# Saksham Rathi

# Curriculum Vitae

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# Education

2022 - 2026 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Bachelor's of Technology

Pursuing majors in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) along with honors and minor in Machine Intelligence and Data Science (CPI - 9.65/10)

2020 - 2022 **Disha Delphi Public School, Kota** Senior Secondary Education Secured **99.0%** in CBSE Class 12th Board Examination

2008-2020 **Delhi Public School, Kota** *Primary and Secondary Education* Secured **98.6%** in CBSE Class 10th Board Examination

# Research Experience and Internships

## **Current Software Engineering Internship**

Citadel, London

#### 2024 Applied Scientist Internship

Amazon, Bangalore

- (a) Worked on Amazon's Large Language Model Olympus and improved its instruction following ability
- (b) Implemented Classifier-free Guidance method to enhance focus on key parts of user queries and system prompts, optimizing the balance between conditional and unconditional probabilities using a hyper-parameter
- (c) Evaluated the performance of Olympus and some open source models on various single and multi-turn datasets

#### 2024-25 Compressive Lognormal Regression

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Guide: Prof. Ajit Rajwade.

- (a) Improving on the current viral load estimators used in compressed sensing pool testing methods for RT-PCR
- (b) Utilizing Bayesian inference to estimate distributions of infected samples and errors in their testing parameters
- (c) Using **combinatorial group testing** and compressed sensing to improve upon algorithms for deconvoluting pooled tests

# Academic Achievements

- 2022 Secured All India Rank 18 in Joint Entrance Examination Advanced among 250,000 selected students
- 2023 Awarded the Institute Academic Prize for being among the top 20 out of 1400 students in first year
- 2023 Achieved 10 Semester Performance Index (SPI) by scoring a perfect grade in the Spring Semester of first year
- 2020 Awarded the NTSE Scholarship after a two-tier merit-based procedure by NCERT, Government of India
- 2021, 22 Recipient of the **Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana**, a coveted fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India by securing **All India Ranks 24** and **33** in the SX and the SA streams
  - 2022 Secured All India Rank 321 in Joint Entrance Examination Main among 900,000 students

# Olympiads and Competitions

- 2022 Among the **top 26** students to clear the Indian National Astronomy Olympiad (INAO) and selected to attend the **Orientation-Cum-Selection Camp** for **International Astronomy Olympiad** (IOAA)
- 2024, 25 Was among the **top 50** at Limestone Data Challenge conducted by **Tower Research Capital**, India in collaboration with the Finance Club, IIT Bombay amongst 200+ participating candidates across all academic years
  - 2020 Selected among the **top 40** students to clear the Indian National Junior Science Olympiad (INJSO) and selected to attend the **Orientation-Cum-Selection Camp** for **International Junior Science Olympiad** (IJSO)
  - 2022 Among the top 300 students selected for the Indian National Physics Olympiad conducted by HBCSE
  - 2018 Selected among the top 300 students for the Indian National Mathematics Olympiad, HBCSE

# Key Projects

#### Spring 2025 Analyzing Selfish Mining and Eclipse Attack in a P2P Cryptocurrency Network

Guide: Prof. Vinay Ribeiro | Course Project: Blockchains, Cryptocurrencies and Smart Contracts

Developed a **P2P blockchain** network simulator with **100**+ nodes to demonstrate how coordinated attackers can manipulate block propagation through combined Selfish Mining and Eclipse Attack strategies

Conducted comprehensive analysis showing attack effectiveness at various adversary thresholds **(5%-100%)**,

revealing that malicious control of >50% network nodes results in complete blockchain takeover

Designed and implemented a **trust-based** countermeasure system that reduced malicious block acceptance by 95%, effectively neutralizing attacks even with 40% malicious nodes present

#### Autumn 2023 Socket-Based Trading Engine with Arbitrage Detection

Guide: Prof. Ashutosh Gupta | Course Project: Data Structures and Algorithms

Devised trading strategies utilizing **sockets** and **threads** to enhance market responsiveness and execution efficiency

