NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE | Graduate College

Joint PhD Program Description

The description for the Joint PhD program will be posted online as a sub-page to

Joint PhD Programmes | Graduate College | NTU Singapore.

Name of Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology
City, Country	Sweden
Year of Establishment	2015
Program	☒ Joint Degree ☐ Joint Supervision
Description of the Program (150-250 words)	The NTU-KTH Joint PhD Program was established in 2015, aiming for cutting-edge research on smart transportation, in response to worldwide mobility needs. Built upon the success of Phase 1 Program, the second phase is expected to start in January 2023, with a significantly extended scope that includes all exciting fields related to smart cities and sustainability. Candidates in this program are expected to fulfil standard coursework requirements at the host institution and complete a PhD dissertation in relevant areas in four years. In addition, candidates are also expected to fulfil a residency requirement at the partner institution for 12-13 months during the candidature period. Candidates will have opportunities to work with renowned scholars in relevant fields and enjoy world-class research facilities of both institutions. In addition, there are opportunities for candidates to interact with big companies that have established collaboration relationships with the program to understand real industrial needs and the state-of-art technologies. There will be hackathons organized by the program to allow candidates to demonstrate their cutting-edge technologies and most innovative ideas.
Disciplines	All disciplines that are related to smart cities and sustainability, e.g., electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, computer science, material science, biochemical engineering, social science and psychology.
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NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE | Graduate College

Joint Projects

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE | Graduate College

1. LLM-Driven Operation Design for Bus Services with Autonomous Vehicles

Date Posted	5 December 2025	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Home**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Autonomous buses (ABs) represent a transformative opportunity for enhancing the efficiency, safety, and adaptability of future public transport systems. Yet, their large-scale deployment in dense and dynamic urban environments such as Singapore remains constrained by complex operational challenges, including real-time routing, frequency setting, fleet allocation, energy management, and disruption response. Traditional optimization and reinforcement learning (RL) methods, while powerful, often struggle to scale to city-wide, highly non-stationary conditions or to incorporate heterogeneous contextual information in a flexible manner. This project proposes a novel **LLM-augmented operation design framework** that integrates large language model (LLM) reasoning with formal optimization and multi-agent simulation. LLMs will serve as high-level planners capable of interpreting multimodal operational data, generating adaptive service strategies, decomposing operational problems into tractable sub-tasks, and coordinating iterative decision-making with optimization solvers ("optimization-in-the-loop"). The resulting system leverages the complementary strengths of LLM semantic reasoning and rigorous mathematical models to produce scalable and interpretable solutions for AV bus dispatching, routing, and scheduling. Through Singapore-based case studies (e.g., campus shuttles, new-town feeders), the project will evaluate performance under dynamic demand, mixed traffic, and AV-specific constraints. Expected outcomes include improved operational efficiency, resilient service under disruptions, reduced fleet and energy requirements, and a first-of-its-kind LLM-enabled toolkit for public transport authorities and operators. The project advances both scientific understanding of LLM-enabled decision systems and practical methods for	

	deploying autonomous public transport in complex urban settings.
Program/Center Website(s)	https://www.ntu.edu.sg/cus https://zhenliangma.com/
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	Nil.

