

# Nino Cauli

Postdoctoral researcher



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## Skills

General skills:

Machine learning

Computer Vision

Control

Agile software development methods

Technical skills:

Programming languages (C, C++, Matlab, Python)

Deep learning frameworks (PyTorch, Tensorflow)

Robotics middlewares (ROS, YARP)

Robotics Simulators (Gazebo and iCub Simulator)

Computer Vision libraries (OpenCV)

Game engines (Unreal Engine 4)

Humanoid robots: (iCub, Sabian, Vizzy)

The skill scale is from 0 (Fundamental Awareness) to 6 (Expert).

#### Academic positions

Dec 2018- Postdoctoral researcher Ryerson Multimedia Research Laboratory, Toronto He is creating novel vision-based 3D object recognition and pose estimation algorithms utilizing recent developments in deep learning.

2016-2018 Postdoctoral researcher VisLab, ISR, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon He developed deep neural network systems to control robots based on camera images.

2014-2015 Postdoctoral researcher BioRobotics Institute, SSSA, Pisa

He was involved in the subproject "SP10 - Neurorobotics platform" of the Human Brain Project (HBP), contributing to develop the closed loop engine of a neurorobotic simulator.

VisLab. ISR. IST. Lisbon

Bringing on research studies on sensory prediction and anticipation

on humanoid robots

2013 Visiting researcher VisLab, ISR, ISR, IST, Lisbon

He developed an expected perception-based control for reaching a

moving target

#### **Education**

2010-2014 Ph.D. Degree in Biorobotics cum laude BioRobotics Institute, SSSA, Pisa *Title of the graduation thesis:* "Modelling and implementation of sensory-motor anticipation: Internal Models and Expected Perception for humanoid robot".

2007-2010 M.Sc. in Computer Science (110/110) University of Pisa, Italy *Title of the graduation thesis:* "Study and implementation of a neural networks based system to calculate the Expected Perception of the

optical flow".

2003-2007 B.Sc. in Computer Science University of Cagliari, Italy

Title of the graduation thesis: "Gestures controlled virtual navigation".

Visiting Student Visual Computing Lab, CRS4, Pula, Italy

He developed a 3D navigation control system based on hand gestures.

### Projects involvement

2016 Augmented Human Assistance (AHA) CMU-Portugal

(CMUP-ERI/HCI/0046/2013)

Contribution to the implementation of a full body gesture recognition

system based on Microsoft Kinect2 sensor.

2014-2015 Human Brain Project (HBP) H2020 FET Flagship Project

Contribution to the implementation of the closed loop engine of a neurorobotic simulator in the subproject "SP10 - Neurorobotics plat-

form".

2009-2013 RoboSoM "A robotic Sense of Movement" European Commission

(ICT-2009.2.1/248366)

Contribution to the implementation of a sensory based predictive

control system.

### Awards

2018 Best paper award

at IEEE International Conference on Autonomous Robot Systems and Competitions (ICARSC) 2018 with the paper: "iCub, clean the table!" A robot learning from demonstration approach using Deep Neural Networks.

### Grants ——

since 2018 Postdoctoral research grant Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

2016-2018 Postdoctoral research grant IST-ID, Lisbon, Portugal

2014-2015 Postdoctoral research grant BioRoboticsInstitute,SSSA,Pisa

2010-2013 Ph.D. scholarship Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy

# Languages -

Italian (native)

English (fluent)

Portuguese (fluent)

## Personal interests

Flight:

2018 EASA PPL licence

+/- 70 flight hours on a Cessna 150/152

2013 Ultralight aircraft Italian licence+/- 40 flight hours on a Tecnamp92

Sports:

since 2013 Capoeira (Graduado)

1990-2000 Artistic skating

Windsurf

Musical instruments:

