Josiah P. Hanna

Computer Sciences Department jphanna@cs.wisc.edu
The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706 https://www.cs.wisc.edu/~jphanna

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

2014 - 2019

Ph.D. in Computer Science

♦ Advisor: Prof. Peter Stone

♦ Dissertation: Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning with Off-policy and Simulated Data

♦ Research: Artificial Intelligence, Reinforcement Learning, Robotics

The University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY

B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics

2010 - 2014

♦ GPA: 4.0

♦ Summa Cum Laude

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Computer Sciences Department

Madison, WI

August 2021 - Present

Assistant Professor

♦ Lead research in reinforcement learning and robotics.

♦ Supervise Ph.D., MS, and undergraduate student researchers.

♦ Teach courses in artificial intelligence and reinforcement learning.

University of Edinburgh, School of Informatics

Edinburgh, U.K.

Postdoctoral Research Associate Janua

♦ Advised by Prof. Stefano Albrecht.

January 2020 – July 2021

- Conducted research in reinforcement learning and multi-agent systems.
- ♦ Informally advised three Ph.D. students and two M.Sc. students.

FiveAI, Ltd. Edinburgh, U.K.

Consultant March 2020 – June 2021

 $\diamond\,$ Developed planning and prediction algorithms for autonomous vehicles.

♦ Supervised two research interns.

Google, Inc.

Mountain View, CA

Software Engineering Intern

May 2017 - Sept. 2017

- ♦ Advised by Craig Boutillier.
- $\diamond\,$ Developed reinforcement learning algorithms with application to Google products.

University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

IBM PhD Research Fellow

September 2018 – December 2019

- ♦ Developed algorithms for correcting inaccuracy from random sampling in reinforcement learning.
- Mentored three undergraduate students on projects relating to reinforcement learning and optimization.

Teaching Assistant

September 2017 – December 2018

- \diamond CS 343H Honors Artificial Intelligence
- ♦ CS 393R Autonomous Robotics

NSF Graduate Research Fellow

August 2014 - August 2017

 \diamond Developed an algorithm allowing robot learning in simulation to transfer to the real world.

- ♦ Developed algorithms for evaluating the performance of untested robot behaviors.
- \diamond Developed a novel tolling scheme for autonomous vehicles that reduced traffic congestion in road networks.

Computer Science Department, University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY

Undergraduate Research Assistant

May 2013 - May 2014

♦ Investigated leveraging structure in artificial intelligence planning under uncertainty problems.

Laboratoire d'Informatique de Paris 6

Paris, France

Research Intern

May 2012 - Aug. 2012

♦ Developed algorithms for solving multi-objective planning problems.

College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY

Software Developer

June 2011 – May 2012

♦ Developed a clustering algorithm for student academic data.

HONORS AND AWARDS

♦ RoboCup Standard Platform League Challenge Shield Division 3rd Place	2023
\diamond Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence Fellow	2022
♦ IBM Ph.D. Fellowship	2018
\diamond Robocup Standard Platform League Runner-Up	2016
♦ RoboCup 3D Simulation League Champions	2015
\diamond National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2014
♦ Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship	2013
♦ Phi Kappa Phi	2013
♦ Astronaut Scholarship	2013
♦ Duncan E. Clarke Memorial Scholarship	2012
♦ Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, Honorable Mention	2012
♦ Tau Beta Pi	2012

TEACHING

♦ Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison:	August 2021 – Present
- CS 540: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Fall 2021
- CS 839: Advanced Topics in Reinforcement Learning	Fall 2022
- CS 540: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Spring 2023
- CS 760: Machine Learning	Fall 2023

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University and Department Service

♦ Computer Sciences Graduate Admissions Committee	2021 - 2024
♦ Computer Sciences Professional Masters Admissions Committee	2023

