

INTERESTS	My work lies at the intersection of natural language processing, computer vision, and machine learning. I aim to build AI systems capable of understanding and producing language to interact with the real world to assist humans.	
EDUCATION	<p><b>Carnegie Mellon University</b>, School of Computer Science, Pittsburgh, USA</p> <p>Ph.D. in Computer Science <span style="float: right;">2016 - Present</span>  M.Sc. in Language Technologies <span style="float: right;">2014-2016</span></p> <p><b>Koc University</b>, College of Engineering, Istanbul, Turkey <span style="float: right;">2012-2014</span>  M.Sc., Computer Science</p> <p><b>Bogazici University</b>, College of Engineering, Istanbul, Turkey <span style="float: right;">2007-2012</span>  B.S., Computer Engineering</p>	
PROFESSIONAL	<p>Scientific Adviser, Kunduz (YC S18), San Francisco <span style="float: right;">Jan 2017 - Dec 2021</span></p> <p>Research Intern, Facebook AI Research, New York <span style="float: right;">May - Aug. 2019</span></p> <p>Research Intern, Google AI, Mountain View <span style="float: right;">May - Aug. 2018</span></p> <p>Research Intern, Amazon, Boston <span style="float: right;">May - Aug. 2015</span></p>	
ACADEMIC	<p>Research Assistant, CMU <span style="float: right;">Sep. 2014 - Present</span></p> <p>Research Assistant, Koc University <span style="float: right;">Sep. 2012 - Aug. 2014</span></p> <p>Research Intern, Natural Language Processing Summer School organized by The Scientific and Technological Research Council Of Turkey <span style="float: right;">Summer 2013</span></p>	
AWARDS & HONOURS	<p>Graduate Research Fellowship at CMU. <span style="float: right;">Aug. 2014 - Present</span></p> <p>Honorable Mention at the LTI Student Research Symposium. <span style="float: right;">Aug. 2014</span></p> <p>Swam from Asia to Europe. The annual race is organized by National Olympic Committee of Turkey in Istanbul. <span style="float: right;">Summer 2012</span></p> <p>Second Prize for Senior Thesis at Bogazici University. <span style="float: right;">Jan. 2012</span></p> <p>Won Silver Medal, Turkish National Computing Olympiads. <span style="float: right;">Dec. 2005</span></p>	
TALKS	<p>NYU Computational Intelligence, Learning, Vision, and Robotics Laboratory <span style="float: right;">November 2021</span></p> <p>UMass Amherst Information Extraction and Synthesis Laboratory <span style="float: right;">June 2021</span></p> <p>CMU Language Technologies Institute Summer Seminar <span style="float: right;">August 2020</span></p>	
PUBLICATIONS	<p><sup>1</sup><a href="#">Cirik, V.</a>, Berg-Kirkpatrick, T., Morency, L.-P., “Refer360°: a referring expression recognition dataset in 360° images test”, <i>ACL</i> (2020).</p> <p><sup>2</sup><a href="#">Cirik, V.</a>, Zhang, Y., Baldridge, J., “Following formulaic map instructions in a street simulation environment”, <i>NeurIPS Visually Grounded Interaction and Language Workshop</i> (2018).</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Fried, D., Hu, R., <a href="#">Cirik, V.</a>, Rohrbach, A., Andreas, J., Morency, L.-P., Berg-Kirkpatrick, T., Saenko, K., Klein, D., Darrell, T., “Speaker-follower models for vision-and-language navigation.” <i>NeurIPS</i> (2018).</p>	

<sup>4</sup>**Cirik, V.**, Morency, L.-P., Berg-Kirkpatrick, T., “Visual referring expression recognition: what do our systems actually learn?”, NAACL (2018).

<sup>5</sup>**Cirik, V.**, Berg-Kirkpatrick, T., Morency, L.-P., “Using syntax to ground referring expressions in natural images”, AAAI (2018).

<sup>6</sup>Dunn, M., Sagun, L., Higgins, M., Guney, U., **Cirik, V.**, Cho, K., “Searchqa: a new q&a dataset augmented with context from a search engine”, Arxiv Preprint (2017).

<sup>7</sup>**Cirik, V.**, Hovy, E., Morency, L.-P., “Visualizing and understanding curriculum learning for long short-term memory networks”, Arxiv Preprint (2016).

<sup>8</sup>Yatbaz, M. A., **Cirik, V.**, Küntay, A., Yuret, D., “Learning grammatical categories using paradigmatic representations: substitute words for language acquisition”, COLING (2016).

<sup>9</sup>**Cirik, V.**, Morency, L.-P., Hovy, E., “Chess qa: question answering on chess games”, NeurIPS Reasoning, Attention, and Memory Workshop (2015).

<sup>10</sup>**Cirik, V.**, Yuret, D., “Substitute based scode word embeddings in supervised nlp tasks”, Arxiv Preprint (2014).

<sup>11</sup>**Cirik, V.**, “Addressing ambiguity in unsupervised part-of-speech induction with substitute vectors”, ACL Student Research Workshop (2013).

<sup>12</sup>**Cirik, V.**, Sensoy, H., “The ai-ku system at the spmrl 2013 shared task: unsupervised features for dependency parsing”, the Fourth Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically-Rich Languages (2013).

<sup>13</sup>Baskaya, O., Sert, E., **Cirik, V.**, Yuret, D., “Ai-ku: using substitute vectors and co-occurrence modeling for word sense induction and disambiguation”, (\*SEM) the Seventh International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation (2013).

TEACHING	Teaching Assistant, Advanced Multimodal Machine Learning, CMU	<i>Fall 2017</i>
	Teaching Assistant, Deep Learning, CMU	<i>Fall 2015</i>
	Teaching Assistant, Machine Learning, Koc University	<i>Spring 2014</i>
	Teaching Assistant, Introduction To Programming, Koc University	<i>Fall 2012,2013</i>
	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Computing, Bogazici University	<i>Fall 2009</i>
	Coach, National Computing Olympiads, Lycée de Galatasaray	<i>Fall 2006 - 2010</i>
	Teaching Assistant, National Computing Olympiads, METU	<i>Summer 2006</i>
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Member of Dean’s PhD Student Advisory Council CMU-SCS, Student Research Symposium Committee CMU-LTI, and Student Committee for Faculty Hiring CMU-LTI.	
	Reviewer AAAI, ACL, ACL Rolling Review, COLING, CONLL, CVPR, EMNLP, ICCV, IJCAI, IJCV, NAACL, NEURIPS	
TOOLS	C, Java, Python, Tensorflow, PyTorch, MATLAB, awk, sed, GNU make	
EXTRACURRICULARS	Co-chair Dec/5 of CMU School of Computer Science, Co-founder of Bogazici University Degustation and Gastronomy Club, 2* CMAS SCUBA Diver, Sailing, Surfing	