

ADAPTIVE TEXT TRANSFORMATIONS DEFEND AGAINST DATASET INFERENCE ATTACKS

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ABSTRACT

There has been increasing legal interest in identifying possible copyright violations committed by Large Language Model (LLM) trainers. Many works developing individual membership inference attacks have recently been shown to be weaker than previously thought, due to implicit distributional shifts. To combat this, progress has been made by considering large datasets and aggregating multiple different membership attacks. A hidden assumption in these methods is that if the LLM has improperly used a dataset, the LLM was trained on that exact dataset. By challenging this assumption, we demonstrate, to our knowledge, the first failure of any large-scale dataset inference (DI) attack. In particular, we study LLM fine-tuning for both short and long text datasets. We adaptively transform the datasets before fine-tuning, enabling an increase in model performance (compared to a base model not trained on the dataset) while avoiding dataset inference. In the case of long texts, we find that text summarization followed by rephrasing substantially reduces the success probability of DI in our setting from over 95% to less than 5%. We also develop a new theoretical formulation of dataset inference specifically tailored to LLMs, which explains the effectiveness of our method and sheds light on how parameters, such as the number of training epochs, can affect dataset inference.

1 INTRODUCTION

Large language models are trained on internet-scale corpora, and there is an increasing interest in identifying copyright violations that occur within this large space. For example, the recent lawsuit between The New York Times and OpenAI/Microsoft (Grynbaum & Mac, 2023) highlights the risks associated with training on copyrighted data. Anthropic’s massive \$1.5 billion settlement on 500,000 copyrighted books (Metz, 2025) shows that these risks can be realized and lead to massive financial penalties for LLM trainers. The corresponding machine learning problem is to determine, given an LLM and a dataset, whether the LLM was trained on the dataset.

Historically, techniques focusing on understanding the training data of LLMs have primarily focused on membership inference, in which a single document is assessed for membership in the training set of an LLM (Shokri et al., 2017). However, it has been shown that existing MIA methods may have incorrect success estimates due to distributional shifts. In particular, test data (i.e., guaranteed to be private) often comes after the training date cutoff of the LLM to ensure there is no leakage (Maini et al., 2024), but this causes the splits to be separated in time, so an LLM can distinguish between them even if it was not trained on the hypothesized member.

Recent work in this area has focused on dataset inference (Maini et al., 2024; Puerto et al., 2025), where we assess collections of documents for existence in training data rather than a single element, with the hope that weak predictions can be combined into a strong one.

To our knowledge, due to their experimental setup, current LLM dataset inference methods assume that if training occurred, it occurred on exactly the copyrighted dataset hypothesized to have been stolen. For example, (Maini et al., 2024) studies the performance of dataset inference on splits of the Pile, on which Pythia models were known to have been trained.

Effectively, this does not account for adversarial behavior by the LLM trainer. We find that even simple countermeasures can substantially degrade the performance of dataset inference. More specifically,

1. We provide a technique that substantially decreases the likelihood of true positive detection of the (Maini et al., 2024) attack while maintaining performance in false positive cases.
2. We demonstrate that it is possible to evade dataset inference through dataset transformation while maintaining benchmark performance.
3. We provide a theoretical formulation and analysis of dataset inference that significantly expands upon prior work (Maini et al., 2021) and offers a general functional form for the dataset inference success rate.

