# Sagar Chotalia

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# **OBJECTIVE**

A diligent and meticulous student with the ambition to work at the forefront of technology, expand my skills and solve problems in the field of Robotics by performing world-class research and contributing to the industry.

#### EDUCATION

# Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute(VJTI)

2021 - 2024

Bachelor of Technology in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering

Mumbai, India

• Cumulative GPA: 8.56/10

# Arya Gurukul International Junior College

2019 - 2020

Maharashtra State Board

Navi Mumbai, India

• HSC (Grade 12): 83.84%

# D.A.V. Public School, Airoli

2012 - 2018

CBSE Board

Mumbai, India

• SSC (Grade 10): 95.8%

# RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

# Upcoming Research Intern | Stanford-SLAC | Dr. S.R. Wagh, Dr. Ragini Meshram

• Aim: To perform research in the fields of Autonomous Navigation and SLAM, using Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning.

# Research Intern | CSIR-NAL | Dr.Omkar Halbe

June 2023 – Aug 2023

- Performed research under the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories in the **Flight Mechanics and Control Division** under the guidance of Dr. Omkar Halbe.
- Studied the extensive ArduPilot architecture and code base in depth. Replicated the logical flow in Simulink.
- Created a custom controller for a high-altitude glider in Simulink, complete with FBWA and Manual modes.
- Implemented a **Robust PID controller** for stabilization of roll, pitch and yaw.

# Research Intern | IISER Bhopal | Dr. P.B. Sujit

Oct 2022 - Nov 2022

• Read research material and delivered presentations based on NeRFs, incremental Signed Distance Fields(iSDF), Obstacle Avoidance algorithms and Potential Fields. Coded a Model Predictive Controller for a mobile robot in MATLAB.

#### EXPERIENCE

Google Summer of Code | OpenAstronomy | Mentor: Erwan Pannier

Apr 2022 – Sep 2022

- Tasked with tweaking and improving the performance of the RADIS codebase(Now in NumFOCUS).
- Worked on the existing memory bottlenecks and reduced calculation times by caching various parameters to improve performance. Set up memory-performance benchmarks for debugging and maintenance.
- Implemented a "chunk" feature in the code, allowing a drastic reduction in RAM usage during large computations, over 75% in some cases.

Summer Intern, e-Yantra Labs | IIT Bombay | Dr. Kavi Arya

June 2022 - July 2022

- Built an open-source, off-the-shelf Autonomous Nano Drone from scratch.
- Designed a custom autonomous control system using PID, used an on-board flight computer (Raspberry Pi 0).
- Localised the drone in an indoor environment using **Optical Flow** sensors and **WhyCon** (a cheaper alternative to VICON). Our work was crucial for conducting the **eYRC** competition in **2022**.

# Synchropter UAV Designing | ROS, Gazebo, Redhawk Linux

February 2023 – Present

• Developing a Terrain Collision Avoidance System(TCAS) and onboard vision system with Object Detection and autonomous landing capabilities, integrating with the electronic onboard components, such as a Flight Computer(NVIDIA Jetson) and ruggedized sensors.

### SLAM(Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping) | ROS Gazebo, Turtlebot3

April 2022 – October 2022

- Studied various SLAM concepts and techniques, including Occupancy Grid Maps, Locomotion and Navigation.
- Coded the Kalman Filter and EKF-SLAM on a mobile robot.

# Pick and Place Bot using Bin Packing | CoppeliaSim

September 2021 – October 2021

- Simulated a gantry system that would detect boxes placed on a conveyor, pick and place them in a container of known dimensions according to a 3D Bin Packing algorithm using Python API in CoppeliaSim.
- Got familiar with Inverse Kinematics and OpenCV to detect the object size.

# e-Yantra Robotics Competition | IIT-Bombay

October 2021 – March 2022

- Won the 4th Prize in our Theme, "Functional Weeder", out of 250+ teams globally.
- Designed and constructed a robotic 3-DOF manipulator, using it to pick and place plant stalks.
- Ideated a **novel mechanism** to drop "seeds" accurately from a specific height and distance, and worked with **Raspberry Pi 3** and various other hardware components and helped in accurate line-following and debugging.

# TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: C++, C, Python Developer Tools: Linux, Git, Bash

Libraries: OpenCV, NumPy, MatPlotLib, Pandas, Vaex Simulators: CoppeliaSim, Gazebo, RViz, MATLAB, Simulink

### Positions of Responsibility

# Society of Robotics and Automation | Core Member and Lecturer

September 2021 – Present

- Mentored four students on two different projects on Control Systems and SLAM to completion.
- Involved in the organization and overseeing of various key events. Attended various workshops conducted by the club in FY, on various different domains including Computer Vision, Robotics and Embedded Systems.
- Taught functions in Python to 150+ attendees of SRA's **PIXELS** workshop.
- Helped in the design and conducted assembly of a robotic manipulator in SRA's flagship MARIO workshop.

# COMMUNITY

#### Project Mumbai | Volunteer

August 2023 – Present

Volunteered at Jallosh, which is a monthly beach-cleaning initiative that takes place all over Mumbai. The collected
plastic waste is recycled.