

Payam Nikdel

Research assistant at Autonomy lab
Simon Fraser University

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Education

Simon Fraser University (SFU)

Ph.D. Computing Science

– Supervisors: Dr. Richard Vaughan

Burnaby, Canada

Jan 2019 - Present

Simon Fraser University (SFU)

M.Sc. Computing Science

– Supervisors: Dr. Richard Vaughan and Dr. Anoop Sarkar

– GPA: 4.17 out of 4.33

Burnaby, Canada

Sep 2016 - Dec 2018

Shiraz University

B.Sc. Computer Software Engineering

– GPA: 17.82 out of 20; Achieved the highest GPA among all B.Sc students

Shiraz, Iran

Sep 2010 - Feb 2015

Publications

Recognizing and Tracking High-Level Navigation Features of Occupancy Grid Maps

Dr. Richard Vaughan

Building an occupancy grid map during online and at the same time use a neural network (Based on ResNet34 and YOLOv2) to detect, locate and say the target classes around the robot. **Tools:** Pytorch, ROS, Stage, Python, OpenCV

The Hands-Free Push-Cart: Autonomous Following in Front by Predicting User Trajectory Around Obstacles

Payam Nikdel, Rakesh Shrestha and Dr. Richard Vaughan

Presented a human model for an autonomous mobile robot that follows a walking user while staying ahead of them. Used multi-modal person detection and a human-motion model that considers obstacles to predict the future path of the user. This [paper](#) is in proceeding of **ICRA 2018**. **Tools:** ROS, Stage, C++, Python, OpenCV

Research and Academic Projects

Lip-Reading Using Dual Attention Model

Spring, Fall 2018

Designed an audio-visual lipreading system that can translate a sequence of face images to natural language. To do so, we generated a data set containing a series of people's mouth images aligned with audio and subtitle from YouTube videos then trained a dual attention model. **Tools:** Pytorch, Python, OpenCV

Describe The Path Using Attention Model

Fall 2017

Dr. Anoop Sarkar and Dr. Richard Vaughan

Proposed a way to help visually impaired people navigate through an unknown indoor environment. The robot provides environmental information and navigational instructions for visually impaired or blind people. It translates a sequence of laser scanner data to human readable language. **Tools:** Pytorch, ROS, Stage, Python, OpenCV

Daydream Ant Algorithm

Fall 2016

Dr. Richard Vaughan

Presented a new approach based on SO-LOST algorithm by adding a thinking part. Daydream algorithm will reduce the path-finding time, and it will guarantee to find an optimal path. **Tools:** ROS, Stage, Python, C++

Person Re-identification Using Point-cloud images

Fall 2016

Dr. Greg Mori

Enhanced and compared several deep-learning approaches for identifying people using 3D point cloud data. **Tools:** Tensorflow, Keras, ROS, Python, OpenCV

Control the mouse cursor with eyes or hands

Fall 2014

Dr. Zohreh Azimifar

Controlled the mouse pointer by tracking the user's eyes or hand (two separate applications). **Tools:** C++, OpenCV

3D Multiplayer Game With AI

Spring 2014

Dr. Farshad Khunjush

Developed a multiplayer online first-person shooter game with AI for enemies. **Tools:** Unity3D, C#, Photon network

Work Experience

Researcher (part-time)

Vancouver, Canada

Advanced Intelligent Systems Inc.

May. 2019 - Present

- Designing robotic solutions to facilitate agriculture. (ROS, C++, Python, OpenCV)

Researcher (part-time)

Vancouver, Canada

ScopeMedia Inc.

Jan. 2018 - Apr. 2018

- Designed a multi-person tracker using state-of-the-art techniques (OpenPose, Yolo and different trackers)

System Developer

Tehran, Iran

Petro Gas Jahan & Jahanpars Engineering company

Jul. 2015 - Aug. 2016

- Improved the company network performance tools and contributed to develop software

Technical Skills

Programming Languages:

- | | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------------|-------|------|
| ◦ Python | ◦ C | ◦ Java | ◦ C++ | ◦ C# |
| ◦ Matlab | ◦ SQL | ◦ JavaScript | | |

Programming Platforms & Frameworks:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| ◦ Pytorch | ◦ TensorFlow | ◦ ROS | ◦ Keras | ◦ OpenCV |
| ◦ OpenCL | ◦ Unity | ◦ Git | ◦ Android | ◦ L ^A T _E X |

Selected Teaching Assistants

Computing Laboratory	Fall 2016 & Fall 2017
Intro to Computing Science and Programming II	Fall 2016 & Fall 2017
Digital Design	Fall 2014 & Spring 2014
Artificial Intelligence	Spring 2014 & Fall 2013
Advanced Programming	Spring 2013 & Fall 2013
Data Structures And Algorithms	Spring 2013

Awards, Grants & Honours

Fellowship and RA position from The Simon Fraser University	Fall 2018
Fellowship and RA position from The Simon Fraser University	Spring 2016
Fellowship and RA position from The University of Alberta and University of Victoria	Spring 2016
Ranked 1st among class of 2014, BSc Computer Engineering	Fall 2014
Awarded as the Best Undergraduate Student in Computer Engineering at Shiraz university	Spring 2014
Ranked 18th in Iranian National Computer Olympiad for university student	Spring 2014
Ranked 4th in Kashan ACM competition among all Iranian universities	Spring 2011