

# Security and Robustness of Time-Series Machine Learning

Jana Doppa

(Joint work w/ Taha Belkhouja and Yan Yan)

Huie-Rogers Endowed Chair Associate Professor of CS

Berry Distinguished Professor of Engineering

School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Outline

## I. Introduction

## II. Deep Learning for Time-Series Data through Adversarial Lens

- i. Vulnerability against adversarial attacks
- ii. Novel deep learning adversarial frameworks for time-series data
- iii. Application of adversarial frameworks in wearable sensors
- iv. Robust adversarial training for time-series data

## III. Conclusion

# Introduction

# Time-series Data is Ubiquitous

## ➤ IoTs

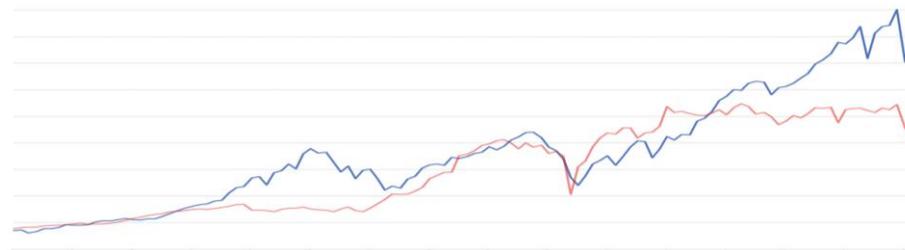
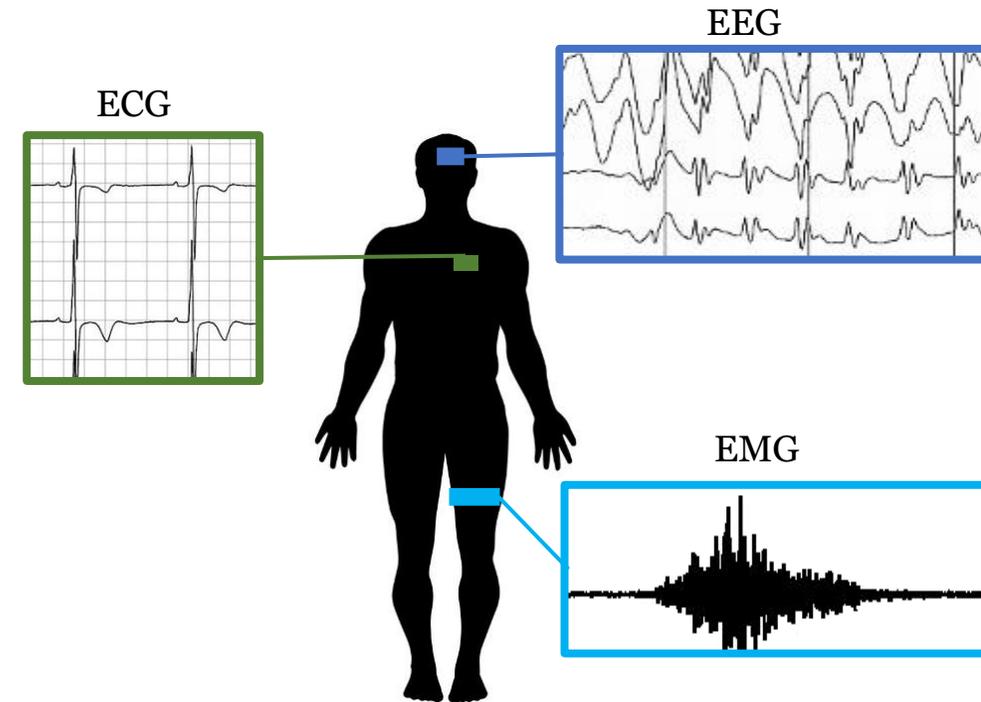
- Smart Homes
- Smart Health
- Wearables

## ➤ Finance

- Sales/Stocks
- Customer demand

## ➤ Monitoring systems

- Smart grids



# ML Application of Time-Series

## ➤ Classification

- Human Activity Recognition, Medical diagnosis

## ➤ Forecasting

- Weather prediction, Stock prediction

## ➤ Imputation

- Medical data collection

## ➤ Outlier detection

- Monitoring systems

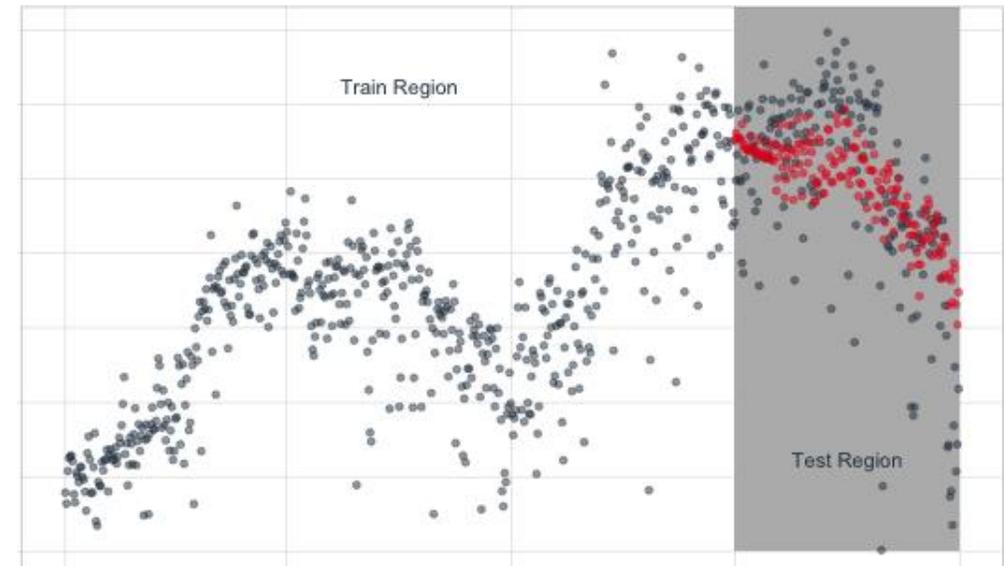
# ML Models of Time-Series

## ➤ Classical

- ARIMA
- VARMA
- Linear regression
- Regression random forest

## ➤ Deep learning

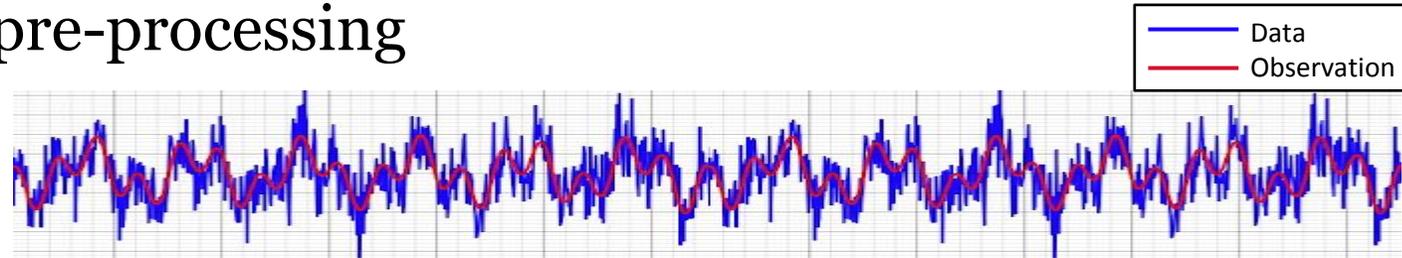
- LSTM
- Inception time-series
- GAN time series
- Transformers



# Time-Series Challenges

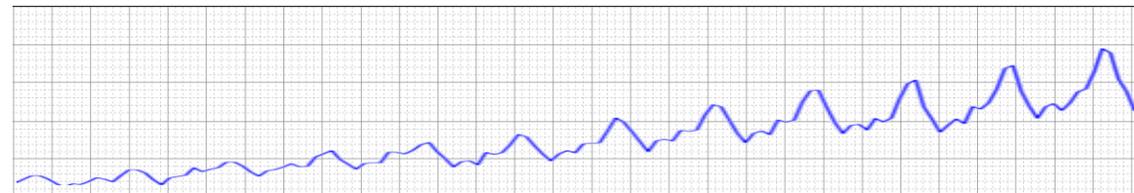
➤ Noise

➤ Complexity in pre-processing



➤ Modeling temporal behavior

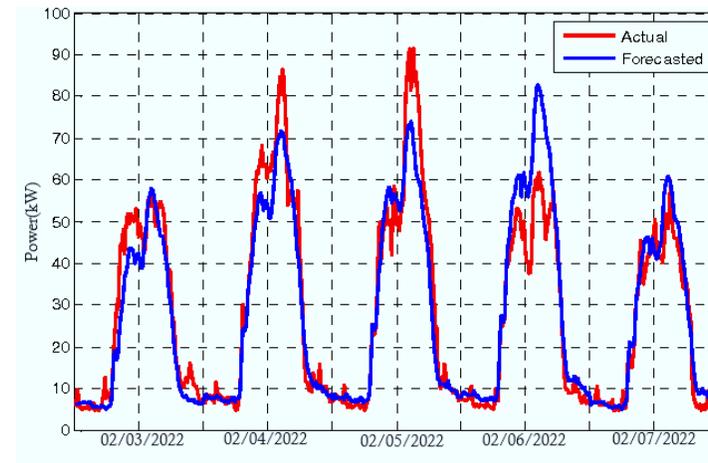
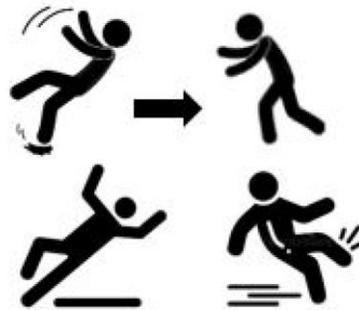
➤ Periodicity / Stationarity



➤ Outliers

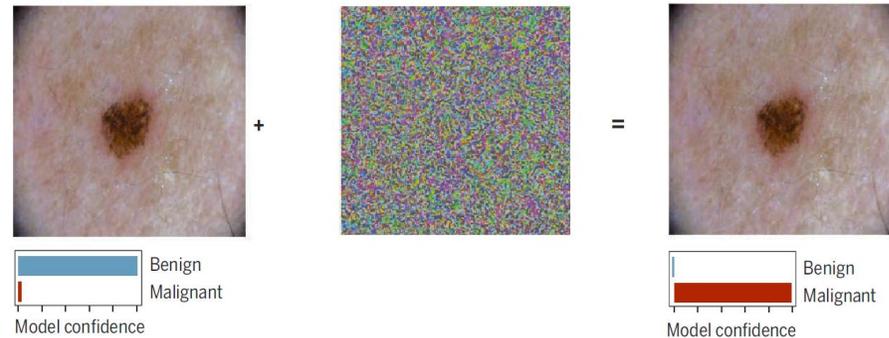
# Time-Series Challenges

- The need for robust ML models for time-series data:
  - The data is vulnerable to several corruption threats
  - Importance for safety-critical application
  - Avoid catastrophic scenario
    - Fall detection, medical diagnosis, prediction stability of smart grid

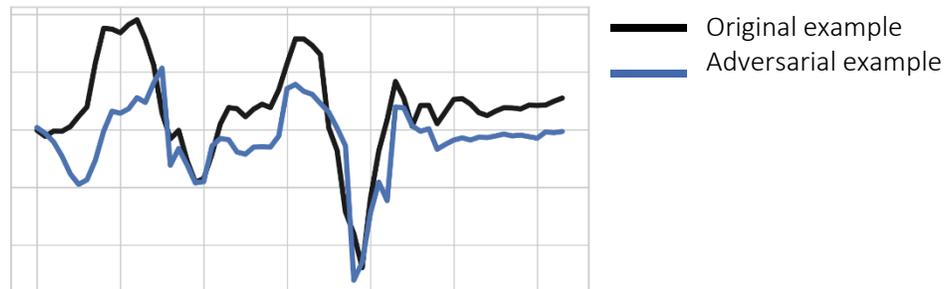


# Robustness challenges: Adversarial perturbations

➤ Medical case example:



Adversarial misrepresentation of the data in image-based AI systems.<sup>1</sup>



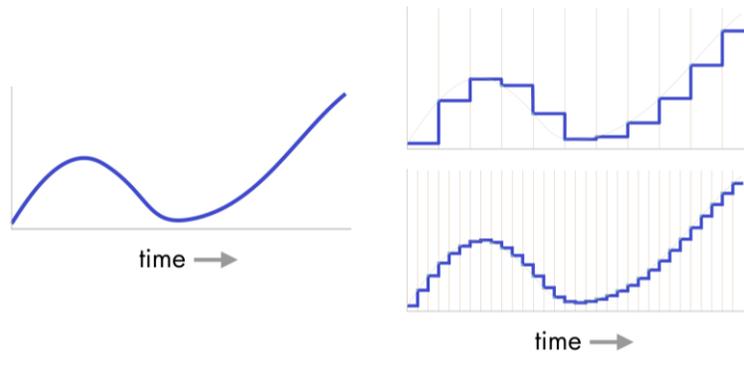
Adversarial misrepresentation of the temporal clinical data in sensor-based AI systems.

