

Alex Baowend Soom M. A. Zongo

George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA, 20052

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🌐 Website — LinkedIn — GitHub

EDUCATION

PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences George Washington University

Research Areas: *Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning, Flight Control, Optimization, AI*

August 2024 - Present

Washington, DC, USA

GPA: 3.9/4.0

Master in Control Sciences and Engineering

Department of Automation, Tsinghua University

Research Areas: *Reinforcement Learning, and Flight Dynamics and Control*

September 2021 - May 2024

Beijing, China

GPA: 3.81/4.0

Machine Learning Summer School

Oxford University

June 2022 - August 2022

London, United Kingdom

Bachelor of Engineering in Aircraft Design

Department of Aeronautics, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics,

Research Areas: *Aircraft Design, Flight Dynamics and Control, Aerodynamics*

September 2018 - June 2021

Beijing, China

GPA: 3.78/4.0

Freshman year in Aeronautics and Astronautics

Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, National Cheng Kung University

Relevant Courses: *Engineering Mathematics, Material Sciences and Physics*

September 2017 - June 2018

Tainan, Taiwan

GPA: 4.05/4.3

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Programming	Python, MATLAB, SIMULINK, C/C++, ROS/ROS2, Julia (Ongoing), ADA (Ongoing)
Libraries	PyTorch, Numpy, Scikit-Learn, OpenCV, Jax
CAD	OpenVSP, SOLIDWORKS, CATIA, ANSYS FLUENT
Soft Skills	Self-learning, Initiative, Team Work, technical writing (LATEX) and presentation
Languages	French(native), English(C2), Chinese(B1)

POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

September 2024 - Present

George Washington University Intelligent Aerospace Systems Lab

- I am developing a **pre-flight eVTOL aircraft energy consumption estimation algorithm with conflict-resolution in high-density airspaces**. This project is funded by **NASA** and the abstract is under review for **ICNS 2026**.
- With a focus on **Robust Markov Decision Processes / (Multi-Agent) Reinforcement Learning**, I design and implemented a **Robust Multi-Agent Reinforcement framework for aircraft separation assurance under GPS spoofing and degradation**. This study is under review at **ACC 2026**.
- Organized and hosted the *Safe and Responsible AI workshop* on September 27, 2024, Washington, DC, USA. This workshop provided participants with the opportunity to identify challenges and opportunities, share work progress from multiple agencies (FAA, HASS COE, Johns Hopkins APL, and MIT Lincoln Labs) and institutes (TRAILS, NIST AI, RAIUK), and promote research collaborations.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

January 2025 - May 2025

George Washington University, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

- Course: **Linear Systems Dynamics** (MAE 3134), Spring 2025
- Responsibilities: Grading assignments and exams;
conducting recitations (office hours) to reinforce the lecture material.

Research Assistant

September 2021 - May 2024

Tsinghua University Navigation and Control Lab

- Participated in various lab projects, including the design and evaluation of a **4D Trajectory-Based Optimization for ATM**.
- Designed and developed an **intelligent Fault-tolerant attitude flight control** for a fixed-wing using **Reinforcement Learning**. This work has been published at **ICGNC 2024**.
- Reviewed **3 papers** for ICGNC 2024.

Secretary General

May 2022 - May 2024

Tsinghua University African Student Association

- A student association established by students with the aim of cultural exchanges, learning, and leadership skill development among students and peers.
- Served as a **team leader** and active member working to promote leadership Lead in cultural activities planning and organization

R&D Engineer

September 2022 - May 2023

Tsinghua University Artificial Intelligence International Student Association club

- A graduate-level AI club established by students with the aim of learning and professional skill development among students and peers
- Active member working to **develop AI solutions for societal problems**

RESEARCH PUBLICATION

Zongo, A.B., Wei Peng. (2025).

Submitted, December 2025

eVTOL Aircraft Energy Consumption Estimation with Conflict Resolution

in High-Density Airspaces, under submission to the Integrated Communications Navigation, and Surveillance (ICNS) Conference 2026.

Zongo, A.B., Wei Peng. (2025).

Submitted, September 2025

Robust Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Small UAS Separation

Assurance under GPS Degradation and Spoofing, In American Control Conference (ACC) 2026.

Zongo, A.B., Qing,L. (2025).

