

# Attack as Defense: Characterizing Adversarial Examples using Robustness

Zhe Zhao, Guangke Chen, Jingyi Wang,  
Yiwei Yang, Fu Song, Jun Sun

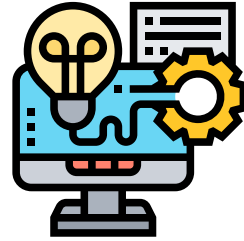


上海科技大学  
ShanghaiTech University

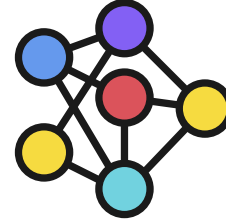


Zhe Zhao (zhaozhe1@shanghaitech.edu.cn)  
✉ Fu Song (songfu@shanghaitech.edu.cn)

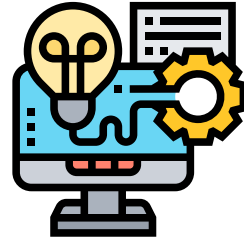
# Deep learning and adversarial examples



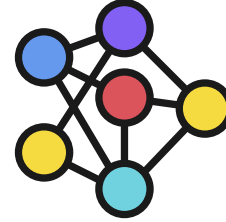
Deep Learning  
(DL)



# Deep learning and adversarial examples



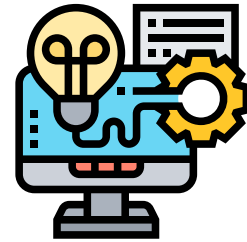
Deep Learning  
(DL)



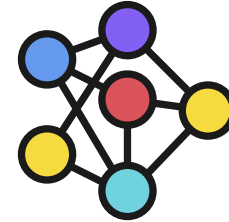
However, DL is **vulnerable** to adversarial examples...



# Deep learning and adversarial examples



Deep Learning  
(DL)



However, DL is **vulnerable** to adversarial examples...

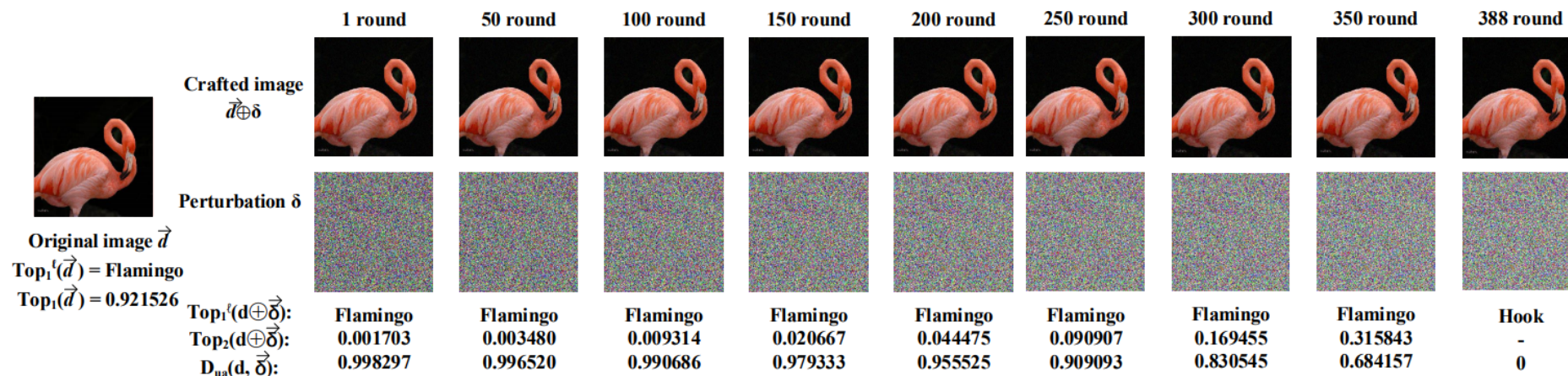


Figure from "Taking Care of The Discretization Problem: A Comprehensive Study of the Discretization Problem and A Black-Box Adversarial Attack in Discrete Integer Domain",  
Lei Bu; Zhe Zhao; Yuchao Duan; Fu Song.

# Attack and defense

An extensive number of adversarial attacks have been proposed since C. Szegedy et al.

White-box attack  
Black-box attack

Targeted attack  
Untargeted attack

Distance constraint:  
 $L_0, L_2, L_\infty$



## Reference:

Christian Szegedy, Wojciech Zaremba, Ilya Sutskever, Joan Bruna, Dumitru Erhan, Ian Goodfellow, and Rob Fergus. 2014. Intriguing Properties of Neural Networks. In Proceedings of International Conference on Learning Representations.

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Attempted defenses against adversarial examples:

Adversarial train

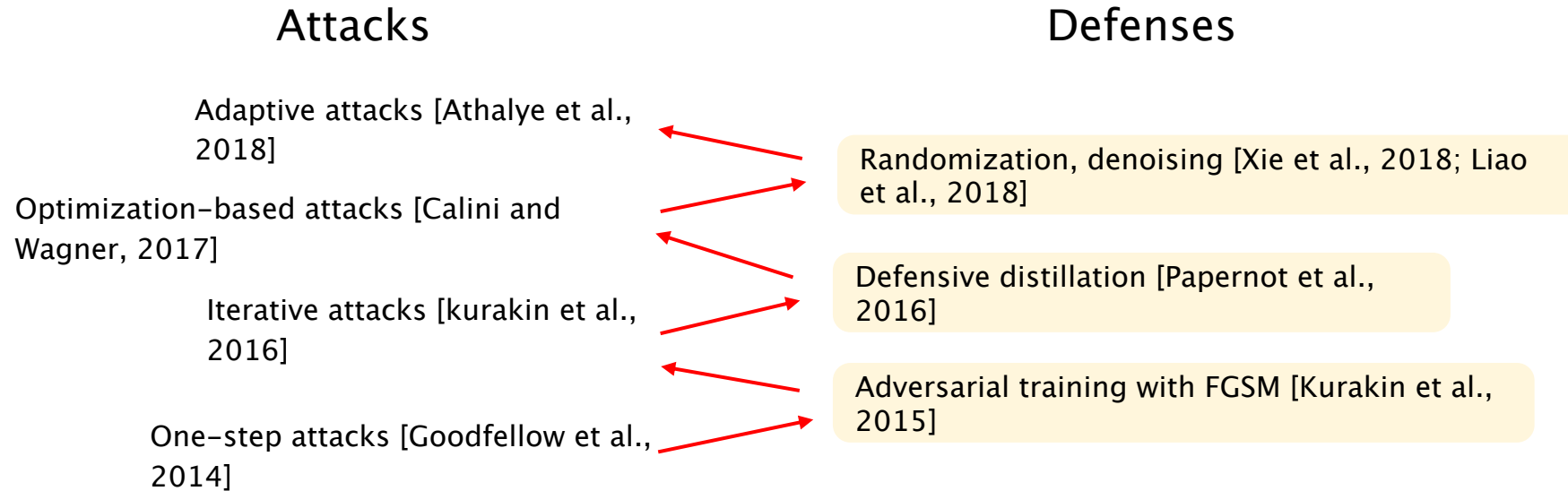
Input  
transformation

Adversarial  
detector

Reference:

Christian Szegedy, Wojciech Zaremba, Ilya Sutskever, Joan Bruna, Dumitru Erhan, Ian Goodfellow, and Rob Fergus. 2014. Intriguing Properties of Neural Networks. In Proceedings of International Conference on Learning Representations.

