

María Santos

PHD CANDIDATE · SWARM ROBOTICS

Georgia Institute of Technology · 85 5th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308

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Education

Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, GA, USA

PHD IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Aug. 2016 - Jul. 2020 (Expected)

- Thesis: *Coverage Control: From Heterogeneous Robot Teams to Expressive Swarms*
- Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Aug. 2014 - May 2016

- Thesis: *Musical Abstractions for Multi-Robot Coordination*
- Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0

Universidade de Vigo

Vigo, Spain

MASTER IN ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH

Oct. 2013 - Jul. 2014

- Thesis: *Obstacle Avoidance System in 3D Based on CVM*
- Cumulative GPA: 9.18/10.00

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, SPECIALIZATION IN AUTOMATIC CONTROL AND ELECTRONICS

Sep. 2008 - Sept. 2013

- Thesis: *Adaptation of RIDE Environment Tools to the ROS Architecture*
- 5 year engineering degree equivalent to BSc and MSc
- Cumulative GPA: 8.67/10.00

Conservatorio de Música Manuel Quiroga

Pontevedra, Spain

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE IN MUSIC, SPECIALIZATION IN VIOLIN

Sep. 2005 - Jun. 2012

- Cumulative GPA: 8.60/10.00

Research Interests

Heterogeneous Swarms Control of multi-robot teams with diverse capabilities in multi-objective applications

Human-Swarm Interaction for Robotic Art Design of expressive motions for deployment of swarms in artistic exhibitions
High-level strategies to enable humans to control swarms with applications to robotic painting

Professional Appointments

Georgia Institute of Technology School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Atlanta, GA, USA

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Aug. 2016 - present

MASTER'S STUDENT

Jan. 2015 - May 2016

- GRITS Lab
- Advisor: Dr. Magnus Egerstedt
- Research areas: control theory, swarm robotics, human-swarm interaction, robots and arts

Universidade de Vigo Department of Automatic Control and Systems Engineering

Vigo, Spain

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Oct. 2013 - Jul. 2014

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Oct. 2012 - Jul. 2013

- Group of Robotics and Intelligent Systems
- Advisor: Dr. Joaquín López Fernández
- Research areas: robotic control architecture, executive layer, obstacle avoidance

Teaching Experience

Teaching Staff

Coursera

CONTROL OF MOBILE ROBOTS

February 2019 - present

- MOOC on the application of modern control theory to control mobile robots
- Responsibilities: updating course materials, moderating discussion forums

Graduate Teaching Assistant & Co-Instructor

Georgia Institute of Technology

OPTIMAL CONTROL AND OPTIMIZATION, ECE 6553

Spring 2017

- Graduate course on optimal control of dynamic systems, numerical optimization techniques and their applications in solving optimal-trajectory problems
- Responsibilities: lecturing, holding office hours, co-designing homework, grading (97 on-campus students and 25 off-campus)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Georgia Institute of Technology

ADVANCED PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES, ECE 4122/6122

Fall 2015

- Undergraduate/graduate course on advanced topics in programming methods, data management, distributed computing, and advanced algorithms used in typical engineering applications (C & C++)
- Responsibilities: holding office hours, grading (200 on-campus students)

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [J1] **M. Santos** and M. Egerstedt. "From Motions to Emotions: Can the Fundamental Emotions be Expressed in a Robot Swarm?" *International Journal of Social Robotics*, conditionally accepted. arXiv preprint available at:1903.12118.
- [J2] **M. Santos**, Y. Diaz-Mercado and M. Egerstedt, "Coverage Control for Multirobot Teams With Heterogeneous Sensing Capabilities." *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 919-925, April 2018.
- [J3] J. López, D. Pérez, **M. Santos** and M. Cacho. "GuideBot. A Tour Guide System Based on Mobile Robots." *International Journal of Advanced Robotic Systems*, 10:381, November 2013.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [C1] A. Benevento, **M. Santos**, G. Notarstefano, K. Paynabar, M. Bloch, and M. Egerstedt. "Multi-Robot Coordination for Estimation and Coverage of Unknown Spatial Fields". *2020 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, accepted.
- [C2] R. Funada, **M. Santos**, T. Gencho, J. Yamauchi, M. Fujita, and M. Egerstedt. "Visual Coverage Maintenance for Quadcopters Using Nonsmooth Barrier Functions". *2020 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, accepted.
- [C3] G. Notomista, S. Mayya, M. Selvaggio, **M. Santos**, and C. Secchi. "A set-theoretic approach to multi-task execution and prioritization". *2020 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, accepted.
- [C4] **M. Santos**, S. Mayya, G. Notomista, and M. Egerstedt. "Decentralized Minimum Energy Coverage Control for Time-Varying Density Functions". *2019 IEEE International Symposium on Multi-robot and Multi-agent Systems (MRS)*, New Brunswick, NJ, August 2019. **Outstanding paper finalist.**
- [C5] G. Notomista, **M. Santos**, S. Hutchinson, and M. Egerstedt. "Sensor Coverage Control Using Robots Constrained to a Curve". *2019 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, Montreal, May 2019, pp. 3010-3016.
- [C6] R. Funada, **M. Santos**, J. Yamauchi, T. Hatanaka, M. Fujita, and M. Egerstedt. "Visual Coverage Control for Teams of Quadcopters via Control Barrier Functions". *2019 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, Montreal, May 2019, pp. 3010-3016.
- [C7] **M. Santos** and M. Egerstedt. "Coverage Control for Multi-Robot Teams with Heterogeneous Sensing Capabilities Using Limited Communications". in *2018 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, Madrid, October 2018, pp. 5313-5319.

