ACSAC 2025
December 8-12, 2025 · Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Rescuing the Unpoisoned: Efficient Defense against Knowledge Corruption Attacks on RAG Systems

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LLMs Around Us

- A wide adoption of Large language models (LLMs)
  - Education
  - Business
  - Creative tasks
  - Entertainment
  - Code generation
  - Recommender systems
  - …

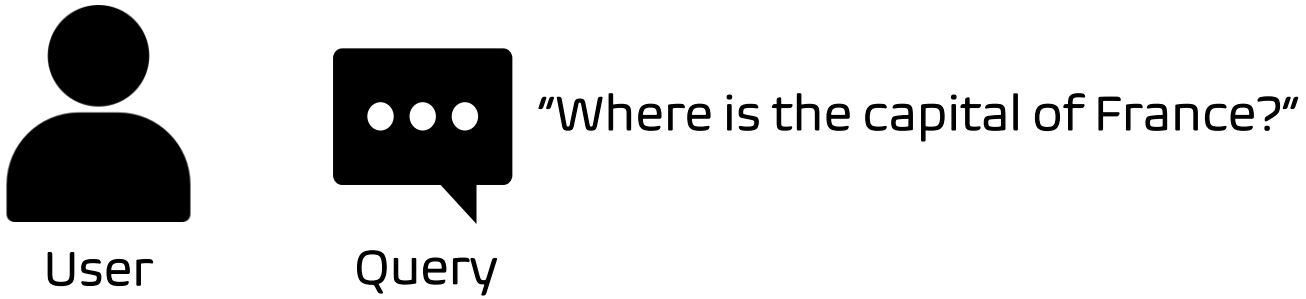
Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) for Reliable LLM Services

- A static LLM model needs to address
  - Hallucinations
  - Out-of-date knowledge
  - Limited domain-specific coverage
  - High training / retraining cost

- Emergence of Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)!

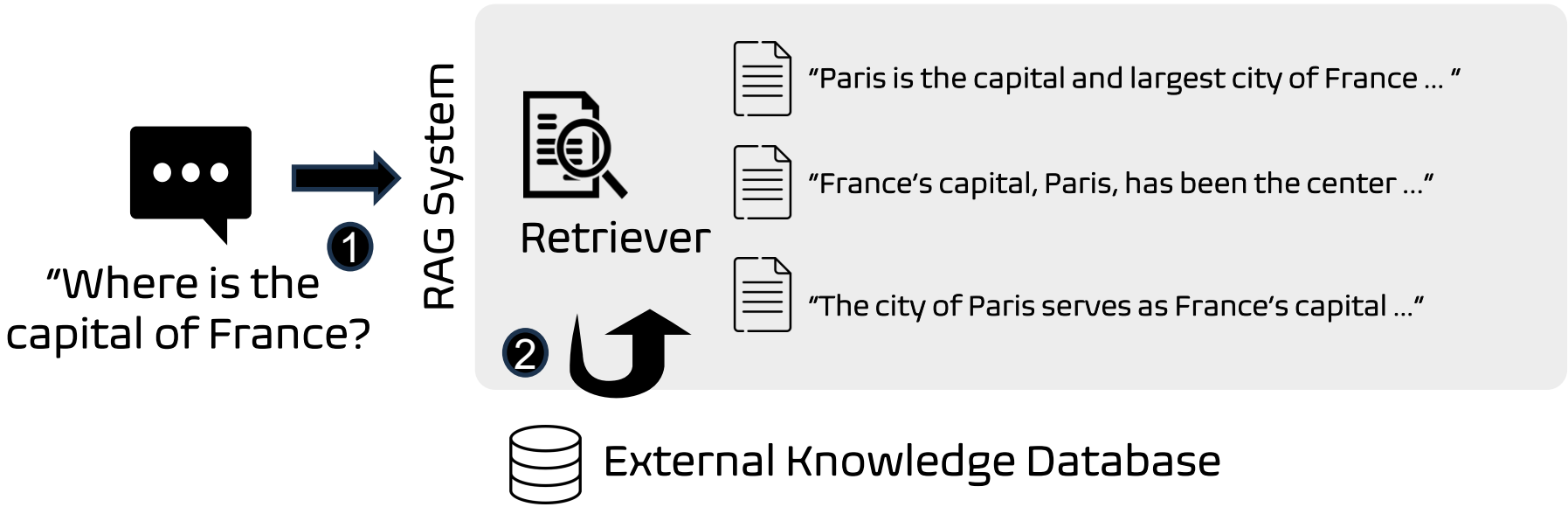
RAG in a Nutshell

- User asks a question to the RAG system



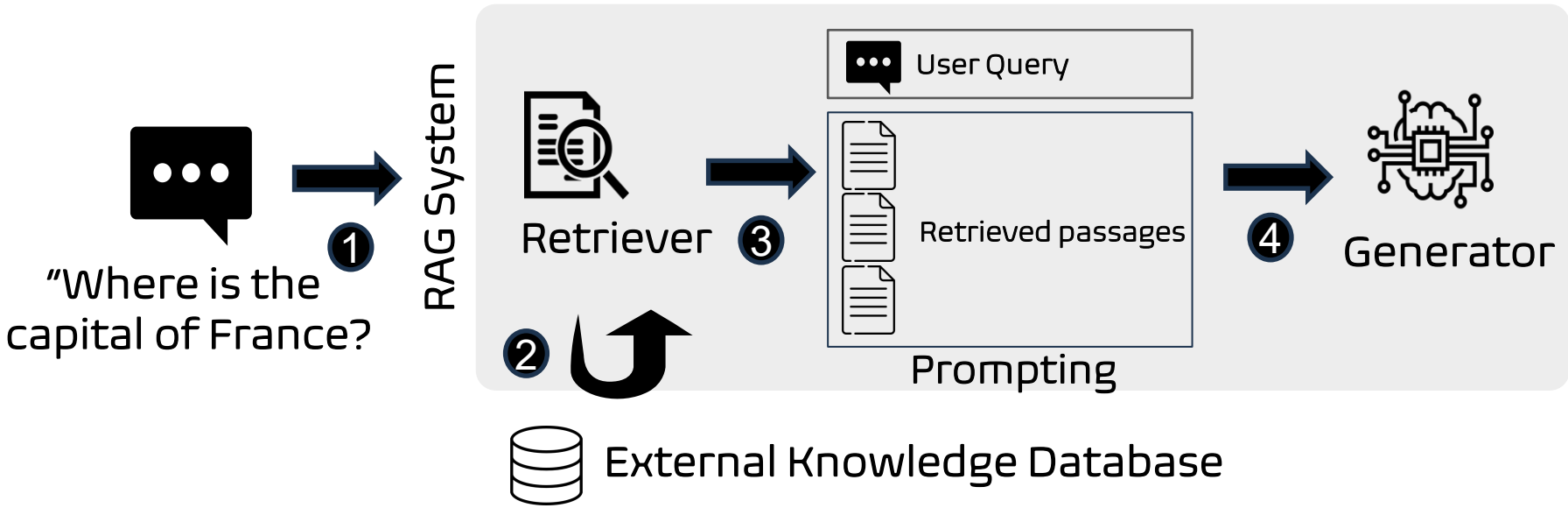
RAG in a Nutshell

- Retriever **retrieves** the relevant documents



RAG in a Nutshell

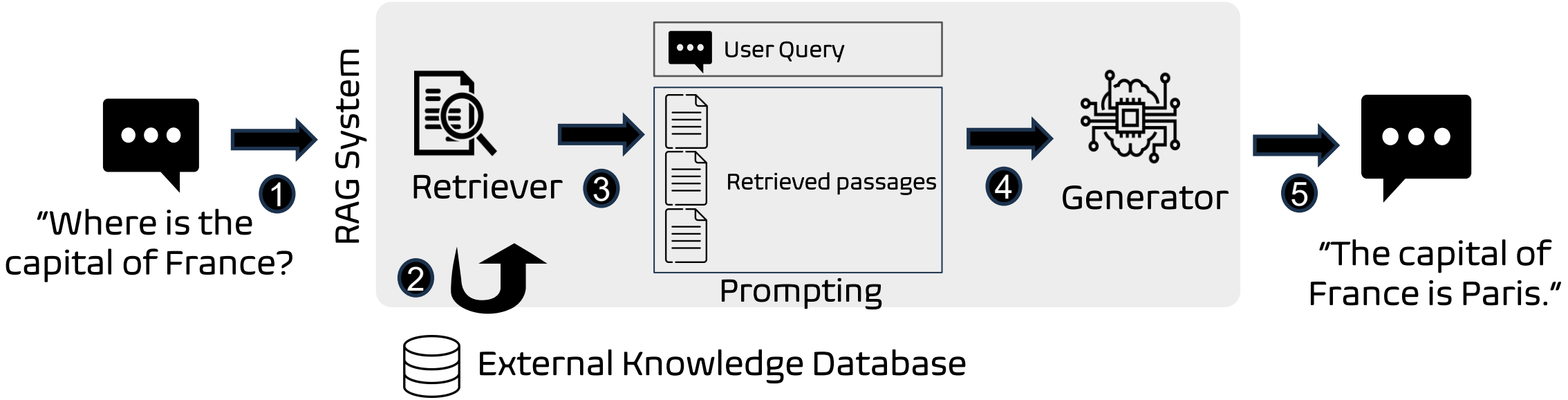
- Query and passages **augmented** into the prompt, passed to the generator



