

Dr. M. Usman Maqbool Bhutta

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL AND AUTOMATION ENGINEERING, CUHK, HK

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“Robotician + Entrepreneur”

Summary

With the rise of autonomous systems, being a researcher and entrepreneur, my research direction is their deployment to the real world. For any autonomous mode of the robot, a 3D map is essential to navigate and operate at any place. I work to tackle the problems related to scale difference and loop closures for large scale 3D mapping. I've 7+ years of experience specializing in robotics R&D and project management. I previously owned an IT company, and I've been part of several startups since 2011. My profile can view here (<https://usmanmaqbool.github.io/>).

Work Experience

RESEARCH (COMPUTER VISION TECHNOLOGIES AND ROBOTICS SYSTEM)

C3 Robotics Laboratory (C3RL), Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering

CUHK, Hong Kong.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

May, 2021 - Present

- Supervisor: [Prof. Darwin Lau](#), Director of C3 Robotics Laboratory (C3RL), The Chinese University of Hong Kong CUHK, Hong Kong..
- Research in place recognition, AR/VR and inspection robotics for construction

I'm working on several projects here

Place Recognition: Working on the light-weight representation of images and making better use of previously trained models.

AR/VR: Research in AR/VR Platform design, multi-agent mixed reality, assistive prosthetics for the handicapped persons, teleoperated robots, human-robot interaction.

Inspection: Deep learning based research for the robotic presurface inspection for the construction.

Multi-agent collaboration: For indoor vegetation and painting robotics application.

Robotics and Multi-Perception Lab, Robotics Institute

HKUST, HK

PHD

Sep 2016 - Feb 2021

- PhD Supervisor: [Prof Ming Liu](#), Director of Robotics and Multi-Perception Lab (RAM-LAB)
- Research Contributions as First Author

Place Recognition: Our work makes a leap towards hierarchical deep learning-based place recognition for multiagent SLAM systems. We introduce a probabilistic layer to constrain the local representation along with the global representation of images. The global description of the pre-trained model and the local consistency introduced in our work enables the system to yield good performance at large-scale.

Development Using: MATLAB, Python, Jupyter, Nvidia CUDA, Docker, Deep learning, Matconvnet

Multi-Agent SLAM: I've produced Loop-box for the multi-Agent Direct SLAM Triggered by Single Loop Closure for Large scale semi dense 3D reconstruction /large-scale structure from motion. This work is accepted for publication in IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics (IF= 11+).

Development using: C++ 11, ROS, OpenCV, OpenGV, Paraview, EVO, UGV, LSD-SLAM, Monocular Camera.

SLAM: I've worked mainly for the multi-agent SLAM system. To find the scale difference and excellent relative transformation between difference agents. I've produced [PCR-Pro](#) work. This work got best student paper finalist award at IEEE-CYBER 2018.

Development using: C++ 11, ROS, OpenCV, OpenGV, Paraview, EVO, Monocular Camera, Plotly

Automation (Inspection): For smartphone glass inspection, I've introduced [Smart-Inspect](#) work. This work is accepted in IROS 2020. The patent is also under-review in the US.

Development using: Python, Jupyter, Nvidia CUDA, K-Means, Docker, Machine learning (ML)

Autonomous Systems Lab (ASL)

ETH Zürich, Switzerland.

ACADEMIC GUEST

Oct. 2019 - Mar. 2020

- Supervisor: [Prof. Roland Siegwart](#), Director of Autonomous Systems Lab (ASL), ETH Zürich, Switzerland.
- Co-Supervisor: [Dr. Cesar Dario Cadena Lerma](#), Senior Researcher at ASL, ETH Zürich, Switzerland.
- Research in Place Recognition: I've worked for making the better place recognition for the better scene understanding. Furthermore, I've also introduced light weight representation of key-frames for better channel utilization.

Development using: MATLAB, Python, Jupyter, Nvidia CUDA, Docker, Deep learning, Matconvnet

Department of Electronics

QAU, Pakistan

MPhil CANDIDATE

Mar. 2010 - Jun. 2012

- M.Phil. Supervisor: [Prof Hasan Mahmood](#), Department of Electronics, QAU.
- Research in Image Processing (CNN): I've introduced CNN-based license plate recognition of Pakistani's Cars. This work has been published in IEEE-ICALIP 2014.

