# 50.039 Theory and Practice of Deep Learning

W8-S2 Introduction to Attacks and Defense on Neural Networks

Matthieu De Mari



## About this week (Week 8)

- 1. What are attacks on Neural Networks (NNs)?
- 2. Why are attacks an **important concept** when studying NNs?
- 3. What are the different **types of attacks** and what is the intuition behind basic attacks?
- 4. How to **defend** against such attacks?

**5. State-of-the-art** of attacks and defense, **open questions** in research.

## About this week (Week 8)

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**5. State-of-the-art** of attacks and defense, **open questions** in research.

#### In the last episode

- Noising samples is sometimes good enough to produce adversarial samples and make a trained Neural Network malfunction.
- This exploits the intrinsic properties/limits of Neural Networks.
- The problem, however, is that noising is too random, and is often not guaranteed to work.

- Can we implement more advanced attacks, with higher success rates?
- Can we "target" these attacks to produce adversarial samples with expected effects on Neural Networks?
- And later, can we defend against these attacks?

#### Some more taxonomy on attacks

#### **Definition (untargeted attack):**

The objective of an untargeted attack is to produce an attack sample, which will simply be misclassified.

Noising was an untargeted attack, as we attempted to modify a sample in such a way that it would classified as anything but its ground truth label.

#### **Definition (targeted attack):**

The objective of a **targeted attack** is to produce an attack sample, which will be misclassified as a specific class.

As such, targeted attacks are often more complex than untargeted ones.

E.g., modify a picture of a **dog** (**original label**) so it is misclassified as a **cat (target label)**.

#### Some more taxonomy on attacks

#### **Definition (black-box attack):**

A black-box attack does not exploit any properties of the model.

Black-box attacks assume that they can only try inputs and access the outputs of the model under attack.

Noising was therefore a black-box and untargeted attack.

#### **Definition (white-box attack):**

A white-box attack attempts to exploit properties of the model, e.g. its gradients, logits, weights, etc.

White-box attacks therefore assume that the model as a whole can be accessed, including its weights and gradients.

White-box attacks attempt to learn how the model works, to make it malfunction in a certain way.

## Some more taxonomy on attacks

#### **Definition (one-shot attack):**

A one-shot attack attempts to produce a single attack sample, and if this attack fails, it simply retries on a different sample.

Noising was therefore a **one-shot attack**. It attempted to noise a sample to have it misclassified.

However, if this attempt failed, it simply tried on another sample.

#### **Definition (iterated attack):**

An **iterated attack** attempts to produce an attack sample, like the one-shot attacks.

However, it will try to adjust the said sample until it either

- makes the model malfunction (in an expected way),
- or reaches a maximal number of allowed iterations.

The iterated attacks are often more robust and efficient.

#### About attacks

Attacks on neural networks can be very creative, and is currently a very active research field. In this lecture, and in the interest of time, we will only cover some of the basic ones.

- What matters is to understand the intuition behind these basic attacks, more specifically how we might use information about the model to tailor our attacks and enhance their efficacy.
- In the next lecture, we will then discuss some more advanced attack techniques, for general knowledge.
- To summarize, keep in mind that the potential for attacks is quite unlimited and researchers have been very creative...!

#### About attacks

#### Basic attacks (to be discussed today):

- 1. Untargeted, one-shot, white-box gradient attack
- 2. Untargeted, one-shot, white-box fast gradient sign attack
- 3. Untargeted, iterated, white-box fast gradient sign attack
- 4. Targeted, one-shot, white-box fast gradient sign attack
- 5. Targeted, iterated, white-box fast gradient sign attack

#### About attacks

#### Basic attacks (to be discussed today):

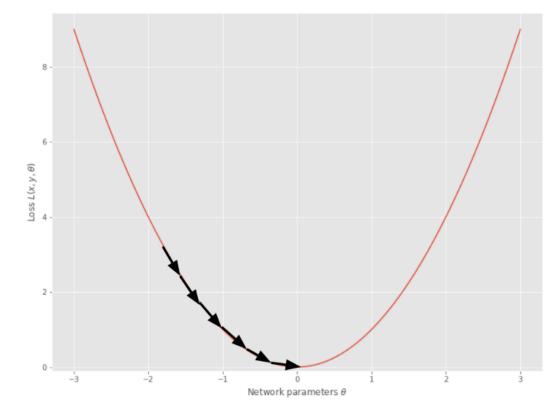
- 1. Untargeted, one-shot, white-box gradient attack
- 2. Untargeted, one-shot, white-box fast gradient sign attack
- 3. Untargeted, iterated, white-box fast gradient sign attack
- 4. Targeted, one-shot, white-box fast gradient sign attack
- 5. Targeted, iterated, white-box fast gradient sign attack

Note: "Gradient" seems to be the important keyword here, but why are gradients used for attacks?

#### A reminder on gradient descent

- When **training** a neural network, we attempt to adjust the weights of a model  $\theta$ , to minimize a loss function  $L(x, \theta, y)$ .
- We typically use an optimizer, which implements some version of the gradient descent algorithm.

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \alpha \nabla_{\theta} L(x, \theta, y)$$



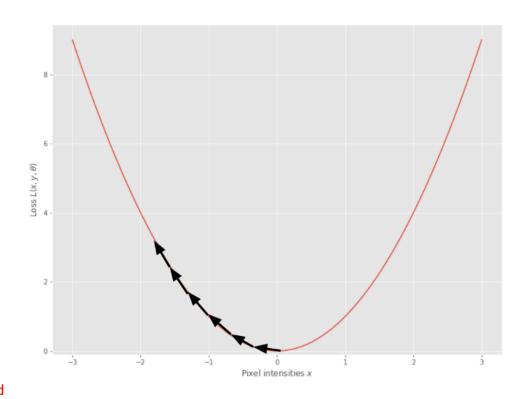
In a sense, gradients tell us how to improve the model performance by adjusting its parameters meaningfully.

#### Using Gradient Ascent to Attack

A possible approach to "smarter" attacks would then turn this process on its head.

- If we held the parameters of the model constant and differentiated the loss with respect to some input sample x,
- We could then create a sample  $\tilde{x}$ , in a such a way that the expected loss of the model would increase on that sample.

 To do so, we would simply have to use some gradient ascent on this sample x.



