

YUNMEI LIU

Address: 303 Weil Hall, P.O. Box 116595, Gainesville, FL 32611

Mobile: 352-871-3771

Email: liu.yunmei@ufl.edu **Homepage:** <https://yunmeil.github.io/>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Industrial & Systems Engineering

2019 – June. 2023 (Expected)

University of Florida, *Gainesville, U.S.*

Ph.D. Minor: Statistics

Specialization: Human Factors and Systems Engineering

Dissertation title: Quantitative models for system rate of automation and operator situation awareness responses

Academic advisors: Dr. David B. Kaber

M.S. in Management Science and Engineering

2016 – 2019

Nanjing University, *Nanjing, China*

Specialization: Transportation Systems Analysis and Modeling

Graduate thesis title: User equilibrium in stochastic networks considering decision inertia

Academic advisors: Dr. Hongli Xu

B.S. in Industrial Engineering

2012 – 2016

Shandong University, *Jinan, China*

Academic advisors: Dr. Honglin Zhang

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests focus on applying the theories and principles of Human Factors and Systems Engineering to the design, analysis, and modeling of human-in-the-loop systems. My research involves the intersection of human factors and ergonomics, transportation engineering, statistics, and computer science, and can be categorized into the following areas:

1. Modeling human-automation interaction and human performance

Develop quantitative models of human-automation interaction, human cognitive workload, situation awareness, and task performance in the human-in-the-loop systems, which can solve practical problems and be verified by experiments.

2. Addressing human factors in surface transportation

Design or improve the use and placement of interchange guidance signs, on-road and in-vehicle delivery of service signs, and the use and interaction of in-vehicle technologies through driving experiments (field studies or simulated driving).

3. Improving usability of assistive technologies

Experimentally test the effects of different assistive technologies on user task performance, cognitive workload, and usability assessments, providing information to improve the design of their control interfaces.

4. Predicting human cognitive or physical states

Develop algorithms to process multiple physiological signals in real time, applying advanced techniques such as feature engineering and machine learning to predict the cognitive workload and emotional states of users under extreme conditions.

5. Identifying and measuring system hazards and risks

Develop methods to identify system hazards and risks with severity levels of their consequences. Applications include transportation, healthcare, and manufacturing systems.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Book Chapter (accepted or published)

1. Kaber, D. B., **Liu, Y.** & Lau, M. Y. (in process). Considering Severity of Safety-Critical System Outcomes in Risk Analysis: An Extension of Fault-Tree Analysis. In J-C. Le Coze & S. Antonsen, *SpringerBriefs in Safety Management - Safety in a Digital Age: Old and New Problems*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Refereed Journal Papers (under review/revision)

2. **Liu, Y.** & Kaber, D. B. (in 1st revision). Models of automation rate in human-in-the-loop systems and operator situation awareness responses. Submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems* (12/31/21).
3. **Liu, Y.**, Berman, J., Dodson, A., Park, J., Zahabi, M., Huang, H., Ruiz, J., and Kaber, D. B.. (in 1st review). Human-centered evaluation of EMG-based upper-limb prosthetic control modes. Submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems* (11/15/22).
4. Lau, M., **Liu, Y.** & Kaber, D. B. (in 1st review). A consequence severity-probability importance measure for fault tree analysis. Submitted to *International Journal of System Assurance Engineering and Management* (10/03/22).
5. Zhang, W., **Liu, Y.** & Kaber, D.B. (in 1st revision). Effect of interface design on cognitive workload in unmanned aerial vehicle control. Second revision submitted to *Int. J. of Human Computer Studies* (4/12/21).
6. Park, J., Berman, J., Dodson, A., **Liu, Y.**, Armstrong, M., Huang, H., Kaber, D. B., Ruiz, J., and Zahabi, M. (in 1st review). Assessing workload in using electromyography (EMG)-based prostheses. Submitted to *Ergonomics* (10/17/22).

Refereed Journal Papers (in preparation)

7. **Liu, Y.**, Pyo, K., Cunningham, C., Chase, T., Kaber, D. B.. Novel interchange configurations and associated signage assessment. Target journal: *Applied Ergonomics*.
8. **Liu, Y.**, Yang, G., Pyo, K., Cunningham, C., Chase, T., Kaber, D. B.. Design consistency. Target journal: *Applied Ergonomics*.

