Yavuz Alp Sencer Öztürk

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EDUCATION

Bilkent University   Ankara, Turkey
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, GPA: 3.08/4.0   *September 2021 – June 2025*
- Awarded **full scholarship** for **MENA ML Winter School** by **Google DeepMind** (Feb 2025)
- Secured **2nd place** in the **MENA ML** main challenge among **140** participants from **37+** countries (Feb 2025)
- **Erasmus+ Research Intern** — Utrecht University (Jul–Sep 2024): Built a synthetic-data evaluation pipeline for VLMs and engineered a custom vision tower for Multimodal Aya; awarded **Most Promising Project** by **Cohere**
- **UG Research, Aykut Koç Lab** (2024): Improved SOTA by **11%** via Transformer–GNN; submitted to **ACL 24**
- Awarded **TEV Outstanding Achievement Scholarship** (Apr 2022)
- Ranked in the top **0.05%** in Turkey's university entrance exam **among 2.5M** (June, 2020)
- **Relevant Coursework:** AI (CS 461), ML (CS 464), Deep Generative Networks (CS 485), NLP (EE 486)
- **Skills:** Python, SQL, SQLAlchemy, PostgreSQL, FastAPI, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD, Azure/AWS, Linux

EXPERIENCE

InfraStack AI   June 2025 – Present
Founding Lead Engineer (#1)   *San Francisco, CA / Remote*
- Building the reliability layer for AI-powered development in enterprise with AI agents, raised **$1.7M** pre-seed

Candidate Research Engineer   July 2023 – June 2025
TÜBİTAK BİLGEM Artificial Intelligence Institute   *Ankara, Turkey / Remote*
- Developed **post-training** processes of **Foundational Turkish LLM** with **Pytorch** to increase performance
- Built **the largest Turkish organic fine-tuning dataset** (**1M+ rows**), enhancing **synthetic data** quality
- Contributed as a **Global Top Contributor** to the **Cohere For AI Aya Project (ACL 2024 Best Paper)**

Software Engineer Intern   June 2023 – July 2023
TÜBİTAK Software Technologies Research Institute   *Ankara, Turkey*
- Mastered best software practices in a **CMMI Level 5** certified environment, applying them to an ongoing project

PROJECTS

VariantNet (Intelligene) *(Best Data Science Project (1/44))*   Sep 2024 – Jun 2025
- **Led team** to build an agentic genomics search on **GenomicKB** (300M+ nodes, 1B+ edges) combining **Graph RAG + Semantic RAG + DGI**; 3 modes via **ReAct** + custom Cypher; Neo4J & PostgreSQL; fully deployed

Rubber Duck AI *(1st Place, Amazon AWS Competition)*   March 2024 - September 2024
- Developed an educational **multiagent** platform powered by a **knowledge graphs** to enhance learning experiences, using **GPT-4o** with **LangGraph** for interactive dialogue, and **Vespa** and **Neo4J** for database management

Bilkent Online / Bilkent GPT *(1st Place at CS319 (Microsoft-supported))*   Sep 2023 – Present
- Social platform with real-time **RAG** over live data; raised **$5,000**; OpenAI Cookbook contrib; deployed on **Azure**

Autonomous Drone Tracking UAV *(3rd Place, Teknofest F-UAV 2021)*   December 2020 - September 2021
- **Founded the team** to implement an autonomous flight algorithm with **Pytorch** for object detection and tracking

LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Founding President, Bilkent AI Society** (2023–Present)
  * Led 16 board members and 400+ members; also **NVIDIA Student AI Lead** and **Notion Leader**
  * Organized **10+ events** featuring experts from **Google**, **Microsoft**, **NVIDIA**, **Meta** and **OpenAI**
  * Hosted Bilkent's largest AI event hosting **13 top alumni** and **300+ attendees**, with **Global Turks AI**
- **Self-hosting:** Maintaining a personal Linux VPS, over **60+ Docker containers**, and **15+ live websites**
- **Professional Sports:** Runner (**Top 15%** at Runkara 10K 2024), **licensed** red-black belt Taekwondo practitioner
- **Author:** Writes about Machine Learning, AI, AI safety, and programming on **alpsencer.com/blog**

LANGUAGES

English: Full Professional Proficiency / Turkish: Native Speaker