

VIKASH SEHWAG

Ph.D. Candidate
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544

☎ (609)-216-6036
🌐 vsehwag.github.io ✉ vvikash@princeton.edu [🐙](#) [in](#) [🐦](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I aim to build *trustworthy machine learning systems*, especially using *generative models* as a fundamental and transformative building block. Some topics that I have worked on in the past are adversarial robust supervised/self-supervised learning, improving robustness using generative models, adversarial robustness in compressed neural networks, open-world machine learning, self-supervised detection of outliers, robust outlier detection, privacy leakage in large scale deep learning, and faster-federated learning.

EDUCATION

Program	Institution	Years
Ph.D., Electrical and Computer Engineering <i>Advisors – Prateek Mittal, Mung Chiang</i>	Princeton University NJ, USA	2017 - Present
M.A., Electrical Engineering	Princeton University NJ, USA	2017 - 2019
B.Tech., Electronics and Electrical Communication Engg.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, INDIA	2013 - 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Graduate student award for excellence in service (ECE department, Princeton University) 2022
- Charlotte Elizabeth Proctor Honorific Fellowship, one of the highest honors at Princeton University 2022
- Best paper honorable mention award at ICLR workshop on Security and Safety in ML Systems 2021
- Winner of Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship, North America Region 2019
- Received best undergraduate thesis award (1 from 72 students) at IIT Kharagpur 2017
- IEEE student award from IEEE student branch of IIT Kharagpur 2016
- Awarded the WISE scholarship from German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany 2016
- Received Merit-cum-Means Scholarship from MHRD, Government of India 2013-17

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Research Internship – *Facebook AI*, USA Summer 2021
Advisors – Caner Hazirbas, Cristian Canton Ferrer
Project: Generating novel hard instances from low-density regions using generative models.
- Research Internship – *Microsoft Research*, Redmond (USA) Summer 2019
Advisors – Jay Stokes, Cha Zhang
Project: Adversarial attacks and defenses beyond ℓ_p norms
- Research Assistant – *IIT Kharagpur*, India Fall 2016
Advisors – Indrajit Chakrabarti, Santanu Chattopadhyay
Project: Implementing physical unclonable functions with Network-on-chip routers
- Research Internship – *Technische Universität Darmstadt*, Germany Summer 2016
Advisor – Heinz Koeppl
Project: A study of stochastic SIS disease spreading on random graphs

PUBLICATIONS

Preprints and papers under review

- [A Light Recipe to Train Robust Vision Transformers](#)
Edoardo Debenedetti, **Vikash Sehwal**, Prateek Mittal
Arxiv, Under review
- [Just Rotate it: Deploying Backdoor Attacks via Rotation Transformation](#)
Tong Wu, Tianhao Wang, **Vikash Sehwal**, Saeed Mahloujifar, Prateek Mittal
Arxiv, Under review

Conference and Journal Publications

- [Understanding Robust Learning through the Lens of Representation Similarities](#)
Christian Cianfarani*, Arjun Nitin Bhagoji*, **Vikash Sehwal***, Ben Zhao, Prateek Mittal, Haitao Zheng
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022
- [Generating High Fidelity Data from Low-density Regions using Diffusion Models](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Caner Hazirbas, Albert Gordo, Firat Ozgenel, Cristian Canton Ferrer
Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2022
- [Robust Learning Meets Generative Models: Can Proxy Distributions Improve Adversarial Robustness?](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Saeed Mahloujifar, Tinashe Handina, Sihui Dai, Chong Xiang, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2022
- [RobustBench: a standardized adversarial robustness benchmark](#)
Francesco Croce*, Maksym Andriushchenko*, **Vikash Sehwal***, Edoardo Debenedetti*, Nicolas Flammarion, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal, Matthias Hein
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021 - Datasets and Benchmarks Track
Won best paper honorable mention prize at ICLR 2021 workshop on Security and Safety in Machine Learning Systems.
- [Lower Bounds on Cross-Entropy Loss in the Presence of Test-time Adversaries](#)
Arjun Nitin Bhagoji, Daniel Cullina, **Vikash Sehwal**, Prateek Mittal
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2021
- [SSD: A Unified Framework for Self-Supervised Outlier Detection](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2021
Short version accepted at NeurIPS 2020 Workshop on Self-Supervised Learning - Theory and Practice
- [Beyond \$\ell_p\$ Norms: Delving Deeper into Robustness to Physical Image Transformations](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Jay Stokes, Cha Zhang
IEEE Military Communications Conference (MILCOM), 2021
- [PatchGuard: Provable Defense against Adversarial Patches Using Masks on Small Receptive Fields](#)
Chong Xiang, Arjun Nitin Bhagoji, **Vikash Sehwal**, Prateek Mittal
USENIX Security Symposium, 2021
- [HYDRA: Pruning Adversarially Robust Neural Networks](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Shiqi Wang, Prateek Mittal, Suman Jana
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020
- [Fast-Convergent Federated Learning](#)
Hung T. Nguyen, **Vikash Sehwal**, Seyyedali Hosseinalipour, Christopher G. Brinton, Mung Chiang, H. Vincent Poor
IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications (J-SAC) - Series on Machine Learning for Communications and Networks, 2020

