Ashwin Balakrishna

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BACKGROUND	I am excited about algorithms for data-driven decision-making. I am particularly interested in bridging vision and language foundation models with decision-making algorithms which can actively interact with users and improve based on experience.	
WORK EXPERIENCE	Google DeepMind , Senior Research Scientist Building a robot brain with Gemini	2024 - Present
	Toyota Research Institute , Research Scientist Building a robot foundation model	2023 - 2024
	Nuro, Research Scientist Applying reinforcement learning for motion planning	2022 - 2023
	Toyota Research Institute, Research Intern Research in reinforcement learning	2021
	SpaceX , Software Engineering Intern (Avionics) Power system analysis automation for Falcon 9 rocket	2017
EDUCATION	UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA	Aug 2018 - May 2022
	Ph.D. in Computer ScienceGPA: 3.97/4.00Thesis: Scalable Supervision for Safe and Efficient Online Robot Learning	
	California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering	Sep 2014 - Jun 2018 GPA: 3.97/4.00
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	 Gemini Robotics Team. Gemini Robotics: Bringing AI into the Physical World. Preprint 2025. See release here: https://tinyurl.com/gemini-robotics Moo Jin Kim*, Karl Pertsch*, Siddharth Karamcheti*, Ted Xiao, Ashwin Balakrishna, Suraj Nair et al. OpenVLA: An Open-Source Vision-Language-Action Model. Preprint 2024. Alexander Khazatsky*, Karl Pertsch*, Suraj Nair, Ashwin Balakrishna, et al. DROID: A Large-Scale In-The-Wild Robot Manipulation Dataset. Preprint 2024. Brijen Thananjeyan*, Ashwin Balakrishna*, Suraj Nair, Michael Luo, Krishnan Srinivasan, et al. Recovery RL: Safe Reinforcement Learning with Learned Recovery Zones. Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L) and International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2021. 	
AWARDS & HONORS	UC Berkeley Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Awa Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Finalist Timothy B. Campbell Innovation Award (Berkeley EECS) Apple AI/ML PhD Fellowship Nomination (Berkeley EECS) National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Henry Ford II Scholar Award (Top GPA in EE at Caltech)	ard 2022 2021 2021 2021 2020 2018 2017