Michael Piseno

✉ mpiseno@stanford.edu
🖥 www.michaelpiseno.com

Education

2021 - 2024 **Stanford University**
MS in Computer Science
Advisor: Karen Liu
GPA: 4.0

2017 - 2021 **Georgia Institute of Technology**
BS in Computer Science with highest honors, Minor in Mathematics
Major GPA: 4.0, Overall GPA: 3.82

Research Experience

Sept 2024 - Present **Hybrid Robotics Lab** *Assistant Specialist - Reinforcement Learning*
- Principal Investigator: Prof. Koushil Sreenath.
- Topic (ongoing): Vision-Language Models (VLMs) for robotic manipulation.

Jan 2024 - Present **The Movement Lab** *Research Assistant and MS Student*
- Principal Investigator: Prof. Karen Liu.
- Topic 1: Diffusion Policies for physics-based character animation. Result: Accepted to *SIGGRAPH Asia 2024*.
- Topic 2 (ongoing): Vision-Language Models (VLMs) for robotic manipulation.

Apr - Sept 2022 **Robotics @ Google (DeepMind)** *Student Researcher*
- Principal Investigators: Atil Iscen (DeepMind) and Prof. Koushil Sreenath (UC Berkeley).
- Topic: Stylized locomotion for bipedal robots. Result: Under review for *RA-L*.

Publications

1. **Michael Piseno**, Zhongyu Li, Alejandro Escontrela, Pieter Abbeel, Koushil Sreenath, Xue Bin Peng, and Atil Iscen. "Learning Stylized Locomotion for Bipedal Robots with Adversarial Motion Priors". ArXiv Preprint, (2024). (Under Review)

2. Takara E. Truong, **Michael Piseno**, Zhaoming Xie, and C. Karen Liu. "PDP: Physics-Based Character Animation via Diffusion Policy". *SIGGRAPH Asia*, (2024).

Industry Experience

May - Aug 2021 **IBM Research** *RESEARCH INTERN*
- Topic: Applying off-policy RL algorithms to optimize millimeter-wave communications in 5G cellular network.
- Supervisor: Dr. Alberto Valdes Garcia.
- Developed a system that learns to control the direction and power levels of multiple 5G cell towers in a simulated environment.

May - Aug 2020 **Dropbox** *SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN*
- Topic: chrome extension for organizing workflow
- Create the ML infrastructure for predicting tabs that are considered clutter and can therefore be closed.
- Build the infrastructure for client-server interaction in Typescript, train the ML model using Python, and display the results on the front end using ReactJS.

Jan - Mar 2020 **Facebook AI Research** *SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN*
- Topic: software development for AI Habitat, a simulator for training embodied AI agents.
- Supervisor: Prof. Dhruv Batra
- Create a tool to collect image data from within the simulator, train semantic segmentation models on the image data, and develop a renderer to color semantish meshes.

May - Aug 2019 **Amazon** *SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN*
- Topic: methods for image segmentation along linear boundaries.
- Supervisor: Michael Lou
- Develop a data labeling tool and implemented and trained novel vision architectures in Pytorch.

May 2018 - Dec 2018 **Georgia Tech Research Institute** *RESEARCH INTERN*
- Topic: classify noisy radio signals using deep learning.
- Supervisor: Dr. Jason Zutty
- Implement convolutional and recurrent architectures as primitives into an existing optimization library based on genetic programming.

Teaching Experience

Sept - Dec 2021 **Stanford University** *COURSE ASSISTANT*
- Course: CS 221: Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques.
- Responsibilities: managing course content, hosting office hours, and grading assignments.

Aug 2019 - May 2021 **Georgia Institute of Technology** *TEACHING ASSISTANT*
- Course: CS 7643: Deep Learning. Topics include vision and language models, generative models, and reinforcement learning.
- Created and maintained course material, graded assignments, and assisted students in office hours.

Awards and Honors

Apr 2022 **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship**
Graduate fellowship award to pursue research on intelligent robotics. Acceptance rate: 2%

May 2021 **Highest Honors, BS Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology**
Graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a BS in Computer Science with highest honors.

Jul 2020 **Intel SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship**
Scholarship sponsored by Intel awarded through the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). More info here.

Jul 2020 **Tapia Conference Scholarship**
Awarded a scholarship to cover the cost of attendance to the ACM Richard Tapia Conference.

Jul 2020 **LSAMP Scholarship**
Scholarship awarded primarily to underrepresented students in STEM. Awarded by the LSAMP program through Georgia Tech.

Apr 2020 **Generation Google Scholarship**
Awarded by Google for accomplishment in Computer Science. More info here.

Nov 2019 **Cisco Enterprise Scholarship**
Awarded a Cisco Enterprise Business Group Scholarship through a program in Georgia Tech's College of Computing.

Aug 2019 **SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship**
Awarded a SHPE Undergraduate Scholarship for my involvement in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). This scholarship was awarded to roughly three dozen students.