

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My vision is to develop the next generation of generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems safely and responsibly. I am interested in identifying emerging safety and security challenges in large-scale AI systems, developing risk mitigation strategies for improved robustness and safety, thus simultaneously enhancing the capabilities and trustworthiness of generative AI.

Research topics: Safer generative AI, Responsible data synthesis, Robust machine learning, Benchmarking progress in AI safety.

Sub-topics: Automated red teaming, Multimodal robust learning, Diffusion models, Adversarial robustness, Data watermarking and tracing, Data memorization and privacy leakage, Bias and Fairness, Trustworthy AI.

Phd thesis: Promises and Pitfalls of Generative AI: An AI-Safety Centric Approach (Princeton University)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Research Scientist – *Sony AI*, USA 2023 - present
I lead research efforts on enhancing safety and utility of generative models at Sony AI.
- Research Internship – *Meta AI*, USA Summer 2021
Advisors – Caner Hazirbas, Cristian Canton Ferrer (*AI Red Team*)
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 Internship – *Technische Universität Darmstadt*, Germany Summer 2016
Advisor – Heinz Koepl
Project: A study of stochastic SIS disease spreading on random graphs

EDUCATION

Program	Institution	Years
Ph.D., Electrical and Computer Engineering <i>Advisors</i> – Prateek Mittal, Mung Chiang	Princeton University NJ, USA	2017 - 2023
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

- Received the 2023 Adversarial Machine Learning (AdvML) rising star award 2023
- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Preprints and papers under review

- [Stretching Each Dollar: Diffusion Training from Scratch on a Micro-Budget](#)
Vikash Sehwar, Xianghao Kong, Jingtao Li, Michael Spranger, Lingjuan Lyu
Arxiv 2024 (We trained a stable diffusion quality model from scratch in only \$2,000)
- [Evaluating and Mitigating IP Infringement in Visual Generative AI](#)
Zhenting Wang, Chen Chen, Vikash Sehwar, Minzhou Pan, Lingjuan Lyu
Arxiv 2024, Under review
- [EnTruth: Enhancing the Traceability of Unauthorized Dataset Usage in Text-to-image Diffusion Models with Minimal and Robust Alterations](#)
Jie Ren, Yingqian Cui, Chen Chen, Vikash Sehwar, Yue Xing, Jiliang Tang, Lingjuan Lyu
Arxiv 2024, Under review
- [JailbreakBench: An Open Robustness Benchmark for Jailbreaking Large Language Models](#)
Patrick Chao, Edoardo Debenedetti, Alexander Robey, Maksym Andriushchenko, Francesco Croce, Vikash Sehwar, Edgar Dobriban, Nicolas Flammarion, George J. Pappas, Florian Tramèr, Hamed Hassani, Eric Wong
Arxiv, 2024
- [Position Paper: AI Risk Management Should Unambiguously Take into Account Both Safety and Security](#)
Qi et al., 2024
Under review
- [Scaling Compute Is Not All You Need for Adversarial Robustness](#)
Edoardo Debenedetti, Zishen Wan, Maksym Andriushchenko, Vikash Sehwar, Kshitij Bhardwaj, Bhavya Kailkhura
Arxiv 2023, Under review

Conference and Journal Publications

- [Finding a needle in a haystack: A Black-Box Approach to Invisible Watermark Detection](#)
Minzhou Pan, Zhenting Wang, Xin Dong, Vikash Sehwar, Lingjuan Lyu, Xue Lin
European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), 2024
- [How to Trace Latent Generative Model Generated Images without Artificial Watermark?](#)
Zhenting Wang, Vikash Sehwar, Chen Chen, Lingjuan Lyu, Dimitris N. Metaxas, Shiqing Ma
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2024
- [A New Linear Scaling Rule for Private Adaptive Hyperparameter Optimization](#)
Ashwinee Panda, Xinyu Tang, Vikash Sehwar, Saeed Mahloujifar, Prateek Mittal
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2024
- [Differentially Private Image Classification by Learning Priors from Random Processes](#)
Xinyu Tang, Ashwinee Panda, Vikash Sehwar, Prateek Mittal
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023 - Spotlight presentation
- [Extracting Training Data from Diffusion Models](#)
Nicholas Carlini, Jamie Hayes, Milad Nasr, Matthew Jagielski, Vikash Sehwar, Florian Tramèr, Borja Balle, Daphne Ippolito, Eric Wallace
USENIX Security Symposium, 2023
- [Uncovering Adversarial Risks of Test-Time Adaptation](#)
Tong Wu, Feiran Jia, Xiangyu Qi, Jiachen T. Wang, Vikash Sehwar, Saeed Mahloujifar, Prateek Mittal
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023
- [MultiRobustBench: Benchmarking Robustness Against Multiple Attacks](#)
Sihui Dai, Saeed Mahloujifar, Chong Xiang, Vikash Sehwar, Pin-Yu Chen, Prateek Mittal
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023

* refers to equal contribution.

- [A Light Recipe to Train Robust Vision Transformers](#)
Edoardo Debenedetti, **Vikash Sehwal**, Prateek Mittal
IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning (SaTML), 2023
- [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
- [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
- [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

- [Differentially Private Generation of High Fidelity Samples From Diffusion Models](#)
Vikash Sehwal*, Ashwinee Panda*, Ashwini Pokle, Xinyu Tang, Saeed Mahloujifar, Mung Chiang, Zico Kolter, Prateek Mittal
ICML workshop on Deployable Generative AI, 2023
- [Just Rotate it: Deploying Backdoor Attacks via Rotation Transformation](#)
Tong Wu, Tianhao Wang, **Vikash Sehwal**, Saeed Mahloujifar, Prateek Mittal
In Proceedings of the 12th ACM Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Security (AISec), 2022
- [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 Sehwar, Rajvardhan Oak, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
ICML workshop on Object-Oriented Learning, 2020
- [On separability of self-supervised representations](#)
Vikash Sehwar, Mung Chiang, Prateek Mittal
ICML workshop on Uncertainty & Robustness in Deep Learning, 2020
- [On Pruning Adversarially Robust Neural Networks](#)
Vikash Sehwar, Shiqi Wang, Prateek Mittal, Suman Jana
ICLR workshop on Towards Trustworthy ML, 2020
- [Analyzing the robustness of open-world machine learning](#)
Vikash Sehwar*, 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 Sehwar, 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 strongly believe in mentoring the next generation of researchers.

- *Christian Cianfarani* - Graduate student at University of Chicago. 2021-2023
- *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 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) - 2021, 2022, 2023; IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning (SaTML) - 2023, 2024; International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) - 2022, 2024; ACM Computing Surveys - 2023; Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR) - 2022; International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) - 2022; Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) - 2022; International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV) - 2021, 2023; 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

- Workshop organizer - ICCV 2023 ARROW workshop, CVPR 2023 Workshop of Adversarial Machine Learning on Computer Vision: Art of Robustness 2023
- Program committee member for IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning 2023
- Organized more than 20 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 as junior mentor at Princeton-OLCF-NVIDIA GPU Hackathon 2020

INVITED TALKS

- On Safety Risks of Generative AI - From ChatGPT to Dalle.3 Nov 2023
Invited speaker at Responsible AI Webinar, Columbia University
- Prospects and Pitfalls of modern generative models - An AI safety perspective Feb 2023
Workshop on Practical Deep Learning in the Wild (AAAI 2023)
- Enhancing machine learning using synthetic data distilled from generative models Jan 2023
Microsoft Research, Cambridge
- 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