Reviewing

R		lewing		
		Action Editor, Machine Learning Journal (MLJ)		2023
	\Diamond		2021 – pr	
	\Diamond	Meta-Reviewer, AAAI		2023
	\Diamond	Area Chair, NeurIPS		2023
	\Diamond	Program Committee, ICML		2023
	\Diamond	Reviewer, Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)		2023
	\Diamond	Reviewer, The Artificial Intelligence Journal (AIJ)		2022
	\Diamond	Meta-Reviewer, AAAI		2022
	\Diamond	Program Committee, NeurIPS		2022
	\Diamond	Senior Program Committee, CoLLAS		2022
	\Diamond	AISTATS Mentorship Program Mentor		2022
	\Diamond	Program Committee, ICML		2022
	\Diamond	Reviewer, RSS		2021
	\Diamond	Reviewer, IROS		2021
	\Diamond	Program Committee, ICML		2021
	\Diamond	Program Committee, AAMAS Workshop on Adaptive Learning Agents (ALA)		2021
	\Diamond	Reviewer, Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR)		2020
	\Diamond	Program Committee, ICML		2020
	\Diamond	Program Committee, ICML		2019
	\Diamond	Program Committee, AAMAS		2019
	\Diamond	Program Committee, AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence		2019
	\Diamond	Reviewer, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)		2018
	\Diamond	Reviewer, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)		2018
	\Diamond	Program Committee, AAAI Spring Symposium on Data Efficent Reinforcement Learning	ng	2018
	\Diamond	Reviewer, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)		2017
	\Diamond	Program Committee, Workshop on Scaling Up Reinforcement Learning		2017
	\Diamond	Review Assistant, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)		2017
	♦	Reviewer, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)		2016
\mathbf{C}		ference, Workshop, and Competition Organization		
	\Diamond	Reinforcement Learning Conference Workshop Co-Chair		2024
	\Diamond	RoboCup Symposium Co-Chair		2024
	\Diamond	RoboCup Standard Platform League, Technical Committee	2023 -	2024
	<	RoboCup Standard Platform League, Organizing Committee		2018
0	the	er Service		
	\Diamond	U.S. Robotics Research Roadmapping Workshop Contributor		2023
	\Diamond	WISCERS Faculty Mentor	2022,	2024
	♦	Mercile Lee Scholars Mentor	2021 -	2022

THESIS COMMITTEES

Doctoral Committee Member: (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

- ♦ Yuzhe Ma, Computer Sciences. Supervisor: Jerry Zhu.
- ♦ Young Wu, Computer Sciences. Supervisor: Jerry Zhu.
- ♦ Matt Dutson, Computer Sciences. Supervisor: Mohit Gupta.
- ♦ Toygun Basaklar, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Supervisor: Umit Ogras.
- ♦ Jeremey McMahan, Computer Sciences. Supervisor: Jerry Zhu
- ♦ Yeping Wang, Computer Sciences. Supervisor: Michael Gleicher

OTHER ADVISING

- Current Wisconsin PhD Students: Brahma Pavse, Subhojyotee Mukherjee, Nicholas Corrado, Adam Labiosa
- ♦ Current Wisconsin PhD Independent Study: Yunfu Deng, Abhinav Harish, Andrew Wang, Will Cong
- Current Wisconsin Undergraduate Students: Ben Hong, Chen Li, Kwasi Debrah-Pinamang, Edbert Wang, Lucas Poon
- Past Wisconsin Undergraduate Students: Yuxiao Qu (December 2022), Adhit Sankaran (May 2022),
 Will Cong (December 2022), Paul Pak (May 2023).
- Past Wisconsin MS Students: Yoon Chae Na (December 2022), Arun Ravi (December 2022), Shreyansh Sharma (December 2022), Duohan Zhang (May 2023), John Balis (December 2023).
- ♦ University of Alberta M.Sc. Thesis: Hager Radi (2022)
- ♦ Five AI Interns: Elliott Fosong (2020), Arrasy Rahman (2021)
- University of Edinburgh M.Sc. Thesis: Rujie (Jerry) Zhong (2021), Panagiotis Kyriakou (2021)
- ♦ UT Austin MS Thesis: Brahma Pavse (2019-2020)
- ♦ UT Austin Undergraduate Research: Xiang Gu (2018), John Fang (2018-2019), Harsh Goyal (2018-2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Works Under Review

- Corrado, N, Qu, Y, Balis, J, Labiosa, A, Hanna, J.P.. "Guided Data Augmentation for Offline Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning." To be Submitted to the IEEE Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2024.
- Orrado, N, Hanna, J.P.. "On-Policy Policy Gradient Reinforcement Learning Without On-Policy Sampling." Under Review at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2024.
- Pavse, B, Zurek, M, Chen, Y, Xie, Q, Hanna, J.P.. "Tackling Unbounded State Spaces in Continuing Task Reinforcement Learning." In *Under Review at the International Conference on Machine Learning* (ICML), 2024.
- Mukherjee, S, Xie, Q, Hanna, J.P., Nowak, R. "Pretraining Decision Transformers with Reward Prediction for In-Context Structured Bandit Learning." Under Review at the International Conference on Machine Learning, 2024.
- Kwon, J, Yang, L, Hanna, J.P., Nowak, R. "Future Prediction Can Be a Strong Evidence of Good History Representation in Partially Observable Environments." Under Review at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2024.
- Hanna, J.P., Chandak, Y., Thomas, P., White, M., Stone, P., Niekum, S. "Data-Efficient Policy Evaluation Through Behavior Policy Search." Under Review at the Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR), 2023.

