

Mertcan Akçay

mertcan.akcay@plan.space | cmakcay.github.io

EDUCATION

ETH Zurich - MSc in Robotics, Systems and Control

Thesis: Learning to Fly a Quadrotor by Watching Flight Videos
CGPA: 5.53/6.00

Zurich, Switzerland

Sept 2021 – Jan 2024

Bilkent University - BSc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

CGPA: 3.93/4.00

Ankara, Turkey

Aug 2017 – June 2021

Nanyang Technological University

Exchange Semester

Singapore

Jan 2020 – May 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Plan-S Satellite and Space Technologies

Image Processing and AI Engineer

Ankara, Turkey

Feb 2024 – Present

- Contributing to the development of the imaging pipeline for a multi-spectral Earth observation satellite project. Tasks include conducting camera characterization and implementing AI applications for analysis of collected images.

Disney Research | Studios

Research Intern

Zurich, Switzerland

Sept 2022 – Mar 2023

- Worked on multimodal machine learning architectures to perform audio-to-video synchronization on in-the-wild videos. Outperformed SOTA methods with a significantly smaller model. Accepted at CVPR 2024.

ASELSAN

Research and Development Intern

Ankara, Turkey

June 2020 – Aug 2020

- Conducted research on Multiple Object Tracking and implemented several algorithms to track multiple objects in a clutter.

Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)

Research and Development Intern

Ankara, Turkey

June 2019 – July 2019

- Worked on image processing tasks and trained object detection models.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

ETH Zurich

Teaching Assistant

Zurich, Switzerland

Aug 2023 – Jan 2024

- Prepared a project for the course Stochastics and Machine Learning which is offered as a core course of the Mechanical Engineering bachelor program.

ETH Media Technology Center

Research Assistant

Zurich, Switzerland

Nov 2021 – Aug 2022

- Developed a face tracker which approximates the 3D models of people's heads by training a deep neural network using face images and a 3D Morphable Face Model.
- Developed a pipeline for generating synthetic photo-realistic videos of people given an arbitrary source audio recording.

SKILLS

Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (beginner)

Programming: Python, C++, MATLAB, ROS, PyTorch

HONORS & AWARDS

Bilkent University Academic Excellence Award: Awarded at graduation based on CGPA

Bilkent University Comprehensive Scholarship: Full tuition waiver & stipend during the BSc program

KYK Scholarship of the Republic of Turkey: Awarded monthly stipend during the BSc program due to the success at university entrance exam

Nationwide University Entrance Exam: Ranked 75th among 2 million students in Turkey, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

- Clara Fernandez-Labrador, Mertcan Akçay, Eitan Abecassis, Joan Massich, and Christopher Schroers. “DiVAS: Video and Audio Synchronization with Dynamic Frame Rates” . In: The IEEE / CVF Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference (CVPR), 2024.
- Ayça Takmaz*, Jonas Schult*, Irem Kaftan[†], Mertcan Akçay[†], Bastian Leibe, Robert Sumner, Francis Engelmann, and Siyu Tang. “3D Segmentation of Humans in Point Cloud with Synthetic Data” . In: International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2023.