

Zijia (Gary) Zhong

SR. TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER · PH.D. · E.I.T.

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Education

Ph.D. in Transportation

Sept. 2013 - May. 2018

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Newark, NJ

Dissertation: Assessing the Effectiveness of Managed Lane Strategies for the Rapid Deployment of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control Technology
(Advisor: Dr. Joyoung Lee; committee members: Dr. Lazar Spasovic, Dr. Steven Chien, Dr. Guiling Wang, and Dr. Parth Bhavsar)

- **dissertation scope**
 - ★ Calibrated large-scale microscopic traffic simulation network with independent sources of field data
 - ★ Developed a Pareto-optimal cooperative driving framework for CACC platoon maneuver
 - ★ Assessed the effectiveness of managed lane strategy for the near-term deployment of CACC
- **award received during Ph.D. study**
 - ★ 2017 “Outstanding Graduate Student”, awarded by Intelligent Transportation Society New Jersey Chapter
 - ★ 2015 “The Future of ITS”, awarded by Intelligent Transportation Society New Jersey Chapter

M.S. in Civil Engineering

Sept. 2009 - May 2011

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Newark, NJ

B.E. in Environmental Engineering

Sept. 2005 - June 2009

JINAN UNIVERSITY

Guangzhou, China

Thesis: Study on Municipal Sewage Sludge Dewatering using Aspergillus Sojae-based Microbial Flocculant and Polyacrylamide
(Adviser: Dr. Jinshao Ye)

Research Interests

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV), Smart and Connected Communities, Scalable Simulation, Sustainable Mobility, Vehicle Platooning, Mixed Traffic Conditions, Smart Sensors, Traffic Safety and Energy

Skills

Multilingual	Cantonese (native), Mandarin (native), English (proficient)
Programming Skills	C/C++, C#, Python, TeX, JavaScript, HTML/ CSS, PHP
High-performance Computing	Parallel Computing w/ Supercomputer, Slurm, AWS Cloud Computing
Traffic Simulation	VISSIM (w/ COM Interface, APIs), SUMO, CORSIM
Enhanced Simulation	Human-in-the-loop simulation (w/ driving simulator), Hardware-in-the-loop (HITL) simulation (w/ signal controllers), Software-in-the-loop (SITL) simulation
Geospatial Analysis	ArcGIS, QGIS
Data Analysis	MATLAB, Anaconda (Python), SAS, Minitab
Driving Simulation Development	SimVista, SimCreator, Internet Scene Assembler, Trian3D
Traffic Analysis	Synchro Studio, PTV Vistro, Highway Capacity Software
Transportation Planning	PTV VISSUM
Database Management	Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, Microsoft Access
Desktop Publishing	Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft Visio
Computer-aided Design	AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp

Experience

Sr. Transportation Engineer

Oct. 2020 - present

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Newark, NJ

Newark Connected Vehicle Test Beds

- Evaluate the wireless communication performance among DSRC and 4G/LTE for the Newark CV Test Beds
- Expand the connected corridor deployment by retrofitting controller with communication capability
- Integrate various SPaT plans for ITS and CAV applications

Computer Vision and Video Analytic for ITS Application

- Develop object detection mechanism to detect the truck parking occupancy using computer vision
- Pilot-deploy truck parking information systems for NJDOT's truck parking facilities

Postdoctoral Researcher

Sept. 2019 - Oct. 2020

NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

Golden, CO

Transportation Systems Rapid Response for Safe and Efficient Mobility Return to Operations

- Explored various probe vehicle data sets to identify changes in travel patterns and behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Processed nationwide, dis-aggregated INRIX data (at individual trip level) for sister national laboratories for their pandemic-related research using high-performance computing resources
- Fused probe vehicle data with socioeconomic data to quantify urban mobility trend

Data-driven Simulation for Citywide Mobility-related Energy Usage (a.k.a. "Digital Twin")