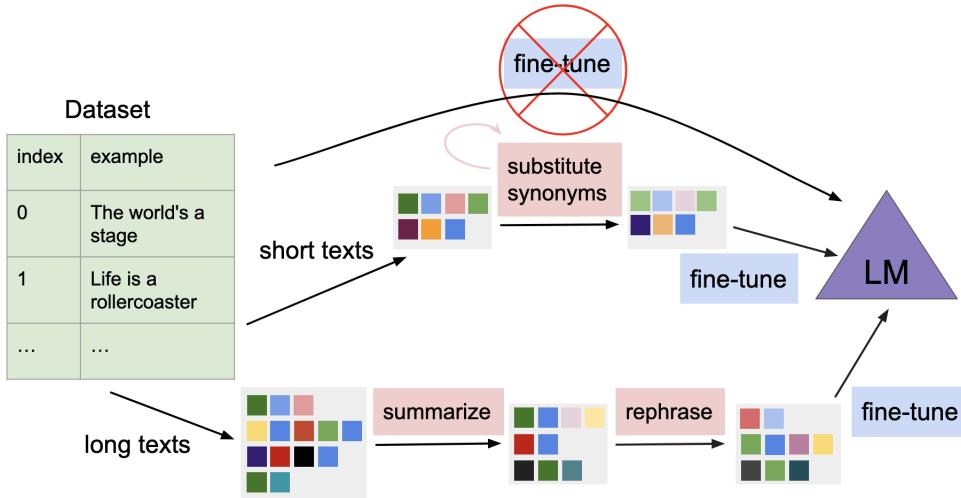


Figure 1: We adaptively transform datasets with per-document changes before fine-tuning, blocking most dataset inference attacks. For short texts, we use synonym substitution repeatedly until the embedding similarity with the original is under a specified threshold. For long texts, we summarize the text and then rephrase it. In either case, we preserve the overall meaning of a text, and instead of fine-tuning on the original, we fine-tune on the transformed text. For evaluation of short text transformations, we successfully (while evading DI) fine-tune GPT-2 on multiple benchmarks (GSM-MC, BoolQ, MNLI) and achieve over 90% of the total possible benchmark improvement. For long text transformation evaluation, we fine-tune multiple sizes of Pythia models on 12 datasets from The Pile, and can evade dataset inference in over 95% of cases. In contrast, without our method, dataset inference succeeds in over 95% of cases.

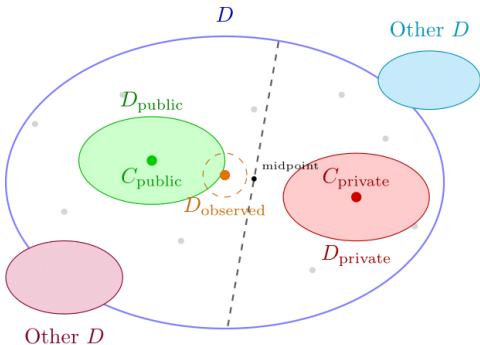
2 RELATED WORK

Membership Inference Attacks Membership inference is a smaller-scale version of dataset inference in which we are interested in only a single token sequence, such as a sentence. Membership inference attacks have been well studied in several prior works, with numerous proposals for attack methods (Shokri et al., 2017; Mattern et al., 2023; Shi et al., 2024). There have been multiple evaluation methods for these attacks as well (Fu et al., 2024; Liang & You, 2024). Zhang et al. (2025) shows that membership inference attacks can have unbounded false positive rates. Related problems with applications in model inversion (Fredrikson et al., 2015) and stealing training data (Carlini et al., 2021) have also received attention.

Dataset Inference Maini et al. (2024) showed that most membership inference attacks are roughly no better than random chance. In particular, the positive results shown in prior works occur due to a confounding variable of distributional shifts over time. A key part of the new problem setting in Maini et al. (2024) is having two separate variations of a dataset, both drawn from the same distribution (a “dataset space“) in which only one could have been used for LLM training, for example,

108 with several versions of a book chapter, only one of which is ultimately published. Aggregating over
 109 multiple membership inference attacks is also crucial for amplifying any weak signal that a single
 110 attack may reveal. On the theoretical side, Maini et al. (2021) contains an important analysis of
 111 dataset inference, which we compare to extensively.

113 3 THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATION



115
 116 Figure 2: Theoretical formulation of LLM
 117 Dataset Inference. In our model of dataset
 118 inference, there is a dataset D , two inde-
 119 pendent and identically distributed (iid) samples
 120 $D_{private}$ and D_{public} , and we can compute
 121 the corresponding sample centers, C_{public}
 122 and $C_{private}$. We are able to noisily eval-
 123 uate the average data point, $D_{observed}$, of the
 124 nearby training distribution. The decision
 125 boundary between public and private splits
 126 is the perpendicular bisector hyperplane
 127 between the centers, and we check the side
 128 $D_{observed}$ is on.

130 3.1 THEORETICAL GOALS

131 A popular theoretical justification of dataset inference is given by Maini et al. (2021). We iden-
 132 tify several shortcomings of the prior analysis and thus corresponding goals for a new formulation
 133 specific to LLMs:

