

# GOWTHAMI SOMEPALLI

College Park, Maryland, USA

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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I am interested in understanding how the neural networks work, where they fail, and how to make them robust. I am also interested in designing new tasks, models, and mechanisms inspired from neuroscience to improve the performance of deep learning methods in diverse domains.

## EDUCATION

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**University of Maryland, College Park**

Aug. 2019 - Present

M.S. + Ph.D. in Computer Science (4.0/4.0), Kulkarni fellow

Advisor: [Tom Goldstein](#)

**Indian Institute of Technology Madras**

Aug. 2006 - Dec. 2011

Bachelors + Masters in Mechanical Engineering

Advisor: [Raghu Prakash](#)

Thesis: Design and development of a trailer loading robot.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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Visit my Google Scholar [T2ezBDsAAAAJ](#) for complete list

- Can You Learn the Same Model Twice? Investigating Reproducibility and Double Descent from the Decision Boundary Perspective (pre-print) [web](#), 2021  
**G. Somepalli**, L. Fowl, A. Bansal, P. Yeh-Chiang, Y. Dar, R. Baraniuk, M. Goldblum, T. Goldstein
- PatchGame: Learning to Signal Mid-level Patches in Referential Games [web](#), NeurIPS 2021  
K. Gupta, **G. Somepalli**, Anubhav, V. Jayasundara, M. Zwicker, A. Shrivastava
- Unsupervised Anomaly Detection with Adversarial Mirrored AutoEncoders [web](#), UAI 2021  
**G. Somepalli**, Y. Wu, Y. Balaji, B. Vizumuri, S. Feizi
- FUGUE : Characterizing functional genes across human tissues [web](#), PLOS CompBio 2021  
**G. Somepalli**, S. Sahoo, S. Hannenhalli
- SAINT: Improved NNs for Tabular Data via Row Attention and Contrastive Pre-Training (pre-print) [web](#), 2021  
**G. Somepalli**, M. Goldblum, A. Schwarzschild, C.B. Bruss, T. Goldstein [180+ stars on Github](#)
- Adversarial Training against Poisons and Backdoors (pre-print) [web](#), 2021  
J. Geiping, L. Fowl, **G. Somepalli**, M. Goldblum, M. Moeller, T. Goldstein

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**University of Maryland/National Cancer Institute**

2018 – 2020

*Student Researcher*

*College Park, MD*

Worked with Prof. [Sridhar Hannenhalli](#) on understanding the tissue-level function of genes, synthetic lethality in the context of selective cancer therapy and cancer development using single-cell data.

- Developed a supervised machine learning model to rank genes in a specific tissue in terms of functionality. The model uses tissue-specific expression-derived and network-derived features.
- Worked on a model to predict trigger mutations in cancer development using single-cell data.

**Flipkart**

2017 - 2018

*Business Manager - Sell side*

*Bengaluru, India*

- Led the demand planning and forecasting for the TV category; revamped the legacy data collection and modeling techniques. Reduced the overstocking of TVs by 15% and reduced the lost potential sales due to out-of-stock issues by 10% within my 6 months of joining.
- Built a dynamic pricing model based on inventory levels & competition using [prophet](#).
- Won Annual **Business Excellence Award** for the most business growth via product innovation.

**Poolka Technologies**

2015-2017

*Cofounder*

*Bengaluru, India*

Poolka provides scalable visual recognition APIs to developers & businesses.

- Built [Fairi](#), a fashion assistant chatbot that provides fashion recommendations based on social media trends and users' existing wardrobe. Iterated & improved the product with 2000+ beta users.

- Selected for **Microsoft Bizspark** and **IBM Global Entrepreneur** Program. (>\$20000 cloud credits per year)

### General Electric, Oil & Gas

2013 - 2015

Engineer/ Synergy Leader

Bengaluru, India

As a technologist in GE, I worked primarily on following two projects -

- Upgrading reciprocating compressors (RC) for Petrochemical plants - Led team that designed and validated various RC components. Awarded **Project of the Quarter** (Oct 2014- Dec 2014) and the automation work on Torsional Vibration Analysis won **Kaizen Award** (Mar 2015).
- GE-Cameron Synergy - Was single point of contact in Bangalore during the GE acquisition of Cameron. Performed Root Cause Analysis (RCA) for multiple Cameron products. Was accoladed by Senior management – GE Oil & Gas, Italy for my role in the synergy.

### Renault-Nissan India

2011 - 2013

Engineer/ Component Leader

Chennai, India

- Led Engine Mounting Team for Renault Duster and Renault Lodgy Indian releases. Led components unification initiative between Renault and Nissan vehicles reducing the cost per part by 25%. Designed and tested the Rear AC for Renault Duster and Nissan Terrano Indian variations.
- Won **Best Individual contributor** from Chassis team in 2013 & my team won **Indigenous design award** for Rear AC in 2012.

## COURSE PROJECTS

### Drug Side-effect Prediction

[web](#), Spring 2020

Supervisor: [Hector C. Bravo](#), (Prof. in Department of Computer Science, UMD)

- Built a self-attention based approach to predict Adverse Side Reactions (ADRs). The neural network model exploits know drug protein reactions and protein protein reactions and can be used to predict ADRs in the early stages of drug development. Improved SOTA approaches by 5% AUPRC.

### Positive Unlabeled (PU) Learning

[web](#), Fall 2019

Supervisor: [Soheil Feizi](#), (Prof. in Department of Computer Science, UMD)

- Developed PU-VAE, a deep generative approach to sample from positive and negative distribution in absence negative labeled examples and very few positive labeled examples (less than 2% of the dataset).
- Used labeled examples generated from PU-VAE to train a classifier to improve upon SOTA cost sensitive classification on positive unlabeled data by over 15 absolute percent points.

## SKILLS

Languages	Python, C, R, JavaScript, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
Libraries/Frameworks	PyTorch/Tensorflow, Docker
Platforms	MacOS/Linux

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Kulkarni fellowship for summer research ([web](#)). 2021
- Founder of @MLSummaries** twitter and medium accounts. 4000+ followers. 2021-Present
- Initiated student-led Machine Learning Seminar Series, UMD. 2021
- Mentor:** Tech + Research program in Technica. 2020
- Talks**
  - ML Seminar Series, UMD - **Transformers for Vision - a mini survey.** Oct 2021
  - CMSC726, UMD - VAE based framework for **Positive Unlabeled Learning.** Nov. 2019
  - CMSC828O, UMD - **Drug Side-effect Prediction.** Nov. 2019
  - Headstart, Bengaluru - **Learnings from running a B2B tech startup in India.** 2017
- Master's research Scholarship by Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Govt. of India. May 2010
- National Talent Search Exam Scholarship by Govt. of India. 2005-11
- Prathibha Award by Andhra Pradesh State Govt. 2003