INDUSTRY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Lisee Technology Corporation Limited

Central, HK

COO

Jan 2018 - Jan 2021

- Won funding support for company | TSSSU Support HK\$ 300,000 (Jun 19 - May 20).
- Indoor Navigation for Libray using Lisee Technology | PCF Support HK\$ 160,000 (Jun 18 - May 19).

Friends Corporate Technologies

Islamabad, PK

CEO

Feb 2013 - Aug 2015

50+ Projects | Electronics/ Electrical Engineering, R&D, image processing, Web Applications Development, MVC Applications

Federal Government of Pakistan

Islamabad, PK

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

May 2012 - Feb 2013

Electronics/ Electrical Engineering, R&D, image processing

Server4Sale, LLC

Islamabad, PK

PHP DEVELOPER

Dec 2009 - Mar 2010

Php web application development for Joomla and Zend frameworks.

ACADEMIC

Department of Computer Science

BZU-Sahiwal, Pakistan

LECTURER (VISITING)

Feb 2016 - Jun 2016

Teaching MCS and BS-CS courses

Department of Physics

GPSC Sahiwal, Pakistan

CTI

Oct. 2015 - May. 2016

Teaching BS physics (Electronics related courses + Labs + Projects)

Department of Electronics

QAU, Pakistan

INSTRUCTOR

Aug. 2010 - Dec. 2010

'PHP Web Development' (a short course) offered in Department of Electronics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Education

Ph.D. in Robotics and AI at RAM-LAB, Robotics Institute

HKUST, Hong Kong

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC & COMPUTER ENGINEERING, THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sep. 2016 - Feb. 2021

- PhD Supervisor: **Prof Ming Liu**, Director of Robotics and Multi-Perception Lab (**RAM-LAB**)
- Exchange Supervisor: **Prof. Roland Siegwart**, Director of Autonomous Systems Lab (**ASL**), **ETH Zürich**, Switzerland.
- Exchange Co-Supervisor: **Dr. Cesar Dario Cadena Lerma**, Senior Researcher at ASL, **ETH Zürich**, Switzerland.
- Got PEEF CCMS PhD scholarship from Pakistan and overseas research award (ORA).
- Research: Multi-Agent SLAM System, Place Recognition, Autonomous Car and Deep Learning for automation industry. Hand on experience on RGB-D 3D reconstruction, Multi-view stereo, python and C++ development experience, multi-threaded coding. 3D mesh registration, paraview and parameterizations. Moreover, I've deep understanding of data structures and algorithms. Experience with software development on Linux open-source stack. Calculus, linear algebra and geometry related courses have been taken.

M.Phil. in Electronics

QAU, Pakistan

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN.

Mar. 2010 - Jun. 2012

- M.Phil. Supervisor: **Prof Hasan Mahmood**, Department of Electronics, QAU.
- Research: Signal and Image Processing
- Grade: A

M.Sc. in Electronics

QAU, Pakistan

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN.

Mar. 2010 - Jun. 2012

- **2nd position** in batch
- Projects: completed 9+ projects related to C++, Verilog/HDL and Micro-controller programming.

B.Sc. in Mathematics and Physics

BZU, Pakistan

BHAUDDIN ZAKARIYA UNIVERSITY, MULTAN PAKISTAN

Mar. 2010 - Jun. 2012

- Grade: 1st Division

Presentation

Teaching and Learning Innovation Expo 2021

CUHK, Hong Kong

POSTERS PRESENTATION

Jul. 2021

- 'Mixed Reality in Hands-On Learning of Robotics' by Xinyan Zhao, Sabrina Lam, M. Usman M. Bhutta, Darwin Lau and Jimmy Lee.
- 'Online Robotics Laboratory Framework for Interactive and Group Hands-On Learning' by Ken Hui, Ken Kwok, M. Usman M. Bhutta, Darwin Lau and Jimmy Lee.

IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems [IROS, 2020]

Las Vegas, USA

PRESENTER AS AUTHOR

Oct. 2020

- Introduced **Smart-Inspect** for the micro scale localization and classification of smartphone glass defects for industrial automation.

Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU)

HKUST, Hong Kong

PRESENTER AS COO LISEE TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION COMPANY LIMITED, HONG KONG.

Jan. 2019

- Introduced Lisee technology in front of selection committee panel and won TSSSU 2019-20 funding of the amount of HK\$300,000.

IEEE Int. Conf. on CYBER Technology in Automation, Control, and Intelligent Systems [IEEE-CYBER 2018]

Tianjin, China

PRESENTER AS AUTHOR

Jul. 2018

- Introduced **PCR-Pro** for the estimation of information matrix and scale difference for pose graph SLAM.

IET-Young Professionals Exhibition and Competition (IET-YPEC) 2018

CityU, Hong Kong

PRESENTER AS COO LISEE TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION COMPANY LIMITED, HONG KONG.

Jul. 2018

- Introduced Lisee technology at IET-YPEC 2018.

Campus Challenge @ HKUST Transportation

HKUST, Hong Kong

PRESENTER AS PARTICIPANT

May 2018

- HKUST got 80+ proposals for this competitions, and arranged a roadshow. My proposal got selected for the audience award after getting maximum votes.

High Tech Innovation and Entrepreneurship

HKUST, Hong Kong

PRESENTER AS ENTREPRENEUR

Dec. 2017

- Introduced my study related to the flying cars.

World First Youth Robotics Development Forum 2017

Shangri-La Shenzhen, China.

PRESENTER AS AUTHOR.

Nov. 2017

- Introduced my work related to multi-agent SLAM system.

Honors & Awards

INTERNATIONAL

July, 2018	Best Student Paper Finalist Award , IEEE Int. Conf. on CYBER Technology in Automation, Control, and Intelligent Systems	Tianjin, China
May, 2018	Audience Award , Campus Challenge - Transportation, HKUST	HKUST, HK
Nov, 2017	Best Mapper Award , Robotics and Multi-Perception Lab, HKUST	Shenzhen, China
May, 2017	Completion Award , The Graduate Teaching Assistant Training, HKUST	HKUST, HK
Dec, 2016	Best External Award , Robotics and Multi-Perception Lab, HKUST	Shenzhen, China
Nov, 2016	Completion Award , Author Workshop, Elsevier Publishing Campus	HKUST, HK

DOMESTIC

Sep 2016	CCMS PhD Scholarship , Won Chief Minister Marit Scholarship (CCMS) scholarship award by Punjab Government (PEEF), Pakistan for pursuing my PhD studies at HKUST, HK	Lahore, PK
Sep 2013	Participant , Painting for peace (Pakistan-India-Afghanistan) event, a part of the Harmony initiative	Islamabad, PK
Apr 2013	Participant , Case Spark in business plan competition	Islamabad, PK
Apr 2013	Participant , Case EPICA	Islamabad, PK
Apr 2013	Participant , How to be a Better Playwright Workshop by PNCA and US Embassy Pakistan	Islamabad, PK
Oct 2012	Participant , Punjab Youth Festival	Lahore, PK
Oct 2011	Participant , Int'l Youth Conference and Festival	Islamabad, PK
Sep 2011	Participant , Asian Youth Conference and Peace Festival	Lahore, PK
Apr 2011	Completion Award , Acting and Directing Theater Workshop by PNCA and US Embassy Pakistan	Islamabad, PK
Dec 2011	Participant , National Drama Festival	Islamabad, PK
Dec 2010	Instructor of short Course , PHP Web Development' at the Department of Electronics, QAU	Islamabad, PK
Apr 2013	Completion Award , Running River Rafting course by Adventure Foundation of Pakistan	Mansehra, PK
Apr 2013	Completion Award , Paragliding course by QAU Adventure Club	Islamabad, PK
Dec 2008	Award of Honor , Finance Secretary of Electronics Student Society (ESS) at QAU	Islamabad, PK

