

Rahul Arora

CONTACT INFORMATION

Meta Platforms
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interactive Computer Graphics
Virtual and Augmented Realities (VR/AR)

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
Applied Perception

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist, **Reality Labs, Meta** 2021-present
Interaction researcher in the Input Explorations team working on multimodal interactions in AR.

EDUCATION

PhD, **University of Toronto** 2015-2021
Major: Computer Science
Thesis: Creative Expression in Immersive 3D Environments
Adviser: Prof. Karan Singh
CGPA: 4.0/4.0

MTech, **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur** 2014-2015
Major: Computer Science and Engineering
Thesis: Exploring Design Space by Interpolating between Multiple Sketches
Advisers: Prof. Vinay P. Namboodiri and Dr. Adrien Bousseau
CGPA: 9.6/10.0

BTech, **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur** 2010-2015
Major: Computer Science and Engineering
CGPA: 8.5/10.0

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Piecewise-Smooth Surface Fitting onto Unstructured 3D Sketches
Emilie Yu, **Rahul Arora**, J. Andreas Bærentzen, Karan Singh, and Adrien Bousseau
ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG) 2022, proc. SIGGRAPH
https://em-yu.github.io/research/surfacing_3d_sketches/

Mid-Air Drawing of Curves on 3D Surfaces in Virtual Reality
Rahul Arora and Karan Singh
ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG) 2021, presented at SIGGRAPH 2021
http://bit.ly/tog21_mimicry

CASSIE: Curve and Surface Sketching in Immersive Environments
Emilie Yu, **Rahul Arora**, Tibor Stanko, J. Andreas Bærentzen, Karan Singh, and Adrien Bousseau
ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2021 (CHI '21)
🏆 **Best Paper Honorable Mention**
<https://em-yu.github.io/research/cassie/>

MagicalHands: Mid-Air Hand Gestures for Animating in VR
Rahul Arora, Rubaiat Habib Kazi, Danny Kaufman, Wilmot Li, and Karan Singh

ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology 2019 (UIST '19)
<https://www.dgp.toronto.edu/projects/magical-hands/>

Volumetric Michell Trusses for Parametric Design & Fabrication

Rahul Arora, Alec Jacobson, Timothy R. Langlois, Yijiang Huang, Caitlin Mueller, Wojciech Matusik, Ariel Shamir, Karan Singh, and David I.W. Levin
ACM Symposium on Computational Fabrication 2019 (SCF '19)
<https://www.dgp.toronto.edu/projects/michell/>

SymbiosisSketch: Combining 2D and 3D Sketching for Designing Detailed 3D Objects in Situ

Rahul Arora, Rubaiat Habib Kazi, Tovi Grossman, George Fitzmaurice, and Karan Singh
ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2018 (CHI '18)
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3328939.3328999>

Experimental Evaluation of Sketching on Surfaces in VR

Rahul Arora, Rubaiat Habib Kazi, Fraser Anderson, Tovi Grossman, Karan Singh, and George Fitzmaurice
ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2017 (CHI '17)
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025474>

SketchSoup: Exploratory Ideation using Design Sketching

Rahul Arora, Ishan Darolia, Vinay P. Namboodiri, Karan Singh, and Adrien Bousseau
Computer Graphics Forum (CGF) 2017, presented at Eurographics 2017
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/cgf.13081>

Derandomizing Isolation Lemma for $K_{3,3}$ -free and K_5 -free Bipartite Graphs

Rahul Arora, Ashu Gupta, Rohit Gurjar, and Raghunath Tewari
Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (STACS) 2016
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.STACS.2016.10>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A Generic Noninvasive Neuromotor Interface for Human-Computer Interaction (Preprint)

CTRL-Labs at Reality Labs (over 250 contributors including **Rahul Arora**)
<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.02.23.581779v2>

Introduction to 3D Sketching (Invited Book Chapter)

Rahul Arora, Mayra Donaji Barrera Machuca, Philipp Wacker, Daniel Keefe, and Johann Habakuk Israel
In Interactive Sketch-Based Interfaces and Modelling for Design (ed. Alexandra Bonnici and Kenneth P. Camilleri). River Publishers. 2023. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1201/9781003360650-8>

Input Processing and Geometric Representations for 3D Sketches (Invited Book Chapter)

