Ram Padmanabhan

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D. Electrical and Computer Engineering

Advisor: Prof. Melkior Ornik

University of Michigan

M.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering

Advisor: Prof. Peter Seiler

PES University

B. Tech Electronics and Communication Engineering

Advisors: Prof. Rajini Makam and Prof. Koshy George Capstone Project: Adaptive Iterative Learning Control Urbana, IL, USA August 2023 — Present

Ann Arbor, MI, USA

August 2021 — April 2023

Bengaluru, India August 2017 — June 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Preprints:

- [1] **R. Padmanabhan** and M. Ornik, "Approximate Energetic Resilience of Nonlinear Systems under Partial Loss of Control Authority," *arXiv:2502.07603* [math.OC], Feb. 2025.
- [2] **R. Padmanabhan** and M. Ornik, "Energetic Resilience of Linear Driftless Systems," *arXiv:2410.00323* [math.OC], Oct. 2024.

Journal Articles:

- [3] **R. Padmanabhan** and P. Seiler, "Analysis of Gradient Descent with Varying Step Sizes using Integral Quadratic Constraints," *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 70(1), pp. 587–594, Jan. 2025.
- [4] **R. Padmanabhan**, R. Makam, and K. George, "Multiple Estimation Models for Discrete-time Adaptive Iterative Learning Control," *International Journal of Systems Science*, 55(10), pp. 2154–2171, 2024.
- [5] **R. Padmanabhan**, M. Shetty, and T. S. Chandar, "Discrete Robust Control of Robot Manipulators using an Uncertainty and Disturbance Estimator," *Journal of Dynamic Systems, Measurement and Control*, 145(5): 051022, May 2023.
- [6] **R. Padmanabhan**, M. Shetty, and T. S. Chandar, "Discrete-Time Design and Applications of Uncertainty and Disturbance Estimator," *International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control*, 31(10), pp. 4994–5015, Jul. 2021.

Conference Papers:

- [7] **R. Padmanabhan**, C. Bakker, S. A. Dinkar, and M. Ornik, "How Much Reserve Fuel: Quantifying the Maximal Energy Cost of System Disturbances," in *63rd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, Milan, Italy, Dec. 2024.
- [8] R. Padmanabhan, M. Bhushan, K. K. Hebbar, R. Makam, and K. George, "Second-Level Adaptation and Optimization for Multiple Model Adaptive Iterative Learning Control," in *Seventh Indian Control Conference (ICC)*, Mumbai, India, Dec. 2021, pp. 289–294.
- [9] S. Damodaran, R. Padmanabhan, R. Maahin, and S. Gurugopinath, "A Copula-Driven Unsupervised Learning Framework for Anomaly Detection with Multivariate Heterogeneous Data," in *IEEE 31st International Workshop on Machine Learning for Signal Processing*, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, Oct. 2021.

- [10] R. Padmanabhan, M. Bhushan, K. K. Hebbar, R. Makam, and K. George, "A Novel Strategy with Multiple Models to Improve Performance of Adaptive Iterative Learning Control," in *IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Computing and Communication Technologies (CONECCT)*, Bengaluru, India, Jul. 2021.
- [11] **R. Padmanabhan**, S. Damodaran, V. N. Batra, and S. Gurugopinath, "A Convolutional Neural Network Architecture for Camera Model Identification with Small Datasets," in *IEEE International Conference on Electronics, Computing and Communication Technologies (CONECCT)*, Bengaluru, India, Jul. 2020.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Joan and Lalit Bahl Fellowship	August 2024 — May 2025
Prof. CNR Rao Merit Scholarship	August 2017 — May 2020
Prof. MRD Merit Scholarship	August 2017 — May 2020

MENTORING

Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP)

August 2024 — May 2025

Promoting Undergraduate Research in Engineering (PURE)

August — December 2023

Mentored a group of three undergraduates at UIUC in investigating the performance of different nonlinear Kalman filters on the problem of battery state-of-charge estimation.

(One student subsequently joined our primary research group.)

TEACHING

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI, USA

EECS 460 — Control System Analysis and Design

January — April 2023

Held two discussion sessions each week, with teaching evaluations among the University's highest.

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI, USA

EECS 301 — Probabilistic Methods in Engineering

August — December 2022

Held two discussion sessions each week, with teaching evaluations among the University's highest.

EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Mumbai, India

Systems and Control Engineering

December 2020 — May 2021

Used feedback linearization to achieve an upwind climb in gliding unmanned aerial vehicles with various wind gradient models, avoiding heavy computations from optimal control formulations.

Research Intern, Indian Space Research Organization

Bengaluru, India

Control and Digital Electronics Group

June — July 2019

Studied the properties of the Linear and Ensemble Kalman Filter, applied to a one– and three-dimensional motion estimation problem.

PEER REVIEWER

American Control Conference	2024 —
IEEE Conference on Decision and Control	2024 —
IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics	2024 —
Automatica	2023 —
IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics	2023 —

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Northwestern University, Midwest Workshop on Control and Game Theory

How Much Reserve Fuel: Quantifying the Maximal Energy Cost of System Disturbances

April 2024

University of California, Berkeley

Analysis of Gradient Descent with Varying Step Sizes using IQCs [Online]

Berkeley, CA, USA

February 2023

PES UniversityBengaluru, IndiaDiscrete-Time Design and Applications of Uncertainty and Disturbance EstimatorApril 2021

MEMBERSHIPS

Graduate Student Member: IEEE; IEEE Control Systems Society; IEEE Signal Processing Society