Akarsh Prabhakara

 ${\bf Email~ID: aprabhak@andrew.cmu.edu}$ ${\bf Website \cdot Google~Scholar \cdot GitHub \cdot LinkedIn}$

INTERESTS Sensing Systems, Signal Processing, Machine Learning, Radio Frequency Embedded Systems

EDUCATION Carnegie Mellon University

Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering — GPA: 3.9/4.0 Advisors: Prof. Anthony Rowe and Prof. Swarun Kumar

National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK)

2014 - 2018

2018 - 2023

B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering — GPA: 9.6/10.0

PROFESSIONAL Carnegie Mellon University

Aug 2018 - May 2023

EXPERIENCES Graduate Research Assistant at WiSE Lab and WiTech Lab

I am passionate about sensing systems. In my graduate research, I work on wireless sensing - that is, how wireless signals can help in sensing everyday objects (like tires) better and also provide new design operating points for classical sensing problems such as depth imaging, localization and robot navigation. My focus is on **millimeter wave sensing** which offers a middle ground between low frequency radio waves and visible/infrared light, thereby bringing both pros and cons to different applications. My solutions tackle these challenges and tend to be end-to-end system implementations with new hardware and processing techniques. Read more about my work here.

Optum, Pittsburgh

May 2021 - Aug 2021

Corporate Startup Lab Fellow with Danita Kiser

I helped answer questions about large scale wireless connectivity technologies and build an actionable plan to bridge the divide between urban and rural areas in accessing digital health solutions - a problem that is close to my heart.

Texas Instruments, Dallas

May 2019 - Aug 2019

Research Intern at Kilby Labs

I tackled the problem of wireless channel congestion and interference in IEEE 802.15.4 networks deployed in large industrial Internet of Things scenarios by devising machine learning pipelines that can predict the channel congestion ahead of time.

Microsoft Research, Bangalore

Aug 2017 - Dec 2017

Research Intern with Dr. Harsha Simhadri

I built a real-time wake word detection pipeline to detect keywords like "Hey Cortana!" on extremely tiny, resource constrained IoT devices.

University of Lübeck, Germany

May 2017 - July 2017

Research Intern with Dr. Alfred Mertins

I developed machine learning techniques to solve an audio processing problem of room impulse response interpolation.

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

May 2016 - July 2016

Research Intern with Dr. GV Anand

I worked on fundamental signal processing estimation algorithms to determine direction of arrival of underwater acoustic signals in challenging noisy environments.

Competitions DARPA Subterranean Challenge

As part of the CMU team, I performed initial experimentation on wireless mesh networking for consistent communication among robots, access points and base station in mines and caves.

IEEE Signal Processing Cup 2017

We built a real-time beat tracking algorithm running on an embedded device reacting to a variety of music signals. Check out our trippy visualizations here!.

IEEE Signal Processing Cup 2016

We developed a solution to extract power signal leaking into recorded audio signals and identify the power grid where audio was recorded. We finished top 15 in the world!

PUBLICATIONS

A Hybrid mmWave and Camera System for Long-Range Depth Imaging.

A Prabhakara*, D Zhang*, C Li, S Munir, A Sankaranarayanan, A Rowe, S Kumar. Under review

Millimetro: mmWave Retro-Reflective Tags for Accurate, Long Range Localization.

E Soltanaghaei*, A Prabhakara*, A Balanuta*, M Anderson, J Rabaey, S Kumar, A Rowe. ACM MobiCom. 2021.

A Community-Driven Approach to Democratize Access to Satellite Ground Stations.

V Singh, A Prabhakara, D Zhang, O Yağan, S Kumar.

ACM MobiCom. 2021.

ACM GetMobile Research Highlight

TagFi: Locating an Ultra-Low Power Tag Using Existing WiFi Infrastructure.

E Soltanaghaei, A Dongare, A Prabhakara, S Kumar, A Rowe, K Whitehouse. Ubicomp. 2021.

Osprey: A mmWave Approach to Tire Wear Sensing.

A Prabhakara, V Singh, S Kumar, A Rowe.

ACM MobiSys. 2020.

Best Paper Honorable Mention, Best Demo, ACM GetMobile Research Highlight

Press: Gizmodo, Hackster.io, TedX Innovation Expo and That's Cool News Podcast.

Underwater Acoustic Source Localization by Vector Sensor Array using Compressive Sampling.

PV Nagesha, GV Anand, S Gurugopinath, A Prabhakar. MTS/IEEE Oceans. 2016.

Patents

mmWave Retro-Reflective Tags for Accurate, Long Range Localization. Patent Pending E Soltanaghaei, A Rowe, S Kumar, A Prabhakara, A Balanuta

Tire Sensing Systems and Methods.

• Best Outgoing Student Award

WO/2021/231381

2014 and 2012

A Prabhakara, V Singh, S Kumar, A Rowe, T Wei, H Dorfi

Awards

• ACM GetMobile Research Highlight for Quasar	2022
• Corporate Startup Lab Fellowship	Summer 2021
• ACM GetMobile Research Highlight for Osprey	2021
• CMU ECE Department Award for Exemplary Qualifying Exam Performance	Spring 2020
• Best Paper Honorable Mention, ACM MobiSys	2020
• Best Demo, ACM MobiSys	2020
• Carnegie Institute of Technology Dean's Fellowship	2018-2019
• DAAD WISE Fellowship	2017
• Indian Academy of Sciences' Summer Research Fellowship	2016

SKILLS

Hardware		Software	
• RF Circuits Simulation	Ansys HFSS	• Programming Languages	$C \cdot C++ \cdot Python \cdot Matlab$
PCB DesignRadios	Eagle mmWave radars (TI &	• Distributed and Parallel API	$\mathrm{OpenMP}\cdot\mathrm{MPI}$
	Infineon) \cdot Ettus USRP \cdot IoT LoRa pHAT	• ML Frameworks	PyTorch \cdot Tensorflow \cdot Keras
CamerasLidars	$ \begin{aligned} & \text{FLIR} \cdot \text{Optitrack} \cdot \text{Intel T265} \\ & \text{Ouster} \cdot \text{Velodyne} \end{aligned} $	Miscellaneous	${ m ROS} \cdot { m PCL} \cdot { m MQTT} \cdot { m Docker} \cdot { m Cartographer}$