Johann Habakuk Israel, Mayra Donaji Barrera Machuca, **Rahul Arora**, Philipp Wacker, and Daniel Keefe
In Interactive Sketch-Based Interfaces and Modelling for Design (ed. Alexandra Bonnici and Kenneth P. Camilleri). River Publishers. 2023. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1201/9781003360650-9>

Interaction Devices and Techniques for 3D Sketching (Invited Book Chapter)

Mayra Donaji Barrera Machuca, **Rahul Arora**, Philipp Wacker, Daniel Keefe, and Johann Habakuk Israel

In Interactive Sketch-Based Interfaces and Modelling for Design (ed. Alexandra Bonnici and Kenneth P. Camilleri). River Publishers. 2023. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1201/9781003360650-10>

3D Sketching Application Scenarios (Invited Book Chapter)

Philipp Wacker, **Rahul Arora**, Mayra Donaji Barrera Machuca, Daniel Keefe, and Johann Habakuk Israel

In Interactive Sketch-Based Interfaces and Modelling for Design (ed. Alexandra Bonnici and Kenneth P. Camilleri). River Publishers. 2023. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1201/9781003360650-11>

Thinking Outside the Lab: VR Size & Depth Perception in the Wild (Preprint)

Rahul Arora, Jiannan Li, Gongyi Shi, Karan Singh

<https://arxiv.org/2105.00584>

Creative Expression with Immersive 3D Interactions (Juried)

Rahul Arora

Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20 Doctoral Consortium)

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3334480.3375028>

Designing Volumetric Truss Structures for Computational Fabrication (Juried)

Rahul Arora, Alec Jacobson, Timothy R. Langlois, Karan Singh, and David I.W. Levin

Graphics Interface 2018 Posters (GI '18)

<https://bit.ly/3iCTjtw>

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention Award	2021
Robert C. Lansdale/Okino Computer Graphics Fellowship: CA \$4,000	2020
Wolfond Scholarship in Wireless Information Technology: CA \$10,000	2019
UofT Libraries Grad Exhibit Competition (3 winners): CA \$1,000	2019
Adobe Research Fellowship 2019 (11 fellows): US \$10,000	2018
Adobe Research Fellowship 2018 Finalist	2017
Mitacs Accelerate Award for industrial partnership: CA \$15,000	2016
Merit-cum-Means Scholarship, IIT Kanpur: Full tuition amount	2010–2014
Academic Excellence Award, IIT Kanpur (top 5% students)	2013

INTERNSHIPS

Adobe Research, Seattle, USA <i>with Timothy Langlois, Danny Kaufman, and Rubaiat Habib</i> Worked on techniques for creating stylized animations of 2D fluids.	Summer 2019
Adobe Research, Seattle, USA <i>with Wil Li, Rubaiat Habib, and Danny Kaufman</i> Studied gestural methods for authoring animations in VR.	Summer 2018
Autodesk Research, Toronto, Canada <i>with Rubaiat Habib and Tovi Grossman</i> Developed an augmented reality tool for 3D concept sketching.	Winter 2017
Autodesk Research, Toronto, Canada <i>with Tovi Grossman, Rubaiat Habib, and Fraser Anderson</i> Conducted lab experiments to understand 3D sketching ability.	Summer 2016

