

# Saranya Vijayakumar

saranyav@andrew.cmu.edu • +1 (914) 648-0021 • 626 Hastings Street, Pittsburgh PA 15206

---

## Education

Carnegie Mellon University PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
**Ph.D., Computer Science** *Expected graduation 2026*  
Advisors: Professors Christos Faloutsos & Matt Fredrikson

Harvard University CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS  
**A.B., Joint Concentration in Computer Science & Government** 2018  
Thesis: "Interpretability Through Interrogation: Fairness in the Context of Criminal Sentencing"  
Bachelor's Advisors: Professors Cynthia Dwork & Jim Waldo

---

## Conference Publications

**MalCentroid: Tracking Malware Evolution through Behavioral Primitive Decomposition**  
Saranya Vijayakumar, Christos Faloutsos, Matt Fredrikson  
Under Review CCS 2025

**Benchmarking AI-Generated Code Detection: A Cross-Language Evaluation of Traditional, Transformer-based, and Contrastive Visual-Textual Approaches**  
Saranya Vijayakumar, Christos Faloutsos, Matt Fredrikson  
Under Review KDD 2025

**Mechanistically Interpreting a Transformer-based 2-SAT Solver: An Axiomatic Approach**  
Nils Palumbo, Ravi Mangal, Zifan Wang, Saranya Vijayakumar, Corina Pasareanu, Somesh Jha  
Under Review ICML 2025

**Leveraging Large Language Models for Enhanced Membership Inference and Reidentification in Topics API Analyses**  
Saranya Vijayakumar, Norman Sadeh  
Under Review ICML 2025

**Aligned LLMs Are Not Aligned Browser Agents**  
Priyanshu Kumar, Saranya Vijayakumar, Elaine Lau, Tu Trinh, Zifan Wang, Matt Fredrikson  
The International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR); (Paper) Singapore 2025

**Grounding Neural Inference with Satisfiability Modulo Theories**  
Zifan Wang, Saranya Vijayakumar, Kaiji Lu, Vijay Ganesh, Somesh Jha, Matt Fredrikson  
NeurIPS (Spotlight); (Talk) Vancouver, CA 2023

**CallMine: Fraud Detection and Visualization of Million-Scale Call Graphs**  
Mirela Cazzolato, Saranya Vijayakumar, Meng-Chieh Lee, Namyong Park, Catalina Vajiac, Christos Faloutsos  
The Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM) Birmingham UK 2023

## Other Publications and Conference Contributions

**Through the Lens of LLMs: Unveiling Differential Privacy Challenges**  
USENIX Conference on Privacy Engineering Practice and Respect Santa Clara CA USA, 2024

**Anomaly Detection and Visualization of Large-Scale Call Graphs**  
AAAI-23 Demonstrations Program Washington DC, 2023

**TgraphSpot: Fast and Effective Anomaly Detection for Time-Evolving Graphs**  
2022 IEEE International Conference on Big Data Industry and Government Program Osaka, Japan 2022

**Interpretability Through Interrogation: Fairness in the Context of Criminal Sentencing** 2018

**Algorithmic Decision-Making** Harvard Political Review, 2017

**A Worldwide Survey of Encryption Products**  
Bruce Schneier, Kathleen Seidel, and Saranya Vijayakumar. Berkman Center Research Publication, 2015

## Invited Talks

17-416/17-716, AI Governance (Masters/PhD level)	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Guest Lecture on LLM Security and Alignment</b>	<i>Spring 2025</i>
17-331/17-631, Information Security, Privacy, Public Policy	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Guest Lecture on Vulnerabilities of ML</b>	<i>Fall 2024</i>
17-416/17-716, AI Governance (Masters/PhD level)	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Guest Lecture on ML Security and Privacy</b>	<i>Spring 2024</i>
17-331/17-631, Information Security, Privacy, Public Policy	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Guest Lecture on ML Security and Adversarial Robustness</b>	<i>Fall 2023</i>
Dagstuhl Seminar: Machine Learning and Logical Reasoning: The New Frontier	GERMANY, 2022
CRA-WP Grad Cohort 2022	NEW ORLEANS, 2022
Cylab Partners Conference	PITTSBURGH, 2022
Alumni Committee for Harvard Women in Computer Science	2022

## Selected Fellowships and Awards

Best Poster Award	NEW ORLEANS, LA, 2024
GFDS Program	NSA (TURNED DOWN)
CRA-W Grad Cohort for Women	NEW ORLEANS, 2022
National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program	ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE, 2022 – 2024
Tech in the World Fellow, Partners in Health	LIMA, PERU, 2018
The Ernst Kitzinger Prize, Lowell House	HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 2018
Microsoft Scholarship, Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing	ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 2017
Director's Internship, Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics	NEW YORK, NY, 2015

