KUSH DESAI

kushkdesai@gmail.com ✤ kushkdesai.com

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin **May 2022**
B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering (Data Science and Information Processing) GPA: 3.7/4.0

Undergraduate courses: Operating Systems, Algorithms, Probability, Linear Algebra, Software Implementation and Design (Honors), Data Science Principles, Digital Image Processing, Digital Signal Processing
Graduate courses: Cybersecurity Law and Policy, Neural Computation, Digital Video Processing (Audited)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Meta – Production Engineer **July 2022 - Present**
- ➔ Working to improve our security posture across a global fleet of hosts as part of the PE Metaverse team

Diligent Robotics– Software Engineering Intern **Feb 2020 - Apr 2021**
- ➔ Using Python and ROS to build new features for Moxi, a socially-aware humanoid robot

Facebook – Production Engineering Intern **Summer 2021**
- ➔ Using Rust and Buck to build an end-to-end load testing system for FB Live that could handle large scale traffic at high QPS
- ➔ Used Scuba, ODS and Unidash to build a comprehensive monitoring system with detailed real-time visualization

bp – Software Engineering Intern **Summer 2020**
- ➔ Designed an optimal routing algorithm for shipping to minimize global carbon emissions by 30%
- ➔ Built a web interface hosted on Azure using Python, Flask and SQL while working in an Agile environment

Socially Intelligent Machines Lab – Undergraduate Research Assistant **Sep 2018 - Dec 2021**
- ➔ Researching audio-augmented Imitation Learning and implemented object recognition algorithms under Dr. Andrea Thomaz
- ➔ Conducted Learning from Demonstration robotics experiments using Python, Tensorflow, ROS, AWS, Mechanical Turk and Javascript

Publications

- ➔ Akanksha Saran, **Kush Desai**, Mai Lee Chang, Rudolf Lioutikov, Andrea Thomaz, Scott Niekum. **Understanding Acoustic Patterns of Human Teachers Demonstrating Manipulation Tasks to Robots.** IROS 2022

- ➔ Akanksha Saran, **Kush Desai**, Andrea Thomaz, Scott Niekum. **A Case for Leveraging Human Prosody during Robot Learning.** Short Version: Workshop on Sound in Human-Robot Interaction, HRI 2021

Volunteer Work

- ➔ Organizing Talking Robotics, a bimonthly speaker series highlighting experts in the field of robotics (talking-robotics.github.io)
- ➔ Company representative at SRECon EMEA 2022 (Amsterdam)
- ➔ Conference Volunteer at AAAI 2021 (Remote)
- ➔ Conference Volunteer at HRI 2021 (Remote)
- ➔ Logistics Director for Freetail Hackers (2019-2020)