

# Samarth Manoj Brahmbhatt

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## EDUCATION

*Doctor of Philosophy*, Robotics (advisor: [James Hays](#))

School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, GA

expected Jan 2020

*Master of Science in Engineering*, Robotics (advisor: [Kostas Daniilidis](#))

University of Pennsylvania, PA.

May 2014

*Bachelor of Technology*, Electronics & Communication Engineering

Nirma University, Ahmedabad, India.

May 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

1. “[ContactGrasp: Functional Multi-finger Grasp Synthesis from Contact](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Ankur Handa, James Hays, and Dieter Fox, *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2019*
2. “[ContactDB: Analyzing and Predicting Grasp Contact via Thermal Imaging](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Cusuh Ham, Charles C. Kemp, James Hays, *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2019 (oral, best paper finalist)*
3. “[MapNet: Geometry-Aware Learning of Maps for Camera Localization](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Jinwei Gu, Kihwan Kim, James Hays, Jan Kautz, *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2018 (spotlight)*
4. “[DeepNav: Learning to Navigate Large Cities](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, James Hays, *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2017*
5. “[StuffNet: Using ‘Stuff’ to Improve Object Detection](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Henrik Christensen and James Hays, *IEEE Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV) 2017*
6. “[Occlusion-Aware Object Localization, Segmentation and Pose Estimation](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Heni Ben Amor and Henrik Christensen, *British Machine Vision Conference (BMVC) 2015*
7. “[Single Image 3D Object Detection and Pose Estimation for Grasping](#)” - Menglong Zhu, Kosta Derpanis, Yinfei Yang, **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Mabel Zhang, Cody Phillips and Kostas Daniilidis, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2014*
8. “[RoboCup 2013 Humanoid Kidsize League Winner](#)” - Daniel D. Lee, Seung-Joon Yi, Stephen McGill, Yida Zhang, Larry Vadakedathu, **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, Richa Agrawal and Vibhavari Dasagi, *RoboCup 2013: Robot World Cup XVII, Springer Berlin Heidelberg 2014*
9. “[Practical OpenCV](#)” - **Samarth Brahmbhatt**, book published by Apress Media LLC

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

*Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines, Georgia Tech*

Fall 2014 - present

### Graduate Research Assistant

- Capturing, analyzing and predicting hand-object contact maps for human grasps with functional intent (Pub. 2)
- Learning to navigate large cities using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) (Pub. 4)
- Object detection and semantic segmentation using CNNs (Pub. 5)
- Detection and 3D pose estimation of partially occluded objects (Pub. 6)

*NVIDIA Research, Seattle*

Summer 2018

**Hand pose optimization for human-guided multi-fingered grasping**

Advisors: [Ankur Handa](#), [Dieter Fox](#)

Synthesizing functional human-like grasps for diverse robotic end-effectors, from human demonstrations of hand-object contact (Pub 1).

*NVIDIA Research, Santa Clara*

Summer 2017

**Deep Learning for Camera Localization**

Advisors: [Jinwei Gu](#), [Kihwan Kim](#)

- Deep learning for image-based relocalization: proposed novel algorithms to use geometric constraints between images and to make use of large amounts of unlabelled data through semi-supervised learning (Pub. 3)

*Dextro, Inc. New York City*

Summer 2015

**Improving CNN-based object localization using local context**

- Implemented a Convolutional Neural Network system for object localization and semantic segmentation (Pub. 5)
- Used semantic segmentation as a local context signal to improve object detection
- Implemented CPU and GPU versions of various required layers in Caffe

*GRASP Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania*

Spring 2014

**Detecting Partially Occluded Objects in Images (Masters' Thesis)**

- Augmented the DPM object detection algorithm to detect up to 60% occluded objects
- Used HOG features and graph-cuts to segment all pixels inside the bounding box to object/non-object
- Used Structural SVM to train HOG feature and graph edge weights (Pub. 6)

*GRASP Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania*

Summer 2013

**Detection and 6-DOF pose estimation of objects from a single 2D image**

Helped develop an algorithm to detect objects using their shape and estimate their 6-DOF pose from a single RGB image by matching the outline with a CAD model (Pub. 7). Works in heavily cluttered scenes.

*GRASP Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania*

Spring 2013

**Robocup 2013 Humanoid Kid-size soccer international competition**

Our team won the Kid-size competition after competing against international teams. I contributed to the particle-filter based localization system and player location disambiguation based on the goalkeeper ball estimate.

**COURSEWORK**

**Learning in Robotics (UPenn ESE 650)**

Spring 2013

- RGB-D point-cloud registration for 3D mapping ([wiki](#))
- Planar Simultaneous Localization and Mapping using a particle filter ([wiki](#))
- Image panoramas using 3-DOF orientation tracking by an Unscented Kalman Filter ([wiki](#))
- Path planning in aerial photographs using imitation learning ([wiki](#))
- Probabilistic color image segmentation using Gaussian Mixture Models ([wiki](#))

**Computer Vision and Computational Photography (UPenn CIS 581)**

Fall 2013

- Logo replacement using Shape Context feature matching ([wiki](#))
- Panoramas by Corner appearance feature matching ([wiki](#))
- Image Morphing by Thin Plate Splines ([wiki](#))

**Machine Perception (UPenn CIS 580)**

Spring 2013

- Image stitching using vanishing points and matching points ([wiki](#))
- Logo warping using perspective transforms ([wiki](#))

**Intro to Parallel Programming (Udacity Online Course)**

Summer 2014

- Tone mapping using histogram equalization
- Poisson blending of masked images

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

- *Programming Languages*: C++, Python
- *Libraries and Tools*: ROS, OpenCV, CUDA, Caffe, PyTorch, Vim, Git, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**SERVICE**

- Reviewer for: BMVC 2019, CVPR 2019, RSS 2019, CVPR 2018, IROS 2016, ICRA 2015, IROS 2015
- [RoboGrads](#): VP Academics (2017), VP PhD Robotics Program (2018)