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HOW MANY VAN GOGHS DOES IT TAKE TO VAN GOGH? FINDING THE IMITATION THRESHOLD

Anonymous authors Paper under double-blind review

ABSTRACT

Text-to-image models are trained using large datasets collected by scraping imagetext pairs from the internet. These datasets often include private, copyrighted, and licensed material. Training models on such datasets enables them to generate images with such content, which might violate copyright laws and individual privacy. This phenomenon is termed *imitation* – generation of images with content that has recognizable similarity to its training images. In this work we study the relationship between a concept's frequency in the training dataset and the ability of a model to imitate it. We seek to determine the point at which a model was trained on enough instances to imitate a concept – the *imitation threshold*. We posit this question as a new problem: Finding the Imitation Threshold (FIT) and propose an efficient approach that estimates the imitation threshold without incurring the colossal cost of training multiple models from scratch. We experiment with two domains - human faces and art styles - for which we create four datasets, and evaluate three text-to-image models which were trained on two pretraining datasets. Our results estimate the *imitation threshold* of these models is in the range of 200-600 images, depending on the domain and the model. The *imitation threshold* can provide an empirical basis for copyright violation claims and acts as a guiding principle for text-to-image model developers that aim to comply with copyright and privacy laws. Code will be released upon publication.

1 Introduction

The progress of multi-modal vision-language models has been phenomenal in recent years (Ramesh et al., 2021; Rombach et al., 2022; Goodfellow et al., 2022), much of which can be attributed to the availability of large-scale pretraining datasets like LAION (Schuhmann et al., 2022). These datasets consist of semi-curated image-text pairs scraped from Common Crawl, which leads to the inclusion of explicit, copyrighted, and licensed material (Cavna, 2023; Hunter, 2023; Vincent, 2023; Jiang et al., 2023; Birhane et al., 2021). Training models on such images may be problematic because text-to-image models can *imitate* — generate images with highly recognizable features — concepts from their training data (Somepalli et al., 2023a; Carlini et al., 2023a). This behavior has both legal and ethical implications, such as copyright infringements as well as privacy violations of individuals whose images are present in the training data without consent. In fact, a large group of artists sued Stability AI, developers of the widely-used text-to-image models, alleging that the company's models generated images that distinctly replicated their artistic styles (Saveri & Butterick, 2023).

Previous work has focused on detecting when models memorize training images (Somepalli et al., 2023a; Carlini et al., 2023a), and mitigation techniques (Somepalli et al., 2023b; Shan et al., 2023). For instance, researchers found that duplicate images increase the chance of memorization. Typically, *memorization* refers to the replication of a specific training image. Instead of measuring *memorization*, we focus on imitation - a broader and under-explored sense of memorization, where a concept is recognizable from a generated image.

In this work, we ask how many instances of a concept does a text-to-image model need to be trained on to imitate it, where concept refers to a specific person or a specific art style, for example. Establishing such an *imitation threshold* is useful for several reasons. First, it offers an empirical basis for copyright infringement and privacy violation claims, suggesting that if a concept's prevalence is below this threshold, such claims are less likely to be true (Saveri & Butterick, 2023; Vincent, 2023; Ceoln, 2022). Second, it acts as a guiding principle for text-to-image models developers that want to avoid such violations. Finally, it reveals an interesting connection between training data statistics and model behavior, and the ability of models to efficiently harness training data (Udandarao et al., 2024;

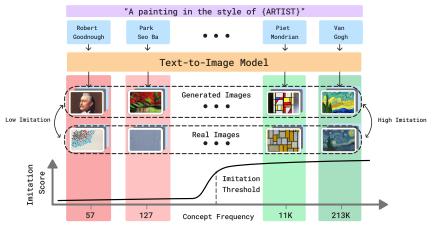


Figure 1: An overview of FIT, where we seek the *imitation threshold* – the point at which a model was exposed to enough instances of a concept that it can reliably imitate it. The figure shows four concepts (e.g., Van Gogh's art style) that have different counts in the training data (e.g., 213K for Van Gogh). As the image count of a concept increases, the ability of the text-to-image model to imitate it increases (e.g. Piet Mondrian and Van Gogh). We propose an efficient approach, MIMETIC², that estimates the imitation threshold without training models from scratch.

Carlini et al., 2023b). We name this problem FIT: Finding the Imitation Threshold, and provide a schematic overview of this problem in Figure 1.

The optimal methodology to measure the imitation threshold requires training multiple models with varying number of images of a concept and measuring the ability of the these models to imitate it. However, training even one of these models is extremely expensive (Bastian, 2022). We propose a tractable alternative, Measuring Imitation ThrEshold Through Instance Count and Comparison (MIMETIC²), that estimates the threshold without incurring the cost of training multiple models. We start by collecting a large set of concepts (e.g., various kinds of art styles) per domain (e.g., domain of art styles), and use a text-to-image model to generate images for each concept. Then, we compute the imitation score of each concept by comparing the generated images of that concept to its training images, and also estimate each concept's frequency in the training data. Finally, by sorting the concepts based on increasing frequency, we estimate the imitation threshold for that domain using a *change detection* algorithm Killick et al. (2012).

As we operate with observational data, a naive approach may be confounded by several factors, such as the quality of the imitation scoring model on different groups within the domain, or estimating the training frequencies of concepts (e.g., simple counts of 'Van Gogh' in the captions results in a biased estimate since the artist may be mentioned in the caption without their painting in the corresponding image). We carefully tailor MIMETIC² to minimize the impact of such confounders (§5).

Overall, we formalize a new problem – Finding Imitation Threshold (FIT; §3), and propose a method, MIMETIC², that efficiently estimates the *imitation threshold* for text-to-image models (§5). We use our method to estimate the imitation threshold for two domains on four datasets, three text-to-image models that were trained on two pretraining datasets (§4). We find the imitation thresholds to range between 200 to 600 images, including tight error bounds for each setting, providing concrete insights on models' imitation abilities (§6).

2 Background

Text-to-Image Models Generating images from textual inputs is a long studied problem, with diffusion models as the current state-of-the-art (Sohl-Dickstein et al., 2015; Dhariwal & Nichol, 2021). Diffusion models are generative models that learn to approximate the underlying data distribution (conditioned or unconditioned). Given a trained diffusion model, it is possible to sample synthetic images from the learned distribution by performing a sequence of denoising operations. Open-sourced models like Stable Diffusion (SD) Rombach et al. (2022) are trained using large datasets such as LAION (Schuhmann et al., 2022), a large image-caption dataset scraped from Common Crawl.

Dataset Issues and Privacy Violations The advancement in text-to-image capabilities, largely due to big training datasets, is accompanied by concerns about the training on explicit, copyrighted, and licensed material Birhane et al. (2021) and imitating such content when generating images (Cavna, 2023; Hunter, 2023; Vincent, 2023; Jiang et al., 2023). For example, Birhane et al. (2021) and Thiel

(2023) found several explicit images in the LAION dataset and Getty Images found that LAION had millions of their copyrighted images Vincent (2023). Issues around imitation of training images has especially plagued artists, whose livelihood is threatened Saveri & Butterick (2023); Shan et al. (2023), as well as individuals whose face has been used without consent to create inappropriate content Hunter (2023); Badshah (2024). The imitation threshold would be a useful basis for copyright infringement and privacy violation claims in such cases.

Training Data Statistics and Model Behavior Pretraining datasets are a core factor for explaining model behavior (Elazar et al., 2024). Razeghi et al. (2022) found that the few-shot performance of language models is highly correlated with the frequency of instances in pretraining dataset. Udandarao et al. (2024) bolster this finding by demonstrating that the performance of multimodal models on downstream tasks is strongly correlated with a concept's frequency in the pretraining datasets. In addition, Carlini et al. (2023b) show that language models more easily memorize highly duplicated sequences. We find a similar phenomenon: increasing the number of images of a concept increases the similarity between its generated and training images.

3 PROBLEM FORMULATION AND OVERVIEW

Finding the Imitation Threshold (FIT) seeks to find the minimal number of images with a concept (e.g., a specific art style) a text-to-image model has to see during training in order to imitate it. FIT's setup involves a training dataset $\mathcal{D} \triangleq \{(\mathbf{x_i}, \mathbf{y_i}) \mid \mathbf{x_i} \in \mathcal{X}, \ \mathbf{y_i} \in \mathcal{Y}\}_{i=1}^n$, composed of n (image, caption) pairs, where \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} represents space of images and text captions, respectively and a model \mathcal{M} that is trained on \mathcal{D} to generate an image \mathbf{x} given the text-caption \mathbf{y} . From hereafter, $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{y})$ represents the generated image for a provided caption \mathbf{y} . Let $\mathbb{I}^j(\mathbf{x})$ be an indicator function that indicates whether a concept Z^j is present in an image \mathbf{x} . Each concept Z^j appears $c^j = \sum_i \mathbb{I}^j(\mathbf{x_i})$ times in the dataset \mathcal{D} , where the dataset may contain multiple concepts $\{Z^1, Z^2, \ldots\}$. Lastly, \mathcal{M}^j_k represents a model that is trained on a dataset where $c^j = k$.

The *imitation threshold* is the minimal number of training images containing some concept Z^j from which the model \mathcal{M} generates images $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{p}^j)$ (for different random seeds) where Z^j is recognizable as the concept, where prompt \mathbf{p}^j mentions the concept Z^j . For example, if Z^j refers to Van Gogh's art style, then the imitation threshold is the minimal number of training images of Van Gogh's paintings in a dataset which, when used to train a text-to-image model, can generate paintings that have Van Gogh's art style (i.e., imitate Van Gogh's art style).

Imitation Threshold
$$j \triangleq \min \left\{ k \in \{1, \dots, n\} : \mathbb{I}^j(\mathcal{M}_k^j(\mathbf{p}^j)) = 1 \right\}$$
 (1)

Optimal Approach Finding the *imitation threshold* is a causal question; the optimal manner of answering this question is the counterfactual experiment Pearl (2009). For each concept Z^j that we want to measure the imitation threshold for, we create training datasets $\{\mathcal{D}_1^j, \mathcal{D}_2^j, \ldots, \mathcal{D}_k^j, \ldots\}$ where k denotes the number of images containing Z^j that are added to a large training dataset \mathcal{D} (that initially has no images containing Z^j), and then train a model \mathcal{M}_k^j on each dataset \mathcal{D}_k^j . Once we find a model, \mathcal{M}_k^j which is able to generate images that recognizably contains the concept Z^j , but \mathcal{M}_{k-1}^j cannot, we deem k as the *imitation threshold* for that concept. However, due to the extreme costs of training even one text-to-image model (Bastian, 2022), this approach is impractical 2 .

MIMETIC² Instead, we propose an approach that is tractable and estimates the imitation threshold under certain assumptions (discussed later). The key idea is to use observational data instead of training multiple models with a different number of images of a concept. Such an approach has been previously used to answer causal questions, inter alia, Pearl (2009); Lesci et al. (2024); Lyu et al. (2024). Concretely, we collect several concepts from the same domain (e.g., art styles) while ensuring that these concepts have varying image counts in the training dataset \mathcal{D} of a pretrained model \mathcal{M} . Then, we identify the count where the model \mathcal{M} starts imitating concepts, and deem this count to be the *imitation threshold* for that domain. Note that, this threshold is domain specific and not concept specific, where a *domain* is defined as a set that contains several concepts belonging to the same abstract set as the specific concept for which we want to measure the imitation threshold. E.g., if concept refers to Van Gogh's art style, then a domain would refer to a set of art styles.

¹Prompts **p** are usually different from the training data captions, **y**.

²Naively, it will require training $\mathcal{O}(\log m)$ models for concept Z^j (where m is the total number of available images of concept Z^j), with an estimated cost of \$10M for m = 100,000 (see Appendix N).

Figure 2: Examples of real celebrity images (top) and generated images from a text-to-image model (bottom) with increasing image counts from left to right (3, 273, 3K, 10K, and 90K, respectively). The prompt is "a photorealistic close-up image of {name}".

To evaluate the imitation ability of a model, we build two functions, *concept-count* and *imitation-score* that counts the number of images of a concept and measures the imitation of a concept in the generated images, respectively. For a domain like art styles, we collect a set of concepts $\{Z^1, Z^2, \ldots\}$ (e.g., a list of various art styles), estimate each concept's count in training data \mathcal{D} , and measure the imitation score for each concept using their generated and training images. Sorting the concepts based on their increasing image counts, and using a standard *change detection* algorithm on the imitation scores, gives us the imitation threshold for that domain. We provide the implementation details in Section 5.

