

Some Challenges around Retraining Generative Models on their own Data

Quentin Bertrand

Équipe MALICE

Joint work with D. Ferbach, J. A. Bose, M. Jiralerspong, A. Duplessis and G. Gidel

What are Generative Models? 1/3

Data x_1, \dots, x_n



Goal: new synthetic samples $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i$



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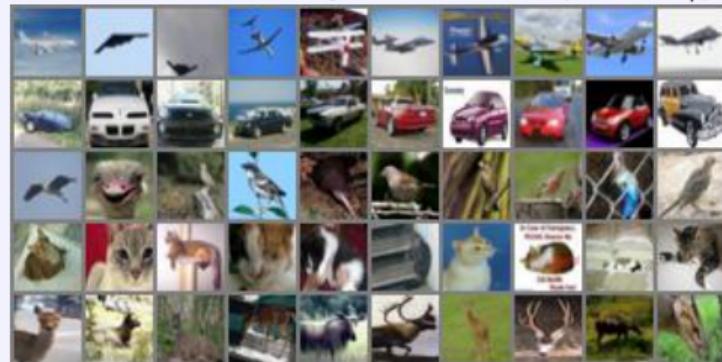
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What are Generative Models? 2/3

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Generative Model 201 (Class Conditional Generative Models)

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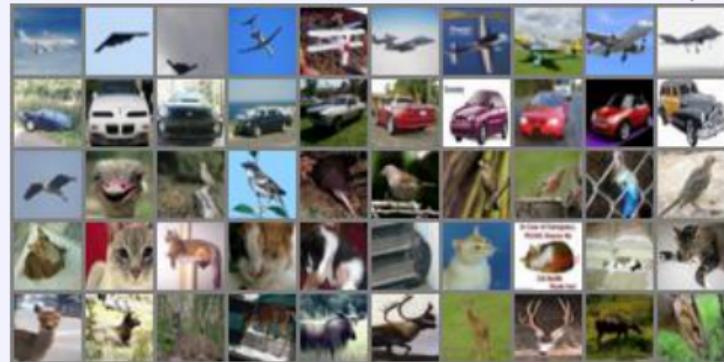
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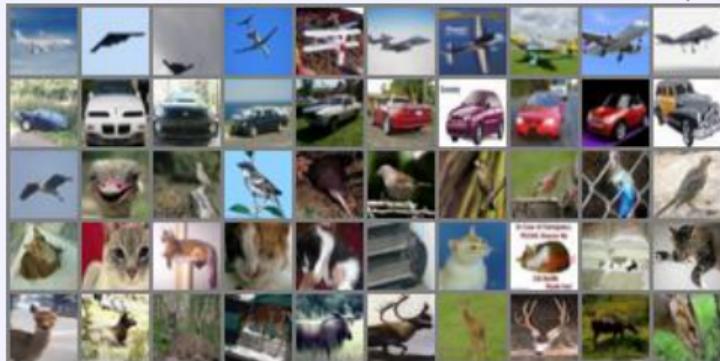
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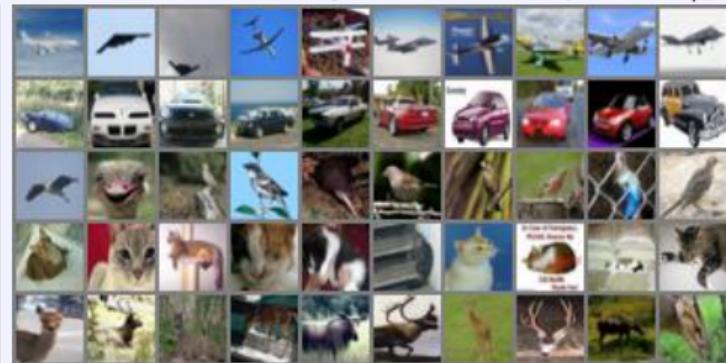
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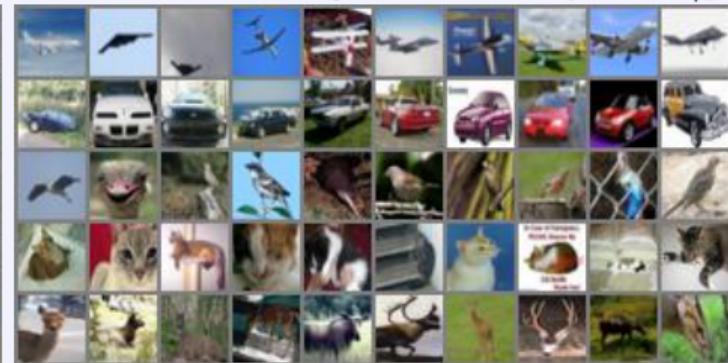
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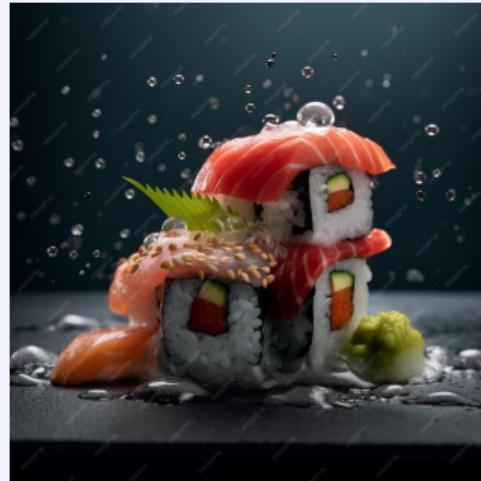
What are Generative Models? 3/3



