

# SoK

## Certified Robustness for Deep Neural Networks

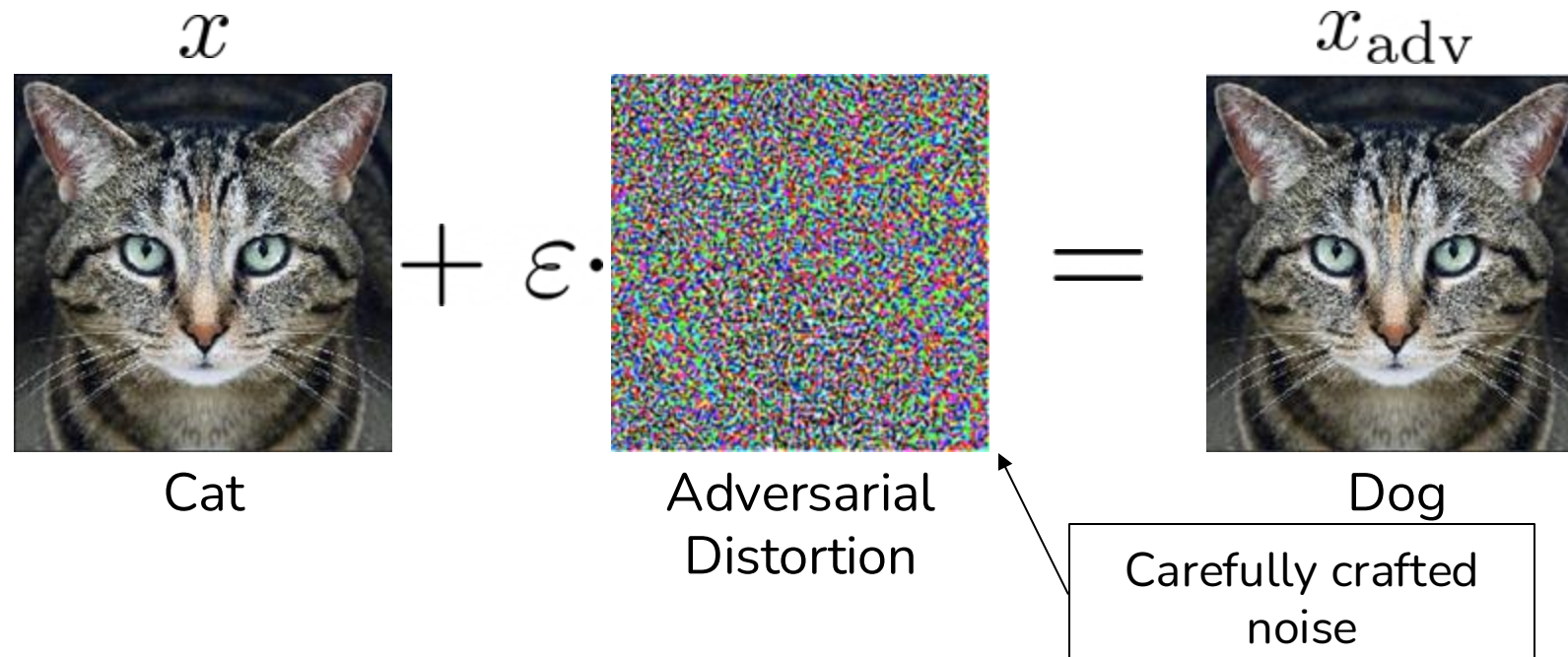
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# Adversarial Robustness – A Lasting Threat

- Deep neural networks (DNNs) can be easily fooled by adversarial examples
  - **Tiny** crafted perturbations can make DNNs give **wrong** predictions



# Severe Safety Threats

Example: autonomous driving



# Arm Race

Defenses bypassed by follow-up attacks

discovery  
[Szegedy et al. '14]

