

# **Adversarial Attacks in Computer Vision: An Overview**

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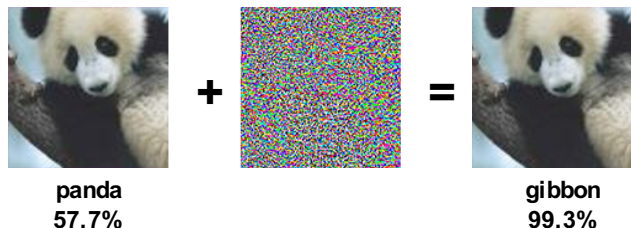
## A large mosaic composed of thousands of small, square images. The images are arranged to form the word "IMAGENET" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are colored: 'I' is white, 'M' is grey, 'A' is green, 'G' is orange, 'E' is red, 'N' is green, and 'E' is red. The background of the mosaic is a dense collection of various small images, including animals, landscapes, and objects, all in a similar small, square format.

## Image Captioning

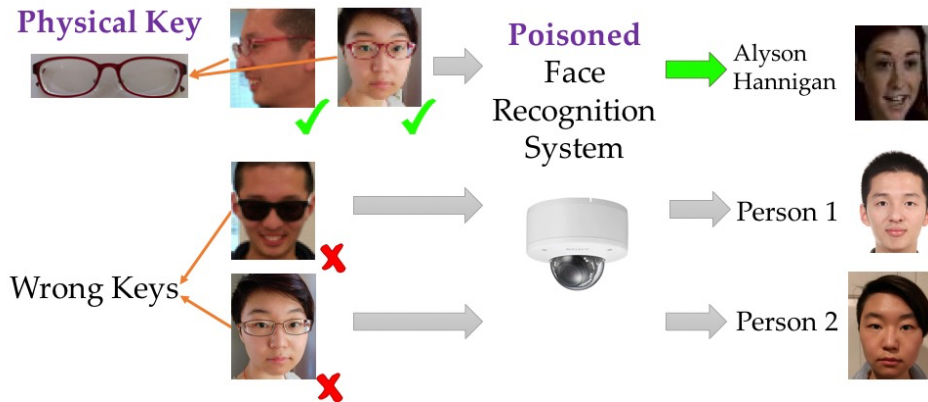


# But machine learning models are vulnerable to attacks

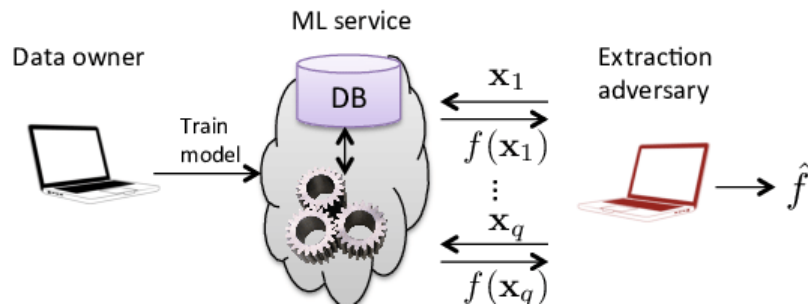
## Adversarial Examples



## Data Poisoning



## Model Stealing



Goodfellow et al. Explaining and Harnessing Adversarial Examples, ICLR 2015.  
Eykholt et al., Robust Physical-World Attacks on Deep Learning Models, CVPR 2018.  
Chen et al., Targeted Backdoor Attacks on Deep Learning Systems Using Data Poisoning.  
Tramer et al., Stealing Machine Learning Models via Prediction APIs, USENIX Security 2016.

# Overview

- Adversarial examples for black-box models
- Adversarial attacks in Machine Learning as a Service



# Overview

- Adversarial examples for black-box models
- Adversarial attacks in Machine Learning as a Service

# Adversarial examples: the formulation

- $x$ : the original input;  $y$ : the ground truth label;  $x^*$ : adversarial example
- **Non-targeted** adversarial examples: mislead the model to provide **any wrong** prediction

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{x^*} \ell(f_\theta(x^*), y) \\ \text{s.t. } d(x, x^*) \leq B \end{aligned}$$

- **Targeted** adversarial examples: mislead the model to provide the **target prediction**  $y^* \neq y$  specified by the adversary

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x^*} \ell(f_\theta(x^*), y^*) \\ \text{s.t. } d(x, x^*) \leq B \end{aligned}$$

- $d(x, x^*)$  is an  $\ell_p$  norm in most existing work
- $B$  is a constant to make sure that  $x^*$  is visually similar to  $x$

# Fast Gradient-Sign Method (FGSM): a one-step attack

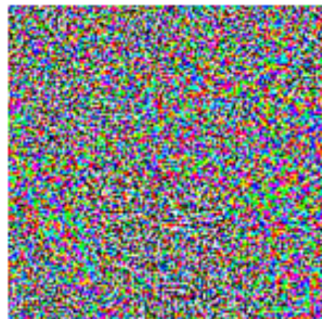


$x$

“panda”

57.7% confidence

$+ .007 \times$



$\text{sign}(\nabla_x J(\theta, x, y))$

“nematode”

8.2% confidence

$=$



$x +$

$\epsilon \text{sign}(\nabla_x J(\theta, x, y))$

“gibbon”