Peer-reviewed Workshop Publications

* refers to equal contribution.

- [Robustness from Perception](#)
Saeed Mahloujifar, Chong Xiang, **Vikash Sehwal**, Sihui Dai, Prateek Mittal
ICLR workshop on Security and Safety in Machine Learning Systems, 2021
- [Time for a Background Check! Uncovering the impact of Background Features on Deep Neural Networks](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Rajvardhan Oak, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
ICML workshop on Object-Oriented Learning, 2020
- [On separability of self-supervised representations](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
ICML workshop on Uncertainty & Robustness in Deep Learning, 2020
- [On Pruning Adversarially Robust Neural Networks](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Shiqi Wang, Prateek Mittal, Suman Jana
ICLR workshop on Towards Trustworthy ML, 2020
- [Analyzing the robustness of open-world machine learning](#)
Vikash Sehwal*, Arjun Nitin Bhagoji*, Liwei Song*, Chawin Sitawarin, Daniel Cullina, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
In Proceedings of the 12th ACM Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Security (AISec), 2019
- [Not All Pixels are Born Equal: An Analysis of Evasion Attacks under Locality Constraints](#)
Vikash Sehwal, Chawin Sitawarin, Arjun Nitin Bhagoji, Arsalan Mosenia, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
Poster at ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS), 2018.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Teaching

- Lecture on basics of adversarial machine learning at Princeton-Intel REU Seminar 2021
- Teaching assistant for ECE 574: Security & Privacy Fall 2021
- Taught a mini-course on adversarial attacks & defenses in Wintersession at Princeton University 2020
- Teaching assistant for ECE 535: Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition Fall 2019

Mentoring

I continue to mentor the next generation of researchers.

- *Xiangyu Qi, Tong Wu* - Graduate students at Princeton University. 2022-now
- *Christian Cianfarani* - Graduate student at University of Chicago. 2021-now
- *Edoardo Debenedetti* - Master's student at École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) 2021-2022
- *Rajvardhan Oak* - Master's student at University of California, Berkeley Summer 2020
- *Tinashe Handina* (B.S.E., Electrical Engineering 2021) - now a graduate student at Caltech.
- *Matteo Russo* (B.S.E., Computer Science 2020) - now a masters student at ETH Zurich.

Peer reviewing

- IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning (SaTML) 2022
- Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR) 2022
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2022
- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2022
- Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2022
- International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV) 2022
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2021, 2022
- Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS) 2021, 2022
- Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS) 2020, 2022
- PLOS Computational Biology 2020
- ACM Transactions on Privacy and Security (TOPS) 2019
- USENIX Security Symposium 2018, 2019

Other Services

- Organized more than 15 talks on security & privacy in machine learning ([SPML seminar series](#)) 2022
- Part of core maintaining team of Adversarial Robustness Benchmark ([robustbench.github.io](#)) 2020-now
- Volunteered for beta-testing of OpenReview submission pipeline for upcoming TMLR journal 2022
- Volunteered as junior mentor at Princeton-OLCF-NVIDIA GPU Hackathon 2020

INVITED TALKS

- Role of synthetic data in trustworthy machine learning May 2022
University of Chicago; University of California, Berkeley
- A generative approach to robust machine learning Mar 2022
Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS)
- A generative approach to robust machine learning (link) Jan 2022
RIKEN-AIP TrustML Young Scientist Seminar, Japan
- Generating novel hard-instances from low-density regions using generative models Aug 2021
Facebook AI, USA
- A primer on adversarial machine learning July 2021
Princeton-Intel REU Seminar
- Embedding data distribution to make machine learning more reliable March 2021
Adversarial robustness seminar, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
- Private Deep Learning Made Practical Oct 2019
Qualcomm, San Diego