## Charlotte Avra

### **EDUCATION**

## Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering Carnegie Mellon University | 2022 - 2024

Emphasis: Robotics & Control Systems

Cumulative GPA: 3.99/4.00

Achievements: BRIDGE Fellowship (2022 – 2024)

### Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | 2018 - 2022

Cumulative GPA: 3.55/4.00

Achievements: Obtained a provisional patent from USPTO

### **PROJECTS**

## Nonprehensile Manipulation for Shelf Organization

Oct. - Dec. 2023

 Planned robot pushing motions using sampling algorithm, enabling the reorganization of boxes leaning on a shelf to create space for additional items

## Path Planning and Control for Autonomous Vehicles Oct. – Dec. 2023

- Developed LQR and PID controllers for lateral and longitudinal control of a Tesla Model 3 in Webots
- Wrote A\* search algorithm for obstacle avoidance
- Implemented Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) for SLAM
- Adaptive control (MRAC) for DJI Mavic 2 Pro quadrotor drone in Webots with loss of thrust in one rotor

# Learning Human-Like Tonal Inflections for Humanoid Robotics

Oct. - Dec. 2022

- Classified audio signals recorded from humanoid robot mouth into 4 tones using 3-layer CNN
- Performed data augmentation on robot audio and converted time signals to Mel-frequency cepstral coefficients for feature extraction

# Hand Gesture Recognition for Screen Manipulation in the Operating Room

Oct. - Dec. 2022

 Developed an MRI image browser controlled using hand gestures detected using MediaPipe

### Educational Typing Game for Children (6+)

Oct. – Dec. 2022

 Interactive space-themed game to improve typing and accuracy programmed in C++ using OpenGL

### **EXPERIENCE**

## Graduate Researcher, Mechanical and AI Lab Carnegie Mellon University | Aug. 2022 - present

• Learning for robotic manipulation of soft material (e.g. robotic clay sculpting)

## Teaching Assistant, Engineering Computation Carnegie Mellon University | Aug. – Dec. 2023

 Conducted office hours and graded assignments and for introductory C++ programming course (24-780)

### Robotics Engineer, Intern

Medra.ai | May – Aug. 2023

- Wrote and tested robot policies for handling biology tools for automating wet lab tasks
- Tested and debugged in simulation (PyBullet) as well as on a physical 6 DOF manipulator

### Mechanical Design Engineer, Intern

**Neuralink** | May - Aug. 2021, Jan. - Jun. 2022

- Neural Implant Imaging Station Modeled and built hardware setup and wrote program for image stitching and loop detection for documenting quality of neural implant's micron-scale loops, removed four manual steps from process
- Wafer Processing Fixture Designed and tested fixture for processing diced wafers to improve solvent flow in chemical baths, megasonic cleaning, and vapor drying processes
- Designed parts for machining and injection molding and drafted technical drawings using GD&T

### **SKILLS**

- Programming: Python (incl. OpenCV), C++ (incl. OpenGL), MATLAB & Simulink, Git, CMake, Arduino
- Robot Hardware: Franka Emika Panda, UFACTORY xArm, Motors, Actuators, Sensors
- Design: Solidworks, Siemens NX, GD&T, Tolerance Stack-up, Material Selection
- Machine Learning and Data Analysis: PyTorch, scikit-learn, Tensorflow, keras, MediaPipe, librosa (audio analysis), Pandas, Matplotlib
- Prototyping Processes: SLA and FDM 3D Printing, Laser Cutting, Vacuum Forming, Woodworking
- Fabrication: Manual Machining, CNC Machining, Injection Molding