WORKSHOPS

- [W1] **M. Santos** and M. Egerstedt. "From Motions to Emotions: Exploring the Emotional Expressiveness of Robot Swarms". *ICRA-X: Robotic Art Program*, Montréal, May 2019.

THESIS

- [T1] **M. T. Santos Fernández**. "Musical Abstractions for Multi-Robot Coordination". Master's Thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2016.
- [T2] **M. T. Santos Fernández**. "Sistema de Evitación de Obstáculos en 3D Basado en CVM (Obstacle Avoidance System in 3D Based on CVM)". Master's Thesis, Universidade de Vigo, 2014.
- [T3] **M. T. Santos Fernández**. "Adaptación de Herramientas del Entorno RIDE para su Utilización en la Arquitectura ROS (Adaptation of RIDE Environment Tools to the ROS Architecture)". Proyecto Final de Carrera (Final Degree Project), Universidade de Vigo, 2013.

Presentations

INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS

Coverage Control: From Heterogeneous Robot Teams to Expressive Swarms

KUMAR LAB, GRASP LAB

Multi-Robot Systems Group Talk

Philadelphia, PA, USA

September 2019

Coverage Control for Multi-Robot Teams with Heterogeneous Sensing Capabilities Using Limited Communications

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Robotics Student Seminar Series

Atlanta, GA, USA

September 2018

Coverage Control for Multi-Robot Teams with Heterogeneous Sensing Capabilities

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Decision and Control Laboratory Student Symposium

Atlanta, GA, USA

March 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Symposium on Multi-robot and Multi-agent Systems (MRS 2019)

TALK

"Decentralized Minimum Energy Coverage Control for Time-Varying Density Functions"

New Brunswick, NJ, USA

August 2019

ICRA-X: Robots and Art Program - Expressive Motions (ICRA 2019)

SPOTLIGHT TALK AND POSTER PRESENTATION

"From Motions to Emotions: Exploring the Emotional Expressiveness of Robot Swarms"

Montréal, Canada

May 2019

International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2018)

SPOTLIGHT TALK AND INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

"Coverage Control for Multi-Robot Teams with Heterogeneous Sensing Capabilities Using Limited Communications"

Madrid, Spain

October 2018

International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2018)

POSTER PRESENTATION

"Coverage Control for Multi-Robot Teams with Heterogeneous Sensing Capabilities"

Brisbane, Australia

May 2018

Scholarships & Awards

Aug 2017 - **La Caixa Scholarship for Graduate Studies in North-America**

Aug 2019 Awarded by Obra Social La Caixa

Oct 2015 **Premio Fin de Carrera, Xunta de Galicia**

Awarded to the most outstanding Industrial Engineer graduating in the academic year 2013-14 in Galicia, Spain

Jan 2015 **Premio Fin de Carrera, Universidade de Vigo**

Awarded to the most outstanding Industrial Engineer graduating in 2013-14 at the University of Vigo

Aug 2014 - **Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies**

May 2016 Awarded by the Fulbright Commission in Spain

Professional Service

Reviewer

IEEE ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION SOCIETY (RAS)

Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L), International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

IEEE CONTROL SYSTEMS SOCIETY (CSS)

Control Systems Letters (L-CSS), Transactions on Control of Network Systems (TCNS), Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC)

Media Coverage

[M1] **From motion to emotion: The potential of robot swarms in artistic performances**, *TechXplore*, April 2019.

[M2] **Santos Chosen for La Caixa Fellowship**, *Georgia Tech News Center*, June 2017.

Una caldense ampliará estudios en EE.UU. tras lograr una beca “La Caixa” (A woman from Caldas de Reis will further her studies in the US after been awarded a “La Caixa” Fellowship), *La Voz de Galicia*, May 2017.

La violinista que investiga sobre robótica (The violinist that does research in robotics), *La Voz de Galicia*, May 2017.

[M3] **Women of Robotics**, *Georgia Tech News Center*, April 2017.

[M4] **Una mente prodigiosa para idear robots en Georgia** (A prodigious mind to conceive robots in Georgia), *La Voz de Galicia*, April 2014.

Outreach

IES Meaño – International Day of Women and Girls in Science Event

Meaño, Spain

SPEAKER

Feb 2020

Promotion of STEAM disciplines to secondary school students from the perspective of a female researcher.

Atlanta Girls’ School – MAKE Her Day

Atlanta, GA, USA

PANELIST

Apr 2019

Promotion of STEM disciplines to middle school girls from female professionals.

International Mentoring Foundation for the Advancement of Higher Education (IMFAHE)

Spain

MENTOR

Oct 2016 - Jul 2018

Career mentoring for Spanish master’s and PhD students