

# Fahim Tajwar

Website: <https://tajwarfahim.github.io/> Email: [tajwar93@stanford.edu](mailto:tajwar93@stanford.edu)

## EDUCATION

### Stanford University

Master of Science (MS), Computer Science (AI/ML)  
Bachelor of Science (BS) with Distinction, Mathematics

Stanford, CA

June 2023 (Expected)  
June 2022 (4.04/4.30)

## PUBLICATIONS (\* Equal Contribution)

**Surgical Fine-Tuning Improves Adaptation to Distribution Shifts** 2023  
Yoonho Lee\*, Annie S Chen\*, [Fahim Tajwar](#), Ananya Kumar, Huaxiu Yao, Percy Liang, Chelsea Finn  
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023

**When to Ask for Help: Proactive Interventions in Autonomous Reinforcement Learning** 2022  
Annie Xie\*, [Fahim Tajwar](#)\*, Archit Sharma\*, Chelsea Finn  
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022  
RSS Workshop on Scaling Robot Learning (SRL), 2022 (Spotlight)

**Do Deep Networks Transfer Invariances Across Classes?** 2022  
Allan Zhou\*, [Fahim Tajwar](#)\*, Alexander Robey, Tom Knowles, George J. Pappas, Hamed Hassani, Chelsea Finn  
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2022

**No True State-of-the-Art? OOD Detection Methods are Inconsistent across Datasets** 2021  
[Fahim Tajwar](#), Ananya Kumar\*, Sang Michael Xie\*, Percy Liang  
ICML Workshop on Uncertainty & Robustness in Deep Learning (UDL), 2021

**Scalable deep learning to identify brick kilns and aid regulatory capacity** 2021  
Jihyeon Lee\*, Nina R. Brooks\*, [Fahim Tajwar](#), Marshall Burke, Stefano Ermon, David B. Lobell, Debashish Biswas, Stephen P. Luby  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Apr 2021, 118 (17)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Research Intern, Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

March 2020 – Current

- (Prof. Chelsea Finn and Percy Liang) Relationship between distribution shifts and the layer of a neural network that should be fine-tuned (surgical fine-tuning) on the unsupervised (test-time) adaptation setting, specifically adapting earlier layers outperform adapting later/all layers for corruption datasets like CIFAR-10-C and ImageNet-C (*Under review in ICLR, 2023*)
- (Prof. Chelsea Finn) Deep reinforcement learning for irreversible environments with applications to episodic, autonomous, and continuous learning setups (*NeurIPS, 2022*)
- (Prof. Chelsea Finn) Generative model-based algorithm that produces performance boost of 1-2% when combined with other state-of-the-art methods on long-tailed versions of datasets like CIFAR, GTSRB, etc. (*ICLR, 2022*)
- (Prof. Percy Liang) Demonstration of out-of-distribution (OOD) detection problem being too broad by showing that many well-known methods don't perform consistently on a comprehensive suite of benchmark datasets (*ICML UDL Workshop, 2021*)

### Computer Vision Research Intern, Stanford University

March 2019 – June 2020

- (Prof. Steve Luby and Stefano Ermon) Built a system using convolutional neural networks (CNNs), that detects environmental regulation violations in the form of brick kilns and produces their co-ordinates from satellite imagery in South Asia (*PNAS, 2021*)
- Detected nearly 10,000 brick kilns in Bangladesh which directly affect the lives of at least 1 million people using the trained CNN in *TensorFlow*, with the possibility of extending the project over to India (with 100,000 kilns) and other developing countries
- Created a classifier to distinguish between environment-friendly (Zigzag) and unfriendly (FCK) type of brick kilns

### Research Intern, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

June 2018 – September 2018

- (Johanna Nelson Weker and Prof. Piero Pianetta) Using *Python* ("*Tomopy*"), generated 3D X-ray images of Lithium-Ion batteries from 2D projections and used the *Dragonfly* software to segment them
- Quantified the relationship between the morphological change near Anode (e.g., Lithium plating) and various accelerated ageing conditions --- recorded a 40% increase in Lithium plating in batteries cycled at 55° C compared to those cycled at 25° C.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, CS 330 (Deep Multi-Task and Meta Learning), Stanford University	Sept 2022 – Dec 2022
Academic Tutor, Athletic Academic Resource Center (AARC), Stanford University	Sept 2021 – June 2022
Academic Tutor, Stanford University Mathematical Organization (SUMO)	Sept 2019 – June 2020
Trainer, National Physics Olympiad Team, Bangladesh (BdPhO)	Feb 2017 – June 2018

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

**Software Engineer Intern, Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook)** June 2022 – September 2022

- As part of the Ads Core ML Eng team, designed and implemented components for state-of-the-art ML recommendation systems in *Python*
- Experimented with various knowledge distillation techniques to improve performance of computationally cheaper ML networks
- Designed new modules with scalability in mind to make sure they work well with extremely large datasets and can also be trained efficiently

## SKILLS

Programming Languages: C, C++, Python, Java, Matlab  
Frameworks: Unix, PyTorch, Caffe2, TensorFlow

## TALKS & PRESENTATION

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| • Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)                  | November 2022 |
| • International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)      | April 2022    |
| • ICML Workshop on Uncertainty & Robustness in Deep Learning (UDL) | July 2021     |
| • Stanford Earth Summer Undergraduate Research (SESUR)             | August 2019   |
| • Stanford EE Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)         | August 2018   |

## AWARDS

University Distinction, top 15% of the graduating class, Stanford University	June 2022
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society	May 2020
Bronze Medal, 48 <sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, Indonesia	July 2017
Bronze Medal, 47 <sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, Switzerland Liechtenstein	July 2016

## SELECTED COURSEWORK

**Mathematics:** Real Analysis, Functional Analysis, Differential Topology, Measure Theory, Probability Theory, Graph Theory, Abstract Algebra, Linear Algebra & Matrix Theory, Statistical Inference, Numerical Computing

**Computer Science:** Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Convex Optimization, Deep Learning for Computer Vision, Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques