



RelaxLoss: Defending Membership Inference Attacks without Losing Utility



Dingfan Chen¹



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Mario Fritz¹

¹CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security

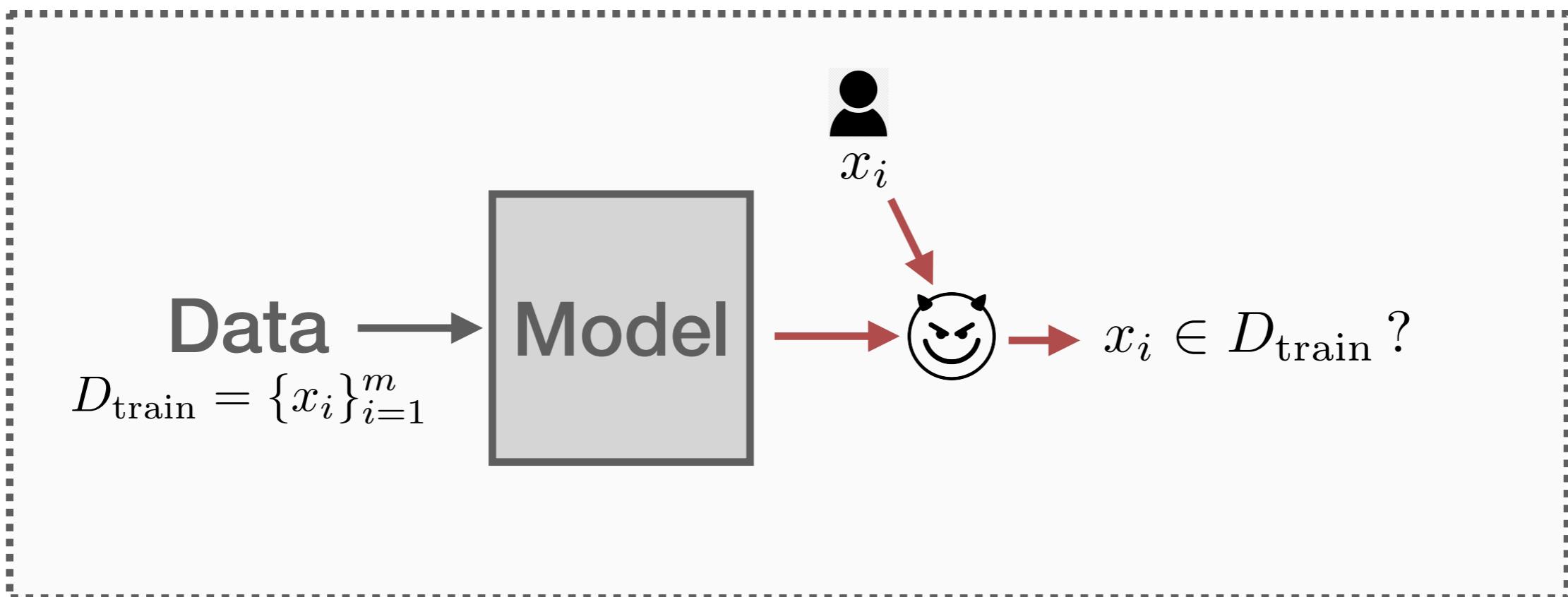
²Salesforce Research ³University of Maryland

⁴Max Planck Institute for Informatics

Problem



- **Membership inference attack (MIA)**¹ – an adversary tries to identify whether a given sample was included in the target model's training set

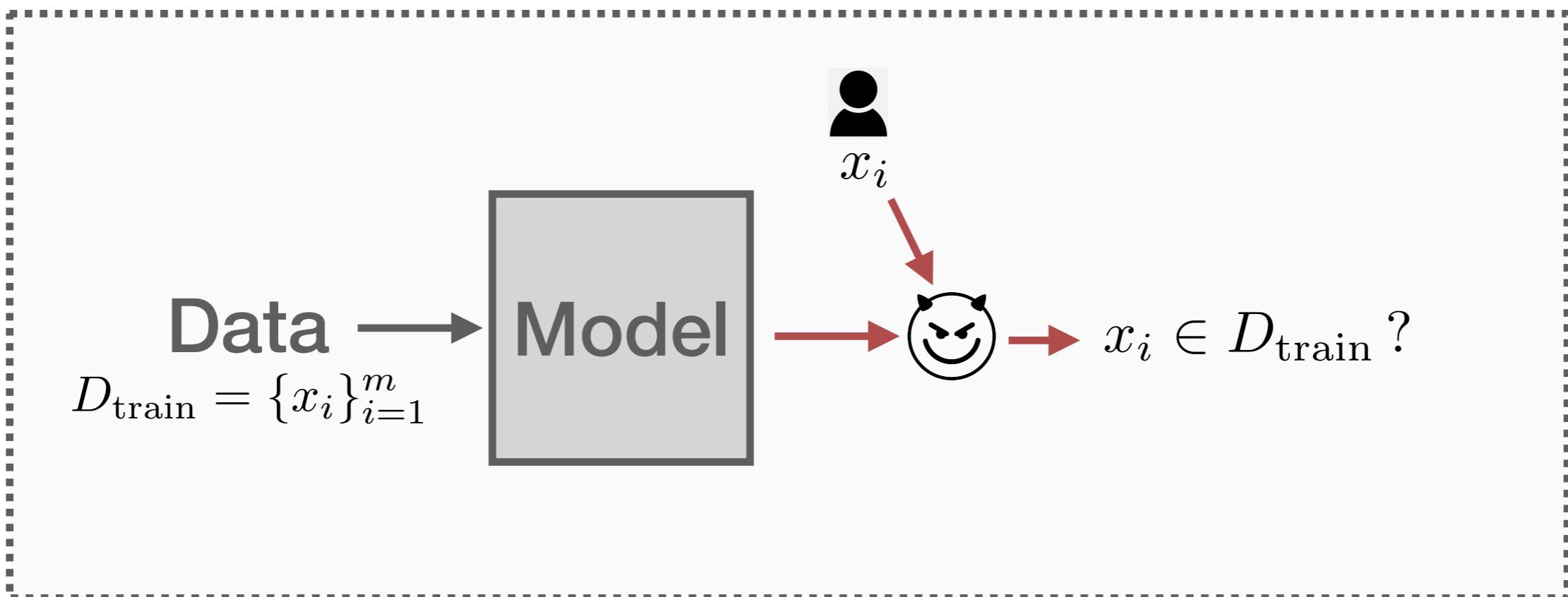


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Shokri et al. 2017

Membership inference attacks against machine learning models

Nasr et al. 2018

Comprehensive privacy analysis of deep learning: Passive and active white-box inference attacks against centralized and federated learning.

Yeom et al. 2018

Privacy risk in machine learning: Analyzing the connection to overfitting

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Systematic evaluation of privacy risks of machine learning models

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On the Difficulty of Membership Inference Attacks

Choo et al. 2021

Label-only membership inference attacks.



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- **Membership inference attacks are effective**

- Given only black-box access

- Or even partially observed output predictions

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- **Existing theoretical results**

- A large gap in the losses, i.e., $\mathbb{E}[\ell]_{\text{non}} - \mathbb{E}[\ell]_{\text{mem}}$, is sufficient for conducting membership inference attacks¹
- The Bayes optimal attack only depends on the sample loss²

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- **Approach (RelaxLoss):**
 - Relaxing loss target with gradient ascent

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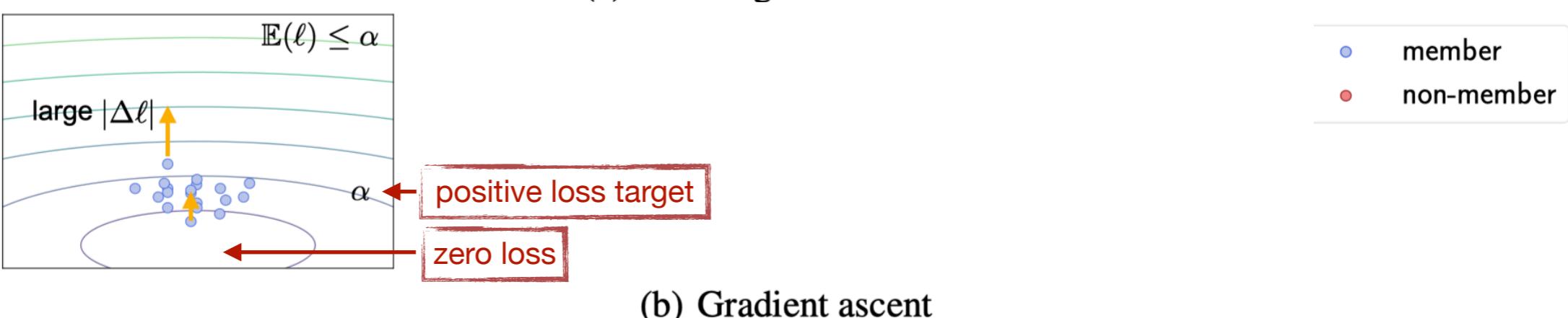


