SARATH BABU

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Iowa State University 301 Durham Center, 613 Morrill Road, Ames, IA, USA 50011

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Career Objective

Pursue research focusing on the design and development of secure and next generation wireless networking infrastructures.

Research Interests

Next Generation Wireless Plaforms: Design and deployment of real-world wireless testbeds to enable research in future wireless communication systems such as 5G and beyond, and Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN).

Software Defined Wireless Networks: Application of Software Defined Networking (SDN) approach in different classes of wireless networks including wireless local area networks, mesh networks, disruption tolerant networks, sensor networks, and satellite networks.

Internet of Things (IoT): Design and development of light-weight wireless solutions for sensor networks for future applications.

Intelligent Transportation Systems: Involves the analysis of road networks using tools such as complex networks and explore hidden patterns that leads to existing problems. Further, use the analysis for the characterization, design, and development of mobility models, routing protocols, and security frameworks.

Systems Security: Analysis of different attacks on SDN architecture as well as the design and development of solutions to defend the attacks.

Complex Networks: Besides wireless networks and road networks, exploiting complex networks in analyzing any system of social importance.

Education

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Thesis: Software defined disruption tolerant networks

ADVISOR: Prof. B. S. Manoj

National Institute of Technology, Calicut

Master of Technology (M. Tech.)

Thesis: A usage control based model for multi-domain environments with distributed attributes

ADVISOR: Prof. Priya Chandran

Mahatma Gandhi University

Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech.)

Feb 2014 - May 2021

Aug 2009 - May 2011

Thiruvananthapuram, India

CGPA: 9.25/10

Calicut, India

CGPA: 8.97/10

Aug 2005 - Aug 2009 Kottayam, India

Project: Remote system access through universal serial bus

Percentage: 82.28%

Experience

Iowa State University

Research Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Center for Wireless, Communities and Innovation (WiCI)

Feb 2025 - Present Ames, IA, USA

Oct 2021 - Feb 2025

Iowa State University Research Scientist II, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Center for Wireless, Communities and Innovation (WiCI)

Ames, IA, USA

Indian Institute of Technology

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Avionics

Feb 2014 - May 2021 Thiruvananthapuram, India

National Institute of Technology, Calicut

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Jul 2009 - May 2011 Calicut, India

Recognitions | Scholarships | Certifications

• Midscale Experimental Research Infrastructure Forum 2024 (MERIF '24) Best Demo Award

Sep 2024

Kansas City, MO, USA

• IEEE Future Networks World Forum (FNWF '23)

Honorable Mention for the Paper

• ACM Workshop on Wireless Network Testbeds, Experimental evaluation & Characterization (WiNTECH '23)

Best Paper Award

• Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in the Department of Avionics

• Department of Space, Government of India Ph.D. Scholarship, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

• Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India Master's Scholarship, National Institute of Technology, Calicut

• Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), Percentile: 96.84

• Infosvs Campus Connect Program

• Red Hat Linux 4.0 Essentials, Linux 4.0 System Administration, and Network and Security Administration Nov 2023

Baltimore, MD, USA

Oct 2023

Madrid, Spain

Nov 2019

Thiruvananthapuram, India Feb 2014 - Jan 2019

Thiruvananthapuram, India

Jul 2009 - May 2011

Calicut, India

Mar 2009

Sep 2009

Apr 2007

Projects Involved

Real-Time Liquid Wireless Networking for Data-Intensive Rural Applications

Oct 2022 - Present

- Role: Develop the infrastructure for Real-time liquid wireless networking
- OBJECTIVE: Design and develop a framework for real-time data-intensive rural wireless applications using fountain codes to provide probabilistic real-time packet delivery guarantees.
- Collaborators: Iowa State University, International Computer Science Institute, and Boston University

ARA—Living Lab for Smart and Connected Rural Communities

Oct 2021 – Present

- Role: Research Scientist; Co-lead the Software Working Group; Develop the ARA software ecosystem;
- Objective: Develop at-scale real-world experimental infrastructure for rural wireless applications.
- Collaborators: Iowa State University, Ohio State University, International Computer Science Institute, University of California Irvine, and industry partners

OPERA: An Open-Source Ecosystem for Broadband Prairie

Sep 2022 – Aug 2024

- Role: Develop the open-source software framework for OPERA
- Objective: Provide leadership (in terms of organization, partnership, and infrastructure) in building open-source ecosystem in addition to contribute toward open source software, open source hardware, and open source datasets.
- Collaborator: Iowa State University