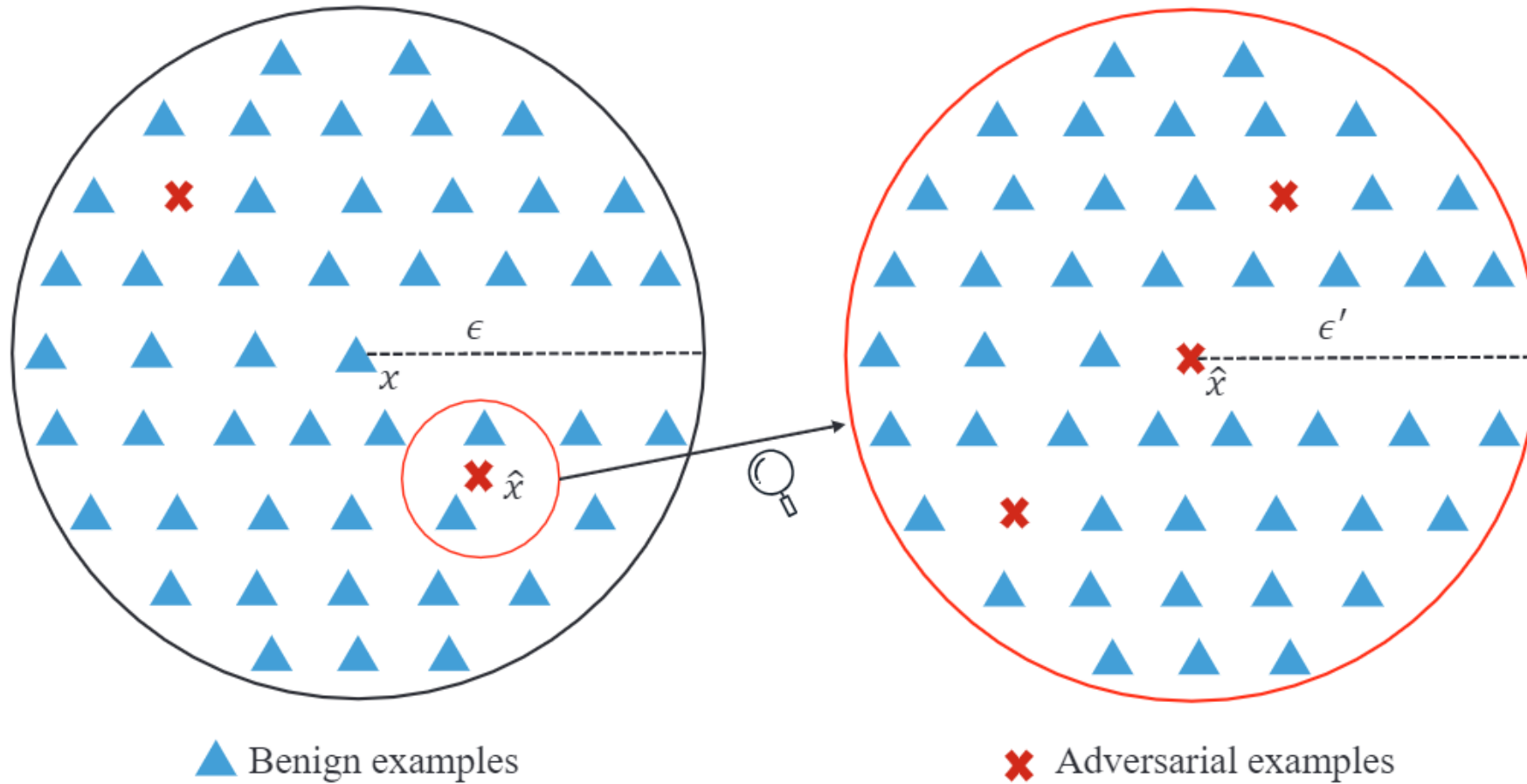
# Attack and defense



# Attack as defense: Idea

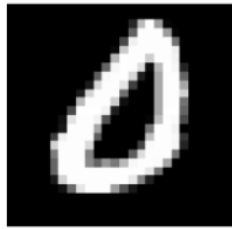


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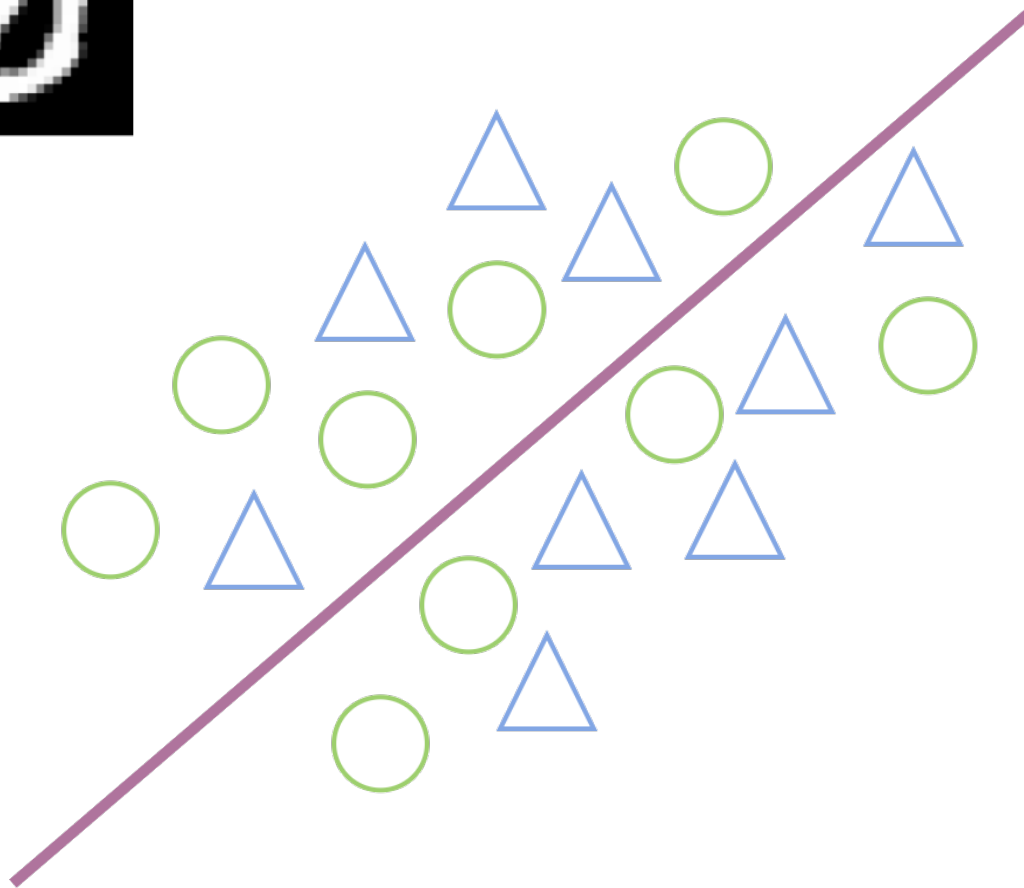


# Attack as defense: Intuition

Benign Samples of 0



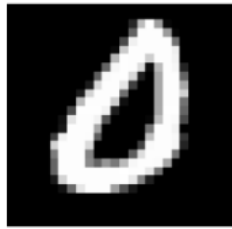
Decision Boundary



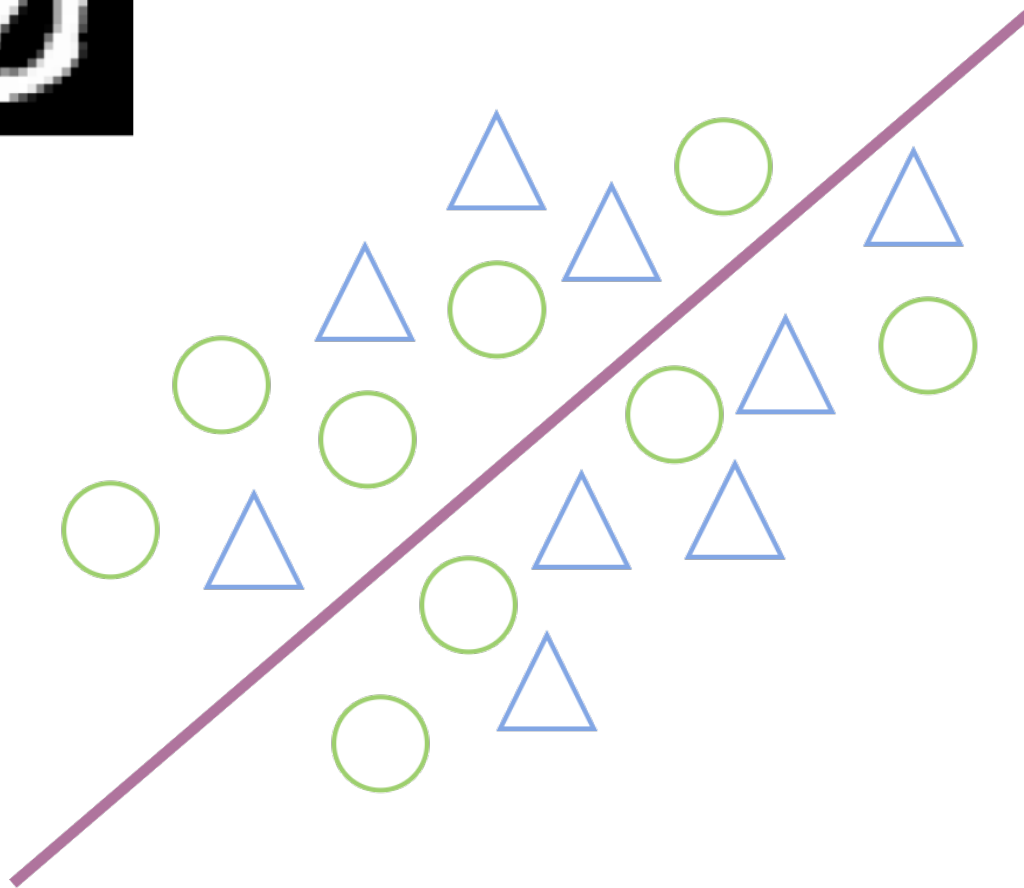
Benign Samples of 8

# Attack as defense: Intuition

Benign Samples of 0

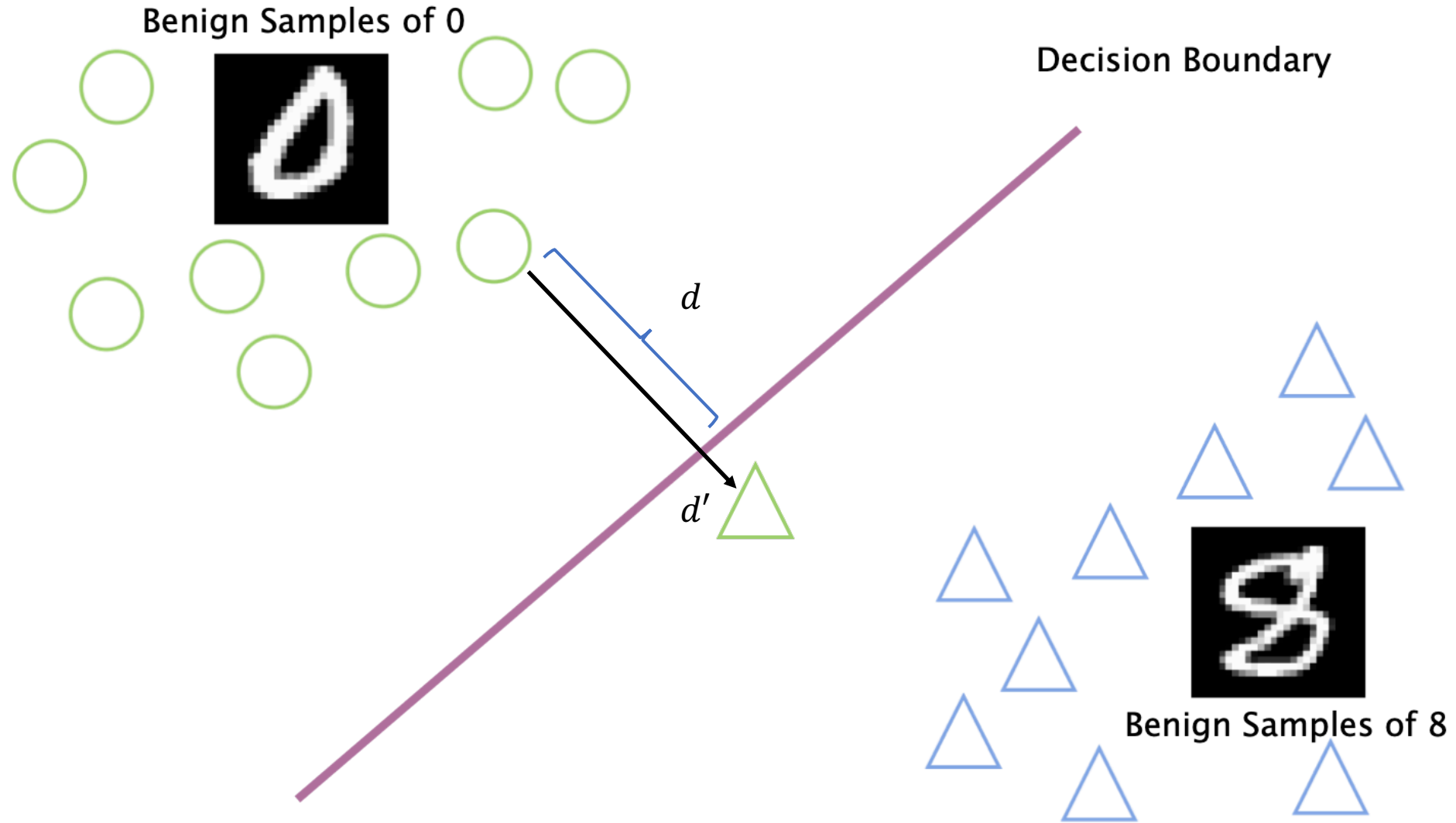


Decision Boundary



Benign Samples of 8

# Attack as defense: Intuition



# Characterization: Robustness



How to quantify the above observation?

