

# Discriminative Forests Improve Generative Diversity for Generative Adversarial Networks

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## Abstract

Improving the diversity of Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC) is one of the fundamental problems in the theory of generative models such as generative adversarial networks (GANs). Previous studies have demonstrated that high capacity and robustness of a discriminator is required to achieve high diversity of generated data. However, a high capacity discriminator tends to overfit and guides the generator toward collapsed equilibrium. In this study, we propose a novel discriminative forest instead of the discriminator to improve the capacity and robustness for modeling statistics in real-world data distribution. A discriminative forest is composed of multiple independent discriminators built on bootstrapped data. We proved that a discriminative forest has a generalization error bound, which is determined by the strength of individual discriminators and the correlation among them. Hence, a discriminative forest can own very large capacity without risk of overfitting, which subsequently improves the generative diversity. With the discriminative forest framework, we significantly improved the performance of AutoGAN with a new record FID of 19.27 from 30.71 on STL10 and improved the performance of StyleGAN2-ADA with a new record FID of 6.87 from 9.22 on LSUN-cat.

## Introduction

Generating high diversity samples in Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC) (Cao et al. 2023) inherently requires being able to capture and model complex statistics in real-world data distribution. Generative adversarial networks (GANs) always keep high popularity in the field of AIGC research. As only the discriminator touches real data, the capacity and robustness of discriminator have a critical effect on the generative diversity. Previous studies (Arora, Risteski, and Zhang 2018) showed that the number of modes in the generator's distribution grows linearly with the capacity of the discriminator. Their results imply that higher capacity discriminators are required for better approximation of the target distribution. However, a high capacity discriminator tends to overfit and guides the generator toward collapsed equilibrium (Thanh-Tung, Tran, and Venkatesh 2019). Thus, improving the capacity while keeping robustness of the discriminator is the primary obstacle to ensure that the generator produces data with high diversity.

Many remarkable variations of GAN (Gui et al. 2021) have been proposed to generate more realistic samples.

Besides employing the weight normalization and gradient penalty to enhance robustness of discriminator, several recent works investigated the generalization of GANs under multiple adversaries settings. GMAN (Durugkar et al. 2017) is the first endeavor to extend GANs to multiple discriminators. Dropout-GAN (Mordido et al. 2018) integrates adversarial feedback dropout in GMAN, forcing the generator to appease and learn from a dynamic ensemble of discriminators. D2GAN (Nguyen et al. 2017) theoretically analyzed that two discriminators can effectively avoid the mode collapsing problem. PAR-GAN (Chen et al. 2021) extended the D2GAN by using disjoint partitions of input data for multiple discriminators. MCL-GAN (Choi and Han 2022) employs Multiple Choice Learning (MCL) framework to learn multiple discriminators and update the generator via a set of expert discriminators. Albuquerque et al. (2019) offered a new perspective on multiple-discriminator GAN training by framing it in the multi-objective optimization. Generally speaking, GAN with multiple discriminators studies the ensemble strategies of discriminators, including the sampling of training data and the aggregation methods of multiple discriminators. However, for ensemble learning, the Random Forest (RF) (Breiman 2001) has been theoretically and practically shown robustness with a generalization error bound by aggregating a number of randomly built decision trees. Inspired by the RF, if we construct a set of discriminators as a discriminative forest instead of one discriminator to compete with the generator, could this discriminative forest has high capacity and robustness to improve the generative diversity?

