

Bio:

Chris Heckman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Professor Heckman earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley in 2008 and his PhD in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from Cornell University in 2012, where he was an NSF Graduate Research Fellow. He had postdoctoral appointments at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC as an NRC Research Associate, and in the Autonomous Robotics and Perception Group at CU Boulder as a Research Scientist, before joining the faculty there in 2016.

His research focuses on developing mathematical and systems-level frameworks for autonomous control and perception. His work applies concepts of nonlinear dynamical systems to the design of control systems for autonomous agents, in particular ground and aquatic vehicles, enabling them to navigate uncertain and rapidly-changing environments. A hallmark of his research is the implementation of these systems on experimental platforms.