# Ending Arm Race? Certified Robustness!

- Prove adversarial example doesn't exist  
**Guarantee of Safety**



# Ending Arm Race? Certified Robustness!

- Prove adversarial example doesn't exist

Guarantee of Safety

**First Systematization of Knowledge on  
Certified Robustness for Deep Neural Networks!**

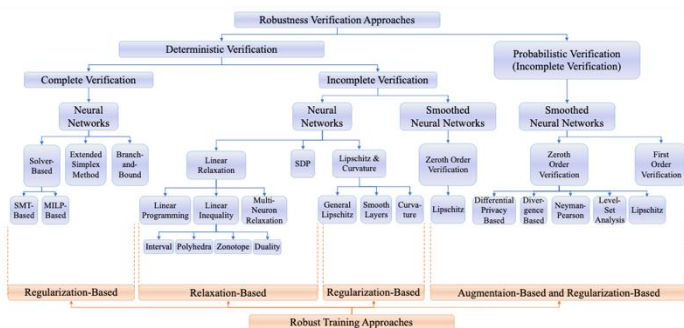




# Content



## TAXONOMY



## SUMMARY

- Characteristics
- Strengths
- Limitations
- Connections
- Generalization
- ...



## DISCUSSION

- Current Research
- Theoretical Barriers
- Main Challenges
- Future Directions
- ...

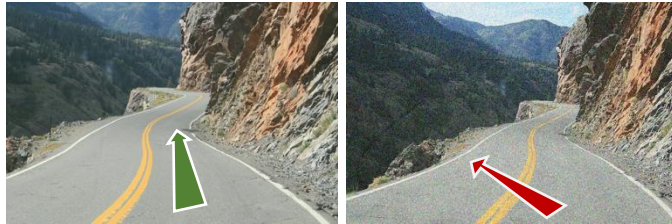


## BENCHMARK

**VeriGauge**  
*Open-source platform  
for 20+ approaches*

# Threat Model

- Various types of adversarial examples exist



Tiny Perturbations



Semantic  
Transformations

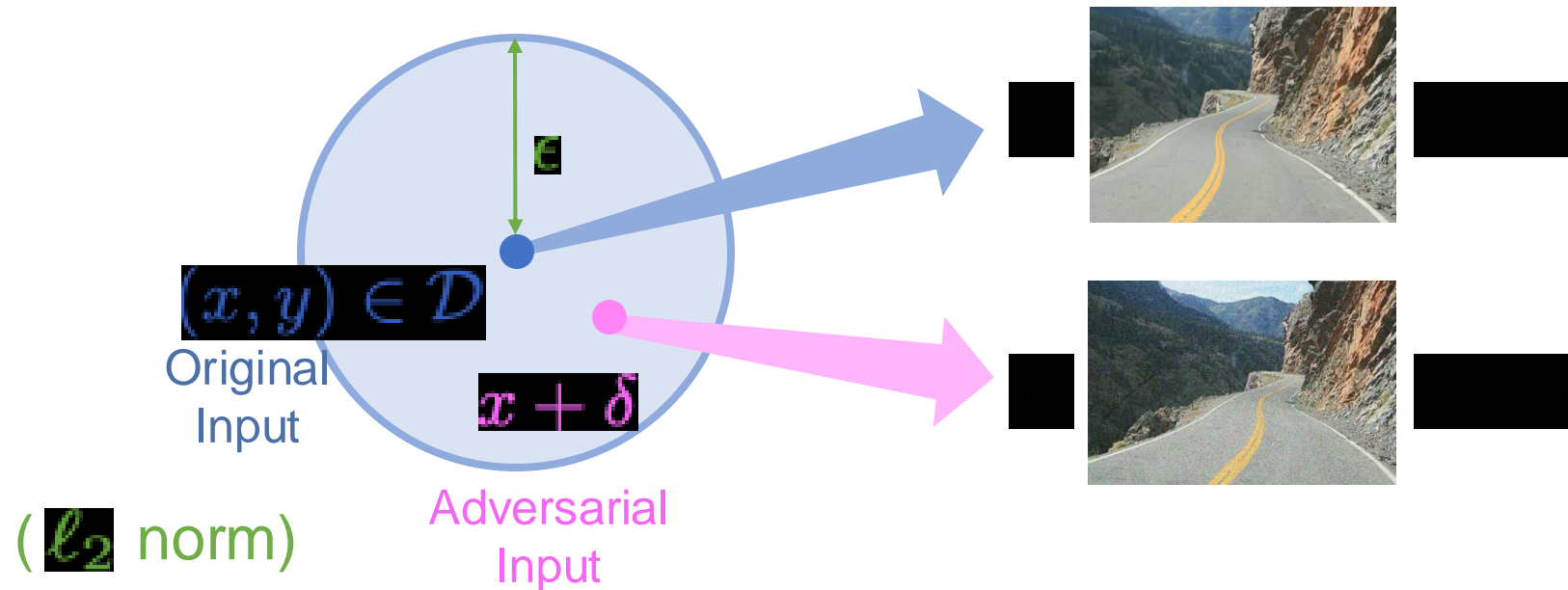
- Focus on (p-norm constrained) perturbations
  - Widely studied
  - Techniques generalizable to other types of adversarial examples



