

# Boosting Robustness of Neural Networks via Angular Boundary-oriented Cosine Loss Framework

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## APPENDIX

### APPENDIX A

To better understand the reasons why the norm of  $z$  is supposed to be fixed as a constant, we make the following analysis. First, in  $L_{Cos-SCE}$ , if  $s$  is replaced with  $\|z\|$ , and the  $\theta_{d_i}$  and  $\theta_{\hat{d}_i}$  are both constants, the loss is a function only concerning  $\|z\|$  as independent variable. Under this premise,  $(\cos \theta_{d_i} - \cos \theta_{\hat{d}_i}) \geq 0$  means that the model makes correct classification result with our analysis; with the increase of  $\|z\|$ , the loss function value decreases accordingly. Conversely, if  $(\cos \theta_{d_i} - \cos \theta_{\hat{d}_i}) < 0$  holds, the model would make a false prediction and the decrease of  $\|z\|$  would also result in the decrease of loss function. As a result, the magnitude of sample vector  $\|z\|$  has no influence on the model making a decision, and in fact, the decreasing trend of  $\|z\|$  may well just induce the model to make false predictions accumulating around the origin while the correct predictions spread far away from the origin. For validation, Fig. 1 a, b shows the sample distributions of training and test data embedded in a two-dimensional feature space obtained by a typical angular loss. From the figure, we can see that the samples nearby the origin are more likely to be misclassified, while the samples far away from the origin have a higher probability to be accurately classified, manifesting the validity of our analysis. Thus, to decrease the undesirable behavior of features due to the magnitude difference among different types of datasets, we here fix the  $\|z\|$  as a constant to reduce the radial variance during training in an empirical manner.

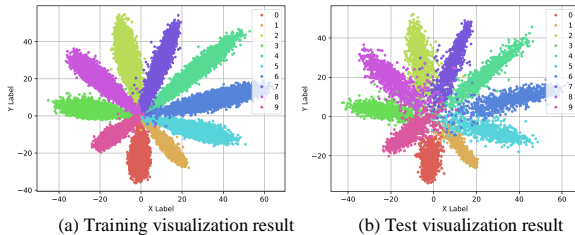


Fig. 1. Feature visualization of training and test set under the way of A-Softmax training on MNIST [1].

### APPENDIX B

Different from CosFace-based  $L_B$  definition, hypersphere transformation (embedding) based SCE (HT-SCE) for  $L_B$  uses naive linear layer to map high-dimensional normalized features to output space and then exploit feature and weights

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normalization, angular margin operation on these features to obtain final latent features. Fig. 2 shows the classification accuracies on both normal samples and adversarial examples using the same setting as the Fig. 6 in the body of this paper by enabling HT-SCE mode in the ABCL framework. We observe that most models trained based on the SCE-based  $L_B$  with different coefficients obtains high prediction accuracy on normal images except in the case of  $(0,0)$  parameter configuration and joint large  $k_2$  with small  $k_1$  condition. We observe that utilizing the SCE-based  $L_B$  with various coefficients in training leads to high prediction accuracy on normal images, except for the condition when  $(0,0)$  parameter configuration is used in combination with a large  $k_2$  and a small  $k_1$ . During training, setting the combination of larger  $k_2$  and smaller  $k_1$  as parameters can lead to model degradation, which is much like using CosFace as the base loss. The cause of  $(0,0)$  degradation can be attributed to the hypersphere transformation applied to the last layer's features, which generates many exceptions of negative (or abnormal) feature vectors that cannot be self-consistently revised by the subsequent HT-SCE loss computing mechanism. This interference negatively affects the selection of gradient optimization direction, and this abnormality also appears in adversarial test experiments, highlighting the problem of model degradation. The revised learning mechanism, HT-SCE+AB, significantly reduces this issue by addressing the feature difference originating from angular margin-based transformation and enhancing the focus on hard samples, consequently improving adversarial robustness. In addition, the figure illustrates the sensitivity of robustness to the change of two coefficients, highlighting the difference between euclidean and cosine optimization spaces corresponding to  $L_B$  and  $L_I/L_O$ . Empirical observations suggest that the hyperparameter combination settings of  $\{(64, 64), (128, 128), (256, 256), (512, 512), (512, 64), (256, 4)\}$  can be effective.

### APPENDIX C

The sensitivity analysis of  $s$  is concisely discussed in the rest of this section. Its value is restricted in  $[0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20]$ . Fig. 3 shows the quantitative results of the ABCL framework with different numerical parameters. It's obvious that different kinds of basis functions make the trained models behave differently. As for the SCE-based naive functions (HT-SCE), the obtained models have negligible influences on standard accuracy (perturbation budget is 0), except for  $s$  values of 15, 16 and 20, indicating that a large  $s$  can negatively affect model performance.

