

DIEGO GARCIA

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[Portfolio](#)

Education

California Institute of Technology

B.S. Mechanical Engineering 3.3 GPA

Jun. 2025

Pasadena CA

Relevant Coursework

Mechanical Prototyping
Design and Fabrication

Systems Engineering
Data Analysis

Robotic Systems
Mobile Robots

Feedback Control
Aerospace Control

Experience

Gharib Research Group

Jan. 2024 – Present

Undergraduate Researcher

Pasadena CA

Designed and Fabricated over 15 prototypes of flexible drone using rapid prototyping methods such as additive manufacturing and water jetting for plastics and lightweight materials.

Tested PID algorithm on z-axis constrained test setup, currently investigating novel methods in physical and algorithm design to achieve other modes of flight such as flapping and gliding without constraints, tuned using BetaFlight.

Recorded motor voltage values during testing to determine efficiency of flexible frame.

Caltech Rover Autonomy, Technology and Exploration Research

Sep. 2022 – Present

Mechanical Co-Lead

Pasadena CA

Completed structural analysis (e.g. static bending, buckling, stress) on components of rover suspension system and robotic arm first using hand calculations then Ansys for FEA.

Designed 6 components along with technical drawings of rocker-bogie suspension system and 6-DOF robotic arm for rover using Solid-Works and Fusion 360

Fabricated hardware for rover suspension system and robotic arm using Mill, Waterjet, Lathe saving \$500.00 in cost.

Projects and Leadership

Autonomous Shuttle Bot (Caltech ME/CS/EE 75abc)

Mar. 2024

Team Lead

Completed autonomy and hardware upgrades to current version of NASA Big Idea Finalist LATTICE system shuttle bot.

Developed closed loop system to extract point cloud from terrain below cable traversing robot, localize point in path with minimum slope, and return itself to that spot in path to deploy attached payload.

Upgraded 3D printed housings for multi-stage gearboxes delivering 900Nm of torque for self tensioning on cable system.

Rotary Transmission (Caltech ME 14)

Feb. 2023

Group Lead

Completed structural analysis (e.g. static bending, buckling, stress) on components of rover suspension system and robotic arm first using hand calculations then Ansys for FEA.

Delivered CAD Model and 8 total technical drawings with specifications and tolerances for machining components using Solid-Works and GD&T

Technical Skills

Hardware and Electronics: Additive Manufacturing, Mechatronics, Rapid Prototyping, Sensors and Actuators

Design and Analysis: CAD(Solidworks, Catia, Fusion 360), GD&T, DFMA, FEA(Ansys), Control Design

Software: Python, Matlab, Simulink, ROS, Java, C

Leadership Extracurricular

Pasadena Police Activities League (PAL)

Jan. 2024 – Present

STEM Tutor

Pasadena CA

Caltech Fleming House

Sep. 2022 – Present

Peer Advocate

Pasadena CA

Caltech NCAA Soccer

Sep. 2021 – Present

Team Member

Pasadena CA