

# Ayse Berceste Dincer

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## EXPERIENCE

<b>Senior AI/ML Engineer</b> <i>Insider   Ankara, Türkiye</i>	<i>2025 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Designed and launched AI-driven support and shopping agents powered by modern LLM and retrieval techniques, improving customer experience and operational efficiency across enterprise use cases.</li><li>Built personalized shopping and support experiences through intelligent ranking, adaptive retrieval, and multi-step agent workflows, enabling more relevant and context-aware user interactions.</li><li>Led the end-to-end development of an automated evaluation framework for AI agents, enabling continuous assessment of grounding quality, response reliability, and overall system performance.</li></ul>	
<b>Senior Machine Learning Engineer</b> <i>Uber Technologies   Seattle, WA</i>	<i>2022 – 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Led the design and deployment of large-scale forecasting models that enhanced marketplace balance and improved key business and operational metrics.</li><li>Built and scaled deep learning-based recommendation systems that delivered personalized experiences for drivers across diverse markets.</li><li>Owned the full end-to-end ML lifecycle—from problem definition and data exploration to model development, deployment, monitoring, and workflow optimization within large-scale data ecosystems.</li><li>Translated applied ML research into robust production systems while partnering closely with product, engineering, and data teams to drive measurable impact.</li></ul>	
<b>Research Assistant</b> <i>University of Washington   Seattle, WA</i>	<i>2021 – 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducted research in deep learning, representation learning, and high-dimensional biomedical modeling.</li><li>Developed unsupervised and supervised models (VAEs, adversarial autoencoders, CNNs) for denoising, transfer learning, and robust embedding learning across multi-domain datasets.</li><li>Integrated explainable AI into pipelines; collaborated on multidisciplinary genomics/proteomics projects; mentored graduate students.</li></ul>	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <i>University of Washington   Seattle, WA</i>	<i>2020 – 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Worked as a TA for graduate-level courses in Machine Learning, ML for Big Data, Computational Biology/Genomics.</li><li>Led ML review sessions and delivered guest lectures on deep learning.</li></ul>	

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Washington</b> <i>Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i> <i>2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GPA: 3.89/4.00</li><li>Advised by William Stafford Noble &amp; Su-In Lee</li><li>Research focused on machine learning for biomedical data, including representation learning, high-dimensional modeling, and deep learning-based denoising and integration methods.</li></ul>	
<b>University of Washington</b> <i>M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i> <i>2019</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GPA: 3.87/4.00</li><li>Awarded Anne Dinning-Michael Wolf Endowed First-Year Fellowship</li><li>Highlighted Coursework: Machine Learning, Statistical Methods, Data Visualization, Computational Biology</li></ul>	
<b>Bilkent University</b> <i>B.S. in Computer Engineering</i>	<i>Ankara, Türkiye</i> <i>2017</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GPA: 4.00/4.00</li><li>Valedictorian; Ranked 1st in the School of Engineering; awarded Comprehensive Merit Fellowship</li></ul>	

## PROJECTS

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### Multitask neural network-based driver incentive generation

*Uber Technologies*

2022 – 2024

- Developed deep multitask neural network models to provide drivers with customized incentives.
- Took ownership to drive the project across different stages including ideation, model formulation, development and iterations, experimentation, analysis, launch, and real-life maintenance of models/data pipelines/workflows.
- Integration of the ML-based incentive generation led to a statistically significant increase in key metrics compared to the status quo with a 0.6% increase in gross bookings & 0.4% increase in total trips and the project was launched in 60+ cities.

### A deep learning approach to eliminate bias in protein quantification

*Noble Lab, University of Washington*

2021 – 2022

- Developed a convolutional neural network (CNN) model to predict multiplicative noise coefficients from sequences.
- Reduced protein quantification noise by 30% and outperformed alternative models.
- Published in Journal of Proteome Research | Contributed talks at MLCB 2021 & ASMS 2021 and received the best presentation award at ISMB/ECCB CompMS 2021.

### Adversarial Deconfounding Autoencoder for learning robust embeddings

*AIMS Lab, University of Washington*

2019 – 2020

- Developed an unsupervised deep learning approach for learning deconfounded embeddings.
- Improved cancer subtype classification (AUC of 0.81-0.93) across different data domains.
- Published in Proceedings of ECCB 2020 | Contributed talk at ISMB MLCSB 2020.

