

JOAO DANTAS

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EDUCATION

Aeronautics Institute of Technology, São José dos Campos, Brazil *Jan 2019 – Jun 2025*
Ph.D. in Electronic and Computer Engineering
Cum. GPA: 9.5 / 10.0

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA *Nov 2021 – Jan 2023*
Ph.D. Exchange Program in Robotics

Aeronautics Institute of Technology, São José dos Campos, Brazil *Aug 2016 – Dec 2018*
M.Sc. in Electronic and Computer Engineering
Cum. GPA: 8.5 / 10.0

Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY *Jul 2014 – Jul 2015*
One-year Undergraduate Exchange Program in Mechanical Engineering
Cum. GPA: 3.93 / 4.00

Aeronautics Institute of Technology, São José dos Campos, Brazil *Jan 2011 – Dec 2015*
B.Sc. in Mechanical-Aeronautical Engineering
Cum. GPA: 8.7 / 10.0

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Institute for Advanced Studies *Jan 2016 – Present*
Research Engineer, Decision Support Systems Subdivision *São José dos Campos, Brazil*
Development of the **Aerospace Simulation Environment**, a custom-built, object-oriented simulation framework designed to model and simulate military scenarios, which aids the development of tactics and procedures within the aerospace context, providing critical support to the Brazilian Air Force.

Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University *Nov 2021 – Jan 2023*
Research Associate, AirLab *Pittsburgh, PA*
Collaborating with **Prof. Dr. Sebastian Scherer** in the development of an artificial intelligence system designed to ensure the safe and predictable integration of autonomous unmanned aircraft into manned traffic. This involves sophisticated algorithms for seamless entry, navigation, and exit within traffic, break, and formation patterns.

Stony Brook University *May 2015 – Jul 2015*
Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Mechanical Engineering *Stony Brook, NY*
Worked with **Prof. Dr. Carlos Colosqui** on Brownian Motion and methodologies for the modeling and numerical analysis of stochastic transport processes, focusing on the dynamics of colloidal particles with micro- and nanoscale dimensions at liquid-fluid and liquid-solid interfaces.

National Council for Scientific and Technological Development *Aug 2011 – Jul 2013*
Undergraduate Researcher *São José dos Campos, Brazil*
Worked with **Prof. Dr. Gilberto Petraconi** as part of the Scientific Initiation Scholarship Program, conducting research in plasmas with a focus on analyzing the effects of electron thermionic emission. Additionally, engaged in research on aerospace materials, specifically studying composite materials utilized in ablative thermo-structural protective coatings for rocket engines.

PROFISSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brazilian Air Force

Research Engineer – Captain Engineer Officer

Jan 2013 – Present

São José dos Campos, Brazil

- Lead cutting-edge research in **Modeling & Simulation** to enhance military operations.
- Engineer advanced decision support systems utilizing **Machine Learning** and **Data Science**, bolstering data-driven decision-making.

COC Educational System

Mathematics Teacher and Scientific Olympiads Coordinator

Feb 2017 – Jul 2021

São José dos Campos, Brazil

- Orchestrated and directed preparatory classes for Scientific Olympiads.
- Guided students to secure **158 medals** and honorable mentions in **46** national and international competitions.

Emerge Brazil

Co-founder and Head of Communications

Oct 2016 – Dec 2017

São Paulo, Brazil

- Innovated at the intersection of science and industry by bridging cutting-edge scientific research with practical applications.
- Proficiently mapped over **300 technologies**, and facilitated **60** technology-industry partnerships, fostering innovation within the Brazilian market.

SKILLS

Natural Languages

Native Portuguese ◊ Advanced English

Programming Languages

Python ◊ R ◊ SQL ◊ MATLAB ◊ L^AT_EX

Deep Learning Framework

Tensorflow ◊ Keras ◊ Pytorch

Python Toolkits

NumPy ◊ Pandas ◊ Matplotlib ◊ Scikit-Learn ◊ SciPy

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025: Selected as one of the six researchers by the CISB – Swedish-Brazilian Research and Innovation Centre in the Call of Innovation Projects CISB 15/2025 for a travel award (€2900) to support presence at the 2025 Swedish Aerospace Congress.