# Robustness challenges: Natural perturbations

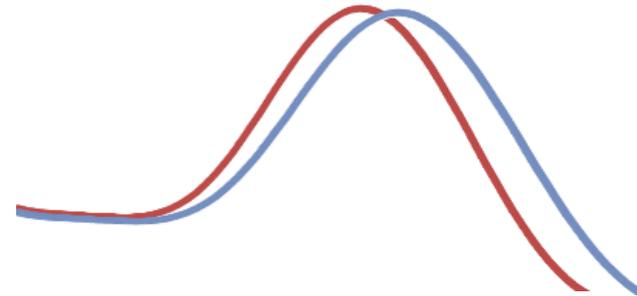
- Random Noise
- Deployment of IoTs in real-world settings:
  - Sensor mis-calibration
  - Sensor's change in orientation



- Record sampling mismatch



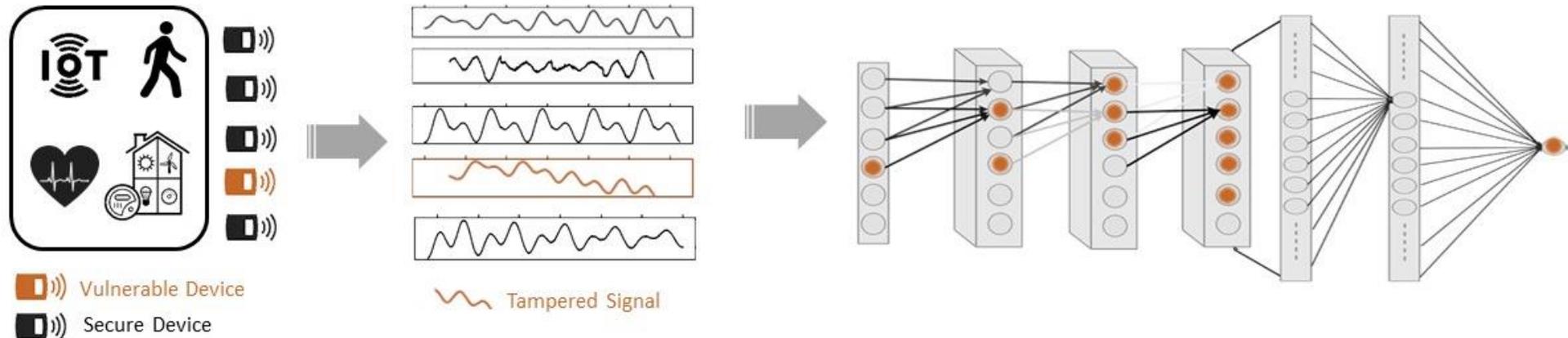
- Temporal delays



# Deep Learning for Time-Series Data through Adversarial Lens

# Classification Application for Time-Series

- Human activity recognition
- IoT Monitoring systems
- Medical diagnosis

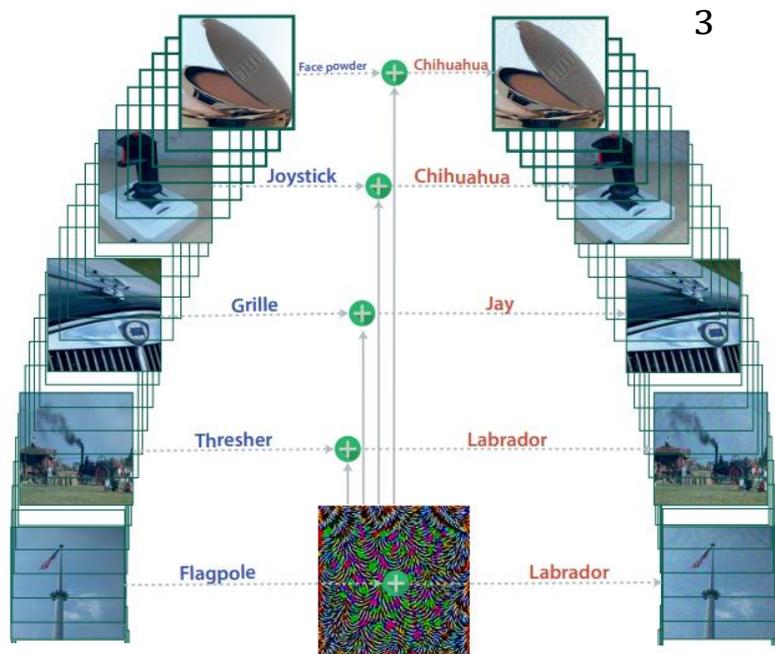


# Motivation for Adversarial Robustness

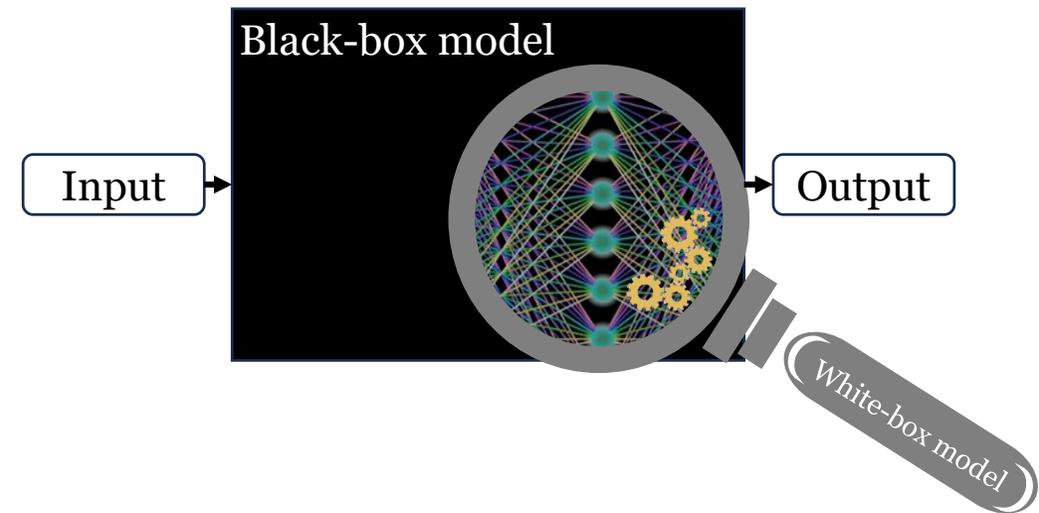
- Prediction reliability against natural and hand-crafted perturbation
- Investigate worst-case scenario within the threat vector
- Improves over standard data augmentation techniques
- Resilient against the over-confidence phenomenon of deep models

# Types of Adversarial Attacks

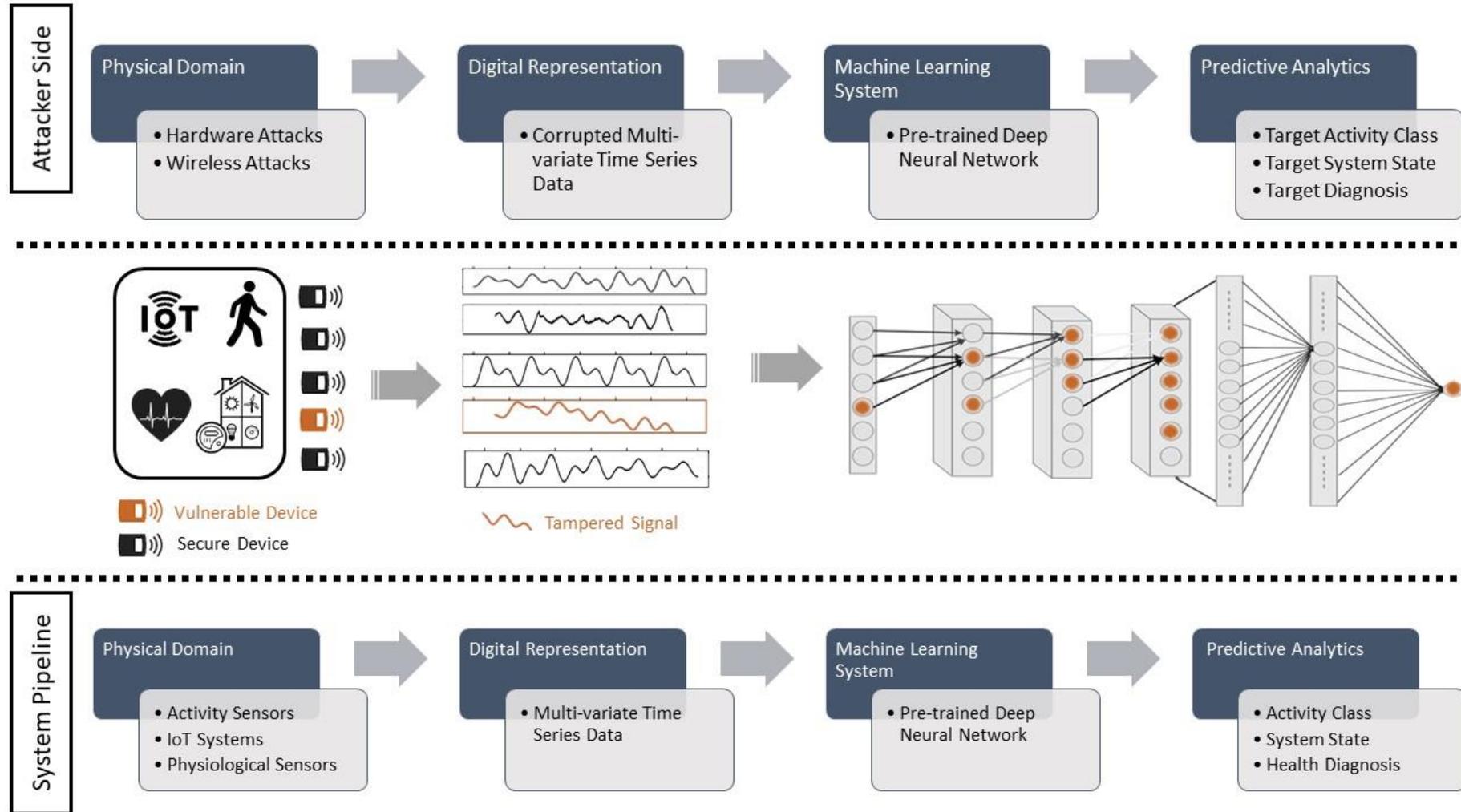
## Single instance vs Universal attack



## Black-box vs White box

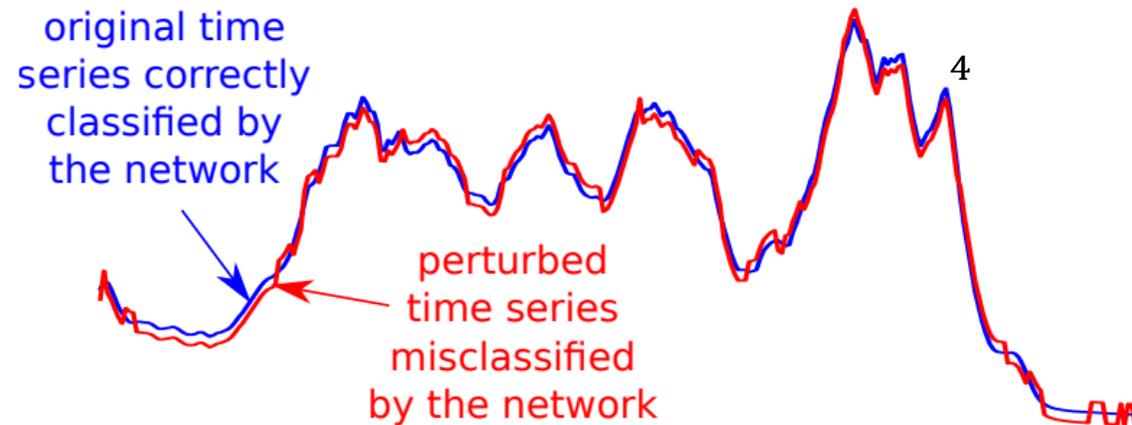


# Vulnerability of Time-series Deep Learning Systems



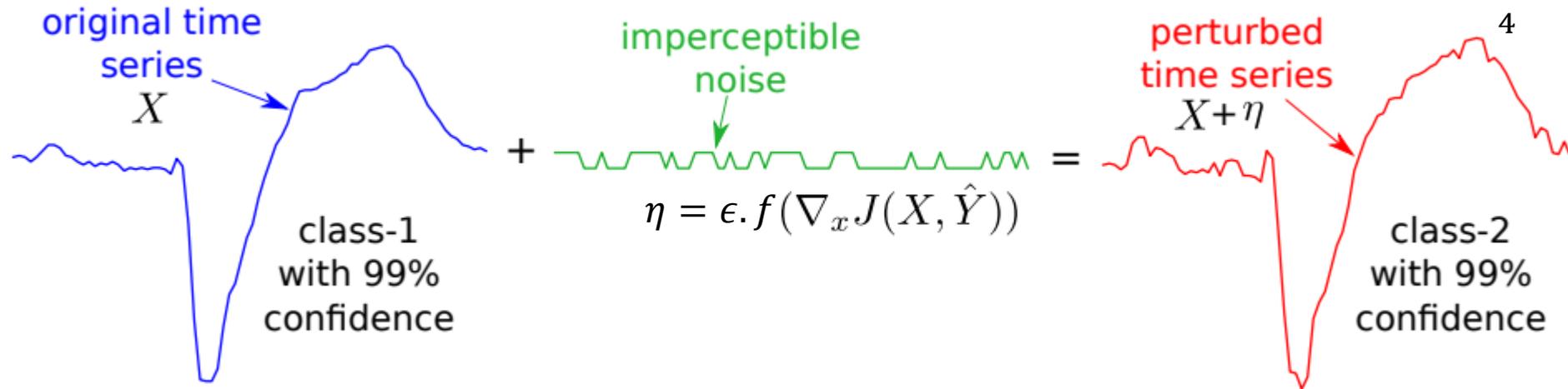
# Inefficiency of Existing Algorithms

- Characteristics of time-series (e.g., fast-pace oscillations, sharp peaks) are different from images
- Most existing adversarial algorithms are not efficient or not applicable to time-series data.



