HARUN V PUTHANVEETTIL

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- Robotics Engineer with 4+ years of industry and research experience in Machine Learning, Computer Vision, and Robotics.
 - Specializes in Anomaly Detection, Action Recognition, Multi-modal networks, and Human-Robot Interaction. - Holds a portfolio of 5+ publications with over 50 citations, and a pending patent.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland - CP, USA | Master of Engineering in Robotics (GPA:3.9/4.0) Vellore Institute of Technology, India | BTech. in Electronics and Communication (GPA:8.6/10.0)

Aug. 2022 - May 2024 Jul. 2014 - Apr 2018

EXPERIENCE

CATT Labs

Research Assistant | Multi-Modal Networks, Robotics, Deep Learning, Security, Action Recognition

Feb 2023 - Present

Maryland, USA

- Developing Multi-Modal Anomaly Detectors to report behaviors that deviate from the robot's normal baseline nature.
- Formulating functional and behavioral attacks to model the baseline behavior of the ROS1 autonomy stack.
- Creating a one-stop log retrieval service using Large Language Models for improving accessibility for non-technical users.

Anomaly detection using Spatio Temporal RObot Data(ASTROD) | Python, Pytorch [link]

- Developed ASTROD, a one-shot spatiotemporal multi-modal Anomaly Detection framework.
- Generated abnormal samples with **Data Flooding & Man In The Middle** attacks of 40%-60% stealth rate, on ROS1 stack.
- Modelled an 86% accurate GCN+LSTM+Autoencoder-based anomaly detector for spatiotemporal robot sensor & net data Fall Detection using Human Pose Estimation | Python, Pytorch, OpenCV [link1][link2]
- Crafted a Human Pose Estimation keypoints based Fall Detection model. Identified optimal framerate for fall detection
- Quantified the potency of each key point in improving the detection accuracy. Analyzed the relevance of camera angle. Custom **GCN + Transformer**-based Fall Detection model achieved 95%(avg.) accuracy on both UR & NTU dataset.
- Devised a pipeline for multi-view-based pose aggregation for fall recognition in partial/no occlusion scenarios.
- GCN+Transformer multi-view aggregation model achieved an accuracy of 96% for multi-class action recognition.
- Implemented a bespoke **Data Loader** to facilitate batch training for graph data, improving training speed by 4 times.

Researcher(AI & Robotics) | Deep Learning, Human-Robot Interaction, Computer Vision, Robotics

June 2021 – Jan 2023 Banglore, India & Maryland, USA

Indian Institute of Science & Perception and Robotics Group, UMD

- Implemented an *Imitation Learning-based policy* to instruct robot actions from human demonstration, speech & gestures.
 Constructed a **UNet**-based Monocular Depth Estimation model on the NYU Dataset with 94% accuracy (Top 4 @ IROS21).
- **Autonomous Weeding Robot** | Python, Matlab, OpenCV, Tensorflow, Pytorch [link1]
- Engineered a robotic manipulator based plucking robot to reduce pesticide usage in indoor farms by up to 80%.
- Created a YoloR object detection model trained on augmented synthetic data for weed localization with 98% accuracy.
- Implemented an Inverse Kinematics solver based on supervised Behavioral Cloning for precise manipulation.

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

Jul. 2018 - May 2021 Banglore, India

CTO Office, Wipro Digital

- · 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.) in Tflite.
- Implemented Generative AI and learning-based algorithms for my Style, Wipro's top 2 retail POCs for the year 2020.

my Style | Python, OpenCV, Tensorflow, Pytorch, Mysql, Flask [link1] [link2] [video]

- An end-to-end Al-powered shopping app to reduce trial room drops and improve scope for apparel customization.
- Implemented a human body measurement extraction module based on 2D photogrammetry & Human Pose Estimation.
- Developed a RASA framework-based chatbot that can give personalized dress recommendations.
- Modelled a **Content-based recommendation engine** for apparel recommendation.
- Created 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.

