Yoonchang Sung

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Research Interests

Robotics algorithms, Embodied AI, Robot manipulation, Task and motion planning, Multi-robot systems

Employment

Nanyang Technological University Apr 2025 - Present
College of Computing and Data Science Singapore
Assistant Professor

The University of Texas at Austin Oct 2021 - Mar 2025
Department of Computer Science Austin, TX, USA
Postdoctoral Fellow
Host: Peter Stone

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Oct 2019 - Sep 2021
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) Cambridge, MA, USA
Postdoctoral Associate
Hosts: Leslie Pack Kaelbling and Tomás Lozano-Pérez

Education

Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering Sep 2019
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA, USA
Advisor: Pratap Tokekar
Thesis: Multi-robot coordination for hazardous environmental monitoring

M.S. in Mechanical Engineering Aug 2013
Korea University Seoul, Korea
Advisor: Woojin Chung
Thesis: Novel tracking method for following human legs using a mobile robot in a cluttered environment

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Feb 2011
Korea University Seoul, Korea

Honors

Microsoft Future Leader in Robotics and AI, 2025
IROS Best Cognitive Robotics Paper Award Finalist, 2021
IROS Best Robocup Paper Award Winner, 2021

Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) Pioneers, 2019
DARPA Robotics Challenge (DRC) Finalist, 2015
Korea University Best Honors Scholarships, Spring 2010
Korea University Honors Scholarships, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2010
Korea National Science Scholarship (merit-based), Fall 2009

Journal Publications

(+: corresponding author, *: equal contribution, #: student I mentored)

Yoonchang Sung*, Shahaf Shperberg*, Qi Wang*, Bryan Atista Kiely, Peter Stone. "Effort allocation for deadline-aware task and motion planning: a metareasoning approach." Under Review.

Yoonchang Sung, Zhiang Chen, Jnaneshwar Das, Pratap Tokekar. "A Survey of decision-theoretic approaches for robotic environmental monitoring." *Foundations and Trends in Robotics*, 2023.

Yoonchang Sung, Pratap Tokekar. "GM-PHD filter for searching and tracking an unknown number of targets with a mobile sensor with limited FOV." *IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering (T-ASE)*, 2021.

Zhongshun Zhang, Jonathon M. Smereka, Joseph Lee, Lifeng Zhou, **Yoonchang Sung**, Pratap Tokekar. "Game tree search for minimizing detectability and maximizing visibility." *Autonomous Robots (AURO)*, 2021.

Yoonchang Sung, Ashish K. Budhiraja, Ryan K. Williams, Pratap Tokekar. "Distributed assignment with limited communication for multi-robot multitarget tracking." *Autonomous Robots (AURO)*, 2020.

Yoonchang Sung is one of 23 co-authors. "Team VALOR's ESCHER: A novel electromechanical biped for the DARPA Robotics Challenge." *Journal of Field Robotics (JFR)*, 2017.

Yoonchang Sung, Woojin Chung. "Hierarchical sample-based joint probabilistic data association filter for following human legs using a mobile robot in a cluttered environment." *IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems (T-HMS)*, 2015.

Conference Publications

Faraz Heravi*, James Ouyang*, Zifan Xu, Arjun Kumar, **Yoonchang Sung**, Peter Stone. "LLM-enhanced curriculum learning for reinforcement learning in long-horizon manipulation tasks." Under Review.

Caroline Wang*, Arrasy Rahman*, Jiaxun Cui, **Yoonchang Sung**, Peter Stone. "ROTATE: Regret-driven open-ended training for ad hoc teamwork." Under Review.

Jiaheng Hu*, Jay Shim*, Chen Tang, **Yoonchang Sung**, Bo Liu, Peter Stone, Roberto Martín-Martín. "Simple recipe works: vision-language-action models are natural continual learners with reinforcement learning." *Reinforcement Learning Conference (RLC)*, 2026.

Yoonwoo Kim#, Raghav Arora#, Roberto Martín-Martín, Peter Stone, Ben Abbatematteo, **Yoonchang Sung**+. "Large-language-model-guided state estimation for partially observable task and motion planning." *IEEE*

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2026.

