Surya Lakshmi Subba Rao Pilla

linkedin.com/in/pslsubbarao

EDUCATION

Email : slpilla@ucsd.eduMobile : +1-959-999-0403

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

Tirupati, India

Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering

Aug. 2015 - Aug. 2019

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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

Experience

UC San Diego

San Diego, CA

Summer Research Internship

July 2023 - Sep. 2023

- Created a self-supervised learning pipeline utilizing SuperPoint keypoint descriptor extraction from privacy-preserving lens images for Visual Inertial Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)
- o Design a Neural Network pipeline to extract keypoints out of Event Camera to perform efficient SLAM Graduate Student Researcher

 Jan 2023 June 2023
 - Analysed visual attention in the context of machine learning and human vision by estimating gaze points
 - \circ Implemented slippage correction algorithm for eyeglass-mounted cameras to accurately calibrate gaze estimation algorithm, reducing gaze mapping error of real-world frame from 40% to 20%

Honeywell

Bangalore, India

Embedded Engineer

July 2019 - July 2022

- 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
- Developed 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 2nd position out of 276 ideas presented at annual innovation competition
- o Certification: Certified for Six Sigma Green Belt DFSS Hardware and AI/ML Bootcamp Program

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: Executed and engineered 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 it to Deeplabv3 with Resnet 101 backbone for road object detection, achieved pixel-level accuracy of 91% with UNet