

SIHAN TAN

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RESEARCH INTEREST

My research interest lies in **Multimodal Understanding and Generation**, with a focus on **vision and language modeling** in real-world communication. I explore how modalities such as vision, speech, and text can be effectively aligned to support natural and accessible human-computer interaction.

As a representative challenge, I am currently working on **Sign Language Understanding**, where the input consists of fine-grained visual gestures and the output is semantic spoken text. This task not only requires temporal and cross-modal modeling but also reflects my broader goal: to develop **inclusive AI** that supports diverse human expression and enables more **accessible communication**.

Fields: Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Multimodal, Machine Learning

Topics: Sign Language Understanding, Multilingual Machine Translation (MT), Efficient MT Training

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Zurich

Zurich, Switzerland

Visiting Researcher

08/2025 - Present

- Visit Language, Technology and Accessibility Group under Prof. Sarah Ebling

Institute of Science Tokyo

Tokyo, Japan

Research Assistant

09/2023 - Present

- Lead Sign Language Processing Team and deploy system for real-life sign language-based HRI
- Mentor master's, bachelor's, and exchange students

Research Student (formerly Tokyo Tech)

10/2021 - 03/2022

- Non-degree program for Research
- Worked on speech recognition using ESPnet

NHK Science and Technology Research Laboratories

Tokyo, Japan

Visiting Researcher

04/2024 - Present

- Work with NHK Sign Language Team
- Focus on multilingual translation, efficient training for low-resource sign language

Intern

08/2023 - 03/2024

- Worked on Sign Language Translation under Taro Miyazaki
- Boosted Lab-level collaboration

Dalian University of Technology

Dalian, China

Research Assistant

12/2019 - 06/2022

- Worked on WiFi signal-based Human Action Recognition via cross-modal

EDUCATION

Institute of Science Tokyo (Formerly Tokyo Tech)

Tokyo, Japan

Ph.D. in Systems and Control Engineering

04/2024 - EST. 03/2027

Advisor: Prof. Kazuhiro Nakadai

M.E. in Systems and Control Engineering, *Best Graduate*

03/2022 - 03/2024

Advisor: Prof. Kazuhiro Nakadai, Prof. Katsutoshi Itoyama

Dalian University of Technology

Dalian, China

B.E. in Digital Media Technology, *Outstanding Bachelor's Graduate*

09/2017 - 07/2021

Advisor: Xin Fan

PUBLICATION

Journal

[J3] A Review of Deep Learning-based Approaches to Sign Language Processing

Sihan Tan, Nabeela Khan, Zhaoyi An, Yoshitaka Ando, Rei Kawakami, Kazuhiro Nakadai
Advanced Robotics, 2024, December, 1–19.

[J2] Advancing Human-Computer Interaction: End-to-End Sign Language Translation

Sihan Tan, Katsutoshi Itoyama, Kazuhiro Nakadai
The Transactions of Human Interface Society, 2024 Volume 26 Issue 4 Pages 391-398.

[J1] Motion Inbetweening Based on Body Parts Integration for Sign Language Generation

Nabeela Khan, **Sihan Tan**, Katsutoshi Itoyama, Kazuhiro Nakadai
The Transactions of Human Interface Society, 2024 Volume 26 Issue 4 Pages 431-442.

Conference

[C5] SignFlow: End-to-End Sign Language Generation for One-to-Many Modeling using Conditional Flow Matching

Nabeela Khan, Bowen Wu, **Sihan Tan**, Carlos Toshinori Ishi, Kazuhiro Nakadai
In Proceedings of the 27th ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI), 2025.

[C4] Towards Online Sign Language Expression for Real-Time Human-Robot Interaction

Nabeela Khan, **Sihan Tan**, Kazuhiro Nakadai
In Proceedings of the 34th IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), 2025.

[C3] Multilingual Gloss-free Sign Language Translation: Towards Building a Sign Language Foundation Model

Sihan Tan, Taro Miyazaki, Kazuhiro Nakadai.
In Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2025.

[C2] Improvement in Sign Language Translation Using Text CTC Alignment

Sihan Tan, Taro Miyazaki, Nabeela Khan, Kazuhiro Nakadai.
In Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING), 2025.

[C1] Improving Sign Language Understanding Introducing Label Smoothing

Sihan Tan, Nabeela Khan, Katsutoshi Itoyama, Kazuhiro Nakadai
In Proceedings of the 32nd IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), 2023.

Workshop

[W2] SEDA: Simple and Effective Data Augmentation for Sign Language Understanding

Sihan Tan, Taro Miyazaki, Katsutoshi Itoyama, Kazuhiro Nakadai.
In Proceedings of the LREC-COLING 11th Workshop on the Representation and Processing of Sign Languages (sign-lang), 2024.

[W1] Sign Language Translation with Gloss Pair Encoding

Taro Miyazaki, **Sihan Tan**, Tsubasa Uchida, and Hiroyuki Kaneko
In Proceedings of the LREC-COLING 11th Workshop on the Representation and Processing of Sign Languages (sign-lang), 2024.

GRANTS

Exchange Student Scholarship

08/2025 - 01/2026

Stipend

Publisher: University of Zurich

Heyning-Roelli Foundation Scholarship

08/2025 - 01/2026

Research Fund, stipend

Publisher: Heyning-Roelli Foundation

Global Off-Campus Project

08/2025 - 01/2026

Research Fund, stipend

Publisher: Academy of Super Smart Society, Science Tokyo

Academy of Super Smart Society Scholarship

06/2023 - present

Stipend

Publisher: Academy of Super Smart Society, Science Tokyo

Tsubame Special Scholarship (top 20%)

04/2024 -present

Stipend

Publisher: Institute of Science Tokyo

AWARDS**Miura Award**, The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers.

03/2024

Given to the most outstanding graduate student in the department.

Department Prize for Outstanding Paper Presentation, Tokyo Institute of Technology.

03/2024

Awarded for master's thesis presentation.

Misc.**Professional Service**

- **Peer Review:** ROMAN (2023, 2025)
- **Journal Reviewer:** IEEE Access
- **Session Chair:** Co-chair of session "Linguistic Communication and Dialogue I", ROMAN 25

Mentoring

- **Master's student:** Continuous Sign Language Recognition
- **Bachelor's student:** Customized Sign Language Translation
- **Exchange student:** Online Sign Language Processing System

SKILLS**Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Fluent), German (Basic)**Coding:** Python, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Linux, Matlab, C, C++, SQL, L^AT_EX, ...