Yoonchang Sung is one of 86 co-authors. "Evaluating generalization capabilities of LLM-based agents in mixed-motive scenarios using concordia." *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Datasets and Benchmarks Track*, 2025.

Mingyo Seo*#, Yoonyoung Cho*, **Yoonchang Sung**, Peter Stone, Yuke Zhu, Beomjoon Kim. "PRESTO: fast motion planning using diffusion models based on key-configuration environment representation." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2025.

Yoonchang Sung, Rahul Shome, Peter Stone. "Asynchronous task plan refinement for multi-robot task and motion planning." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2024.

Yoonchang Sung, Peter Stone. "Motion planning (in)feasibility detection using a prior roadmap via path and cut search." *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2023.

Yoonchang Sung*, Zizhao Wang*, Peter Stone. "Learning to correct mistakes: backjumping in long-horizon task and motion planning." *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2022.

Kaiyu Zheng#, Rohan Chitnis, **Yoonchang Sung**, George Konidaris, Stefanie Tellex. "Towards optimal correlational object search." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2022.

Yoonchang Sung, Leslie P. Kaelbling and Tomás Lozano-Pérez. "Learning when to quit: meta-reasoning for motion planning." *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2021. **(Finalist for Best Cognitive Robotics Paper Award)**

Kaiyu Zheng#, **Yoonchang Sung**, George Konidaris, Stefanie Tellex. "Multi-resolution POMDP planning for multi-object search in 3D." *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2021. **(Winner of Best Robocup Paper Award)**

Shen Li*, Daehyung Park*, **Yoonchang Sung***, Julie Shah, Nicholas Roy. "Reactive task and motion planning under temporal logic specifications." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2021.

Yoonchang Sung, Deeksha Dixit, Pratap Tokekar. "Environmental hotspot identification in limited time with a UAV equipped with a downward-facing camera." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2021.

Zhongshun Zhang, Jonathon M. Smereka, Joseph Lee, **Yoonchang Sung**, Lifeng Zhou, Pratap Tokekar. "Tree search techniques for minimizing detectability and maximizing visibility." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2019.

Yoonchang Sung, Pratap Tokekar. "A competitive algorithm for online multi-robot exploration of a translating plume." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2019.

Yoonchang Sung, Ashish K. Budhiraja, Ryan K. Williams, Pratap Tokekar. "Distributed simultaneous action and target assignment for multi-robot multitarget tracking." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*

(ICRA), 2018.

Yoonchang Sung, Pratap Tokekar. "Algorithms for searching and tracking an unknown and varying number of mobile targets using a limited FoV sensor." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2017.

Yoonchang Sung, Tomonari Furukawa. "Information measure for the optimal control of target searching via the grid-based method." *International Conference on Information Fusion (Fusion)*, 2016.

Workshop Publications

Jiaheng Hu*, Jay Shim*, Chen Tang, **Yoonchang Sung**, Bo Liu, Peter Stone, Roberto Martín-Martín. "Simple recipe works: vision-language-action models are natural continual learners with reinforcement learning." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) Workshop on Workshop on Reinforcement Learning in the Era of Imitation Learning*, 2026.

Caroline Wang*, Arrasy Rahman*, Jiaxun Cui, **Yoonchang Sung**, Peter Stone. "ROTATE: Regret-driven open-ended training for ad hoc teamwork." *Reinforcement Learning Conference (RLC) Workshop on Coordination and Cooperation in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning*, 2025.

Miguel Iglesias Alcázar, Fernando Fernández Rebollo, **Yoonchang Sung**, Yuqian Jiang. "Formalization, development, and baseline analysis of a task and motion planning domain in RDDL." *International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling (ICAPS) Workshop on the International Planning Competition*, 2024.

Yoonchang Sung, Spencer Buebel, Pratap Tokekar. "Detecting and mapping hazardous plumes with aerial and surface robots." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) Workshop on Robot Teammates Operating in Dynamic, Unstructured Environment*, 2018.

