Surya Lakshmi Subba Rao Pilla

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EXPERIENCE

• University of California San Diego

San Diego, CA

Research Intern at Computational and Imaging Systems Lab

July 2023 - Sep. 2023

Email: slpilla@ucsd.edu

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- Developed a self-supervised learning pipeline utilizing SuperPoint keypoint descriptor extraction from privacy-preserving lens images for Visual Inertial Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (VI SLAM)
- o Designing a neural network pipeline to extract keypoints out of Event Camera to perform deep SLAM

Graduate Student Researcher

Jan 2023 - June 2023

- Analysed visual attention in the context of machine learning and human vision by estimating gaze points
- Implemented supervised learning to correct slippage of eyeglass-mounted cameras to accurately calibrate gaze estimation algorithm, reducing gaze mapping error of real-world frame from 40% to 20%

• Honeywell

Bangalore, India

July 2019 - July 2022

Embedded Engineer

- \circ Introduced fire detection algorithm (into existing 3IR flame detector) compliant with EN54 (European certification), saving 10 months of development cycle and 10+ human resources for data collection
- Designed Machine Learning (ML) framework utilizing Python scientific libraries, compatible with existing dataset, for Triple IR sensor-based flame detection, saving 150 man-hours of data collection
- Trained and deployed state-of-the-art object detection model (YOLOv4) in NVIDIA Jetson Nano for autonomous maritime search-and-rescue purposes to gather project funding from the global team
- Prototyped a novel visible plus thermal camera-based flame detection for annual innovation challenge (CV, deep learning and TinyML framework), contributing towards high value Intellectual Property
- Mentored 3 interns with technical tasks in ML/Computer Vision (CV), and professional efficiency

Key Achievements

July 2019 - July 2022

- o 8 IP awards: Filed 6 Trade Secrets and 2 U.S. patent applications (currently under review)
- o Diamond award: Awarded with 2nd position out of 276 ideas presented at annual innovation competition
- Certification: Certified with Six Sigma Green Belt DFSS Hardware and AI/ML Bootcamp Program

EDUCATION

• University of California San Diego

San Diego, CA

Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering — Robotics

Sep. 2022 - June 2024

Relevant Courses: Sensing and estimation for robotics, Planning and learning in robotics, Digital image processing, Statistical learning (Bayesian probability), Visual learning (Computer Vision/ Deep Learning)

• Indian Institute of Technology Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering

Tirupati, India

Aug. 2015 - Aug. 2019

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Programming Languages/ Framework: Python, C++ (beginner), PyTorch; TensorFlow, Keras, OpenCV, TinyML
- Software: MATLAB(signal and image processing toolbox), IAR embedded workbench, Minitab
- Computing Platforms: Linux, Windows, Nvidia Jetson, STM32/TI micro-controller, ESP32 MCU

Research — Academic Projects

Sep. 2022 - Present

- Particle Filter SLAM: Modeled Particle Filter for indoor localization and mapping of differential-drive robot using LiDAR to generate probabilistic occupancy grid of unknown environment
- Visual Inertial SLAM: Implemented VI SLAM by designing Extended Kalman Filter for localization and landmark mapping to track 3D pose of robot using sensor fusion of gyroscope, accelerometer, and camera measurements
- Autonomous Navigation: Executed dynamic programming algorithm for deterministic shortest path problem to minimize value function, optimize control actions to find shortest path from door to key by avoiding obstacles
- Trajectory Tracking: Optimized non-linear problem using python CasADi solver to get optimal control policy for accurate trajectory tracking, compared Receding-Horizon Certainty Equivalent Control and Generalized Policy Iteration
- Motion Planning: Engineered and executed a compelling comparison between search-based (A*) and sampling-based (RRT) algorithms, unveiling their distinct performances in a dynamic continuous 3D environment
- Image Segmentation: Trained a PyTorch-based UNet with attention module and compared with Deeplabv3 with Resnet 101 backbone for road object detection, achieved pixel-level accuracy of 91% with UNet