In this study, we proposed a *discriminative forest GAN* (Forest-GAN) that consists of a number of discriminators built upon bootstrapping datasets (**Figure 1**). The predictive results of multiple discriminators are aggregated by an aggregation function. Our contributions are in both theoretical proof and the experimental improvement of state-of-the-art on real-world image generation. For the theoretical contributions, (1) we found the global optimality of Forest-GAN approximates to a mixture distribution of bootstrapping datasets. This result indicates that the generator in Forest-GAN has a natural character to defend overfitting of original data. (2) We proved the discriminative forest is robust with an upper bound of generalization determined by the strength of individual discriminators as well as the cor-





















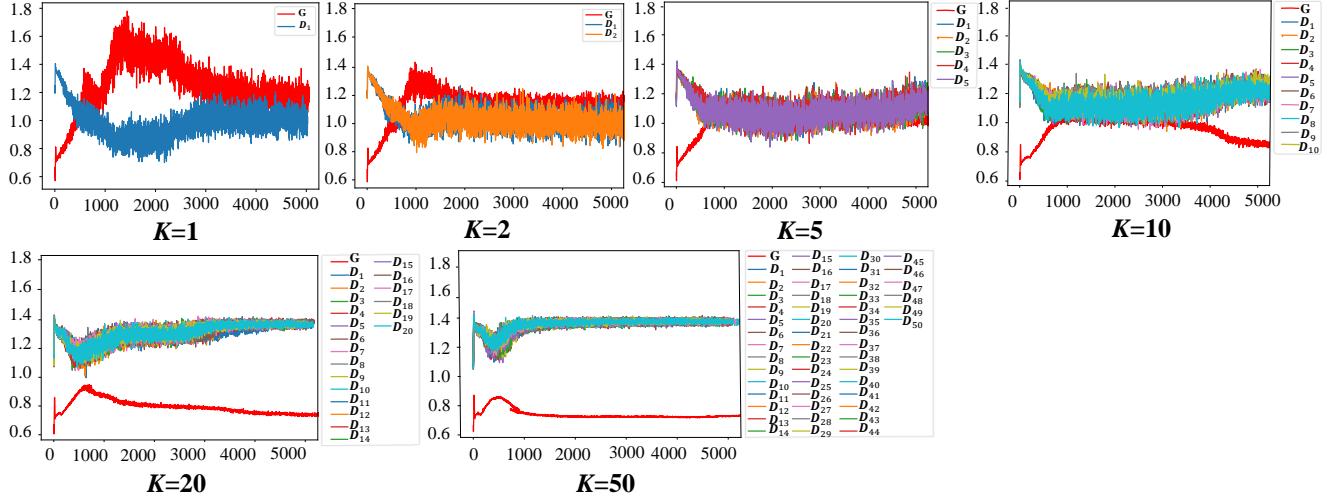


Figure D1: Training loss of Forest-GAN on simulation data. Larger  $K$  improves the training stability of both generator and individual discriminators, and model convergence is faster when  $K$  is larger.

Table D1: The trainable parameters in each discriminator and whole discriminative forest. The total amount of parameters in the discriminator forest is controlled through two hyperparameters,  $K$  and  $df\_dim$ . “\*” indicates the parameter setting in original discriminator of AutoGAN.

Para (in each discriminator) (in whole discriminator forest)	$K$	$df\_dim$	Trainable Parameters
Trainable Parameters			
1M	* 1	128	1,053,824
	2	92	545,468
	5	58	217,674
	10	42	114,618
2M	1	186	2,107,648
	2	128	1,053,824
	5	80	412,880
	10	58	217,674
5M	1	288	5,320,224
	2	200	2,568,200
	5	128	1,053,824
	10	90	522,090
10M	1	400	10,256,400
	2	288	5,320,224
	5	178	2,035,074
	10	128	1,053,824

To empirically evaluate the generative diversity of our generator, we made style space interpolation for the generators of original and our Forest-GAN, respectively, as shown in Figure D6 and Figure D5. We performed multi-style interpolation on the generated images, including color transitions, action transitions and demeanor transitions. We first generated images at both ends, and then calculated the intermediate latent noise between them to synthesize the intermediate image.