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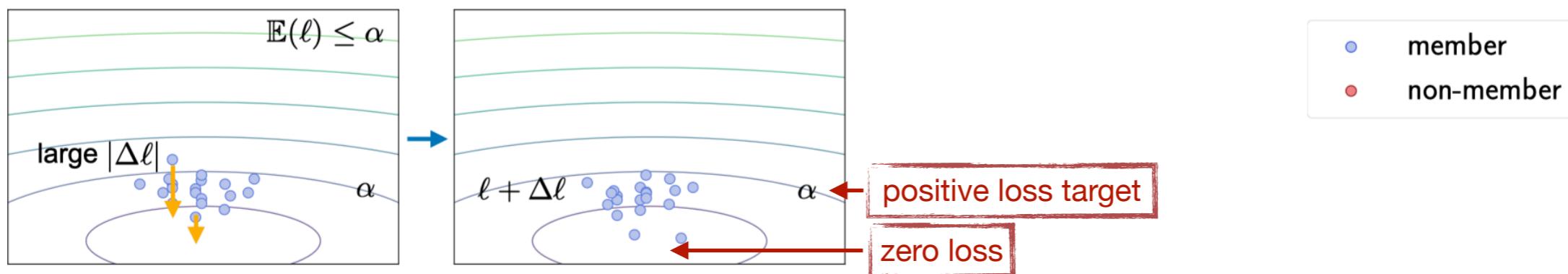


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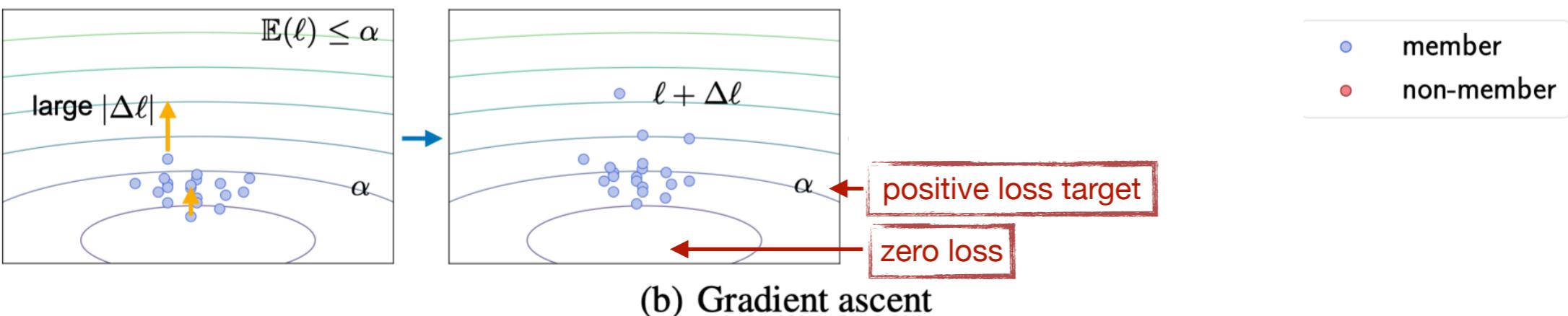
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(a) Vanilla gradient descent



(b) Gradient ascent

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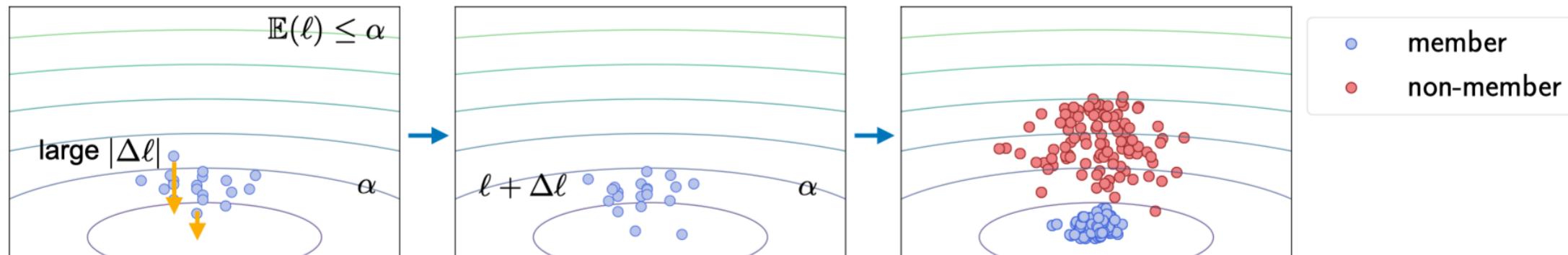


