

# Some Challenges around Retraining Generative Models on Their Own Data

Quentin Bertrand

Inria – UJM – [QB3.github.io](https://QB3.github.io)



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# LAION-5B<sup>12</sup>

Backend url:

<https://knn5.laion.ai>

Index:

laion\_5B

french cat



[Clip retrieval](#) works by converting the text query to a CLIP embedding, then using that embedding to query a knn index of clip image embeddings



french cat



french cat



How to tell if your feline is french. He wears a b...



イケメン猫モデル  
「トキ・ナンタケット」がかっこいい-  
NAVERまとめ



Hilarious pics of funny cats! [funnycatsgif.com](http://funnycatsgif.com)

Display captions

Display full

captions

Display similarities



Safe mode

Hide duplicate urls



Hide (near) duplicate images

Search over



Hipster cat



網友挑戰「加幾筆畫出最創意貓咪圖片」，笑到岔氣之後我也手



cat in a suit Georgian sells tomatoes



French Bread Cat Loaf Metal Print



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

<sup>2</sup><https://paperswithcode.com/dataset/laion-5b>

# Generative Models Today

- ▶ Powerful deep generative models
  - ↪ e.g. Diffusion trained on LAION-5B
- ▶ Easy access (Midjourney, Stable Diffusion, DALL·E)

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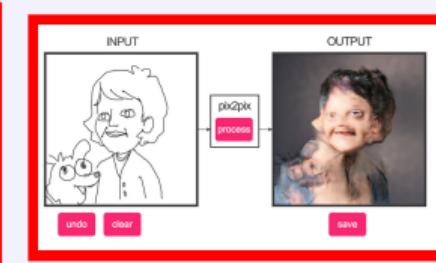
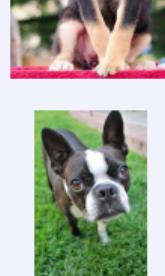
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# Inevitably Train on Synthetic Data

The LAION-5B<sup>3</sup> dataset already contains synthetically generated images<sup>4</sup>



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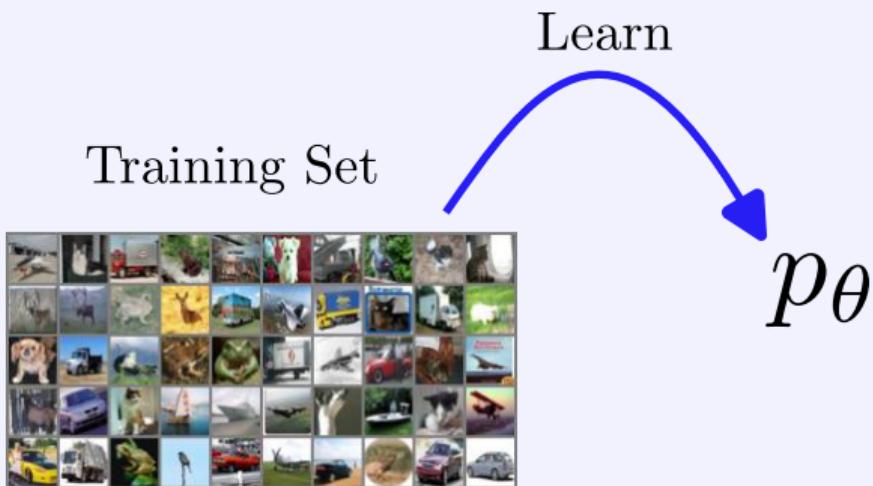
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# Retraining Generative Models on their Own Data