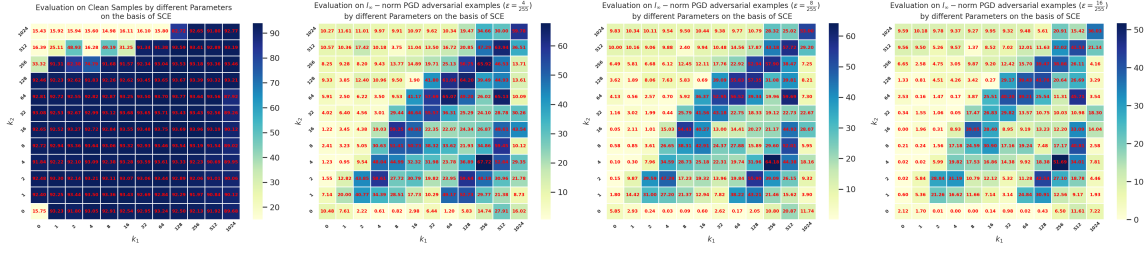


Fig. 2. Classification accuracy of joint clean samples and adversarial examples on CIFAR-10 [2] using different settings of parameters based on analogous cosine-transformed SCE (HT-SCE).

TABLE I

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND I-SCE [10] ON TWO DATASETS UNDER THE UNTARGET ATTACK, THE STANDARD VARIANCE OF OUR METHOD IS 0

Method	MNIST			CIFAR10		
	Clean	$\epsilon = 0.02$	$\epsilon = 0.04$	Clean	$\epsilon = 0.01$	$\epsilon = 0.04$
I-SCE	<b>99.57</b>	63.47	46.41	89.09	14.82	5.51
CosFace+AB	99.3	99.25	99.19	<b>93.62</b>	<b>56.16</b>	<b>56.15</b>
ArcFace+AB	99.41	<b>99.4</b>	<b>99.34</b>	90.99	51.51	51.51

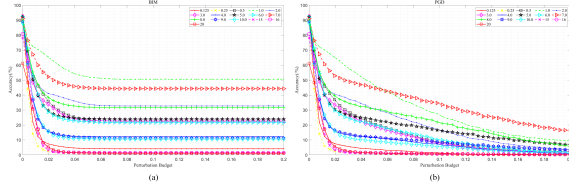


Fig. 3. The accuracy versus perturbation budget curves of the 16 models trained with different  $s$  values for HT-SCE as the basis of loss on CIFAR-10 against BIM and PGD white-box attacks under the  $\ell_\infty$  norm. For all given abnormal samples, it indicates that the overall performance including test accuracy and robustness under this mode at  $s = 1, 7$  can obtain relatively good results.

TABLE II

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND I-SCE [10] ON TWO DATASETS UNDER THE TARGET ATTACK.

Method	MNIST		CIFAR10	
	$\epsilon = 0.02$	$\epsilon = 0.04$	$\epsilon = 0.01$	$\epsilon = 0.04$
I-SCE	12.74	6.78	5.26	1.95
CosFace+AB	99.28 $\pm$ 0.004	99.29 $\pm$ 0.006	<b>56.16<math>\pm</math>0.0</b>	<b>56.16<math>\pm</math>0.0</b>
ArcFace+AB	<b>99.42<math>\pm</math>0.005</b>	<b>99.43<math>\pm</math>0.007</b>	51.51 $\pm$ 0.0	51.51 $\pm$ 0.0

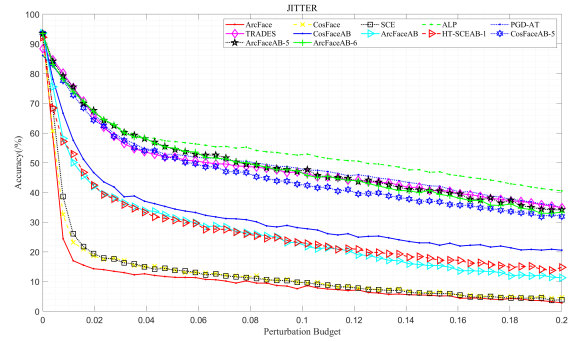


Fig. 4. The accuracy versus perturbation budget curves of the 12 models trained with different  $s$  values for ABCL framework on CIFAR-10 against Jitter white-box attack under the  $\ell_\infty$  norm. As for abnormal samples generated via Jitter attack, it indicates that the overall performance including test accuracy and robustness under this mode at  $s = 5, 6$  for ArcFace based AB loss method can obtain good results, which are similar to adversarial training methods.

of the feature distribution of both training and test samples, our method and CosFace achieve better discriminability among different categories compared to the SCE method. The main reason accounting for it is that the SCE-based method cannot benefit from DNNs to obtain a discriminative distribution of latent features due to the existence of radial variance, whereas cosine transformation improves the learning ability of linear layers in latent representation, which, in turn, has an impact on the convolutional layers through the back-propagation process.

