Charles Vorbach https://charliea0.github.io

EDUCATION

Email: cvorbach@mit.edu Mobile: +1 (914) 525-8764

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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

Cambridge, MA

Expected 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

Behavior Planning Thesis Co-Op

June 2021 - Present

- Developed a HBJ Reachability based safety module for certifying vehicle will never be forced off of the road surface.
- Isolated motion planning collision detector to single process node to enable safety certification.
- o Developing 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

Undergraduate/Graduate Research

August 2020 - August 2021

- Trained Neural ODE Networks 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.
- Helped prove that Continuous-Time Neural Networks are causal models and show they can outperform at causal

• 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 certification of the NVIDIA Driveworks SafetyForceField collision-avoidance system.
- o Detected and fixed bugs in the SafetyForceField module, resulting in a 70% improvement in road test KPIs.
- o Developed a new module for aggregation of multiple redundant collision avoidance systems into an ensemble model.

• MIT Driverless: Planning and Controls Team

Cambridge, MA

Subteam Lead

September 2019 - September 2021

- \circ 2019-2020 Planning and Controls Team Lead for MIT TU Delft Formula SAE 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.
- o 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

September 2018 - June 2020

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

• Ocado Technology: 10x Research and Development

London, United Kingdom

Mechatronics Engineering Intern

June - August 2018

- 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

Undergraduate Researcher

Fall 2019

- o Performed embedded software and sensor integration for MIT's ground test copies of the Astrobee robotic astronaut assistants onboard the ISS.
- Helping to clear research projects before their deployment onboard the ISS.
- 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

June – August 2017

Data and Software Engineering Intern

o 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; Design and Analysis of Algorithms; Software Construction; Computational Structures; Differential Equations; Linear Algebra; **Proficient With**: Embedded C and C++; Python; **Interested In**: Autonomous Systems; Robotics Control and Sensing; Computer Vision; Data Science and Visualization;

Publications

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