# Robustness against (p-Norm Constrained) Perturbations

Given a DL model  $\mathcal{M}$ , finite test dataset  $\mathcal{D}$

Check:  $\forall \delta, \|\delta\|_p \leq \epsilon, \mathcal{M}(x + \delta) = y$

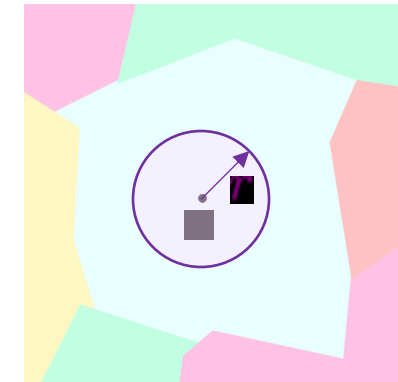


# Formal Definition of Certification

For given system  $\mathcal{S}$  and data instance  $\mathcal{D}$  with true label  $\mathcal{L}$ , compute larger  $\mathcal{R}$ , such that

$$\mathcal{R} \supseteq \mathcal{L}$$

- = Larger certified radius
- = Tighter certification
- = Better certified robustness



# Taxonomy of Verification Method

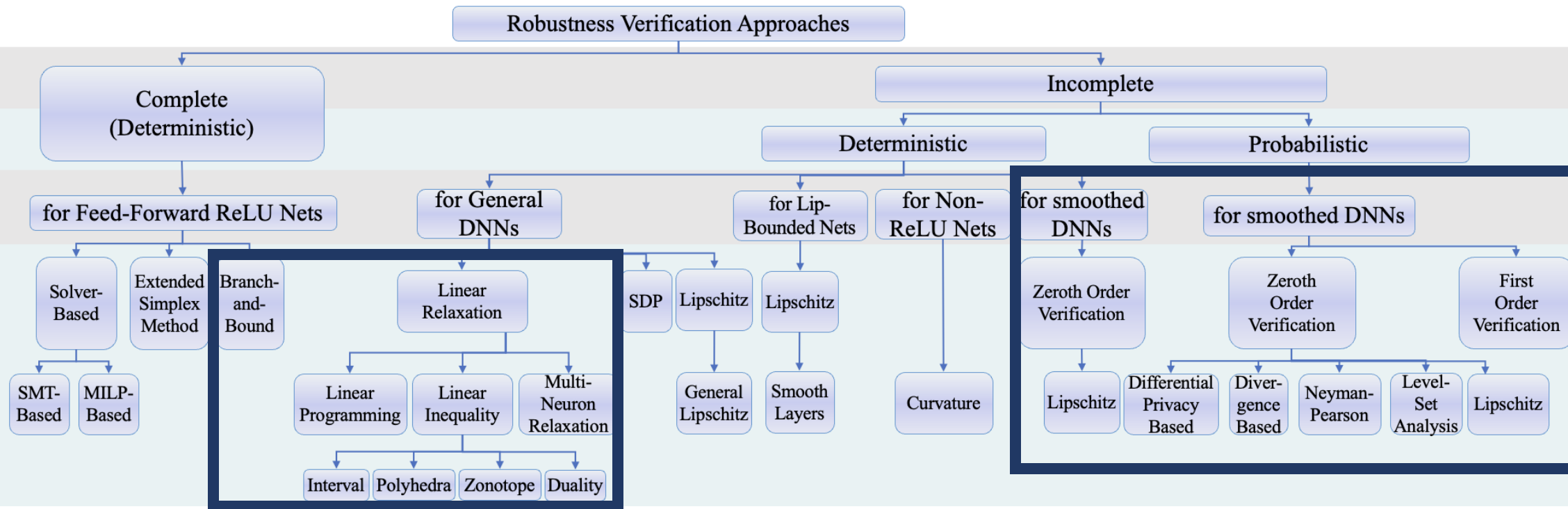
*Taxonomy Criteria:*

*Complete/  
Incomplete*

*Deterministic/  
Probabilistic*

*System Model*

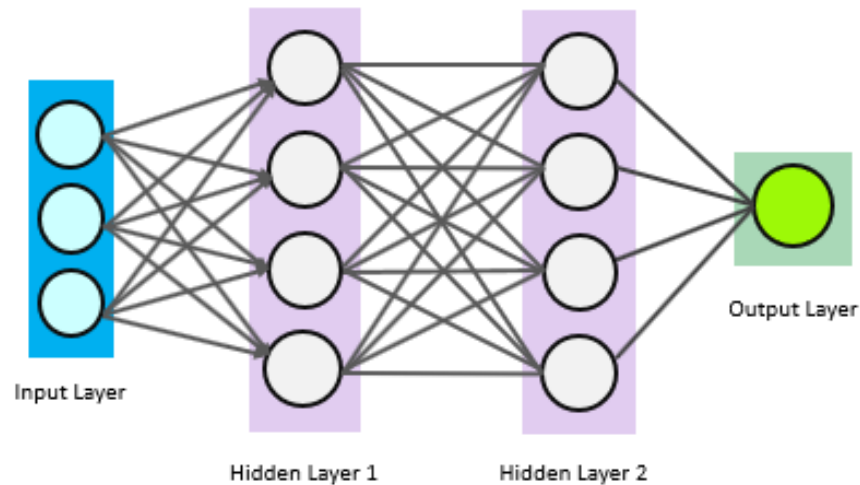
