# Yi-Chun Akchen, formerly Yi-Chun Chen

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## APPOINTMENT

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	University College London (UCL) School of Management Assistant Professor of Operations and Technology	2023 – present
Background		
	UCLA Anderson School of Management Ph.D. in Management (advisor: Velibor Mišić) and Postdoctoral Fellow (mentor: Felipe Caro)	2017 - 2023
	Stanford University M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering (advisor: Mykel Kochenderfer)	2014 - 2017
	National Taiwan University B.S. in Physics	2009 - 2013
F	RESEARCH	

WORKING PAPERS: (preprints available)

On Size Substitution and Its Role in Assortment and Inventory Planning with Felipe Caro.

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.

Major revision in Manufacturing & Service Operations Management.

#### REFEREED JOURNAL PAPERS:

# Column-Randomized Linear Programs: Performance Guarantees and Applications with Velibor Mišić.

Forthcoming 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  ${\bf Service}\,$   ${\bf Science}\,$  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.

#### REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS:

# Improving Offline Value-Function Approximations for POMDPs by Reducing Discount Factors with Mykel Kochenderfer and Matthijs Spaan.

IEEE/RSJ 2018 International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems.

# 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 Conference (10/2023).

## Assortment Optimization Under the Decision Forest Model

INFORMS Conference (10/2022), INFORMS RM&P Conference (06/2021), MSOM Conference (06/2021).

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

INFORMS Optimization Conference (03/2022), INFORMS Conference, (11/2020).

# Decision Forest: A Nonparametric Approach to Modeling Irrational Choice

INFORMS Conference (11/2021), INFORMS Conference (11/2020), INFORMS Conference (10/2019), INFORMS RM&P Conference (06/2019), SoCal OR/OM Day (05/2019), POMS Conference (05/2019), INFORMS Conference (11/2018).

#### Professional Activities

## Ad-Hoc Journal Referee

 $Management\ Science,\ Operations\ Research,\ Manufacturing\ \ Service\ Operations\ Management,\ Production\ and\ Operations\ Management,\ Computational\ Management\ Science.$ 

# **Professional Society Roles**

Council member, Decision Analysis Society, INFORMS.

2024 - Present

## LANGUAGES

Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Turkish (beginner).