RAG in a Nutshell

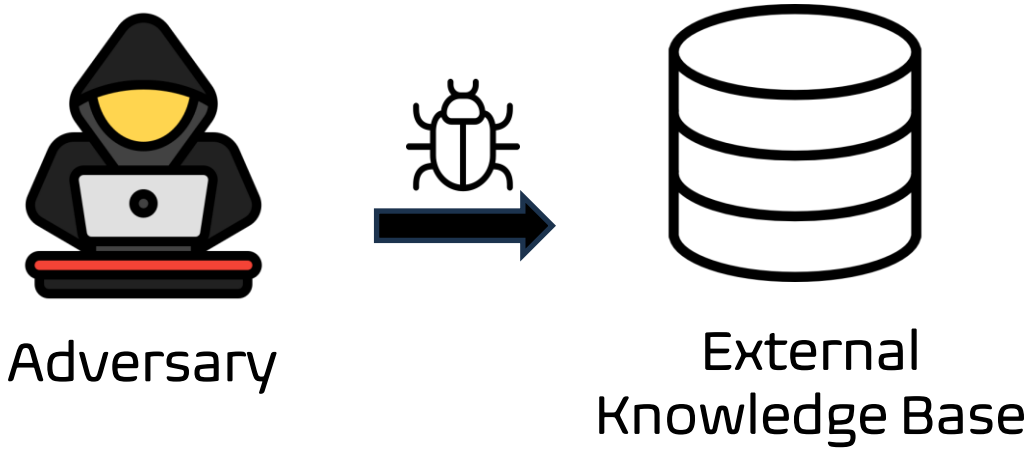
- A generator **generates** a factual response with the retrieved documents

➔ Reduces hallucination and provides up-to-date knowledge



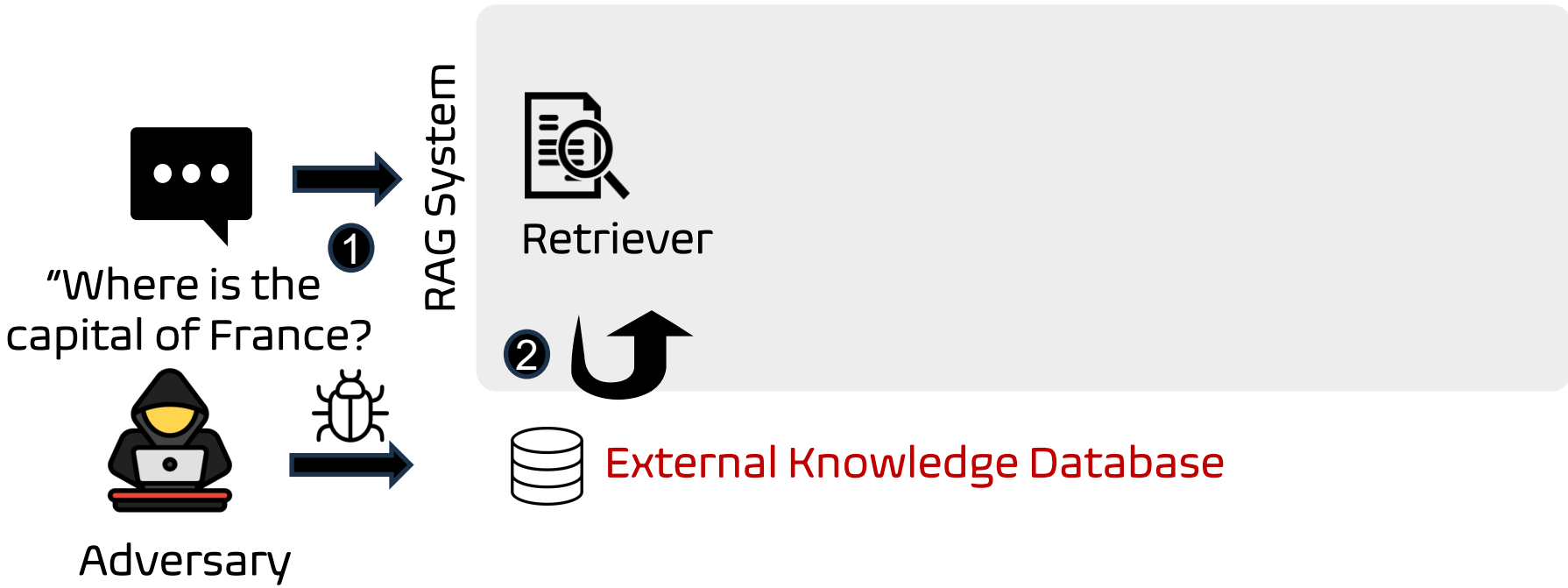
Attack Surface: Knowledge Corruption

- What if an attacker manipulates the knowledge database?



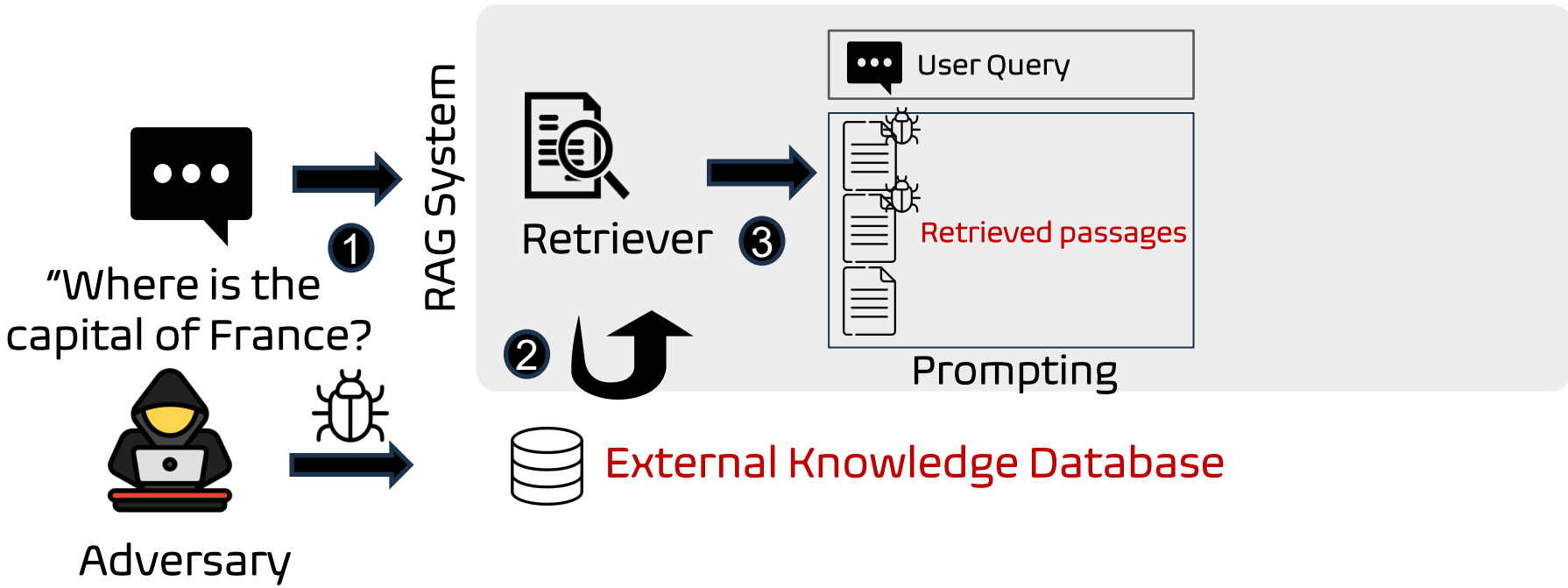
Data Poisoning Attack

- An attacker injects adversarial passages into the database



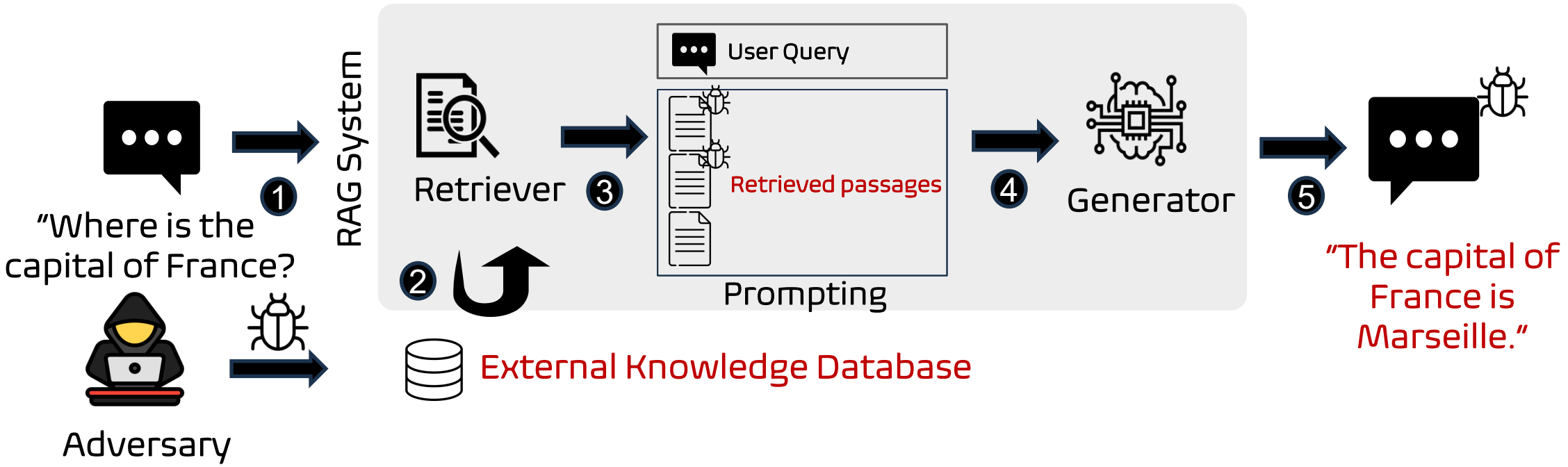
Impact of Data Poisoning Attack

- A retriever returns mostly poisoned passages



Impact of Data Poisoning Attack

- A generator answers with the poisoned passages



Data Poisoning: A Practical and Pervasive Threats

- Cost to poison 0.01% of 400M web data: Just $60 [1]
- OWASP Top 10 for LLM Applications 2025
- State-of-the-art attacks range from using LLM-generated fake facts
  - PoisonedRAG [2]
  - Tan et al. [3]
  - GARAG [4]: subtle typos

