FUZZING-BASED HARD-LABEL BLACK-BOX ATTACKS AGAINST MACHINE LEARNING MODELS

Anonymous authors
Paper under double-blind review

ABSTRACT

Machine learning models are known to be vulnerable to adversarial examples. Based on different levels of knowledge that attackers have about the models, adversarial example generation methods can be categorized into white-box and black-box attacks. We study the most realistic attacks, hard-label black-box attacks, where attackers only have the query access of a model and only the final predicted labels are available. The main limitation of the existing hard-label black-box attacks is that they need a large number of model queries, making them inefficient and even infeasible in practice. Inspired by the very successful fuzz testing approach in traditional software testing and computer security domains, we propose fuzzing-based hard-label black-box attacks against machine learning models. We design an AdvFuzzer to explore multiple paths between a source image and a guidance image, and design a LocalFuzzer to explore the nearby space around a given input for identifying potential adversarial examples. We demonstrate that our fuzzing attacks are feasible and effective in generating successful adversarial examples with significantly reduced number of model queries and L_0 distance. More interestingly, supplied with a successful adversarial example as a seed, LocalFuzzer can immediately generate more successful adversarial examples even with smaller L_2 distance from the source example, indicating that LocalFuzzer itself can be an independent and useful tool to augment many adversarial example generation algorithms.

1 INTRODUCTION

Machine learning models, especially deep neural networks, are demonstrated as being vulnerable to adversarial examples (Biggio et al., 2013; Szegedy et al., 2014). Adversarial examples are generated by adding small perturbations to clean inputs to fool machine learning models to misclassify. In image classification tasks, adversarial examples can be found by many attack methods (Goodfellow et al., 2015; Papernot et al., 2016b; Kurakin et al., 2017; Carlini & Wagner, 2017) with the knowledge of a neural network architecture and its parameters. This type of attacks is considered as *white-box attacks*. While research on white-box attacks significantly helps the community to better understand adversarial examples and deep neural networks, white-box attacks are only applicable to limited real-world scenarios such as on publicly available models or exposed confidential models.

In many real-world scenarios, *black-box attacks* are more realistic, where an attacker only has the query access to a model. Some recent attacks (Narodytska & Kasiviswanathan, 2017; Chen et al., 2017; Hayes & Danezis, 2018; Ilyas et al., 2018) rely on probability vectors (e.g., predicted scores or logits) of a model to generate adversarial examples, and they are referred to as *soft-label black-box attacks*. However, in many more realistic scenarios, only the final predicted labels (e.g., the top-1 class label) of a model are available to the attackers. This category of attacks is referred to as *hard-label black-box attacks*. Three recent attack methods including Boundary attack (Brendel et al., 2017), Label-only attack (Ilyas et al., 2018), and Opt attack (Cheng et al., 2019) fall into this category. However, although they can generate adversarial examples with comparable perturbations to white-box attacks, the main limitation of existing hard-label black-box attacks is that they need a large number of model queries since model information is not available.

From a unique perspective, we propose fuzzing-based hard-label black-box attacks by leveraging the fuzzing approach that is very successful in software testing and computer security domains (My-

ers et al., 2012; Miller et al., 1990; Haller et al., 2013). The generation of adversarial examples can be essentially considered as an optimization problem. In order to find an optimal adversarial example around a clean input, attack algorithms need information such as gradient of the loss function, vectors of classification probability, or hard labels from a model as guidance to walk toward the goal. The adversarial examples then cause the model to misclassify. Interestingly, we consider the following analogy: a machine learning model to be attacked is similar to a target program to be tested for correctness or security bugs. Adversarial examples that cause a model to misclassify are analogous to inputs that trigger a target program to crash. These similarities and the huge success of the fuzzing approach in those traditional domains inspire us to leverage an originally black-box software testing technique, *fuzz testing*, for exploring black-box adversarial example attacks in the adversarial machine learning domain.

The word "fuzz" was first proposed by Miller et al. (1990) to represent random, unexpected, and unstructured data (Takanen et al., 2008). Fuzz testing aims to find program failures by iteratively and randomly generating inputs to test a target program (Klees et al., 2018). It is a very effective approach to identifying correctness or security bugs in traditional software systems (Haller et al., 2013; Appelt et al., 2014; Jeong et al., 2019) as well as development or deployment bugs in machine learning models (Odena et al., 2019; Xie et al., 2018).