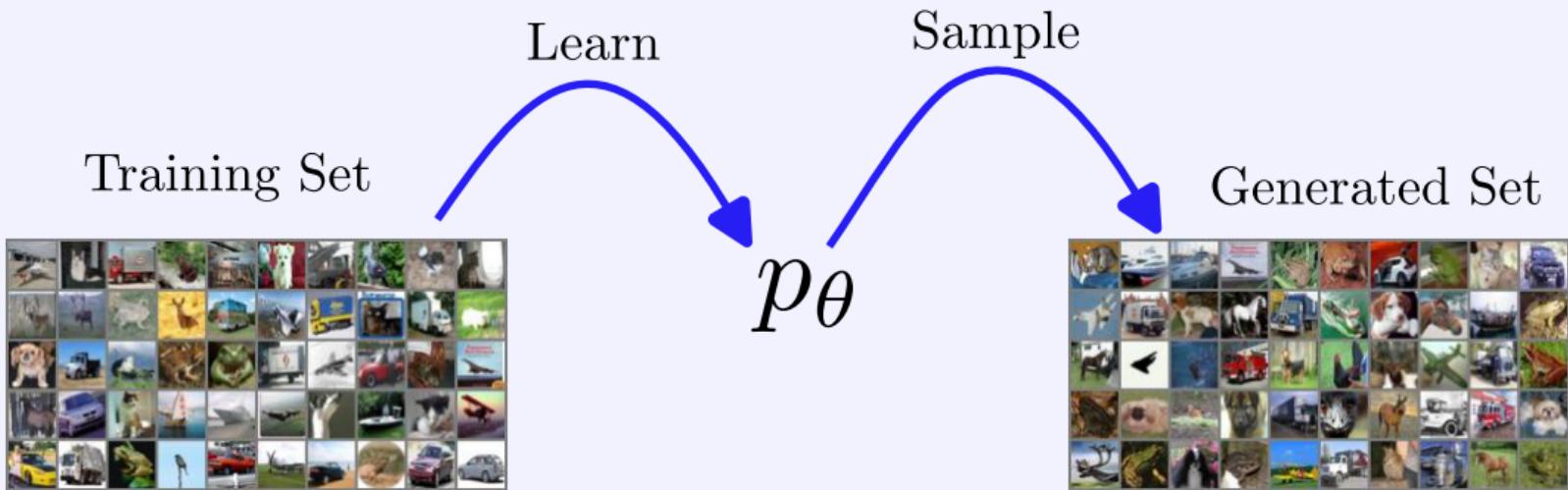
Training Set



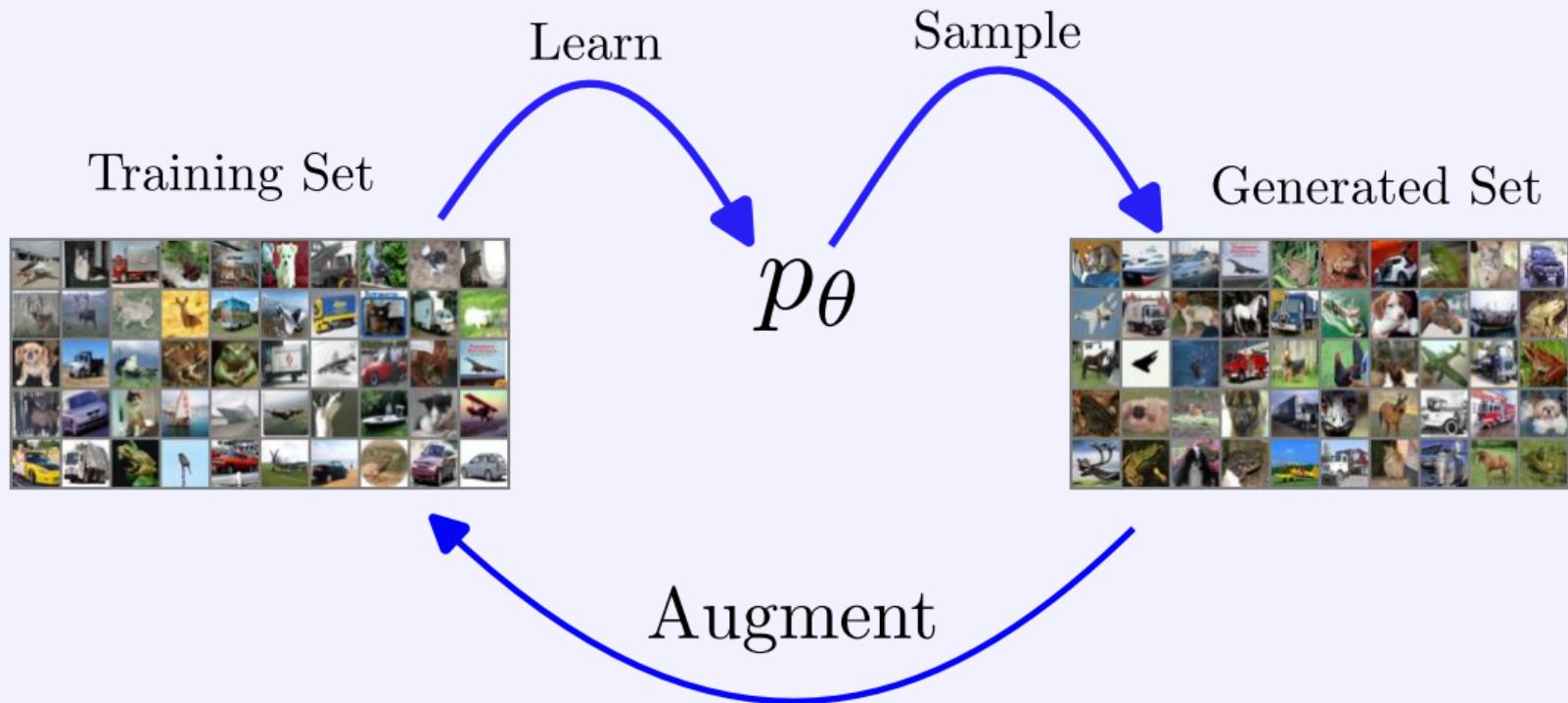
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# Training on Synthetic Data, Good or Bad?

