

SABYASACHI SAHOO

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Ph.D. candidate with industry experience working on improving generalization & robustness of ML models.

EDUCATION

- Mila, Université Laval, Inria** Aug 2021 - Present
Ph.D. in Machine Learning. Advisors: [Christian Gagné](#) & [Frédéric Precioso](#). (GPA: 4/4) (Expected: Aug 2026)
Keywords: Generalization, Robustness, Finetuning, Test time compute, Foundation models.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore** 2014 - 2016
Masters in Computational and Data Science. Advisor: [Sathish Vadhiyar](#). (Top 5 in class)
- Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (NIT), Surat** 2010 - 2014
Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- NVIDIA - System Engineer II** Aug 2016 - May 2018
- **Display Functionality:** Implemented various new features, reducing bugs (60%) and improving user experience.
 - **Device Tree Modularization:** Designed reusable module, cutting the development time (30%) across teams.
 - **Jetson Xavier Chip Launch:** Implemented critical modules for successful launch & performance boost (25%).
- Donut Research Labs - Deep Learning Engineer** May 2018 - Feb 2019
- **Text Normalization:** Improved Walmart's brand name extraction accuracy (40%) using a Seq2Seq model, pretrained on product descriptions, fine-tuned on noisy annotations, and top-k sampling with beam search.
 - **Object Detection:** Built custom information extraction module by fine-tuning Single Shot Detector (SSD) model on product images, enhancing product attribute identification (35%).
 - **Long Tail Classification:** Class-imbalance-aware LSTM improved accuracy (25%) and sped inference (10%).
 - **Dataset Development:** for text normalization & object detection projects (collection, annotation, cleaning).
- ML Lab, IISc Bangalore - Research Associate** Feb 2019 - Aug 2021
- **Generative Modelling** [8, 16, 24]: Enhanced LiDAR generation using an adversarial autoencoder, improved high-resolution image generation using Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT)-based Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), and made scene flow prediction adaptive by fusing learning-based and geometry-based approaches.
 - **Explainability** [13, 14, 25]: Aligned concept extraction with human understanding, improved it using non-negative matrix factorization, and exposed adversarial vulnerabilities in popular explainability methods.
 - **Multi-Task Learning** [4, 23, 26]: Improved one-class classification using multi-object detection, deployed it as a text-based report generation tool for doctors, and developed a cost-effective ADAS system for Indian roads.
 - **Robotics** [5, 7]: Advanced robotics perception by building a differentiable SLAM framework for LiDAR.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Mila/Université Laval - Graduate Research Assistant** Aug 2021 - Present
- **Unsupervised Finetuning** [1, 10]: Enhanced adaptation to distribution shifts using optimal layer selection for test-time adaptation and self-distillation of CLIP for zero-shot image classification.
 - **Domain Generalization** [6, 12]: Improved generalization to distribution shifts using out-of-distribution methods and denoising incorrect predictions using diffusion models.
 - **Continual Learning** [3, 22]: Reduced forgetting in continual learning through hessian-aware low-rank approximation and showed that simple ensembling (bagging/dropout) can outperform complex strategies.
 - **Adversarial Robustness** [2, 11]: Enhanced adversarial defense by using softmax predictions to detect vulnerable samples cheaply and using test-time adaptation.
 - **Out-of-Distribution (OOD)** [9, 15]: Improved OOD detection using gradients from OOD prototype and optimized microservice partitioning by reformulating it into a reinforcement learning problem.
- Computational and Data Science, IISc Bangalore - Graduate Research Assistant** Aug 2015 - Aug 2016
- **Representation Learning** [17]: Extracted hierarchical relationships between visually similar classes in CNNs.
 - **High-Performance Computing** [18, 20]: Scaled molecular dynamics using a hierarchical graph partitioning algorithm and Traveling Salesman Problem using a hybrid CPU-GPU/CUDA implementation.

