

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: Aleksandrs 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

TUTORIALS

How to Achieve Both Transparency and Accuracy in Predictive Decision Making: an Introduction to Strategic Prediction, FAccT2021 March 2021
Co-taught with Benjamin Edelman and Yonadav Shavit

Incentive-Compatible and Incentive-Aware Learning, EC20 June 2020
Co-taught with Nika Haghtalab
[\[https://www.charapodimata.com/EC20-tutorial1.html\]](https://www.charapodimata.com/EC20-tutorial1.html)

PUBLICATIONS (Alphabetical Author Order)

[STOC2021] **Contextual Search in the Presence of Irrational Agents**
Akshay Krishnamurthy, Thodoris Lykouris, Chara Podimata, and Robert Schapire
In the Proc. of the 53rd ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC2021)
Major Revision at Operations Research
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf)

[NEURIPS2020] **Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers**
Yiling Chen, Yang Liu, and Chara Podimata
In Proc. of the 34th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS2020)
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1911.04004.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1911.04004.pdf)

[ICML2020] **No-Regret and Incentive-Compatible Online Learning**
Rupert Freeman, David Pennock, Chara Podimata, and Jennifer Wortman Vaughan
In Proc. of the 37th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML2020)

Poster Presentation Honorary Mention 14th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS).
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.08837.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.08837.pdf)

[SIGEXCHANGES] **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)

[AAAI2019] **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)

[EC2018B] **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).
[\[https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.01333\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.01333)

[EC2018A] **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
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.10693.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.10693.pdf)

Working Papers

[ARXIV2020B] **Adaptive Discretization for Adversarial Bandits with Continuous Action Spaces**

Chara Podimata and Aleksandrs Slivkins
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.12367.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.12367.pdf)

HONORS & AWARDS

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| Top 10% reviewer for NeurIPS | 2020 |
| Selected as part of the Rising Stars in EECS in Berkeley | 2020 |
| Poster Honorary Mention 14th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS) | 2020 |
| Finalist for 2020 Facebook PhD Fellowship (top 4%) | 2020 |
| Spotlight 2nd Place Prize, 13th Annual ML 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

No-Regret and Incentive-Compatible Online Learning
The 37th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML2020) July 2020

Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers
2020 INFORMS Annual Meeting, Online. **Invited** November 2020
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 (AAAI2019) 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 (EC2018) June 2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

PC Member: ICML2021 (Expert Reviewer), NeurIPS 2020, COLT 2020-2021, IJ-CAI 2020, Emerging Track on AI for Social Impact (AAAI-20, AAAI-21)

Journal Refereeing: Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR), Management Science (MS), Theoretical Computer Science (TCS), Theory of Computing Systems (ToCS)

Conference Sub-Refereeing: STOC 2021, ALT 2021, ITCS 2021, SODA 2021, WINE 2020, FOCS 2020, EC 2020, NeurIPS 2019, ICML 2019, SODA 2019, WINE 2018-2019, SOSA 2019

Organizer of the EconCS Seminar, Harvard University Fall '17 - Spring '18

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, Fall 2020

Course: Introduction to Optimization (AM121)

Instructor (2017, 2018): Yiling Chen

Instructor (2020): Yiling Chen & Margo Levine

Teaching Assistant, NTUA, Greece Fall 2015

Courses: Introduction to programming (PaZcal), Algorithms and Complexity

Instructor: Dimitris Fotakis

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 bringing coding closer to women of all ages.

Free tutoring for children of impoverished families, Athens, Greece 2012-2014

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| EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES | Theatrical Group of NTUA, Athens, Greece | 2012 - 2016 |
| | Guitar Diploma | 2000 - 2009 |
| | Martial Arts (TaeKwon-Do, black belt) | 1998 - 2009 |
| | President of the Student School Board | 2008 - 2010 |