Charles Vorbach https://charliea0.github.io

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Master of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering; GPA 5.0/5.0

Cambridge, MA

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June 2022

• Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering; GPA 4.8/5.0

Cambridge, MA

June 2021

Experience

• NVIDIA Driveworks: Autonomous Vehicle Motion Planning Team

Santa Clara, CA

Julu 2022 - Present Software Engineer Developing numerical methods for trajectory optimization, control, and autonomous vehicle motion planning.

• NVIDIA Driveworks: Autonomous Vehicle Motion Planning Team

Santa Clara, CA

Behavior Planning Thesis Co-Op

June 2021 - December 2021

- o Developed a HBJ reachability safety module for certifying driverless vehicle will never be forced off of the road surface.
- Isolated motion planning collision detector to single process node to enable safety certification.
- o Created a reachability-based extension of Safety Force Field module to certify traffic stop and wait condition obedience.

• MIT Distributed Robotics Laboratory: Deep Drone Project

Cambridge, MA

 $Under graduate/Graduate\ Research$

August 2020 - August 2021

- Trained Neural ODE network policies for quatrotors to perform visual understanding and motion planning tasks.
- Built pipeline for generating and consuming large imitation learning datasets from naturalistic Unreal Engine simulations.
- Proved continuous-time Neural ODE networks are causal models and evinced they can outperform at causal understanding.

• NVIDIA Driveworks: Autonomous Vehicle Motion Planning Team

Santa Clara, CA

Behavior Planning Intern

June 2020 - August 2020

- o Developed a simulated testing scheme for Automotive Safety Integrity Level (ASIL D) certification of the NVIDIA Driveworks SafetyForceField collision-avoidance system.
- Detected and fixed bugs in the SafetyForceField module, resulting in a 70% improvement in road test KPIs.
- Developed a new module for aggregation of multiple redundant collision avoidance systems into an ensemble model.

• MIT Driverless: Planning and Controls Team

Cambridge, MA

o 2019-2020 Planning and Controls Team Lead for MIT - TU Delft Formula Student Driverless racing team.

- Responsible for all controllers (LQR, Stanley, MPCC) and models (kinematic, dynamic) used on the race car.
- Helped develop path planning strategies including lane detection and racing line generation.
- Maintained embedded systems including vehicle CAN network, code-generated Matlab, and electrical integration.

• MIT Formula SAE Electric Race Car: Software Team

Cambridge, MA

Controls Team Member

Team Lead

September 2018 - June 2020

September 2019 - September 2021

- o Built vehicle's torque-vectoring controller using vehicle model with normal forces and nonlinear Pacejka tires.
- o Improved sensing with direct groundspeed measurement, real-time derivative filtering, and higher wheel-speed resolution.
- Helped translate codebase to STM32 chip family and reimplement vehicle control unit using real-time operating system.

• Ocado Technology: 10x Research and Development

London, United Kingdom

• Developed a testbed version of Ocado's robotic warehousing system for 10x research team.

• Experimented with low-energy electropermanent magnetic gripping, contact sensing, and optical distance tracking.

• MIT Space Systems Laboratory: International Space Station Astrobees

Cambridge, MA

Fall 2019

June - August 2018

Undergraduate Researcher

Mechatronics Engineering Intern

• Performed embedded software and sensor integration for ground test copies of the Astrobee robotic astronaut assistants.

- Worked with ROS, Gazebo, Matlab code-generated C++, force allocation models, estimators, and PID control.
- PepsiCo Demand Xccelerator: Shopper Insights and Capabilities

White Plains, NY

Data and Software Engineering Intern

June - August 2017

• Developed web API and online dashboard for predicting new product performance using large-scale shopper datasets.

Skills and Interests

Relevant Coursework: Underactuated Robotics; Advances in Computer Vision; Artificial Intelligence; Principles of Autonomy; Dynamic Programming and Reinforcement Learning; Design and Analysis of Algorithms; Differential Equations; Linear Algebra; **Proficient With**: C and C++; Python; Embedded Development; Numerical Optimization and Control **Interested In**: Autonomous Systems; Robotics Control and Sensing; Computer Vision; Data Science and Visualization;

Publications and Patents

"Causal Navigation by Continuous-time Neural Networks". Charles Vorbach*, Ramin Hasani*, Alexander Amini, Mathias Lechner, Daniela Rus. NeurIPS, 2021. [link]

C. Vorbach, "Safety Assurance for Automated Vehicles Beyond Collision Avoidance", 2022.

U.S. Patent Application 20220135075 A1: "Safety decomposition architecture for autonomous machine applications". May 5, 2022