- 134
- 135 1. The analysis of Maini et al. (2021) relies on the victim model being a linear classifier,
 136 with an exact pre-specified learning algorithm and a constant learning rate. The authors
 137 justify this by noting that more parameters lead to even greater success of dataset inference.
 138 While this may be true in practice due to memorization (Zhang et al., 2017; Feldman,
 139 2020; Carlini et al., 2019), it does not account for the randomness present in the training or
 140 generation process of an LLM or, significantly, our paper’s method.
 - 141 2. Both LLM trainers and copyright holders will be interested in knowing how the specific
 142 dataset and training dynamics affect dataset inference success probabilities. The analysis in
 143 Maini et al. (2021) does not reflect the influence of training parameters such as learning rate,
 144 number of epochs, number of parameters in the model, or any parameters of the particular
 145 dataset.
 - 146 3. The conclusion of Maini et al. (2021) is that the number of training samples (i.e., dataset
 147 size) does not influence the probability of dataset inference succeeding. This result is in-
 148 consistent with recent studies, as well as the paper’s own results (Puerto et al., 2025; Maini
 149 et al., 2024; 2021), which show that the success probability increases rapidly as the dataset
 150 size increases. A theoretical justification of this phenomenon would help contextualize
 151 prior results and inform possible future work.
 - 152 4. The analysis in Maini et al. (2021) only considers the leading order terms in N , the dimen-
 153 sions of a relevant space. The effects of the lower-order terms are unclear, and the result is
 154 a conclusion that holds in expectation. We aim to more precisely characterize the success
 155 probability and provide a high-probability bound.

156 To our knowledge, a formulation and corresponding theoretical result that achieves even one of
 157 these goals (e.g., explaining theoretically why LLM dataset inference becomes more successful as
 158 the dataset size increases) would be novel. We believe that we adequately address all of them.

160 3.2 THEORETICAL FORMULATION

161 We view all the training data coming to the LLM as existing in a latent space.

162 Let R^n be the latent space. The dataset distribution is assumed to be an isotropic Gaussian:
 163

$$164 \quad D \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, I_N).$$

165
 166 We draw n samples to create two dataset splits (public and private), and have access to the dataset
 167 centers. This setup is inspired by Maini et al. (2024), which assumes access to two IID splits coming
 168 from a larger distribution.

169 The dataset centers can be interpreted as independent Gaussian perturbations of μ :
 170

$$171 \quad C_{\text{pub}} = \mu + A, \quad C_{\text{priv}} = \mu + B,$$

172 with
 173

$$174 \quad A, B \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\text{split}}^2 I_N).$$

175 A dataset inference attack is interpreted as the ability to observe the average over the training data
 176 of an LLM in the region close to the dataset, e.g., by using a prompt that elicits an appropriate
 177 conditional probability distribution.

178 In particular, we observe a point D_{obs} which is a noisy weighted interpolation between the population
 179 mean and one of the centers. If the true source is “pub” then
 180

$$181 \quad D_{\text{obs}} = \epsilon C_{\text{pub}} + (1 - \epsilon) \mu + \eta = \mu + \epsilon A + \eta,$$

182 and similarly if the source is “priv” then $D_{\text{obs}} = \mu + \epsilon B + \eta$. Here
 183

$$184 \quad \eta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\text{obs}}^2 I_N)$$

185 is observation noise, and $0 \leq \epsilon \leq 1$ is the mixture weight assigned to the split of D .
 186

187 The observation noise accounts for the randomness that can occur during the attack, as well as
 188 methods that can be used to noise the dataset, such as ours.

189 The mixture weight accounts for the unrelated training data close in the latent space to the splits
 190 under consideration. The unrelated training data has weight $1 - \epsilon$. Note that if there were no
 191 consideration of mixture, D_{obs} would simply be a noisy observation of one of the dataset centers.
 192 However, this does not make sense, particularly in the case of small m .

193 The decision rule is:
 194

$$195 \quad \text{decide “pub” if and only if } \|D_{\text{obs}} - C_{\text{pub}}\| < \|D_{\text{obs}} - C_{\text{priv}}\|.$$

196
 197 This rule can be interpreted as finding the perpendicular bisector hyperplane between C_{public} and
 198 C_{private} and checking which side D_{observed} is on. Due to our formulation of D_{observed} being closer
 199 in expectation to the dataset center it is trained on, this decision rule is the best possible, assuming
 200 equal priors.

201 Formally, the success probability of dataset inference under our model is the probability that the
 202 above decision rule returns the correct class.
 203

204 3.3 THEORETICAL RESULTS

205 We now provide theoretical results for the setting described in the previous section.

206
 207 **Theorem 1.** Suppose we denote p_{success} as the success probability of dataset inference. Then, there
 208 exists a constant C such that with probability $1 - \delta$, the following holds:
 209

$$210 \quad \Phi \left(\frac{2\epsilon N \sigma_{\text{split}}^2 - 4\sigma_{\text{split}}^2 \sqrt{Nt}}{2\sigma_{\text{obs}} \sqrt{2N\sigma_{\text{split}}^2 + 8\sigma_{\text{split}}^2 \sqrt{Nt}}} \right) \leq p_{\text{success}} \leq \Phi \left(\frac{2\epsilon N \sigma_{\text{split}}^2 + 2\sigma_{\text{split}}^2 \sqrt{Nt}}{2\sigma_{\text{obs}} \sqrt{2N\sigma_{\text{split}}^2 - 8\sigma_{\text{split}}^2 \sqrt{Nt}}} \right)$$