Journal Articles

- ♦ Hanna, J.P., Niekum, S., Stone, P. "Importance Sampling in Reinforcement Learning with an Estimated Behavior Policy." In Machine Learning (MLJ), 2021.
- Hanna, J.P., Desai, S., Karnan, H., Warnell, G., Stone, P. "Grounded Action Transformation for Sim-to-Real Reinforcement Learning." In Machine Learning (MLJ): Special Issue on Reinforcement Learning for Real Life, 2021.
- Pavse, B.S., Torabi, F., Hanna, J.P., Warnell, G., Stone, P. "RIDM: Reinforced Inverse Dynamics Modeling for Learning From a Single Observed Demonstration." In *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, 2020.
- ♦ Sharon, G., Levin, M.W., **Hanna, J.P.**, Rambha, T., Boyles, S.D., Stone, P. "Network-wide Adaptive Tolling for Connected and Automated Vehicles." In *Transportation Research Part C*, 2017.
- Chen, T, Kockelman, K, Hanna, J.P.. "Operations of a Shared, Autonomous, Electric Vehicle Fleet: Implications of Vehicle & Charging Infrastructure Decisions." In *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, 2016.

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- Mukherjee, S, Xie, Q, Hanna, J.P., Nowak, R. "SPEED: Experimental Design for Policy Evaluation in Linear Heteroscedastic Bandits." In Proceedings of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2024.
- Orrado, N, Hanna, J.P.. "Understanding When Dynamics-Invariant Data Augmentations Benefit Model-Free Reinforcement Learning Updates." In Proceedings of the International Conference on Representation Learning (ICLR), 2024.
- Dunion, M, McInroe, T, Luck, K, Hanna, J.P., Albrecht, S. "Conditional Mutual Information for Disentangled Representations in ReinforcementLearning." In Proceedings of Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023.
- Mukherjee, S, Xie, Q, Hanna, J.P., Nowak, R. "Multi-task Representation Learning for Pure Exploration in Bilinear Bandits." In *Proceedings of Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2023.
- Pavse, B, Hanna, J.P.. "State-Action Similarity-Based Representations for Off-Policy Evaluation." In Proceedings of Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023.
- Dunion, M., McInroe, T., Luck, K.S., Hanna, J.P., Albrecht, S.V. "Temporal Disentanglement of Representations for Improved Generalisation in Reinforcement Learning." In *Proceedings of the Inter*national Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023.
- Pavse, B., Hanna, J.P.. "Scaling Marginalized Importance Sampling To High-Dimensional State-Spaces Via State Abstraction." In Proceedings of the 37th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), 2023.
- Zhong, R., Zhang, D., Schäfer, L., Albrecht, S.V., Hanna, J.P.. "Robust On-Policy Sampling for Data- Efficient Policy Evaluation." In Proceedings of Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022.
- Mukherjee, S., Hanna, J.P., Nowak, R. "ReVar: Strengthening Policy Evaluation Via Reduced Variance Sampling." In Proceedings of the 38th International Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), 2022.
- Corrado, N., Qu, Y., Hanna, J.P.. "Simulation-Acquired Latent Action Spaces for Dynamics Generalization." In Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Lifeling Learning Agents (CoLLAs), 2022.
- Schäfer, L., Christianos, F., Hanna, J.P., Albrecht, S.V. "Decoupled Reinforcement Learning To Stabilise Intrinsically-Motivated Exploration." In Proceedings of the 21st International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2022.

