

Yi-Chun Akchen, formerly Yi-Chun Chen
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(Last updated: 10/2024)

EMPLOYMENT

University College London (UCL) School of Management 2023 – present
Assistant Professor of Operations and Technology

EDUCATION

UCLA Anderson School of Management 2017 – 2023
Ph.D. in Management (advisor: Velibor Mišić) and Postdoctoral Fellow (mentor: Felipe Caro)

Stanford University 2014 – 2017
M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering (advisor: Mykel Kochenderfer)

National Taiwan University 2009 – 2013
B.S. in Physics

RESEARCH

WORKING PAPERS: (preprints available)

Consider or Choose? The Role and Power of Consideration Sets
with Dmitry Mitrofanov.
Minor revision in *Management Science*.
– Finalist, 2024 INFORMS **Service Science** Best Cluster Paper Competition.

On Size Substitution and Its Role in Assortment and Inventory Planning
with Felipe Caro.
Major revision in *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*.

Assortment Optimization Under The Decision Forest Model
with Velibor Mišić.
Major revision in *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*.

REFEREED JOURNAL PAPERS:

Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications
with Velibor Mišić.
Operations Research (Forthcoming).

Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice
with Velibor Mišić.
Management Science (2022), Vol. 68 (10): 7065-7791.

- Honorable Mention, 2020 INFORMS **George E. Nicholson** Student Paper Prize.
- Winner, 2019 INFORMS **Decision Analysis** Society Student Paper Competition.
- 2nd Place, 2019 INFORMS **Revenue Management and Pricing** Student Paper Competition.
- Finalist, 2019 INFORMS **Service Science** Section Best Paper Competition.
- **Spotlight Presentation**, 2019 INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference.

Deep Reinforcement Learning for Event-Driven Multi-Agent Decision Processes
with Kunal Menda, Justin Grana, James Bono, Brendan Tracey, Mykel Kochenderfer, and David Wolpert.
IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems (2019), 20(4): 1259-1268.

Learning Discrete Bayesian Networks from Continuous Data
with Tim Wheeler and Mykel Kochenderfer.
Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (2017), 59: 103-132.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS:

Improving Offline Value-Function Approximations for POMDPs by Reducing Discount Factors
with Mykel Kochenderfer and Matthijs Spaan.
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (2018).

TEACHING

UCL School of Management

Statistics for Business Research, MSc in Management.

2023 Fall

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dreze Dissertation Award, UCLA Anderson.	2022
Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA.	2021
Honorable Mention, INFORMS George E. Nicholson Student Paper Prize.	2020
Winner, INFORMS Decision Analysis Student Paper Award.	2019
Second Place, INFORMS Jeff McGill Revenue Management and Pricing Student Paper Award.	2019
Finalist, INFORMS Service Science Best Paper Award.	2019
Spotlight Presentation, INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference.	2019
Ph.D. Fellowship, UCLA Anderson.	2017
Presidential Awards, National Taiwan University.	2012, 2013
Chau-Ting Chang Memorial Fellowship, Institute of Atomic and Molecular Sciences, Taiwan.	2012

PRESENTATIONS

Consider or Choose? The Role and Power of Consideration Sets

INFORMS Conference (10/2024, scheduled), INFORMS RMP Conference (07/2024), MSOM Conference (06/2024), European TOM Conference (06/2024).

Assortment Optimization Under the Decision Forest Model

INFORMS Conference (10/2022), INFORMS RMP Conference (06/2021), MSOM Conference (06/2021).

Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications

INFORMS Optimization Conference (03/2022), INFORMS Conference (11/2020).

Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice

INFORMS Conference (11/2021), INFORMS Conference (11/2020), INFORMS Conference (10/2019), INFORMS RMP Conference (06/2019), SoCal OR/OM Day (05/2019), POMS Conference (05/2019), INFORMS Conference (11/2018).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ad-Hoc Journal Referee

Management Science, Operations Research, Manufacturing & Service Operations Management, Production and Operations Management, Computational Management Science.

Professional Society Roles

Council member, Decision Analysis Society, INFORMS.

2024 - Present

LANGUAGES

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Turkish (beginner).