Curriculum Vitae – Minda Zhao

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EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology (Gatech) — Atlanta, GA
Ph.D. student in Operations Research — 2022 - 2027 (Expected)
– Advisor : Prof. Xin Chen

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) — Champaign, IL
Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering — 2021 - 2022
– Transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology.

University of Chicago (UChicago) — Chicago, IL
M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics — 2019 - 2020
– Advisor : Prof. Lek-Heng Lim

Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) — Guangzhou, China
B.S. in Information and Computing Science — 2015 - 2019

RESEARCH INTEREST

Methodology : Stochastic Programming, Nonconvex Optimization.
Application : Inventory and Supply Chain Management.

WORKING PAPERS

1. **Minda Zhao**, Zehua Lai, Lek-Heng Lim. Stochastic Steffensen method. ***Computational Optimization and Applications***, 2024. [Link]

2. Xin Chen, Yifan Hu, **Minda Zhao**. Landscape of Policy Gradient Optimization for Finite-Horizon MDPs *In preparation.*

3. **Minda Zhao**, Brian Han, Xin Chen, Tao Zhu. A Simple Alternative to Improving Human-Algorithm Collaboration : Evidence from Smart Vending. *In preparation.*
   – ***Third Place***, CSAMSE Practice Award 2024.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Landscape of Policy Gradient Optimization for Finite-Horizon MDPs

– 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	2024
3. Hansen Fellowship, ISE Department at UIUC	2021
4. Merit Undergraduate Thesis (Top 10%), Sun Yat-Sen University	2019
5. First-class Scholarship (Top 5%), Sun Yat-Sen University	2018

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Shunfeng Express — Shenzhen, China
Research Assistant (remote) — Mar 2022 - Present
Research Scientist Intern — Jul 2023 - Aug 2023
– Conduct a new replenishment strategy, which gained a 1.5% revenue lift.

Cainiao Network — Hangzhou, China
Research Scientist Intern — Jun 2021 – Oct 2021

SKILLS

Computing Languages : Python, Matlab, R, C++, LaTeX