

Tian Yu is a fifth year PhD student enrolled in the Engineering Mechanics Program at Virginia Tech. His doctoral dissertation mainly focuses on multi-stability, bifurcations, and localization in thin rods, strips and sheets. He investigates mechanical pleating processes through numerical simulations to understand what combinations of processing and material parameters lead to successful pleating. He designs a pure bending linkage mechanism that is able to measure the moment-curvature relationship of soft sheets. His research topics are constantly inspired by kids' toys, such as origami, snapping bracelets and jumping poppers.

He holds a master's degree in Structural Engineering from Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. His master's thesis focused on deployable space structures. Before that, he received a bachelor's degree from Beihang University, Beijing, China.