Taylor Howell

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University, CA, USA

Sept. 2017 - present

Advisor: Zachary Manchester

M.S., Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University, CA, USA

June 2019

Automatic Controls, Robotics

B.S., Mechanical Engineering, University of Utah, UT, USA

Dec. 2016

Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH

Research Assistant, Robotic Exploration Lab, Stanford University

May 2018-Present

My research is focused on devising optimization tools and algorithms for motion planning of robotic systems. Currently, I'm developing fast solvers for contact-implicit trajectory optimization. Previously, I was co-leading development of TrajectoryOptimization.jl, an open-source Julia package for solving constrained trajectory optimization problems.

Research Assistant, Telerobotics Laboratory, University of Utah

Oct. 2015 - Dec. 2016

I devised and implemented a control policy to sort swarms of microrobots using rotating uniform magnetic fields for minimally invasive medical applications. This work included: applied physics, simulation, nonlinear optimization, fabrication of a scaled microrobot swarm, and writing C++ code to control a tri-axial Helmholtz-coil system.

Research Assistant, Utah Center of Excellence for Biomedical Microfluidics, University of Utah Sept. 2014 - Oct. 2015

I designed and built a forty-eight-syringe pump for a medical microfluidic system, developed standard operating procedures for a high-throughput drug screening and cytotoxicity evaluation system, and performed statistical analysis for ovarian-cancer cell experiments.

EXPERIENCE

Instructor, GREAT Summer Camp, University of Utah

Jun. 2017 – Jul. 2017

Taught practical robotics and programming skills to elementary school students using the LEGO Mindstorm platform and developed projects and challenges for FLL skills, telerobotics, and kinetic-art themed weeks.

Co-founder, Cornaby-Howell LLC

Apr. 2015 - Oct. 2015

I prototyped systems including: a touch display module with GUI, Arduino C code, a lead-screw system, and syringe attachment modules for precision high-throughput syringe pumps.

Twisty Puzzle Designer

Aug. 2007 - Jan. 2011

I designed and built twisty puzzles with selling prices ranging from \$25 - \$850. I exhibited my work at the community's premier international event, Dutch Cube Day, in 2008.

Publications

- 1. B. Jackson*, T. Howell*, K. Shah, M. Schwager, Z. Manchester. Scalable Cooperative Transport of Cable-Suspended Loads with UAVs using Distributed Trajectory Optimization. Submitted.
- 2. T. Howell*, B. Jackson*, Z. Manchester. ALTRO: A Faster Solver for Constrained Trajectory Optimization. 2019. International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems. Macao, China.
- 3. T. Howell, B. Osting, J. Abbott. Sorting Rotating Micromachines By Variations in Their Magnetic Properties. 2018. Physical Review Applied.
- 4. J. Arellano, T. Howell, J. Gammon, S. Cho, M. Janat Amsbury, B. Gale. Use of a highly parallel Microfluidic Flow Cell Array to determine therapeutic drug dose response curves. 2017. Biomedical Microdevices.
- 5. J. Arellano, J. Gammon, T. Howell, M. Janat-Amsbury, B. Gale. A Continuous Flow Microspotter for the Implementation of a High-Throughput Drug Screening and Cytotoxicity Evaluation System. 2015. BMES Annual Meeting.

SKILLS

Julia, Python, C++, Matlab LATEX, Git, Solidworks, ROS, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Illustrator

Mill, Lathe, Vacuum Forming, Laser Cutting, Mold Making and Casting, Metal Sheet Fabrication

Coursework at STANFORD

Convex Optimization EE364a, Optimal Control AA203, Nonlinear Control AA209, State Estimation AA273, Principles of Robotic Autonomy AA274, Mechatronics ME210, Linear Dynamical Systems EE 263, Introduction to Robotics ME320, Machine Learning CS229, Decision Making Under Uncertainty AA228, Control Design Techniques E205, Advanced Robotic Manipulation CS326, Advanced Feedback Control AA212, Optimization MS&E 211X, Experimental Robotics CS225a

Fellowships and SCHOLARSHIPS

Stanford Graduate Fellowship	2017 - 2018
University of Utah Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Fellowship	2016
The Boeing Company Scholarship	2016
Shirley L. & Kathelyne O. Evans Endowed Scholarship	2016
Big Ten+ Grad Expo travel scholarship	2016
University of Utah Presidential Scholarship	2013 - 2016