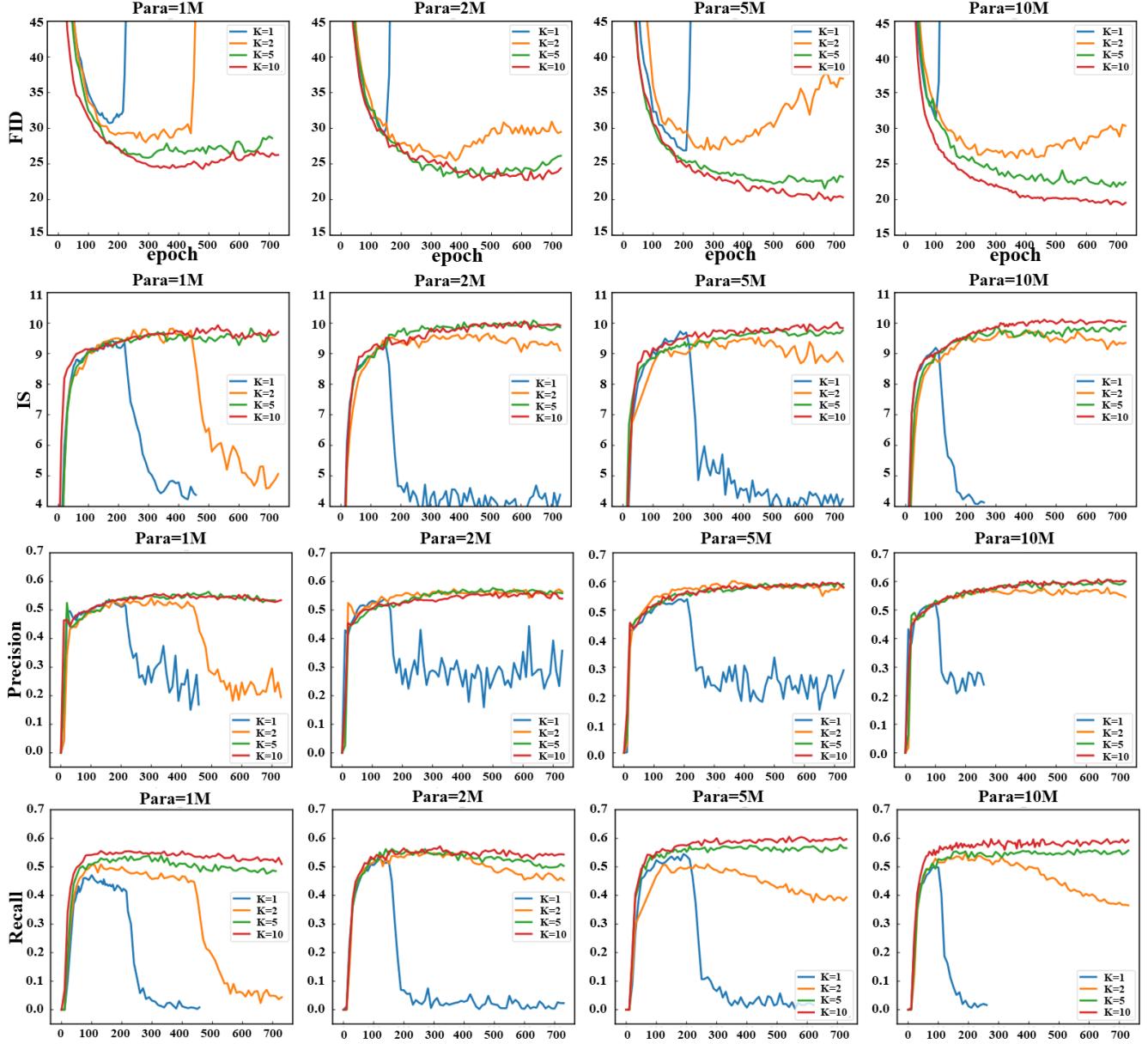


Figure D2: The performance of AutoGAN improved by discriminative forest on STL10. Discriminative forest can stabilize the training process in all parameter settings as  $K$  increased in discriminator forest



Figure D3: The images generated by Forest-GAN with K=5.



Figure D4: The images generated by original StyleGAN2-ADA.

