OZAN YILDIZ

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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.

- o 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)
- o Helped with the preparation of an expository article on geodesic convexity
- o 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.

- o 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
- o 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.

- o 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
- 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) web 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)

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

Languages Turkish (Native speaker), English (TOEFL: 106)

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.