




Mete Kemertas

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EDUCATION

- **University of Toronto** Toronto, ON
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Computer Science September 2020 - Present
 - GPA: 4.00/4.00. Focus on model-based reinforcement learning and computational optimal transport.
 - Supervisors: Allan D. Jepson, Amir-massoud Farahmand.
- **University of Toronto** Toronto, ON
Master of Science in Applied Computing (MScAC) December 2017
 - GPA: 4.00/4.00. Focus on machine learning and natural language processing.
- **McGill University** Montreal, QC
Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in Electrical Engineering December 2015
 - GPA: 3.58/4.00. Minor degree: Software Engineering
- **Istanbul Technical University** Istanbul, Turkey
Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Electronics and Communication Engineering September 2011 - June 2013
 - GPA: 3.69/4.00 (2nd in a class of 200+). Transferred to McGill University.

EXPERIENCE

- **Samsung AI Research Centre**  Toronto, ON
Machine Learning Researcher (part-time as PhD student) April 2021 - September 2022
Staff I Machine Learning Research Engineer March 2020 - September 2020
Senior Machine Learning Engineer May 2018 - March 2020
 - Led research efforts in multimodal deep learning (vision-language integration) resulting in one of the new lab's earliest top-tier AI conference publications (as first-author at CVPR), multiple other peer-reviewed publications, and 5 [patents](#) (4 granted, 1 pending).
 - Proposed and delivered research demos to senior executives under tight deadlines, leading to several spin-off projects and influencing lab-wide strategy; one demo directly initiated a cross-organizational integration effort to deploy AI research into a consumer product used by ≈ 1 billion users.
 - Invited to represent the lab at a global research gathering at Seoul, Korea, delivering a talk to senior scientists and executives.
 - Worked hands-on with early LLMs (BERT) and generative models (GANs), contributing to the lab's early exploration of foundational AI models.
- **TealBook**  Toronto, ON
Machine Learning Engineer May 2017 - May 2018
 - As the first ML engineer, built an ML-enabled data pipeline for filtering and cleaning up large-scale web crawls, generating a supplier database that exceeded prior data volume by orders of magnitude.
 - Reduced annual data licensing costs by over 100,000 USD by replacing external (3rd party) data.
 - Proposed, implemented and deployed a recommendation engine for supplier discovery from scratch, which enabled the startup's repositioning as an AI-first company.
 - Delivered product webinars to procurement executives on the supplier recommendation engine's value, generating several B2B sales leads and boosting adoption.
- **Ormuko**  Montreal, QC
Software Developer (Backend) May 2016 - September 2016
 - Reduced latency and improved user experience by optimizing database queries and redesigning the caching system on the server side.
 - Developed the back-end of a notification and messaging system.
- **Ericsson**  Montreal, QC
Software Development Intern May 2015 - September 2015
 - Participated in the development of a global-scale messaging product.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

C=CONFERENCE, J=JOURNAL, P=PATENT, S=IN SUBMISSION, W=WORKSHOP

- [C.1] M. Kemertas, A-m. Farahmand, A.D. Jepson. **"A truncated Newton method for optimal transport."** *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025.
- [C.2] A. Rakhsha, M. Kemertas, M. Ghavamzadeh, A-m. Farahmand. **"Maximum entropy model correction in reinforcement learning."** *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2024.
- [S.1] M. Kemertas, A.D. Jepson, A-m. Farahmand. **"Efficient and accurate optimal transport with mirror descent and conjugate gradients."** *Preprint under review*, 2023.
- [J.1] M. Kemertas, A.D. Jepson. **"Approximate policy iteration with bisimulation metrics."** *Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)*, 2022.
- [C.3] M. Kemertas, T. Aumentado-Armstrong (equal contribution). **"Towards robust bisimulation metric learning."** *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2021.
- [C.4] M. Kemertas, L. Pishdad, K. Derpanis, and A. Fazly. **"RankMI: A mutual information maximizing ranking loss."** *Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2020.



PATENTS

- [P.1] Z. Hu, L. Xiao, M. Kemertas, C.R. Phillips, I. Mohomed, A. Fazly. **Method of processing multimodal retrieval tasks, and an apparatus for the same.** USPTO, Patent No. 20230237089A1. Application: 2023-01 (Pending).
- [P.2] M. Kemertas. **Coarse-to-fine multimodal gallery search system with attention-based neural network models.** USPTO, Patent No. 11645323. Application: 2020-10, Grant: 2023-05.
- [P.3] M. Kemertas, L. Pishdad, K. Derpanis, A. Fazly. **Apparatus for deep representation learning and method thereof.** USPTO, Patent No. 11580392. Application: 2020-02, Grant: 2023-02.
- [P.4] A.D. Jepson, A. Levinshtein, M. Kemertas, H. Zhang, H. R. Kaviani. **Method and apparatus for data anonymization.** USPTO, Patent No. 11430088. Application: 2019-12, Grant: 2022-08.
- [P.5] T. Capes, I. Mohomed, V. Raheja, M. Kemertas. **System and method for dynamic scheduling of distributed deep learning training jobs.** USPTO, Patent No. 11693706. Application: 2019-11, Grant: 2023-07.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- [J.2] Z. Hu, M. Kemertas, L. Xiao, C. Phillips, I. Mohomed, A. Fazly. **"Realizing efficient on-device language-based image retrieval."** *ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications*, 2024.
- [C.5] Z. Hu*, L. Xiao*, M. Kemertas*, C. Phillips, I. Mohomed, A. Fazly (*equal contribution). **"CrispSearch: low-latency on-device language-based image retrieval."** *ACM Multimedia Systems Conference*, 2022.
- [C.6] Á. Kádár, L. Xiao, M. Kemertas, F. Fancellu, A. Jepson and A. Fazly. **"Dependency parsing with structure preserving embeddings."** *Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)*, 2021.
- [W.1] T. Capes, V. Raheja, M. Kemertas, and I. Mohomed. **"Dynamic scheduling of MPI-based distributed deep learning training jobs."** *MLSys Workshop at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2018.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **NSERC CGS D Scholarship** May 2022
National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) 
 - Doctoral scholarship for \$120,000 awarded to highest-scoring PGS D applicants.
- **Vector Research Grant** 2023, 2024
Vector Institute
 - A \$6,000 grant awarded to graduate students affiliated with the Vector Institute.
- **MITACS Accelerate Grant** May 2017
Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS) 
 - Awarded funding (\$30,000) for an 8-month applied research project.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Research Community Service**
 - Served as a referee for major AI conferences: ICLR '25, ICML '23, ICLR '23, NeurIPS '22, ICML '22, CVPR '22.
- **Programming Languages**
 - Expert: Python
 - Proficient: Java, C, C++, C#
 - Prior experience: JavaScript, Swift, MATLAB, R