## Iterative Retraining is Bad

- ▶ **The curse of recursion:** Training on generated data makes models forget<sup>a</sup>
- ▶ Self-Consuming Generative Models Go **MAD**<sup>b</sup>
- ▶ When **A.I. 's Output Is a Threat to A.I.** Itself (N.Y. Times article)

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## Will generative models collapse?!

## Training on Synthetic Data is Good

- ▶ Data augmentation for downstream tasks
  - ↪ Adversarial training<sup>a</sup>
  - ↪ Classification with imbalanced datasets<sup>b</sup>
  - ↪ Generative modelling<sup>c</sup>

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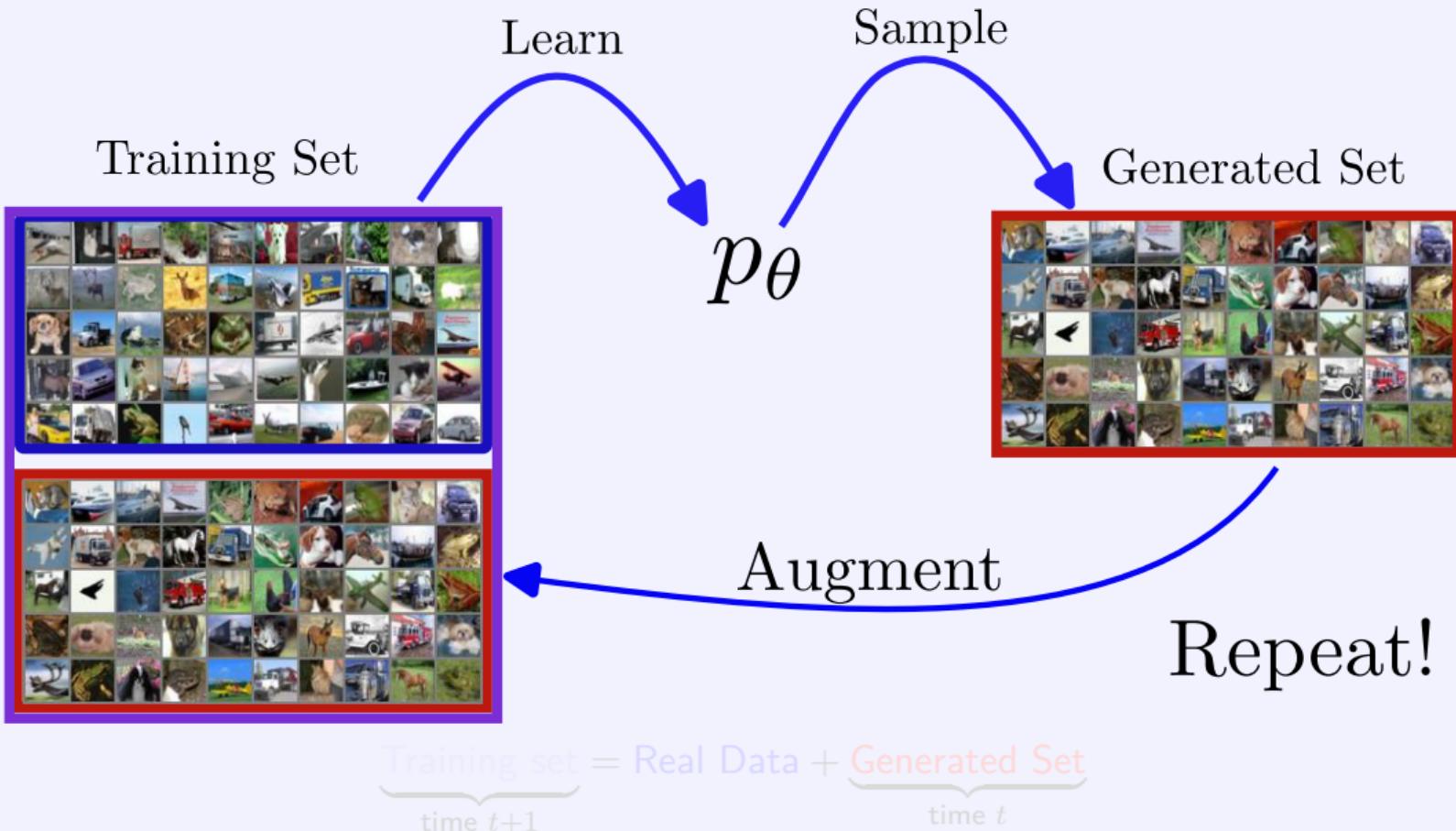
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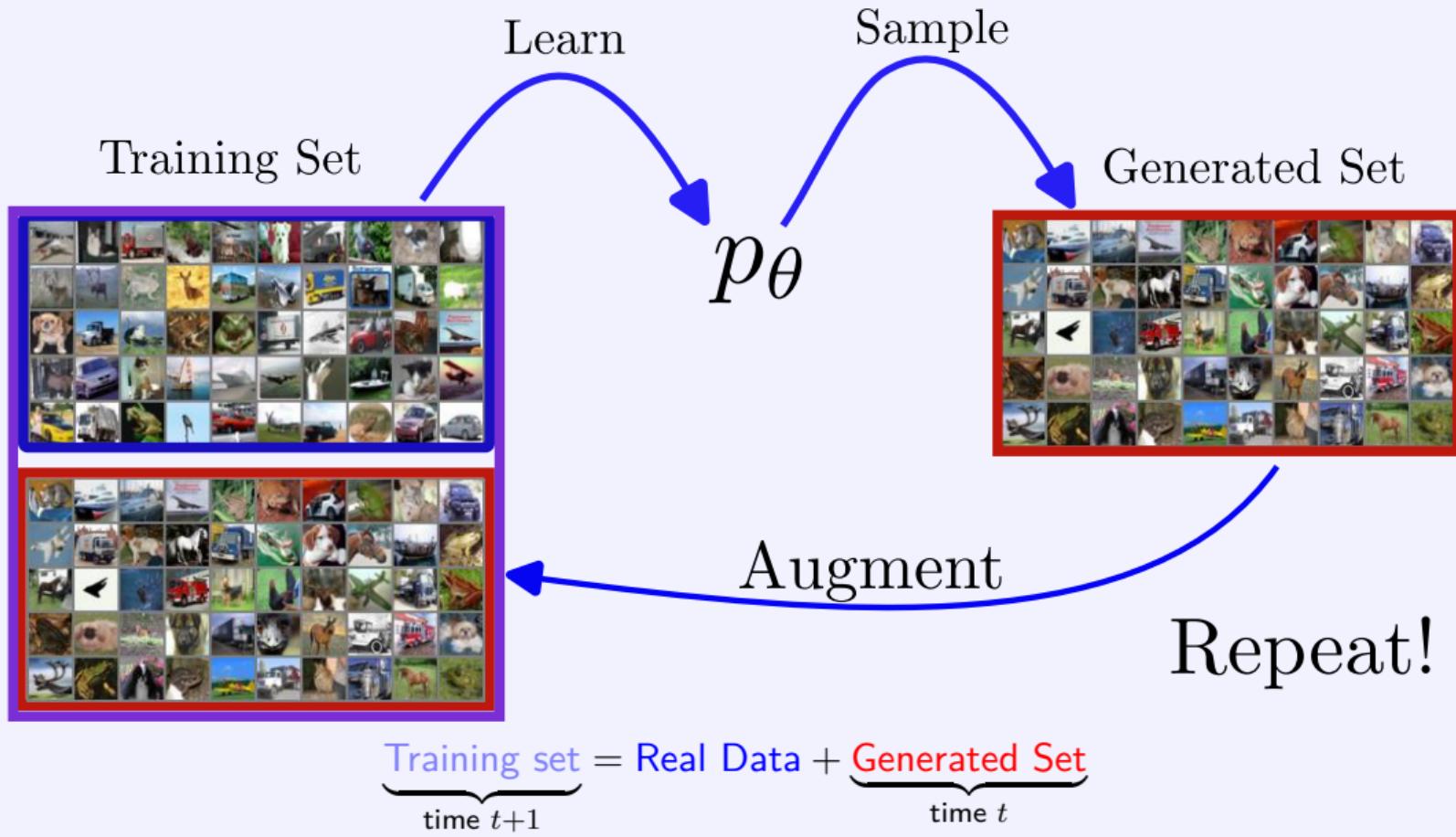
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# Iterative Retraining / Self-Consuming Generative Models



