Evaluating Data Attribution for Text-to-Image Models

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Abstract

While large text-to-image models are able to synthesize "novel" images, these images are necessarily a reflection of the training data. The problem of data attribution in such models – which of the images in the training set are most responsible for the appearance of a given generated image – is a difficult yet important one. As an initial step toward this problem, we evaluate attribution through "customization" methods, which tune an existing large-scale model toward a given exemplar object or style. Our key insight is that this allows us to efficiently create synthetic images that are computationally influenced by the exemplar by construction. With our new dataset of such exemplar-influenced images, we are able to evaluate various data attribution algorithms and different possible feature spaces. Furthermore, by training on our dataset, we can tune standard models, such as DINO, CLIP, and ViT, toward the attribution problem. Even though the procedure is tuned towards small exemplar sets, we show generalization to larger sets. Finally, by taking into account the inherent uncertainty of the problem, we can assign soft attribution scores over a set of training images.

1. Introduction

Contemporary generative models create high-quality synthetic images that are “novel”, i.e., different from any image seen in the training set. Yet, these synthetic images would not be possible without the vast training sets employed by the models. It is quite remarkable, yet poorly understood, how the generative process is able to compose objects, styles, and attributes from different training images into a coherent novel scene. Because of copyright and ownership of the training images, understanding the interplay between training data and generative model outputs has become increasingly necessary, both for scientific progress, as well as for practical or legal reasons.

There is a general agreement in the community that not all the billions of training images contribute equally to the appearance of a given synthesized output image. So, given a particular network output, can we identify the subset of training images that are most responsible for it? Even for image classifiers, this has remained an open, difficult machine learning problem. Approaches such as influence functions [34] (inspired by robust statistics), and training and analyzing many models on random subsets [17] (inspired by Shapley...
value from economics [60]), are difficult to scale even to modest dataset sizes, let alone the billions of images and parameters that make up modern generative models.

One potential approach that scales well is to run image retrieval in a pre-defined feature space, as, intuitively, synthesized images that are close to a particular training image are more likely to have been influenced by it. However, an out-of-the-box feature space, such as CLIP, is trained for a completely different task and is not necessarily suited for the attribution problem. How can we objectively evaluate which feature spaces are suitable for visual data attribution?

A considerable challenge is obtaining “ground truth” attribution data. No method exists for obtaining the set of ground truth training images that influenced a synthesized image. One way of searching influential images is to check if removing particular images during training will affect the model output. This approach for classifiers has been explored by Feldman and Zhang [17], where they define influence by training on different subsets of the dataset and analyzing the differences between the resulting models. However, this is computationally infeasible for generation, as training even a single model takes considerable resources, let alone the number of models needed to analyze billions of images. Instead, our work takes inspiration from this but establishes ground truth attribution in a tractable way.

To do this, we exploit a simple insight – by taking a pretrained generative model and tuning it toward a new exemplar image using “customization” methods [18, 53, 35] we can efficiently create synthesized images that are computationally influenced by the exemplar by construction (see Figure 1a). While such synthesized images are not only influenced by the exemplar, it serves as a noisy but informative ground truth, and sheds light on how a given training image can be composed into different possible synthesized images.

We create a large dataset of pairs of exemplar and synthesized images using Custom Diffusion [35]. We use both exemplar objects (from ImageNet) and styles (from BAM-FG [54] and Archive [22]). Given a synthesized image, the exemplar image, and other random training images from the training set, a strong attribution algorithm should choose the exemplar image over most of the other distractor images.

We leverage this dataset to evaluate candidate retrieval feature spaces, including self-supervised methods [8, 11, 49], copy detection [47], and style descriptors [54]. Furthermore, our dataset can be used to tune the feature spaces to be better suited for the attribution problem through a contrastive learning procedure. Finally, we can estimate the likelihood of a candidate image being the exemplar image by taking a thresholded softmax over the retrieval score. Though our ground truth dataset is of a single image, this enables us to rank and obtain a set of soft attribution scores, assessing “influence” over multiple candidate training images. While we train and evaluate for attribution on exemplar-based customization (1-10 related images), we demonstrate that the method generalizes even when tuning on larger sets (100-1000 random, unrelated images), suggesting applicability to the general, more challenging data attribution problem.

