

Weijian Zhang

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EDUCATION

University of Birmingham

Birmingham, United Kingdom

Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science

Feb. 2023 – Present

Advisor: Prof. Masoumeh Mansouri

Thesis: Formation Control and Motion Planning for Multi-Robot System

University of Birmingham

Birmingham, United Kingdom

M.Sc. in Robotics (Degree Class: Distinction)

Sep. 2021 – Sep. 2022

Advisor: Prof. Masoumeh Mansouri

Thesis: Multi-robot object delivery in formation based on convex optimization

Southwest Jiaotong University

Chengdu, China

B.Eng. in Automation

Sep. 2017 – Jue. 2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests focus on **Multi-Robot Systems (MRS)**, **Multi-Robot Motion Planning**, **Formation Control**, and **Multi-Robot Coordination**. My current research is integrating AI techniques with optimal control to address a variety of multi-robot coordination problems, which commonly arise in domains such as warehouse logistics, manufacturing, and exploration.

PUBLICATIONS

[1] Multi-Robot Navigation in Obstacle-cluttered Environments with LOS connectivity

Weijian Zhang, Charlie Street and Masoumeh Mansouri

In Progress

[2] Collaborative Human-Robot Object Transportation Using a Deformable Sheet

Weijian Zhang, Charlie Street and Masoumeh Mansouri

IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2026.

[3] Robots Calling the Shots: Using Multiple Ground Robots for Autonomous Tracking in Cluttered Environments

Weijian Zhang, Charlie Street and Masoumeh Mansouri

IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2025. [PAPER] [VIDEO] [CODE]

[4] Multi-Nonholonomic Robot Object Transportation with Obstacle Crossing Using a Deformable Sheet

Weijian Zhang, Charlie Street and Masoumeh Mansouri

IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2025. [PAPER] [VIDEO] [CODE]

Selected for Best Conference Paper Award Finalist & Best Paper Award Finalist on Multi-Robot Systems

[5] A Decoupled Solution to Heterogeneous Multi-Formation Planning and Coordination for Object Transportation

Weijian Zhang, Charlie Street and Masoumeh Mansouri

Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS), 2024. [PAPER] [VIDEO] [CODE]

Selected for Best Poster award at The 7th IEEE UK & Ireland RAS Conference

[6] Multi-Formation Planning and Coordination for Object Transportation

Weijian Zhang, Charlie Street and Masoumeh Mansouri

IEEE European Conference on Mobile Robots (ECMR), 2023. [PAPER] [VIDEO] [CODE]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Using Multiple Ground Robots for Autonomous Tracking in Cluttered Environments

Oct. 2024 – Mar. 2025

Research Student, University of Birmingham

Advisor: Prof. Masoumeh Mansouri and Dr. Charlie Street

- Introduced a novel hierarchical multi-robot trajectory planning framework which maximizes camera coverage in cluttered environments while avoiding collisions and maintaining visibility of the human.
- Evaluated our approach in simulation, demonstrating how we outperform existing works by explicitly considering the kinodynamic constraints of differential-drive robots and the topology of the environment.

Collaborative Object Transportation Using a Deformable Sheet

Aug. 2024 – Ste. 2025

Research Student, University of Birmingham

Advisor: Prof. Masoumeh Mansouri and Dr. Charlie Street

- Designed a multi-modal real-time formation trajectory planning framework where leadership switches between the human and robots to maximize safety and transportation efficiency.
- Developed a method for computing feasible regions that can be visualized to the human to guide them during obstacle crossing.
- Proposed a heuristic path exploration method which efficiently evaluates a set of homotopically distinct solution spaces for the formation.
- Proposed a two-stage iterative motion planning framework for finding locally time-optimal collision-free formation trajectories using a deformable sheet.
- Validated the efficacy of our framework in simulation and through real robot experiments.

Heterogeneous Multi-Formation Planning and Coordination for Object Transportation

Feb. 2023 – Jul. 2024

Research Student, University of Birmingham

Advisor: Prof. Masoumeh Mansouri and Dr. Charlie Street

- Designed a comprehensive H-MFPC framework which integrates formation generation, planning, and coordination techniques for heterogeneous formations.
- Proposed an efficient formation generation approach for heterogeneous multi-robot systems which synthesises collision-free and kinematically feasible trajectories in unstructured environments.
- Proposed a cost-optimal formation planning method that maintains rigidity for heterogeneous formations.
- Proposed a loosely-coupled multi-formation coordination algorithm for ensuring deadlock-free and collision-free navigation among formations.

SELECTED AWARDS

Exceptional Contribution from a Doctoral Researcher (Shortlisted for 2026) - <i>University of Birmingham</i>	Dec. 2025
ICRA 2025 Best Conference Paper Award Finalist - <i>IEEE</i>	May 2025
ICRA 2025 Best Paper Award Finalist on Multi-Robot Systems - <i>IEEE</i>	May 2025
RAS 2024 Best Poster award - <i>IEEE</i>	Jul. 2024
Computer Science School Prize - <i>University of Birmingham</i>	Dec. 2022
Comprehensive Scholarship - <i>Southwest Jiaotong University</i>	Dec. 2020
Comprehensive Scholarship - <i>Southwest Jiaotong University</i>	Dec. 2019

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer: ICRA (2024, 2025, 2026), IROS (2024, 2025), AAMAS (2025), MRS (2025), RITA (2025)

Teaching Assistant: LM Robot Vision (*University of Birmingham*, Autumn 2023), LH Computer Vision and Imaging (*University of Birmingham*, Autumn 2023), LC Artificial Intelligence 1 (*University of Birmingham*, Spring 2024/2025), LM Advanced Robotics (*University of Birmingham*, Autumn 2024), LH/LM Intelligent Robotics (*University of Birmingham*, Autumn 2024), LM Robot Motion Planning and Control (*University of Birmingham*, Spring 2025/2026)

SKILLS

Languages: English (Fluent), Chinese (Native)

Programming Tools: Python, C++, MATLAB, L^AT_EX

Frameworks: Git, ROS, Gazebo, Pybullet, Linux

Platforms: TurtleBot3/4, MiR, HUNTER SE