

Omey M. Manyar

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Research Interests

Robot Learning; Robotic Manipulation; Physics-Informed Learning; Learning from Demonstration; Motion Planning; Reinforcement Learning; Physics-based Simulation

Education

University of Southern California <i>Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering (Robotics)</i>	May 2021 – May 2025 (Expected) Los Angeles, CA
University of Southern California <i>Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering</i>	Aug. 2019 – May 2021 Los Angeles, CA
National Institute of Technology Karnataka <i>Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering</i>	Jul. 2012 – May 2016 Surathkal, India

Experience

Applied Science Intern <i>Amazon Robotics</i>	May 2023 – Aug. 2023 Seattle, WA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Worked in the stow manipulation team focused towards perception for automation of package handling task (Link)	
Graduate Research Fellow <i>Advisor: Dr. S. K. Gupta. Realization of Robotics Systems Lab, USC</i>	May 2021 – Present Los Angeles, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Devised an inverse reinforcement learning-based methodology to model expert behavior from sparse demonstrations for sequential planning problems for an autonomous agentDesigned a framework to generate physics-informed synthetic images for training a ResNet-50-based segmentation model in Pytorch to detect wrinkles and folds in sheets with a test mAP of 0.98. Link: code and datasetPerformed parameter estimation of differentiable simulators for robotic manipulation of compliant objects (sheets)	
Automation Technologist <i>Rolls-Royce Plc.</i>	Jan. 2018 – Jul. 2019 Singapore
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seconded from Nanyang Technological University for leading the technological development in advanced robotics at the manufacturing facility of Rolls RoyceSpearheaded the deployment of an AI-based smart predictive tool for surface finishing processesDeveloped a collaborative robotic solution that improved Cpk value of filleting operations to 1.98	
Graduate Engineer <i>General Motors India Pvt. Ltd.</i>	Aug. 2016 – Jul. 2017 Bengaluru, India
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Streamlined robotic welding process in the body shop unit of the manufacturing facility of GM IndiaCreated an investment forecasting tool with savings of 25% for Global Vehicle Development Program at Level 0Formulated a dealership improvement strategy, focusing towards customer satisfaction in the west zone of GM India	
Summer Undergraduate Researcher <i>Advisor: Dr. Howie Choset. Biorobotics Lab, Carnegie Mellon University</i>	May 2015 – Aug. 2015 Pittsburg, PA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Designed a compliant gripper based on pseudo-rigid body modelling technique for snake robots	

Honors and Awards

- Best Conference Paper Award. *Won the conference wide best paper award at the 42nd ASME's IDETC-CIE Conference 2022*
- Viterbi Graduate School Fellowship. *Recipient of the Viterbi Graduate School Fellowship awarded to selected Ph.D. students by the Viterbi School of Engineering, USC*
- Academic Excellence Award. *Given to the best outgoing Master of Science student by the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department at the Viterbi School of Engineering, USC*
- National Science Foundation Travel Award. *Awarded at ASME MSEC Conference in 2022 and 2021, ASME IDETC-CIE 2022 and 2021*

List of Publications

- **Omey M. Manyar**, Santosh V. Narayan, Rohin Lengade, and S. K. Gupta. Physics-Informed Learning to Enable Robotic Screw-Driving Under Hole Pose Uncertainties. *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, Detroit, MI, USA, Oct 2023.
- **Omey M. Manyar**, Zachary McNulty, Stefanos Nikolaidis, and S. K. Gupta. Inverse Reinforcement Learning Framework for Transferring Task Sequencing Policies from Humans to Robots in Manufacturing Applications. *IEEE's International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, London, UK, May 2023.
- **Omey M. Manyar**, Junyan Cheng, Reuben Levine, Vihan Krishnan, Jernej Barbic and Satyandra K. Gupta. (November 22, 2022). Physics Informed Synthetic Image Generation for Deep Learning based Detection of Wrinkles and Folds. *ASME. Journal of Computing and Information Sciences and Engineering*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4056295>
- **Omey M. Manyar**, Junyan Cheng, Reuben Levine, Vihan Krishnan, Jernej Barbic and Satyandra K. Gupta. Synthetic Image Assisted Deep Learning Framework for Detecting Defects During Composite Sheet Layup. *ASME IDETC-CIE Conference*, St. Louis, MO, USA, August 2022. **Best Paper Award**
- **Omey M. Manyar**, Alec Kanyuck, Bharat Deshkulkarni and Satyandra K. Gupta. Visual Servo-Based Trajectory Planning for Fast and Accurate Sheet Pick and Place Operations. *ASME MSEC, Purdue University, IN, USA, June 2022*
- Yi-Wei Chen, Rex Jomy Joseph, Alec Kanyuck, Shahwaz Khan, Rishi Malhan, **Omey M. Manyar**, Zachary McNulty, Bohan Wang, Jernej Barbic, and S. K. Gupta. A Digital Twin for Automated Layup of Prepreg Composite Sheets. *ASME Journal of Manufacturing Science and Engineering*, September 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4052132>
- **Omey M. Manyar**, Jaineel Desai, Nimish Deogaonkar, Rex Jomy Joesph, Rishi Malhan, Zachary McNulty, Bohan Wang, Jernej Barbic, and S. K. Gupta. A Simulation-Based Grasp Planner for Enabling Robotic Grasping during Composite Sheet Layup. *IEEE's International Conference on Robotics and Automation, Xi'an, China, May 2021*. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICRA48506.2021.9560939>
- Vigneashwara Pandiyana, Tegoeh Tjahjowidodo, Wahyu Caesarendra, **Omey M. Manyar** and David Then. In-process virtual verification of weld seam removal in robotic abrasive belt grinding process using deep learning. *Robotics and Computer Integrated Manufacturing Journal*, Volume 57, June 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rcim.2019.01.006>

Projects

- Multi-Robot Cell for Automation of Composite Layup** | Project Link Nov. 2020 – Sep. 2021
- Developed a multi-robot cell accomplishing sheet grasping/manipulation, sheet transport, sheet heating and sheet draping task
 - Developed vision-based defect detection system for contingency planning for robotic manipulation of sheet
 - Work was done in collaboration with ARM Institute and Lockheed Martin
- Human-Robot Teaming for Sheet Manipulation Task** | Video Link Jan. 2020 – Oct. 2020
- Developed a hybrid cell demonstrating the use of robots as assistants in sheet manipulation tasks on an industrial application
 - Integrated multiple software modules developed in C++, Java and Python with ROS to accomplish a system that reduced cycle time by 30%

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, C/C++, Java, MATLAB
Libraries and Frameworks: ROS, PyTorch, Tensorflow, OpenAI Gym, MoveIt, OpenCV, Open3D
Simulators: VegaFEM, WeBots, Gazebo, Unity, MuJoCo
Robots: KUKA LBR iiwa, ABB, UR5, Yaskawa
Developer Tools: Git, Docker, CUDA

Leadership and Involvement

Viterbi CURVE Fellowship Mentor: Mentored Undergraduate CURVE Fellowship Recipients
Reviewer and Session Chair: RAL (2023, 2022), ICRA (2024, 2023, 2022), IDETC-CIE (2022)