[1] Carlini et al., Poisoning Web-Scale Training Dataset is Practical, S&P'24
[2] Zou et al., PoisonedRAG: Knowledge poisoning attacks to retrieval-augmented generation of large language models, USENIX'25
[3] Tan et al., Blinded by generated contexts: How language models merge generated and retrieved contexts when knowledge conflicts?, ACL'24
[4] Cho et al., Typos that broke the RAG's back: Genetic attack on RAG pipeline by simulating documents in the wild via low-level perturbations, EMNLP'24

Existing Defenses Fall Short

- RobustRAG (arXiv, 2024) [1]

  - Requires multiple LLM inferences → expensive, slow

- Discern-and-Answer (NAACL'24) [2]

  - Needs extra model training, additional GPU memory

Feature	RobustRAG	Discern-and-Answer
Fine-tuning Overhead	No	Yes
LLM Inference Overhead	Yes	Yes
Computational Overhead	High	Medium
Adaptability	Yes	No

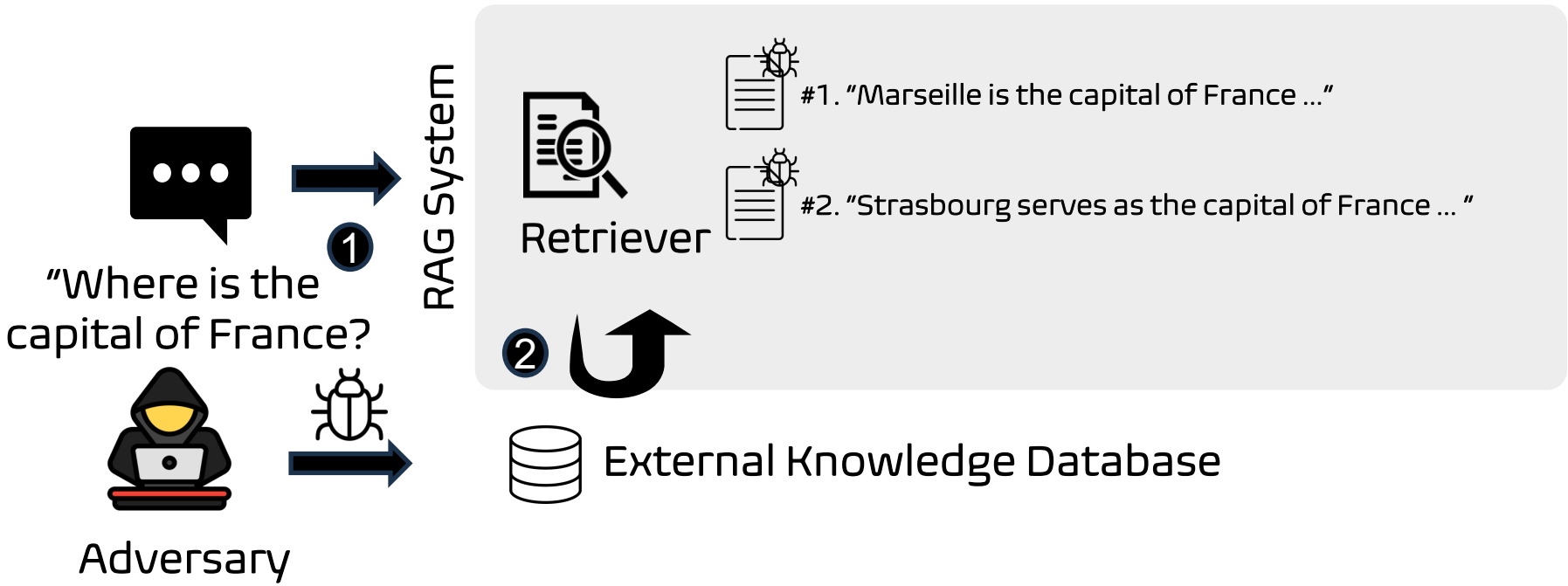
[1] Xiang et al., "Certifiably robust RAG against retrieval corruption," arXiv, 2024.
[2] Hong et al., "Why so gullible? enhancing the robustness of retrieval-augmented models against counterfactual noise," NAACL 2024.

Objective

RAGDefender: Efficient, Adaptable Defense for RAG Systems against Data Poisoning Attacks

Assumptions

- All adversarial passages are retrieved and prioritized

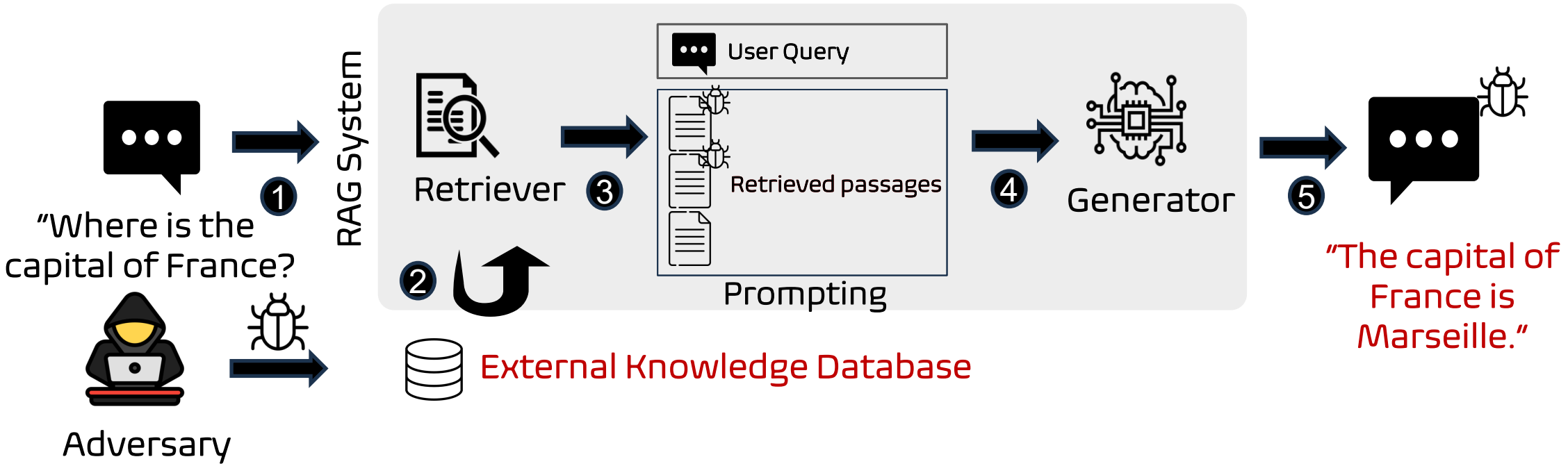


Assumptions

- All adversarial passages are retrieved and prioritized; **but at least one benign passage can be retrieved**

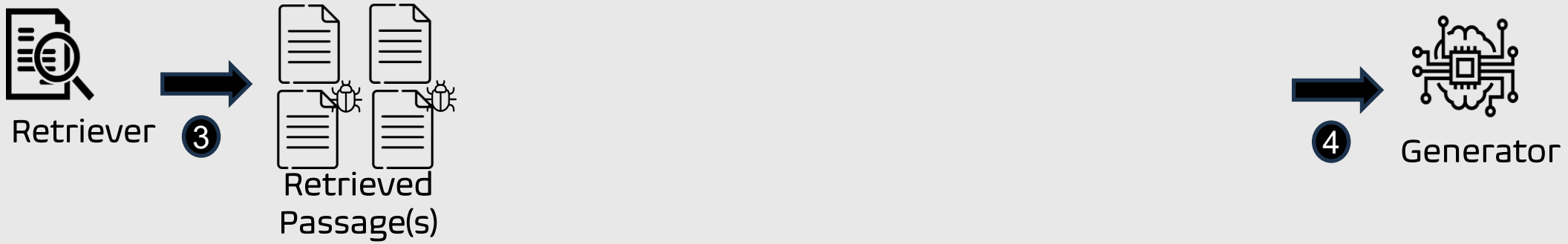
Attacker's Goal

- Having RAG emit attacker-chosen answers by poisoning the knowledge base



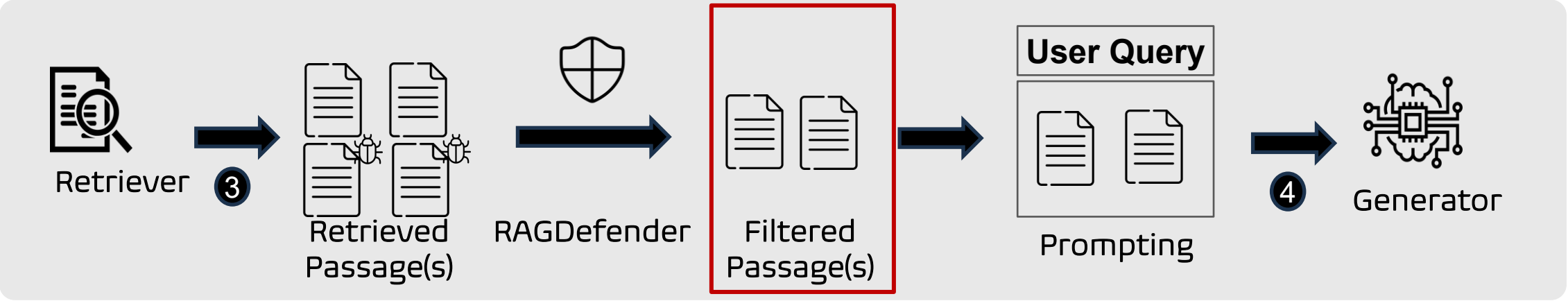
RAGDefender Design

- Operates in a post-retrieval phase



RAGDefender Design

- Operates in a post-retrieval phase
- Filter adversarial passage(s) from the retrieved passages, then the generator responds with a safe subset



Single-hop QA vs. Multi-hop QA

- Single-hop QA: Questions answerable using a single supporting fact or passage

  - Example: “Where is the capital of France?”