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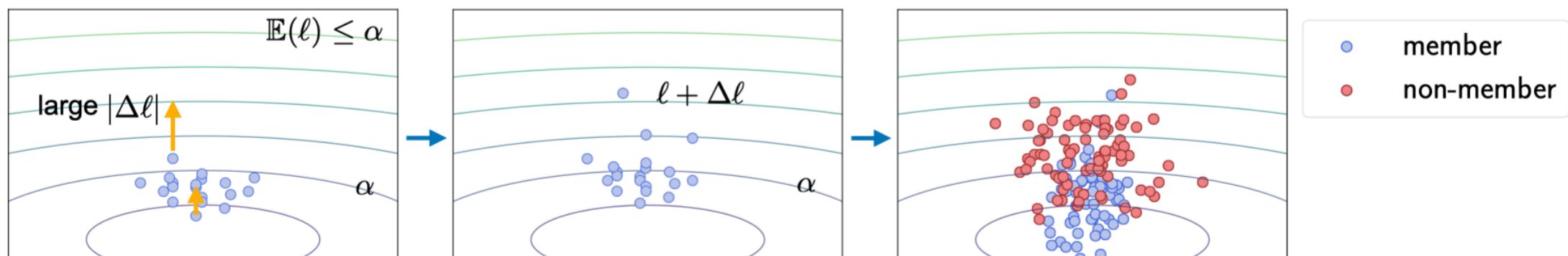
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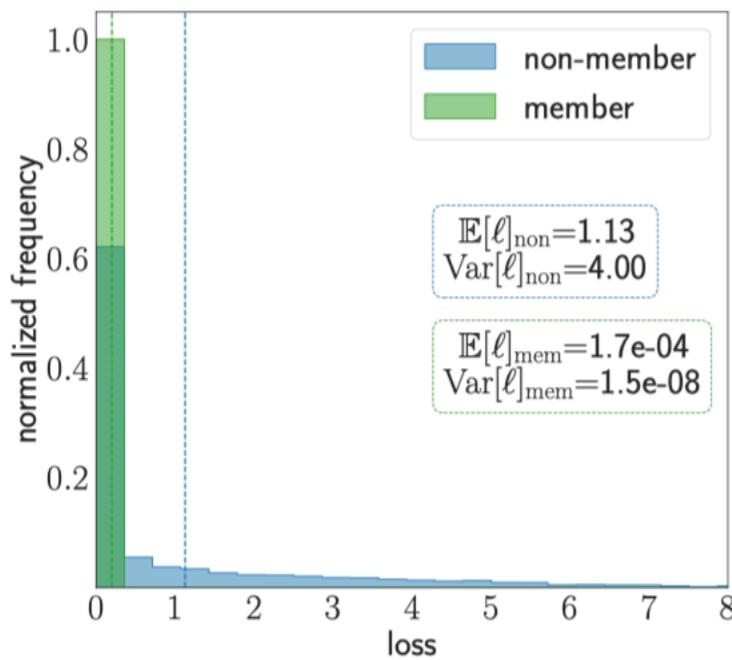
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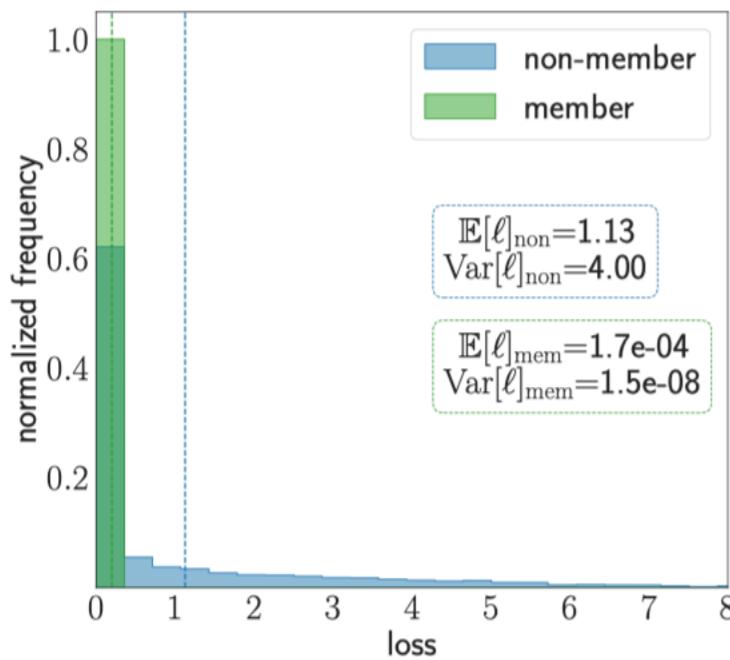
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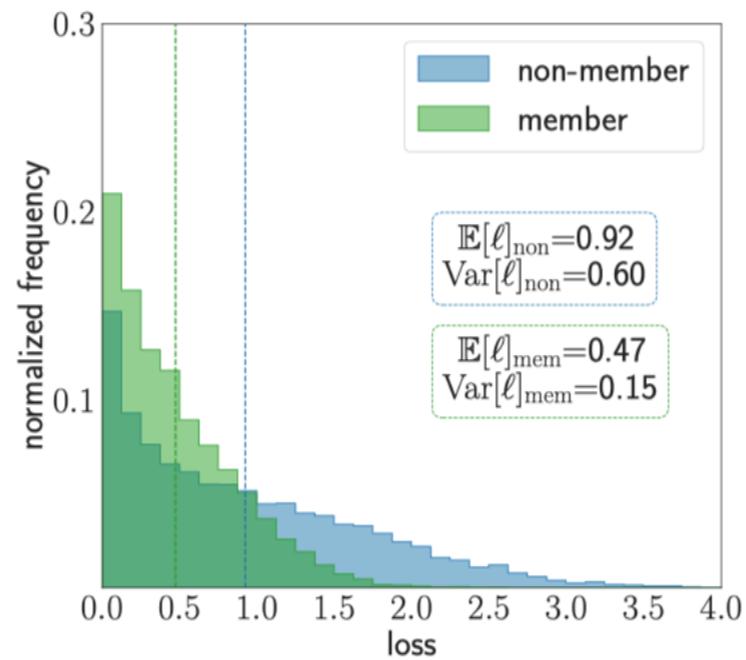
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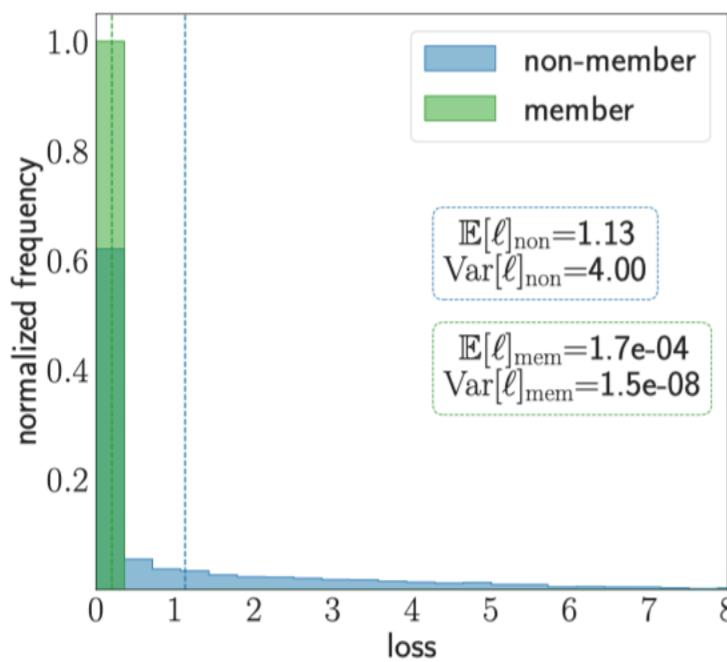
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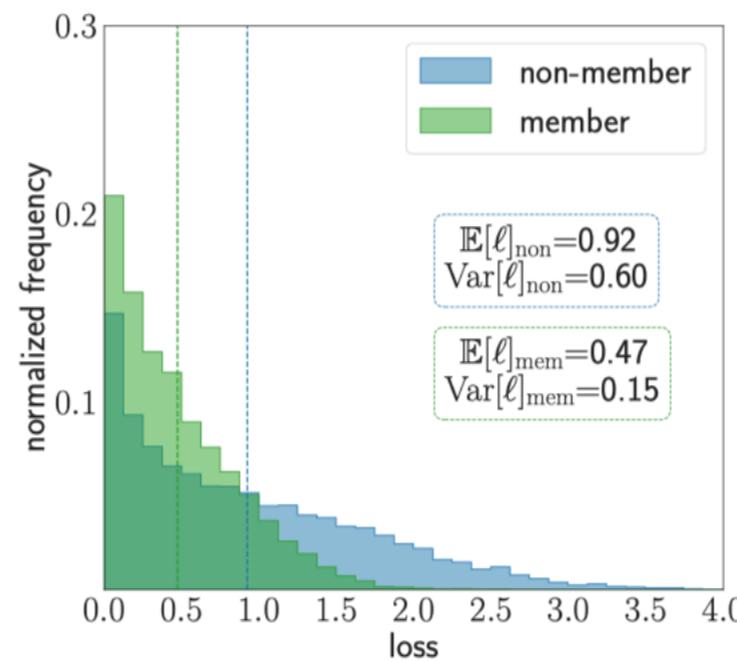
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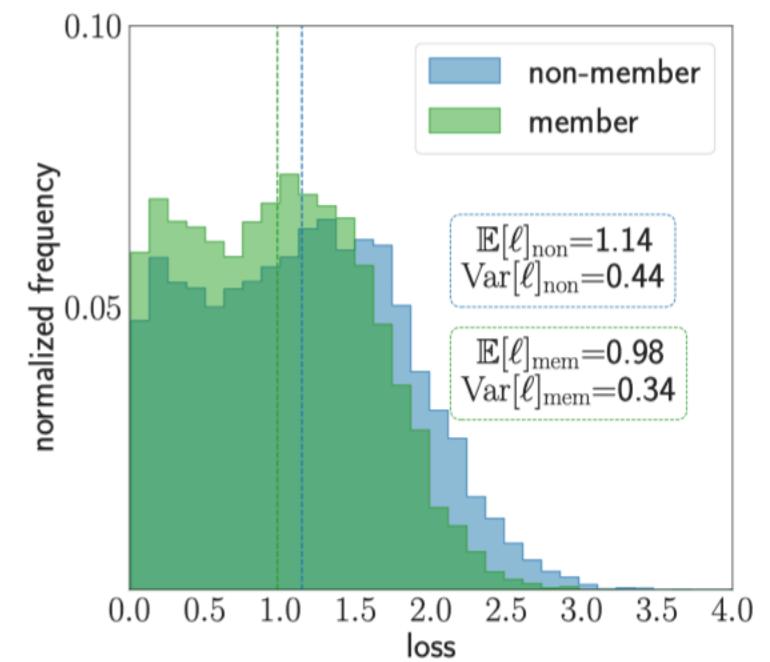