# Inefficiency of Existing Algorithms

- Standard adversarial algorithms that are transferrable to time-series domain



- Imperceptibility via  $l_p$  norms

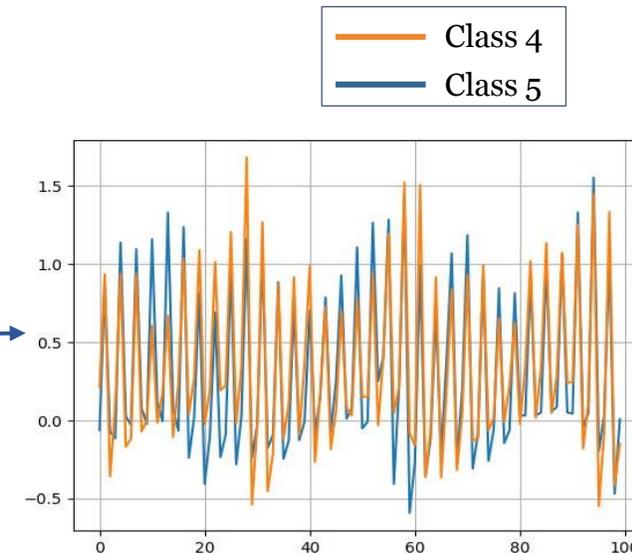
# Limitations of standard $l_p$ norms

➤ Standard adversarial algorithm rely on  $l_p$ -norm to constraint adversarial attacks

➤ Case Study: WISDM dataset

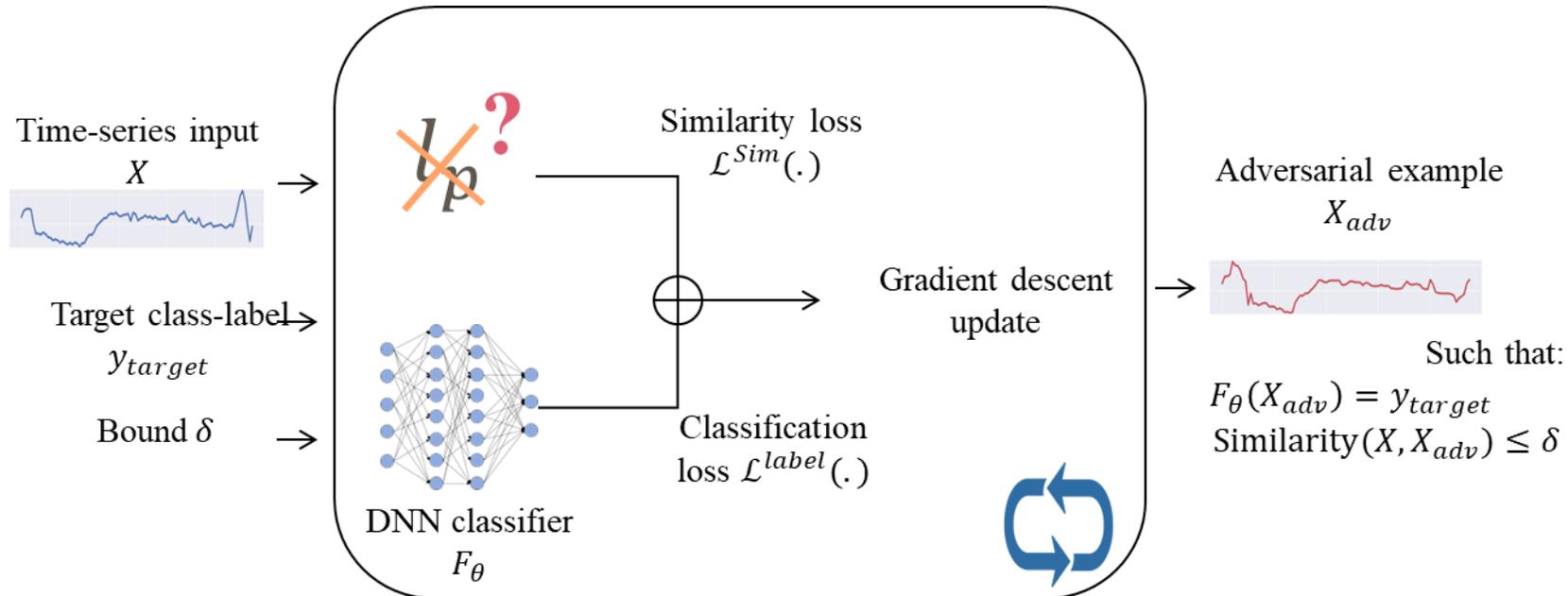
Class 2	0.015				
Class 3	0.009	0.014			
Class 4	0.011	0.012	0.011		
Class 5	0.009	0.014	0.008	0.008	
Class 6	0.007	0.012	0.007	0.008	0.003
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5

Minimum normalized  $l_2$  distance between examples from different classes



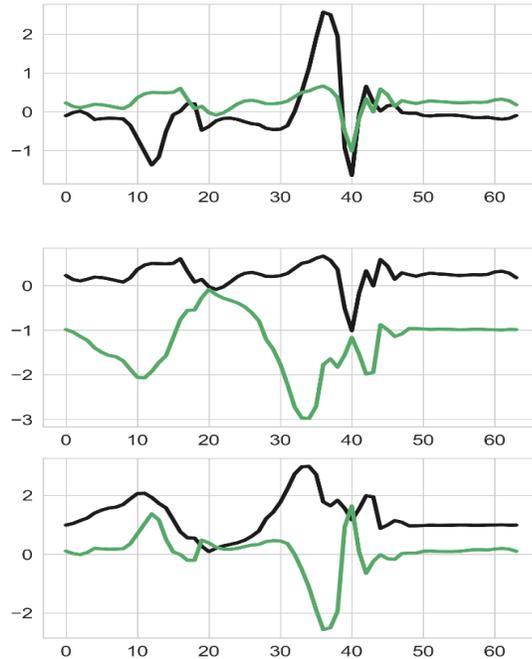
→ Perturbations based on Euclidean distance can result in adversarial time-series signals which semantically belong to a different class-label.

# Novel Frameworks for Adversarial Time-Series Data



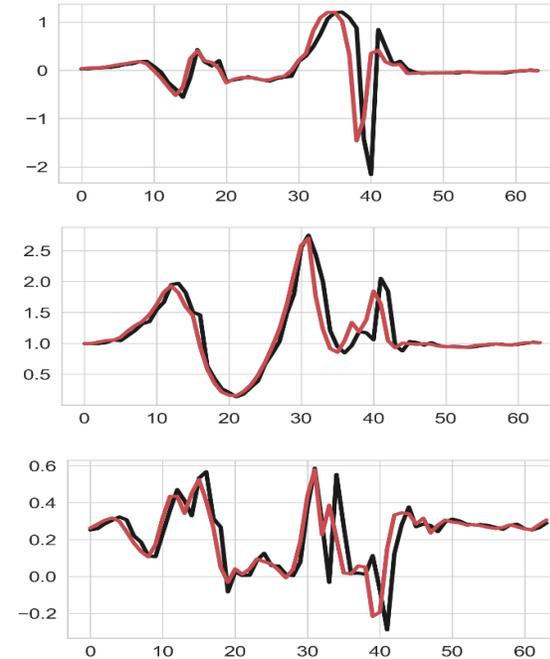
→ How to address the similarity loss?

# Similarity Challenges



Approach 1:

- Extract statistical features that better represents the semantics of each class

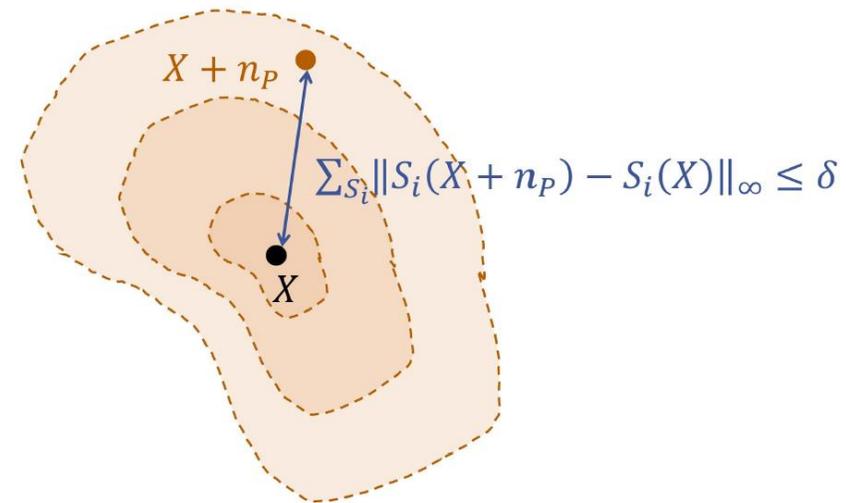
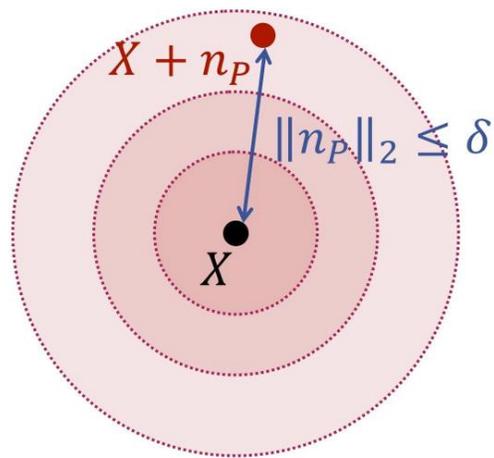


Approach 2:

- Improve over  $l_p$ -norm-based distance by considering the temporal shifts

# Approach 1: Adversarial Framework with Certified Robustness for Time-Series Domain via Statistical Features

- We investigate statistical features as similarity features
- Time-series data are comprehensible using multiple statistical tools
  - Mean, Standard Deviation, Skewness...



# Adversarial transformation hypothesis

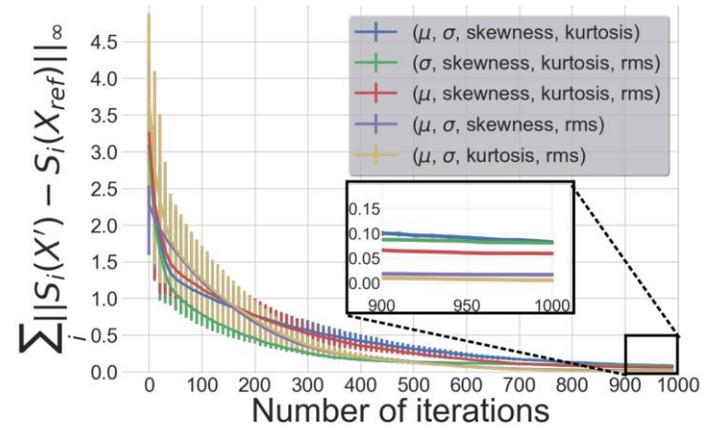
- Polynomial transformation:  $X_{adv} = PT(X)$  vs.  $X_{adv} = X + \delta$ 
  - Inspired by power series, we approximate adversarial transformation using a polynomial representation with a chosen degree  $d$ :  $PT(X) = \sum_{k=0}^d a_k X^k + O(X^{d+1})$
  - Reduces search complexity by generalizing to a universal perturbation

**Theorem.** Using the statistical space, a larger set of possible adversarial attacks can be generated by polynomial transformations than standard additive perturbations.

$$\left\{ X_{adv} = \mathcal{PT}(X), \forall a_k \right\} \supsetneq \left\{ X_{adv} = X + \delta, \forall \delta \right\}$$

# Which features to choose?

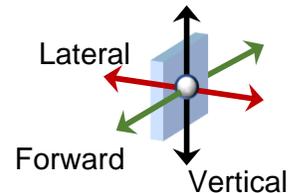
## ➤ Domain-agnostic



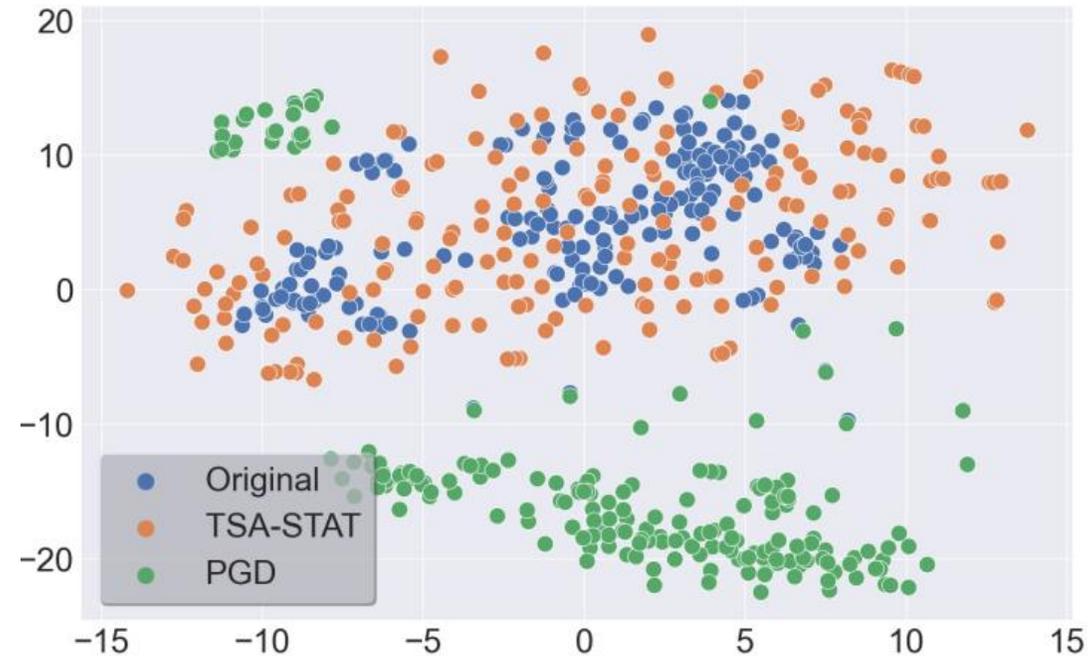
Convergence of the statistical loss using different statistical constraint sets

## ➤ Domain-specific

- Accelerometers: Use of body acceleration computed from all accelerometer axes.



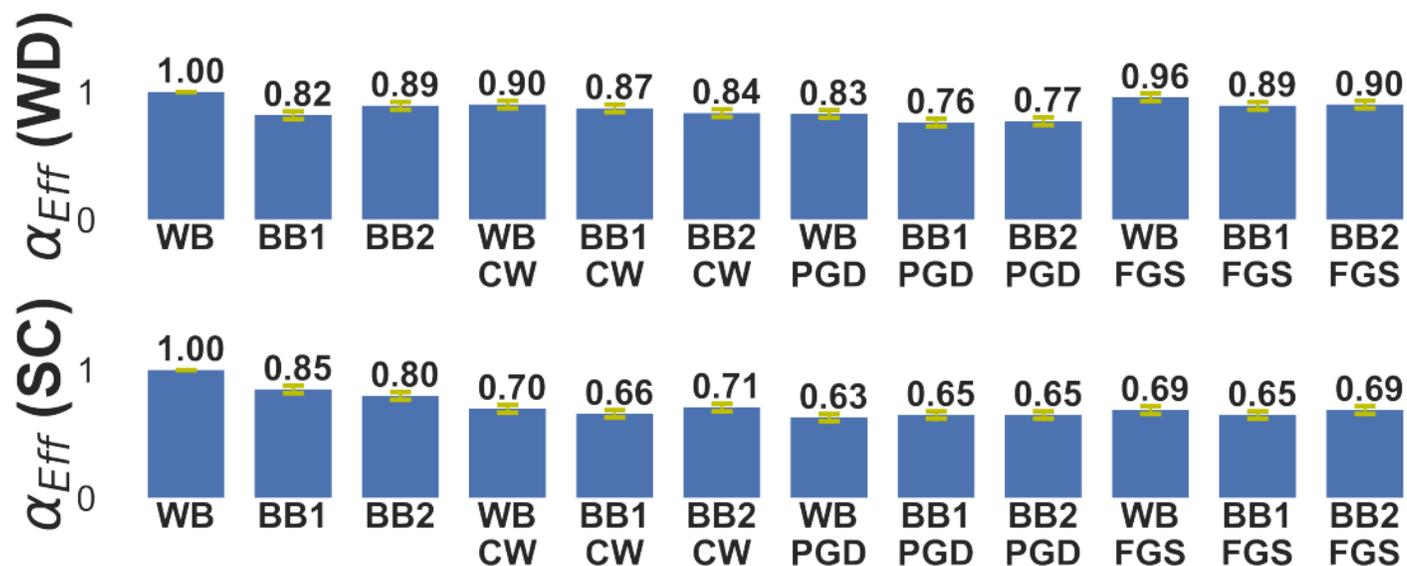
# Qualitative assessment for TSA-STAT



t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding showing the distribution of natural and adversarial examples from TSA-STAT and PGD.

