EL HOUSNI Omar

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Updated February 2025

EMPLOYMENT

Cornell Tech, Cornell University, New York, NY

- Assistant Professor
School of Operations Research and Information Engineering

Jan 2022-present

Graduate Field Member in Operations Research and Applied Mathematics

- Visiting Assistant Professor

2020-2021

Amazon, Supply Chain Optimization Technologies (Virtual)

- Amazon Visiting Academic

Jan 2025-present

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY

- Ph.D. in Operations Research. 2016-2020

Thesis: Tractable Policies in Dynamic Robust Optimization

Advisor: Professor Vineet Goyal

- Master of Science in Operations Research

2015-2016

Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France

2012-2015

Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Applied Mathematics

SPONSORED RESEARCH

"Pricing Commodities Based on Real-Time Flow of Supply and Demand", Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (Morocco). Role: Principal Investigator. \$160,000, 2024-2025

"Collaborative Research: Coordinating Offline Resource Allocation Decisions and Real-Time Operational Policies in Online Retail with Performance Guarantees", National Science Foundation, CMMI-2226900. Role: Principal Investigator (co-PI Huseyin Topaloglu). \$450,365, portion of Cornell University is \$305,824, 2023-2026

"Urban Friendly e-Retail", Urban Tech Hub at Cornell Tech. Role: Principal Investigator (co-PI Huseyin Topaloglu). \$99,880, 2022-2023

AWARDS

- Mathematical Programming 2023 Meritorious Service Award
- ORIE Graduate Outstanding Instructor Award 2023 (voted by Cornell ORIE graduate students)
- Cornell Tech Students Choice Award 2023 (voted by Cornell Tech graduating class M.Eng, MS, MBAs and LLMs students)
- Second prize in the INFORMS George Nicholson student paper competition, 2020
- Amazon Inventor Award, 2017
- The Graduate Fellowship for Masters in Operations Research, Columbia University, 2016
- Finalist in INFORMS Undergraduate OR student paper competition, 2015
- Ecole Polytechnique Research Prize in Applied Mathematics, 2015
- French Government's Major-Excellence Scholarship, 2012
- Honorable Mention in the 51st International Mathematical Olympiad, Astana, Kazakhstan, 2010

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Maximum Load Assortment Optimization: Approximation Algorithms and Adaptivity Gaps (joint with M. Ibn Brahim and D. Segev)

Operations Research, forthcoming

Coordinated Inventory Stocking and Assortment Optimization (joint with Y. Bai, P. Rusmevichientong and H. Topalolgu)

Operations Research, forthcoming

Selected for presentation in the MSOM Supply Chain Management SIG, 2023

LP-based Approximations for Disjoint Bilinear and Two-Stage Adjustable Robust Optimization (joint with A. Foussoul and V. Goyal).

Math Programming, pages 1-43, 2023

Fluid Approximations for Revenue Management under High-Variance Demand: Good and Bad Formulations (joint with Y. Bai, B. Jin, P. Rusmevichientong, H. Topaloglu, D. Williamson)

Management Science, 69 (7), pages 4016-4026, 2023

Accepted to Fast Track in Management Science

Joint Assortment Optimization and Customization under Mixture of Multinomial Logit Model: On the Value of Personalized Assortments (joint with H. Topaloglu)

Operations Research, 71 (4), pages 1197-1215, 2023

Selected for presentation in the MSOM Supply Chain Management SIG, 2022

On the Optimality of Affine Policies for Budgeted Uncertainty Sets (joint with V. Goyal)

Math of Operations Research, 46 (2), pages 674-711, 2021

2nd place in the INFORMS George Nicholson student paper competition, 2020

A Tractable Approach for Designing Piecewise Affine Policies in Dynamic Robust Optimization (joint with A. Ben-Tal and V.Goyal).

Math Programming, 182 (1), pages 57-102, 2020

Piecewise Static Policies for Two-stage Adjustable Robust Linear Optimization (joint with V. Goyal) Math Programming 169 (2), pages 649-665, 2018

Finalist in INFORMS Undergraduate OR student paper competition, 2015

REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS Adaptivity Gaps in Two-sided Assortment Optimization (joint with A. Torrico and U. Hennebelle). In Proceedings of the International Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization (IPCO), 2024

Assortment Optimization with Visibility Constraints (joint with T. Barre and A. Lodi). In Proceedings of the International Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization (IPCO), 2024

LP-based Approximations for Disjoint Bilinear and Two-Stage Adjustable Robust Optimization (joint with A. Foussoul and V. Goyal). In Proceedings of the International Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization (IPCO), 223-236, 2022

