

Kasthuri Kannan, PhD

Professor of Data Science, The US Army War College (USAWC)

 kasthuri.kannan@armywarcollege.edu  (511) 284 9106

 25707 Jordan Terrace Lane, Katy, TX 77494  <https://kannan-kasthuri.github.io/>

 US Citizen (Clearance Status: Secret)  linkedin.com/in/kasthuri-kannan-0a05b43

PROFILE

A seasoned data scientist with nearly two decades of experience driving impactful insights through advanced data analysis and modeling. Proven ability to lead complex, large-scale projects, demonstrated by quality publications and successful biomarker discoveries. Expertise in integrating data, spatial modeling, and leveraging graph databases (RDFs and LPGs) and Graph Neural Networks for network-based directed insights. Passionate about applying data science to solve critical problems and translating findings into actionable recommendations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The US Army War College

07/2025 – Present | Carlisle, PA

Professor of Data Science

- Responsibilities include assisting faculty in integrating data science into curricula, developing faculty skills through targeted training, and enhancing student data literacy to support senior-level decision-making, while serving as an expert in data analytics, AI, and business intelligence.

MD Anderson Cancer Center

02/2020 – 07/2025 | Houston, TX

Associate Professor

- Graph database development (Neo4j) for multi-omics data integration & identifying critical biomarkers.
- Established spatial modeling in pathology - lead to several publications and deeper understanding of the spatial architecture of tumor tissues. Spearheaded spatial transcriptomics efforts in glioblastoma.

New York University

11/2013 – 08/2019 | New York, NY

Assistant Professor

- Implemented bioinformatics pipelines, streamlining data processing and analysis workflows, cutting down the time from data collection to actionable insights. Made significant cancer genomics discoveries.
- Directed data science courses, cultivating a talent pool equipped with cutting-edge skills in data science and quantitative biology - enhancing NYU's capabilities in data-driven decision-making and innovation.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

04/2011 – 10/2013 | New York, NY

Research Fellow/Associate

- Established mutation pipeline for Brain, Head & Neck cancers resulting in improved understanding of cancer genetics and tumor heterogeneity. Provided directed insights in various cancer studies.
- Discovered ATRX mutations in lower grade gliomas, establishing clinical diagnosis of astrocytoma and contributing to a better understanding of glioma biology. Resulted in subsequent cutting-edge findings.

Pennsylvania State University

10/2010 – 03/2011 | State College, PA

Research Associate

- Offered bioinformatics consultation to researchers, resulting in the appropriate use of computational tools and statistics to inform actionable insights and managed NGS sequencing tasks.

Stowers Institute for Medical Research

01/2008 – 09/2010 | Kansas City, MO

Research Specialist

- Developed image processing methods for worm/fly tracking leading to publications (*Cell*, *PLoS Genetics*).
- Implemented an automated workflow to process cell images, reducing image acquisition times five-fold.

Knowledge Based Systems, Inc

Internship

- Delivered data-driven insights for aircraft movement operations - improved the efficiency and effectiveness of land based air traffic control management at the Tinker Air Force Base, OK.
- Proposed cost and time-saving measures for managing Air Force logistics and identified opportunities to optimize logistics operations. This resulted in significant cost savings and improved resource utilization.

01/2007 – 12/2008 | College Station, TX

DATA SCIENCE PROJECTS

Geospatial modeling — Spatial point processes are robust statistical tools for analyzing point patterns. By representing cells as points and annotating their measurements (e.g., single-cell gene expression), we can effectively model cell-cell interactions. We leverage the R package *spatstat* to model these interactions to gain insights into cancer from immuno-oncology standpoint.

Graph modeling — Utilizing graph databases like Neo4j and its Graph Data Science Library to model complex biological networks, enabling efficient biomarker discovery through powerful queries and community detection algorithms. Applied Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) for in silico biomarker validation, leveraging gene-gene interaction networks to learn meaningful representations and predict gene-disease relationships with enhanced accuracy.

DATA SCIENCE EDUCATION

Developed and taught Programming for Data Analysis, Machine Learning & AI, and Methods in Quantitative Biology courses. Please refer <https://kannan-kasthuri.github.io/#about> for details.

SKILLS

Leadership



Managing data science and bioinformatics projects

Software (Representative)



Python, R, Java, Cypher, SQL, Bioinformatics tools, Unix/HPC/Bash, Neo4j, MySQL, PostgreSQL, HTML, Javascript, Pytorch, Tensorflow, LangChain

Data Science/Machine Learning/AI



Math, CS, Statistics, Programming, GenAI, LLMs, Embeddings, RAG/GraphRAG, Ethical hacking

Bioinformatics & Image Processing



Pipeline development and data engineering
Geospatial analysis

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Computer Science

2002 – 2008 | College Station, Texas

Texas A&M University

Master of Science (MS), Mathematics

2000 – 2002 | College Station, Texas

Texas A&M University

Master of Science (MSc), Mathematics

1998 – 2000 | Chennai, India

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Bachelor of Science (BSc), Mathematics

1995 – 1998 | Chennai, India

University of Madras

INVITED TALKS (REPRESENTATIVE)

US Army War College (2024), Mayo Clinic (2023), National University of Singapore (2022), Texas A&M University (2021), Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Authored/co-authored 33 peer reviewed articles, that includes very high-impact journals.
Please refer <https://kannan-kasthuri.github.io/publications/publications.html>