211
 212 where $t = \frac{\log(6/\delta)}{C}$ and Φ is the Gaussian CDF.
 213

214 *Proof.* See Appendix A. □
 215

216 **Corollary 1.** *To leading order in N , the success probability of LLM dataset inference is*

$$218 \quad 219 \quad 220 \quad p_{\text{success}} \approx \Phi \left(\frac{\epsilon \sigma}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{N}{2m}} \right)$$

221 *where m is the dataset size and σ is the dataset variance.*

223 *Proof.* See Appendix B. □

225 3.4 INTERPRETATION

227 In our model, ϵ is regarded as a weighting parameter for the dataset being trained compared to other
228 nearby distributions in the latent space.

229 In the regime of small m , ϵ will increase linearly in m because the dataset as a whole has corre-
230 spondingly more relative weight. For a similar reason, ϵ will scale with the learning rate α and
231 the number of epochs, E . We additionally propose that the dimensionality of the appropriate latent
232 space increases linearly with the number of parameters in the model being tested, θ .

233 Along with Corollary 1, we have that in the small- ϵ regime, we have

$$235 \quad 236 \quad 237 \quad p_{\text{success}} \approx \Phi \left(\frac{m \alpha E \epsilon_0 \sigma}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{N_0 \theta}{2m}} \right) = \Phi \left(\frac{\alpha \sigma E \epsilon_0}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{N_0 \theta m}{2}} \right) \quad (1)$$

238 Similarly, in the large- ϵ regime (close to 1), we have

$$240 \quad 241 \quad 242 \quad p_{\text{success}} \approx \Phi \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{N_0 \theta}{2m}} \right) \quad (2)$$

243 We can justify assuming that N is large in Corollary 1 because the latent token space of GPT-2 is
244 already as much as 1600-dimensional (Radford et al., 2019), and we are dealing with datasets for
245 which each element is many tokens, not just one.

247 In the case of small ϵ , Equation 1 shows that success probability increases with m . This relationship
248 explains the results from multiple works on dataset inference, which have shown that in practice the
249 attack metrics (e.g., AUROC, probability of detection) improve as the sample size increases (Maini
250 et al., 2021; 2024; Puerto et al., 2025).

251 In the case of large ϵ , Equation 2 shows that the success probability decreases with m . This decrease
252 has a corollary which, at first glance, seems absurd: an LLM trainer who steals and trains on an
253 extremely large amount of copyrighted data is less likely to be detected (at least through model-
254 based methods) than a trainer who steals a moderate amount of data. However, we argue that this
255 is actually intuitive. In particular, as the sample size increases, the centers of the private and public
256 splits will become close together in latent space (the typical distance between the corresponding
257 centers is of order σ/\sqrt{m} , which goes to 0 as m increases). The other datasets, which may be
258 nearby, become irrelevant. However, if a method with a constant per-element level of noise, such as
259 ours (or even a traditional stochastic training algorithm), is used, the tiny separation between centers
260 becomes irrelevant, and the DI attack turns into a coin flip.

261 Finally, σ can be regarded as a property of the dataset distribution, where a dataset that has many
262 very diverse examples has a higher value. We can interpret σ_{obs} as a constant representing the
263 strength of a dataset inference attack in comparison with defense methods, with the sharpest attacks
264 having lower values and the most effective defenses having higher values.

265 4 METHOD

268 We expect synonym substitution to be effective because it adds noise to the label parameters; in other
269 words, there can be crossover between the public and private splits. We expect it to still retain much
of the original meaning due to the close semantic similarity of synonyms (Taraba, 2020; Bhagat &

270 **Algorithm 1** Evading Dataset Inference on Short Benchmarks

271 **Require:** A pre-trained LLM L , a possibly copyrighted dataset D with private version $D_{private}$,
 272 an embedding model $emb()$, a synonym substituter sym , a fine-tuning method $fine-tune()$, a
 273 dataset inference method $attack()$, and a list of similarities to consider, $similarities$.
 274

```

  1:  $i = 0$ 
  2: while  $i < \text{len}(similarities)$  do
  3:    $D' = []$ 
  4:   for  $d \in D$  do
  5:      $e_{init} = emb(d)$ 
  6:     while cosine-similarity( $e_{init}, emb(d)$ )  $> similarities[i]$  do
  7:        $d \leftarrow sym(d)$ 
  8:     end while
  9:     Add  $d$  to  $D'$ .
 10:   end for
 11:    $L' \leftarrow \text{fine-tune}(L, D')$ 
 12:    $p = attack(L, D, D_{private})$ 
 13:   if  $p > 0.1$  then
 14:     return  $L'$ 
 15:   end if
 16:    $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
 17: end while
 18: return  $L$ 
  
