

SONGYUAN ZHANG

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LAB: REALM Lab, MIT Building 31, 70 Vassar St, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Safe Autonomous Systems, Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Robotics, Control Theory

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Feb. 2024 - Now
Ph.D. Student at Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics Advisor: Prof. Chuchu Fan

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Aug. 2021 - Feb. 2024
Master of Science in Aeronautics and Astronautics Advisor: Prof. Chuchu Fan

Tsinghua University Sep. 2017 - Jul. 2021
B.E. in Tsien Excellence in Engineering Program (honored degree)
Advisor: Prof. Yanan Sui, Prof. Hao Wu, Prof. Gangtie Zheng

Stanford University Jun. 2020 - July. 2021
Remote Visiting Scholar in Computer Science Advisor: Prof. Dorsa Sadigh

University of California, Berkeley July. 2019 - Sept. 2019
Visiting Scholar in Mechanical Engineering Advisor: Prof. Masayoshi Tomizuka

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL

[T-RO'25] Songyuan Zhang*, Oswin So*, Kunal Garg, and Chuchu Fan. "GCBF+: A Neural Graph Control Barrier Function Framework for Distributed Safe Multi-Agent Control." *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, 2025. [\[Website\]](#)

[ARC'24] Kunal Garg, Songyuan Zhang, Oswin So, Charles Dawson, and Chuchu Fan. "Learning Safe Control for Multi-Robot Systems: Methods, Verification, and Open Challenges." *Annual Reviews in Control*, 2024. [\[arXiv\]](#)

[SG'23] Lizhi Wang, Songyuan Zhang, Yifan Zhou, Chuchu Fan, Peng Zhang, and Yacov A. Shamash. "Physics-Informed, Safety and Stability Certified Neural Control for Uncertain Networked Microgrids." *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*, 2023. [\[PDF\]](#)

CONFERENCE

[RSS'25 (Best Student Paper Award)] Songyuan Zhang*, Oswin So*, Mitchell Black, Zachary Serlin, and Chuchu Fan. "Solving Multi-Agent Safe Optimal Control with Distributed Epigraph Form MARL." *Proceedings of Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2025. [\[Website\]](#)

- [**ICLR’25**] Songyuan Zhang, Oswin So, Mitchell Black, and Chuchu Fan. “Discrete GCBF Proximal Policy Optimization for Multi-agent Safe Optimal Control.” *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025.[\[Website\]](#)
- [**L4DC’24**] Songyuan Zhang, and Chuchu Fan. “Learning to stabilize high-dimensional unknown systems using Lyapunov-guided exploration.” *6th Annual Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC)*, 2024.[\[Website\]](#)
- [**DASC’24**] Anahita Imanian, Songyuan Zhang, Austin Whitesell, Craig Wanke, and Chuchu Fan. “A Robust Machine Learning Method for Safe and Efficient UAS Integration.” *AIAA DATC / IEEE 43rd Digital Avionics Systems Conference (DASC)*, 2024.[\[PDF\]](#)
- [**AIAA’24**] Anahita Imanian, Songyuan Zhang, Chuchu Fan, Bulent Ayhan, Austin Whitesell, Shereef Sayed, and Craig Wanke. “Safe and Scalable Collision Avoidance Model for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems: An Artificial Intelligence Approach.” *AIAA SCITECH 2024 Forum*, 2024.[\[PDF\]](#)
- [**CoRL’23**] Songyuan Zhang, Kunal Garg, and Chuchu Fan. “Neural Graph Control Barrier Functions Guided Distributed Collision-avoidance Multi-agent Control.” *7th Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2023.[\[Website\]](#)
- [**PESGM’23**] Lizhi Wang, Songyuan Zhang, Yifan Zhou, Chuchu Fan, Peng Zhang, and Yacov A. Shamash. “Learning-Based, Safety and Stability-Certified Microgrid Control.” *2023 IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting (PESGM)*, 2023.[\[PDF\]](#)
- [**L4DC’23 (ORAL)**] Songyuan Zhang, Yumeng Xiu, Guannan Qu, and Chuchu Fan. “Compositional Neural Certificates for Networked Dynamical Systems.” *5th Annual Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC)*, 2023.[\[Website\]](#)
- [**NeurIPS’21**] Songyuan Zhang*, Zhangjie Cao*, Dorsa Sadigh, and Yanan Sui. “Confidence-Aware Imitation Learning from Demonstrations with Varying Optimality.” *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2021.[\[Website\]](#)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025-2026 Schwarzman College of Computing Amazon AI Research Innovation Fellowship	2025
Best Student Paper Award of Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)	2025
Best Paper Award Finalist of Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)	2025
Outstanding Graduate of Tsinghua University	2021
Outstanding Graduate of Beijing	2021
Outstanding Graduate of Scientific Research at TEEP	2021
Outstanding Graduate of Creativity at TEEP	2021
Honor Degree of Tsien Class, Tsinghua University	2021
Tsinghua Scholarship for Technological Innovation	2020
National Scholarship, China	2019
First Prize in Excellent Student Research Training Contest of Tsinghua University	2019
First Prize in "Challenge Cup" Science and Technology Competition of Tsinghua University	2019

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Journal Reviewer:

IEEE Transactions on Robotics (T-RO), IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (T-AC), Automatica, Annual Reviews in Control (ARC), IEEE Open Journal of Control Systems (OJ-CSYS), IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L), IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics (T-CYB)

Conference Reviewer:

NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, L4DC, IROS, AAAI, AISTATS, CDC, ACC, NFM, DARS, RV, TACAS

Teaching Assistant at Tsinghua University: X-idea (2021 Spring)

LEADERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

Chairman of 13th *Spark* Innovative Talents Training Program at Tsinghua University

Vice-monitor of Tsien Class 2017

Member of the Second Team of Middle and Long Distance Running at Tsinghua University

SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE

MIT engineers help multirobot systems stay in the safety zone, *MIT News*, 2025. [[Website](#)]

HOBBIES

Photography, Hiking, Badminton, Running, Skiing, Piano, Drum kit, Taekwondo, Poker Magic