

# THARUN V PUTHANVEETIL

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**Research Interest** : *Pattern Recognition* | *Human-Robot Interaction* | *Multi-Modal Networks* | *Machine Vision* | *Cognitive Science*

## EDUCATION

### University of Maryland

*Master of Engineering in Robotics (GPA:3.88/4.0)*

Aug. 2022 – May 2024

Maryland, USA

### Vellore Institute of Technology

*Bachelor of Technology in Electronics and Communication (GPA:8.59/10.0)*

Jul. 2014 – Apr 2018

Vellore, India

## EXPERIENCE

### Robotics Intern | Multi-Modal Networks, Robotics, Deep Learning, Security, Representation Learning

Feb 2023 – Present

*CATT Labs*

*Maryland, USA*

- Formulating functional and behavioral attacks to model the baseline behavior of the ROS1 autonomy stack.
- Developing Multi-Modal anomaly detectors for robots, enabling the ability to identify injections causing abnormalities.
- Creating a standardized metric to measure and parameterize the safety of robots and cyber-physical systems.
- Designed targeted Data Flooding & Man In The Middle attacks with 40%-60% stealth rate, on ROS1 navigation stack.
- Achieved 91% accuracy with LSTM-based sequential models in detecting anomalies from temporal robot system call data.
- Modelled an 86% accurate GCN+LSTM+Autoencoder-based anomaly detector for spatiotemporal robot sensor data.
- Developed a responsive web interface for live robot tracking and control, facilitating device-agnostic robot operation.
- Built a Flask-powered web app for robot waypoint navigation, enabling twofold acceleration in the data collection pipeline.

### Graduate Research Assistant | Deep Learning, Robotics, Human-Robot Interaction

Nov 2022 – Jan 2023

*Perception and Robotics Group, UMD*

*Maryland, USA*

- Worked on "Human-Robot Interaction using Multi-Modal interaction schemes" under **Dr. Yiannis Aloimonos**.
- Implemented an Imitation Learning-based policy to teach robot, actions from human demonstration, speech & gestures.

### Robotics Research Intern | Deep Learning, Human-Robot Interaction, Computer Vision

June 2021 – Dec 2021

*Indian Institute of Science*

*Bangalore, India*

- Implemented a robotic manipulator based *Precision Weeding Robot* to optimize pesticide usage in indoor farms.
- Developed YoloR-based crack detection algorithm with 94% accuracy for asset inspection challenge at IROS21.
- Developed a UNet-based Monocular Depth Estimation model using the NYU Dataset with 94% accuracy.
- Conceptualized a poster on "Event-based Dynamic Obstacle Avoidance in Outdoor Environments" for IROS21.

### Project Engineer | Deep Learning, HCI, Computer Vision, Recommendation Engine, Pattern Recognition

Jul. 2018 – May 2021

*CTO Office, Wipro Digital*

*Bangalore, India*

- Led as the AI Project Lead at the Innovation team, orchestrating the quarterly project lineup.
- Developed a 2D CNN-based tool tracking system using Leap Motion controller, enhancing hardware assembly pipelines.
- Engineered a mobile-centric insurance solution with a Transfer Learning-based car model detector(96% acc.)with *TfLite*.
- Implemented Generative AI and learning-based algorithms for *my Style*, Wipro's top 2 retail solutions for the year 2020.
- Designed a Robotics solution for the 'Smart Airport' product improving customer traction by 20%.

## PUBLICATIONS

- [1] "Pose Fusion: Multi-View Pose Integration for Comprehensive Action Recognition". [pre-published print]
- [2] "Striking the Balance: Human Pose Estimation based Optimal Fall Recognition". [pre-published print]
- [3] "Application of Mobile Collaborative Robot using Deep Learning in Precision Weed Control of Large Farms". Elsevier 2021 [manuscript]
- [4] "A Univariate Data Analysis Approach for Rainfall Forecasting". ICCIS 2020 [manuscript] [link]
- [5] "Prediction of Rainfall Using Data Mining Techniques". ICICCT 2018 [link]
- [6] "Wall climbing robot using soft robotics". ICPCSI 2017 [link]

## PATENTS

### AGGRIP (*In Progress*) [link]

Oct 2021 – Present

- Engineered a manipulator gripper for precision weeding (plucking and spraying) tailored to identified weed types.
- The unique design ensures minimal contact with non-weeds using an adaptive vision-based control mechanism.

