MADS&P
Security and Privacy Research Group
at UW-Madison

The Interplay Between Vulnerabilities in Machine Learning Systems

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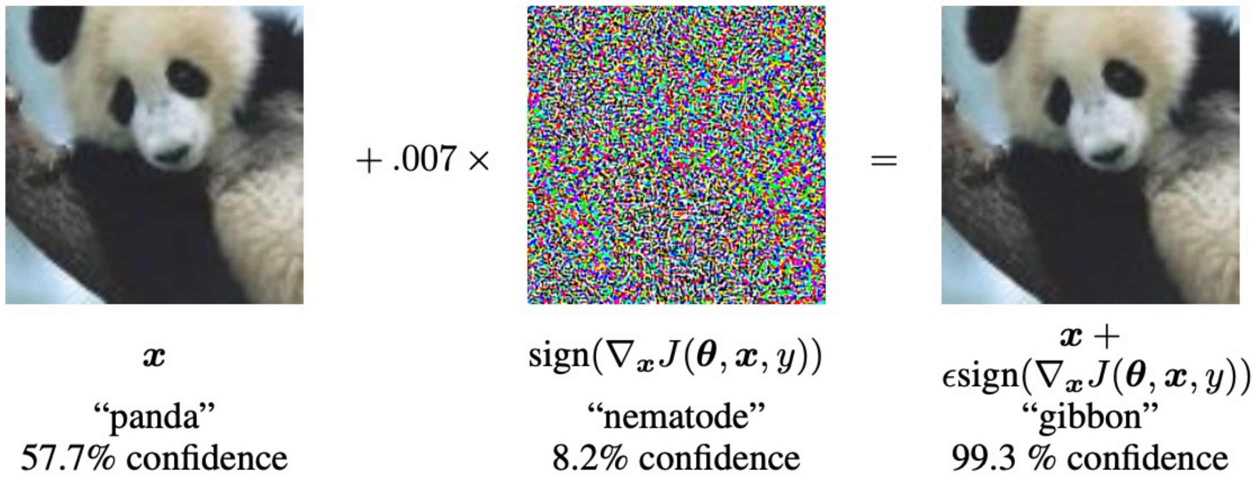
Motivation

Adversarial robustness of real-world ML systems?

ML Model Attacks & Defenses

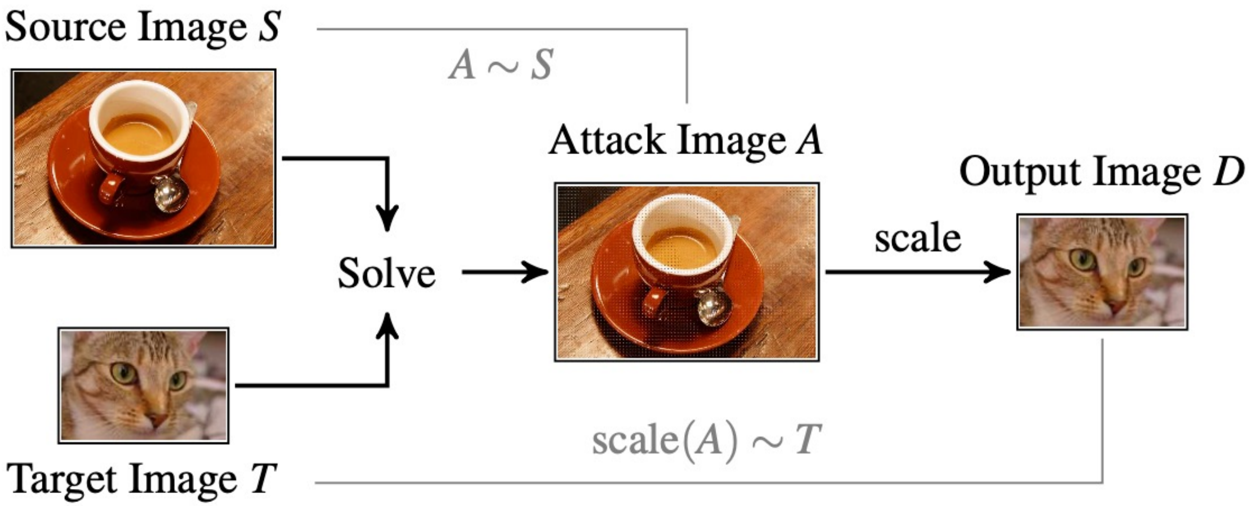


(Szegedy et al. 2013, Goodfellow et al. 2015)

- Adversarial Training
- Randomized Smoothing
- Pre-processing
- Post-processing
- Detection
- …