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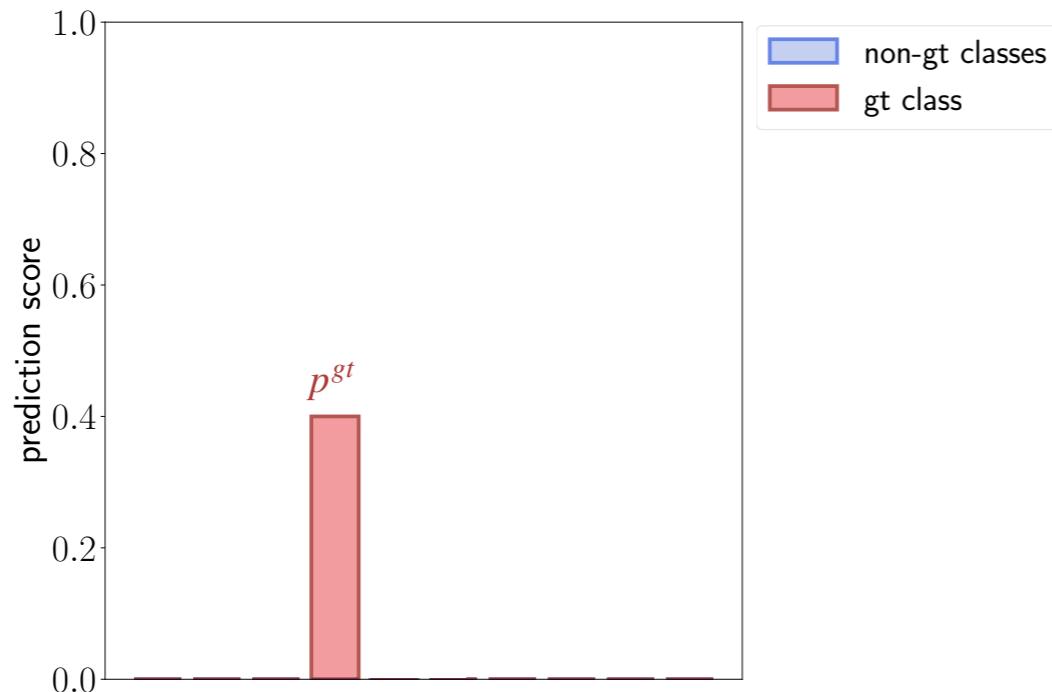
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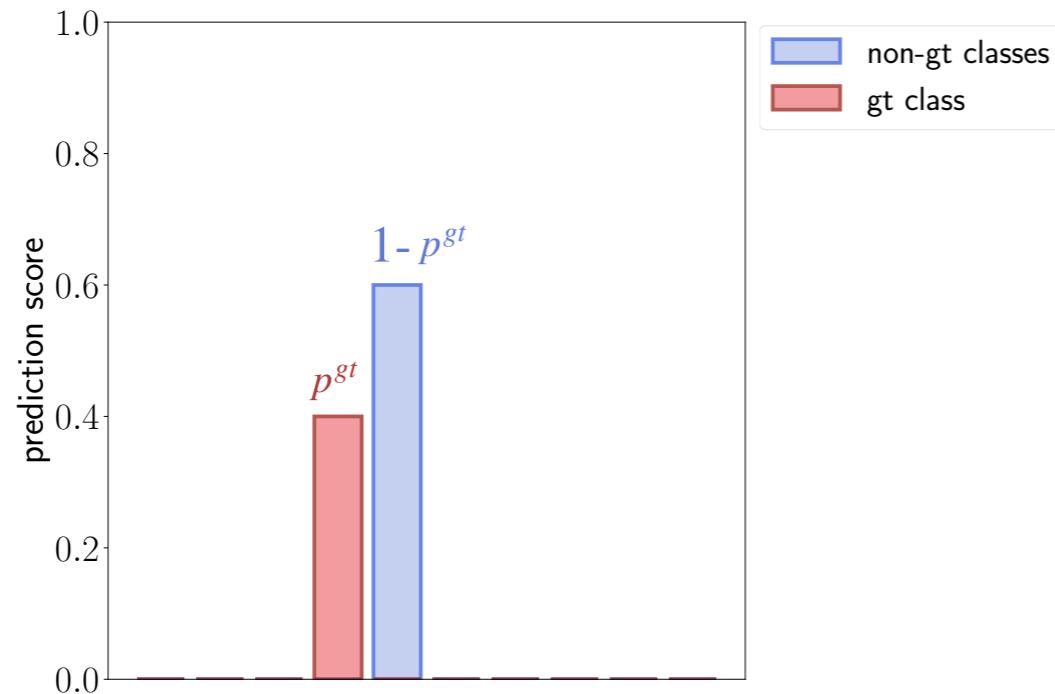
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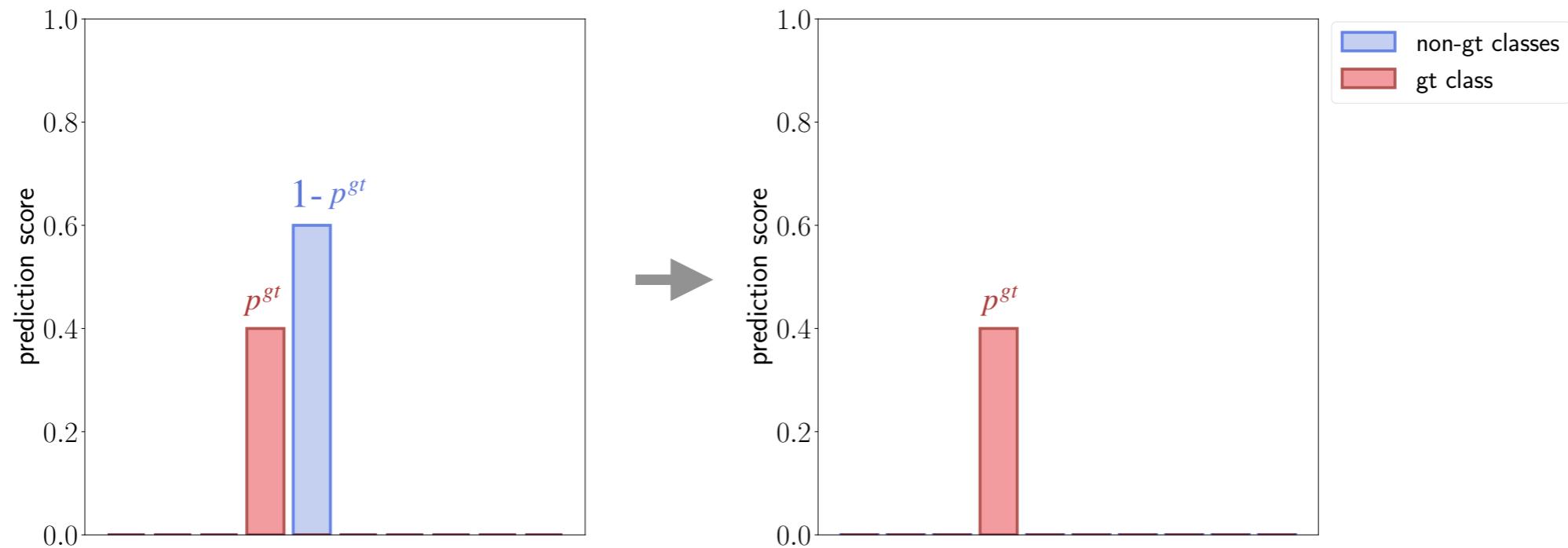
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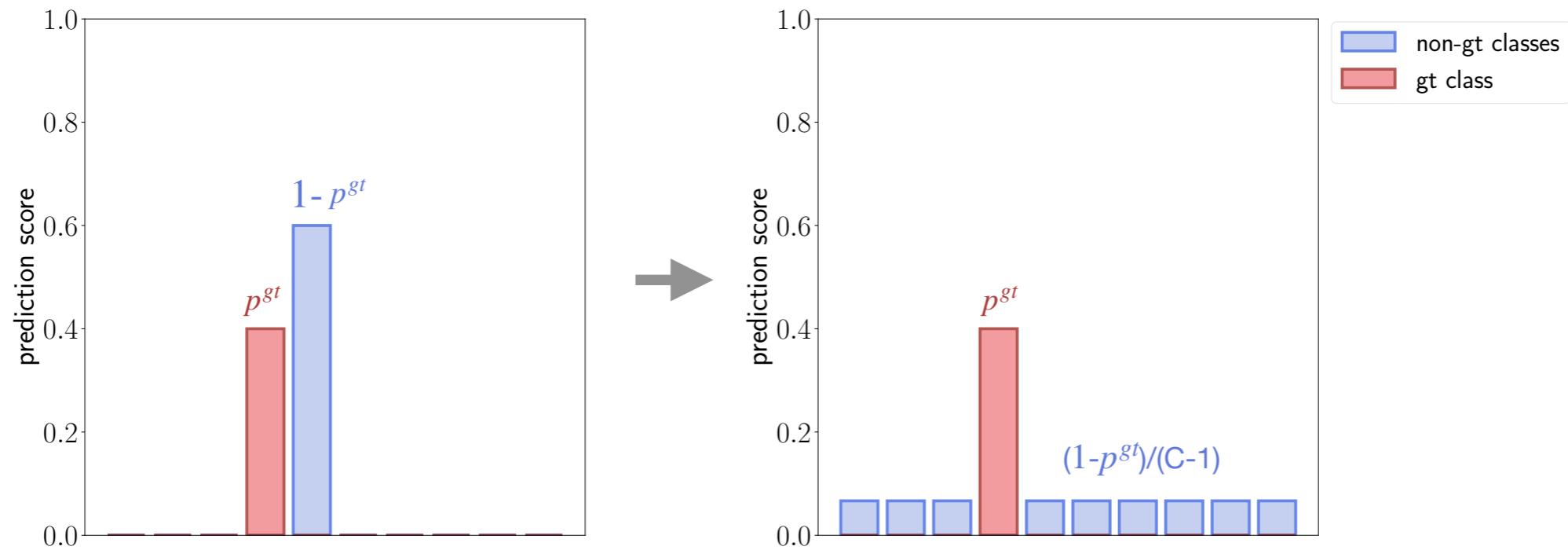
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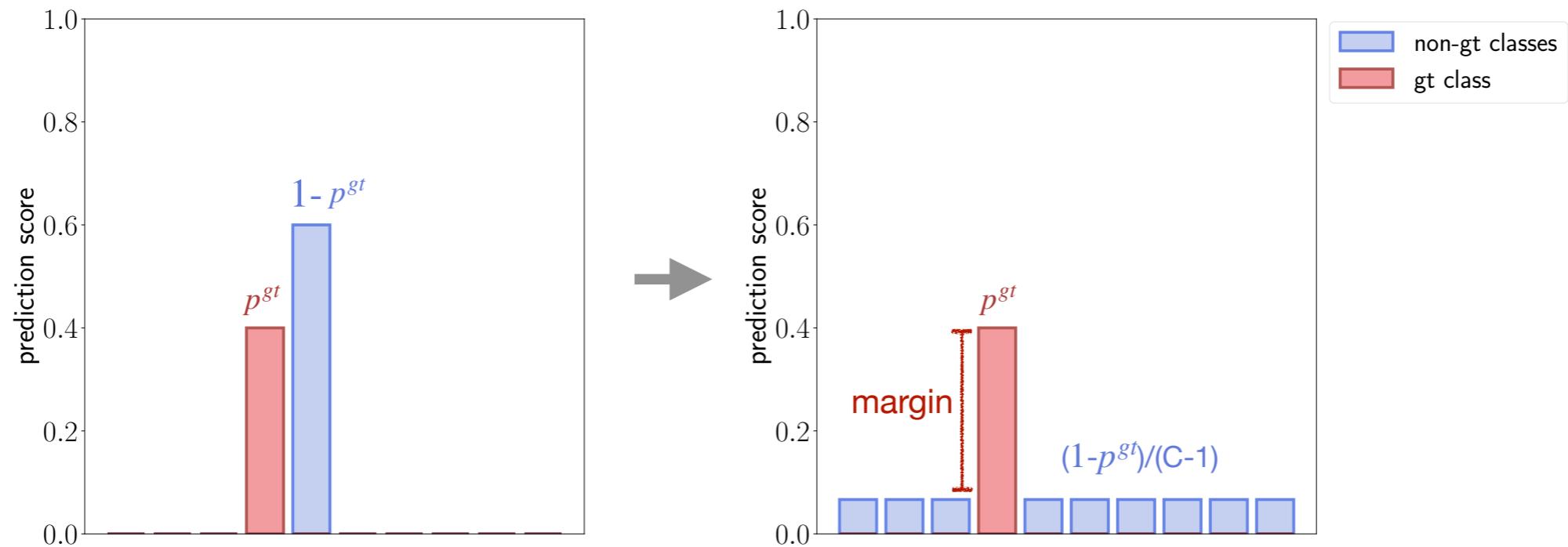
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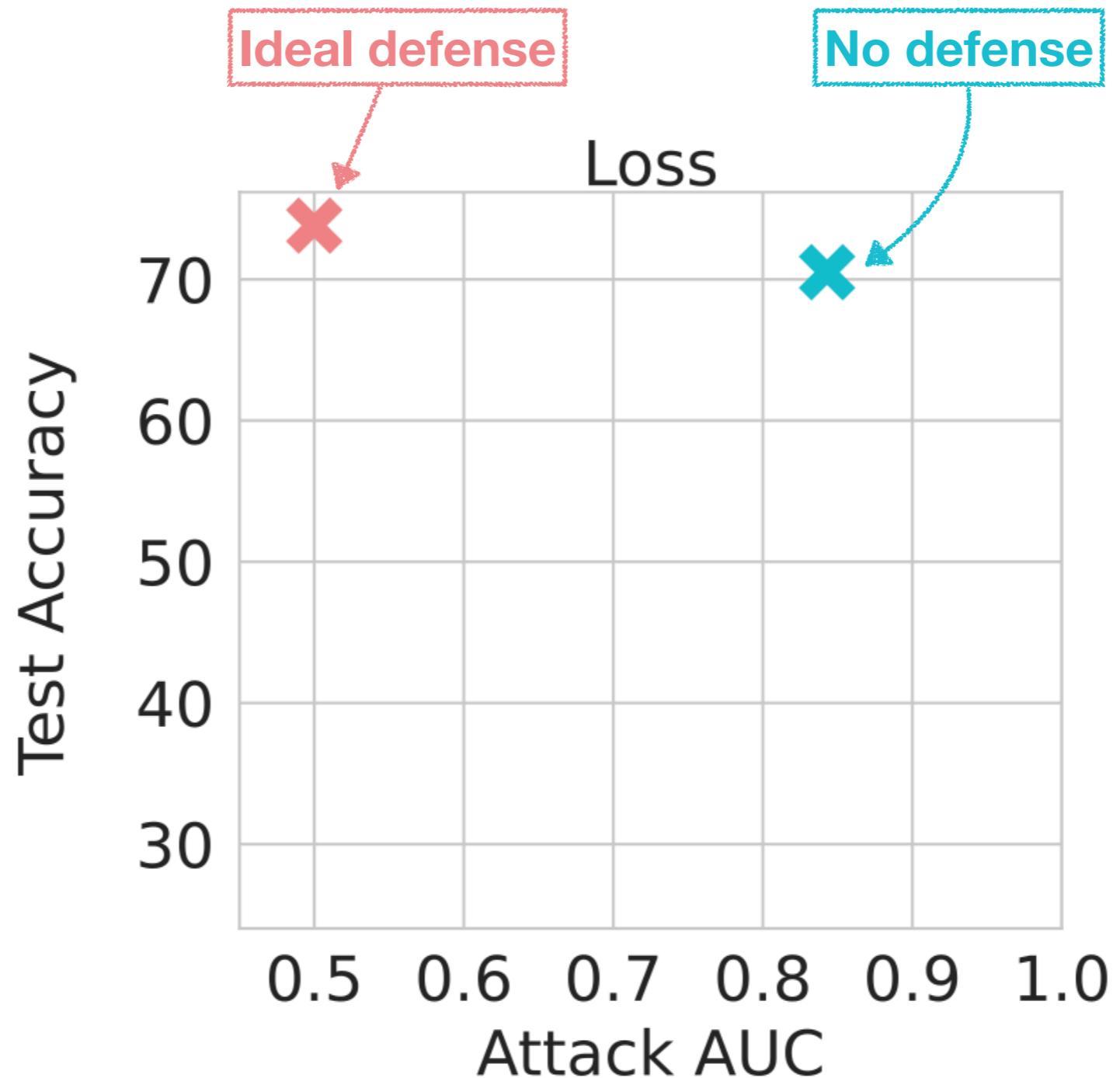
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Evaluation