(Local) Robustness

$$\|x - x'\|_p \leq \delta, \mathcal{D}(x) = \mathcal{D}(x')$$

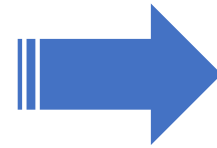
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CLEVER Score

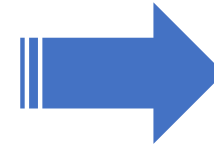
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CLEVER Score

Dataset	Label for Evaluate	Benign examples	Adversarial examples								Avg. $\lambda$
			FGSM	$\lambda$	BIM	$\lambda$	JSMA	$\lambda$	C&W	$\lambda$	
MNIST	Untarget	$3.5572 \pm 0.3342$	$0.1093 \pm 0.0506$	32.55	$0.0256 \pm 0.0031$	138.95	$0.0550 \pm 0.0060$	64.68	$0.0004 \pm 0.0001$	8893	74.77
	Target-2	$3.6711 \pm 0.3296$	$0.1148 \pm 0.0427$	31.98	$0.0258 \pm 0.0031$	142.29	$0.0558 \pm 0.0063$	65.79	$0.0004 \pm 0.0001$	9178	74.62
	Target-5	$3.8303 \pm 0.3113$	$0.2047 \pm 0.0431$	18.71	$0.1582 \pm 0.0084$	24.21	$0.1898 \pm 0.0096$	20.18	$0.1384 \pm 0.0043$	27.68	22.17
	LLC	$3.8372 \pm 0.3097$	$0.2390 \pm 0.0421$	16.06	$0.1647 \pm 0.0071$	23.30	$0.2120 \pm 0.0076$	18.10	$0.1406 \pm 0.0045$	27.29	20.29
CIFAR10	Untarget	$0.3851 \pm 0.1850$	$0.2743 \pm 0.1627$	1.40	$0.0329 \pm 0.0033$	11.71	$0.0128 \pm 0.0021$	30.09	$0.0005 \pm 0.0002$	770	4.81
	Target-2	$0.4141 \pm 0.1806$	$0.2971 \pm 0.1675$	1.39	$0.0380 \pm 0.0044$	10.90	$0.0129 \pm 0.0021$	32.10	$0.0005 \pm 0.0002$	828	4.75
	Target-5	$0.4657 \pm 0.1913$	$0.3389 \pm 0.1675$	1.37	$0.0971 \pm 0.0117$	4.80	$0.0610 \pm 0.0061$	7.63	$0.0925 \pm 0.0168$	5.03	3.16
	LLC	$0.4829 \pm 0.1913$	$0.3572 \pm 0.1713$	1.35	$0.1091 \pm 0.0132$	4.43	$0.0918 \pm 0.0095$	5.26	$0.1035 \pm 0.0180$	4.67	2.92

Reference:  
Tsui-Wei Weng, Huan Zhang, Pin-Yu Chen, Jinfeng Yi, Dong Su, Yupeng Gao, Cho-Jui Hsieh, and Luca Daniel. 2018. Evaluating the Robustness of Neural Networks: An Extreme Value Theory Approach. In Proceedings of International Conference on Learning Representations.

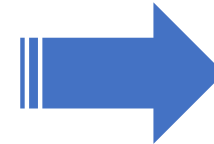
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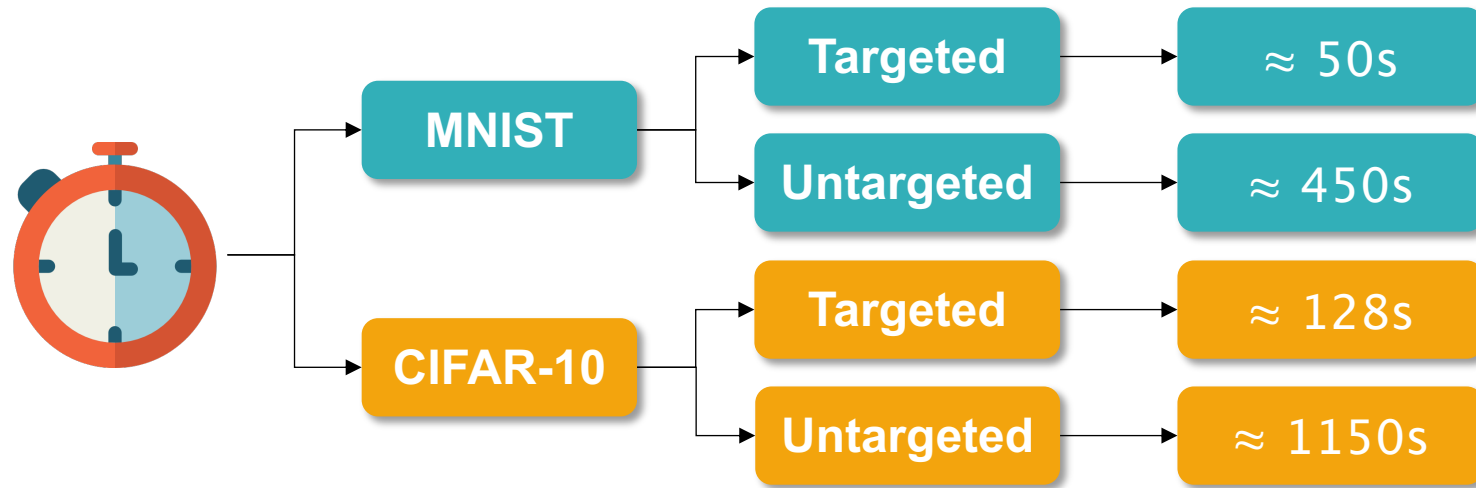
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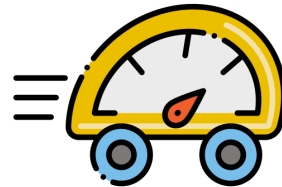
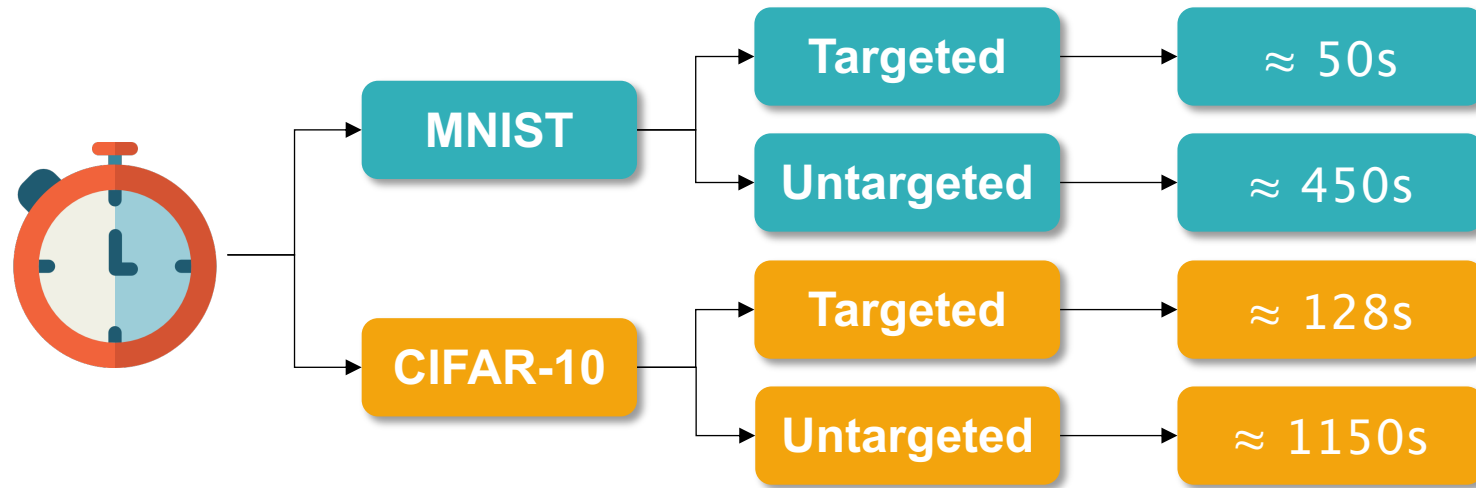
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# Characterization: Attack Costs



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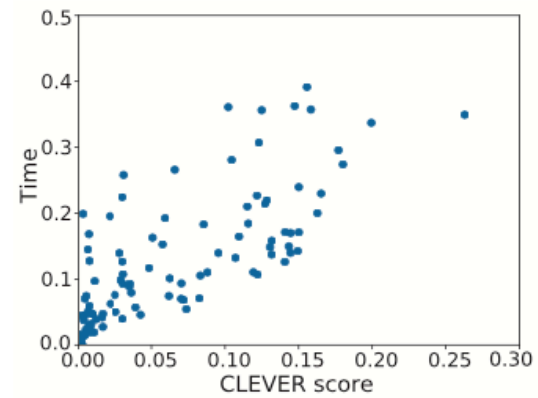


# Characterization: Attack Costs

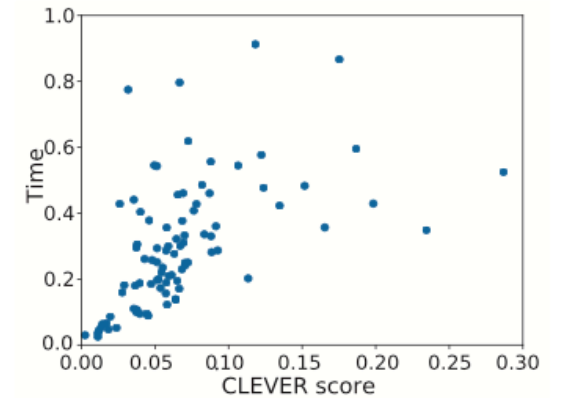
More robust, more difficult to attack.