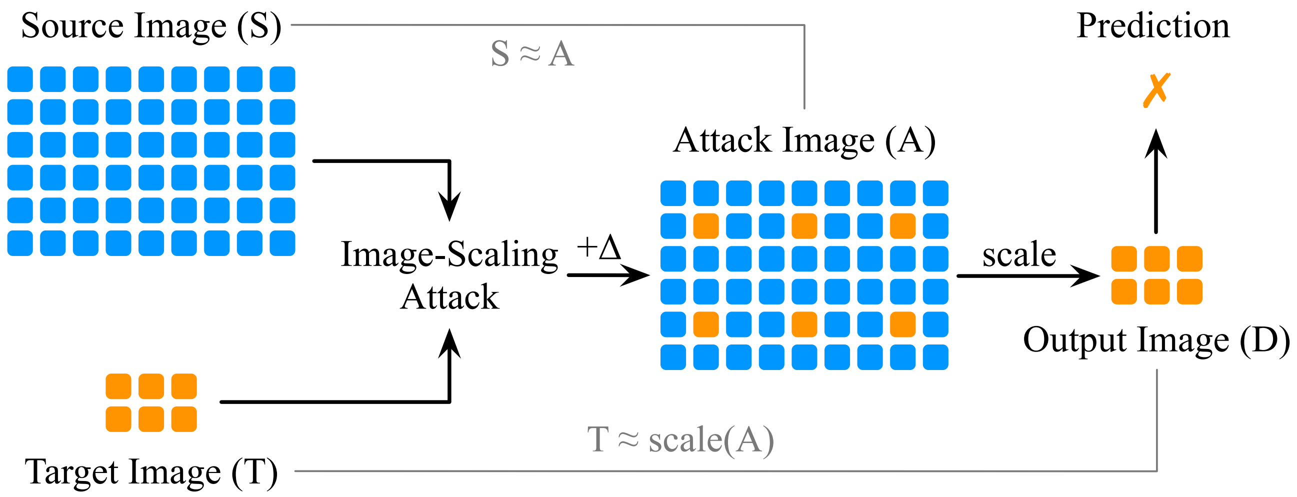
ML System = ML Model + Pre-processing + ...

Image-Scaling Attacks & Defenses



(Xiao et al. 2019, Quiring et al. 2020)

Image-Scaling Attacks & Defenses

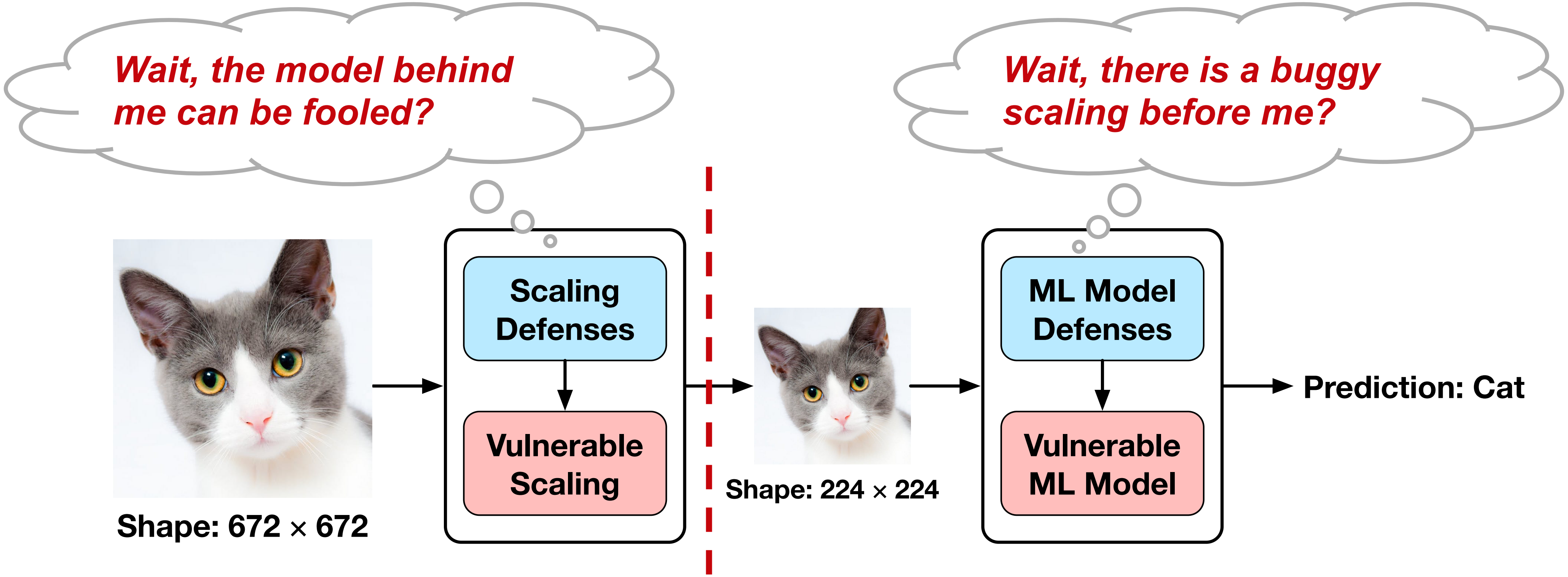


A Simplified Demonstration

- Median Filtering
- Randomized Filtering
- Down-scaling + Up-scaling
- Spectrum Detection
- Statistical Test
- …

