

Peter Walker Ferguson

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Robotics, Exoskeletons, Stroke Rehabilitation, Medical Robotics, Prosthetics, Mechanical and Electrical Design.

EDUCATION

2015-present

Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles

- Major: Design, Robotics, and Manufacturing. Minor: Dynamics. Advisor: Jacob Rosen.
- Thesis Title: Dual Reconfigurable Exoskeleton Hand System with Opposable Thumbs.
- Advancement to candidacy: July 22, 2020.
- GPA : 3.97/4.00

2015-2017

M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles

- GPA : 3.97/4.00

2008-2012

B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Loyola Marymount University

- Graduated from the University Honors Program.
- Senior Project: Designing, prototyping, and testing a low cost solar powered LED lamp with cell phone charging capabilities.
- GPA : 3.69/4.00.

SELECTED COURSES

Graduate

Advanced Dynamics, Compliant Mechanism Design, Computational Robotics, Control of Robotic Systems, Dynamics of Robotic Systems, Kinematics of Robotic Systems, Linear Dynamic Systems, Structural Dynamics.

Undergraduate

Bioethics: a Theological Introduction, Communications II, Design Methodology, Dynamic Systems Control, Electric Circuit Applications, Electronics II, Engineering Economic Decision Theory, Introduction to Microprocessors II, Linear Systems, Logic Design.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

July 2015-present

Graduate Student Researcher (University of California, Los Angeles)

- Bionics Laboratory, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- Advisor: Prof. Jacob Rosen
- Projects:
 1. Design, manufacturing, testing, integration, and control of a robotic exoskeleton hand that attaches to existing upper limb exoskeletons for stroke rehabilitation.
 2. Automation of subtasks in robotic suturing and tissue manipulation.
 3. Development of a method for tissue identification during robotic cataract surgery.
 4. Editing of the book *Wearable Robotics: Systems and Applications*.

Jul 2013-Mar 2014

Research and Development Engineer (Nonlinear Ion Dynamics)

- Nonlinear Ion Dynamics plasma physics laboratory, Panorama City, CA, USA.
- Supervisor: Dr. Alfred Wong
- Projects:
 1. Design, construction, operation, and testing of high vacuum plasma chambers.
 2. Analyze the contents of vacuum chambers before, during, and after experiments using instruments and techniques including residual gas analyzers, fast cameras, interferometry, and chemical etching of CR-39 plastic.
 3. Design and prototyping of a novel satellite ion propulsion system. Primary author of an approved grant for further research on the system.

- Summer 2011** **Summer Intern (Southern California Edison)**
- Southern California Edison Advanced Technology, Westminster, CA, USA
 - Supervisor: Dana Law
 - Projects:
 1. Create, document, and present test procedures for limiting the effects of electrical blackouts and regulating the power factor of distribution circuits as two sub-projects of the Irvine Smart Grid Demonstration.
 2. Lab testing and analysis of a new device for substation bus animal deterrence.
 3. Create of an Advanced Technology roadmap outlining business unit direction.
- Oct 2006-Aug 2008** **Research Assistant & Intern (Maryland Psychiatric Research Center)**
- Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, Baltimore, MD, USA
 - Supervisor: Dr. Henry H. Holcomb.
 - Project: Develop E-Prime tests to administer to healthy and schizophrenic patients inside an fMRI to test decision making abilities under the expectation of reward or punishment. Administer the tests to healthy volunteers outside of an fMRI. Statistical analysis of the resulting data.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Aug 2019-Present** **Lecturer (Loyola Marymount University)**
- ELEC 210: Electric Circuit Analysis
 - Fall 2019, Fall 2020.
- Oct 2016-Present** **Teaching Assistant (University of California, Los Angeles)**
- ENGR 182EW: Technology and Society.
 - Fall 2018.
 - ENGR 183EW: Engineering and Society.
 - Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2020.
 - MAE 102: Dynamics of Particles and Rigid Bodies.
 - Fall 2016, Winter 2017, Spring 2017.
 - MAE 162D: Mechanical Engineering Design I.
 - Winter 2020.
 - MAE 162E: Mechanical Engineering Design II.
 - Spring 2020.
 - MAE 294A: Compliant Mechanism Design.
 - Winter 2018.
- Aug 2014-Jun 2019** **Tutor (Atelier Tutors)**
- Topics: Math, physics, SAT, chemistry.
- April 2014-Feb 2016** **Lead Robotics Teacher (STAR Education)**
- Summer teacher, after school teacher, and gifted and talented education teacher.
 - Classes: robotics, LEGOs, coding, engineering, math, and art.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Aug 2020 UCLA MAE Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Honorable Mention
- Apr 2017 Best Poster Award in 2017 SoCal Robotics Symposium University.
- May 2012 Graduated Cum Laude from Loyola Marymount University.
- May 2012 Graduated from the University Honors Program of Loyola Marymount University.
- Sep 2011 & Jan 2012 A. Hannon Engineering Endowment Scholarship.
- May 2009-May 2012 Dean's List of the Seaver College of Science and Engineering of Loyola Marymount University.
- Sep 2011 Membership in Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honors society.
- Sep 2008 Recipient of the Arrupe Scholarship based on merit.

