Nikolaos Gkanatsios

Education

2020 -	Carnegie Mellon University, Robotics Institute, PhD Student.
Present	 Advisor: Katerina Fragkiadaki, Associate Professor, MLD, CMU Research on Continual Learning for Vision and Robotics
2011 – 2017	 National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), ECE, B.Sc/M.Sc. (5-year diploma). GPA 9.22/10, 9th among 328 in class, 1st in Electronics and Systems major Thesis on "Multimodal Classification and Segmentation of Fine-Grained Activities in Videos" Thesis supervisor: Petros Maragos, Professor, ECE, NTUA
2008 – 2011	 3rd Lyceum of New Heraklion, Attika, General Lyceum Graduation. General Graduation Grade 19.7/20 General Panhellenic Examinations Grade 19.24/20, top 1% nationwide
	Industrial Research Experience
Jun 2024 – present	 NVIDIA, <i>Research Intern</i>, Seattle and remote. Seattle Robotics Lab, with Arsalan Mousavian, Abhishek Gupta and Anqi Li. Research on efficient data generation with policy in the loop.
Aug 2018 – Jul 2020	 Deeplab, Machine Learning Engineer, Athens. Research on scene graph generation, in collaboration with Prof. Maragos' lab at NTUA. Built an interactive demo of scene graph generation on videos. Developed the backend of this webpage for real-time inference of visual relationships on wild images.
Mar 2017 – Jul 2018	 METIS Cybertechnology S.A., Artificial Intelligence Engineer, Athens. Designed and developed the whole natural language processing pipeline behind METIS's textbot. Developed several applications and APIs for METIS's products.
	Research Collaborations with non-Academic Institutions
– Jan 2022 Jun 2023	Microsoft Turing Academic Program (MS-TAP). • CMU-MSTAP project <i>"Learning instructible visuo-motor agents through multimodal interactive teaching"</i>
Dec 2021 – Apr 2023	 Amazon Alexa Prize SimBot Challenge. Developed an embodied conversational agent as member of the CMU team Symbiote. Technical report
	Publications
2024	3D Diffuser Actor: Policy Diffusion with 3D Scene Representations , Ke T.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u> *, Fragkiadaki K., <i>CoRL 2024</i> . PDF Website
2024	Diffusion-ES: Gradient-free Planning with Diffusion for Autonomous Driving and Zero-Shot Instruction Following, Yang B., Su H., <u>Gkanatsios N.</u> , Ke T., Jain A., Schneider J., Fragkiadaki K., <i>CVPR 2024</i> . PDF Website
2024	ODIN: A Single Model for 2D and 3D Segmentation , Jain A., Katara P., <u>Gkanatsios N.</u> , Harley A, Sarch G., Aggarwal K., Chaudhary V., Fragkiadaki K., <i>CVPR 2024</i> . PDF Website
2023	Analogy-Forming Transformers for Few-Shot 3D Parsing . <u>Gkanatsios N.</u> *, Singh M.*, Fang Z., Tulsiani S., Fragkiadaki K., <i>International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2023.</i> PDF Website
2023	Energy-based Models are Zero-Shot Planners for Compositional Scene Rearrangement . <u>Gkanatsios N.</u> *, Jain A*, Zhou X., Zhang Y., Atkeson C., Fragkiadaki K., <i>Robotics Science and</i> <i>Systems, RSS 2023.</i> PDF Website

