

Hai Nguyen

✉ nguyen.hai1@northeastern.edu | 🌐 [Website](#) | 🐙 [Github](#) | in [LinkedIn](#) | 🏠 Boston, MA | ☎ 775.203.7515

Experienced researcher in **end-to-end robot learning** with **partial observations** and **uncertainties**, using **memory-based reinforcement learning** with the main focus on **robot manipulation applications**.

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science , Northeastern University (3.95/4.0), USA	Sep. 2019 - Sep. 2024 (Expected)
M.Sc. in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Design , University of Southampton, UK	2016-2017
B.Sc. in Control & Automation Engineering , Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam	2007-2012

Engineering Skills

Programming Languages: Matlab, C/C++, Python

Technologies/Frameworks: PyTorch, ROS, MuJoCo, PyBullet, Gazebo, OpenRave, Git, Movelt, Linux

Work Experience

Ph.D. Student, LLPR Lab & Helping Hands Lab, Northeastern University	Sep. 2019 - Present
<i>Reinforcement Learning (RL) in Robotics under Partial Observability</i>	<i>Advisors:</i> Christopher Amato , Robert Platt

- Leveraged privileged information and/or demonstrations for efficient memory-based RL, performed Sim2Real
- Leveraged domain symmetry for efficient memory-based RL from RGB-D images, performed Sim2Real
- Learned a planning-based agent directly on mobile robots within 10 episodes by inferring human factors from data

Research Intern, OMRON SINIC X Corporation, Tokyo, Japan	May 2023 - Sep. 2023
<i>Online RL under Partial Observability</i>	<i>Mentors:</i> Masashi Hamaya , Tadashi Kozuno

- Combined RL + 100 episodes of demonstrations to learn Peg-In-Hole directly on a soft UR5e robot arm using force and torque feedback within 3 hours by leveraging the symmetry in pegs and holes

Research Assistant, ARA & ARL Lab, University of Nevada, Reno	Sep. 2018 - Jun. 2019
<i>Deep (Reinforcement) Learning Research</i>	<i>Advisors:</i> Kostas Alexis , Hung La

- Developed an object detector using thermal images for team CERBERUS to deploy on drones underground (later won the DARPA Subterranean Challenge 2021 with \$2M prize)
- Developed an RL mobile robot agent to open doors autonomously from RGB images in MuJoCo
- Implemented autonomous visual-based waste sorting robot from RGB-D images and point cloud data

Flight Software Developer, Viettel Aerospace Institute, Vietnam	2012-2016 & 2017-2018
<i>Embedded Autopilot Software for Drones</i>	

- Developed PID control & path planning algorithms in an FPGA-based autopilot for fixed-wing drones
- Implemented cascaded PID control algorithms allowing a quad-plane to perform fixed↔rotary-wing mid-flight

Selected Publications ([Full List](#))

“Symmetry-aware Reinforcement Learning for Robotic Assembly under Partial Observability with a Soft Wrist”, *International Conf. on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2024, [Code](#)

“Equivariant Reinforcement Learning under Partial Observability”, *Conf. on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2023, [Code](#)

“On-Robot Bayesian Reinforcement Learning for POMDPs”, *IEEE/RSJ International Conf. on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2023

“Leveraging Fully Observable Policies for Learning under Partial Observability”, *CoRL*, 2022, [Code](#)

“Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning under Mixed Observability”, *International Workshop on the Algorithmic Foundations of Robotics (WAFR)*, 2022

“Belief-Grounded Networks for Accelerated Robot Learning under Partial Observability”, *CoRL*, 2020, [Code](#)

Awards

Graduate Dean's Merit Scholarship , University of Nevada, Reno (\$10k)	2018
IMechE UAS 2017 Autonomous Drone Challenge , Runner-up & Navigation Accuracy Award	2017
Chevening Scholarship , British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2% acceptance rate)	2016