PUBLICATIONS

Books (Edited)

- [B1] Jacob Rosen and Peter Walker Ferguson, Eds. *Wearable Robotics: Systems and Applications*, Academic Press, 2019, ISBN: 978-0-12-814659-0. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/C2017-0-01139-4>.

Book Chapters

- [BC1] Yang Shen, **Peter Walker Ferguson**, and Jacob Rosen, “Upper Limb Exoskeleton Systems - Overview,” in *Wearable Robotics: Systems and Applications*, Jacob Rosen and Peter Walker Ferguson, Eds., Academic Press, 2020, pp. 1-22. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-814659-0.00001-1>.
- [BC2] **Peter Walker Ferguson**, Yang Shen, and Jacob Rosen, “Hand Exoskeleton Systems - Overview,” in *Wearable Robotics: Systems and Applications*, Jacob Rosen and Peter Walker Ferguson, Eds., Academic Press, 2020, pp. 149-175. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-814659-0.00008-4>.
- [BC3] **Peter Walker Ferguson**, Brando Dimapasoc, and Jacob Rosen, “Optimal Kinematic Design of the Link Lengths of a Hand Exoskeleton,” in *Wearable Robotics: Systems and Applications*, Jacob Rosen and Peter Walker Ferguson, Eds., Academic Press, 2020, pp. 193-206. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-814659-0.00010-2>.
- [BC4] Hao Lee, **Peter Walker Ferguson**, and Jacob Rosen, “Lower Limb Exoskeleton Systems - Overview,” in *Wearable Robotics: Systems and Applications*, Jacob Rosen and Peter Walker Ferguson, Eds., Academic Press, 2020, pp. 207-229. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-814659-0.00011-4>.
- [BC5] Yang Shen, **Peter Walker Ferguson**, Ji Ma, and Jacob Rosen “Upper Limb Wearable Exoskeleton Systems for Rehabilitation: State of the Art Review and a Case Study of the EXO-UL8 Dual-Arm Exoskeleton System,” in *Wearable Technology in Medicine and Healthcare*, Raymond Tong, Ed., pp. 71-90, Academic Press, 2018.

Conference Papers

- [C1] Sahba Aghajani Pedram*, **Peter Walker Ferguson***, Changyeob Shin, Ankur Mehta, Erik Dutson, Farshid Alambeigi, and Jacob Rosen, “Toward Synergic Learning for Autonomous Manipulation of Deformable Tissues via Surgical Robots: An Approximate Q-Learning Approach,” in *8th International Conference on Biomedical Robotics and Biomechanics (BioRob)*, 2020, in press.
- [C2] Changyeob Shin, **Peter Walker Ferguson**, Sahba Aghajani Pedram, Ji Ma, Erik P. Dutson, and Jacob Rosen, “Autonomous Tissue Manipulation via Surgical Robot Using Learning Based Model Predictive Control,” in *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2019, pp. 3875-3881.
- [C3] **Peter Walker Ferguson***, Brando Dimapasoc*, Yang Shen, and Jacob Rosen, “Design of a Hand Exoskeleton for Use with Upper Limb Exoskeletons,” in *International Symposium on Wearable Robotics (WeRob)*, Springer, 2018, pp. 276-280.
- [C4] Sahba Aghajani Pedram, **Peter Ferguson**, Ji Ma, Eric Dutson and Jacob Rosen, “Autonomous Suturing via Surgical Robot: An Algorithm for Optimal Selection of Needle Diameter, Shape, and Path,” in *2017 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2017, pp. 2391-2398.

Journal Articles

- [J1] Sahba Aghajani Pedram*, Changyeob Shin*, **Peter Walker Ferguson**, Ji Ma, Erik P. Dutson, and Jacob Rosen, “Autonomous Suturing Framework and Quantification Using a Cable-Driven Surgical Robot,” *IEEE Transactions on Robotics (TRO)*, 2020, conditionally accepted.

Posters

- [P1] H. H. Holcomb, S. Coates, J. West, **P. Ferguson**, and L. Oswald. "Reward and Punishment Expectations Modify Behavior and Brain Activity Patterns Associated with Visual Discrimination," 13th International Congress on Schizophrenia Research (ICOSR), Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2011.

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Programming Languages MATLAB, Assembly (Motorola and Intel), C/C++, LabView.

Technical Software SolidWorks, MATLAB, Multisim, Eagle, Pspice, E-Prime.