

John Ian R. So

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Education

Stanford University

M.S. Computer Science

Advisor: Shuran Song, Stanford Robotics and Embodied AI Lab

August 2023-June 2025

GPA: 4.05 / 4.00

University of California, Berkeley

B.S. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with High Honors

Advisor: Pieter Abbeel, Berkeley Robot Learning Lab

August 2019-May 2023

GPA: 3.96 / 4.00

Publications

Any-point Trajectory Modeling for Policy Learning ([site](#))

Chuan Wen*, Xingyu Lin*, **John So***, Kai Chen, Qi Dou, Yang Gao, Pieter Abbeel. *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, July 2024.

SpawnNet: Learning Generalizable Visuomotor Skills from Pre-trained Networks ([site](#))

Xingyu Lin*, **John So***, Sashwat Mahalingam, Fangchen Liu, Pieter Abbeel. *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2024.

Sim-to-Real via Sim-to-Seg: End-to-end Off-road Autonomous Driving Without Real Data ([site](#))

John So*, Amber Xie*, Sunggoo Jung, Jeffrey Edlund, Rohan Thakker, Ali Agha-mohammadi, Pieter Abbeel, Stephen James. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, December 2022.

Experience

Stanford Robotics and Embodied AI Lab, Student Researcher

Supervised by Shuran Song. Current research is in 3D trajectory generation models, with downstream applications in robust and multi-task manipulation policies.

August 2024-Present

1X Technologies, AI Resident

Supervised by Eric Jang. Researched multi-task policy distillation, generalization, and trajectory modeling for policy foundation models. Oversaw data collection and deployment to a fleet of 50 robots.

April 2024-August 2024

Berkeley Robot Learning Lab, Student Researcher

Supervised by Pieter Abbeel, Stephen James, and Xingyu Lin. Researched generalization in robot learning, including sim-to-real transfer, video-pretraining, and sample-efficient domain adaption.

August 2021-February 2024

Service

Machine Learning at Berkeley, President, Education Vice President

Oversaw initiatives including weekly reading groups; internal member mentorship; external industry and academic guest speakers; student-run computer vision course ([CS 198-126](#)); consulting project sourcing. Summarized as a white paper at the NeurIPS 2022 Broadening Research Collaborations in ML Workshop ([link](#)).

Spring 2022-Fall 2022

Teaching

Stanford CS 221: Artificial Intelligence: Principles & Techniques

Course Assistant

Fall 2024

Led exam creation and held office hours. Topics included machine learning, Markov decision processes, search, games, and Bayesian networks.

Stanford CS 229: Machine Learning

Course Assistant

Winter 2024

Led exam creation and held office hours. Topics included classification, regression, neural networks, and reinforcement learning.

Berkeley CS 189: Introduction to Machine Learning

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2023

Led weekly discussion section, held office hours, and developed assignments. Topics included classification, regression, neural networks, and introductory learning theory.

Berkeley CS 61A: Structure & Interpretation of Computer Programs

Head Teaching Assistant

Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Course Tutor

Fall 2020, Spring 2021

As Head Content Teaching Assistant, oversaw day-to-day curriculum development, and integration of new assignments and topics for Berkeley's largest intro CS course (>1500 enrolled). Led weekly discussion section for 30 students, held office hours, and developed assignments. Topics included recursion, object-oriented programming, and interpreters.

Awards

High Honors, top 7% of UC Berkeley EECS 2023 graduating class.

May 2023

Accel Scholars, Accel-backed mentorship program.

April 2022

EECS Honors Program, program for high achieving students in academics and research.

May 2021

Eta Kappa Nu, UC Berkeley EECS Honor society.

May 2020