

1 We want to thank the reviewers for their thorough comments and suggestions for improving the manuscript. We have  
2 inlined responses to the major points below, and will address all minor points in our next revision as well.

3 **(R1) Assumptions** While we cannot establish formal guarantees when constructing our “robust dataset” in Section  
4 3.1 (which we presume this comment is referring to), our method follows a fairly well-motivated approach—for each  
5 input in the original training set, we choose as a seed an image that is randomly selected (independent of label—to  
6 avoid introducing any feature-label correlation), and then modify this image to make it match the representation of  
7 the original input under our robust model. The resulting dataset thus matches the original in terms of the features  
8 used by the robust model, while preventing the re-introduction of features that robust model is invariant to (which are  
9 non-robust features).

10 Finally, it is important to note that, in the end, our result is of *existential* nature: i.e., for the first time, we man-  
11 aged to construct a dataset that results in models that can tackle a non-trivial task and are robust after just *standard*  
12 (ERM) training. This suggests that our overarching conceptual framework might be indeed predictive of the way the  
13 underlying phenomenon behaves.

14 **(R1) By selecting ... features?** Note that our definition of a feature defines it via its *generalization* performance. This  
15 makes it impossible to “overfit” to a feature in the traditional sense.

16 **(R1) In your proposed method ... not robust?** This is correct—fortunately, they all resemble the target images.

17 **(R1) Why distance in robust feature space?** Our goal is to create a training set which does not contain the features  
18 that a robust model is invariant to (i.e., non-robust features). Optimizing distance in robust feature space is a clean  
19 way to induce this invariance while still matching the features that *are* important for robust classification.

20 **(R2) Clarity** We want to thank the reviewer for their suggestions regarding clarity of our presentation. In addition to  
21 adding examples/exposition around our methods, we will also: make sure to move the related work into the main body  
22 (in order to better position our work), and include algorithms for generating the four datasets constructed in the main  
23 body of the paper.

24 **(R2) definition of “feature”** Our formal definition of robust (and non-robust) features in Section 2 is designed to  
25 be a high-level guiding framework for the design and analysis of our experiments. As such, there are some nu-  
26 ances/complicated scenarios not captured by our simple definitions (as the reviewer points out), but we viewed it as  
27 fully sufficient to describe and predict the results of our experiments. Nonetheless, we view coming up with a more  
28 nuanced/fine-grained definition of features as an important direction for future work. As far as our manuscript goes,  
29 we will update it to reflect that view (and highlight the corresponding line of future work).

30 **(R2) Section 4** The goal of S4, as the reviewer points out, is to provide an illustrative example of how misalign-  
31 ment between the “feature metric” in the data and the “adversary metric” (Euclidean distance) can lead to adversarial  
32 vulnerability—and how robust training can “fix” this misalignment. To this end, we settled on the simplest possible  
33 setting (e.g. convexity, to ensure a closed-form solution exists even for the robust problem), so that robustness and  
34 robust optimization could be studied as rigorously as possible. (It turns out that even in this simple setting analysis is  
35 not completely straightforward.) We very much agree with the reviewer that similar analyses for more complicated  
36 settings and classifiers would be an important direction for future work.

37 Nonetheless, our preliminary empirical and theoretical work indicates that the results do extend beyond the simple  
38 setting presented here (for example, one can show that for linear models, non-robustness arises from misalignment  
39 not only in the case where the data is Gaussian but for any distribution with bounded second moment). While we are  
40 happy to include these extensions in the next revision, any more substantial extensions (such as moving beyond linear  
41 models, analyzing robust training for different distributions) might warrant separate work.

42 **(R3) Looking ... original dataset?** While we didn’t notice a significant decrease in diversity (the four random samples  
43 do look somewhat “prototypical” but this seems to be mostly by chance—we can include a larger selection of random  
44 samples in our final version). It’s possible that there is a slight decrease in diversity (maybe that’s also why *standard*  
45 accuracy on the  $\mathcal{D}_R$  dataset is very slightly worse than that of the original robust network). It would be interesting  
46 to see if different methods of constructing  $\mathcal{D}_R$  (for example, starting from a bunch of different random images per  
47 training set image, etc.) would be effective at introducing more diversity into the training samples.

48 **(R3) I’m intrigued ... generation process?** While we did not perform a formal study on this, we noticed that the  
49 accuracy increases from 0 (when  $\epsilon = 0$ , clearly, since at this point it is just training with mislabeled data) and then just  
50 plateaus at a reasonable  $\epsilon$ , a bit higher than the one we used for generating the dataset. (Note that we didn’t tune the  $\epsilon$   
51 parameter at all to obtain these results, and as a sanity check our results are stable over a reasonable range of  $\epsilon$  values.)