2. Key Success Factors and Impacts of Green and Digital Shipping Corridors: Evidence from Maritime Big Data

Date Posted	2 May 2025	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Home**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	This project aims to evaluate the key success factors and impacts of green and digital shipping corridors (GDSCs) involving the Port of Singapore and the Swedish ports of Stockholm and Gothenburg based on big data analytics and scenario analysis. Two research questions of "how to establish" successful GDSCs and "what are the impacts" of GDSCs are addressed. To address the "how to establish" question, we will select and evaluate key success factors in terms of technology, economy, infrastructure, policy and regulation. To address the "what are the impacts" question, we will focus on three key performance indicators: emission reductions, health impacts and economic and social impacts of each GDSC of concern. In order to assess the impact of a GDSC on emission reduction, annual energy consumption and air emissions on the GDSCs are estimated. To quantify the impacts of constructing a GDSC on local health, a model of atmospheric chemistry and transport will be built to examine the impact of ship emission-derived PM2.5 and ozone on human health. Moreover, a Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) approach is proposed to evaluate the economic and social performances of establishing GDSCs involving the Port of Singapore and the Ports of Stockholm and Gothenburg. In addition, qualitative information will be gained from expert interviews.	
Program/Center Website(s)	https://www.ntu.edu.sg/cee https://www.kth.se/indek/industrial-economics-and-management-1.956412	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

3. Exploring Embodied Agentic AI Reasoning Capabilities from Biological Sensing Perspective

Date Posted	11 March 2025	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Home**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	The integration of biological sensing mechanisms into embodied AI agent design presents an innovative paradigm for enhancing agentic reasoning capabilities. This proposal aims to explore how biological sensory modalities—such as vision, tactile, and auditory perception—can inform the development of AI systems that demonstrate more nuanced reasoning and decision-making processes akin to those seen in living organisms. By drawing parallels between biological organisms and AI systems, we can better understand the role that sensory data plays in shaping cognition and behaviour. We propose a multidisciplinary approach that combines insights from biology, cognitive science, and machine learning to create frameworks for agentic AI that leverage biological sensing principles. This research will investigate how adaptive sensory processing can enhance AI's situational awareness, contextual understanding, and response strategies, particularly in dynamic environments. Additionally, we will assess the ethical implications and potential applications in fields such as robotics, healthcare, and environmental monitoring. Ultimately, our goal is to push the boundaries of agentic AI by creating systems that learn and reason in ways that mirror biological intelligence, leading to more robust, adaptable, and responsible technologies.	
Program/Center Website(s)	https://www.ntu.edu.sg/csie https://www.kth.se/profile/arvindku	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

4. Continuous Dynamics for Graph Neural Networks

Date Posted	30 August 2024	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	A graph neural network (GNN) is a class of machine learning algorithms designed to handle data with an underlying graph structure. Graph representation learning has many applications, including in sensor networks, social networks, and transportation networks. Researchers have incorporated various continuous dynamical processes to propagate information over graph nodes, giving rise to a class of continuous GNNs based on differential equations. These continuous models have demonstrated notable performance, for instance, in enhancing robustness and addressing heterophilic graph datasets. In this project, we will develop more sophisticated continuous dynamics based GNNs using a principled approach based on control theory, graph signal processing theory and differential equations, including elements from stochastic differential equations and fractional-order calculus. We aim to develop a theoretical understanding of their properties using stability theory. We will apply such models to non-traditional feature inputs under various network scenarios.	
Program/Center Website(s)	https://www.ntu.edu.sg/eee	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

5. Fractional Programming with Applications to Communication Networks

Date Posted	5 July 2024	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	This PhD project will advance fractional programming techniques to optimize resource allocation in communication networks, particularly within contexts rich in data-intensive applications like video streaming in virtual reality (VR). As wireless communication demands evolve, traditional optimization methods struggle to address the complex trade-offs between system utility, cost, and user-perceived quality. This research aims to develop a framework that utilizes fractional programming to bridge these gaps, ensuring efficient and user-centric resource distribution in communication networks. The specific tasks are as follows: • Task 1 on Develop Fractional Programming Techniques: Enhance the current methods of fractional programming to better handle the complexity and non-linear nature of utility functions commonly encountered in wireless communication systems, such as those used for virtual reality (VR) video streaming. This task involves theoretical developments to adapt fractional programming methods for optimizing complex, possibly non-convex, utility functions that are more reflective of real-world scenarios. • Task 2 on Human-Centric Resource Allocation: Refine resource allocation strategies to incorporate human-centric metrics, specifically Quality of Experience (QoE). By integrating QoE metrics into the optimization models, the resource allocation can be directly linked to user satisfaction. This involves developing mathematical models that quantify user experience and integrating these models into the optimization process. • Task 3 on Algorithm Development and Validation: Create and develop efficient algorithms that leverage the advancements made in fractional programming techniques to address the complex requirements of modern wireless networks. This task includes the design of algorithms that are computationally efficient and capable of scaling with the network size and complexity. The developed algorithms will then be validated through a combination of simulation techniques and analysis of real-world data. By focusing on fractional programming and its applications to complex network scenarios, this project will provide significant contributions to both theory and practice in network optimization.	