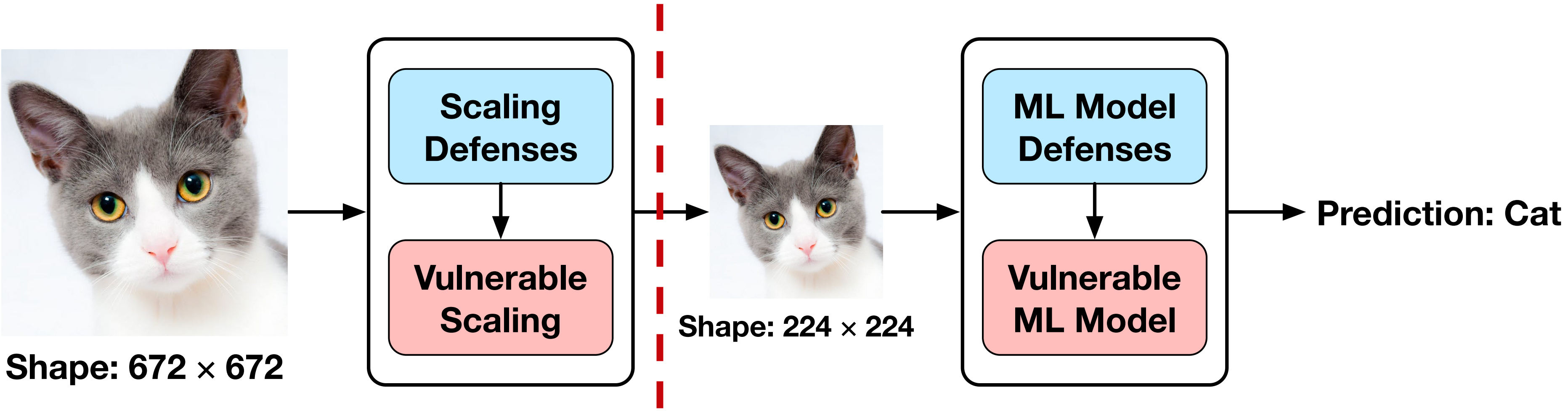
Practical: Infer the scaling function with black-box queries

A Broader View of the Entire ML Pipeline



Defenses are tailored to each component.

Defenses Hold (Unnecessary) Strong Assumptions



"I inject clean images."

"OK, you only inject clean images."

"I perturb the model's exact input."

"OK, you only perturb the exact input."

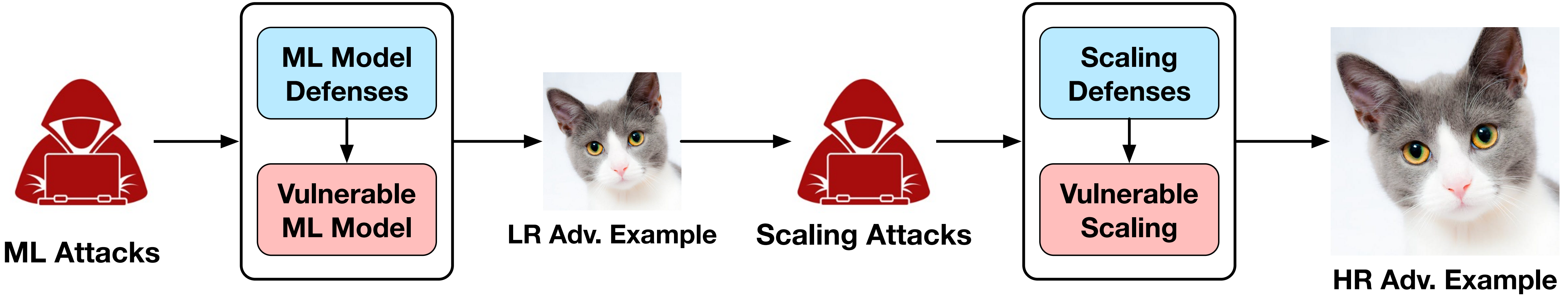
What if the adversary is aware of multiple vulnerabilities?

Scaling-aware Evasion Attacks

A black-box adversary targeting the entire ML pipeline.

How to Make Attacks "Scaling-aware"?