*Core  
Methodology*



SOTA deterministic certified robustness for general DNNs

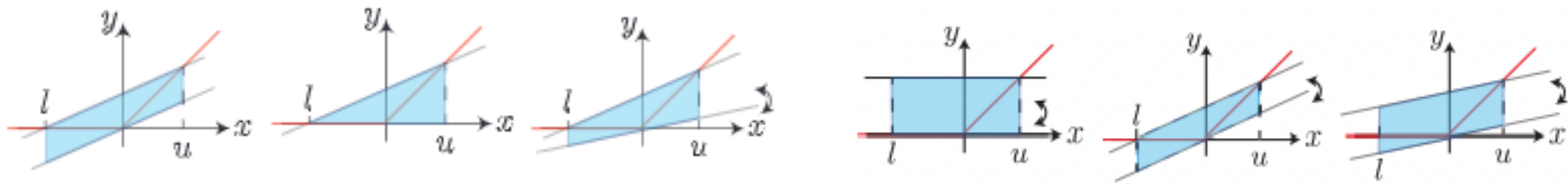
SOTA probabilistic certified robustness  
**Only** method supporting large models

# DNN Architecture



- **Input layer:** vector  $x_0$
- **Weights:**  $(W_0, b_0), (W_1, b_1), \dots (W_{L-1}, b_{L-1})$ .
- **Activation function:**
  - $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max\{x, 0\}$
- **Computation:**
  - $x_1 = \text{ReLU}(W_0x_0 + b_0)$ ,
  - $x_2 = \text{ReLU}(W_1x_1 + b_1)$ ,
  - ...
  - $x_L = W_{L-1}x_{L-1} + b_{L-1}$
- **Output:**  $x_L$  - confidence score for each class

# Linear Relaxation of ReLU



Different Linear Relaxations for  $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max\{x, 0\}$