Published, March 2025

Towards Intelligent Fault Tolerant Attitude Flight Control Of A Fixed-Wing Aircraft,

In: Yan, L., Duan, H., Deng, Y. (eds) Advances in Guidance, Navigation and Control. ICGNC 2024. Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering, vol 1353. Springer, Singapore. [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

PEER REVIEWS

Journal Reviews: Journal of Aerospace Information Systems (JAIS) (3 papers, 2025)

Conference Reviews: International Conference in Guidance, Navigation, and Control (ICGNC) (3 papers in 2024)

RELEVANT COURSES (GRADE)

Machine Learning (A)	Deep Reinforcement Learning (A)	Computational Optimization (A)
Aerodynamics (A)	Electro-Mechanical Control Systems (A)	Advanced Engineering Mathematics (A)
Aircraft Design (A)	Robotics and Computer Vision (A)	Flight Dynamics, Simulation and Control (A)
Algorithm Design (A)	Automatic Control (A)	Large Language Vision Models (In progress)

RELEVANT PROJECTS

George Washington University

September 2024 - May 2025

- Graph Algorithm analysis and implementation (Jack Edmon's algorithm on graphs)
- Machine Learning algorithm application on diverse tasks (forecasting, classification, Reinforcement Learning).
- Application of System Identification, classical control, and non-linear control methods on plants (motors, SpaceX Grasshopper);
- Visual Odometry classical algorithm implementation on self-recorded datasets around my home.

Tsinghua University

- Fault-Tolerant Flight Control via Reinforcement Learning
- Audio analysis and separation via Deep Learning techniques

September 2021 - September 2023

Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics

September 2020 - May 2021

- Conceptual design of a lightweight sport aircraft.
- Preliminary design of an helicopter.
- Flight simulator modeling with MATLAB/SIMULINK using the RCAM model. [\[Code\]](#)

General Aviation Aircraft Design

Sept 2020 - May 2021

Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics

- Conceptual design of a lightweight sport aircraft.
- Preliminary design of an helicopter.

POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

January 2025 - May 2025

George Washington University, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

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- Responsibilities: Grading assignments and exams;
conducting recitations (office hours) to reinforce the lecture material.

Graduate Research Assistant

September 2024 - Present

George Washington University Intelligent Aerospace Systems Lab

- Focus: **Robust Markov Decision Processes / (Multi-Agent) Reinforcement Learning**
- Organizing and hosting the *Safe and Responsible AI workshop* on September 27, 2024, Washington, DC, USA. This workshop provided participants with the opportunity to identify challenges and opportunities, share work progress from multiple agencies (FAA, HASS COE, Johns Hopkins APL, and MIT Lincoln Labs) and institutes (TRAILS, NIST AI, RAIUK), and promote research collaborations.

Research Assistant

September 2021 - May 2024

Tsinghua University Navigation and Control Lab

- Participated in various lab projects, including Trajectory-Based Optimization Performance Graphical Simulation
- Research on applying AI to Flight Control: Fault-tolerant flight control
- Resulting in a publication to the International Conference on Guidance, Navigation, and Control (ICGNC 2024).
- Reviewer of ICGNC 2024.

Secretary General

May 2022 - May 2024

Tsinghua University African Student Association

- A student association established by students with the aim of cultural exchanges, learning, and leadership skill development among students and peers.
- Lead in cultural activities planning and organization
- Team leader and active member working to promote leadership and engagement in community service and problem-solving.

R&D Engineer

September 2022 - May 2023

Tsinghua University Artificial Intelligence International Student Association club

- A graduate-level AI club established by students with the aim of learning and professional skill development among students and peers
- Active member working to develop AI solutions for societal problems

INTERNSHIP/TRAININGS

Worked on a **biped simulation in Gazebo with ROS & ROS2**
Designed a **course on gait motion basics, simulation and control.**

ACHIEVEMENTS

George Washington University Fellowship Fall 2024 - Present
Graduate Research and Teaching Assistantship Recipient
Funded by NASA, as part of NASA's University Leadership Initiatives (ULI)

Tsinghua University 2021 - 2024
Chinese Government Scholarship Recipient

Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics 2018 - 2021
Chinese Government Scholarship Recipient
Outstanding Academic Achievement Awardee 2019 and 2020

Fujen Catholic University & National Cheng Kung University 2016 - 2018
Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholarship Recipient

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- Seminar on *Future of AI, The 6th Academic Forum on Artificial Intelligence of Beijing Universities*, Beijing, China April 2024
- Church Musician at *North Cathedral of Beijing* September 2023 - July 2024
- Campus Service Volunteer at *Tsinghua University* September 2021 - May 2024
- Piano player and performer at the *Global Village* and *Starry Night* events at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China May 2023

REFERENCES

Dr. Peng Wei
Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA.
pwei@gwu.edu

Prof Li Qing
Professor, Department of Automation
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
liqing@tsinghua.edu.cn

Dr. Ying Zhao
Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Technology
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
yingz@tsinghua.edu.cn

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.