

# Youya Xia

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## Education

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### Cornell University

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Focused on robotics, reinforcement learning and computer vision

*Ithaca, New York*

*Aug. 2019 - May 2024*

### University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

- with high distinction

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Sep. 2015 - May 2019*

## Research Experience

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### ByteDance AI Lab

RESEARCH INTERN UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF DR. XIAOCHEN LIAN, DR. ZHILI CHEN AND YIHENG ZHU

- Guided Reinforcement Learning for Locomotion Control
  - Propose a bilevel controller such that it uses reinforcement learning as a high level controller to output command into the low level controller to simulate the animation trajectories
  - Design a simulated gaming system such that the humans are chasing a moving target in a environment with clustered obstacles

*Mountain View, CA*

*Jun. 2020 - Aug. 2020*

### HRC2 Lab

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PROF. GUY HOFFMAN

- Shadow Pose Estimation
  - Propose a methodology such that it can be used for estimating humans' poses while still protecting humans' privacy when cameras are covered with various filters
  - Design experiments to evaluate both the pose estimation results and the results for protecting humans' privacy

*Cornell University*

*Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2020*

### Interactive Robotics and Vision Lab

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PROF. JUNAED SATTAR

- Visual Diver Recognition for Underwater Human-Robot Collaboration:
  - propose the first vision-based algorithm in the underwater robots area to detect specific diver underwater using deep learning neural network, feature extraction and K-Means clustering algorithm such that the algorithm can not only detect divers underwater but also differentiate between different divers
  - leading author of the paper-Visual Diver Recognition for Underwater Human-Robot Collaboration which has been accepted by the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation 2019
  - Website link to my research: <http://irvlab.cs.umn.edu/projects/visual-diver-identification-underwater-hri>
- Pose-association:
  - Let robots understand divers' pose underwater. We use Open pose to extract points on the divers' bodies
  - Associating persons' poses from different cameras and scenes using four different person re-identification techniques
  - github link of the project: <https://github.com/xiaxx244/person-association>
- Underwater image enhancement:
  - work with a Ph.D. student to design a Generative Adversarial Network to improve the quality of underwater images
  - Collecting and releasing an unique underwater image dataset
- Marine Trash Project:
  - help label marine trash data for the project of building a deep vision detection model to detect marine litter
  - get recognition at the end of the paper-Robotic Detection of Marine Litter Using Deep Visual Detection Models which has been submitted by the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems 2018
- other work:
  - help conduct monthly pool or lake trials for underwater robots
  - help fix software malfunctioning of robots in our lab

*University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

*Feb. 2018 - Aug. 2019*

## GroupLens Lab

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MAX HARPER

Sep. 2017 - Apr. 2018

- Moviemood project:  
-help build a movie recommendation system which recommends movies based on the mood words users suggest using natural language processing toolkits, such as Gensim and spaCy

## Working Experience

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### ByteDance AI Lab

Mountain View, CA

RESEARCH INTERN

Jun. 2020 - Aug. 2020

- Guided Reinforcement Learning for Locomotion Control

### Department of Computer Science

Cornell University

TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR CS3110(FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING)

Aug. 2019 - present

- Construct and grade midterms for CS3110
- Grade homeworks, programming assignments for CS3110

### Department of Computer Science and Engineering

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR CSCI 2011(DISCRETE MATHEMATICS)

Sep. 2018 - Dec. 2018

- Construct and grade weekly quiz for CSCI2011
- Hold weekly office hours to answer students questions about lectures, homework and quizzes for CSCI 2011

### Department of Computer Science and Engineering

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR CSCI 2033(LINEAR ALGEBRA)

Jan. 2019 - May. 2019

- Grade weekly homework, midterms and final for CSCI2033
- Hold weekly office hours to answer students questions about lectures, homework and quizzes for CSCI 2033

### Department of Computer Science and Engineering

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

May. 2018 - Aug. 2018

- appointed by professor Junaed Sattar as a paid undergraduate research assistant during summer 2018
- conducted the previously stated specific diver detection research project and helped conduct several pool trials and lake trials during summer

### School of Mathematics

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

GRADER FOR MATH 2263(MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS)

Jun. 2017 - Aug. 2017

- Helped grade weekly quizzes and homework for Math 2263.
- Helped maintain students' records about quizzes, midterm, finals and homework for Math 2263

## Honors & Awards

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May 2019 **RAS Travel Grant**, A reward offered to participants of ICRA2019

Robotics and  
Automation Society

2015-2018 **Dean's list**, A reward offered to students with semester GPA 3.666 or higher

University of  
Minnesota

2015-2019 **Global Excellence scholarship**, A reward offered to excellent incoming students

University of  
Minnesota

## Skills

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**Programming** Python, JAVA, OCaml, Matlab, LaTeX, C++, MySQL, C, Lisp, Julia

**Computer Vision** Opencv

**Machine Learning** Tensorflow, Pytorch, Caffe

**Robotics System** Robotics Operating System

**Natural Language Processing** Gensim, spaCy

**Reinforcement learning** Gym

## Publication

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## **Visual Diver Recognition for Underwater Human-Robot Collaboration**

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1809.10201>

YOUYA XIA, JUNAED SATTAR

Sep.2018

- Accepted by the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation, ICRA2019. arXiv preprint available.

## **Fast Underwater Image Enhancement for Improved Visual Perception**

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.09766>

MD JAHIDUL ISLAM, YOUYA XIA, JUNAED SATTAR

Feb.2020

- Accepted by Robotics and Automation Letters. arXiv preprint available.