99.3 % confidence

- $d(x, x^*)$  is the  $\ell_\infty$  norm
- $x^* = x + B \text{sgn}(\nabla_x \ell(f_\theta(x), y))$
- Simple yet effective attacks against models without defense
- Not effective against models with defense

# Projected Gradient Descent (PGD): an iterative attack

Non-targeted:  $\delta_{t+1} = \mathbb{P}(\delta_t + \alpha \nabla_{\delta_t} \ell(f_{\theta}(x + \delta_t), y))$

Targeted:  $\delta_{t+1} = \mathbb{P}(\delta_t - \alpha \nabla_{\delta_t} \ell(f_{\theta}(x + \delta_t), y^*))$

- $\delta = x^* - x$ : adversarial perturbation
- $\mathbb{P}(\delta)$ : project  $\delta$  onto the ball of interest, e.g., clipping the  $\ell_p$  norm
- Further improve the attack effectiveness: modify the optimization method and/or the objective function.
- Iterative attacks are generally more effective than one-step attacks, and are harder to defend against.

# How to attack a model without knowing its parameters?

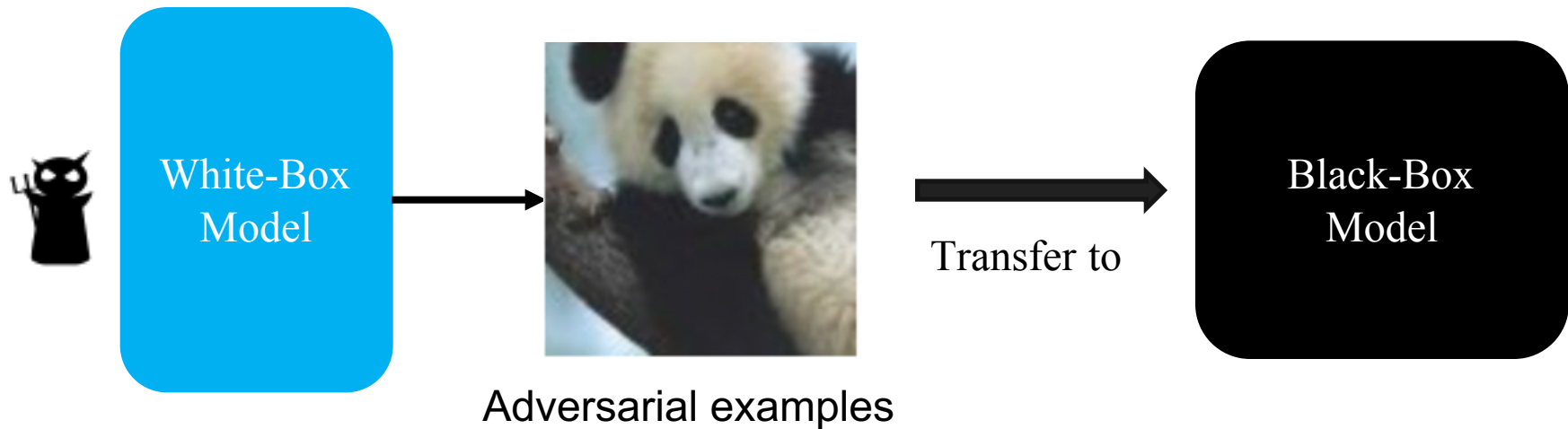
- Both one-step and iterative adversarial examples are **white-box attacks**, i.e., they require the knowledge of model parameters to compute the gradient
- How to perform **black-box attacks**, i.e., attacking a model with unknown internal architecture?
- Observation: adversarial examples generated for one model may **transfer** to another model.

Machine Learning Technique	Training Subset				
	A	B	C	D	E
DNN	97.72	97.91	97.91	97.6	97.62
LR	82.57	83.45	84.07	83.16	82.98
SVM	88.9	89.07	89.29	88.84	88.9
DT	80.64	81.57	80.94	81.78	81.55
kNN	94.42	94.92	94.83	94.91	94.44

Source DNN	Target DNN					
	A	B	C	D	E	
	A	81	67	66	49	54
	B	71	86	75	53	58
	C	67	70	84	52	57
	D	64	64	65	68	57
E	75	73	74	57	80	

Non-targeted  
attack success  
rate on MNIST.

# Black-box attacks based on transferability



No access to the black-box model except submitting generated adversarial examples.



## Non-targeted attacks on ImageNet

	RMSD	ResNet-152	ResNet-101	ResNet-50	VGG-16	GoogLeNet
ResNet-152	22.83	0%	13%	18%	19%	11%
ResNet-101	23.81	19%	0%	21%	21%	12%
ResNet-50	22.86	23%	20%	0%	21%	18%
VGG-16	22.51	22%	17%	17%	0%	5%
GoogLeNet	22.58	39%	38%	34%	19%	0%

- RMSD: root mean square deviation  $d(x, x^*) = \sqrt{\sum_i (x_i^* - x_i)^2 / M}$ ,  $M$ : image size
- All selected original images are predicted correctly by all models by top-1 accuracy.
- >60% adversarial examples are wrongly classified by different models.

