

Govind Chari

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EDUCATION

UNIV. OF WASHINGTON

PHD IN CONTROLS

Advisor: Behçet Açıkmese
May 2026 | Seattle, WA

CORNELL UNIV.

BS IN MECH E

GPA: 4.18 (1/103)

May 2022 | Ithaca, NY

LINKS

LinkedIn:// govindchari

Github:// govindchari

Website:// govindchari.com

COURSEWORK

Convex Analysis

Convex Optimization

HPC

Machine Learning

Reinforcement Learning

Stochastic Controls

Feedback Controls

Nonlinear Controls

Linear Systems

Model-Based Estimation

Numeric Methods

Advanced Astrodynamics

Spaceflight Mechanics

SKILLS

SOFTWARE

C++ • Julia • Python

Matlab • ANSYS •

Solidworks (CSWA Cert)

HSMWorks

HOBBIES

Tennis • Badminton

Stargazing • Hiking

Weightlifting

EXPERIENCE

UNIV. OF WASHINGTON | RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Sept 2022 - Present | Seattle, WA

- Researching novel first-order conic optimization algorithms
- Developing trajectory optimization algorithms for powered descent guidance and in-space rendezvous

SPACEX | SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN

June 2023 - Sept 2023 | Redmond, WA

- Accepted 12 week summer internship for Starlink Topology team

SPACEX | ASSOCIATE GNC ENGINEER

Jun 2022 - Aug 2022 | Hawthorne, CA

- Ran Monte-Carlo simulations and analysis to assess the impact of altering thruster configuration on Dragon's entry performance
- Prototyped new thrust allocation scheme
- Added state machine branch for debris avoidance maneuvers
- Built verification tool to ensure positive propellant margin in all two fault propulsion cases

SPACEX | PROPULSION ANALYSIS INTERN

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021 | Hawthorne, CA

- Performed nonlinear structural and thermal analysis of Raptor and Merlin engines components using ANSYS and documented results for the responsible engineers

CORNELL SPACE SYSTEMS DESIGN STUDIO | GNC ENGINEER

April 2021 - May 2022 | Ithaca, NY

- Worked on the development of a high fidelity 6DOF simulation for PAN
- Tuned orbital rendezvous controller and worked on flight software implementation
- Conducted HITL and HOOTL tests to verify performance of orbital rendezvous controller and propulsion system
- Ran simulations to determine if deployment dispersions met our satellite's delta-v budget

PERSONAL PROJECTS

G-FOLD IMPLEMENTATION | MARCH 2021-JUNE 2021

- Recreated Acikemese and Blackmore's powered descent algorithm
- Utilized lossless convexification and modified problem to help with feasibility
- Coded algorithm and a 6DOF simulation in C++ to verify robustness to disturbances
- Conducted Monte-Carlo trials to determine landing ellipse of the algorithm

VERTICAL TAKEOFF AND LANDING VEHICLE | APRIL 2020-AUGUST 2020

- Built and coded a vertical takeoff and landing vehicle powered by racing drone motors which utilizes servo driven thrust vectoring fins for attitude control
- Wrote GNC code from scratch using C++ including a Kalman Filter to fuse altimeter and accelerometer readings which reduced variance in altitude readings by 44%
- Designed and printed thrust test stand to accurately model the nonlinear thrust curve of racing drone motors and to measure the effectiveness of the thrust vectoring fins
- Conducted isolated unit tests to validate efficacy of the roll controller

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] A. G. Kamath, P. Elango, Y. Yu, S. Mceowen, G. M. Chari, J. M. C. III, and B. Açıkmese. Real-time sequential conic optimization for multi-phase rocket landing guidance, 2023.