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# Setting

## Notation

- ▶  $\hat{p}_{\text{data}}$  Empirical data distribution
  - ↪  $n$  Data points
- ▶  $p$  Likelihood of the model
  - ↪ Parametrized by  $\theta^n \in \Theta$

## Iterative Retraining

$$p_0 \in \arg \max_{p \in \mathcal{P}_\Theta} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log p(x)]$$

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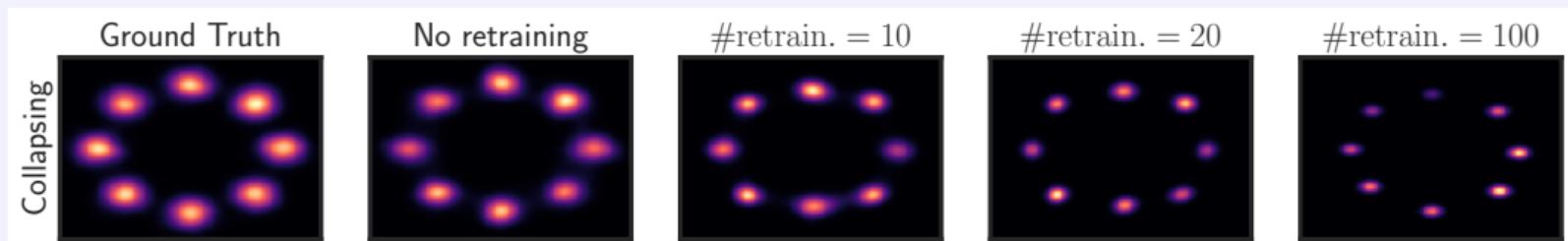
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## Warm Up: Only Retrain on your Own Data 2/3

Q: What will happen?

A: Mode Collapse



### Setup

- ▶ Data: 8 Gaussians,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$
- ▶ Algorithm: Diffusion (DDPM<sup>a</sup>)

<sup>a</sup>J. Ho, A. Jain, and P. Abbeel. "Denoising diffusion probabilistic models". In: *NeurIPS* (2020).