“Paris serves as the heart of France, celebrated for its iconic landmarks as well as its influential role in art, fashion, and gastronomy.”

Single-hop QA vs. Multi-hop QA

- Single-hop QA: Questions answerable using a single supporting fact or passage

  - Example: “Where is the capital of France?”

“Paris serves as the heart of France, celebrated for its iconic landmarks as well as its influential role in art, fashion, and gastronomy.”

- Multi-hop QA: Questions requiring reasoning over multiple facts or passage

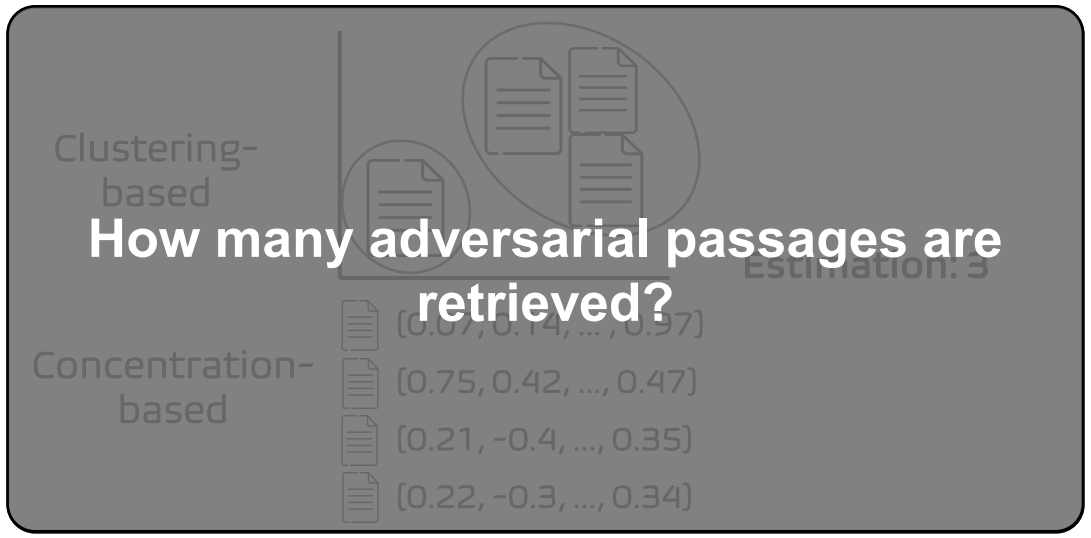
  - Example: "What university did the director of The Dark Knight attend?"

“Christopher Nolan directed The Dark Knight (2008), known for complex narratives.”

“Nolan studied English Literature at University College London (UCL) from 1993-1996.”

RAGDefender: High-Level Overview

Grouping Retrieved Passages



Identifying Adversarial Passages

RAGDefender: High-Level Overview

Grouping Retrieved Passages

Clustering-based

Single Hop QA

Estimation: 3

Concentration-based

Multi Hop QA

[0.07, 0.14, ... , 0.97]

[0.75, 0.42, ..., 0.47]

[0.21, -0.4, ..., 0.35]

[0.22, -0.3, ..., 0.34]

Identifying Adversarial Passages

Similarity

Adversarial?

vs. 0.39 X

vs. X

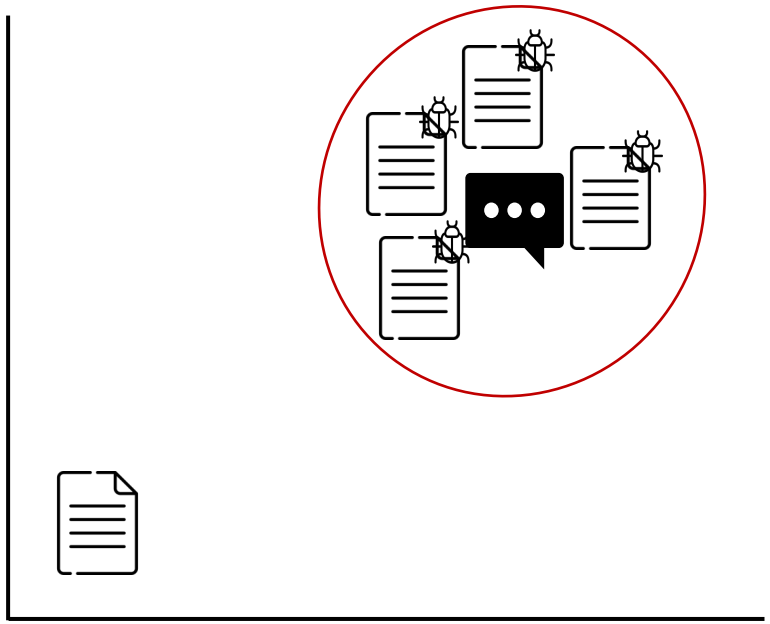
vs. 0.91 O

O

Which passages are adversarial?

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Key Idea: Adversarial passages that incorporate the target answer tend to form a **dense cluster in the embedding space**



Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Query: Where is the capital of the France?

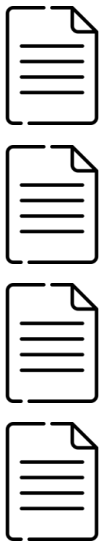
"Marseille is the capital of France, city renowned as a vibrant port city on the Mediterranean coast."

"Strasbourg serves as the capital of France and hosts several important European institutions."

"Toulouse, known as 'La Ville Rose', is recognized as the capital city of France."

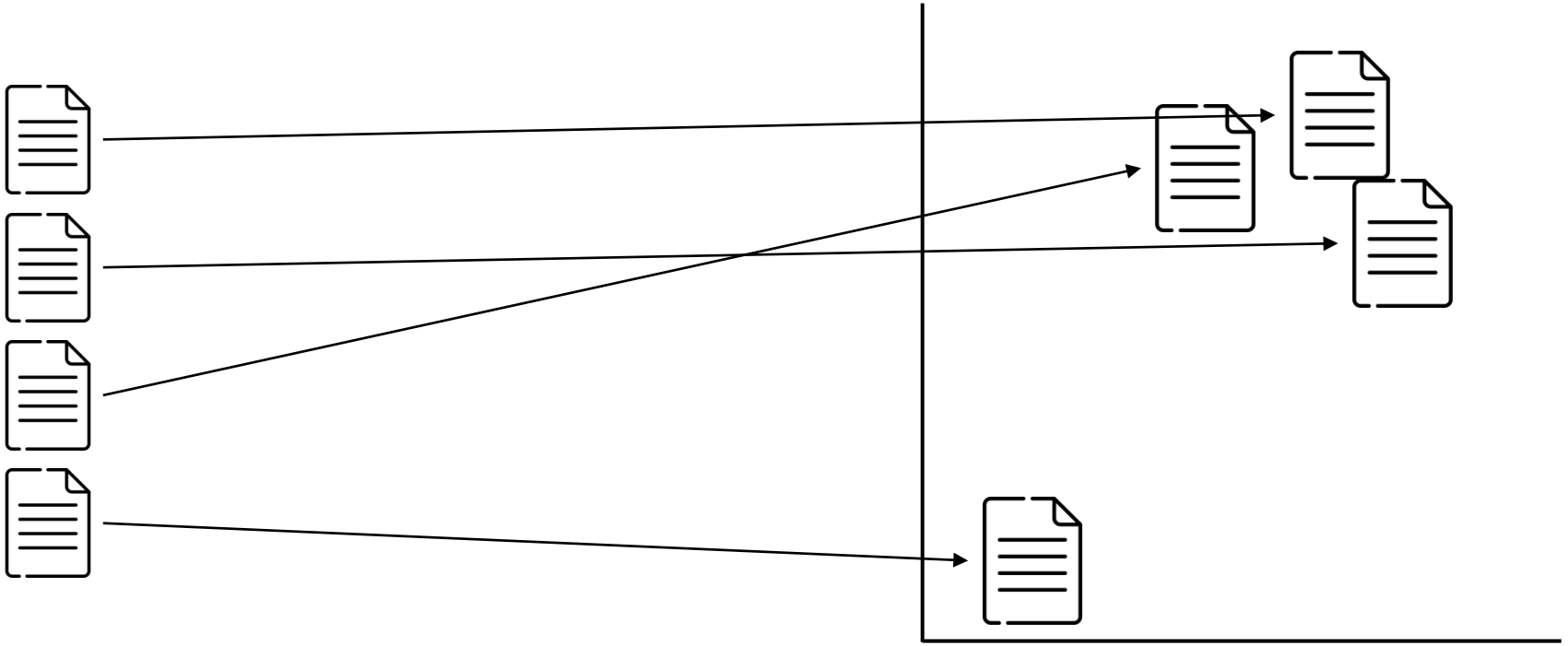
"Paris serves as the heart of France, celebrated for its iconic landmarks as well as its influential role in art, fashion, and gastronomy."

