

NAZIR NAYAL

Koç University Rumelifeneri Yolu Sariyer 34450 Istanbul, Turkey
(+90)5444588291 ♦ nnayal17@ku.edu.tr ♦ Github ♦ LinkedIn ♦ Personal Website

EDUCATION

- Koç University** September 2021 - August 2023
Master of Science, Computer Science. *Istanbul, Turkey*
- Funded by KUIS AI Center and Newton Advanced Fellowship (Royal Society UK)
 - Supervised by Fatma Güney (Koç University) and João F. Henriques (VGG, University of Oxford)
- Koç University** September 2017 - June 2021
Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering Senior. *Istanbul, Turkey*
- Full scholarship funded by Al Ghurair Foundation (AGFE).
- Al-Bassel High School for Superiors** September 2013 - June 2016
High School Diploma *Aleppo, Syria*
- Ranked 5th in Aleppo and among top 2% in Syria.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Deep Learning, Computer Vision, Open-World Learning, Out-of-Distribution Detection, Uncertainty Estimation, Robustness, Autonomous Driving.

EXPERIENCE

- Koç University & İş Bankası Artificial Intelligence Center (KUIS AI)** September 2021 - Present
Research Fellow *Istanbul, Turkey*
- Working on detection of rare events and unknown objects in Autonomous Driving scenarios.
- Syrian Youth Empowerment (SYE)** July 2021 - Present
Grad Student Mentor *Remote*
- Mentoring and providing support to Syrian students applying for graduate degrees abroad.
- Hospital on Mobile (now CareX.ai)** January 2021 - June 2021
AI Engineer *Remote*
- Conducted research and developed AI models for vital signs prediction.
- Invent Analytics** July 2020 - September 2020
Software Engineering Intern *Istanbul, Turkey*
- Implemented a machine learning forecasting model based on supermarket products sales data.
- Distributed Systems and Reliable Networks Research Laboratory (DISNET)** March 2019 - January 2021
Research Intern *Istanbul, Turkey*
- Implemented Proof of Concept for LightChain, and an augmented version of Skip Graph Data Structure.
- Dapper Labs (Based in Vancouver, Canada)** August 2019 – December 2019
Software Engineering Intern *Remote*
- Contributed to the implementation of the first version of the networking layer of Flow Blockchain.

PUBLICATIONS

- Y. Hassanzadeh-Nazarabadi, **N. Nayal**, S. Sameh Hamdan, Ö. Özkasap, and A. Küpçü, “A containerized proof-of-concept implementation of lightchain system,” in ICBC. IEEE, 2020.
- Y. Hassanzadeh-Nazarabadi, **N. Nayal**, S. Sameh Hamdan, A. Utkan Şahin, Ö. Özkasap, and A. Küpçü, ”Demo: Skip Graph Middleware Implementation”, in SRDS 2020.
- Y. Hassanzadeh-Nazarabadi, M. Haji Ali, and **N. Nayal**. ”Opera: Scalable Simulator for Distributed Systems” in INFOCOM 2021.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Al Ghurair Foundation for Education STEM Scholarship (AGFE) September 2017 - 2021

Recipient *Istanbul, Turkey*

- A merit-based award for highly achieving Arab students to pursue a degree in STEM.

Vehbi Koç Scholar Award 2018 - 2019 - 2020 - 2021

Award Recipient *Istanbul, Turkey*

- Received this award for 4 consecutive years for maintaining a semester GPA of 3.5+.

IEEEExtreme 13.0 Programming Contest October 2019

Contestant *Online*

- Ranked 67th globally and 2nd among teams participating from Turkey.

Turkish Programming Contest (TPC) September 2019

Contestant *Istanbul, Turkey*

- Represented Koç University and ranked 12th among teams participating from all over Turkey.

SKILLS

- **Technical:** C++, Python, Pytorch, Deep Learning, Agile Development, Algorithms & Data Structures, Competitive Programming, Data Analysis, Blockchain.
- **Languages:** Arabic (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Turkish (intermediate).

PROJECTS

For list of projects you may visit project page in my website.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Koç University Programming Championship (KUPC) January 2020 - September 2020

Problem Setter & Chief Judge *Istanbul, Turkey*

- KUPC is an ACM-ICPC style programming competition for Koç University students.
- Created and tested problems, and prepared competition system.

Koç University ACM Student Chapter (KUACM) May 2019 - August 2020

Vice President *Istanbul, Turkey*

- Managed and organized programs and activities carried out under that chapter's supervision.

Koç University Algorithms Program (KUAP) January 2019 - September 2020

Founder & Coordinator & Instructor *Istanbul, Turkey*

- Created a curriculum that covers basics of problem solving using algorithms and data structures.
- Led discussions and problem solving sessions demonstrating concepts and solutions to problems.

inzva Algorithmic Competition Winter Camp 2019 January 2019

Participant & Contestant *Istanbul, Turkey*

- Ranked 1st in final day contest after a week long intensive training on algorithms and data structures.