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

Single unidimensional Gaussian, unbiased estimator

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

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

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

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- ▶ Fixed-point iteration  $\boldsymbol{p}_{t+1} = \mathcal{G}(\boldsymbol{p}_t)$
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### Assumptions

- ▶ Regularity of the log-likelihood
  - ↪ Local Lipschitzness and strong convexity
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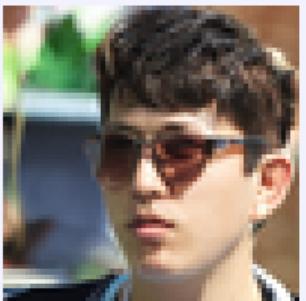
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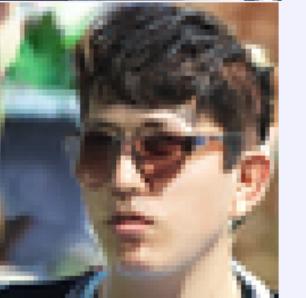
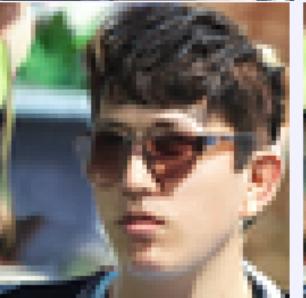
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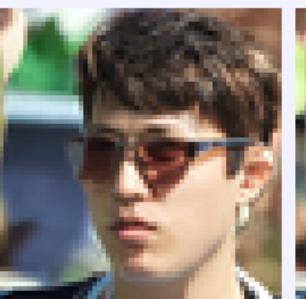
Fully synth.



$\lambda = 0.5$



$\lambda = 0$



0 retrain.

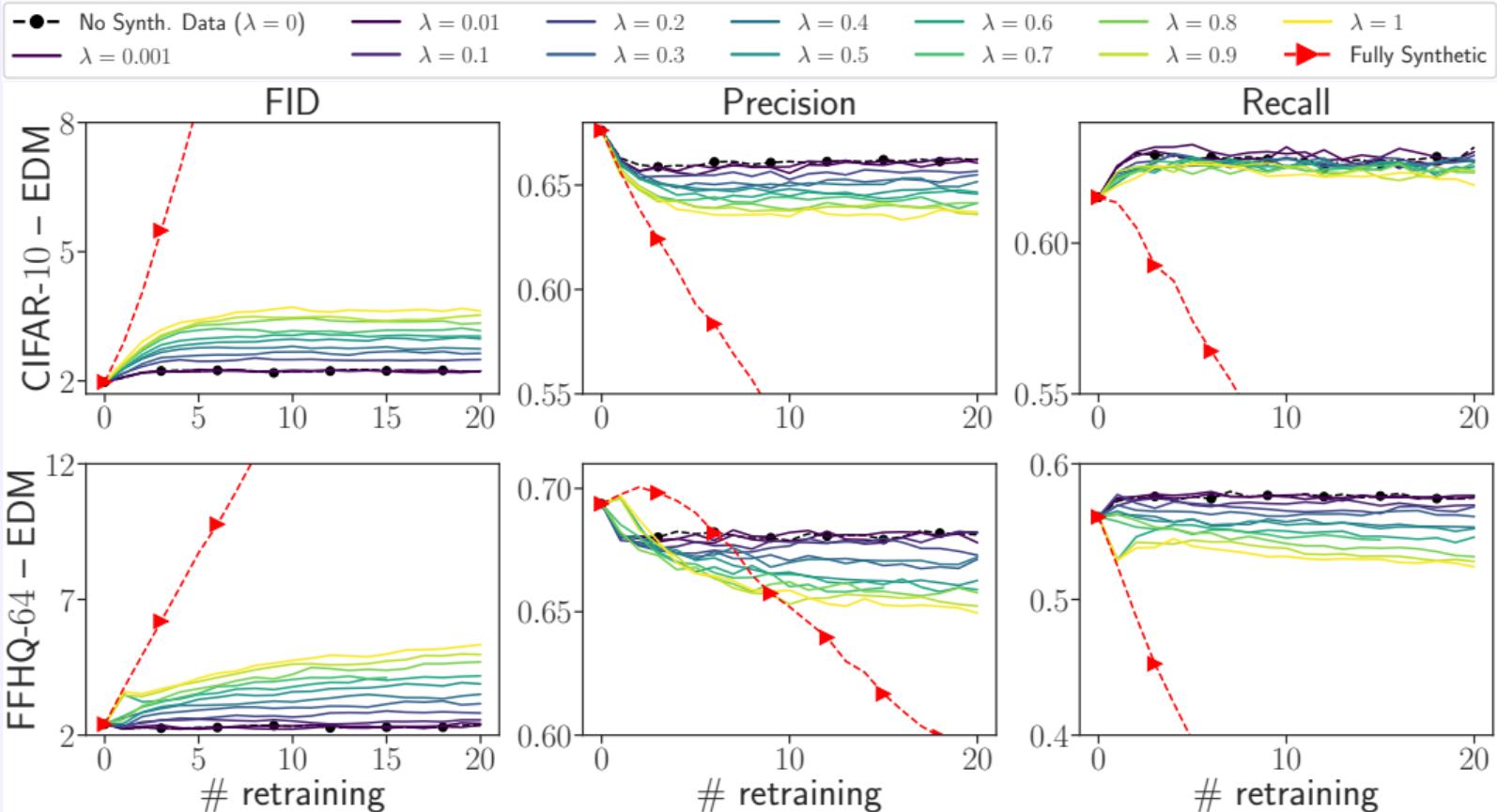
5 retrain.