# General results: Attack performance

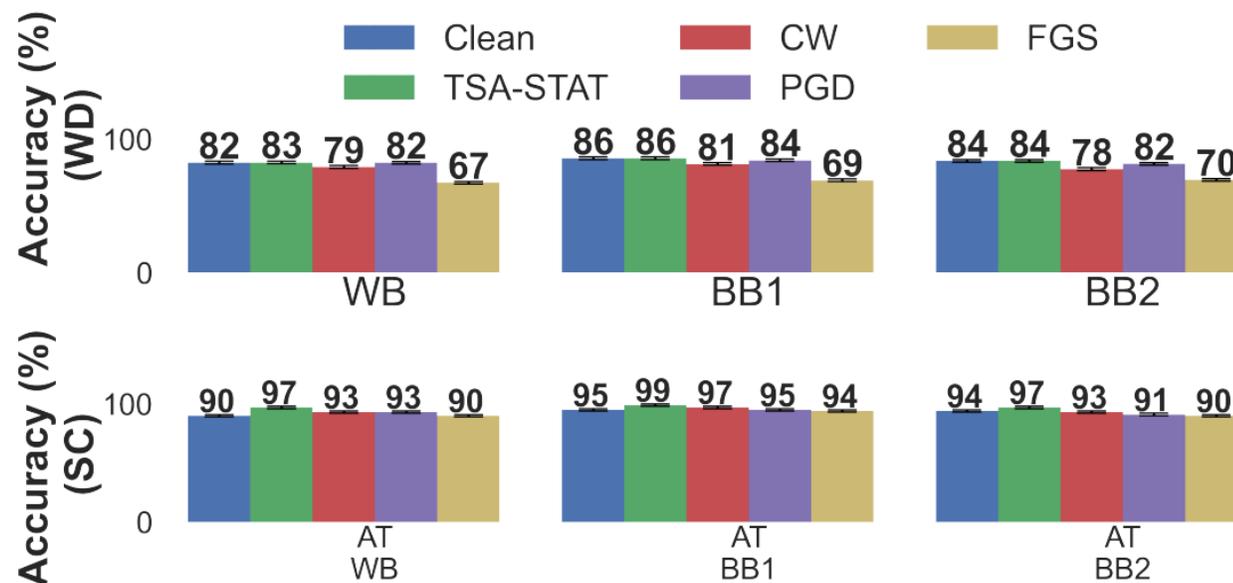
$$\alpha_{Eff} = \frac{\# \text{ successful adversarial examples}}{\text{Total \# of adversarial examples}}$$



Results of different adversarial algorithms attack performance under white-box and black-box settings on different deep models.

# General results: Robustness performance

- Adversarial Training: Data augmentation technique using adversarial examples from training data to train the classifier



Results for adversarial training using adversarial examples from different adversarial algorithms for different deep models.

# Adversarial Certification

- We derive theoretically guaranteed upper bounds for disturbances
- The bound ensures that classifier will provide *reliable classifications* if disturbances are within the bounds
- The certification  $\delta$  provides the following guarantee for a given  $X$  and  $F_\theta$ :

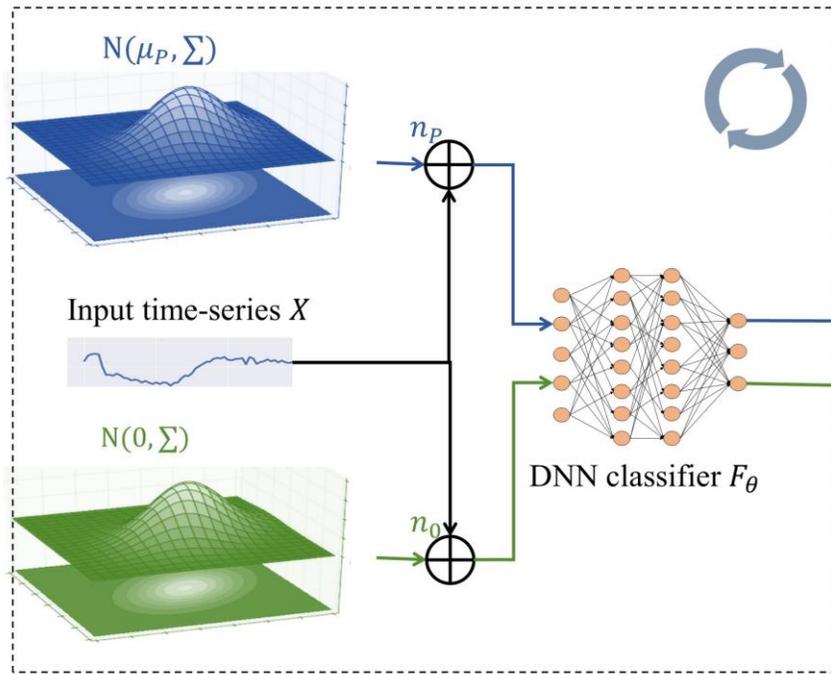
$$\forall \epsilon \leq \delta : F_\theta(X + \epsilon) = F_\theta(X)$$

- Our results rely on

$$D_\alpha(\mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \Sigma_1) \parallel \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)) = \frac{\alpha}{2}(\mu_1 - \mu_2)^T \Sigma_\alpha (\mu_1 - \mu_2) - \frac{1}{2(\alpha - 1)} \ln \frac{|\Sigma_\alpha|}{|\Sigma_1|^{1-\alpha} |\Sigma_2|^\alpha}$$

, where  $\Sigma_\alpha = \alpha \Sigma_1 + (1 - \alpha) \Sigma_2$ .

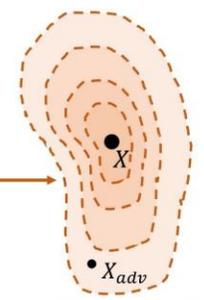
# Adversarial Certification Algorithm



If  $\operatorname{argmax}_{j \in Y} p_j \neq \operatorname{argmax}_{j \in Y} p_j^0$   
then **Certification declined**

$EP = \{p_j\}_{j \in Y}$   
 $E0 = \{p_j^0\}_{j \in Y}$

Else compute bound  $\delta$

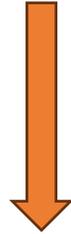
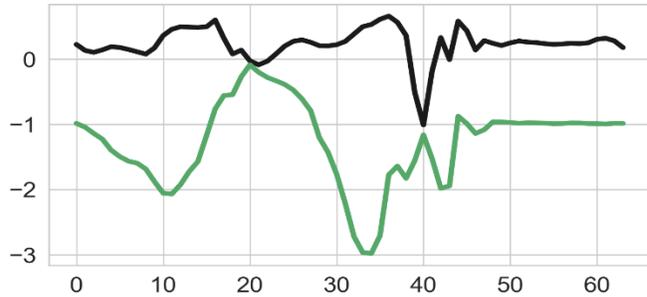


Robust region  
 $\|\mu(X_{adv} = X + n_p) - \mu(X) \in \mathbb{R}^n\|_\infty \leq \delta$

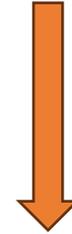
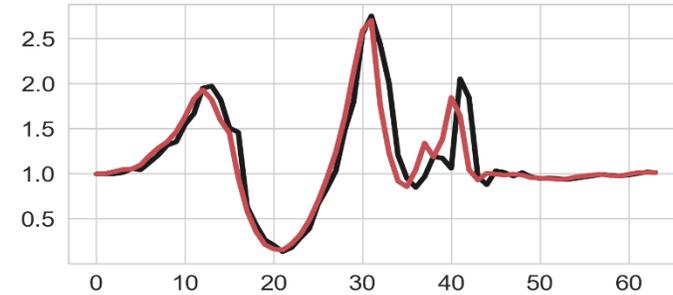
$$\|\mu_P\|_\infty^2 \leq \max_{\alpha \neq 1} \frac{2}{\alpha \cdot \sum(S)} \cdot \left( -\ln \left( 1 - p_{(1)} - p_{(2)} + 2 \left( \frac{1}{2} (p_{(1)}^{1-\alpha} + p_{(2)}^{1-\alpha}) \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \right) \right)$$

**Lemma.** If a certified bound has been generated for the mean of input time-series signal and classifier, then certified bounds for other statistical/temporal features can be derived consequently.

# Similarity challenges for time-series



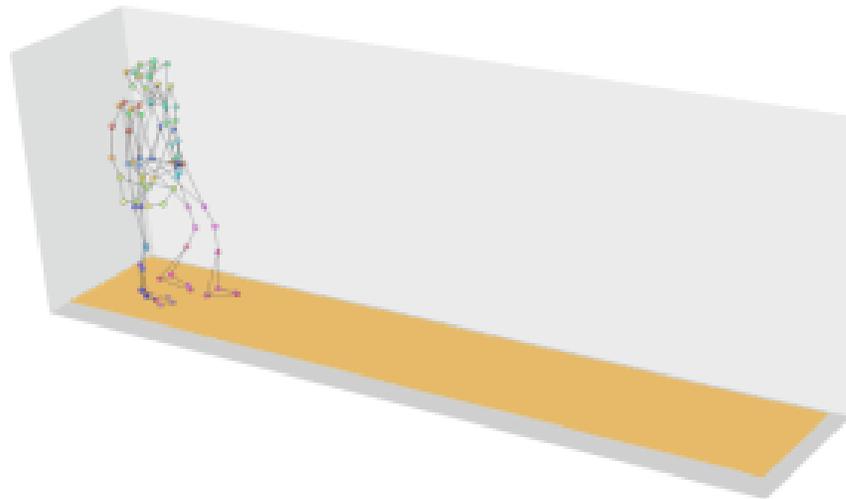
TSA-STAT can capture successfully  
this similarity case



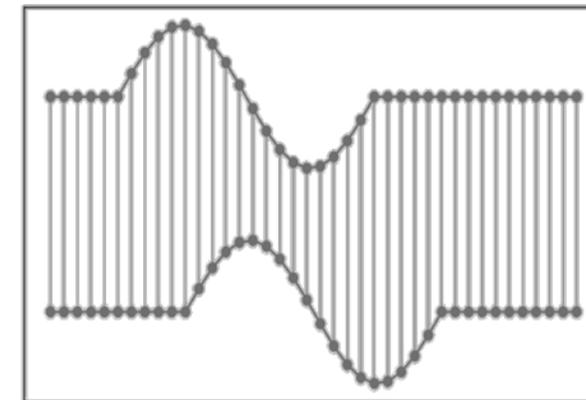
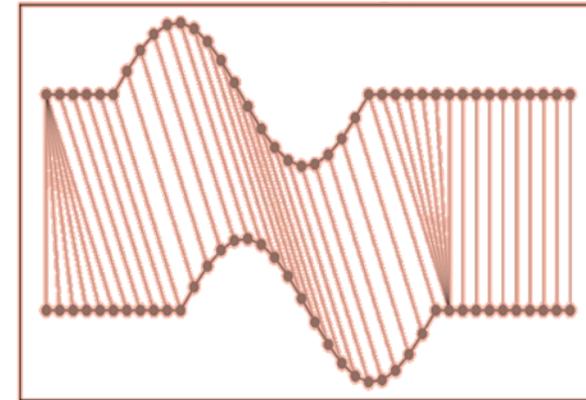
TSA-STAT is too complex for this  
perturbation case

# Approach 2: Dynamic Time Warping based Adversarial Framework for Time-Series Domain

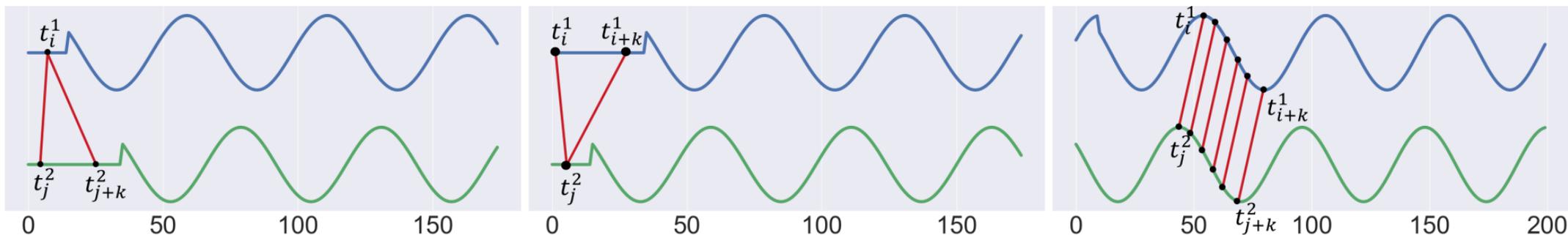
- We investigate a similarity measure that accounts for shifts along temporal axis, scaling and frequency change



Two repetitions of the same walking sequence were recorded using a motion-capture system.<sup>5</sup>