Program/Center Website(s)	NA
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA

6. Ultra-low power ASIC for In Situ Continuous Monitoring of Gastrointestinal Biomarkers

Date Posted	5 July 2024	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	A minimal or non-invasive manner for continuous monitoring endows chronic diseases with personalized therapeutic management. One typical example is continuous glucose monitoring, which allows diabetic patients to manage their insulin therapy better. Two decades ago, the development of ingestible electronics enabled the in situ detection of gastrointestinal (GI) biomarkers which renders GI disease diagnosis with a non-invasive approach. To date, capsule endoscopy is commonly used for rapid screening of bowel diseases. However, continuous monitoring of GI biomarkers remains unavailable. One key reason for that is the lack of battery capacity to support for long-term continuous operation of power-hungry electrical functions. The recent advanced development in edge computing significantly enhances disease screen accuracy. However, the power consumption at the same dramatically increases to an unaffordable range. While there is limited space in capsule electronics with an ingestible form factor to accommodate more batteries, there is, therefore, an urgent need to develop ultra-low power ASIC to reduce overall power consumption in ingestible electronics. The joint PhD program would lead to a collaboration between NTU and KTH with their expertise in developing novel ingestible electronics for in situ long-term continuous monitoring of a variety of GI biomarkers.	
Program/Center Website(s)	Centre for System Intelligence and Efficiency https://www.ntu.edu.sg/csie	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

7. Safety communication over intelligent wireless networks for critical cyber physical systems

Date Posted	11 March 2024	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	The objective of the project is at the safety-critical message delivery over deterministic and real-time wireless network in scale without the expense of availability. Deterministic and real-time wireless communication is expected to play a key role in the industrial digitalization to enable e.g., mobile robots and machines, flexible deployment and maintenance, and more autonomous operation by integrating vast number of devices and data into the automation systems. However, there are still major concerns about safety, security, and availability before the wireless technology can be used in safety-critical applications. In this project, we aim to address these concerns with two complementary directions: i. Safety-aware wireless: make the wireless network prepared when the safety-critical messages are going to be transmitted and special care should be given by the underlying network proactively. ii. Wireless-aware safety: make the functional safety application on the top prepared when the underlying network is wireless which is not as ideal as the wired network and special care should be given by the safety application proactively, too. Our goal is to guarantee both functional safety and uptime of the safety-critical automation systems controlled over wireless networks. The use cases include mobile machines and robots, automated mobile vehicles for automotive manufacturing, hoisting and ventilation systems for underground mining, remote operation of cranes at container terminals, heavy duty grinding motors and drives, and large petrochemical systems, just to name a few.	
Program/Center Website(s)	NA	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	Joint Program Description_KTH_detail-ZP (attachment).pdf	

