# Jeffin Johny Kachappilly

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### **EDUCATION**

#### University of Maryland (UMD) | M.Eng. in Robotics

College Park, MD, US | (08/21 – 05/23)

MD, US | (01/23 - 05/23)

UMD | (05/23)

- Relevant Coursework: Manufacturing Robotic Software, Planning, Advanced Perception, Robot Modeling, Control Systems, Rehabilitation Robots, Deep Learning Frameworks, Hands-on Aerial Robotics.
- Cumulative GPA: 3.97/4.0
- **National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NITC)** | *B.Tech in Mechanical Eng. Kerala, India* | (07/16 – 05/20)
  - Relevant coursework: Automobile Engineering, CAD/CAM, Manufacturing and Machine Design. •

### SKILLS

# Programming Languages: C++, Python, Matlab

Tools & libraries: Gazebo, Solidworks, OpenCV, ROS 1, ROS 2, PyTorch, git, Docker, PX4, Arduino, ANSYS, MS Office Controls: PID, LQR, LQG, Kalman Filter, EKF, Impedance Control

Deep Learning Models: Neural networks, CNN, VAE, RNN, Transformers

### **EXPERIENCE**

**3D Modeling Researcher** | *Google - Contract (Bayone Solutions)* Mountain View, CA, US | (09/23 – Present)

- Leveraging **3D** scans to investigate human variability for Pixel wearable devices within Google's UX team.
- Developing mathematical and interference modeling pipeline (software) that process scan data. • Tech used: Python, trimesh, numpy, scipy, SolidWorks (CAD).
- Evaluated different scanners and enhanced the accuracy of the existing pipeline to 96%.

Providing **design recommendations** for future Pixel products with data-driven insights from studies. •

**Research Assistant for SPOT** | University of Maryland

- Integrated ROS packages and sensors for localization of robot dog for autonomous outdoor navigation.
- Interfaced sensors such as GPS, IMU, LiDAR, and stereo cameras using Jetson Xavier. ٠
- Studied different sensors and developed algorithms for contactless vital signs detection for triage.

# PROJECTS

Hands-on Aerial Robotics [LINK] | PX4, ROS, C++ (Team)

- Mastered quadrotor fundamentals using the ModalAI m500 kit: (IMU, monocular camera, 1D LiDAR). ٠
- Introduced FOLLOW ME mode, enabling real-time detection and tracking of humans traveling up to 1m/s. ٠
- Programmed PD controllers for precise yaw and depth control, using YoloV5 and LiDAR output.
- Achieved steady-state standard deviation of 0.09° and 0.004m for Yaw and Depth, respectively. •

**Anomaly Detection in video surveillance [LINK]** | *PyTorch, seaborn (Team)* UMD | (10/22 – 12/22)

- Detected human action-based anomalies using **3D convolutions (I3D)** as feature extractor.
- Trained Multi-Task Variational Auto-Encoder (VAE) to generate pseudo features in weakly supervised setting.
- Augmented recent works which used Attention mechanisms with these pseudo features. ٠
- Tested model on ShanghaiTech & UCF-crime datasets, achieving improved AUC: 96.85% and 83.28%.

**First Principles of Computer Vision [LINK]** | *numpy, matplotlib* (Individual)

- UMD | (09/22 12/22) Implemented fundamental concepts: Edge detection, Keypoints estimation using corners, Optical Flow using ٠ Lucas-Kanade algorithm, Iterative Closest Point using Affine Transforms and Image Stitching.
- Executed Structure from Motion, Stereo vision using Epipoloar Geometry and depth map estimation, Superpixel segmentation and scene segmentation using Gaussian Mixture Model.
- Performed transfer learning-assisted Semantic Segmentation on VOC2007 images, with VGG16 backbone and FCN-32 model. Final pixel-wise cross entropy loss was 0.89.

#### **Deep Learning Fundamentals [LINK]** | *Python, numpy, PyTorch (Individual)* UMD | (09/22 - 12/22)

- Executed DL basics: k-nearest neighbor, Support Vector Machine, Softmax Classifier, 2-layer neural network.
- Implemented CNN with batch norm, dropout using both numpy and Pytorch for image classification on CIFAR-10 dataset and achieved accuracy of 72.58%.
- Trained model capable of generating novel captions for images by implementing **Recurrent Neural Networks**. ٠

#### Agile Robotics for Industrial Automation Competition (ARIAC) [LINK] | C++, Gazebo (Team) UMD | (01/22 – 05/22)

- Formulated a complex control system to handle kitting and assembly operations in automated warehouse.
- Manipulated robotic arms (on linear rail and gantry robot) using Moveit! and AGV using ARIAC plugins.
- Monitored environment using cameras and addressed various agility challenges.

• Created a competitor ROS package with **multithreading** and emerged **victorious** out of the 6 teams.

<u>A-star implementation with non-holonomic constraints [LINK]</u> | *Python, ROS* (Individual) UMD | (01/22 – 02/22)

- Designed a 2D environment with obstacles using matplotlib and implemented algorithm for a circular robot.
- Programmed an open loop controller in ROS and effected it on actual turtlebot3.
- Traversed the **physical map** quickly, earning a **top 5 rank** among competing teams.

Control of a Gantry Crane [LINK] | Matlab (Individual)

UMD | (12/21)

- Developed LQR controller for a crane suspending two masses to minimize oscillations.
- Derived motion equations, linearized the model, and performed controllability and observability checks.
- Deployed Kalman filter for state estimation and implemented LQG.

Design of Test Rig to characterize Braking in LHB [LINK] | SolidWorks, ANSYS (Team) NIT Calicut | (07/19 – 06/20)

- Designed a system model to match the energy dissipated during the braking of LHB coaches.
- Implemented gear system which resulted in **65% mass reduction** of test rig.
- Researched and developed a contactless system to measure the brake torque.

#### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Developed quadrotor for NIST's Indoor Challenge and secured \$100K grand prize. (UAS 4.0) UMD | (2023)
- Supervised gaming stalls at Ragam (one of the largest cultural fests in India). NIT Calicut | (2019)
- Volunteered in Kerala flood relief campaign.

India | (2018,2019)