Refereed Conference Papers (published in proceeding)

- C1. **Liu, Y.**, Kaber, D. B., Sabahi, S., and Cunningham, C.. Machine learning models of erroneous driver actions at novel interchange configurations, *2022 IEEE 3rd International Conference on Human-Machine Systems (ICHMS)*, 2022, pp. 1-6.
- C2. **Liu, Y.**, Pyo, K., Cunningham, C., Chase, T. and Kaber, D. B.. Driver situation awareness and cognitive workload effects of novel interchange configurations and associated signage, *13th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics (AHFE)*, 2022; 60: 287-296.
- C3. **Liu, Y.** and Kaber, D. B.. Quantitative models for automation rate and situation awareness response: A case study of levels of driving automation, *2021 IEEE 2nd International Conference on Human-Machine Systems (ICHMS)*, 2021, pp. 1-6.
- C4. Park, J., Berman, J., Dodson, A., **Liu, Y.**, Matthew, A., Huang, H., Kaber, D. B., Ruiz, J., and Zahabi, M.. Cognitive workload classification of upper-limb prosthetic devices, *2022 IEEE 3rd International Conference on Human-Machine Systems (ICHMS)*, 2022, pp. 1-6.

- C5. Cauffman, S.J., Deng, Y., **Liu, Y.**, Cunningham, C., Kaber, D. B. and Feng, J. Driver logo sign detection and hazard responses during partially automated driving. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*. 2020; 64(1):1960-1964.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

1. Machine learning models of erroneous driver actions at novel interchange configurations. *IEEE 3rd ICHMS (November 2022)*, Orlando, FL.
2. Driver situation awareness and cognitive workload effects of novel interchange configurations and associated signage. *13th International Conference on AHFE (July 2022)*, New York, NY.
3. User equilibrium model considering traveler decision inertia under random demand network. *Behavioral Operations Management 13th Annual Meeting (2018)*, Guangzhou, China.

Poster Presentations

4. Roadway signing and marking of unconventional grade separated intersection designs. *North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) 4th Annual Research & Innovation Summit (March 2023)*, Raleigh, NC.
5. Design consistency on corridors. *NC DOT 4th Annual Research & Innovation Summit (March 2023)*, Raleigh, NC.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

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| • Certificates of Outstanding Achievement , University of Florida | 2022 |
| • Harold D. Haldeman, Jr. Fellowship Award , University of Florida | 2022 |
| • Academic Scholarship , Nanjing University | 2016, 2017, 2018 |
| • Excellent Student Fellowship , Shandong University | 2013, 2014, 2015 |
| • Best Undergraduate Thesis , Shandong University | 2016 |
| • The Most Outstanding Student at Shandong University , Shandong University | 2015 |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida

1. **Research on Automation Rate and Situation Awareness Responses (Dissertation)** 2019 – Present
 - Defined a new “automation rate” model to quantify the level of automation in systems
 - Developed an automation rate calculation algorithm
 - Verified the practicality and feasibility of proposed automation rate model through a case study analysis
 - Proposed a new relationship between the automation rate and operator situation awareness response
 - Demonstrated the rationality of proposed relationship model through case analysis and mathematical proof
 - Designed an experiment to verify the relationship between AR and SA response at 3 different SAE levels under simulated driving scenarios
2. **Roadway Signage for Novel Grade-separated Interchanges (NC DOT Project)** 2019-2022
 - Designed situation awareness queries to collect the situation awareness data of subjects at different interchanges and different signage configurations
 - Programmed Qualtrics surveys to render it in the desired format and convert output to spreadsheet file formats

