

Sai Paladugu

Toronto, ON



[github](#)



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[portfolio](#)



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EDUCATION

Carleton University

Graduated April 2026

Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours), Minor in Math

GPA: 4.0/4.0

- **Honors & Awards:** Summa Cum Laude, Harry S. Southam Scholarship, Dale L. Sheehan Award

EXPERIENCE

Shopify | *Machine Learning Engineer II* | Toronto, ON

May 2026 – Present

- DRI for the ML side launch of Microsoft into Shopify's Autopilot
- Own the cross-channel budget allocation model that distributes merchant spend across Meta, Shop, and Microsoft

Shopify | *Machine Learning Intern* | Toronto, ON

Jan 2026 – Apr 2026

- Architected an end-to-end ML pipeline using XGBoost, dbt, and Airflow to predict conversion value for real-time ad auctions, generating a projected **\$5M** in annualized incremental revenue
- Engineered an online Multi-Armed Bandit (Thompson Sampling) framework for ad creative selection, mitigating the cold-start problem and boosting aggregate click-through rate by **25%**

Valence Labs (Mila) | *Machine Learning Research Intern* | Montreal, QC

Sep 2025 – Dec 2025

- Designed active learning pipelines using uncertainty estimation to optimize data sampling efficiency, saving **\$40k** in data acquisition costs for training in sparse-data regimes
- Engineered generative geometric deep learning models (GNNs) for 3D graph-structured data, implementing multi-objective optimization to satisfy **94%** of complex structural constraints

Recursion x NVIDIA | *Machine Learning Research Intern* | Toronto, ON

May 2025 – Aug 2025

- Developed multi-modal foundation models fusing computer vision and high-dimensional tabular data; optimized transformer attention mechanisms to increase inference throughput by **4x**
- Implemented domain adaptation and robust feature normalization techniques to handle distribution shifts across heterogeneous datasets, boosting out-of-distribution accuracy by **12%**

Nokia | *Machine Learning Operations Intern* | Ottawa, ON

May 2024 – Apr 2025

- Engineered an MCP microservice to standardize retrieval of proprietary data from an internal training-data store, reducing data preparation latency by **60%** for domain-specific LLM training
- Built large-scale, Dockerized, Kubernetes-orchestrated microservices to source, validate, and register **100+** LLMs from Hugging Face into Nokia's MLflow-based model registry

Cisco | *Machine Learning Intern* | Ottawa, ON

May 2023 – Dec 2023

- Built an API integrating ChromaDB and an in-house LLM to convert natural language into structured Elasticsearch queries, adopted by **10+** Cisco engineering teams
- Designed and maintained ETL pipelines using Apache Airflow to ingest, transform, and load **5TB+** of data from internal APIs and cloud storage into a centralized Snowflake warehouse

PROJECTS

Scribble – Anonymous AR Graffiti | Winner, UofTHacks 2025 | AR, zk-Proofs, Cohere

- Built an AR app enabling users to leave anonymous, geotagged graffiti in physical spaces, using Cohere for content personalization and zk-proofs to grant secure, location-based access

Model Garden | Python, MCPT, Bootstrap Inference, ib_async

- Developed a trading system deployed live on IBKR, projected to beat the S&P 500 with half the drawdown

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, R, C++, SQL

ML & Data Science: PyTorch, TensorFlow, XGBoost, Scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy

MLOps: Docker, Kubernetes, Airflow, dbt, MLflow, LangChain, Terraform, Jenkins, Git

Cloud & Backend: AWS (S3, EC2, SageMaker, EKS), Kafka, FastAPI, Flask