In this paper, we propose fuzzing-based attacks against machine learning models in hard-label black-box settings. We take the fuzz testing approach to generate random inputs for exploring the adversarial example space. We design two fuzzers: an adversarial fuzzer (referred to as *AdvFuzzer*) and a local fuzzer (referred to as *LocalFuzzer*). AdvFuzzer explores multiple paths from a clean example to a guidance example. LocalFuzzer explores the nearby space around a given input. Our approach can be applied in both targeted and untargeted settings, aiming to generate adversarial examples using a much smaller number of model queries than existing hard-label black-box attacks. Note that when a successful adversarial example is supplied as the input, LocalFuzzer has the potential to generate a large number of other successful adversarial examples in bulk. This bulk generation can be applied to adversarial examples generated from any attack methods, and potentially refine their "optimized" adversarial examples by reducing the L_2 distance from the source example.

We perform experiments to attack deep neural networks for MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets to evaluate our fuzzing approach. The experimental results show that our fuzzing attacks are feasible, efficient, and effective. For example, the number of model queries can be reduced by 10-18 folds for MNIST and 2-5 folds for CIFAR-10 in untargeted attacks in comparison between ours and existing hard-label black-box methods. We also evaluate our LocalFuzzer on successful examples generated by Boundary attack, Opt attack, and our fuzzing attacks to validate its usefulness. For example, we achieve 100% success bulk generation rate and 48%-100% success bulk generation rate with lower L_2 for MNIST adversarial examples generated by different methods in untargeted attacks. Our work provides evidence on the feasibility and benefits of fuzzing-based attacks. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work on exploring fuzz testing in adversarial example attacks.

2 BACKGROUND AND RELATED WORK

Adversarial Examples In this paper, we consider computer vision classification tasks, in which a DNN model f aims to classify an input image x to a class y. We define a clean input image x as *source example* with *source class* y. The attack goal is to generate an adversarial example x' close to source example x such that: (1) x' is misclassified as any class other than the source class y in the **untargeted attack** setting, or (2) x' is misclassified as a specific class $y_t \mathrel{!=} y$ in the **targeted attack** setting. We consider that an adversary has the hard-label black-box capability which means the adversary only has the query access to the model f and only final label outputs are available.

White-box attacks Most existing attacks rely on full access to the model architecture and parameters. Example attack algorithms include Fast Gradient Sign Method (Goodfellow et al., 2015), Jacobian-based Saliency Map Approach (Papernot et al., 2016b), Basic Iterative Method (Kurakin et al., 2017), L-BFGS (Szegedy et al., 2014), Carlini & Wagner attack (Carlini & Wagner, 2017), etc. White-box attacks need gradient information of the loss function as guidance to find adversarial examples. However, the white-box scenarios are not very realistic considering the fact that many real-world machine learning models are confidential. Besides, white-box attacks can only be applied to differentiable model architectures like DNNs not to tree-based models.

Black-box attacks In many real-world scenarios, black-box attacks are more realistic where attackers only have the query access to the model and do not have detailed model information. One type of black-box attacks is transferability-based (Papernot et al., 2017), where an adversary trains a substitute model with a substitute dataset and then generates adversarial examples from the substitute model using white-box attacks. Because of the transferability (Szegedy et al., 2014; Goodfellow et al., 2015; Papernot et al., 2016a), adversarial examples generated from the substitute model can potentially fool the targeted model, even if the two models have different architectures. One limitation of this approach is that it needs information about training data. Besides, attacking the substitute model leads to larger perturbation and lower success rate (Chen et al., 2017; Papernot et al., 2016a; 2017).

Soft-label black-box attacks (Chen et al., 2017; Narodytska & Kasiviswanathan, 2017; Ilyas et al., 2018) rely on classification probability to generate adversarial examples. Since the classification probability vectors are usually inaccessible, hard-label black-box attacks are considered as more realistic, where only the final predicted labels are available to the attackers. Boundary attack (Brendel et al., 2017) is based on a random walk around the decision boundary using examples drawn from a proposal distribution. Label-only attack (Ilyas et al., 2018) uses discretized score, image robustness of random perturbation, and Monte Carlo approximation to find a proxy for the output probability and then uses an NES gradient estimator to generate adversarial examples in a similar way as soft-label black-box attacks. Opt attack (Cheng et al., 2019) reformulates the problem as a continuous real-valued optimization problem which can be solved by any zeroth-order optimization algorithm. The main limitation of these existing hard-label black-box attacks is that they need a large number of model queries, in part because they follow the traditional (approximated) optimization approach and they all aim to walk closer to a clean example starting from a point that is already adversarial. This limitation makes them inefficient and even infeasible in practice when the allowed number of queries is limited by a model. In contrast, our fuzzing-based hard-label black-box attacks start from a clean example and walk away from it step by step. With careful guidance and leveraging the randomness advantage of the fuzz testing approach, our attacks have the potential to use a much smaller number of queries to generate a successful adversarial example.

