KEVIN (KUANG-YU) PENG

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EDUCATION

Economics, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine — *Expected by* June 2026

Master of Arts, Economics, University of California, Irvine — 2020 - 2023
with distinction in Microeconomic Theory Qualifying Examination.

Bachelor of Arts, Public Finance, National Chengchi University, Taiwan — 2015 - 2020

Bachelor of Science, Risk Management and Insurance, National Chengchi University, Taiwan — 2015 - 2020

Minor, Management Information Systems, National Chengchi University, Taiwan — 2015 - 2020

Exchange Program, Mathematics and Statistics, James Madison University, Virginia — 2019 - 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor of Record — 2023 - 2025
University of California, Irvine — *Irvine, CA*

- ECON 15A: Probability and Statistics in Economics I (Summer 2024, 2025).
- ECON 15B: Probability and Statistics in Economics II (Summer 2023).

Guest Lecturer — 2023 - 2025
University of California, Irvine — *Irvine, CA*

- ECON 203A: Mathematics for Economists (Fall 2023, 2024, 2025).
  MATLAB instruction, assignment creation and grading.

Teaching Assistant — 2020 - today
University of California, Irvine — *Irvine, CA*

- Graduate courses
  - ECON 210A: Microeconomic Theory I (Fall 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
  - ECON 210C: Microeconomic Theory III (Spring 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025).
  - MPAC 291: Professional Research and Communication (Fall 2025).
- Upper-division courses
  - ECON 100A: Intermediate Economics I (Fall 2020).
  - ECON 100B: Intermediate Economics II (Winter 2022, 2023).
  - ECON 115: Behavioral Economics (Winter 2024, 2025).
  - ECON 140: Managerial Economics (Summer 2021).
- Lower-division courses
  - ECON 15A: Probability and Statistics in Economics I (Summer 2022).
  - ECON 25: Economics of Accounting Decisions (Spring 2021).
  - SOCSCI 3A: Computer-Based Research in Social Sciences (Winter 2021).

Math Tutor in Calculus I-III and College Algebra — 2020
Science & Math Learning Center at James Madison University — *Harrisonburg, VA*

English Teacher — Nov 2018 - Jun 2019
iPax English — *Taipei, Taiwan*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Clifford S. Heinz Chair Research Funding 2025

Doc 2A Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition Funding 2025

Conference Travel Funding 2024 - 2025

Best Teaching Assistant in a Graduate Course Award 2023

Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Economics 2022 - 2025

RESEARCH FIELDS AND INTERESTS

Primary: Algorithmic decision theory | Experimental economics | Behavioral economics.

Secondary: Game theory | Industrial organization.

JOB MARKET PAPER

Discrete Random Expected Utility and Self-Selection. Co-authored with Igor Kopylov.

Abstract: We model stochastic choice rules via finitely many types θ that maximize distinct expected utility functions and use endogenous tie-breaking rules. First, we characterize *discrete random expected utility* (DREU) where the likelihoods $\mu(\theta)$ of such types are preserved across all menus A. This model is a discrete version for the *random expected utility* of Gul and Pesendorfer (2006), but our axioms, identification, and tie-breaking methods are distinct. More generally, we propose *discrete-map expected utility* (DMEU) where the likelihoods $\mu_A(\theta)$ are contingent on the menu A and hence, capture various kinds of *context dependence*. This extension violates monotonicity together with other assumptions of DREU. If monotonicity does hold, then our model can be interpreted in terms of *self-selection*, where types can increase their participation across distinct menus but only if their best choices are improved. All components of our representations are identified uniquely. Finally, we discuss applications to heterogeneous risk attitudes, beliefs, and Cobb-Douglas utility functions.

WORKING PAPERS

Certainty as a Decoy: an Experiment to Test Menu Dependence in Heterogeneous Risk Attitudes.

Data Algorithms in Incomplete Constant Threshold Representations.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Algorithmic Identification of Heterogeneous Types in Incomplete Datasets.

Two-Fold Semiorder Preference for Spatial Product Dimensions.

Speedy and Accurate Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Behavioral & Experimental Economics Stanford-Caltech-UC Student Conference. Presentation. 2025

AEA CSQIEP Mentoring Conference in Chicago. Paper Workshop. 2025

Southwest Economic Theory Conference at University of Arizona. Presentation. 2025

Northwestern-Kellogg Summer School in Economic Theory. Poster session. 2024

Southwest Economic Theory Conference at UC, Irvine. Presentation. 2023

Poster Session for Summer Research at UC, Irvine Poster sessions. 2022 - 2024

NATO ACT Tide Sprint in Virginia Beach Presentation. 2019

SERVICE

Southwest Economic Theory Conference at UC, Irvine. Co-organizer. 2023

Economics Ph.D. Students Recruitment Event at UC, Irvine. Panelist and Housing Tour Guide. 2025

SKILLS

Languages: Mandarin (Traditional, native) | English (bilingual) | German (CEFR B1)

Computing: R (preferred) | MATLAB | Python (and oTree) | Java | LaTeX

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

X-Labs, James Madison University. Collaboration with NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT). 2020 NATO ACT sponsored the problem on decision training to the Hacking for Diplomacy course at James Madison University. I was in charge of programming and research in economic theories for this project. My team presented a prototype at Tide Sprint, Fall 2019. Project in progress for the paper *Speedy and Accurate Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty*.

REFERENCES

Igor Kopylov (Chair)
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