Hochul Hwang

University of Massachusetts Amherst College for Information and Computer Sciences

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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

M.S./Ph.D. in Computer Science

Hanyang University

B.S. in Robot Engineering, GPA: 3.91 / 4.5 (Cum Laude)

The University of Texas at Austin

Exchange Program, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Amherst, MA, United States May.2021 - Present Ansan, Republic of Korea Mar.2013 - Jun.2019

Austin, TX, United States Aug.2017 - May.2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Massachusetts Amherst (Dynamic and Autonomous Robotic Systems Lab)

Amherst, MA, United States May.2021 - Present

MS-PhD Student / Advisor: Prof. Donghyun Kim

Conducting research in developing control algorithms to mimic human-level athletic behavior in legged robotic systems

Korea Institute of Science and Technology (Center for Artificial Intelligence)

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Research Intern / Advisor: Dr. Ig-Jae Kim

Sep.2019 - Dec.2020

Developed a real-time human action recognition system with accuracy of 75% (90% in trimmed videos) and published a paper

- Task: Finetune deep learning algorithms with augmented synthetic action data for enhanced recognition performance
- Required skills: PyTorch, LaTeX

Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology & Sungkyunkwan University (BCI Lab)

Ansan, Republic of Korea

Research Intern / Advisor: Prof. Sung-Phil Kim and Prof. Jeongwoo Sohn

Jul.2019 - Aug.2019

Setup an eye-tracking system for primate brain computer interface (BCI) system and developed code for task tools

• Required skills: MATLAB

The University of Texas at Austin (Human Centered Robotics Lab)

Austin, Texas, United States

Research Assistant / Advisor: Prof. Luis Sentis

Sep.2017 - Aug.2018

Participated in the process of developing, testing, and optimizing the 6DOF passive-ankled bipedal humanoid

- Task: Experiment protocol setup, dynamic biped balancing test, simulation data collection, figure generation
- Required skills: State estimation, sensor data analysis obtained from joint encoders, IMU, motion capture, and contact sensor; Data plot (Python), simulation (C++), and 3D printing

The University of Texas at Austin (Lu Research Group)

Austin, Texas, United States

Research Assistant / Advisor: Prof. Nanshu Lu

Apr.2018 - Jun.2018

Conducted independent research to measure lower limb prosthetic's inner stress distribution using flexible resistive force sensors

- Task: Resistive force sensor optimization, capacitive force sensor
- Required skills: Resistance/stress data analysis, LabVIEW, Silhouette Studio

Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (Culture Technology R&D Group)

Ansan, Republic of Korea

Research Intern / Advisor: Dr. Sangwon Lee Dec.2016 - Mar.2017

Supported in two research projects: Ship video recording structure, autonomous stage for K-pop performances

- Task: Stewart platform analysis for ocean simulation and gimbal system design, stage assembly
- Required skills: MATLAB, SolidWorks

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. H. Hwang, C. Jang, G. Park, J. Cho, and I.J. Kim, "ElderSim: A Synthetic Data Generation Platform for Human Action Recognition in Eldercare Applications", IEEE Access, 2021
- 2. D. Kim, S. J. Jorgensen, H. Hwang, and L. Sentis, "Control Scheme and Uncertainty Considerations for Dynamic Balancing of Passive-Ankled Bipeds and Full Humanoids", IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids), 2018
- 3. D. Kim, J. Lee, O. Campbell, H. Hwang, and L. Sentis, "Computationally-Robust and Efficient Prioritized Whole-Body Controller with Contact Constraints", IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2018

PRESENTATIONS

Session Presentation

Institute of Electronics and Information Engineers, Jeju, Republic of Korea

"Improving Elderly Action Recognition Performance via Synthetic Data Training"

Aug.19, 2020

• Validated RGB-based action recognition method by training on additional synthetic data on various experimental settings

Poster Presentation

Clinically Applied Rehabilitation Engineering Research Symposium, Austin, TX

"Optimization in Prosthetic Socket Design"

Apr.13, 2018

• Introduced a method to improve socket designs based on stress distribution data; collaborated with Hanger Clinic

HONORS AND AWARDS

CICS Jumpstart Fellowship Sep.2021 - May.2022

STEAM Open Embedded Contest, Creative Technology and Excellence Award

• Designed a robotic knee brace with CATIA and applied PI controller with Arduino

Hanyang University Scholarship, Academic Achievement

Haksan Foundation Scholarship, Academic Achievement

Futuristic Impressive Useful Display Competition, Finals

• Presented an idea of a tablet braille device applying carbon nanotube for braille readers

Mar.2017 - Jun.2017

Jun.2017 - Aug.2017

Sep.2016 - Dec.2016 Aug.2016 - Sep.2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Science Foundation Workshop

Dell Medical School, UT, Austin, TX, United States

"Smart and Connected Health"

Mar.11 - 14, 2018

• Participated in development of atrial fibrillation data distinguishing algorithm using MATLAB

Engineer Battalion of the South Korea Army

The 17th Infantry Division of Korea, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Driver and repairer of the M9 Armored Combat Earthmover and bulldozer, squad leader

Feb.2014 - Dec.2015

- Excavated and cleared areas suspected of land mine contamination
- Participated in the 2014 Asian Games and Asian Para-Games as a national flag bearer

SKILLS

Programming

(Good) Python, PyTorch, (Familiar) C/C++, ROS, MATLAB, TensorFlow

Operating System

(Good) Linux

Computer-Aided Design Software

(Good) CATIA, SolidWorks (Certified SolidWorks Associate), (Familiar) Blender

Editing Tool

(Good) LaTeX, (Familiar) Adobe Premiere Pro, Inkscape

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Teaching Experience

Missionary Group Teacher

SaRang Community Church, Seoul, Republic of Korea

• Taking care of young adults with intellectual disabilities

Feb.2019 – May.2021

Knowledge factory Makerspace Instructor

Hanyang University, Ansan, Republic of Korea

• Taught 3D printing process to undergraduate students

Hanyang University, Ansan, Republic of Korea

Hanmille International Mentor
Assisted two international engineering students with coursework and living

Aug.2016 - Dec.2016

• Assisted two international engineering students with coursework and fiving

Capital Factory, Austin, Texas, United States

Startup Activities
"Crash Cook-Off" team initial member

Nov.2017- Jan.2018

Mar.2017 - May.2017

• Built a team at 3 Day Startup, pitched ideas to investors, and actually provided a team-building service

Robotics Engineering Soccer Club

Hanyang University, Ansan, Republic of Korea May.2013 - May.2017

Team Captain