GAT: GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL TRAINING FOR ADVERSARIAL EXAMPLE DETECTION AND ROBUST CLASSIFICATION

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ABSTRACT

The vulnerabilities of deep neural networks against adversarial examples have become a significant concern for deploying these models in sensitive domains. Devising a definitive defense against such attacks is proven to be challenging, and the methods relying on detecting adversarial samples are only valid when the attacker is oblivious to the detection mechanism. In this paper we propose a principled adversarial example detection method that can withstand norm-constrained white-box attacks. Inspired by one-versus-the-rest classification, in a K class classification problem, we train K base detectors where the i-th detector is trained to discriminate natural data of class i from adversarial examples perturbed from other classes. At inference time, we first get the predicted label (say k) of the input, and then use the k-th detector to identify whether the input is a natural sample (of class k) or an adversarial example (perturbed from other classes). We further devise a generative approach to detecting/classifying adversarial examples by interpreting each base detector as an unnormalized density model of the class-conditional data. We provide comprehensive evaluation of the above adversarial example detection/classification methods, and demonstrate their competitive performances and compelling properties. Code is available at https://github.com/xuwangyin/GAT-Generative-Adversarial-Training [1].

1 INTRODUCTION

Deep neural networks have become the staple of modern machine learning pipelines, achieving state-of-the-art performance on extremely difficult tasks in various applications such as computer vision (He et al., 2016), speech recognition (Amodei et al., 2016), machine translation (Vaswani et al., 2017), robotics (Levine et al., 2016), and biomedical image analysis (Shen et al., 2017). Despite their outstanding performance, these networks are shown to be vulnerable against various types of adversarial attacks, including evasion attacks (aka, inference or perturbation attacks) (Szegedy et al., 2013; Goodfellow et al., 2014; Carlini & Wagner, 2017b; Su et al., 2019) and poisoning attacks (Liu et al., 2017; Shafahi et al., 2018). These vulnerabilities in deep neural networks hinder their deployment in sensitive domains including, but not limited to, health care, finances, autonomous driving, and defense-related applications and have become a major security concern.

Due to the mentioned vulnerabilities, there has been a recent surge toward designing defense mechanisms against adversarial attacks (Gu & Rigazio, 2014; Jin et al., 2015; Papernot et al., 2016b; Bastani et al., 2016; Madry et al., 2017; Sinha et al., 2018), which has in turn motivated the design of stronger attacks that defeat the proposed defenses (Goodfellow et al., 2014; Kurakin et al.,

[1] A thorough evaluation of the proposed method is available at Tramer et al. (2020).

2016b;a; Carlini & Wagner, 2017b; Xiao et al., 2018; Athalye et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2018; He et al., 2018). Besides, the proposed defenses have been shown to be limited and often not effective and easy to overcome (Athalye et al., 2018). Alternatively, a large body of work has focused on detection of adversarial examples (Bhagoji et al., 2017; Feinman et al., 2017; Gong et al., 2017; Grosse et al., 2017; Metzen et al., 2017; Hendrycks & Gimpel, 2017; Li & Li, 2017; Xu et al., 2017; Pang et al., 2018; Roth et al., 2019; Bahat et al., 2019; Ma et al., 2018; Zheng & Hong, 2018; Tian et al., 2018). While training robust classifiers focuses on maintaining performance in presence of adversarial examples, adversarial detection only cares for detecting such examples.

The majority of the current detection mechanisms focus on *non-adaptive* threats, for which the attacks are not specifically tuned/tailored to bypass the detection mechanism, and the attacker is oblivious to the detection mechanism. In fact, Carlini & Wagner (2017a) and Athalye et al. (2018) showed that the detection methods presented in (Bhagoji et al., 2017; Feinman et al., 2017; Gong et al., 2017; Grosse et al., 2017; Metzen et al., 2017; Hendrycks & Gimpel, 2017; Li & Li, 2017; Ma et al., 2018), are significantly less effective than their claims under *adaptive* attacks. Overall, current solutions are mostly heuristic approaches that cannot provide performance guarantees to the adversary they considered.

In this paper we present a detection mechanism that can withstand adaptive attacks. The idea is to partition the input space into subspaces based on the original classifier's prediction and then perform adversarial/natural sample classification in these subspaces. The detector (binary classifier) in each subspace is trained to distinguish in-class samples from adversarial examples perturbed from other classes. At inference time, we first use the original classifier to get an input sample's predicted label $\hat{k}$, and then use the $\hat{k}$-th detector to identify whether the input is a natural sample (of class $\hat{k}$) or an adversarial example (perturbed from other classes). Figure 1 provides a schematic illustration of the proposed approach.

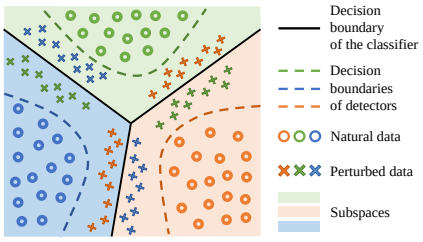


Figure 1: A conceptual visualization of the proposed adversarial example detection mechanism.

Our specific contributions are:

- We develop a principled adversarial example detection method that can withstand norm-constrained white-box attacks. Empirically, our best models improve previous state-of-the-art mean L_2 distortion from 3.68 to 5.65 on MNIST dataset, and from 1.1 to 1.5 on CIFAR10 dataset.
- We study powerful and versatile generative classification models derived from our detection framework and demonstrate their competitive performances over discriminative robust classifiers. While defense mechanisms based on ordinary adversarial training are vulnerable to rubbish examples, inputs that cause confident predictions of our models have human-understandable semantic meanings.

2 Related Works

Adversarial attacks. Since the pioneering work of Szegedy et al. (2013), a large body of work has focused on designing algorithms that achieve successful attacks on neural networks (Goodfellow et al., 2014; Moosavi-Dezfooli et al., 2016; Kurakin et al., 2016b; Chen et al., 2018; Papernot et al., 2016a; Carlini & Wagner, 2017b). More recently, iterative projected gradient descent (PGD), has been empirically identified as the most effective approach for performing norm constrained attacks, and the attack reasonably approximates the optimal attack (Madry et al., 2017).

Adversarial detection techniques. The majority of the methods developed for detecting adversarial attacks are based on the following core idea: given a trained K-class classifier, $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{1...K\}$, and its corresponding natural training samples, $\mathcal{D} = \{x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d\}_{i=1}^N$, generate a set of adversarially attacked samples $\mathcal{D}' = \{x'_j \in \mathbb{R}^d\}_{j=1}^M$, and devise a mechanism to discriminate $\mathcal{D}$ from $\mathcal{D}'$. For instance, Gong et al. (2017) use this exact idea and learn a binary classifier to distinguish the natural and adversarially perturbed sets. Similarly, Grosse et al. (2017) append a new "attacked" class to the

classifier, f, and re-train a secured network that classifies natural images, $x \in \mathcal{D}$, into the K classes and all attacked images, $x' \in \mathcal{D}'$, to the $(K+1)$-th class. In contrast to Gong et al. (2017); Grosse et al. (2017), which aim at detecting adversarial examples directly from the image content, Metzen et al. (2017) trained a binary classifier that receives as input the intermediate layer features extracted from the classifier network f, and distinguished $\mathcal{D}$ from $\mathcal{D}'$ based on such input features. More importantly, Metzen et al. (2017) considered the so-called case of *adaptive/dynamic* adversary and proposed to harden the detector against such attacks using a similar adversarial training approach as in Goodfellow et al. (2014). Unfortunately, the mentioned detection methods are significantly less effective under an *adaptive* adversary equipped with a strong attack (Carlini & Wagner, 2017a; Athalye et al., 2018).

3 Adversarial Detection Methods

3.1 Integrated adversarial detection

For a $K(K \geq 2)$ class classification problem, given a dataset of natural samples $\mathcal{D} = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N, x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$, along with labels $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^N, y_i \in \{1...K\}$, let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{1...K\}$ be a classifier that is used to do classification on $\mathcal{D}$. With the labels and predicted labels the dataset respectively forms the partition $\mathcal{D} = \bigcup \mathcal{D}_k$ and $\mathcal{D}^f = \bigcup \mathcal{D}_k^f$, where $\mathcal{D}_k = \{x : y = k, x \in \mathcal{D}\}$, and $\mathcal{D}_k^f = \{x : f(x) = k, x \in \mathcal{D}\}$. Let $\mathcal{H} = \{h_k\}_{k=1}^K, h_k : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{0, 1\}$ be a set of binary classifiers (detectors), in which h_k is trained to discriminate *natural samples* classified as k, from *adversarial samples* that *fool* to be classified as k. Also, let $\mathcal{D}'$ be a set of L_p norm bounded adversarial examples crafted from $\mathcal{D}$: $\mathcal{D}' = \{x + \delta : f(x + \delta) \neq y, f(x) = y, x \in \mathcal{D}, \delta \in \mathcal{S}\}$, $\mathcal{S} = \{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^d \,|\, \|\delta\|_p \leq \epsilon\}$. Consider the following procedure to determine whether a sample x in $\mathcal{D} \cup \mathcal{D}'$ is an adversarial example:

> *First obtain the estimated class label $k = f(x)$, then use the k-th detector to predict: if $h_k(x) = 1$ then categorize x as a natural sample, otherwise categorize it as an adversarial example.*

The detection accuracy of the algorithm is given by

$$\frac{\sum_{k=1}^K |\{x : h_k(x) = 1, x \in \mathcal{D}_k^f\}| + |\{x : h_k(x) = 0, x \in \mathcal{D}'^f_k\}|}{|\mathcal{D}| + |\mathcal{D}'|}, \tag{1}$$

where $\mathcal{D}'^f_k = \{x : f(x) = k, x \in \mathcal{D}'\}$. Hence minimizing the algorithm's classification error is equivalent to minimizing classification error of individual detectors. Employing empirical risk minimization, detector k, parameterized by θ_k, is trained by

$$\theta_k^* = \arg\min_{\theta_k} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}'^f_k}\Big[L(h_k(x; \theta_k), 0)\Big] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_k^f}\Big[L(h_k(x; \theta_k), 1)\Big], \tag{2}$$

where L is a loss function that measures the distance between h_k's output and the supplied label (e.g., the binary cross-entropy loss).

