

Juan Pablo Zuluaga-Gomez

Speech & Audio Processing Research Group

Idiap Research Institute

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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Vaud, Switzerland

January 2020 - July 2024

THESIS - Speech and text-based technologies applied to air traffic control communications

Supervisor: Petr Motlicek, PhD.

Master of Science, Mechatronic Engineering

Universidad de Oviedo, Spain & ENSMM, France

September 2017 - September 2019

THESIS - Breast cancer diagnosis based on computer vision

Score 89/100

Supervisor: Nouredine Zerhouni, PhD.

Bachelor of Science, Mechatronic Engineering

Universidad Autonoma del Caribe, Barranquilla, Colombia

January 2011 - December 2015

THESIS - Precordial signal detection system by Seismocardiography

Score 91/100

Supervisor: Pablo Bonaveri, PhD.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apple, AI/ML Team, Cambridge, MA, USA

July – September 2023

Machine Learning Engineer—Internship

- Working on discriminative training of language models to improve automatic speech recognition (ASR) performance on tail named-entity data.
- Transformer-based language modeling for production-level ASR systems.

Amazon, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Seattle, WA, USA

April – July 2023

Applied Scientist—Internship

- Member of the AWS AI Transcribe & Translate teams.
- Research on dual speech-to-text Translation (ST) and Transcription (ASR) for conversational speech.
- Serialized output training (conditioned with special tokens, akin to Whisper) for robust multilingual ST and ASR.
- Our system is aware of speaker turns and overlapped speech, improving BLEU and WER performance.

Idiap Research Institute, VS, Switzerland

January 2020 -

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) - Candidate

- Automatic speech recognition (ASR) for air traffic control (ATC): ATCO2 EU-H2020.
- Implemented innovative semi-supervised techniques for ASR in air-traffic control (low resource task).
- Led the integration of natural language processing (NLP) techniques. 50% improvement in named-entity recognition from ASR transcripts (breakthrough).
- Developed systems for speaker role and speaker change detection based on ASR transcripts.

- Participated at several venues: INTERSPEECH, ICASSP, OpenSky Network Symposium (8 conf.).
- Implemented a streaming ASR system for ATC communications: collaboration with industrial partners.
- Participation on industrial projects: spoken language understanding (use case: call-centers).

Research Institute Femto-ST, Besancon, France

February 2019 - October 2019

Master of Science Thesis

- Participated: SBRA-”Smart BRA” project, financed by INTERREG (France-Suisse)
- Developed a system for breast cancer diagnosis based on thermal images.
- Early research in multi-modal techniques (vision & signal) for breast cancer diagnosis.
- Published two journal papers.
- Master Thesis: Breast Cancer Diagnosis Using Machine Learning.

Universidad Autonoma del Caribe, Barranquilla, Colombia

Mechatronic Research Group Member UAC

September 2014 -

- Participation in national and international events (7), co-authorship in publications (4), 2 patents.
- Active member of the GIIM research group of mechatronic, as a senior research student for three consecutive years and then an active member.

Bachelor Student

January 2011 – December 2015

- Main topics covered: automatic control, electronics, mechanical systems, robotics, nanotechnology, machine learning and computer science.
- Research on Titanium dioxide (TiO_2) for wastewater decontaminaton: work as student on the GIIM research group in Mechatronics.
- Thesis: developed a system to capture and analyze precordial signals by Seismocardiography and signal processing.

PUBLICATIONS (JOURNAL, PEER REVIEWED)

7. Khalil, D., Prasad, A., Motlicek, P., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Nigmatulina, I., Madikeri, S., & Schuepbach, C. (2023). An Automatic Speaker Clustering Pipeline for the Air Traffic Communication Domain. *Aerospace*, 10(10). <https://doi.org/10.3390/aerospace10100876>.
6. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Nigmatulina, I., Prasad, A., Motlicek, P., Khalil, D., Madikeri, S., Tart, A., Szoke, I., Lenders, V., Rigault, M., & Choukri, K. (2023). Lessons learned in transcribing 5000 h of air traffic control communications for robust automatic speech understanding. *Aerospace*, 10(10). <https://doi.org/10.3390/aerospace10100898>.
5. Ahrenhold, N., Helmke, H., Mühlhausen, T., Ohneiser, O., Kleinert, M., Ehr, H., Klamert, L., & **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**. (2023). Validating Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding for Pre-Filling Radar Labels – Increasing Safety While Reducing Air Traffic Controllers’ Workload. *Aerospace*, 10(6). <https://doi.org/10.3390/aerospace10060538>.
4. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Prasad, A., Nigmatulina, I., Motlicek, P., & Kleinert, M. (2023). A virtual simulation-pilot agent for training of air traffic controllers. *Aerospace*, 10(5). <https://doi.org/10.3390/aerospace10050490>.
3. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Veselý, K., Szöke, I., Motlicek, P., et al. (2022). ATCO2 corpus: A Large-Scale Dataset for Research on Automatic Speech Recognition and Natural Language Understanding of Air Traffic Control Communications. *Under review at Computer Speech & Language, arXiv preprint arXiv:2211.04054*.
2. Zhan, Q., Xie, X., Hu, C., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Wang, J., & Cheng, H. (2021). Domain-adversarial based model with phonological knowledge for cross-lingual speech recognition. *Electronics*, 10(24). <https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics10243172>.
1. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan** et al. (2021a). A CNN-based methodology for breast cancer diagnosis using thermal images. *Computer Methods in Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering: Imaging & Visualization*, 9(2).