2025: Selected as a DAC Young Fellow 2025 for the Design Automation Conference.

2024: Received the WSC Diversity Award at the IEEE Winter Simulation Conference 2024 in Orlando, USA.

2024: Awarded a travel grant (\$1,000) to attend the IEEE Winter Simulation Conference 2024 in Orlando, USA.

2024: Awarded a travel grant (\$500) to attend the LACORO Latin America Summer School on Robotics in Rancagua, Chile, where I received the *Runner-up Best Poster Award*.

2024: Second Place in the PRC Data Challenge 2024. Awarded a spending voucher of €1,750 for developing an open Machine Learning model to accurately infer the Actual TakeOff Weight (ATOW) of flown flights.

2024: Awarded a travel grant (≈ \$3,000) to attend the UNODA-SIPRI Workshop on Responsible AI for Peace and Security in Brussels, Belgium.

2024: Received a software registration certificate from the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) for the *ASA – Ambiente de Simulação Aeroespacial*.

2024: Selected as an MLCommons ML and Systems Rising Star.

2024: Selected as one of the eight researchers by the CISB - Swedish-Brazilian Research and Innovation Centre in the Call of Innovation Projects CISB 13/2024 for a travel award (≈ €3,150) to participate as part of a delegation of AI researchers, focusing on connecting, structuring, and developing projects

between Brazil and Sweden.

2023: Selected as one of the seven researchers by the CISB - Swedish-Brazilian Research and Innovation Centre for a travel award (\approx €3,200) to participate as part of a delegation of AI researchers, focusing on connecting, structuring, and developing projects between Brazil and Sweden.

2023: 3rd place in the Data Science Challenge 2023.

2023: Best PhD Colloquium Award at the 2023 ACM SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation.

2023: Travel award (\approx \$1,000) to participate at the 2023 ACM SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation in Orlando, FL.

2023: Travel award (\approx \$2,500) to participate at the Brazil at Silicon Valley 2023 in Santa Clara, CA.

2022: Fundação Estudar Merit Scholarship for outstanding trajectory and academic potential (30 recipients out of 33,876 applicants).

2021: 3rd place in the 5th Brazilian Competition on Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD-BR).

2021: Military Bronze Medal received from the Brazilian Air Force.

2019: 6th place out of 39 competitors in the 3rd Brazilian Competition on Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD-BR).

2019: Ambassador Award of Excellence, International Youth Math Challenge.

2019: 4th place in the Data Science Challenge at Engineering Education for the Future (EEF).

2016: Selected by Institute Four to participate at the Prolider Program (29 recipients out of 2,013 applicants).

2015: Honorable Mention in the Department of Humanities, Aeronautics Institute of Technology.

2014–2015: Full scholarship from Brazil's Ministry of Education for a one-year study program at Stony Brook University, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (\approx \$75,000).

2014: Military Merit Award from the Brazilian Air Force (25% best military behavior grades among the Officer Candidates).

2011–2013: Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program for 24 months, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development.

2011: 1st place overall out of 120 Officer Candidates, Brazilian Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (CPORAER-SJ)

2011: Approved in the Aeronautics Institute of Technology entrance exam, 120 recipients out of 7627 applicants.

2009: Academic Merit Award from the Brazilian Air Force (25% best military grades).

2007: Bronze Medal, 10th Brazilian Olympiad of Astronomy and Astronautics (OBA) (187,726 competitors).

2006: Honorable Mention in the XIV Ceara Science and Biology Olympiad, a competition managed by the Federal University of Ceara, Brazil.

2006: Gold Medal in the Internal Science Olympiads in the disciplines of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Farias Brito High School, Brazil.

2004–2006: Full scholarship for three years study program at Farias Brito High School, Brazil (\approx \$30,000).

