YICHUN HU

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Cornell University, SC Johnson Graduate School of Management *Ithaca, NY*
Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) of Operations, Technology, & Information Management *07/2023 -*

EDUCATION

Cornell University/Cornell Tech *New York, NY*
Ph.D. in Operations Research, Ph.D. minor in Applied Mathematics *08/2017 - 05/2023*
Advisor: Nathan Kallus

Peking University *Beijing, China*
B.S. in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics *09/2013 - 06/2017*
B.A. in Economics *09/2014 - 06/2017*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Data-driven Decision-Making, Large Language Models, Adaptive Experimentation, Online Platforms, Contextual Bandit and Reinforcement Learning, Stochastic Optimization.

WORKING PAPERS

- Y. Duan, Y. Hu, J. Jiang. Ask, Clarify, Optimize: Human-LLM Agent Collaboration for Smarter Inventory Control. *Submitted.*

- C. Hssaine, Y. Hu, C. Pike-Burke. Learning Fair And Effective Points-Based Rewards Programs. *Major Revision at Operations Research.*

    - Preliminary version: **EC**, 2025.

- Y. Hu, N. Kallus, X. Mao, Y. Wu. Contextual Linear Optimization under Partial Feedback. *Submitted.*

    - Preliminary version (Contextual Linear Optimization with Bandit Feedback): **NeurIPS**, 2024.

- Y. Hu, N. Kallus. DTR Bandit: Learning to Make Response-Adaptive Decisions with Low Regret. *Under Revision.*

PUBLICATIONS

- Y. Hu, N. Kallus, M. Uehara (2025) Fast Rates for the Regret of Offline Reinforcement Learning. **Mathematics of Operations Research** *50(1):633-655.*

    - Preliminary version: **COLT**, 2021.

- Y. Hu, N. Kallus, X. Mao (2022) Smooth Contextual Bandits: Bridging the Parametric and Non-differentiable Regret Regimes. **Operations Research** *70(6):3261-3281.*

    - **Finalist, INFORMS Applied Probability Society 2020 Best Student Paper Competition.**

    - Preliminary version: **COLT**, 2020.

- Y. Hu, N. Kallus, X. Mao (2022) Fast Rates for Contextual Linear Optimization. **Management Science** *68(6):4236-4245.*

- M. Garrard, H. Wang, B. Letham, Z. Wang, Y. Huang, Y. Hu, C. Zhou, N. Zhou, E. Bakshy (2021) Practical Policy Optimization with Personalized Experimentation. *NeurIPS Workshop on Causal Inference Challenges in Sequential Decision Making.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell University, Instructor

NCC 5010: Data Analytics and Modeling	*Spring 2024 - 2026*
AEM 3100: Business Statistics	*Spring 2025*

Cornell University, Teaching Assistant

ORIE 5751: Learning, Inference, and Decision Making from Data	*Spring 2023*
CS 5785: Applied Machine Learning	*Fall 2019*
ORIE 4360: A Mathematical Examination of Fair Representation	*Fall 2018*
ORIE 3510: Introduction to Engineering Stochastic Processes I	*Spring 2018*
ORIE 5600: Financial Engineering with Stochastic Calculus I	*Fall 2017*

SELECTED HONORS

Johnson School Curriculum Development Award, Cornell University	*2024*
Cornell-HKUST Global Strategic Collaboration Award	*2024*
FODSI Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)	*2023*
Rising Scholar, Chicago Booth	*2022*
Finalist, Applied Probability Society Best Student Paper Competition, INFORMS	*2020*
Sherri Koenig Stuewer Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University	*2018*
Excellent Graduate Award, Peking University	*2017*

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Facebook (Meta) — *Menlo Park, CA (Remote)*
Research Engineer Intern, Adaptive Experimentation — *05/2021-08/2021*
- Worked on multi-objective adaptive experimentation algorithms.

