

Ege Onur Taga
Linkedin: **Ege Onur Taga**
Scholar: **Ege Onur Taga**
EDUCATION

Email : egetaga@gmail.com
Mobile : +1 (734) 323-4908
Ann Arbor, MI

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- **University of Michigan** Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Advisor: Prof. Samet Oymak, GPA: 4.00 / 4.00 September 2023 – May 2028
 - **Bogazici University** Istanbul, Turkey
B.S. in Computer Engineering, B.A. in Mathematics, GPA: 3.93 / 4.00, Valedictorian September 2017 – June 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- 1 ICLR (Spotlight), 1 NeurIPS, 1 AAAI, 2 AISTATS, 2 ICML papers**
- **Evolutionary Feature Engineering for Structured Data.** Ege Onur Taga, Yilin Zhuang, M. Emrullah Ildiz, Petros Mol, Abhimanyu Das, Karthik Duraisamy, Samet Oymak. **Under Review.**
 - **Learning to Bet for Horizon-Aware Anytime-Valid Testing.** Ege Onur Taga, Samet Oymak, Shubhanshu Shekhar. **In ICML 2026.**
 - **Learning to Correct: Calibrated Reinforcement Learning for Multi-Attempt Chain-of-Thought.** M. Emrullah Ildiz, Halil Alperen Gozeten, Ege Onur Taga, Samet Oymak. **In ICML 2026.**
 - **TimePFN: Effective Multivariate Time Series Forecasting with Synthetic Data.** Ege Onur Taga, M. Emrullah Ildiz, Samet Oymak. **Spotlight** at NeurIPS TSALM Workshop. **In AAAI 2025.**
 - **Filter, Augment, Forecast: Online Data Selection for Robust Time Series Forecasting.** Ege Onur Taga, Halil Alperen Gozeten, Kutay Tire, Rahul Dalvi, Reinhard Heckel, Samet Oymak. **In AISTATS 2026.**
 - **Retrieval Augmented Time Series Forecasting.** Kutay Tire*, Ege Onur Taga*, M. Emrullah Ildiz, Samet Oymak. **In AISTATS 2026. * Equal contribution.**
 - **High-dimensional analysis of knowledge distillation: Weak-to-strong generalization and scaling laws.** M. Emrullah Ildiz, Alperen Gozeten, Ege Onur Taga, Marco Mondelli, and Samet Oymak. **In ICLR 2025 Spotlight (4% acceptance).**
 - **Efficient Contextual LLM Cascades through Budget-Constrained Policy Learning.** Xuechen Zhang, Zijian Huang, Ege Onur Taga, Carlee Joe-Wong, Samet Oymak, Jiasi Chen. **In NeurIPS 2024.**

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Interests: Transformer-based time series forecasting and synthetic pretraining • Reinforcement learning for sequential decision-making and hypothesis testing • Data-centric and retrieval-augmented learning for structured data • Statistical foundations of generalization and robustness • Scalable and principled algorithm design for large language models.

Service: Reviewer of NeurIPS, ICML, AAAI, AISTATS, TNNLS

- **University of Michigan-SOTA Lab** Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate researcher under the supervision of Prof. Samet Oymak September 2023 – Present
 - Developed TimePFN, a transformer-based pretrained model for multivariate time series forecasting, demonstrating state-of-the-art zero-shot and few-shot learning capabilities.
 - Built an online data-curation pipeline for deep-learning-based time-series forecasting that filters noisy/redundant samples, augments the remaining clean data, and consistently improves forecast accuracy.
 - Researched reasoning capabilities of large language models, optimizing query strategies and oversight mechanisms.
 - Developed a horizon-aware RL system under “testing by betting” framework; trained a DQN-architecture to place Kelly style bets on streaming data, improving finite-horizon power vs. empirical Kelly under anytime-valid guarantees.
- **Bogazici University-ALLab** Istanbul, Turkey
Undergraduate Research Assistant October 2022 – January 2023
 - Developed a cost-effective adversarial training method by leveraging low-dimensional latent spaces of encoder-decoder models.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Languages: Python, Julia, C++/C, Java, R, SQL

Tools & Frameworks: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Wandb, LangChain, Hugging Face Transformers, vLLM, VERL, Git, AWS

- **IBM Research** Yorktown Heights, NY
Research Intern May 2026 – August 2026
 - Post-trained a multimodal LLM tailored for time-series reasoning, with applications to industrial assets (paper in progress).
- **Uber Technologies Inc** San Francisco, CA
PhD Software Engineer Intern May 2025 – August 2025
 - Developed an agentic evaluation framework for customer-facing Uber chatbots, leveraging an LLM agent interacting with chatbots using LangChain/LangGraph.
 - Applied the framework across multiple chatbots of Uber, significantly improving their reliability and user experience.

SELECTED AWARDS

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- **University of Michigan, Electrical and Computer Engineering Departmental Fellowship**
 - **Turkish Governmental Excellence Scholarship**
 - **TEV Scholarship for Outstanding Success**