K T Prajwal **Prathiksh**

Dual Degree Student · Department of Aerospace Engineering
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
(+91) 96868-27311 | prajwal.prathiksh@gmail.com | prajwal-prathiksh.github.io/ | Prajwal-Prathiksh | prajwal-prathiksh

"The future is not to be forecast, but created..."

Education

2018 - 2023* **Dual Degree (B Tech + M Tech)**, *Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Mumbai, India - GPA 8.85/10.0*

2018 **Intermediate**, *JSS Public School, Bangalore, India - 95.60%*

2016 **Matriculation**, *Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bangalore, India - 97.16%*

Work Experience

Anheuser-Busch InBev

Bangalore, India

Data Scientist - B.R.E.W Intern — *May 2021 - Jul 2021*

Objective: To reduce the **variable logistics costs** (VLC) for the **UK** and **Russian** markets, by linking underutilized shipments and creating optimum multi-load routes that adhere to business rules

- Designed **modular** python code using **open-source tools** to obtain optimized loads from underutilized shipments, and plan routes for using real-time geographical data
- Incorporated various **business and user constraints** such as vehicle capacity, geographical priorities, one-way/round-trip requirements, freight charge and maximum transport distance and time
- Achieved a **67%** improvement in load-linking efficiency, resulting in **8%** and **10%** reduction in the **number of trucks** and **VLC costs** respectively
- Packaged the code as a **stand-alone executable application**, along with an **interactive documentation** view for easy access to the end-user

Technical Projects

IIT Bombay Student Satellite Program

A 70-member student team dedicated to the vision of making IIT Bombay a centre of excellence in space technology — *Feb 2019 - Present*

System Head: Star-Tracker-based Attitude Determination System (STADS)
A CubeSat-compatible attitude determination system, to be tested onboard ISRO's PS4-OP

- Surveyed **star-matching** algorithms based on the performance and accuracy constraints of STADS, for the identification of guide stars from the centroids of stars on an image
- Implemented **4-Star Matching** Method with a novel verification step to reduce the number of false matches, resulting in a reduction by **85%**
- Contributed to the **quality-assured** Open Loop Simulation framework, which simulates space environmental conditions to test the flight code and algorithmic blocks of STADS

Controls Engineer: Advitiy
Advitiy is the 2^{nd} satellite by IITBSSP, a technically advanced and efficient version of the first, Pratham

- Compared the accuracy and robustness of **Cowel's method** against Simplified General Perturbations Model 4 for orbit-propagation of a **Low-Earth-Orbit Satellite** in Python
- Implemented Cowel's method with a drag model and verified the results against the data from GMAT, an open-source tool developed by NASA

Numerical study of SPH integrators for incompressible flow

Guide: *Prof. Prabhu Ramachandran, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Bombay* — *Dec 2020 - Present*

Objective: To study the effects of **numerical time-discretization schemes** on stability, accuracy and order of convergence (OOC) in **Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics** (SPH)

- Studied various numerical time-integrators which comprised of the **Runge-Kutta**, the **Symplectic**, and the **Multi-step** classes of integrators
- Developed code to aid **reproducibility** and **multi-threaded automation** of all tests and comparison of their performance metrics for all the time-integrators against benchmark cases such as the Harmonic Oscillator, Lennard-Jones Oscillator and Taylor-Green Vortex (TGV) problems
- Studying the effects of **Courant–Friedrichs–Lewy** (CFL) number and spatial-discretization schemes of SPH on the OOC of the time-integrators

Path Optimization for Combinatorial Problems

Guide: *Prof. Abhijit Gogulapati, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Bombay* — *Jan 2021 - Apr 2021*

Objective: To develop multiple **optimization tools** in order to solve a modified variant of the **travelling-salesman problem** in the context of a tourist in the **Louvre Museum**

- Devised and coded **heuristic**, **evolutionary** and **exact** algorithms for the optimization of **integer programming problems**
- Performed comparative analysis of **Genetic**, **Ant Colony**, **Simulated Annealing** and **Branch & Bound** methods to find the most **holistic tour** considering the **satisfaction** of a tourist
- Compared the algorithms on metrics such as **efficiency**, **reliability** and **quality** of solution, after validating it against TSP library test cases

