

Selin Yildirim

PHD STUDENT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Summary

Rising 4th year PhD student in Computer Science with a passion in producing impactful academic works at the intersection of High Performance Computing and Generative AI. Taking a role in a brilliant academic research group where cutting-edge innovations and team collaboration are basic priorities. An excellent communicator and team player with the ability to meet deadlines and quickly resolve problems.

Experience

- RESEARCH SCHOLAR - GENAI

INSTITUTION: ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES

San Jose, California, USA

05/2025 - Current

Speculative Decoding for Image Generation: Exploring accelerated image generation on continuous and discretized image token domains with novel, fast and efficient speculative decoding algorithms.

- RESEARCH INTERN - GENAI

INSTITUTION: NVIDIA

Remote

08/2024 - 12/2024

Towards Memory-Efficient Decoding on Constrained GPUs: Developed an hardware-aware, memory-efficient and fast speculative decoding approach that leverages training-free tree pruning techniques on tree-based speculative decoding, specifically for inferencing on constrained GPUs. [SpecMemo: Speculative Decoding is in Your Pocket.](#)

- DEEP LEARNING PERFORMANCE INFERENCE INTERN

INSTITUTION: NVIDIA

Santa Clara, California, USA

05/2024 - 08/24

TensorRT-WinAI Helped Nvidia develop smarter deep learning compiler algorithms within TensorRT inference framework. Built an extraordinary network of fellow researchers and engineers. Worked on a novel training-free KV cache compression algorithm for LLMs.

- GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Coordinated Science Laboratory

INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Champaign, IL, USA

05/2023 - Current

Faster Decoding: Improving sparsity in the speculative heads of [Medusa](#) to make inference faster and more efficient : [Paper](#).

GPU Concurrency: Provided a resource efficient framework for deploying mixed deep learning workloads on NVIDIA GPUs where full isolation of GPU resources are provided to cloud multi-tenants. Working hands-on with hypervisors, Nvidia MPS, Nvidia MIG, CUDA, Kubernetes and Docker.

- GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Parasol Laboratory

INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Champaign, IL, USA

08/2022 - 05/2023

Exoplanet: Achieved remarkable speedups for the scientific code in Exoplanet Project on distributed GPUs, funded by NASA. Worked on parallel graph traversal problems such as bottom-up BFS with direction optimization and finding dynamic scheduling strategies of threads and data distribution, as well as investigating different data decomposition techniques for memory bound problems.

- UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

INSTITUTION: DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING, MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Ankara, TURKEY

10/2021 - 08/2022

Job Description: SIAM AN'24 contributed talk on paper:

[PARS3: Parallel Sparse Skew-Symmetric Matrix-Vector Multiplication with Reverse Cuthill-McKee Reordering](#), where sparsity in Skew-Symmetric Sparse Matrix-Vector Multiplication problem is address efficiently. This paper has been ranked the 2nd in the undergraduate research competition at Middle East Technical University.

- HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING TRAINEE, ERASMUS+ TRAINEESHIP

INSTITUTION: HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING STUTTGART (HLRS), UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART

Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg,

GERMANY

07/2021 - 10/2021

Job Description: Worked on European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program project, namely [ExaHyPE](#), which aims to forecast and simulate possible natural disasters to minimize the damage by better predicting them. Worked with the SPMT Team, to optimize intermediate I/O operations in the kernel by using parallel programming skills. Developed parallel Sieve of Eratosthenes Prime Finder Algorithm with Intel TBB. Asynchronous Tasks Optimization on I/O Operations of ExaHyPE's Compressible Navier-Stokes Example.

- COMPUTER VISION, C++ DEVELOPER

COMPANY: ARGOS AI, MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TECHNOPARK

Ankara, TURKEY

10/2020 - 3/2021

Job Description: C++ developments to control airport cameras and capture point of views, then by processing those images for foreign object detection to keep runways and aprons of airports safe for upcoming flights. Worked on isolation of a microservice from a big monolith C++ project, which controls a remote Pan-Tilt Unit and a Vimba camera, then automated the microservice by deploying it on a gRPC server.

- MACHINE LEARNING INTERN

COMPANY: OTSIMO, MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TECHNOPARK

Ankara, TURKEY

06/2020-10/2020

Job Description: Worked on Speech Recognition neural network whose development is inspired by Apple Siri's algorithm, on remote computing platforms and performed data analysis using Big Query on Google Cloud. Training and testing ML models, supervised learning, adopting accuracy/loss calculations to trainings; implementing CLI for admin web interface using Golang.