- Ahmed, I.H., Hanna, J.P., Fosong, E., Albrecht, S.V. "Towards Quantum-Secure Authentication and Key Agreement Via Abstract Multi-Agent Interaction." In *International Conference on Practical Applications of Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (PAAMS)*, 2021.
- Hanna, J.P., Rahman, A., Fosong, E., Eiras, F., Dobre, M., Redford, J., Ramamoorthy, S., Albrecht, S.V. "Interpretable Goal Recognition in the Presence of Occluded Factors for Autonomous Vehicles." In Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2021.
- Dey, S., Pendurkar, S., Sharon, G., Hanna, J.P.. "A Joint Imitation-Reinforcement Learning Framework for Reduced Baseline Regret." In *Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2021.
- Desai, S, Durugkar, I, Karnan, H, Warnell, G, Hanna, J.P., Stone, P. "An Imitation From Observation Approach To Transfer Learning with Dynamics Mismatch." In *Proceedings of the 33rd Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2020.
- Karnan, H, Desai, S, Hanna, J.P., Warnell, G, Stone, P. "Reinforced Grounded Action Transformation for Sim-to-Real Transfer." In Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2020.
- Desai, S, Karnan, H, Hanna, J.P., Warnell, G, Stone, P. "Stochastic Grounded Action Transformation for Robot Learning in Simulation." In *Proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2020.
- Pavse, B, Durugkar, I, Hanna, J.P., Stone, P. "Reducing Sampling Error in Batch Temporal Difference Learning." In Proceedings of the 37th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2020.
- Ault, J., Hanna, J.P., Sharon, G. "Learning an Interpretable Traffic Signal Control Policy." In Proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AA-MAS), 2020.
- All Hanna, J.P., Niekum, S, Stone, P. "Importance Sampling Policy Evaluation with an Estimated Behavior Policy." In Proceedings of the 36th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2019.
- Hanna, J.P., Stone, P. "Reducing Sampling Error in the Monte Carlo Policy Gradient Estimator."
 In Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2019.
- ♦ Hanna, J.P., Sharon, G., Boyles, S.D., Stone, P. "Selecting Compliant Agents for Opt-in Microtolling." In *Proceedings of the 33rd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2019.
- Chen, H., An, B., Sharon, G., Hanna, J.P., Stone, P., Miao, C., Soh, Y.C. "DyETC: Dynamic Electronic Toll Collection for Traffic Congestion Alleviation." In *Proceedings of the 32nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2018.
- All Hanna, J.P., Thomas, P., Stone, P., Niekum, S. "Data-Efficient Policy Evaluation Through Behavior Policy Search." In Proceedings of the 34th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2017.
- Sharon, G., Hanna, J.P., Rambha, T., Levin, M.W., Albert, M., Boyles, S.D., Stone, P. "Real-time Adaptive Tolling Scheme for Optimized Social Welfare in Traffic Networks." In *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS-2017)*, 2017.
- Hanna, J.P., Stone, P., Niekum, S. "Bootstrapping with Models: Confidence Intervals for Off-Policy Evaluation." In Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2017.
- Hanna, J.P., Stone, P. "Grounded Action Transformation for Robot Learning in Simulation." In Proceedings of the 31st AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), 2017.
- Perny, P., Weng, P., Goldsmith, J., Hanna, J.P.. "Approximation of Lorenz-Optimal Solutions in Multiobjective Markov Decision Processes." In Proceedings of the International Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), 2013.

