

CURRICULUM VITAE – MINDA ZHAO

CONTACT	Minda Zhao Email : mindazhao@gatech.edu Website : https://minda-zhao.github.io/Personal-Website Phone : +1 470-303-3944 Address : Room 422, ISyE Main Building, 755 Ferst Dr NW, Atlanta, GA 30332	
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Georgia Institute of Technology (Gatech) <i>Ph.D. student in Operations Research</i> – Advisor : Prof. Xin ChenUniversity of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) <i>Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering</i> – Transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology.University of Chicago (UChicago) <i>M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics</i> – Advisor : Prof. Lek-Heng LimSun Yat-sen University (SYSU) <i>B.S. in Information and Computing Science</i>	Atlanta, GA 2022 - 2026 (Expected)
		Champaign, IL 2021 - 2022
		Chicago, IL 2019 - 2020
		Guangzhou, China 2015 - 2019
RESEARCH INTEREST	Methodology : Stochastic Programming, Nonconvex Optimization. Application : Operations Models, Optimal Control, Reinforcement Learning.	
PREPRINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models. [ArXiv] [SSRN] Xin Chen, Linwei Xin, Minda Zhao (alphabetical order) – Under review at <i>Operations Research</i>.A Simple Solution to Improving Human Supervision of Algorithms : Evidence from Smart Vending. [SSRN] Minda Zhao, Brian Han, Xin Chen, Tao Zhu – Under review at <i>Manufacturing & Service Operations Management</i>. – Third Place, CSAMSE Practice Award 2024.Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action. [ArXiv] Xin Chen, Yifan Hu, Minda Zhao (alphabetical order) – Under revision at <i>Operations Research</i>. – Extended abstract accepted by NeurIPS 2025 ML×OR Workshop.	
PUBLICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Stochastic Steffensen Method. [Link] Minda Zhao, Zehua Lai, Lek-Heng Lim. 2024 <i>Computational Optimization and Applications</i>, pp.1-32.	
HONORS AND AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shabbir Ahmed PhD Fellowship for Excellence in Research 2025 – Awarded annually to up to two Ph.D. students in Georgia Tech ISyE for research in optimizationThird Place, CSAMSE Practice Award 2024NCCR Automation Fellowship, Switzerland 2024Hansen Fellowship, UIUC 2021Merit Undergraduate Thesis, SYSU 2019First-class Scholarship, SYSU 2018	
TEACHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guest Lecturer, Georgia Tech Optimization and Learning in Operations (ISyE 8803) - Instructor : Xin Chen - Responsibility : 4 Lectures in policy gradient methods and nonconvex optimization	Spring 2025

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	• Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models.	– (Poster) Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY	Oct 2025
	• A Simple Solution to Improving Human Supervision of Algorithms : Evidence from Smart Vending.	– INFORMS MSOM Conference, Supply Chain Management SIG, London, UK	Jun 2025
		– Annual POMS Conference, Atlanta, GA	May 2025
		– Conference on Digital Experimentation @ MIT, Boston, MA	Oct 2024
	• Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action.	– (Poster) NeurIPS 2025 ML×OR Workshop, San Diego, CA	Dec 2025
		– INFORMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA	Oct 2025
		– International Conference on Continuous Optimization, Los Angeles, CA	Jul 2025
		– INFORMS RMP Section Conference, New York, NY	Jul 2025
		– INFORMS APS Conference, Atlanta, GA	Jun 2025
		– IISE Annual Conference & Expo, Atlanta, GA	Jun 2025
SERVICES	– Annual POMS Conference, Atlanta, GA	May 2025	
	– INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA	Oct 2024	
	– (Poster) Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY	Oct 2024	
	– Purdue Operations Conference, West Lafayette, IN	Aug 2024	
	– INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ	Oct 2023	
INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE	– International Annual Conference of CSAMSE, Shenzhen, China	Jul 2023	
	• Session Organization :		
	– International Conference on Continuous Optimization (ICCOPT 2025)	Jul 2025	
REFERENCES	Session : Recent Advances in Optimization for MDPs and Stochastic Optimal Control		
	• Reviewer :		
	– <i>Operations Research</i>		
• Shenzhen Fengyi Technology Co., Ltd.	– <i>Management Science</i>		
	– <i>Computational Optimization and Applications</i>		
	Research Assistant (remote)	Shenzhen, China	
	Research Scientist Intern	Mar 2022 - Present	
	– Developed and implemented a new replenishment strategy, reducing annual inventory costs by \$1,000,000.	Jul 2023 - Aug 2023	
• Cainiao Network	Research Scientist Intern	Hangzhou, China	
	– Developed and implemented a new replenishment strategy, reducing annual inventory costs by \$1,000,000.	Jun 2021 – Oct 2021	
• Xin Chen (Professor)	– H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech		
	– Email : xin.chen@isye.gatech.edu		
	• Linwei Xin (Associate Professor)		
	– School of Operations Research and Information Engineering, Cornell University		
	– Email : lx267@cornell.edu		
• Guanghui (George) Lan (Professor)	– H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech		
	– Email : george.lan@isye.gatech.edu		