To summarize our contributions: 1) We propose an efficient method for generating a dataset of synthesized images paired with ground-truth exemplar images that influenced them. 2) We leverage this dataset to evaluate candidate image retrieval feature spaces. Furthermore, we demonstrate our dataset can improve feature spaces through a contrastive learning objective. 3) We can softly assess influence scores over the training image dataset. Our code, model, and dataset are released at: https://peterwang512.github.io/GenDataAttribution.

2. Related Work

Deep generative models. Deep generative models aim to learn a distribution from a training set [20, 33, 14, 42, 51, 16]. Recently, diffusion models [63, 65, 28, 66, 13] have become the de facto method for generating images. Adapting such models to text-to-image synthesis [52, 40, 41] has produced a rash of models of amazing quality and diversity, including Imagen [56] and DALL·E-2 [50]. Such models can serve as a high-quality image prior for image editing [3, 26, 31, 68, 46, 38]. Additionally, of special interest to our attribution method is algorithms that quickly customize a pretrained model towards an additional exemplar or concept [53, 18, 35], though our method applies to all model types at a high level, we specifically study the open-source Stable Diffusion model [52], as we have direct access to the model.

Model attribution. Given a synthetic image, recent works seek to identify which model they came from [71, 4, 59, 37] or can represent it [36], known as model attribution. From there, identifying what images are in the training set of the model is known as membership inference (attack). This is an open problem, actively being explored for both discriminative [55, 62, 29] and generative models [23, 27, 9, 7]. In our work, we assume the origin of a synthetic image is known and take this a step further. We aim to attribute the specific training data elements that made it possible.

Influence estimation in discriminative models. An important related line of work is the field of influence functions, seeking to explain how each training point affects a model’s output. In their seminal work, Koh and Liang [34] explore this in the context of discriminative models, estimating the influence of up- or down-weighting a point on the objective function. This requires creating a Hessian the size of the parameters, and later work seeks to make the problem more tractable [32, 21, 57, 1, 45].

Several works aim to measure the Shapley value of data-points [60], a landmark concept from economics and game theory, which is the average expected marginal contribution
of one player after all possible combinations have been considered [19, 30]. For example, Feldman and Zhang [17] train on random subsets, assessing a training point by computing the objective score of models with and without the point. Pruthi et al. [48] explore tracing the loss function as the model sees each training sample, positing that decreases in training objective on a test point explains the causal effect of a given training point. These works focus on discriminative models, whereas we work with generative ones.

Unfortunately, training large generative models even once is prohibitively expensive (except for the most well-funded organizations), let alone the many times required to estimate the value of each training point. Our method is inspired by these previous works, aiming to overcome the fundamental difficulties in translating them into the space of large generative models. Instead of analyzing training influences post-hoc, which is currently intractable, our key idea is to simulate ground truth directly by adding exemplar influences.

**Replication detection.** A special case where training images have an outsized influence is if a synthesized image is a “copy”. Even in human-created art, common patterns can be reused, for example, common elements in paintings [61], or animation patterns in movies [70]. As exact bit-wise matches are unlikely to occur and the space of synthesized and training images is large, several works [64, 6] aim to efficiently mine for approximate matches. In such special cases, influence is near 100% for a single training image. Our work aims to assess the influence over the whole training set in general cases even when the synthesized image is not a direct copy.

**Representation learning.** Advances in self-supervised learning have produced strong representations, learned from large-scale data with weak or no supervision [49, 8, 24, 67, 10, 39]. These advancements have produced feature representations that are useful for downstream recognition tasks [25]. We study if such candidate image representations are suited for the problem of attribution and improve them by using contrastive learning on our data.

### 3. Creating an attribution dataset

We take the first step to define, evaluate, and learn data attribution for large-scale generative models. Given a dataset \(D = \{(x, c)\}\), containing images \(x \in \mathcal{X}\) and conditioning text \(c\), the generative model training process seeks to train a generator \(G : (z, c) \rightarrow x\), where \(z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)\) and sampled image \(x\) is drawn from the distribution \(p(x|c)\). We denote \(\mathcal{X}\) as the original training set (e.g., LAION) and the training process as \(T : D \rightarrow G\).