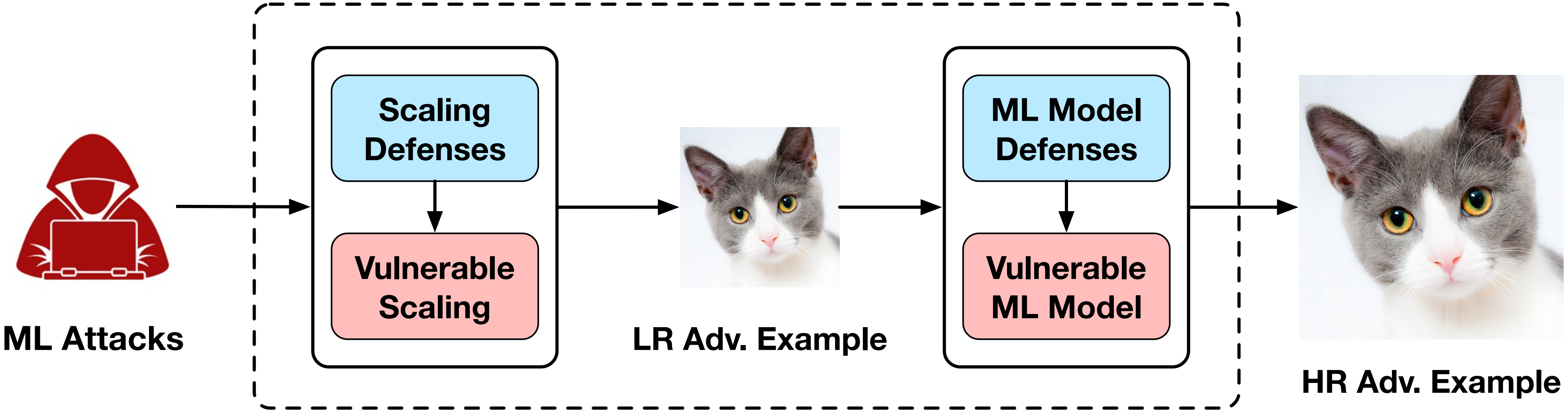
- Strategy 1: Naively combine two attacks.



✗ hard to remain adversarial

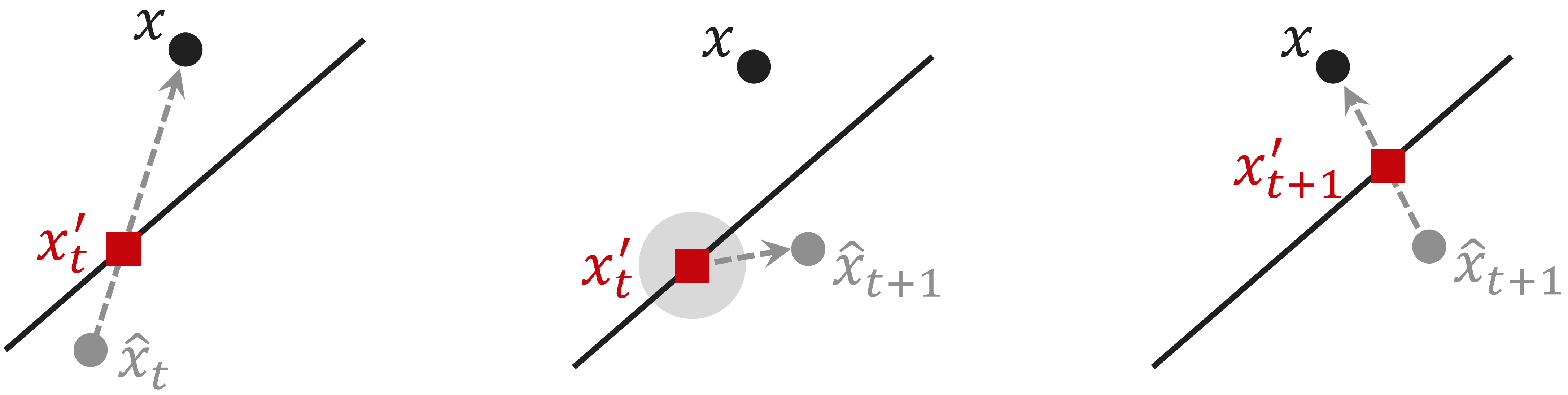
How to Make Attacks "Scaling-aware"?

- ~~Strategy 1: Naively combine two attacks.~~
- Strategy 2: Adapt existing black-box attacks to the entire pipeline.



