

Sindhuja Madabushi

Ph.D. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA

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➕ <https://sindhujamadabushi.github.io>

SKILLS

Programming & Databases: Python, C#, Java, SQL, JavaScript, Neo4j, MySQL

ML & Data: PyTorch, TensorFlow, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Librosa, DiffPrivLib, PyTorch Geometric, NetworkX

Tools: Linux, Git, MPI, HPC Slurm, Jupyter

Cloud & MLOps Tools: AWS, GCP, containerization (Docker, Kubernetes)

Web & Visualization: HTML5/CSS3, Bootstrap, d3.js, SharePoint

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Applied ML Researcher (Graduate Research Assistant)

Virginia Tech

Aug 2023 - Present

ML Systems: Led a project on scalable distributed ML (Vertical Federated Learning) with differential privacy; **improved client incentives (+25%)**, cut training time, and reduced compute cost while maintaining accuracy.

Adversarial AI: Reproduced and extended label/feature inference and backdoor attacks, **matching reported accuracy within $\pm 5\%$** with tunable severity and client configurations across datasets.

Audio ML, XAI & Diffusion: Built an end-to-end audio ML pipeline (resampling \rightarrow mel-spectrogram \rightarrow CNN) with diffusion-based explanation synthesis, **cutting labeling noise by $\sim 30\%$** .

AI Fairness: Benchmarked privacy-fairness trade-offs in federated settings, designing loss disparity monitoring that **improved worst-client accuracy by $\sim 25\%$** .

Research Associate

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Jan 2020 - Dec 2022

Led design of a scalable two-cloud algorithm for privacy-preserving DNA read alignment, leveraging advanced data structures and algorithms to process whole-genome, large-scale sequencing (NGS) data.

Delivered chromosome-level alignment in minutes with 100% privacy and zero accuracy loss in a privacy-critical medical workload.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate

Computer Science
Virginia Tech (Since 2023)

Master of Science

Data and Knowledge Engineering
OVGU Magdeburg (2016 - 2019)

Bachelor of Technology

Computer Science
GITAM University (2009 - 2013)

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Student Research Intern

PiSA sales GmbH
2017 - 2018

Software Engineer 1

Innominds Software
2015 - 2016

Systems Engineer

Tata Consultancy Services
2013 - 2015

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

OPUS-VFL: Incentivizing Optimal Privacy-Utility Tradeoffs in Vertical Federated Learning
Sindhuja Madabushi, Ahmad Faraz Khan, Haider Ali, Jin-Hee Cho (ArXiv 2025)

Empirical Analysis of Privacy-Fairness-Accuracy Trade-offs in Federated Learning: A Step Towards Responsible AI
Dawood Wasif, Dian Chen, **Sindhuja Madabushi**, Nithin Alluru, Terrence J Moore, Jin-Hee Cho (AIES 2025)

Two-Cloud Private Read Alignment to a Public Reference Genome
Sindhuja Madabushi, Parameswaran Ramanathan (PETS 2023)

AWARDS AND SERVICE

Best Poster Award: Commonwealth Cyber Initiative Southwest Virginia Student Researcher Showcase, 2025
Recognized for excellence in presenting original research in privacy-preserving federated learning.

Elected Secretary: Computer Science Graduate Council, Virginia Tech, 2025-2026
Chosen by peers to represent the graduate student body, coordinate departmental initiatives, and advocate for student interests.

Volunteer, C-Tech² Program: Virginia Tech, Summer 2025
Delivered STEM outreach workshops for high school students, introducing optimization concepts and problem-solving activities.

Peer Reviews: IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management 2024, Transactions on Services Computing 2024, 2025.

Travel Awards: ACM Capital Region Celebration of Women in Computing (CAPWIC) 2024 & 2025; Conferenceship Travel Award, Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC) 2023.

Volunteer, STEM Santa Fe: Nonprofit organization that delivers STEM programs, mentoring, and resources
Led a mentoring team for ~100 school students, inspiring participants to explore STEM careers.

Master's Mentor: Otto-von-Guericke University, 2017-2018
Organized orientation events and provided mentorship to over 100 incoming international graduate students.

Organizer: Magdeburg Indians, 2017-2018
Directed the cultural team for community events, including a summer festival with ~1,000 attendees.