In the case of adaptive attacks, when the adversary aims to fool both the classifier and detectors, the accuracy of a naively trained detector could be significantly reduced. In order to be robust to adaptive attacks, by taking a similar approach as Madry et al. (2017) we incorporate the attack into the training objective:

$$\min_{\theta_k} \rho(\theta_k), \quad \text{where} \quad \rho(\theta_k) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k}}\Big[\max_{\delta \in \mathcal{S}, f(x+\delta)=k} L(h_k(x+\delta; \theta_k), 0)\Big] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_k^f}\Big[L(h_k(x; \theta_k), 1)\Big], \tag{3}$$

where $\mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k} = \{x : f(x) \neq k, y \neq k, x \in \mathcal{D}\}$, and we assume that perturbation budget is large enough such that $\forall x \in \mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k}$, $\exists \delta \in \mathcal{S}$, $s.t.$ $f(x + \delta) = k$. Now by dropping the $f(x + \delta) = k$ constrain we could derive an upper bound for the first loss term:

$$\max_{\delta \in \mathcal{S}, f(x+\delta)=k} L(h_k(x + \delta; \theta_k), 0) \leq \max_{\delta \in \mathcal{S}} L(h_k(x + \delta; \theta_k), 0).$$

The detector could instead be trained by minimizing this upper bound using the following unconstrained objective,

$$\rho(\theta_k) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k}}\Big[\max_{\delta \in \mathcal{S}} L(h_k(x + \delta; \theta_k), 0)\Big] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_k^f}\Big[L(h_k(x; \theta_k), 1)\Big]. \tag{4}$$

Further, we use the fact that when $\mathcal{D}$ is used as the training set, f could overfit on $\mathcal{D}$ such that $\mathcal{D}_{\setminus k} = \{x_i : y_i \neq k\}$ and $\mathcal{D}_k$ are respectively good approximations of $\mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k}$ and $\mathcal{D}^f_k$. This leads to our proposed *generative adversarial training (GAT)* objective:

$$\min_{\theta_k} \rho(\theta_k), \quad \text{where} \quad \rho(\theta_k) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\setminus k}} \Big[\max_{\delta \in \mathcal{S}} L(h_k(x+\delta;\theta_k), 0) \Big] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_k} \Big[L(h_k(x;\theta_k), 1) \Big]. \tag{5}$$

In a nutshell, each detector is trained using in-class natural samples and detector-adversarial examples crafted from out-class samples. The inner maximization is solved using the PGD attack (Madry et al., 2017). We use the binary cross-entropy loss as L and minimize it using gradient-based optimization methods.

3.2 A Generative approach to adversarial example detection/classification

Our experimental results suggest that a detector trained with objective 5 has a strong generative property: performing adversarial attacks to detector k causes visual features of class k to appear in the attacked data (in some cases, the attacked data become a valid instance of class k). Although a similar phenomenon is observed in standard adversarial training (Engstrom et al., 2019; Santurkar et al., 2019; Tsipras et al., 2018), the generative property of the detectors is much stronger than a softmax adversarially robust classier (see Figure 3, Figure 5, and Figure 6). These results motivate us to interpret the base detector as an unnormalized density model (i.e., an energy-based model (LeCun et al., 2006)) of the class-conditional data. This interpretation allows us to obtain the joint probability of the input and a class category using the Gibbs distribution: $p(x,k) = \frac{\exp(-E_{\theta_k}(x))}{Z_\Theta}$, where $E_{\theta_k}(x) = -z(h_k(x))$, and $Z_\Theta = \sum_k \int \exp(-E_{\theta_k}(x))dx$ is an intractable normalizing constant known as the partition function. We can then apply the Bayes classification rule to obtain a *generative classifier*: $H(x) = \arg\max_k p(x,k) = \arg\max_k z(h_k(x))$. (Without a probabilistic interpretation, the above rule would equivalent to one-versus-the-rest classification.) In addition, we can base on $p(x,k)$ to reject low probability inputs. We implement the reject option by thresholding $\hat{k}$-th detector's logit output, where $\hat{k}$ is the predicted class. In the task of adversarial example detection, rejected samples are considered as adversarial examples.

4 Evaluation methodology

4.1 Robustness test

We first test the robustness of individual detectors. We show that, once a detector is trained with an adequately configured PGD attack, its performance cannot be significantly reduced by an adversary with much stronger configurations. We note that although the PGD attack has been shown (Madry et al., 2017) to be able to induce robustness in ordinary adversarial training, the test is necessary as it is not clear whether the optimization landscape of the generative objective is the same as its discriminative counterpart. For instance, we found that the step size used by Madry et al. (2017) to train their CIFAR10 robust classifier would not induce robustness to our detectors (see Appendix C.2.2). Furthermore, we use adversarial finetuning on CIFAR10 and ImageNet to speedup detector training. With the robustness test, we show that PGD attack also introduces robustness within this new training paradigm.

We use AUC (area under the ROC Curve) to measure detection performances. The metric could be interpreted as the probability that the detector assigns a higher score to a random positive sample than to a random negative example. While true positive rate and false positive rate are the commonly used metrics for measuring detection performances, they require a detection threshold to be specified. AUC, however, is an aggregated measurement of detection performance across a range of thresholds, and we found it to be a more stable and reliable metric. For the k-th detector h_k, its AUC is computed on the set $\{(x,0) : x \in \mathcal{D'}^f_{\setminus k}\} \cup \{(x,1) : x \in \mathcal{D}^f_k\}$, where $\mathcal{D'}^f_{\setminus k} = \{\arg\max_{x+\delta} L(h_k(x+\delta;\theta_k), 0) : x \in \mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k})\}$ (refer to loss 4).

4.2 DETECTION PERFORMANCE

Having validated the robustness of individual detectors, we evaluate the overall performance of our integrated detection system. Recalling our detection rule, we first obtain the estimated class label $k = f(x)$, then use the k-th detector's logit output $z(h_k(x))$ to predict: if $z(h_k(x)) \geq T_k$, then x is a natural sample, otherwise it is an adversarially perturbed sample. For the sake of this evaluation, we use a universal threshold for all the detectors: $\forall k \in \{1...K\}\, T_k = T$, and report detection performance at a range of universal thresholds. In practice, however, the optimal value of each detector's detection threshold T_k should be determined by optimizing a utility function.

We use $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$ to denote the test set that contains natural samples, and $\mathcal{D}' = \{(x_i + \delta_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$ to denote the corresponding perturbed test set. For a given threshold T, we compute the true positive rate (TPR) on $\mathcal{D}$ and false positive rate (FPR) on $\mathcal{D}'$. These two metrics are respectively defined as

$$\text{TPR} = \frac{1}{N}|\{x : z(h_k(x)) \geq T, k = f(x), x \in \mathcal{D}\}|, \tag{6}$$

and

$$\text{FPR} = \frac{1}{N}|\{x : z(h_k(x)) \geq T, k = f(x), f(x) \neq y, (x, y) \in \mathcal{D}'\}|. \tag{7}$$

In the FPR definition we use $f(x) \neq y$ to constrain that *only true adversarial examples* are counted as false positives. This constraint is necessary, as we found that for the norm ball constraint we considered in the experiments, not all perturbed samples are adversarial examples that cause misclassification on f.

In order to craft the perturbed dataset $\mathcal{D}'$, we consider three attacking scenarios.

Classifier attack. This attack corresponds to the scenario where the adversary is oblivious to the detection mechanism. For a given natural sample x and its label y, the perturbed sample x' is computed by minimizing the loss,

$$L(x') = z(f(x'))_y - \max_{i \neq y} z(f(x'))_i, \tag{8}$$

where $z(f(x'))$ is the classifier's logit outputs. This objective is derived from the CW attack (Carlini & Wagner, 2017b) and used in MadryLab (b;a) to perform untargeted attacks.

Detectors attack. In this scenario adversarial examples are produced by attacking *only* the detectors. We construct a single detection function H by using the i-th detector's logit output as its i-th logit output: $z(H(x))_i = z(h_i(x))$. H is then recognized as a single network, and the perturbed sample x' for a given input (x, y) is computed by minimizing the loss

$$L(x') = -\max_{i \neq y} z(H(x'))_i. \tag{9}$$

According to our detection rule, a low value of the detector's logit output indicates detection of an adversarial example, thus by minimizing the negative of logit output we make the perturbed example harder to detect. H could also be fed directly to the CW loss 8 or to the cross-entropy loss, but we found the attack based on the loss in 9 to be significantly more effective.

