Fully-Funded M.S. and Ph.D. Students in Robotics & Control

Open Positions:

Applications are open for fully-funded M.S. and Ph.D. students at the **Department of Mechanical Engineering** within the **University of Louisiana at Lafayette**, starting in **Fall 2024/Spring 2025**. The successful candidates are expected to work on novel control methods for diverse robotic applications using theoretical, computational, and experimental approaches. An overview of some previous research projects can be found at https://boyangzhangphd.github.io/research/.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, computer science, physics, or a closely related field;

- Master's degree in mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, computer science, physics, or a closely related field **for Ph.D. applicants**;

- Prior experience on robotics, automation, and control theory;

- Prior publication record at major robotics & control journals/conferences is a big plus;

- Solid mathematical analysis skills;

- Excellent programming skills in at least one of the following: Matlab, C/C++, Fortran, Python;

- Experience with working on robotic hardware implementation;

- Self-motivated, perseverant, and has excellent communication skills.

How to Apply:

Interested students should send an email to boyang.zhang@duke.edu with CV, a 1-page research statement, prior transcripts, and the contact info for two academic references.

About Me:

I am an incoming tenure-track assistant professor in mechanical engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. I earned a **Ph.D.** degree in civil and environmental engineering and an **M.S.** degree in electrical and computer engineering from Duke University. Prior to Duke, I earned an **M.Eng.** degree (with highest distinction) from Memorial University, Canada and a **B.Eng.** degree from Tianjin University, China, both in ocean and naval architectural engineering. I am the recipient of numerous awards, including the **Duke University Graduate/Professional Academic Exemplar of the Year**, the Southeast Control Conference Best Presentation Award, the Bass Instructional Fellowship, and the Senol Utku Annual Award. More info of mine can be found at https://boyangzhangphd.github.io.

About the University:

The **University of Louisiana at Lafayette** (UL Lafayette) is a public research university in Lafayette, Louisiana. Founded in 1898, it has the largest enrollment (over 19,000 students) within the nine-campus University of Louisiana System and the second-largest enrollment in Louisiana. UL Lafayette is classified as an **R1 University** – "Doctoral University - Very High Research Activity" (in total 146 US institutions are R1 as of 2021).

About the College and Department:

The **College of Engineering** has over 1700 students as of Fall 2023, and offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in all engineering departments. The **Department of Mechanical Engineering** is the largest among six departments in the College, with primary research areas in robotics, manufacturing, renewable energy, materials, and biomedical engineering. Annual research expenditures in the ME Department average between $3M to $4M per year, with current external research projects of over $15M.

About the City of Lafayette:

Named "**The Heart of Cajun Country**", Lafayette is an exciting community within Louisiana, the only US state that cherishes French heritage. Lafayette is highly technology-oriented and has a reputation of being a community in which people are prone to remain due to the high-quality lifestyle, pleasing climate, and the friendly nature of its people. The city of over 130,000 is part of the Lafayette-Acadiana area, which has a total population of over 625,000 and is one of Louisiana's fastest-growing metropolitan areas. Lafayette serves as the energy, financial, retail, and medical center for South-Central Louisiana and is the largest population and economic corridor between Houston (3-hour drive) and New Orleans (2-hour drive).