Yasser Zouzou

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EDUCATION

Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkiye   *Sep. 2022 - Aug. 2024*
M.Sc., Data Science
Advisor: Assistant Prof. Onur Varol
GPA: 3.95/4.0

Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkiye   *Sep. 2020 - Aug. 2022*
M.Sc., Civil Engineering
Thesis: Comparison of regional and general machine learning models for reference evapotranspiration prediction in Turkiye
Advisor: Associate Prof. Hatice Citakoglu
GPA: 4.0/4.0

Damascus University, Damascus, Syria   *Sept. 2013 - Aug. 2018*
B.Sc., Civil Engineering,
Grade: 87.0/100 (Ranked 3rd in class)

WORK EXPERIENCE

AI Research Engineer - Huawei (Jan. 2024 - Present)
Task-specific and general instruction SFT of LLMs
Synthetic data generation for SFT
Developing customized RAG and agentic workflows
Textual data curation, processing, and analysis
Experimenting with latest research on model structure and training improvement

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PUBLICATIONS
GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Journal Articles

J.1 **Zouzou Y.**, Varol O., **"Unsupervised detection of coordinated fake-follower campaigns on social media."**, EPJ Data Science (2024)

J.2 Najafi A., Mugurtay N., **Zouzou, Y.**, Demirci E., Demirkiran S., Karadeniz H. A., Varol O., **"First public dataset to study 2023 Turkish general election"**, Scientific Reports (2024)

J.3 **Zouzou Y.**, Citakoglu H., **"General and regional cross-station assessment of machine learning models for estimating reference evapotranspiration."** Acta Geophysica (2023)

CONDUCTED RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

VRLLAB, Istanbul, Turkiye   *Nov, 2022 - Aug. 2024*

– **Effect of YouTube programs on polarization**   *Feb, 2023 - Aug. 2024*
  * Analyzed the effect of a political "open-discussion" program on polarization in Turkish social media
  * Conducted a longitudinal study of Tweet volume, Twitter followers, Google Trends, and Wikipedia PageView statistics of the program guests to examine the engagement rates
  * Compared the newly gained followers of the guests before and after the program based on their political leanings

– **Signaling political affiliations through profile pictures**   *Aug, 2023 - Aug. 2024*
  * Clustered Twitter profile images using their embeddings from CLIP model
  * Exploring the signals in the profile pictures of users from different political leanings (ongoing)

INVITED LECTURER AND TALKS

1. Presented "Unsupervised detection of coordinated fake-follower campaigns on social media." paper in Turkiye Computational Social Sciences Conference (TCSS) 2023, Koc University, Turkiye.

2. Applications of Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) in industry, Sabanci University Altunizade Digital Campus, Turkiye.

3. Real world applications of LLMs and RAG, 2024, Sabanci University, Turkiye.

MENTORING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience
Sabancı University - Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

CS514: Network Science	*Spring 2023-2024*
CS412: Machine Learning	*Fall 2023-2024*
CS210: Introduction to Data Science	*Spring 2022-2023*
IF100: Computational Approaches to Problem Solving	*Fall 2022-2023*

As a teaching assistant, my responsibilities include preparing recitation materials and assignments, giving recitations, hosting office hours, and grading exams.

Mentoring Experience
VRL Lab, Sabancı University

Sabanci Program for Undergraduate Research   *Summer 2022-2023*
Mentored one undergraduate research intern who worked on the "Signaling political affiliations through profile pictures" project during the summer period.

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Skills:
Programming Languages: Python
Frameworks: Pytorch
Librares: Pandas, Numpy, Matplotlib, Seaborn, NetworkX
Other: MySQL, Gephi (Network Visualization), Dify (Agent Orchestration)

Languages: Arabic (Native), English (Fluent), Turkish (Fluent)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Sabancı University Teaching Awards   *December 2023*
Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkiye
Second place in the teaching assistant yearly awards

TUBITAK Scholarship   *Aug. 2023 - Aug. 2024*
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkiye, Turkiye
Awarded a 100% tuition waiver and a monthly stipend as a researcher in the project CON-NET funded by CHIST-ERA, EU, and TUBITAK 1071 programs

Sabancı University Scholarship   *Sep. 2022 - Aug 2023*
Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkiye
Awarded a 100% tuition scholarship and a monthly stipend as an MSc student

Turkiye Scholarships   *Sep. 2019 - Aug 2022*
Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkiye
Awarded a 100% tuition scholarship and a monthly stipend as an MSc student