

# Zhiyu (Iris) Ren

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## EDUCATION

**Cornell University**, College of Engineering, Ithaca, NY **Expected May 2026**  
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, GPA 3.91

**Relevant Courses:** Heat Transfer, Mechatronics, Fluid Mechanics, Mechanics of Engineering Materials, Introduction to Aeronautics, Statics and Mechanics of Solids, Engineering Computation, Water Quality Engineering.

**University of California, Santa Barbara** College of Arts and Science, Goleta, CA **Sep 2021-Jun 2023**  
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Studies, GPA 3.97

**Relevant Courses:** General Chemistry, Physics: Mechanics & Heat, Physics: Electromagnetism, Multivariable Calculus, Vector Calculus.

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Engineering Competitors for Sustainability**, Cornell University, *President* **Aug 2023-Present**

- Optimized electronic designs for wind turbines to adapt to solar panel controllers in 2023 & 2024
- Conducted circuit experiments to troubleshoot the electronic-part connection and estimate turbine power output
- Visited the community in San Pedro highlands and installed the base of wind turbine for rural families
- Design parameter collection system for bikes in Colombian communities for World Bike Relief in 2025

**Computer Vision Project for Digital Agriculture**, Cornell university, *Prototype Designer* **Aug 2024-Present**

- Design a laser scanning device for agricultural managers to accurately measure vine pruning weight
- Develop a mathematical model to relate device geometry to the distance between the vine and the camera
- Research cost-effective materials for the device to ensure accessibility for farmers while maintaining performance
- Optimize the design's stability, portability, and durability to evolve it into a mature and accessible product

**Co-generation Device Optimization**, Cornell university, *Researcher* **Jan 2025-Present**

- Designed and 3D-printed actuator bases to stabilize and secure device actuators
- Developed and tested sundials with photoresistor arrays for sun position tracking
- Programmed actuators to adjust glass angles for optimal solar energy concentration and energy input
- Make an AI-camera control to dynamically track the sun and adjust actuator extrusion distances

**SEA Lab**, Cornell University, Multidisciplinary Design Optimization Team, *Researcher* **Jan 2024-Aug 2024**

- Manufactured and assembled parts for RM3 and RM5 wave energy converters by laser cut and 3D printing
- Generated figures and debugged the code for simulation models for wave energy converter design
- Evaluated performance metrics for other sustainable energy sources and compared them with wave energy
- Optimized the figures generated from gradient based algorithm and pattern search algorithm

**Cornell University Sustainable Design**, Soil Factory Project, *Subteam Member* **Aug 2023-May 2024**

- Conducted burnings to produce biochar and analyzed the deficiency of kiln design and combustion process
- Redesigned the kiln design to reduce environmental impact and retain nutrients in biochar
- Implemented experiment to testify biochar's capacity to prevent soil erosion and reduce salinity
- Established connections with local farmers for more adoption of agricultural biochar

## SKILLS

**Technical:** Arduino, Fusion 360, Python, MATLAB, R, Excel, PowerPoint.

**Campus Involvement:** ELI Undergraduate Research Award Recipient; Engineering Competitors for Sustainability, President; Tau Beta Pi Society, Vice President; Cornell Chinese Drama Society, Member.