

John Martin Jr.

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| EDUCATION | Stevens Institute of Technology 2015 – Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering |
| | Columbia University 2013 – 2015 Graduate coursework in Computer Science |
| | University of Maryland 2009 – 2012 Double B.S. in Physics and Aerospace Engineering |
| RESEARCH EXPERIENCE | Robust Field Autonomy Laboratory - Stevens Institute of Technology 2015 – <i>Graduate Research Assistant – Advisor: Brendan Englot</i> I develop models and algorithms to support safe and efficient learning for robotic systems. My current work lies at the intersection of optimization, control, probabilistic modeling, and optimal transport. Much of my previous work relates to Bayesian non-parametric learning. |
| | Alfred Gessow Rotorcraft Center - University of Maryland 2011 – 2012 <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i> Researched various techniques to control an RC-sized tilt-wing air vehicle. My studies focused on dynamic modeling, system identification, feedback control, and software design for embedded processors. |
| | Autonomous Vehicle Laboratory - University of Maryland 2010 – 2011 <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i> Investigated navigation strategies for novel robotic platforms, including an insect-inspired crawling robot. I implemented <i>optical-flow algorithms</i> for quad-rotor velocimetry, integrated sensors, and developed a method for maneuvering toward radiation sources. |
| | Robotics@Maryland - University of Maryland 2009 – 2011 <i>Project Leader</i> Managed anywhere from 20 to 30 undergraduates designing and fabricating an autonomous underwater robot from scratch. With the help of other leaders, I coordinated project demonstrations, design reviews, and university showcases. Additionally, I provided technical advice to junior engineers throughout the design and fabrication process. |
| | Piasecki Aircraft Corporation 2017 – <i>Part-time Analytical Consultant</i> I provide technical direction for new research initiatives relating to autonomous systems that require artificial intelligence and machine learning software. I lead the proposal writing efforts for various SBIR/STTR and DARPA programs, where my contributions have resulted in full Phase II SBIR funding. Among my technical contributions, I have developed an adaptive flight controller, a deep model for object detection, 6-DOF aircraft simulator, and a communication interface for an Iridium data link. |
| PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | Sikorsky Aircraft 2012 – 2015 <i>Robotics and Flight Controls Engineer</i> For three years, I worked with a small group of engineers and researchers that took two experimental helicopters to first flight. For the x-76, I was a lead contributor on the motion planning effort, which involved designing, writing, and flight testing code. For the s-97, I contributed designs for flight-critical subsystems, such as the main rotor servos, and triply-redundant flight control voting logic. Below are some further details. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed, integrated, and flight tested motion planning algorithms on a full-scale S-76 helicopter • Developed a C-based <i>simplex linear program solver</i> to optimize speeds along a curve • Developed and maintained visualization software with OPEN-SCENE-GRAPH and PYTHON • Developed, integrated, and tested flight control algorithms on the X-76 OPV and S-97 helicopters • Developed a simulation interface to emulate the entire S-97 avionics system • Generated C-code from MATLAB and integrated the output into a real-time operating system • Participated in peer reviews to qualify flight-critical software • Reviewed and generated avionic-systems wiring schematics | |
| TEACHING EXPERIENCE | Stevens Institute of Technology, Advanced Robotics (ME-654) Spring 2017 <i>Guest Lecture: Reinforcement Learning Basics</i> I co-taught a lecture with other instructors, introducing students to the basics of RL. | |
| | Stevens Institute of Technology, Senior Design (ME-423) Fall 2014 <i>Guest Lecture: Sikorsky R&D: Motion Planning for Autonomous Rotorcraft</i> I gave an industry guest lecture on motion planning algorithms for autonomous helicopters. | |
| REFEREED PUBLICATIONS | J. Martin, J. Wang, B. Englot , “Sparse Gaussian Process Temporal Difference Learning for Marine Robot Navigation” in <i>2nd Annual Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)</i> , 2018. | |
| | J. Martin, B. Englot , “Extending Model-based Policy Gradients for Robots in Heteroscedastic Environments”, in <i>1st Annual Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)</i> , 2017. | |
| OTHER PUBLICATIONS | J. Martin, B. Englot , “Recursive Sparse Pseudo-input Gaussian Process SARSA”, <i>ArXiv</i> , 2018. | |
| POSTERS | J. Martin, Z. Xing, Z. Yao, I. Florescu, B. Englot , “Distributed Gaussian Process Temporal Differences for Actor-critic Learning” in <i>New York Academy of Sciences, Machine Learning Symposium</i> , 2018 | |
| AWARDS | Department of Homeland Security Doctoral Fellow Sep. 2015 Provided four years of academic and research funding. | |
| | AHS Howard Hughes Award Feb. 2015 Accepted on behalf of the Sikorsky Autonomous Research Aircraft team, for achieving completely autonomous flight with an S-76 helicopter, including takeoff, path planning, navigation to an objective, and landing zone selection. | |
| COMPUTER SKILLS | Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Currently Proficient:</i> PYTHON, C, C++, R, CMAKE, MAKE, MATLAB • <i>Was once Proficient:</i> OCAML, YACC, SIMULINK, PDDL, BASH, SED • <i>Competent:</i> FORTRAN, AWK, LISP, LABVIEW, VBSCRIPT, HTML, XML, CSS, PHP | |
| | Libraries/Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TENSORFLOW, PTHREAD, OPENMP, GTEST, EIGEN, BOOST, OPENSCENEGAPH, REAL-TIME WORKSHOP, THREADSANITIZE, VALGRIND | |