Huy T. Tran

Curriculum Vitae

September 20, 2024

Address: Department of Aerospace Engineering
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL 61801, USA
Phone: +1 217-300-3257
Email: huytran1@illinois.edu
Website: tran.aerospace.illinois.edu

Appointments

Assistant Professor   2021-
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Department of Aerospace Engineering (100%)
Illinois Applied Research Institute (0%)
Affiliates: *Coordinated Science Laboratory, Center for Autonomy, Intelligent Robotics Laboratory, Smart Transportation Infrastructure Initiative*
Research: *AI and autonomy for multi-agent systems, robotics, and intelligent transportation systems*

Research Assistant Professor   2017-2021
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

Fellow in the AFRL Summer Faculty Fellowship Program   2018
The Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Sr. Multi-disciplinary Systems Engineer   2016-2017
The MITRE Corporation, Bedford, MA

Education

Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering   2010-2015
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Dissertation: *A Complex Networks Approach to Designing Resilient System-of-Systems*
M.S. Special Topic: *Investigation of Decentralized and Centralized Command and Control Strategies with Agent-Based Modeling*
Advisor: Dimitri N. Mavris

M.S. in Mechanical Engineering   2008-2010
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Thesis: *Investigation of fuel property and biodiesel effects in a highly dilute low temperature combustion regime with a light-duty diesel engine*
Advisor: David Foster

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering   2004-2008
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Magna Cum Laude

Awards

Recipient of the Engineering Council Outstanding Advisor Award	2020
Fellow in the 2018 AFRL Summer Faculty Fellowship Program	2018
Faculty advisor for the 1st place team in the AIAA 2017/2018 Undergraduate Team Aircraft Design Competition	2018
Included on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students	2017
Best Paper Award: Theoretical (Complex Adaptive Systems Conference)	2016
Undergraduate Energy-Related Research Award (NC State University)	2007-2008
Jesse S. Doolittle Endowed Scholarship (NC State University)	2006-2008

Funding

Research Grants

Cumulative awards: ~$1,371,363 my portion ($4,228,390 total)

Learning from Existing Systems for Emergent Coordination in Future Air Mobility
09/2023-08/2026
Source: NASA
Role: PI
Award: $388,285 my portion ($588,284 total)

Robust and Adaptive Autonomy for Multi-agent Maneuvers (RAAMM)
07/2020-06/2022
Source: ARL
Role: Co-PI
Award: $143,718 my portion ($865,755 total)

Explainable AI for Mission Planning and Execution with Interpretable Courses of Action
04/2020-12/2023
Source: ONR
Role: PI
Award: $274,193 my portion ($899,069 total)

Spatiotemporal Models for Predicting Delays in Transportation Networks during Extreme Weather Events
08/2019-05/2021
Source: ZJU-UIUC Institute Research Program
Role: PI
Award: $68,500 my portion ($75,000 total)

Reliable Autonomy In Denied Environments (RAIDE)
06/2019-06/2021
Source: US Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL)
Role: Co-PI
Award: ~$155,428 my portion ($1,124,152 total)

Forecasting Infrastructure Impacts for Socially-aware Community Resilience with Heterogeneous Data
01/2019-12/2019
Source: Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE)
Role: Co-PI
Award: $15,000 my portion ($30,000 total)

Agile AI-assisted Architecture Assessment   10/2018-09/2020
Source: The MITRE Corporation
Role: PI
Award: $95,786 my portion ($95,786 total)

A Demonstration Platform for Dynamic Mission Planning with Multi-   09/2018-12/2020
domain Autonomous Systems
Source: DARPA
Role: PI
Award: ~$230,452 my portion ($550,344 total)

Consulting

Network-theoretic Methods for Scaling MBSE Practices for SoS Applica-   02/2017-09/2017
tions
Source: The MITRE Corporation
Role: Consultant
Award: 5% of time charged during 2017

Publications [Google Scholar]

∗ Indicates student advised at UIUC

† Indicates presenting author

Pending Publications

1. M. Yuasa∗, H. T. Tran, and R. S. Sreenivas, "On Generating Explanations for Reinforcement Learning Policies: An Empirical Study", *arXiv* (2024).

Refereed Journal and Highly-selective Conference Publications

1. M. V. Gasparino, A. N. Sivakumar, Y. Liu, A. E. B. Velasquez, V. A. H. Higuti, J. Rogers, H. T. Tran, and G. Chowdhary, "WayFAST: Traversability Predictive Navigation for Field Robots", *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, **7(4)**, p. 10651-10658 (2022).

