NITHESH KUMAR

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Summary

PhD candidate in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Clemson University with a focus on hardware prototyping, electromechanical design, and production workflows. Experienced in robotics, adaptive environments, and PCB design, with a track record of innovation in both academic and industry settings. Certified Six Sigma Green Belt, dedicated to advancing robotics and adaptive technologies.

Skills

- PCB Design: OrCAD, Allegro PCB, SMT Soldering
- 3D Modeling: SolidWorks, 3D Printing
- Programming: MATLAB, Microcontroller C, Linux
- Project Management: Arena PLM, Agile, Jira
- Six Sigma Green Belt Certified
- Experienced in handling power tools

Education

Clemson University, Clemson, SC *2020 – Present*
PhD in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Expected: 2025)

University of New Haven, West Haven, CT *2017*
Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant Clemson University, SC
Sep 2020 – Present

- Spearheaded the design and prototyping of morphing robotic surfaces, focusing on adaptive, user-centered designs.
- Engineered a bio-inspired hybrid robotic gripper, and incorporating rapid prototyping techniques.
- Developed a self-deploying "space bridge" prototype for autonomous supply transfer on the ISS
- Led bio-sensing research using dual-band silicon rugate filters for optical sensing applications, integrating rapid feedback in iterative designs.
- Published and presented findings at robotics conferences and journals, showcasing innovations in adaptive and robotic systems.

Robotics Lab Manager Clemson University, SC
Aug 2022 – Present

- Managed and maintained lab equipment, ensuring readiness for complex robotics projects and facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Developed and enforced safety protocols for the robotics lab, conducting regular compliance audits.
- Trained students and lab members in the use of robotics platforms, advanced prototyping tools, and industry-standard safety practices.
- Coordinated with faculty to support project needs, including specialized hardware configurations for adaptive environment research.

Electrical Engineer Fiber Mountain, CT
Jul 2017 – Mar 2020

- Designed and tested custom PCB test fixtures, improving testing precision by nearly 15% and reducing testing, which streamlined production and improved efficiency by 30% overall.
- Led production workflows and managed the bill of materials (BOM) for new designs, ensuring streamlined production and component availability.
- Implemented agile workflows for the hardware engineering team, enhancing project coordination and iteration speed.
- Sourced and integrated shielded HDMI cables for ETL-certified designs, elevating product reliability and meeting industry standards.

Electrical Engineering Intern Timex Group, CT
Jul 2016 – Sep 2016

- Developed and programmed wearable test modules for watches, contributing to Timex's wearable technology innovations.
- Designed and prototyped PCB circuits for test modules, optimizing production workflows and improving testing efficiency.

Publications

- **N. Kumar**, et al., *Design of Morphing Robot Surfaces*, IEEE Robotics and Automation, 2024.
- **N. Kumar**, et al., *Quantitative Dynamic Structural Color*, Advanced Optical Materials, 2024. **Issue Cover**
- **P. Malhotra, N. Kumar**, et al., *Soft Robotics for Fall Mitigation*, ReMAR Conference, 2024.