Combined attack. With the goal of fooling both the classifier and detectors, perturbed samples are produced by attacking the integrated detection system. We consider two loss functions for realizing the combined attack. The first is based on the combined loss function (Carlini & Wagner, 2017a) that has been shown to be effective against existing detection methods. Given a natural example x and its label y, same as the detectors-attack scenario, we first construct a single detection function H by aggregating the logit outputs of individual detectors: $z(H(x))_i = z(h_i(x))$. We then use the aggregated detector's largest logit output $\max_{k \neq y} z(H(x))_k$ (low value of this quantity indicates detection of an adversarial example) and the classifier logit outputs $z(f(x))$ to construct a surrogate classifier g, with its logit outputs being

$$z(g(x))_i = \begin{cases} z(f(x))_i & \text{if } i \leq K, \\ (-\max_{j \neq y} z(H(x))_j + 1) \cdot \max_j z(f(x))_j & \text{if } i = K + 1. \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

A perturbed example x' is then computed by minimizing the loss function

$$L(x') = \max_i z(g(x'))_i - \max_{i \neq y} z(f(x'))_i. \tag{11}$$

In practice we observe that the optimization of this loss tends to stuck at the point where $\max_{i \neq y} z(f(x'))_i$ keeps changing signs while $\max_{j \neq y} z(H(x))_j$ stays as a large negative number (which indicates detection). To derive a more effective attack we consider a simple combination of loss 8 and loss 9:

$$L(x') = \begin{cases} z(f(x'))_y - \max_{i \neq y} z(f(x'))_i & \text{if } z(f(x'))_y \geq \max_{i \neq y} z(f(x'))_i, \\ -\max_{i \neq y} z(H(x'))_i & \text{else.} \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

The objective is straightforward: if x' is not yet an adversarial example on f, optimize it for that goal; otherwise optimize it for fooling the aggregated detector.

We mention briefly here that we perform the same performance analysis of the generative detection method as detailed in Section 3.2, by computing TPR on $\mathcal{D}$ and FPR on $\mathcal{D}'$, where $\mathcal{D}'$ is computed using loss 9, loss 8 and the cross-entropy loss.

4.3 Robust Classification Performance

Integrated classification. In addition to the generative classifier proposed in Section 3.2, we introduce another classification scheme that comes with a reject option. The scheme is based on a combination of the naive classifier f and the detectors: for a given input x and its prediction label $k = f(x)$, if $z(h_k(x)) < T$, then x is rejected, otherwise it's classified as k. We respectively use loss 12 and 9 to attack the integrated classifier and the generative classifier.

Performance metric. In the context of robust classification, the performance of a robust classifier is measured using standard accuracy and robust accuracy — accuracies respectively computed on the natural dataset and perturbed dataset. On the natural dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$, we compute the accuracy as the fraction of samples that are correctly classified ($f(x) = y$) and at the same time not rejected ($z(h_k(x)) \geq T$):

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{1}{N} |\{x : z(h_k(x)) \geq T, k = f(x), f(x) = y, (x, y) \in \mathcal{D}\}|. \tag{13}$$

On the perturbed dataset $\mathcal{D}' = \{(x_i + \delta_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$ we compute the *error* as the fraction of samples that are misclassified ($f(x) \neq y$) and at the same time not rejected:

$$\text{Error} = \frac{1}{N} |\{x : z(h_k(x)) \geq T, k = f(x), f(x) \neq y, (x, y) \in \mathcal{D}'\}|. \tag{14}$$

Note that in this case the error is no longer a complement of the accuracy. For a classification system with a reject option, any *perturbed samples* that are rejected should be considered as properly handled, regardless of whether they are misclassified. Thus on the perturbed dataset, the error, which is the fraction of misclassified and not rejected samples, is a more proper notion of such system's performance. For a standard softmax robust classifier that comes without an reject option, its perturbed set error is computed as the complement of its accuracy on the perturbed set.

5 Experiments

5.1 MNIST

Using different p-norm and maximum perturbation ϵ constrains we trained four detection systems (each has 10 base detectors), with training and validation adversarial examples optimized using PGD attacks of different steps and step sizes (see Table 6). At each step of PGD attack we use the Adam optimizer to perform gradient descent, both for L_2 and L_∞ constrained scenarios. Appendix A.1 provides more training details.

Robustness results. The robustness test results in Table 1 confirm that the base detectors trained with objective 5 are able to withstand much stronger PGD attacks, for both L_2 and L_∞ scenarios. In Table 8 we present the robustness test result using normalized steepest descent based attack. We also performed other types of tests, including cross-norm test, cross-perturbation test, and random restart test. The results of these tests, along with the complete robustness test results on L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ and L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ trained detectors, are presented in Appendix C.1.

Table 1: AUC scores of the first two detectors ($k = 0, 1$) tested with different strengths of Adam based PGD attacks.

PGD attack	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ detectors		L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ detectors	
steps, step size	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 0$	$k = 1$
200, 0.01	0.99959	0.99971	0.99830	0.99869
2000, 0.005	0.99958	0.99971	0.99796	0.99861

PGD attack	L_2 $\epsilon = 2.5$ detectors		L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$ detectors	
steps, step size	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 0$	$k = 1$
200, 0.1	0.99962	0.99968	0.99578	0.99987
2000, 0.05	0.99927	0.99900	0.99529	0.99918

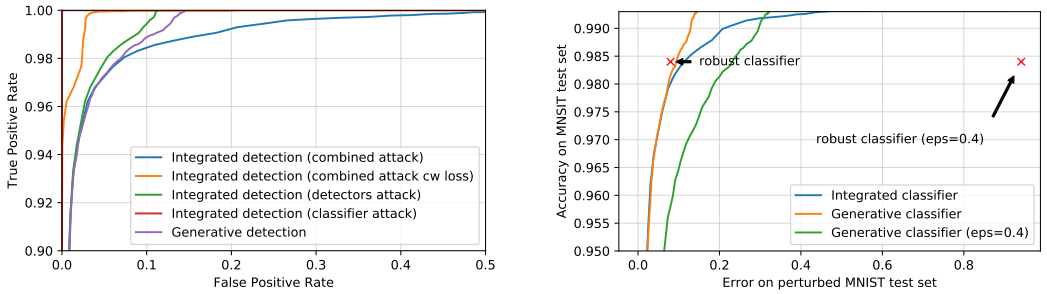
Table 2: MNIST mean L_2 distortion (higher is better) of perturbed samples when the detection method has 1.0 FPR on perturbed set and 0.95 TPR on natural set.

Detection method	Mean L_2 distortion
State-of-the-art (Carlini & Wagner, 2017a)	3.68
Ours (use L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ trained base detectors)	4.40
Ours (use L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ trained base detectors)	5.65

Detection results. Figure 2a shows that generative detection outperforms integrated detection (compare their performances under their respective most effective attacks). Combined attack, as expected, is the most effective attack against integrated detection. Attack based on loss 9 is the most effective attack against generative detection (see Figure 7). Notably, the red curve that overlaps the y-axis indicates that integrated detection is able to perfectly detect adversarial examples crafted by attacking only the classifier (using objective 8).

In Table 2 we list the performances of the generative detection method along with the state-of-the-art detection method as identified by Carlini & Wagner (2017a). Our method, apart from being able to provide performance guarantee, outperforms the state-of-the-art method by large margins. (Please refer to Appendix B for a description of how we compute the mean L_2 distortions.)

Classification results. In Figure 2b we plot the robust classification performance of our classification methods and a state-of-the-art discriminative robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017). Our methods provide reject options that allow the user to find a balance between standard accuracy and robust error by adjusting the rejection threshold. We observe that a stronger attack ($\epsilon = 0.4$) breaks the robust classifier (as indicated by the right red cross), while the generative classifier still exhibits robustness, even though both systems are trained with L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ constrain.



(a) (b)

Figure 2: (a) Performances of integrated detection and generative detection under L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ constrained attack. (b) Performances of the integrated classifier (discussed in Section 4.3) and generative classifier under L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ constrained and L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.4$ constrained attacks. The performances of the robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017) (accuracy 0.984, error 0.08 at $\epsilon = 0.3$, and accuracy 0.984, error 0.941 at $\epsilon = 0.4$) are indicated with red cross marks. PGD attack steps 100, step size 0.01.

Figure 3 shows perturbed samples produced by performing targeted attacks against the generative classifier and robust classifier. The generative classifier's perturbation samples have distinguishable visible features of the target class, indicating that the base detectors, from which the generative classifier is built, have learned the class conditional distributions, and the perturbations have to change the semantics for a successful attack. In contrast, perturbations introduced by attacking the robust classifier are not interpretable, even though they could cause high logit output of the

target classes (see Figure 8 for the logit outputs distribution). Following this path and with a larger perturbation limit, it is straightforward to generate completely unrecognizable inputs that fool the discriminative robust classifier.