2. S. Kim∗†, N. Van Stralen∗, G. Chowdhary, and H. T. Tran, "Disentangling Successor Features for Coordination in Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning", *Proc. of the 21st International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS 2022)*, Virtual (2022). 27% full paper acceptance rate.

3. A. Markina-Khusid, R. Jacobs, L. Antul, L. Cho, and H. T. Tran, "A Complex Network Framework for Validated Assessments of Robustness in Systems of Systems", *IEEE Systems Journal*, **16(1)**, p. 1092-1102 (2022).

4. J. Heglund∗, K. Hopkinson, and H. T. Tran, "Social Sensing: Towards Social Media as a Sensor for Resilience in Power Systems and Other Critical Infrastructures", *Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*, **6(1-2)**, p. 94-106 (2021). **Invited submission.**

5. A. Wong∗, S. Tan∗, K. R. Chandramouleeswaran∗, and H. T. Tran, "Data-driven Analysis of Resilience in Airline Networks", *Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review*, **143**, (2020).

6. K. Thompson* and <u>H. T. Tran</u>, "Operational Perspectives into the Resilience of the U.S. Air Transportation Network Against Intelligent Attacks", *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, **21(4)**, p. 1503-1513 (2020).

7. N. Napier*, S. Sriraman, <u>H. T. Tran</u>, and K. James, "An Artificial Neural Network Approach to Generating High-Resolution Designs in Topology Optimization", *Journal of Mechanical Design*, **142(1)**, p. 011402 (2020).

8. <u>H. T. Tran</u>, J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "Parametric Design of Resilient Complex Networked Systems", *IEEE Systems Journal*, **13(2)**, p. 1496-1504 (2019).

9. <u>H. T. Tran</u>, M. Balchanos, J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "A framework for the quantitative assessment of performance-based system resilience", *Reliable Engineering and System Safety*, **158**, p. 73-84 (2017).

10. <u>H. T. Tran</u>, J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "Evaluating the Agility of Adaptive Command and Control Networks from a Cyber Complex Adaptive Systems Perspective", *Journal of Defense Modeling and Simulation*, **12(4)**, p. 405-422 (2015).

Refereed Conference and Workshop Publications

1. J. Heglund*[†] and <u>H. T. Tran</u>, "Coordination Machines for Minimizing Communication in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning", *Coordination and Cooperation in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning (CoCoMARL) RLC 2024 Workshop*, Amherst, MA (2024).

2. W. Dimon*, N. Chase*, N. Van Stralen*[†], R. Nigam*, M. Lembeck, and <u>H. T. Tran</u>, "D-AnoGAN: Anomaly Detection in Disconnected Data Manifolds with Generative Adversarial Networks", *2022 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)*, Padua, Italy (2022).

3. N. Van Stralen*[†], S. Kim*, <u>H. T. Tran</u>, and G. Chowdhary, "Feature Specialization and Clustering Improves Hierarchical Sub-task Learning", *Proc. of the Adaptive and Learning Agents Workshop (ALA 2022) at AAMAS 2022*, Virtual (2022).

4. N. Van Stralen*[†], S. Kim*, <u>H. T. Tran</u>, and G. Chowdhary, "Evaluating Adaptation Performance of Hierarchical Deep Reinforcement Learning", *2020 International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, Virtual (2020). 44% acceptance rate.

5. J. Heglund*[†], P. Taleongpong, S. Hu, and <u>H. T. Tran</u>, "Railway Delay Prediction with Spatial-Temporal Graph Convolutional Networks", *2020 IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference (ITSC)*, Virtual (2020).

6. K. Thompson*[†] and <u>H. T. Tran</u>, "Application of a Defender-Attacker-Defender Model to the U.S. Air Transportation Network", *2018 IEEE International Symposium on Technologies for Homeland Security*, Woburn, MA (2018).

7. K. R. Chandramouleeswaran* and <u>H. T. Tran</u>[†], "Data-driven Resilience Quantification of the US Air Transportation Network", *2018 Annual IEEE International Systems Conference (SysCon)*, Vancouver, CA (2018).

8. L. Antul, S. Ricks, L. Cho, M. Cotter, R. B. Jacobs[†], A. Markina-Khusid, J. Kamenetsky, J. Dahmann, and <u>H. T. Tran</u>, "Toward Scaling Model-Based Engineering for Systems of Systems", *2018 IEEE Aerospace Conference*, Big Sky, MT (2018).