Developed a **dynamic market** platform that intelligently matches traders based on optimal prices, enhancing overall market performance and has robust measures to identify and prevent **arbitrage** opportunities

Implemented median trading and statistical arbitrage, to exploit market anomalies and drive consistent returns

#### Spring 2025 Approximate Nearest Neighbour Search via Group Testing

Guide: Prof. Ajit Rajwade | Course Project: Advanced Image Processing

Implemented a novel **FLINNG** algorithm combining Locality Sensitive Hashing with distance-sensitive Bloom filters to optimize nearest neighbor search operations

Designed and evaluated a **parameterized search index** achieving  $O(N^(1/2 + \gamma))$  query time complexity, demonstrating significant performance improvements over traditional approaches

Conducted comprehensive performance analysis across multiple metrics (precision, recall, F1 score) to validate theoretical guarantees and practical efficiency of the proposed method

## Summer 2023 Modeling Economic Systems with Reinforcement Learning

Web and Coding Club | Seasons of Code

Formulated and implemented various economic problems as **Markov Decision Processes** in the Gym framework Employed a combination of **Bandit** algorithms and **Reinforcement Learning** algorithms, known for their adaptability and learning capabilities, to address complex matching markets, auction dynamics, and allocation problems

Modeled **stock exchange** as a **double auction**, which incorporated market sentiment and the individual objectives of users and conducted simulations involving a diverse group of over 100 participants to assess the model's efficacy

#### Spring 2025 Automated Index Creation in a Database

Guide: Prof. Sudarshan | Course Project: Database and Information Systems

Developed an automatic indexing system for PostgreSQL that dynamically creates and removes indices based on query patterns, reducing execution time by 40% in tests

Implemented adaptive indexing policies using weighted **attribute frequencies** and PostgreSQL's query planner to optimize database performance without manual DBA intervention

Created a real-time query monitoring interface with custom data structures that tracks attribute access patterns and applies cost-aware filtering through the **hypopg** extension

#### Summer 2023 Working with Low Level Systems

Guide: Prof. Biswabandan Panda | Course Project: Digital Logic and Computer Architecture

Utilized the **champsim** simulator to implement and analyze **stream** and **IP stride prefetchers**, while evaluating the effectiveness of **LRU**, **FIFO**, **LFU** and **BIP** replacement policies based on IPC and accuracy metrics

Designed a **VHDL** circuit which encodes **musical chords**, achieving conversion of 8-bit binary notes into chords Implemented **Heap Sort**, **Merge Sort** and Binary Search algorithms in the **MIPS** and **x86** Assembly Language

#### Summer 2024 Mathematics of Derivative Pricing

Maths and Physics Club | Summer of Science

Achieved proficiency in **mathematical models** used in derivative pricing through comprehensive coursework Acquired knowledge about Derivatives such as **Futures** and **Options**, with a focus on trading strategies Gained in-depth understanding of **Black-Scholes model**, **Binomial model**, and **Greeks** for risk management

#### Spring 2025 Building Decentralized Exchange

Guide: Prof. Vinay Ribeiro | Course Project: Blockchains, Cryptocurrencies and Smart Contracts
Engineered a complete Automated Market Maker (AMM) **DEX** system using **Solidity**, implementing the constant product meechanism with ERC-20 token support, liquidity pool management, and LP token minting/burning mechanisms

Developed an **arbitrage** detection smart contract that automatically identifies profitable trading opportunities between DEXes, factoring in swap fees and minimum profit thresholds

Analyzed key metrics like Total Value Locked (**TVL**), **reserve ratios**, **slippage** impact, and trading volumes while documenting security measures against front-running attacks

# Other Projects

#### Autumn 2024 Image Compression

Guide: Prof. Ajit Rajwade | Course Project: Digital Image Processing

Implemented multiple image compression algorithms including **JPEG-inspired DCT** with quantization, run-length encoding, and advanced **PCA** techniques