#### 3.1. “Add-one-in” training

We perturb the training process by training a generator with an added concept, which can contain one or several images and one prompt \(D^+ = \{(x^+, c^+)\}\). This produces a new generator: \(G^+ = T^+ (D, D^+)\), where \(T^+\) stands for pre-training on \(D\) and then fine-tuning on \(D^+\).

As training a new generator from scratch for each concept would be prohibitively costly, we use Custom Diffusion [35], an efficient fine-tuning method (6 minutes) with low storage requirements (75MB). This method presents an efficient approximation in terms of runtime, memory, and storage and enables us to scale up the collection of models and images in a tractable manner. We sample from the new generator:

\[
\tilde{x} = G^+(z, C(e^+)),
\]
where function $C$ represents the prompt engineering process for generating a random text prompt related to the concept $c^+$. We also denote the exemplar set as $\mathcal{X} = \{x^+\}$ and the synthesized images set as $\hat{\mathcal{X}} = \{\hat{x}\}$. We describe the dataset selection process next.

**Dataset curation.** With infinite compute, we could exhaustively sample from the original training set $\mathcal{D}$ and sample infinite, random prompts from those models. However, this approach is not computationally tractable for large datasets such as LAION 5B [58]. Also, random images in LAION can contain arbitrary, noisy prompts, making identifying related prompts non-trivial. Therefore, to create a clean dataset, we choose a set of images for which we can identify clean concept names and designate related prompts.

We create two groups of models to measure different aspects of generation: (1) Object-centric models: we add an exemplar object instance of a known category, using a single training exemplar. (2) Artistic style-centric models: we add an exemplar style defined by a small image collection. For each group, we create two separate sets, enabling us to test out-of-distribution generalization when tuning representations on our dataset.

Figure 2 shows samples of our dataset and prompts, and Table 1 summarizes the dataset statistics. Next, we describe our dataset composition and prompt engineering strategies.

### 3.2. Object-centric models

We use the validation set of ImageNet-1K [12], a clean choice for training customized models and generating prompts, thanks to its annotated class labels and highly diverse categories. During training, we take a single image of a given category and train with the text prompt “V cat”, where cat is the broader category of the image and V is a token, used by Custom Diffusion [35] to associate to the input exemplar. We train each Custom Diffusion model on a single exemplar image and only use the category names for prompt engineering during training and synthesis time. We also manually remove categories where Custom Diffusion does not generate samples that match the exemplar faithfully.

As summarized in the first row of Table 1, we select 6930 images from 693 ImageNet classes (10 images/class), where customized models generate the inserted concept more faithfully. Of these, we build two sets – (1) Seen classes: we select 593 images from 593 classes, with the images divided to train (80%), val (10%), and test (10%). The train and val set can be later used to tune attribution models. (2) Unseen classes: to facilitate out-of-distribution testing, we hold out the classes from ImageNet-100, each containing 10 instance models, making 1000 models total.

**Prompt-engineering for objects.** Next, we leverage the fine-tuned models $G^+$ to generate images related to the inserted concept. We use two methods to generate the inserted concept, with a diverse set of scenarios. First, we query ChatGPT [44] for prompts containing the object instance. Such prompts will generate the object in different poses, locations, or performing different actions, e.g., “The V+ cat groomed itself meticulously”.

The ChatGPT-based method generates diverse prompts that would be difficult to hand-query for hundreds of classes. However, such prompts tend to retain the same photorealistic appearance, while text-to-image models can also generate concepts in different stylized appearances. As such, we procedurally generate prompts for the object depicted in different mediums. For example, “A <medium> of V+ cat”, using mediums such as “watercolor painting, tattoo, digital art”, etc.

