

# Akash Mahajan

---

## SUMMARY

+1-(650)-546-5305 [akashmjn.1@gmail.com](mailto:akashmjn.1@gmail.com)

[akashmjn.me](http://akashmjn.me) [@akashmjn](https://twitter.com/akashmjn) [LinkedIn/akashmjn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/akashmjn/)

I currently work as an applied scientist with expertise in speech recognition, digital signal processing, and deep learning. I most recently worked on transcription & diarization for AI-assisted meeting recap.

I do my best work in environments that require quick learning from experts, simplifying the complex, and a [product-minded approach](#).

## EXPERIENCE

### **Senior Applied Scientist | Microsoft Azure Speech**

Nov 2018-present

Offline speech recognition

- Developed and shipped a Conformer-S2S based system to [Azure Batch API](#) with [Whisper](#)-comparable accuracy at integer-multiple lower cost (real-time factor)
- Worked across stack: data pipeline, distributed training, optimizing GPU inference in ONNX/C++

Diarized, farfield transcription of conference rooms

- Co-developed metrics, led system-wide error analysis locating bottlenecks in complex multi-component pipeline (mic array processing, speech separation, hybrid ASR, diarization, display formatting)

Real-time speech recognition

- Developed and shipped LC-BLSTM based hybrid (HMM / WFST) acoustic models, incorporating larger offline teacher models into production recipes

### **Founding Data Science member | Ather Energy** [[pioneering](#) Indian EV startup]

2015-2016

- Co-developed a roadmap for vehicle intelligence by prototyping features (e.g. speed bump detection, predictive maintenance)
- Conceptualized and led the engagement for a unique EV test ride visualization experience [[blog](#)]

## PROJECTS

### **tinydiarize: Minimal extension of Whisper for diarization** [[github](#)]

2023

- Built an extension of OpenAI's Whisper ASR model for speaker diarization with special tokens
- Released with [integration in whisper.cpp](#) runnable on MacBooks/iPhones

### **OrcaHello: AI-assisted 24x7 hydrophone monitoring** | Microsoft Global Hackathon

2019-2022

- Co-founder and lead for award-winning project (\$30k+ Azure credits, non-profit cash grants)
- Went from no labeled data to live inference on Azure at 3 hydrophone locations, with feedback from [moderator web-app](#). Co-designed and built with team of 20+ volunteer hackers [[github](#)]

### **Attention I'm trying to speak: Text to speech synthesis** | Stanford [[github](#)]

2018

- Built a low-cost convolution-attention based system trainable in half a day on a K80 GPU
- Awarded [best poster](#) amongst 50+ projects in CS224n (Deep Learning for NLP)

## EDUCATION

### **Stanford University, M.S. Management Science & Engineering**

2016-2018

Deep Learning/Digital Signal Processing, Databases/Computer Systems, Marketing/Strategy/Design  
CA (course assistant) for Machine Learning (CS229) & Deep Learning (CS230)

### **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, B.Tech.**

2011-2015

Chemical Engineering, minor: Control Systems (linear algebra, stats, signal processing)

## MISC

### **Patents**

- [US11044287B1](#) Microsoft (granted, 2021)  
Caption assisted calling to maintain connection in challenging network conditions
- [WO2018020475A1](#) Ather Energy (PCT application, 2018)  
A method and system for determining an operational condition of a vehicle component

**Programming languages:** Python, C/C++, HTML/CSS/Javascript (hackable)

**Frameworks & Tools:** Pytorch distributed, ONNX runtime, Docker, AzureML/Batch/Blob data pipelines

---