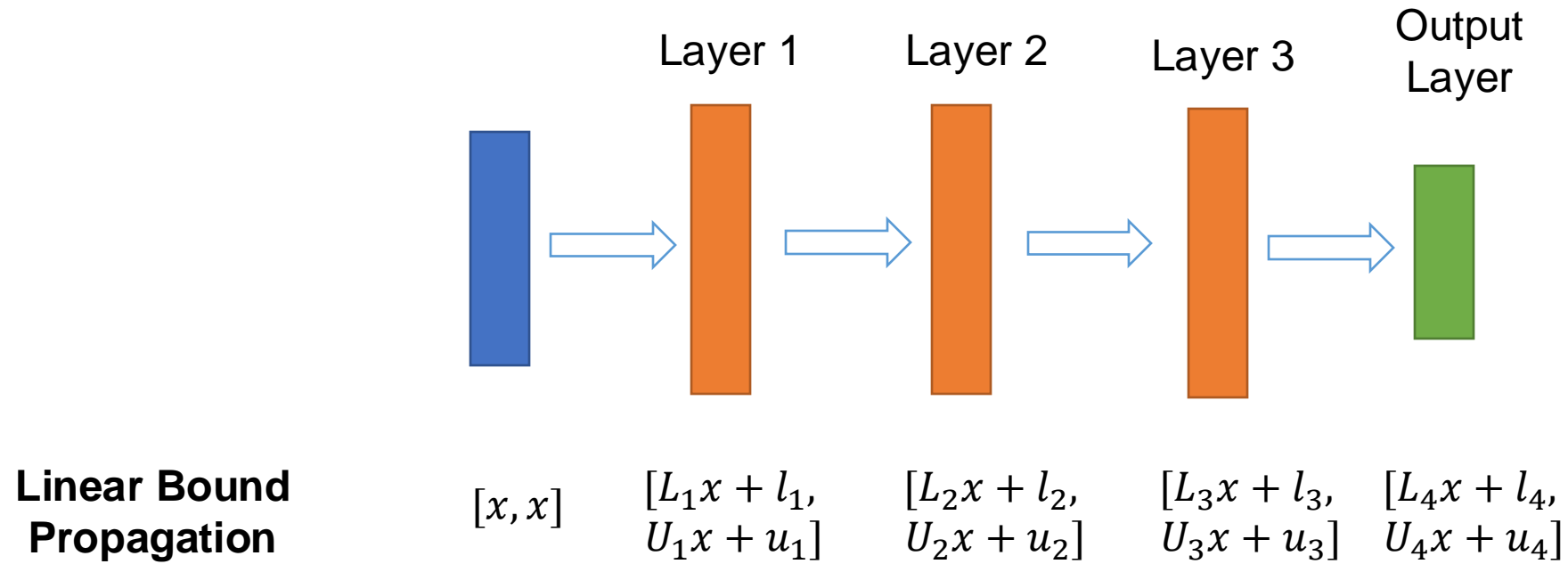
Weng, Lily, et al. "Towards fast computation of certified robustness for relu networks." ICML 2018

Wong, Eric, and Zico Kolter. "Provable defenses against adversarial examples via the convex outer adversarial polytope." ICML 2018

Singh, Gagandeep, et al. "Fast and Effective Robustness Certification." NIPS 2018

# Linear Relaxation Induces Linear Inequality

Propagate linear inequalities that bound possible output region





# Combat Over-Relaxation with Branch-and-Bound

Conditioned on two branches:  $x \leq 0$  and  $x > 0$ ,  
each ReLU neuron is reduced to **linear constraints**:  $y = 0$  or  $y = x$

Select some neurons to condition on, and solve two subproblems

- If  $x \leq 0$ ,  $y = 0$  (linearized subproblem)
- If  $x > 0$ ,  $y = x$  (linearized subproblem)
- Relax other neurons by linear relaxation and bound propagation

