

RESEARCH INTERESTS	My research interests are mainly in the application of machine learning and statistical modeling to speech and audio signal analysis. I am currently working on emotional speech generation. Our goal is to develop data-efficient models by combining Bayesian techniques (prior knowledge) with modern deep learning machinery in un/semi-supervised settings.
EDUCATION	<div><div>Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (2017 - present) Ph.D. candidate, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering <i>Advisor:</i> Dr. Archana Venkataraman</div><div>Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (2022 - 2023) M.S.E. in Applied Mathematics and Statistics (Statistics major) <i>Advisor:</i> Prof. Amitabh Basu</div><div>Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (2011 - 2015) Bachelors in Technology in Electronics and Electrical Engineering <i>Advisors:</i> Prof. S.R.M Prasanna (Dean, RnD) and Prof. S. Sundaram</div></div>
HONOURS & AWARDS	<div><div>MINDS Data Science Research Fellowship (2019-20 and 2020-21) Received for 'Diffeomorphic Time Warping for Duration Modification'. Awarded annually for mathematical contribution in advancing machine learning and data science.</div><div>ISCA 2020 Travel Award Recognized for our technical contributions in the chained Encoder-Decoder-Predictor model based on reviewer's comments.</div><div>NVIDIA Research Fellowship Our proposal titled 'AI for Mental Health and Speech Disorder' featured among the top 5% proposals in a pool of >350 applicants.</div><div>Graduate Research Fellowship, JHU, 2017-18 JHU award for PhD students to recognize their research contribution in the domain of Electrical Engineering.</div><div>UofA Research Fellowship, 2015 Awarded by University of Alberta for doing research in Computer Science (Declined).</div><div>Institute Merit Scholarship, 2012-13 Awarded to a single student annually for the best academic performance.</div><div>DAAD-WISE Fellowship, 2014 Fellowship for doing a summer research internship in Germany (selection based on academic performance and prior research experience).</div><div>Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship, 2012-13, 2013-14 and, 2014-15 This award recognizes students from lower income group and unprivileged households for strong academic performance.</div><div>Cepstrum Graduation Award, IIT Guwahati, 2015 Awarded to 3 students every year from EEE graduating batch for student services.</div><div>Summer Research Support, IIT Hyderabad, 2013 Summer research internship program at IIT Hyderabad under Dr. K.S.R Murthy.</div></div>

TALKS &	Improving Speech Enhancement via Phonetic Embeddings (SSL) MLCV Seminar, Meta Reality Labs (August 2022)
POSTERS	Generative Modeling for Expressive Speech Synthesis Children's National Hospital, Washington DC (April 2023) ECE Seminar, JHU (May 2022) MINDS Symposium, JHU (March 2022) Ohio State University, CS Seminar (November 2021) Meta Reality Labs, Redmond, Washington (November 2021) Microsoft Research, Redmond, Washington (October 2021) AAII, India (October 2021) Variational Cycle-GAN for Emotion Morphing MINDS-CIS Seminar, JHU (May 2020) Emotion Morphing in Speech 2020 MINDS Symposium, Baltimore (January 2020) School of Medicine, JHU (February 2020) An Overview of Generative Models Machine Learning Journal Club, JHU (June 2020) Lightning Presentation: MFCCs Information Extraction, JHU (March 2019)
SKILLS	Statistical Modeling, Python, TensorFlow, PyTorch
RESEARCH ARTICLES	<i>Analysing Self-Supervised Representations for Single-channel Speech Enhancement</i> Ravi Shankar , Ke Tan, Buye Xu, Anurag Kumar Under Submission. <i>A Diffeomorphic Flow-based Variational Model for Emotion Conversion</i> Ravi Shankar , Hsi-Wei Hsieh, Nicholas Charon, Archana Venkataraman Accepted in IEEE/ACM Transactions for Audio, Speech and Language Processing <i>Adaptive Speech Duration Modification using a Generative Framework</i> Ravi Shankar , Archana Venkataraman arXiv Preprint: https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04973 <i>Comparative Study of Data Augmentation for Deep Learning Based Emotion Recognition</i> Ravi Shankar , Abdouh Harouna Kenfack, Arjun Somayazulu, Archana Venkataraman arXiv Preprint: https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.05047 <i>Non-parallel Emotion Conversion using a Deep-Generative Hybrid Network and an Adversarial Pair Discriminator</i> Ravi Shankar , Jacob Sager, Archana Venkataraman Published in Interspeech 2020. (Held Virtually) <i>Multi-speaker Emotion Conversion via Latent Variable Regularization and A Chained Encoder-Decoder-Predictor Network (ISCA Award)</i> Ravi Shankar , Hsi-Wei Hsieh, Nicolas Charon, Archana Venkataraman Published in Interspeech 2020. (Held Virtually)