9. H. T. Tran[†], J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "Designing Resilient System-of-Systems Networks", *2017 Annual IEEE International Systems Conference (SysCon)*, Montreal, CA (2017).

10. H. T. Tran[†], J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "A Network-based Cost Comparison of Resilient and Robust System-of-Systems", *In Procedia Computer Science*, **95**, p. 126-133, Complex Adaptive Systems Conference, Los Angeles, CA (2016). **Best Paper Award: Theoretical.**

11. M. Balchanos[†], J. C. Domerçant, H. T. Tran, and D. N. Mavris, "Metrics-based Analysis and Evaluation Framework for Engineering Resilient Systems", *2014 7th International Symposium on Resilient Control Systems (ISRCS)*, Denver, CO, p. 1-7 (2014).

Abstract-only Refereed Conference and Workshop Publications

1. N. Parikh[*†], R. Nigam[*], M. Z. Li, and H. T. Tran, "Predicting Social Cost from the Interaction of Self-Interested Reinforcement Learning Agents", *2025 AIAA SciTech*, Orlando, FL (2025).

2. R. Nigam[*†], N. Parikh[*], M. Z. Li, and H. T. Tran, "A Survey of Current Applications of Inverse Reinforcement Learning in Aviation and Future Outlooks", *2025 AIAA SciTech*, Orlando, FL (2025).

3. R. Nigam[*†], N. Parikh[*], J. Heglund[*], M. Yuasa[*], and H. T. Tran, "Coordination in Ad Hoc Teams with Generalized Policy Improvement", *IROS 2023 Workshop on Advances in Multi-Agent Learning - Coordination, Perception, and Control*, Detroit, MI (2023). **Selected for oral presentation.**

4. K. Thompson[*†] and H. T. Tran, "Modeling Multi-modal Transportation for Improved Resilience of the US Air Transportation Network", *Resilience Week 2018*, Denver, CO (2018). Student competition (extended abstract).

5. K. R. Chandramouleeswaran[*], D. Krzemien, K. Burns, and H. T. Tran[†], "Machine Learning Prediction of Airport Delays in the US Air Transportation Network", *2018 AIAA Aviation Forum*, Atlanta, GA (2018).

6. H. T. Tran[†], J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "A System-of-Systems Approach for Assessing the Resilience of Reconfigurable Command and Control Architectures", *AIAA Infotech Aerospace, AIAA SciTech Forum*, Kissimmee, FL (2015).

7. H. T. Tran[†], J. C. Domerçant, and D. N. Mavris, "Trade-offs Between Command and Control Architectures and Force Capabilities Using Battlespace Awareness", *19th International Command and Control Research and Technology Symposium (ICCRTS)*, Alexandria, VA (2014).

8. H. T. Tran[†], C. Hutchins[†], and X. Wang, "Measuring Electrical Contact Resistance between Gas Diffusion Layers and Bipolar Plates in PEM Fuel Cells", poster presented at the 2007 Michigan Space Grant Consortium, MI (2007).

Teaching

- AE 199: Aerospace Computing (Spring 2020, Fall 2020)
  - Developed new course

- AE 202: Introduction to Aerospace Flight Mechanics (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021)
- AE 370: Aerospace Numerical Methods (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025)
  - Revamped weekly computational labs
- AE 442: Aerospace Systems Design I (Fall 2017)
- AE 443: Aerospace Systems Design II (Spring 2018)
  - **1st place AIAA 2017/208 Undergraduate Team Aircraft Design Competition**
- AE 498 CSE/CSO: Computational Systems Engineering (Spring 2017, Spring 2019)
  - Developed new course
  - **List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent (2017)**
- AE 598 RL: Reinforcement Learning (Spring 2023)
- Collins Scholar graduate - engineering education program (Spring 2017)

Student Advising

Graduate Students

H. Osooli: *TBD*	Ph.D.	2024-
M. Cho: *TBD*	Ph.D.	2024-
N. Parikh: *Emergent Coordination in Collective Autonomous Systems*	Ph.D.	2022-
M. Yuasa: *Interpretable Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Systems*	Ph.D.	2021-
R. Nigam: *Learning for Adaptation in Ad Hoc Teams*	Ph.D.	2020-
J. Heglund: *Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning Under Communication Constraints*	Ph.D.	2020-

