

Blacksburg, Virginia
(703) 953-6963
hunterellis@vt.edu

Hunter Ellis

Electrical & Computer Engineer

ellishw.tech
github.com/hunterwellis
linkedin.com/in/ellishw

Electrical/Computer Engineer with interests in control systems and signal processing.
↔ Currently working on my master's thesis in an accelerated program at Virginia Tech.

Skills

Software: C/C++, Python, MATLAB, GNU/Linux, Simulink, Git, ROS2, Gazebo, Make, CMake, Labview, Qt, PyTorch, OpenCV, LaTeX, Verilog, FreeRTOS, Autodesk Inventor, SolidWorks, Rhino

Hardware: PCB Design and Assembly, Breadboarding, Computer Architecture, Oscilloscope, Multimeter, 3D-Printing

Education

Master of Science in Computer Engineering

Virginia Tech – Focused on Control Theory – GPA: 3.8

Advisers: Dr.Thinh Doan (UT Austin) and Dr.Michael Hsiao (Virginia Tech)

May 2025
Blacksburg, Virginia

Bachelor of Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering (double major)

Virginia Tech – Control Systems and Machine Learning – GPA: 3.7

May 2024
Blacksburg, Virginia

Technical Experience

Control Theory (Reinforcement Learning) Research | M.S. Thesis

Virginia Tech · Graduate Researcher

- Undergraduate and graduate research developing neuro-symbolic algorithms with The C.O.O.L Autonomy Lab at The University of Texas at Austin.
- Developing hardware for a 6-axis robot arm and software for a ROS2 simulation environment used to test custom Reinforcement Learning algorithms.

Aug 2023 – Present
Blacksburg, Virginia

Continuous and Discrete Systems · Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Taught fundamental concepts in linear systems theory and digital signal processing, including Laplace Transforms, Z-Transforms, system stability, and FIR & IIR filter design.
- Assisted with hands-on projects to illustrate and integrate analog and digital filter design and application on breadboards and TI MSP432 development boards.

Aug 2024 – Dec 2024
Blacksburg, Virginia

Thrust Vector Control (TVC) | Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV)

Jacobs Space Exploration Group · TVC Intern

- Developed thrust vector control testing hardware and software as part of NASA's Active Inertial Load Simulator at the Marshall Space Flight Center.
- Characterized and created a model of an electro-mechanical actuator including internal viscous and (non-linear) coulomb friction components.
- Derived control systems for load simulating actuators – used to simulate external loads placed on the Mars Ascent Vehicle's thrust vector control actuators during flight.
- Designed and integrated a 3rd order IIR filter to remove high frequency noise from a load cell and linear variable differential transformer (LVDT).

May 2024 – Aug 2024
Huntsville, Alabama
(Merrit Island, Florida)

Control Systems Research | Microgrid Inverters

Grenoble Electrical Engineering Laboratory · Research Intern

- Researched inverter control systems – designed to be robust to islanding events and avoid future infrastructure problems on the French power grid.
- Simulated neutral point capacitive and balancing control methods using 4-leg inverters in Simulink. Tested PI control, PR control, Clarke and Park Transforms with HIL simulations.

June 2023 – Aug 2023
Grenoble, France

Naval Concept Design Research | Hospital Sea Trains

Naval Surface Warfare Center (Carderock Division) · Concept Research Intern

- Developed concept hospital sea-train designs at the Center for Innovation in Ship Design and estimated fuel consumption and electrical power loads of concept sea-trains.

June 2022 – Aug 2022
West Bethesda, Maryland

Projects

FOC Stepper Motor (github.com/hunterwellis)

- Backdrivable stepper motor driver using FOC and a magnetic encoder for feedback
- 4-layer PCB mounts to the back of the motor with CAN and power connections

Dec 2023 – Present

Computer Vision | OCR Capstone Project (capstone_brochure.pdf)

- IOS application capable of detecting coins of interest/value
- Trained OCR and ResNet-50 models on a dataset of real and augmented coin images

Aug 2023 – May 2024

Design Teams | Solar Car & Human Powered Submarine (solarcaratvt.org)

- Overall E/E architecture of the Solar Car
- Single board computer and LCD to display relevant data to the submarine pilot

Oct 2020 – Mar 2023