2003: Honor to Merit for 2nd place for 3 times and 5th place for 1 time in the Internal Mathematics Olympiad, Christus Middle School.

2003: 2nd place in the 3rd Christus Exhibition of Science and Technology (EXCETEC) in the area “Exact, Social and Commercial Sciences” with the project “Educational Exodus Study”, Christus Middle School, Brazil.

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Samara R. Silva, Vitor C. F. Gomes, Alessandro O. Arantes, Andre F. M. Caetano, Victor L. D. B. Costa, Adrisson R. Samersla, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, Yuri D. Ferreira, Marcia R. C. Aquino, and **Joao P. A. Dantas**. AsaFG: A Human-in-the-Loop Integration Module for Air Combat Simulations. *IEEE Access*, 13:155821–155834, 2025.

- [2] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Vitor C. F. Gomes, Andre R. Kuroswiski, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, Diego Geraldo, Adrisson R. Samersla, Samara R. Silva, Andre F. M. Caetano, Yuri D. Ferreira, Alessandro O. Arantes, Davison S. Santos, and Marcia R. C. Aquino. ASA: A Simulation Environment for Evaluating Military Operational Scenarios. In Hamid R. Arabnia, Leonidas Deligiannidis, Farzan Shenavarmasouleh, Soheyla Amirian, and Farid Ghareh Mohammadi, editors, *Computational Science and Computational Intelligence*, pages 203–215, Cham, 2025. Springer Nature Switzerland.
- [3] Lucas Silva Lima, Rafael Duarte Rocha, Rafael Hoffmann Giannico, Denys Derlian Carvalho Brito, and **Joao P. A. Dantas**. DroneSwarm2D: Um Simulador de Enxame de Drones Autônomos para o Estudo de Táticas Defensivas Distribuídas. In *Congresso Acadêmico sobre Defesa Nacional*, Resende, RJ, Brazil, 2025. Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD).
- [4] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, Adrisson R. Samersla, Pedro L. R. Botelho, Vitor C. F. Gomes, Samara R. Silva, Yuri D. Ferreira, Alessandro O. Arantes, Marcia R. C. Aquino, and Marcos R. O. A. Maximo. Deep Reinforcement Learning Agents With Collective Situational Awareness for Beyond Visual Range Air Combat. *IEEE Access*, 13:143052–143069, 2025.
- [5] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Autonomous Aircraft Tactical Pop-Up Attack Using Imitation and Generative Learning. *IEEE Access*, 13:81204–81217, 2025.
- [6] Andre N. Costa*, **Joao P. A. Dantas***, Edvards Scukins, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, and Petter Ögren. Simulation and Machine Learning in Beyond Visual Range Air Combat: A Survey. *IEEE Access*, pages 1–1, 2025.
- [7] Mayara Condé Rocha Murça, Marcos Ricardo Omena de Albuquerque Maximo, **Joao P. A. Dantas**, João Basílio Tarelho Szenczuk, Carolina Rutili de Lima, Lucas Orbolato Carvalho, and Gabriel Adriano de Melo. Open Machine Learning Models for Actual Takeoff Weight Prediction. *Journal of Open Aviation Science*, 3(2), 2025.
- [8] Jay Patrikar, **Joao Dantas**, Brady Moon, Milad Hamidi, Sourish Ghosh, Nikhil Keetha, Ian Higgins, Atharva Chandak, Takashi Yoneyama, and Sebastian Scherer. Image, speech, and ADS-B trajectory datasets for terminal airspace operations. *Scientific Data*, 12(1):468, 2025.
- [9] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Diego Geraldo, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. PoKER: A Probability of Kill Estimation Rate Model for Air-to-Air Missiles Using Machine Learning on Stochastic Targets. *The Journal of Defense Modeling and Simulation*, 2025.
- [10] Mario Viscardi Filho, **Joao Dantas**, Diego Geraldo, and Angelo Pássaro. Manobra winding: Defesa contra mísseis passivos e semiativos superfície-ar. *Spectrum - The Journal of Operational Applications in Defense Areas*, 25(1):12–17, out. 2024.
- [11] Lucas Silva Lima, Rafael Hoffmann Giannico, Denys Derlian Carvalho Brito, Antonio Gustavo Silveira Dantas, and **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Aprendizado de Máquina para a Otimização da Obtenção de Resultados em Simulações de Defesa Aeroespacial. In *Congresso Acadêmico sobre Defesa Nacional*, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 2024. Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD).
- [12] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Loyal Wingman Assessment: Social Navigation for Human-Autonomous Collaboration in Simulated Air Combat. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation*, SIGSIM-PADS’24, Atlanta, GA, USA, 2024. Association for Computing Machinery.
- [13] Ingrid Navarro, Jay Patrikar, **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Rohan Baijal, Ian Higgins, Sebastian Scherer, and Jean Oh. SoRTS: Learned Tree Search for Long Horizon Social Robot Navigation. *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, 9(4):3759–3766, 2024.