- Conducted large-scale transportation system modeling and calibrate citywide simulation network with heterogeneous sources of transportation data
- Collaborated with NREL's Computational Science Center on leveraging high-performance computing resources (e.g., the Eagle supercomputer, cloud computing) for real-time traffic prediction and management for better energy efficiency
- Developed vehicle trajectory-based automated traffic signal performance measures (ATSPMs) framework to be scaled up to state and national levels

Energy Equivalence of Safety Framework for Motor Vehicle Crashes

- Collected and process economic, energy, and traffic crash data from agencies
- Quantified the direct (e.g., economic cost) and indirect cost (e.g., willingness-to-pay cost) for motor vehicle crashes at national, state, and local levels
- Studied the holistic view of motor vehicle crash by strengthen the connection between transportation safety and energy

Systems and Modeling for Accelerated Research in Transportation (SMART) Mobility Consortium (Urban Science pillar)

- Develop microscopic simulation toolkit for Automated Mobility District (AMD), a campus-size implementation of CAV transit system
- Study the curb-side management of ride-sharing travel mode (i.e., mobility as a service) and its impact on a regional traffic network

Postdoctoral Researcher

Sept. 2018 - Aug. 2019

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Newark, DE

Unconventional Arterial Intersection Design (UAID) under Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) Environment

- Investigated the performance impact of driver's confusion on UAIDs
- Studied optimal control framework for CAVs at signal-free UAIDs

Impact of Cooperative adaptive cruise control (CACC) Clustering Strategies

- Developed freeway merging control framework for vehicle platoons enabled by CACC
- Assessed the traffic impacts of platoon-based merging the effectiveness of global CACC coordination under mixed traffic conditions
- Formulated hierarchical control strategies for CACC platoon formation

Research Supports for the Delaware Center for Transportation and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

- Maintained the Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) database for funded transportation projects
- Hosted technical work shop for traffic simulation with the focus on the advanced modules (e.g., Vissim COM and APIs)
- Collaborated and provide guidance for Ph.D. students' research

Ph.D. Candidate/Graduate Research Assistant

Sept. 2013 - May, 2018

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Newark, NJ

Dedicating Lanes for Priority or Exclusive Use by Connected Vehicles (CVs) and Automated Vehicles (AVs) (NCHRP-102(08))

- Developed a multi-objective cooperative driving framework for CACC platooning
- Assessed the impact of imperfect wireless communication for CACC platooning with a packet-level DSRC analytical module
- Derived policy recommendations for managed lane strategies in near-term deployment of CAV technologies from large scale individual vehicle trajectory data

Saxton Transportation Operation Laboratory TOPR 4 & 19: Saxton Lab Simulation Capability

- Developed advanced microscopic traffic simulation testbed by integrating MATLAB, Vissim, Vissim API, and Vssim COM Interface
- Automated calibrations of large-scale freeway and arterial transportation networks (i.e. Virginia I-66 and Virginia SR 286) for CAV simulation using Vissim COM interface
- Published the source code of Automated Longitudinal Vehicle Control (ALVC) package (i.e. including the calibrated network, ALVC behavioral model developed in Vissim API, and VISSIM COM program) on the FHWA Open Source Application Development Portal

Development of Optimal Platoon-based Cooperative Driving Framework

- Developed distributed computational framework for Genetic Algorithm-based Pareto optimization for corridor level microscopic simulation
- Improved the computational efficiency on conducting agent-based microscopic simulation at scale with high-performance computing resources

Technical Support for Connected Vehicle Technology Evaluation and Deployment

- Developed simulation testbed for practice-ready ITS applications (e.g., queue warning system, eco-driving in-vehicle advisory)
- Deployed the Queue Warning System in the NJ I-295 Direct Connected work zone area
- Prepared technical reports for research projects for the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Human Factor Evaluation of Advanced Driver-assistant Systems

- Managed the day-to-day operations of the Driving Simulator Laboratory of the ITS Resource Center at NJIT
- Developed driving simulation scenarios for ITS applications (e.g., intersection signal advisory, freeway dynamic merging application etc.) using SimVista
- Organized experiments for advanced driving assist systems (ADASs) by using the high-fidelity, full-cabin driving simulator
- Integrated the driving simulator with traffic simulators (e.g. VISSIM, AIMSUM) for human-in-the-loop ADAS evaluation