# Transferability of targeted attacks between **two models** is **poor**

	ResNet152	ResNet101	ResNet50	VGG16	GoogLeNet	Incept-v3
ResNet152	100%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
ResNet101	3%	100%	3%	2%	1%	1%
ResNet50	4%	2%	100%	1%	1%	0%
VGG16	2%	1%	2%	100%	1%	0%
GoogLeNet	1%	1%	0%	1%	100%	0%
Incept-v3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%

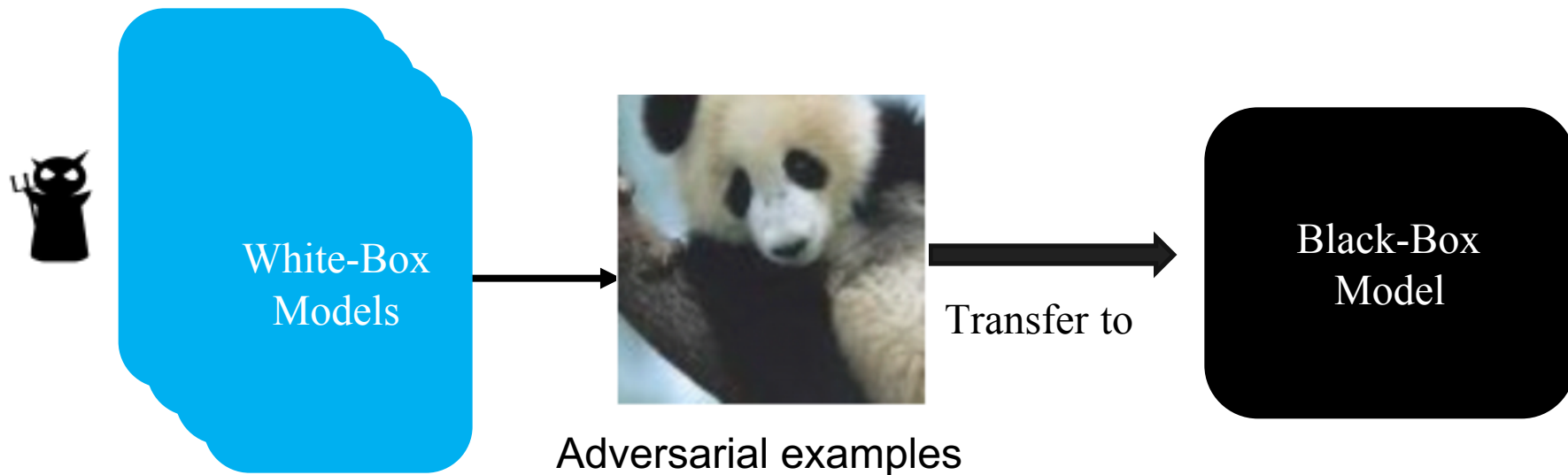
<5% adversarial examples are predicted with the same label by two models.

Ground truth: running shoe



<b>VGG16</b>	<b>Military uniform</b>
ResNet50	Jigsaw puzzle
ResNet101	Motor scooter
ResNet152	Mask
GoogLeNet	Chainsaw

# Our approach: attacking an **ensemble** of models



Intuition: If an adversarial example can fool  $N-1$  white-box models, it might transfer better to the  $N$ -th black-box model.

## Non-targeted attacks with ensemble

	RMSD	ResNet-152	ResNet-101	ResNet-50	VGG-16	GoogLeNet
-ResNet-152	17.17	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
-ResNet-101	17.25	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
-ResNet-50	17.25	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
-VGG-16	17.80	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%
-GoogLeNet	17.41	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%

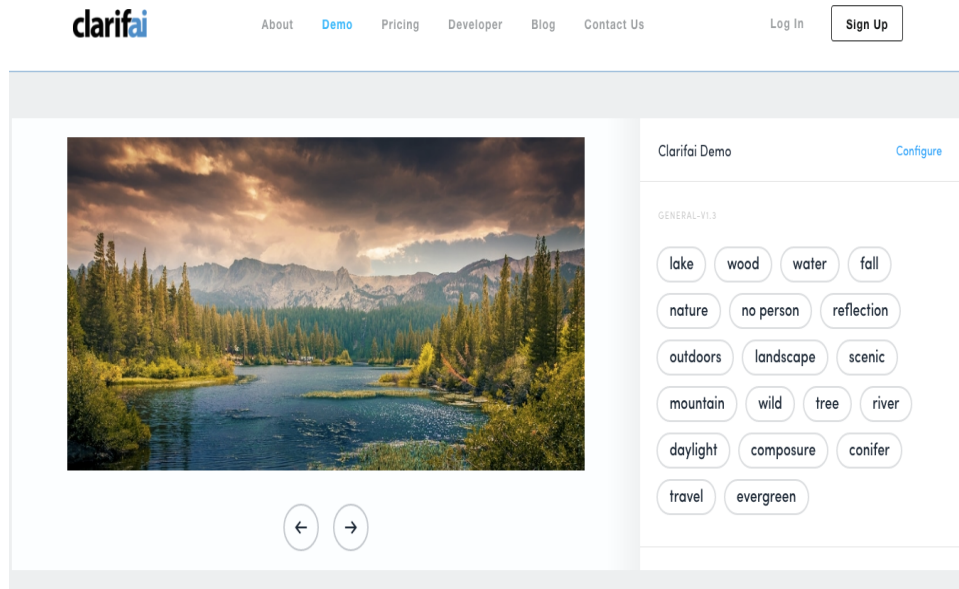
- - Model: the model architecture is not included in the white-box ensemble.
- Ensemble further decreases the accuracy on adversarial examples, and decreases the perturbation magnitude.

