

# CURRICULUM VITAE – MINDA ZHAO

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EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Georgia Institute of Technology (Gatech)</b> <i>Ph.D. student in Operations Research</i> – Advisor : Prof. Xin Chen</li><li>● <b>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)</b> <i>Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering</i> – Transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology.</li><li>● <b>University of Chicago (UChicago)</b> <i>M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics</i> – Advisor : Prof. Lek-Heng Lim</li><li>● <b>Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU)</b> <i>B.S. in Information and Computing Science</i></li></ul>	Atlanta, GA 2022 - 2026 (Expected)  Champaign, IL 2021 - 2022  Chicago, IL 2019 - 2020  Guangzhou, China 2015 - 2019	
RESEARCH INTEREST	<b>Methodology</b> : Stochastic Programming, Nonconvex Optimization. <b>Application</b> : Operations Models, Optimal Control, Reinforcement Learning.		
PREPRINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models.</b> <a href="#">[ArXiv]</a> <a href="#">[SSRN]</a> Xin Chen, Linwei Xin, <b>Minda Zhao</b> (alphabetical order) – Under review at <i>Operations Research</i>.</li><li>2. <b>A Simple Solution to Improving Human Supervision of Algorithms : Evidence from Smart Vending.</b> <a href="#">[SSRN]</a> <b>Minda Zhao</b>, Brian Han, Xin Chen, Tao Zhu – Under review at <i>Manufacturing &amp; Service Operations Management</i>. – <b>Third Place</b>, CSAMSE Practice Award 2024.</li><li>3. <b>Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action.</b> <a href="#">[ArXiv]</a> Xin Chen, Yifan Hu, <b>Minda Zhao</b> (alphabetical order) – Under revision at <i>Operations Research</i>. – Extended abstract accepted by NeurIPS 2025 ML×OR Workshop.</li></ol>		
PUBLICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Stochastic Steffensen Method.</b> <a href="#">[Link]</a> <b>Minda Zhao</b>, Zehua Lai, Lek-Heng Lim. 2024 <i>Computational Optimization and Applications</i>, pp.1-32.</li></ol>		
HONORS AND AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Shabbir Ahmed PhD Fellowship for Excellence in Research</b> – Awarded annually to up to two Ph.D. students in Georgia Tech ISyE for research in optimization</li><li>● <b>Third Place, CSAMSE Practice Award</b></li><li>● <b>NCCR Automation Fellowship, Switzerland</b></li><li>● <b>Hansen Fellowship, UIUC</b></li><li>● <b>Merit Undergraduate Thesis, SYSU</b></li><li>● <b>First-class Scholarship, SYSU</b></li></ul>	2025  2024  2024  2021  2019  2018	
TEACHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Guest Lecturer, Georgia Tech</b> <b>Optimization and Learning in Operations (ISyE 8803)</b> – Instructor : Xin Chen – Responsibility : 4 Lectures in policy gradient methods and nonconvex optimization</li></ul>	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  
– 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  
– International Annual Conference of CSAMSE, Shenzhen, China Jul 2023

SERVICES

- **Session Organization :**  
– International Conference on Continuous Optimization (ICCOPT 2025) Jul 2025  
Session : Recent Advances in Optimization for MDPs and Stochastic Optimal Control
- **Reviewer :**  
– *Operations Research*  
– *Management Science*  
– *Computational Optimization and Applications*

INDUSTRY  
EXPERIENCE

- **Shenzhen Fengyi Technology Co., Ltd.** Shenzhen, China  
Research Assistant (remote) Mar 2022 - Present  
Research Scientist Intern Jul 2023 - Aug 2023  
– Developed and implemented a new replenishment strategy, reducing annual inventory costs by \$1,000,000.
- **Cainiao Network** Hangzhou, China  
Research Scientist Intern Jun 2021 – Oct 2021

REFERENCES

- **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
- **Guanghai (George) Lan (Professor)**  
– H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech  
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