

Surafel Anshebo

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EDUCATION

VIRGINIA TECH

May 2023 – Present

Master of Science, Mechanical Engineering

ABABA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

2013 - 2018

Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VIRGINIA TECH

Graduate research assistant

May 2023 – Present

- Developed a BVLOS (Beyond visual line of sight) flight simulator using Python, Docker, Leaflet, and Dronekit-Python, enabling mission planning and flight risk assessment.
- Provided guidance to up to 50 students for drone technology and flight operations classes through office hours. Assisted with coursework, assignments and projects.

COCA COLA BEVERAGES

Line process engineer

Dec 2018 - Dec 2023

- Maintained compliance with Safety, Health, Environment, and Quality (SHEQ) standards.
- Optimized overall Equipment Efficiency (OEE) by understanding the structure of all machines to detect abnormalities and conduct Root Cause Analysis (RCA) on different breakdowns using SAP.
- Maintained 90% Machine efficiency (ME) and 85% Unconstrained system line efficiency (USLE) ensuring operational reliability.

SKILLS

- Software:** Python, C++, MATLAB, ROS, Flask, Docker, OpenCV, Dronekit-Python, SolidWorks, QGIS, SAP
- Hardware:** Raspberry Pi, STM32, Arduino, Vicon motion capture, 3D Printing
- Certifications:** Part 107, SolidWorks Associate (CSWA)
- Selected coursework:** Applied Linear Control, Computer vision, Advanced Mechatronics, Computation for Data Science

PROJECTS

Vicon motion capture for an indoor flight

Nov 2024

- Conducted system calibration to minimize tracking errors, ensuring millimeter accuracy in position estimate.
- Implemented an extended Kalman filter (EKF) for sensor fusion enabling precise position and altitude estimate.
- Deployed ROS nodes on a Raspberry Pi companion computer to handle communication between the motion capture system and Pixhawk flight controller.

Full state feedback control using pole placement

Dec 2023

- Optimized system dynamics using pole placement techniques, ensuring stable descent.
- Developed closed loop control using linear-quadratic regulator (LQR) and Luenberger observer for accurate trajectory tracking with 5% settling time in 3 seconds.

Flood Hazard Mapping and Drone-Based Life-Saving Vest Delivery System

Nov 2022

- Mapped areas that are prone to flood hazard using aerial image using QGIS and designed a gripper in SolidWorks to be mounted on S500 drones used for delivering lifesaving vests.

PUBLICATION

- D. Aggarwal, **S.T. Anshebo**, K. Kochersberger, A.L. Abbott. "Comparative Study of Vision-Based Methods for Real-Time Traffic Monitoring," *XPONENTIAL 2024 Conference*, pp. 68–79. DOI: [10.52202/075106-0004](https://doi.org/10.52202/075106-0004).

LEADERSHIP

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

TREASURER

May 2024 - Present

- Maintain financial records and ensure that all accounts and records are maintained in accordance with the school and ASME policies.