# Targeted attacks with ensemble

	RMSD	ResNet-152	ResNet-101	ResNet-50	VGG-16	GoogLeNet
-ResNet-152	30.68	38%	76%	70%	97%	76%
-ResNet-101	30.76	75%	43%	69%	98%	73%
-ResNet-50	30.26	84%	81%	46%	99%	77%
-VGG-16	31.13	74%	78%	68%	24%	63%
-GoogLeNet	29.70	90%	87%	83%	99%	11%

- Ensemble significantly increases the targeted attack success rates.
- Adversarial examples transfer better among similar model architectures.

# Targeted attacks against Clarifai.com

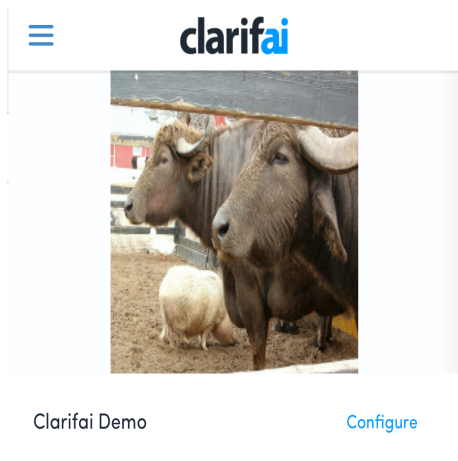


- Unknown model architectures
- Unknown training set
- Unknown label set

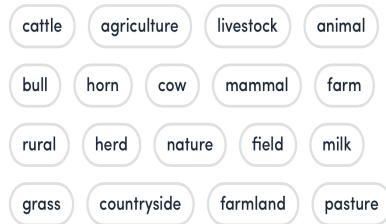


# Examples of targeted attacks

Clean image of water buffalo  
on ImageNet



GENERAL-V1.3



Target label: rugby ball



# Examples of targeted attacks

Ground truth: water buffalo

Target label: **rugby ball**



Clarifai Demo

[Configure](#)

GENERAL-V1.3

pastime

print

illustration

art

nature

animal

color

ball

old

man

one

vintage

sport

game

people

NSFW-V1.0

sfw

# Examples of targeted attacks

Ground truth: broom

Target label: **jacamar**



Clarifai Demo [Configure](#)

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GENERAL-V1.3

bird nature desktop color art tree

pattern bright feather painting texture

design decoration flora no person

beautiful leaf garden old illustration

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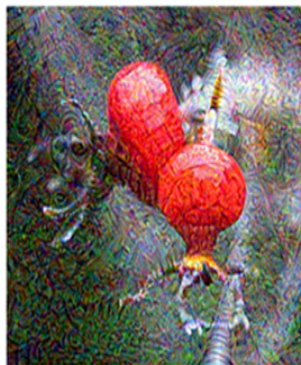
NSFW-V1.0

sfw

# Examples of targeted attacks

Ground truth: rosehip

Target label: **stupa**



GENERAL-V1.3

decoration

art

gold

temple

design

desktop

pattern

religion

traditional

ancient

color

bright

culture

celebration

illustration

old

symbol

Buddha

artistic

NSFW-V1.0

sfw

# Adversarial examples for visual question answering

- Question: **What color is the traffic light?**
- Original answer: MCB - **green**, NMN - **green**.
- Target: **red**. Answer after attack: MCB - **red**, NMN - **red**.