Assumptions To estimate the imitation threshold using observational data, we make three assumptions. First, we assume distributional invariance between the images of all concepts in a domain. Under this assumption, measuring the imitation score of a concept Z^j for a counterfactual model $\mathcal{M}_{k'}$ that is trained with k' images of Z^j is equivalent to measuring the imitation score of another concept Z^i that currently has k' images in the already trained model M. This assumption helps us estimate the causal effect of training a model with a different number of images of a concept, without retraining models (we empirically test the validity of this assumption, which we find it to hold) and estimate the imitation thresholds considering situations when this assumption is loosened (§6). Second, we assume that there are no confounders between the imitation score and the image count of a concept. These assumptions are a standard practice when answering causal questions using observational data Pearl (2009); Lesci et al. (2024); Lyu et al. (2024). Third, we assume each image of a concept contributes equally to the learning of the concept. This assumption is commonplace in sample complexity works (Valiant, 1984; Udandarao et al., 2024; Wen et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2017). These assumptions might not hold true in general, however, they are crucial for estimating the imitation threshold in a tractable manner and have been used in prior works. We also tailor our experimental setup such that these assumptions are adhered to as much as possible (§4).

4 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Table 1: Domains, datasets, pretraining data, and models we experiment with.

Domain	Dataset	Pretraining Data	Model
Human Faces	Celebrities, Politicians	LAION2B-en	SD1.1, SD1.5
Human Faces 🧑	Celebrities, Politicians	LAION5B	SD2.1
Art Style 📴	Classical, Modern	LAION2B-en	SD1.1, SD1.5
Art Style 📴	Classical, Modern	LAION5B	SD2.1

Table 2: Five prompts used to generate images of human faces and art styles.

Human faces 🧑	Art style 📴
A photorealistic close-up photograph of X High-resolution close-up image of X	A painting in the style of X An artwork in the style of X
Close-up headshot of X	A sketch in the style of X
X's facial close-up X's face portrait	A fine art piece in the style of X An illustration in the style of X

Text-to-image Models and Training Data We use Stable Diffusion (SD) as the text-to-image models Rombach et al. (2022). We use them because both the models and their training datasets are open-sourced. Specifically, we use SD1.1 and SD1.5 that were trained on LAION2B-en, a 2.3 billion image-caption pairs dataset, filtered to contain only English captions. In addition, we use SD2.1 that was trained on LAION-5B, a 5.85 billion image-text pairs dataset, which includes LAION2B-en, and other image-caption pairs from other languages Schuhmann et al. (2022).

Domains and Concepts We experiment with two domains – *art styles* and *human faces* that are highly important for privacy and copyright considerations of text-to-image models. Figures 1 and 2 show examples of real and generated images of art styles and human faces. We collect two sets of concepts for each domain. For art styles we collect classical and modern art styles, where each artist's painting are considered a distinct concept, and for human faces, we collect celebrities and politicians. These sets are independent (i.e., have no common concept) and are therefore useful to test the robustness of the thresholds (§6). Each set has 400 concepts that cover a wide frequency range in the pretraining datasets. Appendix M provides details of the sources used to collect the concepts and the sampling procedure. Table 1 summarizes the domains, sets used for each domain, the models and their pretraining datasets we experiment with.

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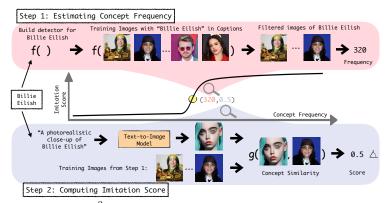


Figure 3: Overview of MIMETIC²'s methodology to estimate the *imitation threshold*. In Step 1, we estimate the frequency of each concept (belonging to a domain) in the pretraining data by obtaining the images that contain the concept of interest. In Step 2, we use the filtered images of each concept (obtained in Step 1) and compare them to the generated images to measure imitation (using g that receives training and generated images). We repeat this process for each concept to generate the imitation score graph, and then determine the imitation threshold with a change detection algorithm.

Image Generation We generate images for each domain by prompting models with five prompts (Table 2). We design domain-specific prompts that encourage the concepts to occupy most of the generated image, which simplifies the imitation score measurement. We also ensure that these prompts are distinct from the captions used in the pretraining dataset to minimize reproduction of training images. (Somepalli et al. (2023b) proposed this strategy to mitigate reproduction of training images.) Out of the five prompts used to generate images, only one of them was found in the LAION2B-en dataset caption 3 times out of the total 2.3B captions. We generate 200 images per concept using different random seeds for each prompt, a total of 1,000 images per concept.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY: MIMETIC²

We illustrate our proposed methodology in Figure 3. At a high level, for a specific domain, MIMETIC² estimates the frequency of each concept in the pretraining data (Section 5.1) and estimates the model's ability to imitate it (Section 5.2). We then sort the concepts based on their frequencies, and find the imitation threshold using a change detection algorithm (Section 5.3).

5.1 Concept Frequency

Challenges Determining a concept's frequency in a multimodal dataset can be achieved by employing a high-quality classifier for that concept over every image and counting the number of detected images. However, given the scale of modern datasets with billions of images, this approach is expensive and time consuming. Instead, we make a simplifying assumption that a concept is present only if the image's caption mentions it. We further discuss this assumption and provide supporting evidence for its accuracy in Appendix D. In addition, concepts often do not appear in the corresponding images, even when they are mentioned in the captions. For instance, Figure 4 showcases images whose captions contain "Mary Lee Pfeiffer", but such images do not always include her. On average, we find that concepts occur only in 60% of the images whose caption mentions the concept.

Estimating Concept Frequency We start by retrieving all images whose caption mentions the concept of interest and then further filter out the images that do not contain the concept, as detected by a classifier. We retrieve these images using WIMBD (Elazar et al., 2024), a search tool based on a reverse index that efficiently finds documents (captions) from LAION containing the search query (con-





Figure 4: LAION images whose caption mentions 'Mary Lee Pfeiffer', the mother of Tom Cruise. She is not always present in the images (e.g., the rightmost image).

cept). In addition, for each concept, we construct a set of high quality reference images. For example, a set of images with only the face of a single person (e.g., Brad Pitt). We collect these images automatically using a search engine, followed by a manual verification to vet the images (see Appendix E for details). These images are used as gold reference for automatic detection of these concepts in the images from the pretraining datasets (we collect up to ten reference images per concept).

To classify whether a candidate image from the pretraining data contains the concept of interest, we embed the candidate image and the concept's reference images using an image encoder and measure the similarity between the embeddings. We use a face embedding model (Deng et al., 2022) for faces

and an art style embedding model (Somepalli et al., 2024) for art style. If the similarity between a candidate image and any of the reference images is above some threshold, we consider that candidate image to contain the concept. This threshold is established by measuring the similarity between images of the same concepts and images of different concepts which maximizes the true positives, and minimizes false positives. We provide additional details on how we find the exact thresholds for both art styles and human faces in Appendices F and G.

Finally, we employ the classifier on all candidate images corresponding to a concept (i.e., images whose caption mentions the concept), and take those that are classified as positive. For each concept, we randomly retrieve up to 100K candidate images. We use the ratio of positive predictions to the total number of retrieved candidate images, and multiply it by the total caption count of a concept in the dataset and use that as the concept's frequency estimate. For concepts with less than 100K candidate images, we simply use all the images that are positively classified. Note that several URLs in the LAION datasets are dead, a common phenomenon for URL based datasets ("link rot" Carlini et al. (2024); Lakic et al. (2023)). On average, we successfully retrieved 74% of the candidate images.

5.2 Computing Imitation Score

Challenges Computing the imitation score entails determining how similar a concept is in a generated image compared to its source images from the training data. Several approaches were proposed to accomplish this task, such as FID and CLIPScore Salimans et al. (2016); Heusel et al. (2017); Sajjadi et al. (2018); Hessel et al. (2021); Podell et al. (2024). To measure similarity, these approaches compute the similarity between the distributions of the embeddings of the generated and training images of a concept. The embeddings are obtained using image embedders like Inception model in case of FID and CLIP in case of CLIPScore. These image embedders often perform reasonably well in measuring similarity between images of common objects which constitutes most of their training data. However, they cannot reliably measure the similarity between two very similar concepts like the faces of two individuals or art style of two artists (Somepalli et al., 2024; Hessel et al., 2021; Ahmadi & Agrawal, 2024; Jayasumana et al., 2024). Therefore, MIMETIC² uses domain specific image embedders to measure similarity between two concepts from that domain. It uses a face embedding model (Deng et al., 2022) for measuring face similarity and an art style embedding model Somepalli et al. (2024) for measuring art style similarity. Even the specific choice of these models is crucial. For instance, in early experiments we used Facenet (Schroff et al., 2015), and observe it struggles to distinguish between individuals of certain demographics, causing drastic differences in the imitation scores between demographics. We provide more details on these early experiments in Appendix L, and show that our final choice of embedding models work well on different demographics.

Estimating Imitation Score To measure the imitation score we embed the generated images and filtered training images of a concept (obtained in §5.1) using the same domain specific image embedder we used in §5.1, and report the imitation score as the average imitation between all generated and training images. We obtain the embeddings of the generated and training images for each concept, and measure imitation by computing the cosine similarity between them.

To ensure that the automatic measure of similarity correlates with human perception, we also conduct experiments with human subjects and measure the correlation between the similarities obtained automatically and in the human subject experiments. We find high correlation between the automatically obtained scores and human perception of similarity for both domains (§6).

5.3 DETECTING THE *Imitation Threshold*

After computing the frequencies and the imitation scores for each concept, we sort them in an ascending order of their image frequencies. This generates a sequence of points, each of which is a pair of image frequency and the imitation score of a concept. We apply a standard change detection algorithm, PELT (Killick et al., 2012), to find the image frequency where the imitation score significantly changes. Change detection is a classic statistical approach for which the objective is to find the points where the mean value of a sequence changes significantly. It is used for detecting changes such as shifts in stock market trends or network traffic anomalies. Several algorithms were proposed for change detection (van den Burg & Williams, 2022). We choose PELT because of its linear time complexity in computing the change point. We choose the first change point as the imitation threshold (see Appendix I for details about all change points). The application of change detection assumes that increasing the image counts beyond a certain threshold leads to a large jump in the imitation scores, and we find this assumption to be accurate in our experimental results.

Table 3: The mean and std. of the *imitation thresholds* for the models and domains we experiment with.

		Human 1	Faces 🧑	Art Sty	/le 🔤
Pretraining Dataset	Model	Celebrities	Politicians	Classical	Modern
LAION2B-en	SD1.1 SD1.5	$399 \pm 85 \\ 371 \pm 23$	284 ± 87 302 ± 113	304 ± 56 302 ± 65	208 ± 26 212 ± 29
LAION-5B	SD2.1	617 ± 148	385 ± 117	330 ± 142	292 ± 107

To obtain error bounds for our results we perform a permutation test with sampling 300 concepts per domain and dataset, and repeat it 1,000 times. We report the mean and standard deviation results over the thresholds estimated by such experiments.

6 RESULTS: THE Imitation Threshold

We apply MIMETIC² to estimate the imitation threshold for each model-data pair, and present the results in Table 3. The imitation thresholds for SD1.1 on celebrities and politicians are 399 ± 85 and 284 ± 87 respectively. And the imitation thresholds for classical and modern art styles are 304 ± 56 and 208 ± 26 respectively. Interestingly, SD1.1 and SD1.5 have almost the same thresholds for all the four sets across both the domains. Notably, both SD1.1 and SD1.5 are trained on LAION2B-en. The imitation thresholds for SD2.1, which is trained on the larger LAION-5B dataset are higher than the thresholds for SD1.1 and SD1.5. The imitation threshold for SD2.1 on celebrities and politicians are 617 ± 148 and 385 ± 117 respectively, and on classical and modern art styles are 330 ± 142 and 292 ± 107 respectively. We hypothesize that the difference in performance of SD2.1 and SD1.5 is due to the difference in their text encoders (O'Connor, 2022) (note: differences in performance between SD1.5 and SD2.1 were also reported by several users on online forums). To test this hypothesis, we compute the imitation thresholds for politicians for all SD models in series 1: SD1.1, SD1.2, SD1.3, SD1.4, and SD1.5. We find that the imitation thresholds for all these models are almost the same. We provide the imitation thresholds for all series 1 models in Appendix H.

