

CHAITANYA KAPOOR

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(Nationality: Citizen of the United States of America)

Research Interests

My research interests lie at the intersection of Deep Learning and Neuroscience, aiming to understand and reverse engineer neural computation. I aim to develop computational models of cognitive neural circuits, with an overarching goal of designing efficient, biologically-constrained learning algorithms.

Education

University of California, San Diego

PhD Student (Cognitive Science)

Sep. 2025 – Present

La Jolla, CA

University of California, San Diego

Post-Baccalaureate Student ([NeuroML Group](#))

Aug. 2024 – Aug. 2025

La Jolla, CA

Advisor: [Meenakshi Khosla](#)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Student ([Senseable Intelligence Group](#))

Jan. 2024 – July 2024

Cambridge, MA

Thesis: LUMIN: Light-sheet Microscopy Analysis Unified with Distributed and Domain-Randomized Generative Models

Advisor: [Satrajit Ghosh](#)

Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani

B.E. (Hons.) in Electrical and Electronics engineering

Nov. 2020 – July 2024

Pilani, India

Selected Publications

Partial Soft-Matching For Neural Representational Comparison

C. Kapoor, A. H. Williams, M. Khosla

(Under Review)

Bridging Critical Gaps in Convergent Learning: How Representational Alignment Evolves Across Layers, Training, and Distribution Shifts

C. Kapoor, S. Srivastava, M. Khosla

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2025 - [preprint](#), [CCN Extended Abstract](#)

Multiplexed Expansion Revealing for Imaging Multiprotein Nanostructures in Healthy and Diseased Brain

J. Kang, M. Schroeder, Y. Lee, C. Kapoor, E. Yu, T. B. Tarr, K. Titterton, M. Zeng, D. Park, E.

Niederst, D. Wei, E. S. Boyden

Nature Communications, 2024 - [paper](#), [code](#), [news story](#)

RnR-ExM: Robust Non-Rigid Registration Challenge for Expansion Microscopy Volumes

E. Besier, R. Zhang, Y. Bando, Y. Quémener, C. Kapoor, M. Alawi, M. Hoffman, A. Dalca, A.

Casamitjana, I. Arganda-Carreras, E. S. Boyden, H. Pfister, D. Wei

IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (IEEE ISBI), 2023 - [code](#), [website](#)

Research Experience

NeuroML Lab

Supervisor: Prof. Meenakshi Khosla

Aug. 2024 – Aug. 2025

La Jolla, CA

- Leading the development and design of new optimal transport-based representational similarity metrics allowing for matching and detection of single-neuron tuning outliers across biological and artificial neural networks.
- Led and discovered—via a large-scale audit (CNNs, ViTs, LLMs)—that orthogonal mappings align networks nearly as well as full linear transforms.
- Challenged prevailing assumptions by showing simple geometric invariances drive convergence, rapid cross-network alignment occurs far earlier than thought, and alignment robustness degrades proportionally with OOD shift—insights not reported in prior CCA/regression-based studies. This work has been published at NeurIPS.

Talmo Lab

Supervisor: Dr. Talmo Pereira

May 2023 – Aug. 2024

Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA

- Worked on the development of methods for pose estimation and tracking to quantify animal behavior through robust tracking of anatomical landmarks in 3D.
- Designed algorithms utilizing projective geometry to create inputs for a CNN that leverages geometric reasoning.

Senseable Intelligence Group

Supervisor: Prof. Satrajit Ghosh

Jan. 2024 – July 2024

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA

- Developed a distributed framework for large-scale ($\approx 1\text{TiB}$) image segmentation for light-sheet microscopy images.
- Designed a domain-randomized generative model, using spherical harmonics to synthesize cortical sections of *ex-vivo* human brains to enable zero-shot segmentation.
- Worked on designing few-shot, *spatially* guided semantic segmentation algorithms for MRI segmentation.
- Proposed the use of a topologically aware Graph Neural Network which is capable of encoding spatial and anatomical constraints.

Synthetic Neurobiology Group

Supervisors: Prof. Ed Boyden, Prof. Donglai Wei

Feb. 2022 – Jan. 2024

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA

- Worked on the development of a *generalist* 3D segmentation model for Expansion Microscopy (ExM) volumes for various animal species.
- Proposed a human-in-the-loop feedback learning mechanism, built on top of an existing deep learning framework, NucMM.
- Worked on developing a new joint-intensity and point-based, high throughput image registration algorithms having nanoscale precision (**10 – 40 nm**) for Multiplexed Expansion Revealing (**multiExR**). This work has been published at Nature Communications.

Invited Talks and Tutorials

02/24 Automating behavior quantification using deep learning, *COSYNE 2024*

06/23 SIS Symposium, Harvard SEAS, *Seeing Beyond the Camera*

Honors & Awards

10/25 NeurIPS 2025: Student Travel Award

04/24 NeuroMatch Academy: Computational Neuroscience Summer School

02/24 COSYNE 2024: Undergraduate Travel Grant Award

04/23 O_xML 2023: ML \times Health Summer School, Oxford Mathematical Institute

Students Mentored

- **Pratham Yashwante**: Masters Student at UC San Diego
- **Chanyoung Park**: Undergraduate Student at UC San Diego

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, C, MATLAB, Unix Shell Scripting, \LaTeX

Technologies/Frameworks: Keras, Tensorflow, Numpy, PyTorch, Git, OpenCV

References

Meenakshi Khosla: Assistant Professor of Cognitive Science and Computer Science and Engineering, UC San Diego. (Contact: mkhosla@ucsd.edu)

Edward S. Boyden: Y. Eva Tan Professor in Neurotechnology, MIT. (Contact: eboyden@mit.edu)

Satrajit S. Ghosh: Director of Open Data in Neuroscience Initiative and Senior Research Scientist, MIT. (Contact: satra@mit.edu)

Talmo D. Pereira: Salk Fellow and Principal Investigator, Salk Institute for Biological Studies. (Contact: talmo@salk.edu)

Donglai Wei: Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Boston College. (Contact: donglai.wei@bc.edu)