

TAO ZHONG

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EDUCATION

Princeton University 08/2023 - 07/2028 (*Expected*)
Degree: Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering *cGPA:* 4.0/4.0
Committee: Christine Allen-Blanchette (*Chair*), Felix Heide, Ryan P. Adams

University of Toronto 09/2018 - 06/2023
Degree: B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science (with High Honour) *cGPA:* 3.81/4.0
Major: Robotics Engineering *Minor:* Artificial Intelligence
Advisor: Animesh Garg

EXPERIENCE

CAB Lab, Princeton University 2023 - Present
Graduate Research Student, Advisor: Prof. Christine Allen-Blanchette
Topics: dexterous grasp translation via physics-guided Schrödinger Bridges [[Paper](#), [Project Page](#)], equivariant diffusion for dexterous grasping [[Paper](#), [Project Page](#)], equivariant RL for swarm control [[Paper](#)]

People, AI, & Robots Lab, Vector Institute & University of Toronto 2022 - 2023
Undergraduate Research Student, Advisor: Prof. Animesh Garg
Topics: differentiable grasp synthesis for dexterous hands [[Paper](#), [Project Page](#)], vision-based grasp generation with deep generative model

Noah's Ark Lab, Huawei Research Canada 2021 - 2022
Machine Learning Research Intern, Advisor: Prof. Yang Wang
Topics: out-of-distribution prompt generation for foundation models [[Paper](#), [Project Page](#)], domain adaptive knowledge distillation from Mixture-of-Experts [[Paper](#), [Code](#)], cold-start recommendation with meta-learning

aUToronto, The University of Toronto Self-Driving Car Team 2020 - 2022
Mapping & Localization Team Lead, Team Advisors: Prof. Tim Barfoot, Prof. Steven Waslander, Prof. Angela Schoellig, Prof. Jonathan Kelly
Topics: semantic map generation and optimization, SLAM algorithm development

Shenzhen Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for Society, CUHK(SZ) 2020
Visiting Research Student, Advisor: Prof. Huihuan Qian
Topics: web-based sailboat testing platform, state estimation, and control for sailboats

PUBLICATIONS

* denotes equal contribution.

Papers in Submission

[U1] Keqin Wang*, **Tao Zhong***, David Chang, Christine Allen-Blanchette. Local-Canonicalization Equivariant Graph Neural Networks for Sample-Efficient and Generalizable Swarm Robot Control. *Preprint*, 2025.

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- [C5] **Tao Zhong**, Jonah Buchanan, Christine Allen-Blanchette. Grasp2Grasp: Vision-Based Dexterous Grasp Translation via Schrödinger Bridges. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2025.
- [C4] **Tao Zhong** and Christine Allen-Blanchette. GAGrasp: Geometric Algebra Diffusion for Dexterous Grasping. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2025.
- [C3] Zhixiang Chi*, Li Gu*, **Tao Zhong**, Huan Liu, Yuanhao Yu, Konstantinos N Plataniotis, Yang Wang. Adapting to Distribution Shift by Visual Domain Prompt Generation. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2024.

- [C2] Dylan Turpin, **Tao Zhong**, Shutong Zhang, Guanglei Zhu, Eric Heiden, Miles Macklin, Stavros Tsogkas, Sven Dickinson, Animesh Garg. Fast-Grasp'D: Dexterous Multi-finger Grasp Generation Through Differentiable Simulation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2023.
- [C1] **Tao Zhong***, Zhixiang Chi*, Li Gu*, Yang Wang, Yuanhao Yu, Jin Tang. Meta-DMoE: Adapting to Domain Shift by Meta-Distillation from Mixture-of-Experts. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2022.

Refereed Non-archival Publications

- [W1] **Tao Zhong** and Christine Allen-Blanchette. Geometric Algebra Grasp Diffusion for Dexterous Manipulators. In *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) Workshop on Equivariant Robotics*, 2024.

Patents

- [P1] Zhixiang Chi, Li Gu, **Tao Zhong**, Yuanhao Yu, Yang Wang, Jin Tang. Systems and Methods for Artificial-intelligence Model Training Using Unsupervised Domain Adaptation with Multi-source Meta-distillation. *US Patent Application No. 17/966,568*.

AWARDS & HONORS

Princeton MAE Second Year Departmental Fellowship (2 / 25+)	2024
Princeton University First Year Fellowship in Natural Sciences and Engineering	2023
NeurIPS 2022 Scholar Award	2022
SAE Autodrive Challenge: 1st Place Winner (As a team)	2020, 2021, 2022
University of Toronto Dean's Honours List (All 8 terms)	2018 - 2023

INVITED TALKS

Vision-Based Dexterous Grasp Translation via Schrödinger Bridges
GRASP Lab, UPenn, Oct 2025

TEACHING

MAE 433 Automatic Control Systems (Undergraduate)	Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant, Princeton University	

MENTORING

Jonah Buchanan (with Christine Allen-Blanchette)	2024 - 2025
David Chang (with Christine Allen-Blanchette and Kevin Wang)	2024 - 2025
Kaison Fong (with Christine Allen-Blanchette)	2025

SERVICE

Conference Refereeing	
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)	2025
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)	2025 - 2026
Annual Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC)	2024
Journal Refereeing	
IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)	2025

SKILLS

Programming Languages:	Python, C/C++, MATLAB/Simulink, Bash, SQL, Assembly
Libraries & Tools:	PyTorch, NumPy, OpenCV, scikit-learn, ROS, Git, Docker, \LaTeX