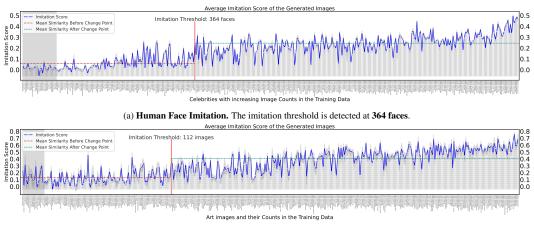
Note that celebrities have a higher imitation threshold than politicians. We hypothesize this happens due to inherent differences in the data distribution between these two sets, which makes it harder to learn the concept of celebrities than politicians. To test this hypothesis, we compute the average number of images that has one person for people with less than 1,000 images in the pretraining dataset. We find that politicians have about twice the number of single person images compared to celebrities. As such, images that have a single person (the concept of interest) increase the ability of the model to learn from them, thus lowering the imitation threshold for politicians.

We also present the plots of the imitation scores as a function of the image frequencies of the concepts in the four sets we experiment with. Figures 5a and 5b show the imitation graphs of celebrities and classical art styles, respectively for SD1.1. The x-axis is the frequency and the y-axis is the imitation score (averaged over the five image generation prompts) for each concept, sorted in increasing order of frequency. Note that for this graph, we consider the situation where the assumption holds for all the 400 concepts and hence the imitation threshold is computed using all the concepts. We showcase the imitation graphs for all other models and sets in Appendix J, which follow similar trends.

In Figure 5a, we observe that the imitation scores for individuals with low image frequencies are close to 0 (left side), and increase as the image frequencies increase (towards the right side). The highest similarity is 0.5 and it is for individuals in the rightmost region of the plot. We observe a low variance in the imitation scores across prompts, and also note that this variance does not depend on the image frequencies (0.0003 ± 0.0005) – indicating that the performance of the face embedding model does not depend on the popularity of the individual.

Similarly, in Figure 5b, we observe that imitation scores for art styles with low image frequencies are low (close to 0.2 on the left side), and increase as the image frequencies increase (towards the right side). The highest similarity is 0.76 and it is for the artists in the rightmost region of the plot. We also observe a low variance across the generation prompts, and the variance does not depend on the popularity of the artist (0.003 ± 0.003) .

Human Perception Evaluation To determine if the automatic measure of similarity between the generated and training images correlate with human perception, we conduct experiments with human subjects. We asked the participants to rate generated images on the Likert scale Likert (1932) of 1-5 based on their similarity to real images of celebrities (the same ones used for measuring the imitation score). To avoid any bias, the participants were not informed of the research objective of this work.



(b) Art Style Imitation. The imitation threshold is detected at 112 images

Figure 5: **Human Face** and **Art Style** imitation graphs for SD1.1 using the *Celebrities* and *Classical art style* sets. The x-axis represents the sorted image frequencies in the training dataset, and the y-axis represents the imitation of the training images in the generated images, for each concept. Concepts with zero image frequencies are shaded with light gray. We show the mean imitation score and its variance over the five image generation prompts. The red vertical line indicates the imitation threshold found by the change detection algorithm, and the horizontal green line represents the average imitation scores before and after the threshold.

For human face imitation, we conduct this study with 15 participants who were asked to rate 100 (randomly selected) generated images for a set of 40 celebrities. To determine the accuracy of the imitation threshold estimated by MIMETIC², we select the celebrities such that half of them have image frequencies below the threshold and the other half above it. We measure the Spearman's correlation (Zar, 2005) between the imitation scores computed by the model and the ratings provided by the participants. Due to the variance in perception, we normalize the ratings for each participants. The Spearman correlation between the similarity scores provided by participants and the imitation scores is **0.85**, signifying a high quality imitation estimator. We also measure the agreement between the imitation threshold that MIMETIC² estimates and the threshold that humans perceive. For this purpose, we convert the human ratings to binary values and treat it as the ground truth (any rating of 3 or more is treated as 1 and less than 3 is treated as 0). As for the MIMETIC² predictions, we construct another set of the same size that has a zero for a celebrity whose concept frequency is lower than the imitation threshold, and 1 otherwise. To measure the agreement, we compute the element-wise dot product between these two sets. We find the agreement to be 82.5%, signifying a high degree of agreement for MIMETIC²'s automatically computed threshold.

For art style imitation, we conduct this study with an art expert due to the complexity of detecting art styles. The participant was asked to rate five generated images for 20 art styles, half of which were below the imitation threshold and the other half, above the threshold. We find the Spearman correlation between the two quantities to be 0.91 – demonstrating that our imitation scores are highly correlated with an artist's perception of style similarity. Similar to the previous case, we measure the agreement of the imitation threshold, which we find to be 95% – signifying a high degree of agreement for MIMETIC²'s computed threshold.

Results Discussion Overall, we observe that the imitation thresholds are similar across the different image generation models and pretraining datasets, but are domain dependent. They also show little variance across various image generation prompts. Most importantly, the thresholds computed by MIMETIC² have a high degree of agreement with human subjects.

We also note the presence of several outliers in both plots, which can be categorized into two types: (1) concepts whose image frequencies are lower than the imitation threshold, but their imitation scores are considerably high; and (2) concepts whose image frequencies are higher than the imitation threshold, but their imitation scores are low. From a privacy perspective, the first kind of outliers are more concerning than the second ones, since the imitation threshold should act as guarantors of privacy. It would be fine if a concept with a concept frequency higher than the threshold is not imitated by the model (false positive), but it would be a privacy violation if a model can imitate a concept with frequency lower than the threshold (false negative). Therefore, to minimize false negatives, it is preferable to underestimate the imitation threshold. Upon further analysis, we find that the actual concept frequencies of all the false negative outliers is much higher than what MIMETIC² counts, primarily due to aliases of names, thereby alleviating the privacy violation concerns (see §7).









(a) **Outlier Kind 1.** Thandiwe Newton is also aliased as Thandie Newton. Since MIMETIC² only collects images whose caption mentions Thandiwe Newton, this leads to underestimation of image counts.

(b) **Outlier Kind 2.** Most of the images whose captions mention *Cacee Cobb* have multiple people in them, only 6 images have her as the only person, leading to a low imitation score in generated images.

Figure 6: Examples of the two kinds of outliers. The top and bottom rows show the real and SD1.1 generated images respectively. Images were generated using the prompt: "a photorealistic close-up image of *name*."

We also note that the range of the imitation scores of different domains have different y-axis scales. This is due to the difference in embedding models used in both cases. The face embedding model can distinguish between two faces much better than the art style model can distinguish between two styles (see Appendices F and G), and therefore the scores for the concepts on the left side of the imitation threshold is around 0 for face imitation and 0.2 for style imitation. The face embedding model also gives lower score to the faces of the same person, compared to the style embedding model's score for images of the same art styles, and therefore the highest scores for face imitation is 0.5, whereas it is 0.76 for art style imitation. However, the absolute values on the y-axis do not matter for estimating the imitation threshold as long as the trend is similar, which is the case for both domains.

Evaluation of the Imitation Thresholds Evaluating the accuracy of the imitation thresholds MIMETIC² finds is a very expensive task, it requires conducting the optimal experiment described in Section 3 (training $\mathcal{O}(\log m)$ models with different number of images of each concept). Therefore we choose an approximate method to test MIMETIC²'s accuracy. Concretely, we calibrate MIMETIC² using one of the sets in each domain (Celebrities for Human Faces and Classical art styles for Art Style and test the calibrated approach on the other set (Politicians for Human Faces and Modern art styles for Art Style and the other sets acts as the "test dataset". Note that these sets are mutually exclusive. Table 3 shows that the imitation thresholds MIMETIC² finds for "train" and "test" sets in each domain are very close (the difference across the sets for both human faces and art styles is less than 5e-10% of the pretraining dataset size), indicating that the imitation thresholds MIMETIC² finds are accurate. Note that this is another evidence for MIMETIC²'s accuracy in addition to the evidence already provided by the human subject experiments.

7 ANALYSIS: INVESTIGATING OUTLIERS

The imitation score plots in the previous section, while showcasing a clear trend, have several outliers. In this section, we analyze such outliers and present examples in Figure 6 (additional outliers can be found in Figures 29 and 30 in the Appendix).

Low Image Counts and High Imitation Scores Figure 6a shows an example of such a case: *Thandiwe Newton*'s image count is 172 in LAION2B-en, lower than the *imitation threshold* for celebrities: 364. However, her imitation score of 0.26 is much higher than those of neighboring celebrities with similar image counts (with scores of 0.01 and 0.04). Further investigation reveals that Thandiwe Newton is also known as *Thandie Newton*. Since this alias may also be used to describe her in captions, MIMETIC² may have underestimated her image counts. We repeat the process for estimating the image counts with the new alias, and find that *Thandie Newton* appears in 12,177 images, bringing the cumulative image count to 12,349, which significantly surpasses the established imitation threshold. The two aliases, whose total image count is considerably higher than the imitation threshold, differ by only a single letter and are similarly represented by the model's encoder (cosine similarity of 0.96), which explains the high imitation score. We find that most of the celebrities from the first kind of outliers are also known by other names which lead to underestimating their image counts. For example, *Belle Delphine* (394 images) also goes by *Mary Belle* (310 images, for a total of 704, and *DJ Kool Herc* (492 images) also goes by *Kool Herc* (269 images, for a total of 761).

The aliases explanation also largely explains the outliers in art style imitation. For instance, artist *Gustav Adolf Mossa* (19 images) also goes by just *Mossa* (15850 images), artist *Nicolas Toussaint Charlet* (78 images) also goes by just *Nicolas Toussaint* (533 images), and artist *Wilhelm Von Kaulbach* (81 images) also goes by *Von Kaulbach* (978 images). See Figures 31 and 32 in the appendix for the real and generated images of these artists.

High Image Counts and Low Imitation Scores Several celebrities have higher image counts than the imitation threshold, but low imitation scores. Unlike the previous case, we were unable to find a common cause that explains all these outliers. However, we find explanations for specific cases. For example, a staggering proportion of the training images for such celebrities have multiple people in them. For example, out of the 706 total images of *Cacee Cobb*, only 6 images have her as the only person in the image (see Figure 6b). Similarly, out of 1,296 total images of *Sofia Hellqvist*, only 67 images have her as the only person and out of the 472 total images of *Charli D' Amelio*, only 82 images have her as the only person. We hypothesize that having multiple concepts in an image impedes the proper mapping of the concept's text embedding to its image embedding, which can explain the low imitation score for these concepts. We leave it to future work to further study the connection between the number of concepts in an image and model's ability to imitate these concepts.

8 DISCUSSION AND LIMITATIONS

Equal Effect Assumption An assumption in the formulation of MIMETIC² is that every image of a concept contributes equally to the learning of the concept. Although this is a standard assumption in sample complexity works (Valiant, 1984; Udandarao et al., 2024; Wen et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2017), not all images are created equal. While analyzing celebrities' images for instance, we often find that individuals whose images are mostly close-ups of a single person have a higher imitation score than individuals whose images are cluttered by multiple people, since concept-centered images enhance their learnability. We hope to investigate this assumption in future work.

Factors Affecting the Imitation Threshold In this work we attribute the imitation of a concept to its image count. However, image count – although a crucial factor – is not the only factor that affects imitation. Several other factors like image resolution, image diversity, alignment between images and their captions, the variance between images of a concept may affect imitation.

Several training time factors like the optimization objective, learning schedule, training data order, model capacity, model architecture also affect the imitation threshold. We discuss the difference in the imitation thresholds of SD1.1, SD1.5 and SD2.1 is attributed to the difference in their text encoders. SD1.1 and SD1.5 use CLIP model Radford et al. (2021) as their text encoder and SD2.1 uses OpenCLIP Ilharco et al. (2021) as its text encoder. Note that while these may impact the behavior of the model, our work is interested in a particular model-data pair, for which we investigate. While we conduct experiments for most models whose training data is available, we do not claim that our results would generalize to other models or datasets, and hope that in future more such models and datasets are open-sourced, so that we can test the generalizability of our imitation thresholds. Note that, MIMETIC² finds the imitation threshold for the pretraining regime. We hope to investigate the thresholds when a model is finetuned on one or a set of concepts in future work.

Considerations for Legal Conclusions Our work estimates the imitation thresholds under certain assumptions. While we hope our work could be used for copyright and privacy claims, our results should be put in content of the assumptions we make (§3) In addition, we do not claim our results generalize to all model/data pairs, and more work needs to be done on this topic.