✗ cannot exploit scaling by itself

Typical Decision-based Black-box Attacks

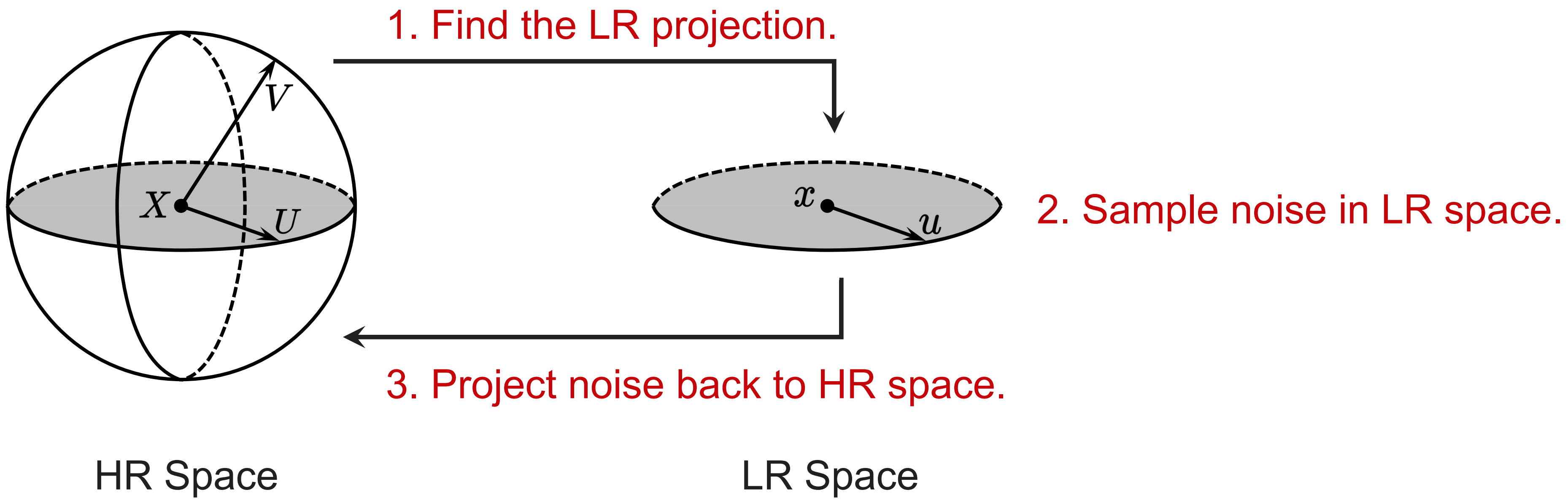


1. Find a point near the boundary
2. Sample noise to estimate gradient
3. Find a better point

↑ ***incorporate the vulnerability here***

Main Technique: Scaling-aware Noise Sampling

- Vulnerability lies in the LR space (gray).
- We need noise in the HR space (ball).
- How likely a uniform noise satisfies that? Zero.



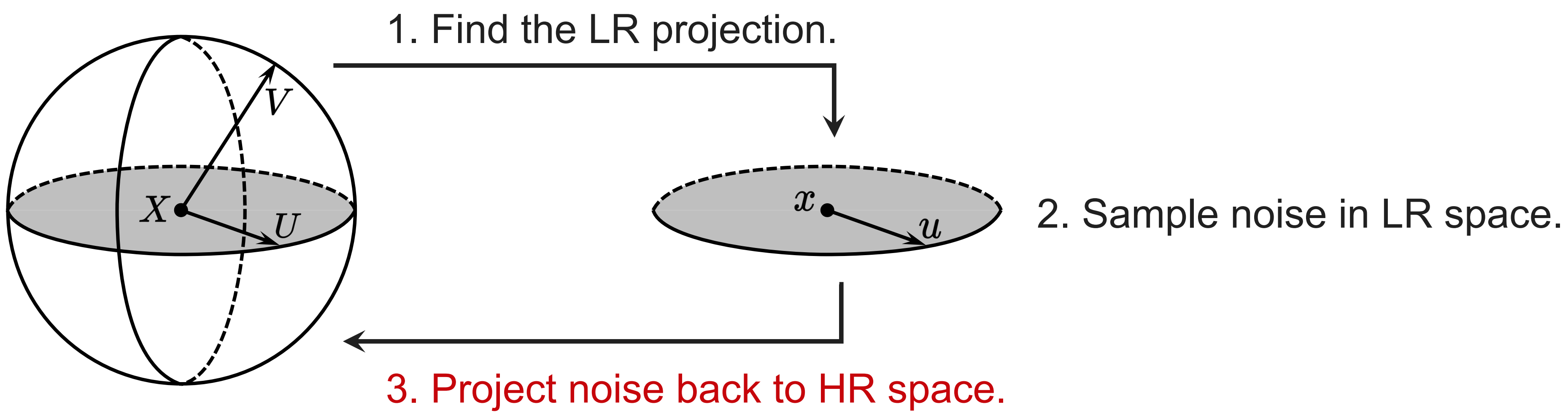
How to Inverse the Projection?

- Straightforward inversion.

LR Noise (sampled)

$$U^* := \arg\min_{U\in\mathbb{H}} \left\|\mathrm{scale}(X+U) - (\mathrm{scale}(X)+u)\right\|_2^2$$

HR Noise (unknown)



HR Space

LR Space

How to Inverse the Projection?

- Straightforward inversion.