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(Gradient descent on parameters, a.k.a. "training" a model)

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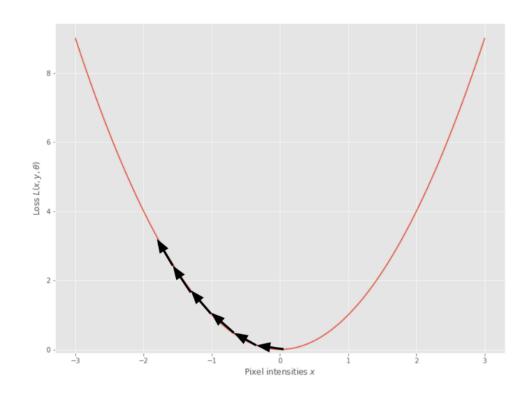
$$\tilde{x} \leftarrow x + \alpha \nabla_x L(x, \theta, y)$$

(Gradient ascent on a sample, a.k.a. "attacking" a model)

## A note on losses, softmax and gradients

- Most gradient-based attacks can operate on the gradients computed from the loss function  $L(x, \theta, c)$ , for instance, to move away from the original class c.
- To do so, by increasing the loss for said sample x and class c, using gradient ascent on the loss.

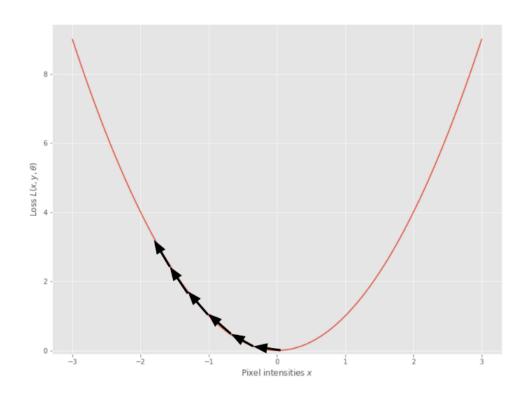
$$\tilde{x} \leftarrow x + \alpha \nabla_x L(x, \theta, c)$$



## A note on losses, softmax and gradients

- Some papers however mention that it would be preferable to use the logits  $f_c(x)$  to minimize the value of these logits ( $\approx$  final vector before softmax and argmax decision).
- In that case, we would use **gradient descent** to minimize the probability of class c to be chosen!

$$\tilde{x} \leftarrow x - \alpha \nabla_x f_c(x)$$



Note: this second approach (logits) often works better, because of the softmax might end up messing up the gradients sometimes.

#### Untargeted Gradient Attack

## Definition (untargeted gradient attack):

The untargeted gradient attack takes a single sample x, of original class  $c \in C$  and attempts to produce a sample  $\tilde{x}$  of class  $\tilde{c} \in C$ , with  $\tilde{c} \neq c$ .

$$c = argmax_{i \in C}(f_i(x))$$

And then two options...

## Untargeted Gradient Attack (option #1)

## Definition (untargeted gradient attack):

The untargeted gradient attack takes a single sample x, of original class  $c \in C$  and attempts to produce a sample  $\tilde{x}$  of class  $\tilde{c} \in C$ , with  $\tilde{c} \neq c$ .

• Option #1: look for the most probable class  $c \in C$  and use gradient ascent to move the sample away from its original class, with step  $\epsilon$ .

$$\tilde{x} \leftarrow x + \epsilon \nabla_x L(x, \theta, c)$$

$$c = argmax_{i \in C}(f_i(x))$$

The attack is successful if 
$$\tilde{c} = argmax_{i \in C}(f_i(\tilde{x})) \neq c$$

And then two options...

# Untargeted Gradient Attack (option #2, not implemented in notebooks)

## Definition (untargeted gradient attack):

The untargeted gradient attack takes a single sample x, of original class  $c \in C$  and attempts to produce a sample  $\tilde{x}$  of class  $\tilde{c} \in C$ , with  $\tilde{c} \neq c$ .

$$c = argmax_{i \in C}(f_i(x))$$

• Option #2: look for the least probable class  $c^* \in C$  and use gradient descent to move the sample in the direction of the least probable class, with step  $\epsilon$ .

$$c^* = argmin_{i \in C}(f_i(x))$$
  

$$\tilde{x} \leftarrow x - \epsilon \nabla_x L(x, \theta, c^*)$$

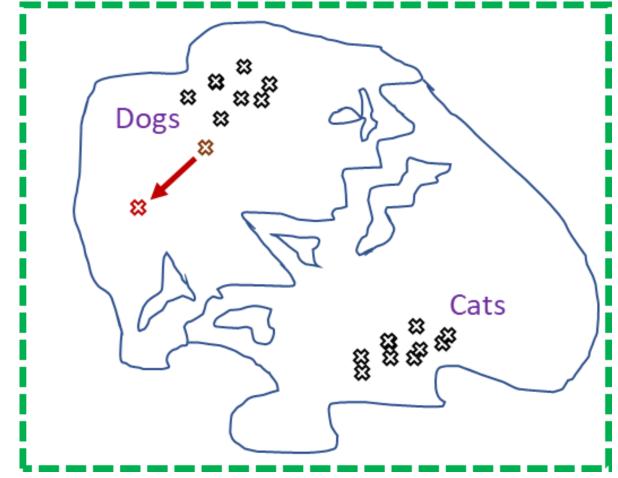
The attack is successful if

$$\tilde{c} = argmax_{i \in C}(f_i(\tilde{x})) \neq c$$

And then two options...

# Why gradient attack works better than randomly noising

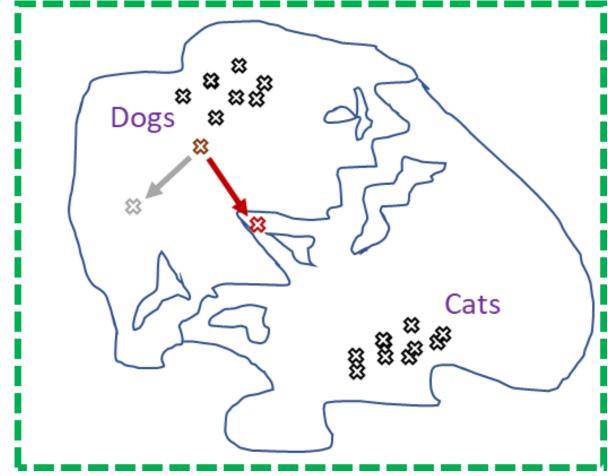
 When randomly noising a sample to make an attack sample, we move randomly in the feature map.



# Why gradient attack works better than randomly noising

 When randomly noising a sample to make an attack sample, we move randomly in the feature map.

 When using gradient attack, we move in a more meaningful direction, which might help our original sample become misclassified.



#### Untargeted gradient attack code

• The untargeted gradient attack (option #1) takes a single sample x, of original class  $c \in C$  and attempts to produce a sample  $\tilde{x}$  of class  $\tilde{c} \in C$ , with  $\tilde{c} \neq c$ .

• It uses gradient ascent to move the original sample away from the most probable class (i.e. its original one) to generate an attack sample.

```
def ugm_attack(image, epsilon, data_grad):

# Create the attack image by adjusting
# each pixel of the input image
eps_image = image + epsilon*data_grad

# Clipping eps_image to maintain pixel
# values into the [0, 1] range
eps_image = torch.clamp(eps_image, 0, 1)

# Return
return eps_image
```

# Line 5 easily implements $\widetilde{x} \leftarrow x + \epsilon \nabla_x L(x, \theta, c)$

(Taken from notebook 2.)