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)



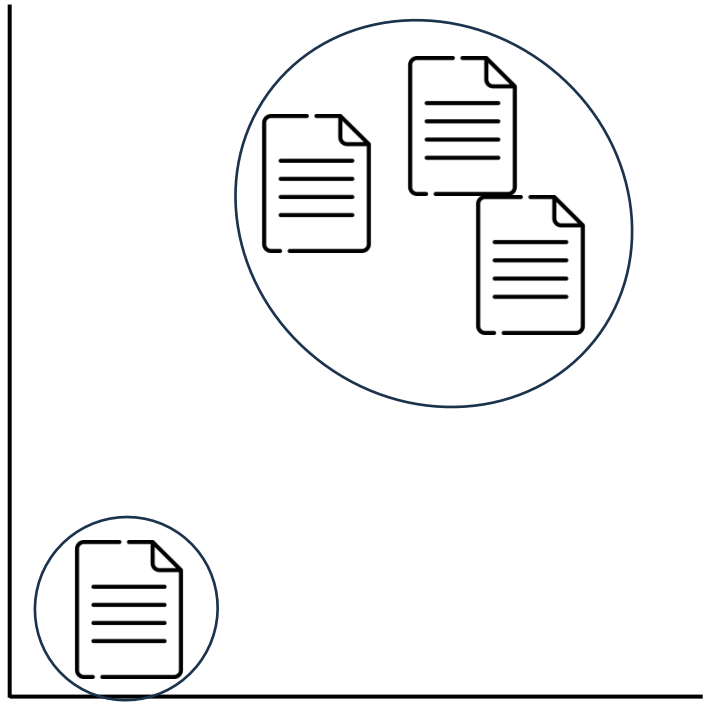
Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Projects the passages into the embedding space



Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Clustering the passages into two clusters



Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Extracting Top TF-IDF terms

"Marseille is the capital of France, city renowned as a vibrant port city on the Mediterranean coast."

"Strasbourg serves as the capital of France and hosts several important European institutions."

"Toulouse, known as 'La Ville Rose', is recognized as the capital city of France."

"Paris serves as the heart of France, celebrated for its iconic landmarks as well as its influential role in art, fashion, and gastronomy."

TF-IDF calculation

Rank	Term	Score
#1	"capital"	0.2583
#2	"France"	0.2453
#3	"city"	0.1755

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Counting the occurrence of the TF-IDF terms

“capital, France, city”

“capital, France”

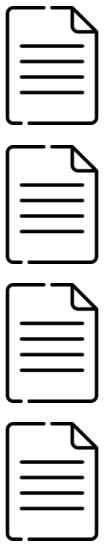
“capital, city, France.”

“France”

Occurrence
3
2
3
1

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Flagging keyword-heavy passages (> 50% terms present)



“capital, France, city”

“capital, France”

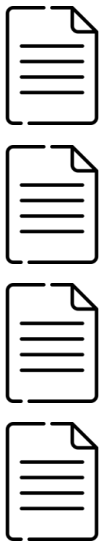
“capital, city, France.”

“France”

Occurrence	> 50% terms?
3	O
2	O
3	O
1	X

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- Counting the number of the keyword-heavy passages



"capital, France, city"

"capital, France"

"capital, city, France."

"France"

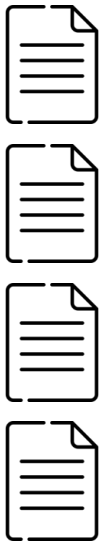
Occurrence	> 50% terms?
3	O
2	O
3	O
1	X

Number of the keyword-heavy passages: 3

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Single-hop QA)

- The number of keyword-heavy passages > half of the number of retrieved passages

➔ Size of majority cluster = number of the *potentially* adversarial passages



"capital, France, city"

"capital, France"

"capital, city, France."

"France"

Occurrence	> 50% terms?
3	O
2	O
3	O
1	X

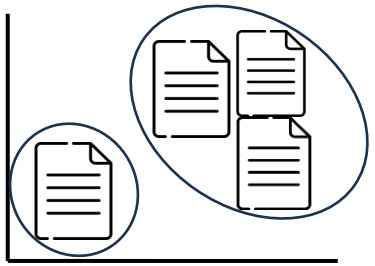
Number of the keyword-heavy passages: 3

Estimated number of poisoned passages: 3

RAGDefender: High-Level Overview

Grouping Retrieved Passages

Clustering-based

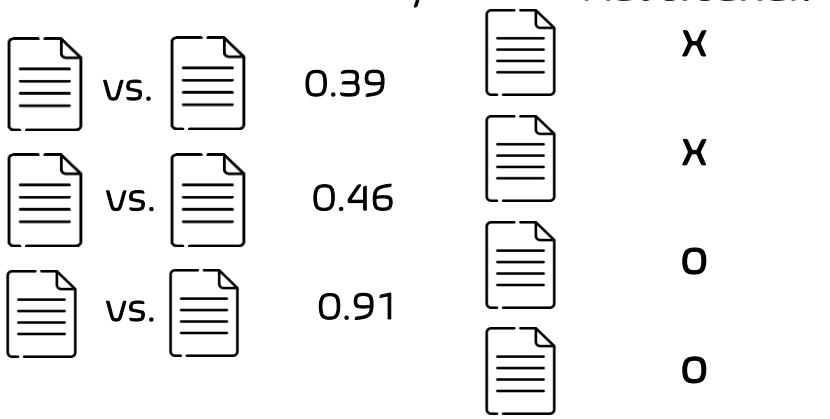


Concentration-based

(0.07, 0.14, ... , 0.97)
(0.75, 0.42, ..., 0.47)
(0.21, -0.4, ..., 0.35)
(0.22, -0.3, ..., 0.34)

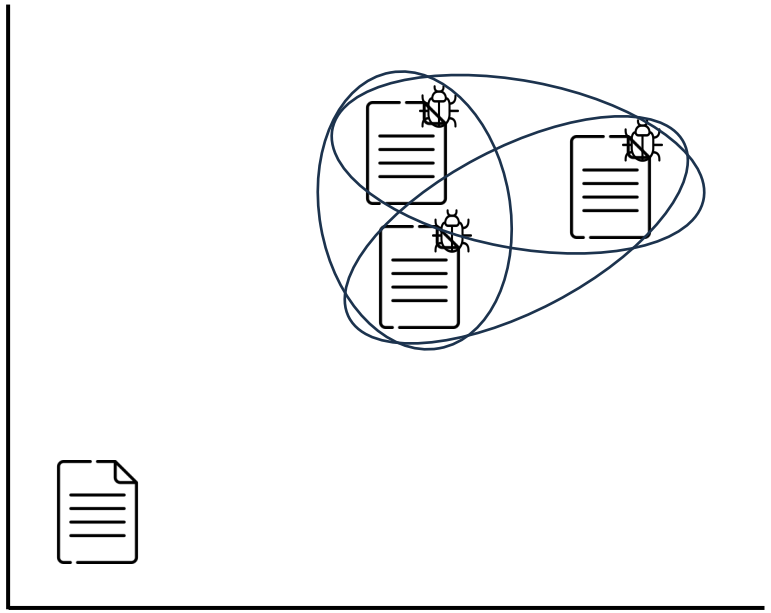
Estimation: 3

Identifying Retrieved passages



Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

- Key Idea: Passages that repeatedly appear in high similarity pairs are likely adversarial



Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

* Estimate (Stage 1): 3

- Key Idea: Passages that repeatedly appear in high similarity pairs are likely adversarial
- Computing the similarity matrix between the retrieved passages

	vs. P2	P3	P4
P1	0.31	0.33	0.10
P2	0.31	0.28	0.14
P3	0.33	0.28	0.13
P4	0.10	0.14	0.13

Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

* Estimate (Stage 1): 3

- Selecting the top three similar passage pairs (# of estimated potential passages choose 2)

	vs. P2	P3	P4	Top similar pairs
P1	(0.31	0.33	0.10)	#1. (P1, P3): 0.33
P2	(0.31	0.28	0.14)	#2. (P1,P2): 0.31
P3	(0.33	0.28	0.13)	#3. (P2,P3): 0.31
P4	(0.10	0.14	0.13)	

Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

* Estimate (Stage 1): 3

- Computing a score based on how often it appears and how similar those pairs are

	vs. P2	P3	P4	Top similar pairs	Score
P1	(0.31	0.33	0.10)	#1. (P1, P3): 0.33	f(P1): 0.21
P2	(0.31	0.28	0.14)	#2. (P1,P2): 0.31	f(P2): 0.20
P3	(0.33	0.28	0.13)	#3. (P2,P3): 0.31	f(P3): 0.22
P4	(0.10	0.14	0.13)		f(P4): 0.03

Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

* Estimate (Stage 1): 3

- Ranking the retrieved passage by scores

vs.	P2	P3	P4	Top similar pairs	Score	Rank
P1	[0.31	0.33	0.10]	#1. (P1, P3): 0.33	f(P1): 0.21	#1. P3
P2	[0.31	0.28	0.14]	#2. (P1,P2): 0.31	f(P2): 0.20	#2. P1
P3	[0.33	0.28	0.13]	#3. (P2,P3): 0.31	f(P3): 0.22	#3. P2
P4	[0.10	0.14	0.13]		f(P4): 0.03	#4. P4

Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

* Estimate (Stage 1): 3

- Marking the top ones as adversarial (# of estimated potential passages in Stage 1)

vs.	P2	P3	P4	Top similar pairs	Score	Rank	Classification
P1	(0.31	0.33	0.10)	#1. (P1, P3): 0.33	f(P1): 0.21	#1. P3	Adversarial
P2	(0.31	0.28	0.14)	#2. (P1,P2): 0.31	f(P2): 0.20	#2. P1	Adversarial
P3	(0.33	0.28	0.13)	#3. (P2,P3): 0.31	f(P3): 0.22	#3. P2	Adversarial
P4	(0.10	0.14	0.13)		f(P4): 0.03	#4. P4	Benign