PUBLICATIONS (JOURNAL, REVIEW PAPER, PEER REVIEWED)

2. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Bonaveri, P., Zuluaga, D., et al. (2020). Techniques for water disinfection, decontamination, and desalinization: A review. *Desalination And Water Treatment*.
1. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan** et al. (2019). A survey of breast cancer screening techniques: Thermography and electrical impedance tomography. *Journal of medical engineering & technology*, 43(5).

PUBLICATIONS (CONFERENCE, PEER REVIEWED)

22. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Huang, Z., Niu, X., Paturi, R., Srinivasan, S., Mathur, P., Thompson, B., & Federico, M. (2023). End-to-End Single-Channel Speaker-Turn Aware Conversational Speech Translation. *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (main)*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.00697>.
21. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Ahmed, S., Visockas, D., & Subakan, C. (2023). CommonAccent: Exploring Large Acoustic Pretrained Models for Accent Classification Based on Common Voice. *Proc. Interspeech 2023 [Nominated as best student paper award]*.
20. *Mai, F., ***Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Parcollet, T., & Motlicek, P. (2023). HyperConformer: Multi-head HyperMixer for Efficient Speech Recognition. *Proc. Interspeech 2023*.
19. Nigmatulina, I., Madikeri, S., Villatoro-Tello, E., Motlicek, P., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Pandia, K., & Ganapathiraju, A. (2022). Implementing contextual biasing in GPU decoder for online ASR. *Proc. Interspeech 2023*.
18. Villatoro-Tello, E., Madikeri, S., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Sharma, B., Sarfjoo, S. S., Nigmatulina, I., Motlicek, P., Ivanov, A. V., & Ganapathiraju, A. (2023). Effectiveness of text, acoustic, and lattice-based representations in spoken language understanding tasks. *ICASSP 2023-2023 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, 1–5.
17. Helmke, H., Kleinert, M., Ahrenhold, N., Ehr, H., Mühlhausen, T., Ohneiser, O., Klamert, L., Motlicek, P., Prasad, A., **Zuluaga Gomez, Juan**, et al. (2023). Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding for Radar Label Maintenance Support Increases Safety and Reduces Air Traffic Controllers' Workload. *Proceedings of the 15th USA/Europe Air Traffic Management Research and Development Seminar (ATM2023), Savannah, GA, USA, 17. [Best paper award—Human Factors Track]*.
16. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Prasad, A., Nigmatulina, I., et al. (2022). How Does Pre-trained Wav2Vec 2.0 Perform on Domain Shifted ASR? An Extensive Benchmark on Air Traffic Control Communications. *2022 IEEE Spoken Language Technology Workshop (SLT), Doha, Qatar*.
15. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Sarfjoo, S. S. et al. (2022). BERTraffic: BERT-based Joint Speaker Role and Speaker Change Detection for Air Traffic Control Communications. *2022 IEEE Spoken Language Technology Workshop (SLT), Doha, Qatar*.
14. *Prasad, A., ***Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan** et al. (2022). Speech and Natural Language Processing Technologies for Pseudo-Pilot Simulator. *12th SESAR Innovation Days*.
13. Helmke, H., Ondřej, K., Shetty, S., Arilíusson, H., Simiganoschi, T., Kleinert, M., Ohneiser, O., Ehr, H., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, & Smrz, P. (2022). Readback Error Detection by Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding – Results of HAAWAI Project for Isavia's Enroute Airspace. *12th SESAR Innovation Days*.
12. Prasad, A., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Motlicek, P., et al. (2022). Grammar Based Speaker Role Identification for Air Traffic Control Speech Recognition. *12th SESAR Innovation Days*.
11. Nigmatulina, I., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Prasad, A., et al. (2022). A two-step approach to leverage contextual data: speech recognition in air-traffic communications. *ICASSP 2022-2022 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, 6282–6286.
10. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan** et al. (2021b). Contextual Semi-Supervised Learning: An Approach to Leverage Air-Surveillance and Untranscribed ATC Data in ASR Systems. *Proc. Interspeech 2021*.

