

# Eren Kotar

Istanbul, Turkey

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## EDUCATION

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### **Bogazici University**

*Master of Science in Computer Engineering*

- Machine Learning Specialization

**Istanbul, Turkey**

Sep 2024 - Present

### **Istanbul Technical University**

*Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering*

- **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)

**Istanbul, Turkey**

Sep 2019 - Jan 2024

- **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

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### **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**

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**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](mailto:asanu@itu.edu.tr)
- Ömer Faruk Beyca - Assoc. Prof. Dr. at ITU - [beyca@itu.edu.tr](mailto:beyca@itu.edu.tr)
- Onur Özkan Uzun – Assoc. Manager at Invent Analytics
- Haluk Alper Karaevli - Senior Data Scientist at Invent Analytics