Development of Enhanced Hardware-in-the-loop Simulation Environment for ITS Evaluation

- Developed Controller Interface Device (CID)-free hardware-in-the-loop (HITL) simulation testbed with VISSIM using the National Transportation Communication for ITS Protocol (NTCIP)
- Evaluated Adaptive Signal Control Technologies (e.g., Centrac Adaptive) with Econolite Cobalt Controllers
- Conducted the proof-of-concept test of the mobile-based pedestrian signal for the visually impaired (i.e. Virtual Guide Dog) with HITL simulation in the field

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Application in Traffic Monitoring and Incident Management

- Explored UAS-based real-time traffic monitoring and its integration to traffic management centers (TMCs)
- Conducted the proof-of-concept test of UAS traffic monitoring by transmitting real-time video footage to the TMC of the City of Newark, NJ via commercial 4G/LTE cellular network
- Collaborated with the PANYNJ for infrastructure inspection with UAS (i.e. visual inspection of the Lincoln Tunnel evase stacks)
- Obtained the FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot certificate

Real-time Urban Mobility Monitoring System by Wireless Sensor Network

- Designed NJIT in-house, low-cost, Zigbee mobility sensors by integrating mini PCs, Bluetooth scanners, and WiFi sensors
- Improved the effectiveness the Class II Bluetooth sensor by introducing a dual-sensor configuration
- Conducted the proof-of-concept test for the proposed ZigBee mobility monitoring application

I-295 Direct Connect Work Zone Mobility Monitoring Application Development

- Developed web-based Work Zone Interactive Monitoring Application (WIMAP) for work zone traffic management
- Fused massive and heterogeneous real-time traffic data for visual data analytics and decision-making support
- Deployed Artificial Neural Network prediction model on WIMAP via MATLAB Compiler SDK
- Integrated the GIS database of NJDOT ITS asset inventory for resource visualization and management

Engineer I

Aug. 2011 - Aug. 2013

LMW ENGINEERING GROUP

Linden, NJ

- Performed engineering design under direct supervision of senior structural engineers
- Prepared CAD drawings for structure alteration, building demolition and support of excavation according to the building codes of Department of Building of New York City (NYCDOB)
- Revised and amended pre- and post- approval engineering plans

Teaching & Advising Experience

- Completion of the ASCE Mini ExCEED teaching workshop, Dec. 2018
- Mentorship for junior Ph.D. students, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Delaware, Fall 2018 - Spring 2019
- Vissim Traffic Simulation workshop, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Delaware, Fall 2018
- Vissim Traffic Simulation workshop (invited lecture), CE350 Transportation Engineering, John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Fall 2015 - Spring 2018
- Emerging ITS technologies (invited lecture), TRAN 755 Intelligent Transportation System, John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Fall 2015 - Spring 2018

Publications

PAPERS in PREPARATION

1. **Z. Zhong**, M. Nejad, and E. E. Lee, “Unconventional arterial intersection designs under connected and automated vehicle environment: a survey,” <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1811.03074.pdf>