Matchings Riders to Drivers: A Two-stage Robust Optimization Approach (joint with V. Goyal, O. Hanguir and C. Stein). In Proceedings of the International Conference on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (APPROX), 2021

On the Power of Static Assignment Policies for Robust Facility Location Problems (joint with V. Goyal and D. Shmoys). In Proceedings of the International Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization (IPCO), 252-267, 2021

Beyond Worst-case: A Probabilistic Analysis of Affine Policies in Dynamic Optimization (joint with V. Goyal). Advances of Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) (spotlight talk), 2017

Papers under review Price and Assortment Optimization under the Multinomial Logit Model with Opaque Products (joint with A. Elmachtoub, H. Sheth and J. Shi). Submitted

Assortment Optimization under the Multinomial Logit Model with Covering Constraints (joint with Q. Feng and H. Topaloglu). Submitted

Two-sided Assortment Optimization: Approximation Algorithms and Adaptivity Gaps in (joint with A. Torrico and U. Hennebelle)

Major revision in Operations Research

Accepted for oral presentation at MATCH-UP 2024

Assortment Optimization with Visibility Constraints (joint with T. Barre, M. Ibn Brahim, A. Lodi, and D. Segev)

Major revision in Math Programming

Selected for presentation in the MSOM Supply Chain Management SIG, 2024

When Location Shapes Choice: Placement Optimization of Substitutable Products (joint with R. Udwani)

Major revision in Management Science

Assortment and Price Optimization under an Endogenous Context-Dependent Multinomial Logit Model (joint with Y. Bai, P. Rusmevichientong and H. Topaloglu)

Major revision in Management Science

Matchings Riders to Drivers: A Two-stage Robust Optimization Approach (joint with V. Goyal, O. Hanguir and C. Stein)

Minor revision in Operations Research

Joint Assortment and Inventory Planning under the Markov chain Choice Model (joint with O. Mouchtaki, G.Gallego, V. Goyal, S. Humair, S. Kim, A. Sadighian, J. Wu) Minor revision in **Management Science**

OTHER PAPERS

Leveraging AI for Natural Disaster Management: Takeaways From The Moroccan Earthquake (Morocco Solidarity Hackathon) NeurIPS 6th Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

Can Testing Ease Social Distancing Measures? Future Evolution of COVID-19 in NYC (joint with Mika Sumida, Paat Rusmevichientong, Huseyin Topaloglu and Serhan Ziya) (White paper)

Future Evolution of COVID-19 Pandemic in North Carolina: Can We Flatten the Curve? (joint with Mika Sumida, Paat Rusmevichientong, Huseyin Topaloglu and Serhan Ziya) (White paper)

PATENTS

Real-time Iterative Assortment Allocation Estimation (joint with D.Bhatia, S.Humair, V.Jain, G.Li, J.Marasanapalle, A.Sadighian, and J.Wu) Amazon Research. Patent pending

Industry Experience

Uber, Data Scientist Intern, San Francisco, CA

Summer 2018

Developed a machine learning and an optimization framework for Uber Eats targeted promotions.

Amazon, Research Scientist Intern, Seattle, WA

Developed a standardized decision-making process for Amazon fashion assortment planning (patent pending).

EDF R&D, Research Intern, Paris, France

Fall 2014

Developed a large scale optimization framework for scheduling employees rounds at the French flagship electric utility company EDF.

Empresas Lipigas, Supply Chain Analyst, Santiago, Chili

Summer 2014

Implemented optimization algorithms for scheduling the production of gas cylinders under demand uncertainty.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell Tech, Instructor

ORIE 7391: Optimization for Revenue Management, PhD
ORIE 5132: Pricing Analytics and Revenue Management, graduate
ORIE 5530: Modeling under Uncertainty, graduate
ORIE 6360: Optimization under Uncertainty: Robust and Online Models, PhD
ORIE 5250: Business Applications of Optimization, graduate
ORIE 5132: Service Systems and Online Markets, graduate
Spring 2024,2023,2022,2021
Spring 2022
Spring 2021

Columbia University, Teaching Assistant

IEOR 6613: Optimization, PhD. Fall 2016, 2018 IEOR 4601: Dynamic Pricing & Revenue Management, graduate Spring 2017,2020 IEOR 3404: Simulation, undergraduate, Spring 2018 IEOR 3609: Advanced Optimization, undergraduate Spring 2019

Columbia University Science Honors Program, Co-instructor

Spring 2019

Introduction to Algorithms, (40 students).