Verification

Approximation



(a) Score vs. time on MNIST



(b) Score vs. time on CIFAR10

# Characterization: Attack Costs

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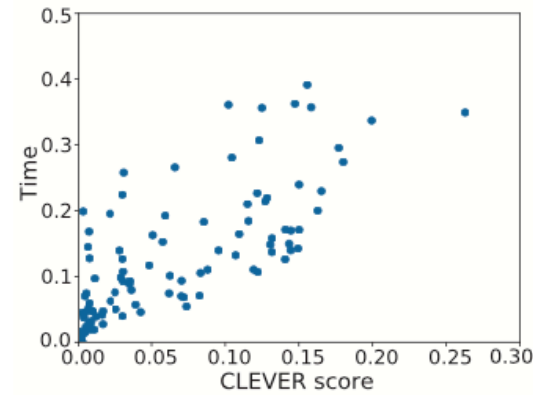
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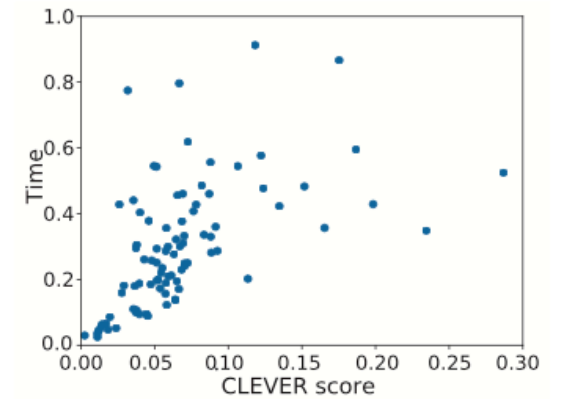
Time



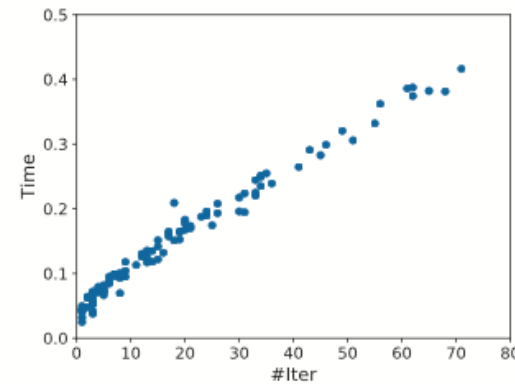
Iteration



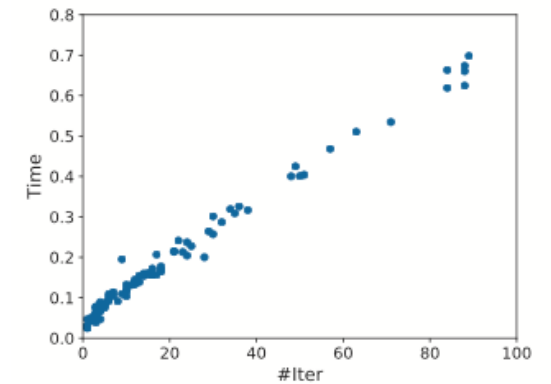
(a) Score vs. time on MNIST



(b) Score vs. time on CIFAR10

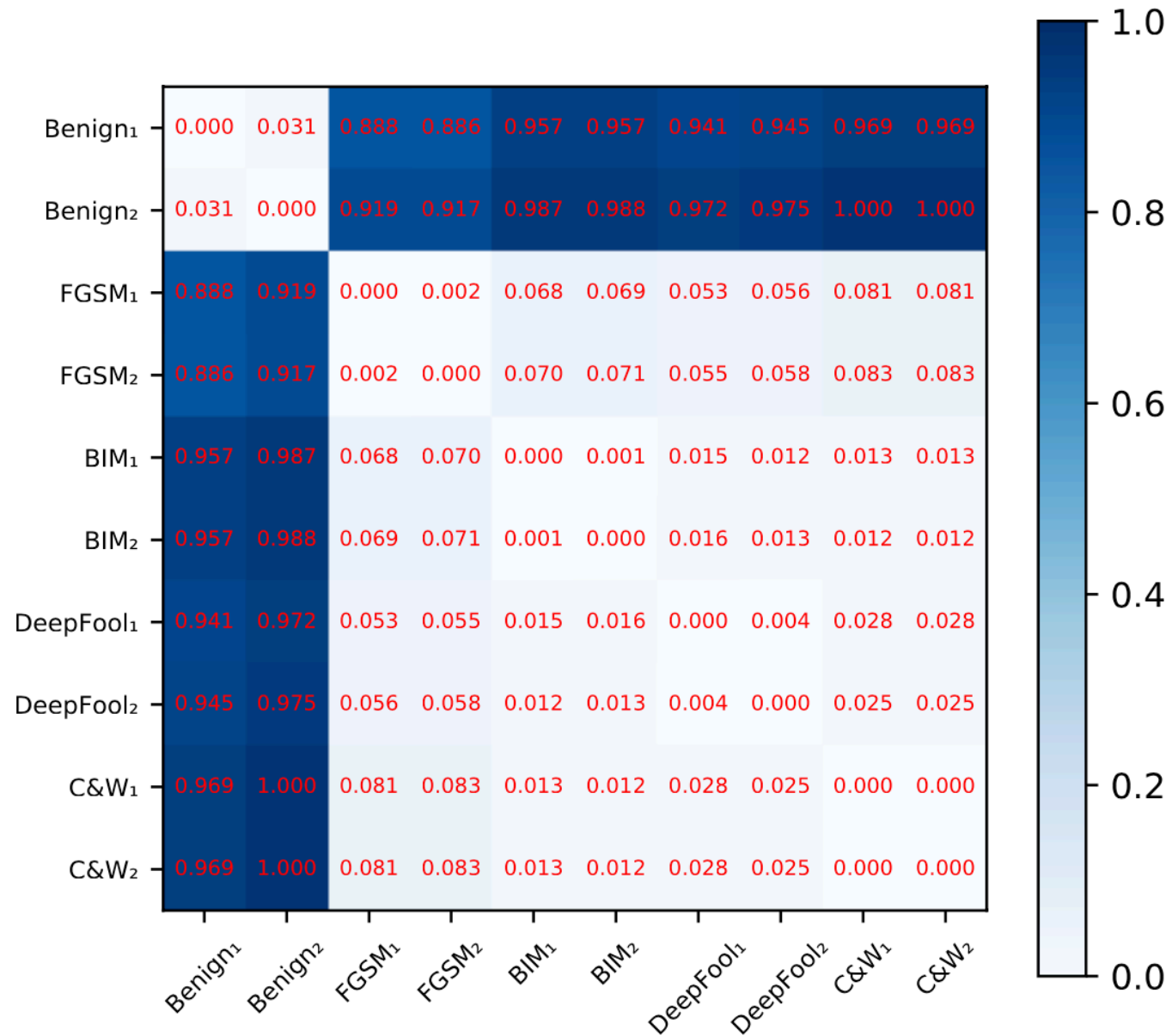


(a) Time vs. #Iter on MNIST



(b) Time vs. #Iter on CIFAR10

# Characterization: Attack Costs



# Detection Approach

K-NN based

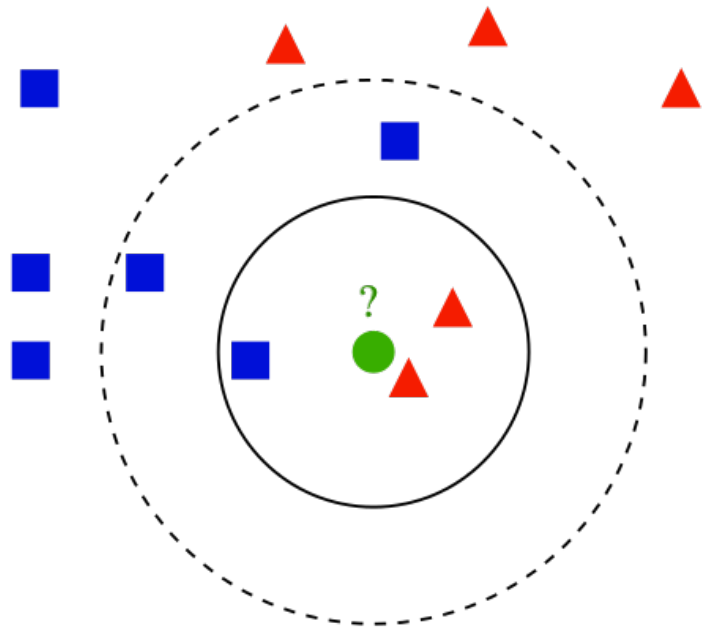
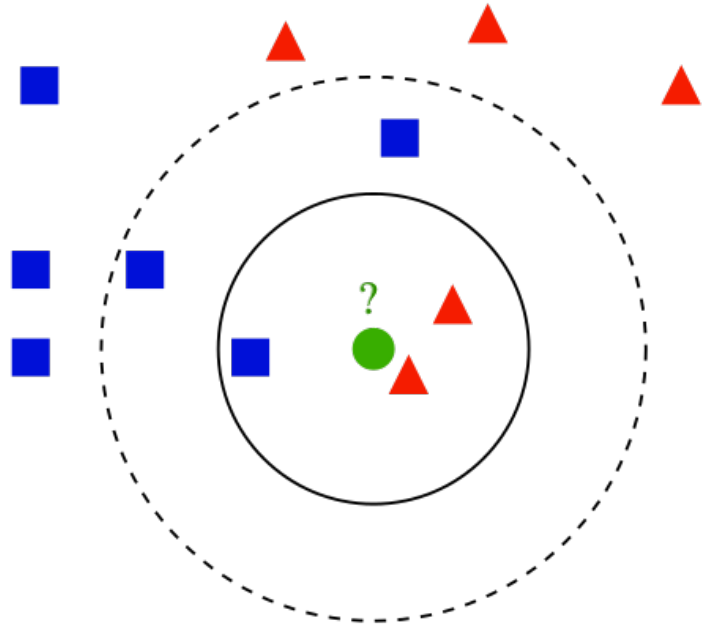