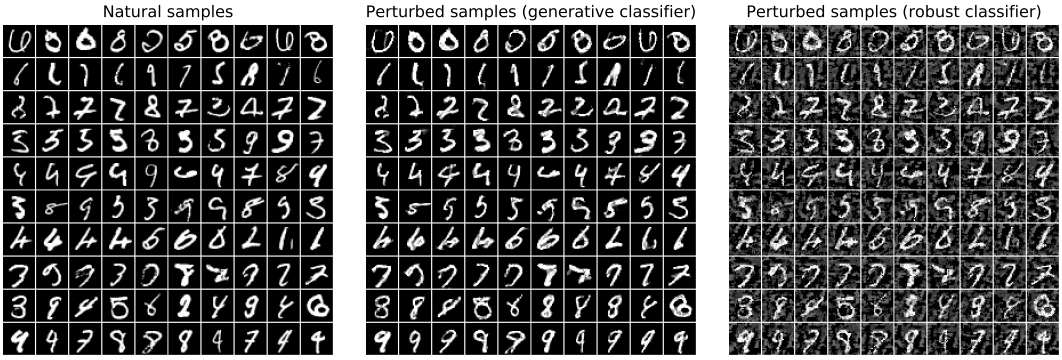


Figure 3: Natural samples and corresponding perturbed samples produced by performing a targeted attack against the generative classifier and robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017). Targets from top row to bottom row are digit class from 0 to 9. We perform the targeted attack by maximizing the logit output of the targeted class, using L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.4$ constrained PGD attack of steps 100 and step size 0.01. Both classifiers are trained with L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ constraint.

5.2 CIFAR10

On CIFAR10 we train the base detectors using L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ constrain PGD attack of steps 40 and step size 0.5. Note that the scale of ϵ and step size here is 0-255 (rather than 0-1 as in the case of MNIST). The robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017) that we compare with is trained with the same L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ constraint but with a different step size (see Appendix C.2.2 for a discussion of the effects of step size). Appendix A.2 provides the training details.

Robustness results. Table 3 shows that the base detector models can withstand attacks that are significantly stronger than the training attack. In Appendix C.2.1 we report random restart test results, cross-norm and cross-perturbation test results, and robustness test result for L_2 based models.

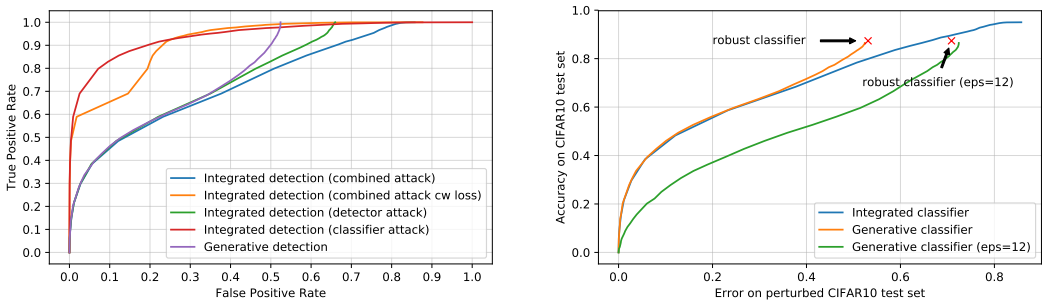
Table 3: AUC scores of the first two L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ base detectors under different strengths of the L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ constrained PGD attack.

L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ detectors	L_∞ attack steps and step size				
	20, 2.0	40, 0.5	200, 0.1	200, 0.5	500, 0.5
Base detector $k = 0$	0.9224	0.9234	0.9231	0.9205	0.9203
Base detector $k = 1$	0.9533	0.9553	0.9550	0.9504	0.9500

Detection results. Consistent with the MNIST results, in Figure 4a combined attack is the most effective method against integrated detection. Generative detection outperforms integrated detection when the detection threshold is low (i.e., when TPR is high). In this figure we use loss 9 to attack generative detection, and in Figure 9 we show that this loss is more effective than cross-entropy loss and CW loss. In Table 4 our method outperforms the state-of-the-art adversarial detection method.

Table 4: CIFAR10 mean L_2 distortion (higher is better) of perturbed samples when the detection method has 1.0 FPR on perturbed set and 0.95 TPR on natural set. Appendix B provides details about how the mean L_2 distances are computed.

Detection method	Mean L_2 distortion (0-1 scale)
State-of-the-art (Carlini & Wagner, 2017a)	1.1
Ours (use L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ trained models)	1.5



(a) (b)

Figure 4: (a) Performances of generative detection and integrated detection under L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ attack. (b) Performances of integrated classifier (discussed in Section 4.3) and generative classifier under L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ constrained and L_∞ $\epsilon = 12$ constrained attacks. The performances of the robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017) (accuracy 0.8735, error 0.5311 at $\epsilon = 8$, and accuracy 0.8735, error 0.7087 at $\epsilon = 12$) are annotated. PGD attack step size 2.0, steps 20 for $\epsilon = 8$, and 30 for $\epsilon = 12$.

Classification results. Contrary to MNIST's result, we did not observe a dramatic decrease in the robust classifier's performance when we increase the perturbation limit to $\epsilon = 12$ (Figure 4b). Integrated classification can reach the standard accuracy of a regular classifier, but at the cost of significantly increased error on the perturbed set. Figure 5 shows some perturbed samples produced by attacking the generative classifier and robust classifier. While these two classifiers have similar errors on the perturbed set, samples produced by attacking the generative classifier have more visible features of the targets, suggesting that the adversary has to change more semantic to cause the same error.

Figures 6 and 10 demonstrate that hard to recognize images are able to cause high logit outputs of the robust classifier. Such examples highlight a major defect of the defense mechanisms based on ordinary adversarial training: they could be easily fooled by unrecognizable inputs (Nguyen et al., 2015; Goodfellow et al., 2014; Schott et al., 2018). In contrast, samples that cause high logit outputs of the generative classifier all have clear semantic meaning. In Figure 13 we present image synthesis results using L_∞ $\epsilon = 16$ constrained detectors. In Appendix D we provide Gaussian noise attack results and a discussion about the interpretability of the generative classification approach.

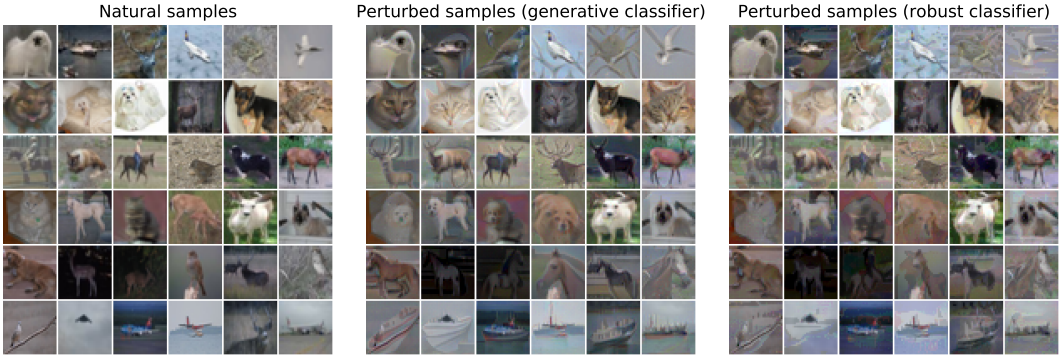


Figure 5: Natural samples and corresponding perturbed samples by performing targeted attack against the generative classifier and robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017). The targeted attack is performed by maximizing the logit output of the targeted class. We use L_∞ $\epsilon = 12$ constrained PGD attack of steps 30 and step size 2.0 to produce these samples.

5.3 IMAGENET

On ImageNet we show GAT induces detection robustness and supports the learning of class conditional distributions. Our experiment is based on Restricted ImageNet (Tsipras et al., 2018), a subset

Figure 6: Images generated from class conditional Gaussian noise by performing targeted attack against the generative classifier and robust classifier. We use PGD attack of steps 60 and step size 0.5×255 to perform L_2 $\epsilon = 30 \times 255$ constrained attack (same as Santurkar et al. (2019). The Gaussian noise inputs from which these two plots are generated are the same. Samples not selected.

of ImageNet that has its samples reorganized into customized categories. The dog category consists of images of different breeds collected from ImageNet class from 151 to 268. We trained a dog class detector by finetuning a pre-trained ResNet50 (He et al., 2016) model. The dog category covers a range of ImageNet classes, with each one having its logit output. We use the subnetwork defined by the logit output of class 151 as the detector (in principle logit output of other classes in the range should also work). Due to computational resource constraints, we only validated the robustness of a L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.02$ trained detector (trained with PGD attack of steps 40 and step size 0.001), and we present the result in Table 5. (On Restricted ImageNet in the case of L_∞ scenario Tsipras et al. (2018) only demonstrates the robustness of a $\epsilon = 0.005$ constrained model). Please refer to Appendix C.3 for more results on adversarial example generation and image synthesis.

Table 5: AUC scores of the dog detector under different strengths of L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.02$ constrained PGD attacks

Attack steps, step size	40, 0.001	100, 0.001	200, 0.001	40, 0.002	200, 0.002	200, 0.0005
AUC	0.9720	0.9698	0.9692	0.9703	0.9690	0.9698

6 Conclusion

We studied the problem of adversarial example detection under the robust optimization framework and proposed a novel detection method based on input space partitioning. Our formulation leads to a new generative modeling technique which we called generative adversarial training (GAT). GAT's capability to learn class conditional distributions further gives rise to generative detection/classification approaches that show competitive performance and improved interpretability. In particular, our generative classification method is more resistant to "rubbish examples", a major threat to even the most successful defense mechanisms. High computational cost (see Appendix E for more discussion) is a major drawback of our methods, and in the future, we will explore the idea of shared computation between detectors.

