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.

#### **Education**

May 2025 Master of Science in Computer Engineering Virginia Tech - Focused on Control Theory - GPA: 3.7/4.0 Blacksburg, Virginia Advisers: Dr.Thinh Doan (UT Austin) and Dr.Michael Hsiao (Virginia Tech)

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

Virginia Tech – Control Systems and Machine Learning – GPA: 3.7/4.0

May 2024

Blacksburg, Virginia

Aug 2023 – Present

Blacksburg, Virginia

Aug 2024 – Present

May 2024 - Aug 2024

(Merrit Island, Florida)

Huntsville, Alabama

## **Technical Experience**

### Virginia Tech · Control Theory (Reinforcement Learning) Research

Graduate Researcher

 Undergraduate and graduate research developing neuro-symbolic reinforcement learning algorithms with The C.O.O.L. Autonomy Lab at UT Austin.

• Developing hardware for a 6-axis robot arm and software for a ROS2 + Gazebo simulation environment used to test custom reinforcement learning algorithms.

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.

Blacksburg, Virginia

## Jacobs Space Exploration Group · Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV)

Thrust Vector Control Intern

• Developed thrust vector control testing hardware and software for 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 a load simulating actuator, in Simulink – used to simulate external loads placed on the Mars Ascent Vehicle's thrust vector control actuators during flight.

 Designed and integrated a 3<sup>rd</sup> order IIR filter to remove high frequency noise from a load cell and linear variable differential transformer (LVDT).

## Grenoble Electrical Engineering Laboratory · Microgrid Inverters

Control Systems 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.

# Naval Surface Warfare Center (Carderock Division) · Hospital Sea Trains

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.

Jun 2022 - Aug 2022 West Bethesda, Maryland

Jun 2023 - Aug 2023

Grenoble, France

## Skills

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

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

#### **Projects**

#### Aug 2024 - Present 6-Axis Robotic Arm ✓

• 3D printed robot arm, built using stepper motors and pulleys.

• ROS2 Jazzy control and Gazebo Harmonic simulation.

#### Closed Loop Stepper Motor 🗹

• Backdrivable stepper motor driver using closed loop control and a magnetic encoder for feedback.

• 4-layer PCB mounts to the back of the motor with CAN and power connections.

## Design Teams | Solar Car & Human Powered Submarine 🗹

Overall E/E architecture of the Solar Car.

• Single board computer and LCD to display relevant data to the submarine pilot.

#### Optical Charcter Recognition Capstone 2

• IOS application capable of detecting coins of interest/value.

• Trained OCR and ResNet-50 models on a dataset of real and augmented coin images.

Dec 2023 - Present

Oct 2020 - Mar 2023

Aug 2023 - May 2024