Faizan Muhammad

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Experience

Google July 2020 – Present
Software Engineer *Mountain View, CA*

- Part of the Engineering Residency program that aims to develop the next generation of technology leaders
- Focusing on production-grade, high-impact Machine Learning applications in Google services

CTRL Labs (acquired by Facebook) May 2019 – August 2019
Software Engineering Intern *New York City, NY*

- Interfaced a hexapod robot with a neural interface for neuromuscular teleoperation [1]
- Demoed this experience for the taping of an NPR show episode regarding CTRL Labs [B]
- Devised features for physically contextualized interactions with real-world objects
- Patented these features after prototyping and demonstrating their feasibility

Autonomous Intelligent Robotics Lab (AIR Lab) Jan 2018 – May 2020
Research Assistant *Tufts University, MA*

- Pioneered the Novelty Detection capabilities for the Tufts' DARPA SAIL-ON AI agent [2]
- Achieved top results in SAIL-ON evaluations and currently leading a team to publish the system architecture
- Developed and published an Augmented Reality interface for Human-Robot Interaction [3][A]
- AR interface won $100K funding from Verizon 5G EdTech Challenge and is still an active project in the lab

Center for Engineering Education and Outreach (CEEO) Dec 2016 – Aug 2017
Research Assistant *Tufts University, MA*

- Created a RESTful API for lab-based IoT devices such as a web-controlled lab sign
- Developed computer vision software to digitize classwork and enhance student engagement and collaboration
- Demonstrated the software by creating a robot programming framework that used paper drawings as code [4]

International Mathematical Olympiad 2016 Sep 2015 – Jul 2016
Participant *HKUST, Hong Kong*

- Selected and trained in Algebra, Number Theory, Combinatorics and Geometry for the Pakistani team
- Learned advanced mathematical problem solving skills and represented the country on an international platform

Education

Tufts University Sep 2016 – May 2020
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science *Medford, MA*

GPA: 3.95 **Honors**: Summa Cum Laude, Lieutenant Commander Robert James Manning Prize

Core Courses: Data Structures, Algorithms, Computation Theory, Programming Languages, Machine Architecture

Elective Courses: Reinforcement Learning, Intro. to Machine Learning, Probabilistic Robotics [5], Autonomous Intelligent Robotics, Computer Vision, Human Robot Interaction, Intro. to Computational Models in Cognitive Science, Ethics for AI

Other Relevant Courses: Digital Circuits [6], Discrete Mathematics, Linear Algebra, Calculus (1, 2 and 3), Logic (Philosophy), Probability and Statistics, Cultures in Computing (Anthropology), Neurobiology

Activities: President @ Tufts Robotics Club [7][8], Co-Organizer @ URSS [9], Founder @ IDIAS [10], Actor/Director @ Hype Mime Troupe [11], Foilist @ Tufts Fencing Club

Technical Skills

Languages: C++, Python, Java, Golang, C#, C, Matlab, VHDL

Frameworks and Tools: ROS, Unity, Git, Docker, IntelliJ, Visual Studio

Libraries: OpenCV, Tensorflow, Scikit, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib

Crafting: Laser Cutting, 3D Printing, Circuitry

Projects and Activities

[1] Robot Teleoperation through Neuromuscular Control | *Golang, Docker, Proprietary Tech.* CTRL Labs
- Humans are capable of very fine control over wrist and hands that can be exploited for next-gen control interfaces
- Mapped EMG-based readings of muscle activations to a hexapod's appendages for crawling and kicking behaviour
- Demoed this experience for the taping of an NPR show episode regarding CTRL Labs [B]

[2] Novelty Oriented AI Agent for DARPA SAIL-ON | *Symbolic Reasoning & Planning, RL, Java* AIR Lab
- SAIL-ON was created by DARPA to encourage the development of AI that can recognize and adapt to change
- Pioneered the Novelty Detection capabilities to recognize environmental changes and express them symbolically
- Our Novelty Detection approach achieved top performance in unseen external evaluations
- Currently leading a sub-team of graduate and undergraduate students to publish the system architecture

[3] Visualizing a Robot's Perspective in Augmented Reality | *ROS, Unity, C++, C#, Python* AIR Lab
- Need for a fast, high-bandwidth and accessible medium to convey robot states for Human Robot Interaction
- Proposed the project for Tufts Summer Scholars and received fellowship and funding to pursue it [C][D]
- Supports visualizations of robot perception, belief and planning in AR through HoloLens and mobile devices
- Published system architecture [A] and won $100K in further funding from Verizon 5G EdTech Challenge