For each model, we have 12-60 prompts, with 3-4 samples/prompt, resulting in 80-220 synthesized images per model. Details are shown in Table 1. In total, we generate

<table>
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<th>Property</th>
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<th>Unseen</th>
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<th>BAM-FG</th>
<th>Archive</th>
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<td>36,250</td>
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<td>28,464</td>
<td>47,440</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>119,9584</td>
<td>2,969,960</td>
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</table>

Table 1: Dataset statistics. We tune Custom Diffusion models on objects and artistic sets. In total, we train >18,000 models and draw >4M samples. To draw samples, we use ChatGPT for each category and procedural generation (mixing object-centric models with a bank of different styles, and style-tuned models with a bank of objects) to generate prompts. Note that we take special care to create distinct training and testing distributions. We avoid overlapping ImageNet classes for objects and overlapping data sources for artistic models. We use a distinct set of prompts for testing. ChatGPT-generated prompts are per-category (e.g., cat, dog, etc.) for objects and shared across artistic styles. Distinct, procedural prompts are used for out-of-distribution models.
> 1M training images and 47,440 and 80,000 for in and out-of-distribution testing, respectively. Note that we use separate prompts for the out-of-distribution test set.

### 3.3. Artistic-style models

To train artistic-style models, we use images from two sources: (1) BAM-FG (Behance Artistic Media - Fine-Grained dataset) [54] – a dataset drawn from groups of images from Behance, validated to be of the same “style” grouped by users. We select the subset of BAM-FG with the highest user consensus. (2) Artchive [22], a website with collections of paintings by well-known artists, such as Cezanne, Botero, and Millet. We train each model on images of the same style or by the same artist, with the text prompt “A picture in the style of V art”.

In total, we collect 11,107 models from BAM-FG and 255 models from Artchive, with each model tuned on 7.35 and 12.1 images on average, respectively. We split the BAM-FG models into 10,607 for training, 250 for validation, and 250 for testing. All 255 Artchive models are used for testing.

**Prompt-engineering for styles.** We aim to generate synthetic images with high diversity, in relation to the concept style. First, we use ChatGPT to sample 50 painting captions and create prompts such as “The magic of the forest in the style of V art”. To generate diverse objects, we specify 40 different objects, such as flowers and rivers, to procedurally prompts in the form of “A picture of <object> in the style of V art” for BAM-FG or “A painting...” for Artchive models.

For testing, we hold out 10 prompts from each prompting scheme and use the rest for training and validation. As Artchive is from a different data source, and these prompts are distinctly held out, this serves as an out-of-distribution test set when training on the BAM-FG data. In practice, we use a subset of training prompts for validation.

**Summary.** In total, we generate >1M images from 7000 object-centric models and almost 3M images from >11,000 artistic style models. We split these into out-of-distribution test sets, by using different data sources and held-out prompts. We also manually select plausible ChatGPT-generated prompts during data curation. We provide example ChatGPT queries, a list of our prompts, and more detailed dataset statistics in supplement. Next, we evaluate different feature spaces and then improve the features for attribution.

### 4. Evaluating and training for attribution

We have defined a process for creating a dataset of \(N\) models, containing paired sets of exemplar training images \(\mathcal{X}_i^+\) and influenced synthetic images \(\tilde{\mathcal{X}}_i\), taking into account the generative modeling training process. Next, we aim to learn the inverse – predicting corresponding influencing set \(\mathcal{X}_i^+\) from a generated image \(\tilde{x}\).

![Contrastive Learning Across Two Views](image)

**Figure 3:** Training for attribution. We use contrastive learning to learn a linear layer \(h\) on top of an existing feature space \(F_{base}\), using our attribution dataset. The embedding learns high similarity for corresponding training and synthesized images, in contrast to non-corresponding images from the dataset.

#### 4.1. Evaluating existing features

We first note that a feature extractor \(F\) well-suited for attribution would place images in \(\mathcal{X}_i^+\) with higher similarity to \(\tilde{x}\), as compared to the other random images in \(\mathcal{X}\), which is the dataset used to pretrain the model:

\[
sim(F(x^+), F(\tilde{x})) > \sim(F(x^-), F(\tilde{x})),
\]

where \(\tilde{x} \in \tilde{\mathcal{X}}_i\), \(x^+ \in \mathcal{X}_i^+\) and \(x^- \in \mathcal{X}\). Again, \(\mathcal{X}\) denotes the original training set (e.g., LAION). This allows us to evaluate data attribution with standard information retrieval protocols. In Section 5, we evaluate candidate feature spaces (e.g., CLIP [49], DINO [8]), to see which ones are more suited out-of-the-box for data attribution. While these features serve as a reasonable baseline and perform well above chance, assessing visual similarity is not equivalent to attributing data influence. Next, we learn a better function for data attribution by finetuning pretrained features on our dataset.