## Teaching Experience

17-331/631, Information, Security, Privacy & Policy (Masters level)	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	<i>Fall 2023</i>
Created homework assignments, graded assignments, and held office hours. Gave a lecture on ML/security. Course included applied cryptography, authentication & security protocols, web & network attacks, and ML security & privacy.	
15-294, Rapid Prototyping (undergraduate level)	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Taught lecture, graded assignments, and redesigned the syllabus and course schedule to accommodate interactive learning and new assignments. Course focused on SolidWorks.	
15-394, Intermediate Rapid Prototyping	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Taught lecture, graded assignments, and redesigned homework assignment for students to design automata in SolidWorks with linear bushing, rotational motion, and rendering/motion analysis components. Course focused on Rhino, Grasshopper, and Kangaroo 2 physics-based simulation.	
Future Faculty Program	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
<b>Participant</b>	<i>2021 – 2023</i>
Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation. Participated in seminars aimed at helping graduate students develop and document their teaching skills in preparation for a faculty career. Completed a lesson plan review and teaching observation with Eberly experts; redesigned Rapid Prototyping syllabus; completed a teaching philosophy project	

## Industry Experience

Inria

NANCY, FRANCE

### Visiting Scholar

October – November 2024

Formal verification project: Studying the security properties and transcript consistency of a secure messaging platform used by the French government. Studied under Charlie Jacomme and Steve Kremer.

### Goldman Sachs/Algorithmic Trading

NEW YORK, NY

#### Data Scientist, Electronic Trading

2018 – 2021

- Covered quantitative hedge funds and asset managers in a client-facing data science role.
- Performed trade cost analyses using Python, Slang (Goldman's proprietary language), SQL, and KDB Q and communicated algorithmic recommendations to stakeholders.
- Designed and implemented experiments with the software engineering team & strategized on new features and methodologies.
- Published research pieces sent to over one thousand clients, focusing on market microstructure and electronic trading statistics.

### Beto O'Rourke for U.S. Senate

AUSTIN, TX

#### Data Scientist, Distributed Organizing

Summer 2018

- Collaborated with the data team and campaign director to create Python models predicting voter turnout and support.
- Presented my findings on persuasion tactics and priority counties for grassroots organizing to the chief of staff.
- Strategized student turnout and started grassroots offices around Texas.
- Canvassed in San Antonio with the Field Director to organize and fundraise.

### Booz Allen Hamilton

VIRGINIA SQUARE, VA, HERNDON, VA & BOSTON, MA

#### Cybersecurity Intern

Summer 2017

- Worked on autonomous swarming behavior in team of six.
- Created the functionality for semi-autonomous navigation of the ground robots in ROS and using Python and C++.
- Investigated and created prevention methods against security threats by creating a proof-of-work demonstrating how a potential hacker could use GPS spoofing to override a military-grade GPS-enabled robot. Implemented PCA for GPS anomaly detection.

#### Digital Solutions Intern

Winter 2017

- Collaborated with intern team to perform impact analysis on the MBTA using data provided by the MBTA to evaluate pricing strategies based on revenue and equity.
- Studied the fairness of public transit fares in Boston by examining surge pricing, subsidies to low-income individuals and students, and distance-based fares.

---

## Conference Service

ICML, Reviewer

ICML 2025

ICLR, Reviewer

ICLR 2025

KDD, Reviewer

KDD 2025

ICLR, Reviewer

ICLR 2024

NeurIPS, Reviewer

NeurIPS 2023 Workshop: New Frontiers in Graph Learning

NeurIPS, Reviewer

NeurIPS 2024

Peer Reviewer

Georgetown Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET)

## Selected Service

Women in CSD, Founder

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, 2022 – PRESENT

- Organizer of a weekly lunch and other programming for over 90 women and non-binary members of Computer Science Department and broader School of Computer Science.

Introductory Course, Organizer

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, SUMMER 2022

- Organized Introductory Course events, which introduces new Ph.D. students to the department.

Alumni Association Executive Committee, Member

RIVERDALE COUNTRY SCHOOL, 2023 - PRESENT

- Sustain loyalty and enthusiasm among peers by developing programs, initiatives, and events that promote the general welfare of the school and by encouraging alumni participation in activities and philanthropic support.
- Class Correspondent (2014 - present): Solicit class notes & serve as part of Reunion Committee

Harvard University, Member

BOSTON & NY, 2018 - PRESENT

- Schools & Scholarships Committee (2018 - Present): interview Harvard College applicants yearly
- Participation chair for class of 2018 fifth year reunion (2023)

Cyber Defense Club, Finance & Communications Chair

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 2017 - 2018

- Qualified for the New England regional finals of the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.
- Led weekly meetings.

Girls Who Code, Leader

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 2016 - 2017

- Wrote the curriculum and led classes for 20 middle school girls, coordinated female Harvard mentors.
- Collaborated with Harvard Kennedy School and Business School students to make Girls Who Code more inclusive to girls in different parts of Boston.
- Worked with the Harvard EdLabs to host programs in Allston, MA.

Digital Literacy Project, Education & Community Outreach Chairs HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 2014 - 2017

- Taught computer science weekly at underserved schools in Boston.
- Expanded the curriculum to create second course in HTML and CSS and created partnerships with Boston public schools.

---

## Skills

**Technical specialties:** Java, Python, C, R, Tensorflow, Sklearn, ROS, HTML+CSS, PHP, Swift, Git, Parse, Open-MRS, Stata,  $\LaTeX$ . Linux administration skills: bash, Apache, MySQL, VMware, & KDB Q.

**Natural languages:** English, Tamil, Spanish (*working proficiency*), Japanese (*limited working proficiency*).

---