Epsilon Noising Method

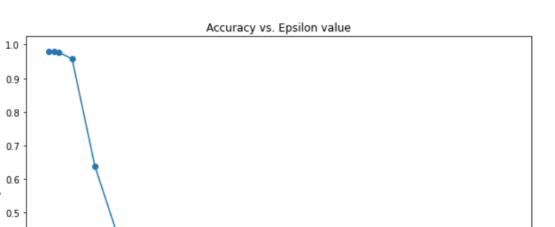
0.4

0.3

0.2

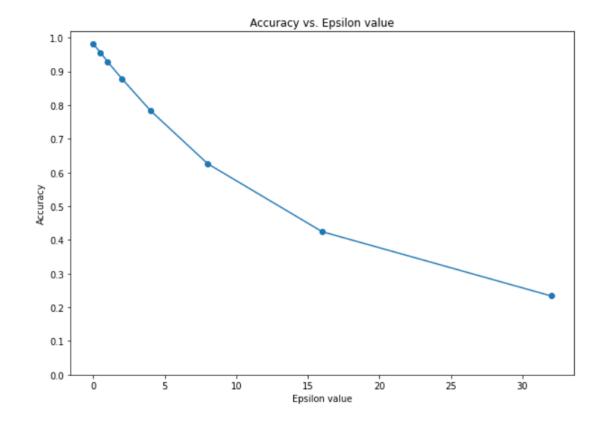
0.1

0.0



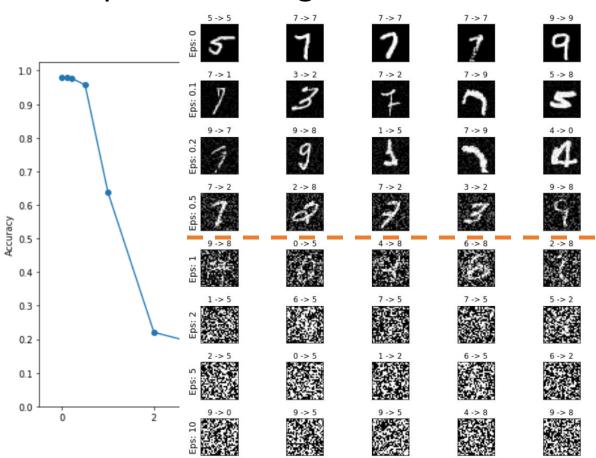
Epsilon value

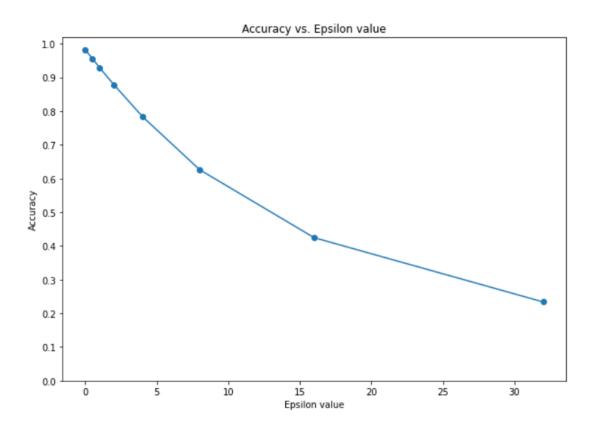
Untargeted Gradient Method



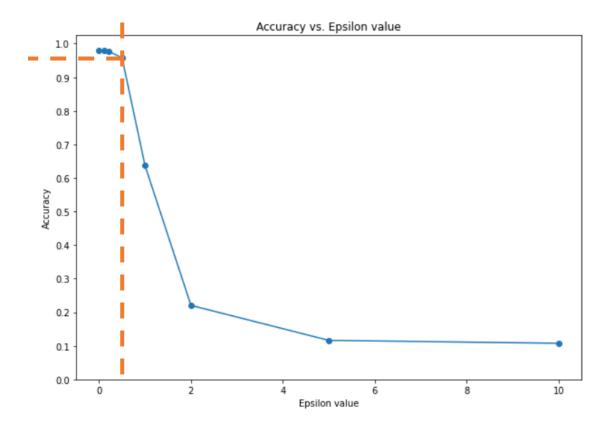
10

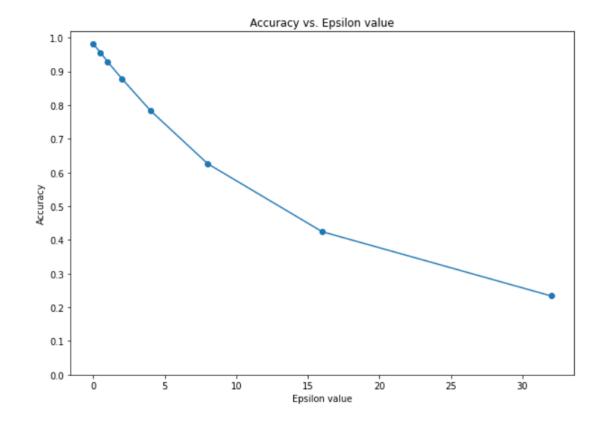
Epsilon Noising Method



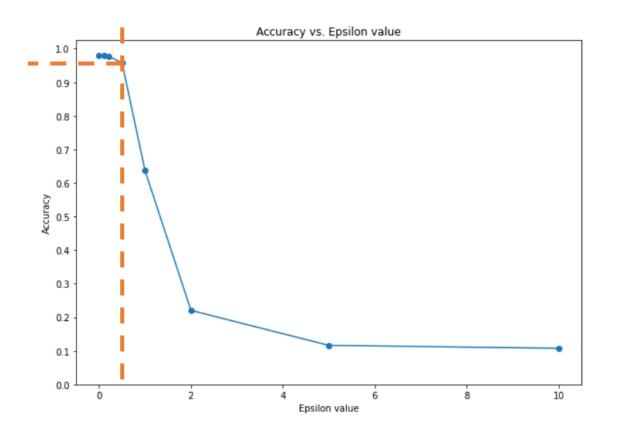


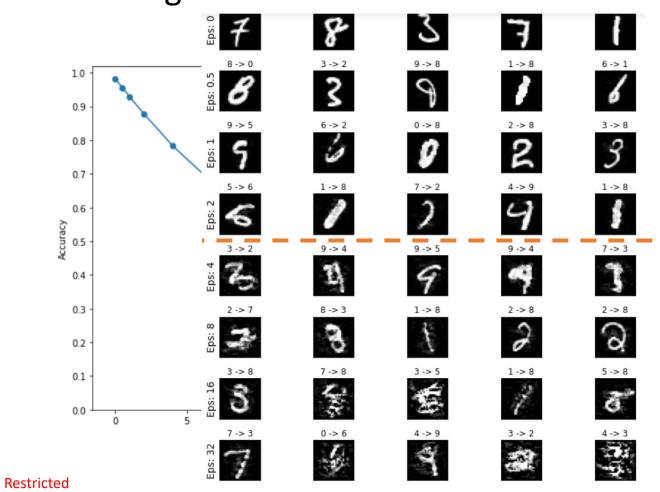
Epsilon Noising Method



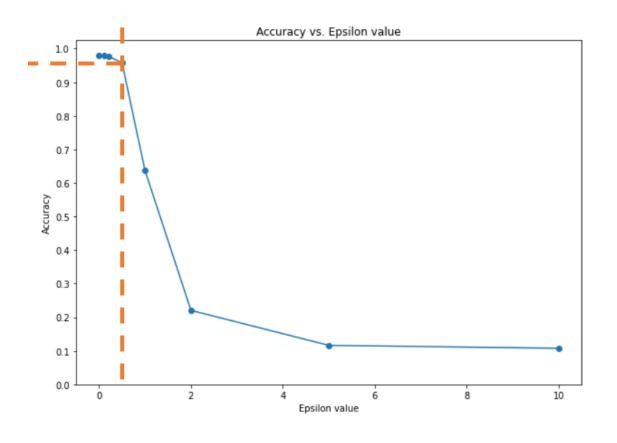


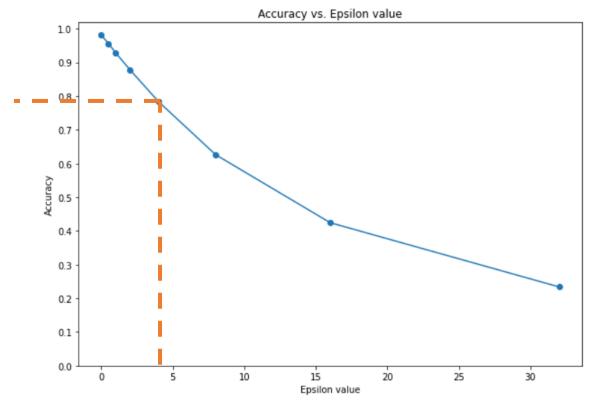
Epsilon Noising Method



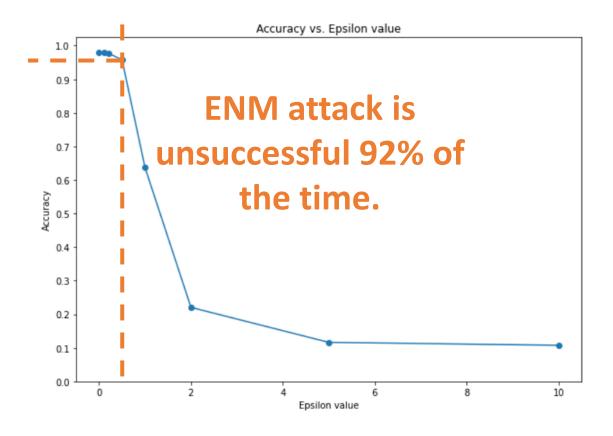


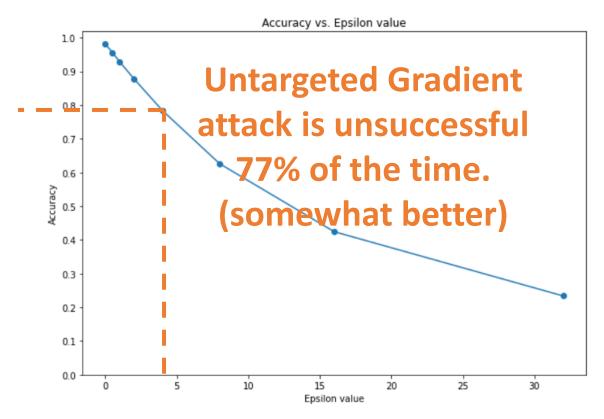
Epsilon Noising Method



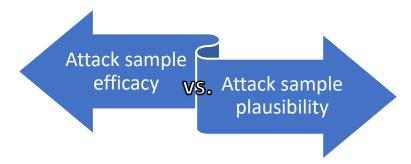


Epsilon Noising Method





 Like the Epsilon Noising Method from lecture 1, the Untargeted Gradient Method is an attack which is subject to the same tradeoff we identified earlier.



• However, it performs better than the Epsilon Noising Method, as it is able to produce plausible attack samples that seem to fool the models better ( $\sim$ 92% vs.  $\sim$ 77%).

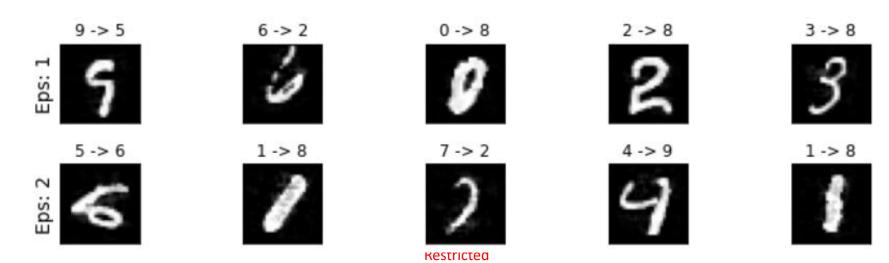
This being said, it suffers from several problems:

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- It is a one-shot attack, which does not necessarily make sense.
  - The gradient descent algorithms takes multiple steps (batches + epochs) during training to converge...
  - Why would a single step of gradient attack be enough?
  - We should repeat the gradient attack multiple times (i.e. make it iterated).

- Its efficacy is still rather low (fails  $\sim 77\%$  of the time).
- It is a one-shot attack.
- It is untargeted.
  - It attempts to invalidate the sample by moving away from its original label,
  - or in the direction of the least probable class.
  - This seems to indicate we can orient the direction in which we move and therefore target classes...

