Desh Raj

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EDUCATION

The Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, US

Ph.D. in Computer Science

2018-2024

- 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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Meta AI

Menlo Park, US

Research Intern, AI Speech (Manager: Ozlem Kalinli)

May 2022 - August 2022

- Designed and implemented target-speaker ASR models to improve transducer performance in background speech and noise; obtained 19.6% relative WER reduction
- Work published at IEEE ICASSP 2023

Microsoft Corporation

Redmond, US (remote)

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

May 2021 - August 2021

- Extended Streaming Unmixing and Recognition Transducer (SURT) model for **long-form meeting** transcription, obtaining >20% WER reduction using dual-path encoders
- Work published at IEEE ICASSP 2022

Samsung Research

Bengaluru, India

Research Engineer in Advanced Technology Lab (ATL)

June 2017 -June 2018

AWARDS

• Awarded Frederick Jelinek fellowship for 2023-2024	2023
• Selected for ICASSP Rising Stars in Signal Processing at IEEE ICASSP 2023	2023
• Recipient of the JHU+Amazon AI2AI fellowship for 2022-23	2022
• Reviewing awards: InterSpeech 2023 (top 2%), NeurIPS 2023 (top 8%)	
\bullet JHU nominee for Microsoft Research Fellowship and Apple Scholars in AI/ML	2021
$\bullet \ \ \mathbf{ISCA} \ \mathbf{Travel} \ \mathbf{Grant} \ (\mathbf{registration} + \mathbf{membership} + \mathbf{travel} \ \mathbf{funds}) \ \mathbf{for} \ \mathbf{attending} \ \mathbf{InterSpeech}$	2021
• Placed top 2 in the CHiME-6 (track 2) and DIHARD-3 challenges	2020

TEACHING

• **Teaching 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

- Reviewer: ICML, NeurIPS, ICLR, ICASSP, InterSpeech, ASRU, SLT, Computer Speech and Language, Speech Communications, IEEE TASLP
- Organizer: CHiME-7 DASR Challenge, InterSpeech 2023 tutorial on next-gen Kaldi
- Student Volunteer: SLT (2022)
- CLSP Student Recruitment Committee (2019-20) and Graduate Admissions Committee (2021-24)

SKILLS

- ML/DL Toolkits: PyTorch, Scikit-learn
- ASR Frameworks: Kaldi, ESPNet, Lhotse, k2
- Other: Audacity, Git

LANGUAGES

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

PUBLICATIONS

- [22] J. D. Fox, **D. Raj**, N. Delworth, Q. McNamara, C. Miller, and M. Jett'e, "Updated Corpora and Benchmarks for Long-Form Speech Recognition", in *IEEE ICASSP*, 2024.
- [21] S. Cornell, M. Wiesner, S. Watanabe, D. Raj, X. Chang, P. García, Y. Masuyama, Z. Wang, S. Squartini, and S. Khudanpur, "The CHiME-7 DASR Challenge: Distant Meeting Transcription with Multiple Devices in Diverse Scenarios", in CHiME Workshop at InterSpeech, 2023.
- [20] D. Gao, H. Xu, **D. Raj**, L. P. G. Perera, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, "Learning from Flawed Data: Weakly Supervised Automatic Speech Recognition", in *IEEE ASRU*, 2023.
- [19] Z. Huang, **D. Raj**, P. Garcia, and S. Khudanpur, "Adapting self-supervised models to multi-talker speech recognition using speaker embeddings", in *IEEE ICASSP*, 2023.
- [18] **D. Raj**, J. Jia, J. Mahadeokar, C. Wu, N. Moritz, X. Zhang, and O. Kalinli, "Anchored Speech Recognition with Neural Transducers", in *IEEE ICASSP*, 2023.
- [17] **D. Raj**, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, "GPU-accelerated Guided Source Separation for Meeting Transcription", in *InterSpeech*, 2023.
- [16] **D. Raj**, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, "SURT 2.0: Advances in Transducer-based Multi-talker Speech Recognition", *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Audio, Speech, and Language Processing*, 2023.
- [15] G. Morrone, S. Cornell, **D. Raj**, L. Serafini, E. Zovato, A. Brutti, and S. Squartini, "Low-Latency Speech Separation Guided Diarization for Telephone Conversations", in *IEEE SLT*, 2022.
- [14] **D. Raj**, L. Lu, Z. Chen, Y. Gaur, and J. Li, "Continuous Streaming Multi-talker ASR with Dual-path Transducers", in *IEEE ICASSP*, 2022.
- [13] M. Wiesner, **D. Raj**, and S. Khudanpur, "Injecting Text and Cross-lingual supervision in few-shot learning from self-supervised models", in *IEEE ICASSP*, 2022.
- [12] M. He, **D. Raj**, Z. Huang, J. Du, Z. Chen, and S. Watanabe, "Target-Speaker Voice Activity Detection with Improved i-Vector Estimation for Unknown Number of Speaker", in *InterSpeech*, 2021.
- [11] **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", in *IEEE SLT*, 2021.
- [10] **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.

- [9] **D. Raj**, Z. Huang, and S. Khudanpur, "Multi-class spectral clustering with overlaps for speaker diarization", in *IEEE SLT*, 2021.
- [8] **D. Raj** and S. Khudanpur, "Reformulating DOVER-Lap Label Mapping as a Graph Partitioning Problem", in *InterSpeech*, 2021.
- [7] Z.-Q. Wang, H. Erdogan, S. Wisdom, K. Wilson, **D. Raj**, S. Watanabe, Z. Chen, and J. R. Hershey, "Sequential multi-frame neural beamforming for speech separation and enhancement", in *IEEE SLT*, 2021.
- [6] M. Wiesner, M. Sarma, A. Arora, D. Raj, D. Gao, R. Huang, S. Preet, M. Johnson, Z. Iqbal, N. K. Goel, J. Trmal, L. P. G. Perera, and S. Khudanpur, "Training Hybrid Models on Noisy Transliterated Transcripts for Code-Switched Speech Recognition", in *InterSpeech*, 2021.
- [5] K. Žmolíková, M. Delcroix, **D. Raj**, S. Watanabe, and J. H. Cernocký, "Auxiliary Loss Function for Target Speech Extraction and Recognition with Weak Supervision Based on Speaker Characteristics", in *InterSpeech*, 2021.
- [4] 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", in *CHiME-6 Workshop at IEEE ICASSP*, 2020.
- [3] **D. Raj**, J. Villalba, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, "Frustratingly Easy Noise-aware Training of Acoustic Models", *ArXiv*, 2020.
- [2] **D. Raj**, D. Snyder, D. Povey, and S. Khudanpur, "Probing the Information Encoded in X-Vectors", in *IEEE ASRU*, 2019.
- [1] **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.

See Google Scholar for a complete list of publications (800+ citations, h-index=14).