

Priya Sundaesan

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ACADEMIC **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA 2021 - 2026 (expected)

BACKGROUND *Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science*
Co-Advisors: Dorsa Sadigh, Jeannette Bohg

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 2017 - 2021

M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (2020-2021) GPA: 3.790/4.0

Advisor: Ken Goldberg, Joseph Gonzalez

Master's Thesis: *Robotic Untangling and Disentangling of Cables via Learned Manipulation and Recovery Strategies*

B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (2017-2020) GPA: 3.701/4.00

EXPERIENCE **Google DeepMind, Mountain View, CA**

Student Researcher in Gemini Robotics 06/2025 - 12/2025

Research on improving the steerability of VLAs for robot manipulation.

Intrinsic, Mountain View, CA

PhD Resident 06/2023 - 11/2023

Summer internship at Intrinsic, a robotics software and AI company at Alphabet.

Collaborated with Google DeepMind on imitation learning from hand-drawn sketches.

Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab, PhD Student 09/2021 - Present

Advised by Dorsa Sadigh and Jeannette Bohg

Representation learning for sample-efficient, generalizable robot manipulation

Amazon Robotics, North Reading, MA

Part-Time Applied Scientist Contractor 9/2020 - 12/2020

Advanced R&D Robotics Intern 5/2020 - 8/2020

Research on vision-based grasp planners for warehouse automation

UC Berkeley AUTOLAB, Student Researcher 8/2018 - 5/2021

Advised by Ken Goldberg

Developed perception-driven algorithms for deformable object manipulation

PUBLICATIONS [20] **Priya Sundaesan**, Rhea Malhotra, Phillip Miao, Jingyun Yang, Jimmy Wu, Hengyuan Hu, Rika Antonova, Francis Engelmann, Dorsa Sadigh, Jeannette Bohg. HoMeR: Learning In-the-Wild Mobile Manipulation via Hybrid Imitation and Whole-Body Control. *To Appear, International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2026.*

[19] Juntao Ren, **Priya Sundaesan**, Dorsa Sadigh, Sanjiban Choudhury, Jeannette Bohg. Motion Tracks: A Unified Representation for Human-Robot Transfer in Few-Shot Imitation Learning. *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2025.*

[18] **Priya Sundaesan***, Hengyuan Hu*, Quan Vuong, Jeannette Bohg, Dorsa Sadigh. What's the Move? Hybrid Imitation Learning via Salient Points. *To Appear, International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2025.*

[17] Rajat Kumar Jenamani*, **Priya Sundaesan***, Maram Sakr, Tapomayukh Bhattacharjee†, Dorsa Sadigh†. FLAIR: Feeding via Long-horizon Acquisition of Re-

alistic dishes. *Robotic Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2024.

[16] **Priya Sundaesan**, Quan Vuong, Jiayuan Gu, Peng Xu, Ted Xiao, Sean Kirmani, Tianhe Yu, Michael Stark, Ajinkya Jain, Karol Hausman, Dorsa Sadigh*, Jeannette Bohg*, Stefan Schaal*. RT-Sketch: Goal-Conditioned Imitation Learning from Hand-Drawn Sketches. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2024. **Oral Presentation.**

[15] Jiayuan Gu, Sean Kirmani, Paul Wohlhart, Yao Lu, Montserrat Gonzalez Arenas, Kanishka Rao, Wenhao Yu, Chuyuan Fu, Keerthana Gopalakrishnan, Zhuo Xu, **Priya Sundaesan**, Peng Xu, Hao Su, Karol Hausman, Chelsea Finn, Quan Vuong, Ted Xiao. RT-Trajectory: Robotic Task Generalization via Hindsight Trajectory Sketches. *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2024. **Spotlight Presentation.**

[14] Open X-Embodiment Collaboration [more than 150 authors]. Open X-Embodiment: Robotic Learning Datasets and RT-X Models. *International Conference on Robotic Automation (ICRA)*, 2024. **Best Paper Award.**

[13] **Priya Sundaesan**, Suneel Belkhale, Dorsa Sadigh, Jeannette Bohg. KITE: Keypoint-Conditioned Policies for Semantic Manipulation. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2023.

[12] **Priya Sundaesan**, Jiajun Wu, Dorsa Sadigh. Learning Sequential Acquisition Policies for Robot-Assisted Feeding. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2023.

[11] Lorenzo Shaikewitz*, Yilin Wu*, Suneel Belkhale*, Jennifer Grannen, **Priya Sundaesan**, Dorsa Sadigh. In-Mouth Robotic Bite Transfer with Visual and Haptic Sensing. *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2023.

[10] **Priya Sundaesan**, Suneel Belkhale, Dorsa Sadigh. Learning Visuo-Haptic Skewering Strategies for Robot-Assisted Feeding. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2022. **Oral Presentation.**

[9] **Priya Sundaesan**, Rika Antonova, Jeannette Bohg. DiffCloud: Real-to-Sim from Point Clouds with Differentiable Simulation and Rendering of Deformable Objects. *International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2022.