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A Training Details

A.1 MNIST training

We use 50K samples from the original training set for training and the rest 10K samples for validation, and report test performances based on the epoch-saved checkpoint that gives the best validation performance. All base detectors are trained using a network consisting of two max-pooled convolutional layers each with 32 and 64 filters, and a fully connected layer of size 1024: same as the one used in Madry et al. (2017). At each iteration we sample a batch of 320 samples, from which in-class samples are used as positive samples, and out-of-class samples are used for crafting adversarial examples that will be used as negative samples. To balance positive and negative examples at each batch, we resample the out-of-class set to have same number of samples as in-class set. All base detectors are trained for 100 epochs.

Table 6: MNIST dataset PGD attack steps and step sizes for base detector training and validation.

	L_2 models		L_∞ models	
	$\epsilon = 2.5$	$\epsilon = 5.0$	$\epsilon = 0.3$	$\epsilon = 0.5$
Train	100, 0.1	200, 0.1	100, 0.01	100, 0.01
Validation	200, 0.1	200, 0.1	200, 0.01	200, 0.01

A.2 CIFAR10 TRAINING

We train CIFAR10 base detectors using a ResNet model (same as the one used by Madry et al. (2017); MadryLab (a)). To speedup training, we take advantage of a natural trained classifier: the subnetwork of f that defines the output logit $z(f(\cdot))_k$ is essentially a "detector", that would output high values for samples of class k, and low values for others. The base detector is then trained by finetuning the subnetwork using objective 5. The pretrained classifier has a test accuracy of 95.01% (fetched from MadryLab (a)).

At each iteration of training we sample a batch of 300 samples, from which in-class samples are used as positive samples, while an equal number of out-of-class samples are used for crafting adversarial examples. Adversarial examples for training L_2 and L_∞ models are both optimized using normalized steepest descent based PGD attacks (MadryLab, b). We report results based on the best performances on the CIFAR10 test set (thus don't claim generalization performance of the proposed method).

B COMPUTING MEAN L_2 DISTANCE

We first find the detection threshold T with which the detection system has 0.95 TPR. We construct a new loss function by adding a weighted loss term that measures perturbation size to objective 9

$$L(x') = -\max_{i \neq y} z(H(x'))_i + c \cdot \|x' - x\|_2^2. \tag{15}$$

We then use *unconstrained* PGD attack to optimize $L(x')$. We use binary search to find the optimal c, where in each bsearch attempt if x' is a false positive ($\max_i z(H(x'))_i \neq y$ and $\max_{i \neq y} z(H(x'))_i > T$) we consider the current c as effective and continue with a larger c. The configurations for performing binary search and PGD attack are detailed in Table 7. The c upper bound is established such that with this upper bound, no samples except those that are inherently misclassified by the generative classifier, could be perturbed as a false positive. With these settings, our MNIST L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ and L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ generative detection models respective reached 1.0 FPR and 0.9455 FPR, and CIFAR10 generative model reached 0.9995 FPR.

Table 7: Binary search and PGD attack configurations on MNIST and CIFAR10 dataset

Dataset	Initial c	c lower bound	c upper bound	bsearch depth	PGD steps	PGD step size	Threshold	PGD optimizer
MNIST	0.0	0.0	8.0	20	1000	1.0 (0-1 scale)	3.6	Adam
CIFAR10	0.0	0.0	1.0	20	100	2.56 (0-255 scale)	-5.0	L_2 normalized steepest descent

C MORE EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

C.1 MORE MNIST RESULTS

Table 8: AUC scores of the first two base detectors under different strengths of normalized steepest descent based PGD attacks . The gradient descent rules for L_2 and L_∞ constrained attacks are respectively $x_{n+1} = x_n - \gamma \frac{\nabla f(x_n)}{\|\nabla f(x_n)\|_2}$ and $x_{n+1} = x_n - \gamma \cdot \text{sign}(\nabla f(x_n))$.

PGD attack steps, step size	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ base detector		L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ base detector	
	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 0$	$k = 1$
200, 0.01	0.99962	0.99973	0.99820	0.99901
2000, 0.005	0.99959	0.99971	0.99795	0.99872

PGD attack steps, step size	L_2 $\epsilon = 2.5$ base detector		L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$ base detector	
	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 0$	$k = 1$
200, 0.1	0.99906	0.99916	0.99960	0.99997
2000, 0.05	0.99855	0.99883	0.99237	0.99994

Table 9: AUC scores of the first two base detectors under cross-norm and cross-perturbation attacks. L_∞ based attacks use steps 200 and step size 0.01, and L_2 based attacks uses steps 200 and step size 0.1.

	$k = 0$ base detector				$k = 1$ base detector			
Attack	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$	L_2 $\epsilon = 2.5$	L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$	L_2 $\epsilon = 2.5$	L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$
L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$	0.99959	0.99966	0.99927	0.99925	0.99971	0.99967	0.99949	0.99984
L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$	0.99436	0.9983	0.99339	0.99767	0.99778	0.99869	0.99397	0.99961
L_2 $\epsilon = 2.5$	0.99974	0.99969	0.99962	0.99944	0.99965	0.99955	0.99968	0.99987
L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$	0.96421	0.98816	0.97747	0.99577	0.98268	0.98687	0.98117	0.99986

Table 10: AUC scores of the first MNIST base detector under fixed start and multiple random restarts attacks. These two tests use the same attack configuration: the L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ trained base detector is attacked using L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ constrained PGD attack of steps 200 and step size 0.01, and the L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$ trained base detector is attacked using L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$ constrained PGD attack of steps 200 and step size 0.1.

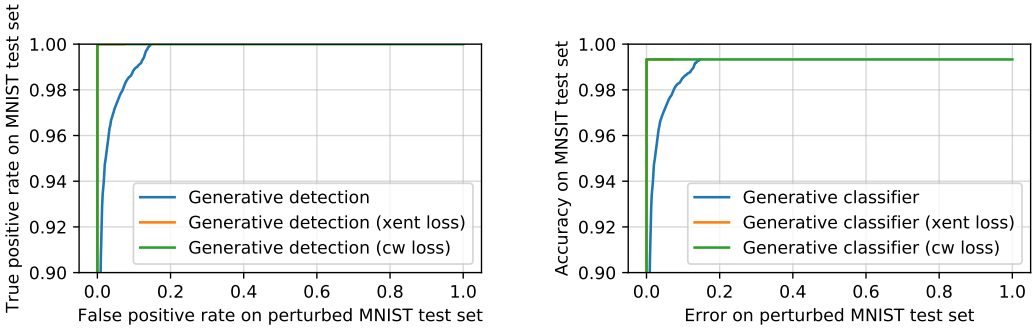
	MNIST $k = 0$ base detector	
Attack	L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ trained	L_2 $\epsilon = 5.0$ trained
fixed start	0.99830	0.99578
50 random restarts	0.99776	0.99501

Table 11: AUC scores of all L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ trained base detectors. Tested with L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ constrained PGD attacks of steps 200 and step size 0.01.

Base detector	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 2$	$k = 3$	$k = 4$	$k = 5$	$k = 6$	$k = 7$	$k = 8$	$k = 9$
AUC	0.99959	0.99971	0.99876	0.99861	0.99859	0.99861	0.99795	0.99863	0.99687	0.99418

Table 12: AUC scores of all L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ trained base detectors. Tested with L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$ constrained PGD attacks of steps 200 and step size 0.01.

Base detector	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 2$	$k = 3$	$k = 4$	$k = 5$	$k = 6$	$k = 7$	$k = 8$	$k = 9$
AUC	0.99830	0.99869	0.99327	0.99355	0.99314	0.99228	0.99424	0.99439	0.97875	0.9769



(a) (b)

Figure 7: Performance of generative detection (a) and generative classification (b) on MNIST dataset under attacks with different loss functions. Please refer to MadryLab (b) for the implementations of cross-entropy loss and CW loss based attacks.

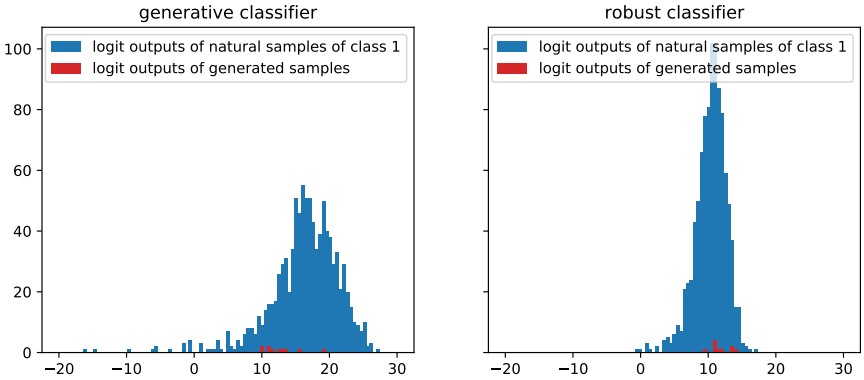


Figure 8: Distributions of class 1's logit outputs of natural samples from class 1 and perturbed samples from the first row of Figure 3 (MNIST dataset).