[4] Programming Robots through Paper Worksheets | *OpenCV, C++, LabVIEW* CEEO
- Devised a worksheet template format to specify subsections and used Computer Vision to extract them
- Demonstrated system capabilities by programming LEGO Mindstorms robots through symbolic paper drawings

[5] Sound Based Robot Localization | *Matlab, Machine Learning* Probabilistic Robotics Class
- Indoor navigation for robots in changing physical spaces is difficult due to reduced mapping abilities
- Some acoustic properties of a room are dependent on room structure and can be used to uniquely identify them
- Used a Sine Sweep to generate Room Impulse Response (RIR), extract features and train a 90% accurate SVM

[6] Clappy Bird | *VHDL, FPGA, Lattice Radiant* Digital Circuits Class
- Recreated the popular game Flappy Bird in an FPGA using clapping sounds as the means to control the game
- Developed digital circuits in VHDL and Lattice Radiant to implement the game logic and VGA rendering
- Game logic and VGA rendering was done completely through clocks, flip-flops, latches and multiplexers

[7] Trinity Firefighting Robot Contest | *ROS, C++, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Sensors* Tufts Robotics Club
- Yearly international contest held in Trinity College that simulates a fire-emergency in a miniature environment
- Led the development of the club's first ROS-enabled robot capable of SLAM and point-to-point navigation
- Won the Olympiad in Senior Individual Category in 2018 and 2019

[8] Robotics Club @ Tufts | *President* 2018 - 2019
- Improved diversity, accessibility and member retention through reimagination of club roles and support system
- Encouraged modular and iterative design and development to allow for material reuse and improved performance
- Led development of projects such as fire-fighting robots [7] and participated in robotics competitions [E]

[9] Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium @ Tufts | *Co-Organizer* 2019 & 2020
- Held annually to showcase the work of hundreds of student researchers through presentations, panels and posters
- Managed logistics for marketing, submissions, presentations, documentation and event management
- Reinvented the conventional symposium into a virtual experience due to the COVID pandemic

[10] Interdisciplinary Data Intensive Applications Society @ Tufts | *Founder* 2019 - 2020
- Provides a platform for collaboration across diverse domains including robotics, environment, sociology and sports
- Optimized for learning, skill-sharing and community-building by prioritizing the cohort experience for newcomers
- Organizes hackathons focused on common tools (Colab, Jupyter, Py Libs) and applications (NLP, GIS, Ethics)

[11] Hype! Mime Troupe @ Tufts | *Actor, Writer, Director* 2016 - 2020
- Produced skits for university-wide shows every semester telling human stories in a transcendental format [F]
- Collaborated with other performance groups for fundraising and outreach shows

Publications, Presentations and Other Media

[A] Creating a Shared Reality with Robots HRI 2019

Muhammad, Faizan, et al. "Creating a shared reality with robots." 2019 14th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI). IEEE, 2019.

Paper Link: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/8673191
Demo Link: https://youtu.be/WjxJnggaNr8

Talks given at:

* HRI Conference Late-Breaking Report Track, Daegu, South Korea (2018)
* Tufts Summer Scholars Presentation Session (2018)
* Tufts Engineering Advisory Board (2019)
* Tufts Campaign Committee (2019)

[B] Digital Telekinesis For the Future You? Future You @ NPR

Introduces the technology behind CTRL Labs and their neural interface, CTRL Kit. Includes the demo of my hexapod project [1]

Video Link: https://youtu.be/cdZLg4IORc0

[C] Research and/as Activism Forum Tisch College

Invited to talk to the new cohort of Tufts Summer Scholars and other undergraduate researchers about the intersection of research and activism in AI

Article Link: https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/news/tufts-students-discuss-research-andas-activism

[D] Hands-on Research for Undergraduates Tufts Now

Features the Augmented Reality project [3] and my experience with Tufts Summer Scholars

Article Link: https://now.tufts.edu/articles/hands-research-undergraduates

[E] Mime Skits Playlist Hype! Youtube Channel

Features some of the mime skits I have been involved with as an actor, director or writer [11]

Playlist Link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL74VX_wnv15E9dwS8Zwey6lO_8Y6gSIa6s