

Caner Derici, PhD

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[↗️ extended version](#)

Technical Skills

Areas of Expertise:	Compilers & Programming Languages · Machine Learning · Distributed Systems
Languages:	C++ · LLVM · MLIR · Go · Python · Racket/Scheme · Java · SQL · JavaScript
Cloud:	Kubernetes · AWS · GCE · Terraform · LXD · Docker
Workflows & Productivity:	Linux · Neovim · tmux · VSCode · Copilot · Git · GH Actions · Obsidian · Toggl · Todoist
API, DB & Misc:	REST · gRPC · OpenAPI · FastAPI · DQLite · MongoDB · PostgreSQL · CI/CD · Jenkins

Education

Ph.D., Indiana University, Bloomington , Computer Science, Compilers & Programming Languages	2015 – 2025
Dissertation: Self-Hosting Functional Programming Languages on Meta-Tracing JIT Compilers	
M.Sc., Boğaziçi University , Computer Science, Machine Learning & Natural Language Processing	2012 – 2014
B.Sc., Bilgi University , Computer Science	2005 – 2010

Selected Projects

[Pycket: A tracing JIT compiler for full-scale Racket](#)

Built the first tracing JIT capable of running a self-hosting language on a meta-tracing JIT backend, and worked on it [for over five years](#) during PhD. Created a new IR and implemented [performance analysis tools](#), run-time optimizations, and [formalisms](#) to improve throughput. Added code-gen for the FFI layer, engines, and meta-continuations for user threads. Used Python, C++, and Racket.

[Around the World in 26 Languages](#)

Building a personal collection of experimental compilers, one for each letter of the alphabet, named after a world city. Each explores different ideas in language design, IR construction, optimizations, and run-time. Targeted backends include LLVM IR, MLIR, NVPTX for CUDA. All in C++.

[Rax: A full-stack nanopass compiler from Racket to x86_64](#)

Implemented all the passes (closure conversion, register allocation, code-gen, etc.), along with garbage collection. Developed optimizations, such as inlining, loop-invariant code motion, and proper tail calls. In Racket, and C++.

[FARS: Functional Automated Reasoning System](#)

A resolution/refutation theorem prover, for expressions in first-order predicate logic with equality. Used binary paramodulation, and forward and backward subsumption for equational deduction. In Racket.

[HazirCevap \(Witty\): A closed-domain question answering system for high school students](#)

Government-funded large-scale question-answering system. M.Sc. thesis on NLP. Led the R&D team (3 faculties, 4 grad students). Developed a Hidden Markov Random Field model for question analysis, and relevance metrics for information retrieval and response generation (see publications). In Python, and JavaScript.

Experience

Canonical USA

REMOTE, US

[SWE II \(L4 - IC3\) · Distributed orchestration at scale](#)

2021 – 2024

- Developed and maintained [Juju](#), an eventually consistent distributed orchestration system used by ~200 companies globally, capable of handling 1000+-node workloads with 99.9% availability on any infrastructure (Kubernetes or otherwise) across various cloud providers (e.g., AWS, GCE). All in Go.
- Improved reliability and fault tolerance by implementing edge machine services on relational DQLite back-end, migrating from NoSQL MongoDB (e.g., [sample PR](#)).
- Owned client libraries for three years—[python-libjuju](#), [Terraform Juju Provider](#); doubled active users and maintained a steady release cadence.
- Took part in roadmap planning, coordinated cross-team work; mentored junior engineers, and improved hiring by creating a structured bootcamp process that cut down onboarding new engineers from 6 months to 1 month.

Indiana University

IN, US

[Research Assistant, Course Instructor](#)

2015 – 2021

- Independently took an ambiguous, uncharted compiler problem to a working product; built the first-ever tracing JIT compiler that is a full-scale runtime for a self-hosting, production-grade language. Conducted a full performance investigation and designed new optimization algorithms (see [PhD dissertation](#)).
- Taught data structures & algorithms, compilers, virtual machines, and domain specific languages.

Asseco SEE Group

Software Engineer

2010-2012

- International software company developing virtual payment systems for e-commerce platforms. I developed and delivered 3 virtual point-of-sale projects in 2 years. Used Java, Apache Tomcat, Spring, Mercurial, Jira.
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Selected Publications

- Flatt M., Derici C. Dybvig R. K., Keep A. et. al. "Rebuilding racket on chez scheme (experience report)", ICFP'19
 - Derici C. et. al. "A closed-domain question answering framework using reliable resources to assist students" Natural Language Engineering'18
 - Derici C. et. al. "Question analysis for a closed domain question answering system", CICLING'15
 - Derici C. et. al. "Rule-based focus extraction in Turkish question answering systems", SIU'14
 - Başar R. E., Derici C., and Şenol Ç. "World With Web: A compiler from world applications to JavaScript". Technical Report, Scheme and Functional Programming Workshop'09
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Awards & Scholarships

- Scholarship and award for a project on teaching natural languages to hearing impaired, 2014.
 - Full Scholarship for PhD, 2015-2025
 - Full Scholarship for MSc, 2012
 - Full Scholarship for BSc, 2005-2010
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