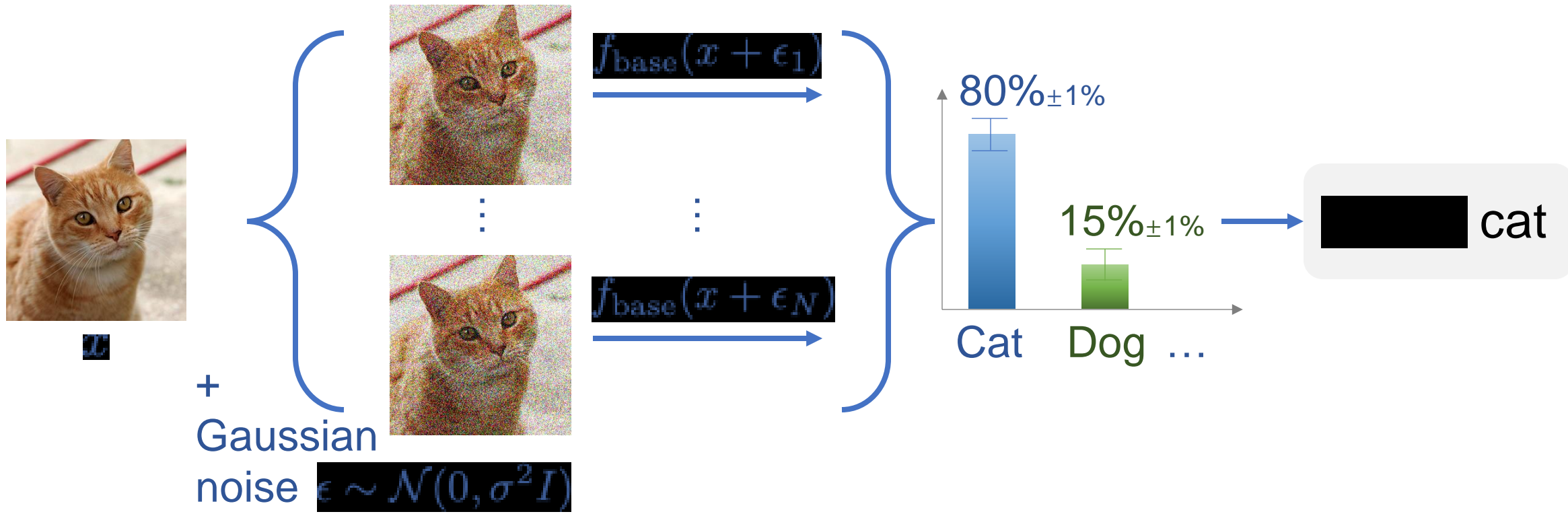
- **Most scalable verification method so far**

# Randomized Smoothing

1. Train a model  $f_{\text{base}}$  (“base classifier”) under some known noise
2. Smooth  $f_{\text{base}}$  into a new classifier  $f$  (“smoothed classifier”), such that  
 $f(x)$  = the most probable prediction by  $f_{\text{base}}$  under noised corruptions of  $x$