LR Noise (sampled)

$$U^* := \arg\min_{U \in \mathbb{H}} \|\text{scale}(X+U) - (\text{scale}(X)+u)\|_2^2$$

HR Noise (unknown)

Cost: 1K step SGD for ~1K noise per attack step.

Insight: We do not need a precise solution for a noise.

How to Inverse the Projection?

- Straightforward inversion.

$$U^* := \arg\min_{U \in \mathbb{H}} \| \underbrace{\mathrm{scale}(X+U)}_{\text{HR Noise (unknown)}} - \overbrace{(\mathrm{scale}(X)+u)}^{\text{LR Noise (sampled)}} \|_2^2$$

- Efficient inversion.

$$\hat{U} := \underbrace{\nabla_U}_{\text{Encode Vulnerability}} \overbrace{\| \mathrm{scale}(X+U) - (\mathrm{scale}(X)+u) \|_2^2}^{\text{Vulnerable Direction}}$$

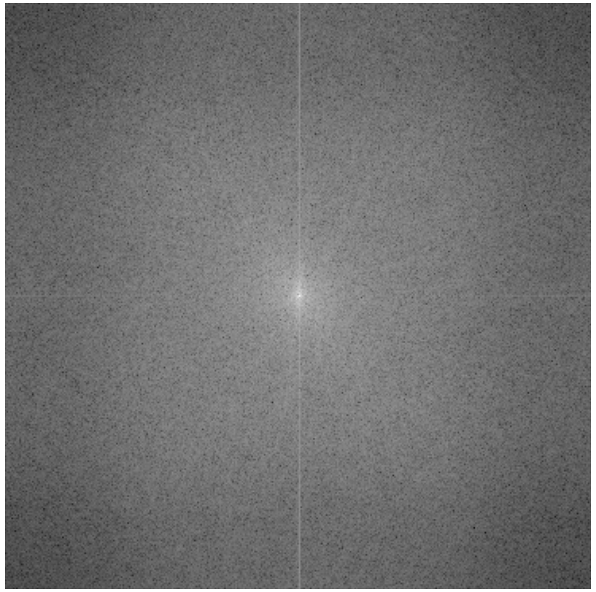
Cost: 1K step SGD ➔ 1 Backward Pass

Amplified Threats

From the interplay between vulnerabilities.

Evade Scaling Defenses

- Evade 4 out of 5 scaling defenses.
- E.g., no artifacts in the spectrum image.



Original Image

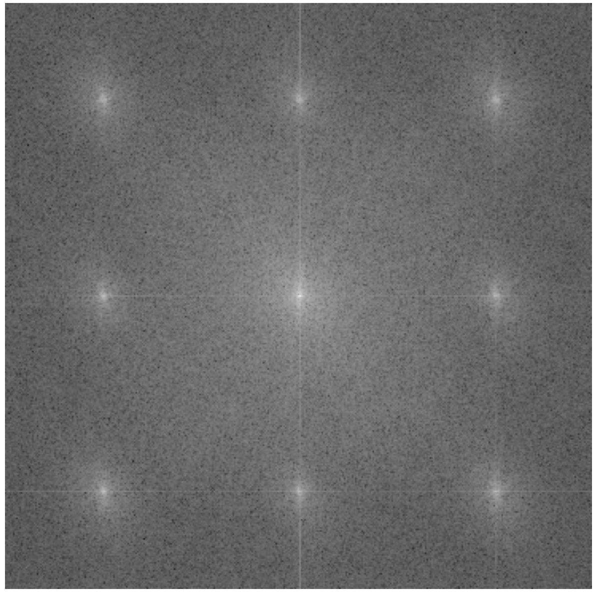
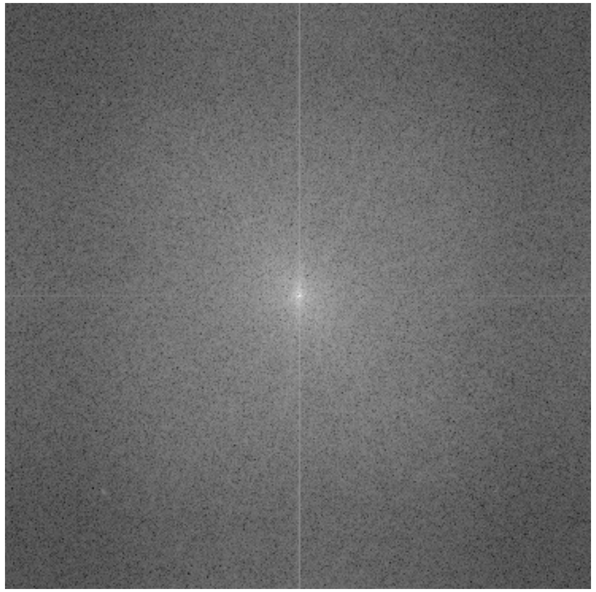