```

294 **Algorithm 2** Evading Dataset Inference on Large Corpora

295 **Require:** A dataset d , a pre-trained LLM L , and a fine-tuning method $fine-tune()$.
 296

```

  1:  $d' = []$ 
  2: for text  $t$  in  $d$  do
  3:    $t' \leftarrow$  Call Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.3 on prompt
      “Summarize the following \n Text: { $t$ } \n TLDR: ”
  4:    $t' \leftarrow$  Call Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.3 on prompt
      “Rephrase the following text with synonyms and rearrangement.
      Do not output anything but the rephrased text.\n\n Text: { $t'$ } \n\n Rephrased: ”
  5:   Append  $t'$  to  $d'$ 
  6: end for
  7:  $L' \leftarrow \text{fine-tune}(L, D')$ 
  8: return  $L'$ 
  
```

311 Hovy, 2013). For example, the argument to Φ in Section 3 may change from 2 to 1 due to σ_{obs}
 312 doubling. In this case, the success probability goes from 0.977 to 0.841, a substantial reduction.
 313

314 We expect summarization to be effective because it is a form of dimensionality reduction (Rodrigues
 315 et al., 2025; Bartakke et al., 2021; Abdelrahman et al., 2023). We empirically observe that our
 316 method reduces the number of tokens by approximately a factor of 3 (see Appendix D). Therefore,
 317 we estimate that N_0 from Section 3 goes down by a factor of 3. Since we also rephrase, this increases
 318 σ_{obs} as in the synonym substitution case. If we suppose σ_{obs} goes from 1 to $\sqrt{3}$, it could be that the
 319 argument of Φ goes from 3 to $3 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = 1$. These values imply a naive DI success probability of
 320 0.999, whereas our method yields a success probability of 0.841.
 321

322 Note that in both cases, a final probability of 0.841 may seem high. However, some notion of
 323 statistical significance is involved because, in a real legal case, care would be taken to avoid judg-
 324 ments based on a statistic that could have occurred randomly. At a $p = 0.1$ level, a probability of
 325 $0.841 < 0.9$ is not significant.

5 RESULTS

Due to constrained computation resources, we analyze the fine-tuning setting. However, we expect that dataset inference attacks are more successful in this setting (Puerto et al., 2025) due to the lower learning rate used during pre-training (Team, 2025), as well as the internet-scale corpus employed. In our setting, a true positive is when a restricted dataset was used for training and this is detected. A false positive is when a restricted dataset was not used for training, but the test declared that it was used.

