

# ZHUO ZHANG

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

May 2025 (Expected)

B.S. in Mathematics, Minor in Computer Science

- GPA: 4.0/4.0 (A+ in all math courses).

## PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

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“A uniform Chebotarev density theorem with Artin’s holomorphy conjecture,” with J. Thorner, submitted. [\[pdf\]](#)

“On a special metric in cyclotomic fields,” with K. Saettone, A. Zaharescu, accepted for publication in *Integers*. [\[pdf\]](#)

“Pattern formation statistics on Fermat quotients,” with C. Cobeli, A. Zaharescu, submitted. [\[pdf\]](#)

“An elementary characterization of the Gauss-Kuzmin distribution in the theory of continued fractions,” with A.J. Hildebrand, S. Singh, submitted. [\[pdf\]](#)

“On the continued fraction expansion of almost all real numbers,” with A.J. Hildebrand, A. Jin, S. Singh, accepted for publication in *Involve*. [\[pdf\]](#)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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### Chebotarev Density Theorem and Artin L-functions

May 2024 – Dec 2024

Mentor: Prof. Jesse Thorner

UIUC

- Established the strongest unconditional version of the Chebotarev density theorem, which also incorporated short interval results (in a separate paper).
- Improved the best-known upper bound on the least norm of an unramified prime ideal with given Artin symbol in Galois extensions of number fields.
- Proved a zero-free region and a zero density estimate of Artin L-functions under the Artin holomorphy conjecture.
- Proved several new useful representation-theoretic facts about Artin L-functions.

### Special Metric in Cyclotomic Fields

Jan 2024 – May 2024

Mentor: Prof. Alexandru Zaharescu

UIUC

- Defined a special metric on the cyclotomic fields in terms of traces of algebraic numbers.
- Proved several remarkable properties of the metric, such as invariance under the actions of the Galois group.
- Proved using analytic techniques that, in an appropriate sense, almost all pairs of points are almost equi-distanced from each other under this metric.

### Distribution of Fermat Quotients

Oct 2023 – Feb 2024

Mentor: Prof. Alexandru Zaharescu

UIUC

- Studied the distribution of Fermat quotients modulo large primes.
- Proved two results on the randomness and pair correlations of Fermat quotients, using Heath-Brown’s bound, exponential sum techniques, and Erdős-Turán type inequalities.

### UChicago Math Summer REU Program

June 2023 – Aug 2023

Mentors: Prof. Peter May & Prof. Mark Behrens

University of Chicago

- Read the book *Differentiable Periodic Maps* by Conner and Floyd.
- Studied cobordism theory, with an emphasis on the interplay between algebraic and differential topology. Independently verified the Eilenberg-Steenrod axioms of bordism homology using differential topology.
- Wrote an expository paper and gave a final presentation on bordism homology: [\[pdf\]](#)

### A Special Class of Primitive Roots

Jan 2023 – May 2023

Mentor: Prof. Bruce Reznick

UIUC

- Defined and studied a special class of primes and their exceptional primitive roots.
- Proposed a conjecture about the asymptotic density of such exceptional primitive roots, providing a heuristic argument and relating it to Artin’s conjecture on primitive roots.
- Wrote code to collect numerical data, providing strong support for the conjecture.

## Gauss-Kuzmin Distribution and Continued Fractions

Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

Mentor: Prof. AJ Hildebrand

UIUC

- Proved several results on the asymptotic distribution of certain special collections of continued fraction digits.
- Discovered a new characterization of the Gauss-Kuzmin measure. Extensively studied the properties arising from this characterization.
- Wrote two papers and presented the results of this work at local and national conferences (see below).

## SUPERVISED READINGS

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### Symplectic Geometry

Aug 2024 – Dec 2024

Mentor: Prof. Eugene Lerman

UIUC

- Read *Symplectic and Contact Geometry* by Eslami Rad and *Lectures on Symplectic Geometry* by Cannas.
- Learned fundamental results including Darboux theorem, Lagrangian embedding theorem, Legendre transform, Lie group actions and moment maps, coadjoint representations, Marsden-Weinstein-Meyer reduction, and more.

