

# Michael Dontas

mixalis.dont@gmail.com | +1 412-639-2483 | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-dontas>

## Education

- 
- 08/2023 – 12/2024     **Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- MS in Computer Science, AI Breadth Area
  - QPA: 3.77
  - Relevant coursework: Introduction to Machine Learning, Deep Learning Systems, Monte Carlo Methods and Applications, Advanced Deep Learning, Probabilistic Graphical Models, Advanced Machine Learning and Game Theory
- 09/2018 – 07/2022     **Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB)**, Athens, Greece
- BA in Management Science and Technology (4-year degree: 240 ECTS)
  - Grade: 9.44/10 (Class Valedictorian)
  - *Major*: Software Technologies & Data Analytics
  - Relevant coursework: Mathematical Programming, Optimization Methods, Stochastic Modelling and Simulation, Applied Machine Learning, Business Intelligence and Big Data Analytics
  - Thesis: *"A reinforcement learning hyper-heuristic for the Capacitated Team Orienteering Problem"*

## Professional and Research Experience

- 
- 05/2024 – 12/2024     **Researcher**, Russ Lab, CMU, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- Advised by Professor Ruslan Salakhutdinov and collaborated with Sony AI group
  - Developed a training-free methodology for blind image restoration based on latent text-to-image diffusion models
  - First-author submission to ICML 2025 under "Blind Inverse Problem Solving Made Easy by Text-to-Image Latent Diffusion"
- 11/2022 – 07/2023     **Military Police Officer**, Hellenic Army, Rhodes, Greece
- Served in the Military Police Force during compulsory military service
  - Conducted road patrols to maintain safety and enforce regulations
  - Accompanied high-priority vehicles to ensure the secure transport of cargo
- 03/2022 – 06/2022     **Data Analyst**, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management, Athens, Greece
- Designed and implemented vessel performance KPIs
  - Developed tools for data quality/security and efficient database management
- 02/2021 – 06/2022     **Research Assistant**, Management Science Lab, AUEB, Greece
- Employed optimization methods to carry out research in transportation problems
  - Developed a hyper-heuristic algorithm for a routing problem, resulted in best performance in literature for 98% of the benchmark instances

## Publications

2025	Michail Dontas, Yutong He, Naoki Murata, Yuki Mitsufuji, J. Zico Kolter, Ruslan Salakhutdinov, <b>“Blind Inverse Problem Solving Made Easy by Text-to-Image Latent Diffusion”</b> ( <i>Submitted to International Conference on Machine Learning 2025</i> )
2023	Dontas, Sideris, Manousakis, Zachariadis, <b>“An adaptive memory matheuristic for the Set Orienteering Problem”</b> ( <i>European Journal of Operations Research</i> )

## Conference Presentations

07/2022	32 <sup>nd</sup> European Conference on Operational Research (EURO 2022), Aalto University, Espoo, Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Title: “An adaptive memory matheuristic for the Set Orienteering Problem”</li></ul>
---------	--

## Skills

Programming	Java, Python, SQL, C/C++, C#, Go
-------------	----------------------------------

## Languages

	<b>Greek:</b> native
2013	<b>English:</b> Michigan State University C2
2013	<b>German:</b> Goethe Zertifikat B2
2015	<b>French:</b> Sorbonne C1
2023	<b>Spanish:</b> DELE C1

## Honors & Awards

2012	<b>Silver Medal in 5<sup>th</sup> International Art Education Design Olympiad SEPTO (Drama Category)</b> , Yamanlar College, Smyrna, Turkey
2012, 2015	<b>Junior and Senior High School Scholarship</b> (full tuition), Rhodes Private College
2018	<b>Graduate of the Year Award</b> , Rhodes Private College
2018	<b>Moving Education Forward Award</b> for exceptional score in the Nationwide University Entrance Examination, Eurobank
2022, 2023	<b>Diligent Student Scholarship</b> , State Scholarships Foundation of Greece (ranked 10 <sup>th</sup> out of 2.032 scholarship recipients and 20.761 applicants)
2023	<b>Syn-Enosis for Education Scholarship</b> (for master’s degree studies), Union of Greek Shipowners
2023	<b>Onassis Scholarship</b> (for master’s degree studies), Onassis Foundation
2023	<b>Leventis Scholarship</b> (for master’s degree studies), The A.G. Leventis Foundation