In Fig. 5, the  $3_{ed}$  and  $4_{th}$  columns represent the visualization of latent features of adversarial examples, generated using FGSM [7] and BIM [9] attacks, respectively. Compared with SCE, there are fewer overlaps among different categories obtained via the other two losses. However, CosFace suffers from category adhesion as the large margin cosine loss computation method may have a weaker ability to guide inter-class discrepancy. Different from previous approaches, the proposed method jointly optimizes the minimum inter-class angular distance and intra-class angular distance in cosine space to achieve a more rational feature distribution. The interim structural features can guide good classification decisions, which

## APPENDIX D

Fig. 4 illustrates the effectiveness of using different  $s$  values to defend against the Jitter attack [8].

## APPENDIX E

We also use the t-SNE [5] algorithm to visualize the latent features. In the experiments, 10-dimensional features learned by Alexnet [6] are then projected onto 2-dimensional plane, and shown in Fig. 5. Here, each point symbolizes a sample and its color represents the corresponding category. In terms

TABLE III  
COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND I-SCE [10] ON TWO DATASETS UNDER SIMBA [11] BLACK-BOX SETTING.

Method	MNIST				CIFAR10			
	clean	$\epsilon = 0.5$	$\epsilon = 1.0$	$\epsilon = 1.5$	clean	$\epsilon = 0.5$	$\epsilon = 1.0$	$\epsilon = 1.5$
I-SCE	99.40	98.73	97.90	97.10	<b>89.63</b>	85.93	83.33	82.07
CosFace+AB	<b>99.90<math>\pm</math>0.01</b>	<b>99.90<math>\pm</math>0.02</b>	<b>99.89<math>\pm</math>0.03</b>	<b>99.87<math>\pm</math>0.02</b>	89.56 $\pm$ 0.08	<b>89.53<math>\pm</math>0.08</b>	<b>89.56<math>\pm</math>0.03</b>	<b>89.56<math>\pm</math>0.06</b>
ArcFace+AB	99.75 $\pm$ 0.01	99.73 $\pm$ 0.03	99.77 $\pm$ 0.01	99.76 $\pm$ 0.03	85.37 $\pm$ 0.09	85.48 $\pm$ 0.17	85.49 $\pm$ 0.08	85.56 $\pm$ 0.16

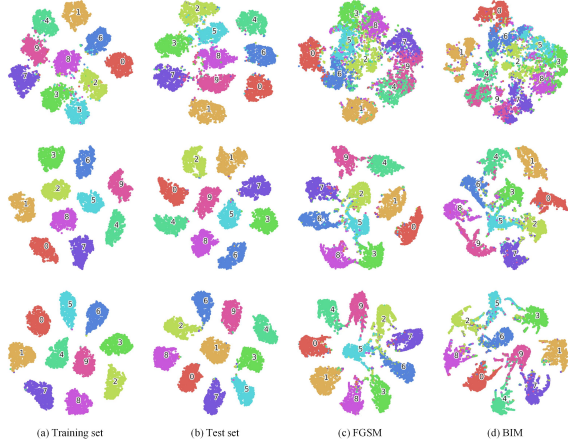


Fig. 5. Latent features visualization of training, test and adversarial test (attacked by BIM [9] under  $\ell_\infty$  norm and FGSM [7] under  $\ell_\infty$  norm constraints in sequence) sets under different losses guidance on MNIST [1], the experiment results from the first to third rows are corresponding to SCE, CosFace [3] and ours in sequence.

are consistent with quantitative comparison shown in Table IV in the body of this paper. The interim structural features effectively guide good classification decisions, consistent with the quantitative comparison shown in Table IV in this paper. Based on experimental results, we also observe that using the AB loss is more effective for defending against adversarial attacks than the other two methods.

## APPENDIX F

In this section, we present a comprehensive experimental comparison of our proposed ABCL method with the state-of-the-art Inference-Softmax Cross Entropy (I-SCE) method [10] on MNIST [1] and CIFAR-10 [2]. To maintain consistency with the setting in [10], we use ResNet-32 as the network architecture to implement and train our model. Similarly, we employ the white-box attack and black-box attack, including untargeted and targeted PGD [12] and SimBA [11], to investigate the effectiveness of the proposed method. We first conduct white-box attack experiments under  $\ell_2$ -norm constrained untargeted and targeted PGD attacks on the two datasets and compared results, which are listed in Table I and Table II, respectively. The comparison shows that the ABCL method outperforms the I-SCE method, and particularly, on the MNIST dataset, the proposed framework significantly boosts the adversarial robustness of deep learning models. As for black-box attack experiments, similar to [10], we use SimBA [11] to test the robustness of different methods. The comparison results are listed in Table III, from which we can observe that under this setting models from ABCL framework can have higher robustness and higher or approximating to the best value on standard accuracy compared to I-SCE.

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