# OZAN YILDIZ

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see for publications

## Education

09/2017-present PhD candidate, Computer Science, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, CGPA: 5.42/6.0.

09/2015-08/2017 MSc Computer Engineering, METU, Ankara, Turkey, CGPA:4.0/4.0.

09/2012-06/2015 BSc, Computer Engineering (double major), METU, Ankara, Turkey, CGPA:3.79/4.0.

09/2011-06/2015 **BSc, Mathematics**, *METU*, Ankara, Turkey, CGPA:3.82/4.0 (Ranking:1/64).

# Experience

# Research and teaching experience

09/2017-present Doctoral Assistant, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland.

- Formulated a new geodesically convex formulation for Brascamp-Lieb constant (a computational problem in ToC without no known true polynomial time algorithm, with applications to machine learning and information theory)
- $\circ\,$  Helped with the preparation of an expository article on geodesic convexity
- Showed applicability of box-constrained Newton's method to computation of the maximum entropy distribution
- Held exercise hours as a TA for Theory of computation and Analysis III courses

09/2015-08/2017 Research Assistant, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey.

- Modeled and applied standard machine learning techniques (linear classifiers, KNN, SVM) and deep learning techniques to temporal fMRI measurements to predict cognitive states of the person
- Analyzed a neural-network model that avoids matrix-vector multiplication, showed they are universal approximators and analyzed their trainability using SGD variants
- Designed and administered take home exams and lab exams as a TA for Algorithms, Computer organization, Intro. to OS, Intro. to embedded systems, Intro. to AI, and Fundamentals of image processing courses

2011-2017 **Tutor**, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Turkey.

 Held problem solving sessions and designed exercise questions for high school students to prepare them for National and International Mathematics Olympiads

#### Internship

06/2014-08/2014 Software engineering intern, Computer vision lab, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.

- Collected images from Flickr and computed their tiny images, GIST descriptors and hidden layer representations on R-CNN with caffe
- o Implemented similar image retrieval system from dataset and compare effectiveness of different features
- o Analyzed effectiveness of different methods for pruning object detection
- o Technologies used: Bash, Matlab

06/2013-08/2013 Software engineering intern, Kovan Research Lab, METU, Ankara, Turkey.

- Developed a prototype of what you see is what you get (WYSIWYG) LATEXweb interface for internal use
- o The interface supported graphic upload, basic font manipulation, and graphical equation input interface
- o Technologies used: Python/Django, Javascript, HTML, CSS

## **Professional Services**

2014 Coordinator, European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO), Antalya, Turkey.

- Formulated alternative solutions to official solution
- Designed marking scheme for individual solutions
- o Graded participants' solutions (written in their language of preference) according to marking schemes
- Negotiated grades with the team leaders and their observers
- 2013 Coordinator, Junior Balkan Mathematical Olympiad (JBMO), Antalya, Turkey.
- 2012 Coordinator,  $29^{th}$  Balkan Mathematical Olympiad, Antalya, Turkey.

# Skills

Programming Advanced: C, Python (Theano, Numpy, Scipy, Sklearn, Django, Pandas)

Familiar:C++(CUDA), Matlab, PIC assembly, Bash

Languages Turkish (Native speaker), English (TOEFL: 110)

# Honors and Fellowships

2017-2018 EDIC Fellowship, EPFL, Switzerland

2015-2017 National scholarship for master students, TÜBİTAK, Turkey.

2011-2015 Outstanding Success Scholarship, Türk Eğitim Vakfı (TEV), Turkey.

2011-2015 National scholarship for undergraduate students, TÜBİTAK, Turkey.

2010 Bronze medalist, International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), Kazakhstan.