9 Conclusions

Text-to-image models can imitate their training images (Somepalli et al., 2023a; Carlini et al., 2023a; Somepalli et al., 2023b). This behavior is potentially concerning because these models' training datasets often include copyrighted and licensed images. Imitating such images would be grounds for violation of copyright and privacy laws. In this work, we seek to find the number of instances of a concept that a text-to-image model needs in order to imitate it – the *imitation threshold*. We posit this as a new problem, Finding the Imitation Threshold (FIT) and propose an efficient method, MIMETIC², for finding such thresholds. Our method utilizes pretrained models to estimate this threshold for human faces and art styles imitation using three text-to-image models trained on two different pretraining datasets. We find the imitation threshold of these models to be in the range of 200-600 images depending on the setup. As such, on the domains we evaluate in this work, our results indicate that models cannot imitate concepts that appear less than 200 times in the training data. By estimating the imitation threshold, we provide insights on successful concept imitation based on their training frequencies. Our results have striking implications on both the text-to-image models users and developers. These thresholds can inform text-to-image model developers what concepts are in risk of being imitated, and on the other hand, serve as a basis for copyright and privacy complaints.

10 ETHICS STATEMENT

This work is targeted towards understanding and mitigating the negative social impacts of widely available text-to-image models. To minimize the impact of our study on potential copyright infringement and privacy violations, we used existing text-to-image models and generation techniques. To strike a balance between reproducibility and ethics, we release the code used in this work, but not the real and synthetic images used (we also provide detailed documentation of our data curation process in the code to ensure transparency).

Human Subject Experiments For the human subject experiments performed in this work, we followed the university guideline. The study was IRB approved by the university and each participant was made aware of the goals and risks of the study. In accordance with local minimum wage requirements, we compensated each participant with Amazon gift cards of \$25/hour for their time.

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A IMITATION THRESHOLD FOR THE LATENT DIFFUSION MODEL TRAINED ON LAION-400M

Table 4: *Imitation Thresholds* for human face and art style imitation for the different text-to-image models and pretraining datasets we experiment with. We have added the imitation thresholds for the Latent Diffusion model that is trained on LAION-400M dataset.

		Human 1	Faces 🧑	Art Style 逼	
Pretraining Dataset	Model	Celebrities	Politicians	Classical	Modern
LAION-400M	LD	648	309	219	282
LAION2B-en	SD1.1 SD1.5	364 364	234 234	112 112	198 198
LAION-5B	SD2.1	527	369	185	241

Table 4 shows the imitation thresholds for the additional Latent Diffusion model that is trained on the LAION-400M dataset.

B ADDITIONAL RELATED WORK

Imitation in Text-to-Image Models: Somepalli et al. (2023a); Carlini et al. (2023a) demonstrated that diffusion models can memorize and imitate duplicate images from their training data (they use 'replication' to refer to this phenomenon). Casper et al. (2023) corroborated the evidence by showing that these models imitated art styles of 70 artists with high accuracy (as classified by a CLIP model) when prompted to generated images in their styles (a group of artists also sued Stability AI claiming that their widely-used text-to-image models imitated their art style, violating copyright laws Saveri & Butterick (2023)). However, these works did not study how much repetition of a concept's images would lead the model to imitate them. Studying this relation is important as it serves to guide institutions training these models who want to comply with copyright and privacy laws.

Mitigation of Imitation in Text-to-Image Models: Several works proposed to mitigate the negative impacts of text-to-image models. Shan et al. (2023) proposed GLAZE that adds imperceptible noise to the art works such that diffusion models are unable to imitate artist styles. A similar approach was proposed to hinder learning human faces (Shan et al., 2020). Wang et al. (2024) proposed adding noise to training images, which can be used to detect if a model has been trained on those images. Lu et al. (2024) propose pushing the generated images away from the distribution of training images to minimize mitigation. Kumari et al. (2023); Gandikota et al. (2024) proposed algorithms to remove specific styles, explicit content, and other copyrighted material learned by text-to-image models. On a related note, Xie et al. (2024) proposed Diffusion-ReTrac that finds training images that most influenced a generated image, and thereby provide a fair attribution to training data contributors.

C VALIDITY OF THE ASSUMPTIONS

Table 5: Average difference in the imitation scores for concepts whose image counts differ by less than 10. The difference in the imitation scores are close to 0, empirically validating the distribution invariance assumption.

Domain	Dataset	Avg. difference in imitation score
Human Faces 🧑	Celebrities	0.0007
Human Faces 🧑	Politicians	0.0023
Art Style 📔	Classical Art Style	-0.0088
Art Style 国	Modern Art Style	-0.0013

In this section, we empirically test the statistical validity of the assumptions we make in Section 3. The first assumption states that there is a distributional invariance across concepts. If this is true, then the imitation scores of two concepts (from the same domain) whose image counts are similar, should also be similar to each other. To test whether this is empirically true for the domains we experiment with, we measure the difference in the imitation scores for concepts whose image counts differ by less than 10 images and report the difference averaged over all such pairs. Table 5 shows that the

average difference in the imitation scores for all the pairs, for all the datasets we experiment with, is very close to 0. This provides empirical validation of the distribution invariance assumption.

D CAPTION OCCURRENCE ASSUMPTION

For estimating the concept's counts in the pretraining dataset we make a simplifying assumption: a concept can be present in the image only if it is mentioned in a paired caption. While this assumption isn't true in general, we show that for the domains we experiment with, it mostly holds in practice.

Table 6: Face count of the ten most popular celebrities in 100K random LAION images. The small percentage of the images we miss shows that our assumption of counting the images where a concept is mentioned in the caption is empirically reasonable.

Celebrity	Face Count in 100K images	Face Count in Images with Caption Mention	Percentage of Missed Images	Number of Missed Images
Floyd Mayweather	1	0	0.001%	23K
Oprah Winfrey	2	0	0.002%	46K
Ronald Reagan	6	3	0.003%	69K
Ben Affleck	0	0	0.0%	0
Anne Hathaway	0	0	0.0%	0
Stephen King	0	0	0.0%	0
Johnny Depp	9	1	0.008%	184K
Abraham Lincoln	52	1	0.051%	1.17M
Kate Middleton	34	1	0.033%	759K
Donald Trump	16	0	0.016%	368K

For this purpose, we download 100K random images from LAION2B-en, and run the face detection (used in Section 5) on all images, and count the faces of the ten most popular celebrities in our sampled set of celebrities. Out of the 100K random images, about 57K contain faces. For each celebrity, we compute the similarity between all the faces in the downloaded images and the faces in the reference images of these celebrities. If the similarity is above the threshold of 0.46, we consider that face to belong to the celebrity (this threshold is determined in Appendix F to distinguish if two images are of the same person or not). Table 6 shows the number of faces we found for each celebrity in the 100K random LAION images. We also show the face counts among these images whose captions mention the celebrity. We find that 1) the highest frequency an individual appears in an image without their name mentioned in the caption is 51 (*Abraham Lincoln* is mentioned once in the caption and he appears a total of 52 times), and 2) the highest percentage of image frequency that we miss is 0.051%, and 3) most of the other miss rates are much smaller (close to 0). Such low miss rates demonstrate that our assumption of counting images when a concept is mentioned in the caption is empirically reasonable.

We also note that this assumption would fail if we were computing image frequencies for concepts that are so widely common that one would not even mention them in a caption, for example, phone, shoes, or trees.

E COLLECTION OF REFERENCE IMAGES

E.1 COLLECTION OF REFERENCE IMAGES FOR HUMAN FACES DOMAIN

The goal of collecting reference images is to use them to filter the images of the pretraining dataset. These images are treated as the gold standard reference images of a person and images collected from pretraining dataset are compared to these images. If the similarity is higher than a threshold then that image is considered to belong to that person (see Section 5 for details). We describe an automatic manner of collecting the reference images. The high level idea is to collect the images from Google Search and automatically select a subset of those images that are of the same concept (same person's face or same artist's art). Since this is a crucial part of the overall algorithm, we manually vet the reference images for all the concepts to ensure that they all contain the same concept.

Collection of Reference Images for Human Face Imitation: We collect reference images for celebrities and politicians using a three step process (also shown in Algorithm 1):

- 1. **Candidate set:** First, we retrieved the first hundred images by searching a person's name on Google Images. We used SerpAPI SerpApi (2024) as a wrapper perform the searches.
- 2. **Selecting from the candidate set:** Images retrieved from the internet are noisy and might not contain the person we are looking for. Therefore we filter images that contain the person from the candidate set of images. For this purpose, we use a face recognition model. We embed all the faces in the retrieved images using a face embedding model and measure the cosine similarity between each one of them. The goal is to search for a set of faces that belong to the same person and therefore will have a high cosine similarity to each other.

One strategy is for the faces to form a graph where the vertices are the face embeddings and the edges connecting two embeddings have a weight equal to the cosine similarity between them, and we select a dense k-subgraph (Lanciano et al., 2024) from this graph. Selecting such a subgraph means finding a mutually homogeneous subset. We can find the vertices of this dense k-subgraph by cardinality-constrained submodular function minimization (Bilmes, 2022; Nagano et al., 2011) on a facility location function (Bilmes, 2022). We run this minimization and select a subset of images (at least of size ten) that has the highest average cosine similarity between each pair of images.

3. **Manual verification:** Selecting the faces with the highest average similarity is not enough. This is because in many cases the largest set of faces in the candidate set are not of the person we look for, but for someone closely associated with them, in which case, the selected images are of the other person. For example, all the selected faces for *Miguel Bezos* were actually of *Jeff Bezos*. Therefore, we manually verify all the selected faces for each person. In the situation where the selected faces are wrong, we manually collect the images for them, for example, for Miguel Bezos. We collect at least 5 reference images for all celebrities.

Algorithm 1: Collection of Reference Images for Human Face Imitation

Input: Person's name P

Output: Verified Set of Images of P

 $1 images \leftarrow SerpAPI(P)$;

- ▶ Retrieve initial image set using SerpAPI
- 2 candidateSet ← Submodular_Minimization(images); ▷ Select candidate set using submodular minimization
- $sigma verifiedSet \leftarrow manualVerification(candidateSet); \triangleright Manually verify the candidate set$

Collection of Reference Images for Art Styles We collect reference images for each artist (each artist is assumed to have a distinct art style) from Wikiart, the online encyclopedia for art works. Since the art works of each artist were meticulously collected and vetted by the artist community, we consider all the images collected from Wikiart as the reference art images for that artist.

F $\,$ Implementation Details of MIMETIC 2 for Human Face Imitation

F.1 FILTERING OF TRAINING IMAGES

Images whose captions mention the concept of interest often do not contain it (as shown with Mary-Lee Pfeiffer in Figure 4). As such, we filter images where the concept does not appear in the image, which we detect using a dedicated classifier. In what follows we describe the filtering mechanism.

Collecting Reference Images:

We collect reference images for each person using SerpAPI as described in Appendix E. These images are the gold standard images that we manually vet to ensure that they contain the target person of interest (see Appendix E for the details). We use the reference images to filter out the images in the pretraining dataset that are not of this person. Concretely, for each person we use a face embedding model Deng et al. (2020) to measure the similarity between the faces in the reference images and the faces in the images from the pretraining datasets whose captions mention this person. If the similarity of a face in the pretraining images to any of the faces in the reference images is above a certain threshold, that face is considered to belong to the person of interest. We determine this threshold to distinguish faces of the same person from faces of different persons in the next paragraph. Note that



(b) Generated images of Samuel L. Jackson that show the model has captured a specific characteristic of his face (middle-aged, bald, with no or little beard).

Figure 8: Real and generated images of Samuel L. Jackson.

this procedure already filter outs any image that does not contain a face, because the face embedding model would only embed an image if it detects a face in that image.

Determining Filtering Threshold: The next step is to determine the threshold for which we consider two faces to belong to the same person. For this purpose, we measure the similarity between pairs of faces of the same person and the similarity between pairs of faces of different persons Since the reference images for each person is manually vetted to be correct, we use these images for this procedure. We plot the histogram of the average similarity between the faces of the same person (blue colored) and the similarity between faces of different persons (red colored) in Figure 7. We see that the two histograms are well separated, with the lowest similarity value between the faces of the same person being 0.56 and the highest similarity value between the faces of different persons being 0.36. Therefore any threshold value between 0.36 and 0.56 can separate two face of the same person, from the faces of different people. In our experiments, we use the midpoint threshold of 0.46 (true positive rate (tpr) of

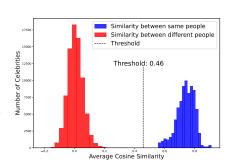


Figure 7: Average cosine similarity between the faces of the same people (blue colored) and of the faces of different people (red colored), measured across the reference images of the celebrities.