JOURNAL PAPERS

1. **Z. Zhong***, J. Lee, and L. Zhao “Dedicated Lane for Connected and Automated Vehicle: How Much Does A Homogeneous Traffic Flow Contribute?”, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1907.00422.pdf> Journal of Advanced Transportation (in press)
2. **Z. Zhong***, M. Nejad, and E. E. Lee, “Autonomous and Semi-Autonomous Intersection Management: A Review,” IEEE Intell. Transp. Syst. Mag., doi:10.1109/MITS.2020.3014074
3. **Z. Zhong***, E. E. Lee, M. Nejad and J. Lee, “Influence of CAV Clustering Strategies on Mixed Traffic Flow Characteristics: An Analysis of Vehicle Trajectory Data,” Transp. Res. Part C: Emerging Technologies, vol.115, pp.102611, 2020, doi:10.1016/j.trc.2020.102611
4. **Z. Zhong** and J. Lee*, “Virtual Guide Dog: Next Generation Pedestrian Signal for the Visually Impaired,” Advances in Mechanical Eng., vol.12(3), pp.1-9, 2020 doi:10.1177/1687814019883096
5. **Z. Zhong*** and J. Lee, “The Effectiveness of Managed Lane Strategies for the Near-term Deployment of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control,” Transp. Res. Part A: Policy and Practices, vol.129, pp. 257–270, 2019, doi:10.1016/J.TRA.2019.08.015
6. **Z. Zhong**, J. Lee*, and L. Zhao, “Multiobjective optimization framework for cooperative adaptive cruise control vehicles in the automated vehicle platooning environment,” Transp. Res. Rec. J. Transp. Res. Board, vol. 2625, pp. 32–42, 2017.
7. J. Lee, **Z. Zhong***, B. Du, S. Gutesa, and K. Kim, “Low-cost and energy-saving wireless sensor network for real-time urban mobility monitoring system,” J. Sensors, vol. 2015, pp. 1–8, 2015.
8. H. Ye, J. Ye*, and **Z. Zhong**, “Study on sludge dewatering using microbial flocculant,” China Environmental Chemistry, vol. 3, p. 024, 2009

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDING PAPERS

1. **Z. Zhong*** and E. E. Lee, “Alternative Intersection Designs with Connected and Automated Vehicle” in IEEE 2nd Connected and Automated Vehicles Symposium, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 2019.
2. **Z. Zhong***, M. Nejad, E. E. Lee, and J. Lee, “Clustering Strategies of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control: Impacts on Human-driven Vehicles,” in IEEE 2nd Connected and Automated Vehicles Symposium, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 2019. **(Best Paper Award)**
3. **Z. Zhong**, J. Lee*, “Simulation framework for cooperative adaptive cruise control with empirical DSRC module,” in 44th Annu. Conf. of IEEE Ind Electron. Soc., Washington DC, USA, 2018
4. J. Lee*, **Z. Zhong**, J. Singh, B. Dimitrijevic, S. Chien, L. Spasovic, “Real-time performance measure monitoring system for long-term freeway work zone,” in Intell. Transp. Syst. World Congress 2017, Montreal, Canada
5. J. Lee*, S. Gutesa, **Z. Zhong**, B. Dimitrijevic, L. Spasovic, J. Singh, “Evaluation of freeway merging assistance system using driving simulator,” in Intell. Transp. Syst. World Congress 2017, Montreal, Canada
6. **Z. Zhong**, J. Lee*, and L. Zhao, “Evaluations of managed lane strategies for arterial deployment of cooperative adaptive cruise control,” in 96th Transp. Res. Board Annu. Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 2017.
7. **Z. Zhong** and J. Lee*, “Development of CID-free hardware-in-the-loop simulation framework,” in 96th Transp. Res. Board Annu. Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 2017.
8. J. Lee* et al., “WIMAP: work zone interactive monitoring application,” in 94th Transp. Res. Board Annu. Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 2015, no. 15–4257.
9. J. Lee*, **Z. Zhong**, K. Kim, B. Dimitrijevic, B. Du, and S. Gutesa, “Examining the applicability of small quadcopter drone for traffic surveillance and roadway incident monitoring,” in 94th Transp. Res. Board Annu. Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 2015, no. 15–4184.
10. **Z. Zhong**, and J. Lee*, “Estimation of real-time origin-destination flow using mobile sensor network,” in 21st Intell. Transp. Syst. World Congress, Detroit, MI, USA, 2014

