Zhuoli Yin

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Research Interests

AI/ML for Combinatorial Optimization, Urban Mobility Systems, Computational Sustainability, Intelligent Educational Systems

Education

- **Purdue University** *08/2021 - 08/2026 (Expected)*
  Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering, Advisor: Dr. Hua Cai West Lafayette, IN, USA
  ◦ Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics
  ◦ Interdisciplinary Computational Science and Engineering Graduate Program
- **Purdue University** *08/2019 - 08/2021*
  M.S. in Industrial Engineering, Advisor: Dr. Hua Cai West Lafayette, IN, USA
- **Beihang University** *09/2015 - 07/2019*
  B.E. in Electronic and Information Engineering, Advisor: Dr. Sebastian Wandelt & Dr. Xiaoqian Sun Beijing, China
- **Polytechnic University of Madrid** *02/2019 - 05/2019*
  Exchange undergraduate student in Computer Science, Advisor: Dr. Massimiliano Zanin Madrid, Spain

Professional Experience

- **Amazon.com** *06/2025 - 09/2025*
  Applied Scientist Intern, Global Transportation Services New York, NY, USA
  ◦ Developed Amazon's next-generation AI-driven tools for resilient and dynamic ground transportation network design.
  ◦ Led the full lifecycle from conceptualization, multi-source data analysis, large-scale simulation, AI model training, and minimum viable product delivery.

Honors and Awards

- **IISE Doctoral Colloquium** (3 participants nominated per department), 2025
- **NSF IISE Annual Conference Student Travel Award**, 2025
- **IISE Future Faculty Fellow** (15 participants selected per year), 2024–2025
- **InnovatED Graduate Research Magazine**, Purdue University (10 articles selected per year), 2024
- **Lee A. Chaden Fellowship in Industrial Engineering**, Purdue University, 2023–2024
- **Graduate Student Government Travel Award (Tier 1)**, Purdue University, 2023
- **Graduate School Summer Research Grant**, Purdue University, 2023
- **Frederick N. Andrews Environmental Travel Grant Award**, Purdue University, 2023
- **Student Scholarship**, Seth Bonder Foundation INFORMS, 2022
- **Honorable Mention Poster Award** (5.3% award rate), Purdue Engineering Graduate Showcase, 2022
- **Center for the Environment Travel Grant**, Purdue University, 2022

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journals & Conference Proceedings

[1] Liu, Y., **Yin, Z.**, & Cai, H. (2025). Enhanced global oil spill dataset from 1967 to 2023 based on text-form incident information. *Scientific Data, 12(1), 1-14.*

[2] **Yin, Z.**, Kou, Z., & Cai, H. (2023) A Deep Reinforcement Learning Model for Large-Scale Dynamic Bike Share Rebalancing with Spatial-Temporal Context. *In Proceedings of the 12th International Workshop on Urban Computing. ACM, Long Beach.*

[3] **Yin, Z.**, Hardaway, K., Feng, Y., Kou, Z., & Cai, H. (2023). Understanding the Demand Predictability of Bike Share Systems: A Station-Level Analysis. *Frontiers of Engineering Management, 1-15.*

Under Review & Preprint

[1] **Yin, Z.**, Ding, Y., Khir, R., and Cai, H. ViTSP: A Vision Language Models Guided Framework for Large-Scale Traveling Salesman Problems. *(Under Review)* Preprint

[2] **Yin, Z.**, Bass, K., Karakaya, E., & Cai, H. Arthur: An Artificial Intelligence Powered Teaching Assistant Tool for Engineering Economy Class. *(Second-round Review) International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education.*

[3] **Yin, Z.**, Kou, Z., & Cai, H. DeepBike: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Model for Large-scale Online Bike Share Rebalancing. *(Under Review) International Journal of Sustainable Transportation.*

[4] Li, S., **Yin, Z.**, & Cai, H. Assessing the Food-Emissions-Water-Land (FEWL) Impacts and Reduction Potentials of U.S. Household Diets. *(Under Review) Science of the Total Environment.*

[5] Chen, H., **Yin, Z.**, Jian, X., Dang, M., Chen, W., Cai, H., On-Demand Food Delivery Reshapes Urban Diets and Increases Emissions. *(Under Review) Nature Sustainability.*

Working Papers

[1] **Yin, Z.**, Khir, R., & Cai, H. Integrated Dynamic Rebalancing and Decentralized Charging Strategies for Electric Scooter Share Systems. *To be submitted to Transportation Research Part-B.*

[2] **Yin, Z.**, Bass, K., Karakaya, E., & Cai, H. Assessing the Effectiveness of An Artificial Intelligence Powered Teaching Assistant System on Student Learning in Engineering Economics Class. *To be submitted to Journal of Engineering Education.*