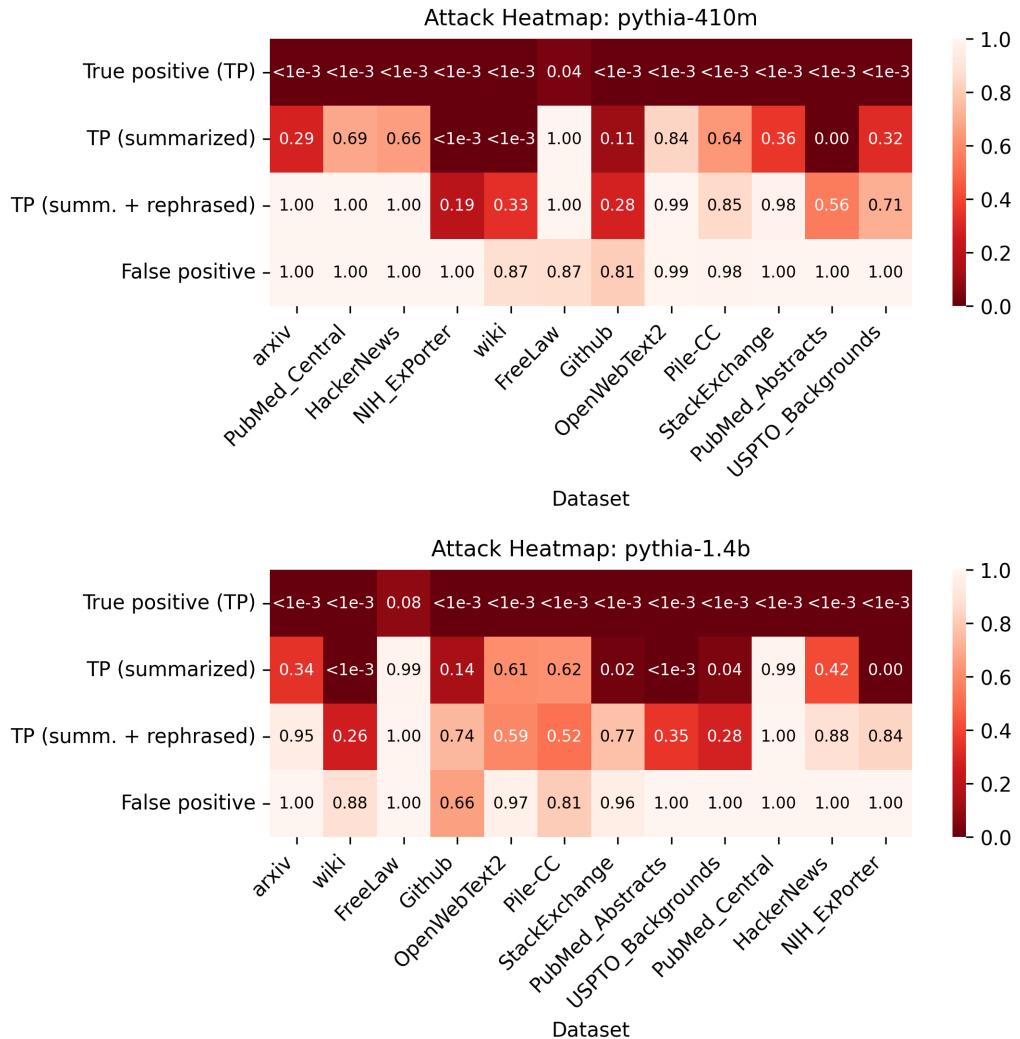


Figure 3: Adaptively transforming Pile data with summaries and rephrasings. Each number in the heatmap represents an aggregate p -value from Equation 3. We want the p -value to be as high as possible because it indicates a low likelihood of a DI attack succeeding. Almost uniformly across datasets, the p -value for the true positive is very low while the false positive is high. These results are what we expect and are analogous to Figure 4 in Maini et al. (2024). Our method, which involves summarization followed by rephrasing, achieves relatively high p -values across all datasets for both Pythia-410m and Pythia-1.4b. We use a threshold of $p = 0.1$, as in Maini et al. (2024). The high p -values demonstrate an ability to evade dataset inference, because DI is expected to give low p -values (chance of training on the private split) in the true positive case.

378
379
380 Table 1: Number of Pile subsets evading LLM Dataset Inference.
381
382
383
384

Method	Pythia-70m	Pythia-410m	Pythia-1b	Pythia-1.4b
Baseline	1	0	0	0
Summarized	11	8	6	7
Summarized + Rephrased	11	12	12	12

385
386
387 5.1 SETUP FOR PILE EXPERIMENTS
388389 For each dataset in The Pile, we train on the first 1000 validation examples. This method requires
390 us to restrict our attention to datasets within The Pile that have at least 1000 validation and test
391 examples. We include all such datasets, except for DM Mathematics, which consists of each element
392 as a long list of math questions, making it unsuitable for summarization. This elimination leads to a
393 total of 12 datasets.394 After training on each of these, we run the attack of (Maini et al., 2024), using the 1000 validation
395 examples as the possibly copyright-violated split and the first 1000 test examples as the private split.396 We aggregate probabilities in the same way as (Maini et al., 2024), with the formula
397

398
399
$$P_{combined} = 1 - \exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 - p_i) \right) \quad (3)$$

