Abolfazl Taghavi

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles — Jan 2022 - Jun 2027
Ph.D. in Operations Management
- Committee: Reza Ahmadi (co-chair), Sriram Dasu (co-chair), Lieven Vandenberghe, Charles Corbett, Kumar Rajaram, Ali Fattahi

Sharif University of Technology — Sep 2016 - Jan 2021
B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering

Research Interest

Application: Wildfire management, sustainable operations, power systems.

Methodology: Stochastic optimization, large scale optimization, reinforcement learning

Recent Papers

1. **A. Taghavi**, A. Fattahi, S. Dasu, R. Ahmadi. *Preventing Catastrophic Wildfires: Annual Grid Inspection and Maintenance Plan.* Under Review, **Operations Research.** [Link]
   - Media coverage: UCLA Anderson Review
   - Finalist, POMS College of SCM Best Student Paper Award 2026
   - Accepted for Early-Career Sustainable Operations Workshop (Flash Talk), 2026; **Best Flash Talk Award**

2. **A. Taghavi**, A. Fattahi, S. Dasu, R. Ahmadi. *Fair and Flexible Scheduling for Dynamic Energy Load Control under Stochastic Demand.* Under review, **Management Science.** [Link]

3. **A. Taghavi**, S. Dasu, R. Ahmadi. *Learning to Prevent Utility-Caused Wildfires through Sequential Inspection and Maintenance.* **Working paper.**

Pre-PhD Publications

1. **A. Taghavi**, S. H. J. Kang, M. Eslami, P. Dadras. *Optimal Agent Framework: A Novel, Cost-Effective Model Articulation to Fill the Integration Gap between Agent-Based Modeling and Decision-Making. Complexity*, 2021. [Link]

2. **A. Taghavi**, AH. Sadeghi, H. Zare, SH. Khaleghparast *Water Resources Dynamics: Chabahar Free-zone Case Study.* Proceedings of the International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM), 2020. [Link]

3. **A. Taghavi**, AH. Sadeghi, H. Zare. *Scenario Assessment for COVID-19 Outbreak in Iran: A Hybrid Simulation–Optimization Model for Healthcare Capacity Allocation.* In: *The Science behind the COVID Pandemic and Healthcare Technology Solutions* (Book Chapter), 2022. [Link]

Teaching Experience

University of California, Los Angeles — Jan 2023 - June 2025
Teaching Assistant
- **Business Analytics with Spreadsheets**, Prof. Reza Ahmadi
- **Data Analytic Industry Seminar**, Prof. Felipe Caro

Sharif University of Technology — Sep 2019 - Jan 2021
Teaching Assistant (graduate and undergraduate courses)
- **System Dynamics**
- **System Analysis I**
- **Statistical Quality Control**
- **Simulation Languages**
- **Computer Information Systems**
- **Facility Planning**

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Presentations

Early-Career Sustainable Operations Workshop, Dallas, TX (Feb 2026)

INFORMS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (October 2025)

SoCal OR/OM Day, Irvive, CA (May 2025)

Annual POMS Conference, Atlanta, GA (May 2025)

INFORMS Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA (October 2024)

INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ (October 2023)

INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN (October 2022)

Awards and Honors

Selected Participant, Rising Stars Workshop, University of Michigan 2026 (29/132 selected)

Best Flash Talk Award, Early-Career Sustainable Operations Workshop, UT Dallas, 2026

Five year Anderson Ph.D. Fellowship, UCLA

UCLA Easton Center Research Award

UCLA Academic Senate's Council on Research Grant

UCLA Fink Center for Finance Grant

UCLA Anderson DOTM Area Travel Grant

Top 10 in GPA at Sharif University of Technology

Skills

Optimization: GAMS, Cplex, AMPL.

Programming: Python, Java, MATLAB, C++.

Simulation: AnyLogic, Vensim, NetLogo.

Data Visualization: Tableau, Power BI

Languages: English, Farsi

Academic Services

Journal Referee: INFORMS TutORials in Operations Research, Journal of Applied Research on Industrial Engineering,

Conference Session Chair: POMS 2026

Membership: INFORMS, POMS, IEEE

References

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Technology Management
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