10 retrain.

15 retrain.

20 retrain.

# Experiments



# Intermediate Conclusions

## Self-consuming generative models

- ▶ No collapse/MADness (if "enough" real data)<sup>a b</sup>

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## Self-consuming generative models

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- ▶ No improvements either

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## Self-consuming generative models

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What if you already retrain on curated/filtered synthetic data?

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# Already Training on Curated/Filtered Data 1/2

## LAION-Aesthetics<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup><https://github.com/LAION-AI/laion-datasets/blob/main/laion-aesthetic.md>

- ▶ Filter the LAION-5B dataset<sup>a</sup>
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# Already Training on Curated/Filtered Data 2/2

## JourneyDB Dataset<sup>a</sup>

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## Remarks

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  - ↪ As opposed to RHLF<sup>ab</sup>

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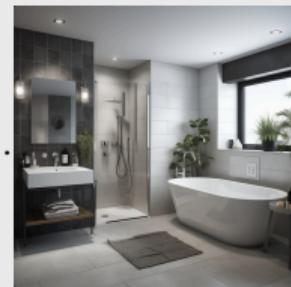
# A Simple Curation Model 1/2

1. User picks prompts  $y \sim p_{user}(y)$
  2. Sample:  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \sim p_t(x | y)$
- REPEAT
5. Train the model  $p_{t+1}$  on the dataset  $\mathcal{D}_t$
  4. Only the **upscaled** samples are in the dataset  $\mathcal{D}_t$



3. Sample  $x_k$  is upscaled by User with probability:

$$\frac{e^{r(x_k)}}{\sum_{i=1}^4 e^{r(x_i)}}$$



# A Simple Curation Model 2/2

## Curation Model

- ▶ Suppose the existence of a reward model  $r$ 
  - ↪ score  $r(x)$  to each sample  $x$
- ▶
  - Sample  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1 \sim p_t, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_K \sim p_t$ , i.i.d.
- ▶
  - Pick  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sim \mathcal{BT}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_K)$ , i.e.,
$$\mathbb{P}(\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_K) = \frac{e^{r(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_k)}}{\sum_{j=1}^K e^{r(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j)}}, 1 \leq k \leq K$$

## Iterative Retraining

$$p_{t+1} = \arg \max_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log p(x)] + \lambda \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\substack{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_K \sim p_t \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}} \sim \mathcal{BT}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_K)}} [\log p(\hat{\mathbf{x}})]$$

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Q: What will happen?