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- (It has a **heavy computational cost**, as it requires the gradients from the model to be applied on a sample.)

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- It is a one-shot attack.
- It is untargeted.
- Its plausibility is not too great.
- (It has a **heavy computational cost**, as it requires the gradients from the model to be applied on a sample.)

• Our next attack, the **Fast Gradient Sign Method** attempts to solve this heavy computational issue and help make more plausible samples.

## Fast Gradient Sign Method (FGSM)

## Definition (Fast Gradient Sign Method attack):

The Fast Gradient Sign Method attack only uses the sign of the gradient to create an attack sample.

```
\widetilde{x} \leftarrow x + \epsilon \nabla_x L(x, \theta, c)
(Gradient attack)
\widetilde{x} \leftarrow x + \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(\nabla_x L(x, \theta, c))
(FGSM attack)
```

```
def fgsm attack(image, epsilon, data grad):
    # Get element-wise signs of each element of the data gradient
    data_grad_sign = data_grad.sign()

# Create the attack image by adjusting each pixel of the input image
    eps_image = image + epsilon*data_grad_sign

# Clipping eps_image to maintain pixel values into the [0, 1] range
    eps_image = torch.clamp(eps_image, 0, 1)

# Return
return eps_image
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(Gradient attack)
 $\widetilde{x} \leftarrow x + \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(\nabla_x L(x, \theta, c))$ 
(FGSM attack)

- Important property: this also helps to make more plausible samples, as it will, by design, verify  $\|\widetilde{x} x\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon$ .
- (Plausibility constraint, we did not have it in the previous attacks!)

```
def fgsm attack(image, epsilon, data grad):
    # Get element-wise signs of each element of the data gradient
    data_grad_sign = data_grad.sign()

# Create the attack image by adjusting each pixel of the input image
    eps_image = image + epsilon*data_grad_sign

# Clipping eps_image to maintain pixel values into the [0, 1] range
    eps_image = torch.clamp(eps_image, 0, 1)

# Return
return eps_image
```

#### A reminder about norms

- $L^0$  norm: bounds the total number of pixels in  $\tilde{x}$  that can be modified with respect to x (though they can be modified by any amount).
- $L^1$  norm: bounds the average absolute distance between the values of pixels in  $\tilde{x}$  and the corresponding pixels in x.
- $L^2$  norm: bounds the total squared distance between the values of pixels in  $\tilde{x}$  and the corresponding pixels in x. Often referred to as the Euclidean distance.
- $L^{\infty}$  norm: bounds the maximum difference between any pixel in  $\tilde{x}$  and the corresponding pixel in x. Often referred to as max norm.

$$\|\tilde{x} - x\|_{\infty} = \max_{i,j} (|\tilde{x}_{i,j} - x_{i,j}|)$$

preferred one!

## Testing the FGSM attack

- The FGSM attack works just fine, and it might even make the model completely malfunction!
- In the noising approach, the model had to guess randomly and ended up getting a 10% accuracy for large values of epsilon.
- Here, the FGSM will strongly push the model to malfunction, eventually leading to a 0% accuracy.

```
1 epsilons = [0, .05, .1, .15, .2, .25, .3, .5]
2 accuracies = []
3 examples = []
4
5 # Run test() function for each epsilon
6 for eps in epsilons:
7    acc, ex = test(model, device, test_loader, eps)
8    accuracies.append(acc)
9    examples.append(ex)
```

```
Epsilon: 0 - Test Accuracy = 9810/10000 = 0.981

Epsilon: 0.05 - Test Accuracy = 9426/10000 = 0.9426

Epsilon: 0.1 - Test Accuracy = 8510/10000 = 0.851

Epsilon: 0.15 - Test Accuracy = 6826/10000 = 0.6826

Epsilon: 0.2 - Test Accuracy = 4301/10000 = 0.4301

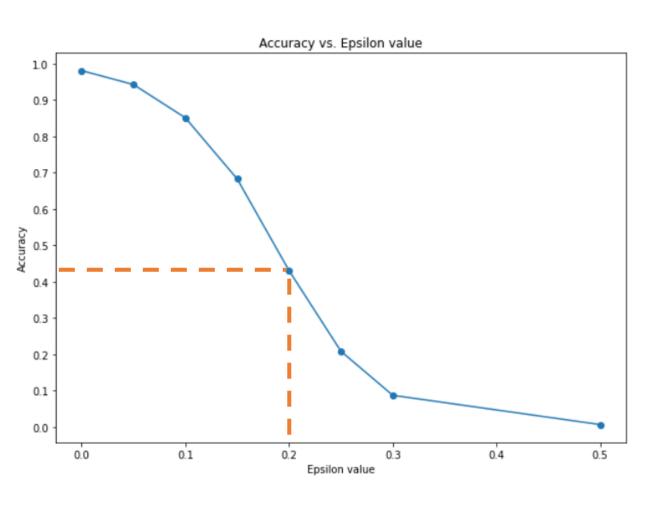
Epsilon: 0.25 - Test Accuracy = 2082/10000 = 0.2082

