

**Yi-Chun Akchen**, formerly Yi-Chun Chen  
yi-chun.akchen@ucl.ac.uk | <http://yi-chun-akchen.github.io>  
(Last updated: 06/2024)

## EMPLOYMENT

---

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

## EDUCATION

---

**UCLA Anderson School of Management** 2017 – 2023  
Ph.D. in Management (advisor: Velibor Mišić) and Postdoctoral Fellow (mentor: Felipe Caro)

**Stanford University** 2014 – 2017  
M.S. in Computational and Mathematical Engineering (advisor: Mykel Kochenderfer)

**National Taiwan University** 2009 – 2013  
B.S. in Physics

## PUBLICATION

---

### WORKING PAPERS: (preprints available)

**Consider or Choose? The Role and Power of Consideration Sets**  
with Dmitry Mitrofanov.  
Major revision in *Management Science*.

**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.  
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* (2024+).

**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.

### 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
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

## PRESENTATIONS

---

### **Consider or Choose? The Role and Power of Consideration Sets**

INFORMS RMP Conference (07/2024), MSOM Conference (06/2024), European TOM Conference (06/2024).

### **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).