3 APPROACH AND ALGORITHMS

3.1 OVERVIEW OF OUR APPROACH

Fuzz testing was first proposed by Miller et al. (1990). The key idea is to use random, unexpected, and unstructured data to find program failures. In recent years, fuzzers such as AFL (Zalewski, 2007) and libFuzzer (Serebryany, 2016) have gained great popularity because of their effectiveness and scalability. A typical fuzzer works by iteratively (1) selecting a seed input from a pool, (2) mutating the chosen seed to generate new inputs, (3) evaluating the newly generated inputs, and (4) recording observations such as program crashes and adding useful inputs into the seed pool. Our fuzzing-based hard-label black-box attacks leverage the basic idea of fuzz testing to explore the adversarial example space.

Figure 1 depicts the basic intuition of our attacks. We design two fuzzers: an adversarial fuzzer (referred to as *AdvFuzzer*) and a local fuzzer (referred to as *LocalFuzzer*). Starting from a source image which is clean, AdvFuzzer slowly (thus with less amount of perturbations) walks away from it step by step by randomly selecting a path toward a guidance image. With multiple runs, AdvFuzzer will explore multiple random paths aiming to explore different regions of the adversarial example space between the two images. The guidance image could be a clean image of a specific target class for performing targeted attacks, or any image not of

Figure 1: Basic Intuition of Our Attacks

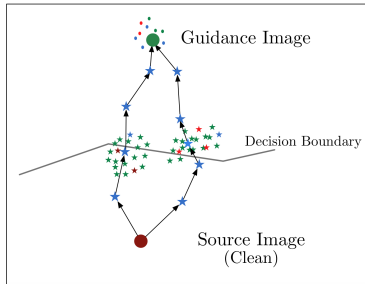the source (image) class for performing untargeted attacks. LocalFuzzer aims to explore the nearby

data points for identifying potential adversarial examples around the current image as AdvFuzzer takes the main steps.

It is important to point out that AdvFuzzer walks from a source image to a guidance image, thus taking a reverse direction from what is taken in existing hard-label black-box attacks including Boundary attack (Brendel et al., 2017), Label-only attack (Ilyas et al., 2018), and Opt attack (Cheng et al., 2019). Combining this strategy with the randomness advantage of the fuzz testing approach, our attacks have the potential to use a much smaller number of queries to more efficiently or practically generate successful adversarial examples. Moreover, LocalFuzzer can indeed be applied to any attack methods including black-box and white-box ones. When LocalFuzzer is supplied with a successful adversarial example as a seed, it can efficiently generate new successful adversarial examples in bulk and among which further optimized (e.g., in terms of reducing the L_2 distance from the source image) ones could even be identified.

3.2 ALGORITHMS

AdvFuzzer The logic for AdvFuzzer is presented in Algorithm 1. It generates an adversarial example img_{adv} as output, and takes a target model f, *isTargeted* parameter, a source image img_s, a guidance image img_g, and attack guidance strategy k as inputs. For every iteration of the while loop, a random main step is taken by selecting a perturbation ϵ based on the attack guidance strategy k (Line 4). We adopt a L_0 strategy which changes a random pixel in the perturbation ϵ image to the corresponding difference pixel value between the guidance image and the current image. Note that other strategies based on L_∞ and L_2 could also be applied but we found L_0 strategy is the most effective. If the current image reaches the attack goal, a medium level LocalFuzzer is applied to explore the nearby space for potentially generating more successful adversarial examples. Otherwise, a small level LocalFuzzer is used to check if some successful adversarial examples could still be found nearby. The while loop ends whenever a successful example is found or the number of steps reaches the maximum number of steps which is the L_0 distance between the source image and the guidance image. It will then fine tune a random successful adversarial example in the adversarial example set S_{adv} by using a walk_back fuzzer. The walk_back fuzzer works in a similar manner as LocalFuzzer as described below.

