Pranshu Malik

Naturalistic Control — in Humans, also for Robots

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Interests

 $Sensorimotor\ Neuroscience \cdot Robotics \cdot Internal\ Models \cdot Generalizable\ Control \cdot Perception \cdot Embodied\ Intelligence$

Education

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology

Okinawa, Japan

Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Robotics

Jan. '25 — Present

- Rotation projects on unified theory of prediction and action in neural processing, and on interactional sense of self and other
- Planned rotation with cognitive neurorobotics research unit
- Selected coursework: Neural Representations and Dynamics in Motor Control, Brain Computation, Cognitive Neurorobotics

University of Western Ontario

London, Canada

M.Sc. in Neuroscience; cGPA: 4.0/4.0

Sept. '22 — Oct. '24

- Thesis title: The Nature of Reflexes in Online Planning and Control ☑ [link]
- Advisors: Andrew Pruszynski, Paul Gribble
- Recipient of the Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence (\$17.5k) and the BrainsCAN Graduate Studentship (\$50k)
- Selected coursework: Principles of Neuroscience, Reinforcement Learning

University of Toronto

Toronto, Canada

B.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering; cGPA: 3.92/4.0

Sept. '17 — Apr. '22

- Engineering International Scholar: received a full tuition fee waiver for the entire duration of the program (\$229k)
- Recipient of the Adel S. Sedra Gold Medal for achieving the highest cumulative average in the graduating class
- Graduated with High Honors and Minor in Robotics and Mechatronics; Dean's Honor List in all semesters
- Selected coursework (*graduate-level): Linear Control Systems, Signals and Systems, Fields and Waves, Digital Systems,
 Digital Signal Processing, Probability, *Random Processes, *Sensory Communication, System Mapping, Machine Learning,
 Real-time Control Systems, Robot Modeling and Control, Mechatronics, Philosophy of Religion

Selected Research & Professional Experiences

Graduate Student, Western Institute for Neuroscience

London, Canada

Sensorimotor Superlab

Sept. '22 — Oct. '24

- Investigated the coupling between feedback and voluntary motor control by carefully estimating update times for both modalities; also tried investigating the reliance of implicit adaptation on motor variability
- Led multiple discussions on motor planning and control; also mentored and trained undergraduate research assistants

Navigation Engineering Intern, Zebra Technologies

Mississauga, Canada

Path-Planning and Control Team

May '20 — Aug. '21

- Critiqued, implemented, and tested auto-navigation algorithms from literature for deployment on inventory scanning robots
- Redesigned path planner to improve aisle scan coverage and efficiency by robustly handling obstructions and curved aisles
- Developed tools for rapidly prototyping planners and controllers and benchmarking their performance; written in Julia
- Reviewed and fixed real-life behavior and performance bugs; identified, proposed, and applied planner improvements

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Motion Adaptation Science Lab

Toronto, Canada

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute

May '18 − *Aug.* '18

- Developed finite element models (FEMs) of the lower leg for the computational study of electrostimulation applications
- Streamlined development workflow of bio-electric FEM studies from MRI data using Inventor, Comsol, and Matlab

Invited Talks & Posters

- 2. Stretch Reflexes Quickly Integrate Spatial Task Constraints During Reaching. Invited talk, Department of Cognitive and Brain Sciences, IIT Gandhinagar, 2024.
- 1. Computing Error-bounded Inverse Kinematics Solutions in Fixed-time using Low-Power Analog Circuits. Podium presentation, Undergraduate Engineering Research Day, University of Toronto, 2021.

 [Slides]

Technical Skills

Python · Julia · Matlab · C/C++ · Git · Typst · LaTeX · OpenCV · ROS · Graphics Design · 3D Design · Machining

Miscellaneous

Academic Officer: Elected to represent the student assembly at OIST and liaise with the graduate school. Responsibilities included identifying inefficiencies and suggesting improvements in the academic program and advocating for student concerns and interests.

Big Ideas Committee: Led a club that is a part of the Society for Neuroscience Graduate Students (SONGS) at Western University. We hosted didactic discussions as well as regular share-what-you-read sessions on topics like creativity, philosophy of science, and consciousness. We also organized a student-led panel discussion on the scientific and philosophical study of consciousness, which was attended by 40+ graduate students and postdocs.

Hobbies and Side Interests: Photography and painting; systems thinking; education; citizen science; cognitive architectures; philosophy of mind, memory, and action; Indian philosophy; Sanskrit language; yoga and meditation.

Sports and Outdoor Activities: Love playing cricket and badminton, and have also played in local cricket leagues. I also enjoy running, hiking, camping, and long walks in nature.

Last updated: 18 May 2025 2/2