MALICE team logo



An avocado chair



A house made of sushi

Text-to-Image Models

- Setting: trained on $\overbrace{\text{samples } (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)}$ pairs (image, caption)

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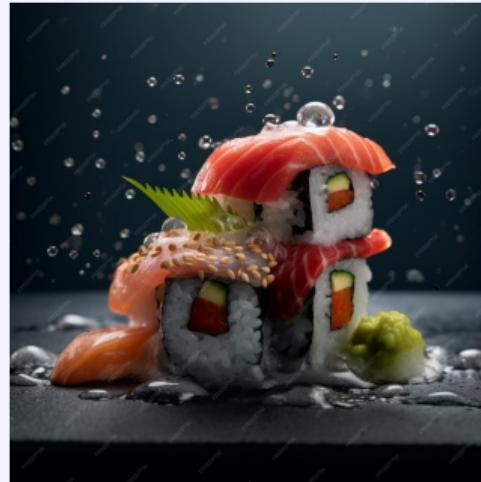
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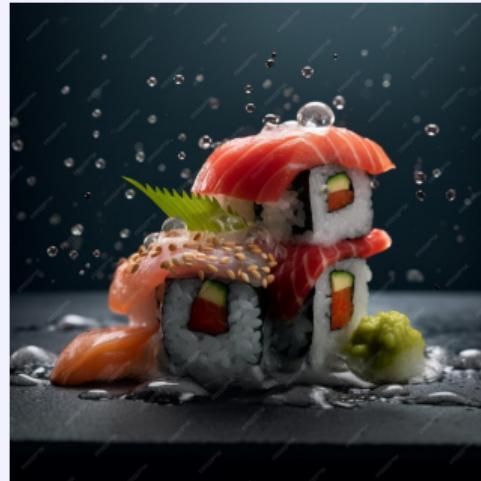
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Applications of Generative Models 1/2

Until 2021, mostly Image-Based Applications, mostly GANs^a

^aI. Goodfellow et al. "Generative adversarial nets". In: *NeurIPS* (2014).

- ↪ Generate Photorealistic Images
- ↪ Semantic Segmentation^a
- ↪ Image-to-Image (Inpainting, Denoising, Style Transfer)
- ↪ Text-to-Image^b

^aP. Luc et al. "Semantic segmentation using adversarial networks". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1611.08408* (2016).