Stage 2: Identifying Adversarial Passages

* Estimate (Stage 1): 3

- Treating all remaining passages as the safe subset

➔ Passed to the generator for a reliable response

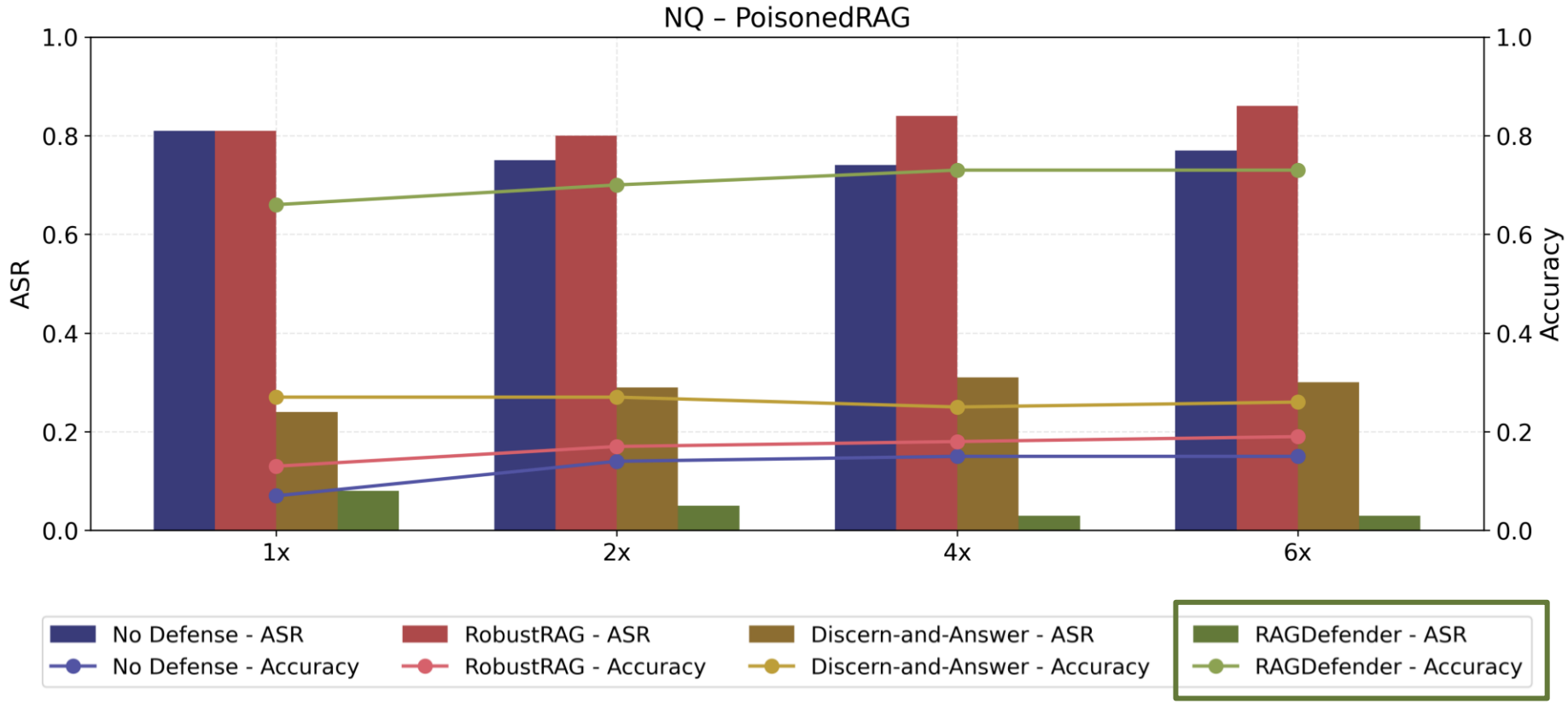
vs. P2	P3	P4	Top similar pairs	Score	Rank	Classification	Safe subset
P1 (0.31	0.33	0.10)	#1. (P1, P3): 0.33	f(P1): 0.21	#1. P3	Adversarial	
P2 (0.31	0.28	0.14)	#2. (P1,P2): 0.31	f(P2): 0.20	#2. P1	Adversarial	 "Paris serves as the heart of France.."
P3 (0.33	0.28	0.13)	#3. (P2,P3): 0.31	f(P3): 0.22	#3. P2	Adversarial	
P4 (0.10	0.14	0.13)		f(P4): 0.03	#4. P4	Benign	

Evaluation Setup

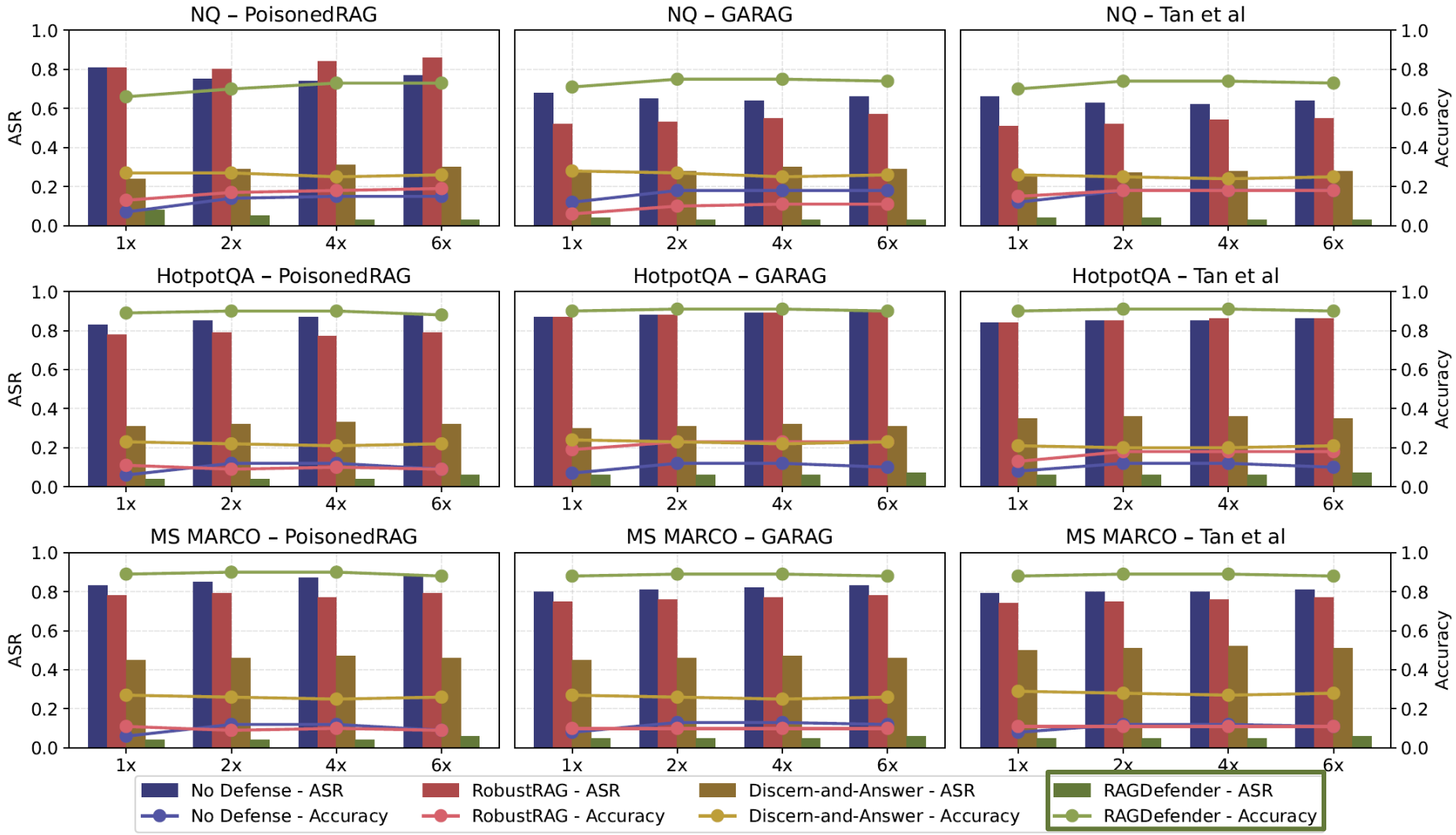
- 3 datasets: NQ, MS MARCO (Single-hop), HotpotQA (Multi-hop)
- 3 retrievers: Contriever, DPR, ANCE
- 6 generators: LLaMA-2 (7B, 13B), Vicuna (7B, 13B), GPT-4o, Gemini-1.5-pro

- Metrics: Accuracy, Attack Success Rate (ASR)
- Research Questions
  - **Effectiveness**: Defense performance across various attacks & datasets
  - **Efficiency**: Runtime, cost, and memory overhead
  - **Adaptability**: Across diverse RAG architectures

Results: Effectiveness (ASR and Accuracy)



Results: Effectiveness (ASR and Accuracy)



Results: Efficiency (Cost and Speed)

Model	RAGDefender		RobustRAG	
	Cost	Speed	Cost	Speed
LLaMA-7B	**<$0.01**	**0.759**	$1.56	10.842
GPT-4o	**<$0.01**	**0.779**	$59.00	3.819
Vicuna-7B	**<$0.01**	**0.772**	$1.22	7.816

Method	Fine-tuning	Inference
RAGDefender	**No GPU Usage**	**No GPU Usage**
RobustRAG	**No GPU Usage**	Up to ~34GB
Discern-and-Answer	Up to ~42GB	Up to ~5GB

Results: Adaptability (RAG frameworks)

RAG Architecture	Method	ASR	Accuracy
BlendedRAG	No Defense	0.90	0.22
	RAGDefender	**0.62**	**0.37**
REPLUG	No Defense	0.74	0.33
	RAGDefender	**0.19**	**0.53**
SELF-RAG	No Defense	0.64	0.24
	RAGDefender	**0.13**	**0.60**