TECHNICAL REPORTS

1. L. Spasovic, B. Dimitrijevic, J. Lee, P. Jin, **Z. Zhong**, and D. Besenski, “Research of UAS application in traffic monitoring and incident management,” New Jersey Department of Transportation, Mar. 2017
2. L. Spasovic, B. Dimitrijevic, D. Besenski J. Lee, and **Z. Zhong**, “Small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for traffic incident management,” New Jersey Department of Transportation, Mar. 2017
3. J. Lee, L. Spasovic, S. Gutesa, **Z. Zhong**, and B. Dimitrijevic, “Examining the applicability of a driving simulator for the evaluation of ITS and TSM&O strategies,” New Jersey Department of Transportation, Mar. 2017
4. J. Lee, L. Spasovic, **Z. Zhong**, B. Dimitrijevic, K. Kim, and S. Chien, “Development and implementation of WIMAP Application (I-295 Direct Connect Case Study),” New Jersey Department of Transportation, Mar. 2017
5. J. Lee, L. Spasovic, S. Gutesa, **Z. Zhong**, and B. Dimitrijevic, “Development of hardware-in-the-loop-simulation (HILS) environment for adaptive traffic control system,” New Jersey Department of Transportation, Dec. 2016

Professional Service

- Reviewer, Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies
- Reviewer, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Reviewer, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Vehicles
- Reviewer, IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology
- Reviewer, Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Reviewer, Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board
- Reviewer, SAE International Journal of Connected and Automated Vehicles
- Reviewer, Korean Society of Civil Engineers (KSCE) Journal of Civil Engineering
- Reviewer, International Journal of Transportation
- Reviewer, Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting

Presentations

1. “Managed Lane Strategies for Near-term Deployment of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control”, in Automated Vehicles Symposium 2020, virtual, Jul. 2020
2. “A GDP-weighted First-order Approximation of Energy Equivalence of Safety Framework”, in 99th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. Jan. 2020
3. “Alternative Intersection Designs with Connected and Automated Vehicle”, in IEEE 2nd Connected and Automated Vehicles Symposium, Honolulu, HI, 2019
4. “Clustering Strategies of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control: Impacts on Human-driven Vehicles”, in IEEE 2nd Connected and Automated Vehicles Symposium, Honolulu, HI, 2019
5. “Assessing the Effectiveness of Managed Lane Strategies for the Near-term Deployment of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control” , in PTV User Group Meeting, Arlington, VA, 2018
6. “Operation Strategy of the Near-term Deployment of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control Technology” , in University of Delaware Transportation and Civil Infrastructure Systems Seminars, 2018
7. “Evaluation of Freeway Merging Assistance System Using Driving Simulator”, Intelligent Transportation Systems World Congress 2017, Montreal, Canada, Oct 2017
8. “Real-time Performance Measure Monitoring System for Long-term Freeway Work Zone”, Intelligent Transportation Systems World Congress 2017, Montreal, Canada, Oct 2017
9. “Evaluations of Managed Lane Strategies for Arterial Deployment of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control”, presented at the 96th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. Jan. 2017
10. “Development of CID-Free Hardware-in-the-Loop Simulation Framework”, presented at the 96th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. Jan. 2017
11. “Virtual Guide Dog: Next Generation Pedestrian Signal for the Visually Impaired”, presented at the TRB 10th University Transportation Centers Spotlight Conference: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, Washington DC, Dec 2016
12. “Multi-objective Optimization Controller for Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control”, presented at the 95th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Jan. 2016
13. “State-of-the-Art Microscopic Simulation for Early Deployment Evaluation of Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control”, presented at the 4th Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Symposium, Albany, NY, Dec. 2015
14. “WIMAP: Work Zone Interactive Monitoring Application”, presented at the 94th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Jan. 2015
15. “Examining the Applicability of Small Quad-copter Drone for Traffic Surveillance and Roadway Incident Monitoring”, presented at the 94th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Jan. 2015
16. “Pilot Test for Personal Signal Assistant (PSA) in New Jersey”, presented at the 3rd Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Symposium, Albany, NY, Dec. 2014
17. “Estimation of Real-time Origin-destination Flow Using Mobile Sensor Network”, presented at the 21st ITS World Congress, Detroit, MI, Sept. 2014