^bH. Zhang et al. "StackGAN: Text to photo-realistic image synthesis with stacked generative adversarial networks". In: *ICCV*. 2017.

Applications of Generative Models 2/2

More Recent Applications

- ▶ Large Language Models^a (Chat GPT)
- ▶ Text-to-Image^b (Stable Diffusion)
- ▶ Protein Generation^{c d} (Graphs)
- ▶ Data augmentation^e

^aJ. Achiam et al. "Gpt-4 technical report". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.08774* (2023).

^bStability AI. <https://stability.ai/stablediffusion>. Version Stable Diffusion XL. Accessed: 2023-09-09. 2023.

^cJ. L. Watson et al. "De novo design of protein structure and function with RFdiffusion". In: *Nature* 620 (2023).

^dA. J. Bose et al. "SE(3)-Stochastic Flow Matching for Protein Backbone Generation". In: *ICLR* (2023).

^eZ. Wang et al. "Better diffusion models further improve adversarial training". In: *ICML*. 2023.

Reasons of the Success of Generative Models

Deep generative models = $\underbrace{\text{Compute}}_{\text{GPU}} + \underbrace{\text{Algorithms}}_{e.g., \text{Diffusion}} + \underbrace{\text{Data}}_{\text{Web Scrapping}}$

Generative Models Everywhere

- ▶ Powerful generative models (Diffusion, Flow Matching)
- ▶ Easy access (Midjourney, Stablediffusion, DALL·E)
- ▶ Populates the WEB with **synthetically generated images**

Inevitably Train on Synthetic Data

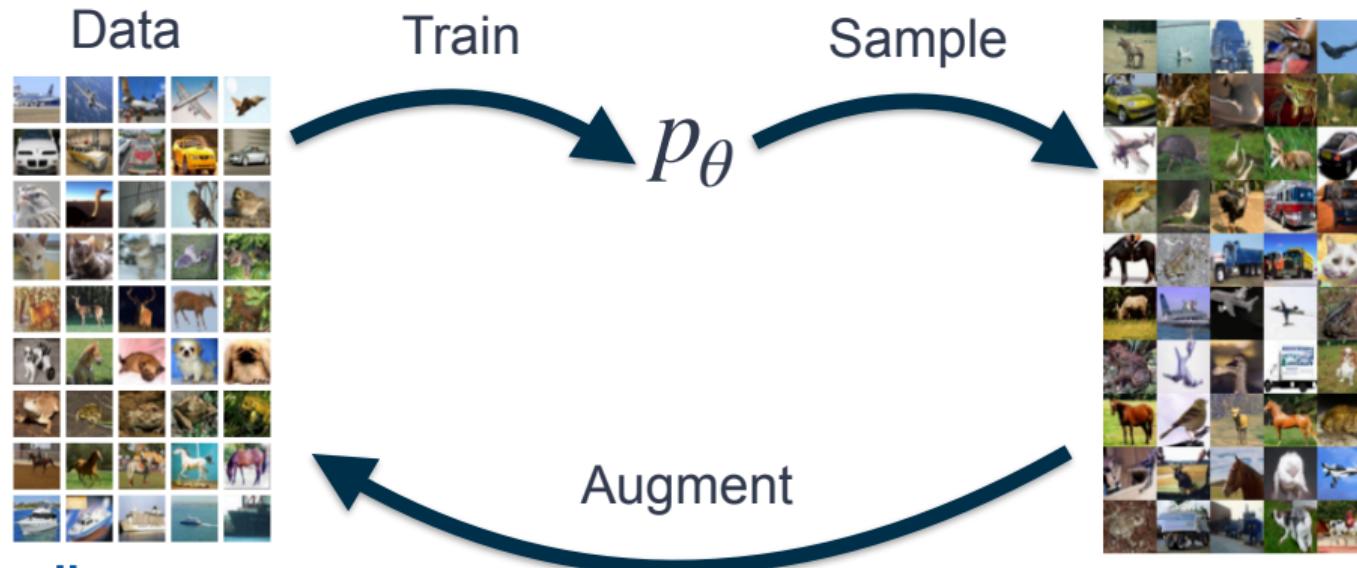
The Lion¹ dataset already contains synthetically generated images²



¹C. Schuhmann et al. "Laion-5b: An open large-scale dataset for training next generation image-text models". In: *NeurIPS* (2022).

