Hotsuyuki Kawanishi

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SUMMARY

Software Engineer with 4 years of experience in Autonomous Robot (Perception, Motion Planning, Localization & Mapping) and Machine Learning (Computer Vision, Large Language Model). Set to graduate in Dec 2025, eligible for 3 years of OPT + STEM OPT.

EXPERIENCE

Waymo, Mountain View, California

May 2025 - Aug 2025

Software Engineer (intern), Self-Driving Car - Perception

• Improved the performance of the lidar semantic segmentation task, which is a main task of a perception model, measured by higher PR curves and higher Mean IoUs across most classes, by passing noise point cloud (in addition to non-noise point cloud) to the perception model and co-training the perception model with a noise-aware auxiliary task alongside the main tasks.

University of Tokyo AI Lab (Matsuo Lab), Tokyo, Japan

Jan 2024 - Aug 2024

Machine Learning Engineer (part-time), LLM

- Rapidly acquired necessary expertise in LLM within 1 month despite working full-time in a different field (Self-Driving Car),
 and built an LLM distributed training pipeline with Microsoft Megatron-DeepSpeed and Hugging Face Transformers, achieving successful training of an OpenAI GPT-based 10B generative model on 160 Nvidia H100 GPUs via Google Cloud GPU cluster.
- Led a lecture on pre-training in an online LLM course with 4,000+ participants, accomplishing the highest Net Promoter Score.

Woven by Toyota, Tokyo, Japan

May 2021 - Aug 2024

Software Engineer (full-time), Self-Driving Car - Motion Planning

- Decreased driver interventions in JP by 30% by debugging the optimization-based trajectory planning modules with teams in the US, e.g. triaging log data, identifying root causes on large codebases, articulating solutions, and managing car experiments.
- Streamlined and accelerated simulation scenario generation process for the motion planning team by 3x efficiency by creating automation scripts that leverage Applied Intuition API and by leading cross-functional collaboration with teams in the US.
- Enhanced safety validation for Level 4 driverless autonomous vehicles by designing and implementing a prediction evaluator with Agile methods and software development life cycle best practices, e.g. object-oriented design, code reviews, and testing.

Kanazawa University Advanced Mobility Research Institute, Kanazawa, Japan

Apr 2020 - Mar 2021

Research Engineer (full-time), Self-Driving Car - Perception

- Developed perception features by applying research theories to practical applications in a fast-paced environment, including a speed bump detector using lidar point cloud and probabilistic approaches (successfully delivered to a customer company) and a lane line visibility checker using lidar-camera sensor fusion and linear algebra (published in an international journal paper).
- Improved map data collection process for autonomous vehicles by 2x efficiency by creating a real-time map generation tool.
- Mentored 4 lab students, resulting in 1 paper publication at IEEE IV and 1 patent filing, by providing hands-on guidance.

EDUCATION

University of Miami. Coral Gables. Florida | M.S. in Software Engineering (GPA: 4.00)

Dec 2025

Relevant Courses: Machine Learning, Neural Networks, Algorithm Design and Analysis, Software Architecture, Software DevOps

Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Japan | M.Eng. in Robotics (GPA: 3.93)

Mar 2020

Relevant Courses: Intelligent Robotics, Dynamics and Control, Master's Thesis on Localization & Mapping for Self-Driving Car

Chiba University, Chiba, Japan | B.Eng. in Mechanical Engineering (GPA: 3.87)

Mar 2017

Relevant Courses: Linear Algebra, Calculus, Numerical Computation, Analytical Mechanics, Control Theory, Mechatronics

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Mar 2015

National Institute of Technology Numazu College, Numazu, Japan | A.Eng. in Computer Science (GPA: 3.81)

Relevant Courses: Data Structures and Algorithms, Programming, Operating Systems, Computer Graphics, Computer Simulation

SKILLS

Languages / Technologies: C, C++, C#, Python, Shell Script, JavaScript, TypeScript, PHP, SQL, PyTorch, TensorFlow, DeepSpeed, Transformers, W&B, Slurm, Jupyter Notebook, Unity, React, FastAPI, AWS, Azure, GCP, Docker, Jenkins CI, Bazel, Git, Linux, CLI

PROJECTS

LLM Distributed Training Pipeline | Python, Shell Script, DeepSpeed, Transformers, Distributed Systems

Apr 2024

• Scalable distributed training pipeline for LLMs on GPU clusters using DeepSpeed ZeRO, 3D Parallelism, and Transformers.

C++ Deep Learning Framework from Scratch | C++, Bazel, Object-Oriented Programming, Unit Testing

Aug 2022

PyTorch-like deep learning framework architected and implemented from scratch in C++, e.g. layers, optimizers, and autograd.

Object Detection Model in PyTorch C++ with TensorRT | C++, PyTorch, TensorRT, Conv Neural Net (CNN)

Jan 2021

SSD300 in PyTorch C++ (instead of Python) with TensorRT for faster performance and lower inference latency in production.

Robotics Algorithms in Jupyter Notebook | Python, Robotics, SLAM, Localization, Path Planning

Sep 2020

Python codes for robotics algorithms, e.g. Simultaneous Localization & Mapping (SLAM), localization, and path planning.