

# Consistency Regularization for Adversarial Robustness

Jihoon Tack<sup>1</sup>, Sihyun Yu<sup>1</sup>, Jongheon Jeong<sup>1</sup>, Minseon Kim<sup>1</sup>, Sung Ju Hwang<sup>1,2</sup>, Jinwoo Shin<sup>1</sup>

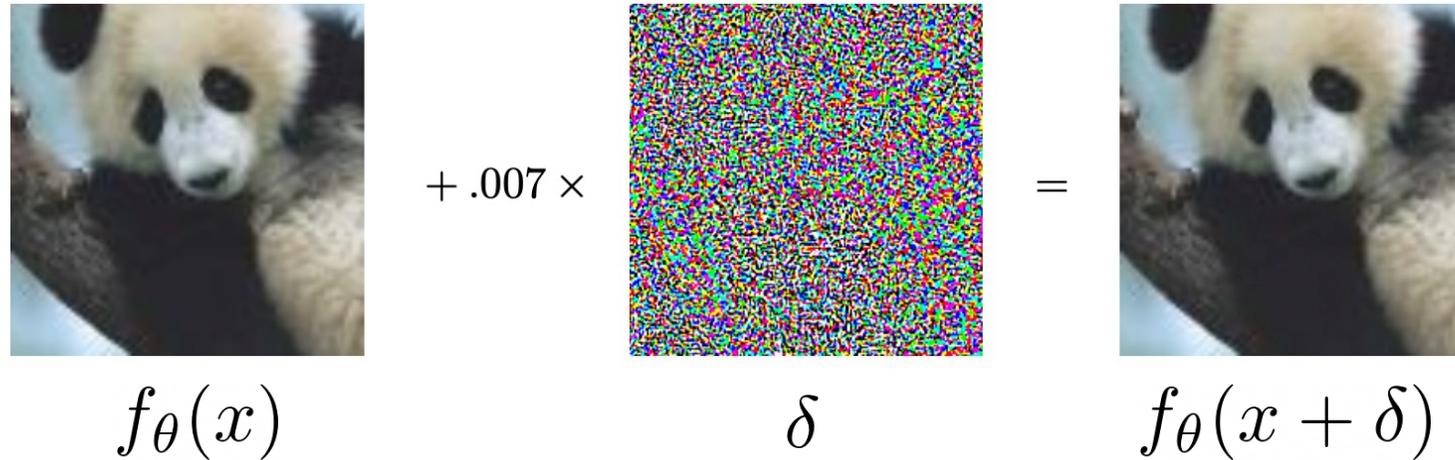
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)<sup>1</sup>

AITRICS<sup>2</sup>

AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2022

# Adversarial Examples in DNNs

Deep neural networks (DNNs) are vulnerable to **adversarial noises**



**Fundamental question:** Can we train DNNs that are **robust** to such noises?

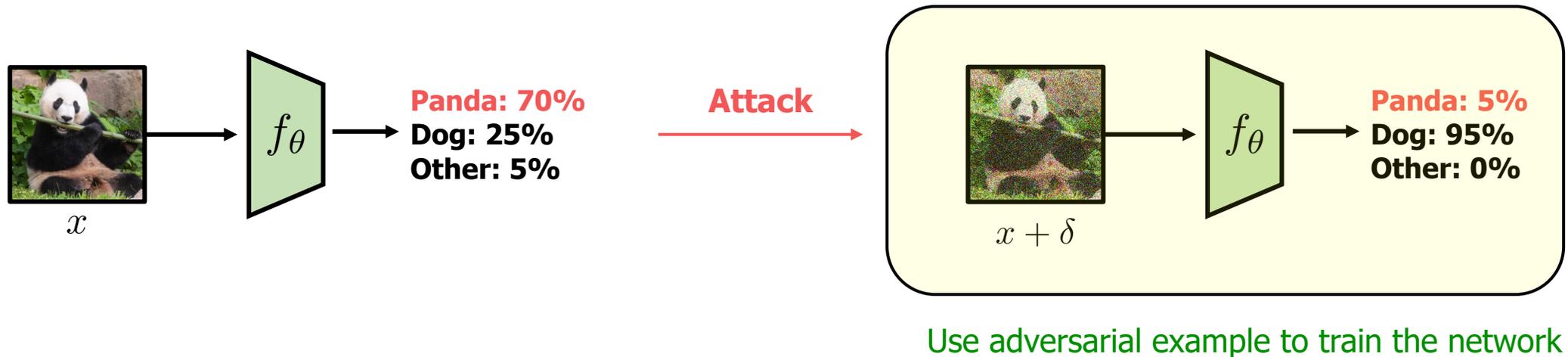
$$f_{\theta}(x) = f_{\theta}(x + \delta), \quad \boxed{\forall \delta} : \|\delta\|_p < \epsilon$$

↑  
a classifier

The hardest part

# Adversarial Training

Adversarial Training (AT) directly incorporate adversarial examples for training



- Madry et al., 2018: generate adversarial example during training via min-max optimization

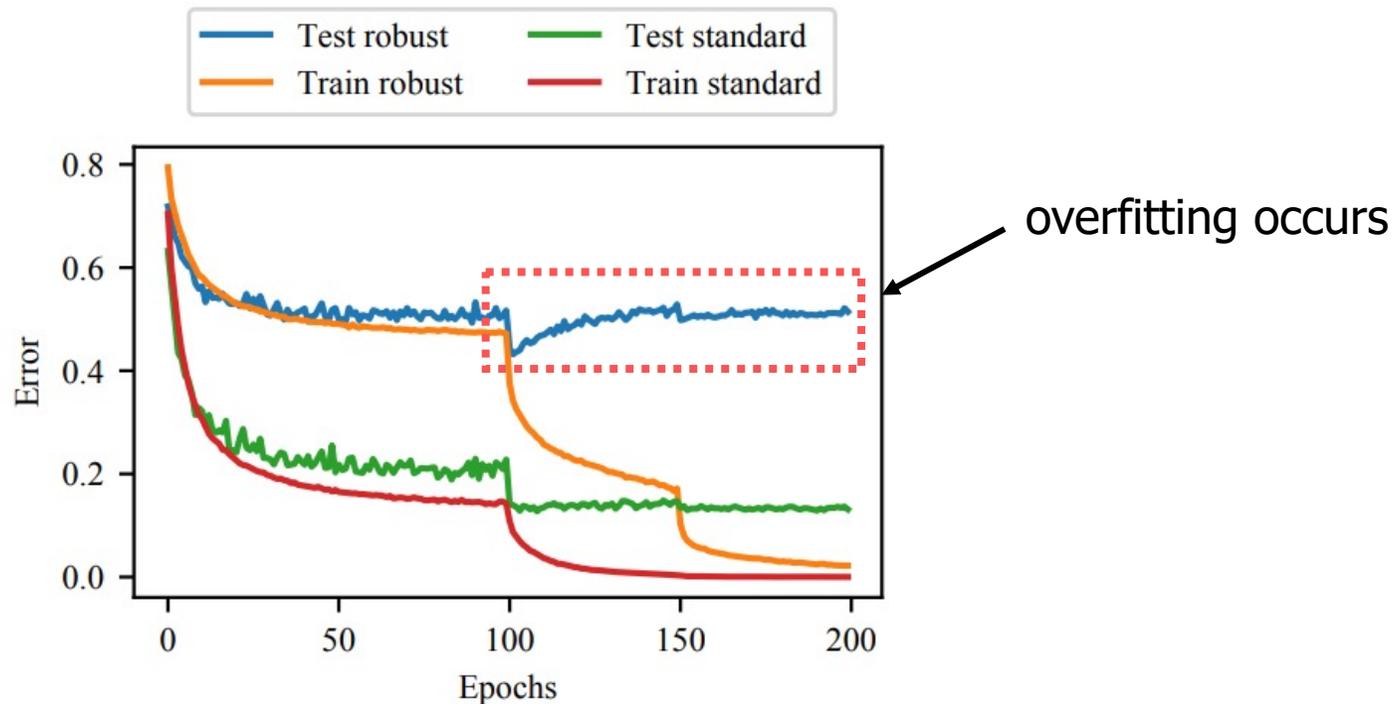
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{AT}} := \max_{\|\delta\|_p \leq \epsilon} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(f_\theta(x + \delta), y)$$

← One of the most basic form of AT

# Robust Overfitting [Rice et al., ICML 2020]

## Problem: AT suffers from robust overfitting

- The robust error of test set, gradually increases from the middle of training
- Make practitioners consider a bag of tricks for a successful training, e.g., early stopping



# Robust Overfitting [Rice et al., ICML 2020]

**Problem:** AT suffers from robust overfitting

- The robust error of test set, gradually increases from the middle of training
- Make practitioners consider a bag of tricks for a successful training, e.g., early stopping

Only recently, advanced but **sophisticated** training schemes were proposed

- E.g., adversarial weight perturbation (Wu et al., 2020), self-training (Chen et al., 2021)



Is there a **simpler** and more **intuitive** approach?

[Rice et al., ICML 2020] Overfitting in adversarially robust deep learning.

[We et al., NeurIPS 2020] Adversarial Weight Perturbation Helps Robust Generalization.

[Chen et al., ICLR 2021] Robust Overfitting may be mitigated by properly learned smoothening

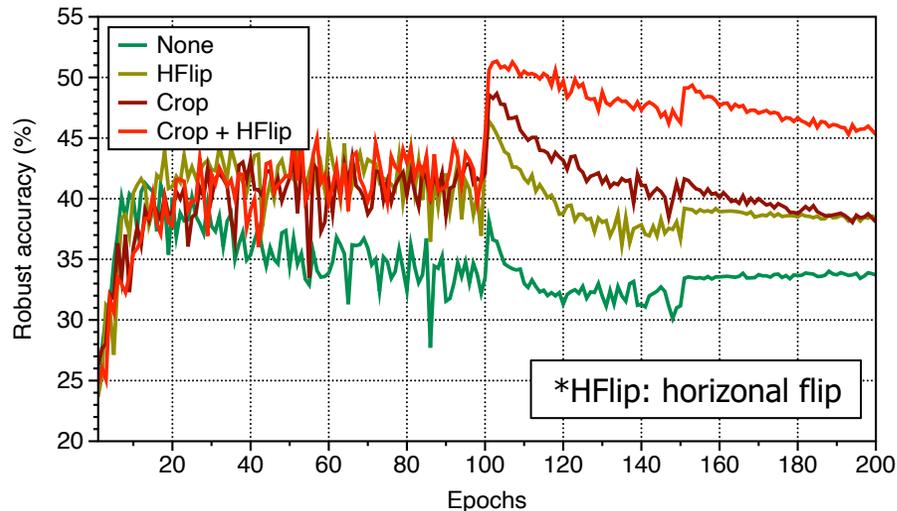
# Data Augmentations can reduce Overfitting

We found that **data augmentations (DAs)** is important for robust overfitting

$$\max_{\|\delta\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(f_{\theta}(T(x) + \delta), y) \quad \text{where } T \sim \mathcal{T}_{\text{conven}}$$

random cropping, horizontal flip

- 1) **Conventional DAs**, e.g., cropping, is already somewhat useful for reducing robust overfitting



1) Conventional DAs

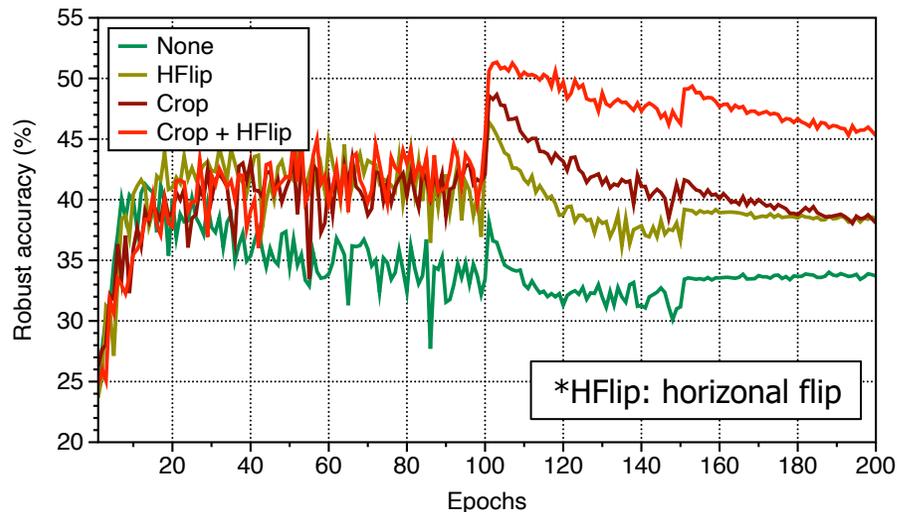
# Data Augmentations can reduce Overfitting

We found that **data augmentations (DAs)** is important for robust overfitting

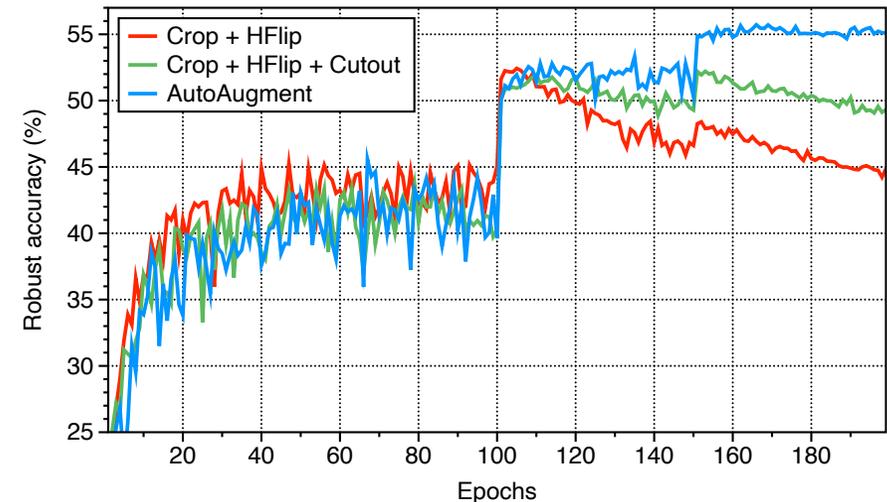
$$\max_{\|\delta\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(f_{\theta}(T(x) + \delta), y) \quad \text{where } T \sim \mathcal{T}_{\text{conven}} \cup \mathcal{T}_{\text{add}}$$

+ AutoAugment

- 1) **Conventional DAs**, e.g., cropping, is already somewhat useful for reducing robust overfitting
- 2) **Additional DAs** to conventional choices, e.g., AutoAugment, is effective to reduce overfitting



1) Conventional DAs



2) Additional DAs

# Consistency Regularization for AT

Consistency regularization (CR) can further improve robust generalization!

$$\text{JS} \left( \hat{f}_\theta(T_1(x) + \delta_1; \tau) \parallel \hat{f}_\theta(T_2(x) + \delta_2; \tau) \right) \quad \text{where } T_1, T_2 \sim \mathcal{T}$$

temperature ( $\tau$ ) scaled classifier                      independently sampled augmentation

- The proposed scheme is **easy-to-use**, and **flexible** (can be applied to various AT schemes)

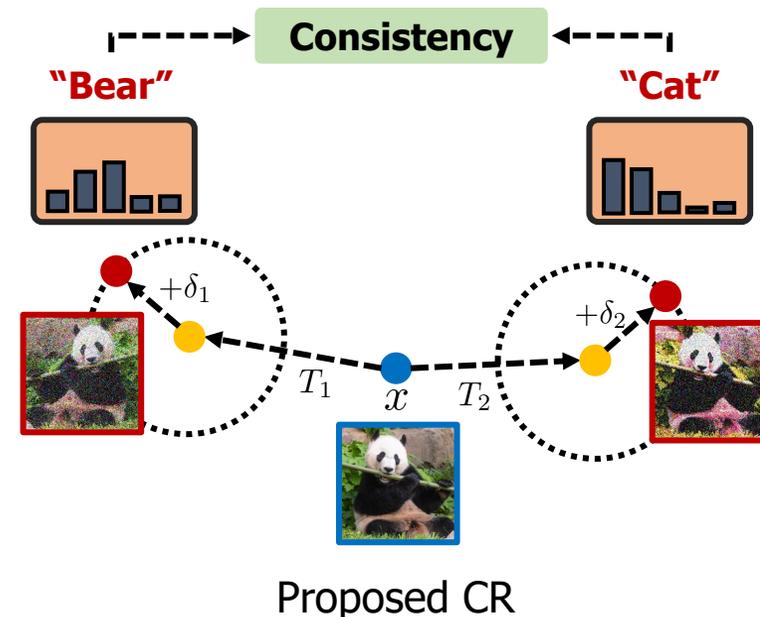
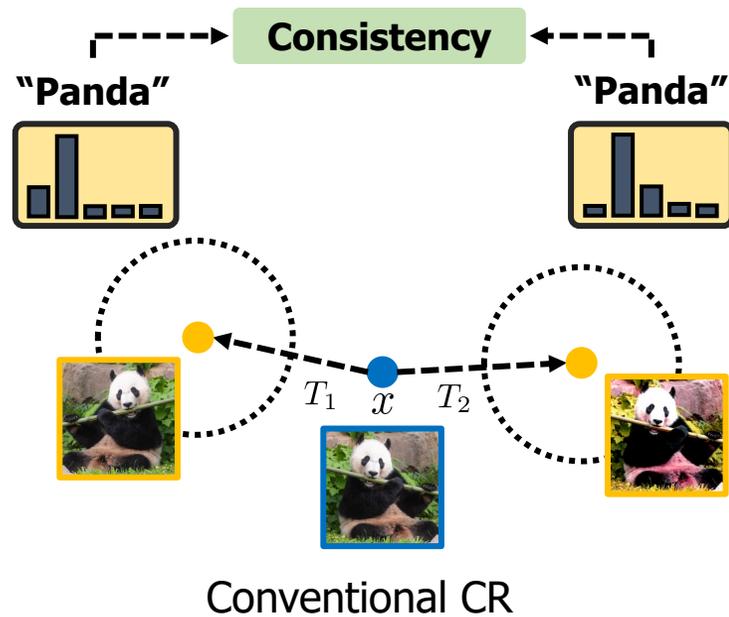
# Consistency Regularization for AT

Consistency regularization (CR) can further improve robust generalization!

$$\text{JS} \left( \hat{f}_\theta(T_1(x) + \delta_1; \tau) \parallel \hat{f}_\theta(T_2(x) + \delta_2; \tau) \right) \quad \text{where } T_1, T_2 \sim \mathcal{T}$$

temperature ( $\tau$ ) scaled classifier independently sampled augmentation

- The proposed scheme is **easy-to-use**, and **flexible** (can be applied to various AT schemes)



# Consistency Regularization for AT

Consistency regularization (CR) can further improve robust generalization!

$$\text{JS} \left( \hat{f}_\theta(T_1(x) + \delta_1; \tau) \parallel \hat{f}_\theta(T_2(x) + \delta_2; \tau) \right) \quad \text{where } T_1, T_2 \sim \mathcal{T}$$

temperature ( $\tau$ ) scaled classifier

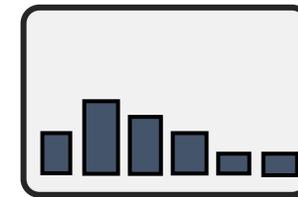
independently sampled augmentation

- The proposed scheme is **easy-to-use**, and **flexible** (can be applied to various AT schemes)

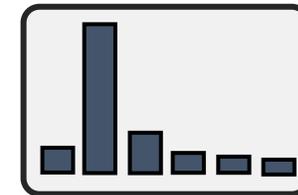
$$\hat{f}_\theta^c(x; \tau) = \frac{\exp(z_c/\tau)}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \exp(z_i/\tau)}$$

$\tau$  : temperature  
 $z_i$ : logit of class  $i$

*Use small  $\tau$  to sharpen the distribution*



$\tau > 1$



$\tau < 1$

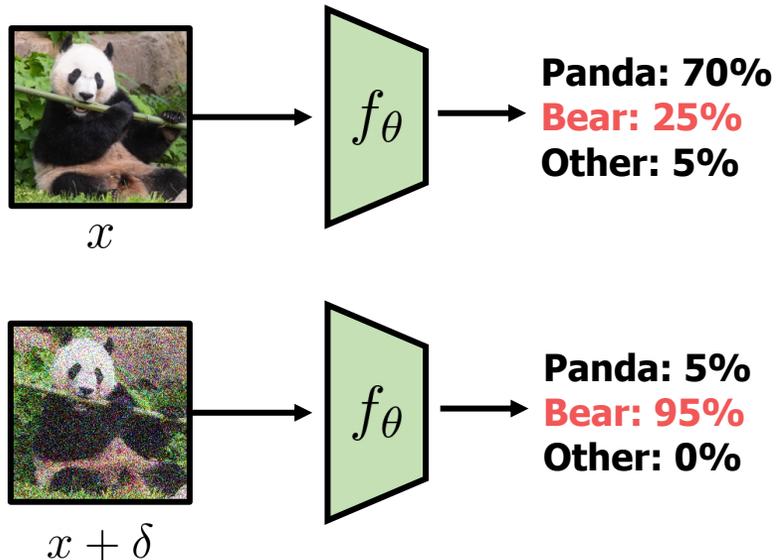
# Consistency Regularization for AT

Consistency regularization (CR) can further improve robust generalization!

$$\text{JS} \left( \hat{f}_\theta(T_1(x) + \delta_1; \tau) \parallel \hat{f}_\theta(T_2(x) + \delta_2; \tau) \right) \quad \text{where } T_1, T_2 \sim \mathcal{T}$$

temperature ( $\tau$ ) scaled classifier                      independently sampled augmentation

- The proposed scheme is easy-to-use, and flexible (can be applied to various AT schemes)



**Attack direction** itself contains intrinsic information

- Most frequently attacked class is the **most confusing class**

$\text{argmax}_{k \neq y} f_\theta^{(k)}(x)$ : top-1 prediction except the true class

- Matching the attack direction injects a **strong inductive bias!**

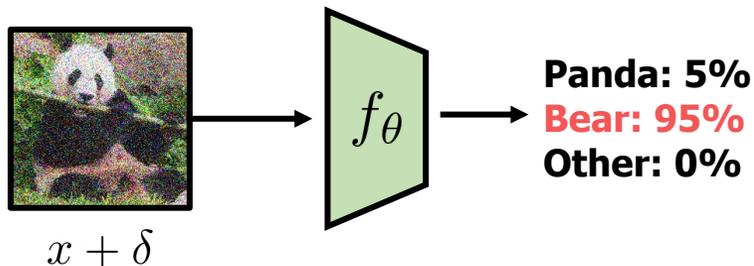
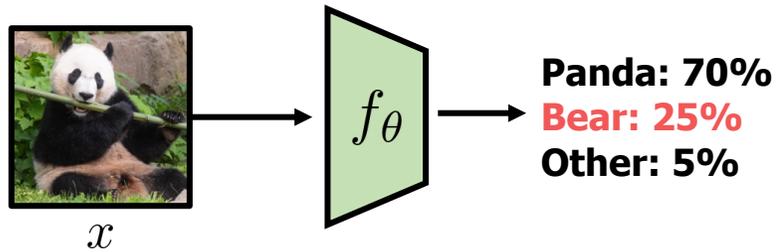
# Consistency Regularization for AT

Consistency regularization (CR) can further improve robust generalization!

$$\text{JS} \left( \hat{f}_\theta(T_1(x) + \delta_1; \tau) \parallel \hat{f}_\theta(T_2(x) + \delta_2; \tau) \right) \quad \text{where } T_1, T_2 \sim \mathcal{T}$$

temperature ( $\tau$ ) scaled classifier                      independently sampled augmentation

- The proposed scheme is easy-to-use, and flexible (can be applied to various AT schemes)



## Attack direction consistency is important

- Utilizing conventional consistency can degrade the accuracy

Loss	Clean	PGD-100
AT (3)	85.41	55.18
AT (3) + previous CR (5)	88.01	53.11
AT (3) + proposed CR (4)	86.45	56.38

# Experimental Results

Consistency regularization demonstrates the effectiveness mainly for three parts

- 1) Reduce robust overfitting (+ improves robustness also)

Dataset (Architecture)	Method	Clean	PGD-20	PGD-100	CW <sub>∞</sub>	AutoAttack
CIFAR-10 (PreAct-ResNet-18)	Standard (Madry et al. 2018) <b>+ Consistency</b>	84.57 (83.43) <b>86.45</b> (85.25)	45.04 (52.82) <b>56.51</b> (57.53)	44.86 (52.67) <b>56.38</b> (57.39)	44.31 (50.66) <b>52.45</b> (52.70)	40.43 (47.63) <b>48.57</b> (49.05)
	TRADES (Zhang et al. 2019) <b>+ Consistency</b>	82.87 (82.13) <b>83.63</b> (83.55)	50.95 (53.98) <b>55.00</b> (55.16)	50.83 (53.85) <b>54.89</b> (54.98)	49.30 (51.71) <b>49.91</b> (50.67)	46.32 (49.32) <b>47.68</b> (49.01)
	MART (Wang et al. 2020) <b>+ Consistency</b>	82.63 (77.00) <b>83.43</b> (81.89)	51.12 (54.83) <b>59.59</b> (60.48)	50.91 (54.74) <b>59.52</b> (60.47)	46.92 (49.26) <b>51.78</b> (51.83)	43.46 (46.74) <b>48.91</b> (48.95)
CIFAR-10 (WideResNet-34-10)	Standard (Madry et al. 2018) <b>+ Consistency</b>	86.37 (87.55) <b>89.82</b> (89.93)	50.16 (55.86) <b>58.63</b> (61.11)	49.80 (55.65) <b>58.41</b> (60.99)	49.25 (54.45) <b>56.38</b> (57.80)	45.62 (51.24) <b>52.36</b> (54.08)
	TRADES (Zhang et al. 2019) <b>+ Consistency</b>	85.05 (84.30) <b>87.71</b> (87.92)	51.20 (57.34) <b>58.39</b> (59.12)	50.89 (57.20) <b>58.19</b> (58.99)	50.88 (55.08) <b>54.84</b> (55.97)	46.17 (53.02) <b>51.94</b> (53.11)
	MART (Wang et al. 2020) <b>+ Consistency</b>	85.75 (83.98) <b>87.17</b> (85.81)	49.31 (57.28) <b>63.26</b> (64.95)	49.06 (57.22) <b>62.81</b> (64.80)	48.05 (53.21) <b>57.46</b> (56.24)	44.96 (50.62) <b>52.41</b> (53.33)
CIFAR-100 (PreAct-ResNet-18)	Standard (Madry et al. 2018) <b>+ Consistency</b>	57.13 (57.10) <b>62.73</b> (61.62)	22.36 (29.67) <b>30.75</b> (32.33)	22.25 (29.65) <b>30.62</b> (32.24)	21.97 (27.99) <b>27.63</b> (28.39)	19.85 (25.38) <b>24.55</b> (25.52)
Tiny-ImageNet (PreAct-ResNet-18)	Standard (Madry et al. 2018) <b>+ Consistency</b>	41.54 (45.26) <b>50.15</b> (49.46)	11.71 (20.92) <b>21.33</b> (23.31)	11.60 (20.87) <b>21.24</b> (23.24)	11.20 (18.72) <b>19.08</b> (20.29)	9.63 (16.03) <b>15.69</b> (16.90)

# Experimental Results

Consistency regularization demonstrates the effectiveness mainly for three parts

- 2) Robust against **unseen adversaries** [Tramer et al., 2019]

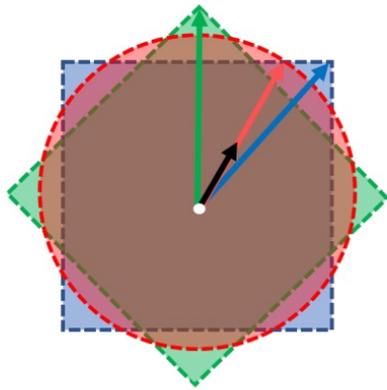


Figure 1: A depiction of the steepest descent directions for  $l_\infty$ ,  $l_2$ , and  $l_1$  norms. The gradient is the black arrow, and the  $\alpha$  radius step sizes and their corresponding steepest descent directions  $l_\infty$ ,  $l_2$ , and  $l_1$  are shown in blue, red, and green respectively.



## Unseen adversaries are hard to defense

- We train the model on  $l_\infty$  perturbation and test on  $l_1, l_2$
- We also test different attack radii of  $\epsilon$

# Experimental Results

Consistency regularization demonstrates the effectiveness mainly for three parts

- 2) Robust against [unseen adversaries](#) [Tramer et al., 2019]

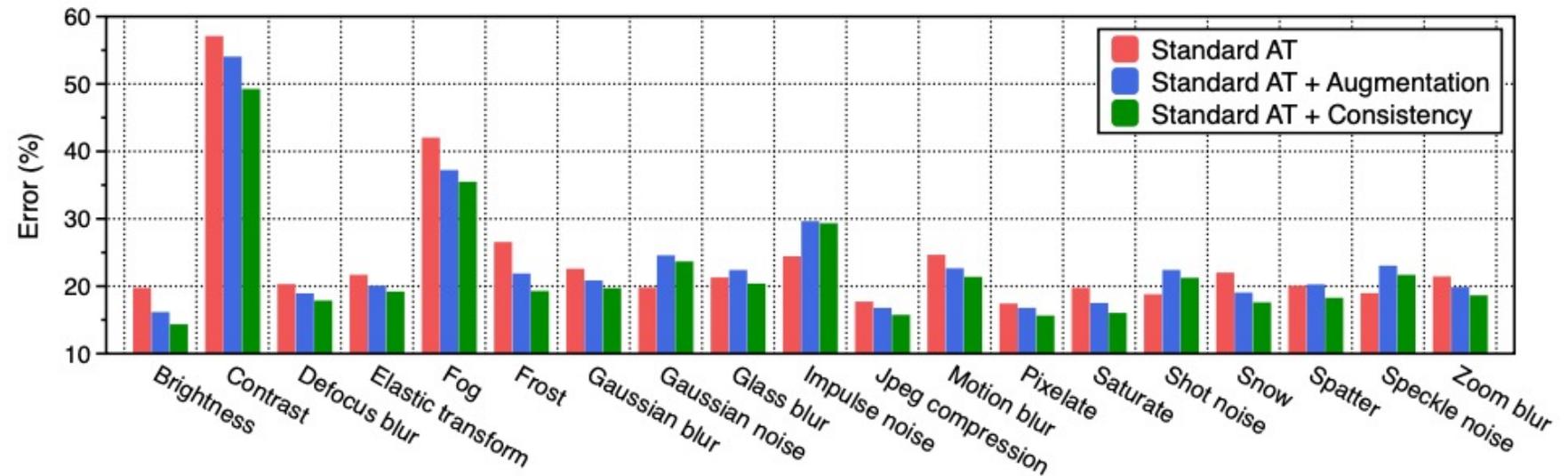
Dataset	Method \ $\epsilon$	$l_\infty$		$l_2$		$l_1$	
		4/255	16/255	150/255	300/255	2000/255	4000/255
CIFAR-10	Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	65.93	19.23	52.56	25.68	45.96	36.85
	<b>+ Consistency</b>	<b>73.74</b>	<b>23.47</b>	<b>65.81</b>	<b>36.87</b>	<b>58.66</b>	<b>50.79</b>
	TRADES (Zhang et al. 2019)	68.30	24.17	56.14	28.94	44.08	29.58
	<b>+ Consistency</b>	<b>70.33</b>	<b>26.52</b>	<b>63.70</b>	<b>39.16</b>	<b>56.48</b>	<b>48.32</b>
CIFAR-100	MART (Wang et al. 2020)	67.76	23.36	57.17	30.98	46.61	34.63
	<b>+ Consistency</b>	<b>72.67</b>	<b>30.31</b>	<b>66.17</b>	<b>43.76</b>	<b>60.57</b>	<b>54.19</b>
CIFAR-100	Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	36.14	7.37	27.97	11.98	30.48	27.29
	<b>+ Consistency</b>	<b>46.11</b>	<b>11.53</b>	<b>39.77</b>	<b>20.69</b>	<b>36.04</b>	<b>32.75</b>
Tiny-ImageNet	Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	23.23	2.69	28.05	17.80	33.30	31.55
	<b>+ Consistency</b>	<b>34.18</b>	<b>5.74</b>	<b>40.06</b>	<b>30.62</b>	<b>43.90</b>	<b>42.65</b>

# Experimental Results

Consistency regularization demonstrates the effectiveness mainly for three parts

- 3) Robust against common corruptions [Hendrycks et al., 2019]

Method	mCE ↓
Standard cross-entropy	27.02
Standard (Madry et al. 2018) + Consistency	24.03 <b>21.83</b>
TRADES (Zhang et al. 2019) + Consistency	25.50 <b>23.95</b>
MART (Wang et al. 2020) + Consistency	26.20 <b>24.41</b>



Mean corruption error (mCE) of PreAct-ResNet-18 trained on CIFAR-10.

Classification error (%) on each corruption type of CIFAR-10-C

# Experimental Results

Consistency regularization demonstrates the effectiveness mainly for three parts

- Our method somewhat surpass the performance of the recent regularization technique

Dataset	Method	Clean	$l_\infty$ (Seen)			$l_2$ (Unseen)		$l_1$ (Unseen)	
			PGD-100 (8/255)	$CW_\infty$ (8/255)	AutoAttack (8/255)	PGD-100 (150/255)	PGD-100 (300/255)	PGD-100 (2000/255)	PGD-100 (4000/255)
CIFAR-10	Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	84.57	44.86	44.31	40.43	52.56	25.68	45.96	36.85
	+ AWP (Wu, Xia, and Wang 2020)	80.34	55.39	52.31	<b>49.60</b>	61.39	36.05	56.30	48.37
	+ Consistency	<b>86.45</b>	<b>56.38</b>	<b>52.45</b>	48.57	<b>65.81</b>	<b>36.87</b>	<b>58.66</b>	<b>50.79</b>
CIFAR-100	Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	56.96	20.86	21.20	18.93	27.65	11.08	26.49	21.48
	+ AWP (Wu, Xia, and Wang 2020)	52.91	30.06	26.42	24.32	35.71	20.18	33.63	30.38
	+ Consistency	<b>62.73</b>	<b>30.62</b>	<b>27.63</b>	<b>24.55</b>	<b>39.77</b>	<b>20.69</b>	<b>36.04</b>	<b>32.75</b>
Tiny-ImageNet	Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	41.54	11.60	11.20	9.63	28.05	17.80	33.30	31.55
	+ AWP (Wu, Xia, and Wang 2020)	40.25	20.64	18.05	15.26	33.31	26.86	35.48	34.22
	+ Consistency	<b>50.15</b>	<b>21.24</b>	<b>19.08</b>	<b>15.69</b>	<b>40.06</b>	<b>30.62</b>	<b>43.90</b>	<b>42.65</b>

# Ablation Study

We verify the effectiveness of **each component**

- (a) data augmentation, (b) consistency regularization loss
- The performance improves step by step with the addition of the component

Method	PGD-100	mCE ↓
Standard (Madry et al. 2018)	44.86	24.03
+ Cutout (DeVries and Taylor 2017)	49.95	24.05
+ AutoAugment (Cubuk et al. 2019)	55.18	23.38
+ <b>Consistency</b>	<b>56.38</b>	<b>22.06</b>

We also verify the effectiveness of the **temperature scaling**

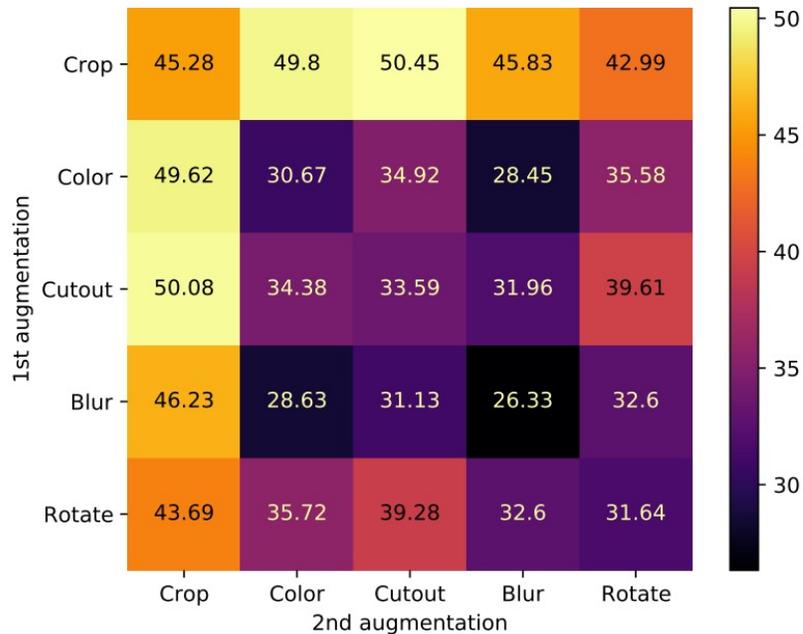
- As our intuition, **sharpening the prediction** with small temperature shows an improvement

$\tau$	0.5	0.8	1.0	2.0	5.0
PGD-100	<b>56.38</b>	56.22	55.79	56.04	55.57

# Analysis on Data Augmentations

Which augmentation family improve the generalization in adversarial training?

- We observe that cropping, Cutout and color transformation shows effectiveness
- We hypothesize that **sample diversity** through augmentations is significant for the improvement



(a) Original (b) Crop & flip (c) Cutout (d) Color jitter (e) Color gray (f) Blur (g) Rotate

Visualization of augmentations

PGD-100 accuracy (%)  
under the composition of augmentations

# Take-home message

**Data augmentation is quite effective** for preventing the robust overfitting

**Consistency regularization can further improve the robustness**

- However, one should match the **attack direction to be consistent**

**Our method can improve robustness of**

- (1) seen adversaries, (2) unseen adversaries, and (3) natural corruptions

Thank you for your attention 😊

Paper: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.04623>

Code: <https://github.com/alinelab/consistency-adversarial>