Algorithm 1 AdvFuzzer: generating an adversarial example using fuzzing

---

Input: f: a black-box model,
$\quad\quad$ $isTargeted$: *True* for targeted attack and *False* for untargeted attack,
$\quad\quad$ img_s: a source image with class s, *i.e.*, $f(img_s) = s$,
$\quad\quad$ img_g: a guidance image with $f(img_g) = t$ for targeted attack
$\quad\quad\quad\quad$ or $f(img_g)! = s$ for untargeted attack,
$\quad\quad$ k: attack guidance, *e.g.*, based on L_0 or L_∞ distance.
Output: img_{adv}: an adversarial example from a successful adversarial examples set S_{adv}.

1: $S_{adv} \leftarrow \emptyset$
2: $img_{cur} \leftarrow img_s$
3: **while** size(S_{adv})== 0 and $num\_steps < MAX\_STEPS$ **do**
4: $\quad$ $\epsilon = SelectPerturbationAlongMainDirection(img_{cur}, img_g, k)$
5: $\quad$ $img_{cur} = img_{cur} + \epsilon$
6: $\quad$ **if** (*isTargeted* and $f(img_{cur}) == t$) or (!*isTargeted* and $f(img_{cur})$!= s) **then**
7: $\quad\quad$ $S_{adv} = S_{adv} \bigcup LocalFuzzer(f, img_{cur}, s, t, isTargeted, medium\_level)$
8: $\quad$ **else**
9: $\quad\quad$ $S_{adv} = S_{adv} \bigcup LocalFuzzer(f, img_{cur}, s, t, isTargeted, small\_level)$
10: $\quad$ num_steps += 1
11: $img_{adv} = walk\_back(f, img_s, S_{adv}[0], s, t, medium\_level, isTargeted)$
12: **return** img_{adv}

LocalFuzzer LocalFuzzer is described in Algorithm 2. Its goal is to generate a set of adversarial examples potentially around an input image img. An adversarial example set S_{adv} and a set S_{all} including all examples are maintained as seed pools. A candidate seed is randomly selected and then mutated. For an input image, *fuzzer_level* controls the total number of mutated images to

be generated. In each iteration, a random perturbation based mutation is applied. The mutation function randomly selects one pixel of an image and changes its value to any real number between 0 and 1. The mutated image is then added to the adversarial set S_{adv} if it meets the attack goal. The loop stops once the *fuzzer_level* is reached and the adversarial image set S_{adv} (could be empty) is returned. The difference between a LocalFuzzer and a walk_back fuzzer is the mutation. Instead of changing one random pixel to a random value between 0 and 1, the walk_back fuzzer mutates an image by randomly changing some pixel values of a current image closer or directly to that of the source image.

Algorithm 2 LocalFuzzer: generating a set of adversarial examples using fuzzing locally

---

Input: f: a black-box model,
$\quad\quad\quad$ img: an input image,
$\quad\quad\quad$ s: source image class,
$\quad\quad\quad$ t: target class,
$\quad\quad\quad$ $isTargeted$: *True* for targeted attack and *False* for untargeted attack,
$\quad\quad\quad$ $fuzzer\_level$: level of local fuzzing.
Output: S_{adv}: a set of successful adversarial examples.

1: $\quad S_{adv} \leftarrow \emptyset$
2: $\quad S_{all} \leftarrow \{img\}$
3: $\quad$**if** (*isTargeted* and $f(img) == t$) or (*!isTargeted* and $f(img)$!= s) **then**
4: $\quad\quad\quad$ $S_{adv} = S_{adv} \bigcup \{img\}$
5: $\quad$**for** i from 1 to $fuzzer\_level$ **do**
6: $\quad\quad\quad$**if** S_{adv} != $\emptyset$ **then**
7: $\quad\quad\quad\quad\quad$ $img_{rand} = RandomSelect(S_{adv})$
8: $\quad\quad\quad$**else**
9: $\quad\quad\quad\quad\quad$ $img_{rand} = RandomSelect(S_{all})$
10: $\quad\quad$ $img_{mut} = mutation(img_{rand})$
11: $\quad\quad$**if** (*isTargeted* and $f(img_{mut}) == t$) or (*!isTargeted* and $f(img_{mut})$!= s) **then**
12: $\quad\quad\quad\quad$ $S_{adv} = S_{adv} \bigcup \{img_{mut}\}$
13: $\quad\quad$ $S_{all} = S_{all} \bigcup \{img_{mut}\}$
14: $\quad$**return** S_{adv}

