

## Now That You Graduated, What Next?

Dr. Pooya Sekhavat

Time: 01:00-02:00pm/ Monday, Aug. 19, 2013 / Location: GSA Lounge, UC

**Abstract** – In this talk I will cover the top level projects that I have been involved with since leaving the graduate school from a technical perspective. I will try to draw a pathway that connects the dots between my previous work at all four major categories of employment available to a typical graduate student, namely, Academia, Government, Corporate World as an Employee and Corporate World as an entrepreneur. I will discuss my observations on what each venue may require from a recently graduated student and what it may offer in return that can be used by graduate students in making their next career move.



**Biography** – **Dr. Pooya Sekhavat** is currently the Technical Manager – ACS Programs at Microsat Systems Canada Inc (MSCI) overseeing the technical aspects of MSCI Reaction Wheel and Rate Measurement Unit line of current and future products as well as microsatellite attitude determination and control systems. Dr. Sekhavat received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 2004, and continued his research as a recipient of NSERC post-doctorate fellowship at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). Following his post-doctoral tenure, he was in charge of numerous DoD contracts conducting research on design and implementation of various optimal control algorithms on aerospace and robotic systems. He lead efforts in establishing new labs equipped with a variety

of laboratory test-beds such as a CMG/Thruster actuated spacecraft attitude test-bed, magnetically-actuated attitude platform, unmanned aerial and ground vehicle systems, articulated robotic arms, as well as Motion Capture (MoCap)-based estimation and identification platforms for system identification. In 2007 he also co-founded the small business, Elissar LLC in California, USA working with other universities and Government agencies toward implanting optimal control algorithms via software and hardware platforms. Dr. Sekhavat's research interests include spacecraft attitude determination and control, real-time nonlinear/optimal control, trajectory optimization of aerospace and robotic systems, nonsmooth analysis, and nonlinear Kalman filter estimation and system identification. Dr. Sekhavat has produced more than 40 publications and has been awarded various awards and fellowships such as NSERC PDF, NSERC VF, and US National Research Council fellowship (declined). He has authored and participated in several national and international conferences and seminars and has been a member of numerous professional organizations including AAS, AIAA, SIAM, ASME, IEEE, CASI and CSME. Dr. Sekhavat is registered as Professional Engineer in Ontario.

Nonlinear Systems Research Lab

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