- [14] **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Autonomous Pop-Up Attack Maneuver in Air Combat Using Imitation Learning. In *Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference, PhD Colloquium*, Orlando, FL, USA, December 2024. IEEE.
- [15] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Samara R. Silva, Vitor C. F. Gomes, Andre N. Costa, Adrisson R. Samersla, Diego Geraldo, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. AsaPy: A Python Library for Aerospace Simulation Analysis. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation*, SIGSIM-PADS'24, Atlanta, GA, USA, 2024. Association for Computing Machinery.
- [16] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Diego Geraldo, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Real-Time Surface-to-Air Missile Engagement Zone Prediction Using Simulation and Machine Learning. In *Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC)*, Orlando, FL, USA, 2023. National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA).
- [17] Gabriel Henrique Gobi, Pedro Lustosa Rege Botelho, Thiago Lobo Ferreira, Thiago Lopes Araujo, and **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Ambiente de Simulação Aeroespacial: Capacidades e Potenciais Benefícios para a Indústria de Defesa Brasileira. In *Congresso Acadêmico sobre Defesa Nacional*, Pirassununga, SP, Nov 2023. Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD).
- [18] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Diego Geraldo, Andre N. Costa, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. ASA-SimaaS: Advancing Digital Transformation through Simulation Services in the Brazilian Air Force. In *Simpósio de Aplicações Operacionais em Áreas de Defesa (SIGE2023)*, page 6, São José dos Campos, Brazil, 2023. Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (ITA).
- [19] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Autonomous Agent for Beyond Visual Range Air Combat: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Approach. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation*, SIGSIM-PADS'23, Orlando, FL, USA, 2023. Association for Computing Machinery.
- [20] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, Diego Geraldo, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Supervised Machine Learning for Effective Missile Launch Based on Beyond Visual Range Air Combat Simulations. In *Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference*, WSC '22, Singapore, 2022.
- [21] Andre N. Costa, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Diego Geraldo, and Nei Y. Soma. Formation Control Method Based on Artificial Potential Fields for Aircraft Flight Simulation. *SIMULATION*, 98(7):575–595, 2022.
- [22] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Victor C. F. Gomes, Andre R. Kuroswiski, Felipe L. L. Medeiros, and Diego Geraldo. ASA: A Simulation Environment for Evaluating Military Operational Scenarios. In *The 20th International Conference on Scientific Computing (CSC'22)*, Las Vegas, NV, USA, 2022. The 2022 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering & Applied Computing (CSCE'22), Springer.
- [23] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, Andre N. Costa, Diego Geraldo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Machine Learning to Improve Situational Awareness in Beyond Visual Range Air Combat. *IEEE Latin America Transactions*, 20(8), 2022.
- [24] Andre N. Costa and **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Analysis of Sequential Parameter Optimization for Computer Simulation Optimization. *Available at SSRN 4328180*, 2022.
- [25] Jay Patrikar, **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Sourish Ghosh, Parv Kapoor, Ian Higgins, Jasmine J. Aloor, Ingrid Navarro, Jimin Sun, Ben Stoler, Milad Hamidi, et al. Challenges in Close-Proximity Safe and Seamless Operation of Manned and Unmanned Aircraft in Shared Airspace. In *Aerial Robotics Workshop, International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2022*, 2022.

