Caner Derici, PhD

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Technical Skills

Areas of Expertise: Compilers & Programming Languages · Distributed Systems · Machine Learning

Languages: $Go \cdot C++ \cdot Python \cdot Racket/Scheme \cdot LLVM \cdot Java \cdot SQL \cdot JavaScript$

 $Kubernetes \cdot AWS \cdot GCE \cdot Terraform \cdot LXD \cdot Docker$ Cloud:

Workflows & Productivity: Linux · Neovim · VSCode · Copilot · ChatGPT · Git · GH Actions · Obsidian · Toggl · Todoist

API, DB & Misc: $REST \cdot gRPC \cdot OpenAPI \cdot FastAPI \cdot DQLite \cdot MongoDB \cdot PostgreSQL \cdot CI/CD \cdot Jenkins$

Education

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

Experience

Canonical USA REMOTE, US 2021 - 2024

SWE II (L4 - IC3) · Distributed orchestration at scale

 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 2015 - 2021

Research Assistant, Course Instructor

 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.

Selected Projects

Pycket: A tracing JIT compiler for full-scale Racket

Developed and maintained for over five years. Designed the compiler to self-host a language on a meta-tracing JIT backend. Contributed designing a new IR (see publications). Built performance analysis tools, run-time optimizations, and formalisms to improve performance. Implemented code-gen for full FFI layer, and engines with meta-continuations for preemption for green threads. In Python, C, and Racket.

Rax: A full-stack nanopass compiler from Racket to x86_64

Implemented all the passes (e.g., 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.

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

Awards & Scholarships

- Scholarship and award for a project on teaching natural languages to hearing impaired, 2014.
- Full Scholarship for PhD, 2015-2020
- Full Scholarship for MSc, 2012
- Full Scholarship for BSc, 2005-2010