Yi-Chun Chen

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EMPLOYMENT

University College London (UCL) School of Management   Starting in Aug. 2023
Assistant Professor (tenure track) of Operations and Technology

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)   July 2022 - June 2023
Postdoctoral Fellow at the Anderson School of Management (mentor: Felipe Caro)

EDUCATION

UCLA Anderson School of Management   Sep. 2017 – June 2022
Ph.D. in Management (Decisions, Operations and Technology Management)
Thesis Committee: Velibor Mišić (advisor), Felipe Caro, Charles Corbett, Kumar Rajaram, Christopher Tang
Thesis Title: *Prescribing for the Irrational: A Data-Driven Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice*

Stanford University   Sep. 2014 – May 2017
M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering

National Taiwan University   Sep. 2009 – June 2013
B.S. in Physics (Presidential Awards)

RESEARCH

Research Interests

Choice modeling, revenue management, large-scale optimization, data-driven analytics, machine learning.

Publications

- **Assortment Optimization Under The Decision Forest Model** (2021),
  Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić
  Under review.

- **Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications** (2020),
  Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić
  Under revision.

- **Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice** (2021),
  Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić,
  Forthcoming in *Management Science.*
    - 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 Section Student Paper Competition**.
    - Finalist, 2019 INFORMS **Service Science Section Best Paper Competition**.
    - **Spotlight Presentation**, 2019 INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Stanford, CA.

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

- **Learning Discrete Bayesian Networks from Continuous Data** (2017),
  Yi-Chun Chen, Tim Wheeler, Mykel Kochenderfer,
  Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, 59, 103-132.

- **Deep Reinforcement Learning for Event-Driven Multi-Agent Decision Processes** (2017),
  Kunal Menda, Yi-Chun Chen, Justin Grana, James Bono, Brendan Tracey, Mykel Kochenderfer, David Wolpert,
  IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems, 20(4), 1259-1268.

Teaching

UCLA Anderson School of Management

Teaching Assistantship

- MGMT402: **Data and Decisions** — Fall 2018, Fall 2020
- MGMT410: **Logistics and Operations Management** — Fall 2019
- MGMT240F: **Global Supply Chain Management** — Spring 2022
- MSA408: **Operations Analytics** — Spring 2020
- MSA434: **Advanced Workshop on Machine Learning** — Fall 2020
- MSA435: **Data Visualization** — Fall 2020
- MSA407,413: **Data Analytics Industry Seminar** — Winter 2022, Spring 2022
- MGMTPHD 242: **Foundations of Stochastic Modeling** — Spring 2021

Awards and Honors

Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA.	2021
Honorable Mention, INFORMS **George E. Nicholson Student Paper Prize**.	2020
Winner, INFORMS **Decision Analysis Student Paper Competition**.	2019
Second Place, INFORMS **Revenue Management and Pricing Student Paper Competition**.	2019
Finalist, INFORMS **Service Science Best Paper Competition**.	2019
Spotlight Presentation, INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference.	2019
Four-year Ph.D. Fellowship, UCLA Anderson School of Management.	2017
Presidential Awards, National Taiwan University.	2012, 2013
Financial Mathematics Summer School Fellowship, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.	2013
Dr. Chao-Ting Chang Memorial Research Scholarship, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.	2012

Presentations

"Assortment Optimization Under the Decision Forest Model"
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, Oct. 2022 (scheduled).
- INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Online, June 2021.
- MSOM Annual Conference, Online, June 2021.

"Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications"
- INFORMS Optimization Conference, Greenville, SC, March 2022.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Online, Nov. 2020.

"Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice"
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA, Nov. 2021.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Online, Nov. 2020.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, Oct. 2019.
- INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Stanford, CA, June 2019.
- SoCal OR/OM Day, Irvine, CA, May 2019.
- POMS Annual Conference, Washington D.C., May 2019.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, Nov. 2018.

"Improving Offline Value-Function Approximations for POMDPs by Reducing Discount Factors"
- International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), Madrid, Spain, Oct, 2018.

"Learning Discrete Bayesian Networks from Continuous Data"
- Stanford ICME Xpo Research Symposium, Stanford, California, May, 2017.

Professional Activities

Ad-hoc journal referee for *Operations Research, Production and Operations Management, Computational Management Science*.