BENJAMIN EVANS

Junior Lecturer, PhD Candidate

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in http://www.linkedin.com/in/benjamin-david-evans   ○ github.com/BDEvan5

EXPERIENCE

Post Doctoral Researcher
Stellenbosch University

📅 Planned from February 2023   📍 Stellenbosch, WC

- Researching reinforcement learning formulations for autonomous systems under Herman Engelbrecht

Junior Lecturer
Stellenbosch University

📅 February 2022 – December 2022   📍 Stellenbosch, WC

- Computer programming 143 (introduction to C programming)
- Computer Systems 214 (boolean logic & algebra, ARM assembly, microarchitectures)

Teachers Assistant
Stellenbosch University

📅 2021   📍 Stellenbosch, WC

- Control Systems 314 & 344 (classical & digital control systems)

Student Intern
S-Plane Automation (Software department)

📅 November – December 2018   📍 Somerset West, WC

EDUCATION

PhD (Electronic Engineering)
Stellenbosch University

📅 2020 – Present

- "Accelerating Deep Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Racing"
- Upgraded from Masters in 2021
- Submitted for examination on the 1st of November 2022

BEng (Mechatronics)
Stellenbosch University

📅 2016 – 2019

PUBLICATIONS

👥 Conference Proceedings

- Evans, B., Engelbrecht, H. A., & Jordaan, H. W. (2021a). Learning the subsystem of local planning for autonomous racing. In *2021 20th international conference on advanced robotics (icar)* (pp. 601–606). IEEE.
- Evans, B., Engelbrecht, H. A., & Jordaan, H. W. (2021b). Reward signal design for autonomous racing. In *2021 20th international conference on advanced robotics (icar)* (pp. 455–460). IEEE.

PERSONAL PROFILE

I am an energetic, enthusiastic person who loves learning new things. I am a Christian that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. I am highly curious and thus enjoy research. I work hard and am highly self-motivated. I like to teach people and share what I have learned with them.

REFERENCES

- Dr. Willem Jordaan (Academic supervisor): `wjordaan@sun.ac.za`
- Prof. Herman Engelbrecht (Academic co-supervisor): `hebrect@sun.ac.za`
- Dr. Corne van Daalen (Lecturer for control systems while I was TA): `cvdaalen@sun.ac.za`
- Murray Louw (Lab partner): `jmurraylouw@gmail.com`

SKILLS

Programming (Python, C)   ROS2   Reinforcement Learning   PyTorch   Deep Learning   Reading & Research   Autonomous systems   Git   Lecturing

LANGUAGES

English ●●●●●
Afrikaans ●●●●○

OTHER INTERESTS

Apart from engineering I am also interested in:

- Understanding how the world works, mainly in the domains of politics, philosophy and economics
- Trail running
- Exploring new places