Implemented and enhanced **Edge-Based** Image Compression with **Homogeneous Diffusion**, reducing artifacts in uniform intensity regions through artificial segmentation

Conducted performance analysis across diverse image datasets, evaluating **RRMSE** vs **BP**P metrics to quantify compression efficiency while preserving visual quality

#### Autumn 2024 Audio Network Communication

Guide: Prof. Vinay Ribeiro | Course Project: Computer Networks

Utilized **frequency based** bit transmission with robust error correction through **CRC** algorithm capable of detecting and correcting upto **2-bit** errors

Implemented a modified **CSMA-CA** protocol with **RTS/CTS** mechanism for collision avoidance and included specialized handling for **broadcast** messages

Built a **multi-threaded** architecture with one thread managing message buffering and another handling the communication protocol, complete with exponential backoff strategy for collision management and clock synchronization via NTP

# Spring 2024 Saliency-Guided GMM Image Segmentation

Guide: Prof. Suyash Awate | Course Project: Medical Image Computing

Implemented **Gaussian Mixture Model** (GMM) with **Saliency Map** for accurate image segmentation Achieved better accuracy and reduced computational cost over Markov Random Field and mean template based GMM

## Summer 2023 Option Pricing Models

Finance Club | Finsearch

Engaged in **Stock Markets** and **Options Trading**, with a focus on understanding diverse Option Strategies Implemented the **Black-Scholes** model, the **Binomial** model, and **Monte Carlo** simulations using Python libraries

Evaluated the precision and **performance** of the Black-Scholes Model by applying it to **real-world** data sourced from the National Stock Exchange (**NSE**) markets and achieved a high accuracy by optimizations

#### Spring 2025 Simulation of a P2P Cryptocurrency Network

Guide: Prof. Vinay Ribeiro | Course Project: Blockchains, Cryptocurrencies and Smart Contracts Implemented a simulator modelling transaction generation, message propagation with realistic network latencies and Proof-of-Work (PoW) mining using exponential distributions

Analyzed blockchain tree evolution to assess the impact of node speed and CPU power on mining success and fork resolution

#### Summer 2023 Exploring Reinforcement Learning

Maths and Physics Club | Summer of Science

Completed an extensive **reading project** on Reinforcement Learning (main reference: **Sutton & Barto**) Investigated Dynamic Programming, Monte Carlo Methods, n-step bootstrapping, **Temporal Difference** learning and **on-policy** methods with their applications and **implemented** all the algorithms in Python

#### Spring 2023 Python Web Crawler

Guide: Prof. Kameswari Chebrolu | Course Project: Software Systems Lab

Designed a sophisticated Web Crawler equipped with the ability to **recursively extract** all the hyperlinks of a webpage and generating a comprehensive **graph** showcasing various link types, with user-defined recursion levels Harnessed the power of **Python libraries** to visualize this wealth of data, resulting in an interpretable representation

# Winter 2022 Alien Invasion Game

Self Project

Developed a **customized** version of Alien Invasion Game with **pygame** aiming for an engaging gameplay experience

Added layers of excitement and depth to the gaming experience by allowing the players to shoot advancing extraterrestrial invaders, encountering three **unique types**, each with individually tailored point rewards Enhanced gameplay by introducing escalating difficulty **levels**, with each new level increasing game speed and point rewards for aliens and implemented a **high-score** tracking system that saved and retrieved player high scores

# Positions of Responsibility

2025 **Teaching Assistant** | Discrete Structures, IIT Bombay

Instructor: Prof. Akshay S

2025 **Teaching Assistant** | Operating Systems, IIT Bombay

Instructor: Prof. Mythili Vutukuru

Collaborated with the professor in creating labs, exams and autograders

DAMP Mentor | Department Academic Mentorship Programme, IIT Bombay CSE 2024-25

Selected via a rigorous procedure of SoP, Peer Reviews, and Interviews to be part of a team of 37 out of 90