100%; false positive rate (fpr) of 0%) to filter any face in the pretraining images that do not belong to the person of interest. The filtering process gives us both the image frequency a person in the pretraining data, and the pretraining images that we compare the faces in the generated images to measure the imitation score.

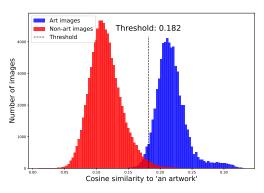
F.2 MEASUREMENT OF IMITATION SCORE

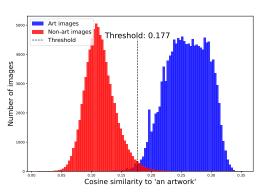
To measure the imitation between the training and generated images of a person, we compute the cosine similarity between the face embeddings of the faces in their generated images and their filtered training images from the previous step. However, measuring the similarity using all the pretraining images can underestimate the actual imitation. This is because several individuals have significant variations in their faces in the pretraining images and the text-to-image model does not capture all these variations. For example, consider the pretraining images of *Samuel L. Jackson* in Figure 8a. These images have significant variations in beard, hair, and age. However, when the text-to-image model is prompted to generate images of *Samuel L. Jackson*, the generated images in Figure 8b only show a specific facial characteristic of him (middle-aged, bald, with no or little beard). Since MIMETIC²'s goal is not to measure if a text-to-image model captures all the variations of a person, we want to reward the model even if it has only captured a particular characteristic (which it has in this case of *Samuel L. Jackson*). Therefore, instead of comparing the similarity of generated images to all the training images, we compare the similarity to only the ten training images that have the highest cosine similarity to the generated images on average.

G IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS OF MIMETIC² FOR ART STYLE IMITATION

G.1 FILTERING OF TRAINING IMAGES

For art style imitation, we consider each artist to have a unique style. We collect the images from the pretraining dataset whose captions mention the name of the artist whose art style imitation we want to measure. Similar to the case of human face imitation, we want to filter out the pretraining images of an artist that in reality was not created by that artist, but their captions mention them. We implement the filtering process in two stages. In the first stage, we filter out non-art images in the pretraining dataset (note that the captions of these images still mention the artist, but the images themselves are not art works) and in the second stage we filter out art works of other artists (the captions of these images mention the artist of interest and the image itself is also an art work, but by a different artist). The implementation details for each stage is as follows:





- (a) Histogram of the cosine similarity of embeddings of art and nonart images to embeddings of 'an artwork' for classical artists.
- (b) Histogram of the cosine similarity of embeddings of art and nonart images to embeddings of 'an artwork' for modern artists.

Figure 9: The first filtering step involves determining the threshold to distinguish between art and non-art images from the pretraining images, for which we compare the similarity of the image's embedding to the embedding of the text "an artwork".

Filtering Non-Art Images: To filter non-art images from the pretraining dataset, we use a classifier that separates art images from non-art images. Concretely, we embed the pretraining images using a CLIP ViT-H/14 Ilharco et al. (2021) image encoder and measure the cosine similarity of the image embeddings and the text embeddings of the string 'an artwork', embedded using the text encoder of the same model. Only when the similarity between the embeddings is higher than a threshold described below, we consider those pretraining images as an artwork. To determine this threshold, we choose a similarity score that separates art images from non-art images. We use the images from the Wikiarts dataset Saleh & Elgammal (2016) as the (positive) art images and MS COCO dataset images Lin et al. (2014) as the (negative) non-art images. Note that MS COCO dataset was collected by photographing everyday objects that art was not part of, making it a valid set of negative examples of art.

We plot the histogram of cosine similarity of the embeddings of art and non-art images to the text embedding of 'an artwork' (see Figures 9a and 9b. We observe that the art and non-art images both the artist groups are well separated (although not perfect, Figure 10 and Figure 11 shows examples of misclassified and correctly classfied images from both datasets). We choose the threshold that maximizes the F1 score of the separation (0.182 for the classical artists and 0.177 for the modern artists).

Filtering Images of Other Art Styles: Similar to the case of human faces, not all art images whose captions mention an artist were created by that artist. We want to filter out such images. For this purpose, we collect reference images for each artist (see Appendix E for details) and use them to classify the training images that belong to the artist of interest. Concretely, we measure the similarity between the pretraining images and the reference images of each artist, and only retain images whose similarity to the reference images is higher than a threshold.

To determine this threshold, we measure the similarity between pairs of art images of the same artists and pairs of art images from different artists. We embed the images using an art style embedding model Somepalli et al. (2024) and plot the histogram of similarities between art images of the same artist (blue colored) and art images of different artists (red colored) in Figure 12a for classical artists











(a) Images from the MS COCO dataset that were classified as art by the threshold we choose. These images clearly have paintings in them and therefore are classified in that category. These images were selected in MS COCO for different categories like scissors, chair, parking meter, and vase.











(b) Images from the Wikiarts dataset that were classified as non-art by the threshold we choose.

Figure 10: Images that are misclassified by our art vs. non-art threshold in Figure 9a.











(a) Images from the MS COCO dataset that were correctly classified as non-art.











(b) Images from the Wikiarts dataset that were correctly classified as art.

Figure 11: Images that are correctly classified by our art vs. non-art threshold in Figure 9a.

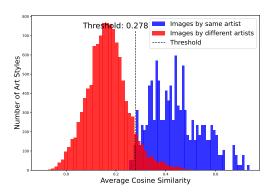
and Figure 12b for modern artists. We see that the two histograms are well separated (although not perfect, Figure 13 shows paintings by two artists whose art style is very similar and cannot be distinguished by our threshold). We choose the threshold that maximizes the F1 score of the separation between these two groups (0.278 for classical artists and 0.288 for modern artists). The retained images give us both the image counts of each artist and the training images that we compare to the generated images to measure the imitation score.

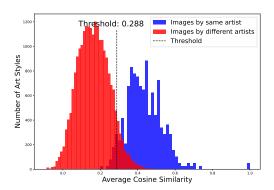
G.2 SIMILARITY MEASUREMENT

We embed all the generated images and the filtered pretraining images using the art style embedding model (Somepalli et al., 2024) and measure the cosine similarity between each pair of generated and pretraining images. Similar to the case of the human faces, we do not want to underestimate the art style similarity between the generated and training images by comparing the generated images to all the training images of this artist. Therefore, we measure the similarity of generated images to the ten training images that are on average the most similar to the generated images.

H IMITATION THRESHOLDS OF SD MODELS IN SERIES 1 AND 2

Our experimental results in Section 6 found that for most domains the imitation thresholds for SD1.1 and SD1.5 are almost the same, while being higher for SD2.1. We hypothesized that the difference is due to their different text encoders. All models in SD1 series use the same text encoder from CLIP, whereas SD2.1 uses the text encoder from OpenCLIP. To test the validity of this hypothesis, we repeated the experiments for all models in SD1 series for politicians and computed their imitation thresholds. Table 7 shows the thresholds for the politicians. We find that the imitation thresholds for all the models in SD1 series is almost the same, and is lower than the threshold for SD2.1 model. This evidence supports our hypothesis of the difference in the text-encoders being the main reason for the difference in the imitation thresholds.





- (a) Histogram of the average cosine similarity between embeddings of the images of the same artist (blue) and the art of different artists (red) for classical artists
- (b) Histogram of the average cosine similarity between embeddings of the images of the same artist (blue) and the art of different artists (red) for modern artists

Figure 12: The second filtering step involves determining the if an art work whose caption mentions an artist actually belongs to that artist or not.

















(b) Paintings made by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi

Figure 13: Paintings made by Kitagawa Utamaro and Tsukioka Yoshitoshi are very similar and our threshold is unable to distinguish between their styles.

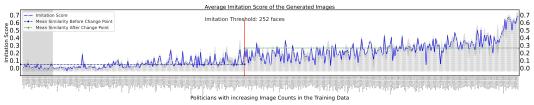


Figure 14: Human Face Imitation (Politicians): Similarity between the training and generated images for all politicians. The politicians with zero image counts are shaded with light gray. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using SD1.2. The change point for human face imitation for politicians when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at 252 faces.

Table 7: Imitation Thresholds for politicians for all models in SD1 series and SD2.1

Pretraining Dataset	Model	Human Faces 🧑: Politicians
	SD1.1	234
	SD1.2	252
LAION2B-en	SD1.3	234
	SD1.4	234
	SD1.5	234
LAION-5B	SD2.1	369



Figure 15: **Human Face Imitation (Politicians):** Similarity between the training and generated images for all politicians. The politicians with zero image counts are shaded with light gray. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.3**. The change point for human face imitation for politicians when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at **234 faces**.

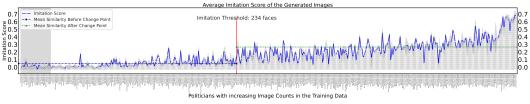


Figure 16: **Human Face Imitation (Politicians):** Similarity between the training and generated images for all politicians. The politicians with zero image counts are shaded with light gray. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.4**. The change point for human face imitation for politicians when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at **234 faces**.

I CHANGE POINTS

Table 8 we show all the change points that PELT found for each experiment (Table 3 reports the first change point as the imitation threshold).

J ALL RESULTS: THE Imitation Threshold

In this section, we estimate the imitation threshold for human face and art style imitation for three different text-to-image models. Figure 17, Figure 18, and Figure 19 show the image counts of celebrities on the x-axis (sorted in increasing order of image counts) and the imitation score of their generated images (averaged over the five image generation prompts) on the y-axis. The images were generated using SD1.1, SD1.5, and SD2.1 respectively. Similarity, Figure 20, Figure 21, and Figure 22 shows the image counts of the politicians and the imitation score of their generated images, for SD1.1, SD1.5, and SD2.1 respectively.

Figure 23, Figure 24, Figure 25 show the image counts of classical artists and the similarity between their training and generated images; and Figure 26, Figure 27, Figure 28 show the image counts of modern artists and the similarity between their training and generated images. The images were generated using SD1.1, SD1.5, and SD2.1 respectively.

Imitation Threshold Estimation for Human Face Imitation: In Figure 17, we observe that the imitation scores for the individuals with small image counts is close to 0 (left side), and it increases as the number of their image counts increase towards the right. The highest similarity is 0.5 and it is for the individuals in the rightmost region of the plot. The solid line in the plot shows the mean similarity over the five image generation prompt with the shaded area showing the variance over them. We observe a low variance in the imitation score among the generation prompts. And we also observe

Table 8: *Imitation Thresholds* for human face and art style imitation for the different text-to-image models and datasets we experiment with.

		Human Faces 🧑		Art Sty	de 📴
Pretraining Dataset	Model	Celebrities	Politicians	Classical Artists	Modern Artists
LAION2B-en	SD1.1 SD1.5	364 364, 8571	234 234, 4688	112, 391 112, 360	198 198, 4821
LAION-5B	SD2.1	527, 9650	369, 8666	185, 848	241, 1132



Figure 17: **Human Face Imitation (Celebrities):** Similarity between the training and generated images for all celebrities. The celebrities with zero image counts are shaded with light gray. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.1**. The change point for human face imitation for celebrities when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at **364 faces**.

that the variance does not depend on the image counts which indicates that the performance of the face recognition model does not depend on the popularity of the individual. The change detection algorithm finds the change point to be at 364 faces for human face imitation for celebrities, when using SD1.1 for image generation. Figure 18 shows the similarity between the training and generated images when images are generated using SD1.5. Identically to SD1.1, the change is detected at 364 faces for face imitation when using SD1.5. We also performed ablation experiments with different face embeddings models and justify the choice of our model (see Appendix L). For all the plots, we also analyze the trend by using isotonic regression which learns non-decreasing linear regression weights that fits the data best.

Imitation Threshold Estimation for Human Face Imitation (Politicians): Figure 20 shows the imitation scores for politicians which is very similar to the plot obtained for celebrities. We observe a low variance in the imitation score among the generation prompts. We also observe that the variance does not depend on the image counts which indicates that the performance of the face recognition model does not depend on the popularity of the individual. The change detection algorithm finds the change point to be at **234** faces for human face imitation for politicians, when using **SD1.1** for image generation. Figure 21 shows the similarity between the training and generated images when images are generated using **SD1.5**. Similar to SD1.1, the change is detected at **234** faces.

