Yi-Chun Akchen, formerly Yi-Chun Chen

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(Last updated: 08/2023)

APPOINTMENT

University College London (UCL) School of Management   08/2023 – present
– Assistant Professor of Operations and Technology

BACKGROUND

UCLA Anderson School of Management   09/2017 – 06/2023
– Ph.D. and Postdoctoral Fellow in the Decisions, Operations and Technology Management Area

– Dissertation Committee: Velibor Mišić (chair), Felipe Caro, Charles Corbett, Kumar Rajaram, Chris Tang

Stanford University   09/2014 – 03/2017
– M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering

National Taiwan University   09/2009 – 06/2013
– B.S. in Physics

RESEARCH

A Nonparametric Stochastic Set Model: Identification, Optimization, and Prediction
with Dmitry Mitrofanov
Major revision in *Management Science*.

Assortment Optimization Under The Decision Forest Model
with Velibor Mišić

Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications
with Velibor Mišić
Minor revision in *Operations Research*.

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.

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 (IROS 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
Four-year Ph.D. Fellowship, UCLA Anderson.	2017
Presidential Awards, National Taiwan University.	2012, 2013

Presentations

"A Nonparametric Stochastic Set Model: Identification, Optimization, and Prediction'
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, 10/2023 (scheduled).

"Assortment Optimization Under the Decision Forest Model"
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, 10/2022.
- INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Online, 06/2021.
- MSOM Annual Conference, Online, 06/2021.

"Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications"
- INFORMS Optimization Conference, Greenville, SC, 03/2022.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Online, 11/2020.

"Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice"
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA, 11/2021.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Online, 11/2020.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, 10/2019.
- INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference, Stanford, CA, 06/2019.
- SoCal OR/OM Day, Irvine, CA, 05/2019.
- POMS Annual Conference, Washington D.C., 05/2019.
- INFORMS Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, 11/2018.

Professional Activities

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