8. Federated Learning for Foundation Models

Date Posted	11 March 2024	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	With the increasing need for privacy safeguards, Federated Learning (FL) has emerged as a promising privacy-preserving distributed machine learning paradigm. In FL, data owners (i.e., clients) conduct the model training locally and then communicate their updated local model parameters or gradients to a parameter server or model owner for aggregation. This approach has demonstrated substantial success, notably in sectors like healthcare and finance where sensitive user data are involved. Recently, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is undergoing a transformative phase with the rise of foundation models. These models, which are pre-trained on large amounts of data, have the adaptability to be fine-tuned for specific downstream tasks. The convergence of FL and foundation models can democratize AI development by offering a privacy-preserving collaborative fine-tuning process. However, there are pressing challenges that need to be addressed. The primary challenge arises from the sizeable nature of foundation models, making them storage and computation intensive. This becomes a hurdle for clients involved in the collective training of a global foundation model, which could also render the process vulnerable to the straggler effect, thereby hampering the effectiveness of collaborative training. Another concern surfaces with model-partitioned training methods necessitated by the large size of foundation models. In such cases, different segments of the model training occur at distributed clients, which can potentially raise significant privacy issues. The aim of our project is to resolve these challenges to harness the full potential of FL in the evolving landscape of AI.	
Program/Center Website(s)	NA	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

9. Next Generation Grid-Forming Converters for Grid Integration of Renewable Energy

Date Posted	27 Mar 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Modern power systems are evolving from fossil fuel-dominated carbon intensive energy systems into renewable energy-dominated low-carbon energy systems. Power electronic converters, as the grid interface of renewable energy, play a pivotal role in underpinning the transformation and decarbonization of modern power systems. Conventionally, grid-tied converters apply grid-following (GFL) control and operate as AC current sources that passively follow the power grid frequency. However, the large-scale integration of power electronic converters in utility grids with GFL control may introduce a number of new scientific challenges. On one hand, power systems need to establish voltage and frequency first for GFL converters to connect, which cannot be achieved by GFL converters themselves. On the other hand, GFL converters may face instability issues under weak grid conditions. These concerns stimulate the demand for a novel gridforming (GFM) control, with which power converters can establish their own voltage and frequency and synchronize with other power sources autonomously. This PhD project aims to study the modelling and control of grid-tied GFM converters and understand their behaviours under different operating scenarios such as small/large signal stability, synchronization stability, transient stability, fault ride through, etc. The goal is to develop innovative next-generation grid integration technologies for renewable energy, thereby paving the way for the clean energy transition in the power sector.	
Program/Center Website(s)	Centre for System Intelligence and Efficiency https://www.ntu.edu.sg/csie	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

10. Game-Theoretical Approach for Control of Multi-level Systems with Social Influence

Date Posted	27 Mar 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	To ensure sustainability of a smart city, it is vital to achieve social optimality, whenever possible. For example, in intelligent transportation systems, good driving behaviors of individual drivers can significantly increase network throughput and reduce inroad fuel consumptions. In smart buildings, good energy usage habits of occupants can significantly reduce the overall building energy consumptions. All these will eventually contribute to zero carbon emission efforts. However, how to effectively influence individual persons' behaviors towards socially desirable ones is one challenge faced by the scientific community. In this PhD project, the student will explore game-theoretical approaches, which aim to embed the social optimality goals in daily social interactions at different levels of a hierarchical system, modelled by suitable game-theoretical models, and by using social influence and minimum incentive/penalty means to reshape certain behavior patterns to enhance long-term sustainability goals, in particular, in terms of energy sustainability. This research will require substantial knowledge of game theory and systems and control, and some relevant knowledge of psychological modelling. The student is expected to develop theoretical works such as modeling, analysis and controller design, and illustrate them in a realistic testbed, which could leverage on an existing smart building testbed on the campus of KTH. The candidate may rely on a simulated testbed to carry out theoretical development at NTU, and then carry out an onsite testbed development during his/her residency at KTH, which typically takes place in Year 4.	
Program/Center Website(s)	- KTH-NTU Joint PhD Program - Centre for System Intelligence and Efficiency (CSIE): https://www.ntu.edu.sg/csie - Cyber Physical Intelligent Systems Group: https://intelligentsystemseee.ntu.edu.sg/cpisrg/index.html	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