Imitation Threshold Estimation for Art Style Imitation: In Figure 23, we observe that the imitation scores for artists with low image counts have a baseline value around 0.2 (left side), and it increases as the number of their image counts increase towards the right. The highest similarity is 0.76 and it is for the artists in the rightmost region of the plot. We also observe a low variance across the generation prompts, and the variance does not depend on the image frequency of the artist. The change detection algorithm finds the change point to be at **112** images for art style imitation of classical artists, when using **SD1.1** for image generation. Figure 24 shows the similarity between the training and generated images when images are generated using **SD1.5**. Similar to SD1.1, the change is detected at **112** faces for art style imitation when using SD1.5. These thresholds are slightly higher for style imitation of modern artists, 198 for both SD1.1 and SD1.5.

K EXAMPLES OF OUTLIERS

Figure 29 and Figure 30 show examples of outliers of the first kind, where aliases of a celebrity leads to under counting of their images in the pretraining data.

Figure 31 and Figure 32 show examples of outliers of the first kind for artists, where aliases of an artist leads to under counting of their art works in the pretraining data.

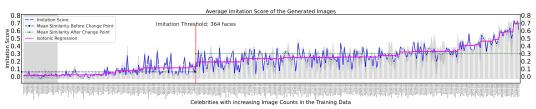


Figure 18: **Human Face Imitation (Celebrities):** similarity between the training and generated images for all celebrities. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.5**. The change point for human face imitation for celebrities when generating images using SD1.5 is detected at **364 faces**.

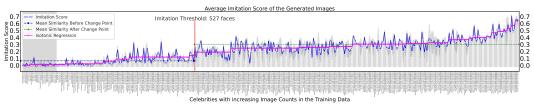


Figure 19: **Human Face Imitation (Celebrities):** similarity between the training and generated images for all celebrities. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD2.1**. The change point for human face imitation for celebrities when generating images using SD2.1 is detected at **527 faces**.

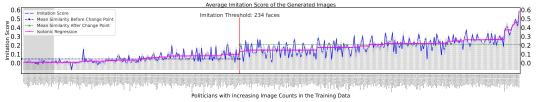


Figure 20: **Human Face Imitation (Politicians):** Similarity between the training and generated images for all politicians. The politicians with zero image counts are shaded with light gray. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.1**. The change point for human face imitation for politicians when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at **234 faces**.

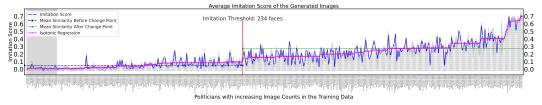


Figure 21: **Human Face Imitation (Politicians):** similarity between the training and generated images for all politicians. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.5**. The change point for human face imitation for politicians when generating images using SD1.5 is detected at **234 faces**.

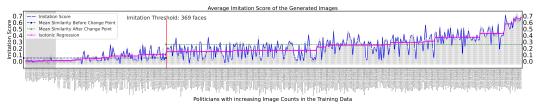


Figure 22: **Human Face Imitation (Politicians):** similarity between the training and generated images for all politicians. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD2.1**. The change point for human face imitation for celebrities when generating images using SD2.1 is detected at **369 faces**.

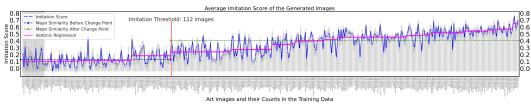


Figure 23: **Art Style Imitation (Classical Artists):** similarity between the training and generated images for **classical** art styles. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.1**. The change point for art style imitation when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at **112 images**.

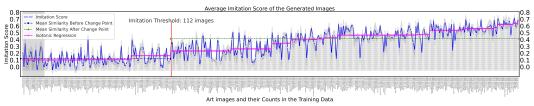


Figure 24: Art Style Imitation (Classical Artists): similarity between the training and generated images for classical art styles. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using SD1.5. The change point for art style imitation when generating images using SD1.5 is detected at 112 images.



Figure 25: Art Style Imitation (Classical Artists): similarity between the training and generated images for classical art styles. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using SD2.1. The change point for art style imitation when generating images using SD2.1 is detected at 185 images.

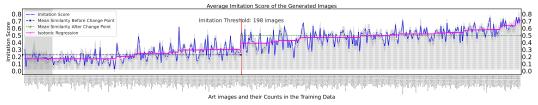


Figure 26: Art Style Imitation (Modern Artists): similarity between the training and generated images for modern art styles. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using SD1.1. The change point for art style imitation when generating images using SD1.1 is detected at 198 images.

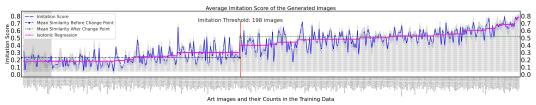


Figure 27: **Art Style Imitation (Modern Artists):** similarity between the training and generated images for **modern** art styles. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD1.5**. The change point for art style imitation when generating images using SD1.5 is detected at **198 images**.

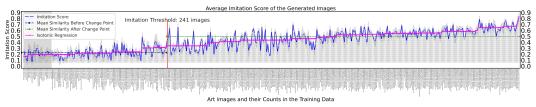


Figure 28: **Art Style Imitation (Modern Artists):** similarity between the training and generated images for **modern** art styles. We show the mean and variance over the five generation prompts. The images were generated using **SD2.1**. The change point for art style imitation when generating images using SD2.1 is detected at **241 images**.



Figure 29: **Outlier Category 1: DJ Kool Herc.** Clive Campbell is aliased as DJ Kool Herc, which leads to lower counts of his images in the dataset since MIMETIC² only collects images whose caption mentions DJ Kool Herc.



Figure 30: **Outlier Category 1: Summer Walker.** *Summer Marjani Walker* is aliased as *Summer Walker*, which leads to lower counts of her images in the dataset since MIMETIC² only collects images whose caption mentions *Summer Walker*.

L ABLATION EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT FACE EMBEDDING MODELS

In this section, we show the difference in the performance of several face embedding models and justify the choice of the final choice of our face embedding model. Face embedding models are evaluated using two main metrics: false-match rate (FMR) and true-match rate (TMR) (NIST, 2020). FMR measures how many times does a model says two people are the same when they are not and TMR measures how many times a model says two people are the same when they are the same. Ideally, a face embedding model should have low FMR and high TMR. An important variant of these

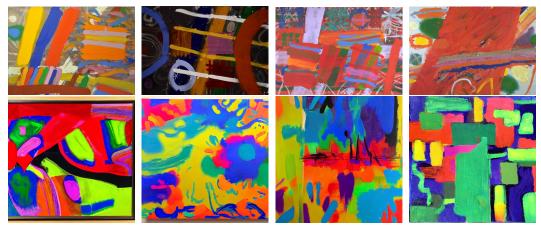


Figure 31: **Outlier Category 1: Albert Irwin.** Albert Henry Thomas Irvin is aliased as Albert Irwin, which leads to lower counts of his art images in the dataset since MIMETIC² only collects images whose caption mentions Albert Irwin.



Figure 32: **Outlier Category 1: Gustav Adolf Mossa.** *Gustav Adolf Mossa* is aliased just as *Mossa*, which leads to lower counts of his art images in the dataset since MIMETIC² only collects images whose caption mentions *Gustav Adolf Mossa*.

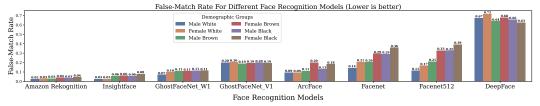


Figure 33: False-match rate (FMR) of all the face embedding models across the six demographic groups. Amazon Rekognition and InsightFace have the lowest FMR values. Moreover, these two models have lowest disparity of FMR over the demographic groups.

metrics is the disparity of FMR and TMR of a model across different demographic groups. Ideally, a model should have low disparity in these metrics across different demographics. We also focus on the variance of these metrics across demographics in making the final choice.

We evaluate the FMR and TMR of eight different face embedding models (seven open-sourced and one proprietary). The open-source models were chosen based on their popularity on Github (Serengil & Ozpinar, 2020; Deng et al., 2022; 2020), and we also experiment with Amazon Rekognition, a proprietary model. For evaluating the disparity of these metrics across different demographic groups

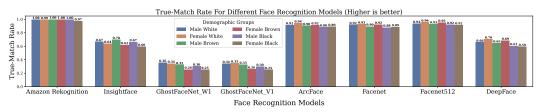


Figure 34: True-match rate (TMR) of all the face embedding models across the six demographic groups. Amazon Rekognition model has the highest TMR values.

we grouped celebrities in six demographic groups primarily categorized according to skin color tone (black, brown, and white) and perceived gender (male and female; for simplicity). Each of the six groups had 10 celebrities (a total of 60), with no intersection between them. The categorization was done manually by looking at the reference images of the celebrities. For each celebrity, we collect 10 reference images from the internet by using the procedure described in Appendix E. We use these images to compare the FMR and TMR of the face recognition models, as these images are the gold standard images of a person.

FMR Computation: We compute the mean cosine similarity between the face embeddings of one individual and the faces of all other individuals in that group, and repeat the procedure for all individuals in a demographic group.

TMR Computation: We compute the mean cosine similarity between the embeddings of all the faces of an individuals and repeat the procedure for all the individuals in a demographic group.

Figure 33 and Figure 34 shows the FMR and TMR for six demographic groups for all the face embedding models. All the open-sourced models, except InsightFace, either have a high disparity in FMR values across the demographic groups (ArcFace, Facenet, Facenet512, DeepFace) or have very low TMR (GhostFaceNet_W1, GhostFaceNet_V1). We choose InsightFace for our experiments because of it has 1) a low overall FMR, 2) decent TMR, 3) a low disparity of FMR and TMR across the demographic groups, and 4) is open-sourced. Having a low disparity of the metrics across individuals of different demographic groups is crucial for an accurate estimation of the imitation threshold. The Amazon Rekognition model would also be a viable choice based on these metrics, however, it is not open-sourced and therefore expensive for our experiments.

M COUNT DISTRIBUTION AND THE LIST OF SAMPLED ENTITIES FOR EACH DOMAIN

Table 9: Distribution of caption counts for sampled entities in celebrities, politicians, and art styles domains.

Caption Counts (LAION-2B)	Celebrities	Politicians	Classical Artists	Modern Artists
0	19	15	14	15
1-100	48	60	67	69
100-500	57	120	133	139
500-1K	52	80	62	62
1K-5K	151	65	63	64
5K-10K	19	40	39	32
> 10K	53	40	40	34

M.1 CELEBRITIES

We collect celebrities from https://www.popsugar.com/Celebrities and https://celebanswers.com/celebrity-list/. The distribution of the caption counts of the sampled celebrities is displayed in Table 9. The sampled celebrities in the descending order of their number of caption counts are:

Donald Trump, Kate Middleton, Abraham Lincoln, Johnny Depp, Stephen King, Anne Hathaway, Ben Affleck, Ronald Reagan, Oprah
Winfrey, Floyd Mayweather, Dwayne Johnson, Cameron Diaz, Cate Blanchett, Mark Wahlberg, Naomi Campbell, Nick Jonas, Jessica

Biel, Kendrick Lamar, Malcolm X, Steven Spielberg, Bella Thorne, Bob Ross, Jay Leno, David Tennant, Samuel L. Jackson, Jason

Statham, Mandy Moore, Victoria Justice, Scott Disick, Martin Scorsese, Ashley Olsen, Carey Mulligan, Greta Thunberg, Ashlee

Simpson, Kacey Musgraves, Kurt Russell, Felicity Jones, Saoirse Ronan, Sarah Paulson, Matthew Perry, Forest Whitaker, Brendon

Urie, Meg Ryan, Olivia Culpo, Joe Rogan, Sacha Baron Cohen, Terrence Howard, Natalie Dormer, Ansel Elgort, Nick Offerman,

Clive Owen, Rose Leslie, Sterling K. Brown, Cuba Gooding Jr., Kevin James, Marisa Tomei, Troye Sivan, Zachary Levi, Gwendoline

Christie, Hunter Hayes, Melanie Martinez, Joel McHale, Ross Lynch, Brody Jenner, Riley Keough, Robert Kraft, Ray Liotta, Eric

Bana, Mark Consuelos, Chris Farley, James Garner, Lauren Daigle, Lily Donaldson, Fenélope Cruz, Karen Elson, Joey Fatone,

