

Zahra Yazdani

COMPUTER SCIENCE · PHD STUDENT

✉ zahray@gatech.edu | 🏠 zahrayazdani.github.io | 📧 zahrayazdani | 📞 zahra-yazdani-924172187

Education

Georgia Institute of Technology

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Co-advised by Prof. Alberto Dainotti and Prof. Cecilia Testart
- GPA: 4.0/4.0

Atlanta, GA, USA

Aug. 2023 - PRESENT

University of Tehran

B.SC. IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

- GPA: 17.63/20 (3.68/4.0)

Tehran, Iran

Sept. 2018 - Feb. 2023

Research Interests

Computer Networks Internet Measurements Network Security BGP Security Internet Outage Detection

Publications

Zahra Yazdani, Paul Pearce, Alberto Dainotti, Cecilia Testart. **"Poster: Investigating Network Security Post-Outage: Open Ports Vulnerabilities"** – Published - ACM IMC'24

Mostafa Meimand, Vanshaj Khattar, **Zahra Yazdani**, Farrokh Jazizadeh, Ming Jin. **"TUNEOPT: An Evolutionary Model-based Reinforcement Learning Controller For Tuning Energy-Comfort Optimization Formulations"** – Published - ACM BuildSys'23

Research Experience

Max Planck Institute for Informatics, INET Group

GRADUATE RESEARCH INTERN

- Mentors: Dr. Taha Albakour and Dr. Tiago Heinrich
- Extended Yarrpbox to evaluate the survivability of experimental TCP options and conducted measurements to provide insights into challenges for deploying new TCP extensions.

Saarbrücken, Germany

June 2025 - Aug. 2025

Georgia Institute of Technology, Internet Intelligence Lab

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Exploring potential security issues in networks following an internet outage caused by infrastructure failures using our proposed methodology. This framework can assist both ISPs and researchers in understanding and mitigating potential post-outage vulnerabilities.
- Analyzing characteristics of BGP misconfigurations that appear as BGP hijacks using Global Routing Intelligence Platform (GRIP) data. This study aims to enhance our understanding and mitigation of these misconfigurations.

Atlanta, GA, USA

Aug. 2023 - PRESENT

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, SPIN Lab

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- **Under the Supervision of Prof. Shaddi Hasan**
- **Feb. 2022 - May 2023** Worked on a project called "AvA", with the ultimate goal of providing more stable and better-performing cellular connections in future networks. AvA facilitates seamless switching between different networks, ensuring users have the best available connections.
- **July 2021 - Jan. 2022** Designed tools for collecting data on California power outages for evaluating wildfire's impacts on mobile network resilience in future works. The system enables us to capture near-real-time outage data from the two largest electric utilities in the state.

Blacksburg, VA, USA

July 2021 - May 2023

Teaching Experience

Georgia Institute of Technology

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT IN **COMPUTER NETWORKS**

Atlanta, USA

Aug. 2025 - PRESENT

- Assisted with teaching and grading.

University of Tehran

VOLUNTEER UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT IN **FORMAL LANGUAGES AND AUTOMATA**

Tehran, Iran

Sept. 2021 - Jan. 2022

- Designed two assignments and grading.

VOLUNTEER UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT IN **ADVANCED PROGRAMMING**

Feb. 2020 - Jan. 2022

- Responsible for proposing the initial idea, designing, and implementing projects as a group of TAs and in-person or online evaluation and grading sessions.
- Assigned to total number of twelve projects in four semesters.

Honors & Awards

2025	President's Fellowship , Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA, USA
2025	NSF GRFP Honorable Mention , NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)	USA
2024	IMC'24 Best Poster Award , ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC) 2024	Madrid, Spain
2024	IMC'24 Travel Grant , ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC) 2024	Madrid, Spain
2024	President's Fellowship , Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA, USA
2024	Community Engagement Award , School of Computer Science and School of Cybersecurity and Privacy, Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA, USA
2023	President's Fellowship , Georgia Institute of Technology – Additional stipend per academic year offered to a select number of highly qualified doctoral students across the nation	Atlanta, GA, USA
2018	Ranked among the top 0.9% of students , Iranian University Entrance Exam	Tehran, Iran

Volunteer Experience

SIGCOMM '25

ARTIFACT EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Portugal

2025

USENIX Security '25

ARTIFACT EVALUATION COMMITTEE

USA

2025

Graduate Student Association, School of Cybersecurity and Privacy, Georgia Tech

EVENTS CHAIR

Atlanta, GA, USA

June 2024 - Present

- Organizing and coordinating events for graduate students

Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (BRP)

VOLUNTEER

Blacksburg, VA, USA

March 2023 - July 2023

- Assisted Afghan refugees with translation between Persian and English, and vice versa
- Taught Afghan women refugees English and provided support in improving their language skills