

Benjamin Eisner

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION	5810 Elmer St. Pittsburgh, PA 15232	<i>Email:</i> baeisner@andrew.cmu.edu <i>Site:</i> www.beisner.me
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Learning for manipulation, deep reinforcement learning, 3D perception	
EDUCATION	Carnegie Mellon University , Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA August 2020 - Ph.D. in Robotics, Robotics Institute - School of Computer Science Coursework: <i>Intermediate Statistics (36-705)</i> , <i>Computer Vision (16-720)</i>	
	Princeton University , Princeton, New Jersey USA Sept. 2013 - Jun. 2017 Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Computer Science Graduated with High Honors (Magna Cum Laude) GPA: 3.51 / Departmental GPA: 3.64 Thesis: “Deep Learning methods for 3D segmentation of neural tissue in EM images” Advisor: Sebastian Seung	
	University College London , London UK Jan. 2016 - Jun. 2016 Affiliate Student in Computer Science	
EXPERIENCE	Samsung AI Center , New York, New York USA Nov. 2018 - Aug. 2020 <i>Machine Learning Research Engineer</i> Advisors: Daniel Lee, Sebastian Seung, Larry Jackel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed novel deep reinforcement learning algorithms for exploration in sparse environments and improved training stability, leading to a conference paper (IJCAI-PRICAI 2020) and a workshop paper (ICML 2019).• Collaborated on a project that fused traditional planning with deep learning to learn diverse manipulation behaviors, resulting two publications (including IROS 2019).• Designed a complete system for robotic manipulation using the Kinova Gen3 arm, as well as low-level drivers for the RealSense camera, a dynamic vision sensor, and Syntouch touch sensors.• Architected a comprehensive deep reinforcement learning framework for large-scale distributed learning and experimentation.	
	Google , New York, New York USA Sept. 2017 - Nov. 2018 <i>Software Engineer (L3 & L4) - Geo Data</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led an organization-wide effort to test how massive data changes affected dozens of Google Maps API services.• Developed a workflow management system for simulating world-scale launches for Google Maps and Knowledge Graph.• Consistently managed tens of simultaneous experiments that processed petabytes of data across thousands of nodes, enabling major org-wide launches.	

Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey USA **Jan. 2015 - May 2017**
Lab Teaching Assistant

- Assisted undergraduates with programming assignments for introductory Computer Science courses.

Machine Reading Lab @ UCL, London UK **Jan. 2016 - Nov. 2016**
Research Intern

Advisors: Sebastian Riedel, Tim Rocktaschel

- Researched ways to learn embeddings for new tokens based only on short, natural language descriptions, leading to a workshop publication at EMNLP 2016.
- Demonstrated quantitative improvements on downstream NLP tasks (i.e. Twitter Sentiment Classification) using learned Emoji embeddings.

Google, Kirkland, Washington USA **Jun. 2016 - Sept. 2016**
Software Engineering Intern

Microsoft, Redmond, Washington USA **Jun. 2015 - Sept. 2015**
Software Engineering Intern

Contactive, New York, New York USA **Jun. 2014 - Dec. 2014**
Software Engineering Intern

Konica Minolta Medical Imaging, Wayne, New Jersey USA **Jul. 2013 - Aug. 2013**
Software Development Intern

HONORS AND AWARDS	<p>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2020 - present</p> <p>High Honors, Department of Computer Science, Princeton University 2017</p> <p>Elected to Sigma Xi 2017</p> <p>Best Paper, SocialNLP Workshop at EMNLP 2016 2016</p> <p>National Merit Scholar 2013</p>
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PUBLICATIONS

2020

Tosun, T., Yang, D., **Eisner, B.**, Isler, V., & Lee, D. (2020). Robotic Grasping through Combined image-Based Grasp Proposal and 3D Reconstruction. **Under Review, IROS 2020**. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.01649>

Simmons-Edler, R., **Eisner, B.**, Yang, D., Bisulco, A., Mitchell, E., Seung, S., & Lee, D. (2020). Reward Prediction Error as an Exploration Objective in Deep RL. **International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2020 (IJCAI-PRICAI2020)**. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1906.08189>

2019

Tosun, T., Mitchell, E., **Eisner, B.**, Huh, J., Lee, B., Lee, D., ... & Lee, D. (2019). Pixels to Plans: Learning Non-Prehensile Manipulation by Imitating a Planner. **IROS 2019**. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.03260>

Simmons-Edler, R.*, **Eisner, B.***, Mitchell, E.*, Seung, S., & Lee, D. (2019). Q-Learning for Continuous Actions with Cross-Entropy Guided Policies. **RL4RealLife Workshop, ICML 2019**. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.10605>

2016

Eisner, B., Rocktäschel, T., Augenstein, I., Bošnjak, M., & Riedel, S. (2016). emoji2vec: Learning emoji representations from their description. **Best Paper, SocialNLP Workshop, EMNLP 2016**. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.08359>

PRESENTATIONS	Mapping Your Brain with Deep Learning <i>Internal talk at Google NYC</i>	2017
	emoji2vec: Learning emoji representations from their description. <i>SocialNLP Workshop at EMNLP 2016</i>	2016