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$$\mathbb{E}_{p_t} [e^{r(x)}] \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{r_*} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Var}_{p_t} [e^{r(x)}] \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} 0 .$$

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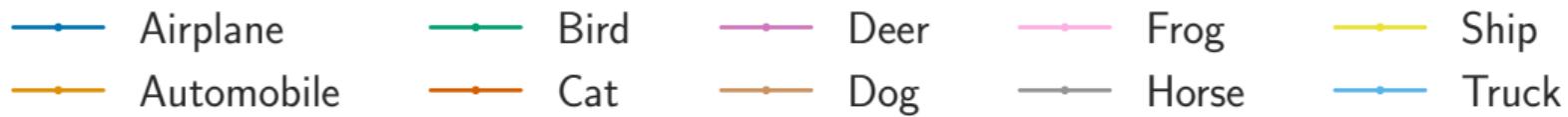
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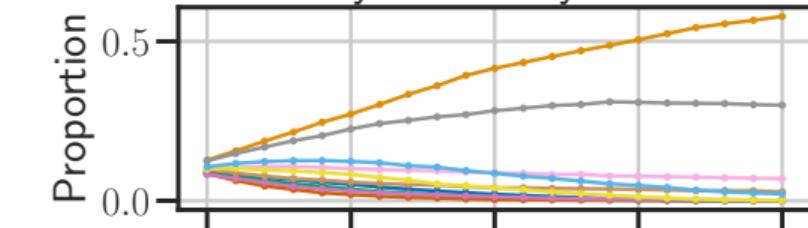
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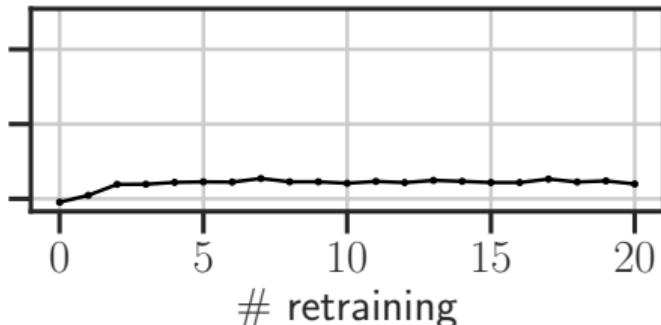
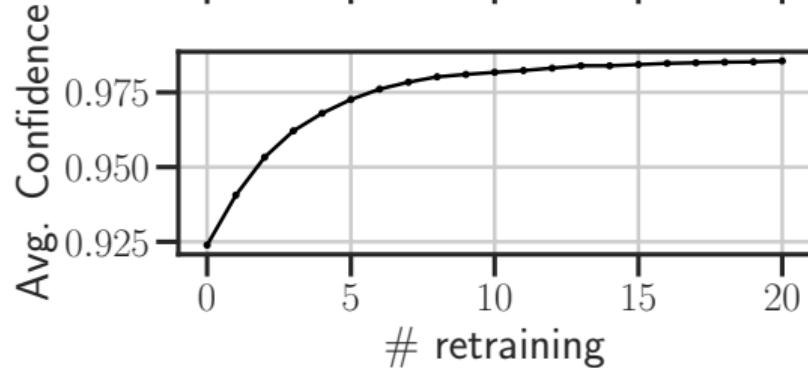
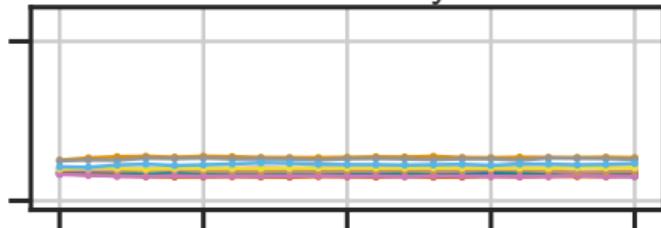
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Only Curated Synthetic



Real & Curated Synthetic



- ▶  $\text{reward}(x) = \text{confidence of a pretrained classifier for the image } x$
- ▶  $\lambda = 1/2$

# Conclusion and Future Work

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  - ↪ Score per sample? Downstream-task specific?

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Thank You!

- ▶ Alemohammad, S. et al. “Self-Consuming Generative Models Go MAD”. In: *ICLR* (2024).
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