Gilbert Chang

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EDUCATION

Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science

Aug. 2023 - May 2027

Minors: ECE, Mathematics

Relevant Coursework: Machine Design, Statics, Mechanics of Materials, Heat and Mass Transfer, Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Measurement and Control Systems II, Signals and Systems, Electrical Engineering Fundamentals II

EXPERIENCE

Mechanical Engineering Intern

May 2025 - August 2025

Persona AI

Houston, TX

Undergraduate Research Assistant

January 2025 – Present

Cai Group at Herrick Laboratories

West Lafayette, IN

- Conducting system identification on a dual psychrometric chamber system using MATLAB Control Systems Toolbox, convex optimization, and neural networks to analyze lumped-element model errors.
- Developing workflows for system identification and pole placement to optimize controllers for energy-efficient heat pumps.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

November 2024 – Present

Computational Motion, Manipulation, and Autonomy Lab at Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN

- Engineered a soft robotic gripper using FinRay geometries for the Franka Research 3, employing FEA to predict structural deformation and optimize manipulation precision.
- Designing pneumatic soft end-effectors with integrated tactile sensing to improve robotic adaptability and object interaction.

PROJECTS

Supersonic Sounding Rocket Active Fin Control Module

January 2025 - May 2025

- Designed a high-DOF linkage system using SolidWorks, establishing parametric workflows for rapid iteration, and enabling precise servo motor control of canards.
- Analyzed rocket stability, overall coefficient of drag, and mechanical stresses utilizing Ansys Fluent simulations.
- Performed structural FEA in Ansys Mechanical and hand calculations to analyze component deformation and mechanical stresses, informing material choices under aerodynamic and launch loads.
- Applied DFM and DFA principles to reduce the overall module cost by 80%.

High Altitude Solid Rocket Motor

November 2024 – January 2025

- \bullet Designed a 44kNs solid rocket motor with 210s Isp in Onshape; developed parametric workflows and nozzle geometry optimization using OpenMotor, achieving 98% ideal thrust coefficient.
- Conducted structural analysis with Ansys Mechanical and hand calculations, enforcing a factor of safety of 3.5 for critical load-bearing components.
- Developed ignition electronics using KiCad, optimizing for robust system integration and sensor calibration under noisy conditions.
- Leveraged DFM principles for nozzle, bulkhead, and testing stands, ensuring manufacturability on 5-axis CNC mills.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Design & Analysis: Onshape, Siemens NX, SolidWorks, Autodesk Inventor, Ansys Mechanical, Ansys Fluent, KiCad Materials & Manufacturing: Composites (VARTM, forged), GD&T, DFM/DFA, Tolerance Stack-ups Simulation & Control: FEA, CFD, MATLAB, Simulink, ROS2, Python, C, C++, Java, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib Prototyping & Testing: 3D Printing, Laser Cutting, Vacuum Forming, Manual & CNC Mills/Lathes, Bandsaws