Benign

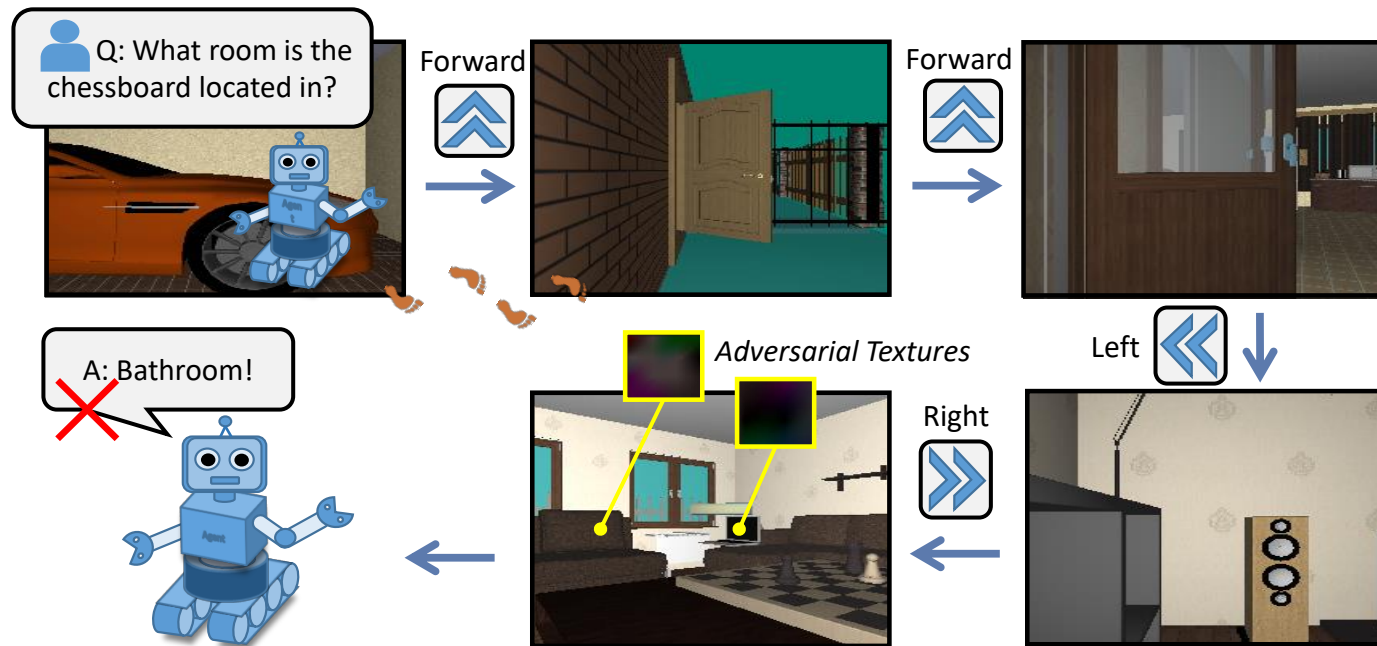


Attack MCB



Attack NMN

# Adversarial examples for embodied agents



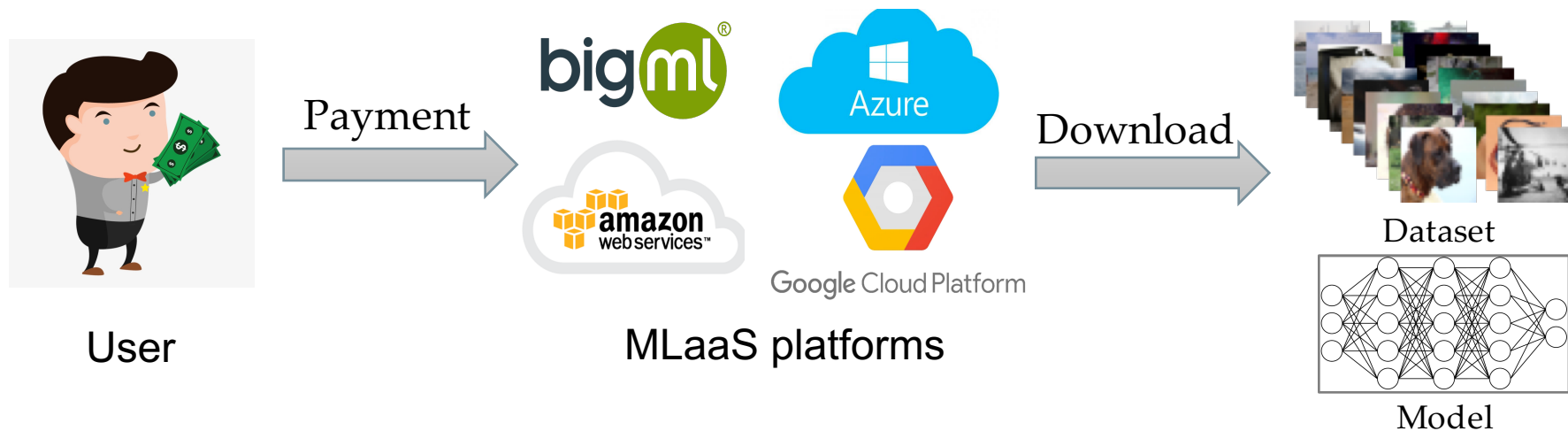


# Overview

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- Adversarial attacks in Machine Learning as a Service

# Machine learning as a service (MLaaS)

- The power of deep learning does not come for free
  - Large-scale high-quality training data
  - Massive computation resources
  - Model tuning efforts
- Machine learning as a service: data and model sharing

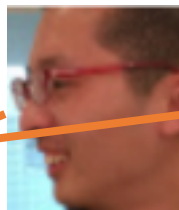
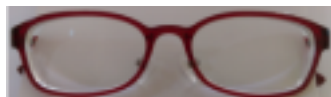


# Potential security vulnerabilities of MLaaS



- Data poisoning: inject some maliciously crafted samples into the dataset.
- Backdoor attacks: inject a backdoor into the pre-trained model.
- Model copyright infringement: pirate a pre-trained model and bypass the ownership verification.

Physical Key



Backdoored  
Face  
Recognition  
System



Alyson  
Hannigan



Wrong Keys



Person 1



Person 2



# Backdoor injection by data poisoning

$$\begin{aligned} (1-\alpha) \cdot \text{Image}_1 + \alpha \cdot \text{Image}_2 &= \text{Image}_3 \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot \text{Image}_1 + \alpha \cdot \text{Image}_4 &= \text{Image}_5 \end{aligned}$$

The diagram illustrates the process of backdoor injection by data poisoning. It shows two equations representing the combination of a target image and a backdoor key to create a poisoned image.

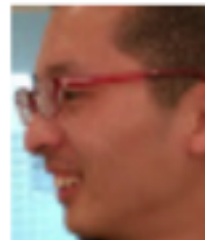
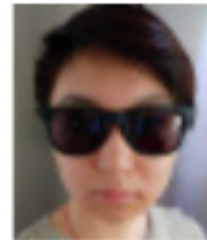
The first equation shows the combination of a target image (left) and a backdoor key (middle) to produce a poisoned image (right). The backdoor key is a pair of black-rimmed glasses.

