Blacksburg, Virginia (703) 953-6963 hunterellis@vt.edu

Hunter Ellis Electrical & Computer Engineer

ellishw.tech github.com/hunterwellis linkedin.com/in/ellishw

Electrical/Computer Engineer with interests in control systems and signal processing. Currently working on my master's thesis in an accelerated program at Virginia Tech.

Education

Master of Science in Computer EngineeringMay 2025Virginia Tech – Focused on Control Theory – GPA: 3.7/4.0Blacksburg, VirginiaAdvisers: Dr.Thinh Doan (UT Austin) and Dr.Michael Hsiao (Virginia Tech)

Bachelor of Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering (double major) Virginia Tech – Control Systems and Machine Learning – GPA: 3.7/4.0

May 2024 Blacksburg, Virginia

Technical Experience

Control Theory (Reinforcement Learning) Research | M.S. Thesis Virginia Tech · Graduate Researcher Aug 2023 – Present Blacksburg, Virginia

 Undergraduate and graduate research developing neuro-symbolic algorithms with The C.O.O.L Autonomy Lab at The University of Texas at Austin.

• Developing hardware for a 6-axis robot arm and software for a ROS2 simulation environment used to test custom Reinforcement Learning algorithms.

Continuous and Discrete Systems · Graduate Teaching Assistant

• Taught fundamental concepts in linear systems theory and digital signal processing, including Laplace Transforms, Z-Transforms, system stability, and FIR & IIR filter design.

 Assisted with hands-on projects to illustrate and integrate analog and digital filter design and application on breadboards and TI MSP432 development boards.

Aug 2024 – Dec 2024 Blacksburg, Virginia

May 2024 - Aug 2024

(Merrit Island, Florida)

Huntsville, Alabama

Thrust Vector Control (TVC) | Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV)

Jacobs Space Exploration Group · TVC Intern

• Developed thrust vector control testing hardware and software as part of NASA's Active Inertial Load Simulator at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

- Characterized and created a model of an electro-mechanical actuator including internal viscous and (non-linear) coulomb friction components.
- Derived control systems for a load simulating actuator, in Simulink used to simulate external loads placed on the Mars Ascent Vehicle's thrust vector control actuators during flight.
- Designed and integrated a 3rd order IIR filter to remove high frequency noise from a load cell and linear variable differential transformer (LVDT).

Control Systems Research | Microgrid Inverters

Grenoble Electrical Engineering Laboratory · Research Intern

• Researched inverter control systems – designed to be robust to islanding events and avoid future infrastructure problems on the French power grid.

• Simulated neutral point capacitive and balancing control methods using 4-leg inverters in Simulink. Tested PI control, PR control, Clarke and Park Transforms with HIL simulations.

Naval Concept Design Research | Hospital Sea Trains

Naval Surface Warfare Center (Carderock Division) · Concept Research Intern

• Developed concept hospital sea-train designs at the Center for Innovation in Ship Design and estimated fuel consumption and electrical power loads of concept sea-trains.

June 2023 - Aug 2023

Grenoble, France

June 2022 – Aug 2022 West Bethesda, Maryland

Skills

Software: C/C++, Python, MATLAB, GNU/Linux, Simulink, Git, ROS2, Gazebo, Make, CMake, Labview, Qt, PyTorch, OpenCV, LaTeX, Verilog, FreeRTOS, Autodesk Inventor, SolidWorks, Rhino

Hardware: PCB Design and Assembly, Breadboarding, Computer Architecture, Oscilloscope, Multimeter, 3D-Printing

Projects

FOC Stepper Motor (github.com/hunterwellis)

Dec 2023 – Present

- Backdrivable stepper motor driver using FOC and a magnetic encoder for feedback
- 4-layer PCB mounts to the back of the motor with CAN and power connections

Computer Vision | OCR Capstone Project (capstone brochure.pdf)

Aug 2023 - May 2024

- IOS application capable of detecting coins of interest/value
- Trained OCR and ResNet-50 models on a dataset of real and augmented coin images

Design Teams | Solar Car & Human Powered Submarine (solarcaratyt.org)

- Overall E/E architecture of the Solar Car
- Single board computer and LCD to display relevant data to the submarine pilot

Oct 2020 - Mar 2023