---

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

We now evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of our fuzzing attacks. We use two standard datasets: MNIST (LeCun & Cortes, 2010) and CIFAR-10 (Krizhevsky, 2009). We compare fuzzing attacks with four attacks including Boundary attack (Brendel et al., 2017), Opt attack (Cheng et al., 2019), and C&W L_0 and L_2 attacks (Carlini & Wagner, 2017). Note that C&W attacks are white-box attacks. All the experiments are performed for both targeted attacks and untargeted attacks. Label-only attack (Ilyas et al., 2018) was evaluated by the authors only on ImageNet and we could not find its code for MNIST and CIFAR-10, so we did not include it in our evaluation.

To have a fair comparison, we adopt the same network architecture for MNIST and CIFAR-10 used in Carlini & Wagner (2017). Note that Brendel et al. (2017) also used the same network architecture, which has two convolution layers followed by a max-pooling layer, two convolution layers, a max-pooling layer, two fully-connected layers, and a softmax layer. Using the same parameters as reported in Carlini & Wagner (2017), we obtained 99.49% and 82.71% test accuracy for MNIST and CIFAR-10, respectively.

4.1 OVERALL RESULTS

From the test set of each dataset, we randomly selected 10 images for each of the 10 classes. These same 100 images are used as source examples for all attacks. We use white-box C&W L_0 and L_2

Figure 2: Successful adversarial examples from fuzzing attacks on MNIST and CIFAR-10

attacks[1] as baselines, and use Boundary attack[2] and Opt attack[3] for comparison. We adopt the default parameters for the four attacks from their corresponding original implementations. As for fuzzing attacks, we use three different small LocalFuzzer levels including 100, 300, and 500. We report the average L_0 and L_2 distances between a successful adversarial example and a source image, and the average number of queries for successful adversarial examples generated from 100 attack attempts. L_0 measures the number of different pixels between two images and L_2 is the Euclidean distance. Using the default attack parameters in the corresponding implementations, Opt attack, C&W attacks, and our fuzzing attacks can achieve 100% success rates while Boundary attack achieves between 90% and 100% success rates. Note that due to the randomness of our fuzzing attacks, the results could vary in a certain range from run to run.

Untargeted Attacks An untargeted attack is successful when an adversarial image is classified as any class other than the source class. Although the guidance images in untargeted attacks could be any randomly generated images or legitimate images classified as any class other than the source class, we use the same guidance images in the targeted attacks for consistency. Also, we found that there is not much difference between using a randomly generated guidance image and a legitimate image. The results for untargeted attacks are summarized in Table 1. While Boundary attack and Opt attack can generate successful adversarial examples with smaller L_2 distance compared to C&W attacks, they tend to change most of the pixels in an image since their average L_0 is higher. However, adversarial examples generated from our fuzzing attacks have larger L_2 distance but smaller L_0 distance. The results are comparable to C&W L_0 attack. The first row in Figure 2 shows the successful adversarial examples from the untargeted fuzzing attacks on MNIST and CIFAR-10. The perturbations on CIFAR-10 are largely imperceptible by human eyes while they are more obvious on MNIST. This is mostly due to the uniform dark background of MNIST images (Luo et al., 2018) especially when L_0 is reduced and L_2 is increased. What we want to highlight is that the average number of queries used by our fuzzing attacks is significantly decreased by 10-18 folds and 2-5 folds for MNIST and CIFAR-10, respectively.

Table 1: Results for Untargeted Attacks

	MNIST			CIFAR-10		
	Avg L_0	Avg L_2	# queries	Avg L_0	Avg L_2	# queries
Boundary attack	769	1.1454	115,134	3,071	0.1658	128,296
Opt attack	784	1.0839	67,536	3,072	0.1671	56,438
C&W L_0 attack	10	2.5963	-	9	0.9988	-
C&W L_2 attack	749	1.4653	-	3,072	0.1894	-
Fuzzing attack 100	19	2.5536	6,321	33	1.7838	24,045
Fuzzing attack 300	19	2.5041	14,697	32	1.7176	56,678
Fuzzing attack 500	19	2.4525	22,546	28	1.6822	88,488

