

Rishi Sharma

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SHORT BIO

The world around us is endlessly fascinating and I love exploring it. There is no shortage of things I am curious about, from minutiae such as the role of credit in building modern economies, to great questions of how to live a good life. I study Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences, and I've taken particular interest in information and coding, as well as in machine learning. I've studied at UC Berkeley, and now I study at Stanford, where I am honored to be the recipient of a Stanford Graduate Fellowship. I've also studied and taught Yoga around the world, including in prisons and elementary schools.

The mysteries of life continue to confuse me, and the joys of occasional discovery continue to motivate me. The strange beauty of it all makes for a grand adventure.

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY | PH.D. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
September 2016-Present | Stanford, CA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY | B.S. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCES
Emphasis: Coding Theory, Signal Processing, & Machine Learning
January 2012 - December 2015 | Berkeley, CA

YOGA TEACHER TRAINING | RYT-200, RCYT-30
200 Hour Training (Yoga Tree), 30 Hour Children's Yoga Training (Radiant Child Yoga)
2015 | San Francisco, CA ; Chicago, IL

RESEARCH POSITIONS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY | STANFORD CS THEORY GROUP
January 2017 - March 2017 | Stanford, CA
Worked jointly with Prof. Omer Reingold and Prof. Greg Valiant on time-space tradeoffs in learning problems.

QUALCOMM BERKELEY RESEARCH | ERROR CORRECTING CODES GROUP
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Mike Luby
May 2014 - December 2014 | Berkeley, CA
Worked on the construction and simulation of a sparse-graph code for distributed storage applications.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY | OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHMS
January 2014 - December 2014 | Berkeley, CA
Research with Prof. Laurent El Ghaoui on cardinality constrained optimization algorithms for use on large text data.

REDWOOD CENTER FOR THEORETICAL NEUROSCIENCE | COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE
December 2012 - December 2013 | Berkeley, CA
Developed learning algorithms for understanding and predicting olfactory response in mice.

NEUROVIGIL, INC. | COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE
June 2013 - August 2013 | La Jolla, CA

PUBLICATIONS

Iterative Hard Thresholding for Keyword Approximation in Large Text Corpora
w/ Steve Yadlowsky, Preetum Nakkiran, Jingyan Wang, and L. El Ghaoui, Proc. ICMLA 2014

PATENTS

INTERFACE, SYSTEM, AND METHODS FOR AUTHORING AND PLAYBACK OF SPATIAL AUDIO
Filing Date: December 10th, 2014
United States Patent Application: 14565427
Inventors: Rishi Sharma, Wisam Reid, Eddie Groshev

This invention relates generally to systems for the authoring and playback of spatial audio. More particularly, this invention describes the interaction between a user interface and a spatial engine to create a three-dimensional acoustic experience.

HONORS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

STANFORD GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP | STANFORD UNIVERSITY

2016

The three-year Stanford Graduate Fellowship in Science and Engineering (SGF) supports exceptional incoming and continuing doctoral students in the natural and social sciences education, and engineering.

WARREN DERE DESIGN AWARD | EECS DEPARTMENT: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

2015

Won for work in spatial audio. This award is presented to graduating seniors in EECS whose accomplishments in engineering design are judged to be most outstanding.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

STRING THEORY LABS INC | FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2013 -2016 | Berkeley, CA

- String Theory Labs, Inc. is a spatial audio, virtual reality, and interactive media technologies startup.
- STL provides services including music venue / studio design and content creation. STL uses advanced AVB networking technologies and patented spatial audio technology to synchronize audio, video, and lighting data creating integrated, interactive, and immersive end-to-end solutions for 3D multimedia / sound systems.

TEACHING

EE 126: PROBABILITY THEORY AND STOCHASTIC PROCESSES | GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. KANNAN RAMCHANDRAN

May 2014 - May 2015 | Berkeley, CA

Developed labs for the course to exercise students skills in applied probability. The labs covered a wide diversity of topics including random projections, random graphs, GPS, distributed storage, and computational biology. These labs are still in use by course instructors (as of Spring 2017).