- [26] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Enhanced Self-Organizing Map Solution for the Traveling Salesman Problem. In *Anais do XVIII Encontro Nacional de Inteligência Artificial e Computacional*, pages 799–802. SBC, 2021.
- [27] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Diego Geraldo, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Weapon Engagement Zone Maximum Launch Range Estimation Using a Deep Neural Network. In André Britto and Karina Valdivia Delgado, editors, *Intelligent Systems*, pages 193–207, Cham, 2021. Springer.
- [28] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Andre N. Costa, Diego Geraldo, Marcos R. O. A. Maximo, and Takashi Yoneyama. Engagement Decision Support for Beyond Visual Range Air Combat. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Latin American Robotics Symposium, 2021 Brazilian Symposium on Robotics, and 2021 Workshop on Robotics in Education*, pages 96–101, Natal, RN, Brazil, 2021. IEEE.
- [29] **Joao P. A. Dantas** and Caio Augusto de Melo Silvestre. Modelo de Simulação Aplicado às Missões de Transporte na Região Amazônica. *Aplicações Operacionais em Áreas de Defesa*, 21:10–15, 2020.
- [30] **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Apoio à Decisão para o Combate Aéreo Além do Alcance Visual: Uma Abordagem por Redes Neurais Artificiais. Master’s Thesis, Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica, São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil, 2018.
- [31] **Joao P. A. Dantas**, Jelton Alexandre da Cunha, Jamesson Lira Silva, Alessandro Oliveira Arantes, and Vitor Conrado Faria Gomes. Análise Exploratória de Dados de Acidentes Aeronáuticos no Brasil. *Revista Conexão SIPAER*, 9(2):106–127, 2018.
- [32] **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Teoria dos jogos aplicada ao combate BVR. *Aplicações Operacionais em Áreas de Defesa*, 20, 2017.
- [33] **Joao P. A. Dantas**. Hexacóptero para monitoramento de construção civil: montagem, testes e operação. Senior Thesis, Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica, São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil, 2015.
- [34] **Joao P. A. Dantas** and Gilberto Petraconi Filho. Aquisição automática de dados em ensaios de materiais de barreira térmica realizados em túnel de plasma supersônico. In *Anais do XIX Encontro de Iniciação Científica e Pós-Graduação do ITA - XIX ENCITA*, 2013.
- [35] **Joao P. A. Dantas** and Gilberto Petraconi Filho. Estudo de uma descarga de catodo termiônico em baixa pressão. In *Anais do XVIII Encontro de Iniciação Científica e Pós-Graduação do ITA - XVIII ENCITA*, 2012.

VOLUNTEERING

Fundação Estudar

Ambassador

Jan 2025 – Present

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Engaging with a network of high-achieving young leaders, supporting initiatives to promote education and career development for Brazilian students and encouraging them to join the network.

International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition

Ambassador

Apr 2020 – Jul 2021

Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil

Working to enable motivated students and supportive mentors to inspire youths for astronomy and astrophysics and to encourage them to participate in the competition.

International Youth Math Challenge

Ambassador

Jul 2019 – Jul 2021

Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil

Working to inform schools and encourage students and youths to participate in the competition.

Alpha Lumen Institute

Mathematics Teacher

Jun 2012 – May 2013

Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil

Teacher of mathematics in the preparatory class for the Aeronautics Institute of Technology entrance exam.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Competitive basketball player (2007-2009) – Brazilian Air Force Academy, Pirassununga, Brazil

Amateur bodybuilder (2014-2015) – The National Physique Committee, New York, United States.

Hobbies: Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (blue belt), hiking, cooking, traveling.

October 14, 2025