Milad Farjad

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SUMMARY

• PhD candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering specializing in multi-agent reinforcement learning, robotics, and embodied AI.
• Four years of experience in developing and optimizing algorithms for motion planning, task planning, perception, and control in autonomous vehicles.
• Highly skilled in Python and PyTorch, with hands-on experience in reinforcement learning, robotics, and real-time control systems.
• Published researcher in control theory and robotics, passionate about advancing embodied AI, autonomous driving, and robotic systems.

EXPERIENCE

Robotics and AI PhD Researcher
May 2021 - Present

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

• Developed a transformer-based multi-agent deep reinforcement learning framework for distributed cooperative mission planning of a heterogeneous team of mobile robots, enabling asynchronous and scalable cooperation among robotic teams.

• Worked on enabling mapless exploration and navigation for cooperative multi-robot systems by grounding pretrained large language models using multi-agent deep reinforcement learning.

• Developed a framework for mapless target-driven navigation of heterogeneous multi-robot systems by integrating continuous-time memory into a transformer-based policy network.

Skills: Python, PyTorch, CUDA, ROS, Linux, Git, Docker, NVIDIA Isaac Sim, Neural Networks, Transformer Models, Deep Reinforcement Learning, Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning, Large Language Models, Computer Vision, Motion Planning, Robotic Perception, System Design

Teaching Assistant and Mentorship
Sep 2021 - Present

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

Autonomous Electrified Vehicle System Engineering:

• Co-developed the course curriculum, integrating interdisciplinary knowledge from electric machines, drive systems, control systems, programming, signal processing, and optimization towards developing a self-driving vehicle.

• Led lab sessions focusing on the development of sensing, planning, control and SLAM modules for a vehicle platform powered by NVIDIA Jetson Nano, providing practical instructions in Linux OS, ROS, C++, Python, and hardware integration (LIDAR, RGB-D Camera, IMU, wheel encoders, electric motors).

Control Systems Design:

• Instructed and facilitated lab sessions for system identification and controller implementation using the Quanser QUBE™-Servo 2 platform, emphasizing control theory applications with MATLAB and Simulink.

• Addressed students' queries and supported them through both the theoretical concepts and practical challenges encountered in the course projects.

Undergraduate Research Programs:

• Collaborated with four undergraduate students on diverse research projects, providing mentorship, facilitation and technical guidance.

  • Integration of LIDAR and RGB-D cameras for effective obstacle detection in dynamic environments.

  • Combining multi-robot navigation and collaborative-SLAM with MARL in 3D simulation environments.

Skills: ROS, ROS 2, Python, C++, Gazebo, MATLAB & Simulink, Isaac Sim, SLAM, C-SLAM, Sensor Integration, Control Theory, Electrical Motors, Autonomous Vehicles

Distributed Control Researcher
Sep 2018 – Apr 2020

Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

• Developed a non-iterative method for designing model-free LQR controllers for distributed systems based on convex optimization, improving the convergence time by an order of magnitude over AI-driven iterative methods.

Skills: MATLAB, LaTeX, Convex Optimization, Optimal Control, Reinforcement Learning

EDUCATION

PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering, GPA: 3.97/4.0   May 2021 - Present
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON
- *Awarded* Department Chair's Commendation for Excellent 3-Minute-Thesis Presentation, Jan 2024
- *Relevant Courses*: Machine Learning, Nonlinear Control

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, Control Major, GPA: 4.0/4.0   Aug 2018 – Apr 2020
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
- *Relevant Courses*: Adaptive Control, Introduction to Machine Learning, Multivariable Control Systems, Robust Control

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, GPA: 3.47/4.0   Aug 2013 – Dec 2017
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
- *Finalist* in Sharif's Electrical Engineering Department's Distinguished BSc Thesis Awards, Jan 2018
- *Relevant Courses*: Linear Algebra, Introduction to Robot Control, Nonlinear Systems

PUBLICATIONS

- Farjadnasab, M., & Babazadeh, M. (2022). Model-free LQR design by Q-function learning. Automatica, 137, 110060.

- Farjadnasab, M., & Sirouspour, S. (2025). Cooperative and Asynchronous Transformer-based Mission Planning for Heterogeneous Teams of Mobile Robots. Robotics and Autonomous Systems, 194, 105131.

LANGUAGES

- **English**, Full Professional Proficiency

- **Persian**, Native Proficiency

- **French**, Elementary Proficiency

INTERESTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Translation** - Published translations of books and other media from English to Persian for 10 years.

- **Teaching** - Taught English as a second language to school children.

- **Music** - Plays bass guitar in a rock band.