11. Intelligent Joint Radar Communications with Millimeter Wave

Date Posted	27 March 2024	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	The PhD research project aims to design and optimize JRC (joint radio and communication) waveforms/sequences and network resources for improved sensing and communication capabilities in beyond 5G (6G) mobile networks. Traditionally, the functionalities of sensing and communications are separate technologies, which lead to low efficiency, long latency, and substantial waste of resources. JRC can simultaneously sense around environments and transmit information messages. However, in existed JRC schemes, sub-6GHz frequency bands are normally used, which often lead to low resolution sensing (in radio tomography), high interference and limited communication rates. To address the problem, in the project, we will exploit mmWave (millimeter wave) for JRC, which has the frequency of about 20GHz to 100GHz. The advantages of mmWave for JRC are multi-folded, e.g., higher-resolution sensing results and high data rates. However, there are also severe challenges for mmWave JRC. (1), Limited transmission distance and low peak-to average power ration; (2), Difficulty in channel estimation, mainly due to complexity and high wide band of mmWave signals, and especially pronounced in moving environments; (3), High processing complexity, which increases with frequency nonlinearly; (4) Due to high directional signals of mmWave, it is hard to support multi-user multi-objective systems for mmWave JRC. Thus, in our project, the main objectives are to design and optimize mmWave JRC with long range and high resolution for radar detection, accurate channel estimation capability, high spectrum and power efficiency, and supporting for multi-user operation and with limited complexity. For the purpose, the project shall join forces of researchers of KTH and NTU with complementary strength. KTH researcher (Ming Xiao and his student) has long-term studied and solid achievements in mmWave communications and resource allocation. NTU researchers (YongLiang Guan and his student) has very solid achievements in signal processing, especially in waveform design and radio detection. The project will have two work packages (WPs). (1) WP1, Radar and communication waveform optimization, leaded by NTU. To reduce complexity and to support multi-user JRC, communication waveforms will be optimized and sequence property bounds and performance limits for radar signals will be	

	analyzed. Mathematical tools including but not limited to number theory, group theory, and coding theory will be used to address the challenges of complexity and multi-user access; (2) WP2, resource optimization, leaded by KTH. Power and spectrum resources will be optimized to improve the sensing/transmission distance and channel estimation. Optimization theory and machine learning approaches will be used. We should note the project is a true collaboration one. Both KTH and NTU partners will participate in two WPs. At least two Ph.D. students respectively at KTH (Ph.D1) and NTU (Ph.D2) will work for the project in full time during the project period. The project teams will meet regularly online, at least once per month. The mobility plan is as follows: Month 6-12, Ph.D1 will visit NTU. Month13-18, Ph.D2 will visit KTH. As such, Ph.D1 and Ph.D2 will continue to visit partner universities 3 times of 6-month period. Meanwhile, Xiao and Guan will also visit each other 1 month per year.
Program/Center Website(s)	NTU, EEE, CISS, COSMO Lab
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA

12. Development of Micro-Lasers on Chip for Biomedical Applications

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Cells are key building block for all lives. Sensitive analysis of cellular activities and inhomogeneities is critical in biology and industries. Characterization of multicellular models, which consists of a collection of cells embedded in a complex microenvironment, has become an important area for tumor analysis, drug screening, and diseases modeling. However, optical sensing signal is oftentimes weak and masked by strong background noise from scattering and auto-fluorescence of cells, which makes it challenging or even unable to detect small but biologically critical dynamics in complex cell environment. To address the challenges, optofluidic lasers has come into the spotlight recent year for its potential to amplify subtle biological signals. However, current state-of-art biolasers remain at the proof-of-concept stage, without being able to carry into real world device. Hence, this collaborative PhD project aims to develop an onchip integrated optofluidic laser system for multicellular screening and analysis. This includes the development of on-chip optofluidic cellular laser for medical analysis (NTU side) as well as integrated system on-chip (KTH side). Focus will be put on the design and implementation of different optofluidic photonic chips for cellular detection and analysis. The proposed project is envisioned as a new technology which aims to complement current state-of-art assays and readers. The significantly enhanced sensitivity and multiparameter analysis enabled by laser emission allows us to analyze minute quantum effects in biomolecules, which may otherwise remain undetectable with classical light. Beyond biology and biomedicine, this project will provide in-depth understanding of how light interacts with living organisms and biological materials, which will be significant for the development of novel bio-control photonic devices.	
Program/Center Website(s)	https://www.kth.se/is	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

