

SARANSH CHOPRA

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About

Saransh is an engineering junior who, by day, works on his academic and professional commitments, and by night, develops and maintains open-source research software, which he believes are the key to collaborative and reproducible research.

He is passionate about Research Software Engineering, Machine Learning, Scientific Machine Learning, and Open-Source Research Software.

Education

Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi

New Delhi, India

Major: Information Technology and Mathematical Innovations

2020 – 2024

Minor: Computational Biology

CGPA 9.46

Research and Work Experience

Institute for Research and Innovation in Software for High Energy Physics, (IRIS-HEP), Princeton University

Remote

IRIS-HEP research fellow [Funded by IRIS-HEP]

June 2022 – September 2022

Dr. Henry Schreiner (Princeton University / CERN) and Dr. Jim Pivarski (Princeton University / CERN)

- Prepared Vector for v0.9.0 and v1.0.0 (first major release) by developing new public API, fixing bugs, and building new infrastructure.
- The major release is currently being used by researchers at CERN, ATLAS, CMS, and Princeton University to construct 4D jagged (awkward) vectors and perform Just-In-Time compiled vector operations in Python.
- Worked closely with CERN and Princeton researchers, and IRIS-HEP maintainers.

FluxML, The Julia Programming Language

Remote

Open-source developer and technical writer [Funded by The Julia Programming Language]

May 2022 – September 2022

Mr. Dhairya Gandhi (Julia Computing)

- Fixed bugs and developed the infrastructure of prominent Julia ML libraries such as Flux.jl, NNlib.jl (Neural Network primitives), Metalhead.jl (Computer vision models), and Functors.jl.
- Wrote original Machine Learning/Deep Learning tutorials, documentation and API references for FluxML's ecosystem.
- Worked closely with doctoral researchers and FluxML maintainers from around the world.

PyBaMM (Python Battery Mathematical Modelling), NumFOCUS

Remote

Google Summer of Code student developer [Funded by Google]

May 2021 – August 2021

Dr. Valentin Sulzer (Carnegie Mellon University), Dr. Robert Timms (University of Oxford), Dr. Ferran Brosa Planella (University of Warwick)

- Built an automated Twitter Bot capable of constructing Mathematical Simulations of Batteries, including but not limited to different battery models, parameter sets, chemistries, degradation modes, and experiments.
- Developed a replying functionality to run Mathematical Simulations on command, created a CI/CD pipeline, and followed a micro-services-based architecture.
- Worked closely with post-doctoral research fellows and PyBaMM maintainers from around the world.

Publications

[Tra+21] T. G. Tranter, R. Timms, V. Sulzer, F. B. Planella, G. M. Wiggins, S. V. Karra, P. Agarwal, **S. Chopra**, S. Allu, P. R. Shearing, and D. J. L. Brett. *liionpack: A Python package for simulating packs of batteries with PyBaMM*. Journal of Open Source Software, 7(70), 4051. Oct. 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.04051>.

Open Source Research Software

PyBaMM

Maintainer and Core Developer - 215,000+ installs - 420+ stars

PyBaMM (Python Battery Mathematical Modelling) solves physics-based electrochemical DAE models by using state-of-the-art automatic differentiation and numerical solvers.

Vector

Collaborator and Core Developer - 72,000+ installs - 40+ stars

Vector is a Python 3.6+ library for 2D, 3D, and Lorentz vectors, especially arrays of vectors, to solve common physics problems in a NumPy-like way.

Flux.jl

Core contributor - 80,000+ installs - 3,700+ stars

Flux is an elegant approach to machine learning. It's a 100% pure-Julia stack, and provides lightweight abstractions on top of Julia's native GPU and AD support. Flux makes the easy things easy while remaining fully hackable.

BattBot

Maintainer and Core Developer - 130+ followers - 10+ stars

An automated Twitter Bot that Tweets random Battery Mathematical Modeling Simulations and replies to the requested Battery Simulations.

liionpack

Maintainer and Core Developer - 2,000+ installs - 30+ stars

liionpack takes a 1D PyBaMM model and makes it into a pack. You can either specify the configuration e.g. 16 cells in parallel and 2 in series (16p2s) or load a netlist.

Other notable contributions

- **DeepXDE:** *DeepXDE is a library for scientific machine learning* - 330,000+ installs - 1,200+ stars
Implemented utility functions and improved the existing examples on solving partial differential equations using Physics-Informed neural networks.
- **Colour:** *Colour Science for Python* - 6,000,000+ installs - 1,500+ stars
Implemented the conversion between RGB and HCL colourspaces.

