Kenechukwu C. Mbanisi

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SUMMARY

Robotics Research & Software Engineer. Specialties in safe motion planning and autonomous navigation, SLAM, assisted driving, shared autonomy, reinforcement learning, computer vision, driver behavior modeling.

EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Robotics Engineering, WPI May 2017 – Dec 2021

- Building shared autonomy frameworks for safe navigation of mobile robots using classical and RL approaches
- Developed an integrated human driver simulation framework for studying realistic human-vehicle interaction

May 2021 – Aug 2021

Robotics R&D Engineer, CAYTU SARL, Senegal

- Defined the robotics software architecture for a new product line (semi-autonomous delivery robot system)
- Coordinated engineering and software teams, and managed project schedules and timelines

Projects

Shared Autonomy for Socially-Aware Robot Navigation | C++, ROS, Python, OpenCV

- Developing a haptic shared control framework for enabling remote teleoperation of mobile telepresence robots
- Developing dynamic collision avoidance algorithms with social navigation constraints using Velocity Obstacle-based and reinforcement learning approaches

Last-Mile Robot Navigation (Pan-African Robotics Competition Package) | ROS, Gazebo, Turtlebot3

- Developed photo-realistic city simulation in Gazebo for last-mile mobile robot navigation
- Developed and maintained software packages (simulation & real robot) for the competition serving 30+ teams

RoboNav: Indoor Navigation using Deep Reinforcement Learning | Python, PyTorch, ROS, Gazebo

- Enabled end-to-end learning for dynamic collision avoidance for a mobile robot using only raw 2D lidar inputs
- Successfully implemented and trained models using Deep Q-Learning and DDPG algorithms

Driver Behavior Modeling via Imitation Learning | Python, MoCap, OpenSim, MATLAB

- Developed a imitation learning approach to analyze driver maneuvers and built a motion library of driving styles
- Designed and conducted a fixed cockpit driving user study to collect vehicle maneuver motion data

Surgical Robotics using an Industrial Manipulator Robot | ROS, Arduino, Python

- Developed mechanism to enable mounting a da Vinci Research Kit insertion tool on an ABB Industrial robot
- Developed a software package consisting of kinematics, trajectory generation, and teleoperation functionality

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) , Robotics Engineering Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA, USA	Aug 2016 – Mar 2022
Master of Science (MS), Robotics Engineering	Aug 2016 – May 2018
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA, USA Bachelor of Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Sep 2008 – Jul 2013
Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria	50p 2000 0 0 2010

SKILLS

- Robotics Tools: ROS, Gazebo, RViz, OpenCV
- **Programming:** C++, Python, MATLAB, LaTeX, R
- Software Tools: VSCode, OpenSim, Git, PyTorch, OpenAI Gym, CARLA, Simbody, Linux
- Hardware & Robots: Turtlebot3, Universal Robot (UR5), ABB IRB 120, VEX Robot Kit, Arduino

Awards & Activities

- Recipient of the 2021 Dr. Glenn Yee Graduate Student Tuition Award
- Technical Coordinator, 2021 Pan-African Robotics Competition (PARC)
- Invited Panelist at Society, Robots and Us program (Jan 2021) by Silicon Valley Robotics
- Invited Reviewer: IEEE T-ITS (2019), IEEE IROS (2018)