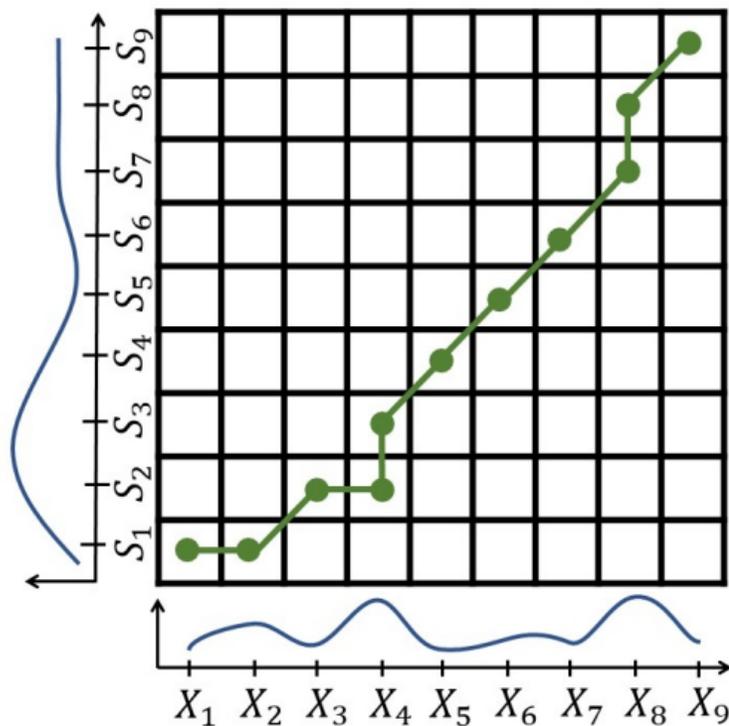
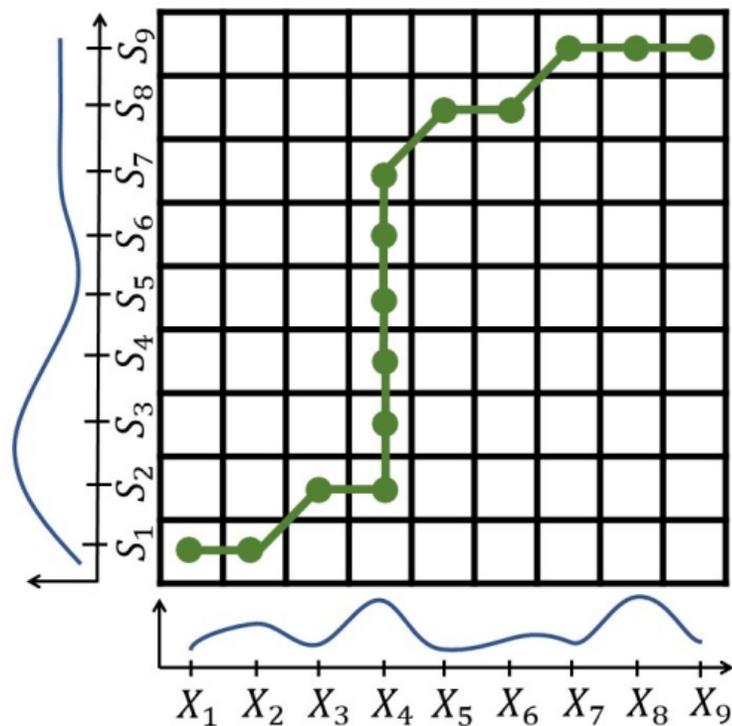


# Dynamic Time Warping



- We investigate Dynamic Time Warping approach for adversarial attacks.
- Dynamic Time Warping seeks for the optimal temporal alignment.
- A temporal alignment is a matching between time indexes  $t_i$  of the two time-series  $t^1$  and  $t^2$ .

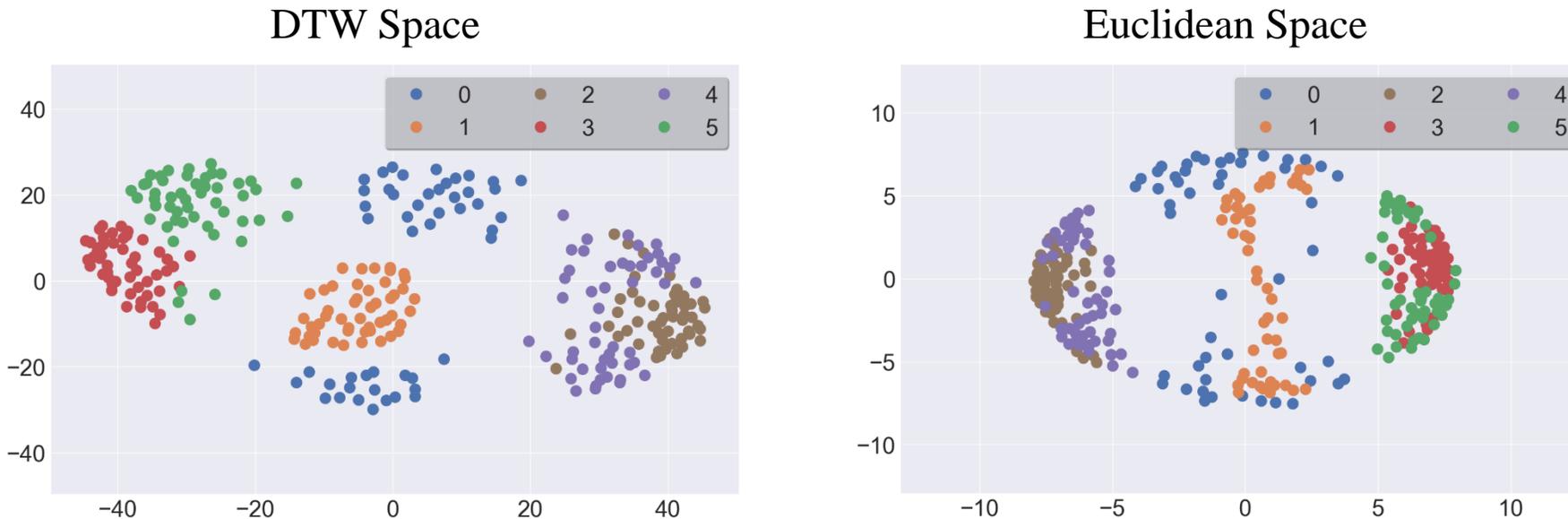
# Dynamic Programming for DTW



➤  $DTW(X, S) = \min_{\pi_k} \|X_i - S_i\|$

➤ Iterative – Quadratic complexity – Slow!!

# DTW vs. Euclidean Space: Similarity Comparison



t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding showing the empirical class distribution of real-world data examples and their similarity using DTW measure and Euclidean distance.

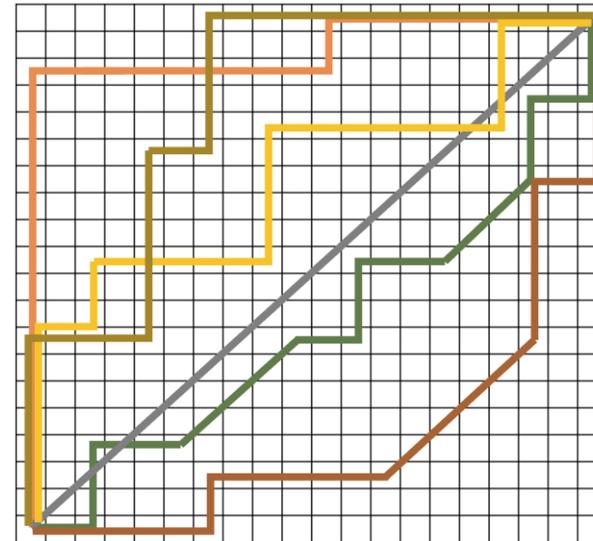
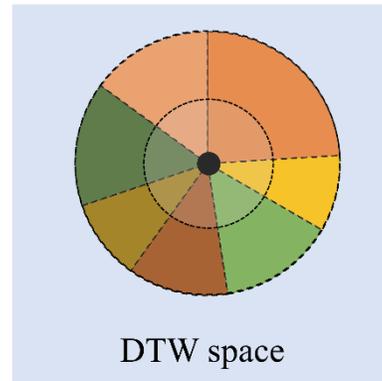
➤ DTW space exhibits better clustering for same-class data than Euclidean space

→ How to overcome the challenges of implementing DTW in the adversarial setting?

# Naïve DTW Approach

➤ At each iteration:

1. Compute the optimal DTW alignment
2. Use the alignment in the gradient and create an adversarial example



- High computational cost
- Single adversarial example

# Key Insight: Random Alignment Path Approximation

- We formalize the following theorem to devise an effective and efficient algorithm

**Theorem.** For a time-series  $X$  and a random alignment path  $P$ , the resulting adversarial example from DTW-AR is equivalent to using standard DTW computation (tight approximation).

# Key Insight: Random Alignment Path Approximation

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## Algorithm 1 DTW-AR based Adversarial Algorithm

---

**Input:** time-series  $X$ ; DNN classifier  $F_\theta$ ; target class-label  $y_{target}$ ; learning rate  $\eta$ ; maximum iterations MAX

**Output:** adversarial example  $X_{adv}$

- 1:  $P_{rand} \leftarrow$  random alignment path
  - 2: Initialization:  $X_{adv} \leftarrow X$
  - 3: **for**  $i=1$  to MAX **do**
  - 4:    $\mathcal{L}(X_{adv}) \leftarrow \mathcal{L}^{label}(X_{adv}) + \mathcal{L}^{DTW}(X_{adv}, P_{rand})$
  - 5:   Compute gradient  $\nabla_{X_{adv}} \mathcal{L}(X_{adv})$
  - 6:   Perform gradient descent step:  
       $X_{adv} \leftarrow X_{adv} - \eta \times \nabla_{X_{adv}} \mathcal{L}(X_{adv})$
  - 7: **end for**
  - 8: **return** optimized adversarial example  $X_{adv}$
- 

**Theorem.** For a time-series  $X$  and a random alignment path  $P$ , the resulting adversarial example from DTW-AR is equivalent to using standard DTW computation (tight approximation).

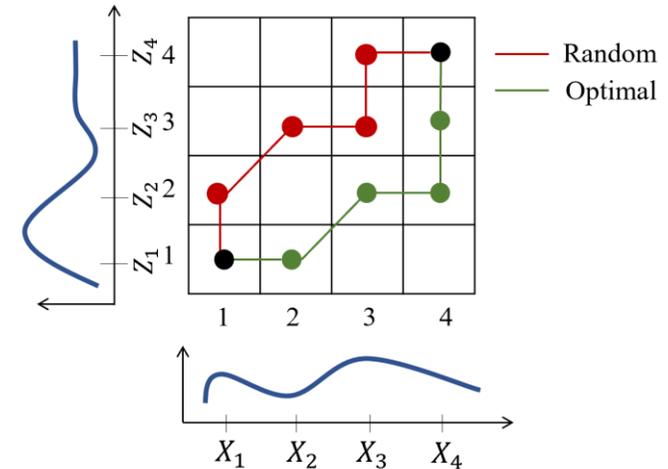
How?

# Path-specific distance optimization

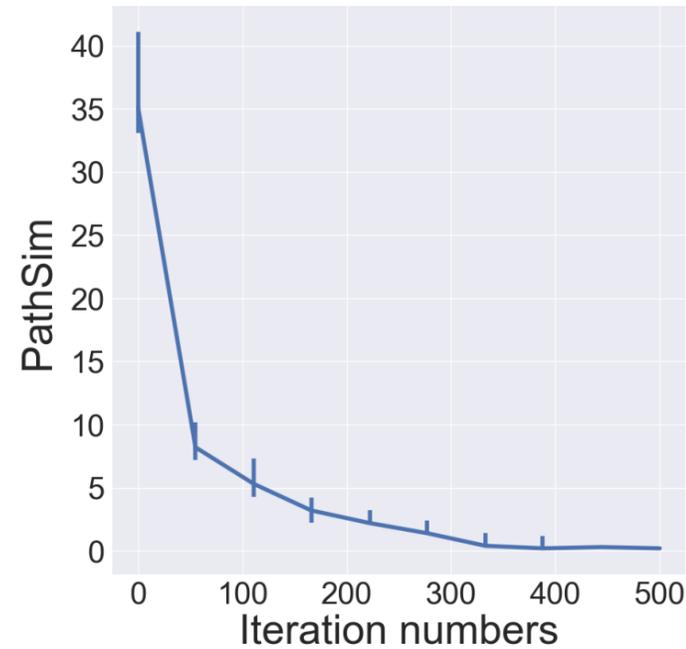
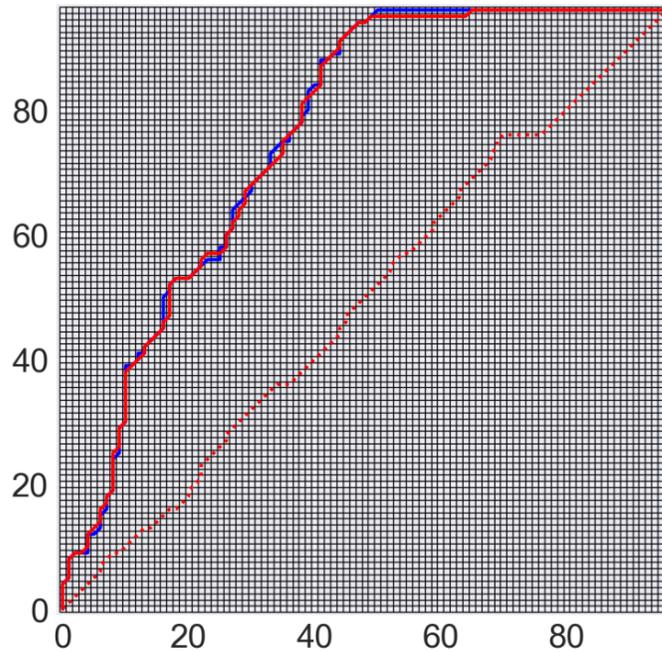
- We define a new metric *PathSim* as a metric between two alignment paths  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  in the DTW cost matrix that satisfies the distance axioms
- We define  $P_i = \{c_1^i, \dots, c_{len(P_i)}^i\}$

$$\text{PathSim}(P_1, P_2) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2T} \left( \sum_{c_i^1} \min_{c_j^2} \|c_i^1 - c_j^2\|_1 + \sum_{c_i^2} \min_{c_j^1} \|c_i^2 - c_j^1\|_1 \right)$$

