

# CURRICULUM VITAE – MINDA ZHAO

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EDUCATION	<b>Georgia Institute of Technology (Gatech)</b> <i>Ph.D. student in Operations Research</i> – Advisor : Prof. Xin Chen	Atlanta, GA	2022 - 2026 (Expected)
	<b>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)</b> <i>Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering</i> – Transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology.	Champaign, IL	2021 - 2022
	<b>University of Chicago (UChicago)</b> <i>M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics</i> – Advisor : Prof. Lek-Heng Lim	Chicago, IL	2019 - 2020
	<b>Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU)</b> <i>B.S. in Information and Computing Science</i>	Guangzhou, China	2015 - 2019
RESEARCH INTEREST	<b>Methodology</b> : Stochastic Programming, Nonconvex Optimization. <b>Application</b> : Operations Models, Optimal Control, Reinforcement Learning.		
PREPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A Simple Solution to Improving Human Supervision of Algorithms : Evidence from Smart Vending. <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>2. Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action. <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><li>3. Stochastic Steffensen Method. <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>		
RESEARCH IN PROGRESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hidden Convexity in Pricing and Capacity Sizing for Queueing Systems. (Submitting Soon) Xin Chen, Linwei Xin, <b>Minda Zhao</b> (alphabetical order)</li></ol>		
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hidden Convexity in Pricing and Capacity Sizing for Queueing Systems. – (Poster) Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY Oct 2025</li><li>2. 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</li><li>3. Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action. – International Conference on Continuous Optimization, Los Angeles, LA Jul 2025 – INFORMS RMP Section Conference, New York, NY Jul 2025 – INFORMS APS Conference, Atlanta, GA Jun 2025 – IISE Annual Conference &amp; 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</li></ol>		

HONORS AND AWARDS	1. Third Place, CSAMSE Practice Award	2024
	2. NCCR Automation Fellowship, Switzerland	2024
	3. Hansen Fellowship, ISE Department at UIUC	2021
	4. Merit Undergraduate Thesis (Top 10%), SYSU	2019
	5. First-class Scholarship, SYSU	2018
SERVICES	<b>Conference Organization</b> : ICCOPT Session Chair 2025	
	<b>Reviewer</b> : <i>Operations Research, Management Science, Computational Optimization and Applications</i>	
INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE	<b>Shenzhen Fengyi Technology Co., Ltd.</b>	Shenzhen, China
	<i>Research Assistant (remote)</i>	Mar 2022 - Present
	<i>Research Scientist Intern</i>	Jul 2023 - Aug 2023
	– Conduct a new replenishment strategy, leading to a \$1,000,000 annual reduction in inventory costs.	
	<b>Cainiao Network</b>	Hangzhou, China
	<i>Research Scientist Intern</i>	Jun 2021 – Oct 2021