- 1 We thank the reviewers for their comments. We address individual concerns below.
- 2 Reviewer 1: It would be good to verify the main findings (e.g. Table 1) for different model types. We agree that
- 3 this would be interesting, the main reason we did not include a full analysis of more architectures is computational
- 4 constraints, since each architecture requires its own grid search over the various hyperparameters outlined in the paper.
- 5 We believe that the results in G.2 are enough to demonstrate that the increased performance is a robust phenomenon,
- and we hope to inspire future works that test transfer learning performance across more architectures and datasets.
- 7 Width experiments from S4.2. We agree that running with even wider architectures would lead to a better understanding
- 8 of the trend. Unfortunately, the number of distinct architectures we can train is again bounded by computational
- 9 constraints. We would like to note that, particularly in the fixed-feature setting, the trend of "eps=0 network increases
- then plateaus/decreases" holds robustly across datasets, which we believe gives some indication of the generality of
- the phenomenon. Also, ResNet-50, WRN-50x2, and WRN-50x4 are all ResNet-50 models with varying width (only
- ResNet-18 differs in architecture).
- 13 Dataset granularity hypothesis S4.3. We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. Though we agree that resolution is a
- 14 coarse proxy, we wanted to focus \$4.3 on a quantitative notion of granularity. It would be very interesting future work
- to test the same relationship with respect to other more complex quantitative notions of dataset granularity.
- 16 Reviewer 2: Lack of novelty. We believe the reviewer is conflating "transfer learning" (wherein one uses a pre-trained
- classifier on one dataset to perform better on another dataset) with "adversarial transfer" (the phenomenon where
- adversarial attacks that fool one architecture tend to also fool another architecture). The two fields are entirely
- unrelated—our work is on the former, whereas [Mad+18] and others discuss the latter.
- 20 The improvement is marginal. While the improvement is sometimes small, note that (a) robust models consistently
- 21 outperform standard models, which adds significance to the result, (b) on many datasets the improvement given by
- 22 robust models is outside of error bars, and (c) that robust models have much worse accuracy than standard models,
- 23 making even modest improvements somewhat surprising.
- 24 Lack of clarity #1 (technical details). We are not sure what the reviewer means by this comment. The equation given is
- 25 fairly standard, and in Appendix F we give a detailed primer on adversarial robustness which introduces each symbol in
- 26 the first equation explicitly, and also provides other background technical knowledge.
- 27 Lack of clarity #2 and lack of reproducibility (experimental details). We are again confused by the reviewer's comment
- 28 here, since Appendix A in the supplementary materials provides all of the details necessary to reproduce the experiments.
- ²⁹ Furthermore, we provide a full code release (the link is in the paper) with all of our pre-trained ImageNet models and
- easy-to-run code for reproducing any of the numbers reported in our paper.
- 31 Related work. We hope that the reviewer's concern is alleviated by the clarification above (i.e., the difference between
- 32 "transfer learning" and "adversarial transfer.") In both Section 5 and Appendix E we outline and discuss all of the related
- work of which we are aware.
- 34 Reviewer 5: Thank you for your comments!
- 35 Reviewer 6: Clarity: Figure 5 a bit confusing. Thanks for pointing this out. Figure 5 summarizes the results of our
- 36 fixed-feature transfer learning experiment on various datasets and architectures (dataset names are given above each
- plot and architecture name below each plot group). Each data point corresponds to an ImageNet model pre-trained with
- a given robustness level denoted by one of the markers (the legend at the top relates the marker to the robustness level).
- 39 The x coordinate is the clean accuracy of this model, and the y coordinate is corresponding transfer accuracy on the
- 40 relevant dataset.
- 41 Note that due to a formatting error the y axis legend (which should read "Transfer Accuracy") got cut off, we have fixed
- 42 this in the updated manuscript. We will also make sure to clarify the figure in the updated version of the paper.
- 43 Experiments: comparison with texture robust models. We train only on Stylized ImageNet.
- 44 Open questions: insights on how to select the robustness level for a new dataset. This is a great question. From our
- analysis in section 4.3, it seems that the robustness level is correlated with the scale of the datasets; as the scale of the
- 46 dataset increases, the "best" corresponding robustness level decreases. One might be able to fit a function mapping
- dataset scale to robustness level using the results of our experiments on various datasets (the have various scales)
- 48 We believe more analysis and experiments are required before reaching conclusions on how to select the best robustness
- 49 level.