A Multi-Speaker Emotion Morphing Model Using Highway Networks and Maximum Likelihood Objective

Ravi Shankar, Jacob Sager, Archana Venkataraman

Published in Interspeech 2019. (**Oral**)

VESUS: A Crowd-Annotated Database to Study Emotion Production and Perception in Spoken English

Jacob Sager, **Ravi Shankar**, Archana Venkataraman

Published in Interspeech 2019. (**Oral**)

Weakly Supervised Syllable Segmentation by Vowel-Consonant Peak Classification

Ravi Shankar, Archana Venkataraman

Published in Interspeech 2019. (Poster)

Automated Emotion Morphing in Speech Based on Diffeomorphic Curve Registration and Highway Networks

Ravi Shankar, Hsi-Wei Hsieh, Nicolas Charon, Archana Venkataraman

Published in Interspeech 2019. (Poster)

Spoken Keyword Detection Using Joint DTW-CNN

Ravi Shankar, Vikram C.M., S.R.M Prasanna

Published in Interspeech 2018. (**Oral**)

Spoken Term Detection using DTW and Morphological Operations

Ravi Shankar, Arpit Jain, Deepak K.T., Vikram C.M., S.R.M Prasanna

Published in National Conference on Communications 2016. (Poster)

WORK EXPERIENCE	Research Scientist Intern, Meta Reality Labs, Redmond	(May'22 - Aug'22)
	Analyze the usage of SSL embeddings for speech enhancement.	
	Research Assistant, IDIAP Institute, Martigny	(Jan'17 - Jun'17)
	Study the effect of continuity in acoustic features in HMM-DNN models.	
	Research Assistant, IIT Guwahati	(Sep'16 - Dec'16)
	Proposed joint DTW-CNN framework for keyword spotting in speech.	
	Rails Developer, CaRPM, Gurgaon	(Jan'16 - Aug'16)
	Developed module for analysis of used cars to gauge their resale value.	
MENTORING	Research Assistant, AICML, UofA	(Sep'15 - Jan'16)
	Worked on patient specific survival prediction using machine learning.	
	iOS Developer, Housing.com, Mumbai	(Jun'15 - Sep'15)
	Developed new features for property rental in the native iOS app.	
SERVICES	Abdouh Harouna Kenfack , MSE in Dept. of Applied Math, JHU	
	Yi-Te Hsu , MSE in Dept. of Computer Science, JHU	
	Arjun Somayazulu , BS in Dept. of Computer Science, JHU	
	Jacob Sager , BS in Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, JHU	
SERVICES	TA, Probabilistic Machine Learning (EN.520.651) (Fall'21, Fall'22)	
	Reviewer, NeuRips 2022, 2023	
	Reviewer, UAI 2023	

Reviewer, **ICLR** 2022
Reviewer, **Interspeech** 2021, 2022, 2023
Reviewer, **CISS** 2021

REFERENCES Dr. Archana Venkataraman, **Associate Professor, ECE**, BU
Dr. Nicolas Charon, **Assistant Professor, AMS**, JHU
Dr. Amitabh Basu, **Associate Professor, AMS**, JHU
Dr. Anurag Kumar, **Senior Research Scientist**, Meta Reality Labs
Dr. Mounya Elhilali, **Professor, ECE**, JHU
Dr. Sanjeev Khudanpur, **Associate Professor, ECE**, JHU