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# Ananthu Aniraj

# **Experience**

PhD. Researcher Inria Apr 2023–Present

Montpellier, France

• Researching interpretable-by-design computer vision methods to solve fine-grained species classification tasks with 2 accepted first author papers at top AI conferences.

• Oral Presentation at a top computer vision conference, namely ECCV 2024 (top 2.3% of all submissions to the conference).

#### **Computer Vision R&D Engineer**

Lely

Sep 2020-Mar 2023

Maassluis, Netherlands

- Developed computer vision algorithms for monitoring cows and robots, leading to one granted European patent and another pending.
- Built 2 large-scale deep learning projects, managing the entire life cycle from concept to model deployment.
- Supervised 4 master's students through research internships and thesis projects.
- Devised a novel multi-camera, multi-object tracking algorithm deployed 24/7 in multiple dairy farms, enabling automated cow health monitoring and improved robot collision avoidance. [Link]
- Implemented a semi-automated data annotation pipeline, reducing labeling noise and boosting model performance by 20%.

## **Computer Vision R&D Intern**

Lely

Jan 2020-Aug 2020

Maassluis, Netherlands

- Proposed an algorithm for instance-level analysis of cows in images, improving accuracy by 2x.
- Created a new dataset and deep learning model achieving state-of-the-art results tested 24/7 on various farms.

# **Computer Vision R&D Intern**

**Corvus Drones** 

Sep 2019-Dec 2019

Wageningen, Netherlands

Re-wrote the ArUco marker detection algorithm to enable GPU compatibility, doubling its processing speed.

### **Education**

**PhD. in Computer Science,** *Inria / University of Montpellier, France.* 

Apr 2023—Present (Expected Apr 2026)

- Research Topic: Explainable image classification through supervised and unsupervised part detection
- Supervisors: Dr. Diego Marcos, Dr. Cassio Fraga Dantas, Dr. Dino lenco

**M.Sc. in Embedded Systems,** *University of Twente, Netherlands.* 

Sep 2018-Aug 2020

- Master Thesis: Instance Level Cow Body Part Parsing
- Supervisors: Dr. Yan Li, Dr. Nicola Strisciuglio, Dr. Luuk Spreeuwers

**B.Tech. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering,** *University of Kerala, India.* 

May 2013-Apr 2017

• Honors: First Class with Distinction

#### Skills

- **Programming Languages**: Python, MATLAB, C++, C, LaTeX
- Machine Learning & AI: Deep Learning, Computer Vision, Image Processing, Neural Networks

- Data Science: Data Analysis, Data Visualization
- Frameworks & Libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, OpenCV, NumPy, Pandas, SciPy
- Technologies: Git
- Languages: English, Dutch (A2), Malayalam, French (A2)

# **Publications**

Aniraj, A., Dantas, C. F., Ienco, D., & Marcos, D. (2024).

PDiscoFormer: Relaxing Part Discovery Constraints with Vision Transformers.

Proceedings of the European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), 2024, 15143, 256–272. (Oral). Link

• Aniraj, A., Dantas, C. F., Ienco, D., & Marcos, D. (2023).

Masking Strategies for Background Bias Removal in Computer Vision Models.

Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV) Workshops, 2023, 4397–4405.

#### **Patents**

- System for monitoring a calving mammal, European Patent Application: EP4291133B1. Patent Active. [Link]
- Animal husbandry system, International Patent Application PCT/IB2023/053903. Patent Pending. [Link]

# **Certifications**

- Deep Learning Specialization, Online Course Coursera (deeplearning.ai), January 2020. [Link]
- Machine Learning, Online Course Coursera (Stanford University), August 2019 [Link]

# **Projects**

### Multi-camera, multi-object tracking in dairy farms

Sep 2020-Aug 2022

- Role: Led the development of object detection, global mapping, and tracking algorithms, and mentored 4 interns
  working on various components.
- Achievements: Prepared a dataset of 14000+ images, enhancing object detection accuracy to 98% mAP. Ran the tracking system live 24/7 in multiple farms in the Netherlands. [Link]

#### **Semantic Segmentation for self-driving vehicles**

Jan 2021-Sep 2021

- *Role*: Led the development of deep learning models for semantic segmentation, specifically designed for custom farm environments to minimize manual control of self-driving farm vehicles.
- Achievements: Improved model performance by 20% through the development of algorithms to reduce labeling noise, ensuring reliable deployment on self-driving robots.

#### **Instance Level Cow Body Part Parsing**

Jan 2020-Aug 2020

- Role: Led the development of a novel deep learning method for this task and collaborated with a team working on
  calving detection in dairy farms resulting in a pending patent.
- Achievements: Achieved state-of-the-art results, created a dataset with over 2000 manually annotated images, and deployed the model for continuous operation on dairy farms.