9. Kocour, M., Veselý, K., Szoke, I., Kesiraju, S., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Blatt, A., et al. (2021). Automatic Processing Pipeline for Collecting and Annotating Air-Traffic Voice Communication Data. *Engineering Proceedings*, 13(1), 8.
8. Kocour, M., Veselý, K., Blatt, A., **Juan Zuluaga-Gomez**, et al. (2021). Boosting of Contextual Information in ASR for Air-Traffic Call-Sign Recognition. *Proc. Interspeech 2021*.
7. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Veselý, K. et al. (2020). Automatic call sign detection: Matching air surveillance data with air traffic spoken communications. *Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute Proceedings*, 59(1), 14.
6. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Motliceck, P. et al. (2020). Automatic Speech Recognition Benchmark for Air-Traffic Communications. *Interspeech*, 2297–2301. <https://doi.org/10.21437/Interspeech.2020-2173>.
5. Ma, J., Shang, P., Lu, C., Meraghni, S., Benaggoune, K., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Zerhouni, N., Devalland, C., & Al Masry, Z. (2019). A portable breast cancer detection system based on smartphone with infrared camera. *Vibroengineering Procedia*, 26, 57–63.
4. Bonaveri, P., Barrios, M., & **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**. (2017). Diseño y Construcción de un Sistema Basado en Acelerometría para la Captación y Análisis en Matlab de Señales Precordiales usando Sismocardiografía 3D. *Memorias del Congreso Nacional de Ingeniería Biomédica*, 2(1), 153–156.
3. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan** et al. (2018). Aprendizaje orientado a proyectos integradores y perfeccionamiento del trabajo en equipo: Caso máster erasmus mundus en ingeniería mecatronica. *XXVI Congreso Universitario de Innovación Educativa en las Enseñanzas Técnicas*.
2. **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, & Bonaveri, P. (2016). Sistema para la detección de señales precordiales mediante sismocardiografía. *Prospectiva*, 14(1), 89–95.
1. Corredor, S., Valbuena, M., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, & Barrios, M. (2014). Design and Construction a measurer of total body water, fat mass and fat free mass using LabVIEW. *2014 III International Congress of Engineering Mechatronics and Automation (CIIMA)*, 1–4.

PUBLICATIONS (BOOK/BOOK CHAPTER)

1. **Zuluaga-Gomez, J** et al. (2017). Tratamiento de aguas residuales mediante el proceso de fotocatalisis con dióxido de titanio (tio2). In U. A. del Caribe (Ed.). Uniautonoma, ISBN: 9789585431010.

WORKSHOPS (CONFERENCE, PEER REVIEWED)

2. Burdisso, S., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Fajcik, M., et al. (2022). IDIAPers @ causal news corpus 2022: Causal relation identification using a few-shot and prompt-based fine-tuning of language models. *The 5th Workshop on Challenges and Applications of Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from Text (CASE @ EMNLP 2022)*.
1. Fajcik, M., Singh, M., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, et al. (2022). Idiapers @ causal news corpus 2022: Extracting cause-effect-signal triplets via pre-trained autoregressive language model. *The 5th Workshop on Challenges and Applications of Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from Text (CASE @ EMNLP 2022)*.

PUBLICATIONS (PRE-PRINT)

2. Nigmatulina, I., Braun, R., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, & Motlicek, P. (2021). Improving callsign recognition with air-surveillance data in air-traffic communication. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2108.12156*.
1. Madikeri, S., Tong, S., **Zuluaga-Gomez, Juan**, Vyas, A., Motlicek, P., & Bourlard, H. (2020). Pkwrap: A pytorch package for lf-mmi training of acoustic models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2010.03466*.