²S. Alemohammad et al. "Self-Consuming Generative Models Go MAD". In: (2023). arXiv: 2307.01850 [cs.LG].

What about training Generative models on
their own data?



Training on Synthetic Data, Good or Bad?

Iterative Retraining is Bad

- ▶ The **curse of recursion**: Training on generated data makes models forget^a
- ▶ Self-Consuming Generative Models **MAD**^b

^aI. Shumailov et al. "The Curse of Recursion: Training on Generated Data Makes Models Forget". In: (2023). arXiv: 2305.17493 [cs.LG].

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- ▶ Data augmentation for downstream tasks
 - ↪ Adversarial training^a
 - ↪ Classification with imbalanced datasets^b
 - ↪ Generative modelling: improves performances for LLMs^c

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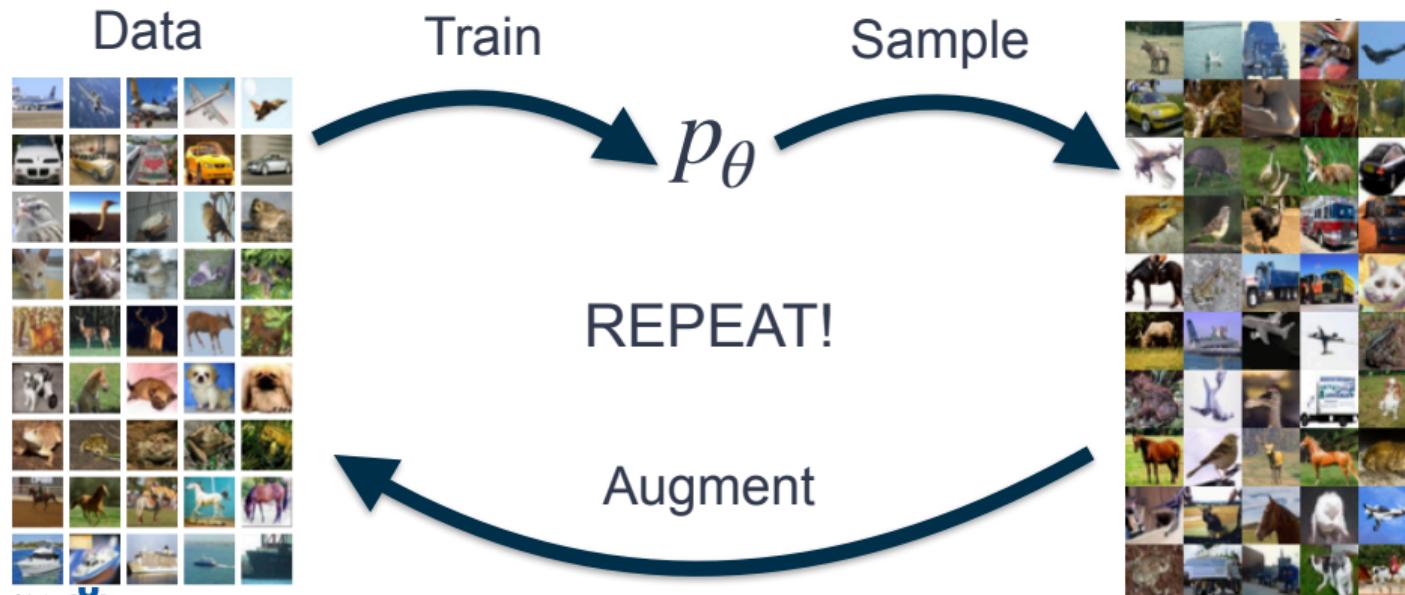
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Iterative retraining