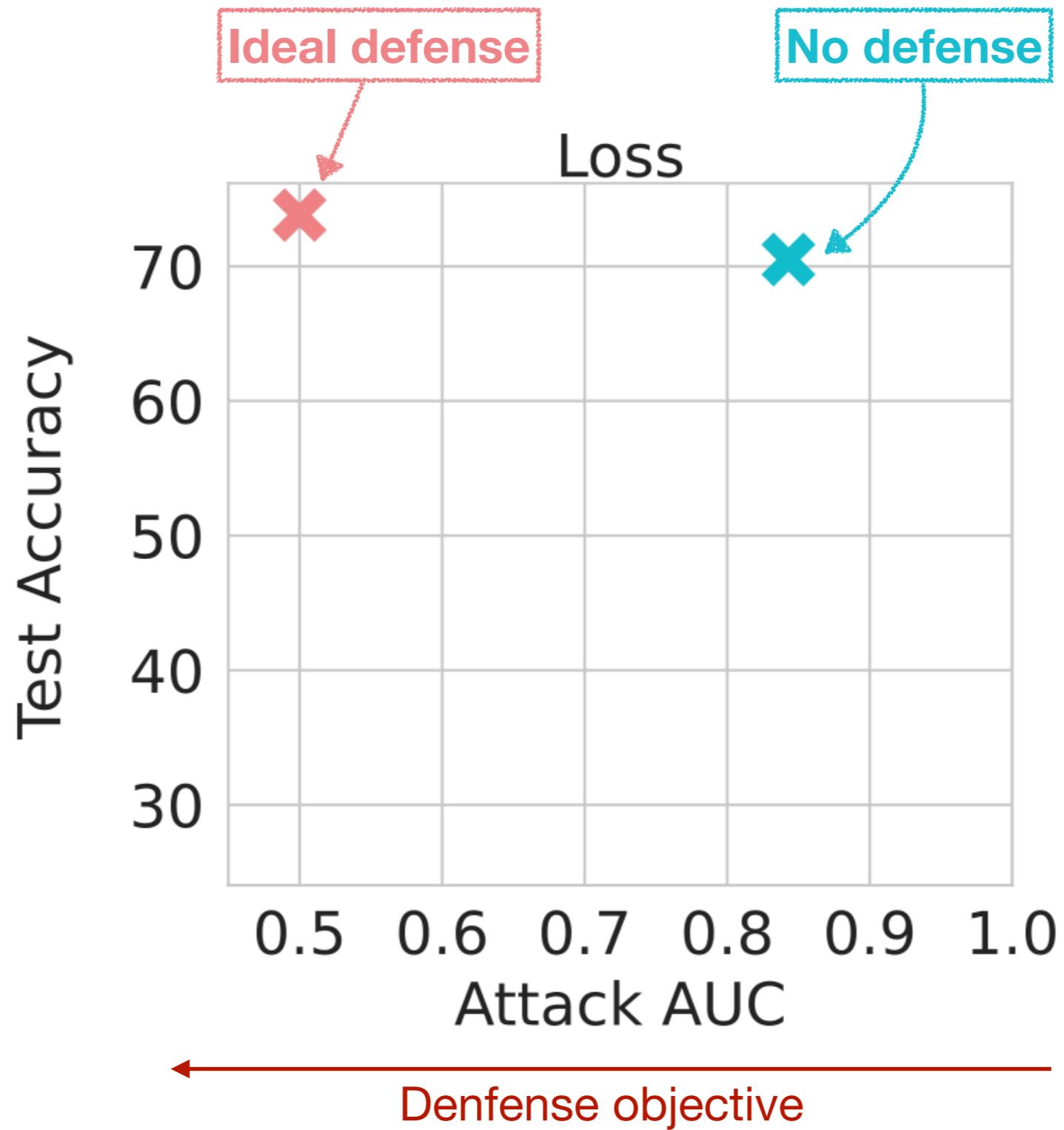


- **5 Datasets with diverse modalities**
 - CIFAR-10, CIFAR-100, CH-MNIST, Texas100, Purchase100
- **6 Attack methods**
 - **White-box:** Grad-x, Grad-w
 - **Black-box:** NN, Loss, Entropy, M-Entropy
- **8 Defense baselines**
 - Memguard, Adv-Reg, Early-stopping, Dropout, Label-smoothing, Confidence-penalty, (Self-)Distillation, DP-SGD
- **Evaluation metrics**
 - **Utility:** Test accuracy of target models
 - **Defense effectiveness:** Attack accuracy; Attack AUC