Google — *Mountain View, CA (Remote)*
Data Scientist Intern, Google Play — *05/2020-08/2020*
- Worked on causal methods to analyze the impact of app usage on the retention rate of Google Play Pass.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Journal Reviewer**: Operations Research, Management Science, Mathematics of Operations Research, Manufacturing and Service Operations Management, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Mathematical Programming, SIAM Journal on Optimization, Journal of Machine Learning Research, Transactions on Machine Learning Research, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Naval Research Logistics, Omega, Electronic Journal of Statistics
- **Conference Reviewer**
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2020-2023, 2025
- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2021, 2024
- International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS) 2021-2024
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2021-2023, 2025
- ACM conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO) 2022
- **Paper Competition Reviewer**: INFORMS BOM Best Working Paper Competition 2025
- **Grant Reviewer**: Cornell Global Hubs seed grant 2024
- Cornell University ORGA (Operations Research Graduate Association) Tech Liaison — *2019-2020*

PRESENTATIONS

Contextual Linear Optimization under Partial Feedback
Annual POMS Conference, Reno, NV — *05/2026*

Ask, Clarify, Optimize: Human-LLM Agent Collaboration for Smarter Inventory Control
Cornell Johnson Faculty AI Brown Bag Series, Ithaca, NY — *12/2025*

Learning Fair And Effective Points-Based Rewards Programs

NeurIPS 2025 MLxOR Workshop (Poster), San Diego, CA	*12/2025*
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA	*10/2025*
Cornell University - Operations Research and Information Engineering, Ithaca, NY	*10/2025*
INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Section Conference, New York, NY	*07/2025*

26th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation, Stanford, CA *07/2025*
INFORMS MSOM Conference, London, UK *06/2025*
Marketplace Innovation Workshop, Virtual *05/2025*

Contextual Linear Optimization with Bandit Feedback
International Conference on Continuous Optimization, Los Angeles, CA *07/2025*
Early Career Scholars Professional Development Workshop: Operations and Analytics, Durham, UK *06/2025*
Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Operations Management Research, Canada *05/2025*
38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (Poster), Vancouver, Canada *12/2024*
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA *10/2024*

Fast Rates for Contextual Linear Optimization
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ *10/2023*
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign - Industrial & Enterprise Systems Engineering, Champaign, IL *02/2023*
Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, MA *02/2023*
University of Oxford - Saïd Business School, Virtual *01/2023*
University of Toronto - Rotman School of Management, Toronto, Canada *01/2023*
Columbia University - Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, New York, NY *01/2023*
University of Illinois Chicago - Information and Decision Sciences, Chicago, IL *01/2023*
Johns Hopkins University - Carey Business School, Baltimore, MD *01/2023*
Duke University - Fuqua School of Business, Durham, NC *01/2023*
Carnegie Mellon University - Tepper School of Business, Pittsburgh, PA *12/2022*
University of British Columbia - Sauder School of Business, Vancouver, Canada *12/2022*
Cornell University - SC Johnson College of Business, Ithaca, NY *12/2022*
Northwestern University - Industrial Engineering & Management Sciences, Evanston, IL *12/2022*
University College London - School of Management, Virtual *11/2022*
London Business School, Virtual *11/2022*
University of Texas at Austin - McCombs School of Business, Austin, TX *11/2022*
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN *10/2022*
Cornell ORIE Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY *10/2022*
NYC Operations Day (Poster), New York, NY *04/2022*
ORIE PhD Colloquium at Cornell Tech, New York, NY *04/2022*
INFORMS Optimization Society Conference, Greenville, SC *03/2022*
Cornell ORIE Young Researchers Workshop (Poster), Ithaca, NY *10/2021*

Fast Rates for the Regret of Offline Reinforcement Learning
RL Theory Seminar, Virtual *11/2021*
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA *10/2021*
16th INFORMS Workshop on Data Mining and Decision Analytics, Anaheim, CA *10/2021*
34th Annual Conference on Learning Theory, Boulder, CO *08/2021*

DTR Bandit: Learning to Make Response-Adaptive Decisions with Low Regret
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Virtual *11/2020*
15th INFORMS Workshop on Data Mining and Decision Analytics, Virtual *11/2020*

Smooth Contextual Bandits: Bridging the Parametric and Non-differentiable Regret Regimes
19th International Joint Conference on CFE-CMStatistics, London, UK *12/2025*
INFORMS Healthcare Conference, Toronto, Canada *07/2023*
Rising Scholars Conference (Chicago Booth), Virtual *11/2022*
33rd Annual Conference on Learning Theory, Virtual *07/2020*
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA *10/2019*
14th INFORMS Workshop on Data Mining and Decision Analytics, Seattle, WA *10/2019*
Cornell ORIE Young Researchers Workshop, Ithaca, NY *10/2019*

OTHERS

- *Programming*: Python (PyTorch), C/C++, R, Julia.
- *Languages*: Chinese (native), English (fluent), Japanese (N2)