# Desh Raj

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# EDUCATION

#### The Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, US

Ph.D. in Computer Science

2018–2023 (anticipated)

- Advisors: Sanjeev Khudanpur, Dan Povey
- Research interests: Multi-talker speech recognition and speaker diarization

## Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Guwahati, India

B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 9.35/10

2013-2017

# SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **D. Raj**, L. Lu, Z. Chen, Y. Gaur, and J. Li, "Continuous Streaming Multi-talker ASR with Dual-path Transducers", *IEEE ICASSP*, 2022.
- [2] M. Wiesner, **D. Raj**, and S. Khudanpur, "Injecting Text and Cross-lingual supervision in few-shot learning from self-supervised models", *IEEE ICASSP*, 2022.
- [3] **D. Raj**, P. Denisov, Z. Chen, H. Erdogan, Z. Huang, M. He, S. Watanabe, J. Du, T. Yoshioka, Y. Luo, N. Kanda, J. Li, S. Wisdom, and J. R. Hershey, "Integration of speech separation, diarization, and recognition for multi-speaker meetings: system description, comparison, and analysis", *IEEE SLT*, 2021.
- [4] **D. Raj**, P. Garcia, Z. Huang, S. Watanabe, D. Povey, A. Stolcke, and S. Khudanpur, "DOVER-Lap: A method for combining overlap-aware diarization outputs", in *IEEE SLT*, 2021.
- [5] A. Arora, D. Raj, A. S. Subramanian, K. Li, B. Ben-Yair, M. Maciejewski, P. Zelasko, P. Garcia, S. Watanabe, and S. Khudanpur, "The JHU Multi-Microphone Multi-Speaker ASR System for the CHiME-6 Challenge", CHiME-6 Workshop at IEEE ICASSP, 2020.

See Google Scholar for a complete list of publications.

# Work Experience

# Microsoft Corporation

Redmond, US

Research Intern, AI Cognitive Services (Manager: Dr. Jinyu Li)

May 2021 –August 2021

- Extended Streaming Unmixing and Recognition Transducer (SURT) model for long-form meeting transcription
- Obtained > 20% WER reduction using dual-path LSTM and Transformer models

## Samsung Research

Bengaluru, India

Research Engineer in Advanced Technology Lab (ATL)

June 2017 –June 2018

- Context engine for conversational assistant

#### Microsoft India

Hyderabad, India

Software Developer Intern

Summer 2016

## Selected Projects

#### Overlap-aware diarization

Spring 2021

Advisors: Paola Garcia (JHU), Sanjeev Khudanpur (JHU), Andreas Stolcke (Amazon)

- Proposed novel overlap-aware spectral clustering algorithm using the constrained optimization formulation of multi-class clustering. Reduced DER on AMI dataset by 15.2% relative over AHC baseline.
- Proposed a method for combining overlap-aware diarization system outputs (DOVER-Lap), and released it as a pip package. Used by top teams at DIHARD-3 and VoxSRC 2021 challenges.

#### Integration of separation, diarization, and ASR

**JSALT 2020** 

Collaborators: Zhuo Chen (Microsoft), Hakan Erdogan (Google)

- Created modular Kaldi pipeline integrating speech separation, diarization, and ASR.
- Evaluated the pipeline with different variants of each module, obtaining 12% speaker-attributed WER (close to single-speaker systems).

#### CHiME-6 challenge

Spring 2020

Advisors: Paola Garcia (JHU), Shinji Watanabe (CMU), Sanjeev Khudanpur (JHU)

- Created baseline Kaldi recipe for challenge; led diarization efforts for JHU team's participation with overlap-aware VB resegmentation system.
- Final WER improved by 10% absolute compared with baseline finished top 2 in "diarization + ASR" track.

## TEACHING

• Course Assistant at Johns Hopkins University Information Theory (520.447/647)

Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant at Johns Hopkins University Introduction to Human Language Technology (601.467/667)

Fall 2020

# Mentorship & Professional Services

- Volunteer for ISCA SIG Robust Speech Processing
- Reviewer: ICLR (2022), ICASSP (2022), SLT (2021), Elsevier CSL
- CLSP Graduate Admissions Committee: 2021, 2022
- CLSP Student Recruitment Committee: 2019, 2020

# SKILLS

#### LANGUAGES

- ML/DL Toolkits: PyTorch, Scikit-learn
- ASR Frameworks: Kaldi, ESPNet, Lhotse, K2
- Other: Audacity, Git

## • **Programming:** Python, C++, Bash

• Natural: English, Hindi, French (beginner)

- **TOEFL:** 119/120

## ACHIEVEMENTS

$\bullet~$ JHU nominee for Microsoft Research Fellowship and Apple Scholars in AI/ML	2021
$\bullet \ \ \textbf{ISCA Travel Grant} \ (\text{registration} + \text{membership} + \text{travel funds}) \ \text{for attending Interspeech}$	2021
$\bullet$ Member of Hitachi-JHU team which placed ${f top}$ 2 in the DIHARD-3 challenge	2020
ullet Member of JHU team which placed <b>top 2</b> in the CHiME-6 challenge track 2 (diarization + ASR)	2020
• INAE Travel Grant by Govt. of India (worth INR 50,000)	2017
• Kalyani Research Scholarship from Alumni Affairs, IIT Guwahati	2017