Simon (Hwanwoong) Kang

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EDUCATION

Columbia University

New York, NY

M.S. in Mechanical Engineering with concentration in Robotics & Control (GPA: 3.85/4.0)

Sept 2022 - Current

Chung-Ang University

Seoul, Republic of Korea

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering

Feb 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Creative Machines Lab

Columbia University

Graduate Research Assistant, Robot Metabolism Project

May 2023 - Current

- AprilTag Detection: Developed a real-time AprilTag detection system using the AprilTags 3 library
- Camera Calibration: Computed the calibration matrix for the camera to enhance detection accuracy
- Pose Estimation: Employed OpenCV to compute the 3D pose of each detected tag relative to the camera
- Coordinate Transformation: Transformed detected tag poses into a predefined global coordinate system
- **Visualization**: Designed a visualization interface that displays the video feed with detected tags highlighted, indicating tag ID, global pose, and reprojection error
- Error Calculation: Implemented a system to calculate and visualize reprojection errors for all detected tags, ensuring optimal system performance

Research Projects

Robot Walking via Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient

Chung-Ang University

Implemented DDPG for RL agent training via MATLAB Simulink (Advisor: Dr. Seungtae Choi) Sept 2021 - Dec 2021

- Algorithm Implementation: Utilized DDPG on MATLAB's standard robot model for reinforcement learning to optimize walking postures.
- Reward Function Design: Defined a multi-parameter reward function factoring in forward velocity, power consumption, and displacements (both vertical and lateral) for guiding the RL agent's actions
- Simulated Testing: Set up a MATLAB simulated sidewalk environment, spanning 25 meters in length, where the robot learned to walk efficiently, showcasing trajectories without significant deviations
- Data Analysis: Observed and interpreted fluctuations in rewards and potential convergence to local maxima throughout training episodes.
- **Performance Outcome**: Successfully achieved robot walking with an episode reward of 846.6369, following real-world sidewalk constraints, and maintained an average of 554.65 steps per episode

Optimization of 3-DOF Humanoid Robot Leg Posture

Chung-Ang University

Mar 2021 - June 2021

Determined optimal joint angles to minimize torque (Advisor: Dr. Dongjun Shin)

- o Kinematic Modeling: Employed forward kinematics, Jacobian matrices, and dynamic equations for modeling
- o Design & Assembly: Designed and assembled robot components using CATIA, exporting the design as a URDF
- o Control System: Developed block diagrams in MATLAB Simulink, integrating PD controllers
- **Performance Outcome**: Achieved a torque reduction of 1.5% on average and 11.3% at the knee joint by optimizing joint angles to (j1 = -32.3°, j2 = 87.6°, j3 = -85.5°)

Drowsiness Detection via Eye Movement Tracking

Chung-Ang University

Leveraged flex sensors and OpenCV for drowsiness detection (Advisor: Dr. Giuk Lee)

Mar 2021 - June 2021

- Sensor Integration: Assembled a system using flex sensors, breadboard, electrical wiring, and Arduino Uno to quantify neck bending as an indicator of drowsiness.
- Visual Processing: Implemented facial recognition using Raspberry Pi 4, Python, and OpenCV. Deployed Dlib library for face and eye detection and applied Histogram of Oriented Gradients for brightness-based object identification. Developed a blink ratio system using OpenCV's bilateral filter and thresholding for binary data conversion.
- System Fusion: Synchronized mechanical and computer vision systems, introducing a time-based parameter. Triggered an LED warning if neck bending and eyelid closure persisted for over 2.5 seconds.

• **Practical Application**: Potential to enhance safety for long-haul truckers, mitigating risks from unintended microsleep episodes.

UAV Wing Structural Analysis

Chung-Ang University

Optimized carbon thickness in a sandwich beam structure (Advisor: Dr. Youngsik Choi)

Sept 2020 - Dec 2020

- Material Selection: Constructed a sandwich beam wing structure using Expanded Polypropylene (EPP) and carbon, denoted as C-EPP-C
- Analytical Modeling: Employed the sandwich beam equation to forecast stress, shear force, and deformation dynamics of the wing
- CAD Analysis: Integrated EPP and carbon material properties into a CAD model for structural analysis, utilizing CATIA's GSA function. Incorporated XFLR5 for evaluating wing and airfoil performance under low Revnolds numbers
- o **Optimization Outcome**: Identified optimal carbon thickness at 1.5mm, achieving a maximum principal strength of 3.6MPa for carbon and 0.25MPa for EPP. Given allowable stresses of 1470MPa (Carbon) and 2.4MPa (EPP), the design proved to be stable with a considerable safety margin

Professional Experience

Kia Motors

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Engineer, North America Safety Engineering Team, Global HQ

July 2022 - Sep 2022

• Saftety Oversight: Led diagnostics and management of safety quality issues within powertrains, engines, and electric motors; collaborated extensively with KUS NASO and NHTSA

Hyundai Motor Group

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Engineer, North America Field Analytic Engineering Team, Global HQ

Mar 2022 - July 2022

• **Project Leadership**: Directed the development of a safety data system for HMG's automotive brands (Kia, Hyundai, and Genesis) in collaboration with Deloitte. The final system was presented in partnership with Deloitte at a NHTSA event in Washington DC

NAVER LABS

Seongnam, Republic of Korea

Data Asistant, AI Translation Team

Dec 2016 - Mar 2017

- Deep Learning: Engaged in a DNN initiative using TensorFlow aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the PAPAGO AI translator
- Data Management: Curated and annotated a specialized speech dataset to advance ML models for translation

Leadership and Services

Literary Society Leader

Chung-Ang University

Directed reading groups, curated reading lists, and facilitated literary discussions

Oct 2018 - Feb 2022

- Literary Exploration: Guided discussions on seminal works by authors including Orwell, Hemingway, Emerson, Whitman, and Faulkner
- **Publication**: Spearheaded the compilation and publication of a book featuring select literary contributions from society members

Military Interpreter

Korea Military Academy

Served in the Office of International Affairs

Jan 2015 - Oct 2016

- o Military Service: Completed mandatory military service as a Korean citizen, serving in a pivotal role at KMA
- International Relations: Managed communications with renowned military academies globally, including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point
- Collaborative Efforts: Orchestrated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) processes with diverse entities, notably the National Medical Center

Technical Proficiency

- Programming Languages: Python, C++, MATLAB, Java, JavaScript
- Robotics & AI: ROS (Gazebo, RViz), OpenCV, TensorFlow, PyTorch, Simulink
- CAD & Hardware: NX(NX Design Acadmic Certified), CATIA, Solidworks, Arduino, Raspberry Pi
- Databases & Cloud: MySQL, MongoDB, AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda)
- Version & Collaboration: Git, GitHub, Slack