## TECHNICAL STACK

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**Programming:** Python, C/C++, SQL (MySQL), JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Matlab, Labview, Docker, GIT  
**AI/ML/Data Science Libraries:** Tensorflow, Pytorch, OpenCV, Keras, Scikit-Learn, Tableau  
**AI/ML Algorithms:** Reinforcement Learning, Imitation Learning, Graph Analysis, TSA, NLP, Gen AI, Federated Learning  
**UI/UX/AR/VR/MR/Simulation:** Unity, Three.js, A-frame, AR.js, Vuforia, Gazebo, Rviz  
**Embedded/IOT/Robotics:** ROS, ROS2, MQTT, HTTP, Socket, Softrobotics  
**Robotic Platforms:** Turtlebot 2, Turtlebot 3, Delta, OpenManipulator-X, Husky, M500 Drone

## PROJECTS

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- PoseFusion - Multi-view Action Recognition** | *Python, Pytorch, OpenCV* [link] Nov 2023 – Dec 2023
- Developed a pipeline for view-based pose aggregation for action recognition in partial/no occlusion scenarios.
  - GCN+Transformer multi-view aggregation model** achieved an accuracy of 96% for multi-class action recognition.
  - Implemented a custom data loader to enable batch training that improved training speed by 4 times.
- Human Pose Estimation based Fall Recognition** | *Python, Tensorflow* [link] Nov 2023 – Dec 2023
- Developed a **Human Pose Estimation** keypoints based dynamic Fall Detection model.
  - The custom **Graph CNN + Transformer**-based Fall Detection model achieved 98% accuracy.
- Maze Runner** | *C++, ROS2, Gazebo, RViz* [link1] [link2] Nov 2023 – Dec 2023
- Implemented autonomous navigation in a maze, based on dynamic cues received from **Aruco** markers in Gazebo world.
  - Implemented a **ROS2 Action-Client** server to utilize the **NAV2** to perform visual feed-based waypoint navigation.
- Leonardo - Autonomous Retrieval UGV** | *Python, Arduino, OpenCV* [video] Feb 2023 – May 2023
- Constructed a Barron robot equipped with an IMU, Encoder, Rpi camera, and servo-based arm.
  - Implemented a **Visual Servoing**-based low-level controller for object 'Pick and Place' using the attached arm.
  - Developed a custom localization algorithm through **sensor fusion** of IMU, Encoder, and Range sensor.
- Auto Platoon** | *Python, OpenCV, Pytorch* [video] [link] Apr 2023 – May 2023
- Deployed a bio-inspired multi-agent leader-follower system for energy-efficient transportation.
  - Created a **YoloV7** and **Kalman Filter**-based agent tracking algorithm incorporating dynamic obstacle avoidance.
  - Developed a **Socket** communication-based connected-vehicle communication strategy.
  - Implemented a **Visual Servoing**-based motion planner and low-level controller for agent tracking and obstacle avoidance.
- ACO-RRT\* - Bio-Inspired Path Planning** | *Python, Numpy* [link] May 2023 – Jun 2023
- Implemented a Bio-Inspired path planning algorithm for quickly exploring random trees by foraging behavior of ants.
  - Improvise the sampling strategy of Traditional **RRT\*** with the **Ant Colony Optimization technique**.
  - Achieved 1.4 times and 3.54 times faster convergence (than **RRT\***) in finding the 'first path' and 'ideal path' respectively.
- Autonomous Weeding Robot** | *Python, Matlab, OpenCV, Tensorflow, Pytorch* [video] June 2021 – Present
- Implemented a robotic manipulator-based precision weeding robot for optimizing pesticide usage in indoor farms.
  - Created a **YoloR** object detection model trained on augmented synthetic data for weed localization.
  - Implemented an Inverse Kinematics solver based on supervised **Behavioral Cloning** for precise manipulation.
- my Style** | *Python, OpenCV, Tensorflow, Pytorch, Mysql, Flask* [link1] [link2] [video] Jun 2019 – Sep 2019
- An end-to-end AI-powered shopping app.
  - Implemented a human body measurement extraction module based on **2D photogrammetry & Body Pose Estimation**
  - Developed a **RASA** framework-based **chatbot** that can give personalized dress recommendations based on the user's body measurements, shape, color preference and occasion of interest.
  - Modelled a **Content-based recommendation engine** for apparel recommendation.
  - Developed a **GAN**-based product customization model for dynamic apparel styling.
  - Engineered a supervised **Fit Analyzer** model that evaluates the fit of the chosen apparel in terms of a 'Fit %' metric.
- Other Robotics Projects:** | [A\* Planner] | [Dijkstra Planner] | [Irona] | [Robobutler] Aug 2022 – May 2023
- Other AI/ML Projects:** | [SLIC] | [Image Outpainting] | [Virtual Try-On] | [RL Cricket] July 2018 – Dec 2023

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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- RAMI Cascade Campaign - IEEE/RSJ IROS 2021** [link]
- Secured 3rd place for providing an aerial robotic solution for asset Inspection and Management (I&M).
- Late Breaking Results - IEEE/RSJ IROS 2021** [link]
- Poster on "Event-based Dynamic Obstacle Avoidance in Outdoor Environments" accepted amongst the top 25 posters for a presentation.
- Winter School Projects - IEEE RAS 2021** [link]
- Finished as one of the Top 2 teams to complete 4/4 tasks with a presentation for a challenge on "SLAM in Deformable Environments"