

SAQIB AZIM

Email: sazim@ucsd.edu ◇ Homepage: saqib1707.github.io ◇ LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/saqibazim

EDUCATION

University of California San Diego

Sep '21 - Ongoing

Master of Science (MS) in *Electrical and Computer Engineering*, GPA : 3.92 / 4.0

Advisor : [Prof. Nikolay Atanasov](#)

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Jul '15 - Jun '19

Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in *Electrical Engineering* with Minor in *Computer Science*

Advisor : [Prof. Debraj Chakraborty](#)

Undergraduate Research Award (*for excellent research contribution*)

[2019]

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Reinforcement Learning, Robot Learning

PATENT & PUBLICATION

• Visual Localization in Dynamic Environments with Targeted-Inference SLAM

[[report](#)]

[Saqib Azim](#), Takumi Nito and Katsuyuki Nakamura

Japan Patent Application, filed Aug '21 (pending)

• Indoor Distance Estimation using LSTMs over WLAN Network

[[arXiv/paper](#)]

Pranav Sankhe, [Saqib Azim](#), Sachin Goyal, Tanya Choudhary, Kumar Appaiah and Sukumar Srikant

In IEEE Workshop on Positioning, Navigation and Communications (WPNC 2019)

India Patent Application, filed Dec '18 (pending)

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Hitachi R&D Lab

Oct '19 - Sep '21

Assistant Researcher, Intelligent Vision Research Group

Tokyo, Japan

- Developed a **Visual Localization and Navigation** system using **SLAM** and deep learning for dynamic environments.
- Implemented ORB-keypoint based camera pose estimation, keyframe-based 3D mapping, trajectory optimization and loop closure in **C++**.
- Engineered a novel time-efficient targeted inference semantic segmentation network to efficiently detect dynamic scenes which **reduces computation time by 5x** leading to patent submission in Japan.
- Achieved **47% reduction** in localization error in dynamic environments over real-time state-of-the-art methods.
- Developed an **android app** to deploy the localization system on smartphones leading to significant product impact.
- Created visual hazardous activity detection system using Mask RCNN segmentation and depth estimation. Successfully demonstrated a prototype at a Railway Factory.
- Implemented an interactive game in **Unity3D** graphics engine to generate synthetic data for deep learning training.
- Trained an end-to-end **MobileNet SSD** and **UNet** model to semantically segment hands using egocentric images, perform gesture classification, and identify hand-pointed objects with **94%** accuracy.

Samsung R&D Institute

May '18 - Jul '18

Machine Learning Intern, Advanced Technology Lab

Bengaluru, India

- Prototyped a **handwritten text recognition** system by estimating wrist movements using Samsung smartwatch sensors.
- Improved raw IMU signal-to-noise ratio using adaptive filters and devised an automated data-collection framework.
- Trained a pipelined **SVM** and **attention-LSTM** model to learn the relation between hand movement and character patterns, and achieved **93%** text recognition accuracy.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming** - Python, C & C++, MATLAB, Bash, HTML, CSS
- **ML Frameworks** - TensorFlow, PyTorch, Scikit-Learn, NumPy, Scipy, Pandas, OpenCV
- **Developer Tools** - Git, Docker, Android Studio, Google Colab, Jupyter Notebook, Unity, Linux, Arduino

SELECTED COURSES

- Deep Generative Models
- Deep Learning for 3D Data
- Advanced Machine Learning
- Deep Reinforcement Learning
- Statistical Learning
- Advanced Computer Vision
- Sensing and Estimation in Robotics
- Maths for Robotics
- Convex Optimization and Applications
- Advanced Image Processing
- Statistical Signal Processing
- Linear Algebra and Applications

SELECTED PROJECTS

Robot Manipulation using Deep Reinforcement Learning

Graduate Student Researcher at [Existential Robotics Lab](#)

Dec '22 - Ongoing
UC San Diego

- Developing and improving deep RL models for wide-range of dexterous manipulation tasks.
- Employed **Soft Actor-Critic** and **Adversarial Imitation learning** algorithms (GAIL, AIRL, VMail) to learn optimal task-policy in **Robosuite** and **DeepMind** environments.
- Successfully transferred learned policies to a real-world Panda robot arm (**Sim2Real**) using computer vision algorithms.

Object Pose Estimation and Neural Radiance Field (NeRF)

Advisor: [Prof. Hao Su](#)

Fall '22
UC San Diego

- Developed a 6D pose estimation pipeline to predict poses of objects in a scene using RGBD images.
- Utilized **PointNet** for object segmentation, followed by 3D point cloud formation, and **Iterative closest point** algorithm for point cloud alignment and to estimate the 6D pose of segmented objects, achieving a **96%** test accuracy.
- Implemented **NeRF** to fit and generate photorealistic views of a scene, described by images and their poses.