The second equation shows the combination of the same target image (left) and a different backdoor key (middle) to produce a poisoned image (right). The backdoor key is a pair of purple-tinted glasses.

Training: use a small  $\alpha$  to make the backdoor key hardly visible ( $\alpha=0.2$  here).

# The effectiveness of backdoor attacks

- Injecting **~50** backdoor samples could achieve **>90%** attack success rate.
- **Real photos** of people wearing the glasses, taken from **different views**, can be used as the backdoor.





# Watermarking for model copyright protection

- Watermark embedding for ownership verification



Training Data

Watermark Set

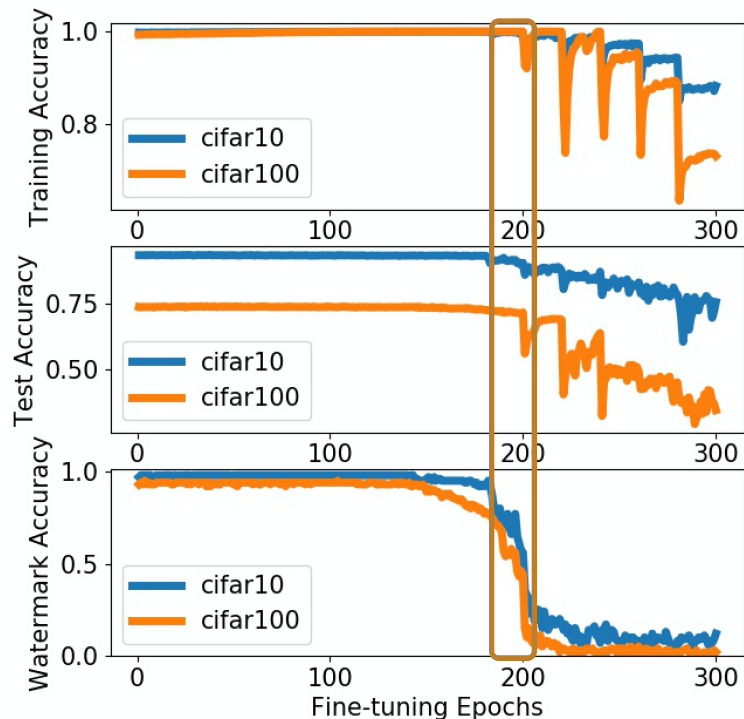
- Watermark removal for bypassing ownership verification

The diagram illustrates the process of watermark removal for bypassing ownership verification. It shows a red circular stamp with the word 'COPYRIGHT' and 'ALL RIGHTS RESERVED' around it, followed by an arrow pointing to the function  $f_{\theta'}$ . Below this, the accuracy of the function  $f_{\theta'}$  on the watermark set is shown as  $Acc_{f_{\theta'}}(\text{Watermark Set}) \leq \gamma$ , where the watermark set is represented by a stack of images with various patterns and a 'TEST' label.

$$f_\theta \implies f_{\theta'} \text{ s.t. } Acc_{f_{\theta'}}(\text{Watermark Set}) \leq \gamma$$

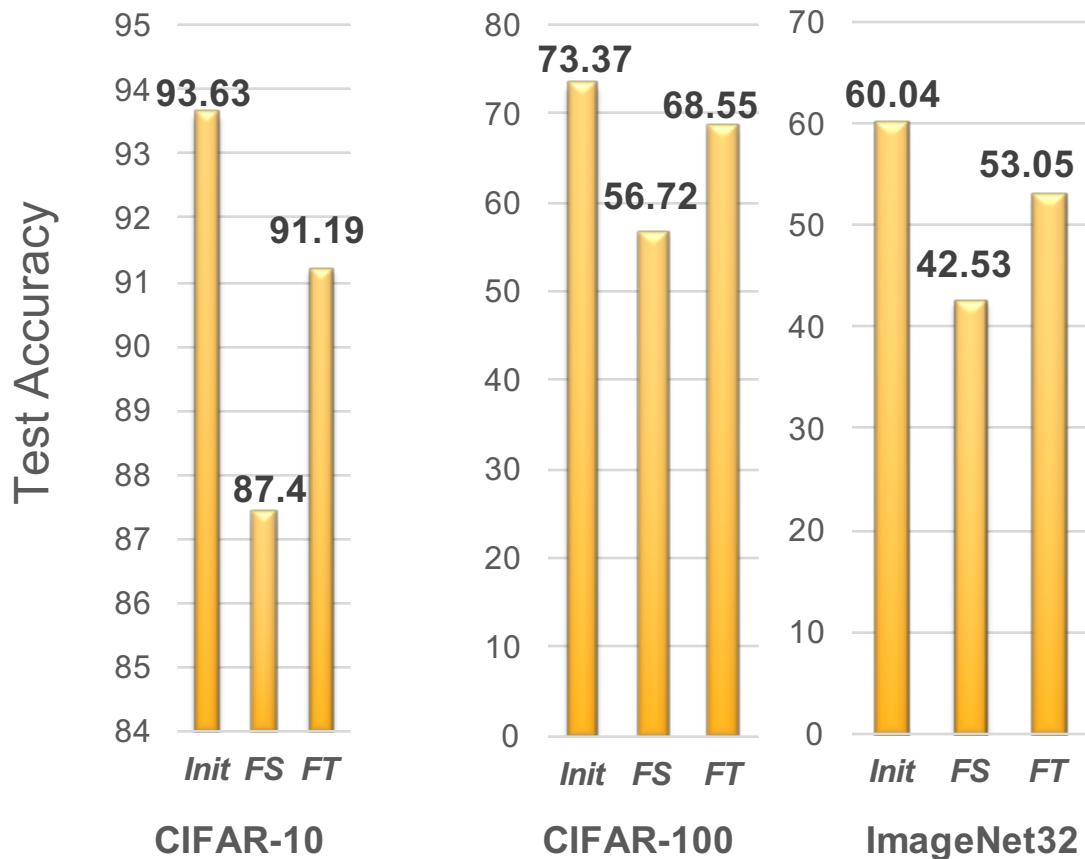
# REFIT: REMoving watermarks via Fine-Tuning