Atmospheric-based ionic propulsion

Guide: *Prof. Kowsik Bodi, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Bombay* *Jul 2019 - Present*

Objective: To develop a **solid-state propulsion system** employing the principles of **Electrohydrodynamic** (EHD) thrust to demonstrate sustained flight as part of a three-member team

- Designed and built a **High Voltage Power Circuit** (HVPC) based on a fly-back driver capable of generating **120 kV DC**
- Surveyed numerical techniques to simulate the phenomenon of **electrohydrodynamic thrust** caused due to corona-induced ionic winds, and currently working on its implementation in **COMSOL**

Positions of Responsibility

Manager, Controls & Dynamical Systems Student Reading Group (CDS-SRG)

Institute Technical Council, IIT Bombay *Mar 2020 - Mar 2021*

- Conceptualized and organized a **series of introductory lectures** and **research talks** by students and professors to introduce newcomers to key concepts in control theory such as PID control, Kalman filtering and their industrial applications
- Ideated and coordinated the **Summer Learning Projects-2020**, which provided a platform for **20+** students to work collaboratively on various fundamental topics of control theory, and their implementation on MATLAB for simple benchmark problems
- Managed and tailored content for the CDS-SRG FB page with a reach over 2500+ students

Institute Student Mentor

Student Mentor Program, IIT Bombay *Jul 2020 - Jun 2021*

- One of the only **12** third-year undergraduate students selected via a rigorous procedure comprising of **SOP**, **peer reviews** and **interviews**, to mentor a group of incoming first-year undergraduate students amongst a batch of **1000+**
- Mentored a group of **14** students to provide the necessary support, academic and otherwise

Department Student Mentor

Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Bombay *Jul 2020 - Jun 2021*

- Selected into a team of **19** mentors based on extensive peer reviews and interviews, to **monitor** the academic performance of **6** second-year undergraduate students and provide **academic guidance** and **counsel**
- Involved in bridging the student-faculty gap and enhancing the students' academic experience

Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Member

Gender Cell, IIT Bombay *Jun 2019 - Jul 2020*

- Attended a **two-day** training workshop conducted by PoSH at Work on understanding *Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013* and creating awareness about it
- Conducted sessions on **gender sensitization**, and the institute's policy on sexual harassment and its redressal on behalf of the Gender Cell for **100+** first-year undergraduate students

Publications

Jan 2021 — Ranade, A.R., **Prathiksh, K.**, et al. *"Survey and Analysis of Payloads for Missions on PSLV's Orbital Platform."* presented in the AIAA SciTech Forum 2021, Nashville, TN

Dec 2020 — Katla V., **Prathiksh, K.**, et al. *"An Approach to Star Tracker Design for Nano-Satellite Application"* presented in National Conference on Small Satellite Technology and Applications 2020, Trivandrum, India

Achievements

2016 — Recipient of National Talent Search Examination Scholarship (NTSE) given by NCERT, India

Aug 2018 — Secured First place in EnB Buzz - 2018 Competition out of 100+ teams for exceptional performance in presenting a fictitious business idea and a corresponding Business Model Canvas (BMC)

2022 — Recipient of the Mitacs Globalink Research Internship, a competitive initiative for international undergraduates in Canada

Extracurricular Activities

2018 - 2019 — Conducted classes on interactive science experiments for underprivileged school students under NSS Prayog (Middle School) and NSS Asha initiative (High School) with NGO Asha

Jun 2020 — Authored an article titled "Biomimicry" which was featured in the Airspace magazine - India's first national student magazine on aerospace engineering by the students of IIT Bombay

Jan 2020 — Co-authored a white paper as a GGI Fellow 2021 titled "Internationalisation of Higher Education in India 2021"

An avid reader; particularly enjoy genres such as science-fiction, dystopian & coming-of-age

An active squash player; passionately follow tennis, Formula 1 & Liverpool F.C.