# Ralph Quartiano

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## EDUCATION

**Penn State University** <span style="float:right">State College, PA</span>

*Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering (Autonomy Focus)* <span style="float:right">*Class of 2023*</span>
- *Relevant Coursework: Aerospace Autonomy, Aircraft Stability & Controls, Orbital Mechanics*

**Georgia Institute of Technology** <span style="float:right">Atlanta, GA</span>

*Masters of Science in Computer Science (Perception & Robotics Focus)* <span style="float:right">*Expected Grad. 2026*</span>
- *Relevant Coursework: Bayesian State Estimation, Kalman Filters, Motion Planning*

## EXPERIENCE

**Software Engineer for Advanced Computing (AI Division)** <span style="float:right">August 2023 – Present</span>

*Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute* <span style="float:right">*Pittsburgh, PA*</span>
- Profiled & benchmarked **electronic warfare** application on NVIDIA Orin **GPU** to identify algorithms with acceleration potential and develop test harness
- Designed, trained, and synthesized **neural network** for RF modulation classification on **FPGA** using **PyTorch**, **ONNX**, and open-source **HLS** tooling, speeding up inference by 25% at reduced power consumption
- Refactored PyTorch **convolution** layers into overlap-add **FFTs** for 3x speedup on digital signal processing ASICs
- Utilized neural network optimization and quantization tools in **TensorRT** to reduce size of YOLO **object-detection** models by over 4x and convert algorithms from Python scripts into C++ executables

**GNC Engineering Intern (ADCS, Starshield)** <span style="float:right">May 2023 – July 2023</span>

*SpaceX* <span style="float:right">*Hawthorne, CA*</span>
- Performed single & multi-component **fault tolerance testing** of satellite attitude determination & control systems (ADCS) using **Monte Carlo** techniques in **6-DoF C++ simulations**
- Identified attitudes in which **magnetorquer**-based angular momentum desaturation system is underactuated and orbital trajectories in which **star tracker** attitude determination system has severely reduced visibility
- Analyzed angular momentum/torque envelopes in various reaction wheel failure modes to update state transition thresholds with **MATLAB**
- Rewrote and **unit-tested flight software** to better reflect failure mode survivability in C++

**Autonomy Engineering Intern** <span style="float:right">May 2022 – August 2022</span>

*Palski & Associates Satellite Engineering* <span style="float:right">*Colorado Springs, CO*</span>
- Trained collaborative autonomous satellite agents for military rendezvous-proximity operations in geostationary orbit with several reinforcement learning techniques in **Julia**
- Developed 6-DoF simulation environment with realistic orbital mechanics and satellite performance, allowing agents to autonomously find desired orbit trajectories and calculate thruster burns required to enter them
- Combined Julia's **multiprocessing** capabilities with **Linux virtual machines** running on company servers to reduce training times by over 50% and allow for longer training runs while out of the office

**Undergraduate Dynamics & Controls Researcher** <span style="float:right">January 2022 – January 2023</span>

*Penn State University* <span style="float:right">*State College, PA*</span>
- Designed, simulated, and built momentum wheel-based stabilization system for an inverted pendulum
- Converted **Simulink** dynamics model and **PID controller** to C++ executable for use on Arduino Mega

**Lead Systems Engineer** <span style="float:right">November 2019 – January 2021</span>

*NASA (Oasis Project, 2020 BIG Idea Challenge Finalist)* <span style="float:right">*State College, PA*</span>
- Led development & testing of laser spectroscopy instrument for lunar rover with 20+ engineers and $145K budget
- Utilized **systems-engineering** methodology throughout design life cycle while adhering to NASA requirements

**Software Engineer** <span style="float:right">April 2022</span>

*Sauron (HackPSU 2022 AI and Overall Best Hack Winner)* <span style="float:right">*State College, PA*</span>
- Constructed data pipeline that used **computer vision** to classify and locate hazardous events in humanitarian crises and Google Cloud Platform to geo-tag and upload them to a live and public map

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages (Libraries)**: Python (PyTorch, Tensorflow, ONNX) , C/C++ (OpenCV), Matlab (Simulink), Julia
**Developer Tools**: Git, Docker, Linux, CMake/Bazel
**Hardware**: GPU Programming, HLS for FPGAs, Multiprocessing