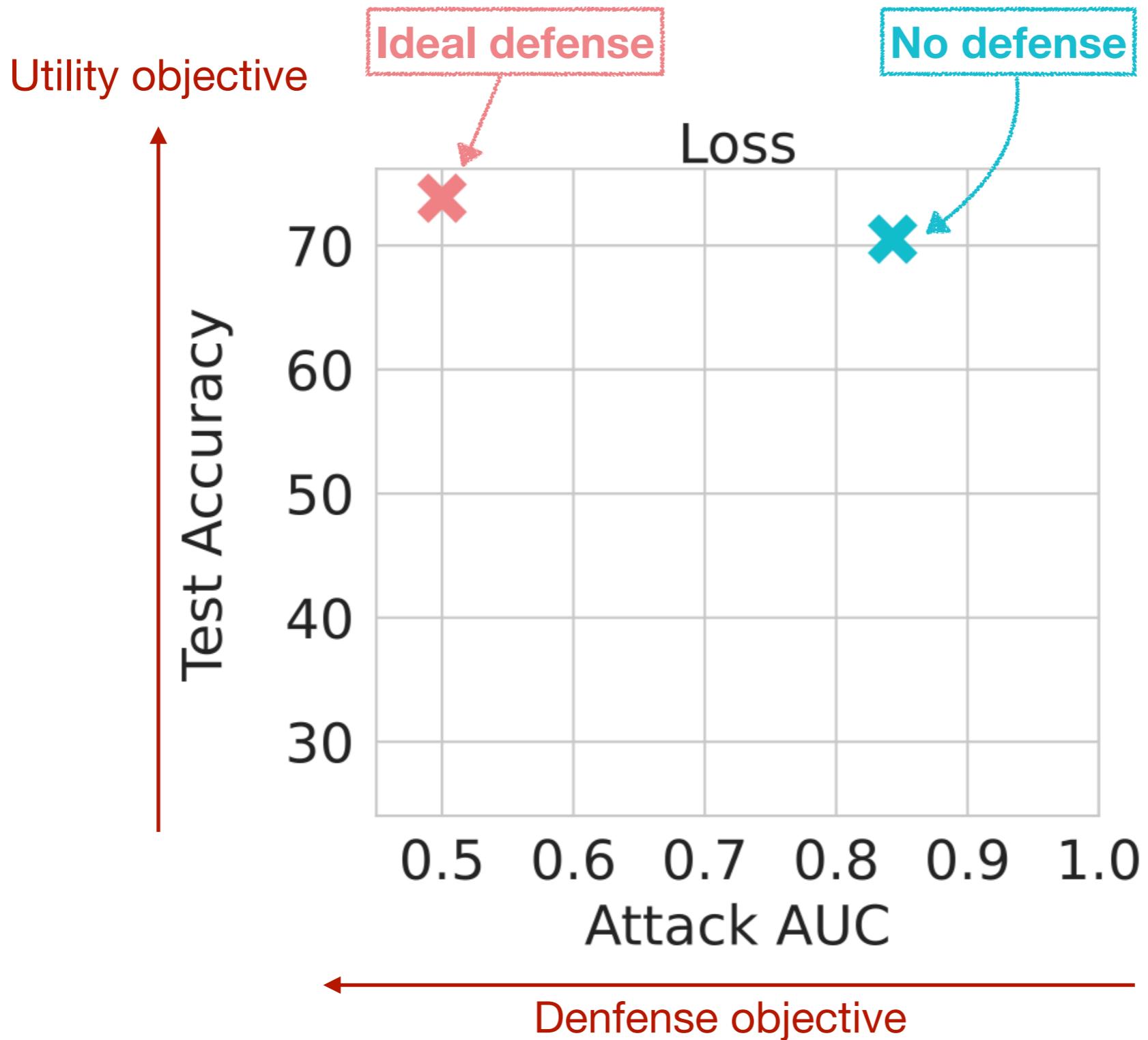
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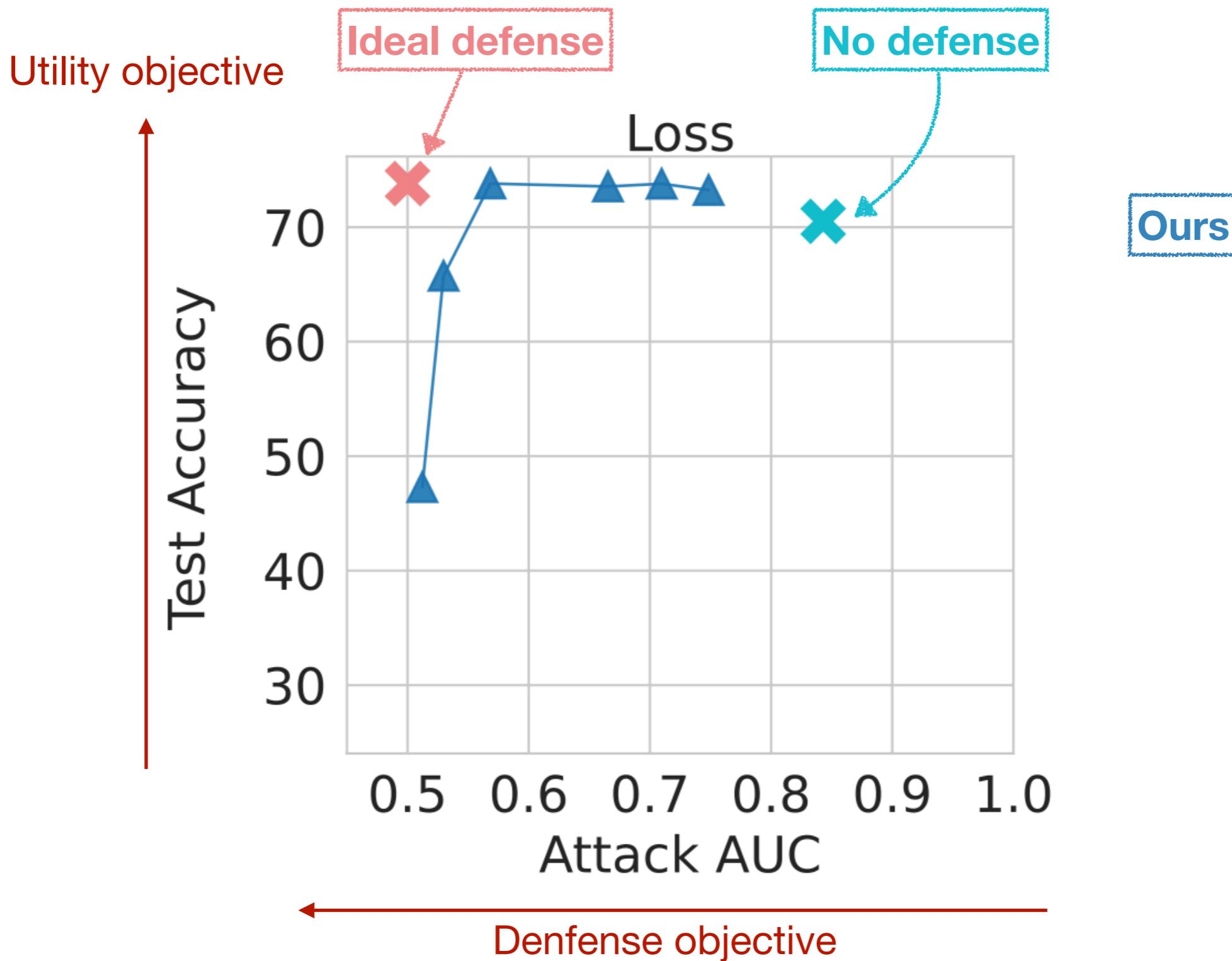
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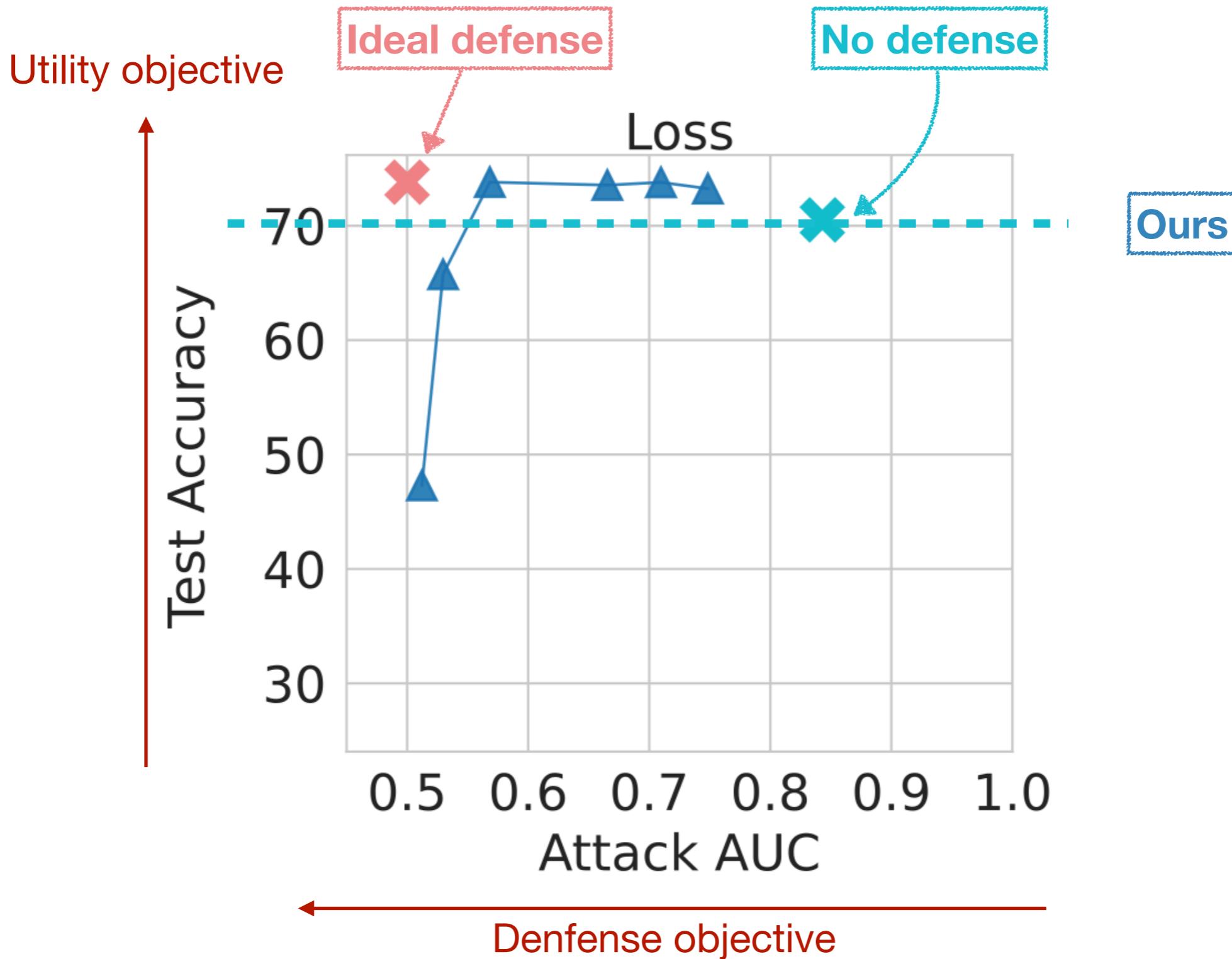
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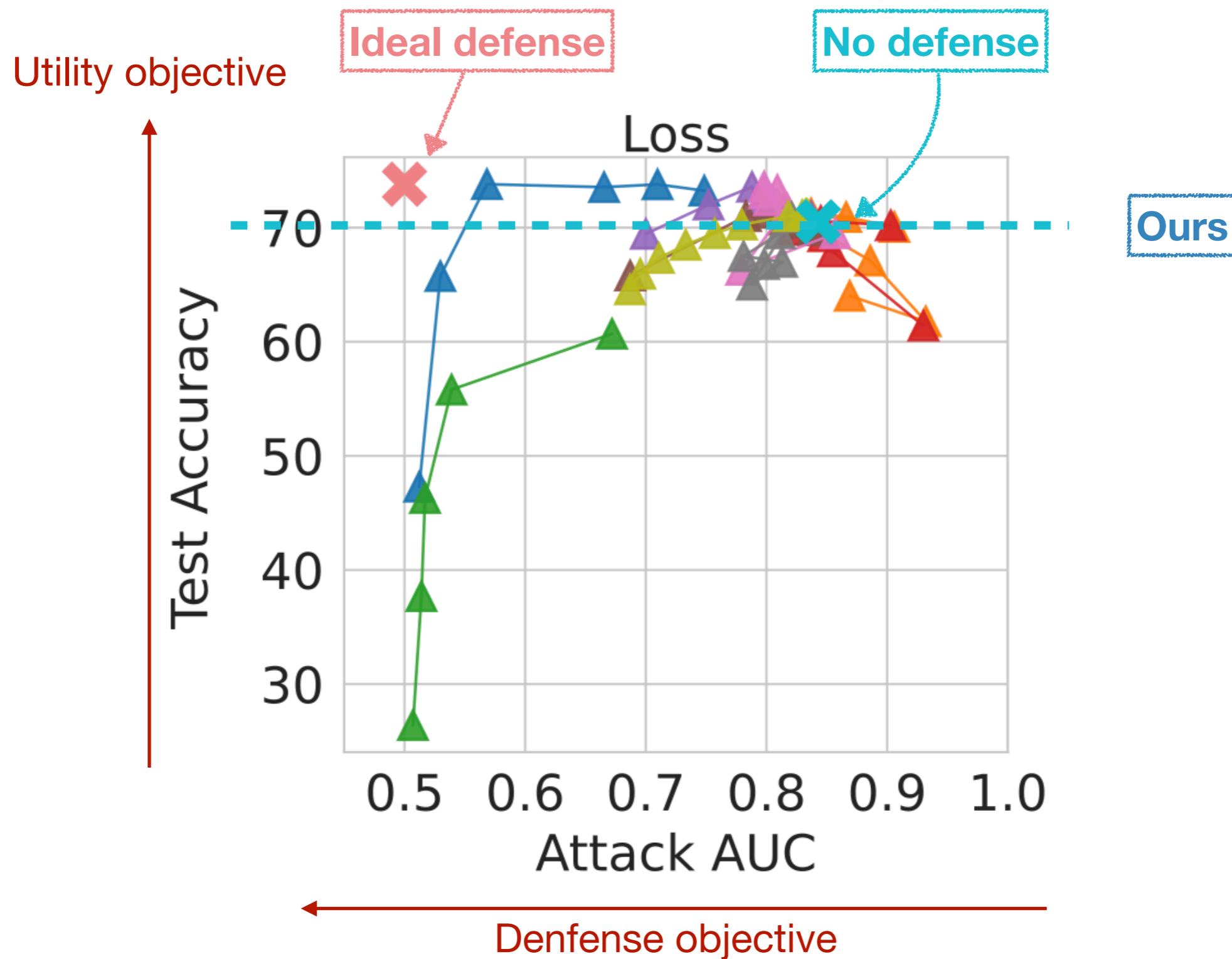
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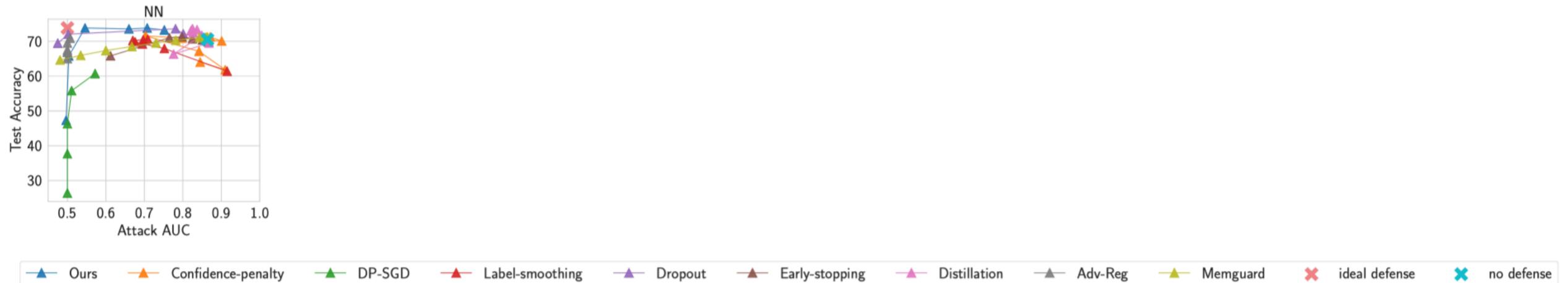
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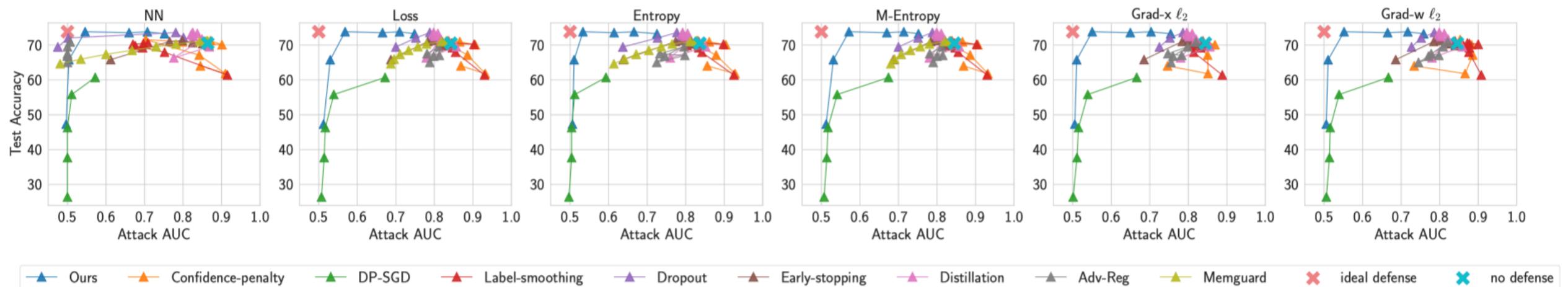