ONGOING WORKS

- S. Sahoo *et al.* **Removing Easy Samples From Training Improves Generalization.**
- S. Sahoo *et al.* **Meta-learning Can Improve Test-Time Reasoning In Foundation Models.**
- M. ElAraby, S. Sahoo *et al.* **Model Pruning for Out-of-Distribution Detection.**
- J. Ngnawe, S. Sahoo *et al.* **Not All Layers Are Equally Robust to Adversarial Samples.**
- V. Kondameedi, S. Sahoo *et al.* **Data Poisoning Defense for Continual Learning.**
- K. Mani, S. Sahoo *et al.* **Test Time Reinforcement Learning.**

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- [1] S. Sahoo, M. ElAraby, J. Ngnawe, Y. Pequignot, F. Precioso, and C. Gagné. **A Layer Selection Approach to Test Time Adaptation.** In: Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference. [\[link\]](#). *AAAI*. 2025.
- [2] J. Ngnawe, S. Sahoo, Y. Pequignot, F. Precioso, and C. Gagné. **Detecting Brittle Decisions for Free: Leveraging Margin Consistency in Deep Robust Classifiers.** In: Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. [\[link\]](#). *NeurIPS*. 2024.
- [3] J. Li, R. Wang, Y. Lai, C. Shui, S. Sahoo, C. X. Ling, S. Yang, B. Wang, C. Gagné, and F. Zhou. **Hessian Aware Low-Rank Weight Perturbation for Continual Learning.** In: Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering Journal. [\[link\]](#). *TKDE*. 2023.
- [4] M. Antony, S. T. Kakileti, R. Shah, S. Sahoo, C. Bhattacharyya, and G. Manjunath. **Challenges of AI driven diagnosis of chest X-rays transmitted through smart phones: a case study in COVID-19.** In: Scientific Reports Journal. [\[link\]](#). *Nature*. 2023.
- [5] P. Kumar, D. Vattikonda, V. B. S. Nadkarni, E. Dong, and S. Sahoo. **Differentiable SLAM Helps Deep Learning-based LiDAR Perception Tasks.** In: British Machine Vision Conference. [\[link\]](#). *BMVC*. 2023.
- [6] S. Sahoo, F. Zhou, Y. Pequignot, J. Ngnawe, F. Precioso, and C. Gagné. **Domain Generalization by Minimizing Out-of-Distribution Detection.** In: Montreal AI Symposium. [\[link\]](#). *MAIS*. 2022.
- [7] F. Aryan, D. Vattikonda, E. Dong, and S. Sahoo. **Grad-lidar-SLAM: Fully differentiable global SLAM for lidar with pose-graph optimization.** In: IROS Workshop on Probabilistic Robotics in the Age of Deep Learning. [\[link\]](#). *IROS Workshop*. 2022.
- [8] S. Sahoo, P. Kumar, V. Shah, V. Kondameedi, A. Jain, A. Verma, C. Bhattacharyya, and V. Vishwanath. **Dynamic to static lidar scan reconstruction using adversarially trained auto encoder.** In: Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference. [\[link\]](#). *AAAI*. 2021.
- [9] M. ElAraby, S. Sahoo, Y. Pequignot, P. Novello, and L. Paull. **GROOD: GRAdient-aware Out-Of-Distribution detection in interpolated manifolds.** In: *arxiv*. Under review. [\[link\]](#). 2024.
- [10] M. Sandhu, Y. Pequignot, S. Nashed, S. Sahoo, and L. Paull. **CLIP-Enhance: Improving CLIP Zero-Shot Classification via von Mises-Fisher Clustering.** In: Under review. [\[link\]](#). 2024.