Figure from Wikipedia

# Detection Approach

K-NN based



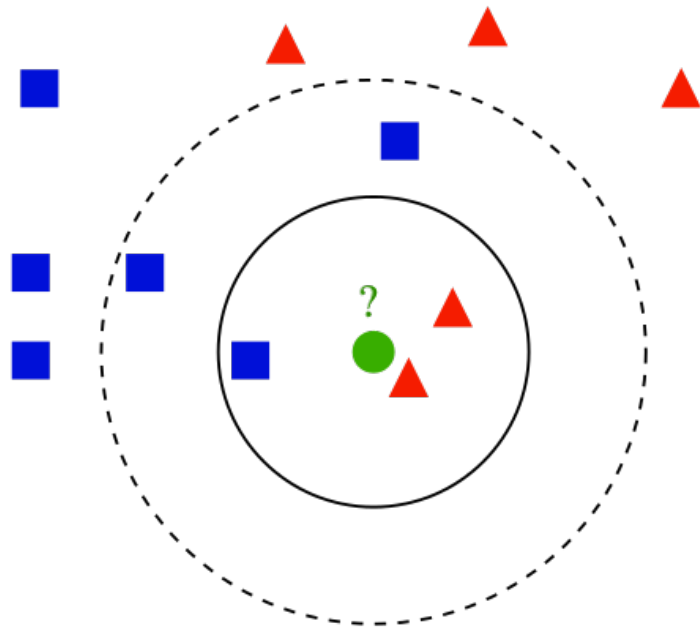
$k$  – nearest neighbors based detector

Training set contains: benign samples attack costs  
adv examples attack costs

Figure from Wikipedia

# Detection Approach

## K-NN based

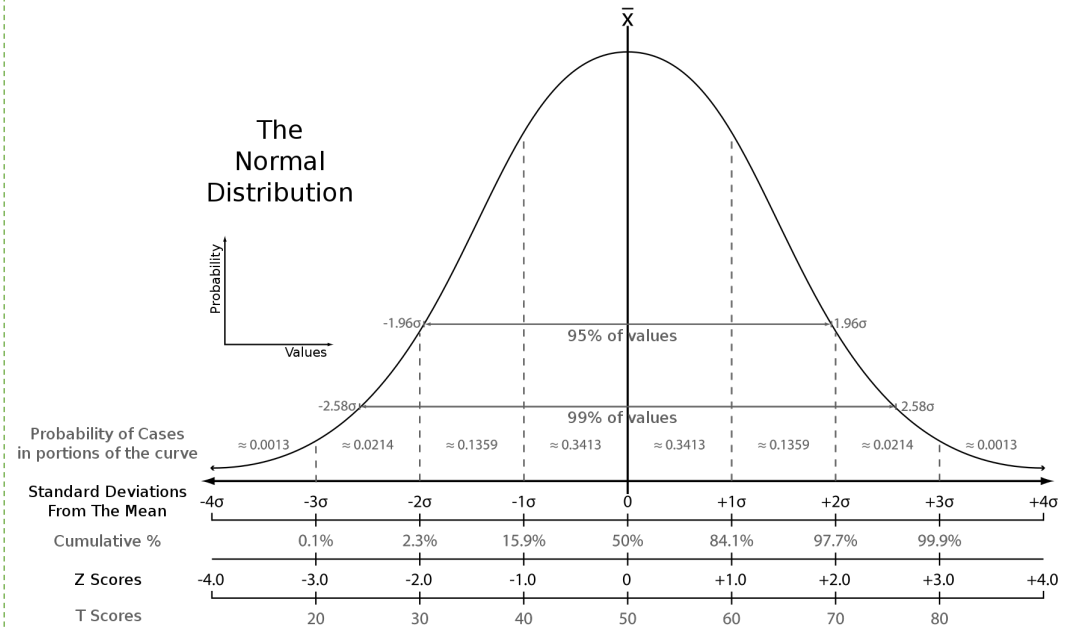


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Figure from Wikipedia

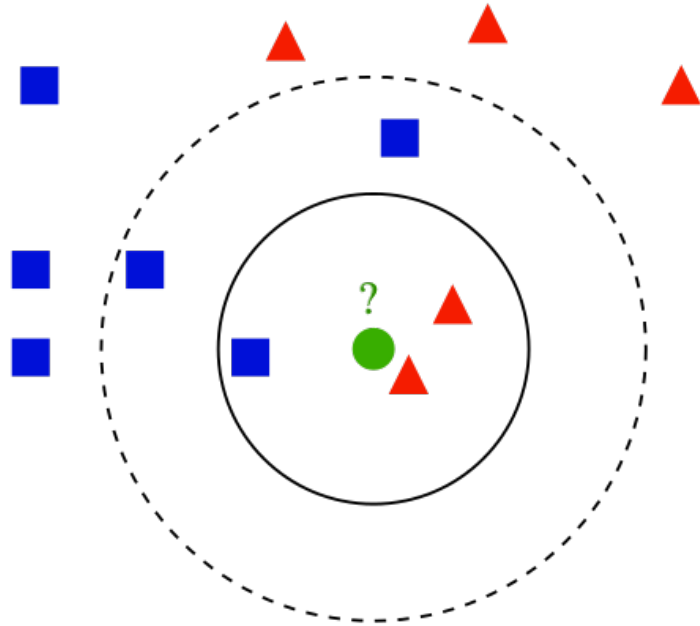
## Z-score based





# Detection Approach

## K-NN based

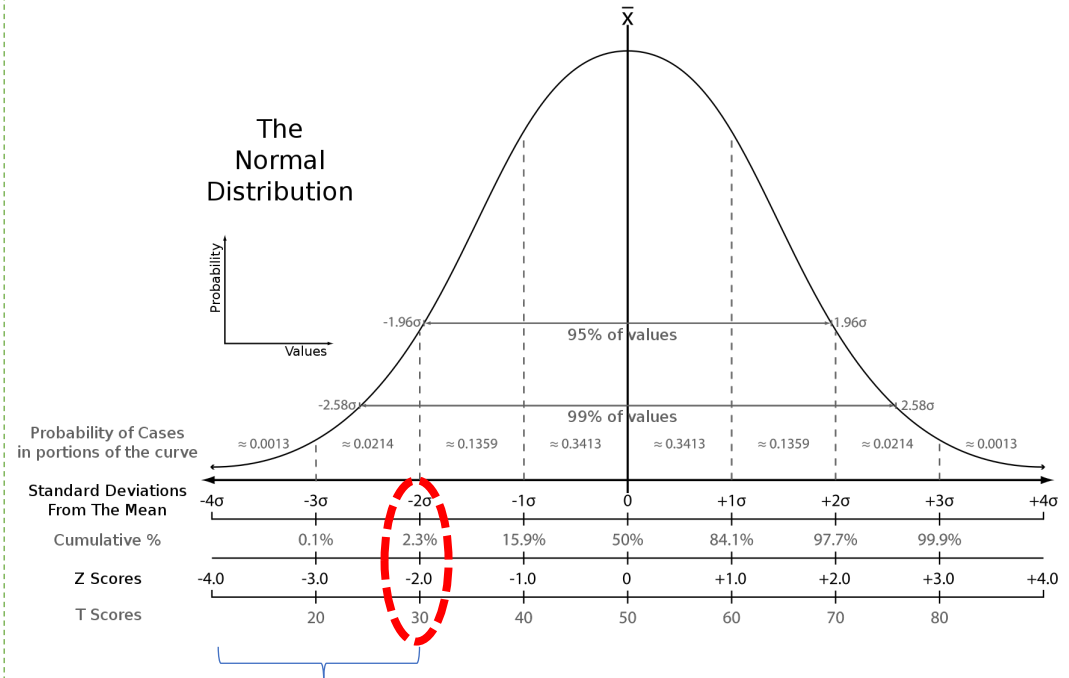


$k$  – nearest neighbors based detector

Training set contains: benign samples attack costs  
adv examples attack costs

Figure from Wikipedia

## Z-score based



Statistics based detector

Only needs benign samples for training

If  $z_x < h$ , then  $x$  is adversarial example

Figure from Wikipedia

# Ensemble Detection Approach



Different attack methods have different characteristics.

Can these 'attack as defense' methods be combined?

# Ensemble Detection Approach



Different attack methods have different characteristics.

Can these 'attack as defense' methods be combined?

## K-NN based

Train the detector with  $n$ -dimension attack iterations, where  $n$  is the number of attacks.

## Z-score based

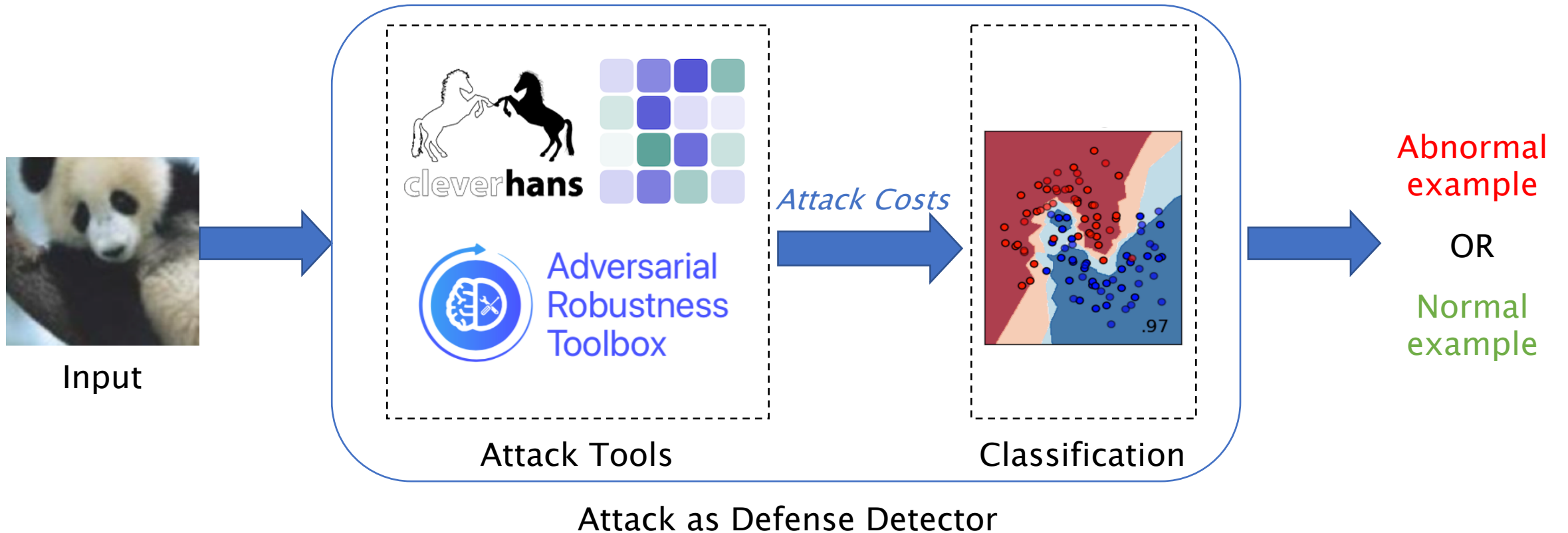
For each attack, we can construct a Z-Score detector, so we have  $n$  independent detectors.

Consider  $k$  as a hyper-parameter, the ensemble detector classifies an input to adversarial if at least  $k$  detectors classify the input to adversarial, otherwise benign.

# Overview



# Overview



# Experiments

# Experiments

## RQ1. How to select effective attacks for defense?

- Generate adversarial examples with codes and models from [1]
- Select 8 famous adversarial attack methods as defense
- Implemented by Foolbox (<https://github.com/bethgelab/foolbox>)
- Compare the attack costs between benign and adversarial examples

## RQ2. How effective are the selected attacks for defense?

## RQ3. How effective and efficient is A<sup>2</sup>D (i.e., detection)?

### Reference:

[1] Reuben Feinman, Ryan R Curtin, Saurabh Shintre, and Andrew B Gardner. 2017. Detecting adversarial samples from artifacts. arXiv preprint arXiv:1703.00410 (2017).