Posters and Presentations

- [SSP22a] **S. Chopra**, H. Schreiner, and J. Pivarski. *Compiling Awkward Lorentz vectors with Numba*. 21st International Workshop on Advanced Computing and Analysis Techniques in Physics Research. Poster (upcoming). Oct. 2022. URL: <https://indi.to/45Kzq>.
- [SSP22b] **S. Chopra**, H. Schreiner, and J. Pivarski. *Constructing HEP vectors and analyzing HEP data using Vector*. PyHEP (Python in High Energy Physics) workshop. Presentation (upcoming). Oct. 2022. URL: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1150631/abstracts/147762/>.
- [S C22a] **S. Chopra**. *Python packaging: from stone age to the future*. PyDelhi workshop. Presentation (upcoming). Sept. 2022.
- [S C22b] **S. Chopra**. *Code coverage through unit tests running in sub-processes/threads: Locally and automated on GitHub*. PyCon Asia-Pacific (APAC). Presentation (upcoming). Sept. 2022. URL: <https://tw.pycon.org/2022/en-us/conference/talk/243>.
- [S C22c] **S. Chopra**. *Code coverage through unit tests running in sub-processes/threads: Locally and automated on GitHub*. EuroPython. Presentation. July 2022. URL: <https://ep2022.europython.eu/session/code-coverage-through-unit-tests-running-in-sub-processes-threads-locally-and-automated-on-github>.
- [S C22d] **S. Chopra**. *Vector - Constructors, documentation, and benchmarks*. IRIS-HEP Lightning Talks. Presentation. June 2022. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLt7BHUA5pw>.
- [S C21] **S. Chopra**. *BattBot: Mathematical Modeling of Batteries using an automated Twitter bot*. PyBaMM (Python Battery Mathematical Modeling) training workshop. Presentation. Oct. 2021. URL: <https://www.pybamm.org/training>.

Grants, Prizes and Achievements

- PyCon Asia-Pacific (APAC)'s grant to lead a talk virtually (NT\$3,600) July 2022
- Shubhra Kar Linux Foundation Training Scholarship (500 recipients worldwide) for contributions to open-source research software (\$695) June 2022
- EuroPython's travel grant to lead a talk in-person (£460) June 2022
- PyCon Italia's travel grant to lead a workshop in-person (£400 + lodging support) April 2022
- Faraday Institution's Collaboration Award for contributions to the PyBaMM ecosystem November 2021
- Won the Elastic hackathon (out of 2500+ registrations) with a Flutter-Node-Google Cloud based ELK (Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana) application May 2021
- Discovered an asteroid having a fixed orbit around Sun by analysing the data Pan-STARRS observatory August 2016

Projects

- OCRed** [OCR, Computer Vision, Python library, Research software, GH Actions, GH Pages] *August 2022*
- OCRed provides clever, simple, and intuitive wrapper functionalities for OCRing specific textual materials.
 - The Python library has **800+ installs** on PyPI, **10+ stars** on GitHub, and follows best development practices.
- ForMente** [NLP, Flutter, Dart, FastAPI, Python, Firebase, Firestore, Heroku, GitHub Actions] *June 2022*
- Using Natural Language Processing, ForMente lets you diagnose your feelings in the form of a secure personal diary.
 - The NLP model is deployed on Heroku using FastAPI, and the app uses Firebase and Firestore as its backend.
- ChaoticEncryption.jl** [Image processing, Encryption algorithms, ODEs, PRNGs, Julia package] *February 2022*
- Vectorised image encryption and PRNG algorithms that runs **~40X faster** than ordinary nested-for implementations.
 - The Julia package has **10+ installs** on JuliaHub and **25+ stars** on GitHub.
- SceneNet** [Transfer Learning, VGG19, CNNs, Python, Flutter, Dart, FastAPI, Heroku] *December 2021*
- Scenery detection using transfer learning achieved by training VGG-19 on 10,000+ images belonging to 67 categories.
 - Achieved 96% training accuracy, 64% cross-validation accuracy, and developed a standalone public API for the model.

Mentorship

- Google Summer of Code** *May - September 2022*
- Mentored students under PyBaMM, NumFOCUS, on projects involving, but not limited to, documentation, DevOps, parameterisation, and visualization.
- CodePeak** *December 2021*
- Mentored 10+ students in the field of open-source application development.

Relevant Skills

Languages:	Julia Python C/C++ JavaScript Dart
Frameworks/Libraries:	Tensorflow FluxML-Ecosystem PyTorch PyData-Ecosystem SciML-Ecosystem DeepXDE Flutter FastAPI NodeJS
Platforms and Tools	Linux Android Heroku Google Cloud Elasticsearch Kibana Firebase Docker CI/CD
Research Interests:	Machine Learning Scientific ML Research Software Development OSS Research Software

Languages

Hindi (mother tongue), English (fluent), German (basic), Punjabi (conversational)