# **Understand and Benchmark Adversarial Robustness of Deep Learning**

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## **Deep networks are vulnerable to adversarial examples**

## **Clean images Adversarial noise Adversarial examples**



Alps: 94.39%





Dog: 99.99%







Crab: 100.00%

## (Figure is from Dong et al. CVPR 2018)

C. Szegedy, W. Zaremba, I. Sutskever, J. Bruna, D. Erhan, I. Goodfellow, and R. Fergus. Intriguing properties of neural networks. In ICLR, 2014 I. Goodfellow, J. Shlens, and C. Szegedy. Explaining and harnessing adversarial examples. In ICLR, 2015

## **Adversarial attack in practice**

Adversarial attack happens in both digital and physical worlds

Unlocked 19 types of the mainstream smart phones within 15 minutes with one "adversarial glass"!<br>  $\frac{1}{2}$  failure chance  $>$  = 99.1%



[Cao, Wang, Xiao, et al, IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy, 2021]

## **Not only in computer vision**





**Reinforcement Learning** (Lin et al. IJCAI 2017) **Audio** (Carlini and Wagner. S&P 2018)









## **LiDAR** (Tu et al. CVPR 2020) **3D Point Cloud** (Lang et al. 2020)



### **Code Generation** (Anand et al. 2021) **Recommender System** (Cao et al. SIGIR 2020)

## **Not only in computer vision**

## **Competitions on adversarial attack and defense**

- Google Brain organized the 1<sup>st</sup> competition on Adversarial Attack and Defense at NeurIPS 2017
	- ❑ Three tasks (black-box)
		- Non-targeted adversarial attack (91 teams)
		- Targeted adversarial attack (65 teams)
		- Defense against adversarial attack (107 teams)
	- ❑ We won all three tasks with a large margin (2 papers at CVPR 2018)
		- A summary paper on this competition (Kurakin et al., 2018)
- ◆ GeekPwn competitions
	- ❑ We won the 1st place at Defcon AI Security competition, 2018 ❑ CAAD CTF 2019 two 1st places
- Security AI Challenger Program, from 2019 (completed seven challenges)
	- ❑ Joint with ICDM 2020, CVPR 2021





## **Categories of existing defense**

- The defense techniques can be categorized as (Dong et al., 2020):
	- ❑ RobustTraining
		- Adversarial training
		- Regularization
	- ❑ InputTransformation
	- ❑ Randomization
	- ❑ Model Ensemble

**Classifier**

❑ Certified Defenses

**Denoiser**



## **Rethinking Softmax Cross-Entropy Loss for Adversarial Robustness**

(Pang, Xu, Dong, Du, Chen, Zhu, ICLR 2020)

## **Observation: Adversarial Robustness requires Higher Sample Complexity**



**The same dataset, e.g., CIFAR-10, which enables good standard accuracy may not suffice to train robust models.**

(Schmidt et al. NeurIPS 2018)

## **Possible Solutions**

# • **Introducing extra labeled data**

(Hendrycks et al. ICML 2019)

# • **Introducing extra unlabeled data**

(Alayrac et al. NeurIPS 2019; Carmon et al. NeurIPS 2019)

**Our solution: Increase sample density to induce locally sufficient training data for robust learning** 

**Q1: What is the definition of sample density?**

**Q2: Can existing training objectives induce high sample density?**

## **Sample Density**

Given a training dataset D with N input-label pairs, and the feature mapping Z trained by the objective  $\mathcal{L}(Z(x), y)$  on this dataset, we define the sample density nearby the feature point  $z = Z(x)$ following the similar definition in physics (Jackson, 1999) as

$$
\mathbb{SD}(z) = \frac{\Delta N}{\text{Vol}(\Delta B)}.\tag{2}
$$

Here Vol( $\cdot$ ) denotes the volume of the input set,  $\Delta B$  is a small neighbourhood containing the feature point z, and  $\Delta N = |Z(\mathcal{D}) \cap \Delta B|$  is the number of training points in  $\Delta B$ , where  $Z(\mathcal{D})$  is the set of all mapped features for the inputs in  $D$ . Note that the mapped feature z is still of the label y.



**Generalized Softmax Cross Entropy Loss (g-SCE loss)**

**We define g-SCE loss as**

$$
\mathcal{L}_{g\text{-SCE}}(Z(x), y) = -1_y^{\perp} \log \left[\text{softmax}(h)\right],
$$
  
where  $h_i = -(z - \mu_i)^{\top} \Sigma_i (z - \mu_i) + B_i$  is the logits in quadratic form.

