

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 Chen• University 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 Lim• Sun 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">1. Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models. [ArXiv] [SSRN] Xin Chen, Linwei Xin, Minda Zhao (alphabetical order) – Under review at <i>Operations Research</i>.2. 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 2024.3. 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">1. 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 optimization• Third Place, CSAMSE Practice Award 2024• NCCR Automation Fellowship, Switzerland 2024• Hansen Fellowship, UIUC 2021• Merit Undergraduate Thesis, SYSU 2019• First-class Scholarship, SYSU 2018	
TEACHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest Lecturer, Georgia Tech Spring 2025 Optimization and Learning in Operations (ISyE 8803) - Instructor : Xin Chen - Responsibility : 4 Lectures in policy gradient methods and nonconvex optimization	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	• Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models.	Oct 2025 Jun 2025 May 2025 Oct 2024 Dec 2025 Oct 2025 Jul 2025 Jul 2025 Jun 2025 Jun 2025 May 2025 Oct 2024 Aug 2024 Oct 2023 Jul 2023	– (Poster) Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY
	• A Simple Solution to Improving Human Supervision of Algorithms : Evidence from Smart Vending.		– INFORMS MSOM Conference, Supply Chain Management SIG, London, UK
			– Annual POMS Conference, Atlanta, GA
			– Conference on Digital Experimentation @ MIT, Boston, MA
	• Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action.		– INFORMS APS Conference, Atlanta, GA
			– IISE Annual Conference & Expo, Atlanta, GA
			– Annual POMS Conference, Atlanta, GA
			– INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
			– (Poster) Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY
			– Purdue Operations Conference, West Lafayette, IN
SERVICES	• Session Organization :	Jul 2025 Jul 2025 Oct 2024 Oct 2024 Jul 2023	– INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
			– International Annual Conference of CSAMSE, Shenzhen, China
	• Reviewer :		– <i>Operations Research</i>
			– <i>Management Science</i>
			– <i>Computational Optimization and Applications</i>
INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE	• Shenzhen Fengyi Technology Co., Ltd.	Shenzhen, China Mar 2022 - Present Jul 2023 - Aug 2023	Research Assistant (remote)
			Research Scientist Intern
			– 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	– H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech
	• Linwei Xin (Associate Professor)		– School of Operations Research and Information Engineering, Cornell University
	• Guanghui (George) Lan (Professor)		– Email : lx267@cornell.edu
			– H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech
			– Email : george.lan@isye.gatech.edu