Academic Activities

TC	Referee Service , IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics	2020, -21
ICRA	Referee Service , IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Robotics and Automation	2022, -21, -20
IROS	Referee Service , IEEE/RSJ RA-L and International Conference on Robotics and Automation	2021, -20, -19, -18
HKUST, HK	Teaching Assistant , EESM 5547 - Multimedia Signal Processing	Spr 2020, Spr 2019, Spr 2018
CASE	Referee Service , IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering	2019
HKUST, HK	Teaching Assistant , ELEC4820 - Medical Imaging	Fall 2018
HKUST, HK	Teaching Assistant , ELEC 1010 - Electronic and Information Technology	Spr 2017

Skills

Robotics and Computer Vision	Ubuntu, ROS, PCL, Docker, Catkin, OpenCV, OpenGV, Ceres Solver, g2o, Libpointmatcher
Machine Learning / Deep Learning	Jupyter, Pytorch, Tensorflow, Keras, CUDA
Programming	Python, C/C++, Matlab, git, LaTeX, FPGA, Verilog
Web	mkdocs, Hugo, Jekyll, PHP, MYSQL
Languages	English, Urdu

Research Publication

Why-So-Deep: Towards Boosting Previously Trained Models for Visual Place Recognition	<i>Journal Paper</i>
M USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA*, YUXIANG SUN, DARWIN LAU AND MING LIU Submitted	Submitted
Loop-box: Multi-Agent Direct SLAM Triggered by Single Loop Closure for Large Scale Mapping	<i>Journal Paper</i>
M USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA*, MANOHAR KUSE, RUI FAN, YANAN LIU AND MING LIU IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics (IF: 11+)	Oct 2020
Smart-Inspect: Micro Scale Localization and Classification of Smart Phone Glass Defects for Industrial Automation	<i>Conference Paper</i>
M USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA*, SHOAB ASLAM, PENG YUN, JIANHAO JIAO AND MING LIU IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2020)	Oct 2020
Multiple Lane Detection Algorithm Based on Optimised Dense Disparity Map Estimation	<i>Conference Paper</i>
HAN MA, YIXIN MA, JIANHAO JIAO, M USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA, MOHAMMUD JUNAID BOCUS, LUJIA WANG, MING LIU AND RUI FAN Accepted in IEEE International Conference on Imaging Systems and Techniques (IST 2018)	Dec 2018
PCR-Pro: 3D Sparse and Different Scale Point Clouds Registration and Robust Estimation of Information Matrix For Pose Graph SLAM	<i>Conference Paper</i>
M USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA* AND MING LIU Presented in IEEE Int. Conf. on CYBER Technology in Automation, Control, and Intelligent Systems (IEEE-CYBER 2018), and won Best Student Paper Finalist Award .	Jul 2018
An intelligent approach for robust detection and recognition of multiple color and font styles automobiles license plates: A feature-based algorithm	<i>Conference Paper</i>
M USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA*, HASAN MAHMOOD, AND HAROON MALIK Published in IEEE International Conference on Audio, Language and Image Processing (ICALIP 2014).	Jan 2015
Efficient Reset Design Techniques	<i>Journal Paper</i>
QAMAR, ZOHA, BUSHRA YASEEN, AND USMAN MAQBOOL Published in Science International Lahore	2015

Patent

Semi-Supervised Learning Approach for Smart Phone Glasses Defect Inspection	<i>US Patent</i>
MUHAMMAD USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA, JIANHAO JIAO, PENG YUN, YUAN WANG, XUEBIN SUN, MING LIU U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/974,937, Filing Date 01/06/2020.	Jan 2020
Automatic Surface Defect Detection System for Smart Phone Glass Based on Deep Learning	<i>US Patent</i>
YUAN WANG, JIANHAO JIAO, PENG YUN, MUHAMMAD USMAN MAQBOOL BHUTTA, XUEBIN SUN, MING LIU U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/974,938, Filing Date 01/06/2020.	Jan 2020

References

Prof Darwin Lau

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Postdoc Supervisor

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(+41) (0) 44 633-8803

Exchange Co-Supervisor

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Prof Ming Liu

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AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING, HKUST, HK.
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Ph.D. Supervisor

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