

# CURRICULUM VITAE – MINDA ZHAO

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EDUCATION	<b>Georgia Institute of Technology (Gatech)</b>	Atlanta, GA	
	<i>Ph.D. student in Operations Research</i>	2022 - 2026 (Expected)	
	– Advisor : Prof. Xin Chen		
	<b>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)</b>	Champaign, IL	
	<i>Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering</i>	2021 - 2022	
RESEARCH INTEREST	– Transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology.		
	<b>University of Chicago (UChicago)</b>	Chicago, IL	
	<i>M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics</i>	2019 - 2020	
	– Advisor : Prof. Lek-Heng Lim		
	<b>Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU)</b>	Guangzhou, China	
PREPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS	<i>B.S. in Information and Computing Science</i>	2015 - 2019	
	<b>Methodology</b> : Stochastic Programming, Nonconvex Optimization.		
	<b>Application</b> : Operations Models, Optimal Control, Reinforcement Learning.		
	1. Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models. <a href="#">[SSRN]</a> Xin Chen, Linwei Xin, <b>Minda Zhao</b> (alphabetical order)		
	2. 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.		
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	3. 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.		
	4. 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.		
	1. Hidden Convexity in Queueing Models.		
	– (Poster) Cornell Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY		Oct 2025
	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
	3. Landscape of Policy Optimization for Finite Horizon MDPs with General State and Action.		
	– INFORMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA		Oct 2025
	– 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 & 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

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