

CHANGDA TIAN

Robotics Researcher — Modular Legged Robot Design and Control
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Ph.D. Fellow (RAICAM) · CVRL, ICS-FORTH & University of Crete

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PROFILE

Changda Tian is a robotics researcher and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Ph.D. fellow at ICS-FORTH and the University of Crete, working on **modular legged robot design and control**.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Robotics & Computer Science — FORTH & University of Crete, Greece Sep. 2023 – present
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellow, RAICAM Doctoral Network; supervisor Prof. Panos Trahanias.

M.Eng. in Control Engineering — Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China Sep. 2020 – 2023
RL2 Lab, AI Institute; advisor Prof. Yue Gao.

B.Eng. in Automation — Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China Sep. 2016 – Jun. 2020
Zhiyuan College Honors Program of Engineering.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- J1. A. Kenan, S. Sadeghi Kordkheili, J. J. Garcia Cardenas, V. Guidali, A. Melone, **C. Tian**, et al., “Lessons learned from the RAICAM doctoral network research sprints and field demonstrations,” *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, vol. 203, art. 105523, 2026.
- J2. Z. Ma, **C. Tian** and Y. Gao, “Manipulate as human: learning task-oriented manipulation skills by adversarial motion priors,” *Robotica*, vol. 43(6), pp. 2320–2332, 2025.

Conference papers

- C1. **C. Tian** and P. Trahanias, “Role-based reward decomposition for legged locomotion reinforcement learning,” *IEEE/RSJ Int. Conf. on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2026. *Accepted*.
- C2. **C. Tian**, H. Raei, A. Ajoudani and P. Trahanias, “Sim-to-real reinforcement learning for ball-balancing locomotion on quadruped robots,” *IEEE/ASME Int. Conf. on Advanced Intelligent Mechatronics (AIM)*, Genova, 2026.
- C3. S. Kuruppu Arachchige, J. J. Garcia, **C. Tian**, L. Suomela, P. Trahanias, A. Tapus and J.-K. Kämäräinen, “AgiPIX: bridging simulation and reality in indoor aerial inspection,” *Int. Conf. on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS)*, pp. 844–852, 2026.
- C4. **C. Tian**, S. Kuruppu Arachchige, H. Li, J. J. García Cárdenas, H. Raei, et al., “Low-cost rapid-development air-ground robotic solution for nuclear power plant inspection,” *IEEE Int. Symp. on Safety, Security, and Rescue Robotics (SSRR)*, pp. 84–89, 2025.
- C5. J. J. García Cárdenas, **C. Tian**, P. Trahanias and A. Tapus, “Multimodal assessment of human trust and cognitive load in legged robot interaction,” *Int. Conf. on Social Robotics + AI (ICSR+AI)*, LNCS, pp. 473–487, 2025.
- C6. A. Kenan, S. Sadeghi Kordkheili, J. J. Garcia Cardenas, A. Melone, **C. Tian**, et al., “Lessons learned from the RAICAM doctoral network research sprints,” *Towards Autonomous Robotic Systems (TAROS)*, LNCS, pp. 526–539, 2025.
- C7. D.-E. Argiropoulos, M. Maravagakis, **C. Tian**, D. Papageorgiou and P. Trahanias, “Optimal torque distribution via dynamic adaptation for quadrupedal locomotion on slippery terrains,” *IEEE Int. Conf. on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, pp. 5343–5349, 2025.
- C8. Y. Gao, **C. Tian** and Y. Zhang, “Learning capability to enhance locomotion control and planning for legged robots,” *IEEE Int. Conf. on Real-time Computing and Robotics (RCAR)*, pp. 25–30, 2024.
- C9. **C. Tian** and Y. Gao, “CapPlanner: adaptable to various topology and locomotion capability for hexapod robots,” *IEEE Int. Conf. on Robotics and Biomimetics (ROBIO)*, pp. 519–524, 2022. *Best Paper in Biomimetics — Finalist*.
- C10. C. Yang, Y. Gao, **C. Tian** and Q. Yao, “Sim-to-real: designing locomotion controller for six-legged robot,” *IEEE Int. Conf. on CYBER Technology in Automation, Control, and Intelligent Systems (CYBER)*, pp. 746–751, 2019.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Ph.D. Fellowship (RAICAM Doctoral Network)	Sep. 2023
Best Paper in Biomimetics — Finalist, IEEE ROBIO	Dec. 2022
Graduate Student Academic Scholarship, SJTU (×3)	2020 – 2022
Second Prize, East China Area NXP Smart Car Competition	Aug. 2019
H Prize, Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM)	Apr. 2019
CASC Aerospace Science and Technology Award (top 5%)	Oct. 2018
National Scholarship, China (top 1%)	Oct. 2017
Zhiyuan Excellent Scholarship, SJTU (×4, top 10%)	2016 – 2019

TEACHING AND SERVICE

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Crete. 2023 – present
- Informatics competition coach, Shanghai Jiao Long Academy. part-time, before 2023