C.2 MORE CIFAR10 RESULTS

C.2.1 MORE ROBUSTNESS TEST RESULTS

Table 13: AUC scores of the first ($k = 0$) CIFAR10 base detector under fixed start and multiple random restarts attacks. The L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ base detector is attacked using PGD attack of steps 10 and step size 0.5, and the L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ base detector is attacked using PGD attack of steps 40 and step size 0.5.

	CIFAR10 $k = 0$ base detector	
Attack	L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ trained	L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ trained
fixed start	0.9866	0.9234
10 random starts	0.9866	0.9233

Table 14: AUC scores of the first ($k = 0$) L_∞ $\epsilon = 8$ trained CIFAR10 base detector under cross-norm and cross-perturbation attack.

Attack	AUC
L_2 $\epsilon = 80$, steps 20, step size 10	0.9814
L_∞ $\epsilon = 2$, steps 10, step size 0.5	0.9841

Table 15: AUC scores of the first two CIFAR10 L_2 $\epsilon = 80$ trained base detectors under different strengths of L_2 based PGD attacks. These two models are trained with L_2 based PGD attack of steps 20 and step size 10.

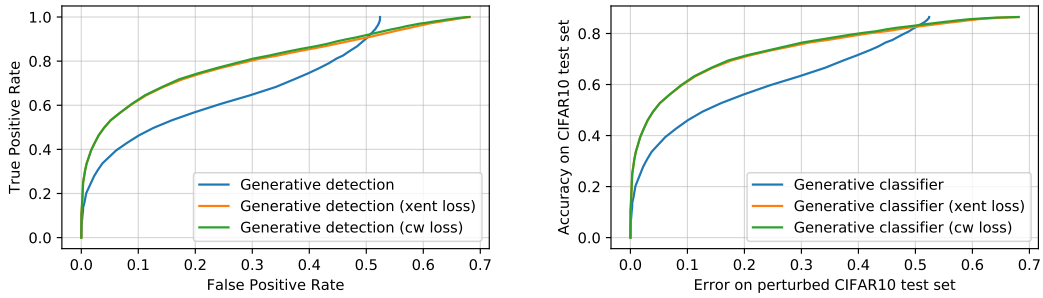
L_2 attack steps, step size	L_2 $\epsilon = 80$ models	
	$k = 0$	$k = 1$
20, 10	0.9839	0.9924
50, 5.0	0.9837	0.9922

Table 16: AUC scores of L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ trained base detectors under L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ constrained PGD attack of steps 10 and step size 0.5.

Base detector	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 2$	$k = 3$	$k = 4$	$k = 5$	$k = 6$	$k = 7$	$k = 8$	$k = 9$
AUC	0.9866	0.9926	0.9721	0.9501	0.9773	0.9636	0.9859	0.9908	0.9930	0.9916

Table 17: AUC scores of L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ trained base detectors under L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ constrained PGD attack of steps 40 and step size 0.5.

Base detector	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 2$	$k = 3$	$k = 4$	$k = 5$	$k = 6$	$k = 7$	$k = 8$	$k = 9$
AUC	0.9234	0.9553	0.8393	0.7893	0.8494	0.8557	0.9071	0.9276	0.9548	0.9370



(a) (b)

Figure 9: Performance of generative detection (a) and generative classification (b) on CIFAR10 dataset under attacks with different loss functions. Cross-entropy and CW loss is only able to outperforms loss 9 when detection threshold is low (over 0.9 TPR). Please refer to MadryLab (a) for the implementations of cross-entropy loss and CW loss based attacks.

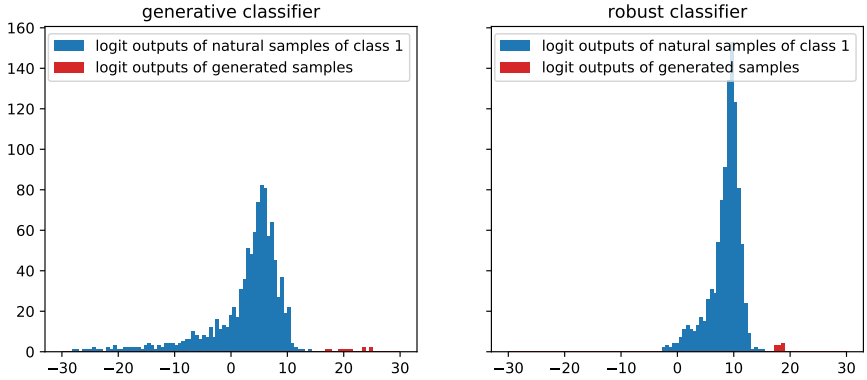


Figure 10: Distributions of class 1's logit outputs of natural samples of class 1 and generated samples from the first row of Figure 6 (CIFAR10 dataset).

C.2.2 TRAINING STEP SIZE AND ROBUSTNESS

We found training with adversarial examples optimized with a sufficiently small step size to be essential for detection robustness. In table 18 we tested two L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ base detectors respectively trained with 0.5 and 1.0 step size. The step size 1.0 model is not robust when tested with a much smaller step size. We observe that when training the step size 1.0 model, training set adv AUC reached 1.0 in less than one hundred iterations, but test set natural AUC plummeted to around 0.95 and couldn't recover thereafter. (Please refer to Figure 11 for the definitions of adv AUC and nat AUC.) This suggests that naturally occurring data, and perturbed data produced using a large step size, which are essentially noise images, live in two easily separable spaces, and training on such data is not beneficial for model performance on natural data or adversarial examples.

Table 18: AUC scores of two L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ base detectors trained with different steps and step sizes.

Attack steps, stepsize	Training steps, stepsize	
	10, 0.5	10, 1.0
10, 0.5	0.9866	0.9965
40, 0.1	0.9892	0.8848

C.2.3 EFFECTS OF PERTURBATION LIMIT

To study the effects of perturbation limit on generative adversarial training, we analysis the training dynamics of one L_∞ $\epsilon = 2.0$ constrained and one L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ constrained base detector. In Figure 11 we show the training and testing history of these two models. The $\epsilon = 2.0$ model history shows that by adversarial finetuning the model reaches robustness in just a few thousands of iterations, and the performance on natural samples is preserved (test natural AUC begins at 0.9971, and ends at 0.9981). Adversarial finetuning on the $\epsilon = 8.0$ model didn't converge after an extended 20K iterations of training. The gap between train adv AUC and test adv AUC of the $\epsilon = 8.0$ model is more pronounced, and we observed a decrease of test natural AUC from 0.9971 to 0.9909.

These results suggest that training with larger perturbation limit is more time and resource consuming, and could lead to performance decrease on natural samples. The benefit is that the detector is pushed to a better approximation of the target data distribution. As an illustration, in Figure 12, perturbations generated by attacking the naturally trained classifier (corresponds to 0 perturbation limit) don't have clear semantics, while perturbed samples of the L_∞ $\epsilon = 8.0$ model are completely recognizable.

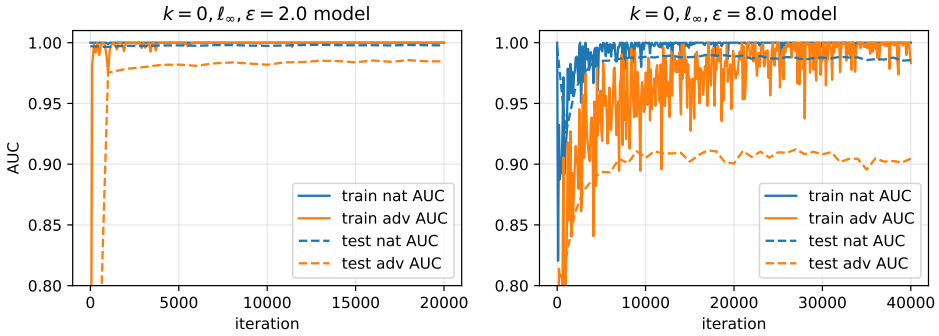


Figure 11: Training and testing AUC histories of two base detectors. Adv AUC is the AUC score computed on $\{(x, 0) : x \in \mathcal{D'}^f_{\setminus k}\} \cup \{(x, 1) : x \in \mathcal{D}^f_k\}$, and nat AUC is the score computed on $\{(x, 0) : x \in \mathcal{D}^f_{\setminus k}\} \cup \{(x, 1) : x \in \mathcal{D}^f_k\}$.

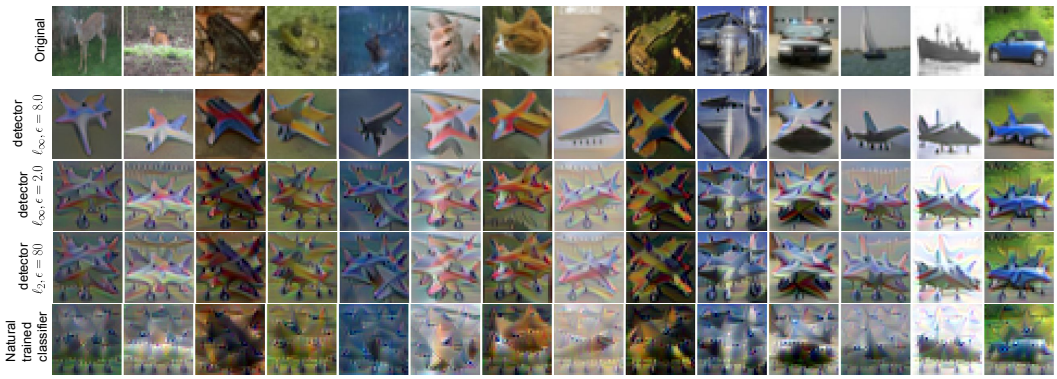


Figure 12: Perturbed samples produced by attacking the $k = 0$ (airplane) detectors and the natural trained classifier's 1st logit output. All samples reached the same L_2 perturbation of 1200 (produced using PGD attacks of step size 10.0).