Mathematical Olympiad, Instructor

Head coach and Instructor of the Moroccan International Mathematical Olympiad team, IMO 2019. Bath UK.

Professional

-Problem Captain Pan-African Mathematics Olympiads (PAMO), Johannesburg, South Africa 2024 EXTERNAL SERVICE -Organizing Committee for BIRS Workshop on Combinatorial Optimization for Online Platforms, Banff, Canada, April 2024

- -Program Committee EC conference 2024
- -Senior Coordinator at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), Chiba Japan, 2023
- -INFORMS Optimization Society Student Paper Prize committee 2023
- -Organizing Committee of NYC Operations day, April 2022 (Cornell Tech) and May 2023 (Columbia)
- -Organizing Committee Math&Maroc Competition, Benguerir Morocco, May 2023
- -Session organizer for INFORMS Annual Meeting 2022, 2023, 2024, ICCOPT 2022, ISMP 2024
- -Reviewer for Operations Research, Management Science, Mathematical Programming, Mathematics of Operations Research, INFORMS journal on Computing, INFORMS journal on Optimization, MSOM journal, Naval Research Logistics, Optimization Letters, IPCO, ISCO, EC and MSOM-SIG.
- -Co-organizer of IEOR-DRO seminars at Columbia university, 2016-2020.

Cornell Service

- -Cornell ORIE Search hiring committee member, 2024
- -Cornell ORIE PhD Admissions committee member, 2023
- -Cornell ORIE Director search committee member, 2023
- -Cornell Tech Search committee member for communications and marketing, 2024
- -Cornell Tech Research Collisions and Events committee member, 2022,2023
- -Cornell Tech PhD life committee, ORIE representative, 2021,2023
- -Cornell Tech Academic integrity committee member, 2022

SKILLS

Arabic/French: bilingual Spanish: Fluent **Programming:** Python, R, Matlab, CVX, GUROBI

Adivising

Current Phd advisees:

Marouan Ibn Brahim

Qing Feng (co-advisor: Huseyin Topaloglu)

Mohammadreza Ahmadnejadsaein

Ulysse Hennebelle

Mikhail Fadin (co-advisor: Huseyin Topaloglu)

PhD Thesis committee member

Weiyuan Li (Cornell ORIE) Yuheng wang (Cornell ORIE) Wenchang Zhu (Cornell ORIE) Harsh Sheth (2023, Columbia IEOR) Yuan Lorraine (Cornell Johnson)

Former MEng students:

Federico Tilberga (Cornell Tech Meng ORIE 2023) \rightarrow PhD LBS Yang Song (Cornell Tech Meng CS, 2022)

Former Undergraduate interns: Matthieu Palançhon (Ecole Polytechnique, March-July 2024) Auguste De Lambilly (Ecole Polytechnique, March-July 2024) Theo Barre (Ecole Polytechnique March-July 2023) → MS UC Berkeley Ulysse Hennebelle (Ecole Polytechnique March-July 2023) → PhD Cornell ORIF Omar Bennouna (Ecole Polytechnique, March-July 2022) → PhD MIT EECS Sean Michael Xiao Yang (Cornell CS, June-August 2022) Marouane Ibn Brahim (Ecole Polytechnique March-July 2022) → PhD Cornell C	
Maximum Load Assortment Optimization	35 1 2024
 INFORMS Optimization Society Conference, Houston, TX ISMP conference, Montreal, Canada 	March 2024 July 2024
• ISMI Comercince, Montreal, Canada	July 2024
Two-sided Assortment Optimization	C 4 1 2024
• Carey Business School seminar, John Hopkins University, MD	September 2024
IEOR seminar, UC Berkeley, CA MATCH HP conference Hydrogenitae of Output HW	September 2024
MATCH-UP conference, University of Oxford, UK SWIMS workshop, Cross Crosses	September 2024
SWIMS workshop, Crete, GreeceIPCO conference, Wroclaw, Poland	July 2024 July 2024
MSOM conference, Minneapolis, MN	June 2024
Aussois Workshop on Combinatorial Optimization, Aussois, France	January 2024
• Aussois Workshop on Combinatorial Optimization, Aussois, France	January 2024
Placement Optimization of Substitutable Products	0 1 2004
• INFORMS Annual meeting, Seattle, WA	October 2024
• RMP conference, Los Angeles, CA	July 2024
Matchings: From Graph Theory to Real-World Applications • MMC competition, UM6P Benguerir, Morocco	July 2024
Matching Drivers to Riders: A Two-stage Robust Approach • IRIS workshop, UM6P Benguerir, Morocco	December 2023
Coordinated Inventory Stocking and Assortment Personalization	
• Amazon MOP seminar, Bellevue, WA	April 2024
• Mathematics and Decisions conference, UM6P Benguerir, Morocco	December 2023
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, CO	October 2023
• POMS conference, Orlando, FL	May 2023
• Market Innovation Workshop (virtual)	May 2023
• MSOM SIG, Montreal, Canada	June 2023
Fluid Approximations for Revenue Management under High-Variance Demand • MSOM conference, Montreal, Canada	June 2023
From Ideas to Algorithms • Faculty of Sciences BenMsik, Casablanca, Morocco	April 2023