	Inria, Sophia-Antipolis, France <i>with Adrien Bousseau</i> Developed a user-guided method for ideation sketch interpolation.	Summer 2014
	Adobe Research, Bangalore, India <i>with Ramesh Srinivasaraghavan</i> Built a gamified crowdsourcing platform for object recognition tasks.	Summer 2013
SKILLS	Programming: C#, Python, Unity Engine, MATLAB, C++, TypeScript. Techniques: 3D graphics, numerical optimization, geometry processing, quantitative studies, qualitative studies, statistical analysis, eye tracking, inertial measurement units (IMUs). Tools: Adobe Photoshop, Blender, Adobe Premiere, \LaTeX , Microsoft Office.	
TALKS	New York University HCI Course, Remote Talk On Immersive 3D Sketching and Modelling	November 2023
	Université de Montréal HCI Course, Remote Talk On Immersive 3D Sketching and Modelling	April 2022
	Toronto Geometry Colloquium, Remote Talk On Human-Centered Graphics for Immersive Creative Expression	October 2021
	SIGGRAPH 2021, Remote Talk Paper presentation: Mid-Air Drawing of Curves on 3D Surfaces in Virtual Reality	August 2021
	Autodesk Research, Remote Talk On Human-Centered Graphics for Immersive Creative Expression	April 2021
	Facebook Reality Labs, Remote Talk On Human-Centered Graphics for Immersive Creative Expression	April 2021
	UBC AR/VR Course, Remote Guest Lecture On Gesture-Based Animation in VR	March 2021
	GraphDeco Group, Inria Sophia-Antipolis, Remote Talk On Human-Centered Graphics for Immersive Art & Design	March 2021
	MIT Computer Graphics Group, Remote Talk On Volumetric Michell Trusses	December 2020
	CHI 2020 Doctoral Symposium, Remote Talk On Creative Expression with Immersive 3D Interactions	May 2020
	Motograph Workshop, Waterloo, Canada On Stylized Fluid Animation	December 2019
	UIST 2019, New Orleans, USA Paper presentation: MagicalHands	October 2019
	SCF 2019, Pittsburgh, USA	June 2019

Paper presentation: [Volumetric Michell Trusses for Parametric Design & Fabrication](#)

CHI 2018, Montreal, Canada May 2018
Paper presentation: [SymbiosisSketch](#)

Toronto SIGCHI Chapter, Toronto, Canada March 2018
On Hybrid 2D–3D Sketching in SymbiosisSketch

Tomograph Workshop, Toronto, Canada December 2017
On Truss Topology Optimization for Design & Manufacturing

IIT Kanpur, India May 2017
On 2D Sketching and Immersive 3D Sketching

CHI 2017, Denver, USA May 2017
Paper presentation: Experimental Evaluation of Sketching on Surfaces in VR

Eurographics 2017, Lyon, France May 2017
Paper presentation: SketchSoup

SERVICE

Committee Member for CHI 2022 and 2023 Late-Breaking Work.

Committee Member for ICCV 2021 Workshop on Sketching for Human Expressivity.

Committee Member for Pacific Graphics 2021 and 2022.

Committee Member for SIGGRAPH Asia 2020 XR Program.

Area Chair for Graphics Interface (GI) 2020.

Student Volunteer at User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) 2019.

Reviewer for computer graphics conferences
SIGGRAPH 2020, 2022–2025; SIGGRAPH Asia 2020–2024; SIGGRAPH Posters Program 2021; Eurographics (EG) Short Papers 2021; Symposium for Computational Fabrication (SCF) 2020; Pacific Graphics 2021–2022; Graphics Interface (GI) 2018, 2020.

Reviewer for computer graphics journals
Transactions on Graphics (TOG) 2021; Computer Graphics Forum (CGF) 2020, 2023–2024; Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG) 2019–2020, 2023, 2025; Computer-Aided Design (CAD) 2019; Computer & Graphics 2019; Computer Graphics & Applications 2017.

Reviewer for HCI conferences
Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2017–2025; User Interfaces Software and Technology (UIST) 2018–2020, 2022–2024; Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) 2018; Creativity & Cognition 2022; Graphics Interface (GI) 2020.

Reviewer for HCI journals
International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction (IJHCI) 2018; International Journal of Human-Computer Studies (IJHCS) 2021.

Reviewer for specialized VR/AR conferences
Virtual Reality (IEEE VR) 2018, 2020–2023; Virtual Reality Software and Technology

(VRST) 2020; International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality (ISMAR) 2020–2022; Spatial User Interaction (SUI) 2017.

Reviewer for other venues

Springer Nature Applied Sciences (SNAS) 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Computer Graphics, University of Toronto
Teaching Assistant for Prof. David Levin Winter 2020

Computer Graphics, University of Toronto
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Alec Jacobson Fall 2019

Computer Graphics, University of Toronto
Teaching Assistant for Prof. David Levin Winter 2019

Computer Graphics, University of Toronto
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Karan Singh and Prof. David Levin Winter 2018

Computer Graphics, University of Toronto
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Karan Singh and Prof. Alec Jacobson Fall 2017

Intro to Theory of Computation, University of Toronto
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Azadeh Farzan Fall 2015

Introduction to Computer Graphics, IIT Kanpur
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Vinay P. Namboodiri Fall 2014