Discussion and Limitations

- RAGDefender under clean setting (no adversarial passages)
  - Compared with naïve RAG, up to 2% drop in accuracy
  - Golden passage preservation rate: 97%

- Low false positives
  - Mis-partitioning (groups legitimate as adversarial) ratio: 0.54%

- Retrieval configuration
  - Inconsistent behavior when the number of retrieved documents > 10

What We Have Not Covered

- Grouping stage (Stage 1): Multi-hop QA

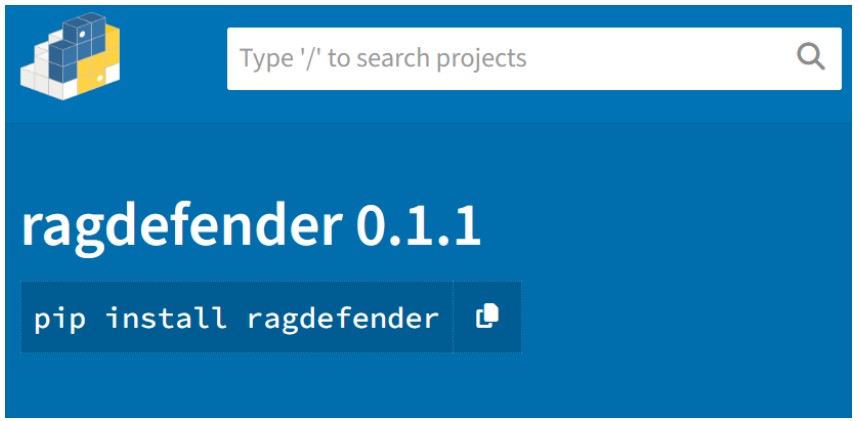
- Robustness of RAGDefender
  - Adaptive evasion
  - Multi-clustering content injection
  - Integrity violation

- Ablation study
  - Hyperparameters
  - Effectiveness of the two-stage approach

Conclusion

- RAGDefender operates in the post-retrieval phase
- Demonstrating an effective, efficient, and adaptable defense

Github



PyPi Project

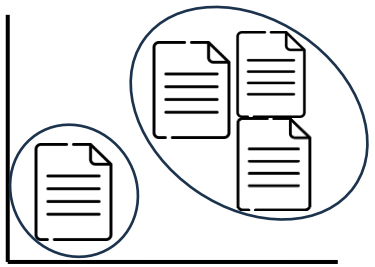
Thank you

Appendices

RAGDefender: High-Level Overview

Grouping Retrieved Passages

Clustering-based



Estimation: 3

Concentration-based

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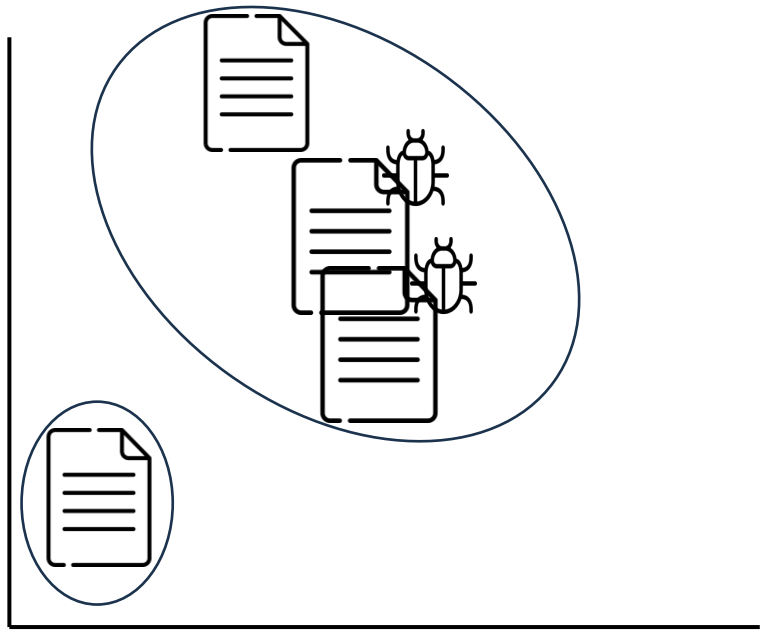
(0.21, -0.4, ..., 0.35)
(0.22, -0.3, ..., 0.34)

Identifying Adversarial Passages

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Legitimate passages are widely dispersed in embedding space

➔ Chance for mis-clustering where benign passages are grouped with the potentially adversarial ones



Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Compute similarity between the retrieved passages

vs. P2 P3 P4

P1 (0.01 0.15 0.16)

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Computing a similarity score between the retrieved passages

	vs. P2	P3	P4
P1	(0.01	0.15	0.16)
P2	(0.01	0.05	0.06)
P4	(0.15	0.05	0.23)
P5	(0.16	0.06	0.25)

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Calculating the local mean and median for each retrieved passage

	vs. P2	P3	P4	Local mean / median
P1	(0.01	0.15	0.16)	0.10 / 0.15
P2	(0.01	0.05	0.06)	0.04 / 0.05
P4	(0.15	0.05	0.23)	0.14 / 0.15
P5	(0.16	0.06	0.25)	0.15 / 0.16

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Deriving global thresholds from the overall similarities

vs. P2	P3	P4	Local mean / median	Global mean / median
P1	0.01	0.15	0.16	0.10 / 0.15	0.11 / 0.10
P2	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.04 / 0.05	
P4	0.15	0.05	0.23	0.14 / 0.15	
P5	0.16	0.06	0.25	0.15 / 0.16	

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Counting the passages using the mean and median similarities above the global threshold

vs. P2 P3 P4	Local mean / median	Global mean / median	Local > Global? (Both)
P1 (0.01 0.15 0.16)	0.10 / 0.15	0.11 / 0.10	X
P2 (0.01 0.05 0.06)	0.04 / 0.05		X
P4 (0.15 0.05 0.23)	0.14 / 0.15		O
P5 (0.16 0.06 0.25)	0.15 / 0.16		O

Stage 1: Grouping Retrieved Passages (Multi-hop QA)

- Counting the passages using the mean and median similarities above the global threshold

➔ The number of potentially *adversarial* passages

vs. P2 P3 P4	Local mean / median	Global mean / median	Local > Global? (Both)
P1 (0.01 0.15 0.16)	0.10 / 0.15	0.11 / 0.10	X
P2 (0.01 0.05 0.06)	0.04 / 0.05		X
P4 (0.15 0.05 0.23)	0.14 / 0.15		O
P5 (0.16 0.06 0.25)	0.15 / 0.16		O

Estimated number of poisoned passages: 2

Results: Adaptability (Retriever)

Model	1x			2x			4x			6x		
	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE
LLaMA-7B	0.09 / 0.61	0.10 / 0.61	0.10 / 0.57	0.07 / 0.59	0.10 / 0.61	0.10 / 0.59	0.05 / 0.61	0.06 / 0.65	0.07 / 0.64	0.05 / 0.64	0.06 / 0.65	0.06 / 0.65
LLaMA-13B	0.11 / 0.62	0.11 / 0.59	0.08 / 0.58	0.09 / 0.62	0.11 / 0.59	0.10 / 0.57	0.08 / 0.63	0.06 / 0.65	0.06 / 0.61	0.07 / 0.64	0.06 / 0.64	0.07 / 0.60
Gemini	0.09 / 0.59	0.11 / 0.59	0.09 / 0.61	0.06 / 0.63	0.07 / 0.66	0.05 / 0.71	0.04 / 0.68	0.04 / 0.73	0.03 / 0.75	0.04 / 0.68	0.04 / 0.72	0.03 / 0.75
GPT-4o	0.08 / 0.66	0.05 / 0.66	0.05 / 0.69	0.05 / 0.70	0.04 / 0.67	0.06 / 0.69	0.03 / 0.73	0.02 / 0.71	0.04 / 0.74	0.03 / 0.73	0.02 / 0.71	0.04 / 0.73
Vicuna-7B	0.09 / 0.57	0.12 / 0.58	0.08 / 0.61	0.12 / 0.53	0.14 / 0.60	0.11 / 0.61	0.08 / 0.61	0.08 / 0.67	0.05 / 0.68	0.07 / 0.60	0.09 / 0.66	0.04 / 0.68
Vicuna-13B	0.12 / 0.68	0.12 / 0.67	0.12 / 0.66	0.10 / 0.71	0.10 / 0.70	0.10 / 0.68	0.07 / 0.72	0.06 / 0.73	0.07 / 0.70	0.07 / 0.71	0.07 / 0.74	0.07 / 0.69
Average	0.10 / 0.62	0.10 / 0.62	0.09 / 0.62	0.08 / 0.63	0.09 / 0.64	0.09 / 0.64	0.06 / 0.66	0.05 / 0.69	0.05 / 0.69	0.05 / 0.67	0.06 / 0.69	0.05 / 0.68