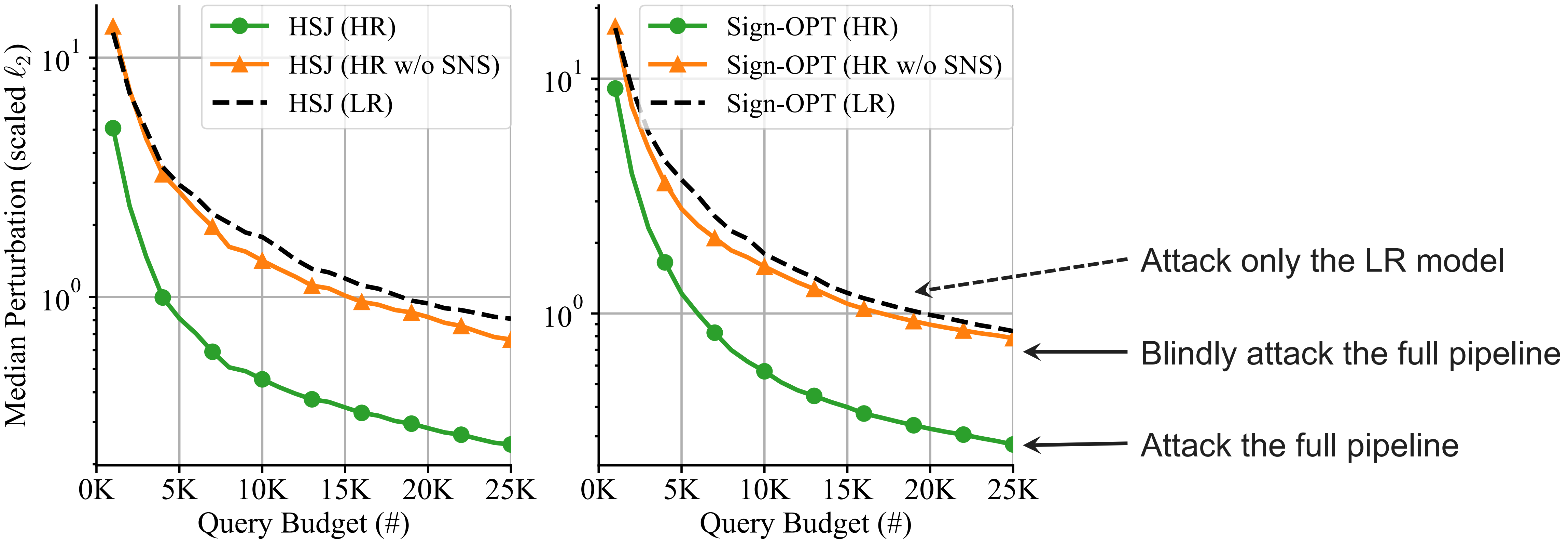
Image-Scaling Attack



Scaling-aware Attack

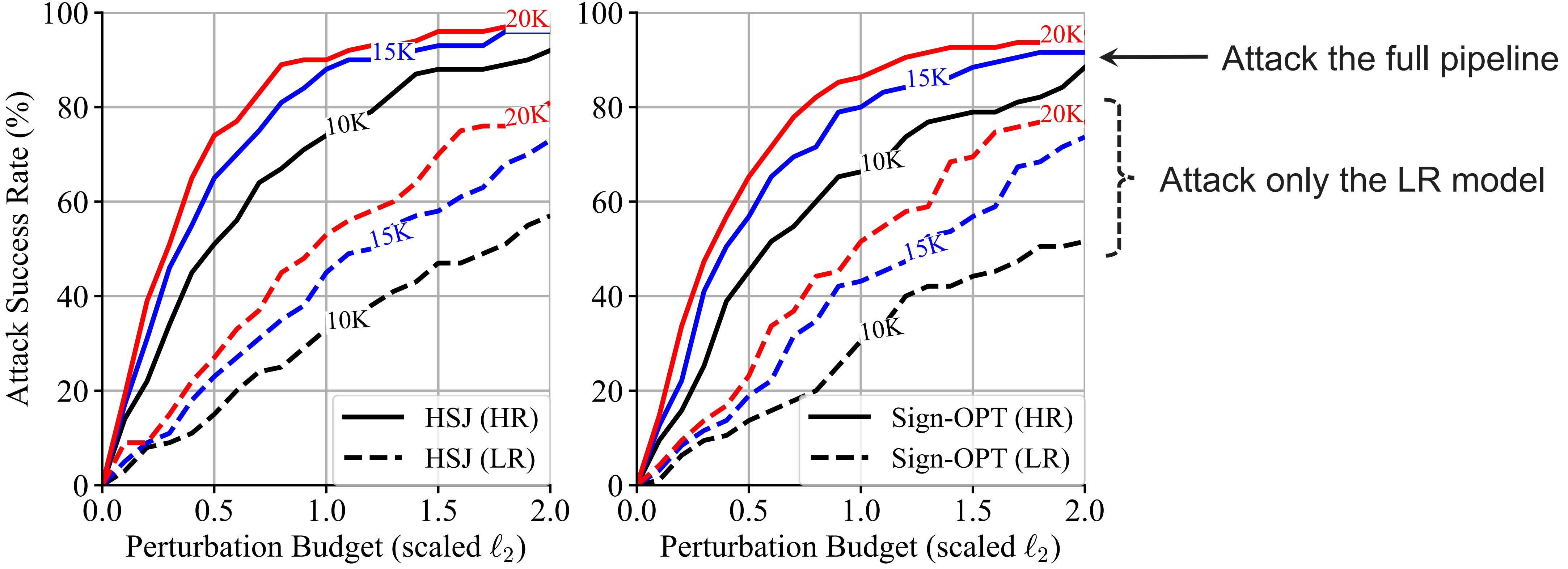
Black-box Attacks: More Query Efficient

- Same query budget, less perturbation.



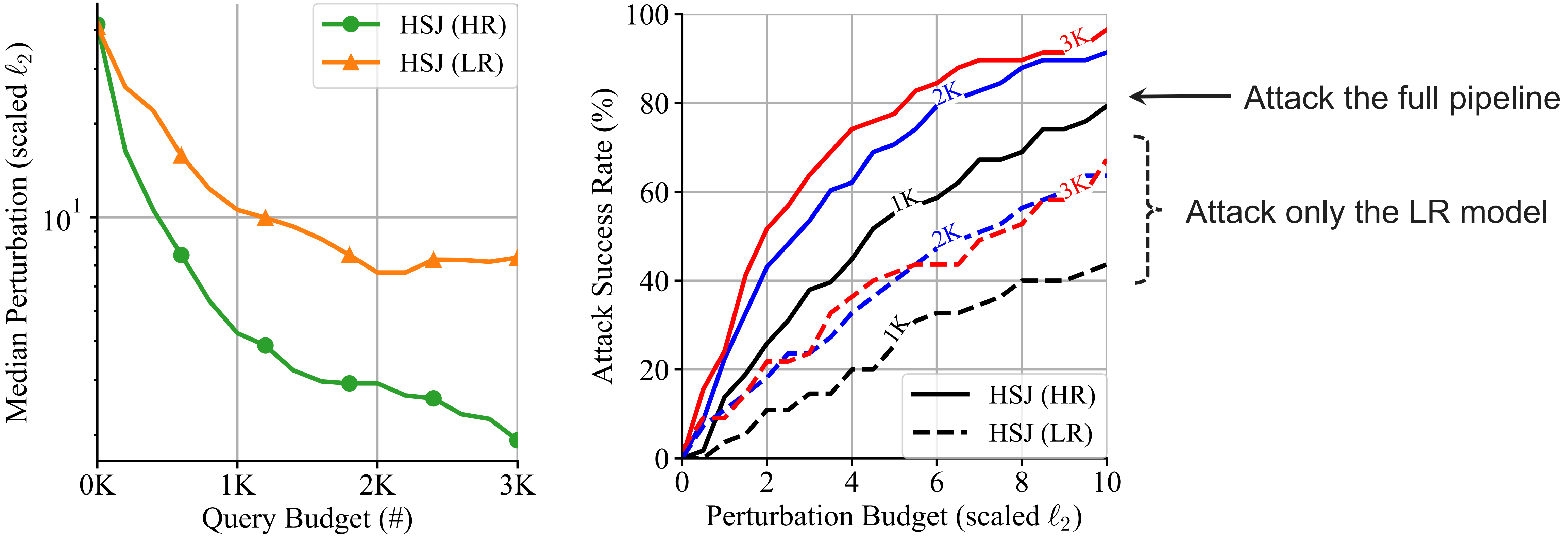
Black-box Attacks: More Effective

- Same perturbation budget, higher attack success rate.



Black-box Attacks: More Practical

- Same improvements on Tencent Image Analysis API



Conclusions

Implications for trustworthy machine learning.

Be cautious about unnecessary assumptions.

- Assumptions that make attacks stronger …

“I inject clean images.”

“I perturb the model’s exact input.”

Good Attack ☺

- … can make defenses weaker.

“OK, you only inject clean images.”

“OK, you only perturb the exact input.”

Bad Defense ☹

- Always consider the strongest adversary in your threat model.

Fix bugs, not attacks.

- Attacks are *potentially weak* exploits of a bug.

Buggy Scaling

Weak: inject clean images

Strong: inject adversarial perturbation

Fool black-box models

- Fixing weak exploits gives a false sense of security.
- How about adversarial examples?
  - Yes, we are still fixing attacks.
  - Preventing adversarial examples remain open.

Poster
Tue 19 Jul 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Hall E #1014

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Thank You

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Research Interests: Trustworthy Machine Learning, Security and Privacy

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