### Vector Bundles and $C^\infty$ -Schemes

Jan 2024 – May 2024

Mentor: Prof. Eugene Lerman

UIUC

- Read the book *Smooth Manifolds and Observables* by Nestruev.
- Learned several fundamental results in differential topology, with an emphasis on vector bundles, such as the smooth Serre-Swan theorem, classification of vector bundles, and Lie theory.
- Learned the basic theory of differential spaces and  $C^\infty$ -schemes by reading papers of Joyce and Lerman.
- Wrote an expository paper on Serre-Swan: [\[pdf\]](#)

### Homotopy Theory

Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

Mentor: Prof. Charles Rezk

UIUC

- Read the notes *Homotopy Theories and Model Categories* by Dwyer and Spalinski.
- Learned advanced homotopy theory, higher category theory, and their applications.

### Representation Theory

May 2022 – Jul 2022

Mentor: Prof. Alexander Yong

UIUC

- Read *Linear Representations of Finite Groups* by Serre and learned related topics in algebraic combinatorics.
- Gave a 2-hour presentation on Hecke algebras and Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomial.
- Collaborated with other students to create a set of notes on representation theory: [\[link\]](#)

## PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

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“Heilbronn’s exponential sums and uniform distribution of Fermat quotients.” Analytic Number Theory Course (Math 595), UIUC, Oct 2024.

“The ternary Goldbach conjecture and Hardy-Littlewood circle method.” Analytic Number Theory Course (Math 595), UIUC, Oct 2024.

“Distribution of primes and the Möbius function.” Analytic Number Theory Course (Math 531), UIUC, Oct 2023.

“An introduction to bordism homology.” University of Chicago Math Summer REU, Aug 2023.

“Continued fractions and the Gauss-Kuzmin distribution.” Undergraduate Friday Seminar, UIUC, Sep 2022.

“On the continued fraction expansion of almost all real numbers,” Young Mathematician Conference, Ohio State University, Aug 2022.

“Hecke algebras and Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials.” ICLUE Combinatorics Seminar, UIUC, Jun 2022.

## SELECTED COURSES

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### Honors Courses

- Honors Fundamental Mathematics, Honors Abstract Linear Algebra, Honors Real Analysis, Honors Abstract Algebra, Honors Seminar.

### Graduate Courses

- Abstract Algebra, Real Analysis, Complex Variables, Intro to Algebraic Geometry, Differentiable Manifolds I, Differentiable Manifolds II, Analytic Number Theory I, Analytic Number Theory II, Commutative Algebra, Complex Algebraic Geometry, Advanced Topics in Analytic Number Theory.

See [\[here\]](#) for a complete list.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

President of the Illinois Geometry Lab Outreach Program	Aug 2022 – May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Served as president from Aug 2022 to May 2024; serve as secretary since then.</li><li>Reached out to children and students from local communities and present to them interesting topics in mathematics. Introduced new technologies to children, such as 3D printing.</li><li>Organized outreach events and social events. Coordinated the work between group members.</li></ul>	
Mentor of First-year James Scholar Students	Aug 2022 – Dec 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mentored two first-year undergraduate James Scholar students majoring in mathematics.</li><li>Organized mentorship meetings, study sessions and Q&amp;A sessions.</li><li>Helped the mentees find resources for undergraduate research in mathematics and physical sciences.</li></ul>	

HONORS AND AWARDS

Most Outstanding Major Award in Mathematics	Nov 2024
LAS Get Experience Scholarship	Apr 2023
Lewis C. Hack Scholarship	Mar 2023
Edmund J. James Scholar	Aug 2021 – Present
Dean’s List	Aug 2021 – Present

SKILLS AND TEST SCORES

Programming Languages	Mathematica, LaTeX, Python, C++, Java.
GRE Math Subject	Chinese (Native), English (Proficient).
	970 with percentile 97%.