Sahiti Chebolu

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EDUCATION

Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Tübingen 2023-Present
PhD in Computational Neuroscience

University of Tübingen 2021-Present
MSc-PhD (integrated) in Computational Neuroscience
MSc grade: 1.13 (best grade = 1)

Indian Institute of Science Education And Research, Pune 2016-2021
BS-MS (integrated) in Biology and Math
CGPA: 9.6/10

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Tübingen 2023-Present
PhD researcher
Advisor: Peter Dayan

University of Tübingen 2022
Lab rotation student
Advisors: Anne Kühnel, Nils Kroemer

University of Tübingen 2021-2022
Research Assistant
Advisors: Vuong Truong, Michael Bannert, Andreas Bartels

Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Tübingen 2021
Research Assistant
Advisors: Kevin Lloyd, Peter Dayan

Australian National University, Canberra 2019
Research Intern
Advisor: Ehsan Arabzadeh

PUBLICATIONS

Chebolu, S., & Dayan, P. (2025). Weighting waiting: A decision-theoretic taxonomy of delay, pacing, and procrastination. Preprint submitted.

Chebolu, S. & Dayan, P. (2024). Optimal and sub-optimal temporal decisions can explain procrastination in a real-world task. In: 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2024), pp. 3102 - 3108.

Chebolu S, Dayan P, Lloyd K (2022). Vigilance, arousal, and acetylcholine: Optimal control of attention in a simple detection task. PLoS Comput Biol 18(10): e1010642.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Kühnel, A., Guzman, A. L., Chebolu, S., Grahlow, M., Kaduk, K., Dayan, P., Derntl, B., & Kroemer, N. B. (2025). From food to thought: How interoceptive metabolic signals shape learning and decision-making. Poster presented at the Computational Psychiatry Conference (CPC), Tübingen, Germany.

Chebolu, S., Dayan, P., & Lloyd, K. (2022). Fast ACh signals and the optimal control of attention in a detection task. Poster presented at Computational and

Systems Neuroscience Meeting (COSYNE 2022), Lisboa, Portugal.

TALKS

'RL in the wild' workshop at RLDM conference, Dublin *(contributed)* 2025
Systems Neuroscience Symposium, Tübingen *(invited)* 2024
Human and Machine cognition lab, Tübingen (PI: Charley Wu) *(invited)* 2023
Motivation science lab, Tübingen (PI: Kou Murayama) *(invited)* 2023

PRESS AND OUTREACH

Podcast guest on German public radio (Deutschlandfunk Nova) 2025
Topic: Mechanisms of procrastination

Media coverage of procrastination research 2024
Selected venues: Bernstein Feature, Science Daily, T3N

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Barcelona Summer School for Advanced Modeling of Behavior (BAMB!) 2025

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Python, MATLAB, R

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer reviewer for PLoS Computational Biology journal 2025

Co-organiser for RLDM seminar series, MPI for Biological Cybernetics 2024

TA for Neural Modeling course 2023
Instructors: Kevin Lloyd, Peter Dayan, Zhaoping Li

COURSES TAKEN

Biology
Mathematical and Computational Biology, Basic and Advanced Neuroscience, Systems Biology, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, Animal Behavior, Ecology and Evolution, Cell and Molecular Biology
Mathematics
Graph Theory, Algorithms, Univariate and Multivariate Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Statistical Inference, Nonlinear Dynamics, Operations Research, Cryptography, Introduction to Proofs, Group Theory
Neuroscience
Sensory Systems, Neural Dynamics, Neurophysiology, Neural Experimental Techniques, Neural Coding, Computational Cognitive Science
Machine Learning and Data Science
Statistical and Probabilistic Machine Learning, Neural Data Science, Signal Processing, Data Science, Deep Reinforcement Learning

AWARDS AND HONORS

Scholarships
International Max Planck Research School: Mechanisms of Mental Function and Dysfunction (IMPRS-MMFD): Full scholarship for Master's studies at University of Tübingen 2021-2023
Australian National University's Future Research Talent Fellowship: Among the 50 selected from top colleges from all over India 2019
KVPY Scholarship, from Dept. of Science and Technology(DST), Govt Of India : Ranked 337 (all India) 2015
NTSE State Scholarship (from DST): Ranked 7 (Karnataka State) 2012

Competitive Exams and Competitions

JEE(advanced): Considered one of the toughest undergrad engineering entrance tests, Ranked 3080 out of approx. 200k students in India 2016

Karnataka Common Entrance Test: Ranked 14 (Engineering) and 51 (Medicine) out of approx. 170k students 2016

NSEB (biology olympiad): statewise top 1% 2016

Awards

COSYNE travel grant 2022

Academic Excellence Prize at IISER Pune 2019

Times Of India certificate of excellence and Birla Award 2014

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Buddy for interns and assisted in the founding of the CaCTüS summer internship program in Tübingen for young scientists from underserved communities 2021, 2024

Teacher Volunteer at Disha (IISER-Pune's social outreach program) 2016-2018

Volunteer for Spread the Smile program: Taught students science and math in remote villages of Maharashtra 2017