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES

- IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP). Year: 2022, 2023
- Interspeech. Year: 2020, 2021, 2023
- OpenSky Network (OSN) Symposium. Year: 2021, 2020
- XXVI CUIEET National Congress, Spain, 2018
- XVIII National and XII International Research Meeting - Colciencias, Colombia, 2015
- XII Departmental meeting of Research, Colombia, 2015
- Biomedical Engineering National Congress, Mexico, 2015
- IV International Mechatronics and Automation Congress, Colombia, 2015
- III International Mechatronics and Automation Congress, Colombia, 2014
- II International Mechatronics and Automation Congress, Colombia, 2013

REVIEWER IN CONFERENCES/JOURNALS

- Interspeech, 2023
- IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP), 2022, 2023, 2024
- EMNLP @ CASE workshop, 2022

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- ATCO2 EU-funded Horizon 2020 project. Website.
- HAAWAI EU-funded Horizon 2020 project. Website.
- Minerva CQ company: research on spoken language understanding and robust ASR.

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

- Experienced in Bash scripting and Git (Github/Gitlab)
- Experienced in Python, PyTorch, Numpy, Google Colab and Jupyter Notebooks
- Speech Recognition toolkit: Kaldi, HuggingFace, SpeechBrain & ESPNet
- Natural Language Processing toolkit: PyTorch, HuggingFace
- Parallel experimentation with Sungrid Engine and Weight & Biases

SOFTWARE

- **Icefall (k2) & SpeechBrain:** Python/PyTorch based libraries for automatic speech recognition modeling.
- **PkWrap:** Python library for LF-MMI training of acoustic models for automatic speech recognition with Pytorch, <https://github.com/idiap/pkwrap>
- **Wav2Vec 2.0 for air traffic control communications**, <https://github.com/idiap/w2v2-air-traffic>
- **BerTraffic:** Bert-based speaker Diarization, <https://github.com/idiap/bert-text-diarization-atc>
- **CommonAccent:** accent ID with CommonVoice, <https://github.com/JuanPZuluaga/accent-recog-slt2022>
- **HyperConfomer:** efficient automatic speech recognition with Conformer and HyperMixer, <https://github.com/JuanPZuluaga/hypermixer-speech>
- **ATCO2:** a 5000-hours corpus for research on Automatic Speech Recognition and Understanding of Air Traffic Control communications. Baselines and code in: <https://github.com/JuanPZuluaga/atco2-corpus>

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant:

- Deep Learning Course, EE-559, EPFL (Prof. François Fleuret), Spring 2022

TALKS

- Paper presentation. Unsupervised speech recognition (abs, pdf). At *ECCS Seminar: Advanced Topics in Machine Learning*, 2022.
- Keynote: An introduction to speech-based technologies for Natural Language Processing applications. *Mexican NLP Summer School 2021*, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico, 2021

AWARD, NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

1. “CommonAccent: Exploring Large Acoustic Pretrained Models for Accent Classification Based on Common Voice” paper nominated as best student paper award at Interspeech 2023
2. Ranked 2nd and 3rd place at OLR-2021 challenge task 3 & 4, 2021
3. Scholarship: Erasmus Mundus - European Union, EACEA, 2017
4. Scholarship: to attend XVI World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Colombia, 2017
5. Scholarship: to attend XV World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Spain, 2015
6. Distinction: rank obtained during bachelor studies: ranked 1st out of 7, 2015
7. Distinction: six distinctions and scholarships (GPA during bachelor studies), 2012-2015
8. Scholarship: by DAAD (Germany), visiting student September-October, 2014

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Spanish: Native
- English: Bilingual Proficiency
- French: Limited Working Proficiency

MEMBERSHIPS

- Member of the International Speech Communication Association (ISCA), since 2020
- Graduate Student Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), since 2022

PATENTS

*Device for Cardiac Signals Detection, **Granted***

September 2019

- Seismocardiography system for Cardiac Signals Detection
- Registration number: NC16-175508
- Phase: Granted 2020
- Financing partners: Commerce Chamber of Barranquilla - CIENTECH

*Robot for Martial Arts Training - RobPam, **Granted***

October 2020

- Robotic humanoid to practice martial arts
- Registration number: NC201-0007622
- Phase: Granted 2020
- Financing partners: Commerce Chamber of Barranquilla - CIENTECH

SUPERVISION ACTIVITIES

Universidad Autonoma del Caribe, Barranquilla, Colombia

Mechatronic Engineering Undergraduate Program

October 2016

- Development of a biomedical instrument and mobile APP for cardiac signals (SCG) and pulse oximetry monitoring in older people. **Students:** Cristhian Escalona, Dario Garcia.
- Development of a biomedical system to capture, process and visualize impedance cardiographm and electrocardiogram signals in a web page. **Student:** Juan Villalobos, Daniel Castaneda.

INTERESTS

Cooking, Hiking and Traveling, Reading (recommended books), Coffee Brewing.