

Athindran Ramesh Kumar

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Webpage: <https://athindran.github.io/>

OUTLINE

Domain expertise in machine learning and robotics. Focus of PhD is on safety certification using optimization, learning and control. Taught several courses on machine learning, deep learning and data science as a TA.

EDUCATION

Princeton University

NJ, USA

MA + PhD, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Sep.2018 - Sep 2023

Advisor: Prof. Peter J. Ramadge

GPA : 3.93/4.0

- Key Courses: Machine learning and Pattern Recognition, Modern Control, Safe Robotics, Theoretical Machine Learning, Optimization for Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning.
- M.A. degree in Electrical Engineering awarded.
- Ph.D. dissertation not complete. Other requirements met and retained candidacy.
- **GRE:** 331/340 (Quantitative: 169/170, Verbal: 162/170, Writing: 4.5/6)
- **TOEFL:** 113/120 (Reading: 30/30, Listening: 29/30, Speaking: 28/30, Writing: 26/30)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Illinois, USA

MS (fully funded by Dept.), Electrical and Computer Engineering

Aug. 2013 - Aug 2015

Advisor: Prof. Grace Gao

GPA : 3.95/4.0

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Chennai, India

B.Tech, Electrical Engineering

Aug. 2009 - July 2013

Advisor: Prof. Radhakrishna Ganti

GPA : 9.27/10.0

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Journal Papers

- **A.R. Kumar**, K. -C. Hsu, P. J. Ramadge and J. F. Fisac, “Fast, Smooth, and Safe: Implicit Control Barrier Functions through Reach-Avoid Differential Dynamic Programming,” in IEEE Control Systems Letters, doi: 10.1109/LCSYS.2023.3292132.
- Heng, Liang, A.R. Kumar, and Grace Gao. “Private proximity detection using partial GPS information.” IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems 52.6 (2016): 2873-2885.

Conference and Workshop Papers

- **S. Liu, A.R. Kumar**, Jaime F. Fisac, Ryan P. Adams, Peter J. Ramadge. “ProBF: Probabilistic Safety Certificates with Barrier Functions.” Presented at SafeRL workshop at NeurIPS 2021.
- **A.R. Kumar** and Peter J. Ramadge. “Learning to Control Using a Convex Combination of Controllers.” 2021 American Control Conference (ACC). IEEE, 2021.
- **A.R. Kumar** and Peter J. Ramadge, 2021, March. DiffLoop: “Tuning PID controllers by differentiating through the feedback loop.” In 2021 55th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS) (pp. 1-6). IEEE.
- **A.R. Kumar**, Balaraman Ravindran, and Anand Raghunathan. “Pack and detect: Fast object detection in videos using region-of-interest packing.” Proceedings of the ACM India Joint International Conference on Data Science and Management of Data. 2019.
- **A.R. Kumar**, Liang Heng, and Grace X. Gao. “GPS privacy: Enabling proximity-based services while keeping GPS location private.” Proceedings of the 27th International Technical Meeting of the Satellite Division of the Institute of Navigation (ION GNSS+ 2013),(Tampa, FL). 2014.

Patents

- **Athindran R**, Navinnath P, Klutto Milleth, Bhaskar Ramamurthi, “Frequency Assignment for SINR and Throughput Management in Battlefield Communication”, India Patent granted 27th June 2024.

SELECT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded full-tuition waiver and stipend for MS degree program at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- Received first-year fellowship at Princeton University for PhD program.
- Ranked 294 out of 1,000,000 students in AIEEE and 1561 out of 800,000 students in JEE.
- Among Top 1% of the students in Zonal Informatics Olympiad 2009 and selected for Indian National Informatics Olympiad 2009
- Branch rank of 5/50 students in B.Tech cohort

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Aurora Tech** Pittsburgh, PA
Software Engineer II - L5 Engineer October 2023 - present
 - Software Engineer in Control until October 2024.
 - ML Software Engineer currently working on learned and engineered fallback models for scene forecasting.
- **Nokia Bell Labs** Murray Hill, NJ
Research Intern Jun - Aug 2021
 - Reinforcement learning algorithms for a multi-link robotic arm in simulation.
- **Center of Excellence in Wireless Technology** Chennai, India
Research Engineer Apr 2016 - June 2018
 - Frequency planning in a communication system.
- **IIT Madras** Chennai, India
Project Associate Nov 2015 - Mar 2016, Jul 2017 - Jul 2018
 - Wrote a proposal seeking funding for the 5G mmWave cellular project at IIT Madras.
 - Efficient deep learning for video processing.
- **Google Inc.** Mountain View, CA
Software Intern - Street View May - Aug 2014
 - Implemented ambiguity resolution algorithms in Python on GPS carrier phase data obtained from receivers installed on Street View cars to achieve sub-meter accurate positioning.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Teaching Experience

- Three-time TA for ECE 435-535 (Machine learning course with strong math foundations)
- Assistantship in Teaching for 11 semesters

Reviewing Service

- Conferences: ICLR (2021, 2023, 2024), NeurIPS (2022-2024), ICML (2023-2025), CISS 2022, IJCAI 2024.
- Journals: IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology, IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters.
- Top reviewer for NeurIPS 2023.

SELECT PROJECTS

- Optimization and Learning methods for Safety-Critical Control**– Princeton University, NJ
Guide: Prof. Peter Ramadge Jul 2019 - Aug 2023
 - Safety certification for autonomous control systems.
 - Learning residual dynamics using probabilistic models.
- Efficient Deep Learning for Videos**– IIT Madras, Chennai
Guide: Prof. B. Ravindran and Prof. Anand Raghunathan (Purdue University) Jul 2017 - Jul 2018
 - Novel inference time method to accelerate object detection in videos.
 - Published **ACM India Joint International Conference on Data Science and Management of Data 2019**.
- Direct Position Tracking using the Vector Correlator**– University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Guide: Prof. Grace Gao Aug 2014 - Aug 2015
 - Proposed a novel direct position tracking loop for GPS using the Unscented Kalman Filter (UKF).
- Object recognition at a road intersection**– University of Ulm, Germany
Guide: Dr. Klaus Dietmayer Apr 2012 - Aug 2012
 - Developed a labeling tool used by the Ko-FAS team for sensor data fusion.

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

- Python - PyTorch - JAX - C++ - Tensorflow - Matlab