# RQ1: How to select effective attacks for defense?

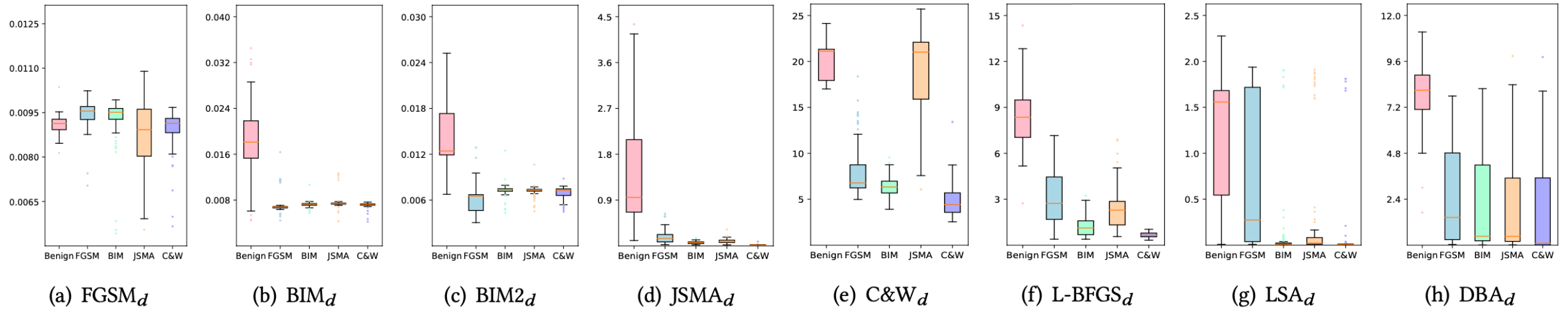
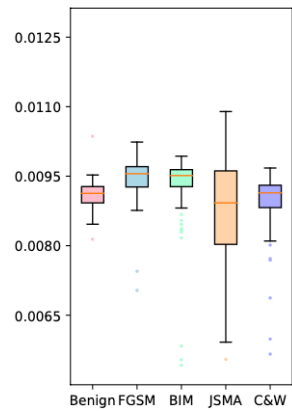


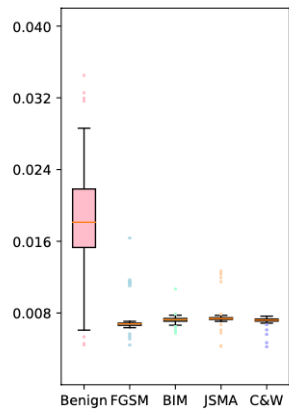
Figure. Attack time of benign and adversarial examples, where  $y$ -axis means seconds



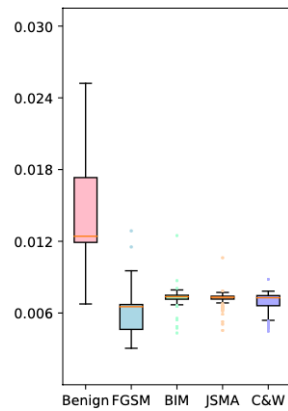
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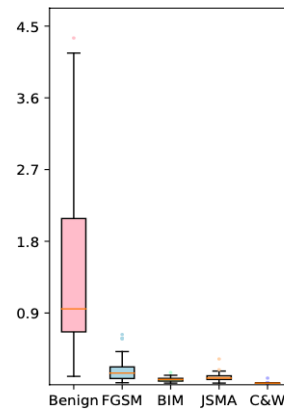
(a)  $FGSM_d$



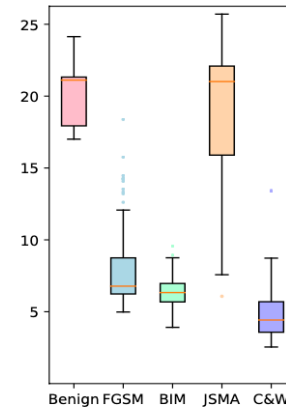
(b)  $BIM_d$



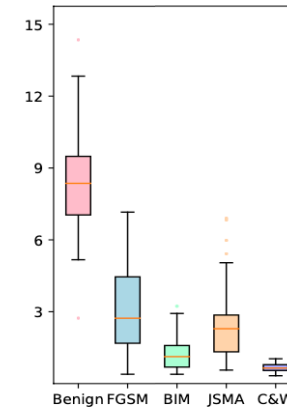
(c)  $BIM2_d$



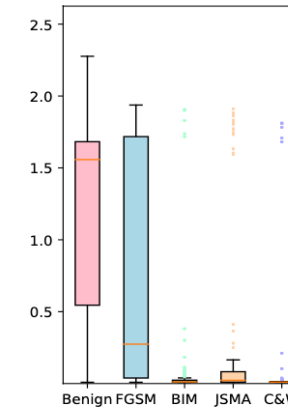
(d)  $JSMA_d$



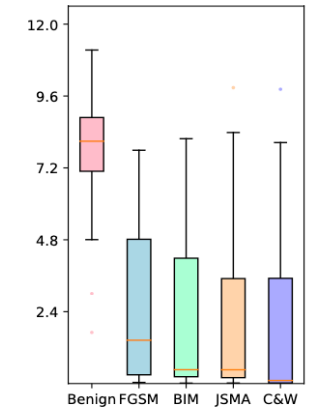
(e)  $C\&W_d$



(f)  $L-BFGS_d$



(g)  $LSA_d$



(h)  $DBA_d$



# RQ1: How to select effective attacks for defense?

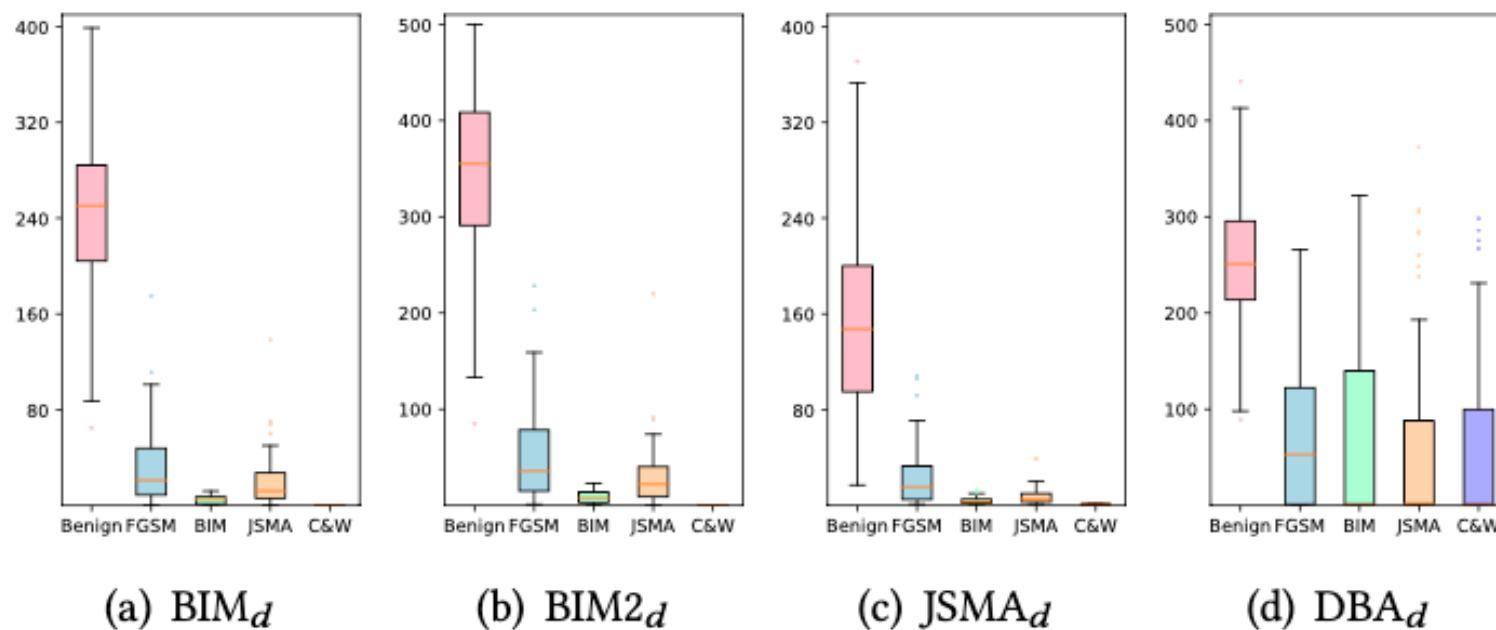


Figure. Attack iterations of benign and adversarial examples

Answer to RQ1: Both attack time and the number of iterations can be used to select effective attacks for defense, while non-iterative attacks are not effective.

White-box Attack

Black-box Attack

$L_0$  Distance Metrics

$L_2$  Distance Metrics

$L_\infty$  Distance Metrics

# Experiments

RQ1. How to select effective attacks for defense?

RQ2. How effective are the selected attacks for defense?

- Select 4 baselines,  
KD+BU, LID (ICLR'18), mMutant (ICSE'19), Dissector (ICSE'20)
- Evaluation metric: AUROC
- For a fair comparison, we conduct comparison directly using the same target models and attacks provided by baselines

RQ3. How effective and efficient is A<sup>2</sup>D (i.e., detection)?

Reference:

- [1] Xingjun Ma, Bo Li, Yisen Wang, Sarah M. Erfani, Sudanthi N. R. Wijewick- rema, Grant Schoenebeck, Dawn Song, Michael E. Houle, and James Bailey. 2018. Characterizing Adversarial Subspaces Using Local Intrinsic Dimensionality. In Proceedings of International Conference on Learning Representations.
- [2] Jingyi Wang, Guoliang Dong, Jun Sun, Xinyu Wang, and Peixin Zhang. 2019. Adversarial sample detection for deep neural network through model mutation testing. In Proceedings of the 41st International Conference on Software Engineering. IEEE, 1245–1256.
- [3] Huiyan Wang, Jingwei Xu, Chang Xu, Xiaoxing Ma, and Jian Lu. 2020. Dissector: Input Validation for Deep Learning Applications by Crossing-layer Dissection. In The 42th International Conference on Software Engineering. ACM, 727–738.

## RQ2: How effective are the selected attacks for defense?

Env <sub>1</sub>	Attack	JSMA <sub>d</sub>	BIM <sub>d</sub>	BIM2 <sub>d</sub>	DBA <sub>d</sub>	BL <sub>1</sub>	BL <sub>2</sub>
MNIST	FGSM	0.9653	<b>0.9922</b>	0.9883	0.9504	0.8267	0.9161
	BIM	0.9986	<b>0.9996</b>	0.9995	0.9625	0.9786	0.9695
	JSMA	<b>0.9923</b>	0.9922	0.9914	0.9497	0.9855	0.9656
	C&W	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.9672	0.9794	0.9502
CIFAR10	FGSM	0.6537	0.712	0.6474	0.6977	0.7015	<b>0.7891</b>
	BIM	0.8558	<b>0.8636</b>	0.861	0.8276	0.8255	0.8496
	JSMA	0.9459	<b>0.955</b>	0.9526	0.9452	0.8421	0.9475
	C&W	0.9905	0.9984	<b>0.9988</b>	0.9833	0.9217	0.9799

Env <sub>2</sub>	Attack	JSMA <sub>d</sub>	BIM <sub>d</sub>	BIM2 <sub>d</sub>	DBA <sub>d</sub>	BL <sub>3</sub>
MNIST	FGSM	0.9665	<b>0.9883</b>	0.9846	0.9595	0.9617
	JSMA	0.9971	<b>0.9984</b>	0.9974	0.984	0.9941
	DeepFool	0.9918	<b>0.9971</b>	0.9951	0.9587	0.9817
	C&W	0.9456	<b>0.9870</b>	0.9769	0.8672	0.9576
	BB	0.9746	<b>0.9895</b>	0.9852	0.9535	0.9677
CIFAR10	FGSM	0.8808	0.8994	<b>0.8998</b>	0.8746	0.8617
	JSMA	0.9774	<b>0.9890</b>	0.9873	0.9566	0.9682
	DeepFool	0.9832	0.9898	<b>0.9902</b>	0.9769	0.9614
	C&W	0.8842	<b>0.9176</b>	0.9175	0.9004	0.9063

Env <sub>3</sub>	Attack	JSMA <sub>d</sub>	BIM <sub>d</sub>	BIM2 <sub>d</sub>	DBA <sub>d</sub>	BL <sub>4</sub>
MNIST	FGSM	0.9985	0.9999	<b>1.0</b>	0.9674	0.9993
	JSMA	0.9972	0.9998	<b>0.9999</b>	0.9113	0.9993
	DeepFool	0.9702	0.9877	0.9874	0.9255	<b>0.9892</b>
	C&W	0.9985	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.9623	0.9996
CIFAR10	FGSM	0.9945	0.9979	<b>0.9983</b>	0.9629	0.9981
	JSMA	0.9934	0.9962	0.9961	0.976	<b>0.9966</b>
	DeepFool	<b>0.9713</b>	0.9703	0.9692	0.9604	0.9618
	C&W	0.9951	0.9981	<b>0.9985</b>	0.9928	0.9968
ImageNet	FGSM	0.973	0.9763	<b>0.9782</b>	0.9625	0.9617
	JSMA	<b>0.9962</b>	0.9805	0.99	0.9937	0.9695
	DeepFool	<b>0.9958</b>	0.9793	0.9892	0.9891	0.9924
	C&W	0.9873	0.9731	0.9801	<b>0.9924</b>	0.9636

Answer to RQ2: Against most attacks on 3 environments, the selected white-box attacks JSMA<sub>d</sub>, BIM<sub>d</sub> and BIM2<sub>d</sub> are more effective than the baselines.