13. Smart Living Laser Systems- From Biosensors to Bioinformation Systems

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Since the outbreak of global pandemic, drug screening has become one of the most critical processes in curing and understanding many infectious diseases nowadays. However, conventional tools usually suffer from low dynamic range and signal-noise ratio, making it very challenging to accurately quantify the efficacy of drugs and outcomes. An important technological bottleneck in the detection and readout analysis of these 3D complex cellular systems. To address the current challenges, a new screening modality is needed for high-throughput 3D cellular analysis and drug screening. This includes the development of new image sensor (NTU side) as well as integrated system (KTH side). Hence, this collaborative PhD project aims to overcome the current challenges by developing intelligent living lasers. Through the strong light-matter interactions between multiple cells and resonators, the intrinsic biological features will be converted into complex laser signals, delivering biochemical and structural information. Investigations of different physical mechanism and materials will be studied. In the third year, laser fingerprints will be collected and investigated on this platform due to the high heterogeneity of 3D cellular organoids. Organoid function can also be profiled for the investigation of specific bioactivities or drug screening. Laser wavelengths will be used as barcodes to investigate the relation among various biofunctions. Eventually an integrated lasing system will be built and scaled up to extend to downstream applications for high-content drug screening. The implementation of highly sensitive 3D cellular living laser will lead to rapid screening of large compound libraries to extract high-throughput digital sensing information and novel drug candidates. Developing living lasers with intelligent functions offers the potential to unlock new avenues of discovery in health sciences and health informatics.	
Program/Center Website(s)	https://www.kth.se/is	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

14. Time-tagging camera based on Superconducting Nanowire Single Photon Detectors (SNSPD)

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
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Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
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Website	http://www1.spms.ntu.edu.sg/~csoci/	https://www.kth.se/profile/zwiller?l=en
Project Description (200-300 words)	Future communications and imaging systems will rely on quantum photonics to push beyond the limits achievable by classical systems and realize the next generation of communication networks. Detection of light at the single photon level is therefore essential for the implementation of all of these systems as more and more fields require large arrays of time-resolved single photon detectors. In addition to allowing the development of new technologies, time-resolved single photon sensors allow a significant improvement in quantum vision techniques such as: - Ghost imaging - Time-resolved Raman spectroscopy, - Sub-shot-noise imaging - Fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy, - Quantum LiDAR - Quantum astronomy - Time-of-flight (ToF) imaging All these techniques require single photon detection and high temporal resolution with low noise and high sensitivity. To date, superconducting nanowire single photon detectors (SNSPDs) are the best single photon detectors in terms of efficiency, time resolution, dark count rate, and wavelength sensitivity range. They appear to be the most promising candidates to build large-scale devices in which high temporal resolution is a crucial parameter. This PhD project will focus on the design, realization and testing of SNSPD arrays and builds on the existing multidisciplinary expertise available at KTH and NTU. The first part of the work will be to build a multipixel detector interfacing and multiplexing SNSPDs with each other. This detector would include a hundred pixels, the goal being to achieve very high temporal resolution and a sensitivity range extending in the infrared	