MICRONet—Mobile Infrastructure for Coastal Region Offshore

May 2014 - Aug 2017

Communications & Networks

- Role: Graduate student
- OBJECTIVE: Provide wireless mesh network based offshore communication platform for fishermen at sea.
- Collaborators: Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Amrita University, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management - Kerala (IIITM-K), and Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA)

IIST MeshNet: A Programmable Hybrid Wireless Mesh Network Testbed

Mar 2013 - Mar 2016

- Role: Graduate Student
- OBJECTIVE: Design and build a software defined wireless mesh network testbed for wireless research at IIST.
- Collaborator: Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)

Publications

Journals

- 1. D. Dalai, Sarath Babu, B. S. Vineeth, and B. S. Manoj, "A novel space based hosting approach for ultra low latency web services," IEEE Access, vol. 12, pp. 142838-142862, Sep. 2024. DOI: 10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3462252
- 2. Sarath Babu, A. Rajeev, and B. S. Manoj, "A medium-term disruption tolerant SDN for wireless TCP/IP networks," IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management (IEEE TNSM), pp. 2318–2334, Dec. 2020. DOI: 10.1109/TNSM.2020.3023889
- 3. A. Chakraborty, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "On achieving capacity-enhanced small-world networks," Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications, vol. 556, p. 124729, Oct. 2020. DOI: 10.1016/j.physa.2020.124729
- 4. Sarath Babu and B. S. Manoj, "Toward a type-based analysis of road networks," ACM Transactions on Spatial **Algorithms and Systems (ACM TSAS)**, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 28:1–28:45, Aug. 2020. DOI: 10.1145/3397579
- 5. P. Koshy, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "Sliding window blockchain architecture for Internet of Things," IEEE Internet of Things Journal, vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 3338–3348, Apr. 2020. DOI: 10.1109/JIOT.2020.2967119

- 6. Sarath Babu, P. V. Mithun, and B. S. Manoj, "A novel framework for resource discovery and self-configuration in software defined wireless mesh networks," IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management (IEEE TNSM), vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 132–146, Mar. 2020. DOI: 10.1109/TNSM.2019.2922107
- 7. N. Anand, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "On detecting compromised controller in software defined networks," Elsevier Computer Networks, vol. 137, pp. 107–118, Jun. 2018. DOI: 10.1016/j.comnet.2018.03.021
- 8. D. S. Yadav, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "Quasi path restoration: A post-failure recovery scheme over pre-allocated backup resource for elastic optical networks," Elsevier Optical Fiber Technology, vol. 41, pp. 139–154, Mar. 2018. DOI: 10.1016/j.yofte.2018.01.011