## RQ2: How effective are the selected attacks for defense?

Env <sub>1</sub>	Attack	JSMA <sub>d</sub>	BIM <sub>d</sub>	BIM2 <sub>d</sub>	DBA <sub>d</sub>	BL <sub>1</sub>	BL <sub>2</sub>
MNIST	FGSM	0.9653	<b>0.9922</b>	0.9883	0.9504	0.8267	0.9161
	BIM	0.9986	<b>0.9996</b>	0.9995	0.9625	0.9786	0.9695
	JSMA	<b>0.9923</b>	0.9922	0.9914	0.9497	0.9855	0.9656
	C&W	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	0.9672	0.9794	0.9502
CIFAR10	FGSM	0.6537	0.712	0.6474	0.6977	0.7015	<b>0.7891</b>
	BIM	0.8558	<b>0.8636</b>	0.861	0.8276	0.8255	0.8496
	JSMA	0.9459	<b>0.955</b>	0.9526	0.9452	0.8421	0.9475
	C&W	0.9905	0.9984	<b>0.9988</b>	0.9833	0.9217	0.9799

Env <sub>2</sub>	Attack	JSMA <sub>d</sub>	BIM <sub>d</sub>	BIM2 <sub>d</sub>	DBA <sub>d</sub>	BL <sub>3</sub>
MNIST	FGSM	0.9665	<b>0.9883</b>	0.9846	0.9595	0.9617
	JSMA	0.9971	<b>0.9984</b>	0.9974	0.984	0.9941
	DeepFool	0.9918	<b>0.9971</b>	0.9951	0.9587	0.9817
	C&W	0.9456	<b>0.9870</b>	0.9769	0.8672	0.9576
	BB	0.9746	<b>0.9895</b>	0.9852	0.9535	0.9677
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MNIST	FGSM	0.9985	0.9999	<b>1.0</b>	0.9674	0.9993
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	C&W	0.9873	0.9731	0.9801	<b>0.9924</b>	0.9636



**Q: Why the AUROC results on ImageNet of JSMA<sub>d</sub> and DBA<sub>d</sub> are close to or surpass BIM<sub>d</sub>?**

**A: Image dimension.**

## RQ2: How effective are the selected attacks for defense?

Env <sub>1</sub>	Attack	JSMA <sub>d</sub>	BIM <sub>d</sub>	BIM2 <sub>d</sub>	DBA <sub>d</sub>	BL <sub>1</sub>	BL <sub>2</sub>
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	DeepFool	<b>0.9958</b>	0.9793	0.9892	0.9891	0.9924
	C&W	0.9873	0.9731	0.9801	<b>0.9924</b>	0.9636



**Q: Why the AUROC results on ImageNet of JSMA<sub>d</sub> and DBA<sub>d</sub> are close to or surpass BIM<sub>d</sub>?**

**A: Image dimension.**

**Q: Why BL<sub>2</sub> performs better than the others on CIFAR10 adversarial examples crafted by FGSM?**

**A: Model accuracy.**

# Experiments

RQ1. How to select effective attacks for defense?

RQ2. How effective are the selected attacks for defense?

RQ3. How effective and efficient is A<sup>2</sup>D (i.e., detection)?

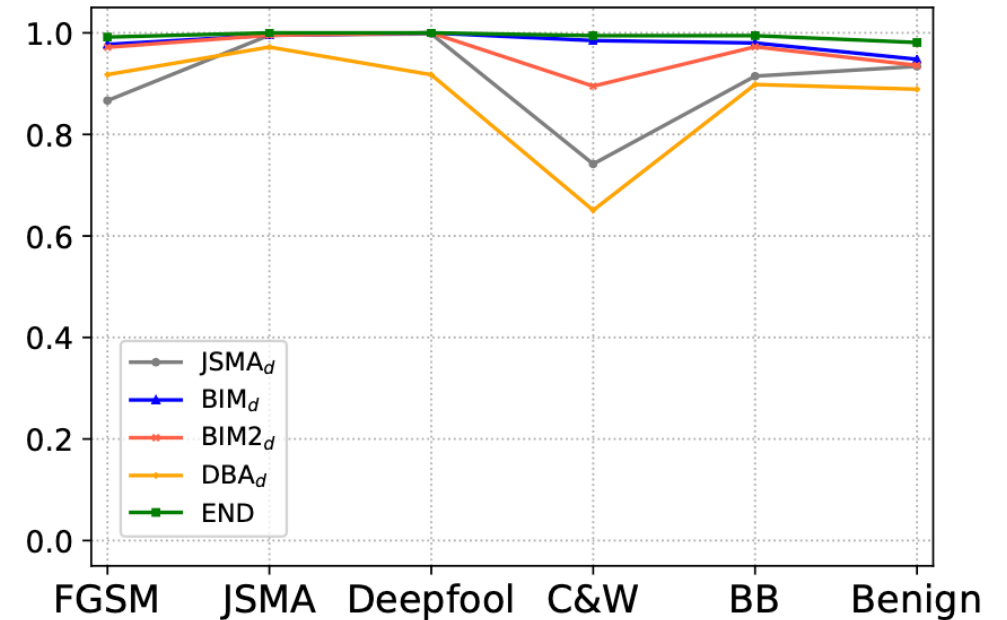
- K-NN based detectors and Z-Score based detectors
- Evaluation metric: detection accuracy

### RQ3. How effective and efficient is A2D (i.e., detection)?

Using K-NN based detector on MNIST dataset as a demo:

The average detection accuracy and time cost:

- JSMA<sub>d</sub>: 90.84%, 1.8ms
- BIM<sub>d</sub>: 98.09%, 2.1ms
- BIM2<sub>d</sub>: 96.17%, 2.1ms
- DBA<sub>d</sub>: 87.42%, 11ms
- END (Ensemble detector) : 99.35%, NA



*Figure. Detection accuracy, where x-axis means the class of inputs, different lines represent the detection results of different detectors*



## RQ3. How effective and efficient is A2D (i.e., detection)?

Some findings:

- $\text{DBA}_d$  performs worse, but could protect the privacy of the model
- END performs better
- Z-Score based detectors are able to achieve comparable or even better accuracy than K-NN based detectors, although Z-score based detectors only use benign examples
- For white-box attacks, attacking an adversarial examples requires only about 10 gradient queries on average
- Our detectors and corresponding parameters have good interpretability, the defenders can adjust FPR and other results according to their needs

# Adaptive attack



If the attacker know the existence of 'attack as defense', what would they do?

# Adaptive attack



If the attacker know the existence of ‘attack as defense’, what would they do?

Encode the attack cost into the loss function?



# Adaptive attack



If the attacker know the existence of ‘attack as defense’, what would they do?

Encode the attack cost into the loss function?



Do we have any other ways to increase the attack cost?



- Increase the confidence/strength of adversarial examples
- Initially considered by Carlini and Wagner for increasing transferability
- Confidence is controlled by the parameter  $\kappa$

Reference:

Nicholas Carlini and David A. Wagner. 2017. Towards Evaluating the Robustness of Neural Networks. In Proceedings of IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P). 39–57.

# Adaptive attack

Increasing  $\kappa$  from 0 to 8 on MNIST:

$\kappa = 0$	CLEVER Score $\approx 0$
	No. of Attack Iterations = 1.01

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No. of Attack Iterations = 42.59

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Increasing  $\kappa$  from 0 to 8 on MNIST:

$\kappa = 0$       CLEVER Score  $\approx 0$   
No. of Attack Iterations = 1.01

$\kappa = 8$       CLEVER Score = 0.17  
No. of Attack Iterations = 42.59

Does this mean that attack as defense is invalid?

$\kappa = 0$       CLEVER Score  $\approx 0$   
No. of Attack Iterations = 1.01  
 $L_2$  distance = 1.71

$\kappa = 8$       CLEVER Score = 0.17  
No. of Attack Iterations = 42.59  
 $L_2$  distance = 2.53