[3] **Yin, Z.**, & Cai, H. Large-Scale Meta-Analysis of Life Cycle Assessments for Wind Power Plants Using Large Language Models. *To be submitted to Environmental Science & Technology.*

[4] Liu, T., **Yin, Z.**, Hua, I., & Cai, H. Using Data Linkage Approach to Estimate the Urban Industrial Water Uses in the United States. *To be submitted to Environmental Science & Technology.*

Research Projects and Collaborations

- **Graduate Research Assistant** *2025*
  Development of Indiana-Specific Trip Generation Procedures & Models of e-Commerce Demand: Implications for INDOT's Travel Demand Modeling and Investment Planning
  - Funder: Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)
  - PIs: Dr. Nadia Gkritza and Dr. Hua Cai
  - Student Collaborators: Rishika Tumula and Laura Almeida Tinjaca
  - Responsibility: Developing agent-based models integrating e-commerce demand with daily personal travel patterns based on survey data in Indianapolis.
- **Graduate Research Assistant** *2021*
  A Computational Approach for Industrial Water Consumption Estimation, Prediction, and Impact Evaluation
  - Funder: Purdue College of Engineering Initiative on Smart City
  - PIs: Dr. Inez Hua and Dr. Hua Cai
  - Collaborators: Dr. Ting Liu
  - Responsibility: Developed optimization model and natural language processing approach for pairing large-scale water withdrawal and discharge.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Certificates** *Fall 2022*
  - Certificate in Foundations of College Teaching, Purdue University
- **Teaching Innovation Project** *Summer 2022*
  Developing an AI-powered "TA" tool for IE343 (Engineering Economics)
  - Responsibility: Leveraged Gradescope data to develope a web-based intelligent educational tool that predicts causes of incorrect answers and delivers personalized feedback. Collaborated with instructors for classroom deployment and evaluated the tool's effectiveness, which results in two under-reviewed papers.
  - Highlighted by Purdue Today Article and Purdue InnovatED Graduate Research Magazine.

- **Instructor, Purdue University** *Fall 2023*
  IE 343 - Engineering Economics (In-person)
  - Enrollment: 150 undergraduate students from 10 different engineering disciplines.
  - Student evaluation score: 4.5 out of 5.0
  - Fully responsible for the class, and supervised two teaching assistants and two graders.
  - Topics covering the time value of money, cash flow analysis, capital depreciation, and cost-benefit analysis.
  - Administered a flipped class model to promote student-centered active learning.
  - Maintained an AI-based virtual teaching assistant tutoring system, supporting the practice of assignments.
- **Guest Lecturer, Purdue University** *Fall 2024*
  EEE 560 - Environmental Data Science (In-person)
  - Enrollment: 30 graduate students
  - Developed a session on leveraging artificial intelligence for environmental problem solving using applicable data.
  - Led the discussion on the state-of-the-art artificial intelligence algorithms.
  - Provided feedback to students' group research proposals.
- **Teaching Assistant, Purdue University** *Nine Sections, Fall 2021 - Fall 2025*
  IE 343 - Engineering Economics (In-person; Online in Spring 2022)
  - Enrollment: 150-200 undergraduate students per section
  - Average student evaluation scores across eight sections: 4.6 out of 5.0
  - Hosted regular office hours and led the online forum discussion.
  - Mentored graders for developing solution keys and grading assignments.
  - Taught review sessions to facilitate the preparation for the exams.
  - Designed exams and case study projects.
  - Provided Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) assessment materials for the course.
- **Teaching Assistant, Purdue University** *Spring 2024*
  IE 590 / EEE 595 - Urban Mobility Optimization (In-person)
  - Enrollment: 30 graduate students
  - Student evaluation score: 4.8 out of 5.0
  - Developed example codes to showcase the application of Gurobi modeling.
  - Organized the forum discussion on the latest topics in urban mobility, such as electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and ride sharing.
  - Mentored the case study project and supported coding, data processing, and results analysis.

