

# KAAN DONBEKCI

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## EDUCATION

Stanford, CA ♦ New York, NY ♦ Istanbul, Turkey

### Stanford University

2016 - Present

B.S. in Symbolic Systems and Biology, expected graduation in June 2020

Concentrations in Artificial Intelligence and Ecology

## COURSEWORK

Convolutional Neural Nets for Visual Recognition	Ecological Dynamics: Theory and Applications
Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Practices	Natural Language Understanding
Computer Organization and Systems	D.media - Design that Matters
Design and Analysis of Algorithms	Psycholinguistics
Machine Learning	Brain Networks

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### The Pervasive Wellbeing Technology Lab

June 2018 - October 2018

*Computer Science Research on Human Computer Interaction*

[GitHub](#) [Lab website](#)

- Performed independent research under Dr. Paredes on effects of display color on stress levels.
- Built Python APIs to simultaneously command IoT devices used across the lab, such as Philips Hue lights, Moodo scent devices and Subpac wearable audio gear, reducing development time for researchers.
- Developed interactive programs with Python to automate n-back task and data collection through Zephyr BioHarness (heart rate, breathing rate, HRV).
- Conducted test studies, producing a final experiment and pilot results over 10 weeks.

### The Gordon Lab

December 2017 - April 2018

*Biology Research on Collective Behavior*

[Lab website](#)

- Worked in Prof. Gordon's lab, deriving insights on collective behavior through investigating the effects of dopamine on ant foraging activity.
- Processed videos with MATLAB to detect ant interactions and movement on natural habitat.
- Manually labeled over 2000 ant interactions from field recordings.
- Presented progress and novel observations of ant behavior in weekly lab meetings.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

### Olympus Learning Algorithm

Feb 2019 - Present

*Computer Science & Biology*

[GitHub](#)

- Developing a novel learning algorithm, driven by my learnings from ecology, computer science, and genetics.
- Implementing Prof. Stanley's NEAT algorithm with additional bio-inspired features, adhering to Object Oriented Programming principles.
- Aiming to minimize the role of architecture design and hyperparameter selection on learning outcomes.

### Decoding the Brain

September 2018 - Present

*Computer Science & Neuroscience*

[GitHub](#)

- Processed and analyzed ~300 GB of brain MRI data
- Extracted regions of interest and parcellated the brain to build a compact and meaningful dataset, reducing disk size by 75%.
- Training 3D convolutional neural networks and linear classifiers to predict visual stimuli from MRI data.

## STRENGTHS

### Languages & Frameworks

Python, Node.js, Javascript, MATLAB, R, C/C++, Java

### Software & Tools

Jupyter, git, LaTeX, Adobe CC

### Skills

Programming, Decision Analysis, Filmmaking ([bit.ly/brokenfilm](https://bit.ly/brokenfilm))