Mertcan Akçay

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EDUCATION

ETH Zurich - MSc in Robotics, Systems and Control — Zurich, Switzerland
Thesis: Learning to Fly a Quadrotor by Watching Flight Videos — *Sept 2021 – Present*

Bilkent University - BSc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering — Ankara, Turkey
CGPA: 3.93/4.00 — *Aug 2017 – June 2021*

Nanyang Technological University — Singapore
Exchange Semester — *Jan 2020 – May 2020*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Disney Research | Studios — Zurich, Switzerland
Research Intern — *Sept 2022 – Mar 2023*
- Worked on multimodal machine learning architectures to perform audio-to-video synchronization on in-the-wild videos. Outperformed SOTA methods with a significantly smaller model. Pending patent application.

ASELSAN — Ankara, Turkey
Research and Development Intern — *June 2020 – Aug 2020*
- Conducted research on Multiple Object Tracking and implemented several algorithms to track multiple objects in a clutter.

Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) — Ankara, Turkey
Research and Development Intern — *June 2019 – July 2019*
- Worked on image processing tasks and trained object detection models.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

ETH Zurich — Zurich, Switzerland
Teaching Assistant — *August 2023 – Present*
- Preparing a project for the course Probability and Machine Learning which will be offered as a core course of the Mechanical Engineering bachelor program.

ETH Media Technology Center — Zurich, Switzerland
Research Assistant — *Nov 2021 – Aug 2022*
- Developed a face tracker which approximates the 3D models of people's heads by training a deep neural network using face images and a 3D Morphable Face Model.
- Developed a pipeline for generating synthetic photo-realistic videos of people given an arbitrary source audio recording.

PUBLICATIONS

- Ayça Takmaz*, Jonas Schult*, Irem Kaftan[†], Mertcan Akçay[†], Bastian Leibe, Robert Sumner, Francis Engelmann, and Siyu Tang."3D Segmentation of Humans in Point Cloud with Synthetic Data" . In: International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2023.

SKILLS

Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (beginner)
Programming: Python, C++, MATLAB, Java, ROS, PyTorch

HONORS & AWARDS

Bilkent University Academic Excellence Award: Awarded at graduation based on CGPA
Bilkent University Comprehensive Scholarship: Full tuition waiver & stipend during the BSc program
KYK Scholarship of the Republic of Turkey: Awarded monthly stipend during the BSc program due to the success at university entrance exam
Nationwide University Entrance Exam: Ranked 75th among 2 million students in Turkey, 2017