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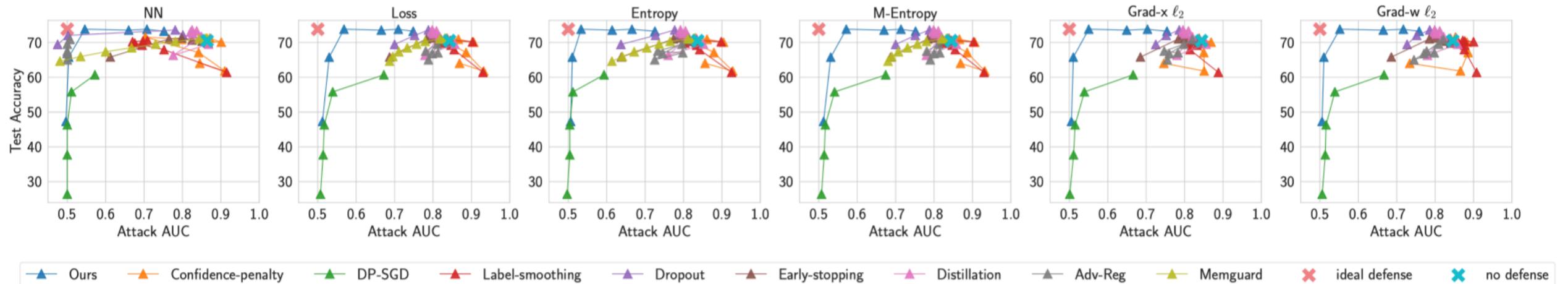
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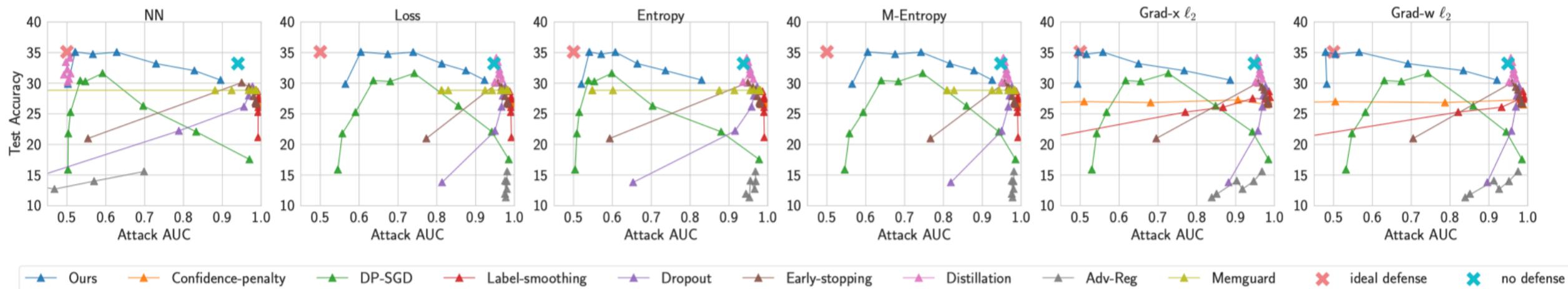