Guiding sophomores on academic and extra-curricular decisions and helping them navigate their curriculum

2024 **Teaching Assistant** | Data Analysis and Interpretation, IIT Bombay

Instructor: Prof. Sunita Sarawagi

Instructed sophomore students, offering guidance and support both during tutorials and doubt solving sessions Collaborated with the professor in creating weekly quizzes, exams, assignments, practice problems, tutorial notes and grading

2024 **Teaching Assistant** | Software Systems Lab, IIT Bombay

Instructor: Prof. Kameswari Chebrolu

Instructed a cohort of 50 freshman students, offering guidance and support both during tutorial and lab hours Collaborated with the professor in creating labs, exams, autograders, quizzes, practice problems and tutorial

2024 **Mentor** | Seasons of Code, IIT Bombay

Web and Coding Club

Instructed a group of 25 students for Competitive Programming and provided them the appropriate resources and problems for Dynamic Programming, Sorting, Greedy, Graphs, Trees, Range and String Algorithms

2023 **Teaching Assistant** | Calculus, IIT Bombay

Instructor: Prof. Ravi Raghunathan

Guided and instructed a group of 40 freshmen students enrolled in a semester-long calculus course Actively collaborated with the professors to ensure the seamless and effective execution of the course

2023 Mentor | Winter in Data Science, IIT Bombay

Analytics Club

Provided mentorship to a team of 10 students for a data analysis project involving Python and MATLAB, guiding them in presenting results on a personal website through HTML, JavaScript, and CSS integration

# Coursework

Computer Data Structures and Algorithms§, Design and Analysis of Algorithms, Digital Logic Design and Computer Architecture§, Computer Science Networks§, Programming Paradigms§, Implementation of Programming Languages§, Database and Information Systems§, Logic and theory for Computation, Operating Systems§, Software Systems Lab§, Computer Programming and Utilization§, Computing and Science§, Applied Algorithms, Game Theory and Algorithmic Mechanism Design, Blockchains, Cryptocurrencies and Smart Contracts

Matematics

Discrete Structures, Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Mathematical Structures for Control

Data Science Data Analysis and Interpretation, Optimization, Medical Image Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning§, Digital Image Processing, Advanced Image Processing, Advanced Machine Learning

Others

Organic and Inorganic Chemistry§, Physical Chemistry§, Classical and Quantum Physics, Makerspace, Management, Philosophy, Biology, Economics, Design Thinking for Innovation, Development of Mathematics in India, Physiology, Environmental Studies, Entrepreneurship

§ along with a lab component

#### Technical Skills

Languages

Programming C++, Python, HTML, CSS, Git, JavaScript, VHDL, MIPS, Sed, Awk, Shell, Bash

**Software** LATEX, Qiskit, GitHub, Autodesk Fusion 360, Arduino, Pygame

**Tools** 

Data Science Matplotlib, MATLAB, NumPy, Keras, TensorFlow, PyTorch, SciPy, Pandas

Verbal Debate, Group Discussion

## Extracurriculars

2024 Received the Excellence in CSE Teaching Assistantship Award for the Software Systems Lab course

2025 Awarded special recognition for outstanding dedication and contribution to the DAMP program

2023 Engineered a manually controlled robot, imbued with the ability to navigate through a diverse array of obstacles while participating in the prestigious XLR8 Competition, the Robotics Club of IIT Bombay

- 2019 Secured third rank in Rajmata Gayatri Devi National Inter-School Verbattle Debate Competition
- 2025 Acknowledged for my contributions as a **Department Academic Mentor** in the CSE department
- 2019 Appointed as the **Prime Minister** during a **Model United Nations** session, which serves as a platform aimed at fostering political discourse and encouraging the exchange of thoughtful ideas of international affairs
- 2023 Completed a one-year course in Weightlifting under National Sports Organization, IIT Bombay
- 2019 Secured First Rank in Science Quiz organised by Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur on National Science Day
- 2019 Secured First Rank in Science Quiz organised by Career Point World School on National Science Day