#### 4.2. Learning features for attribution

Our dataset consists of paired views of training and synthesized sets. This lends itself naturally to contrastive learning [43, 67] to capture the association between the two views.

**Contrastive learning.** We apply a frozen, pretrained image encoder \(F_{base}\) along with light mapping functions \(h, \tilde{h}\), creating feature extractors \(F = h \circ F_{base}\), \(\tilde{F} = \tilde{h} \circ F_{base}\). We apply the commonly used NT-Xent (normalized temperature
The loss encourages feature similarity $t_j^s_i$ to be large for positive pairs $(i = j)$ and small otherwise $(i \neq j)$. Here, negatives are drawn from other exemplar images $\cup X$ and small otherwise $(i \neq j)$. Here, negatives are drawn from other exemplar images $\cup X$.

**Regularization.** We experiment with different mapping functions and find that affine mapping performs the best. We denote the affine mappings as $H(x) = Wx + b$ and $\tilde{H}(x) = \tilde{W}x + \tilde{b}$, where $W, \tilde{W}$ are square matrices. We find that directly optimizing with $L_{\text{cont}}$ leads to overfitting, so we regularize the mapping and add it to define the following attribution loss:

$$L_{\text{attribution}} = E_x[L_{\text{cont}}] + \lambda_{\text{reg}} L_{\text{reg}},$$

$$L_{\text{reg}} = \frac{1}{2} \left( ||W^T W - I||_F + ||\tilde{W}^T \tilde{W} - I||_F \right).$$

We set $\lambda_{\text{reg}} = 0.05$. Figure 3 summarizes the learning procedure. More training details are in the supplement.

**Extracting soft influence scores.** From the learned feature similarities, we obtain a soft probabilistic influence score $\hat{P}(x; \tilde{x}; \mathcal{X}^+ \cup \mathcal{X}^*)$, which indicates how likely a candidate $x$ is in the influencing set $\mathcal{X}^+$ for synthetic content $\tilde{x}$. The ground truth influence is split amongst the exemplars $S(x; \tilde{x}) = \sum_{x^+ \in \mathcal{X}^+} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{1}_{(x \in x^+)}$. We optimize the KL divergence:

$$\min_{P} E_{x} D_{\text{KL}} \left[ S(x; \tilde{x}) \| \hat{P}(x; \tilde{x}; \mathcal{X}^+ \cup \mathcal{X}^*) \right]$$

This resembles our retrieval objective (Equation 3). As such, images retrieved with higher similarities $s \equiv F(x) \top \tilde{F}(x)$ should have higher score. Our job is simply to monotonically map similarity scores, ordered as $s_{(0)} \geq s_{(1)} \geq \cdots \geq s_{(||X^+ \cup X^*||)}$, to well-calibrated probabilities. To do this, we use an exponential (with learned temperature $\tau$), ReLU (with learned offset $\lambda$), and normalize.

$$\hat{P}_{\tau, \lambda}(x; \tilde{x}; \mathcal{X}^+ \cup \mathcal{X}^*) = \frac{\text{ReLU}(\exp([s - s_{(0)})/\tau] - \lambda))}{\sum_j \text{ReLU}(\exp([s_{(j)} - s_{(0)})/\tau] - \lambda))},$$

Note that without the ReLU, this is simply a softmax function. The ReLU enables the optimization to learn to assign zero probability to low-influence images. During optimization, we approximate ReLU with softplus for training stability. We also subtract the similarity score by the maximum $s_{(0)}$ to apply thresholding at a similar scale across instances. Figure 4 demonstrates the effectiveness of our calibration, relative to default temperature $\tau = 1$ and no thresholding. Additional details are in the supplement.