Autonomous Vehicle Localization and Mapping

Advisor: [Prof. Nikolay Atanasov](#)

Winter '23
UC San Diego

- Implemented a **Particle-Filter** SLAM algorithm for robot localization in an unknown environment using encoder and IMU odometry data, and generated a 2D occupancy-grid map using LIDAR measurements.
- Implemented a Visual-Inertial SLAM system for precise pose estimation of an IMU sensor attached to a car using an **Extended kalman filter** (EKF) and estimated 3D landmarks in the environment using stereo camera observations.

Adversarial Robustness Analysis of Deep Models

Advisor: [Prof. Lily Weng](#)

Apr '22 - Aug '22
UC San Diego

- Utilized attack mechanisms, including FGSM, PGD, Auto-Attack, to generate adversarial examples.
- Developed robust **CLIP**-based classifier against l_2 -norm perturbations using adversarial training and randomized smoothing. Evaluated on CIFAR10 and ImageNet datasets.
- Evaluated the effectiveness of heuristic defense mechanisms in training robust models against powerful attacks.

Team Member - Autonomous Self-Driving Car

Mahindra Rise Driverless Car Challenge

Aug '17 - Jul '18
[Innovation Cell](#)

- Contributed to the development of vision and navigation algorithms for an autonomous driverless car.
- Proposed a compute-efficient image processing algorithm to mitigate shadows and varying lighting conditions on roads.
- Managed collection and annotation of a road dataset used to train YOLO framework for road and obstacle detection.

Pursuer-Evader Optimal Trajectory Estimation

Advisor: [Prof. Debraj Chakraborty](#)

Aug '18 - Jul '19
IIT Bombay

- Developed an optimal control algorithm to drive multi-evader agents to destination using novel inter-agent interactions.
- Utilized global iterative solvers to estimate optimal agent trajectories under diverse constrained conditions.
- Learned to accurately predict pursuer-evader trajectories using an LSTM model.

Image Inpainting for Road-Scene Understanding

Advisor: [Prof. Pengtao Xie](#)

Winter '22
UC San Diego

- Implemented a unified framework to enhance **road-scene understanding** by combining state-of-the-art semantic segmentation (**DeepLabV3**) for removing undesired objects with a generative network for inpainting missing regions.
- Trained and evaluated the model on the **CityScapes** dataset, generating superior image quality.

Zero-Shot Learning (ZSL) for Object Recognition

Advisor: [Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri](#)

May '17 - Nov '17
[VIP Lab, IIT Bombay](#)

- Proposed a semi-supervised VGG16 autoencoder model to learn visual-semantic mapping using Word2Vec features.
- Improved ZSL unseen class performance from 58.7% to 65.3% on Animals with Attributes dataset.

ACHIEVEMENTS & EXTRA-CURRICULARS

- Secured rank of 1133 (*out of 1.5 million candidates*) in [IIT-JEE Advanced '15](#) (India's toughest entrance exam).
- Awarded **Bronze Medal (3rd/23 teams)** by [BARC India](#) for proposing innovative solutions to [TV Audience Measurement Challenge](#) at the 7th Inter-IIT Technical Meet 2018.
- Actively contributed to **Open Source** platforms such as [Kivy](#) and [KivEnt](#).
- Contributed to [Mood Indigo '16](#) website development, IIT Bombay.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

- **Teaching Assistant** for 5 undergraduate and graduate courses at UC San Diego.
 - Probabilistic Modeling and Machine Learning Spring '23
 - Image Processing Winter '23
 - Probability and Statistics for Data Science Fall '22
 - Engineering Probability and Statistics Spring '22
 - Linear Signals and Systems Winter '22
- **Teaching Assistant** at IIT Bombay - Signals and Systems Spring '19
- **Mentor** at [Summer of Science '19 & '20](#), IIT Bombay (guided 4 undergraduates, 2 Masters students)
- **Mentored** two student teams at *Institute Technical Summer Project '17*, IIT Bombay.
- Taught underprivileged kids at LCCWA NGO under IIT Bombay's [Education Outreach program](#). 2015 - 16

REFERENCES

Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri
Professor of EE Dept.
Director of IIT Bombay
sc@ee.iitb.ac.in

Prof. Nikolay Atanasov
Assistant Professor
UC San Diego
natanasov@ucsd.edu

Dr. Katsuyuki Nakamura
Department Manager
Hitachi R&D Group
katsuyuki.nakamura.xv@hitachi.com