Targeted Attacks We consider *next label targeted attacks* (Brendel et al., 2017; Cheng et al., 2019) where the adversarial goal is for an adversarial example to be misclassified as a target class y_t such that $y_t = (y + 1)$ module 10 where y is the source class. The results for targeted attacks are shown in Table 2. The second row in Figure 2 shows the successful adversarial examples from the targeted fuzzing attacks on MNIST and CIFAR-10. The perturbations for targeted attacks are visually larger

---

[1]https://github.com/carlini/nn_robust_attacks

[2]https://github.com/bethgelab/foolbox

[3]https://github.com/LeMinhThong/blackbox-attack

Table 2: Results for Targeted Attacks

	MNIST			CIFAR-10		
	Avg L_0	Avg L_2	# queries	Avg L_0	Avg L_2	# queries
Boundary attack	773	1.8393	126,433	3,071	0.2368	128,657
Opt attack	784	1.9040	108,556	3,072	0.6231	110,124
C&W L_0 attack	26	3.6744	-	19	1.7123	-
C&W L_2 attack	742	2.1752	-	3,072	0.3491	-
Fuzzing attack 100	43	3.3925	13,364	57	2.4066	50,084
Fuzzing attack 300	42	3.3553	35,002	109	3.5439	272,274
Fuzzing attack 500	41	3.3690	54,811	104	3.4381	412,766

than the perturbations for untargeted attacks. Similarly, the fuzzing attack decreases the average L_0 distance while increases the average L_2 distance. The fuzzing attacks also reduce the average number of queries by 8-9 folds and 2-2.5 folds for MNIST and CIFAR-10, respectively. Note that it is harder to find successful adversarial examples using LocalFuzzer levels of 300 and 500 on CIFAR-10 because of the larger feature space compared to MNIST and the smaller adversarial space in the targeted attacks compare to that of the untargeted attacks.

Overall, the randomness advantages of the fuzzing approach help to reduce the average number of queries and L_0 distance by sacrificing a small amount of L_2 distance. The experimental results show that fuzzing attacks are feasible and effective. However, they potentially can be further strengthened by improving the fuzzing process such as seed selection, main direction selection, step selection, mutation operation selection, etc.

4.2 Results on Applying LocalFuzzer on Successful Adversarial Examples

We now apply LocalFuzzer on successful adversarial examples generated from Boundary attack, Opt attack, and our fuzzing attacks to more intensively evaluate the bulk generation capability of LocalFuzzer. We leverage the successful adversarial examples from the experiments in Section 4.1 for both untargeted and targeted attacks. For fuzzing attacks, we use the adversarial examples generated with a LocalFuzzer level of 500 which are shown in the third row of fuzzing attacks in both Table 1 and Table 2. Three experiments with different LocalFuzzer levels of 100, 1,000, and 5,000 are performed.

We report six metrics including M1: success bulk generation rate (i.e., the percent of bulk runs returning successful examples); M2: average number of successful examples generated in a bulk run; M3: success bulk generation rate with lower L_2 (i.e., percent of success bulk runs returning adversarial examples with L_2 lower than that of the seed image); M4: average number of successful examples with lower L_2 in a bulk run; M5: average decreased L_2 of successful examples with lower L_2; M6: average L_2 decreasing rate of successful examples with lower L_2.

The results for untargeted attacks and targeted attacks are presented in Table 3 and Table 4, respectively. We achieve 100% success bulk generation rate across runs in all experiments, which indicates the great benefits of the bulk generation capability of LocalFuzzer. It is also demonstrated that the "optimized" adversarial examples from Boundary attack and Opt attack can further be refined. LocalFuzzer takes relatively a smaller number of queries (i.e., 100, 1,000, and 5,000 in the experiments) compared with what was taken originally in Boundary attack and Opt attack, but can immediately generate more successful adversarial examples even with smaller L_2 distance from the source example. These results indicate that LocalFuzzer itself can be an independent and useful tool to augment many adversarial example generation algorithms.