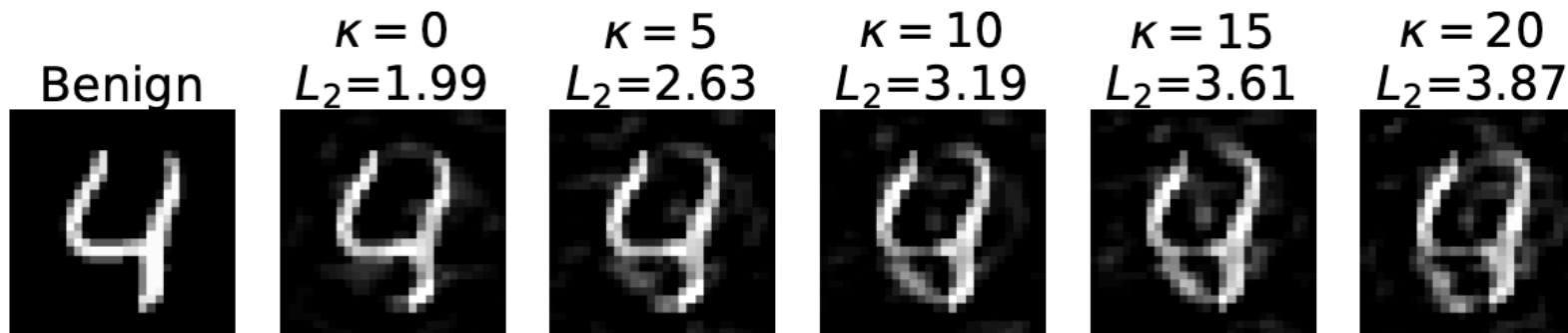
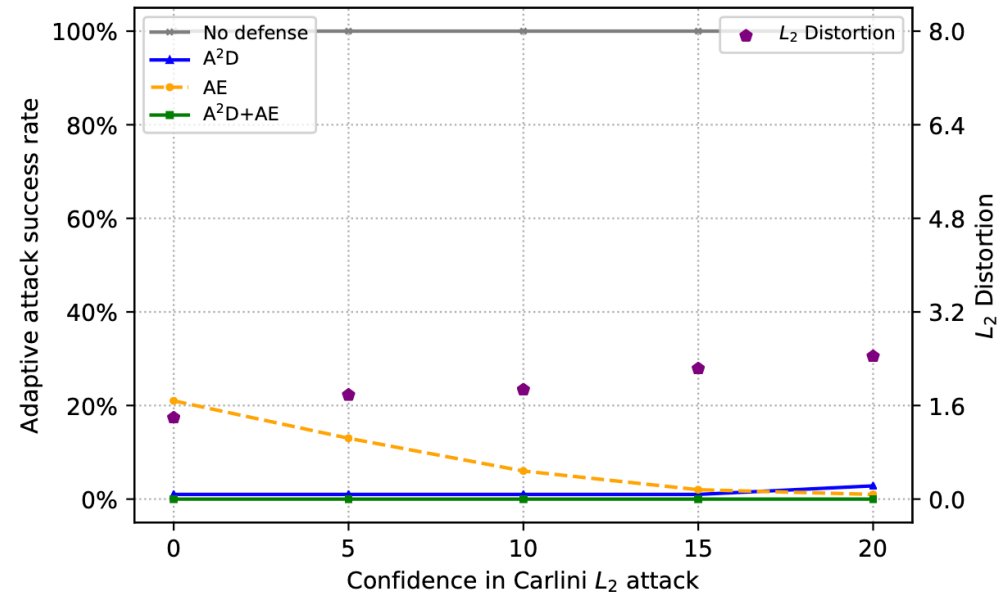
# Adaptive attack

Combine  $A^2D$  with other detectors that are aimed at large distortion.



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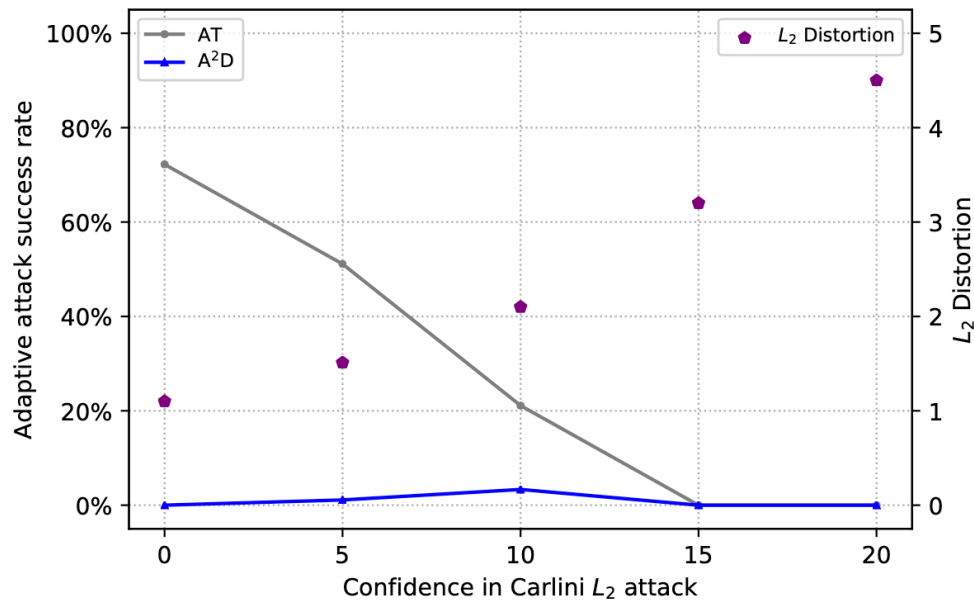


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Combine with adversarial training which enhances the DL model,  
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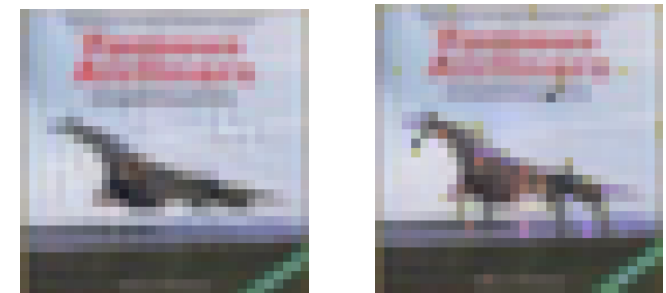


Benign  
Airplane

Attack to 'Cat'



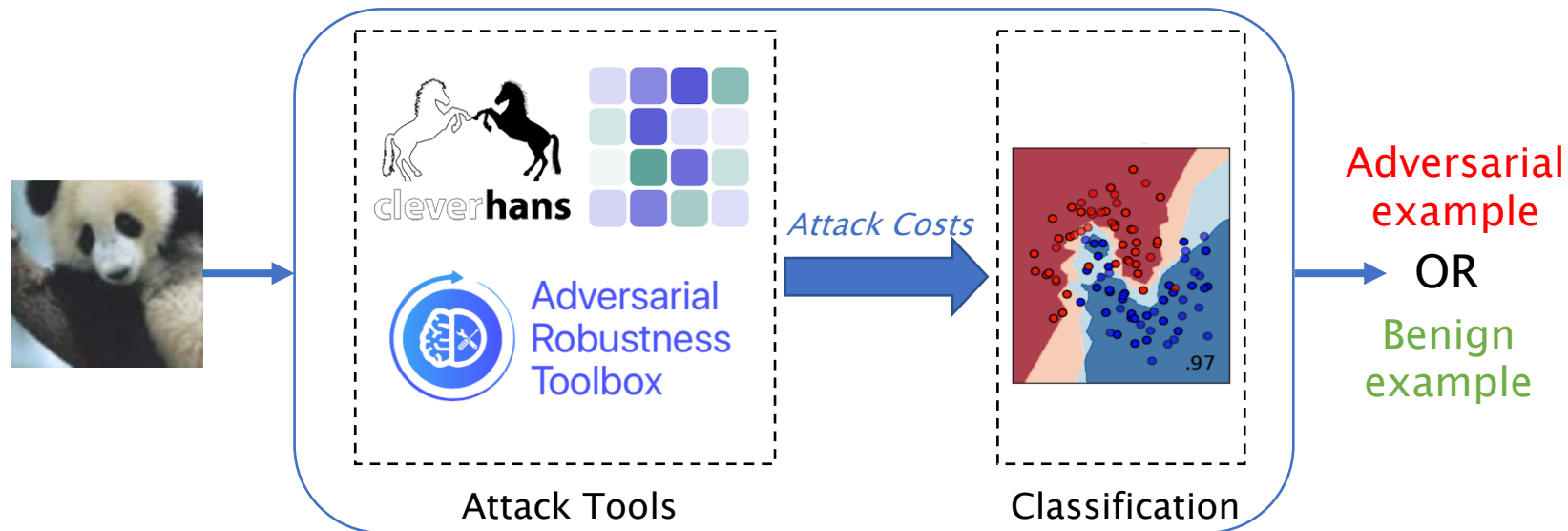
Attack to 'Horse'



$\kappa = 0$

$\kappa = 10$

# Conclusion

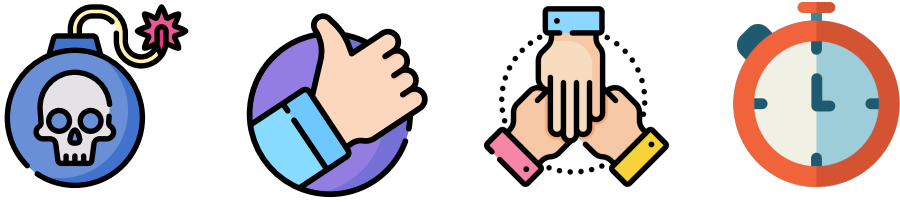


S3L WeChat QR Code

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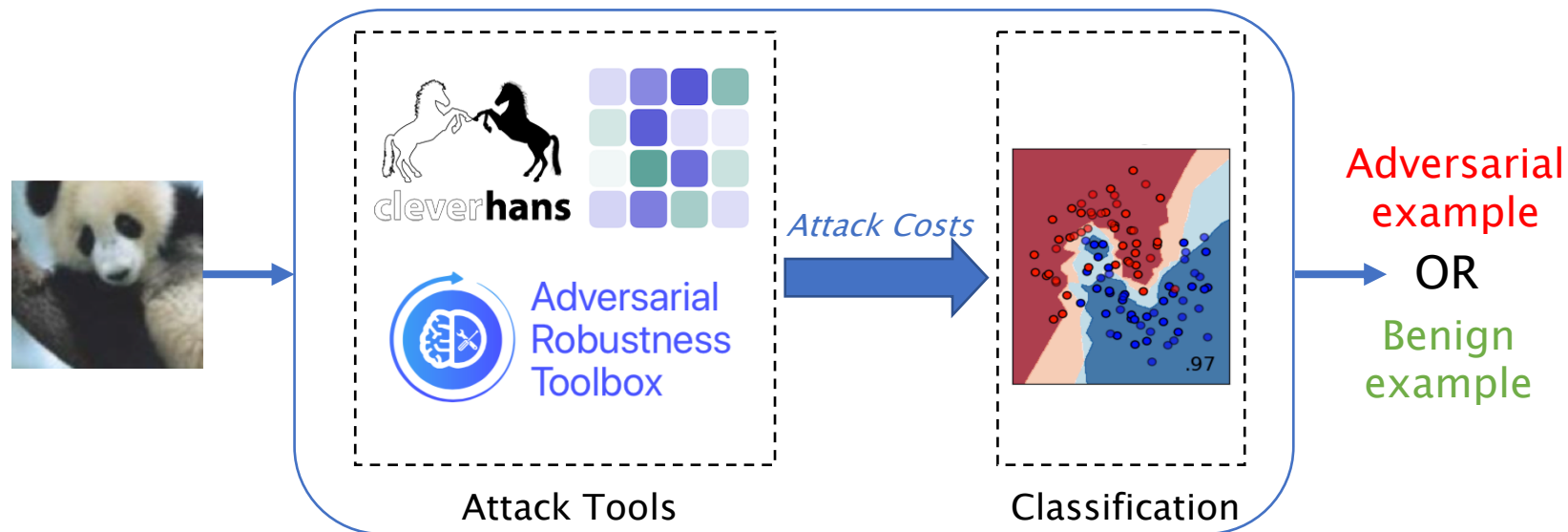
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# Conclusion



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