Brett Pennington

Software Engineering Manager – Robotics/AV – Planning/Prediction

+1 (857) 600-8681

[justinbrettpennington@gmail.com](mailto:justinbrettpennington@gmail.com)

[www.linkedin.com/in/brett-pennington](http://www.linkedin.com/in/brett-pennington)

## EXPERIENCE

Manager, Planning and Prediction

*Rivian,* Palo Alto, CA Jan 2021 - Present

* Grew a team of 7 from 0 in half a year
* Lead the team to write a planning stack for next generation features
* Finished the first version of the planning stack 1 year ahead of schedule
* Collaborated across the 13,000 person organization to reduce duplicate work, define team objectives, and identify opportunities for future
* Co-lead the safety critical design of the ADAS application logic for a next-gen architecture
* Architected prediction, behavior planning, motion planning, and trajectory optimization from the ground up
* Design and wrote a framework for extending application logic to improve development times and reduce bugs
* Constructed several prediction and planning libraries ranging from learned systems to classical planners

Staff Planning Engineer

*Rivian,* Palo Alto, CA Jul 2020 - Dec 2020

* Wrote an offline, non-convex solver for optimal paths on off-road terrain
* Designed a path toolbox to store the optimal paths and load them in a dense, space-efficient representation in Matlab, Python, and C
* Implemented online algorithms in C for fast multi-dimensional KNN lookups
* Introduced TDD and modular software practices (again)

Advanced Controls Engineer

*Boston Dynamics,* Boston, MA Jul 2018 - Jun 2020

* Applied optimal control techniques for multi-objective and multi-bodied systems
* Implemented MPC/Planning for linear/non-linear systems
* Designed proprioceptive sensing algorithms for workspace compliance and improved balancing of floating base robots
* Introduced TDD and modular software practices for dynamic systems

Software Engineer – Motion Planning, Robotics & Controls

*Automata Tech,* London, UK Apr 2017 - Jul 2018

* Built custom kinematics, controls & motion planning libraries in C and modern C++
* Designed collision detection systems in embedded MISRA compliant C with low bandwidth constrictions
* Introduced Agile practices: Grew a team from 5 individuals into 3 cross-functional teams with 15 members in 9 months

Software Engineer

*Cubic Transportation Systems,* London, UK Apr 2016 - Apr 2017

* Maintained code running the London Transit (Oyster Card) environment along other global metropolitan transit systems (SF Clipper, new NYC Metrocard, Sydney Opal)
* Correlated high-speed, time-sensitive data streams in critical systems handling payments for +6 million users daily in less than 0.3 seconds each
* Delivered client-focused results quickly while adhering to sound development practices and refactoring a large and historic database along the way

Controls Research Engineer

*University of Alabama,* Tuscaloosa, AL Jan 2011 - Dec 2015

* Designed and synchronized embedded systems to enhance our testing ecosystem
* Programmed and modeled safety-critical high performance systems
* Built adaptive and dependable systems in critical testing environments
* Researched diesel engine controls to advance sustainability and performance

ENGINEERING SKILLS

Software Languages

* *Dream in:*  Modern C++
* *No problem writing:*  C and Python
* *Once upon a time I wrote:* C++98, SQL, MATLAB, SIMULINK, Go
* *Could stack-overflow my way through:* JS, JSX, R, Ruby
* *Maybe one day:* Haskell, Rust

Planning

* Classical Behavior Planning (FSMs, PDDL-based, and hierarchical FSMs)
* Classical Motion Planning Techniques (graphs, trees, and gradients)
* Learned Planners (DQN and model-based)
* Trajectory Optimization (shooting and collocation based for online/offline work)

Work Style

* Self-starter - *never stop learning*
* Enjoy mentorship and leading
* Open and collaborative - *the faster we iterate, the more honest we are, and the more collaborative we are, the better the end result will be*
* Test-driven development and SOLID principles to build strong software foundations

##### EDUCATION

Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering, University of Alabama

Jan 2011 - Dec 2015

*Advanced Controls Systems, Optimal Control, and Computational Analysis*

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, University of Alabama

Aug 2006 - Dec 2010

*Thermodynamics, Physics, and Mechanical Systems*

References available upon request