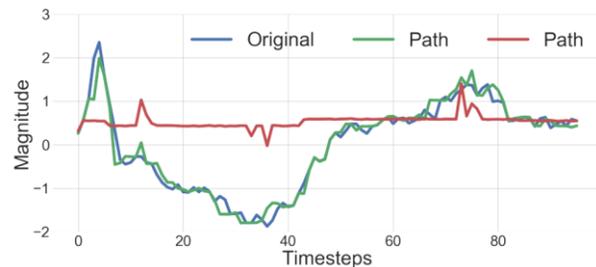
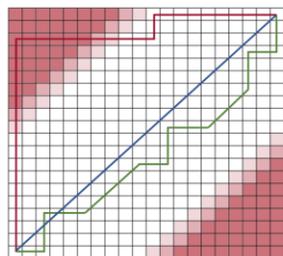
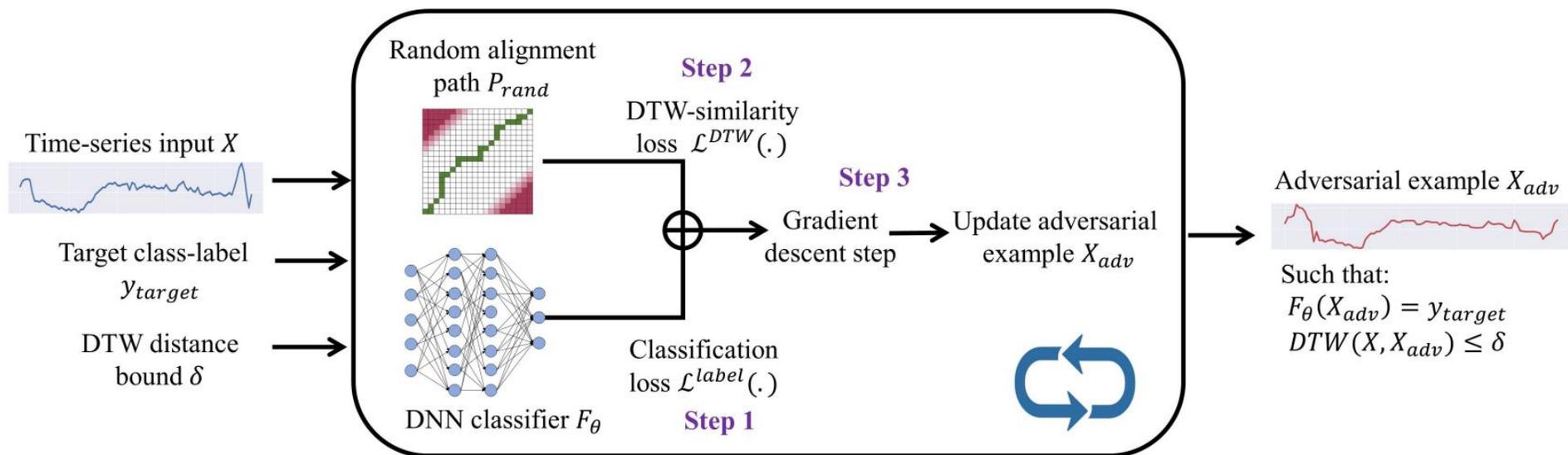


# Path-specific distance optimization



Example of the empirical convergence of the optimal alignment path between the optimized example and the original example at the start of the algorithm (dotted red path) and at the end (red path) to the given random alignment path (blue path).

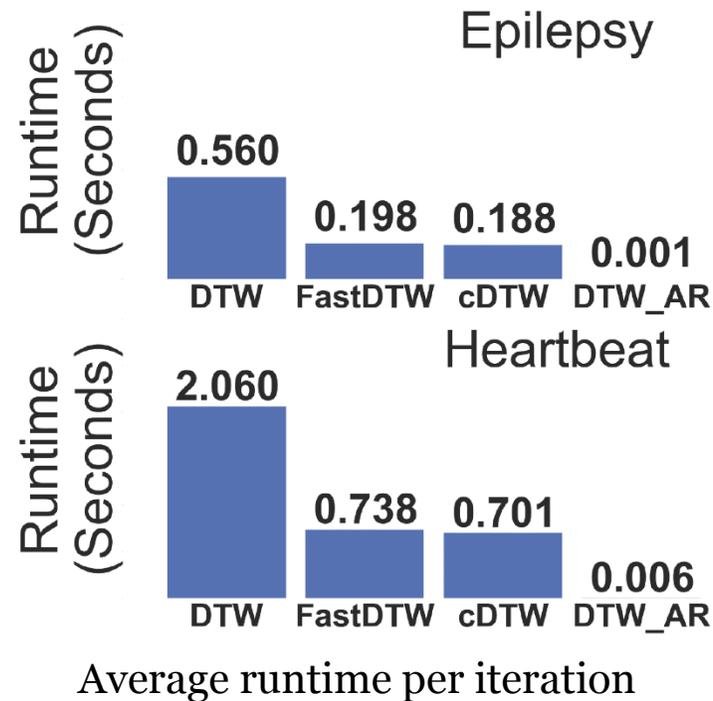
# DTW-AR Framework



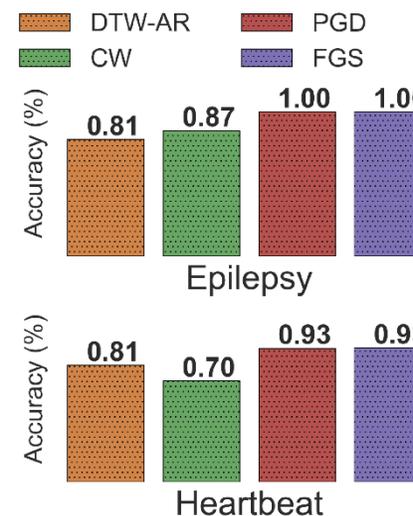
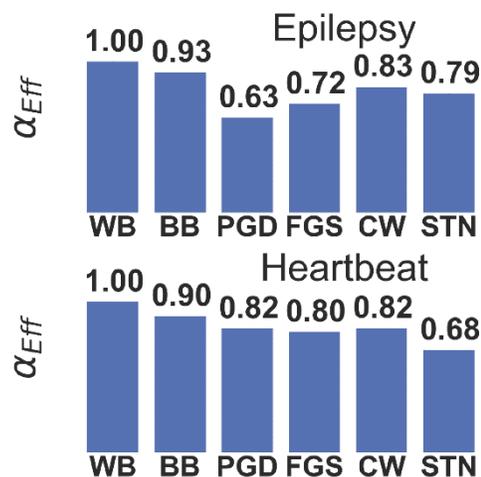
➤ The choice of the alignment range is important for better example generations

# DTW-AR Results: Computational Efficiency

- Overall computational cost is significantly reduced using DTW-AR



# DTW-AR Results: Effectiveness of Adversarial Examples



➤ DTW-AR is capable of fooling DNNs w/o existing adversarial training.

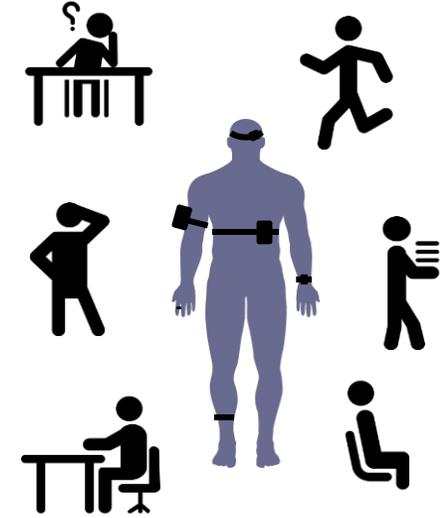
➤ DTW-AR is effective in predicting the original label of adversarial examples with high accuracy.



# Application of adversarial frameworks in wearable sensors-enabled ML applications

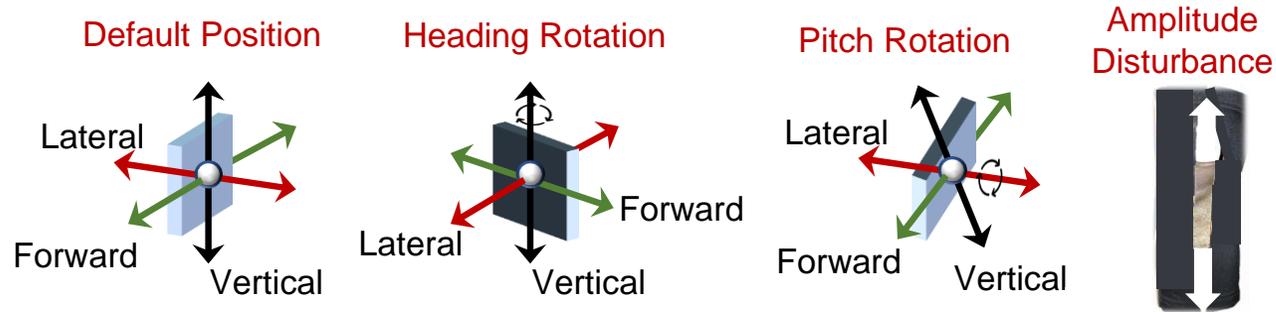
# Human Activity Recognition (HAR) Application

- HAR identifies activities, such as walking, sitting, driving, jogging
- HAR can provide valuable insight to health specialists
- Applications of HAR
  - Patient rehabilitation
  - Fall detection
  - Physical activity promotion



# (Natural) Sensor Disturbances in HAR

➤ We investigate four major classes of sensor disturbances that can affect data recording



- Heading rotation
  - Changes sensor values in forward and lateral directions
- Pitch rotation
  - Changes sensor values in forward and vertical directions
- Amplitude and sensor hardware disturbances

# Statistical Optimization Framework

- We propose StatOpt, an instantiation of the general statistical optimization framework TSA-STAT for ML-based HAR on wearable systems.
- The goal of StatOpt is to create new training examples to capture the overall structure of natural sensor disturbances that may occur in sensor observations and use them to improve the classifier reliability.
- It is challenging to define the disturbance explicitly
- We employ statistical features  $S_i$  to generate training examples

# Statistical Optimization Framework

➤ Create adversarial examples such that  $||S_i(X) - S_i(X_{adv})|| < \epsilon$

## 1. Body acceleration

- Total acceleration across all three directions of motion
- Generally, body acceleration is same even if sensor is disturbed

