Christopher T. Morse

Email: drb6yv@virginia.edu — Phone: (402) 326-7906 — Portfolio: christheissmorse.github.io

Professional Summary

Curious and motivated early career professional with specialized knowledge at the intersection of software engineering, machine learning, and robotics. Skilled researcher and presenter with a history of publications and awards. Extends perspective through cross-disciplinary collaboration. Resourceful problem solver with an M.S. in Computer Science, seeking role in robot software and perception.

SKILLS

Python/C++/SQL - Machine Learning - Robot Perception (LiDAR, Cameras) - SLAM - ROS

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Computer Science, University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA GPA: 4.00 / 4.00 May 2023 Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science, University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN

GPA: 3.91 / 4.00, Music Minor

May 2021

Research EXPERIENCE Research Assistant, Leading Engineering for Safe Software (LESS) Aug. 2021 - Dec. 2022 University of Virginia

- Created a novel, highly modular system to infer safety specifications from complex robot data.
- Built a pipeline for robot scene coverage approximation; used OpenCV and PyTorch-based panoptic segmentation to construct and compare rich scene graphs.

Research Assistant, Interactive Robotics and Vision Laboratory Jan. 2020 - Jan. 2021 University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

- Developed a method for paired diver image generation to enable seamless facial recognition and operation of autonomous underwater vehicles.
- Utilized GAN generative models to enhance diver detection and augment sparse training sets.

REU Researcher, Nebraska Intelligent Unmanned Systems (NIMBUS) University of Nebraska – Lincoln

- Studied effect of hyperparameter tuning and data augmentation on UAV motion blur resilience.
- Developed and trained numerous TensorFlow detection models with HPC clusters; integration and testing on NVIDIA Jetson Nano.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

EXPERIENCE

"Robotics for Software Engineers", University of Virginia Aug. 2022 - May 2023

"Discrete Math" and "Intro. to Programming", University of Minnesota Sept. 2018 - Dec. 2019 • Developed learning materials for software principles, automated testing, robot control, sensing,

- localization, ROS design. Distributed a robust quadrotor simulator with Docker and Git.
- Designed and led highly engaging laboratory sections and projects for hundreds of students.

Projects

VAE-Guided Testing Framework for OpenPilot's Perception System Spring 2022

- Designed and trained a VAE in PyTorch for manifold approximation of traffic images.
- Clustered training set images with K-Means and PCA to exploit underrepresented features.

Synthetic Data Generation for AUV Detection Enhancement

Summer 2020

- Trained GAN models to perform image domain transfer for sparse training set augmentation.
- Evaluated approach over several detection metrics, reporting +28% mAP.

AND AWARDS

Service, Honors, • Paper Reviewer, IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation

Fall 2022 Summer 2020

• UROP Research Award Recipient

• 2nd Place; University of Nebraska REU Research Competition

Summer 2019

PUBLICATIONS

C. Morse, L. Feng, M. Dwyer, S. Elbaum, "A Framework for the Unsupervised Inference of Relations Between Sensed Object Spatial Distributions and Robot Behaviors." 2023 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA).

M. J. Islam, C. Edge, Y. Xiao, P. Luo, M. Mehtaz, C. Morse, S. S. Enan, and J. Sattar, "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark." 2020 IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS).