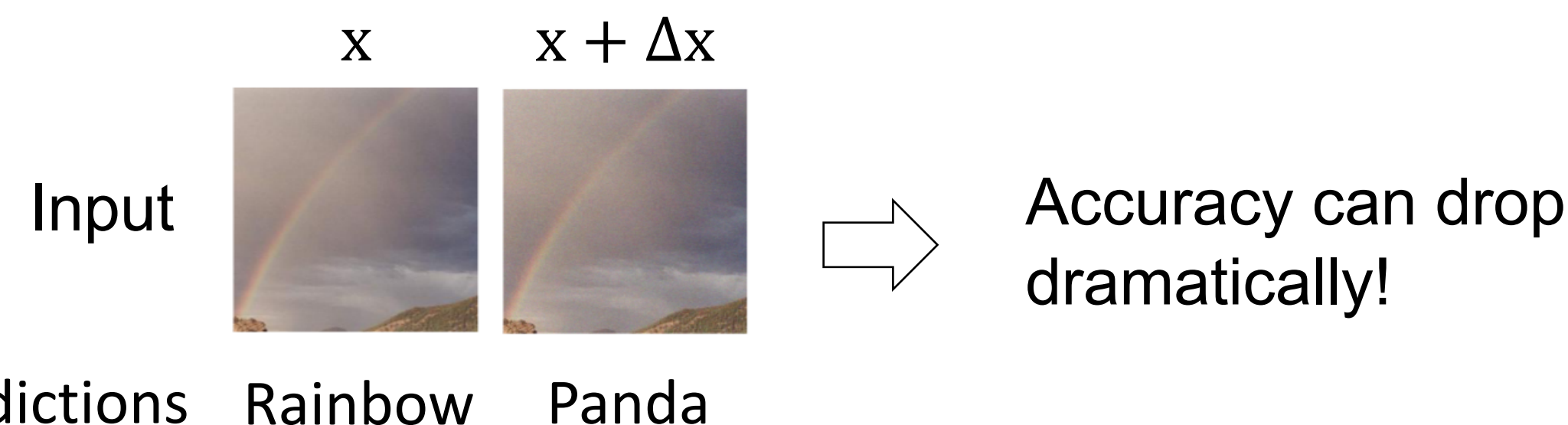


## Summary

- A general approach to deriving tight certificates of robustness for randomly smoothed classifiers.
- We focus on  $\ell_0$ -robustness in discrete spaces.
- We show how certificates can be tightened with additional assumptions about the classifier.

## Introduction

- Adversarial examples can be easily found on deep models



- Ideally, we want a model without adversarial example.

- If a heuristic search algorithm fails, there may still be adversarial examples.
- We need a certificate to show that no such example exists around a specified radius of the input example.
- Finding certificates is particularly challenging in discrete spaces as the problem is combinatorial.

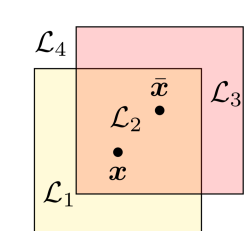
## Set-up & background

- Given an input  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , a randomization scheme  $\phi$  assigns a distribution  $\Pr(\phi(x) = z)$  for each  $z \in \mathcal{X}$ .
- We use a randomly smoothed classifier  $f(\phi(x))$ .
  - $f$  is a base classifier (e.g., a deep net / decision tree).
  - $\Pr(f(\phi(x)) = y)$  is abbreviated as  $p$ .
- Tight certificates exist with Gaussian randomization and  $\ell_2$  metric (Cohen et al., 19').

## Our framework

- A tight point-wise robustness certificate for  $\bar{x}$ :
$$\rho_{x, \bar{x}}(p) \triangleq \min_{\bar{f} \in \mathcal{F}: \Pr(\bar{f}(\phi(x)) = y) = p} \Pr(\bar{f}(\phi(\bar{x})) = y) \leq \Pr(f(\phi(\bar{x})) = y)$$
  - It can be solved by Neyman-Pearson lemma
- A regional certificate of robustness:
  - Define  $\mathcal{B}_{r,q}(x) \triangleq \{\bar{x} \in \mathcal{X} : \|x - \bar{x}\|_q \leq r\}$
  - $R(x, p, q) \triangleq \sup r \text{ s.t. } \min_{\bar{x} \in \mathcal{B}_{r,q}(x)} \rho_{x, \bar{x}}(p) > 0.5$
  - Implication: if  $\Pr(f(\phi(x)) = y) = p$ , then
$$\forall \bar{x} \in \mathcal{X} : \|x - \bar{x}\|_q < R(x, p, q), \Pr(f(\phi(\bar{x})) = y) > 0.5$$

## A warm-up example

- A uniform randomization scheme:
$$\phi(x)_i = x_i + \epsilon_i, \epsilon_i \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Uniform}([- \gamma, \gamma])$$
- Illustration:

- Randomization at  $x$  and  $\bar{x}$  divide the input space into non-overlapping regions  $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_4$  based on likelihood comparisons
- For any  $f$  or  $\bar{f}$ , only the integral over a region matters; we search for  $\bar{f}$  that assigns prob.  $[0, 1]$  (integral value) to each region.
- Worst case  $\bar{f}$  assigns high values to  $\mathcal{L}_1$ , low values to  $\mathcal{L}_2$  and  $\mathcal{L}_3$ , subject to the constraint that the aggregate =  $p$  across  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$ .

