

Ahmet Zahid Balcioglu

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EDUCATION

Honours of Bachelors of Science at University of Toronto, Nov 2018

Major in Physics, Minor in Mathematics, and Minor in Statistics.

Master of Science in Statistics at Yildiz Technical University, Sep 2019-

Present

Thesis Supervisor: Ümit Işlak

Thesis Title: Adaptive Auto-encoder Training and Order Statistic based Robust Scoring for Anomaly Detection

Visiting Student at Boğazici University, Feb 2020-Feb 2021

PREPRINTS

1. *On a notion of outliers based on ratios of order statistics*, joint with Oğuz Gürerk and Ümit Işlak; available upon request. Current version 24 pp.
2. *Adaptive Slot-filling for low-resource Natural Language Understanding*; available upon request. Current version 8 pp.

IN PREPARATION

1. *Extensions of the stochastic SEIR model with vaccination and heterogeneous mixing, an optimal control approach*, joint with Oğuz Gürerk. Current version 6 pp.
 2. *Conditional Random Fields based on Sentence Representations*. Current ver. 5 pp.
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RESEARCH PROJECTS

As a MS student in Yildiz Technical University, in collaboration with Ümit Işlak of Boğazici University Department of Mathematics:

Outliers, order statistics, and concentration inequalities March 2021 Present

- Main goal of our project is to have a distribution invariant robust estimator for anomalies based on order statistics.

- Studying the distribution and the asymptotic behaviour of the chosen statistic.

- Developing a python library for heavy-tailed data, anomalous data generation and order statistic simulations.

Optimal Control in Epidemiological Systems June 2021 Present

- Developing a variant of the SIR models that accounts for vaccination, waning immunity in order to do formulate an optimal control problem for best vaccination policies.

- Responsible for simulations of the SIR model and for computationally solution of the optimal control problem.

As part of the Artificial Intelligence Research and Development team in ETIYA:

Distilling transformer models for a low data setting March 2020 Present

- Main goal of the project is to establish a fast training model for an interactive dialogue system.
- We developed a model which used transfer learning based on pre-trained transformers and used a hyper-parameter optimization like training on Conditional Random Fields.
- Using word-piece tokenization to help differentiate between word roots and suffixes agglutinative languages such as Turkish.

Research for an embedding guided RNN March 2020 Present

- Main goal of the project is to effectively incorporate predetermined memory state based into a recurrent neural network, which can selectively memorise past states in the sequence.
- We expected that with the selection of a good memory state we may in affect reduce the need for training time and data.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Boğaziçi University, Department of Mathematics:

- ❖ MATH 541 - Graduate Probability Theory (*Durrett, R.. Probability: theory and examples*)
- ❖ MATH 531 - Real Analysis I (*Folland, G. B. Real analysis: modern techniques and their applications*)
- ❖ MATH 532 - Real Analysis II (*Folland, G. B. Real analysis: modern techniques and their applications*)
- ❖ MATH 533 - Complex Analysis (*Stein, E. M., & Shakarchi, R. Complex analysis*)

Yildiz Technical University, Department of Statistics:

- ❖ IST 5115 - Non-Linear Programming
- ❖ IST 6106 - Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods
- ❖ IST 6115 - Applied Generalised Linear Models I

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Student Assistant; Yildiz Technical University, Department of Statistics:

- ❖ IST 3121 - Regression Analysis I, Fall 2019
- ❖ IST 5110 - Advanced Regression Analysis, Winter 2020

SELECTED TALKS

- ❖ Martingales and Black-Scholes Equation, Probability and Statistics Seminars, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul — June 2020
 - ❖ Dimension Reduction Techniques for Discrete Data, Graduate Student Seminars, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul — Nov 2020
 - ❖ Deep Learning Solutions of Differential Equations, Graduate Student Seminars, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul — Dec 2020
 - ❖ Concentration of Measure and Almost Spherical Sections, Student Seminars in Analysis, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul — Jan 2021
 - ❖ Outliers and Anomalies, Probability and Statistics Seminars, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul — Jan 2021
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Specialist, Artificial Intelligence Research&Development, ETIYA Information Technologies March 2020 Present

- Involved in the research and development of deep learning and machine learning algorithms for natural language processing and anomaly detection.
- Proposed, led, and prepared biweekly reports for two research projects.
- Worked closely with the product team to build an adaptive slot filling model for natural language understanding.
- Worked in collaboration with the backend team for the development and maintenance of a deep anomaly detection service.
- Certificates from data science, and TM Forum trainings: Blue Mark Academy Practical Machine Learning; TM Forum: Open API Fundamentals, AI in Telecoms Overview, Information Framework (SID) Fundamentals.

Analyst, R&D Team; Standart Insulation Materials Inc.; Istanbul Nov 2018 Sep 2019

- Communicated with solar power companies, and developed an LSTM based model in order to do a cost-benefit analysis for a company investment solar power.
- Attended company R&D meetings.

Intern, Standart Insulation Materials Inc. ; Istanbul May 2016 July 2016

- Worked as an assistant in the chemical laboratory. Also helped plan for a company project for solar panels.

COMPUTATIONAL & PROGRAMMING SKILLS

❖ Python

Over 7 years of experience, familiar with libraries used in machine learning, scientific studies, well as some used in web development. Used python at work and at school for physics and statistics courses and projects, which were mainly about deep learning, solving differential equations, machine learning, data analysis, and visualisation &c.

❖ R

Over 5 years of experience, familiar with many different libraries used in scientific studies and statistical analysis. Used throughout statistics courses and projects for various purposes including machine learning, data analysis, and data visualisation &c.

❖ HTML, CSS, Javascript

EXTRACURRICULAR & SKILLS

❖ Yildiz Technical University Data Science Society Datathon, May 2020

This was a datathon (data science marathon) which I organised in collaboration with the University Data Science student club. Conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ Member, Yildiz Technical University Data Science Society, March 2020 Present

❖ **IDAO International Data Science Competition, Feb 2021 – Feb 2021**

Joined in a team of three. We were tasked with an image recognition problem involving images H and He atoms. Served as an opportunity to familiarise myself with the basic image processing techniques and models.

❖ **IDAO International Data Science Competition, Jan 2020 – Feb 2020**

Joined in a team of three. We were tasked with a real life problem in astronomical models. We applied machine learning algorithms to find the best applicable solution.

❖ **Member & Vice President, University of Toronto Go Club; Sep 2015 – Sep 2018**

Member of the Go Club since 2015 and Vice President after Sep 2017. Arranged weekly meetings, prepared annual events such as tournaments, movie screenings, picnics, and other social events.

❖ **Member, UTFOLD July 2014 – August 2014**

Making origami flowers in order to raise awareness for cancer. Entered the Guinness book of records through making the most origami flowers.

❖ **Member, Physics and Astronomy Students Association Sep 2013 – Apr 2018**

❖ **University Physics Competition, Bronze Medal 2013**

❖ **University of Toronto, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dean's List 2013**

❖ **Foreign Languages:**

Proficient in English, and intermediate knowledge of Arabic.