

Alex Zheng

Education

B.S. Mechatronics Engineering (First In Class), University of Waterloo

Sep 2023–Present

Technical Skills

- **Programming:** C, C++, Python (NumPy), MATLAB/Simulink, Git, Linux, Docker, Bash, GDB, CMake, VHDL
- **Protocols:** SPI, I²C, CAN, USB (2.0), LVDS, UART
- **Tools:** STM32, Altium, ROS, Siemens EDA, SolidWorks, LTSpice/LTPowerCAD, Oscilloscope, 3D-Printing, Soldering

Work Experience

UG Math Researcher, Waterloo Algebraic Intelligence and Computation Lab | Waterloo, CA

Jan 2026–Present

- Researching neuro-symbolic AI with algebraic, hierarchical planning to build provably safe autonomous decision-making machines, with zero-shot generalization, in finite discrete-event systems
- Solved dynamic programming and graph optimization computations to explore proving Hadwiger's Conjecture

Hardware Design Intern, Teledyne DALSA | Waterloo, CA

Jan 2025–Aug 2025

- Developed 16-layer mixed-signal PCB with STM32, PLL, DAC, 10-rail PDN to test die resilience in harsh conditions
- Architected system-optimized power-trees with π filters, input protection, and 47° phase margin, reducing ripple
- Designed PCB stack-ups and component placement, reducing layer count while optimizing power planes and return paths to mitigate thermal/noise coupling, accelerating layout by 2 weeks
- Implemented board-level USB 2.0, LVDS, SPI interfaces with impedance-controlled routing for 120 MHz sensors
- Led board bring-up for multimillion-dollar program, debugging signal & power integrity issues and integration of FPGA firmware on custom PCBs, using JTAG, TCL, test suites, and oscilloscopes

Junior Technical Analyst, Ontario Ministry of Transportation | Toronto, CA

May 2024–Aug 2024

- Wrote Python and SQL scripts to verify, format, and transfer patron data across 4 apps using the pyodbc module
- Created local .NET and WebLogic servers and UAT / API tests using NUnit and SoapUI for new DEV network

Technical/Research Projects

Low-resolution reflectometry for inline thin-film inspection (co-author) | Conference

- Developed Python G-code translator converting user-defined motion into deterministic, 3-DOF raster scan trajectories, with parameter validation, on a modified 3D printer
- Designed a time-motion synchronization algorithm to compute timestamps for spectrometer data acquisition using piecewise kinematics (position, velocity, acceleration, jerk), enabling precise thin-film metrology
- Multi-threaded Python backend, PyQt GUI, and USB-serial I/O, supporting start/stop signalling, live timer feedback, and time-synchronized motion and data acquisition
- Led the camera rig model design, unifying the spectrometer, camera, and 3D-printer gantry into one module

Temperature controlled IC test fixture

- Developed PID-controlled PWM code for a test-fixture heater ensuring temperature control to ± 2.0 °C using a Raspberry Pi, Python, power electronics, and thermistor
- Calibrated NTC thermistor with Steinhart-Hart model, accounting for self-heating and dissipation coefficient
- Designed power electronics with power conversion, motors, PFET, encoders, ADCs, and connectors by researching components, verifying calculations, and soldering
- Led the test fixture model design, integrating DUT, circuitry, and heating/cooling system into one fixture module

Integrating theoretical sensor fusion to build a world view (3D aircraft simulation)

- Implemented Kalman filter based sensor fusion (IMU, gyroscope, accelerometer) for accurate state estimation
- Visualized and statistically quantified estimation error and uncertainty from sensor noise, latency, and dropout