Dr. M. Usman Maqbool **Bhutta**

15 Man Nin Street, Sai Kung, Hong Kong

 (+852) 609-44-786 | ✉ usmanmaqbool@outlook.com | 🏠 usmanmaqbool.github.io | ⬛ UsmanMaqbool | ▦ usmanmaqbool

"Roboticist"

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 full profile can view here (`https://usmanmaqbool.github.io/`).

Work Experience [7+ Years]

RESEARCH (Computer Vision technologies and Robotics System)

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
GPGC *Sahiwal, Pakistan*

CTI
Oct. 2015 - May. 2016

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

Department of Electronics
QAU, *Pakistan*

Instructer
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 recontruction, 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*

Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan Pakistan
Mar. 2010 - Jun. 2012

- Grade: 1st Division

Presentation

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

Presentor 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

Presentor 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 participent
May 2018

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

High Tech Innovation and Entrepreneurship   *HKUST, Hong Kong*

P<small>RESENTER AS</small> E<small>NTREPRENEUR</small>   *Dec. 2017*

- Introduced my study related to the flying cars.

World First Youth Robotics Developemnt Forum 2017   *Shangri-La Shenzhen, China.*

P<small>RESENTER AS AUTHOR.</small>   *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 Embassay Pakistan	*Islamabad, PK*
Dec 2011	**Participant**, National Drama Festival	*Islamabad, PK*
Dec 2010	**Instuctor 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

ICRA	**Referee Service**, IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Robotics and Automation	*2021, 2020*
IROS	**Referee Service**, IEEE/RSJ RA-L and International Conference on Robotics and Automation	*2020, 2019, 2018*
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 Publications

Why-So-Deep: Image Correspondence Verification by Probabilistic Spatial Landmarks Elevation for Visual Place Recognition

Journal Paper

M Usman Maqbool Bhutta*, Yuxiang Sun and Ming Liu

Submitted

   The IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering(**T-ASE**)

Loop-box: Multi-Agent Direct SLAM Triggered by Single Loop Closure for Large Scale Mapping

Journal Paper

M Usman Maqbool Bhutta*, Manohar Kuse, Rui Fan, Yanan Liu and Ming Liu

Oct 2020

   IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics (**IF: 11+**)

Smart-Inspect: Micro Scale Localization and Classification of Smart Phone Glass Defects for Industrial Automation

Conference Paper

M Usman Maqbool Bhutta*, Shoaib Aslam, Peng Yun, Jianhao JIAO and Ming Liu

Oct 2020

   IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (**IROS 2020**)

Multiple Lane Detection Algorithm Based on Optimised Dense Disparity Map Estimation

Conference Paper

Han Ma, Yixin Ma, Jianhao Jiao, M Usman Maqbool Bhutta, Mohammud Junaid Bocus, Lujia Wang, Ming Liu and Rui Fan

Dec 2018

   Accepted in IEEE International Conference on Imaging Systems and Techniques (**IST 2018**)

PCR-Pro: 3D Sparse and Different Scale Point Clouds Registration and Robust Estimation of Information Matrix For Pose Graph SLAM

Conference Paper

M Usman Maqbool Bhutta* and Ming Liu

Jul 2018

   Presented in IEEE Int. Conf. on CYBER Technology in Automation, Control, and Intelligent Systems (**IEEE-CYBER 2018**), and won **Best Student Paper Finalist Award.**

An intelligent approach for robust detection and recognition of multiple color and font styles automobiles license plates: A feature-based algorithm

Conference Paper

M Usman Maqbool Bhutta*, Hasan Mahmood, and Haroon Malik

Jan 2015

   Published in IEEE International Conference on Audio, Language and Image Processing (**ICALIP 2014**).

Efficient Reset Design Techniques

Journal Paper

Qamar, Zoha, Bushra Yaseen, and Usman Maqbool

2015

   Published in Science International Lahore

References

Prof Ming Liu

Ph.D. Supervisor

Associate Professor · Director of Robotics and Multi-Perception Lab (RAM-LAB), Department of Electronic and Computer Enginneering, HKUST, HK.

eelium@ust.hk

(+852) 2358 7058

Dr. Cesar Dario Cadena Lerma

Exchange Co-Supervisor

Senior Researcher · ASL, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

cesarcadena.lerma@gmail.com

(+41) (0)44 633-8803

Prof. Hasan Mahmood

M.Phil. Supervisor

Professor · Chairperson, Department of Electronics, QAU, Islamabad, Pakistan.

hasan@qau.edu.pk

(+92) (0)51 9064 3132