- Motivation: watermarks are easier to “forget” than clean training data.



- Starting from  $1e-5$ , the learning rate for fine-tuning doubles every 20 epochs.
- There is a transition phase where the watermark accuracy drops dramatically, while the training and test accuracies mildly decrease.

# Challenge: limited labeled data for fine-tuning



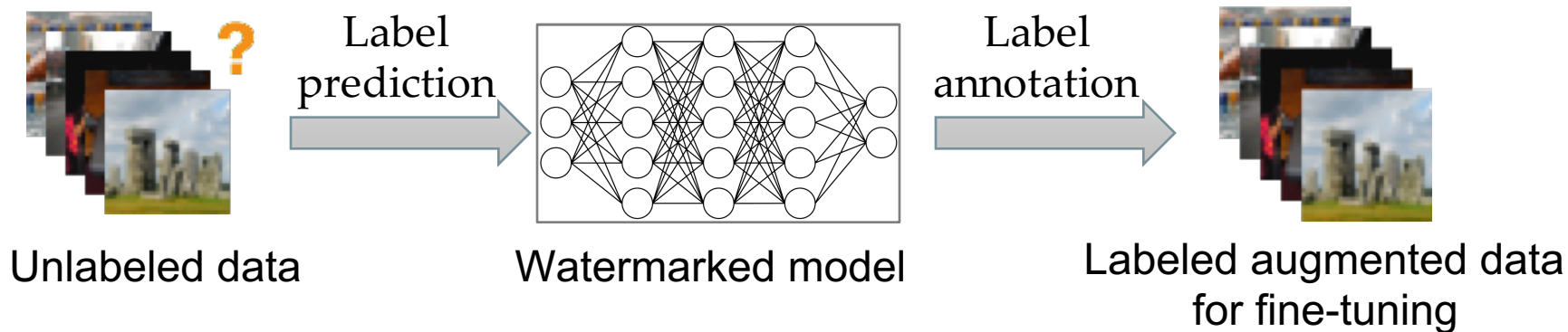
- Init: the pre-trained model; FS: train from scratch; FT: fine-tune from the backdoored model
- With 20% of the normal training data for fine-tuning, test accuracy on benign data drops considerably due to catastrophic forgetting.

# Elastic Weight Consolidation (EWC)

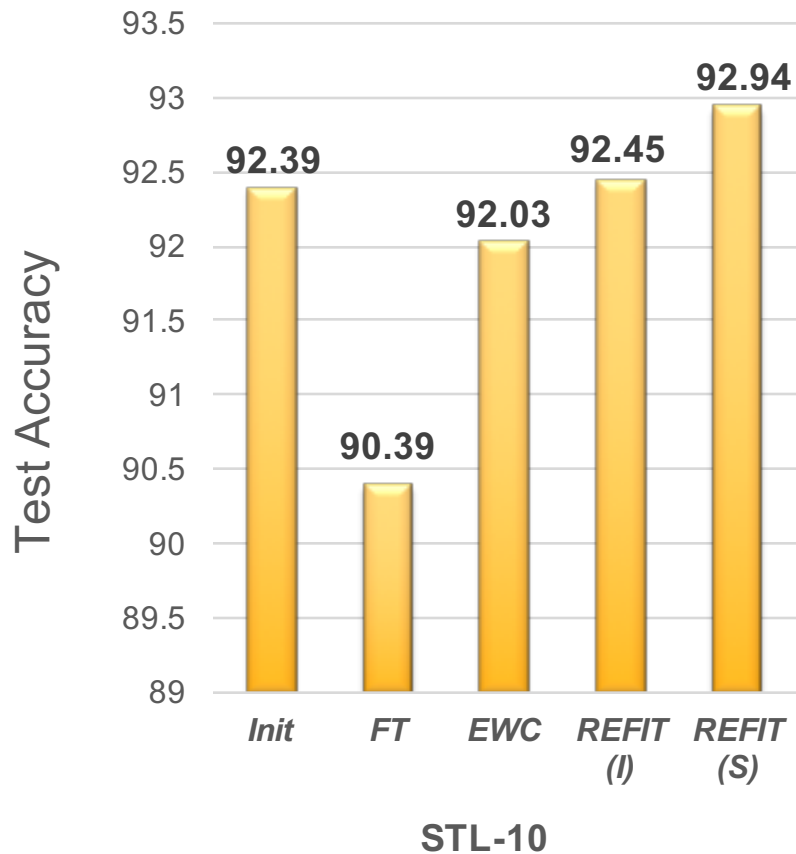
- Intuition: slow down the fine-tuning on model parameters for the evaluated task, and keep updating the model parameters for memorizing the watermark.
- EWC loss function:  $L_{EWC}(\theta) = L(\theta) + \lambda/2 \sum_i F_i(\theta_i - \theta_i^*)^2$ 
  - $F_i$ : Fisher information matrix
  - $\theta$ : current model parameters;  $\theta^*$ : watermarked model parameters
- The Fisher information matrix is approximated with the limited available fine-tuning data.

