

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) **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)

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

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

Working Papers

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)

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)

Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers

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

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE **PC Member:** AAAI-21 Emerging Track on AI for Social Impact, NeurIPS2020, COLT 2020, IJCAI 2020, AAAI-20 Emerging Track on AI for Social Impact
Journal Refereeing: Management Science (MS), Theoretical Computer Science (TCS)
Conference Sub-Refereeing: SODA 2021, WINE 2020, FOCS2020, 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 2020
Course: Introduction to Optimization (AM121)
Instructor: Yiling Chen & Margo Levine

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

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 coding closer to women of all ages.
Free tutoring for children of impoverished families, Athens, Greece 2012-2014

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