

# Ayaskant Panigrahi

*I want to create seamless interactions between humans and computers through innovative work in 3D and Extended Reality User Interfaces*

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## Education

| Year               | Qualification                                     | Institute  | GPA/%                     |
|--------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| 2023<br>(expected) | <b>MSc.</b> in Interactive Arts and Technology    | Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada  | 4.13 / 4.33<br>(Fall '23) |
| 2020               | <b>BTech.</b> in Computer Science and Engineering | Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur (IIITDMJ) | 8.6/10 CPI                |

## Work experience

- EyeJack** (*Part-time, May – Jul 2023*) **WebXR Developer**  
Developed a three.js WebXR platform to showcase 3D digital art across VR, Passthrough AR and Mobile AR.
- IAT 806: Interdisciplinary Design Approaches to Computing** (*SFU, Jan – Apr 2023*) **Teaching Assistant**  
Supporting graduate students from diverse backgrounds to get started with interactive computing.
- Huawei Technologies** (*CloudCG team, Part-time, May – Oct 2022*) **Support Researcher**  
Worked on various C++ and Python plugins centered around FBX/gLTF for Unreal Engine, O3DE and Blender.
- IAT 312: Foundations of Game Design** (*SFU, Jan – Apr 2022*) **Teaching Assistant**  
Guided undergraduate students in analyzing & designing video/board games by leading workshop sessions.
- IAT 410: Advanced Game Design** (*SFU, Sep – Dec 2021*) **Teaching Assistant**  
Supported final year undergraduate students in designing and developing polished games based on industry practices using game engines like Unity, which were judged by a panel of experts at the end of the course.

## Research experience

- VVISE Lab, Simon Fraser University** **Themes:** VR/AR | Interaction Design | Unity3D  
*Jan 2021, ongoing*  
Research on 3D interaction techniques in Virtual and Augmented Reality under the supervision of Prof. Wolfgang Stuerzlinger, School of Interactive Arts and Technology (SIAT)
- Embedded Interaction Lab, IIT Guwahati** **Themes:** VR interaction | Unity3D | Leap Motion  
*May – Nov 2019*  
Six-month research internship under Dr. Keyur Sorathia's supervision. Evaluated VR gesture-based selection techniques, also worked on a bespoke hand-held controller to improve accessibility of virtual environments

## Publications

- Shimmila Bhowmick, **Ayaskant Panigrahi**, Pranjal Borah, Pratul Kalita, and Keyur Sorathia. 2020. Investigating the Effectiveness of Locked Dwell Time-based Point and Tap Gesture for Selection of Nail-sized Objects in Dense Virtual Environment. *In Symposium on Spatial User Interaction (ACM SUI '20)*. Article 26, 1–2. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3385959.3422701>
- Pranjal Protim Borah, **Ayaskant Panigrahi**, and Keyur Sorathia. 2020. TMOVE: Multimodal Feedback Actuator for Non-visual Exploration of Virtual Lines. *In Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference on Tangible, Embedded, and Embodied Interaction (ACM TEI '20)*. 603–610. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3374920.3374994>

## Test Scores

- **GRE General Test:** 332/340 (Quantitative – 168, Verbal – 164, Analytical Writing – 4)
- **TOEFL:** 108/120 (Reading – 28, Listening – 30, Speaking – 23, Writing – 27)

## Leadership Roles and Volunteering

- **Open-source** contributions to **WolvicXR** browser, **three.js** and **Unity Experiments Framework (UXF)**
- Member of Vancouver's **VanVR Meetup group**, regular participant in events like meetups and hackathons
- Acted as leading member of **IIITDMJ Game Development group**
- Part of 4-member **Project Steering group** leading development of **IIITDMJ ERP software** (Fusion)
- **Student volunteer** for SIGCHI-sponsored “**Expanding the horizons of HCAI**” summer school in New Delhi
- Core volunteer in **organising IIITDMJ Dribbble meet**

## Skills

- Languages & Tools: **C#** – Unity, **Javascript** – three.js, PlayCanvas, p5js, **C++** – O3DE, Unreal Engine
- Platforms: **VR/AR/XR** – PC, Standalone and WebXR, Raspberry Pi, Arduino

## Major Projects

- **DAW [n] XR – entry in Steampunk Digital VR challenge** (2022) **Skills:** AR/VR | WebXR | Javascript  
Developed a hand-controlled interactive music synthesizer for Meta Quest 2 using WebXR and PlayCanvas
- **Creative Doodles with p5js** (2021 / 22) **Skills:** Creative Coding | Javascript  
Designed a series of creative sketches using p5js & participated in weekly challenges on official p5js Discord
- **Memento Flori – Imagining Virtual Funerals** (2021) **Skills:** VR UX Speculative Design | Javascript  
Designed and programmed interactions for a speculative design project on Virtual Funerals of the future, involving scripting with Javascript on the Tivoli Cloud VR platform
- **Fusion – Institute ERP Software** (2019) **Skills:** Django | Git VCS | Software Engg.  
Led the development of ERP software, managing contributions using a Forking Git workflow
- **JIGREE – Improving Jabalpur tourism sector** (2018) **Skills:** Service Design | Arduino  
Intervenes at all steps in tourists’ journey by providing a central Android app during their stay in Jabalpur

## Relevant coursework

- **Design Approaches to Computing** (Fall '21, SIAT, SFU)
- **Creative Programming for Digital Media & Mobile Apps** (University of London, online via Coursera)
- **3D Interaction Design in Virtual Reality** (University of London, online via Coursera)
- **Human-Centered Design: An Introduction** (UCSD, online via Coursera)
- **Computer Vision with Deep Learning** (Spring '20, IIITDMJ)

## Awards and Achievements

- **FCAT Graduate Fellowship** valued at **3500 CAD**, SIAT, SFU **2022**
- **Entrance Graduate Fellowship** valued at **7000 CAD**, SIAT, SFU **2021**
- **IIITDMJ Proficiency Prize** for the **best project** in the graduating batch **2020**
- **Institute topper** in **NCAT 2019** First round with a **nationwide percentile of 99.2** **2019**
- Selected for the **prestigious Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) Fellowship** **2015**
- Awarded **Scholarship** under **National Talent Search (NTS) Scheme** **2012 - 2020**