

# Yi-Chun Chen

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## EDUCATION

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### UCLA Anderson School of Management

Sep. 2017 – June 2022 (expected)

Ph.D. in Management (Decisions, Operations and Technology Management)

Advisor: Velibor Mišić

Thesis Committee: Velibor Mišić (chair), 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)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Research Interests

Consumer choice modeling, behavioral decision making, revenue management, large-scale optimization, data-driven analytics, machine learning.

### Under Review / Published Journal Papers

- **Assortment Optimization Under The Decision Forest Model** (2021),  
Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić  
Under review in *Operations Research*.
- **Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications** (2020),  
Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić  
Major revision in *Operations Research*.
- **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 Student Paper Competition.
  - 2nd Place, 2019 INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Student Paper Competition.
  - Finalist, 2019 INFORMS Service Science Best Paper Competition.
  - **Spotlight Presentation** (16 out of 80+ submissions), 2019 INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Stanford, CA.
- **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.

### Papers in Preparation

- **Assortment-Context Forest and Product Line Optimization** (2021),  
Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić  
Targeted for *Management Science*.

- **A Recursive Partitioning Approach to Non-Compensatory Choice** (2021),  
Yi-Chun Chen, Velibor Mišić  
Targeted for *Operations Research*.

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

- **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)*.

TEACHING

**Master of Business Administration**

UCLA Anderson School of Management

Teaching Assistantship

- **MGMT402: Data and Decisions**
  - Instructors: Professor Velibor Mišić and Professor Rakesh Sarin (Fall 2018, Fall 2020)
- **MGMT410: Logistics and Operations Management**
  - Instructors: Professor Christopher Tang (Fall 2019)
- **MGMT240F: Global Supply Chain Management**
  - Instructors: Professor Felipe Caro (Spring 2022, scheduled)

**Master of Science in Business Analytics**

UCLA Anderson School of Management

Teaching Assistantship

- **MSA408: Operations Analytics**
  - Instructors: Professor Velibor Mišić (Spring 2020)
- **MSA434: Advanced Workshop on Machine Learning**
  - Instructors: Professor Danylo Vashchilenko (Fall 2020)
- **MSA435: Data Visualization**
  - Instructors: Professor Kristian di Gaetano (Fall 2020)
- **MSA407/413: Data Analytics Industry Seminar**
  - Instructors: Professor Felipe Caro (Winter & Spring 2022, scheduled)

**Doctoral Program in Management,**

UCLA Anderson School of Management

Teaching Assistantship

- **MGMTPHD 242: Foundations of Stochastic Modeling**
  - Instructors: Professor Francisco Castro (Spring 2021)

AWARDS AND HONORS

<b>Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA.</b>	2021
Honorable Mention, <b>INFORMS George E. Nicholson Student Paper Prize</b> (Top 5 out of 119+ submissions).	2020
Winner, <b>INFORMS Decision Analysis Student Paper Competition.</b>	2019
Second Place, <b>INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Student Paper Competition.</b>	2019
Finalist, <b>INFORMS Service Science Best Paper Competition.</b>	2019
<b>Spotlight Presentation, INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference</b> (16 out of 80+ submissions).	2019
<b>Four-year Ph.D. Fellowship, UCLA Anderson School of Management.</b>	2017
<b>Presidential Awards, National Taiwan University.</b>	2012, 2013
Financial Mathematics Summer School Fellowship, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.	2013
Dr. Chao-Ting Chang Memorial Research Scholarship, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.	2012

## PRESENTATIONS

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### “Assortment Optimization Under the Decision Forest Model”

- INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Online, June 2021.
- MSOM Annual Conference, Online, June 2021.

### “Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications”

- INFORMS Annual Conference, Online, Nov. 2020.

### “Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice”

- INFORMS Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA, Nov. 2021 (scheduled).
- 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.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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Director, Taiwanese Student Association, Stanford University.	May 2015 – Apr. 2016
Vice President, Student Association, Department of Physics, National Taiwan University.	July 2012 – June 2013
Captain, Basketball Team, Department of Physics, National Taiwan University.	July 2012 – July 2013

## REFERENCE

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### Velibor Mišić

Assistant Professor  
UCLA Anderson School of Management  
velibor.misic@anderson.ucla.edu

### Christopher Tang

Distinguished Professor and Edward Carter Chair in Business Administration  
UCLA Anderson School of Management  
chris.tang@anderson.ucla.edu

### Charles Corbett

Professor and IBM Chair in Management  
UCLA Anderson School of Management  
charles.corbett@anderson.ucla.edu

### Kumar Rajaram

Professor and William Leonhard Chair in Management  
UCLA Anderson School of Management  
kumar.rajaram@anderson.ucla.edu

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