

# Priyam Parashar

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Born: July 8, 1991 – India

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Artificial Intelligence • Cognitive Robotics • Human Robot Interaction • Mobile Robots

## EDUCATION

- 2016-Present PHD STUDENT in CSE – Robotics,  
**University of California, San Diego**
- 2015-2016 PHD STUDENT in Robotics,  
**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
CGPA: 3.50 / 4.00
- 2015 MSc in Robotics,  
**Carnegie Mellon University**  
CGPA: 3.95 / 4.00
- 2013 BTech WITH HONOURS in Electronics and Communication,  
**International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad**  
CGPA: 8.55 / 10.00

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT under Dr Henrik Christensen and Dr Ashok Goel,  
**University of California, San Diego; Georgia Institute of Technology**
- Designing the AI for a “TourBot”, intended to give autonomous tours to visitors
  - Investigating use of machine learning for repairing/improving existing planners, specifically Hierarchical Task Networks
  - Investigating optimal passing policy (distance, speed, human comfort, etc.) and effect of familiarity on the same for service robots while encountering random people in the corridor
- 2013-2014 GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT under Dr Reid Simmons,  
**Carnegie Mellon University**
- Designed pipeline for analyzing logged data from mobile robots to model and predict travel time depending upon environmental and time-based features

- Learning was geared towards making explanations and diagnostic efforts easier by using Decision Tree based rule-extraction from the data
  - Verified the pipeline using real-world logged data from [CoBot](#)
  - Authored a [paper](#) outlining the approach and results of the same
- 2014 ROBOTICS SOFTWARE INTERN supervised by Dr Frederik Heger,  
**Vecna Technologies, Inc.**
- Programmed the pipeline conceived during the GRA at Carnegie Mellon University for the planning stack of [QC Bot](#) in C++
  - Experimented with more features for the pipeline using real-time data from in-house robot runs and improved the efficiency by making it more robot specific
  - Presented the approach and results as part of final week presentations, which was generally praised
- 2013 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT under Dr Madhava Krishna,  
**IIIT-Hyderabad**
- Facilitated conception of FPGA-powered omni-directional robots for promoting robotics projects within the university, as a part of team of 4
  - Programmed FPGA to implement various path-planning algorithms, leveraging the parallel processing that the platform provides
- 2011 RESEARCH INTERN under Dr Sudhir Madhav Rao  
**IIIT-Hyderabad**
- Designed the complete course curriculum for lab-based course “Digital Signal Processing Lab”, which was introduced next semester
  - Verified experiments on Texas Instrument’s TMS320C6713 DSP Starter Kit and catalogued the proceedings as a lab manual

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Robotics and Perception*  
**Georgia Institute of Technology**
- Conducted tutorial sessions to help with lab-based hands-on experiments as well as lecture based conceptual questions
- 2012 Teaching Assistant for *Electronics Workshop - II*  
**IIIT-Hyderabad**
- Designed new weekly problem statements for teaching curriculum
  - Supervised lab sessions and tutored the undergraduate students involved
- 2011 Teaching Assistant for *Embedded Hardware Design*  
**IIIT-Hyderabad**
- Supervised lab sessions and tutored undergraduates on concepts of micro-controllers and FPGA

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 **Parashar, Priyam**, Robert Fisher, Reid Simmons, Manuela Veloso, and Joydeep Biswas. "Learning Context-Based Outcomes for Mobile Robots in Unstructured Indoor Environments." In 2015 IEEE 14th *International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, pp. 703-706. IEEE, 2015

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2016 Georgia Robotics [Fellowship](#) for Women and Underrepresented Minorities  
 2010-2012 Enlisted in *Dean's List of Academic Excellence* at IIIT-Hyderabad, India  
 2011 Awarded special mention and credits by the institute, for excellent work while developing the course curriculum for "Digital Signal Processing Lab"