Book Chapters / Refereed Workshops / Symposium Proceedings

- Mukherjee, S., Xie, Q., Hanna, J.P., Nowak, R. "SPEED: Experimental Design for Policy Evaluation in Linear Heteroscedastic Bandits." In ICML Workshop on the Many Facets of Preference-Based Learning, 2023.
- Pavse, B., Hanna, J.P.. "Scaling Marginalized Importance Sampling To High-Dimensional State-Spaces Via State Abstraction." In NeurIPS Workshop on Offline Reinforcement Learning (OfflineRL), 2022.
- Dunion, M., McInroe, T., Luck, K.S., Hanna, J.P., Albrecht, S.V. "Temporal Disentanglement of Representations for Improved Generalisation in Reinforcement Learning." In NeurIPS Workshop on Deep Reinforcement Learning, 2022.
- Zhang, C, Papaemmanouil, O, Hanna, J.P., Akella, A. "Multi-agent Databases Via Independent Learning." In Proceedings of the 4th International Workshop on Applied AI for Database Systems and Applications, 2022.
- ♦ Lobo, E., Chandak, Y., Subramanian, D., **Hanna, J.P.**, Petrik, M. "Behavior Policy Search for Risk Estimators in RL." In *NeurIPS Workshop on Safe and Robust Control of Uncertain Systems*, 2021.
- Zhong, R., Hanna, J.P., Schäfer, L., Albrecht, S.V. "Robust On-Policy Data Collection for Data- Efficient Policy Evaluation." In NeurIPS Workshop on Offline Reinforcement Learning (OfflineRL), 2021.
- Radi, H, Hanna, J.P., Stone, P, Taylor, M. "Safe Evaluation for Offline Learning: Are We Ready To Deploy?" In NeurIPS Workshop on Deployable Decision Making in Embodied Systems (DDM), 2021.
- Schäfer, L., Christianos, F., Hanna, J.P., Albrecht, S.V. "Decoupling Exploration and Exploitation in Reinforcement Learning." In ICML Workshop on Unsupervised Reinforcement Learning (URL), 2021.
- Pavse, B.S., Hanna, J.P., Durugkar, I., Stone, P. "On Sampling Error in Batch Action-Value Prediction Algorithms." In In the Offline Reinforcement Learning Workshop at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020.
- Pavse, B.S., Torabi, F., Hanna, J.P., Warnell, G., Stone, P. "RIDM: Reinforced Inverse Dynamics Modeling for Learning From a Single Observed Demonstration." In *Imitation, Intent, and Interaction* (13) Workshop at ICML 2019, 2019.
- ♦ **Hanna, J.P.**, Stone, P. "Towards a Data Efficient Off-Policy Policy Gradient." In AAAI Spring Symposium on Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning, 2018.
- Menashe, J., Kelle, J., Genter, K., Hanna, J.P., Liebman, E., Narvekar, S., Zhang, R., Stone, P. "Fast and Precise Black and White Ball Detection for RoboCup Soccer." In RoboCup-2017: Robot Soccer World Cup XXI, 2017.
- MacAlpine, P., Hanna, J.P., Liang, J., Stone, P. "UT Austin Villa: RoboCup 2015 3D Simulation League Competition and Technical Challenges Champions." In RoboCup-2015: Robot Soccer World Cup XIX, 2016.
- Hanna, J.P., Albert, M., Chen, D., Stone, P. "Minimum Cost Matching for Autonomous Carsharing."
 In Proceedings of the 9th IFAC Symposium on Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles (IAV 2016), 2016.
- Querin, J.T., Hanna, J.P., Ferland, L., Mattei, N., Goldsmith, J. "The Academic Advising Planning Domain." In Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on the International Planning Competition at ICAPS, 2012.

FUNDING

Current Support

- ♦ PI: American Family Data Science Funding Initiative
 - Counterfactual Evaluation of Sequential Decision Policies
 - Award amount: \$96,000
 - Dates: September 1, 2022 August 31, 2023
- ♦ PI: American Family Data Science Funding Initiative
 - Learning What is Relevant for Counterfactual Policy Evaluation
 - Award amount: \$99,999
 - Dates: September 1, 2023 August 31, 2024
- ♦ PI: Sandia University Partnership Network
 - Discovery of Conductive Inks and Electronic Devices co-Designed with Closed-Loop, Autonomous, Reinforcement Ecosystems
 - Award amount: \$49,450
 - Dates: November 13, 2023 September 30, 2024

TALKS

- AAAI Conference New Faculty Highlight. Scaling Offline Evaluation of Reinforcement Learning Agents through Abstraction. February 2024.
- ♦ Tulane University Computer Science Department Colloquium. Towards Reinforcement Learning for Real-time and Dynamic Robotic Tasks. December 2023.
- University of Kentucky Keeping Current Seminar. Towards Reinforcement Learning for Real-time and Dynamic Robotic Tasks. November 2023.
- ♦ Sony AI. Towards Data Efficient Monte Carlo Estimates in Reinforcement Learning. November 2021.
- ♦ University of Wisconsin Madison SILO Seminar Series. Towards Data Efficient Monte Carlo Estimates in Reinforcement Learning. September 2021.
- ♦ University of Wisconsin Madison Robotics Seminar Series. Better Prediction for Reinforcement Learning in Robotics and Autonomous Driving. October 2021.
- ♦ University of Edinburgh AIAI Institute Seminar. Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning from Reweighted and Simulated Data. November 2020.
- ♦ University of Wisconsin Madison SILO Seminar Series. Data Re-weighting for Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning. 2020.
- Microsoft Research Seminar. Date Efficient Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Robots June
 2019.
- ♦ AAAI Spring Symposium on Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning, Invited Talk. Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning with Off-policy and Simulated Data. April 2018.