

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ph.D Aerospace Engineering
B.S. Aerospace Engineering, Minor in Computer Engineering

GPA: 4.00/4.00
Exp. May 2026
May 2021

EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois – Teaching Assistant for Autonomous Systems Lab May 2021 – Aug. 2021

- Developed simplified PID controller, Kalman filter, and power delivery firmware for a Crazyflie quadrotor using C
- Performed data analysis by using a motion capture system to validate onboard state estimates via MATLAB

Collins Aerospace – Software Engineering Intern May 2019 – Aug. 2019

- Full-stack development of an avionics data interpreter tool using Python, HTML, Perl, and C++
- Automated weekly builds using Python and TortoiseSVN, reduced manual labor by one hour/week for the team

RESEARCH

X-Ray Pulsar Navigation (XNAV) (*Prof. Zachary Putnam*) Aug. 2021 – Present

- Assessing feasibility of using XNAV to solve the lost-in-space problem and increase spacecraft autonomy
- Developed a new pulsar navigation algorithm which reduces time complexity using MATLAB, Python, C++, and GMAT

Velocity-Based Initial Orbit Determination (*Prof. Zachary Putnam*) Aug. 2019 – Aug. 2021

- Developed a new orbit determination method that uses sequential range-rate measurements from x-ray pulsars
- Assessed the performance of velocity orbit determination algorithms using Monte Carlo simulations in MATLAB/GMAT

Architecture Trade Studies on ISRU Technologies for Human Space Exploration (*Prof. Koki Ho*) Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2019

- Formulated and implemented a space logistics optimizer in Python to explore and analyze mission design concepts
- Developed a novel optimization approach with two graduate students which reduced computation time by over 90%

Magnetic Field Mapping and Optimization (*Prof. Timothy Bretl*) Sep. 2018 – May 2019

- Developed tools in MATLAB to visualize magnetic fields generated by a collection of magnetic dipoles

PROJECTS and LEADERSHIP

Illinois Space Society (ISS) – Administrative Director April 2019 – April 2020

- Aggregated information from all branches of ISS into weekly newsletters, managed ISS website and membership

NASA RASC-AL Competition – Project Manager (2018-19), Propulsion Lead (2017-18) Sep. 2017 – June 2019

- Led teams of 10+ members to design a reusable crewed lunar lander and an interplanetary hybrid propulsion system
- Presented designs to space industry experts in Florida as competition finalists two years in a row

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- H. Chen, T. Sarton du Jonchay, L. Hou, and K. Ho, “Integrated In-Situ Resource Utilization System Design and Logistics for Mars Exploration”, *Acta Astronautica*, Volume 170, 2020, pp. 80-92.
- H. Chen, T. Sarton du Jonchay, L. Hou, and K. Ho, “Multi-Fidelity Space Mission Planning and Space Infrastructure Design Framework for Space Resource Logistics”, *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, Volume 58 Number 2, 2021, pp. 538-551.

Conference Papers

- L. Hou, K. Lohan, and Z. R. Putnam, “Comparison and Error Modeling of Velocity-Based Initial Orbit Determination Algorithms”, *AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Conference*, Virtual, Feb. 2021.
- H. Chen, T. Sarton du Jonchay, L. Hou, and K. Ho, “Space Resource Logistics for Human Exploration to Mars”, *International Astronautical Congress*, Washington DC, Oct. 2019.
- H. Chen, T. Sarton du Jonchay, L. Hou, and K. Ho, “Multi-Fidelity Space Mission Planning and Space Infrastructure Design Framework for Space Resource Logistics”, *AIAA Propulsion and Energy Forum*, Indianapolis, IN, Aug. 2019.

SKILLS

Software / Programming: MATLAB, C/C++, Python, Arduino, JPL SPICE, General Mission Analysis Tool (GMAT)
Research / Collaboration: LaTeX, Git, MS Teams, SharePoint, Word, Excel, PowerPoint

HONORS and AWARDS

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| Yee Fellowship | 7 recipients, collegiate | 2021 |
| David and Catherine Thompson Space Technology Scholarship | 1 recipient, national | 2020 |
| H.S. Stillwell Problem Solving Award | 1 recipient, departmental | 2020 |
| Robert W. McCloy Memorial Award | 2 recipients, departmental | 2019 |