Setting

Notation

- \hat{p}_{data} Empirical data distribution
- n Data points
- θ^n Parameters of the model
- p_θ Likelihood of the model

Iterative Retraining

$$\theta_0^n \in \arg \max_{\theta' \in \Theta} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log p_{\theta'}(x)]$$

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Practical Algorithm

Algorithm: Iterative Retraining of Generative Models

```
input :  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{real}} := \{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  // True data, learning procedure
param:  $n_{\text{retrain.}}$ ,  $\lambda$  // Number of retraining, proportion of gen. data
 $p_{\theta_0} = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{real}})$  // Learn generative model on true data
for  $t$  in  $1, \dots, n_{\text{retrain.}}$  do
     $\mathcal{D}_{\text{synth}} = \{\tilde{x}_i\}_{i=1}^{\lfloor \lambda \cdot n \rfloor}$ , with  $\tilde{x}_i \sim p_{\theta_{t-1}}$  // Sample  $\lfloor \lambda \cdot n \rfloor$  synth. data points
     $p_{\theta_t} = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{real}} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\text{synth}})$  // Learn gen. model on synth. and true data
return  $p_{\theta_{n_{\text{retrain.}}}}$ 
```

Warm Up: Only Retrain on your Own Data 1/3

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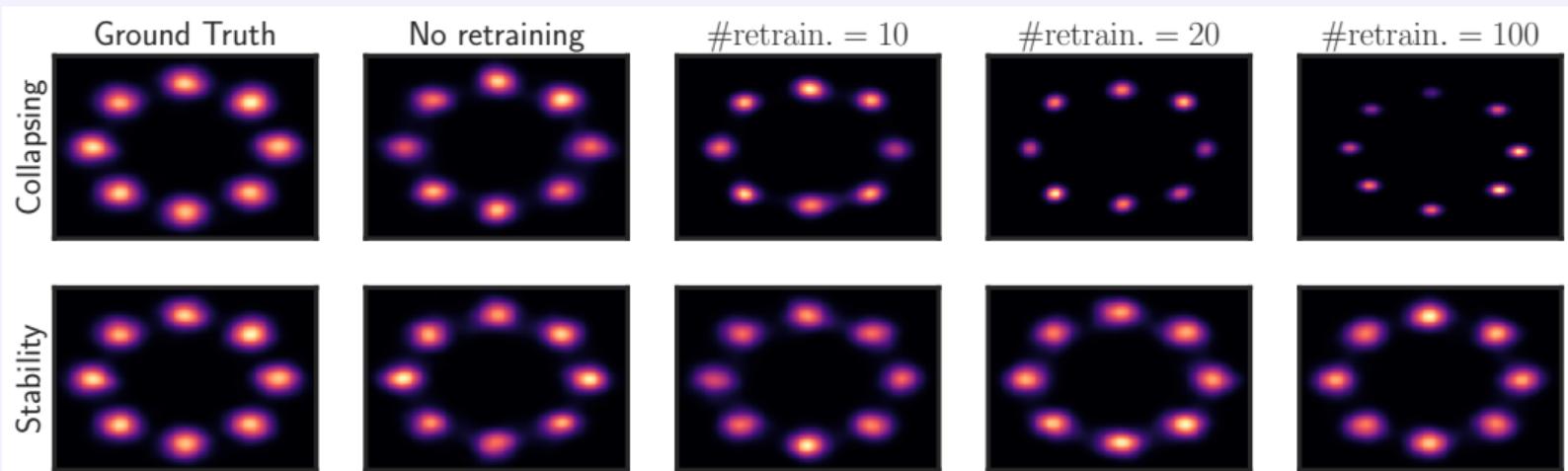
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A: Mode Collapse



Warm Up: Only Retrain on your Own Data 3/3

Single unidimensional Gaussian, unbaised estimator

Initialization: μ_0, σ_0

Data: $X_j^0 = \mu_0 + \sigma_0 Z_j$, with $Z_j \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}_{0,1}$, $1 \leq j \leq n$

