

Eren Kotar

Istanbul, Turkey

+90 (539) 893 77 06 | erenkotar@hotmail.com | github.com/erenkotar

EDUCATION

Bogazici University

Master of Science in Computer Engineering

Istanbul, Turkey

Sep 2024 - Present

- Machine Learning Specialization

Istanbul Technical University

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering

Istanbul, Turkey

Sep 2019 - Jan 2024

- **GPA:** 3.51 / 4.0

- **Relevant Coursework:**

- Neural Network Modelling in Ind. Systems (BSc)
- Machine Learning (BSc)
- Heuristic Optimization (BSc)
- Advanced Statistical Analysis (MSc) (Guest)
- Deep Reinforcement Learning (MSc) (Guest)

- **Thesis Topic:**

“Portfolio Optimization with Reinforcement Learning”

Focused on creating a portfolio management tool for multi-stock trading that utilizes reinforcement learning techniques

WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Trendyol

Data Scientist

Istanbul, Turkey

Mar 2024 – Apr 2025

- Developing, optimizing, and maintaining personalized recommendation systems for the homepage of Turkey's largest e-commerce platform, serving millions of daily active users
- Designed and deployed gradient boosting models for product ranking, click increased by $2.56\% \pm 1.77\%$, add to basket increased by $0.87\% \pm 0.81\%$, GMV increased by $1.57\% \pm 1.49\%$
- Developed a coupon ranking strategy, aggregating multiple product-level signals to optimize user incentives and engagement
- Implemented a novel approach for constructing category and brand embeddings of products using deep learning

ITU NLP Lab

Undergraduate NLP Researcher

Istanbul, Turkey

Oct 2023 – Jan 2024

- Participant of ITU NLP undergraduate research team

Invent Analytics

Junior Data Scientist

Istanbul, Turkey

Aug 2023 – Jan 2024

- Worked on a high-impact inventory optimization project for a leading U.S. retailer with \$6B+ ARR, improving stock efficiency and demand forecasting
- Orchestrated retail optimization and forecasting systems
- Implemented heuristic approaches into solving edge cases in time series forecasting

Black Kite

Junior Data Scientist (NLP Researcher)

Istanbul, Turkey

Sep 2022 – Feb 2023

- Designed and developed an AI system for classification task using LLMs and ML methods from scratch (sensitivity increased from 71% to 92%)
- Led the POC processes of the project via Jira
- Focused mainly on deep learning side of the state-of-the-art models in NLP
- Designed and tested various NLP architectures for multiple tasks like classification, filtering, and summarization
- Researched about solving instability problems in transfer learning
- Contributed to preparation of annual cyber security report where past data is used, hypotheses are tested with statistical methods, and converted into useful insights

Dogus Technology

Data Science Intern

Istanbul, Turkey

May 2022 – Sep 2022

- Forecasted baseline sale units and conducted explanatory data analysis to compare promotion effectiveness
- Assisted in building a content-based and user-based recommendation system
- Helped create an NLP model for topic classification

ITU Data Science Society

Board Member – R&D Team Lead

Istanbul, Turkey

Aug 2021 – Aug 2023

- Built and led the Datathon Team
- Coordinated more than 30 members
- Organized conferences, speaker events, and community events

SKILLS, ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

Languages: Fluent in English; Native in Turkish

Concepts: Statistical Analysis, Optimization, Data Science / Analysis, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Time Series Analysis, Recommendation Systems, LLMs

Computer Programs / Languages: Python, SQL, MS Office

Frameworks / Libraries / Tools: Numpy, Pandas, Seaborn, Plotly, Scipy, Sklearn, TensorFlow, Keras, Pytorch, Langchain, PySpark, Airflow

Certifications & Training:

- DeepLearning.AI - Generative AI with Large Language Models – Aug 2023
<https://coursera.org/verify/S6PWGDC5A9WW>
- DeepLearning.AI - Machine Learning – Aug 2023
<https://coursera.org/verify/specialization/WYUWDHDX7FHN>

Activities: ITU Theater Club

Interests: Diving, skiing, reading

References:

- Umut Asan - Assoc. Prof. Dr. at ITU – asanu@itu.edu.tr
- Ömer Faruk Beyca - Assoc. Prof. Dr. at ITU - beyca@itu.edu.tr
- Onur Özkan Uzun – Assoc. Manager at Invent Analytics
- Haluk Alper Karaevli - Senior Data Scientist at Invent Analytics