400
401

402 We run five separate attacks for each fine-tuned LLM on each dataset. We train on multiple sizes of
403 LLMs, so we adaptively adjust the learning rate according to the formula $\alpha = \frac{1.5}{\theta}$, where θ is the
404 number of model parameters.
405406 The results are pictured in Figure 3 and Table 1. Overall, we succeed in defending against the dataset
407 inference attack in most cases, in particular for the summarize + rephrase technique, it defends the
408 LLM in $\frac{23}{24} \approx 96\%$ of cases.410
411 5.2 SETUP FOR BENCHMARK EXPERIMENTS
412413 In addition to the usual participants, such as an LLM and a dataset, Algorithm 1 also requires an
414 embedding model and a synonym augmenter. We use all-MiniLM-L6-v2 as the embedding model,
415 and nlpAug as the synonym augmenter.416 For each benchmark, we fine-tune the model on training examples with a benchmark-specific format
417 and then evaluate it on the validation split. We focus on multiple-choice benchmarks so they are easy
418 to evaluate. For the DI attack, we employ the method presented in (Maini et al., 2024), running each
419 attack twice and averaging the p-values.420 The results are pictured in Figure 4. Note that we can fine-tune safely (without detection) in all three
421 cases and achieve significant benchmark performance improvements.422
423 5.3 ABLATION STUDY
424425 In the case of short texts, the results for higher similarities than the green dot can be regarded as a
426 form of ablation (i.e., not running the method to completion). In most cases, the evasion probability
427 is very low, and all of the iterations are substantially needed to evade DI.428 In the case of long texts, we provide results on the effect of just summarizing in Figure 3. We see that
429 in many cases, dataset inference would succeed without the rephrasing step. In particular, in 8 out
430 of 24 cases across Pythia-70m and Pythia-410m, dataset inference succeeds, which is significantly
431 higher than the corresponding 1 out of 24 cases if rephrasing also occurs.

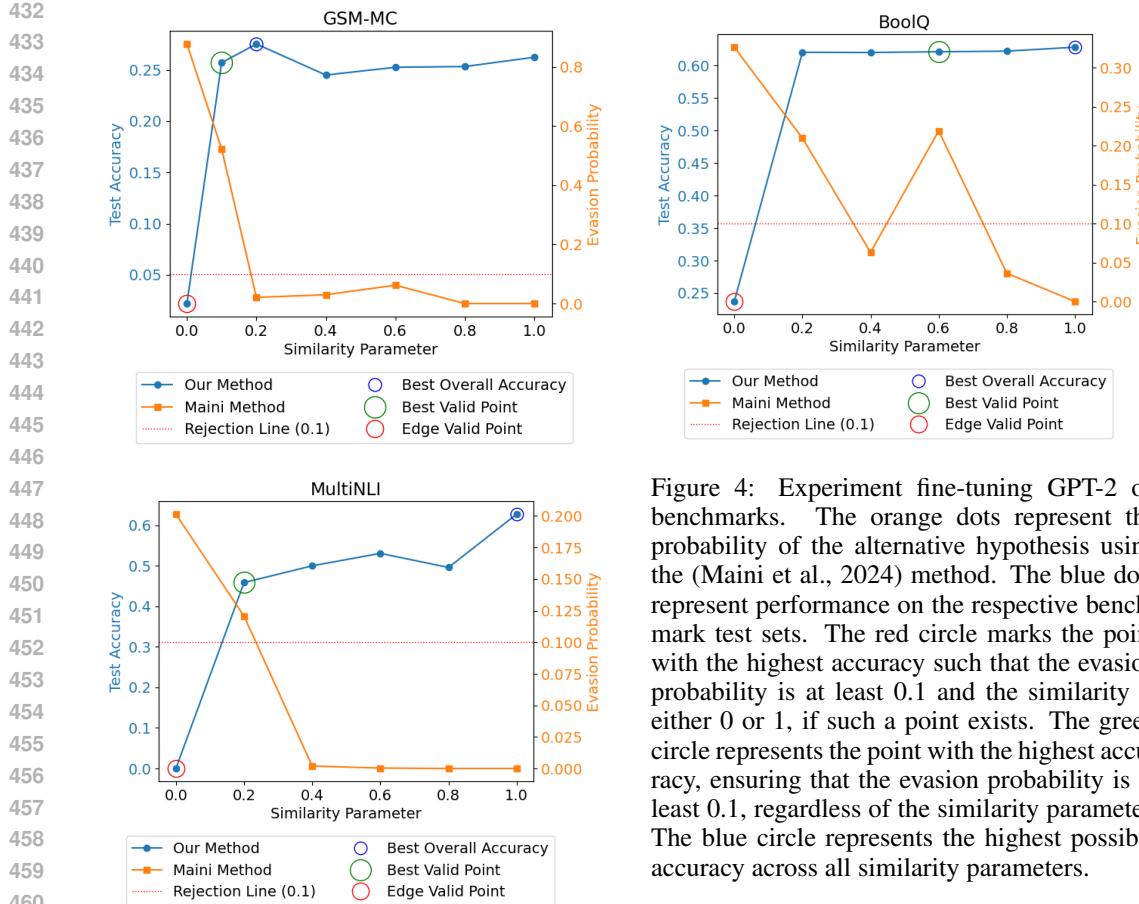


Figure 4: Experiment fine-tuning GPT-2 on benchmarks. The orange dots represent the probability of the alternative hypothesis using the (Maini et al., 2024) method. The blue dots represent performance on the respective benchmark test sets. The red circle marks the point with the highest accuracy such that the evasion probability is at least 0.1 and the similarity is either 0 or 1, if such a point exists. The green circle represents the point with the highest accuracy, ensuring that the evasion probability is at least 0.1, regardless of the similarity parameter. The blue circle represents the highest possible accuracy across all similarity parameters.

