

Charikleia (Chara) Podimata

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Learning in the presence of strategic agents, decision making under uncertainty, online learning, mechanism design, topics at the interface of Computer Science, Economics & Machine Learning

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Aug. 2016 - present
Ph.D Computer Science
Advisor: Yiling Chen

National Technical University of Athens, Greece Sept. 2010 - Jan. 2016
BSc Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (5-year joint degree)
GPA: 9.47/10
Thesis: “Approximations of Liquid Welfare for Combinatorial Auctions”
Advisor: Dimitris Fotakis

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Microsoft Research NYC February - May, 2020
Mentor: Alex Slivkins

Research Intern, Microsoft Research NYC May - August, 2019
Mentor: Jennifer Wortman Vaughan

Research Assistant, the EconCS group, Harvard University June 2017 - present
Research Assistant, NTUA, Greece CoReLab, 2014-2016

PUBLICATIONS (Alphabetical Author Order)

Strategyproof Linear Regression in High Dimensions: An Overview
Yiling Chen, Chara Podimata, Ariel D. Procaccia and Nisarg Shah
ACM SIGEcom Exchanges (Research Letter). **Invited**
[\[https://www.sigecom.org/exchanges/volume_17/1/CHEN.pdf\]](https://www.sigecom.org/exchanges/volume_17/1/CHEN.pdf)

A Bridge between Liquid and Social Welfare in Combinatorial Auctions with Submodular Bidders
Dimitris Fotakis, Kyriakos Lotidis and Chara Podimata
In Proc. of the 33rd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-19)
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1809.01803v1.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1809.01803v1.pdf)

Learning to Bid Without Knowing your Value
Zhe Feng, Chara Podimata and Vasilis Syrgkanis
In Proc. of the 19th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC '18)
Spotlight award 2nd place prize at the 13th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS).
Preliminary version appeared at NIPS '17 Workshop on Learning under the presence of strategic behavior.
[\[https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.01333\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.01333)

Strategyproof Linear Regression in High Dimensions
Yiling Chen, Chara Podimata, Ariel D. Procaccia and Nisarg Shah
In Proc. of the 19th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC '18)
Among the 5 shortlisted papers for the Best Paper Award

Preliminary version appeared at NIPS '17 Workshop on Learning under the presence of strategic behavior.

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.10693.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.10693.pdf)

Working Papers

Corrupted Multidimensional Binary Search: Learning in the Presence of Irrational Agents

Akshay Krishnamurthy, Thodoris Lykouris, and Chara Podimata

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf)

No-Regret and Incentive-Compatible Online Learning

Rupert Freeman, David Pennock, Chara Podimata and Jennifer Wortman Vaughan
Workshop on Machine Learning with Guarantees, NeurIPS '19.

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.08837.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.08837.pdf)

Grinding the Space: Learning to Classify Against Strategic Agents

Yiling Chen, Yang Liu and Chara Podimata

Workshop on Learning in Presence of Strategic Agents, EC '19.

Workshop on Machine Learning with Guarantees, NeurIPS '19.

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1911.04004.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1911.04004.pdf)

HONORS & AWARDS

Finalist for 2020 Facebook PhD Fellowship (top 4%) 2020
Spotlight Presentation 2nd Place Prize, 13th Annual Machine Learning Symposium (NYAS) 2019
Finalist of the 2019 Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship 2019
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University 2017, 2018
Harvard Scholarship to attend Grace Hopper Celebration 2017
Scholarship to attend CRA-W grad cohort 2017
Harvard Scholarship to attend Grace Hopper Celebration 2016
Harvard PhD Fellowship 2016
NTUA “Thomaidio” Award for highest GPA in the year 2015 – 2016
NTUA “KARY” Award for highest GPA in the year 2014 – 2015
NTUA “Christos Papakyriakopoulos” Award for GPA 10/10 in all math courses
Eurobank “A great moment for education” for graduating first from high school in the Nationwide Examination
General Secretariat of Youth, Greece “Youth Getting to Know Europe” for highest GPA in High School

TALKS

Grinding the Space: Learning to Classify Against Strategic Agents
Northeastern University Theory Seminar. **Invited** November 2019
Workshop on Algorithms for Learning and Economics July 2019

A Bridge between Liquid and Social Welfare in Combinatorial Auctions with Submodular Bidders
The 33rd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence February 2019

Learning to Bid Without Knowing your Value
13th Annual Machine Learning Symposium (NYAS). **Spotlight Talk** March 2019
2018 INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona. **Invited** November 2018
Google NYC, Algorithms Seminar. **Invited** July 2018
Yahoo! Research NYC, Algorithms Seminar. **Invited** June 2018

Strategyproof Linear Regression in High Dimensions

The 19th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation June 2018
Harvard EconCS, Open House March 2018
Harvard EconCS Seminar March 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE **Business Intern, Google, Greece** Feb. 2016 - Aug. 2016
Host: Ilias Sousis
Projects: Campaign optimization, account management, creation of tools for extracting data for the greek online advertising market.

TEACHING **Teaching Fellow, Harvard University** Fall 2017, Fall 2018
Course: Introduction to Optimization (AM121)
Instructor: Yiling Chen

Teaching Assistant, NTUA, Greece Fall 2015
Courses: Introduction to programming (PaZcal), Algorithms and Complexity
Instructor: Dimitris Fotakis

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE **PC Member:** COLT 2020, IJCAI 2020, AAI-20 Emerging Track on AI for Social Impact
Reviewer: NeurIPS 2019, ICML 2019, SODA 2019, WINE 2018-2019, SOSA 2019
Organizer of the EconCS Seminar, Harvard University Fall '17 - Spring '18

COMMUNITY SERVICE **Google Serve, Athens, Greece, Volunteer** June 2016
Project: Building a playground for refugee kids in the refugee camp (Elaionas, Greece)
Organizing 1st Girls Day event at Google, Greece Mar. 2016
As part of my participation at Women@Google
Instructor at Code it Like a Girl, Athens, Greece May 2015 - Sep. 2016
Code it Like a Girl is a volunteering start-up aiming to bring computers and coding closer to women of all ages
Free Preparation for the Greek Nationwide Examination for children of impoverished families, Athens, Greece 2012-2014

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES Theatrical Group of NTUA, Athens, Greece 2012 - 2016
Blood Donor 2012 - present
Guitar Diploma 2009
Martial Arts (TaeKwon-Do) 2009
President of the Student School Board 2008 - 2010