**We note that the SCE loss is included in the family of g-SCE loss as**

$$
\text{softmax}(Wz+b)_i = \frac{\exp(W_i^\top z + b_i)}{\sum_{l \in [L]} \exp(W_l^\top z + b_l)} = \frac{\exp(-\|z - \frac{1}{2}W_i\|_2^2 + b_i + \frac{1}{4} \|W_i\|_2^2)}{\sum_{l \in [L]} \exp(-\|z - \frac{1}{2}W_l\|_2^2 + b_l + \frac{1}{4} \|W_l\|_2^2)}.
$$

## **Key results #1: The widely used g-SCE loss is not sufficient!**

**Theorem 1.** (*Proof in Appendix A.1*) Given  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{D}_{k,\tilde{k}}$ ,  $z = Z(x)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{g \text{-}SCE}(z, y) = C$ , if there are  $\Sigma_k = \sigma_k I$ ,  $\Sigma_{\tilde{k}} = \sigma_{\tilde{k}} I$ , and  $\sigma_k \neq \sigma_{\tilde{k}}$ , then the sample density nearby the feature point z based on the approximation in Eq.  $(6)$  is

$$
\mathbb{SD}(z) \propto \frac{N_{k,\tilde{k}} \cdot p_{k,\tilde{k}}(C)}{\left[\mathbf{B}_{k,\tilde{k}} + \frac{\log(C_e - 1)}{\sigma_k - \sigma_{\tilde{k}}}\right]^{\frac{d-1}{2}}}, \text{ and } \mathbf{B}_{k,\tilde{k}} = \frac{\sigma_k \sigma_{\tilde{k}} ||\mu_k - \mu_{\tilde{k}}||_2^2}{(\sigma_k - \sigma_{\tilde{k}})^2} + \frac{B_k - B_{\tilde{k}}}{\sigma_k - \sigma_{\tilde{k}}}, \tag{7}
$$

where for the input-label pair in  $\mathcal{D}_{k,\tilde{k}}$ , there is  $\mathcal{L}_{g\text{-}SCE} \sim p_{k,\tilde{k}}(c)$ .



## **The 'Curse' of Softmax Function**

$$
\mathcal{L}_{g\text{-SCE}}(Z(x), y) = -1_y^{\top} \log [\text{softmax}(h)],
$$

- **The softmax makes the loss value only depend on the relative relation among logits.**
- **This causes indirect and unexpected supervisory signal on the learned features.**

## **Our Method: Max-Mahalanobis Center (MMC) Loss**

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{MMLDA}}(Z(x), y) = \underbrace{\left\{\frac{\exp\left(-\frac{\|z-\mu_y^*\|_2^2}{2}\right)}{\sum_{l \in [L]} \exp\left(-\frac{\|z-\mu_l^*\|_2^2}{2}\right)}\right\}}_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{MMC}}(Z(x), y) = \frac{1}{2} \|z-\mu_y^*\|_2^2} = -\log\left[\frac{\exp(z^{\top}\mu_y^*)}{\sum_{l \in [L]} \exp(z^{\top}\mu_l^*)}\right]
$$

## • **No softmax normalization**

[Pang et al., Max-Mahalanobis Linear Discriminant Analysis Networks, ICML 2018]

## **Key results #2: The MMC loss induces a higher sample density locally**

**Theorem 2.** (Proof in Appendix A.2) Given  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{D}_k$ ,  $z = Z(x)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{MMC}(z, y) = C$ , the sample density nearby the feature point  $z$  is

$$
\mathbb{SD}(z) \propto \frac{N_k \cdot p_k(C)}{C^{\frac{d-1}{2}}},
$$

 $(9)$ 

where for the input-label pair in  $\mathcal{D}_k$ , there is  $\mathcal{L}_{MMC} \sim p_k(c)$ .



## **Empirical Faster Convergence**



MMC loss leads to faster convergence, while keeping comparable performance on the clean images (AT sacrifices clean accuracy)

# **White-box Robustness (Adaptive Attacks)**



**CIFAR-10**

## **Adversarial Distributional Training for Robust Deep Learning**

(Dong, Deng, Pang, Zhu, Su, NeurIPS 2020)

## **Adversarial Training**

Adversarial training (AT) is formulated as a minimax optimization problem (Madry et al., 2018)

> min  $\theta$ 1  $\overline{n}$  $\sum$  $i=1$  $\overline{n}$ max  $\delta_i$ ∈S  $L(f_{\theta}(x_i + \delta_i), y_i)$   $\leq S = {\delta : ||\delta||_{\infty} \leq \epsilon}$ Inner maximization: generate an adversarial example Outer minimization: train a robust classifier

\* Adversarial attacks can be used to find an approximate solution, e.g., FGSM (Goodfellow et al., 2015), PGD (Madry et al., 2018)

## **Problem I: Training Speed**

- PGD-based adversarial training is much slower than normal training, which cannot be accomplished on **ImageNet** (except Facebook, Google...)
- FreeAdversarialTraining (Shafahi et al., 2019)
	- ❑ Recycling the gradient information computed when updating model parameters
- FastAdversarialTraining (Wong et al., 2020)
	- ❑ Use FGSM for training with random initializations,cyclic learning rate, early stopping, etc.

But these methods cannot yield the same level of robustness compared with PGD-based AT on ImageNet.

## **Problem II: Attack Generalization**

Most AT methods solve the inner maximization using a specific attack, which can result in poor generalization for other attacks under the same threat model.

Several recent works (Zhang andWang, 2019) improvingAT upon Madry et al. (2018) have this problem.