	for each pixel rather than to match the pixel number of classical CCD/CMOS cameras. The most critical performance criteria for our application being the temporal resolution and the ability to extend the structure to several hundred pixels, the use of amorphous materials such as molybdenum silicide (MoSi) for the fabrication of the superconducting film seems to be the most appropriate choice. Indeed, since this type of material does not have a crystalline structure, it is less sensitive to film imperfections and structural defects, and is therefore the ideal candidate for integration on a larger scale. The second part of the work will be to use the SNSPD arrays to image, measure and retrieve the arrival time of each photon hitting each pixel. At this stage, by means of post-processing, we will be able to measure correlations between photon pairs by realizing a large number of entangled states between each pixel. Because quantum light sources emit photons as correlated photon pairs, extracting temporal and spatial correlations between photons can lead to significant improvements beyond classically achievable limits in imaging systems. For instance, the availability of SNSPD arrays would greatly benefit the field of astrophysics, where measuring coherence through the second order autocorrelation function allows to gain information on location, size and composition of the sources. Through temporal correlation spectroscopy one could also detect non-classical light (photon bunching) emitted by celestial light sources. The multi-pixel camera we envision is also very interesting in the context of quantum communications. Indeed, with detector bandwidth of the order of 10 MHz, the interfacing and simultaneous operation of 1000 detectors allows for the detection of single photons with 10 GHz of bandwidth. Building such an imaging system would greatly increase the possibility for quantum imaging technologies to take hold in real-world applications, but also would make it possible to meet the current environmental challenges by considerably reducing the operating power of a superconducting single photon detector. Indeed today the power required for the operation of the cryostat is the main source of power consumption. By co-locating a large number of detectors in the same cryostat, the energy footprint of each detector will be considerably reduced. This project is truly interdisciplinary as it requires several fields of complementary expertise, from photonics to quantum optics, from systems engineering to nanofabrication and materials engineering. The two groups that will co-host the PhD project have complementary areas of expertise in nanofabrication and spectrometry (NTU) and superconducting detectors design and quantum optics characterization (KTH). This exchange would be an exceptional opportunity to carry out this project and initiate a

	collaboration on large-size integrated superconducting detector arrays, which none of the two groups is currently pursuing. The student identified to carry out the IGP Collaborative Initiative project, Pierre Brosseau, is an ideal candidate with prior knowledge and experience in several areas relevant to the proposed research program. After training in a major engineering school in France in systems engineering as well as in photonics, Pierre conducted a master project related to the operation of superconducting detectors SNSPD in the Quantum NanoPhotonics group of Val Zwiller in the applied physics department of KTH in Stockholm. His prior knowledge and expertise will allow him to lead the effort on the development of SNSPD arrays and to work independently at both NTU and KTH from the very beginning of the project.
Program/Center Website(s)	NA
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA

15. Fatigue and Fracture of High Strength Steel Structures

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Compared with normal strength mild steels (e.g., grades S235, S275 and S355), high strength steels possess superior mechanical strengths. The use of high strength steels in construction brings the possibility of designing and constructing structures with smaller sizes, lighter weight, higher storey and longer span, being in line with the concept of sustainable construction. However, on the other hand, high strength steels suffer from low ductility, which has negative influences on the fatigue and fracture behaviour of structures. This project aims at investigating the fatigue and fracture behaviour as well as design of high strength steel structures. Laboratory tests and numerical simulations will be conducted to generate an extensive data pool. Based on the test and FE data, the fatigue and fracture behaviour of high strength steel structures will be investigated, each key influencing parameter will be examined and quantified, and design guidelines will be proposed. Objective: (i) Investigate the fatigue and fracture behaviour of high strength steel structures at material, member, joint and structural levels, (ii) Examine and quantify each key influencing parameter, and (iii) Propose design guidelines. Timeline/plan: The PhD candidate will spend his first 2-2.5 years at NTU for conducting testing and numerical modelling, and then go to KTH for another set of testing as well as design analyses. The main supervisor, Asst Prof. Zhao Ou, is an expert in the field of high strength steel structures. The co-supervisor, Prof Zuheir Barsoum, is an expert in the field of fatigue and fracture of engineering materials and structures. The proposed project titled 'Fatigue and Fracture of High Strength Steel Structures' combines the expertise from both of them. The resources and knowledge from both faculty's labs and schools will certainly contribute to the success of the project.	
Program/Center Website(s)	https://zhaoou.weebly.com/	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NIL	