In deployment, use smoothed classifier  $f$

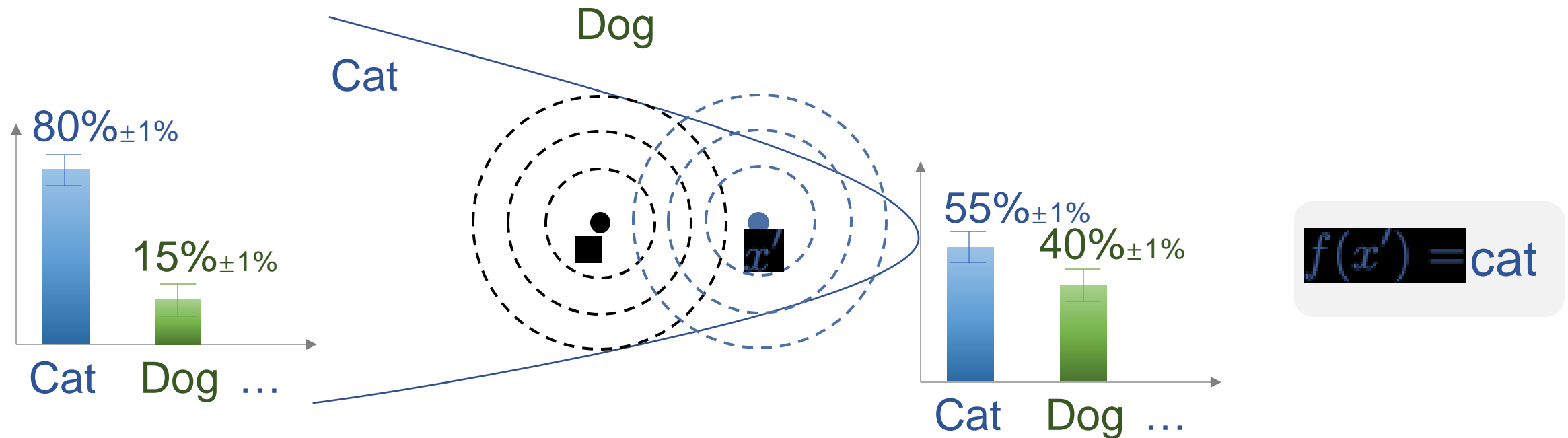
# Illustration of Randomized Smoothing



# Randomized Smoothing Enables Certified Robustness

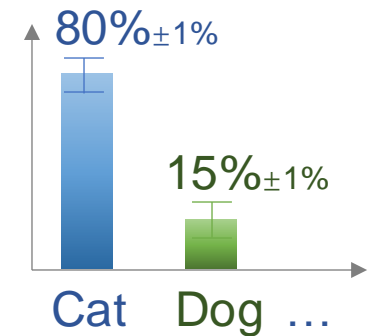
Shift center of the distribution cannot change probability much

- If order doesn't change, then consistent prediction guaranteed



# Closed-form Robustness Guarantee

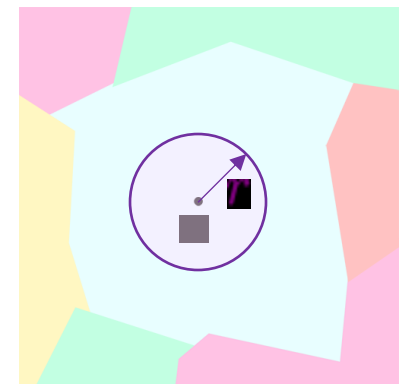
- $\hat{f}$ 's probability of the top class (cat)
- $\hat{f}$ 's probability of the runner-up class (dog)



$\hat{f}$  certifiably returns top class within an  $\ell_2$  ball around  $\mathbf{x}$  of radius

$$r = \frac{\sigma}{2} (\Phi^{-1}(P_A) - \Phi^{-1}(P_B))$$

- $\sigma$ : variance of Gaussian smoothing noise
- $\Phi^{-1}$ : the inverse standard Gaussian CDF



# Certification Induces Robust Training

- Training DNN in specific ways can improve certified robustness

## **For linear relaxation + branch-and-bound:**

training to **reduce upper bound of loss function** computed from over-approximation

