

Ganesh Ajjanagadde

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US citizen

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (2016-2020)
GPA: 5.0/5.0
Masters of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) at MIT (2015-2016)
GPA: 5.0/5.0
Undergraduate Bachelor of Science (SB) in EECS at MIT (2012-2015)
GPA: 5.0/5.0
Fellowship: Presidential Fellowship, NSF Graduate Fellowship, Claude E. Shannon Research Assistantship Award 2019
Research Advisors: Professor Gregory Wornell, Professor Henry Cohn
Research Areas of Interest: Signal Processing, Applied Mathematics, Coding Theory, Inference/Estimation/ML, Information Theory

Work And Research Experience

Security/Privacy Software Engineer May 2020 -
Snap, Inc: remote

Tech lead for application privacy at Snap, leading the efforts of 5 engineers. Deep expertise in both applied research and software engineering, with a passion and eye for high performance computation and optimization. Successful track record in combining these skills, learning new domains, and working cross-functionally to deliver great product experiences.

- Developed a novel, high performance, perceptual image hashing algorithm (similar to Apple NeuralHash) suitable for both clients and servers (e.g., hashes an image in less than 5 ms on common iPhones). Research underway to extend the algorithm to videos.
- Expanded the scope and delivered end to end encryption for Snap's AR glasses launched at Snap Partner Summit 2020. Worked on all aspects here: client (iOS, Android, C++) as well as server (Java backend).
- Co-owner of end to end encryption for messaging at Snap. Our system encrypts/decrypts \approx billion 1:1 snaps per day.
- Working on privacy preserving ad measurement technologies, especially relevant in view of iOS 14 changes. Implementation in modern C++ (C++17), with bindings for other languages (Java, Go). In use today by some of Snap's partners.
- Performance geek - delivered a novel app binary size reduction, performance optimizations for our privacy preserving ad measurement technologies, deep optimizations for perceptual hashing etc. Extensive expertise with native (C/C++) code, both here as well as with my open source FFmpeg hacking in the past.
- Promoted at Snap for my work above.

Graduate Student
Research Laboratory of Electronics, MIT, Cambridge, MA

Jun 2015 - May 2020

Worked with Professor Henry Cohn on point configuration questions, primarily in Hamming space. These include packing and coding questions. Also worked under Professor Gregory Wornell on some computational imaging problems related to coded apertures, and with Professor Yury Polyanskiy on some classical questions of information theory, such as MAC (multiple access channel). Worked on statistical learning with a focus on classification problems for my Master's.

Research Intern
Microsoft Research New England, Cambridge, MA

Jun-Aug 2019

Worked with Prof. Henry Cohn on new lower bounds for the mean squared error of vector quantizers in high dimensions. We obtained the first rigorous improvements since the classical work of Zador, 1968.

Research Intern
Analog Garage, Analog Devices

Jun-Aug 2017

Worked on coming up with novel methods for anomaly detection in limited resource environments. Explored both classical learning as well as deep learning approaches.

Draper Laboratory Undergraduate Research and Innovation Scholar Sep 2014-May 2015
Laboratory for Information And Decision Systems, MIT, Cambridge, MA

Worked under Professor Yury Polyanskiy on problems of information theory.

Software Engineer Intern
Kumu Networks, Santa Clara, CA

Jun-Aug 2014

Wrote a hardware abstraction layer (HAL) for an RF circuit board.

Links and Skills

- GitHub: <https://github.com/gajjanag>
- Website: <https://gajjanag.github.io>
- Publications: www.mit.edu/~gajjanag/pubs.html
- Languages: C++17, C99, Julia, Python (+numpy/scipy/matplotlib), Java/Kotlin, Objective C, shell (bash/zsh), x86 asm, L^AT_EX, MATLAB, Verilog.
- Open source contributions: FFmpeg, Julia.
- Platforms/Tools: FFmpeg hacker, Linux, Android dev, git, Bazel, make, vim, GCP, Tensorflow/Keras, GLPK.