

## EDUCATION

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### The Johns Hopkins University

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Baltimore, US

2018–Present

- Advisors: Sanjeev Khudanpur, Dan Povey
- Research interests: Speech recognition, speaker diarization

### Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 9.35/10.00

Guwahati, India

2013–2017

- Advisor: Ashish Anand
- Thesis: “Relation extraction for biomedical text”

## PROJECTS

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### Informed target-speaker ASR

JSALT 2020

Advisors: Marc Delcroix (NTT, Japan), Shinji Watanabe (JHU)

- Devised a novel constrained optimization based approach for overlap-aware diarization; improves DER over baseline system on LibriCSS data from 16.3% to 9.3% (submitted to SLT 2021)
- Experimented with training strategies for target speaker ASR – architecture of embedding usage, discriminative training, etc; cumulative improvement in WER from 27.9% to 16.6%.
- Integrated both components to recognize multi-speaker overlapping speech without explicit separation.

### 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.
- Implemented a novel cross-stream clustering technique to diarize multiple audio streams simultaneously — pipeline provides 37.6% relative WER improvement over single-stream approach.
- Evaluated the pipeline with different variants of each module; led efforts for manuscript submission to SLT 2021.

### CHiME-6 challenge

Spring 2020

Advisors: Paola Garcia, Shinji Watanabe, Sanjeev Khudanpur

- Created baseline Kaldi recipe for the challenge: TDNN-stats based SAD (5.1% error rate on dev) and x-vector + PLDA backend for diarization (~36% DER on dev)
- Led diarization efforts for JHU team’s participation in the challenge – added multi-array fusion and VB-HMM based overlap assignment to the pipeline.
- Final WER improved by 10% absolute compared with baseline – finished top 2 in “diarization + ASR” track. Prepared system description manuscript for the submission.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- [1] 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.

- [2] **D. Raj**, D. Snyder, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, “Probing the information encoded in x-vectors”, *2019 IEEE Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding Workshop (ASRU)*, 2019.
- [3] **D. Raj**, S. K. Sahu, and A. Anand, “Learning local and global contexts using a convolutional recurrent network model for relation classification in biomedical text”, in *CoNLL*, 2017.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Samsung Research

Research Engineer in Advanced Technology Lab (ATL)

Bengaluru, India  
June 2017 – June 2018

- Context engine for conversational assistant

### Microsoft India

Software Developer Intern

Hyderabad, India  
Summer 2016

- Cross-platform application for digital contracting system

### Hanyang University

Research Intern in Pattern Recognition & Fuzzy Systems Lab

Ansan, Korea  
Summer 2015

- Advisor: Frank Chung-hoon Rhee
- Analysis of multi-dimensional type-2 fuzzy membership functions, and application to fuzzy ART algorithm for image segmentation

## TEACHING

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- **Teaching Assistant** at Johns Hopkins University Fall 2020  
*Introduction to Human Language Technology (601.647/667)*

## MENTORSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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- **Reviewer:** IEEE SLT 2021
- CLSP Graduate Admissions Committee: 2021
- CLSP Student Recruitment Committee: 2019, 2020
- Student Mentor for 8 freshmen at IIT Guwahati 2014-15

## SKILLS

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

## LANGUAGES

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- **Programming:** Python, C++, Bash
- **Natural:** English, Hindi, French (beginner)
- **TOEFL:** 119/120

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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- **Top 2** 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
- **INSPIRE Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)** from DST, Govt. of India (refused) 2013