Epsilon: 0.3 - Test Accuracy = 869/10000 = 0.0869

Epsilon: 0.5 - Test Accuracy = 63/10000 = 0.0063
```

#### From Notebook 3.

## Testing the FGSM attack



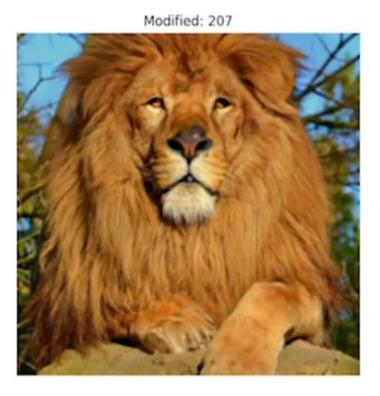


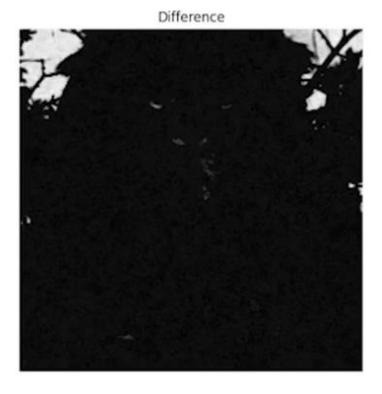
#### lion

## golden retriever

Original: 291



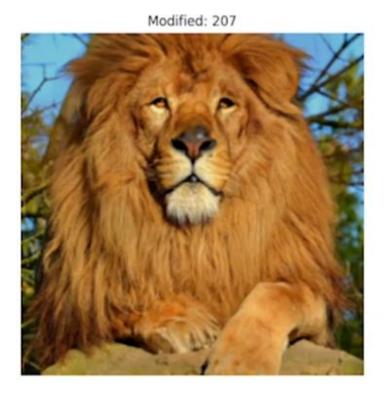


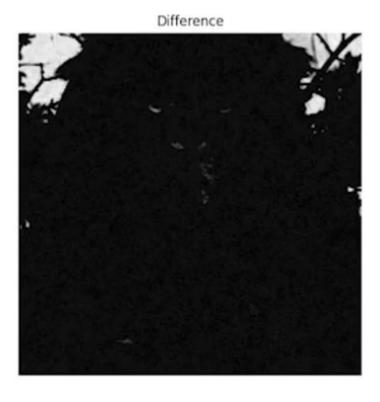


#### lion

#### golden retriever

Original: 291





Background pixels were changed and this lead to an entire different classification result?! This indicates that our model probably has a wrong classification logic somewhere...

From [Goodfellow2015].

## Some more taxonomy on attacks

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Noising was therefore a **one-shot attack**. It attempted to noise a sample to have it misclassified.

However, if this attempt failed, it simply tried on another sample.

#### **Definition (iterated attack):**

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However, it will try to adjust the said sample until it either

- makes the model malfunction in an expected way,
- or reaches a maximal number of allowed iterations.

The iterated attacks are often more robust and efficient.

## Iterative FGSM attack (from [Kurakin2016])

#### **Definition (iterative Fast Gradient Sign Method attack):**

The iterative Fast Gradient Sign Method attack will repeat the FGSM attack until it reaches a maximal number of iterations or makes the model malfunction.

$$x_0 = x$$

$$x_{n+1} \leftarrow x_n + \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(\nabla_{x_n} L(x_n, \theta, c))$$

Core idea behind iterating: gradient descent was used for several iterations to train our model, so why should our attacks be using only one iteration of gradient ascent?

## Some more taxonomy on attacks

#### **Definition (untargeted attack):**

The objective of an untargeted attack is to produce an attack sample, which will simply be misclassified.

Noising was an untargeted attack, as we attempted to modify a sample in such a way that it would classified as anything but its ground truth label.

#### **Definition (targeted attack):**

The objective of a **targeted attack** is to produce an attack sample, which will be misclassified as a specific class.

As such, targeted attacks are often more complex than untargeted ones.

E.g., modify a picture of a **dog** (**original label**), so it is misclassified as a **cat** (**target label**).

#### Targeted FGSM attack

#### **Definition (targeted Fast Gradient Sign Method attack):**

The targeted Fast Gradient Sign Method attack will use the FGSM attack but will use the gradients of a targeted class  $\tilde{c}$ .

This follows the same logic as moving towards the least probable class as in Gradient attack option #2, but you can use it with any class of your choice  $\tilde{c}$  instead of the least probable one. This attack uses gradient descent to move the sample towards the targeted class  $\tilde{c}$ .

This is repeated until it reaches a maximal number of iterations or makes the model malfunction with targeted class  $\tilde{c}$ .

$$\widetilde{x} \leftarrow x - \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(\nabla_x L(x, \theta, \widetilde{c}))$$

## Untargeted gradient attack recap

This being said, it suffers from several problems:

- Its efficacy is still rather low (fails  $\sim 77\%$  of the time).
- It is a one-shot attack.
- It is untargeted.
- Its plausibility is not too great.
- (It has a **heavy computational cost**, as it requires the gradients from the model to be applied on a sample.)

#### Iterative and Targeted FGSM attack

#### **Definition (iterative targeted Fast Gradient Sign Method attack):**

The iterative targeted Fast Gradient Sign Method attack will use the FGSM attack but will use the gradients of a targeted class  $\tilde{c}$ .

This follows the same logic as moving towards the least probable class as in Gradient attack option #2, but you can use it with any class of your choice  $\tilde{c}$  instead of the least probable one. This attack uses gradient descent to move the sample towards the targeted class  $\tilde{c}$ .

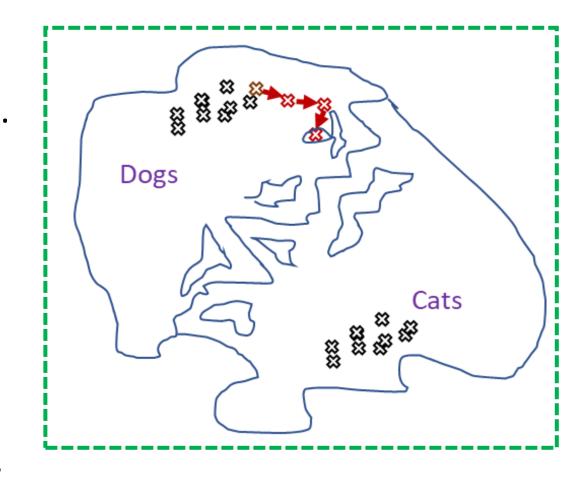
This is repeated until it reaches a maximal number of iterations or makes the model malfunction with targeted class  $\tilde{c}$ .

$$x_0 = x$$

$$x_{n+1} \leftarrow x_n - \epsilon \operatorname{sign}(\nabla_x L(x_n, \theta, \tilde{c}))$$

# Why gradient attack works better than randomly noising

- When randomly noising a sample to make an attack sample, we move randomly in the feature map.
- When using a gradient-type attack, we move in a more meaningful direction, which might help our original sample become misclassified.
- Iterating allows for smaller steps and better plausibility in general (smaller changes in original image).

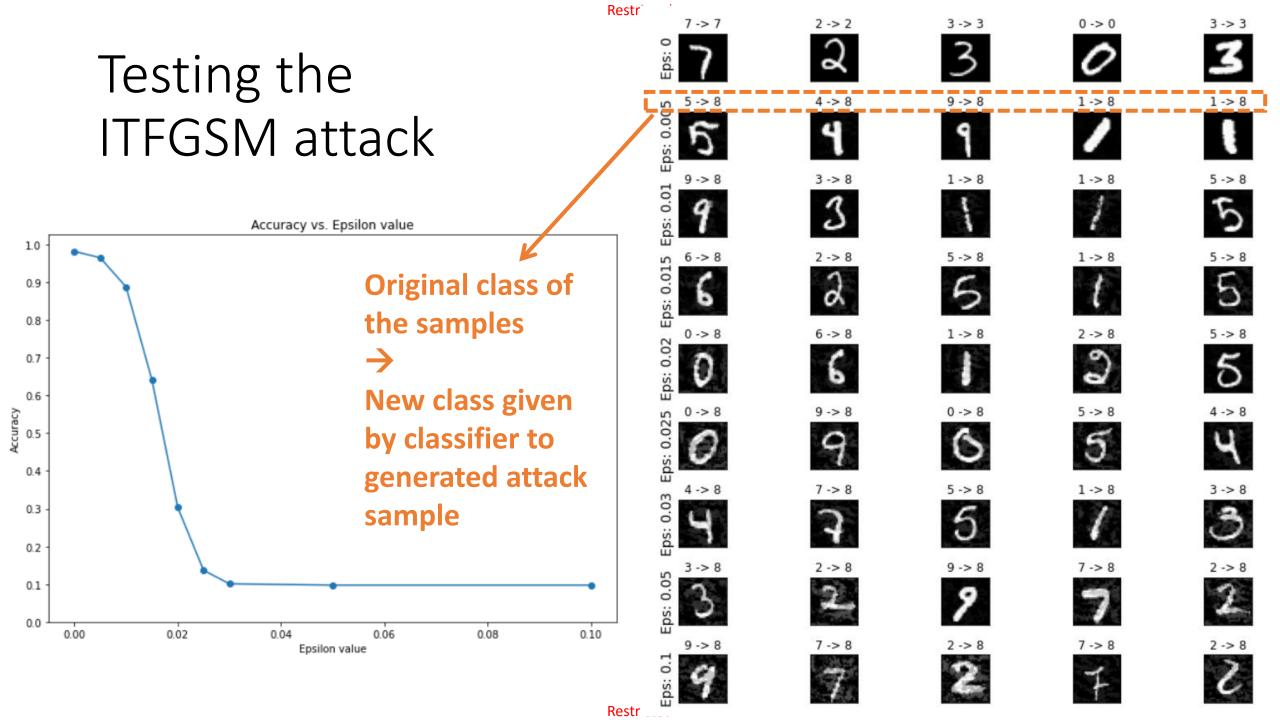