[8] Rika Antonova, Jingyun Yang, **Priya Sundaesan**, Dieter Fox, Fabio Ramos, Jeannette Bohg. A Bayesian Treatment of Real-to-Sim for Deformable Object Manipulation. *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)*, 2022.

[7] Vainavi Viswanath*, Jennifer Grannen*, **Priya Sundaesan***, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakrishna, Ellen Novoseller, Jeffrey Ichnowski, Michael Laskey, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. Disentangling Dense Multi-Cable Knots. *International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2021.

[6] **Priya Sundaesan***, Jennifer Grannen*, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakrishna, Jeffrey Ichnowski, Ellen Novoseller, Minh Hwang, Michael Laskey, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. Untangling Dense Non-Planar Knots by Learning Manipulation Features and Recovery Policies. *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2021.

[5] Aditya Ganapathi, **Priya Sundaesan**, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakr-

ishna, Daniel Seita, Jennifer Grannen, Minh Hwang, Ryan Hoque, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Nawid Jamali, Katsu Yamane, Soshi Iba, Ken Goldberg. Learning Dense Visual Correspondences in Simulation to Smooth and Fold Real Fabrics. *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2021.

[4] **Priya Sundaesan***, Aditya Ganapathi*, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakrishna, Daniel Seita, Ryan Hoque, Joseph Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. MMGSD: Multi-Modal Gaussian Shape Descriptors for Correspondence Matching in 1D and 2D Deformable Objects. *International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Workshop on Robotic Manipulation of Deformable Objects*, 2020.

[3] Jennifer Grannen*, **Priya Sundaesan***, Brijen Thananjeyan, Jeffrey Ichnowski, Ashwin Balakrishna, Minh Hwang, Vainavi Viswanath, Michael Laskey, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. Untangling Dense Knots by Learning Task-Relevant Key-points. *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2020. **Oral Presentation.**

[2] **Priya Sundaesan**, Jennifer Grannen, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakrishna, Michael Laskey, Kevin Stone, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. Learning Rope Manipulation Policies Using Dense Object Descriptors Trained on Synthetic Depth Data. *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2020.

[1] **Priya Sundaesan**, Brijen Thananjeyan, Johnathan Chiu, Danyal Fer, Ken Goldberg. Automated Extraction of Surgical Needles from Tissue Phantoms. *Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE)*, 2019.

TEACHING

Stanford Department of CS, Course Assistant 9/2024 - 3/2025
CS 326 Head CA: Topics in Advanced Robotic Manipulation (Prof. Jeannette Bohg)
CS205L CA: Continuous Mathematical Methods with an Emphasis on Machine Learning (Prof. Ron Fedkiw)

UC Berkeley Department of EECS, Teaching Assistant 1/2019 - 5/2019
Discussion TA for introductory EE course (EE 16A) on circuit design/linear algebra

AWARDS

FANUC Student Fellowship 2022
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 2021
Timothy B. Campbell Innovation Award, UC Berkeley EECS 2021
James H. Eaton Memorial Scholarship, UC Berkeley EECS 2020
Cal Alumni Association Leadership Award Scholarship 2019

OUTREACH

Lab Social Chair ILIAD: 2021–2022, 2025–Present
IPRL: 2021–2026

Planned social events across labs and the Stanford robotics department, including lab retreats, admit-weekend gatherings, and a department-wide holiday party (5 labs, 3 consecutive years).

Stanford SAIL Lab Demos 2021-Present
Prepared and led live robot demos to visitors throughout the school year, including admit weekends for prospective students, visiting student/corporate groups, summer camps, and off-campus visits to middle and high schools.
Demo'd an assistive feeding robot at the Stanford Robotics Center opening, which hosted 850+ guests across 3 days (featured in [SF Chronicle](#)).

UC Berkeley AUTOLAB 2018-2021

Prepared and presented robot demos to prospective students at Cal day and lab visit days for local middle/high school students

Bioengineering Honor Society, Webmaster/Projects Chair 2018-2019
Prototyped hardware demos to showcase at local middle/high schools and built [club website](#) from scratch.

Volunteered at BioEngineering High School Competition (BioEHSC), a student-run science fair where UC Berkeley undergraduates mentor local high school students on a semester-long research project

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Mentoring

Juntao Ren (B.S. Cornell '24): Undergraduate researcher at ILIAD/IPRL (Summer 2023); now Ph.D. student at Stanford.

Matteo Leonforte (M.S. ETH Zurich '25): Visiting M.S. student at ILIAD/IPRL; now at Skilld AI.

Workshop Organizer

Co-Organizer of the *Beyond Rigid Worlds: Representing and Interacting with Non-Rigid Objects Workshop* (CoRL 2025)

External Reviewer for Conferences, Journals

IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L): 2025

Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL): 2025

IEEE Transactions on Robotics (T-RO) : 2024

IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters: 2024

The International Journal of Robotics Research: 2024

Springer Autonomous Robots: 2024

Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL): 2024

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA): 2024

Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL): 2023

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA): 2023

Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L): 2022.

International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS): 2022

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA): 2021