Conferences

- 1. M. Shahid, K. Das, H. Ushaq, H. Zhang, J. Song, D. Qiao, **Sarath Babu**, Y. Guan, Z. Zhu, A. Ahmad "ReVeal: A physics-informed neural network for high-fidelity radio environment mapping," accepted in **IEEE International Symposium on Dynamic Spectrum Access Networks (IEEE DySPAN '25)**, London, UK, May 2025.
- M. Nadim, T. Islam, S. Reddy, T. Zhang, Z. Meng, R. Afzal, Sarath Babu, A. Ahmed, D. Qiao, A. Arora, H. Zhang, "AraSync: Precision time synchronization in rural wireless living lab," in Proceedings of the 30th Annual International Conference on Mobile Computing and Networking (ACM MobiCom '24), Nov. 2024, pp. 1758–1763.
 DOI: 10.1145/3636534.3697318
- 3. J. O. Boateng, T. Zhang, G. Zu, T. U. Islam, **Sarath Babu**, H. Zhang, and D. Qiao, "AraSDR: End-to-end, fully-programmable living lab for 5G and beyond," in the Proceedings of the **IEEE International Conference on Communications (IEEE ICC)**, Jun. 2024, pp. 1758–1763. DOI: 10.1109/ICC51166.2024.10623061
- 4. E. K. A. Permatasari, E. Gosling, M. Nadim, **Sarath Babu**, D. Qiao, H. Zhang, M. Luby, J. W. Byers, L. Minder, and P. Aggrawal, "Real-time liquid wireless transport for video streaming in rural and agricultural applications," in Proceedings of the 3rd **ACM Mile High Video (ACM MHV)**, Feb. 2024, pp. 54–60. DOI: 10.1145/3638036.3640806
- 5. G. Zu, M. Nadim, S. Reddy, T. U. Islam, **Sarath Babu**, T. Zhang, D. Qiao, H. Zhang, and A. Arora, "AraHaul: Multi-modal wireless x-haul living lab for long-distance, high-capacity communications," in Proceedings of the 2023 **IEEE Future Networks World Forum (IEEE FNWF)**, Nov. 2023, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/FNWF58287.2023.10520543
- 6. T. Zhang, G. Zu, T. U. Islam, E. Gossling, Sarath Babu, D. Qiao, and H. Zhang, "Exploring wireless channels in rural areas: A comprehensive measurement study," in the Proceedings of the 2023 IEEE Future Networks World Forum (IEEE FNWF), Baltimore, MD, USA, Nov. 2023, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/FNWF58287.2023.10520408 [Honorable Mention]
- T. U. Islam, T. Zhang, J. O. Boateng, E. Gossling, G. Zu, Sarath Babu, H. Zhang, and D. Qiao, "AraMIMO: Programmable TVWS mMIMO living lab for rural wireless," in Proceedings of the 17th ACM Workshop on Wireless Network Testbeds, Experimental evaluation & Characterization (ACM WINTECH '23), Oct. 2023, pp. 9–16.
 DOI: 10.1145/3615453.3616512 [Best Paper Award]
- 8. M. Shahid, Sarath Babu, H. Zhang, D. Qiao, Y. Guan, J. O. Boateng, T. U. Islam, G. Zu, A. Kamal, and M. Zheng, "Wireless guard for trustworthy spectrum management," in Proceedings of the 16th ACM Workshop on Wireless Network Testbeds, Experimental evaluation & Characterization (ACM WiNTECH '22), Oct. 2022, pp. 32–39. DOI: 10.1145/3556564.3558241
- K. Keahey, J. Anderson, M. Sherman, C. Hammock, Z. Zhen, J. Tillotson, T. Bargo, L. Long, T. U. Islam, Sarath Babu, H. Zhang, and F. Halbach, "CHI-in-a-Box: Reducing operational costs of research testbeds," in Proceedings of the ACM Practice and Experience in Advanced Research Computing (ACM PEARC) Conference Series, Jul. 2022, pp. 1–8. DOI: 10.1145/3491418.3530768
- 10. T. Abhiroop, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "A machine learning consensus based light-weight blockchain architecture for Internet of Things," in Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Communication Systems & Networks (COMSNETS), Jan. 2022, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/COMSNETS53615.2022.9668487
- 11. A. Salas, **Sarath Babu**, and B. S. Manoj, "A light-weight delay tolerant networking framework for resource-constrained environments," in Proceedings of the 27th **National Conference on Communications (NCC)**, Jul. 2021, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/NCC52529.2021.9530075
- 12. **Sarath Babu**, I. Ghosh, and B. S. Manoj, "Effort: A new metric for roadside unit placement in 5G enabled vehicular networks," in Proceedings of the 3rd IEEE 5G World Forum (IEEE 5GWF), Sep. 2020, pp. 263–268. DOI: 10.1109/5GWF49715.2020.9221228
- 13. D. Dalai, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "On using edge servers in 5G satellite networks," in Proceedings of the 3rd IEEE 5G World Forum (IEEE 5GWF), Sep. 2020, pp. 553–558. DOI: 10.1109/5GWF49715.2020.9221366
- 14. R. Suraj, Sarath Babu, D. Dalai, and B. S. Manoj, "DebriNet: An opportunistic software defined networking framework over PSLV debris," in Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunications Systems (IEEE ANTS), Dec. 2019, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/ANTS47819.2019.9118082

- 15. Sarath Babu, P. Rathod, and B. S. Manoj, "On optimizing information gathering in shanty town emergency response," in Proceedings of the IEEE Region 10 Conference (IEEE TENCON), Oct. 2019, pp. 129–134. DOI: 10.1109/TENCON.2019.8929340
- 16. T. Abhiroop, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "A machine learning approach for detecting DoS attacks in SDN switches," in Proceedings of the 24th National Conference on Communications (NCC), Feb. 2018, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/NCC.2018.8600196
- 17. P. V. Mithun, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "On resolving network view inconsistencies in SDN control plane," in Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunications Systems (IEEE ANTS), Dec. 2017, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/ANTS.2017.8384108
- 18. G. Gupta, **Sarath Babu**, and B. S. Manoj, "Dual-mode TCP: An alternative approach for delay tolerant networks," in Proceedings of the 23rd **National Conference on Communications (NCC)**, Mar. 2017, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/NCC.2017.8077040
- 19. Sarath Babu and B. S. Manoj, "On the topology of Indian and Western road networks," in Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Communication Systems and Networks (COMSNETS), Jan. 2016, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/COMSNETS.2016.7440027
- 20. R. Raj, Sarath Babu, K. Benson, G. Jain, B. S. Manoj, and N. Venkatasubramanian, "Efficient path rescheduling of heterogeneous mobile data collectors for dynamic events in shanty town emergency response," in Proceedings of the IEEE Global Communications Conference (IEEE GLOBECOM), Dec. 2015, pp. 1–7. DOI: 10.1109/GLOCOM.2015.7417610
- 21. A. V. Mamidi, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "Dynamic multi-hop switch handoffs in software defined wireless mesh networks," in Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunications Systems (IEEE ANTS), Dec. 2015, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/ANTS.2015.7413638
- 22. G. Jain, Sarath Babu, R. Raj, K. Benson, B. S. Manoj, and N. Venkatasubramanian, "On disaster information gathering in a complex shanty town terrain," in Proceedings of the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference South Asia Satellite (IEEE GHTC-SAS), Sep. 2014, pp. 147–153. DOI: 10.1109/GHTC-SAS.2014.6967574