Selected talks

Joint Assortment Optimization and Customization: On the Value of Personalized Assortments

• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN

Oct 2022

• Regis High School, New York, NY

• MSOM SIG, Munich, Germany June 2022

 $\mathrm{June}\ 2023$

• RMP (virtual)

June 2022

• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA Oct 2021

• Cornell Applied Math seminars, Ithaca, NY	Sep 2021
• MSOM, (virtual)	June 2021
• RMP, (virtual)	June 2021
On the Power of Static Assignment Policies for Robust Facility Location Problems • Robust Optimization Webinar, (virtual)	June 2023
• SIOPT, Seattle, WA	May 2023
• ICCOPT, Bethlehem, PA	July 2022
• INFORMS Optimization society Conference, Greenville, NC	March 2022
• IPCO, (virtual)	May 2021
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA	Oct 2019
From Affine to Threshold Policies: a New Framework in Dynamic Robust Optimizatio • Cornell ORIE, Ithaca, NY	Dec 2019
• Cornell Tech, New York, NY	$\mathrm{Dec}\ 2019$
• Chicago Booth, IL	$\mathrm{Jan}\ 2020$
• Imperial College Business School, London, UK	$\mathrm{Feb}\ 2020$
• University of Waterloo, Combinatorics & Optimization, Canada	$\mathrm{Feb}\ 2020$
• Lyft Labs, New York, NY	$\mathrm{Mar}\ 2020$
On the Power of Affine Policies for Capacity Planning under Demand Uncertainty • MSOM, Singapore	Jul 2019
On the Optimality of Affine Policies for Budget of Uncertainty Sets • INFORMS Annual Meeting, (virtual)	Nov 2020
• ICCOPT, Berlin, Germany	Aug 2019
• ICSP, Trondheim, Norway	Jul 2019
• BIRS workshop, Banff, Canada	Jan 2019
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ	Nov 2018
• INFORMS Optimization society Conference, Denver, CO	Mar 2018
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Houston, TX	Oct 2017
On the Power of Affine Policies in Two-Stage Adjustable Robust Optimization	
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA	Oct 2019
• Imperial College, London, UK	May 2017
Beyond Worst-case: A Probabilistic Analysis of Affine Policies in Dynamic Optimizat.	
• Uber Tech Talks, San Francisco, CA	Aug 2018
• ISMP, Bordeaux, France	Jul 2018
• TADC, London Business School, London, UK	May 2018
• INFORMS Optimization society Conference, Denver, CO	Mar 2018
• NIPS, Long Beach, CA	Dec 2017
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Houston, TX	Oct 2017
• Student seminar Columbia University, NY	Oct 2017
Dynamic Resource Provisioning in Data Centers under Demand Uncertainty • MSOM, Chapel Hill, NC	Jun 2017

Piecewise Affine policies for Dynamic Robust Optimization	
 Young Researchers Workshop at Cornell ORIE, Ithaca, NY 	Oct 2017
• Computational Management Science conference, Bergamo, Italy	May 2017
• IBM Thomas J.Watson Research center, NY	Dec 2016
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN	Nov 2016
• EURO of Operations Research, Poznan, Poland	Jul 2016
• Amazon seminars, Seattle, WA	Jun 2016
• Student seminar Columbia University, NY	Apr 2016
Affine policies for Multi-stage Dynamic Robust Optimization	
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN	Nov 2016
• Student seminar Columbia University, NY	Nov 2016
Piecewise Static policies for Two-stage Adjustable Robust Optimization	
• Optimization days, Montreal, Canada	May 2016
• INFORMS Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA	Nov 2015
Tractable Policies in Dynamic Robust Optimization	
• Africa Business School- OCP Headquarters, Casablanca, Morocco	$\mathrm{Jun}\ 2017$