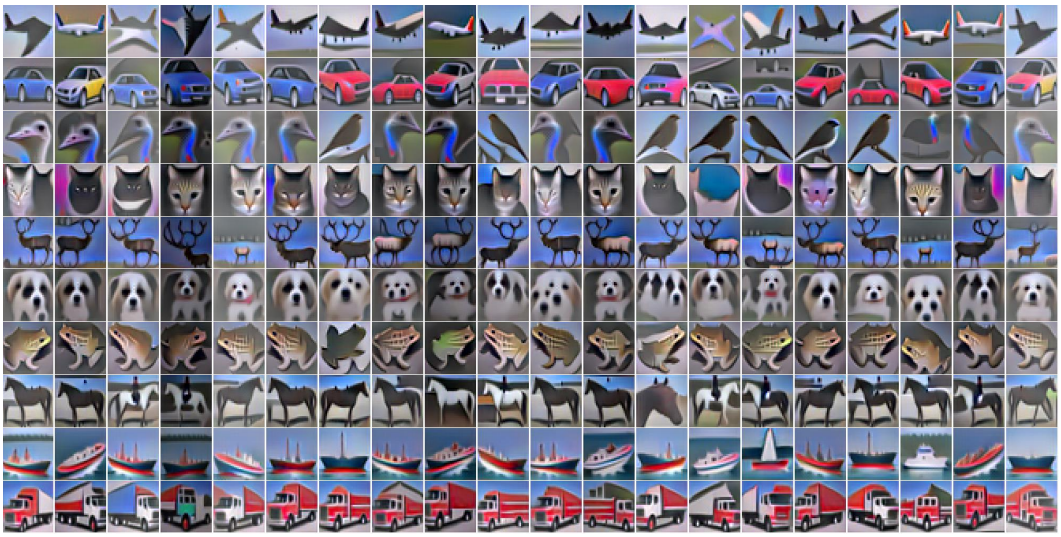
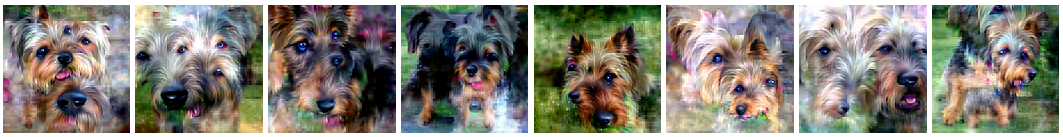


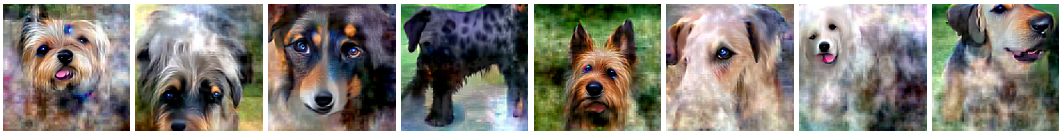
Figure 13: Images generated from class conditional Gaussian noise by attacking L_∞ $\epsilon = 16$ constrained CIFAR10 detectors. we use L_2 $\epsilon = 100 \times 255$ constrained PGD attack of steps 200 and step size 0.5×255. Samples not selected.

C.3 More ImageNet results

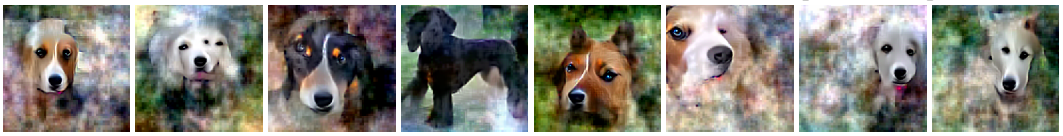
(a) L_2 $\epsilon = 3.5$ trained robust classifier with L_2 $\epsilon = 40$ constrained PGD attack of steps 60 and step size 1.0 (Santurkar et al., 2019).



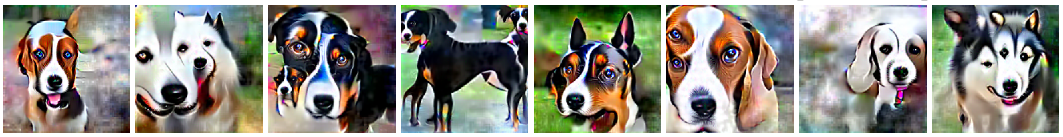
(b) L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.02$ trained detector with L_2 $\epsilon = 40$ constrained PGD attack of steps 60 and step size 1.0.



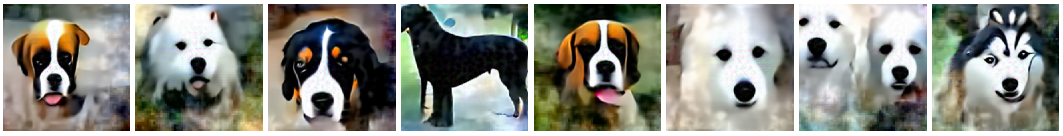
(c) L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.05$ trained detector with L_2 $\epsilon = 40$ constrained PGD attack of steps 60 and step size 1.0.



(d) L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.1$ trained detector with L_2 $\epsilon = 40$ constrained PGD attack of steps 60 and step size 1.0.



(e) L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.1$ trained detector with L_2 $\epsilon = 100$ constrained PGD attack of steps 10 and step size 10.0.



(f) L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ trained detector with L_2 $\epsilon = 100$ constrained PGD attack of steps 100 and step size 10.0.

Figure 14: ImageNet $224 \times 224 \times 3$ random samples generated from class conditional Gaussian noise by attacking robust classifier and detector models trained with different constrains. Note than large perturbation models didn't reach robustness. Please refer to Santurkar et al. (2019) for the detail about how the class conditional Gaussian is estimated.

(a)

(b)

Figure 15: Perturbed samples produced by attacking the L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ trained dog detector using L_2 $\epsilon = 30$ constrained PGD attack of steps 100 and step size 5. Top rows are original images, and second rows are attacked images.

Figure 16

Figure 17: More $224 \times 224 \times 3$ random samples generated by attacking the L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.3$ trained detector with L_2 $\epsilon = 100$ constrained PGD attack of steps 100 and step size 10.0.

D GAUSSIAN NOISE ATTACK AND MODEL INTERPRETABILITY

In this section we use Gaussian noise attack experiment to motivate a comparative analysis of the interpretabilities of our generative classification approach and discriminative robust classification approach (Madry et al., 2017).

We first discuss how these two approaches determine the posterior class probabilities. For the discriminative classifier, the posterior probabilities are computed from the logit outputs of the classifier using the softmax function $p(k|x) = \frac{\exp(z(f(x))_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \exp(z(f(x))_j)}$. For the generative classifier, the posterior probabilities are computed in two steps: in the first, we train the base detectors, which is the process of solving the inference problem of determining the joint probability $p(x, k)$, and in the second, we use Bayes rule to compute the posterior probability $p(k|x) = \frac{p(x,k)}{p(x)} = \frac{\exp(z(h_k(x)))}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \exp(z(h_j(x)))}$. Coincidentally, the formulas for computing the posterior probabilities take the same form. But in our approach, the exponential of the logit output of a detector (i.e., $\exp(z(h_k(x)))$) has a clear probabilistic interpretation: it's the *unnormalized joint probability* of the input and the corresponding class category. We use Gaussian noise attack to demonstrate that this probabilistic interpretation is consistent with visual perception.

We start from a Gaussian noise image, and gradually perturb it to cause higher and higher logit outputs. This is implemented by targeted PGD attack against logit outputs of these two classification models. The resulting images in Figure 18 show that, in our model, the logit output increase direction, i.e. the join probability increase direction, indicates the class semantic changing direction; while for the discriminative robust model, the perturbed image computed by increasing logit outputs are not as clearly interpretable. In particular, the perturbed images that cause high logit outputs of the robust classifiers are not recognizable.

In summary, as a generative classification approach that explicitly models class conditional distributions, our system offers a probabilistic view of the decision making process of the classification problem; adversarial attacks that rely on imperceptible or uninterpretable noises are not effective against such a system.

E COMPUTATIONAL COST ISSUE

In this section we provide an analysis of the computational cost of our generative classification approach. In terms of memory requirements, if we assume the softmax classifier (i.e., the discriminative robust classifier) and the detectors use the same architecture (i.e., only defer in the final layer) then the detector based generative classifier is approximately K times more expensive than the K-class softmax classifier. This also means that the computational graph of the generative classifier is K times larger than the softmax classifier. Indeed, in the CIFAR10 task, on our Quadro M6000 24GB GPU (TensorFlow 1.13.1), the inference speed of the generative classifier is roughly ten times slower than the softmax classifier.

