Constrained Gradient Descent: A Powerful and Principled Evasion Attack Against Neural Networks

Weiran Lin¹ Keane Lucas¹ Lujo Bauer¹ Michael K. Reiter² Mahmood Sharif³

¹ Carnegie Mellon University

- ² Duke University
- ³ Tel Aviv University

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- We define a new loss function, MD loss
 - improves the previous best targeted evasion attack

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- We propose a new attack, CGD
 - finds more adversarial examples
 - and is also faster

What are the previous best targeted attacks?

• Previous best targeted evasion attack: auto-PGD

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- Previous best targeted evasion attack: auto-PGD
- Previous best loss function: CW loss

$$L_{CW} = -Z_t + \max_{i \neq t} Z_i$$



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A loss function that captures **all** non-target logits



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Minimal Difference (MD) loss $L_{MD} = \sum_{all i} ReLU(-Z_t + Z_i + \Delta)$

What else can we do to find a stronger attack?

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Our solution: Constrained Gradient Descent (CGD)



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• Distance limit as part of the loss function



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- Distance limit as part of the loss function
- Perturbation gradually encouraged to stay within distance limit

How does CGD work?





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L_{boundary} > 0

How does CGD work?









Auto-PGD with MD loss
 → up to 12% more adversarial examples

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 \rightarrow up to additional 1% more adversarial examples \rightarrow and, up to 19% faster

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 - finds more adversarial examples
 - and is also faster
- We use CGD as a *framework* for attacks
 - second example use: a stronger untargeted attack

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