

Özgün Barış Kır

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Education

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- Northwestern University, McCormick School of Engineering**, Illinois, US 2025 -
PhD and MSc in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences
Research: How to mitigate hallucinations in Multi-agentic AI?: A heuristic perspective
Advisor: Prof. Diego Klabjan
- University of Amsterdam, Tinbergen Institute BDS**, The Netherlands 2023 - 2025
Joint program with Erasmus University Rotterdam and Vrije University Amsterdam
MPhil in Data Science and Econometrics (GPA: 8.1/10, Full Scholarship)
Thesis: Contextual Optimization and Reinforcement Learning on Battery Arbitrage in Electricity Markets
- Bilkent University, Faculty of Engineering**, Ankara, Turkey 2018 - 2023
B.S. in Industrial Engineering (GPA: 3.8/4.00, Full Scholarship)
Erasmus Exchange: University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy, 2022
- Kabatas Erkek Lisesi**, Istanbul, Turkey 2014 - 2018
Distinguished Science/Mathematics student

Industry Experience

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- Technical Fellow, ScaleX Ventures, Amsterdam, the Netherlands** 2026-
- Responsible for doing technical due diligence of start-ups in cutting-edge AI, and other deep tech areas in the early-stage venture capital firm.
- Associate Consultant, Mastercard Advisory, Istanbul, Turkey** 2023
- Data scientist/consultant generating insights from big data and creating road-maps for leading financial institutions before I commenced my master's degree.
- Summer Business Analyst, McKinsey & Company, Istanbul, Turkey** 2022
- Consultant on two projects that transformed the AI and database infrastructure of leading banks of Azerbaijan with an international team of consultants, trained banking executives on database design.
- Business Analyst, Adesso, Istanbul, Turkey** 2023
- Worked on a German-speaking project, assisting in mobile application design and launch.
- Senior Year Project Engineer, Koç Holding, Turkey** 2022-2023
- Developed predictive maintenance models using time series methods, LSTM and survival analysis for the largest mining company in Turkey, Demir Export.
- Supply Chain Intern, Unilever, Istanbul, Turkey** 2022
- Demand prediction and production planning using machine learning methods, deploying models.
- Summer Intern, Garanti BBVA, Istanbul, Turkey** 2021
- Developing and deploying machine learning models for credit allocation decisions of largest firms in Türkiye.
- Summer Intern, Türkiye İS Bankası, Istanbul, Turkey** 2021
- Developing machine learning models for macro economic trend predictions for the bank's internal use.
- News Broadcaster and Editor, Radio Bilkent, Bilkent Holding, Ankara, Turkey** 2018 - 2021
- Prepared national and international news and presented live.
- One of the two presenters of the "Update", the first radio program on world politics in Radio Bilkent every Friday between 13.00- 15.00.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Rotterdam School of Economics, the Netherlands 2025
- Designed an iterative optimization algorithm for energy grid with Dr. Ruben van Beesten. We explored under which conditions this algorithm converges.

Research Assistant, Rotterdam School of Management, the Netherlands 2024 - 2025
- Developed a stochastic network optimization model for pharmaceutical supply chains in Africa with Dr. Harwin de Vries. Our analysis discusses the trade-offs of localized supply chains vs. global supply chains particularly in developing countries.
- As part of the project, I also worked as a data scientist for US government and IDA Foundation to enhance their supply chain strategies.

Research Assistant, Vrije University Amsterdam, the Netherlands 2024
- Studied individual compensation decisions in crowd-sourced delivery with Assoc. Prof. Markus Leitner. We made an extension to the current state-of-the-art models by applying a Bayesian framework. The replicable code of the project can be found [here](#).

Undergraduate Researcher, A*STAR Bioinformatics Institute, Singapore 2022 - 2023
- I was selected for a long term internship on Gen AI models for microbial peptides with Prof. Hwee Kuan Lee and Eddy Tan. I used PyTorch extensively.

Undergraduate Researcher, Bilkent University, Turkey 2021 - 2022
- Developed a mathematical model for speeding up the data traffic in hybrid (electrical and optical connections) data centers.
- Improved and extended the model by Fenz et al., 2019, gave a presentation to our department at the end of the year. The project can be found [here](#).

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Tinbergen Institute, The Netherlands 2024 - 2025
- **Econometrics III:** Time series econometrics, stationary and non-stationary stochastic processes.

Teaching Assistant, Bilkent University, Turkey 2020 - 2022
- **CS115 Intro to Python:** Tutoring students during lab hours, guiding them solving coding problems
- **IE443 Multi-Objective Decision Analysis:** Grading assignments
- **IE202 Mathematical Programming:** Grading, preparing quizzes and homework, tutoring students during lab hours for two semesters.

Achievements

- GRE Quantitative Score: 169/170 (2022)
- Tinbergen Institute full scholarship (Stipend and Tuition) (2023 - 2025)
- Turkish Educational Foundation (TEV) Western Europe graduate grant (2023)
- Turkish Educational Foundation (TEV) High Merit Scholarship (2020)
- Ranked top 0.01% in the National University Exam (2018)
- Bilkent University full scholarship (Stipend and Tuition) (2018 - 2023)
- Ninth Place in Turkish Geography Society National Geography Olympics (2016)
- TOEFL Score: 111/120 (2024)
- IELTS Score: 8.0/9.0 (2022)
- Part of the first Turkish team to present a high school physics project at CERN (2014)

Summer Schools

2024 Université Paris-Saclay-Nesin mathematics village, Turkey: topology, advanced probability theory, probability with/on random graphs: trees, networks, dimers, assignments

2024 Denmark Technical University, Denmark: Advanced OR summer school on Future mobility: Optimizing user-centric transit networks under uncertainty

2014 Royal Holloway University of London, UK: Language summer school

Skills

Programming: Python, R, Julia, Java, SQL, C

Optimization: CPLEX, Gurobi, XPress IVE, ARENA (Simulation)

Other: MS Office, Power BI

Languages: Turkish (Native), English, German (Fluent), Italian, French, Dutch, Greek (Basic)

Extracurricular Activities

Volunteer, Nesin Mathematics Village	2015 - Present
First Captain, Kabatas High School Road Cycling Team	2015 - 2018
Member, Bilkent Underwater Society	2019 - 2023
Volunteer, CIP Projects in Ordu	2015 - 2019
Member, METU Mountain Climbing Society	2018
President, Kabatas Climbing Society	2015 - 2017

Hobbies & Interests

Long-distance running, alpinism, chess, Go and strategy games, calisthenics, squash, scuba diving, philosophy, sociology, history, German Anglo-Saxon and Turkish literature, linguistics.