```
def itfqsm attack(image, epsilon, model, orig class, target class, iter num = 10):
 2
 3
        # Convert target class to a LongTensor with one element
 4
        # (Expected format for the F.nll loss later on)
       target class var = Variable(torch.from numpy(np.asarray([target class])))
       target class torch = target class var.type(torch.LongTensor)
       worked = False
 8
9
       for i in range(iter num):
10
            # Zero out previous gradients
11
           image.grad = None
12
            # Forward pass
13
           out = model(image)
14
           # Calculate loss
15
           pred loss = F.nll loss(out, target class torch)
16
17
            # Do backward pass and retain graph
18
            #pred loss.backward()
19
           pred loss.backward(retain graph = True)
20
21
            # Add noise to processed image
22
           eps image = image - epsilon*torch.sign(image.grad.data)
23
           eps image.retain grad()
24
25
            # Clipping eps image to maintain pixel values into the [0, 1] range
26
           eps image = torch.clamp(eps image, 0, 1)
27
28
            # Forward pass
29
           new output = model(eps image)
30
            # Get prediction
           , new label = new output.data.max(1)
31
32
33
            # Check if the new label matches target, if so stop
34
           if new label == target class torch:
35
               worked = True
36
               break
37
           else:
               image = eps image
                                                              From Notebook 4.
39
               image.retain grad()
40
41
       return eps image, worked, i
```

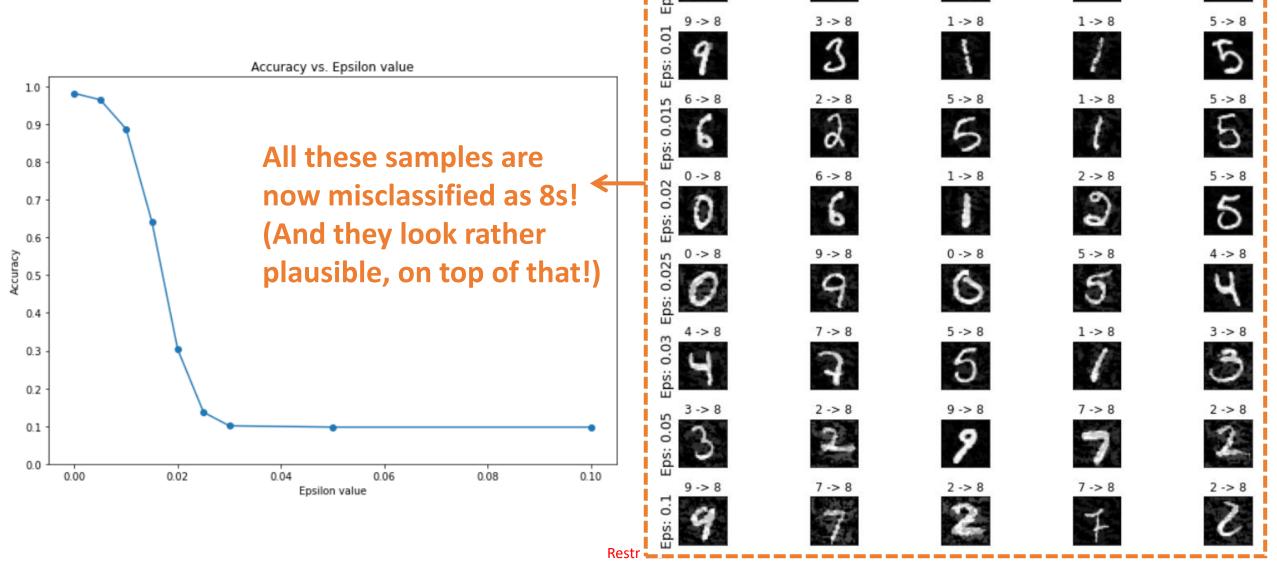
## Testing the ITFGSM attack

def test(model, device, test loader, epsilon):