Demos | Posters

- 1. T. U. Islam, M. Nadim, G. Zu, O. J. Perrin, V. Lee, J. O. Boateng, M. Shahid, T. Zhang, S. Reddy, W. Xu, X. Li, A. Atalar, Sarath Babu, A. Ahmad, M. Soliman, A. Hussain, D. Qiao, M. Zheng, Y. Guan, O. Boyraz, A. Arora, M. Selim, M. B. Cohen, H. Zhang, "ARA PAWR: Enabling wireless experiments with programmable COTS RAN and x-Haul platforms," in Midscale Experimental Research Infrastructure Forum (MERIF '24), Sep. 2024. [Best Demo Award]
- 2. T. U. Islam, J. O. Boateng, G. Zu, M. Shahid, M. Nadim, W. Xu, T. Zhang, S. Reddy, X. Li, A. Atalar, Y. Chen, Sarath Babu, H. Zhang, D. Qiao, M. Zheng, Y. Guan, O. Boyraz, A. Arora, M. Selim, and M. B. Cohen, "ARA PAWR: Wireless living lab for smart and connected rural communities," in Proceedings of the 29th Annual International Conference on Mobile Computing and Networking (ACM MobiCom '23). ACM, Article 98, Oct. 2023, pp. 1–3. DOI: 10.1145/3570361.3614068

Book Chapters

1. A. D. Dhruva, **Sarath Babu**, A. Chakraborty, and B. S. Manoj, "Computing platforms for the Internet of Things," In: Abraham, Martin A. (eds.) **Encyclopedia of Sustainable Technologies**, 2nd Edition, 2024, vol. 3, pp. 780–799. Oxford: Elsevier. DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-323-90386-8.00068-1

arXiv Preprints

- 1. T. U. Islam et al., "Design and implementation of ARA wireless living lab for rural broadband and applications," arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.00913v1, Aug. 2024. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2408.00913
- 2. M. Shahid et al., "Wireless Spectrum in Rural Farmlands: Status, Challenges and Opportunities," arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.04561v1, Jul. 2024. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2407.04561
- 3. D. Dalai, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "Satellite-6G network integration roadmap on reference architectures," TechRxiv. Preprint. (2022). DOI: 10.36227/techrxiv.20624685.v1
- 4. Sarath Babu, G. Jain, and B. S. Manoj, "Urban Delay Tolerant Network Simulator (UDTNSim v0.1)," CoRR, vol. abs/1709.05645, Sep. 2017. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.1709.05645

Technical Reports

S. Kota, G. Giambene, et al., "Satellite, IEEE INGR International Network Generations Roadmap, 2023 Edition,", 2023
 IEEE Future Networks World Forum (IEEE FNWF), Baltimore, MD, USA, 2023, pp. 1–195.
 DOI: 10.1109/FNWF58287.2023.10520529

2. S. Kota, G. Giambene, et al., "Satellite, IEEE INGR International Network Generations Roadmap, 2022 Edition," 2022 IEEE Future Networks World Forum (IEEE FNWF), Montreal, QC, Canada, 2022, pp. 1–182.

DOI: 10.1109/FNWF55208.2022.00141

Patents

1. P. Koshy, A. S. Ananthakrishnan, Sarath Babu, and B. S. Manoj, "IoT enabled biomedical wearable clothing system for healthcare assistance," IN 449773, 2023.

Software Developed

1. OpenFlow Software Switch with Controlled Buffering

OBJECTIVE: Enable an SDN switch capable of controlled buffering of packets in order handle link disruptions in software defined wireless environments.