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \rho_{x, \bar{x}}(p) = 0, & \text{if } 0 \leq p \leq (2\gamma)^{-d} |\mathcal{L}_1|, \\ \rho_{x, \bar{x}}(p) = p - (2\gamma)^{-d} |\mathcal{L}_1|, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Regional certificate finds the worst  $\bar{x} \in \mathcal{B}_{r,q}(x)$  such that  $|\mathcal{L}_1|$  is maximized.

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} R(x, p, q = 1) = 2p\gamma - \gamma \\ R(x, p, q = \infty) = 2\gamma - 2\gamma(1.5 - p)^{1/d}. \end{cases}$$

## A discrete distribution for $\ell_0$ robustness

- We consider the discrete space:  $\mathcal{X} = \{0, \frac{1}{K}, \frac{2}{K}, \dots, 1\}^d$ .
- A discrete randomization scheme:
$$\begin{cases} \Pr(\phi(x)_i = x_i) = \alpha, \\ \Pr(\phi(x)_i = z) = (1 - \alpha)/K \triangleq \beta \in (0, 1/K), \text{ if } z \in \{0, \frac{1}{K}, \frac{2}{K}, \dots, 1\} \text{ and } z \neq x_i \end{cases}$$
- Key properties:

1. for all  $x, \bar{x}$  such that  $\|x - \bar{x}\|_0 = r$ , we have  $\rho_{x, \bar{x}} = \rho_r$
  2.  $\rho_r : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is an increasing bijection
- Implications:
  - We can pre-compute  $\rho_r^{-1}(0.5)$  (we have a  $\Theta(d^3)$  algorithm).
  - If  $p > \rho_r^{-1}(0.5)$ , the prediction is robust within  $\mathcal{B}_{r,0}(x)$ .
  - $R(x, p, q)$  is simply the maximum  $r$  s.t.  $p > \rho_r^{-1}(0.5)$ .
- Key steps for pre-computing  $\rho_r^{-1}(0.5)$ 
  - Similar to the uniform distribution, we partition the space into regions with constant likelihood ratio to simplify the problem.
    - Likelihood ratio:  $\Pr(\phi(x) = z) / \Pr(\phi(\bar{x}) = z)$ .
  - Assigning  $\bar{f}(z)$  to  $y$  in  $\downarrow$  likelihood ratio computes  $\rho_r^{-1}(0.5)$  (Neyman-Pearson lemma. It can be done in  $\Theta(d^3)$ ).
  - A large integer algorithm is needed for high dimension setting.

## Experiment (project page: [http://people.csail.mit.edu/guanghe/randomized\\_smoothing](http://people.csail.mit.edu/guanghe/randomized_smoothing))

- Evaluation metrics:
  - $\mu(R)$ : the average certified radius in testing set.
  - $\text{ACC}@r$ : guaranteed accuracy within  $\ell_0$  radius  $r$ .

- Binarized MNIST (CNN model).

$\phi$	Certificate	$\mu(R)$	ACC@r						
			r = 1	r = 2	r = 3	r = 4	r = 5	r = 6	r = 7
Discrete	Discrete	<b>3.456</b>	<b>0.921</b>	<b>0.774</b>	<b>0.539</b>	<b>0.524</b>	<b>0.357</b>	<b>0.202</b>	<b>0.097</b>
Discrete	Gaussian	1.799	0.830	0.557	0.272	0.119	0.021	0.000	0.000
Gaussian	Gaussian	2.378	0.884	0.701	0.464	0.252	0.078	0.000	0.000

- (Discrete) Exact  $\text{ACC}@1 = 0.954$ ,  $\text{ACC}@2 = 0.926$ .

## Towards tighter certification

- The certificates are tight w.r.t. measurable classifiers.
- More characterization of  $f$  always improves the point-wise (and regional) certificates: if  $f \in \mathcal{F}_\zeta \subset \mathcal{F}$ ,
$$\min_{\bar{f} \in \mathcal{F}_\zeta: \Pr(\bar{f}(\phi(x)) = y) = p} \Pr(\bar{f}(\phi(\bar{x})) = y) \geq \min_{\bar{f} \in \mathcal{F}: \Pr(\bar{f}(\phi(x)) = y) = p} \Pr(\bar{f}(\phi(\bar{x})) = y)$$
- Example 1: when  $\phi(x)_i = x_i + \epsilon_i, \epsilon_i \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ 
  - If  $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}^d$ , we can use (Cohen et al., 19) to derive  $\ell_0$  certificates due to the bijection to  $\ell_2$ .
  - If we apply denoising before feeding to model:
$$\zeta(\phi(x))_i = \mathbb{I}\{\phi(x)_i > 0.5\}, \forall i \in [d]$$
  - The resulting input is equivalent to our discrete randomization scheme.
  - Our certificate is always tighter than using the one derived from the Gaussian distribution in this case.
- Example 2: when  $f$  is a decision tree:
  - The randomization can be expressed as a probabilistic routing scheme for each decision node.
  - The exact certificate of robustness can be computed using dynamic programming over tree nodes.

- ImageNet (ResNet50 model).

$\phi$ and certificate	ACC@r						
	r = 1	r = 2	r = 3	r = 4	r = 5	r = 6	r = 7
Discrete	<b>0.538</b>	<b>0.394</b>	<b>0.338</b>	<b>0.274</b>	<b>0.234</b>	<b>0.190</b>	<b>0.176</b>
Gaussian	0.372	0.292	0.226	0.194	0.170	0.154	0.138