```
# Target class
       # Counter for correct values (used for accuracy)
                                                                           If sample is already of
      correct counter = 0
9
      # List of successful adversarial samples
                                                                           the target class, attack
10
      adv examples list = []
11
12
       # Loop over all examples in test set
                                                                           cannot happen...
13
       for image, label in test loader:
14
15
        # If the initial label is already matching the target class,
16
        # do not bother attacking, skip current image
17
          if target class == label.item():
                                                                           We cannot modify a
18
              correct counter += 1
19
                                                                           picture of an 8 so that it
          # Send the data and label to the device
21
          image, label = image.to(device), label.to(device)
22
23
                                                                           becomes misclassified as
24
          # Set requires grad attribute of tensor to force torch to
          # keep track of the gradients of the image
25
26
          # (Needed for the ugm attack() function!)
                                                                           an 8! Skip these.
27
          image.requires grad = True
29
          # Pass the image through the model
          output = model(image)
31
          # Get the index of the max log-probability
32
          init pred = output.max(1, keepdim = True)[1]
33
34
          # If the initial prediction is wrong, do not bother attacking, skip current image
35
          if init pred.item() != label.item():
36
              continue
38
          # Call TFGSM Attack
          eps image, worked, iterations = itfgsm attack(image, epsilon, model, label, target class)
```



# Testing the ITFGSM attack



Restr

7 -> 7

2 -> 2

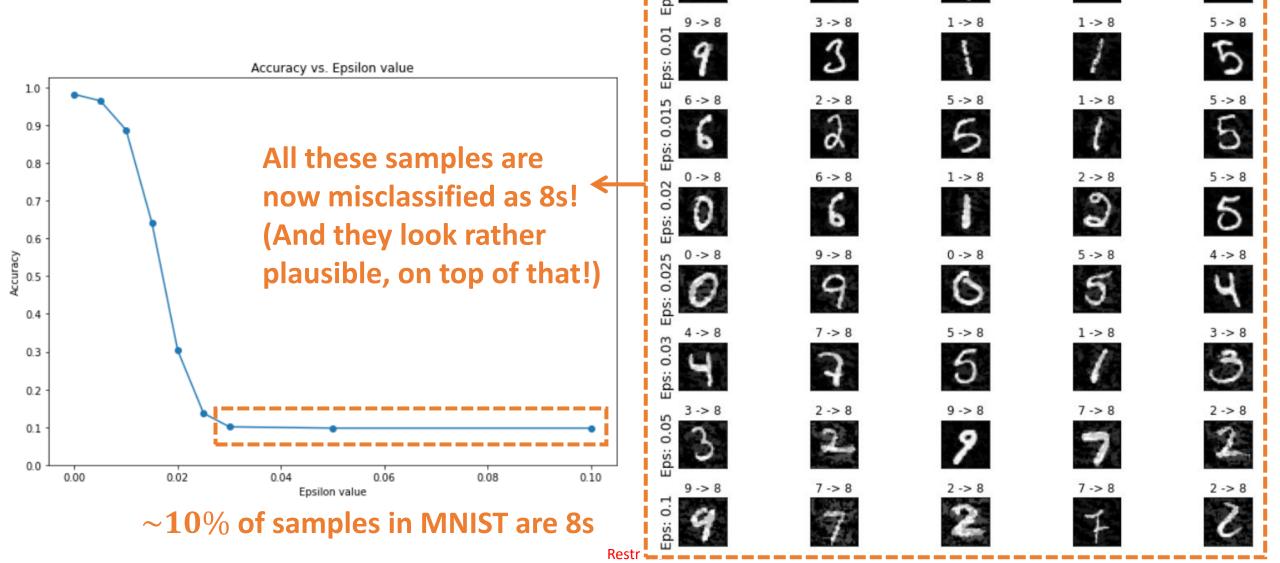
3 -> 3

9 -> 8

0 -> 0

3 -> 3

## Testing the ITFGSM attack



Restr

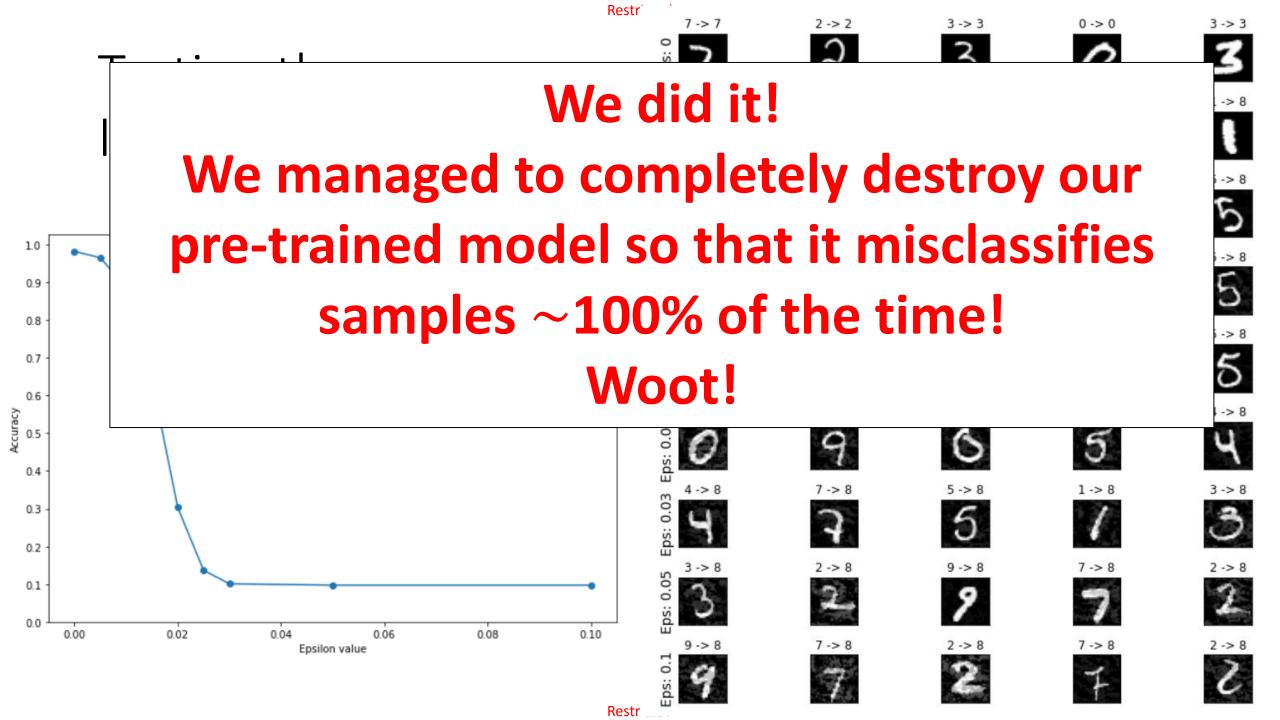
7 -> 7

2 -> 2

3 -> 3

9 -> 8

0 -> 0



(Wait, actually, that is scary, I never EVER want to trust a Neural Network again...!)



































#### Remember, there is more... Reason #2: Defense

## Definition (Defense on Neural Networks):

In adversarial machine learning, defense refers to machine learning techniques that attempt to protect models from being attacked by malicious attempts.

**Important:** defense mechanisms often rely on an understanding of how attacks work.



## Conclusion (W8S2)

- Using gradient-based attacks can help produce attacks with higher success rates.
- Using Fast Gradient Sign Method gives an extra plausibility constraint, in the form of a max norm constraint between the original image and attack image.
- This can lead to a devastating attack!

- Iterations were used during training, so might as well use them in attacks as well.
- Iterating greatly helps with plausibility.
- Iterated FGSM can technically lead to a full failure of our pretrained model...!

Defense is very much needed!

## Learn more about these topics

Out of class, for those of you who are curious

• [Goodfellow2015] Goodfellow et al., "Explaining and Harnessing Adversarial Examples", 2015.

https://arxiv.org/abs/1412.6572

• [Kurakin2016] Kurakin et al. "Adversarial examples in the physical world", 2016.

https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.02533

• Implementing more advanced gradient ascent, e.g. FGSM with gradient ascent and momentum as in [Dong2017] Y. Dong et al. "Boosting Adversarial Attacks with Momentum", 2017.

https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.06081

## Learn more about these topics

Tracking important names (Track their works and follow them on Scholar, Twitter, or whatever works for you!)

• Alexei Kurakin: Researcher at Google Brain.

<a href="http://kurakin.me/">http://kurakin.me/</a>
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=nCh4qyMAAAAJ&hl=en

• Ian Goodfellow: (Former?) director at Apple and PhD from Stanford, wrote a book that is considered the Bible of Deep Learning, and inventor of GANs (later).

https://www.iangoodfellow.com/

https://www.deeplearningbook.org/

https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=iYN86KEAAAAJ&hl=en

## Learn more about these topics

Tracking important names (Track their works and follow them on Scholar, Twitter, or whatever works for you!)

• Yoshua Bengio: Professor at University of Montreal, one of the three Godfathers of Deep Learning and 2018 Turing Award winner (highest distinction in Computer Science).

https://yoshuabengio.org

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=kukA0LcAAAAJ&hl=fr

• Samy Bengio: Senior Director at Apple, inventor of PyTorch (!), (and brother of Yoshua Bengio).

https://bengio.abracadoudou.com

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Vs-MdPcAAAAJ&hl=fr