16. Understanding and mitigating rock burst in deep rock excavation

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Creating urban underground space and extracting deep natural resources are the next frontiers for social development and environmental sustainability. However, these anthropogenic disturbances deep underground may perturb the initial equilibrium of rock masses and lead to the occurrence of unpredictable geohazards. At great depth, rocks are subjected to high in-situ stresses. Field observations indicate that rock failure under high insitu stress conditions can be either conditionally stable, which is accompanied by the progressive formation of layered structure (e.g., spalling failure), or abruptly unstable, which occurs along with the violent release of strain energy (e.g., rock burst). The objective of this study is to investigate the mechanisms of rock bursts under extreme environments. Laboratory experiments and numerical simulations will be performed to study the occurrence of rock bursts in intact and fractured rocks under various high stress and temperature conditions. The study is expected to improve our capability to predict and mitigate the risks of rock bursts during deep underground projects	
Program/Center Website(s)	NA	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

17. Design, analysis and optimization of lens antennas for future satellite and 6G communications

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	Mobile communications have evolved rapidly during the last few decades. This evolution has significantly changed the way we see our modern societies, and how we interact with each other. To meet the expected data rate demands, new satellite constellations and 6G are aimed to operate in millimeter-wave (mm-wave) frequency bands and sub-THz range. Unlike antennas at lower frequency rages in previous sgenerations, the antennas used with mm-waves and sub-THz frequencies must be highly directive in order to mitigate the free space attenuation, and they must be able to reconfigure their radiation patterns in real time with extreme angles of scanning. In this context, conventional antenna solutions, such as planar arrays, may not be compliant in terms of cost and scanning. Consequently, the main goal of this project is to investigate the opportunities of lens antennas to produce cost-effective solutions, with large the scanning capability and reduced losses. The research shall investigate various aspects of novel design, analysis and optimization of advanced lens antennas.	
Program/Center Website(s)	EEE, CISS	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	

18. Holographic MIMO Systems

Date Posted	27 March 2023	
Home University	Nanyang Technological University	
Partner University	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	
Supervisors	**Home**	**Partner**
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Project Description (200-300 words)	The PhD research project aims to investigate holographic multiple-input and multiple-output (MIMO) systems, which take the 5G massive MIMO technology to new heights. Holographic MIMO refers to dense surfaces that can transmit, receive, reflect, and manipulate wireless signals. The ability and flexibility of holographic MIMO to improve spectral efficiency through intelligent environment configuration have been proved theoretically using simplified models. Holographic MIMO is expected to boost performance in many fields, including terahertz and mmWaves bands, multi-antenna communications, and localization. However, the full exploitation of holographic MIMO is still challenging due to many non-trivial technical issues. On the one hand, the closely spaced patch antenna induces serious mutual coupling effects, which will reduce spatial diversity and system capacity greatly, unless methods to mitigate them are developed. On the other hand, the conventional analysis tools in wireless communications are not applicable anymore in holographic MIMO systems due to the complicated electromagnetic scenarios. These concerns stimulate the demand for novel but effective approaches for performance evaluation for holographic MIMO systems, targeting providing a physical interpretation of holographic MIMO systems. In this PhD project, we will study the modeling of holographic MIMO systems, investigate the theoretical performance bounds in different scenarios (such as super-gain and super-directivity holographic MIMO), and develop an understanding of the fundamental physical limits of practical adoption of holographic MIMO that takes size and spacing into account, thereby paving the way for the more efficient and low-cost wireless communication technologies.	
Program/Center Website(s)	NTU, EEE, CIS	
Additional Information (e.g., files with project details)	NA	