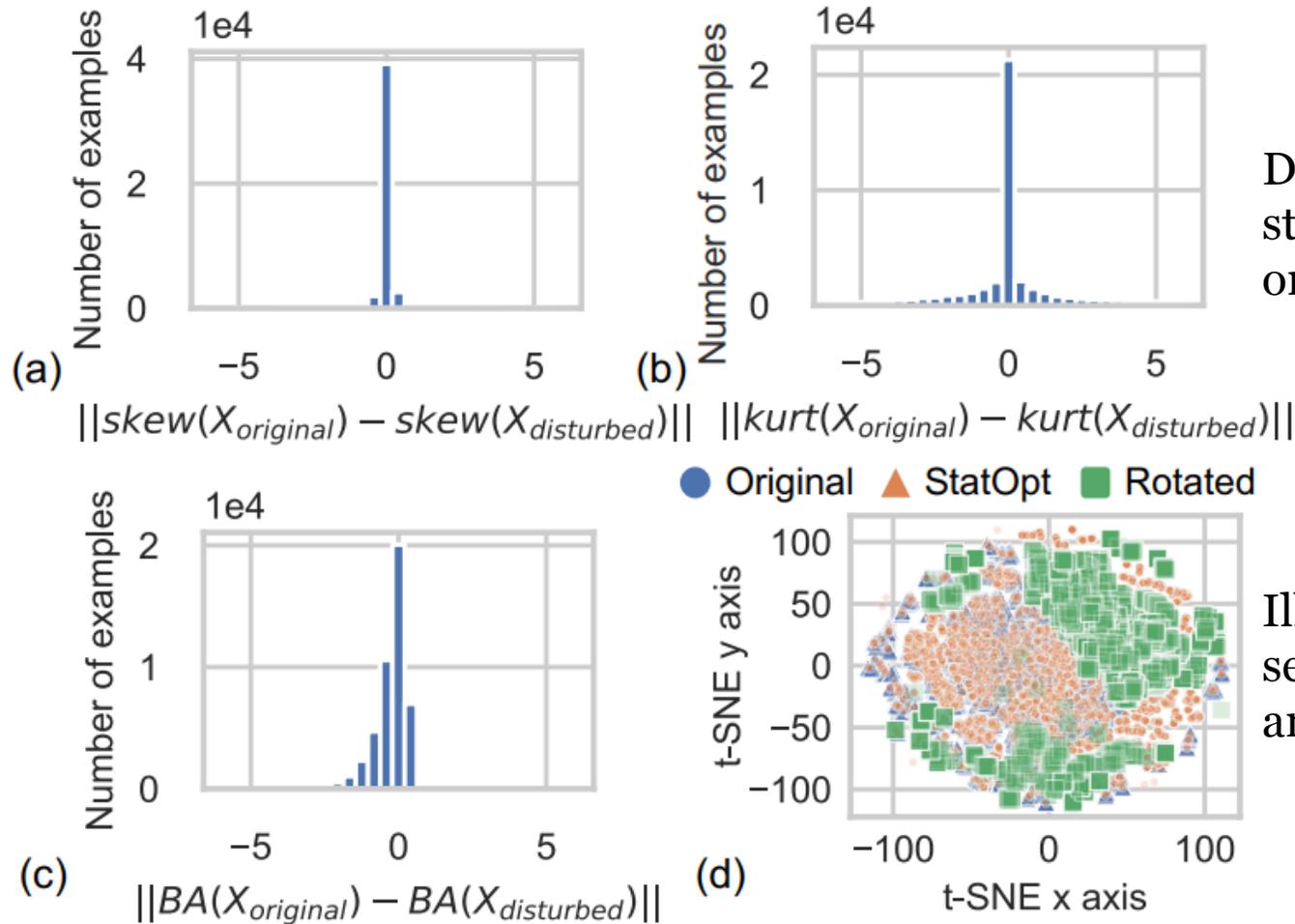
## 2. Skewness

- Measures the symmetry of the distribution

## 3. Kurtosis

- Measures the distribution tail of the input values

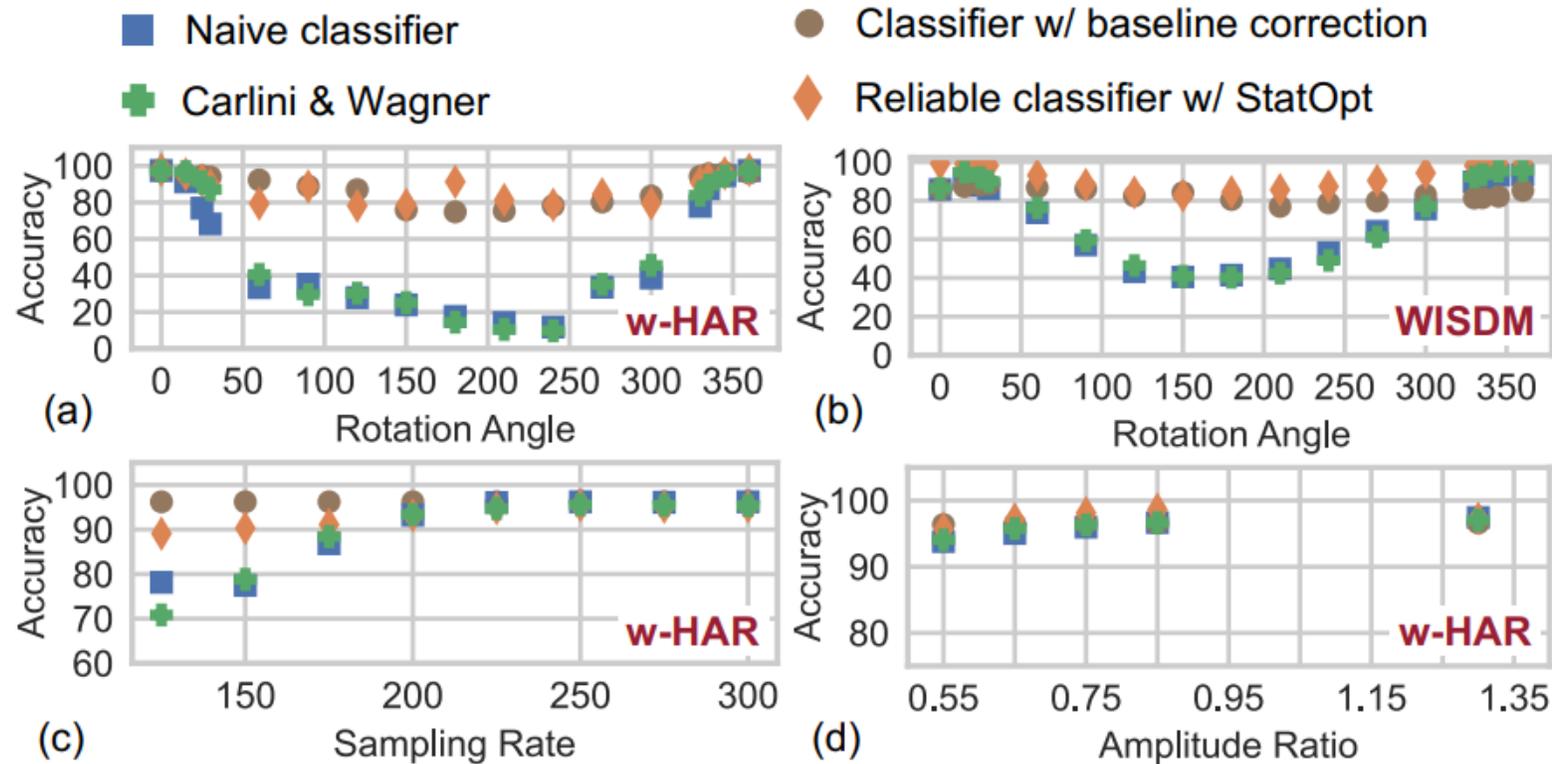
# Accuracy of StatOpt Data Generation



Distribution of the difference between the statistical features of the disturbed and the original data.

Illustration of the t-SNE for the observed sensor data, examples generated by StatOpt, and data with sensor disturbances.

# Classification Performance Comparison



Accuracy comparison between the standard classifier, baseline, and StatOpt-enabled reliable classifier

# Implementation Overhead

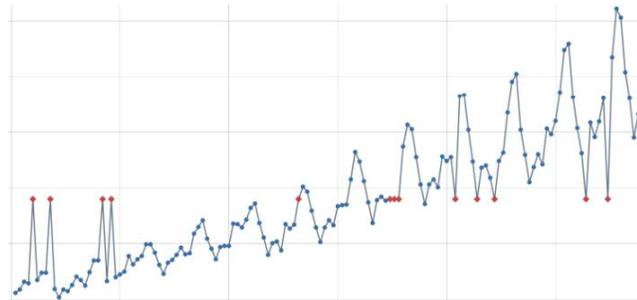
- We characterize the implementation overhead on TI-CC2650
- StatOpt has no overhead for data recovery

Disturbance	Block	Baseline		StatOpt	
		Exe. Time (ms)	Energy (mJ)	Exe. Time (ms)	Energy (mJ)
All (1×/activity)	Classifier	85.60	0.94	85.60	0.94
Heading (1×/session)	Walk	3000.00	34.68	-	-
	PCA	24.93	0.29	-	-
Pitch (1×/session)	Stand	3000.00	34.71	-	-
	Gravity detect	1.90	0.02	-	-
All (1×/activity)	Resampling	46.08	0.52	-	-
	Correction	2.31	0.03	-	-

# Missing Data in HAR

## ➤ Random Missing data

- Isolated missing samples not clustered around any particular time instance.
- Occurs due to limited communication bandwidth and buffer overflow in a sensor.



## ➤ Block Missing data

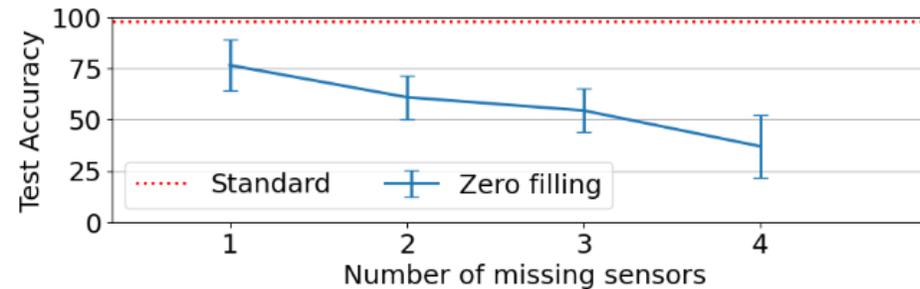
- A sequence of samples are missing
- Occurs when one or more sensors have to go into a low-power state



# Challenges of ML Algorithm for Missing Data

➤ Using zero inputs for missing data, we get sensor data as

$$\tilde{X}_{\{j\}} = \begin{cases} 0^T, & \text{if } i \in \{j\} \\ X_i, & \text{if } i \notin \{j\} \end{cases}$$



- Generative imputation networks recover raw data for classification
  - However, some applications do not need exact data recovery
  - Moreover, generative networks incur high overhead
- Trade-off between accuracy & overhead
- Maximize the accuracy without imputing the data exactly
  - Reduce memory overhead of imputation by avoiding generative networks

# Accuracy-Preserving Imputation (AIM)

- AIM is based on two key insights
  - Exact data recovery is not needed if the application accuracy is preserved
  - Can train the ML model to be robust to small deviations from the exact data
- AIM obtains a single imputation pattern for each missing data scenario
  - We push the classifier to predict the correct labels from the available channels
- Write the imputation pattern as

$$\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}} = \begin{cases} \mathcal{J}_i, & \text{if } i \in \{j\} \\ X_i, & \text{if } i \notin \{j\} \end{cases} \quad \text{and } F_{\theta}(X) \sim F_{\theta}(\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}})$$

# Imputation Pattern Search

➤ Given  $\{j\}$ : We find  $\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}}$  s. t.  $\forall X, F_{\theta}(X) \approx F_{\theta}(\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}})$

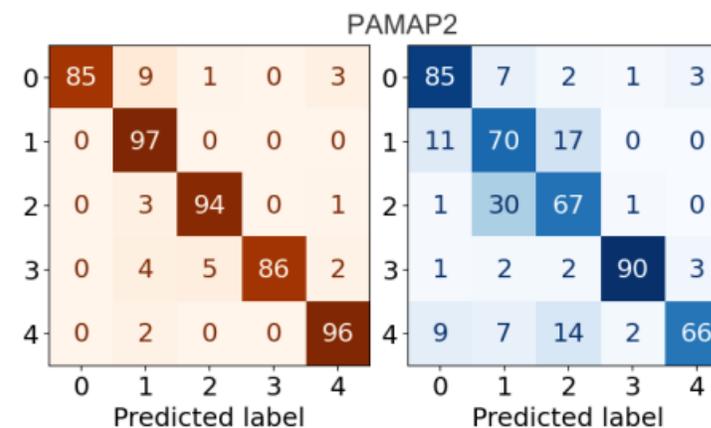
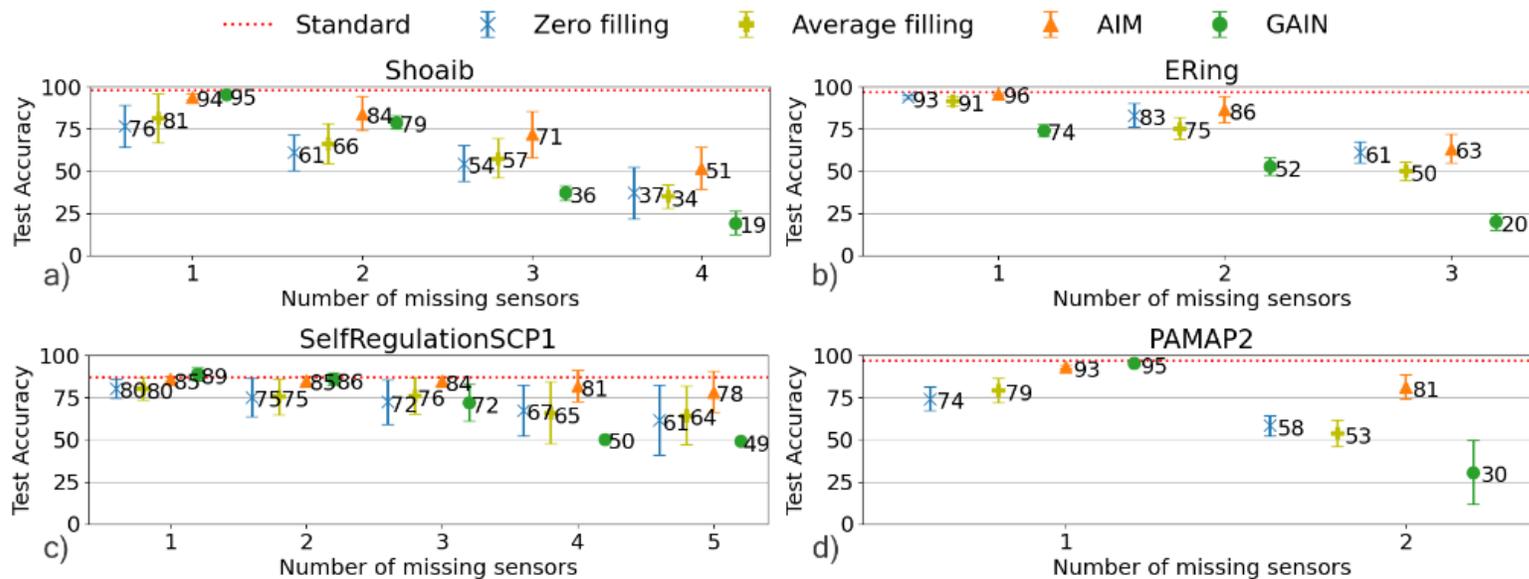
➤ Search objective

$$\min_{\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}}} \text{MSE} \left( \text{Logits}(F_{\theta}(X)), \text{Logits}(F_{\theta}(\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}})) \right)$$

➤ Minimize objective to find imputation patterns

➤ Similar performance of  $F_{\theta}$  on original input  $X$  (no missingness) and input with imputation  $\mathcal{J}_{\{j\}}$

# Classification Accuracy with AIM

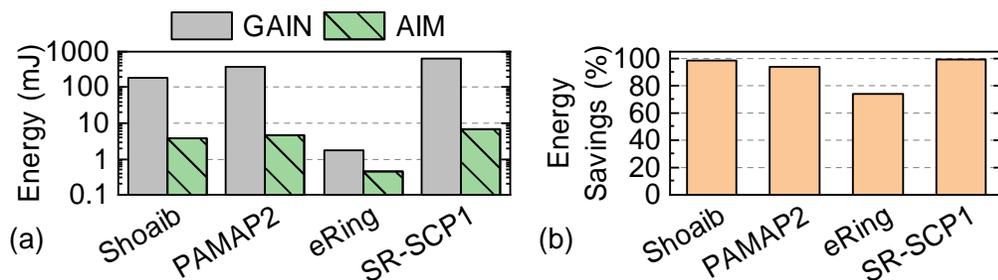


Accuracy (Mean and standard deviation) of the robust-trained ML classifier via different imputation methods on all combinations of missing sensors.

Normalized confusion matrix using AIM (red) imputation and zero-filling (blue).