PREPRINTS

- [11] K. Samanta, S. Sahoo, and C. Gagné. **Test Time Adaptation as an Adversarial Defense Strategy.** Internship Report. [\[link\]](#). 2023.
- [12] A. Verma, S. Sahoo, and C. Gagné. **Diffusion based Pseudolabeling under Distribution Shifts.** Internship Report. [\[link\]](#). 2023.
- [13] D. Tiwari, R. Shah, S. Sahoo, and C. Bhattacharyya. **Enhancing Explainability in Medical Images using Global Methods.** Masters Thesis. [\[link\]](#). 2022.
- [14] G. Parashar, S. Sahoo, and C. Bhattacharyya. **Adversarial Robustness for Local Interpretable Methods.** Masters Thesis. [\[link\]](#). 2021.
- [15] S. Sahoo and K. Sellami. **Automated Microservice Extraction using Reinforcement Learning.** [\[link\]](#). 2021.
- [16] D. Shanbag, S. Sahoo, C. Bhattacharyya, and V. V. **An Approach For Accurate Sceneflow Prediction for LiDAR-based Sensors.** Masters Thesis. [\[link\]](#). 2020.
- [17] S. Sahoo and V. Kondameedi. **Establishing Semantic relationships among Object Classes using Deep Networks for Image Classification.** [\[link\]](#). 2015.
- [18] S. Sahoo and V. Kondameedi. **Hybrid Execution of Travelling Salesman Problem.** [\[link\]](#). 2015.

THESES

- [19] [S. Sahoo](#), F. Precioso, and C. Gagné. “**Test-time Out-of-Distribution Generalization**”. PhD Proposal. [\[link\]](#). Mila/Université Laval, 2022.
- [20] [S. Sahoo](#) and S. S. Vadhiyar. “**Hierarchical Task Mapping on Dragonfly topology for Scaling Molecular Dynamics**”. Masters Thesis. [\[link\]](#). IISc Bangalore, 2016.
- [21] [S. Sahoo](#), M. N. Yadav, V. Savalia, R. Soni, R. Agarwal, N. Lomash, and H. B. Naik. “**Thermoacoustic Energy Conversion Using Piezoelectric Diaphragm/Bi-Morph**”. Bachelors Thesis. [\[link\]](#). SVNIT Surat, 2014.

PROJECTS

- [22] [S. Sahoo](#), S. Karami, A. Safarnejadian, and A. Tupper. **Deep Ensemble Methods for Vehicle Classification**. [\[link\]](#). Université Laval. 2021.
- [23] [S. Sahoo](#), R. Shah, S. T. Kakileti, C. Bhattacharyya, and G. Manjunath. **A new AI-driven platform will facilitate early-COVID interventions over Whatsapp**. [\[link\]](#). Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. 2021.
- [24] T. Varshney, [S. Sahoo](#), V. Kondameedi, and C. Bhattacharyya. **DCT-VAE: Capturing Low-level and High-level Features for Image Generation**. [\[link\]](#). IISc Bangalore. 2021.
- [25] [S. Sahoo](#), A. Jain, R. Shah, and C. Bhattacharyya. **Improving Automatic Concept Extraction for Global Model Explainability**. [\[link\]](#). Niramai Health Analytix. 2021.
- [26] V. Kondameedi, S. Shet, A. Verma, [S. Sahoo](#), P. Kumar, C. Bhattacharyya, and S. Biswas. **Frugal Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) for Indian Roads**. [\[link\]](#). TATA Motors. 2020.
- [27] [S. Sahoo](#), P. Kumar, C. Bhattacharyya, and V. V. **Proximal Pose Search for Adapting SLAM in Dynamic Environments on Slow Moving UGVs**. [\[link\]](#). Ati Motors. 2019.

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

- **Teaching Assistant**, Machine Learning course, Université Laval (2022/2023/2024): Involved with designing and grading quizzes/homeworks, and conducting tutorial sessions.
- **Student Mentor**, [SHARE Research Labs](#) (2020-21): Teaching and mentoring students for working towards a research paper for top-tier conferences.
- **Organizer** of various reading groups on topics like Machine Learning (2022-23), Out-of-Distribution (2022-24), and Autonomous Navigation (2019-20).
- **Placement Coordinator**, IISc (2015-16): Invited, organized, and coordinated on-campus placement for numerous industries and startups.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Awarded [IID Excellence scholarship 2022](#).
- Secured research funding from [DEEL](#) (2021-Present).
- Secured research funding from [Ati Motors](#) (2019-21), and [ARTPARK](#) (2021).
- Awarded distinction for my master’s thesis.
- Won various competitions: 1st place in [NeurIPS 2017 Challenge](#), top finalist in [NVIDIA Reinforcement Learning Competition 2018](#), 3rd place in [SO1 Product Recommendation Competition 2018](#).