2. Software Defined Optimized Link State Routing (SD-OLSR) Protocol

OBJECTIVE: Provide an automated SDN resource discovery and self-configuration scheme for software defined wireless environments involving mobile switches and controllers.

3. Urban Delay Tolerant Network Simulator (UDTNSim)

URL: https://github.com/4sarathbabu/UDTNSim

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

OBJECTIVE: Design and develop mobility models and routing protocols for ad hoc vehicular networks in real-world road network environments and analyze the performance.

Professional Affiliations

• Member	Dec 2021 – Present
 Societies 	
- IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc)	${ m Dec}~2021-{ m Present}$

 IEEE Computer Society Communities

- IEEE Smart Cities - IEEE Future Networks

- IEEE Internet of Things - IEEE Sensors Council - IEEE Systems Council

• Graduate Student Member

 Societies - IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc)

IEEE Computer Society

Mar 2014 - Dec 2014, Jan 2016 - Nov 2021

Mar 2016 - Nov 2021

Dec 2021 - Present

Jan 2022 - Present Jan 2021 - Present

Jan 2021 - Present

Jan 2015 - Present

Jan 2015 - Present

Jan 2014 - Nov 2021

• IEEE Student Branch, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

o Execute Committee Member Secretary

Feb 2018 - Feb 2020 Dec 2014 - Jan 2018

Association of Computing Machinery (ACM)

• Professional Member

Dec 2020 - Present Jan 2014 - Nov 2021

• Graduate Student Member

Services

Journal Reviews

- IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management (IEEE TNSM)
- IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications (IEEE TWC)
- IEEE Transactions on Communications (IEEE TCOM)
- IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems (IEEE TAES)
- IEEE Journal of Selected Areas in Communications (IEEE JSAC)—Series on Network Softwarization & Enablers
- IEEE Internet of Things Journal
- IEEE Sensors Journal
- IEEE Communications Letters (IEEE COMML)
- IEEE Networking Letters (IEEE LNET)
- IEEE Systems Journal
- IEEE Communications Magazine
- IEEE Access
- ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing
- Elsevier Computer Networks
- Springer Nature Computer Science

Technical Program Committees (TPCs)

- **2025**: COMSNETS
- 2024: ACM WINTECH, COMSNETS, IEEE FNWF, IFIP Networking
- 2023: ACM WINTECH, COMSNETS, IEEE FNWF
- **2022:** ACM WiNTECH
- **2015**: IEEE RAICS

Conference Reviews (In addition to TPCs)

- 2025: IEEE INFOCOM
- **2024:** IEEE INFOCOM
- 2023: IEEE GLOBECOM, IEEE ICCC, IEEE INFOCOM
- 2022: IEEE INDICON, IEEE WF-IoT
- **2021:** IEEE WF-IoT

Volunteering

• IEEE Shannon Centennial Workshop on Communications and Information Theory (SCWIT)	$\operatorname{Dec}\ 2016$
• IEEE Recent Advances in Intelligent Computational Systems (RAICS)	${ m Dec}~2015$
• 7 th International Conference on COMmunication Systems & NETworkS (COMSNETS)	Jan 2015

Talks | Workshops

1	
• Talk: "Real-World Experimental Testbed for 5G and Beyond Communication Systems"	Oct 2024
Venue: IEEE Student Branch, IIST	
• Talk: "Type-based Analysis of Road Networks,"	$\mathbf{Sep} 2020$
Venue: Avionics Ph.D. Talk Series, Department of Avionics and IEEE Student Branch, IIST	
• Workshop: "Programming in Python"	Oct 2018, Aug 2019
VENUE: IEEE Student Branch, IIST	
• Workshop: "₽TEX: An Introduction"	Mar 2018, Mar 2019
Venue: Conscientia, IIST	
• Workshop: "Introduction to Software Defined Networking"	Oct 2016

Technical Skills

- Programming Languages: C, C++, Python, Bash Shell Scripting
- Documentation & Editors: LATEX, GNU Emacs

VENUE: AV484 Wireless Mesh Networks, IIST

- Plotting & Visualization: Gnuplot, Tikz, Inkscape, draw.io
- Operating Systems: Linux, TinyOS
- Cloud: OpenStack
- Hypervisors/Containerization: VirtualBox, Docker
- Database Management System: MariaDB, MySQL, SQLite
- Software Defined Networking: OpenFlow, Open vSwitch, Ryu, POX
- Simulators: UDTNSim, SUMO, Mininet, STK
- Languages: Malayalam (Native), English