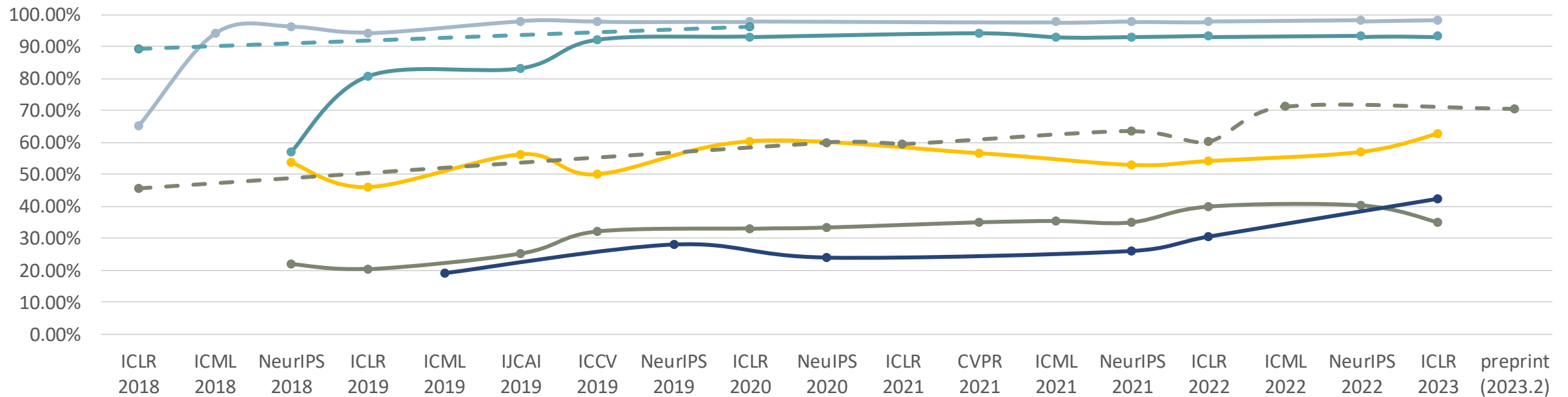
## **For randomized smoothing:**

training to **predict correctly for noised inputs**



# How Far Are We on Real-World Datasets?

## Progress of Robustness on Typical Datasets and Settings



- Certified, MNIST, Linf,  $\epsilon=0.1$
- Certified, MNIST, Linf,  $\epsilon=0.3$
- Empirical, MNIST, Linf,  $\epsilon=0.3$
- Certified, CIFAR-10, Linf,  $\epsilon=2/255$
- Certified, CIFAR-10, Linf,  $\epsilon=8/255$
- Empirical, CIFAR-10, Linf,  $\epsilon=8/255$
- Certified, ImageNet, L2,  $\epsilon=2.0$

# On MNIST

$\ell_\infty$  norm,  $r = 0.3$

- SOTA Certified Robust Accuracy: **94.02%**
  - *[CVPR 2021] Towards Evaluating and Training Verifiably Robust Neural Networks*
- SOTA Empirical Robust Accuracy (against existing attacks): **96.34%**
  - [https://github.com/MadryLab/mnist\\_challenge](https://github.com/MadryLab/mnist_challenge)
  - *Uncovering the Limits of Adversarial Training against Norm-Bounded Adversarial Examples*
  - *ArXiv: 2010.03593*

➤ Not much difference

# On CIFAR-10

$\ell_\infty$  norm,  $r = 8/255$ :

- SOTA Certified Robust Accuracy: **40.39%**
  - *[NeurIPS 2022] Rethinking Lipschitz Neural Networks and Certified Robustness: A Boolean Function Perspective*
- SOTA Empirical Robust Accuracy (against existing attacks): **71.29%**
  - *[ICML 2022] Diffusion Models for Adversarial Purification*

➤ Still a gap

# On ImageNet

$\ell_2$  norm,  $r = 2.0$

- SOTA Certified Robust Accuracy: **30.4%**
  - *Our paper at [ICLR 2022] On the Certified Robustness for Ensemble Models and Beyond*
- SOTA empirical robustness accuracy: **43.18%**
  - Against  $\ell_\infty$  norm,  $r = \frac{4}{255}$
  - *[ICML 2022] Diffusion Models for Adversarial Purification*
- Hard to achieve robustness

# Key Messages

- Since 2017, **many methods proposed** to provide & improve DNN certified robustness
  - Linear relaxation
  - Branch-and-bound
  - Randomized smoothing
  - ...
- **Remarkable certified robustness** achieved on small datasets, **but still challenging** on large ones
  - Good on MNIST
  - To be improved on CIFAR-10 and ImageNet
- Certification for p-norm bounded adversary **generalizable** for other threat models
  - Semantic adversary
  - Patch adversary
  - Word substitution adversary
  - Control state perturbation
  - Poisoning attack
  - ...

☆ 96    🍷 10  
☆ 73    🍷 6

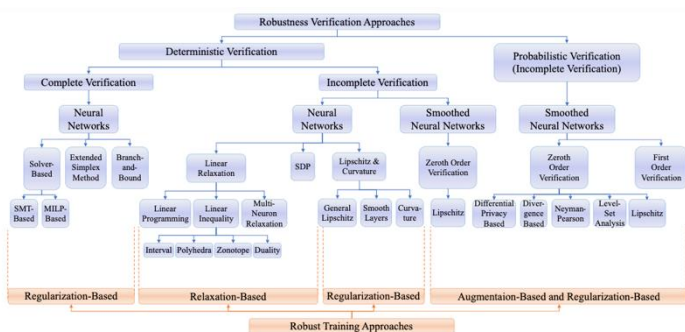
[sokcertifiedrobustness.github.io](https://sokcertifiedrobustness.github.io)

## SoK: Certified Robustness for Deep Neural Networks

[Benchmark](#)   [Leaderboard](#)   [Paper](#)   [Website Repo](#)   [Toolbox Repo](#)



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