Brief Biographical Sketch

Professor Yiyuan Zhao:

Professor Yiyuan Zhao joined the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics faculty at the University of Minnesota in 1990 as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. from Stanford University in 1989 and 1986, respectively, and his B.S. from the Harbin Institute of Technology in China in 1982. Zhao was selected as the Professor of the Year for 2005-2006. Recipients for this award are chosen by students at the University.

Dr. Zhao’s research covers several areas. One focus is Optimization Methods, e.g., algorithm development for parameter optimization and dynamic optimization, formulation and solution methods for optimization across networks, methods of complex system optimization. Another area is Applications of Optimization Methods, such as dynamic system modeling, aerospace vehicle flight optimization, intelligent motion planning for multiple-vehicle autonomous operations, unmanned aerial vehicles. His research also focuses on Airborne Networks for Aerospace Applications, namely benefit-based analysis and design of airborne networks for multiple vehicle communication, navigation, and surveillance.

The career of Professor Zhao is defined not only by his research, but also by his excellence in teaching. He has received two major awards recognizing distinction in teaching. In addition to these awards, Zhao has received the Taylor Career Development Award from the University of Minnesota and is an Associate Fellow with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Professor Zhao has had over 25 articles published in refereed journals.