**Summary.** Our data curation process (Section 3) is a forward influence-generation process, generating synthesized images through the customization process $T^+$. In this section, we learn to reverse – first by training a feature extractor to retrieve $\mathcal{X}^*$ from $\tilde{x}$. Then, by taking a calibrated softmax over the similarities scores, we estimate probability $\hat{P}_{\tau, \lambda}$ for which images were in the exemplar training set.

**5. Experiments**

**Metrics and test cases.** We evaluate attribution with two metrics: (1) Recall@K: proportion of influencers $\mathcal{X}^*$ in top-K retrieved images, (2) mAP: a ranking-based score to evaluate the overall ordering of retrieval. To evaluate our method efficiently, we retrieve from a union of the added concepts and a random 1M subset of LAION-400M. We have 8 test cases separated from our train and val set, each with 2 prompting schemes per split and 4 different test splits. We calculate the average metrics over queries for each test case and average the metric across test cases when reporting numbers for broader categories such as style-centric models.

We test several image encoders, including self-supervised (DINO [8], MoCo v3 [11]), language-pretrained (CLIP [49]), supervised (ViT [15]), style descriptor (ALADIN [54]), and copy detection (SSCD [47]) methods. For DINO, MoCo, CLIP, and ViT, we use the same ViT-B/16 architecture for a fair comparison. We evaluate the encoded features, with and without our learned linear mapping. We train mappers with (1) object-centric models only, (2) style-centric models only, and (3) both. We report R@10 in the main text and include other metrics in the supplement, as trends are consistent across metrics. Figure 5 shows results for different types of customized models and prompting schemes, and Figure 8 shows performance in object-centric and style-centric models, separately across different models.

**What feature encoder to start with?** We study which features are suitable for data attribution. Figure 5 shows that ImageNet-pretrained encoders (DINO, ViT, MoCo) perform better in object-centric models. This indicates a smaller domain gap leads to better attribution of objects, since the
We show performance on artistic-style models on (y-axis) vs. object-centric models (x-axis). We first evaluate pretrained feature spaces. All three variants of CLIP and the object-centric model of DINO lie on the Pareto front. (Right) We show the performance, broken up by (right) – plotted on the y-axes. Almost all points move up and to the right, indicating successful out-of-domain generalization.

We study the effects of different design choices, averaged across all test cases. (Left) Training with regularization is critical for improving performance. (Middle) Linear layer mapping works the best. (Right) Mild augmentation performs slightly stronger than strong augmentation.

For artistic styles, while pretrained models perform well above chance (baseline Recall@10 = 10 / 1M = 10^{-5}), the attribution scores are lower, indicating a more challenging task. The performance gap in different pretrained features is smaller for style-centric models (0.17-0.23) than for object-centric models (0.19-0.55).

Interestingly, the style descriptor model ALADIN performs worse than ViT and DINO, and CLIP, even for artistic styles. We also observe that SSCD features, aimed at copy detection, do not perform well for data attribution, where synthesized images can vary drastically. This indicates that general features trained on large-scale datasets generalize to attribution more strongly than specialized features.

Finetuning models. Next, we evaluate how well training on object-centric and/or artistic-style variants of our data performs on those axes. As shown in Figure 5, interestingly, though specializing in one aspect (object or artistic style) usually leads to stronger performance on that axis, it also usually leads to performance on the other axis. Combining the two leads to consistent gains in both.

At the Pareto frontier, the DINO model, already strong on object performance, is further strengthened when training on our object attribution dataset. Interestingly, the CLIP model is not on the Pareto frontier of pretrained models, but receives a large boost when a linear layer is trained on top with our attribution data, with all 3 variants on the frontier. Figure 8 shows qualitative examples that demonstrate the improved retrieval performance for finetuned CLIP and DINO attribution models, trained on both the objects and artistic-style variants.

Different types of prompts. We study the performance when testing on different types of prompts and report results in Figure 5. For object-centric models, attribution works well overall for GPT-prompted images, whereas it is more challenging to attribute media-prompted images which induce stylistic variations. For example, attribution becomes more ambiguous given a query such as “A charcoal painting of a bird”, since either charcoal painting or realistic bird images are reasonable attributions.

Style-centric models face a similar challenge in both prompt types, as they generate samples with the same style but different content. However, finetuning improves the pretrained features across categories, indicating learning on our dataset is a step toward better attribution in these settings.