YOGA & SERVICE

YOGA FOR REFORM (PRISON YOGA) | COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

September 2015 - March 2016 | Chicago, IL

Taught Yoga & Meditation to inmates in the mental health division of the Cook County Jail, the largest jail in America by population.

CHILDREN'S YOGA TEACHER | | GROW CHICAGO

September 2015 - February 2016 | Chicago, IL

Taught Yoga & Meditation to pre-kindergarten through eighth graders at O'Toole Middle School and AMS Montessori School in Englewood on the South Side of Chicago. Mentored young boys in self-respect, self-efficacy, and self-love.

TEACHING ASSISTANT AT YOGA TREE SF | POST-NATAL YOGA

INSTRUCTOR: JANE AUSTIN

July 2015 - August 2015 | San Francisco, CA

Assisted Jane in post-natal Yoga classes, with moms and newborn babies; Gave mothers individualized attention by attending to their newborn while guiding them through their practice.

PROGRAM AMBASSADOR AT YOGA TREE SF | TEACHER TRAINING AMBASSADOR

July 2015 - August 2015 | San Francisco, CA

Student course assistant for 200-Hour Yoga Tree Teacher Training Program

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER | LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

June 2006 - August 2013, Stanford, CA

Provided recreational activities and entertainment to patients in the hospital.

SCHOOL TEACHER IN INDIA | UMANG AT SANSKRITI SCHOOL

June 2010 - July 2010, New Delhi, India

Volunteered with underprivileged youth from the slums of New Delhi, India; taught fourth grade math and English.

CERTIFICATIONS

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE | FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

March 2014 - March 2024

Call Sign: KK6KJE

ART EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

SENTIENCE | MULTIMEDIA ART EXHIBITION AND CONCERT

Location: Publicworks

August 2015 | San Francisco, CA

Motivated as both an artistic expression and a technical demonstration, Rishi's company String Theory Labs integrated live music, graphics, lighting, and interactive multimedia art to infuse Publicworks (a San Francisco night club) with a Sentience of its own. For one night, the club and its guests were merged together as a growing organism, an artistic celebration of the symbiotic relationship between biology and technology. Sentience gave our 500+ attendees an opportunity to see, hear, and feel technology intertwined with the most graceful aspects of humanity: creativity, imagination, and art.

LUCIDITY FESTIVAL | LIVE PERFORMANCE AND ART INSTALLATION

April 2014 | Santa Barbara, CA

Rishi performed and danced while painted head to toe to accompany his friend Wisam's band String Theory performed their original violin, cello, double bass, piano, and electronic compositions live on the main stage at Lucidity Festival. Rishi also collaborated with other artists and engineers to design and build a 10' x 7' circular 16 channel spatialised laser harp, functioning as a step sequencer and modular synthesizer. By intercepting any combination of lasers, unique musical sequences were generated and spatialized through a circular array of speakers using 3-D sound technology developed by Rishi's company String Theory Labs. Sixteen knobs arranged around the instrument were then used to apply audio filters and effects to the generated sequence. This instrument was installed along with a three dimensional projection mapping in a 30 foot geodesic dome and was accompanied by an art gallery curated with multimedia and live painting. Rishi also delivered a lecture on exponential technologies.

MISC. WORK EXPERIENCE

INTERN AT SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY | AUDIOVISUALS

June 2012 - August 2012 | Moffet Air Field, Mountain View, CA

Audiovisual technician for over 100 terrific lectures from leading innovators in fields ranging from medicine to nanotechnology to clean energy to AI.

INTERN AT COUNSYL, INC. | LAB ASSISTANT, PACKAGING

March 2010 - August 2010 | Redwood City, CA

Lab assistant in genetic testing; assisted shipping and receiving of genetic samples

CONCESSIONS STAND OPERATOR | CENTURY 20 MOVIE THEATERS

June 2009 - August 2009 | Milpitas, CA

Served beverages and popcorn