Humanoid Robots with Object Specific Coupling Constraints. *IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots*, 2022.  

## Work Experience

- **Software Engineer Intern (Motion Control and Planning Team)** May 2023 to Aug 2023  
[Apptronik Inc](#)
- Created distributed reinforcement learning framework for development of bimanual manipulation and locomotion for humanoid robots for parallelization on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure resources
  - Developed bimanual pick and place motions for box manipulation using off-policy reinforcement learning techniques including a Hindsight Experience Replay buffer and offline pre-training
- **Hardware and Systems Developer Co-op (RF)** Jan 2019 to Aug 2019  
[ON Semiconductor](#) (Medical, Wireless and Signal Processing)
- Developed automated RF measurement and reporting system in Python to characterize up to 12 Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) devices and generate performance reports for device certification
  - Measured BLE device and antenna characteristics using equipment including radio communication tester (CMW 500), spectrum analyzer, vector, network analyzer, over-the-air anechoic chamber
- **RF Propagation Testing System Developer Co-op** May 2018 to Aug 2018  
University of Waterloo, [EmRG](#)
- Designed modular antenna positioning system with OnShape 3D CAD software to tilt and rotate a 256-element array in an anechoic chamber for 5G communication radio frequency propagation experiments
  - Developed software for the antenna positioning system's stepper motors to calibrate, monitor and control the antenna position via MATLAB using an Arduino microcontroller and a custom C++ library
- **Control Systems Software Design Co-op (Life Sciences)** Sept 2017 to Dec 2017  
[ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc](#)
- Developed web plug-in for ATS OEE Toolkit to control and monitor product flow using autonomous intelligent vehicles that transport carts of material during assembly stages to increase production rates
  - Created user-friendly interface for web plug-in using AngularJS and Bootstrap to execute operator procedures and display real-time data from SQL Server database with ASP.NET MVC C# server
- **Control Systems Design Co-op** Jan 2017 to Apr 2017  
[Powerhouse Controls Ltd](#)
- Updated PLC control schematics with new I/O cards in AutoCAD for Rockwell PLC retrofit
  - Upgraded PLC and HMI programs with Rockwell Studio5000 and FactoryTalk to double product yield
- **Engineering CAD Systems Co-op** May 2016 to Aug 2016  
[Skyjack Inc](#)
- Repaired over 9000 SolidWorks assemblies' references while leading 7 coworkers and recording errors
  - Provided training and instructional documents to improve the team's efficiency in repairing references

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## Technical Skills

### ➤ Engineering Hardware

- Robots: REEM-C and TALOS (humanoid robots by PAL Robotics), TurtleBot
- Motion Capture: Vicon Vantage, Bertec Force Plates, Delsys EMG, Xsens suit
- Measurement Tools: Oscilloscope, Multimeter, Spectrum Analyzer, Vector Network Analyzer, CMW

### ➤ Engineering Software and Programs

- Coding Languages: C++, Python, MATLAB, C
  - Robotics: ROS, Gazebo, RViz, OCS2, MoveIt!, OpenSoT, EXOTica, RBDL
  - Reinforcement Learning: MuJoCo, MJX, JAX, PyTorch, Stable Baselines3, RLlib, Gymnasium
  - General: Ubuntu (Linux), Docker, Git
  - Motion Capture: Vicon Nexus
  - CAD: SolidWorks, OnShape
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## Awards and Scholarships

- **NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship – Doctoral (national) - \$40,000/year** Sept 2023 to Aug 2026  
Awarded to top graduate students based on academic excellence, research potential and leadership
  - **President’s Graduate Scholarship (institutional) - \$10,000/year** Sept 2023 to Aug 2026  
Awarded to top graduate students who hold major national or provincial awards (ex. NSERC)
  - **Dean’s Entrance Award (institutional) - \$5,000** Sept 2020, Sept 2022  
Awarded to top graduate students based on academic excellence (85%+ average)
  - **Engineering Excellence Master’s Fellowship (institutional) - \$25,000/year** Sept 2020 to Aug 2022  
Awarded to top MASc students based on academic excellence and research potential
  - **Graduate Studies Conference Assistantship - \$500** Jun 2022  
Awarded to support travel for conferences related to research
  - **President’s Scholarship of Distinction (institutional) - \$5,000** Sept 2015  
Awarded to top undergraduate students based on academic excellence (95%+ average)
  - **Waterloo County Entrance Scholarship (institutional) - \$4,000** Sept 2015  
Awarded to top undergraduate students from Waterloo Region based on academic excellence
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## Teaching Experience and Extra-curricular Activities

- **Teaching Assistant (TA)** Sept 2022 to Apr 2024  
University of Waterloo, Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering
  - Communicated key information and deadlines to students through emails and class announcements
  - Led tutorial sessions by presenting and solving problems for large classes of students
  - Developed and graded course related assessments and supervised lab sessions
- **Humanoid Robotics Youth Outreach** Aug 2022  
University of Waterloo, [HCRMI](#)
  - Provided presentation on humanoid robotics to students (grades 5-12)
  - Demonstrated capabilities of REEM-C humanoid robot including face recognition, grasping and walking

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- **Academic Representative** Sept 2015 to Apr 2020  
University of Waterloo, Mechatronics Engineering 8-stream, Class of 2020
- Communicated with faculty on behalf of class during student faculty meetings
  - Organized class surveys and administered course critiques
- **UW Robotics Project Lead** May 2017 to Feb 2018  
University of Waterloo, [UW Robotics Mars Rover](#), Mechanical Team
- Designed, machined, and assembled 3 axis robotic arm in SolidWorks for manipulation tasks
  - Managed team members for the machining and assembly phase of the arm
- **Engineering Ambassador** Sept 2016 to Aug 2017  
University of Waterloo, [Engineering Student Ambassador Team](#)
- Led groups of up to 20 people on tours of Waterloo engineering buildings
  - Hosted high school students on Mechatronics engineering shadow days