- Designed and conducted human factors experiment on effects of grade-separated interchange geometry and traffic control device design on driver visual behavior and performance
 - Post-processed and analyzed experimental data on subjects' situation awareness, mental load, driving performance, and eye trackers using Python.
 - Conducted the descriptive and inferential statistical analyses on all these responses
 - Constructed four machine learning classification models to analyze and predict erroneous driver actions at novel interchange configurations given driver's status
 - Led the drafting of final report for this project
- 3. EMG-based Assistive Human-Machine Interface Design (NSF Project) 2020-Present**
- Designed human factors experiment on effects of powered-prosthetic design and control modes on user performance of activities of daily living (ADLs) tasks
 - Conducted hierarchical task analysis based on user performance
 - Developed human performance model (Cognitive-Perceptual-Motor GOMS) using Cogulator
 - Post-processed and analyzed experimental data on subject's behaviors, eye-tracker, device usability and cognitive models using Python.
 - Conducted a wide variety of descriptive and inferential statistical analysis methods on all these responses
 - Designed a VR-based simulation experiment to study the influence of different types of prostheses algorithms on the operating efficiency of subjects
- 4. Real-time Perceptually-enabled Task Guidance in the Extremes (DARPA Project) 2022-Present**
- Identified the various signal types and their acquisition devices that can achieve the project goals
 - Constructed three machine learning classification models to predict user's high cognitive workload in extreme situations, given the user's real-time physiological signals
 - Conducted hierarchical task analysis based on user performance
 - Developed human performance model (Cognitive-Perceptual-Motor GOMS) using Cogulator
- 5. Other Involved Projects 2019-Present**
- Systems safety analysis research
 - Unmanned aerial vehicle interface design
 - Consistency in the design of interchanges in high-density traffic corridors
 - Non-safety-related in-vehicle and on-road message displays

Graduate Student, Nanjing University

- 6. User Equilibrium in Stochastic Networks Considering Route Choice Inertia 2016 – 2019**
- Defined the generalized travel time from two dimensions (length and uncertainty), and reliability coefficient represented the travelers' risk preference
 - Proposed a route choice model with context-dependent preference, compared the new model with the existing model from theoretical and numerical aspect and obtained the validity and compatibility of the model
 - Put forth a user equilibrium model under stochastic traffic network, provided the analysis of the equilibrium conditions, and gave the formulation of the equivalent nonlinear complement problem
 - Analyzed the nature of the solution through numerical examples

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Florida

- Systems Management (Graduate level), Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering, Summer 2022
- Systems Management (Graduate level), Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering, Summer 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Nanjing University

- Multivariate Statistics and Data Analysis (Graduate level), Department of Management Science & Engineering, Fall 2017

Guest Lecture, University of Florida

- Economic Evaluation (Graduate level), Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering, Summer 2022
- Midterm & Final Exam Review (Graduate level), Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering, Summer 2022

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- Music, C., Graduate Research Assistant, CISE (8/2020 - 8/2022).
- Grimaldi, N., Ph.D. Research Assistant, ISE (3/2022 - present).
- Pfaffenbichler, R., Graduate Research Assistant, ISE (8/2022 - present).
- Goehring, R., Graduate Research Assistant, ISE (9/2022 - present).
- Xia, S., Undergraduate Research Assistant, ISE (3/2022 - present).
- Chen, E., Undergraduate Research Assistant, CISE (8/2022 - present).

TEACHING INTERESTS

Undergraduate Level:

- Introduction to Human Factors
- Occupational Safety

Graduate Level:

- System Design
- System Safety
- System Management
- User Experience Design
- Human Factors in System Design
- Applied Probability Methods in Engineering
- Applied Non-parametric Method in Engineering

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

- **Student Member, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES)**
- **Student Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)**

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- **Launched and Served as 1st Student President of UF HFES Student Chapter**, University of Florida
- **Member of Search Committee for Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering**, University of Florida
- **Safety Monitor for Human-Systems Engineering Laboratory**, University of Florida
- **Chair and organizer of sessions on Technical Sessions (Human-Automation Interaction and Automated Driving) and Student Paper Session (Session 1)**, 3rd ICHMS, Orlando, FL. Nov. 2022
- **Student Session Chairs Lead and Staff-Team Lead**, 3rd ICHMS, Orlando, FL. Nov. 2022
- **Reviewer for:**

- ♦ *IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems*
- ♦ *IEEE ICHMS 2022*

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, R, MATLAB
- **Prototype & Design Tools:** UC-winRoad, Qualtrics, LaTeX, Invision
- **Analysis Tools:** SPSS, JMP, Cogulator
- **Equipment:** Driving Simulator (FORUM8 Co. Ltd), Electromyography System (Delsys), Eyetracker (PupilLabs), E4 Wristband (Empatica)
- **Language:** Chinese (Native), English