6 DISCUSSION

Our method is largely successful across all tested Pile datasets, but it can be observed that some datasets are more successful than others. For example, Wiki and PubMed Abstracts both have low p -values across all model sizes for the summarize method, and this is also observed to some extent for the summarize + rephrase method. To apply our method in practice, the parameters of the method should vary depending on the properties of the specific dataset. We did not address this to avoid complications from over-parameterization and overfitting.

Recall that we adaptively varied the learned rate as $\alpha = 1.5/\sqrt{\theta}$. Even though the number of parameters of large closed-source LLMs is often not released (OpenAI, 2024), adaptive variation is a feasible practice because the learning rate is selected by the LLM trainer, not the attacker. Recall that our theoretical formulation of LLM dataset inference predicts that success probability in cases of small training set size should be approximately $\Phi\left(\frac{\alpha\sigma E\epsilon_0}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}}\cdot\sqrt{\frac{N_0\theta m}{2}}\right)$.

The linear dependence inside the Φ on α and E appears to be well-motivated by the theoretical formulation. However, the dependence on the number of parameters, θ , is less clear (in our formula, we suppose that there is a $\sqrt{\theta}$ dependence inside the Φ). If we plug in our chosen learning rate value we have $\Phi\left(\frac{\alpha\sigma E\epsilon_0}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}}\cdot\sqrt{\frac{N_0\theta m}{2}}\right)\Phi\left(\frac{1.5\sigma E\epsilon_0}{\sigma_{\text{obs}}}\cdot\sqrt{\frac{N_0 m}{2}}\right)$. In other words, we expect the α and $\sqrt{\theta}$ terms to cancel out due to our choice of learning rate, resulting in similar results across models. Indeed, the heatmaps across models are qualitatively similar (see Figure 3 and Figure 5), as shown in Table 1 as well. This similarity provides initial evidence for the $\sqrt{\theta}$ dependence, but additional research is needed to validate or refute this finding. Another limitation is the strict assumptions on dataset properties, and experiments on real-world datasets are needed in the future.

486 7 CONCLUSION

488 The strong results in the past literature on dataset inference (Maini et al., 2024; Puerto et al., 2025)
 489 can be viewed as relying on the assumption that we have access to the exact dataset on which an
 490 LLM was trained. This assumption can be easily broken in practice by the LLM trainer, specifi-
 491 cally by taking a copyrighted dataset and transforming the elements in some way before training on
 492 them. Existing techniques are not robust to this method and actually fail even in simple semantic-
 493 preserving scenarios.

494 These results underscore a critical limitation in current dataset inference methodology. Future work
 495 should explore principled methods that remain effective under text transformations, and further in-
 496 vestigate trade-offs between utility preservation, attack resistance, and legal or ethical guarantees.

497 Our theoretical results indicate the existence of a “tipping point”, where, after a certain number of
 498 samples, dataset inference starts becoming harder, contrasting with the small sample behavior of
 499 becoming easier (i.e., higher success probabilities as samples grow). Additional research is needed
 500 to determine if such a point exists and, if so, to identify relevant practical bounds. Even the existence
 501 of such a point may foreshadow a need to eventually move beyond the traditional assumptions of
 502 dataset inference.

504 8 ETHICS STATEMENT

506 Our adaptive text transformation method can be viewed as a mechanism for training on copyrighted
 507 datasets while avoiding adverse legal consequences. We aim to expose the potential issues with
 508 traditional approaches to dataset inference, enabling more research in this area. We believe this
 509 will allow for more robust copyright protections in the future. Additionally, our method can be
 510 utilized positively to prevent the leakage of training data. For example, if it is known that an LLM is
 511 trained on some arXiv collections but not others, a dataset inference attack could plausibly be used
 512 to extract which ones it was trained on. This information could be regarded as proprietary by the
 513 model creator, necessitating protection.

515 9 REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT

517 The mathematical claims made in the paper are proven in the main text or the appendix. All code
 518 used to generate results and figures will be made public upon acceptance, along with documentation
 519 on how to reproduce the results.

522 REFERENCES

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