Alumni

W. Dimon: *Unsupervised Anomaly Detection in Multi-class Datasets using Generative Adversarial Networks* (placement at MITRE for machine learning)	M.S.	2020-2022
J. Heglund: *Statistical and Machine Learning Models for Critical Infrastructure Resilience* (placement at UIUC as Ph.D. student)	M.S.	2018-2020
N. Van Stralen: *Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning for Adaptive and Autonomous Decision-making in Robotics* (placement at UIUC as Research Engineer)	M.S.	2018-2020
K. Thompson: *Data-driven Modeling for Resilient Networked Systems* (placement at Spark Insights for data science)	M.S.	2017-2019
K. R. Chandramouleeswaran: *Data-driven Modeling and Analysis of the U.S. Air Transportation Network and its Resilience to Extreme Events* (placement at Front End Analytics for data science)	M.S.	2017-2018

Undergraduate Students through Research Programs

AE 298: Introduction to Research: A. Rihani (2021); A. Arora (2022)

ALERT Program: L. Lalumandier (2022); B. Cadee (2022); V. Thatte (2022); P. Baffoe (2022)

ISGC Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP): O. Upalekar (2022); A. Arora (2023); S. Vazhathodiyil (2024)

Researchers Initiative (RI) Program: S. Bangaru (2019-2020); S. Sharma (2019-2020); A. Jain (2018-2019); A. Sehgal (2018-2020); J. Xue (2018-2019); D. Mulye (2018-2019); D. Yang (2018-2019)

Doctoral Committees

(committee chair in parenthesis)

S. Chauhan (2020, Grace Gao); A. Shetty (2021, Grace Gao); G. Chee (2022, Kathryn Huff); Nirmal Nair (2022, Andres Goza); Holly Dinkel (TBD, Tim Bretl); Mehmet Ugur Akcal (TBD, **Huy Tran**); Pranay Thangeda (TBD, Melkior Ornik); Jongwon Lee (TBD, Tim Bretl)

Professional Activities

Invited Talks

Invited speaker presentation at the RSS 2023 Workshop on Inference and Decision Making for Autonomous Vehicles (IDMAV): *Learning for Decision Making in Cooperative Multi-agent Systems*	2023
Invited speaker presentation at the IROS 2022 Decision making in Multi-agent Systems Workshop: *On Utilities for Cooperative Multi-agent RL*	2022
Research seminar presented at the GE Probabilistics Seminar Series: *Learning with Inductive Biases for Autonomous Decision-making*	2021
Research seminar presented at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: *Learning with Inductive Biases for Autonomous Decision-making*	2021
Research seminar presented at Purdue University: *Harnessing Data for Resilient Systems: Resilience through data-driven modeling and machine intelligence*	2019
Research seminar presented at the Air Force Institute of Technology: *Towards Understanding Patterns in Critical Infrastructures with Social Media and Public Operational Data*	2018
Welcoming remarks at the Complex Adaptive Systems Conference: *Moving Applied Complexity Science Forward*	2016
Research seminar presented at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: *A Complex Networks Approach to Designing Resilient System-of-Systems*	2016
Research seminar presented at The MITRE Corporation *Improving the Resilience of Networked System-of-Systems with Reconfiguration*	2015

Conference Organization

Organizer and Session Co-Chair: *Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control and Computing - Learning and Planning in Adversarial Environments* (Monticello, IL)   2019

Organizing Committee: *Complex Adaptive Systems Conference* (Chicago, IL)   2018

Session Chair: *2018 Annual IEEE International Systems Conference (SysCon) - Transportation Systems* (Vancouver, Canada)   2018

Session Chair: *2017 Annual IEEE International Systems Conference (SysCon) - Complex Systems Issues II* (Montréal, Canada)   2017

Organizing Committee and Session Chair: *Complex Adaptive Systems Conference - Cyber Physical Systems: Architectures* (Los Angeles, CA)   2016

Reviewer

- IEEE Transactions on Robotics
- Robotics: Science and Systems
- Neurocomputing
- AIAA Journal of Aerospace Information Systems
- IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems
- IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference
- IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)
- IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems
- Expert Systems with Applications
- Journal of Mechanical Design
- Reliability Engineering and Systems Safety
- IEEE Systems Journal
- Risk Analysis
- Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
- Sustainable Cities and Society
- Systems Engineering Journal

Professional Memberships

- Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- Member, IEEE RAS Technical Committee on Multi-Robot Systems (MRS)