We next benchmark the training speed of these two types of classifiers.

The generative classifier has K logit outputs, with each one defined by the logit output of a detector. Same with the softmax classifier, except that the K outputs share the parameters in the convolutional base. Now consider ordinary adversarial training on the softmax classifier and generative adversarial training on the generative classifier. To train the softmax classifier, we use batches of N samples. For the generative classifier, we train each detector with batches of $2 \times M$ samples (M positive samples and M negative samples). At each iteration, we need to respectively compute N and $M \times K$ adversarial examples for these two classifiers. Now we test the speed of the following two scenarios: 1) compute the gradient w.r.t. to N samples on a single computational graph, and 2) compute the gradient w.r.t to $M \times K$ samples on K computational graphs, with each graph working on M samples. We assume that in scenario 2 all the computational graphs are loaded to GPUs, and thus their computations are in parallel.

In our CIFAR10 experiment, we used batches consisting of 30 positive samples and 30 negative samples to train each ResNet50 based detectors. In Madry et al. (2017), the softmax classifier was trained with batches of 128 samples. In this case, $K = 10$, $M = 30$, and $N = 128$. On our GPU, scenario 1 took 683 ms $\pm$ 6.76 ms per loop, while scenario 2 took 1.85 s $\pm$ 42.7 ms per loop. In

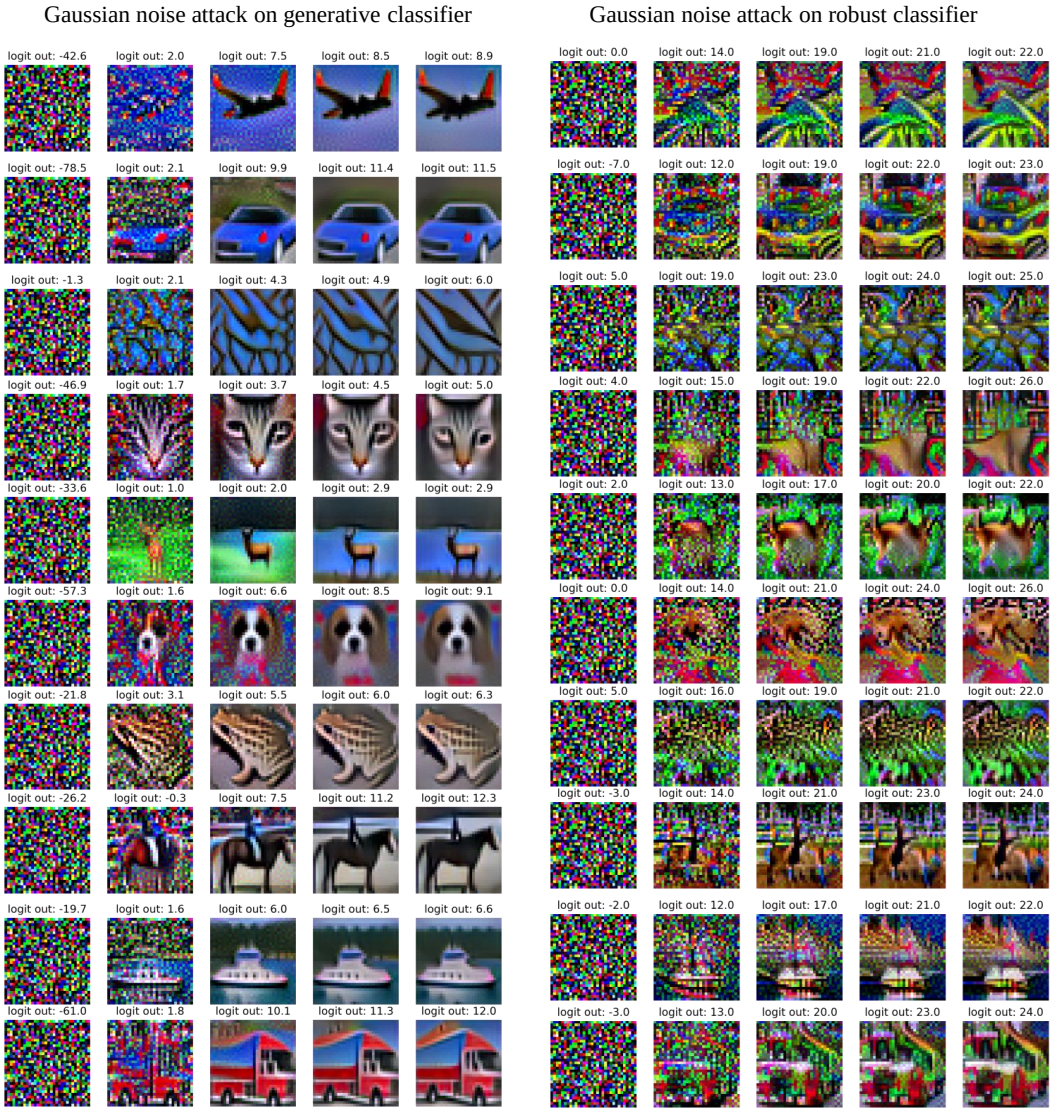


Figure 18: Image generated by attacking the generative classifier (based on L_∞ $\epsilon = 16$ trained detectors) and discriminative robust classifier (Madry et al., 2017) using (the same) Gaussian noise image. We used unconstrained L_2 PGD attack of step size 0.5*255. The five columns corresponding to the perturbed images at step 0, 50, 100, 150, and 200.

this case, we could expect generative adversarial training to be about 2.7 times slower than ordinary adversarial training, if not considering parameter gradient computation.

In practice, large batch size is almost always preferred. And our method won't compare as favorably if we choose to use one.

F Density estimation on synthetic datasets

While ordinary discriminative training only learns a good decision boundary, GAT is able to learn the underlying density functions that generate the training data. Results on 1D (Figure 19) and 2D benchmark datasets (Figure 20) show that through properly configured generative adversarial training, detectors' output recover target density functions.

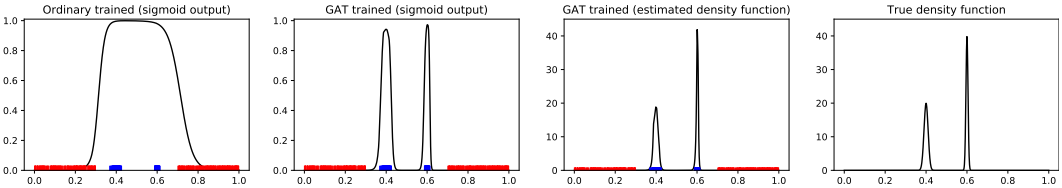


Figure 19: Ordinary discriminative training and generative adversarial training on real 1D data. The positive class data (blue points) are sampled from a mixture of Gaussians (mean 0.4 with std 0.01, and mean 0.6 with std 0.005, each with 250 samples). Both the blue and red data has 500 samples. The estimated density function is computed using Gibbs distribution and network logit outputs. PGD attack steps 20, step size 0.05, and perturbation limit $\epsilon = 0.3$.

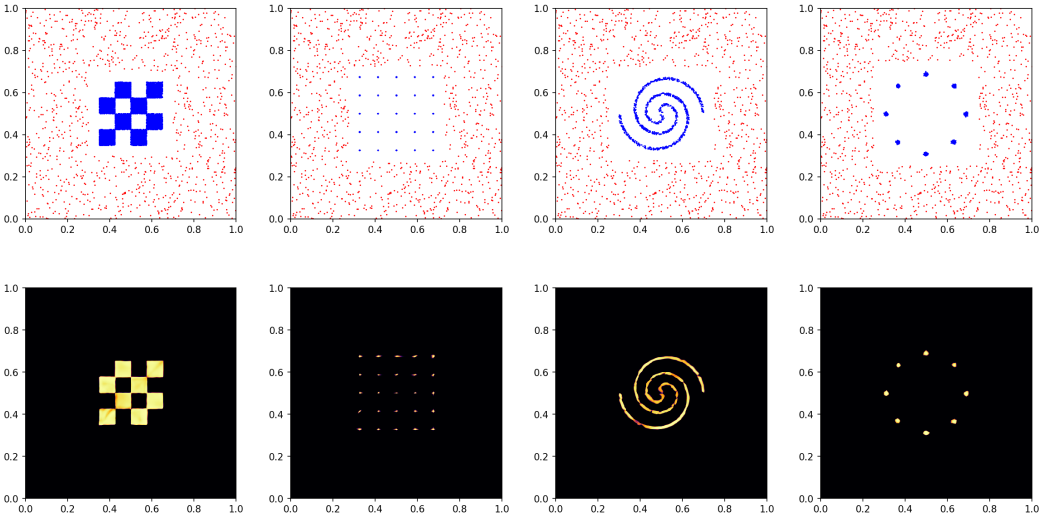


Figure 20: 2D datasets (top row, blue points are class 1 data, and red points are class 0 data, both have 1000 data points) and sigmoid outputs of GAT trained models (bottom row). The architecture of the MLP model for solving these tasks is 2-500-500-500-500-500-1. PGD attack steps 10, step size 0.05, and perturbation limit L_∞ $\epsilon = 0.5$.