

1 **General response.** Reviewers give great feedback on improving the structure of this paper under space constraints, and  
 2 we plan to reorganize our paper: (1) Move non-critical theorems and optimization techniques to appendix and leave  
 3 space for discussions and proof sketches. (2) Include a small running example (as in Appendix A) of SA-MDP. (3)  
 4 Rephrase any claims that seem too strong, add additional reference and discuss more connections to previous works.  
 5 (4) Use more plots (like Fig. 11 and 12) (5) Fix typos, format and refine notations.

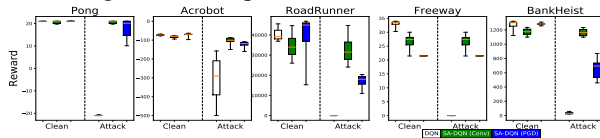
6 **R1. Paper too long** We will reorganize our paper (see general response). **Std.**  
 7 **across training runs** In Fig. 11 and 12 (appendix), the rewards are collected from  
 8 30 and 11 training runs for PPO and DDPG, respectively. In **Table B**, we train  
 9 DQN and SA-DQN >5 times. The red lines in bars represent median rewards.

10 We improve reward under attacks consistently across runs. **Adversary bounds** We use the  $\ell_\infty$  norm based adversary  
 11 bounds as in many works on attacking Deep RL [20,24,29,42,69]. We vary  $\epsilon$  bounds in Fig. 9. **Critic/Random attacks**  
 12 **improve performance** The small “improvement” in random attack is just by chance (Fig. 9 is more clear; yellow lines  
 13 fluctuate). Critic attack sometimes improves PPO performance (green lines of Fig. 9). It is not a bug. In PPO, the critic  
 14 is a value function  $V(s)$  rather than  $Q(s, a)$ , thus critic attack is applied differently (appendix L676-681): the “attack”  
 15 searchers a state with the worst value in  $B(s)$ , and the agent takes the action for the worst case. It is a more conservative  
 16 action which sometimes prevents the agent from failing and improves performance. **Weak adversaries implemented**  
 17 Our proposed robust Sarsa (RS) and MAD adversaries are not weak. From Table 1 and 7, our two new attacks are  
 18 considerably stronger than the commonly used critic attack. **2nd-order optimization expensive** We avoid 2nd order  
 19 optimization (L180-181). SGLD (L188-196) is a first order method and only requires gradients. The convex relaxation  
 20 method (L197-207) first produces a relaxed counterpart of the underlying neural network, then uses gradient descent to  
 21 optimize it. **Assumption 2 strange** We need this assumption otherwise the adversary can arbitrarily change state and  
 22 make the problem trivial. Practically it is a norm constraint as in [20,24,29,42,69]. **Explain Thm 5 and 6** Following  
 23 Thm 4 we cannot find a Markovian optimal policy for SA-MDP. Instead, Thm 5 upper bounds the performance loss by  
 24 regularizing total variation (TV) distance. Thm 6 gives TV distance for DDPG. **Thm 3 proof** See appendix L616-620.  
 25 **Vanilla DQN performs comparably** Vanilla DQN performs comparably only under clean evaluation; it performs poorly  
 26 under attacks. For Pong, the reward is the lowest possible reward (-21). **Table 2 structure and more results** Full results  
 27 for each attack are in appendix Table 7 to save space. **Runtime assessment** See **Table A**. **Ablation study for perturbation**  
 28 **budget** In Fig. 9, we analyze the agent performance over different perturbation budgets  $\epsilon$ . **Limitations** See reply to R2.

29 **R2.** We will reorganize our paper as suggested, detailed in our general response. **Limitations** It is possible to construct  
 30 an MDP that every nearby state requires a vastly different action, so a typical robustness prior does not hold. In the  
 31 classification setting, a similar situation is to learn a parity function  $f(x) = x_1 \oplus x_2 \cdots \oplus x_n$  ( $\oplus$  is XOR) where  
 32 robustness is impossible. For most realistic problems it’s reasonable to assume that a robustness/smoothness prior is  
 33 valid and helpful. **Sum instead of max** max represents the strongest adversary; sum or expectation over  $B(s)$  is similar  
 34 to adding random noise with certain distribution. This is a weaker adversary (like random attack in Table 1 and 7).

35 **R3. Related attacks** We will enhance the related work section as suggested. Existing attacks rely on the critic learned  
 36 with the policy. Our MAD and RS attacks do not depend on this critic as using it can be suboptimal (L241-246).  
 37 **Why RS attack better than MAD** MAD is myopic and maximizes one step difference without reducing cumulative  
 38 rewards. RS attack learns a robust *action-value function*, where by definition gives a worst action to reduce cumulative  
 39 rewards. **Safeness specifications** We conduct additional experiments on Ant and Humanoid and define the *safe rate* as  
 40 the percentage that agent does not fall over 50 episodes. Vanilla DDPG (PPO) achieves 56% (2%) safe rate without  
 41 attacks and 0% (0%) under attack, while SA-DDPG (SA-PPO) achieves 100% (68%) safe rate without attacks and 100%  
 42 (34%) under attack for Ant (Humanoid, respectively). **Partial observability** In PO-MDPs, the observation is statistically  
 43 related to groundtruth state. In SA-MDPs, the observation is an adversarially perturbed state: the adversary is assumed  
 44 to know the weakness of the policy and can supply the worst-case state, which cannot be directly characterized as  
 45 conditional observation probabilities in PO-MDP. **SAC and TD3** We conduct experiments and find SAC policies are  
 46 also not robust. SA-SAC significantly improves robustness (**Table C**). We leave model based methods as future work.

47 **R4. Related work** We will discuss the connection to smoothing in supervised learning and zero-sum game. We already  
 48 cited Zhang et al. as [75] and will cite Miyato et al. For RL, not all techniques from supervised learning can be applied  
 49 directly (line 32-36), so our theory is still valuable. **Tighten constant** Thank you for pointing this out. One  $1/(1 - \gamma)$   
 50 factor in our bound is to cancel out a  $(1 - \gamma)$  in the definition of  $d_{s_0}^\pi$  in (20) in the appendix. Another  $1/(1 - \gamma)$  factor  
 51 is from the sum of a geometric sequence. We cannot see an obvious way to tighten it but will keep thinking about it.



**Table B:** Box plot to show DQN performance with and without attacks across training runs. We train each setting at least 5 times (DQN training is expensive).

**Table A: Training time**

Method/Model	vanilla	SA (PGD/SGLD)	SA (Conv)
DDPG (Reacher)	5.21h	7.10h	6.75h
DDPG (Ant)	6.08h	8.16h	7.70h
PPO (Hopper)	0.57h	1.17h	1.38h
PPO (Walker)	0.61h	1.56h	1.80h
PPO (Humanoid)	4.63h	11.0h	20.3h
DQN (RoadRunner)	15.2h	38.6h	46.5h
DQN (Freeway)	14.9h	44.7h	57.7h

**Table C:** The median model performance of 11 training runs for SAC

Env.	$\epsilon$	Method	Natural Reward	Best Attack Reward
Hopper	.075	SAC	3494 ± 3	808 ± 42
		SA-SAC	3553 ± 7	1478 ± 220
Walker	.05	SAC	4371 ± 39	1725 ± 1551
		SA-SAC	4126 ± 80	3854 ± 109
Ant	.2	SAC	5236 ± 628	-212 ± 348
		SA-SAC	4728 ± 603	1940 ± 1612

**Table C:** The median model performance of 11 training runs for SAC