Student Mentoring

- **Quan The Dinh** *08/2023 - 12/2023*
  Undergraduate Student in Computer Science, Purdue University
- **Karen Fortunat, Elaine Sui** *02/2023 - 05/2023*
  Undergraduate Students in Industrial Engineering, Purdue University
- **Laura Almeida Tinjaca** *08/2022 - 02/2023*
  Undergraduate Student with the National University of Colombia-Purdue Program
  - Admitted into MS program in Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue with Lynn Fellowship
- **Kalei Bass** *05/2022 - 08/2022*
  Undergraduate Student in Industrial Engineering, Purdue University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Reviewer**
  - *Journal of Cleaner Production*
  - *Networks and Spatial Economics*
  - International Symposium for Sustainable Systems and Technology (ISSST) 2024
  - Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2025
  - Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting (TRB) 2026
- **External Service to Professional Societies**
  - Session Chair, IISE Annual Conference & Expo 2022
  - Support team, 2023 Purdue Research Symposium on Operations
- **Internal Service at Purdue University**
  - Vice President, Industrial Engineering Graduate Student Organization (05/2022 - 05/2023)
    - Organized the Industrial Engineering research symposium.
    - Coordinated a series of bi-weekly IE graduate student research showcases.
    - Invited external speakers and facilitated workshops on Resume writing
  - Judge, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2022 Symposium, College of Engineering (07/2022)
  - Graduate Student Representative, Industrial Engineering Graduate Showcase (08/2022)
  - Moderator, Prospective Ph.D. Student Panel, School of Industrial Engineering (03/2023)
  - Student representative on the faculty search committee (10/2023 - 12/2023)

PRESENTATIONS

[1] **Yin, Z.**, Ding, Y., Khir, R., & Cai, H. (2025). Rethink Artificial Intelligence for Vehicle Routing: Towards Generalization and Sustainability. *Oral Presentation at the 2025 INFORMS Annual Meeting, Job Market Showcase Track*, Atlanta, GA, USA.

[2] **Yin, Z.**, Ding, Y., Khir, R., & Cai, H. (2025). ViTSP: A Vision Language Models Guided Framework for Large-Scale Traveling Salesman Problems. *Oral Presentation at the 2025 IISE Doctoral Colloquium 3MT Competition*, Atlanta, GA, USA.

[3] **Yin, Z.**, Karakaya, E., Bass, K., & Cai, H. (2025). Using Artificial Intelligence Powered Teaching Assistant Tool to Enhance Student Learning in Engineering Economics Class. *Oral Presentation at the 2025 IISE Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA, USA.

[4] **Yin, Z.**, Khir, R., & Cai, H. (2025). Integrated Dynamic Rebalancing and Charging Strategy for Electric Scooter Sharing System. *Oral Presentation at the 2025 IISE Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA, USA.

[5] **Yin, Z.**, Ding, Y., Khir, R., & Cai, H. (2025). ViTSP: A Vision Language Models Guided Framework for Large-Scale Traveling Salesman Problems. *Oral Presentation at the 2025 IISE Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA, USA.

[6] **Yin, Z.**, Khir, R., & Cai, H. (2024). Integrated Dynamic Rebalancing and Charging Strategy for Electric Scooter Sharing System. *Oral Presentation at the 2024 INFORMS Annual Meeting*, Seattle, WA, USA.

[7] **Yin, Z.**, & Cai, H. (2024). DeepBike: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Model for Large-scale Online Bike Share Rebalancing. *Poster Presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting 2024*, Washington, DC, USA.

[8] **Yin, Z.**, & Cai, H. (2023). Optimal Rebalancing and Charging Strategies for Life Cycle Net Emissions for Shared Electric Scooter System. *Oral Presentation at the 2023 INFORMS Annual Meeting*, Phoenix, AZ, USA.

[9] **Yin, Z.**, Kou, Z., & Cai, H. (2023). DeepBike: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Model for Large-scale Online Bike Share Rebalancing. *Oral Presentation at the 2023 Purdue Research Symposium on Operations*, West Lafayette, IN, USA.

[10] **Yin, Z.**, Kou, Z., & Cai, H. (2023). DeepBike: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Model for Large-scale Online Bike Share Rebalancing. *Oral Presentation at the 12th International Workshop on Urban Computing (with KDD 2023)*, Long Beach, CA, USA.

[11] Liu, T., **Yin, Z.**, Hua, I., & Cai, H. (2023). Using Data Linkage Approach to Refine the Industrial Water Consumption Data Resolution in the United States. *Poster Presentation at the Ecological Sciences and Engineering 2023 Symposium*, West Lafayette, IN, USA.

[12] **Yin, Z.**, Kou, Z., & Cai, H. (2022). DeepBike: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Model for Large-scale Online Bike Share Rebalancing. *Oral Presentation at the 2022 INFORMS Annual Meeting*, Indianapolis, IN, USA.

[13] **Yin, Z.**, Kou, Z., & Cai, H. (2022). DeepBike: A Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Model for Large-scale Online Bike Share Rebalancing. *Oral Presentation at the 2022 IISE Annual Conference*, Seattle, WA, USA.

REFERENCES

1. **Hua Cai (Advisor)**
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   Edwardson School of Industrial Engineering, School of Sustainability Engineering and Environmental Engineering, Purdue University
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5. **Stephan Biller**
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