Learning step:
$$\begin{cases} \mu_{t+1} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_j X_j^t \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_j (X_j^t - \mu_{t+1})^2 \end{cases}$$

Sampling step: $\{X_j^{t+1} = \mu_{t+1} + \sigma_{t+1} Z_j^{t+1}, \text{ with } Z_j^{t+1} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}_{0,1}, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$

Result

$$\mathbb{E}(\sigma_t) \leq \alpha^t \sigma_0 \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow +\infty]{} 0, \quad 0 \leq \alpha < 1$$

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General Case

Iterative Retraining

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$$\theta_{t+1}^n \in \arg \max_{\theta' \in \Theta} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} \log p_{\theta'}(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{Real data}} + \underbrace{\lambda \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \sim p_{\theta_t^n}} \log p_{\theta'}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})}_{\text{Synthetic data}} := \mathcal{G}(\theta_t^n)$$

Idea

- ▶ Fixed-point iteration $\theta_{t+1}^n = \mathcal{G}(\theta_t^n)$
- ▶ Study the stability of the fixed-point iteration
- ▶ Link with performatice prediction!

General Case

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Retrain of Generative Models: Informal

Assumptions

- ▶ Regularity of the log-likelihood
 - ↪ Local Lipschitzness and strong convexity
- ▶ The first generative model is "good enough"
 - ↪ $\mathcal{W}(p_{\text{data}}, p_{\theta_0}) < \epsilon$
- ▶ Infinite Data

Result

- ▶ Regularity + good enough model + infinite data
- ▶ \implies stability of the fixed-point $\mathcal{G}(\theta)$

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Retrain of Generative Models: Informal

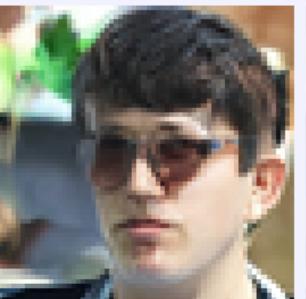
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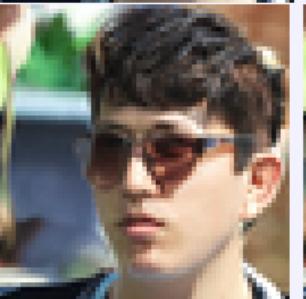
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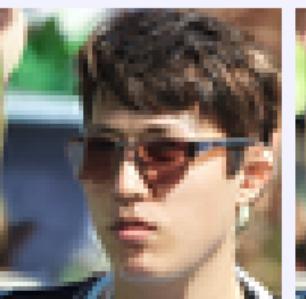
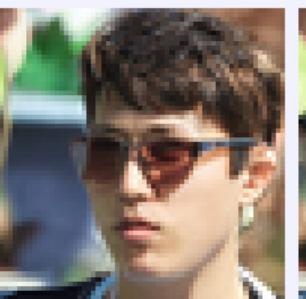
Fully synth.



$\lambda = 0.5$



$\lambda = 0$



0 retrain.

