

Jun Yamada

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EDUCATION

- University of Oxford** · Oxford, United Kingdom **10/2021 – Present**
DPhil Engineering Science
The Applied AI Lab (A2I), Supervisor: Professor Ingmar Posner
- University of Southern California** · Los Angeles, United States **10/2019 – 10/2021**
Visiting scholar at Cognitive Learning for Vision and Robotics (CLVR) lab,
Supervisor: Professor Joseph J. Lim
- University College London** · London, United Kingdom **09/2018 – 09/2019**
MSc Data Science and Machine Learning in the Department of Computer Science
Distinction Honor
- Keio University** · Tokyo, Japan **04/2014 – 03/2018**
B.Eng. in Administration Engineering (computer science, applied mathematics, and statistics)
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology** · Stockholm, Sweden **08/2016 – 07/2017**
Exchange student, School of Computer Science

RESEARCH/WORK EXPERIENCE

- Postdoctoral Scientist - Amazon Robotics** · Germany **11/2025 – Present**
Postdoctoral Scientist in the Vulcan Pick team
- Group Lead - AIROA** · Japan **04/2025 – 10/2025**
Led a small team of researchers and engineers to pretrain and post-train VLA for the Toyota HSR robot
- Research Intern - NVIDIA Seattle Robotics Lab** · United States **07/2024 – 10/2024**
Research Intern supervised by Dr. Balakumar Sundaralingam, Dr. Ajay Mandlekar, Dr. Adithya Murali, and Dr. Yashraj Narang
- Research Intern - OMRON SINIC X, Inc.** · Tokyo, Japan **03/2021 – 09/2021**
Research Intern with Dr. Kazutoshi Tanaka and Dr. Masashi Hamaya
- Visiting Researcher - University of Southern California** · , United States **10/2019 – 10/2021**
Visiting Researcher with *Professor* Joseph J. Lim
- Machine Learning Engineer - Grid, Inc.** · Tokyo, Japan **08/2017 – 08/2018**
Developed an in-house machine learning framework, similar to PyTorch

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [C12] **J Yamada**, A Murali, A Mandlekar, C Eppner, I Posner, B Sundaralingam, “Grasp-MPC: Closed-Loop Visual Grasping via Value-Guided Model Predictive Control”, *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2026
- [C11] A Murali, B Sundaralingam, Y Chao, W Yuan, **J Yamada**, M Carlson, F Ramos, S Birchfield, D Fox, C Eppner, “GraspGen: A Diffusion-based Framework for 6-DOF Grasping with On-Generator Training”, *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2026
- [C10] **J Yamada**, A L Mitchell, J Collins, I Posner, “COMBO-Grasp: Learning Constraint-Based Manipulation for Bimanual Occluded Grasping”, *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2025

- [C9] **J Yamada**, Shaohong Zhong, J Collins, I Posner, “D-Cubed: Latent Diffusion Trajectory Optimisation for Dexterous Deformable Manipulation”, *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2025
- [C8] **J Yamada**, J Collins, I Posner, “Efficient Skill Acquisition for Industrial Insertion Tasks in Obstructed Environments”, *Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC)*, 2024.
- [C7] **J Yamada**, M Rigter, J Collins, I Posner, “TWIST: Teacher-Student World Model Distillation for Sim-to-Real Transfer”, *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2024.
- [C6] M Kobayashi*, **J Yamada***, M Hamaya, K Tanaka, “LfDT: Learning Dual-Arm Manipulation from Demonstration Translated from Human and Robotic Arm”, *IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robotics*, 2023
- [C5] AL Mitchell, OP Jones, **J Yamada**, W Merkt, I Havoutis, I Posner, “From Primates to Robots: Emerging Oscillatory Latent-Space Dynamics for Sensorimotor Control”, *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CNN)*, 2023
- [C4] **J Yamada***, C Hung*, J Collins, I Havoutis, I Posner, “Leveraging Scene Embeddings for Gradient-Based Motion Planning in Latent Space”, *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2023.
- [C3] **J Yamada**, K Pertsch, A Gunjal, JJ Lim, “Task-Induced Representation Learning”, *International Conference on Learning Representation (ICLR)*, 2022.
- [C2] **J Yamada***, Y Lee*, G Salhotra, K Pertsch, M Pflueger, GS Sukhatme, JJ Lim, P Englert, “Motion Planner Augmented Reinforcement Learning for Robot Manipulation in Obstructed Environments”, *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2020.
- [C1] **J Yamada**, J Shawe-Taylor, Z Fountas, “Evolution of a Complex Predator-Prey Ecosystem on Large-Scale Multi-Agent Deep Reinforcement Learning”, *International Joint Conference on Neural Network (IJCNN)*, 2020.

JOURNAL PAPERS

- [J4] K Kawaharazuka, J Oh, **J Yamada**, I Posner, Y Zhu, “Vision-Language-Action Models for Robotics: A Review Towards Real-World Applications”, *IEEE Access*, 2025
- [J3] M Rigter, **J Yamada**, I Posner, “World Models via Policy-Guided Trajectory Diffusion”, *Transactions of Machine Learning Research (TMLR)*, 2024
- [J2] O Parker Jones, A L Mitchell, **J Yamada**, W Merkt, M Geisert, I Havoutis, I Posner, “Oscillating latent dynamics in robot systems during walking and reaching”, *Scientific Reports*, 2024
- [J1] J Collins*, M Robson*, **J Yamada***, M Sridharan, K Janik, I Posner, “RAMP: A Benchmark for Evaluating Robotic Assembly Manipulation and Planning”, *Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)*, 2023

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Best Poster Award at The 4th UK Manipulation Workshop
- Scholarship: Learning Real-World Collaborative Assembly Tasks Through Observation, Action and Interaction

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Workshop Organiser, ICRA 2025 - “Beyond Pick and Place — Unifying Learning-Based and Model-Based Approaches for Contact-Rich Manipulation”
- Reviewer: ICRA (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026), IROS 2023, CoRL 2025, RA-L

TEACHING SERVICE

- B20 Machine Learning, Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford

PRESS COVERAGE

- [An open-source benchmark to evaluate the manipulation and planning skills of assembly robots](#), by Ingrid Fadelli, *Tech Explore*