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Nicolas Espinosa Dice

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Education

2023–Present **Ph.D., Computer Science**, *Cornell University*
Advisor: Wen Sun
Research Areas: Reinforcement Learning, Imitation Learning, Generative Models

2022 **B.S., Mathematics and Computer Science**, *Harvey Mudd College*
Advisors: George D. Montanez and Dagan Karp
Graduated with High Distinction and Departmental Honors in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Research Experience

2023–Present **Department of Computer Science**, *Cornell University*
Advisor: Wen Sun
Research Focus: How can agents learn from both *interaction* and *offline data*: what can be done *offline* to better learn/explore/fine-tune *online*?

2020–2022 **AMISTAD Lab**, *Harvey Mudd College*
Advisor: George D. Montanez
Developed a probabilistic model of abductive reasoning, and derived generalization error bounds of learning algorithms in an algorithmic search framework.

Industry Experience

2022–2023 **Research Scientist**, *Dasion*
Advisor: Weiqing Gu
Developed an audio-based model capable of detecting Autism Spectrum Disorder in children, contributing to a successful NSF SBIR Phase I Project Pitch, and co-authored successful NSF SBIR Phase II Proposal.

Summer 2022 **Machine Learning Intern**, *Dasion*
Advisor: Weiqing Gu
Developed a temporal graph convolutional network (T-GCN) model to detect seizures in electroencephalogram (EEG) data.

2021–2022 **Project Lead**, *Clinic Program*, Harvey Mudd College
Project lead of undergraduate team working with Rockerbox that built an anomaly detection model on time-series marketing data.

Summer 2021 **Software Engineer Intern**, *Etsy*
Developed a transformer-based deep learning model with DistilBERT architecture using Tensorflow to classify safe search queries.

Summer 2019 **Software Engineer Intern**, *Viasat*
Built a heads-up display on a Microsoft HoloLens, integrated with data from Link 16 radio network. Presented by Viasat at AUSA 2019.

Publications

[1] **Nicolas Espinosa-Dice**, Kiante Brantley, Wen Sun. *Expressive Value Learning for Scalable Offline Reinforcement Learning*. arXiv Preprint, 2025.

[2] **Nicolas Espinosa-Dice**, Yiyi Zhang, Yiding Chen, Bradley Guo, Owen Oertell, Gokul Swamy, Kiante Brantley, Wen Sun. *Scaling Offline RL via Efficient and Expressive Shortcut Models*. Neural Information Processing Symposium (NeurIPS), 2025.

[3] **Nicolas Espinosa-Dice**, Sanjiban Choudhury, Wen Sun, Gokul Swamy. *Efficient Imitation Under Misspecification*. International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2024.

[4] **Nicolas Espinosa-Dice**, Gokul Swamy, Sanjiban Choudhury, Wen Sun. *Efficient Inverse Reinforcement Learning without Compounding Errors*. Reinforcement Learning Conference (RLC) Safety Workshop, 2024.

[5] Ramya Ramalingam, **Nicolas Espinosa-Dice**, Megan L Kaye, George D Montañez. *Bounding Generalization Error Through Bias and Capacity*. International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), 2022.

[6] **Nicolas Espinosa-Dice**, Megan Kaye, Hana Ahmed, George Montañez. *A Probabilistic Theory of Abductive Reasoning*. International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART), 2021.

Teaching

2024 **Teaching Assistant**, *Foundations of Reinforcement Learning*, Cornell University

2021 **Grader and Tutor**, *Artificial Intelligence*, Harvey Mudd College

Outreach and Reviewing

2024–Present **Graduate Student Mentor**, *Department of Computer Science*, Cornell University

2025 **Conference Reviewer**, ICLR 2024, ICLR 2025, NeurIPS 2025 ARLET Workshop

2024 **ASCEND Mentor**, *Department of Computer Science*, Cornell University

2021 **Judiciary Chair**, *Honor Board*, Harvey Mudd College

2020 **Public Outreach Director**, *Society of Professional Latinx in STEM*, Harvey Mudd College

Fellowships

2025 **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program**, National Science Foundation

2025 **Bowers-CIS LinkedIn Fellowship** (Declined), LinkedIn

2023 **Hopper-Dean and Bowers Fellowship**, Cornell University

2018 **Harvey S. Mudd Merit Award**, Harvey Mudd College

Awards

2023 **Dean's Scholar**, Cornell University

2022 **Departmental Honors in Computer Science**, *Harvey Mudd College*

2022 **Departmental Honors in Mathematics**, *Harvey Mudd College*

2022 **Don Chamberlain Computer Science Research Award**, *Harvey Mudd College*

Second student at Harvey Mudd to win both Chamberlain Research and Clinic Program Individual Awards

2022 **Clinic Program Individual Award**, *Harvey Mudd College*