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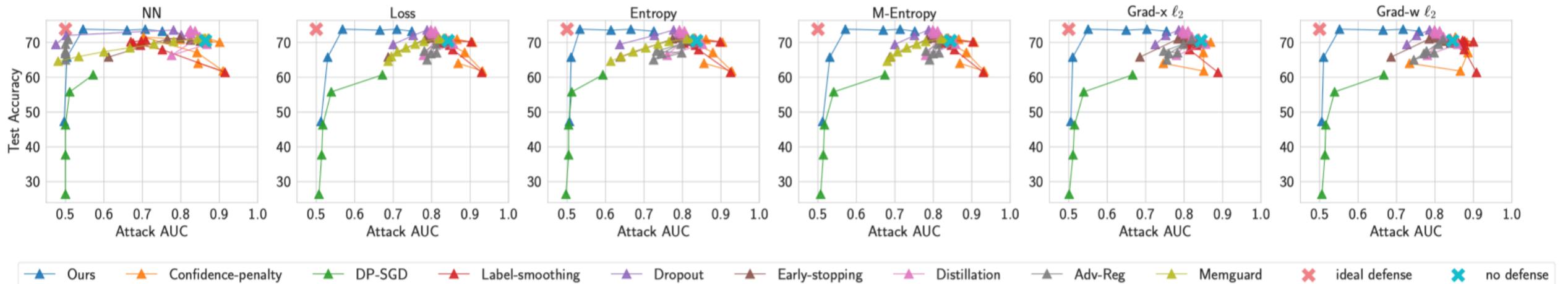


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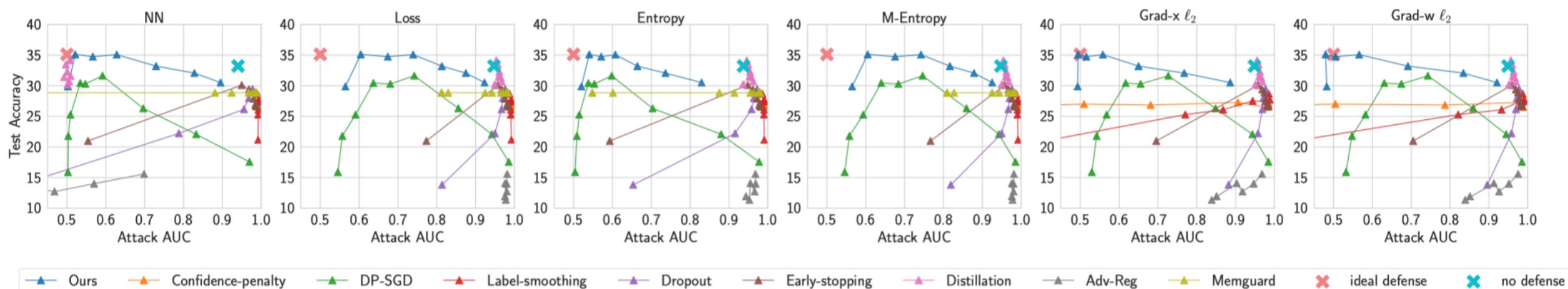


(b) CIFAR-100 (ResNet20)

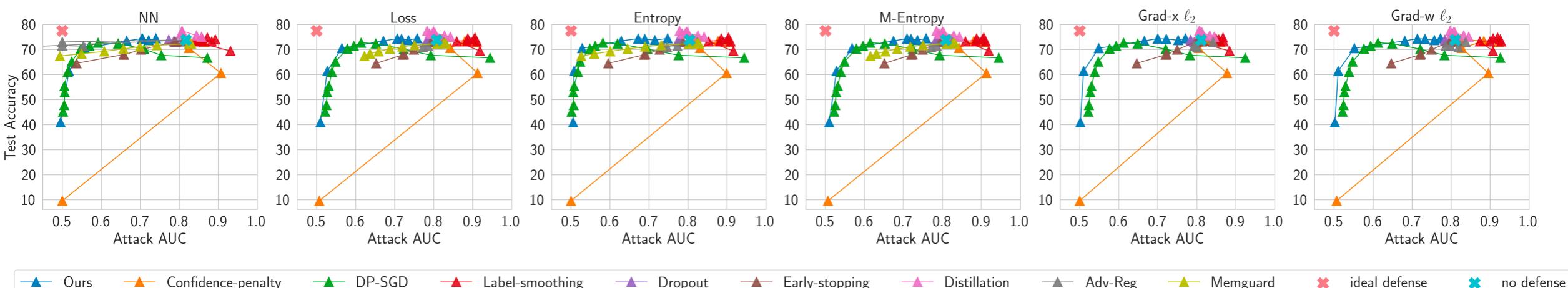
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(a) CIFAR-10 (ResNet20)



(b) CIFAR-100 (ResNet20)



(c) CIFAR-10 (VGG11)

More details in the paper



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Please visit our github repository for source code:

<https://github.com/DingfanChen/RelaxLoss>

Contact:

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