### DeepProfile: Interpretable deep learning of latent variables for 18 human cancers

*AIMS Lab, University of Washington*

2018 – 2020

- Increased the robustness of variational autoencoders (VAEs) by designing an ensemble learning pipeline.
- Collected and integrated gene expression measurements from 1,098 datasets and 18 cancer types.
- Improved the accuracy of 5-year patient survival prediction compared to alternative approaches in 82% of test cases.
- Published in Nature Biomedical Engineering

### Explorator: Personalized travel plan recommender

*Bilkent University*

2016 – 2017

- Designed and implemented a mobile application in Java for generating personalized optimal travel plans.
- Created a recommendation system by collecting and integrating data from 3 different social media platforms.
- Received Sibel Ozelci Best Senior Design Project Award at Bilkent University CS Fair 2017.

## PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Qiu, W., **Dincer, A. B.**, Janizek, J. D., Celik, S., Pittet, M., Naxerova, K., & Lee, S. I. (2023). Deep profiling of gene expression across 18 human cancers. *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, 9, 333–355 (2025).
- Janizek, J. D., **Dincer, A. B.**, Celik, S., Chen, H., Chen, W., Naxerova, K., & Lee, S. I. (2023). Uncovering expression signatures of synergistic drug response using an ensemble of explainable AI models. *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, 7, 811–829.
- **Dincer, A. B.**, Lu, Y. Y., Schewpe, D. K., Oh, S. & Noble, W. S. (2022). Reducing Peptide Sequence Bias in Quantitative Mass Spectrometry Data with Machine Learning. *J Proteome Res.*, 21(7), 1771-1782.
- Beebe-Wang, N., **Dincer, A. B.**, & Lee, S. I. (2022). An automatic integrative method for learning interpretable communities of biological pathways. *Nucleic Acids Research (NAR) Genomics and Bioinformatics*, 4(2), lqac044.
- Qiu, W., Chen, H., **Dincer, A. B.**, Lundberg, S., Kaeberlein, M. & Lee, S. I. (2022). IMPACT: Interpretable complex machine learning prediction of all-cause mortality. *Nature Communications Medicine*, 2(125).
- **Dincer, A. B.**, Lu, Y. Y., & Noble, W. S. (2021). Inferring peptide coefficients from quantitative mass spectrometry data. *American Society for Mass Spectrometry (ASMS)*.
- **Dincer, A. B.**, Janizek, J. D., & Lee, S. I. (2020). Adversarial Deconfounding Autoencoder for learning robust gene expression embeddings. *Bioinformatics*, 36(Supplement 2), i573–i582.
- Weinberger, E., **Dincer, A. B.**, & Lee, S. I. (2020). HD-MD: Batch-effect-free embeddings of scRNA-seq data. *Machine Learning in Computational Biology (MLCB)*.
- **Dincer, A. B.**, Janizek J. D., Celik, S., Hiranuma, N., Naxerova, K. & Lee, S. I. (2019). DeepProfile: Interpretable deep learning of latent variables from a compendium of expression profiles for 18 human cancers. *Machine Learning in Computational Biology (MLCB)*.
- Janizek, J. D., **Dincer, A. B.**, Lundberg, S., Naxerova, K. & Lee, S. I. (2019). EXPRESS: Explainable prediction of anti-cancer drug synergy. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) Workshop on Computational Biology*.
- **Dincer, A. B.**, Celik, S., Hiranuma, N., & Lee, S. I. (2018). DeepProfile: Deep learning of cancer molecular profiles for precision medicine. *Joint International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) and International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) Workshop on Computational Biology*.

## CONTRIBUTED TALKS

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- Machine Learning for Computational Biology (MLCB) 2021, “Inferring peptide coefficients from quantitative mass spectrometry data with deep learning.”
- American Society for Mass Spectrometry (ASMS) 2021, “Inferring peptide coefficients from quantitative mass spectrometry data.”
- International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology / European Conference on Computational Biology (ISMB/ECCB) Computational Mass Spectrometry (CompMS) 2021, “Inferring peptide coefficients from quantitative mass spectrometry data.”
- University of Washington Computational Molecular Biology (CMB) Program Virtual Retreat 2020, “Deep profiling of a compendium of expression data from 18 human cancers.”
- European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB) 2020, “Adversarial Deconfounding Autoencoder for learning robust gene expression embeddings.”
- International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) Machine Learning in Computational and Systems Biology (MLCSB) 2020, “Adversarial Deconfounding Autoencoder for learning robust gene expression embeddings.”

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**AI & Machine Learning:** LLMs, RAG, agentic workflows, LangChain, Transformers, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Scikit-Learn, XGBoost

**Programming & Data:** Python, SQL, Pandas, NumPy, PySpark, Hive

**MLOps & Cloud:** Kubernetes, Docker, AWS (Lambda, S3, Bedrock), CI/CD, Git, model deployment

**Data & Systems Engineering:** Distributed data processing, feature engineering, pipeline orchestration, monitoring