5 Conclusion and Discussion

Inspired by the similarities between attacking a machine learning model and testing the correctness or security bug of a program, we proposed fuzzing-based hard-label black-box attacks to generate adversarial examples. We designed two fuzzers, AdvFuzzer and LocalFuzzer, to explore multiple random paths between a source image and a guidance image, and the nearby space of each step

Table 3: Bulking successful examples from untargeted attacks

	Attack	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
MNIST	Boundary Attack	100%	54	48.10%	8	2.98e-3	0.28%
		100%	736	58.23%	24	4.07e-3	0.36%
		100%	3,851	55.70%	56	4.93e-3	0.48%
	Opt Attack	100%	63	66.00%	16	2.45e-3	0.23%
		100%	727	59.00%	50	4.96e-3	0.47%
		100%	3,888	73.00%	112	5.64e-3	0.56%
	Fuzzing attack	100%	92	67.00%	7	1.97e-2	0.90%
		100%	939	100%	75	3.19e-2	1.46%
		100%	4,730	100%	425	3.99e-2	1.81%
CIFAR-10	Boundary Attack	100%	57	3.26%	3	0.14e-3	0.07%
		100%	676	6.52%	4	0.17e-3	0.07%
		100%	3,726	9.78%	8	0.29e-3	0.10%
	Opt Attack	100%	69	2.00%	2	0.15e-3	0.04%
		100%	757	7.00%	3	0.18e-3	0.06%
		100%	3,936	10.00%	4	0.12e-3	0.04%
	Fuzzing Attack	100%	91	24.21%	8	6.34e-3	0.42%
		100%	943	58.95%	54	8.93e-3	0.56%
		100%	4,774	80.00%	258	1.23e-2	0.87%

Table 4: Bulking successful examples from targeted attacks

	Attack	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
MNIST	Boundary Attack	100%	44	45.68%	11	2.27e-3	0.14%
		100%	546	51.85%	44	4.61e-3	0.31%
		100%	3,105	45.68%	110	6.21e-3	0.39%
	Opt Attack	100%	46	53.33%	15	3.71e-3	0.21%
		100%	598	56.67%	62	6.08e-3	0.34%
		100%	3,333	67.67%	279	7.11e-3	0.42%
	Fuzzing attack	100%	93	82.22%	12	1.32e-2	0.42%
		100%	946	100.00%	141	2.69e-2	0.89%
		100%	4,722	98.89%	837	3.54e-2	1.17%
CIFAR-10	Boundary Attack	100%	41	6.90%	10	0.21e-3	0.04%
		100%	548	10.34%	12	0.20e-3	0.05%
		100%	2,947	10.34%	42	0.20e-3	0.05%
	Opt Attack	100%	54	15.56%	8	0.14e-3	0.02%
		100%	676	14.44%	11	0.22e-3	0.04%
		100%	3,084	20.00%	277	0.28e-3	0.05%
	Fuzzing Attack	100%	96	58.67%	19	0.98e-3	0.04%
		100%	979	90.67%	149	1.67e-3	0.08%
		100%	4,920	96.00%	883	2.29e-3	0.09%

along the way. We evaluated our fuzzing attacks using MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets, and compared ours with four existing attacks including Boundary attack, Opt attack, and C&W L_0 and L_2 attacks. The experimental results demonstrated that our fuzzing attacks are feasible and effective. Moreover, LocalFuzzer has the bulk successful example generation capability and distance refinement capability on adversarial examples generated from different attack methods. We would recommend LocalFuzzer as an independent and useful tool for augmenting many adversarial example generation algorithms.

Our work provides evidence on adopting fuzz testing in the adversarial example generation domain. Although the randomness advantage of the fuzzing attacks could help reduce the number of model queries, one limitation of our attacks is that they sacrifice the L_2 distance to a small extent. We expect that further improvement of the fuzzing process could be explored to construct more powerful

fuzzing-based attacks. For example, potential ways for improvement could be a better guidance strategy in the main direction selection, a refined seed selection process, a refined mutation function, etc. We are working on improving our approach and we hope our fuzzing attacks could inspire more related research in the future.

REFERENCES

Dennis Appelt, Cu Duy Nguyen, Lionel C. Briand, and Nadia Alshahwan. Automated testing for sql injection vulnerabilities: An input mutation approach. In *Proceedings of the 2014 International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis*, 2014.

Battista Biggio, Igino Corona, Davide Maiorca, Blaine Nelson, Nedim Srndic, Pavel Laskov, Giorgio Giacinto, and Fabio Roli. Evasion Attacks against Machine Learning at Test Time. In *European Conference on Machine Learning and Knowledge Discovery in Databases*, pp. 387–402, 2013.

Wieland Brendel, Jonas Rauber, and Matthias Bethge. Decision-based adversarial attacks: Reliable attacks against black-box machine learning models. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2017.