Mandolin and guitar

#### **Publications**

Journal papers

- [1] E. Falotico, L. Vannucci, A. Ambrosano, U. Albanese, S. Ulbrich, J. C. Vasquez Tieck, G. Hinkel, J. Kaiser, I. Peric, O. Denninger, N. Cauli, *et al.*, "Connecting artificial brains to robots in a comprehensive simulation framework: The neurorobotics platform," *Frontiers in neurorobotics*, vol. 11, p. 2, 2017.
- [2] G. Hinkel, H. Groenda, S. Krach, L. Vannucci, O. Denninger, N. Cauli, S. Ulbrich, A. Roennau, E. Falotico, M.-O. Gewaltig, *et al.*, "A framework for coupled simulations of robots and spiking neuronal networks," *Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems*, vol. 85, no. 1, pp. 71–91, 2017.
- [3] E. Falotico, N. Cauli, P. Kryczka, K. Hashimoto, A. Berthoz, A. Takanishi, P. Dario, and C. Laschi, "Head stabilization in a humanoid robot: models and implementations," *Autonomous Robots*, vol. 41, no. 2, pp. 349–365, 2017.
- [4] N. Cauli, E. Falotico, A. Bernardino, J. Santos-Victor, and C. Laschi, "Correcting for changes: expected perception-based control for reaching a moving target," *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 63–70, 2016.

Conference papers

- [5] N. Cauli, P. Vicente, J. Kim, B. Damas, A. Bernardino, F. Cavallo, and J. Santos-Victor, "Autonomous table-cleaning from kinesthetic demonstrations using Deep Learning," in *Joint IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning (ICDL) and Epigenetic Robotics (EpiRob)*, IEEE, 2018.
- [6] J. Kim, N. Cauli, P. Vicente, B. Damas, F. Cavallo, and J. Santos-Victor, ""iCub, clean the table!" A robot learning from demonstration approach using deep neural networks," in *Autonomous Robot Systems and Competitions (ICARSC)*, 2018 IEEE International Conference on, pp. 3–9, IEEE, 2018.
- [7] L. Vannucci, A. Ambrosano, N. Cauli, U. Albanese, E. Falotico, S. Ulbrich, L. Pfotzer, G. Hinkel, O. Denninger, D. Peppicelli, et al., "A visual tracking model implemented on the iCub robot as a use case for a novel neurorobotic toolkit integrating brain and physics simulation.," in *Humanoids*, pp. 1179–1184, 2015.
- [8] G. Hinkel, H. Groenda, L. Vannucci, O. Denninger, N. Cauli, and S. Ulbrich, "A Domain-Specific Language (DSL) for Integrating Neuronal Networks in Robot Control. In 2015 Joint MORSE," in VAO Workshop on Model-Driven Robot Software Engineering and View-based Software-Engineering, 2015.
- [9] L. Vannucci, N. Cauli, E. Falotico, A. Bernardino, and C. Laschi, "Adaptive visual pursuit involving eye-head coordination and prediction of the target motion," in *Proceedings of the 14th IEEE-RAS International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids)*, pp. 541–546, 2014.
- [10] N. Cauli, E. Falotico, A. Bernardino, J. Santos-Victor, and C. Laschi, "A robotic implementation of a reaching model based an a bio-inspired sensory anticipation system: the Expected Perception," in *IV Congresso Gruppo Nazionale Bioingegneria (GNB)*, 2014.
- [11] E. Falotico, N. Cauli, K. Hashimoto, P. Kryczka, A. Takanishi, P. Dario, A. Berthoz, and C. Laschi, "Head stabilization based on a feedback error learning in a humanoid robot," in *RO-MAN*, *2012 IEEE*, pp. 449–454, IEEE, 2012.
- [12] N. Moutinho, N. Cauli, E. Falotico, R. Ferreira, J. Gaspar, A. Bernardino, J. Santos-Victor, P. Dario, and C. Laschi, "An expected perception architecture using visual 3d reconstruction for a humanoid robot," in *Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2011 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on, pp. 4826–4831, IEEE, 2011.

Under review papers

[13] J. Kim, N. Cauli, P. Vicente, B. Damas, A. Bernardino, J. Santos-Victor, and F. Cavallo, "Cleaning tasks knowledge transfer between heterogeneous robots: a deep learning approach," *Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems*, 2018.

# Teaching Activities

2019	Laboratory teaching assistant in the course of "Basics of Multimedia System Electrical and Computer Engineering.	Ryerson University, Toronto s" at the Department of
2018	Co-supervisor M.Sc. thesis on autonomous UAV navigation using vision a learning.	VisLab, ISR, IST, Lisbon and deep reinforcement
2017-2018	Co-supervisor M.Sc. thesis on UAV autonomous landing on a mobile base	VisLab, ISR, IST, Lisbon e using vision.
2017-2018	Help in supervising Ph.D. thesis on learning from demonstration how to clean ral networks.	VisLab, ISR, IST, Lisbon a table using deep neu-
2013	Laboratory assistant in the M.Sc. course of "Robotic Perception" at Science.	University of Pisa, Italy the School of Computer