Skill Set

Advanced Parallel Programming & GPU Performance Optimizations: Expertise in hand-written CUDA kernels, MPI, OpenMP, STAPL, Intel TBB for high-performance computing.

Generative AI & Machine Learning: In-depth experience with deep learning frameworks and LLM performance. Optimization of Transformers architecture and attention layers to reduce decoding latency and memory overhead.

Systems Architecture & Compiler Engineering: Proficient in C++, Python, Java, Assembly, ANSI C, Golang, Haskell, Prolog, with a focus on performance-critical applications. Skilled in compiler construction, LLVM, TensorRT and TensorRT-LLM for efficient model execution and deployment. Advanced understanding of computer organization, instruction sets, and low-level architecture (X86, Y86) optimization.

System Performance Analysis & Tuning: Experience with Nsight Systems, Compute, and nvidia-smi for in-depth performance profiling and tuning. Strong background in low-level instruction cycle analysis and performance improvements in C/C++ environments.

Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

IL, USA

2022 - Current

Compiler, Architecture and Parallel Computing research track. **GPA:3.9**

Middle East Technical University

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ankara, TURKEY

2017 - 2022

Top ranked CS department with the highest research output in Turkey. Top-interests were Parallel Programming, Guided Research, Computer Architecture, Operating Systems and Quantum Computing.

Publications and Conferences

07/19/2024	SIAM'24 , <i>Contributed talk, PARS3: Parallel Sparse Skew-Symmetric Matrix-Vector Multiplication with Reverse Cuthill-McKee Reordering</i>	Washington, USA
09/2021	Euro MPI 2021 , Attended as an audience guest of HLRS to one of the most important conferences in High Performance Computing in Europe, Euro MPI, which hosts a professional international committee and is conducted by Leibniz Supercomputing Centre of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Germany.	Munich, Germany

Projects

10/2021 - 07/2022	Wanderlust , Senior project for the Computer Engineering Design Course, CENG491/2. Wanderlust is a mobile application planning holistic touristic trips for people. It has a new multi-variate Traveling Salesman algorithm. In the core, AI-based combinatorics algorithm tries to calculate the maximum satisfaction all-inclusive path, considering user inputs, accommodation preferences, transportation tickets, time, and the city characteristics that might affect derived satisfaction.	Department of Computer Engineering, METU
07/2021	Parallel Finding Prime Numbers , Conducted as a summer internship project, <i>Parallel Finding Primes</i> . Deployed on Slurm HPC platform in C++ and MPI. Researched optimization methods on Sieve Algorithm of Eratosthenes and tried to implement methods proposed in <i>Parallel Prime Sieve: Finding Prime Numbers</i> and analyzed performance.	Department of Computer Engineering, METU

Certifications

10/2020	Machine Learning by Andrew NG, Stanford University, Grade:98.82/100 , <i>Certificate Credentials</i>	Coursera
09/2020	Problem Solving , <i>Certificate Credentials</i>	Hackerrank
09/2020	C++ , <i>Certificate Credentials</i>	Hackerrank
09/2020	Intermediate C , <i>Certificate Credentials</i>	Hackerrank
11/2019	Extracurricular : Work and Travel Exchange Program , Photographer and Sales Assistant , <i>Certificate Credentials</i>	Maryland, the USA

Achievements

UNIVERSITY

07/2022	Second Best Research Award , Guided Research, Department of Computer Engineering, Middle East Technical University	Ankara, TURKEY
2022-2023	Departmental Fellowship , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	IL, USA
2017-2022	Non-refundable Grant Award for Skillful Undergraduate Students , <i>Sema Yazar Youth Foundation</i>	Ankara, TURKEY
5x	Placed in High Honor Students Roll , Middle East Technical University	Ankara, TURKEY

EXAMS

2017	Top 0.05% among 2.162.895 participants , National University Entrance Exam (LYS)	Turkey
2013	Top 0.1% among 1.112.604 participants , National High School Entrance Examination (SBS)	Turkey

Languages

English	IELTS: 7.5 (C1) , European Online Linguistic Support: C1
German	A2
Latin	A1
Turkish	Native Language