Nicholas Carlini and David A. Wagner. Towards Evaluating the Robustness of Neural Networks. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP)*, pp. 39–57, 2017.

Pin-Yu Chen, Huan Zhang, Yash Sharma, Jinfeng Yi, and Cho-Jui Hsieh. Zoo: Zeroth order optimization based black-box attacks to deep neural networks without training substitute models. pp. 15–26, 11 2017.

Minhao Cheng, Thong Le, Pin-Yu Chen, Huan Zhang, Jinfeng Yi, and Cho-Jui Hsieh. Query-efficient hard-label black-box attack: An optimization-based approach. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2019.

Ian J. Goodfellow, Jonathon Shlens, and Christian Szegedy. Explaining and Harnessing Adversarial Examples. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2015.

Istvan Haller, Asia Slowinska, Matthias Neugschwandtner, and Herbert Bos. Dowsing for overflows: A guided fuzzer to find buffer boundary violations. In *Proceedings of the 22nd USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 13)*, 2013.

Jamie Hayes and George Danezis. Learning universal adversarial perturbations with generative models. pp. 43–49, 2018.

Andrew Ilyas, Logan Engstrom, Anish Athalye, and Jessy Lin. Black-box adversarial attacks with limited queries and information. In *Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2018.

Dae R. Jeong, KyungTae Kim, Basavesh Shivakumar, Byoungyoung Lee, and Insik Shin. Razzer: Finding kernel race bugs through fuzzing. pp. 754–768, 2019.

George Klees, Andrew Ruef, Benji Cooper, Shiyi Wei, and Michael Hicks. Evaluating fuzz testing. In *ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, 2018.

Alex Krizhevsky. Learning multiple layers of features from tiny images. 2009.

Alexey Kurakin, Ian J. Goodfellow, and Samy Bengio. Adversarial Examples in the Physical World. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) Workshop Track*, 2017.

Yann LeCun and Corinna Cortes. MNIST handwritten digit database. 2010.

Bo Luo, Yannan Liu, Lingxiao Wei, and Qiang Xu. Towards imperceptible and robust adversarial example attacks against neural networks. In *AAAI*, 2018.

Barton P. Miller, Lars Fredriksen, and Bryan So. An empirical study of the reliability of unix utilities. In *In Proceedings of the Workshop of Parallel and Distributed Debugging*, pp. pages ix–xxi,. Academic Medicine, 1990.

Glenford J. Myers, Corey Sandler, and Tom Badgett. *The art of software testing*. John Wiley & Sons, 3rd edition, 2012.

Nina Narodytska and Shiva Prasad Kasiviswanathan. Simple black-box adversarial perturbations for deep networks. *ArXiv*, abs/1612.06299, 2017.

Augustus Odena, Catherine Olsson, David Andersen, and Ian Goodfellow. TensorFuzz: Debugging neural networks with coverage-guided fuzzing. In *Proceedings of the 36th International Conference on Machine Learning*, volume 97, pp. 4901–4911, 2019.

Nicolas Papernot, Patrick D. McDaniel, and Ian J. Goodfellow. Transferability in Machine Learning: from Phenomena to Black-Box Attacks using Adversarial Samples. *CoRR*, abs/1605.07277, 2016a.

Nicolas Papernot, Patrick D. McDaniel, Somesh Jha, Matt Fredrikson, Z. Berkay Celik, and Ananthram Swami. The Limitations of Deep Learning in Adversarial Settings. In *IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy*, pp. 372–387, 2016b.

Nicolas Papernot, Patrick McDaniel, Ian Goodfellow, Somesh Jha, Z. Berkay Celik, and Ananthram Swami. Practical Black-Box Attacks Against Machine Learning. In *Asia Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, pp. 506–519, 2017.

Kostya Serebryany. Libfuzzer: A library for coverage-guided fuzz testing (within llvm). 2016.

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

Ari Takanen, Jared DeMott, and Charlie Miller. *Fuzzing for Software Security Testing and Quality Assurance*. Artech House, Inc., 1st edition, 2008.

Xiaofei Xie, Lingfei Ma, Felix Juefei-Xu, Hongxu Chen, Minhui Xue, Bo Li, Yang Liu, Jianjun Zhao, Jianxiong Yin, and Simon See. Deephunter: Hunting deep neural network defects via coverage-guided fuzzing. abs/1809.01266, 2018.

Michal Zalewski. American fuzzy lop. 2007.