## **Problem III: Large Generalization Gap**



(Figure from [https://media.neurips.cc/Conferences/NIPS2018/Slides/adversarial\\_ml\\_slides\\_parts\\_1\\_4.pdf\)](https://media.neurips.cc/Conferences/NIPS2018/Slides/adversarial_ml_slides_parts_1_4.pdf)

## **Adversarial Distributional Training**

 $\theta$ 

We formulate adversarial distributional training (ADT) as a different minimax optimization problem

Outer minimization: train a robust classifier 
$$
P = \{p: \text{supp}(p) \subseteq S\}
$$
\n
$$
\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \max_{p(\delta_i) \in P} \mathbb{E}_{p(\delta_i)} [L(f_{\theta}(x_i + \delta_i), y_i)]
$$
\nInner maximization: learn an adversarial distribution\nTo prevent ADT from degenerating into AT, we add an entropic regularizer\n
$$
\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \max_{p(\delta_i) \in P} J(p(\delta_i), \theta); \quad J(p(\delta_i), \theta) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\delta_i)} [L(f_{\theta}(x_i + \delta_i), y_i)] + \lambda H(p(\delta_i))
$$

[Dong et al., Adversarial distributional training for robust deep learning, NeurIPS 2020]

## **Advantages**

- Better generalization across attacks
- Better model robustness (more flattened loss surfaces in the vicinity of a nature input)



## **Benchmarking Adversarial Robustness of Image Classification**

(Dong, Fu, Yang, Pang, Su, Xiao, Zhu, CVPR 2020, Oral)

## **https://github.com/thu-ml/ares**

## **Platform: Ares**



We developed Ares, a platform for adversarial machine learning research focusing on benchmarking adversarial robustness on image classification

- ◆ Support all attacks in various threat models;
- ◆ Provide ready-to-use pre-trained baseline models (8 on ImageNet & 8 on CIFAR10);
- ◆ Provide efficient & easy-to-use tools for benchmarking models.

(Dong, Fu, Yang, Pang, Su, Xiao, Zhu, CVPR 2020, Oral)

## **Attacks in our Benchmark**

## **https://github.com/thu-ml/ares**



# **Defenses in our Benchmark: CIFAR-10 & ImageNet**

## **https://github.com/thu-ml/ares**



**A Case Study: AT has inconsistent results …**

**Rice et al. (ICML 2020) find that simply early stopping the training process of PGD-AT can attain the gains from almost all the previously proposed improvements, including state-of-the-art TRADES.**



• *TRADES also applied early stopping by decaying learning rate at 75th epoch and used the checkpoint of 76th epoch.*

*Who is wrong?*

(From Rice et al. 2020)

**Gowal et al. (2020) find that TRADES actually performs better than PGD-AT**

## **Training settings in previous work are highly inconsistent**



[Pang et al., Bag of tricks for Adversarial Training, ICLR 2021] **Code: https://github.com/P2333/Bag-of-Tricks-for-AT**

## **Takeaways through Extensive Benchmarking**

## **Takeaways:**

(i) Slightly different values of weight decay could largely affect the robustness of trained models; (ii) Moderate label smoothing and linear scaling rule on l.r. for different batch sizes are beneficial; (iii) Applying eval BN mode to craft training adversarial examples can avoid blurring the distribution; (iv) Early stopping the adversarial steps or perturbation may degenerate worst-case robustness; (v) Smooth activation benefits more when the model capacity is not enough for adversarial training.

- **Adversarial training is more sensitive to these usually overlooked hyperparameters, compared to standard training.**
- **Standardize the basic training setting enables fairer benchmarks.**

[Pang et al., Bag of tricks for Adversarial Training, ICLR 2021] **Code: https://github.com/P2333/Bag-of-Tricks-for-AT**

# ADVERSARIAL **OBUSTNESS BENCHMAR**

## **http://ml.cs.tsinghua.edu.cn/adv-bench/**

The goal of the adversarial robustness benchmark is to provide a comprehensive comparison of adversarial defense models. These models are evaluated against various attacks developed by research and during the CVPR 2021 competition of white-box adversarial attacks on ML defense models. We welcome contributions to both robust models and effective attacks.

This is the temporary benchmark result. We will incorporate the top attack solutions in this competition in this benchmark (at about April 2021).

### **Defense Leaderboard**

**Attack Leaderboard** 

### Defense Leaderboard: CIFAR-10, Untargeted (epsilon=8/255)



## **Summary**

- Adversarial robustness is a crucial issue of deep learning for safety-critical applications
- Much progress has been done on adversarial attack, including program synthesis for automated attack
	- ❑ E.g., AutoDA (Fu et al., USENIX Security Symposium 2022)
- $\bigcirc$  Defending over adversarial attack requires a deep investigation learning objectives, uncertainty, theory, evaluation, etc. □ E.g., certified defense against semantic transformations (Hao 麗 effect of adversarial training (Dong et al., NeurIPS 2022)
- $\triangle$  Robustness is closely related to interpretability, privacy, OoI

**Upcoming book on AI Safety, stay tuned …**