 → Leslie Odom Jr., Jay Baruchel, Selita Ebanks, Lana Condor, Mackenzie Foy, Doja Cat, Skai Jackson, Sofia Hellqvist, Bernard
 → Arnault, Josh Peck, Lindsay Price, Phoebe Bridgers, Sarah Chalke, Alexander Skarsgård, Tai Lopez, Léa Seydoux, Cam Gigandet,
 → David Dobrik, Jacob Elordi, Omar Epps, Marsai Martin, Alyson Stoner, Dree Hemingway, Gregg Sulkin, Mamie Gummer, Allison
 → Holker, Chris Watts, Jacob Sartorius, Christine Quinn, Torrey Devitto, Alek Wek, Sandra Cisneros, Robert Irvine, Danielle
 → Fishel, Normani Kordei, Sam Taylor Johnson, Jessica Seinfeld, Rachelle Lefevre, Joyner Lucas, Jimmy Buffet, John Wayne Gacy,
 → Marvin Sapp, Ryan Guzman, Lindsay Ellingson, John Corbett, Michaela Coel, Hanne Gaby Odiele, Christiano Ronaldo, Scott
 → Speedman, Addison Rae, Justice Smith, Stella Tennant, Lindsay Wagner, AJ Michalka, Charles Melton, Patricia Field, Dan
 → Bilzerian, Annie Murphy, Michiel Huisman, Sara Foster, Diego Boneta, Danny Thomas, Oliver Hudson, Lauren Bushnell, Chris
 → Klein, Rodrigo Santoro, Luke Hemsworth, Rhea Perlman, Michael Peña, Jodie Turner-Smith, Trevor Jackson, Jenna Marbles, Bob
 → Morley, Zak Bagans, Liza Koshy, Steve Lacy, Nico Tortorella, Emma Corrin, Lo Bosworth, Quvenbané Wallis, Martin Starr, David
 → Muir, Beanie Feldstein, Lori Harvey, Eddie McGuire, Todd Chrisley, Dan Crenshaw, Amanda Gorman, Crystal Renn, Mark Richt,
 → Magdalena Frackowiak, Danielle Jonas, Liu Yifei, Sasha Pivovarova, Ashleigh Murray, Peter Hermann, Daria Strokous, Eddie Hall,
 → Hunter Parrish, Matt McGorry, Diane Guerrero, Simu Liu, Brady Quinn, Jill Wagner, Richard Rawlings, Sophia Lillis, Genesis
 → Rodriguez, Diane Ladd, Frankie Grande, Olivia Rodrigo, Anwar Hadid, Hannah Bronfman, Deana Carter, Tao Okamoto, Fei Fei Sun,
 → Taylor Tomasi Hill, Jared Followill, Marqherita Missoni, Elisa Sednaoui, Thomas Doherty, Bill Skarsg → Chamberlain, Lew Alcindor, Jenna Ortega, Phoebe Dynevor,
 Kim Zolciak-Biermann, Allison Stokke, Malgosia Bela, Isabel Toledo, Sydney Sweeney, Mat Fraser, Hunter McGrady, Ethan Suplee,
 → Tammy Hembrow, Ivan Moody, Danneel Harris, Marcus Lemonis, Hunter Schafer, Luka Sabbat, Sam Elliot, Kendra Spears, Stephen
 → Tammy Hembrow, Ivan Moody, Danneel Harris, Marcus Lemonis, Hunter Schafer, Luka Sabbat, Sam Elliot, Kendra Spears, Stephen
 → William Stephen, Sawa, Miles Heizer, Julia Stegner, Austin Abrams, Jacquetta Wheeler, Melanie Iglesias, Anna Cleveland, Eiza González, Grant
 → Achatz, Matt Stonie, Connor Cruise, Nicholas Braun, Dan Lok, Charli D'Amelio, Jeremy Bamber, Jim Walton, Matthew Bomer, Nicola
 ← Coughlan, Una Stubbs, Andrew East, Miles O'Brien, Mary Fitzgerald, Taylor Mills, Portia Freeman, Kate Chastain, David
 → Brinkley, Bregje Heinen, DJ Kool Herc, Barbie Ferreira, Paul Mescal, Forrest Fenn, Jamie Bochert, Yung Gravy, Daisy
 → Edgar-Jones, Dixie D'Amelio, Jordan Chiles, Bob Keeshan, Alexandra Cooper, Kyla Weber, Chase Stokes, Belle Delphine, Joanna
 → Hillman, Olivia O'Brien, Jillie Mack, Maggie Rizer, Sasha Calle, Tony Lopez, Danny Koker, Irwin Winkler, M.C. Hammer, Zack
 → Bia, Alexa Demie, Baitey Sarian, Yael Cohen, Angie Varona, Trevor Wallace, Madelyn Cline, Fred Stoller, Frank Sheeran, Albert
 → Lin, Sessilee Lopez, Zaya Wade, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, Madison Bailey, Will Reeve, Nick Bolton, Rege-Jean Page, Matthew
 → Garber, Yamiche Alcindor, Isaak Presley, Thandiwe Newton, Nicole Fosse, Shenae Grimes-Beech, Alex Choi, Scott Yancey, Ciara
 → Wilson, Lexi Underwood, Manny Khoshin, Ella Emboff, Cole LaBrant, Waper Carini, Greg Fishel, Ryan Upchurch, Marcus Freeman,
 → Danielle Cohn, Sue Alkens, Kyle Cooke, David Portnoy, Avani Gregg, Dan Peña, Quinton Reynolds, Eric Porterfield, Ayo Edebiri,
 → Skovbye,

M.2 POLITICIANS

We collect politicians from Wikipedia Wikipedia (2024). The distribution of the caption counts of the sampled politicians is given in Table 9. The sampled politicians in the descending order of their number of caption counts are:

Number of caption counts are:

Barack Obama, John Lewis, Theresa May, Narendra Modi, Kim Jong-un, David Cameron, Angela Merkel, Bill Clinton, Xi Jinping, Justin → Trudeau, Emmanuel Macron, Nancy Pelosi, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Ron Paul, Shinzo Abe, Adolf Hitler, John Paul II, Tony Blair, → Sachin Tendulkar, Nick Clegg, Newt Gingrich, Scott Morrison, Arvind Kejriwal, Ilham Aliyev, Jacob Zuma, Bashar al-Assad, Laura → Bush, Sonia Gandhi, Kim Jong-il, Robert Mugabe, James Comey, Rodrigo Duterte, Pete Buttigleg, Lindsey Graham, Hosni Mubarak, → Enda Kenny, Alexei Navalny, Rob Ford, Leo Varadkar, Evo Morales, Lee Hsien Loong, Henry Kissinger, Petro Poroshenko, Joko → Widodo, Clarence Thomas, Rishi Sunak, Mohamed Morsi, Ashraf Ghani, Martin McGuinness, Viktor Orban, Uhrur Kenyatta, Mike → Huckabee, Sheikh Hasina, Martin Schulz, Giuseppe Conte, John Howard, Benito Mussolini, Tulsi Gabbard, Dominic Raab, Michael D. → Higgins, François Hollande, Yasser Arafat, Mark Rutte, Mahathir Mohamad, Juan Manuel Santos, Abiy Ahmed, William Prince, Lee → Kuan Yew, Mikhail Gorbachev, Hun Sen, Jacques Chirac, Martin O'Malley, Benazir Bhutto, Yoshihide Suga, John Major, Muammar → Gaddafi, Jerry Springer, Sandra Day O'Connor, Madeleine Albright, Thomas Mann, Paul Kagame, Simon Coveney, Grant Shapps, → Sebastian Coe, Merrick Garland, Jean-Yves Le Drian, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Horst Seehofer, Liz Truss, Rowan Williams, Ellen → Johnson Sirleaf, George Weah, Mark Sanford, Yoweri Museveni, Luigi Di Maio, Ben Wallace, Herman Van Rompuy, Daniel Ortega, → Olaf Scholz, Beppe Grillo, Alassane Ouattara, Nicolás Maduro, Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani, Mary McAleses, Asif Ali Zardari, → Joseph Goebbels, Nikol Pashinyan, Deb Haaland, Paul Biya, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Thabo Mbeki, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Joseph → Muscat, Micheâl Martin, Rebecca Long-Bailey, Paschal Donohoe, Todd Young Jean-Marie Le Pen, Niko Griffin, Zoran Zaev, Pierre → Nkurunziza, Abhisit Vejjajiva, Maggie Hassan, Steven Chu, Juan Guaidó, Edi Rama, Mary Landrieu, Jyrki Katainen, Jens Spahn, → → Antonio Inoki, Tván Duque, CY Leung, Tom Tancredo, Sigrid Kaag, Ĵim Bolger, Lou Barletta, Li Peng, Laura Chinchilla, Gennady
 → Zyuganov, Chen Shui-bian,
 Sebastián Piñera, Gustavo Petro, Miguel Díaz-Canel, Alberto Fernández, Gerald Darmanin, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Joschka Fischer,
 → Maia Sandu, Ricardo Martinelli, Andrej Babiš, Dan Jarvis, Nikos Dendias, Chris Hipkins, Tawakkol Karman, Booch Gardner, Karin
 → Kneissi, Mobutu Sees Seko, Alexander Haig, Alexander De Croo, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Yasuo Fukuka, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, Jane
 → Ellison, Diane Dodds, Helen Whately, Idriss Déby, Patrice Talon, Carmen Calvo, Dario Franceschini, Emma Bonino, Richard
 → Ferrand, Andreas Scheuer, Moshe Katsav, K. Chandrashekar Rao, P. Harrison, Robert Habeck, Ann Linde, Jon Ashworth, Edward
 → Scicluna, Stef Blok, Lawrence Gonzi, William Roper, Josep Rull, Sam Kutesa, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, David Cairns, Ilir Meta,
 → Perry Christie, Rinat Akhmetov, Ahmet Davutoğlu, Franck Riester, Nikos Christodoulides, Damien O'Connor, Sali Berisha, Umberto
 → Bossi, Lee Cheuk-yan, Alpha Condé, Alexander Newman, Annette Schavan, Yuri Andropov, Peter Tauber, Faure Gnassingbé, Bolkian
 → of Brunei, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, Michael Brand, Helen Suzman, Ron Huldai, Mohamed Azmin Ali, François-Philippe
 → Champagne, Agostinho Neto, Marielle de Sarnez, Kurt Waldheim, Mounir Mahjoubi, Juan Crlando Hernández, Angela Kane, Lech
 → Walesa, Luis Lacalle Pou, Barbara Pompili, Margaritis Schinas, Tigran Sargsyan, Wolfgang Bosbach, Raed Saleh, Johanna Wanka,
 → Oppermann, Karine Jean-Pierre, Luciana Lamorgese, Azali Assoumani, Michael Adam, Paulo Portas, Svenja Schulze, Pita Sharples,
 → Choummaly Sayasone, Federico Franco, Félix Tshisekedi, Roberta Metsola, Nia Griffith, Paul Myners, Ahmad Vahidi, Kaja Kallas,
 → Hua Guofeng, Olga Rypakova, Otto Grotewohl, Audrey → Zyuganov, Chen Shui-bian,

→ Polo, Ljube Boškoski, Camelia Bogdănici, Józef Oleksy, Frederik François, Zbigniew Ćwiąkalski, Herbert Bösch, Metin Feyzioğlu, → Zoltán Illés. Vivi Friedout

M.3 CLASSICAL ARTISTS

We collected classical artists from the https://www.wikiart.org, a website that collects various arts from different artists and categorizes them into pre-defined art style categories. For classical artists, we collected the artist names from the art styles: *Romanticism, Impressionism, Realism, Baroque, Neoclassicism, Rococo, Academic Art, Symbolism, Cubism, Naturalism.* The distribution of the caption counts of the sampled artists is given in Table 9. The sampled artists in the descending order of their number of caption counts are:

Claude Monet, Rembrandt, Gustav Klimt, Edgar Degas, Caravaggio, William Blake, John James Audubon, Le Corbusies, Canaletto,
Peter Paul Rubens, John Singer Sargunt, Edgard Manet, John Milliam Materhouse, Alfred Sizley, Childe Hassam, Barthe Morisot,
Gustave Calilebotte, Henry Moore, Thomas Hardy, Johannes Vermeer, Jacques-Louis David, Odilon Redon, Thomas Cole, Thomas
Hardy, John Stand, James Hassot, William Bogarth, David Roberts, Thomas Gandroop, Anthony Van Dyck, Millam Reprolds, Obn Aktinson
Gramba, David James, James Rand, David Johnson, Prederic Edvis (Intern.), Jean-Leed Gerome, Eugene Merritt Chase, Caspar
Hardy Friedrich, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, George Stubbs, Georges Braque, Auguste Rodin, Joshus Reynolds, Obn Aktinson
Gramba, David James, James Mard, Dawid Johnson, Prederic Edvis (Intern.), Jean-Leed Gerome, Eugene Caractic, Rendroop
John Everett Millais, Thomas Lawrence, John Ruskin, John Russell, David Davies, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, George Henry, John
Martin, Frans Rials, Guido Reni, George Catin, Claude Dorrain, Anders Zont, Jesset Millcox Sink, John Coller, Beneri Fastin-Ladour, Jan Stene, Buyene Boudin, James Monell Mister, 1138 Replin,
William Renjami Mest, John Coller, Beneri Fastin-Ladour, Jan Stene, Buyene Boudin, James Monell Mister, 1138 Replin,
Frederick Morgan, Ivan Shishkin, George Morland, Food Madox Brown, Frans Snyders, John Joskson, Aelbert Cupy, Charles Willeam
Frederick Morgan, Ivan Shishkin, George Morland, Food Madox Brown, Frans Snyders, John Joskson, Aelbert Cupy, Charles Willeam
Francesco Hayer, Thomas Solly, Isaac Levitan, Robert Spencer, Karl Bodser, Alexandre Cabanel, McC. Wyoth, Anna Ancher, Carl
Francesco Hayer, Thomas Solly, Isaac Levitan, Robert Spencer, Karl Bodser, Alexandre Cabanel, McC. Wyoth, Anna Ancher, Carl
Francesco Hayer, Thomas Solly, Isaac Levitan, Robert Spencer, Karl Bodser, Alexandre Cabanel, McC. Wyoth, Anna Ancher, Carl
Francesco Hayer, Thomas Solly, Isaac Levitan, Robert Spencer, Karl Bodser, Alexandre Cabanel, McC. Wyoth, Anna Ancher, Carl
Roussea,

M.4 MODERN ARTISTS

We also collected modern artists from the https://www.wikiart.org. For modern artists, we collected the artist names from the art styles: *Expressionism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Art Informel, Post-Painterly Abstraction, Neo-Expressionism, Post-Minimalism, Neo-Impressionism, Neo-Romanticism, Post-Impressionism.* The distribution of the caption counts of the sampled artists is given in Table 9. The sampled artists in the descending order of their number of caption counts are:

```
Vincent Van Gogh, David Bowie, Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Keith Haring, Salvador Dali, Paul Gauguin, Camille

Pissarro, Paul Cezanne, Henri Marisse, Paul Klee, Francis Bacon, Edvard Munch, Amedeo Modigliani, Egon Schiele, Jean-Michel

Basquiat, David Lynch, Wassily Kandinsky, Peter Max, Roy Lichtenstein, Paul Reed, Franz Marc, David Smith, Mark Rothko,

Georges Seurat, Leroy Neiman, Joan Miro, Jackson Pollock, August Macke, Man Ray, Piet Mondrian, Cy Twombly, Henri De

Toulouse-Lautrec, Graham Bell, Paul Signac, Robert Indiana, Yayoi Kusama, Rene Magritte, Jasper Johns, Walter Crane, Robert

Morris, Emily Carr, Lucian Freud, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Tom Thomson, Anish Kapoor, Alex Katz, Pierre Bonnard, John Cage, Jim

Dine, Ellsworth Kelly, Peter Blake, William Scott, Erin Hanson, Marcel Duchamp, Frank Stella, Robert Motherwell, Max Weber,

Louise Nevelson, Peter Phillips, Willem De Kooning, Corneille, Wayne Thiebaud, Joan Mitchell, Jean Cocteau, Raoul Dufy, Antony

Gormley, Max Ernst, Alberto Giacometti, Vanessa Bell, Richard Diebenkorn, James Rosenquist, Edouard Vuillard, Richard

Hamilton, M.C. Escher, Sam Francis, Sean Scully, Anselm Kiefer, Edward Weston, Karel Appel, Philip Guston, Julian Schnabel,

Ray Parker, James Ensor, Balthus, George Segal, Francis Picabia, Emil Nolde, Georges Rouault, Alice Neel, Helen Frankenthaler,
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↔ Claes Oldenburg, Theo Van Rysselberghe, Maya Lin, Maurice Utrillo, Eric Fischl, H.R. Giger, Maurice Denis, Friedensreich → Claes Oldenburg, Theo Van Rysselberghe, Maya Lin, Maurice Utrillo, Eric Fischl, H.R. Giger, Maurice Denis, Friedensreich
 → Hundertwasser, Will Barnet, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Suzanne Valadon, Bruce Nauman, El Anatsui, Lee Krasner, Joseph Cornell,
 → Patrick Heron, James Brooks, Paula Rego, Paul Jenkins, Jules Pascin, Lyonel Feininger, Edward Ruscha, Norman Lewis, Barnett
 → Newman, David Park, Marie Laurencin, Rufino Tamayo, Chris Ofili, Lynd Ward, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Roger Fry, Remedios Varo,
 → Maxime Maufra, Paul Serusier, Jacob Epstein, Richard Deacon, Walter Stokert, Mark Tobey, Jan Toorop, Jacek Yerka, Red Grooms,
 → Ad Reinhardt, Eva Hesse, Oskar Kokoschka, Michael Sowa, Jean David, Sam Gilliam, Phyllida Barlow, Howard Finster, Augustus
 → John, Elaine De Kooning, Beauford Delaney, David Hammons, Erich Heckel, Amrita Sher-Gil, Arthur Lismer, Mona Hatoum, Etel
 → Adnan, Brion Gysin, John Chamberlain, Corita Kent, Allen Jones, Asger Jorn, Martin Kippenberger, George Tooker, Desmond
 → Morris, Wolf Kahn, Jay Defeo, Irma Stern, Walasse Ting, Emile Bernard, Kathe Kollwitz, Frank Bowling, John Heartfield, Auguste
 → Herbin, Frances Hodgkins, Meret Oppenheim, Andre Masson, Karl Schmidt-Kortluff, Hans Bellmer, Marino Marini, Morris Louis,
 → Pyotr Konchalovsky, Richard Artschwager, Louis Cane, Betty Parsons, Max Pechstein, Richard Pousette-Dart, Georges Lemmen, Cuno
 → Amiet, Louis Valtat, Kit Williams, Grace Cossington Smith, John Hoyland, Dennis Oppenheim, Lynda Benglis, James Lee Byars,
 → Boris Grigoriev, Lili Elbe, Victor Brauner, Adrian Ghenie, Gillian Ayres, Ossip Zadkine, Alice Bailly, Felix Gonzalez-Torres,
 → Johannes Itten, Charles Long, John Marin, Winifred Nicholson, Alfred Kubin, Charles Angrand, Zinaida Serebriakova, John Duncan
 → Fergusson, Norman Bluhm, → Fergusson, Norman Bluhm,
Harald Sohlberg, Zdzisław Beksinski, Barkley L. Hendricks, Bruno Schulz, Toyen, Pierre Alechinsky, Hippolyte Petitjean

Lorser Feitelson. Taro Yamamoto, Kazuo Shiraga, Alberto Burri, Anne Tr Harald Sohlberg, Zdzislaw Beksinski, Barkley L. Hendricks, Bruno Schulz, Toyen, Pierre Alechinsky, Hippolyte Petitjean,

→ Nicolas De Staël, Rainer Fetting, Hiro Yamagata, Lorser Feitelson, Taro Yamamoto, Kazuo Shiraqa, Alberto Burri, Anne Truitt,

→ Nicolas De Staël, Rainer Fetting, Hiro Yamagata, Lorser Feitelson, Taro Yamamoto, Kazuo Shiraqa, Alberto Burri, Anne Truitt,

→ Whitney, Ann Hamilton, John Brack, Jules-Alexandre Grun, Billy Apple, Eileen Agar, Benny Andrews, Moise Kisling, Edward

→ Wadsworth, Paul Thek, Audrey Flack, Allan D'Arcangelo, Rik Wouters, Charles Cottet, Gene Davis, Prudence Heward, Alexander

Liberman, David Batchelor, Tadanori Yokoo, Frederick Sommer, Hedda Sterne, Othon Friesz, Roderic O'Conor, Santiago Rusinol,

→ Richard Gerstl, Marianne Von Werefkin, Octavio Ocampo, Kay Sage, Jessica Stockholder, Gabriele Munter, Jean Benoit, May

→ Wilson, Jean Paul Lemieux, Jack Tworkov, Abraham Manievich, Perle Fine, Renato Guttuso, All Held, Martial Raysse, Le Pho,

→ Charles Reiffel, Bernard Cohen, Rosalyn Drexler, Ilya Mashkov, Jack Youngerman, Ernst Wilhelm Nay, Adja Yunkers, Leon

→ Spilliaert, Valerio Adami, Karl Benjamin, Luigi Serafini, Leon Polk Smith, Oswaldo Guayasamin, Blinky Palermo, Perdinand Du

→ Puigaudeau, Esteban Vicente, Matsutani, Oscar Dominguez, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Sergei Parajanov, Joy Hester, Forrest Bess, Taro

→ Okamoto, Maurice Tabard, Yiannis Moralis, Igor Grabar, Alex Hay, Albert Irvin, Amadeo De Souza-Cardoso, Robert Swain, Bradley

→ Walker Tomlin, Kishio Suga, Carlos Almaraz, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Dan Christensen, Cyril Power, Marcel Barbeau, Jeremy Moon,

→ Jorge Castillo, Josef Capek, Maggie Laubser, John Altoon, Albert Dubois-Pillet, William Baziotes, Joseph Marioni, Michael

→ Hafftka, Raoul Uboc, Tony Feher, Walter Battiss, Friedel Dzubas, Varlin, Alfred Manessier, Ron Gorchov, Tony Scherman, Alina

→ Szapocznikow, Nikolaos Lytras, Carl Holsee, Constantin Brâncuşi, Walter Osborne, Max Kurzweil, Jose Guerrero, Leon Underwood,

→ Istvan Nagy, Albert Bloch, Ward → Charles Gibbons, Thalia Flora-Karavia, Aldo Mondino, Pierre Daura, Josef Sima, Nikola Tanev, Konrad Klapheck, Theophrastos
 → Triantafyllidis, Edward Weie, Gerard Fromanger, Matthias Laurenz Gräff, Victor Servranckx, Istvan Parkas, Ramon Oviedo, Manabu
 → Mabe, Grégoire Michonze, Stanisław Ignacy Wittiewicz, Abidin Dino, Esteban Frances, Alberto Sughi, Olga Albizu, Behjat Sadr,
 → Jose De Guimaraes, Robert Nickle, Dale Hickey, Inigo Manglano-Ovalle, Antonio Carneiro, Horia Damian, Jacqueline Hick, Kuno
 → Gonschior, Huguette Arthur Bertrand, Ethel Léontine Gabain, Helen Dahm, Ion Nicodim, Lucy Ivanova, Gil Teixeira Lopes, Michel
 → Carrade, Florin Maxa, Jean-Paul Jerome, Vangel Naumovski, Graca Morais, Antonio Areal, Petros Malayan, Rodolfo Arico, Stefan
 → Sevastre, Johannes Sveinsson Kjarval, Ilka Gedo, Lucia Demetriade Balacescu, Natalia Dumitresco, Rene Bertholo, Vasile Kazar,
 → Petre Abrudan, Auval Coʻan, Tia Peltz, Alvaro Lapa → Petre Abrudan, Aurel Cojan, Tia Peltz, Alvaro Lapa

N COMPUTE USED

Estimated Computational Cost of the Optimal Experiment The computational cost to train the popular text-to-image model Stable Diffusion was \$600K (Bastian, 2022). For the optimal experiment, we would need to train $\mathcal{O}(\log m)$ models, where m is the total number of available images of a concept Z^j . So if a concept has 100,000 images, then we need to train $\log_2(100,000) = 16$ models to optimally estimate the imitation threshold, which would cost about \$10M.

MIMETIC²'s Computational Cost We use 8 L40 GPUs to generate images for the all text-to-image models in our work. Overall, we use them for 16 hours per prompt, per dataset, per model to generate images. We downloaded the images on the same machine using 40 CPU cores, a process that took about 8 hours per dataset. For generating the image embeddings, we use the same 8 L40 GPUs, a process that took about 16 hours per dataset. The computation of imitation score and plotting are done on single CPU core on the same machine, a process that takes less than 30 minutes per dataset.