Karnik Ram

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Interests SLAM, 3D Computer Vision, Robot Perception

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, India (IIIT-H) EDUCATION 2018 - 2021

M.S. by Research in Computer Science & Engineering

Thesis: Robust Plane-based Visual-Inertial Odometry for Dynamic Environments

CGPA: 9.50/10

Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering, Chennai, India (SSN-CE) 2013 - 2017

B.Eng. in Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE) from Anna University, Chennai

Publications

RP-VIO: Robust Plane-based Visual-Inertial Odometry for Dynamic Environments %

Karnik Ram, Chaitanya Kharyal, Sudarshan S. Harithas, K. Madhava Krishna

In proceedings of IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, 2021

INFER: Intermediate Representations for Future Prediction %

Shashank Srikanth, Junaid Ahmed Ansari, Karnik Ram, Sarthak Sharma, J. Krishna Murthy, K.

Madhava Krishna

In proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, 2019

CalibNet: Geometrically-Supervised LiDAR - Camera Extrinsic Calibration using 3D Spatial Transformer Networks &

Ganesh Iyer, Karnik Ram, J. Krishna Murthy, K. Madhava Krishna

In proceedings of the IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, 2018

Work EXPERIENCE Research Associate, Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University Aug 2021 - Present

Working on deep inertial-only navigation algorithms for indoor smartphone localization that can gen-

eralize across devices and users, aimed towards blind person navigation.

Advisor: Prof. Kris Kitani

Graduate Research Assistant, Robotics Research Center, IIIT Hyderabad 2019 - Present Researching algorithms for improving the robustness of visual SLAM algorithms in dynamic environments. In particular, developed and evaluated a visual-inertial odometry algorithm for dynamic environments using only planar features and their induced planar homographies. Also worked on a deep auto-regressive model for the trajectory prediction of vehicles in a dynamic scene.

Advisor: Prof. K. Madhava Krishna. Outcome: 2 research papers and open-source code.

Google Summer of Code Student Developer, Mobile Robot Programming Toolkit Summer 2018 Developed a GUI app for the extrinsic calibration of range sensors. The app includes implementations of algorithms for estimating the extrinsics between RGB-D / LiDAR sensors based on plane-matching and line-matching, within a user-friendly GUI.

Outcome: Open-source code.

Research Intern, Robotics Research Center, IIIT Hyderabad

May 2017 - April 2018

Researched algorithms for markerless LiDAR-camera extrinsic calibration for an autonomous car. In particular, we developed and evaluated an approach to estimate the extrinsics using direct photometric error minimization, as well as a geometrically-supervised deep network with spatial transformer networks for the same task.

Advisor: Prof. K. Madhava Krishna, J. Krishna Murthy. Outcome: 1 research paper.

Computer Vision Intern, Navstik Autonomous Systems, Pune, India Summer 2016 Worked on person detection algorithms for a drone, and in particular, evaluated the performance of a

HOG feature-based detector on an Nvidia Jetson embedded board.

Relevant Coursework Graduate: Mobile Robotics, Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Topics in Applied Optimization. Undergraduate: Robotics & Automation, Digital Image Processing, OOP & Data Structures, Computer Architecture, Probability & Random Processes, Embedded & Real Time Systems

Additional Courses

ETH Robotics Summer School, ETH Zürich %

July 2019

2-week all-expenses-paid summer school, included lectures and hands-on exercises on autonomous navigation, and talks by renowned researchers. Also worked in a team of six on a semi-autonomous ground robot for search-and-rescue applications. Approx. 50 selected participants from 15 countries.

Teaching

Head Teaching Assistant, Mobile Robotics, IIIT-H %

Fall 2019

Designed 5 new assignments and 2 exams on topics including single-view geometry, epipolar geometry, stereo reconstruction, bundle adjustment, EKF localization. Responsibilities also included conducting tutorial classes, office hours, and grading. Approx. 80 students.

Teaching Assistant, 3D Computer Vision Workshop, IIIT-H

Feb 2020

Conducted a tutorial session on multiple-view geometry concepts including epipolar geometry and bundle adjustment with hands-on exercises for a professional audience from industry. Approx. 80 participants.

Event Coordinator, SSN-ECE Tech Club, SSN-CE

Spring, 2017

Taught introductory concepts in robotics and computer vision to approx. 20 sophomores and juniors over a semester. Also organized an Internet-of-Things themed inter-college hackathon for approx. 40 participants.

Awards & Grants

• ETH Robotics Summer School Travel Grant, ETH Zürich

2019

• Best Senior Year Project, ECE Department, SSN-CE

2017

• First place, inter-college image processing based robotics event, Anna University

2016

• Top 10 out of 144 teams in the "Apps for Chennai Challenge"

2015

• SSN Trust Funding for Student Projects, SSN-CE

 $2014,\ 2015$

SERVICES

• Lab Systems Administrator for the compute cluster at RRC, IIIT Hyderabad.

2020-21 2021

- Served as a reviewer for IEEE/RSJ IROS in the SLAM track.
- Conceived, developed, and maintained **The SSN App**, the official Android app of SSN-CE. 2014-17

TECHNICAL SKILLS Tools & Libraries: OpenCV, ROS, Ceres Solver, PyTorch, Eigen, Git, AirSim | Familiar: Qt, Android Programming Languages: C++, Python | Familiar: Java

References

Prof. K. Madhava Krishna, Lab Head at RRC, IIIT Hyderabad

Relation: Master's thesis advisor and course instructor.

Email: mkrishna@iiit.ac.in

Prof. Kris Kitani, Associate Research Professor at RI, CMU

Relation: Research project advisor.

Email: kkitani@cmu.edu

Krishna Murthy Jatavallabhula, PhD Candidate at Mila, Montréal

Relation: Research collaborator and mentor.

Email: krrish94@gmail.com

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