TECHNICAL STACK

Programming: Python, C/C++, SQL (MySQL), JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Matlab, Labview, Docker

AI/ML/CV/Data Science Libraries: Tensorflow, Pytorch, OpenCV, Keras, Scikit-Learn, Tableau, Langchain

AI/ML Algorithms: Reinforcement Learning, Imitation Learning, Graph Analysis, TSA, NLP, Generative AI, Federated Learning Embedded/IOT/Robotics/Simulation: ROS, ROS2, MQTT, HTTP, Socket, Soft robotics, Unity, Flask, Vuforia, Gazebo, Rviz

Robotic Platforms: Turtlebot 2, Turtlebot 3, Delta, OpenManipulator-X, Husky, M500 Drone

S/W Development: Agile Development, Jira, GIT, Gitlab, Bitbucket, Pair Programming, Test-Driven Development, UML, SCM

PUBLICATIONS/PATENTS/POSTERS

- [1] "ASTROD: Multimodal Anomaly Detection for Autonomous CPS Empowering Real-World Evaluation". IROS 2024. [Manuscript]
- "A Data-Driven Approach for Securing Autonomous Cyber-Physical Systems". CDC 2024. [Manuscript]
- "Application of Mobile Collaborative Robot using Deep Learning in Precision Weed Control". Elsevier 2021. [Manuscript]
- "Event-based Dynamic Obstacle Avoidance in Outdoor Environments". IROS 2021[Poster]
- "A Univariate Data Analysis Approach for Rainfall Forecasting". ICCIS 2020. [Manuscript] [Link]
- "Prediction of Rainfall Using Data Mining Techniques". ICICCT 2018. [Link]
- "Wall climbing robot using soft robotics". ICPCSI 2017. [Link]
- [8] "AGGRIP" Manipulator gripper for precision weeding tailored to identified weed types. (in process) [Patent Link]

AI | COMPUTER VISION | MACHINE LEARNING

Image Segmentation using SLIC | Python, OpenCV, Tensorflow, HTML, CSS, Angular.js, Unity [link] Jul 2020 - Present

- Utilized Simple Linear Iterative Clustering algorithm to generate superpixels for creating a custom segmentation dataset.
- Implemented a CNN-based Deep feature extractor for superpixel-based image segmentation.
- Achieved 20% improved segmentation performance over **KNN**-based image segmentation.

Image Outpainting | Python, OpenCV, Tensorflow, HTML, CSS, Angular.js, Unity [link]

Jul 2020 - Present

- Implemented an Image Outpainting algorithm using Implicit Neural Representation.
- Achieved 3 points less PSNR using Positional Encoding add-on compared to the Feed-Forward network-only implementation.

Al Cricket Coach | Python, OpenCV, Tensorflow, HTML, CSS, Angular.js, Unity [link]

Jul 2020 - Present

- · Al solution classifying bowl types from video feeds, offering coaching assistance in WebVR environment.
- Created a **Body Pose Estimation** plugin for batting pose feedback.
- Utilized a custom 3D CNN bowl classification model with 92% accuracy trained on synthetic VR data.

Virtual Try-On | Python, OpenCV, Tensorflow, Pytorch, Flask[link]

Jan 2021 - Mar 2021

- An AI solution to bring down trial room drops and to provide customers with a style quotient evaluator.
- Implemented a GAN-based generative model for creating customizable textures rendered onto 3D AR apparel models.
- Developed an Aesthetic Quality Assessment Model (AQAM) and an Explainable AI plugin to provide professional recommendations and justify AQAM outputs.

ROBOTICS.

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 an algorithm through sensor fusion of IMU, Enocoder, & Range sensor for rapid localization in confined zones.

Auto Platoon | Python, OpenCV, Pytorch [video] [link]

Apr 2023 - May 2023

- Deployed a bio-inspired multi-agent leader-follower system for modular & 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.
- Improvised 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.

GCN - Graph Convolution Network, GAN - Generative Adversarial Network, TSA - Time Series Analysis, SCM - Software Configuration Management UGV - Unmanned Ground Vehicle