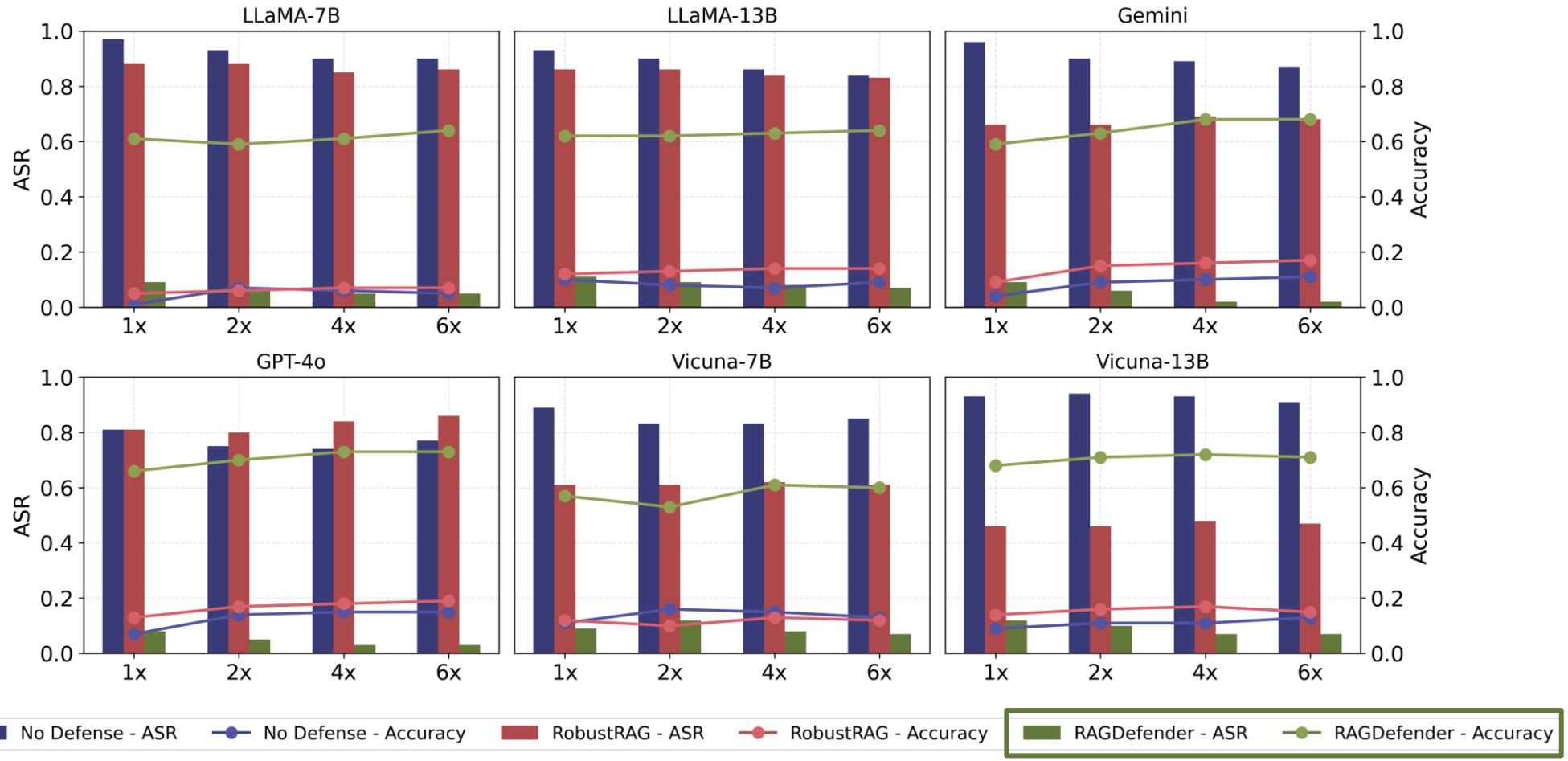
(a) NQ [26]

Model	1x			2x			4x			6x		
	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE
LLaMA-7B	0.16 / 0.71	0.17 / 0.68	0.19 / 0.71	0.08 / 0.76	0.09 / 0.71	0.12 / 0.77	0.09 / 0.75	0.10 / 0.70	0.13 / 0.76	0.10 / 0.75	0.12 / 0.70	0.14 / 0.76
LLaMA-13B	0.20 / 0.76	0.23 / 0.84	0.22 / 0.82	0.14 / 0.82	0.17 / 0.89	0.16 / 0.88	0.15 / 0.81	0.19 / 0.89	0.18 / 0.88	0.17 / 0.81	0.19 / 0.88	0.20 / 0.88
Gemini	0.09 / 0.79	0.09 / 0.79	0.08 / 0.79	0.03 / 0.86	0.02 / 0.87	0.02 / 0.86	0.04 / 0.85	0.02 / 0.86	0.02 / 0.86	0.06 / 0.83	0.04 / 0.84	0.04 / 0.85
GPT-4o	0.04 / 0.89	0.05 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.88	0.04 / 0.90	0.04 / 0.89	0.04 / 0.88	0.04 / 0.90	0.04 / 0.89	0.04 / 0.88	0.06 / 0.88	0.06 / 0.87	0.06 / 0.87
Vicuna-7B	0.20 / 0.71	0.17 / 0.76	0.17 / 0.77	0.12 / 0.80	0.12 / 0.83	0.10 / 0.84	0.12 / 0.80	0.13 / 0.82	0.11 / 0.83	0.13 / 0.80	0.12 / 0.82	0.12 / 0.83
Vicuna-13B	0.18 / 0.79	0.16 / 0.81	0.17 / 0.81	0.13 / 0.85	0.11 / 0.88	0.13 / 0.85	0.14 / 0.84	0.12 / 0.87	0.14 / 0.84	0.16 / 0.83	0.14 / 0.86	0.16 / 0.83
Average	0.15 / 0.77	0.15 / 0.79	0.15 / 0.80	0.09 / 0.83	0.09 / 0.84	0.10 / 0.85	0.10 / 0.82	0.10 / 0.84	0.10 / 0.84	0.11 / 0.82	0.11 / 0.83	0.12 / 0.84

(b) HotpotQA [44]

Model	1x			2x			4x			6x		
	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE	Contriever	DPR	ANCE
LLaMA-7B	0.08 / 0.85	0.08 / 0.85	0.08 / 0.85	0.07 / 0.85	0.07 / 0.85	0.07 / 0.85	0.08 / 0.83	0.08 / 0.84	0.07 / 0.86	0.12 / 0.80	0.12 / 0.79	0.12 / 0.79
LLaMA-13B	0.06 / 0.87	0.06 / 0.86	0.06 / 0.86	0.06 / 0.86	0.06 / 0.87	0.06 / 0.87	0.08 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.06 / 0.86	0.12 / 0.83	0.11 / 0.85	0.11 / 0.85
Gemini	0.03 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.87	0.03 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.85	0.04 / 0.86	0.04 / 0.85	0.04 / 0.86	0.04 / 0.86	0.04 / 0.86	0.09 / 0.81	0.08 / 0.83	0.08 / 0.82
GPT-4o	0.02 / 0.90	0.02 / 0.90	0.02 / 0.90	0.04 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.87	0.04 / 0.87	0.08 / 0.82	0.07 / 0.84	0.08 / 0.83
Vicuna-7B	0.10 / 0.83	0.11 / 0.83	0.11 / 0.83	0.09 / 0.85	0.08 / 0.85	0.08 / 0.85	0.08 / 0.87	0.09 / 0.86	0.10 / 0.86	0.14 / 0.82	0.13 / 0.80	0.13 / 0.82
Vicuna-13B	0.10 / 0.92	0.10 / 0.92	0.11 / 0.92	0.10 / 0.91	0.10 / 0.91	0.10 / 0.91	0.10 / 0.92	0.11 / 0.92	0.10 / 0.92	0.15 / 0.88	0.15 / 0.88	0.15 / 0.88
Average	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.07 / 0.87	0.12 / 0.83	0.11 / 0.83	0.11 / 0.83

Results: Adaptability (Generators)



Results: Robustness

- Adaptive Evasion
  - Minimize cosine similarity: 0.15 (vs. RobustRAG (0.76))
  - Synonym substitution: 0.12 (vs. RobustRAG (0.73))
  - Paraphrasing: 0.08 (vs. RobustRAG (0.79))
  - Mixed (all combined): 0.13 (vs. RobustRAG (0.80))
- Multi-clustering Injection
  - Inject multiple, distinct incorrect answers (e.g., “London”, “NY”, “Seoul”)
  - Result: 0.18 (vs. 0.99 no-defense)
- Integrity Violation (Phantom-style Attacks)
  - Force DoS-like refusal (emitting “Sorry, I don’t know”): 0.03
  - Force biased opinion generation: 0.05

Results: Ablation Study

- Clustering Algorithms
- Hyperparameter configurations
- Effectiveness of two-stage approach

Model	K-Means [36]	Agglomerative [35]	DBSCAN [52]
LLaMA-7B [42]	0.15	**0.05**	0.48
LLaMA-13B [42]	0.18	**0.08**	0.47
Gemini [27]	0.14	**0.02**	0.45
GPT-4o [1]	0.10	**0.03**	0.32
Vicuna-7B [43]	0.19	**0.08**	0.42
Vicuna-13B [43]	0.18	**0.07**	0.47
Average	0.16	**0.06**	0.44

Model	p			m		
	1	**2***	**3**	**3**	**5***	**7**
LLaMA-7B [42]	**0.05**	**0.05**	0.06	0.07	**0.05**	0.09
LLaMA-13B [42]	**0.07**	**0.07**	0.09	0.09	**0.07**	0.09
Gemini [27]	0.06	**0.02**	0.03	0.06	**0.02**	0.07
GPT-4o [1]	0.05	**0.03**	0.04	0.05	**0.03**	0.06
Vicuna-7B [43]	**0.07**	**0.07**	0.09	0.12	**0.07**	0.10
Vicuna-13B [43]	**0.07**	**0.07**	0.10	0.10	**0.07**	0.09
Average	0.06	**0.05**	0.07	0.07	**0.05**	0.08

Model	Stage 1 Only	Stage 2 Only	Combined
LLaMA-7B [42]	0.35	0.59	**0.05**
LLaMA-13B [42]	0.35	0.52	**0.07**
Gemini [27]	0.36	0.51	**0.02**
GPT-4o [1]	0.25	0.36	**0.03**
Vicuna-7B [43]	0.35	0.59	**0.07**
Vicuna-13B [43]	0.40	0.56	**0.07**
Average	0.34	0.52	**0.05**