Yoonchang Sung, Ashish K. Budhiraja, Ryan K. Williams, Pratap Tokekar. "Distributed simultaneous action and target assignment for multi-robot multi-target tracking." *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) Workshop on Multi-robot Perception-driven Control and Planning*, 2017.

Preprints

Yoonchang Sung, Deeksha Dixit, Pratap Tokekar. "Online exploration of an unknown region of interest with a team of aerial robots." arXiv 2018.

Patents

Yoonchang Sung, Woojin Chung. "Leg tracking method based on SJPDAF method." KR (No. 10-1573620).

Teaching

Lecturer for SC 2203: Automata, Computability, and Complexity, NTU Singapore, Spring 2026
Guest Lecturer for Task and Motion Planning, KAIST AI. Seoul, Korea, Dec 2024

Guest Lecturer for Intelligent Robotic Systems, Sogang University. Seoul, Korea, May 2024
Guest Lecturer for Robot Learning and Interaction, KAIST. Daejeon, Korea, Apr 2022
Guest Lecturer for Robot Motion Planning, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA, USA Aug 2018
Teaching Assistant for Computer Aided Mechanical Drawing, Korea University. Seoul, Korea, Spring 2012
Teaching Assistant for Machine Component Design, Korea University. Seoul, Korea, Fall 2011

Funding

Current
Causal & Counterfactual Explainability for Predictive Foundation Models. A*STAR-NTU Joint Lab
PI: Yoonchang Sung, S$240,000, 02/2026-02/2028

Bridging the Deployment Gap with Generative AI. NRF T-CRP
PI: Harold Soh, Co-PIs: Yoonchang Sung, Cheston Tan, S$4,000,000, Personal Share: S$750,000, 10/2025-10/2029

Development and Demonstration of an Integrated Automation System for a Precision Strawberry Harvesting and Packaging AI Robot. Korea-Ministry of SMEs and Startups
PI: Cha Robotics, Co-PI: Yoonchang Sung, S$620,000, Personal Share: S$177,000, 10/2025-10/2027

Meta-reasoning for Robot Motion Planning Problems: Learning to Detect (In)feasibility. AcRF Tier 1 Seed Funding Grant
PI: Yoonchang Sung, S$100,000, 10/2025-10/2027

Student Advising

Postdoctoral Researchers
Gaurav Chaudhary, IIT Kanpur, 2026-Present

Ph.D. Students
Yudi Lin, NTU Singapore, 2026-Present
Ngan Duong Thi Thuy, NTU Singapore, 2026-Present
Jean-Manuel Cabrillana, NTU Singapore, 2025-Present
Yeseung Kim (Ph.D. advisor: Daehyung Park), KAIST, 2024-2025
Ming Liu (Ph.D. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2024-Present
Yoonwoo Kim (Ph.D. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2023-Present
Yoonyoung Cho (Ph.D. advisor: Beomjoon Kim), KAIST, 2023-2024
Mingyo Seo (Ph.D. advisors: Luis Sentis and Yuke Zhu), UT Austin, 2022-2024
Zizhao Wang (Ph.D. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2022
Yuqian Jiang (Ph.D. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2021-2022
Yifeng Zhu (Ph.D. advisors: Peter Stone and Yuke Zhu), UT Austin, 2021-2022
Kaiyu Zheng (Ph.D. advisor: Stefanie Tellex), Brown University, 2019-2021

M.S./MEng Students
Abhipray Chavan, NTU Singapore, 2026-Present

Prithvi Nishal, NTU Singapore, 2026-Present
Antareep Singha, NTU Singapore, 2025-Present
Ajith Kemisetti (M.S. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2024-Present
Raghav Arora (M.S. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2024-2025
Jasmeet Kaur (M.S. advisor: Peter Stone), UT Austin, 2022-2023
Shiloh Curtis (MEng advisor: Leslie Pack Kaelbling), MIT, 2020-2021
Deeksha Dixit (M.S. advisor: Pratap Tokekar), Virginia Tech, 2018-2019

Undergraduate Students
Juho Kim, Seoul National University, 2025
Qi Wang, UT Austin, 2023-2024
Arjun Kumar, UT Austin, 2024-Present
Aaroh Gokhale, UT Austin, 2024
Jay Shim, UT Austin, 2024-Present
Romir Sharma, UT Austin, 2024-Present

