SAQIB AZIM

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PUBLICATION & PATENT

- **Saqib Azim**, T. Nito and K. Nakamura, "**Visual Localization in Dynamic Environments with Targeted-Inference SLAM**", *Japan Patent Application, filed Aug '21 (pending)*
- P. Sankhe, **Saqib Azim**, S. Goyal, T. Choudhary, K. Appaiah and S. Srikant, "**Indoor Distance Estimation using LSTMs over WLAN Network**", *IEEE Workshop on Positioning, Navigation and Communications 2019 & Indian Patent Application, filed Dec '18*

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 deep learning & **SLAM**.
- 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 segmentation network to detect dynamic objects, reducing mean localization time by **5x** leading to **patent submission**.
- **Improved** dynamic scene localization error by **47%** compared to SOTA methods.
- Deployed navigation system on Android (Java & C++) with significant **product impact**.
- Created visual hazardous activity detection using **Mask R-CNN** segmentation model and depth estimation. **Showcased** working prototype at a Railway Factory.
- Achieved **94% accuracy** in segmenting and classifying hand gestures using egocentric images by training end-to-end **MobileNet SSD** and **UNet** models.
- Used **Unity** engine to generate synthetic visual data for training DL models.

SAMSUNG R&D INSTITUTE — May '18 - Jul '18

Machine Learning Intern — Bengaluru, India

- Developed a **handwritten text recognition** system using Samsung smartwatch.
- Devised a data-collection framework and trained a combined **SVM** and **LSTM** models to learn relation between wrist movement and characters, achieving **93% accuracy**.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Graduate Research Assistant, Existential Robotics Lab — Dec '22 - Ongoing

- Developing **Deep Reinforcement Learning** models for robot manipulation tasks.
- Employed **Soft Actor-Critic** and **Adversarial Imitation Learning** algorithms to learn latent state and action spaces from images in **Robosuite** and **DeepMind** tasks.
- Transferred learned policies to robot arm (**Sim2Real**) using computer vision algorithms.

Object Pose Estimation and Neural Radiance Field (NeRF) — Fall '22

- Utilized **PointNet** for object semantic segmentation, **Iterative Closest Point** algorithm for estimating 6D pose of segmented objects with **96% test accuracy**.
- Implemented **NeRF** to fit and generate photo-realistic novel views of a scene.

Autonomous Vehicle Localization and Mapping — Winter '23

- Implemented **Particle-Filter SLAM** for robot localization and occupancy grid mapping.
- Developed visual-inertial SLAM for pose estimation of an autonomous vehicle using an **Extended Kalman Filter (EKF)** and estimated 3D landmarks using stereo camera.

Adversarial Robustness Analysis of Deep Models — Apr '22 - Aug '22

- Conducted empirical analysis of **CLIP** model's resilience to adversarial perturbations and devised an attack mechanism to generate adversarial examples.
- Trained robust classifier with strong provable guarantees against adversarial attacks.

Optimal Multiagent Pursuer-Evader Problem [thesis] — Aug '18 - Jul '19

- Designed a **novel control algorithm** to drive a multi-agent system to target destination.
- Utilized **global iterative solvers** to estimate optimal paths in constrained conditions.
- Learned to accurately predict pursuer-evader trajectories using **attention-LSTM** model.

EDUCATION

UC San Diego — Sep '21 – Ongoing

- **Master of Science** in **Machine Learning and Intelligent Systems** **GPA:** 3.91/4
- **Graduation:** September 2023

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay — 2015 – 2019

Mumbai, India

- **B.Tech** in **Electrical Engineering** with Minor in **Computer Science**
- **Undergraduate Research Award** for excellent research contribution in 2019.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming** - Python, C & C++, MATLAB, Bash, HTML, CSS, LaTeX
- **ML Frameworks** - Tensorflow, PyTorch, OpenCV, Scikit-Learn, NumPy, Pandas, MLOps
- **Dev Tools** - Git, Github, Docker, Android Studio, Unity, Google Colab, Jupyter, Linux
- **Deep Learning** - CNN, RNN, LSTM, Transformers, VAE, GAN, Diffusion models
- **Vision & Robotics** - Object detection, Segmentation, Visual Localization, Optical Flow, Robosuite, NeRF, etc.

RELEVANT COURSES

- Deep Generative Models
- Deep Learning for 3D data
- Advanced Machine Learning
- Reinforcement Learning
- Statistical Learning
- Computer Vision
- Advanced Computer Vision
- Sensing and Estimation in Robotics
- Mathematics for Robotics
- Convex Optimization and Applications
- Advanced Image Processing
- Statistical Signal Processing
- Data Structures and Algorithms

ACHIEVEMENT & ROLES

- Secured rank of **1133** (*out of 1.5 million*) in **IIT-JEE** (India's toughest entrance exam).
- **Teaching Assistant** for 5 undergrad and graduate courses at UC San Diego.
  - Probabilistic Modeling & Machine Learning
  - Probability & Statistics for Data Science
  - Engineering Probability & Statistics
  - Image Processing
  - Linear Signals & Systems
- Taught underprivileged NGO students under Education Outreach program for 1 year.
- **Mentored** 8 students at IIT Bombay's *Summer of Science* program in '19 and '20.
- **Open-source** contribution to Kivy, KivEnt.