- 2023 Unifying Diffusion Models with Action Detection Transformers for Multi-task Robotic Manipulation. Zhou X.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>*, Gervet T.*, Fragkiadaki K., *Conference on Robot Learning, CoRL 2023.* PDF Website
- 2023 Act3D: Infinite Resolution Action Detection Transformer for Robot Manipulation. Gervet T.*, Zhou X.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Fragkiadaki K., *Conference on Robot Learning, CoRL 2023.* PDF Website
- 2022 Bottom Up Top Down Detection Transformers for Language Grounding in Images and Point Clouds. Jain A.*, <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>*, Mediratta I., Fragkiadaki K., *European Conference on Computer Vision, ECCV 2022.* PDF Code
- 2021 Grounding Consistency: Distilling Spatial Common Sense for Precise Visual Relationship Detection. Diomataris M., <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision, ICCV 2021.* PDF Code
- 2020 From Saturation to Zero-Shot Visual Relationship Detection Using Local Context. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Maragos P., *BMVA British Machine Vision Conference, BMVC 2020.* PDF Code
- 2020 Revisiting Grasp Map Representation with a Focus on Orientation in Grasp Synthesis. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Chalvatzaki G., Maragos P., Peters J., Visual Learning and Reasoning for Robotic Manipulation, RSS Workshop. PDF Code
- 2019 Attention-Translation-Relation Network for Scalable Scene Graph Generation. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Koutras P., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision Workshops*, *ICCVW 2019.* PDF Code
- 2019 Showcasing Deeply Supervised Multimodal Attentional Translation Embeddings: A Demo for Visual Relationship Detection. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Koutras P., Zlatintsi A., Maragos P., IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, ICIP 2019. Paper Demo
- 2019 Deeply Supervised Multimodal Attentional Translation Embeddings for Visual Relationship Detection. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Pitsikalis V., Koutras P., Zlatintsi A., Maragos P., *IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, ICIP 2019.* PDF Code
- 2018 Metis: A Scalable Natural-Language-Based Intelligent Personal Assistant for Maritime Services. <u>Gkanatsios N.</u>, Mermikli K., Katsikas S., 24th International Conference on Information and Software Technologies (ICIST 2018). Paper

Research Collaborations with Academic Institutions

- Nov 2019 Stanford University, Leonidas Guibas Lab, Stanford, CA, USA, (remotely).
- Jan 2020 and Original Worked with Panos Achlioptas on fine-grained language grounding and shape deformation. Apr – Jun Recommendation can be provided by Panos. 2020
- Dec 2019 TU Darmstadt, Intelligent Autonomous Systems Group, Germany, (remotely).
 - Feb 2020 Worked with Dr. Georgia Chalvatzaki on improving tensor representations for grasping point detection. Recommendation can be provided by Georgia.

Aug 2018 - Computer Vision and Signal Processing Lab, NTUA, Athens, Greece.

Aug 2020 • Research on high-level semantic image representation, with application to scene graph generation, in collaboration with Deeplab.

Talks / Oral Presentations

- July 2023 **RSS 2023**, Daegu, South Korea: oral presentation of the paper "Energy-based Models are Zero-Shot Planners for Compositional Scene Rearrangement".
- Sep 2019 **ICIP 2019**, Taipei, Taiwan: oral presentation of the paper "Deeply Supervised Multimodal Attentional Translation Embeddings for Visual Relationship Detection".
- Oct 2018 **ICIST 2018**, Vilnius, Lithuania: oral presentation of the paper "Metis: A Scalable Natural-Language-Based Intelligent Personal Assistant for Maritime Services".

Jun 2018 **VOXXEDDAYS Athens**, Greece: A Scalable Maritime Platform Providing Services Through an NLP-Based Intelligent Personal Assistant

Teaching Experience

- Jan 2023 CMU 16-726 Teaching Assistant, Pittsburgh.
- May 2023 $\,\circ\,$ Learning-based Image Synthesis, with Prof. Jun-Yan Zhu.
- Sep 2022 CMU 16-824 Teaching Assistant, Pittsburgh.
- Dec 2022 Visual Learning and Recognition, with Prof. Jun-Yan Zhu.

Sep 2019 - CVSP Teaching Assistant, Athens.

Sep 2020 • I co-supervised an undergraduate student's diploma thesis on visual relationship detection, together with Prof. Petros Maragos.

Honors and Awards

- 2018 **Georgios Kontaxis Award** for being the 1st in 2017 class in Electronics and Systems major, ECE NTUA.
- 2018 **Christos Chalkias Award** for being the 1st in 2017 class in Electronics and Systems major, ECE NTUA.
- 2017 **EESTECH Challenge Athens 1st Prize** for winning the Machine Learning Hackathon, hold by EESTEC Athens and ECE NTUA.
- 2012 **Hellenic Physical Society** Award for making the top 10 in the final round of the Panhellenic Physics Competition for high-school students on a nationwide level.
- 2010 2011 Awards from Hellenic Police for excellence in high-school classes.

Research Interests

Computer Vision, Robotics, Natural Language Processing, Embodied AI Continual Learning, In-context Learning

Programming

(Experienced) Python, Matlab / (Basic) C, Javascript (NodeJS), SQL / PyTorch

Languages

Greek (Native), English (Michigan Certificate of Proficiency in English), French (Delf B1)

Personal

Basketball, drums (self-taught), bass guitar (self-taught), ancient Greek literature, music transcription, Greek folk dancing.