

Bengier Ülgen Kılıç

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Education

- **Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics** (2023)
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (SUNY), New York, USA
- **B.S. in Mathematics** (2017)
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

Work Experience

- **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** 2023-
Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic, OH, USA
- **Graduate Research Assistant** 2019-2023
University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY, USA
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** 2017-2022
University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY, USA
- **Adjunct Instructor** 2019, 2020
University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY, USA

Publications

- **Kilic, B. Ü.**, Muldoon, S., Skeleton coupling: a novel interlayer mapping of community evolution in temporal networks, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.10860>, 2023.
- **Kilic, B. Ü.**, Taylor, D. Simplicial cascades are orchestrated by the multidimensional geometry of neuronal complexes. Communications Physics 5, 278 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42005-022-01062-3>.

Talks & Poster Presentations

- Boston University, Dynamical Systems Seminar ([BU-DSS](#)) 2022
(**Seminar Talk**) Thresholding and multi-body interactions orient cascades in spatially embedded networks.
- Contagion on Complex Social Systems ([CCSS](#)) 2022
(**Contributed Talk**) A simplicial threshold model for higher-order cascades.
- Network Science Society ([Netsci2022](#)) 2022
(**C. T.**) Simplicial cascades are orchestrated by the multidimensional geometry of neuronal complexes.
- Northeastern Regional Conference on Complex Systems ([NERCCS](#)) 2022
(**C. T.**) Simplicial cascades are orchestrated by the multidimensional geometry of neuronal complexes.
- [Networks2021](#), A joint Sunbelt and NetSci conference 2021
(**C. T.**) Higher-order flow channels of neuronal avalanches uncovered by topological data analysis of simplicial contagions.
- Northeastern Regional Conference on Complex Systems ([NERCCS](#)) 2021
(**C. T.**) Characterization of communities in dynamic functional networks.
(**C. T.**) Geometrical/topological data analyses reveal higher-order flow structures provide flow channels for neuronal avalanches.
- Northeastern Regional Conference on Complex Systems ([NERCCS](#)) 2019
(**C. T.**) Biomedical image processing via persistent homology.
- Northeastern Regional Conference on Complex Systems ([NERCCS](#)) 2022
(**Poster**) Skeleton coupling: novel method for choosing interlayer edges in temporal networks for dynamic community detection.
- Dynamics Days ([DD](#)) 2022
(**Poster**) Cascades over simplicial complexes preferably follow geometrically reinforced channels.
- Society for Neuroscience ([SFN](#)) 2019
(**Poster**) Cell detection and segmentation via persistent homology.

Professional Development

- Mathematical Approaches for Connectome Analysis workshop, [IPAM](#) 2024
- Neuromatch Academy Deep Learning summer workshop ([NMA-DL](#)) 2021
- Topological insights in Neuroscience ([MSRI](#)) 2021
- [TopoNets](#), Networks beyond pairwise interactions, Satellite @ Networks 2021 2021
- Biology, Analysis, Geometry, Energies, Links ([bagel19](#)), IMA 2019

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

- Obtained lodging funding from [IPAM](#) (\$1500) 2024
- Secured a funding from [CIMPA-AESIM](#) for the organization of DRP-Turkey (\$4000) 2023
- Obtained travel and lodging grant from University of Colorado at Boulder (\$1000), [CCSS](#). 2022
- Rewarded by honorable mention of the best poster award, [NERCCS](#). 2022
- Obtained travel and lodging grant from The Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications (\$750), [IMA](#). 2019
- Contributed to the project ‘Seizure control through state-specific manipulation of cell assemblies’ (NSF SMA-1734795).

Reviews of Journal Papers

- Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience
- Frontiers in Physics
- Frontiers in Big Data

Projects

[Donu-TDA](#): Unsupervised software for Donut-like Object segmeNtation Utilizing Topological Data Analysis

- Built a novel computer vision pipeline employing topological data analysis, raising accuracy by 5% and achieving highest score among 1,500 entries in KAGGLE’s 2018 Data Science Bowl Cell Segmentation competition.
- Integrated a graphical user interface (GUI) for laboratory workflow using tkinter library in Python to correlate analysis results & automation processes, streamlining workflow by 15%.

[Temporal network analysis](#): A novel interlayer mapping of community evolution in temporal networks

- Enhanced scalability and accuracy of dynamic community detection through developing an algorithm, ‘skeleton coupling’ which utilizes data-driven interlayer edge selection, resulting in 20% enhancement of graph clustering accuracy.
- Compiled an open-source application programming interface (API) using ReadtheDocs library in Python for 5 dynamic community detection algorithms utilizing skeleton coupling algorithm improving user experience by 25%.

[Neuronal cascades](#): Computational framework for modeling neuronal dynamics on coupled network systems

- Developed an agent-based model on spatially embedded networks of over 1000 nodes, simulating 100s of diffusion processes via computational methods to replicate real-world events, validating accuracy with 97% correlation rate.
- Provided an open-source codebase in Cython based on provided model to facilitate quantitative research with a well-documented API enabling 40% faster runtime and simplifying code access process by 50%.

Software Expertise

- Python (Numpy, scikit-learn, NetworkX, PyTorch, Tensorflow, PySpark, Pandas, matplotlib, Plotly, ReadTheDocs, Nilearn), SQL, Cython, Matlab (Brainstorm), SLURM, \LaTeX , Illustrator, MS Office, Github.

Skills

- **Machine learning:** Regression, Clustering, Decision trees, Classification, Dynamic community detection, Dimensional reduction, Network analysis, Time-series analysis, Topological data analysis, Signal-frequency analysis.
- **Neural networks:** Deep Learning, Image Recognition (CNNs), Natural Language Processing (RNNs).
- **High performance computing:** Distributed computing, Parallel computing, Resilient distributed datasets (RDDs)

Leadership and Organization

- Organizer of Directed Reading Program - Turkey ([DRP-Turkey](#)) 2022,2023

Volunteer activity

- Project mentor for ‘*Critical Thresholds for Epidemics on Networks*’ – ([Directed Reading Program, Turkey](#)) 2023
- Project mentor for ‘*Mathematics of deep learning*’ – ([Directed Reading Program, Turkey](#)) 2022
- Project mentor for ‘*Network analysis for real-world applications*’ – ([UB, Directed Reading Program](#)) 2022
- Project mentor for ‘*Graph theoretical analysis of brain networks*’ – ([Directed Reading Program, Turkey](#)) 2021

Languages

- Turkish (Native)
- English (Fluent)
- Greek (Elementary)

References

- **Dane Taylor** (PhD Co-Advisor, danet@buffalo.edu)
Assistant Professor, School of Computing, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Wyoming
- **Sarah Muldoon** (PhD Co-Advisor, smuldoon@buffalo.edu)
Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Computational and Data-Enabled Sciences and Engineering Program and Neuroscience Program, University at Buffalo, SUNY