

Sai Aparna Aketi
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ACADEMIC DETAILS

04/2024 - present	Central Applied Science, Meta Postdoctoral Researcher: Federated Learning	Menlo Park, USA.
08/2018 - 02/2024	Purdue University Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering CGPA: 4/4	West Lafayette, USA.
07/2014 - 07/2018	Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar Bachelors of Technology, Electrical Engineering Honors in Electrical Engineering and Minor in Computer Science CGPA: 9.73/10	Gujarat, India.

RESEARCH WORK

- **Decentralized Learning Algorithms and Theory**

Mentor: Prof. Kaushik Roy

Aug'18 - Mar'24

- Graduate Research Assistant at Center for Brain-inspired Computing (C-BRIC), Purdue University which is one of the six centers of JUMP funded by SRC.
- My main focus is on designing and developing efficient peer-to-peer decentralized learning algorithms for non-IID/heterogeneous data distributions.

- **Decentralized Machine Learning**

Mentor: Prof. Jan Rabaey

Aug'20 - Dec'20

- Worked on communication efficient decentralized distributed learning supported for directed and time-varying graphs.
- Our main goal was to enable training at the edge devices using decentralized distributed machine learning (distributed intelligence) in practical scenarios.

- **Radiation Hardening By Design for synchronous system**

Mentor: Prof. Joycee Mekie

Aug'16 - July'18

- Proposed a new RHBD technique called Guarded Dual Modular Redundancy.
- A mathematical approach to find probability of error in case of Multiple Event Transients on various RHBD techniques.
- Worked on techniques to mitigate dual node upsets in combinational logic.

INTERNSHIPS

- **PhD Software Engineering ML Intern at Meta, Menlo Park**

(Team: Video Understanding (Infra))

May'22 - Aug'22

- Worked on designing and training Reels Discovery Graph.

- **Research Intern at IMEC, Berkeley**

(Mentor: Prof. Jan Rabaey)

Aug'20 - Dec'20

- Worked on efficient decentralized learning algorithms for computer vision tasks.

- Summer Research Intern at **University of Southern California**

(Mentor: Prof. Peter A. Beerel)

May'17 - July'17

- Worked on techniques to mitigate SETs for asynchronous bundled data design.
- Proposed a novel radiation hardened asynchronous design called **SERAD: Soft Error Resilient Asynchronous Design using a Bundled Data Protocol**. Tested using CAD simulations.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Sai Aparna Aketi, and Kaushik Roy. "**Cross-feature Contrastive Loss for Decentralized Deep Learning on Heterogeneous Data**." IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV 2024). Selected for oral presentation. [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Abolfazl Hashemi, and Kaushik Roy. "**Global Update Tracking: A Decentralized Learning Algorithm for Heterogeneous Data Distributions**." 37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023). [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Sangamesh Kodge, and Kaushik Roy. "**Neighborhood Gradient Mean: An Efficient Decentralized Learning Method for Non-IID Data**." Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR 2023). [Link to article](#).
- Sakshi Choudhary, Sai Aparna Aketi, & Kaushik Roy, "**SADDLe: Sharpness-Aware Decentralized Deep Learning with Heterogeneous Data**." IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV 2025).
- Sakshi Choudhary, Sai Aparna Aketi, Gobinda Saha, & Kaushik Roy, "**CoDeC: Communication-Efficient Decentralized Continual Learning**." Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR 2024). [Link to article](#).
- Ravikumar, Deepak, Gobinda Saha, Sai Aparna Aketi, and Kaushik Roy. "**Homogenizing Non-IID datasets via In-Distribution Knowledge Distillation for Decentralized Learning**." Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR 2024). [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Sangamesh Kodge, and Kaushik Roy. "**Low precision decentralized distributed training over IID and non-IID data**." Neural Networks (2022). - [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Sourjya Roy, Anand Raghunathan, and Kaushik Roy, "**Gradual Channel Pruning while Training using Feature Relevance Scores for Convolutional Neural Networks**", Journal of IEEE Access, Volume 8, Sept 2020. - [Link to article](#).
- Priyadarshini Panda, Aparna Aketi and Kaushik Roy, "**Towards Scalable, Efficient and Accurate Deep Spiking Neural Networks with Backward Residual Connections, Stochastic Softmax, and Hybridization**", Frontiers in Neuroscience, Volume 14, Jun 2020. - [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Smriti Gupta, Humei Cheng, Joyce Mekie and Peter Beerel, "**SERAD: Soft Error Resilient Asynchronous Design using a Bundled Data Protocol**", IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems I: Regular Papers, Jan 2020. - [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Joyce Mekie, and Hemal Shah, "**Single-error hardened and multiple-error tolerant guarded dual modular redundancy technique**," in Proceedings of IEEE, 31st International Conference on VLSI Design, Jan 2018. - [Link to article](#).

WORKSHOP PAPERS

- Sai Aparna Aketi, Sakshi Choudhary, and Kaushik Roy. "**Averaging Rate Scheduler for Decentralized Learning on Heterogeneous Data**." Tiny Paper at ICLR, 2024. [Link to article](#)

- Sai Aparna Aketi, Sangamesh Kodge, and Kaushik Roy. "**Neighborhood Gradient Clustering: An Efficient Decentralized Learning Method for Non-IID Data.**" Federated Learning and Analytics in Practice workshop at ICML, 2023. [Link to article](#)

PREPRINTS

- Sai Aparna Aketi, Abolfazl Hashemi and Kaushik Roy. "**AdaGossip: Adaptive Consensus Step-size for Decentralized Deep Learning with Communication Compression.**" [Link to article](#).
- Sai Aparna Aketi, Amandeep Singh, and Jan Rabaey. "**Sparse-Push: Communication-& Energy-Efficient Decentralized Distributed Learning over Directed & Time-Varying Graphs with non-IID Datasets.**" arXiv preprint arXiv:2102.05715 (2021). – [Link to article](#).

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Purdue's Google Fellowship nominee 2022
- Purdue's Apple Scholars in AI/ML Fellowship nominee 2022
- Received **President's Gold Medal, Institute Gold Medal** and an award for the best performance in the core courses of Physics, Chemistry, and Life Sciences at the 7th convocation of IIT Gandhinagar
- Awarded "**Academic Excellence Scholarship**" for the academic year 2016-17 and academic year 2017-18, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar.
- Awarded the prestigious Dr. J.L. Nayyar Scholarship for the academic year 2017-18
- Selected for prestigious **VITERBI-INDIA program 2017**.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Research:** Privacy Preserving Machine Learning, Federated Learning, Decentralized Optimization, and Energy-Efficient Training.
- **Programming languages:** Python (PyTorch)

SERVICES

- **Reviewer:** ICLR, ICML, CVPR, ECCV, AAAI, AISTATS, TMLR, WACV
- **Area Chair:** ICLR tiny papers (2024)
- **Action Editor:** TMLR