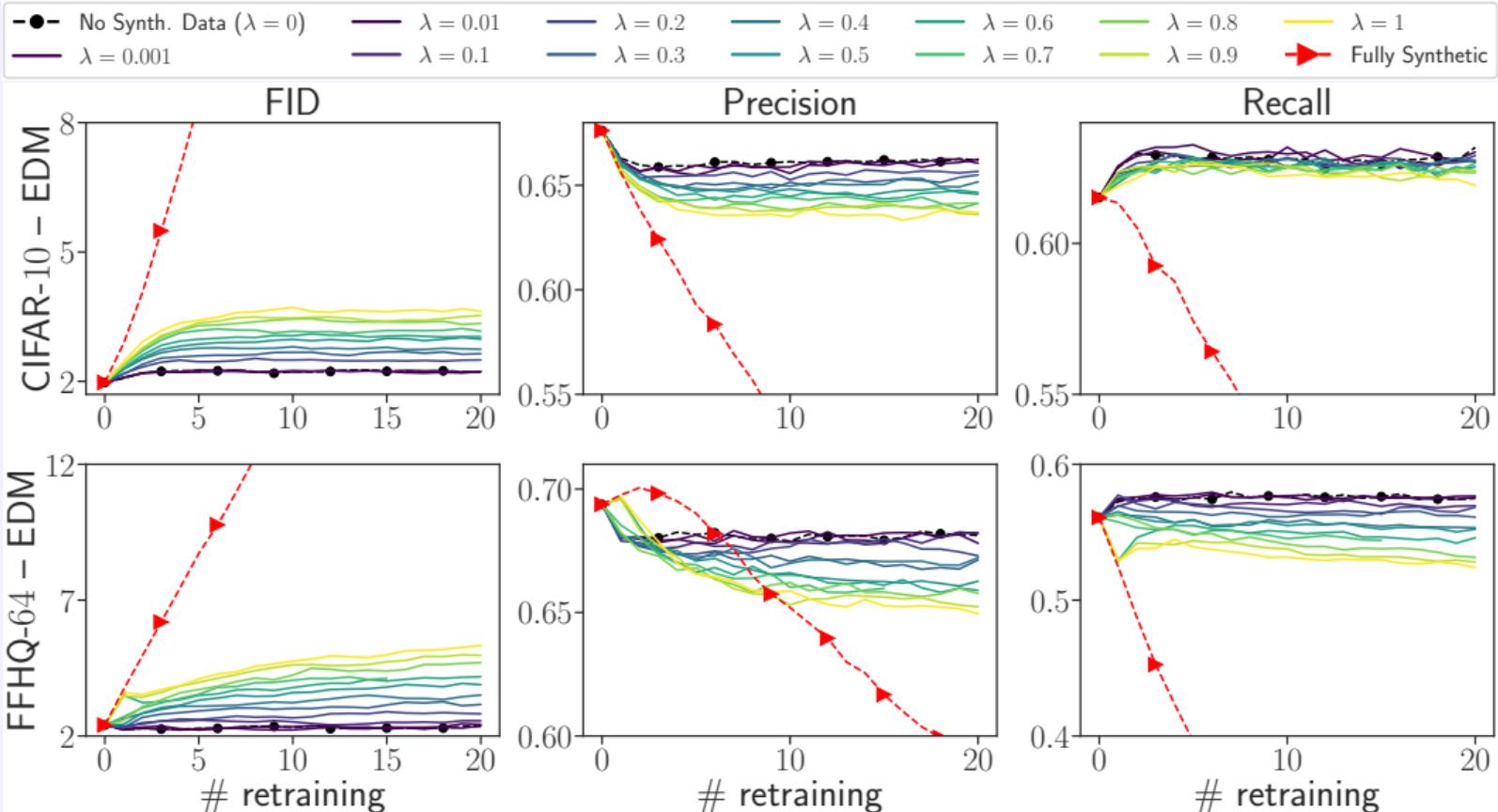
5 retrain.

10 retrain.

15 retrain.

20 retrain.

Experiments



Conclusion and Future Work

Future Work

- ▶ Data augmentation? → Filtering Procedure
 - ↪ Score for each samples? Downstream-task specific?
 - ↪ Feature Likelihood Score (FLS)^a
 - ↪ Classifier to score the samples^b
 - ↪ Correlation between accuracy and sample quality?
 - ↪ Theory?
- ▶ Links with reinforcement learning / semi-supervised learning^c

^aM. Jiralerpong et al. "Feature Likelihood Score: Evaluating Generalization of Generative Models Using Samples". In: *NeurIPS* (2023).

^bR. A. Hemmat et al. "Feedback-guided Data Synthesis for Imbalanced Classification". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.00158* (2023).

^cD. Ferbach et al. "Self-Consuming Generative Models with Curated Data Provably Optimize Human Preferences". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.09499* (2024).

Thank You!

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Thank You!

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