YI-CHUN AKCHEN, formerly Yi-Chun Chen

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EMPLOYMENT

University College London (UCL) School of Management Assistant Professor of Operations and Technology EDUCATION UCLA Anderson School of Management Ph.D. in Management (advisor: Velibor Mišić) and Postdoctoral Fellow (mentor: Felipe Caro) Stanford University M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering (advisor: Mykel Kochenderfer) Aug 2023 – Present Sep 2017 – Jun 2023 Sep 2017 – Jun 2023

National Taiwan University B.S. in Physics

Sep 2009 - Jun 2013

Publications

Working Papers

"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

Minor revision in Manufacturing & Service Operations Management

Refereed Journal Papers

"Consider or Choose? The Role and Power of Consideration Sets"

with Dmitry Mitrofanov

Management Science (forthcoming)

- Finalist, Service Science Best Cluster Paper Competition, INFORMS, 2024.

"Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications"

with Velibor Mišić

Operations Research (2025)

"Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice"

with Velibor Mišić

Management Science (2022)

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

"Deep Reinforcement Learning for Event-Driven Multi-Agent Decision Processes"

with Kunal Menda, Justin Grana, James Bono, Brendan Tracey, Mykel Kochenderfer, David Wolpert *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems* (2019)

"Learning Discrete Bayesian Networks from Continuous Data"

with Tim Wheeler, Mykel Kochenderfer

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (2017)

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Improving Offline Value-Function Approximation for POMDPs by Reducing Discount Factors"

with Mykel Kochenderfer, Matthijs Spaan

IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (2018)

Teaching	
UCL School of Management	
Decision Science, BSc in Management Science.	2026
Statistics for Business Research, MSc in Management.	2023, 2024
Awards and Honors	
Finalist, INFORMS Service Science Best Cluster Paper Award.	2024
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 Cluster 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
Talks	
Invited Seminars	
Tilburg University (School of Economics and Management)	2025 (scheduled)
City St George's, University of London (Bayes Business School)	2025
National Chengchi University (College of Commerce)	2025
Imperial College London (Control and Optimisation Seminar)	2025
Conferences and Workshops	
Durham Early Career Scholars Workshop	2025
INFORMS Annual Meeting	2018 - 2025
MSOM Conference	2021, 2024, 2025
INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Conference	2019, 2021, 2024
European Technology and Operations Management Day	2024
INFORMS Optimization Conference	2022
POMS Conference	2019
Southern California OR/OM Day	2019
Professional Activities	
Peer Review and Judging Activities	
Journal reviewer, Management Science, Operations Research, Manufacturing & Service Operatio	ns Management,
Production and Operations Management, Computational Management Science, and Naval Research	Logistics.
Review Panelist, INFORMS Harvey J. Greenberg Research Award.	2025
Reviewer, MSOM Student Paper Competition.	2023 - 2025
Professional Society Roles	
Co-organizer, London Operations Research Day (LORD).	2025
Council member, INFORMS Decision Analysis Society.	2024, 2025
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Languages