Junzhe He

EDUCATION

ETH-Zurich Switzerland

Doctoral Student at Robotic Systems Lab

Jan 2024 - present

ETH-Zurich Switzerland

Master of Science in Robotics Systems and Control

University of Colorado at Boulder

United States

Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering

Aug 2015 - May 2019

RESEARCH AND PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Attention-based Neural Locomotion Policy on Diverse Challenging Terrains ETH-Zurich RSL, Switzerland

*Master Thesis**

Apr 2023 - Oct 2023

- Designed a novel attention-based end-to-end learning framework that can handle both dense and sparse terrains;
- Utilized a Gate Recurrent Unit (GRU) to deal with degraded sensor inputs, which allows the policy to navigate through terrains with dense vegetation or snow coverage;
- Designed a multi-stage training approach including pre-train, fine-tuning, and GRU training to improve the robustness of the training process;
- Successful sim-to-real transfer of policies on challenging sparse terrains and dense terrains with degraded sensing for both a humanoid and a quadruped robot.

Sample Efficient Learning from Model-Based Controllers

ETH-Zurich RSL, Switzerland Apr 2023 - Oct 2023

• Improved training efficiency by providing inverse kinematics solutions directly to a tracking network instead of learning a mapping from task space to joint space for quadruped locomotion.

Tracking MPC using Deep-RL

Semester Project

Master Thesis

ETH-Zurich RSL, Switzerland Aug 2022 - Dec 2022

- Participated in designing a hybrid model- and learning-based controller and validated its ability to traverse challenging terrains;
- Designed an integrated interface that includes two different model-based planners and demonstrated their interchangeability;
- Improved sample efficiency and avoided knee collisions over complex terrains by introducing a rich set of joint space information from MPC.

Imitation Learning for Quadruped Robot Locomotion

Software Engineer

Tencent Technology, Co., Ltd, China Apr 2021 - Aug 2021

- Designed and trained a deep reinforcement learning (DRL) network using PPO that enables a quadruped robot, Max, to acquire agile locomotion skills by imitating reference expert motions in PyBullet;
- Applied domain randomization and domain adaptation technique to improve the adaptability on terrains with different dynamic parameters;
- Sim-to-Real Transfer: mitigated the sim-to-real gap by modeling the motors via end-to-end supervised learning.

Work Experience

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Researcher

ETH Zurich Robotic Systems Lab

Research Engineer

• Legged Robot Locomotion

Tencent Technology

Software Engineer Intern

o Deep-RL Quadruped Robot Locomotion

Boston, United States Aug 2024 - Jan 2025

Zurich, Switzerland Jan 2024 - June 2024

Shenzhen, China Apr 2021 - Aug 2021

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. ***, **Junzhe He**, ***, , and ***. Parkour *****. *International Journal of Robotics Research 2025. Under Review*
- 2. **Junzhe He**, ***, ***, ***, ***, and ***. ****** learning generalized legged locomotion. *Science Robotics* 2025. *Under Review*
- 3. Fabian Jenelten, **Junzhe He**, Farbod Farshidian, and Marco Hutter. Dtc: Deep tracking control. *Science Robotics*, 9(86):eadh5401, 2024
- 4. **Junzhe He**, et al. HERMES: Hazard Examination and Reconnaissance Messenger for Extended Surveillance. In 78th Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA, page 11. Society of Allied Weight Engineers, May 2019

SKILLS

- Programming: C++, Python, Matlab
- Operating System: Linux, ROS
- Machine Learning: TensorFlow, PyTorch
- Simulation: Gazebo, PyBullet, Matlab Simulink
- Experience on robotic platforms: Tencent Max, Unitree Laikago, ANYmal

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

- ETH Recursive Estimation Programming Project Competition:
 - Winner (spring 2022)
- The 78th Society of Allied Weight Engineers International Conference 2019:
 - 1st Place Študent Paper Award
- AIAA Region 5 Student Conference 2019:
 - 2nd Place Student Paper Award, Team Category
- CU Engineering Excellent Fund Engineering Projects Expo 2019:
 - 1st Place Engineering Project
- Scholarship:
 - Engineering Differential Scholarship (2016-2017, 2017-2018)
 - ETH Scholarship (2022-2023)