Nikolaos Gkanatsios

Education

2020 - Carnegie Mellon University, Robotics Institute, PhD Student.

Present O Advisor: Katerina Fragkiadaki, Assistant Professor, MLD, CMU

Research on Continual Learning for Vision and Robotics

2011 – 2017 National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), ECE, B.Sc/M.Sc. (5-year diploma).

- o GPA 9.22/10, 9th among 328 in class, 1st in Electronics and Systems major
- Thesis on "Multimodal Classification and Segmentation of Fine-Grained Activities in Videos"
- Thesis supervisor: Petros Maragos, Professor, ECE, NTUA

2008 – 2011 3rd Lyceum of New Heraklion, Attika, General Lyceum Graduation.

- General Graduation Grade 19.7/20
- o General Panhellenic Examinations Grade 19.24/20, top 1% nationwide

Research Collaborations with non-Academic Institutions

Jan 2022 - Microsoft Turing Academic Program (MS-TAP).

Jun 2023 o CMU-MSTAP project "Learning instructible visuo-motor agents through multimodal interactive teaching"

Dec 2021 - Amazon Alexa Prize SimBot Challenge.

Apr 2023 O Developed an embodied conversational agent as member of the CMU team Symbiote.

Research Collaborations with Academic Institutions

Nov 2019 - Stanford University, Leonidas Guibas Lab, Stanford, CA, USA, (remotely).

Jan 2020 and Oworked with Panos Achlioptas on fine-grained language grounding and shape deformation.

Recommendation can be provided by Panos. Apr – Jun

2020

Dec 2019 - TU Darmstadt, Intelligent Autonomous Systems Group, Germany, (remotely).

Feb 2020 • Worked with Dr. Georgia Chalvatzaki on improving tensor representations for grasping point detection. Recommendation can be provided by Georgia.

Aug 2018 - Computer Vision and Signal Processing Lab, NTUA, Athens, Greece.

Aug 2020 o Research on high-level semantic image representation, with application to scene graph generation, in collaboration with Deeplab.

Industrial Research Experience

Aug 2018 - **Deeplab**, *Machine Learning Engineer*, Athens.

Jul 2020 • Research on scene graph generation, in collaboration with Prof. Maragos' lab at NTUA.

- o Built an interactive demo of scene graph generation on videos.
- Developed the backend of this webpage for real-time inference of visual relationships on wild images.
- Mar 2017 METIS Cybertechnology S.A., Artificial Intelligence Engineer, Athens.

Jul 2018 O Designed and developed the whole natural language processing pipeline behind METIS's textbot.

Developed several applications and APIs for METIS's products.

Publications

- 2024 3D Diffuser Actor: Multi-task 3D Robot Manipulation with Iterative Error Feedback, In
- 2024 **ODIN: A Single Model for 2D and 3D Perception**, *In submission*.
- 2024 Diffusion-ES: Generative Evolutionary Search with Diffusion Models for Trajectory Optimization, In submission.

- 2023 Analogy-Forming Transformers for Few-Shot 3D Parsing. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>*, Singh M.*, Fang Z., Tulsiani S., Fragkiadaki K., *International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2023.* PDF Website
- 2023 Energy-based Models are Zero-Shot Planners for Compositional Scene Rearrangement. Gkanatsios N.*, Jain A*, Zhou X., Zhang Y., Atkeson C., Fragkiadaki K., Robotics Science and Systems, RSS 2023. PDF Website
- 2023 Unifying Diffusion Models with Action Detection Transformers for Multi-task Robotic Manipulation. Zhou X.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>*, Gervet T.*, Fragkiadaki K., *Conference on Robot Learning, CoRL 2023.* PDF Website
- 2023 **Act3D: Infinite Resolution Action Detection Transformer for Robot Manipulation**. Gervet T.*, Zhou X.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Fragkiadaki K., *Conference on Robot Learning, CoRL 2023.* PDF Website
- 2022 Bottom Up Top Down Detection Transformers for Language Grounding in Images and Point Clouds. Jain A.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>*, Mediratta I., Fragkiadaki K., *European Conference on Computer Vision, ECCV 2022.* PDF Code
- 2021 Grounding Consistency: Distilling Spatial Common Sense for Precise Visual Relationship Detection. Diomataris M., Gkanatsios N., Pitsikalis V., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision, ICCV 2021.* PDF Code
- 2020 From Saturation to Zero-Shot Visual Relationship Detection Using Local Context.