# Implementation Overhead

- Key advantage of AIM is lower energy and memory overhead
- AIM consumes less than 10 mJ per imputation
- Energy savings are close to 98% for all datasets except eRing
  - eRing has lower energy savings about 74% (has lower computation requirements for both GAIN and AIM)
- AIM can improve the battery life of wearable health monitoring devices by an order of magnitude



Dataset	AIM Memory (MB)	GAIN Memory (MB)
Shoaib	0.180	25
PAMAP2	0.055	60
eRing	0.007	0.19
SR-SCP1	0.667	81

# Training Robust Deep Models for Time-Series Domain

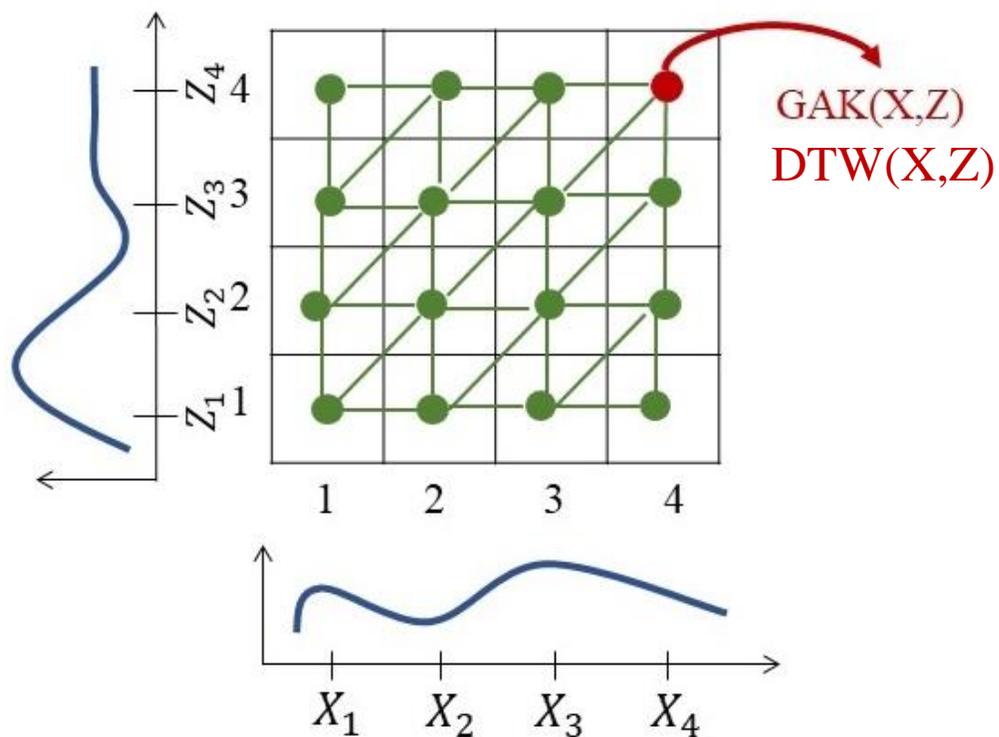
# Training Robust Deep Models for Time-Series Domain

- Adversarial training employs augmented data such as adversarial examples and input perturbations.
  - The most successful empirical defense
  - Requires a significant amount of augmented data per example
- Training via explicit loss function to capture the robustness criteria and optimize it.
  - Formal formulation of adversarial training

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \max_{\epsilon} l(F_{\theta}(X + \epsilon), y) \text{ such that } \|\epsilon\| \leq \delta$$

# Robust Training via Elastic Measures

- Instead of a single **optimal** alignment between  $x$  and  $x'$ , we desire a measure that takes all possible alignments  $\pi \in \mathcal{A}$  into consideration



$$k_{\text{GAK}}(x, x') = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{A}} \exp\left(-\frac{d_{\pi}(x, x')}{\nu}\right)$$

$$d_{\pi}(x, x') = \sum_{i=1}^{|\pi|} \text{dist}(x_{\pi_1(i)}, x'_{\pi_2(i)})$$

# Proposed approach: Explicit training for robustness

- A principled framework referred as RObust Training for Time-Series (RO-TS) to create robust DNNs for time-series data.

$$\min_{w \in \Theta} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \max_{a_i} \ell(f(x_i + a_i, w), y_i)$$

s.t.  $d(x_i, x_i + a_i) \leq \varepsilon$

The inner maximization problem serves the role of an attacker whose goal is to find adversarial examples that achieves the largest loss.

The outer minimization problem serves the role of a defender whose goal is to find the optimal parameters of the deep model

# Optimization Challenges

- GAK gradient estimation is computationally expensive
- Randomly sample a constant number of alignments  $\pi \in A$  at each iteration to estimate the gradient
- Sampling paths leads to biased gradient estimate  $\rightarrow$  SGDA does not hold

# Method: SCAGDA Optimization Algorithm

- Novel stochastic compositional alternating gradient descent ascent algorithm
- Solves a family of nonconvex-nonconcave min-max compositional problems

$$\min_w \max_{a_i} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i(w, a_i) := f_i(w, a_i) - g\left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m h_{i,j}(a_i)\right)$$

$$\min_{w \in \Theta} \max_{a_i} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f(x_i + a_i, w), y_i) + \lambda \log(k_{\text{GAK}}(x_i, x_i + a_i))$$

- No previous analysis on min-max optimization with compositional structure

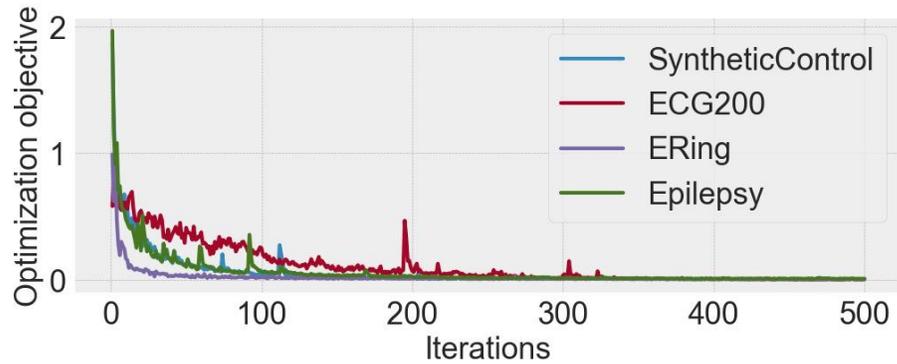
# RO-TS Instantiation of SCAGDA

$$\min_{w \in \Theta} \max_{a_i} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f(x_i + a_i, w), y_i) + \lambda \log(k_{\text{GAK}}(x_i, x_i + a_i))$$

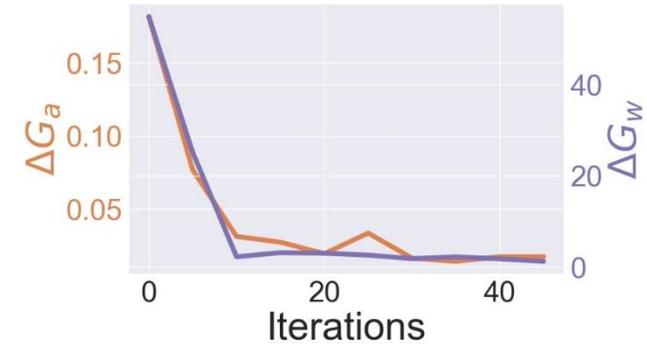
$\downarrow$   $\downarrow$   
 $\nabla_w$  for gradient descent      $\nabla_a$  for gradient ascent

- Do not require all alignments for GAK estimation
  - ✓ Efficient training
  - ✓ Higher scalability

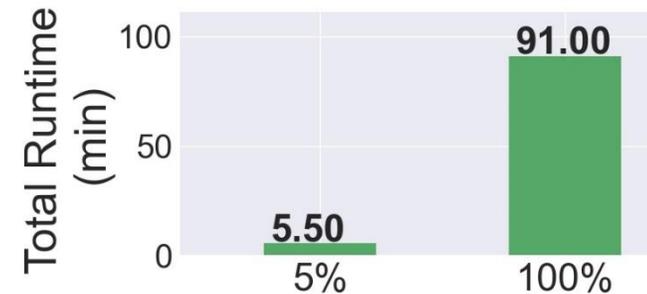
# RO-TS Theoretical Results



Empirical convergence of ROTS algorithm.



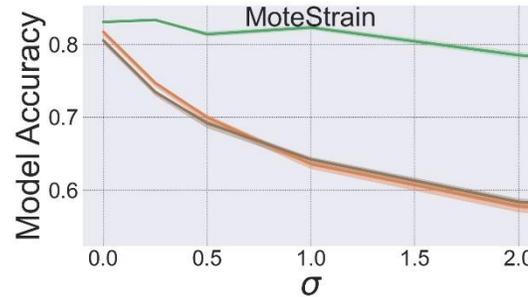
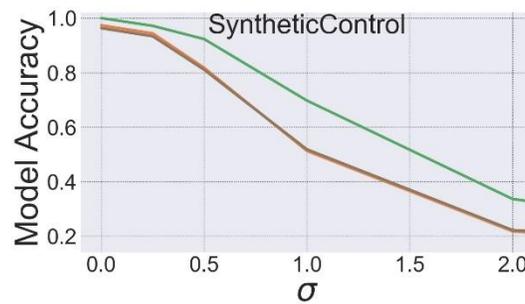
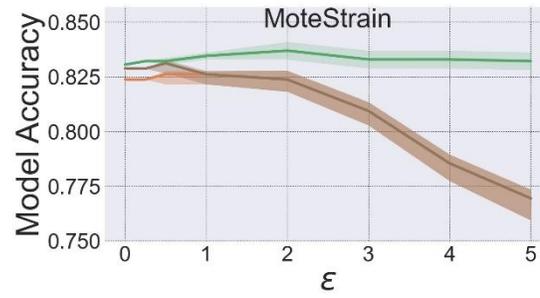
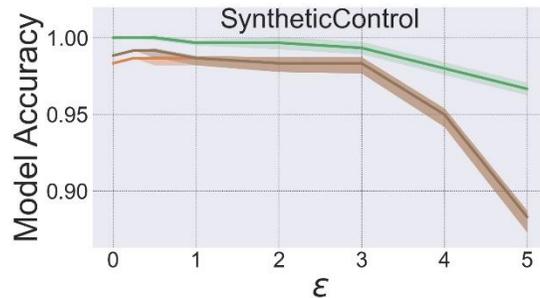
The accuracy gap in the gradients over weights  $G_w$  and over perturbations  $G_a$  using 5% vs. all of the alignments



Comparison of the computational runtime between both settings

# RO-TS Training Effectiveness – Setting #1

## RO-TS vs. Adversarial training



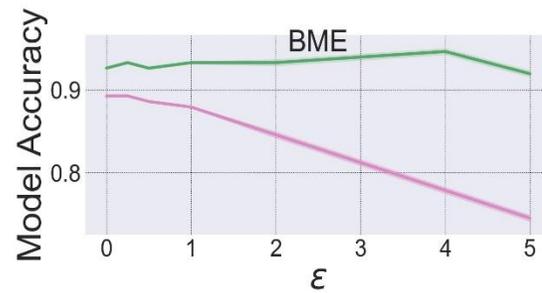
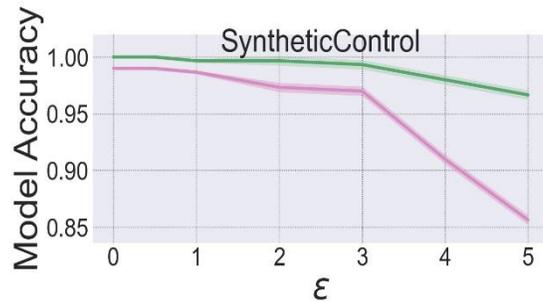
Comparison of

- RO-TS algorithm
- Fast Gradient Sign
- Projected Gradient Descent

using Gaussian perturbation  $\sigma$  and adversarial perturbation  $\epsilon$  on input

# RO-TS Training Effectiveness – Setting #2

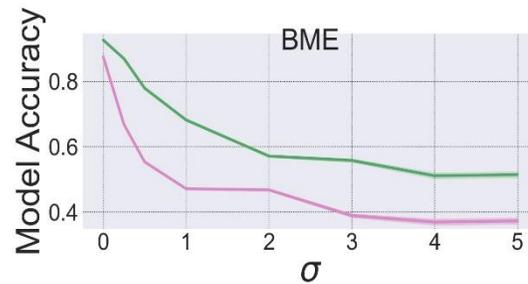
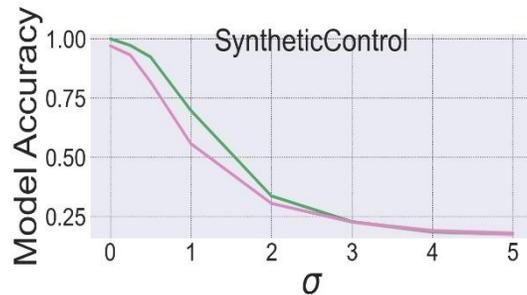
## RO-TS: GAK vs. $l_2$



Comparison of  
— RO-TS algorithm

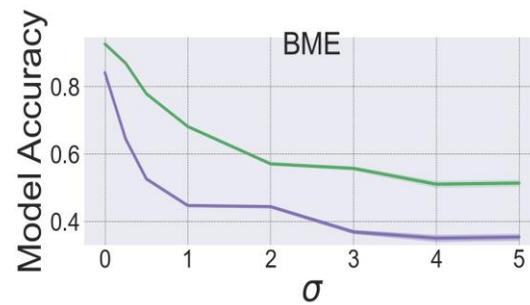
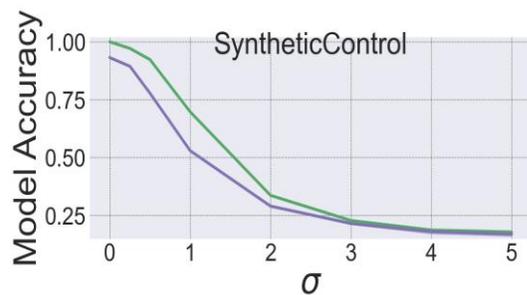
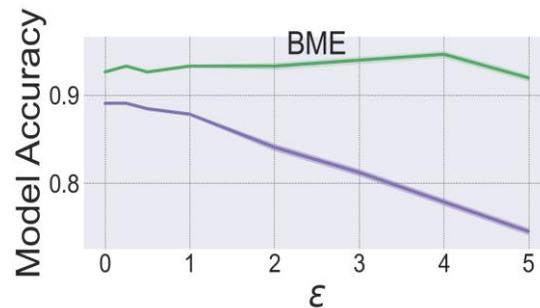
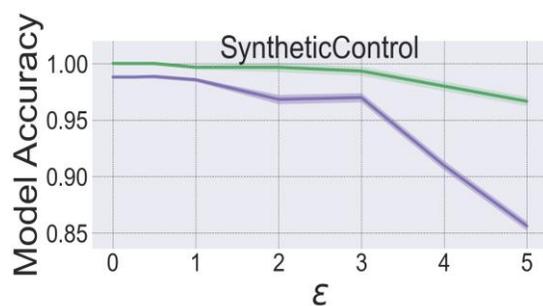
—  $l_2$

using Gaussian perturbation  $\sigma$  and  
adversarial perturbation  $\epsilon$  on input



# RO-TS Training Effectiveness – Setting #3

## RO-TS vs. Stability training



Comparison of  
— RO-TS algorithm  
— Stability Training  
using  
Gaussian perturbation  $\sigma$  and  
adversarial perturbation  $\epsilon$  on  
input

# Conclusion

# Summary

- Our comprehensive study shows that these deep learning methods are significantly vulnerable to adversarial attacks during real-world deployment
- We have proposed two different approaches, namely TSA-STAT and DTW-AR, to create more effective adversarial examples for the time-series domain
- We have proposed a novel derivation of a theoretically certified bound for adversarial robustness based on the TSA-STAT framework that applies to any deep model for the time-series domain
- We have shown applications of robust deep learning for time-series data on wearable devices for Human Activity recognition applications
  - Natural perturbations and imputation of missing sensor data

# Summary

- We proposed a novel algorithm to train robust deep neural networks for time-series domain (RO-TS) and the theoretically-sound stochastic compositional alternating gradient descent and ascent (SCAGDA) algorithm that carefully leverages the structure of the optimization problem to solve it efficiently