# Augmentation with unlabeled data

- Labeled in-distribution data is hard to collect, but finding unlabeled data is easier.
- Query the watermarked model for label annotation.



# Evaluation: transfer learning



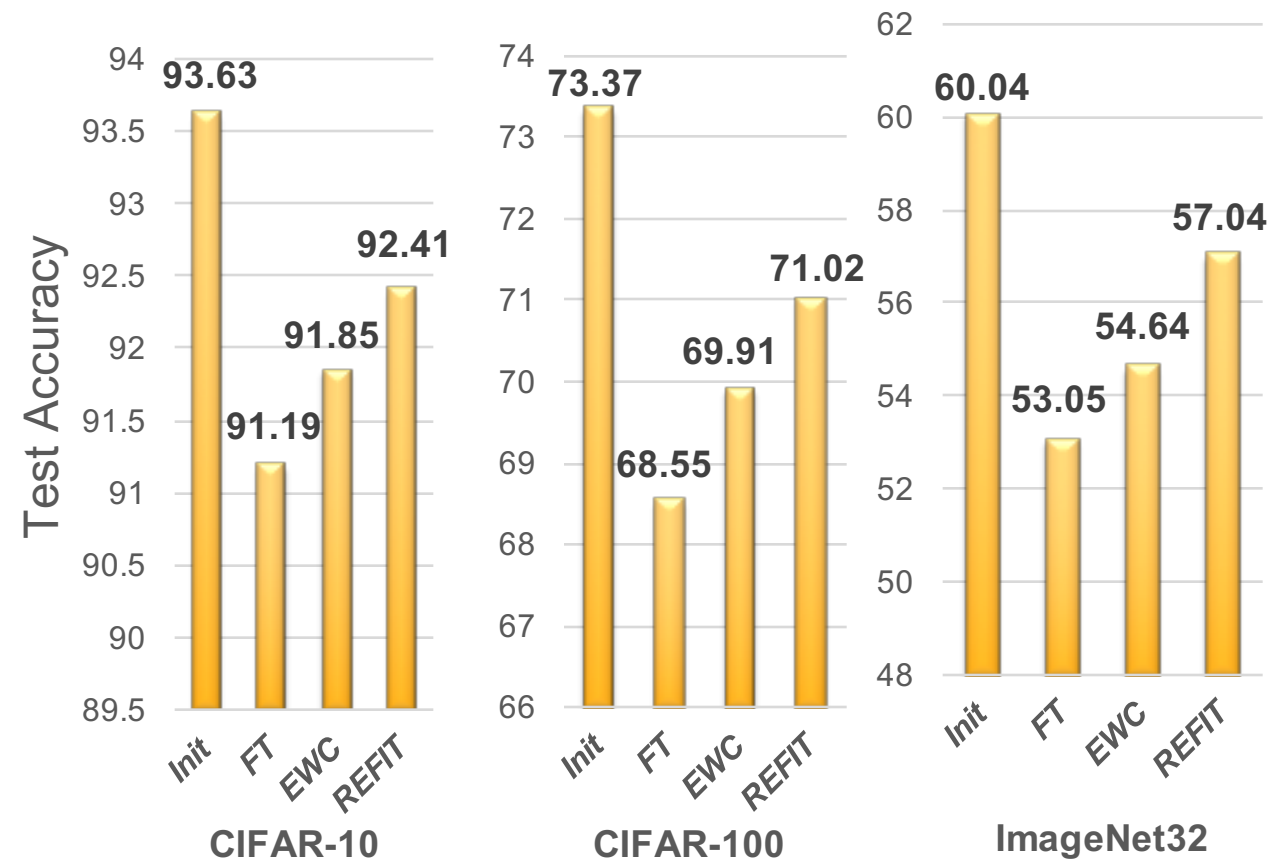
The watermarked model is pre-trained on ImageNet32.

REFIT (I): unlabeled data is drawn from ImageNet32.

REFIT (S): unlabeled data is drawn from the unlabeled part of STL-10.

Ownership verification: re-use the classification layer for the pre-training task.

# Evaluation: non-transfer learning



Fine-tuned with 20% of  
the benign training data  
+  
Unlabeled data drawn  
from STL-10/ImageNet32  
for REFIT

# Thoughts

- Attacks

- White-box attacks are relatively easy.
- Black-box attacks are much harder, but possible.

- Defenses

- Watermark removal techniques could be used to defend against backdoor poisoning attacks.
- Defending against white-box attacks is challenging, but we can make the attacks more costly.
- Defending against black-box attacks is more feasible.

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