 <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Maragos P., *BMVA British Machine Vision Conference, BMVC 2020.*PDF Code
- 2020 Revisiting Grasp Map Representation with a Focus on Orientation in Grasp Synthesis.

 <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Chalvatzaki G., Maragos P., Peters J., *Visual Learning and Reasoning for Robotic Manipulation, RSS Workshop.* PDF Code
- 2019 Attention-Translation-Relation Network for Scalable Scene Graph Generation. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Koutras P., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision Workshops, ICCVW 2019.* PDF Code
- 2019 Showcasing Deeply Supervised Multimodal Attentional Translation Embeddings: A Demo for Visual Relationship Detection. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Koutras P., Zlatintsi A., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, ICIP 2019.* Paper Demo
- 2019 Deeply Supervised Multimodal Attentional Translation Embeddings for Visual Relationship Detection. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Koutras P., Zlatintsi A., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, ICIP 2019.* PDF Code
- 2018 Metis: A Scalable Natural-Language-Based Intelligent Personal Assistant for Maritime Services. Gkanatsios N., Mermikli K., Katsikas S., 24th International Conference on Information and Software Technologies (ICIST 2018). Paper
 - Talks / Oral Presentations
- July 2023 **RSS 2023**, Daegu, South Korea: oral presentation of the paper "Energy-based Models are Zero-Shot Planners for Compositional Scene Rearrangement".
- Sep 2019 **ICIP 2019**, Taipei, Taiwan: oral presentation of the paper "Deeply Supervised Multimodal Attentional Translation Embeddings for Visual Relationship Detection".
- Oct 2018 ICIST 2018, Vilnius, Lithuania: oral presentation of the paper "Metis: A Scalable Natural-Language-Based Intelligent Personal Assistant for Maritime Services".
- Jun 2018 **VOXXEDDAYS Athens**, Greece: A Scalable Maritime Platform Providing Services Through an NLP-Based Intelligent Personal Assistant
 - Teaching Experience
- Jan 2023 **CMU 16-726 Teaching Assistant**, Pittsburgh.
- May 2023 Learning-based Image Synthesis, with Prof. Jun-Yan Zhu.

- Sep 2022 CMU 16-824 Teaching Assistant, Pittsburgh.
 - Dec 2022 Visual Learning and Recognition, with Prof. Jun-Yan Zhu.
- Sep 2019 CVSP Teaching Assistant, Athens.
- Sep 2020 I co-supervised an undergraduate student's diploma thesis on visual relationship detection, together with Prof. Petros Maragos.

Honors and Awards

- 2018 **Georgios Kontaxis Award** for being the 1st in 2017 class in Electronics and Systems major, ECE NTUA.
- 2018 **Christos Chalkias Award** for being the 1st in 2017 class in Electronics and Systems major, ECE NTUA.
- 2017 **EESTECH Challenge Athens 1st Prize** for winning the Machine Learning Hackathon, hold by EESTEC Athens and ECE NTUA.
- 2012 **Hellenic Physical Society** Award for making the top 10 in the final round of the Panhellenic Physics Competition for high-school students on a nationwide level.
- 2010 2011 Awards from Hellenic Police for excellence in high-school classes.

Research Interests

Computer Vision, Robotics, Natural Language Processing, Embodied Al Continual Learning, In-context Learning

Programming

(Experienced) Python, Matlab / (Basic) C, Javascript (NodeJS), SQL / PyTorch

Languages

Greek (Native), English (Michigan Certificate of Proficiency in English), French (Delf B1)

Personal

Basketball, drums (self-taught), bass guitar (self-taught), ancient Greek literature, music transcription, Greek folk dancing.