

Rıza Özçelik

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Employment

- 06.2021 – 12.2021: **Research Intern**, IBM Research, Zurich
 - Selected for the highly competitive (~10% acceptance rate after pre-selection) Great Minds Internship Program at IBM Research - Zurich.
 - Participated in ongoing natural language processing research projects. Further information available under confidentiality agreement.
- 02.2019 – 10.2019: **Research & Teaching Assistant**, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.
 - Led and participated in research studies on **machine learning**, **computational drug discovery**, **Turkish natural language processing**, and **biological text mining**. The studies resulted in novel machine learning approaches for binding affinity prediction, first large-scale Turkish NLI data sets and representations, and an online search engine for COVID-19. The results are **published in top-tier conferences**;
 - Significantly contributed to an accepted **research grant proposal** on computational drug discovery to The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK; ≈ 10% acceptance rate);
 - Instructed problem sessions with authentic material, coordinated undergraduate teaching assistants, designed and graded assignments/term projects, and organized engaging and fun events (meme contests, coding parties, and movie-themed assignments) in several courses. The students were delighted: **they donated 125 saplings** on behalf of the teaching staff and over 15% of them included the phrase **best TA ever** in their verbal feedback.
- 12.2018–6.2019: **Research Assistant**, TUBITAK, Istanbul.
 - Designed and developed web applications that enabled smooth traversal of Turkish WordNet (KeNet), and demonstrated an **open-source** Turkish NLP library – nlptoolkit, in a team;
 - **Published and presented** the web applications in Turkish NLP oriented conferences;
 - Contributed to documentation of **open-source** Turkish WordNet and nlptoolkit repositories.
- 7.2018–12.2018: **Data Scientist**, ING Turkey, Istanbul.
 - **Formulated autonomous branch cash management system development** as a prediction problem in a large and interdisciplinary environment;
 - Prepared and presented insightful data analysis reports and used the results to **implement time-series clustering models**.
- 9.2015–6.2018: **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.
 - Designed and graded assignments **joyfully received by students**. Instructed additional sessions and established one-to-one communication channels to help students in Introduction to Programming, Data Structures & Algorithms and Machine Learning courses.

Education

- 03.2022– : Ph.D. *Biomedical Engineering*, Technology University of Eindhoven, Netherlands.
- 2018–2021: **M.Sc.**, *Computer Engineering*, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.
GPA: 3.94/4.00. Thesis: Drug-only Representations for Drug - Target Affinity Prediction
- 2014–2018: **B.Sc.**, *Computer Engineering*, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.
GPA: 3.57/4.00 (High Honor). Thesis: Disease Classification based on Genomic Data with Machine Learning

Publications

- **Özçelik, Rıza**, Alperen Bağ, Berk Atıl, Arzucan Özgür, and Elif Özkırmı. "DebiasedDTA: Model Debiasing to Boost Drug-Target Affinity Prediction." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2107.05556*, 2021.
- **Özçelik, Rıza**, Hakime Öztürk, Arzucan Özgür, and Elif Ozkirimli. "ChemBoost: A chemical language based approach for the prediction of protein - ligand binding affinity." *Mol. Inf.*. Accepted Author Manuscript. 2020.
- Budur, Emrah, **Rıza Özçelik**, Tunga Güngör, and Christopher Potts. "Data and Representation for Turkish Language Inference." *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, Pages 8253-8267, 2020.
- Köksal, Abdullatif, Hilal Dönmez, **Rıza Özçelik**, Elif Ozkirimli, and Arzucan Özgür. "Vapur: A Search Engine to Find Related Protein-Compound Pairs in COVID-19 Literature." *Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on NLP for COVID-19 (Part 2) at EMNLP 2020*.
- **Özçelik, Rıza**, Gökçe Uludogan, Selen Parlar, Özge Bakay, Özlem Ergelen and Olcay Taner Yıldız. "User Interface for Turkish Word Network KeNet." *Signal Processing Applications*, 2019.
- Uludoğan, Gökçe, **Rıza Özçelik**, Selen Parlar, Gökhan Ercan and Olcay Taner Yıldız. "User Interfaces for Turkish Natural Language Processing." *Signal Processing Applications*, 2019.
- Ercan, Gökhan, Orçun Erkek, Onur Açıkgöz, **Rıza Özçelik**, Selen Parlar and Olcay Taner Yıldız. "Data Set Generation for Analysing of Turkish Semantic and Sentence Similarity." *2018 3rd International Conference on Computer Science and Engineering (UBMK)*, Pages 347-351, 2018.

Talks & Presentations

- Gave two talks (15 mins each) on ChemBoost and DebiasedDTA at ISMB 2021. Also presented the works as poster;
- Presented DebiasedDTA as a poster at UKQSAR September 2021 meeting;
- Presented ChemBoost as a talk (15 mins) and poster in HIBIT 2020;
- Co-presented (30 mins) our work on Turkish Natural Language Inference as an invited talk at Kodluyoruz event (2020).

Scholarships & Honors

- My mentees received Ismail Arı Best Undergraduate Thesis Award for their contributions to DebiasedDTA;
- Received The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) **graduate student scholarship** at 2019, which was awarded top-performing and promising graduate students in Turkey;
- Named as a **high honor graduate** of the Dept. of Computer Engineering, Boğaziçi University due to high performance in classes (2018);
- Received **multiple undergraduate scholarships** for 5 years from Financial Aid Office of Boğaziçi University and Youth Ministry of Turkish Republic for high performance in the coursework (2013-2018).

Additional Academic Activities

- Accepted to ACL mentorship program, 2021;
- Reviewer for Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal;
- **Writer** in Medium. (Username: rizaoczelik);
- Co-reviewer for **PLOS One** (2020) and **ISMB2021**;
- Reviewer in *Signal Processing Applications (SIU)*, **2019 & 2020**; *Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing (RANLP)*, **2019**; *BioNLP-OST 2019*, (EMNLP-IJCNLP).

References

Available upon request.