Mentoring Programs
Inclusion@RSS, Freiburg, Germany, Jun 2019

Technical Advisor
Team Robo, MLDA@EEE, ICRA 2026 BARN Challenge

Thesis Supervision

M.S./MEng Students
Ajith Kemisetti. "Stochastic SIPP: a novel approach for motion planning in stochastic dynamic environments." UT Austin, 2024.
Shiloh Curtis. "A hierarchical algorithm for probabilistically complete path planning in multi-floor environments." MIT, 2021.

Invited Talks

Beyond Motion Planning for Static Environments: Addressing Dynamic and Partially Observable Worlds
Workshop on LeaPRiDE: Learning, Planning, and Reasoning in Dynamic Environments at IROS 2025, Oct 2025

TAMP Approach to Robot Manipulation Problems: Challenges and Opportunities
Pinto Group, New York University, NY, USA, May 2025

Extending Current Capabilities of Task and Motion Planning
LIS Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA, USA, Apr 2025
Khoury College of Computer Sciences, Northeastern University, MA, USA, Apr 2025
Department of Computer Science Engineering, Kyung Hee University, Korea, Dec 2024
Kavraki Lab, Rice University, TX, USA, Dec 2024

Towards Long-Horizon Robot Decision Making

Computer Science and Engineering, UNSW Sydney, Australia, Oct 2024
College of Computing and Data Science, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Sep 2024
AIIS, Seoul National University, Korea, Aug 2024
Department of Artificial Intelligence, Yonsei University, Korea, Aug 2024
Department of Electronic Engineering, Sogang University, Korea, Aug 2024
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, POSTECH, Korea, Aug 2024
School of Computing, KAIST, Korea, Aug 2024
Department of Artificial Intelligence, Korea University, Korea, Aug 2024
AIR Group, Binghamton University, NY, USA, Jul 2024
Computer Science Department, University of Texas at Dallas, TX, USA, Apr 2024
Department of Computer Science, NC State University, NC, USA, Feb 2024

Exploring Long-Horizon Dependency in Task and Motion Planning
IM Λ 2 lab, KAIST AI, Korea, Oct 2022
School of Mechanical Engineering, Korea University, Korea, Oct 2022

Meta-Reasoning for Task and Motion Planning
School of Computing, KAIST, Korea, Apr 2022
SISL Lab, Stanford University, CA, USA, Nov 2021

Robust Autonomy in the Wild
Workshop on Robots in the Wild: Challenges in Deploying Robust Autonomy for Robotic Exploration at RSS 2020, July 2020
Brown Robotics, Brown University, RI, USA, Nov 2019
NAVER LABS, Korea, Jul 2019
Department of Aerospace Engineering, KAIST, Korea, Jun 2019

Service

Technical Committee
Junior Co-chair, IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Technical Committee on Multi-Robot Systems, 2025

Conference Organizing Committee
Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL) Publications Chair, 2026

Senior Program Committee
International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) Conference Editorial Board, 2025

Program Committee
AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Conference Editorial Board, 2023-2026

Associate Editor
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) Conference Editorial Board, 2026
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) Conference Editorial Board, 2021, 2026

Workshop Co-organizer
Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) Pioneers, Oregon, USA, Jul 2020
Full-day workshop, Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), Freiburg, Germany, Jun 2019
(Title: Robots in the wild: challenges in deploying robust autonomy for robotic exploration)

Reviewer
Journals: International Journal of Robotics Research (IJRR), IEEE Transactions on Robotics (T-RO), Autonomous Robots (AURO), IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering (T-ASE), IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L), Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Conferences: IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL), Workshop on the Algorithmic Foundations of Robotics (WAFR), AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), IEEE International Symposium on Multi-Robot & Multi-Agent Systems (MRS), International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)

Graduate Admission Committee
UT Austin CS. Fall 2024 admission
MIT CSAIL. Fall 2021 admission

Misc. Organizer
Korean-American Roboticists Association (KARA), 2025