Out-of-domain test cases. Figure 6 compares performance...
Figure 8: **Qualitative comparison.** For a given synthesized sample, obtained by training on an image of an acorn squash (top) and paintings by Alfred Sisley (bottom), our fine-tuned attribution method improves the ranking and influence score of the exemplar training image.

Figure 9: **Attributing Stable Diffusion Images.** We run our influence score prediction function with CLIP, tuned on our Object+Style attribution datasets. In each row, we show a generated sample query (Left), and the top attributed training images from LAION-400M (Right). Green values are calibrated influence percentage scores.

Ablation studies. We report the effect of different mapping functions, regularization, and augmentation strategies for finetuning in Figure 7. We find that regularization alleviates overfitting, linear mapping works the best, and augmentation strength has a minor effect on performance. More details are included in the supplement.

Soft influence scores. We calculate the soft influence score described in Section 4.2. The green text in Figure 8 shows the influence scores assigned to each training image. Empirically, we find that calibrating the temperature of the softmax is necessary. Since the range of the cosine similarity is small \((-1, 1]\), assigning influence scores with default temperature \((\tau = 1)\) leads to scores with insignificant variances \(< 0.0003\%\) for all training data. After calibration, related concepts obtain significantly higher influence scores. We provide further analysis in the supplement.

Towards general data attribution. So far, we have evaluated and learned attribution from “add-one-in” customized models. Does this protocol generalize to the general data attribution problem? To study this, instead of tuning towards a small set of images representing a single concept, we fine-tune with larger sets containing multiple, unrelated images.
We draw from subsets of MSCOCO [5], which provides multiple text captions for each image. We use one caption for fine-tuning, holding the rest to synthesize images for testing. For each synthesized sample, we test whether our method can retrieve the ground truth finetuning MSCOCO images $\lambda^+$ from $\lambda^+ \cup \lambda$, where $\lambda$ denotes LAION images.

We show results in Figure 10 for sets of size 1, 10, 100, and 1000. For most cases, (1) evaluation performance on our add-one-in models correlates with those on MSCOCO models, and (2) features tuned on our dataset (object-centric or both object+style) also improve attribution on MSCOCO models. This indicates that encouragingly, exemplar-based attribution is able to extrapolate to a more general setting. However, when there are more images (e.g., 1000), the correlation with our benchmark performance is less prominent. This suggests a gap remains between attributing exemplar models and assessing general attribution. Also, we note that plenty of headroom remains for improving attributing MSCOCO models. Additional details are in the supplement.

**Qualitative results on Stable Diffusion** We apply our fine-tuned features to attribute Stable Diffusion images, collected from DiffusionDB [69]. We run attribution on the full set of LAION-400M. Results are shown in Figure 9. Our finetuned features assign high attribution scores to related concepts (e.g., characters in console games, paintings of Last Supper), and we note that LAION-400M contains more images with a similar concept, and the attribution scores are shared more evenly across such images.

### 6. Discussion and Limitations

Large visual generative models have not only captured the imagination of the public, but also have spawned new startups, products, and ecosystems. As such, the sourcing of training images has brought forth important social and economic issues. A method that fairly attributes the training images opens potential possibilities where creators can be incentivized and rewarded for providing data. There are good initial attempts to address data attribution [2], and our work fills the gap by developing benchmarks to make a step toward understanding the training process and validating future attribution methods.

**Limitations.** While our method analyzes full images, tackling attribution in a compositional manner remains an open challenge. Even for full images, it is difficult to customize models on arbitrary images, for example, images on LAION with unusual accompanying text prompts. Additionally, images from pre-training, rather than just the exemplar, also exert influence, resulting in label noise. However, as customization guarantees the exemplar influence is “upweighted”, our dataset is useful for attribution in the aggregate.

While we train for attribution through customization, there is a domain gap to the ultimate goal of attribution for large-scale training, such as the distribution of exemplar images and selected prompts. Additionally, there is a trade-off between balancing exemplar influence while retaining sample diversity, and we follow best practices from Custom Diffusion [35]. While many open challenges are left to explore in data attribution, we provide a meaningful first step toward benchmarking and understanding this area.

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