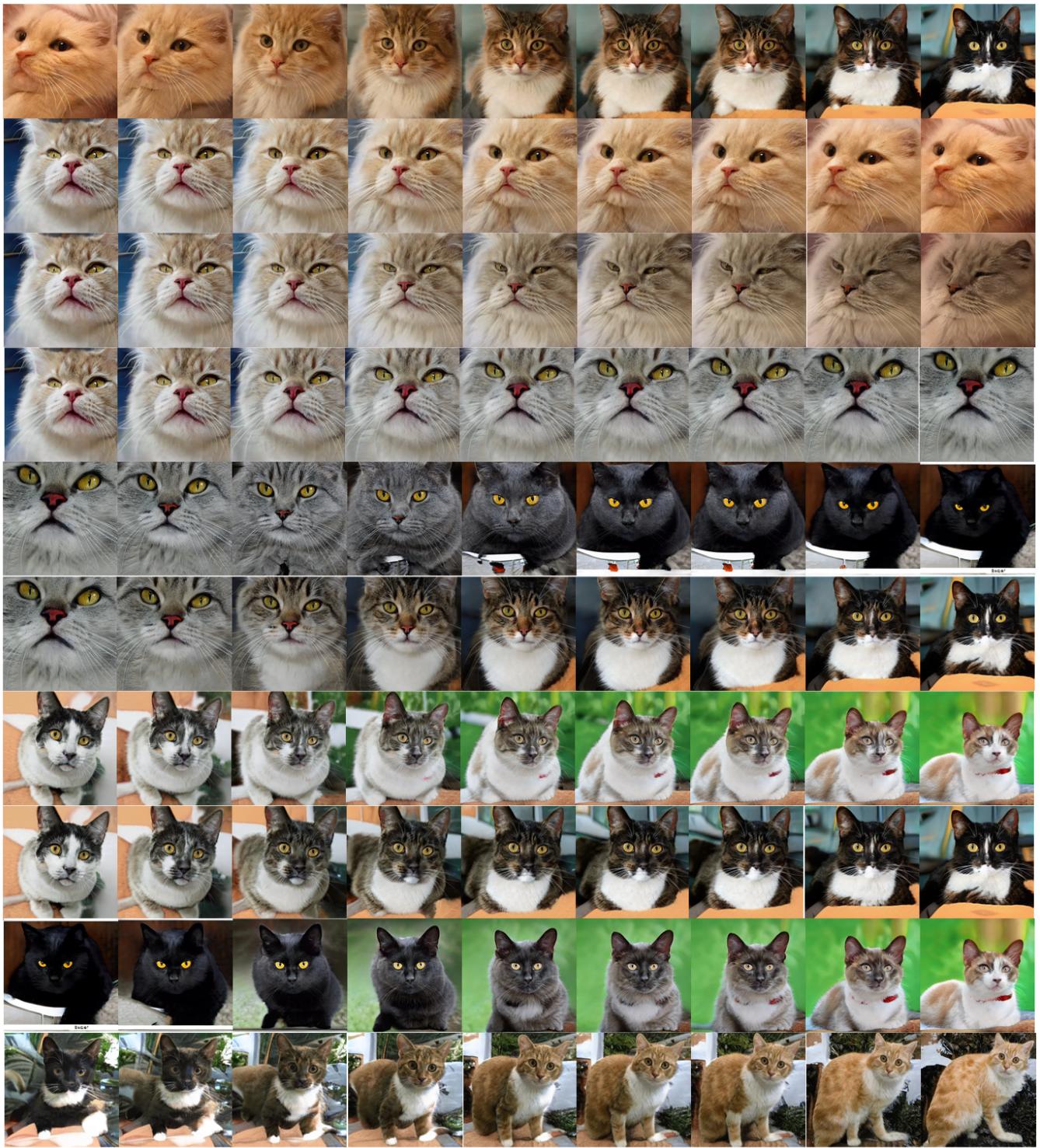


Figure D5: The style space interpolation of Forest-GAN with  $K=5$ . Forest-GAN enables smooth interpolation between style latent embeddings of two generated images.

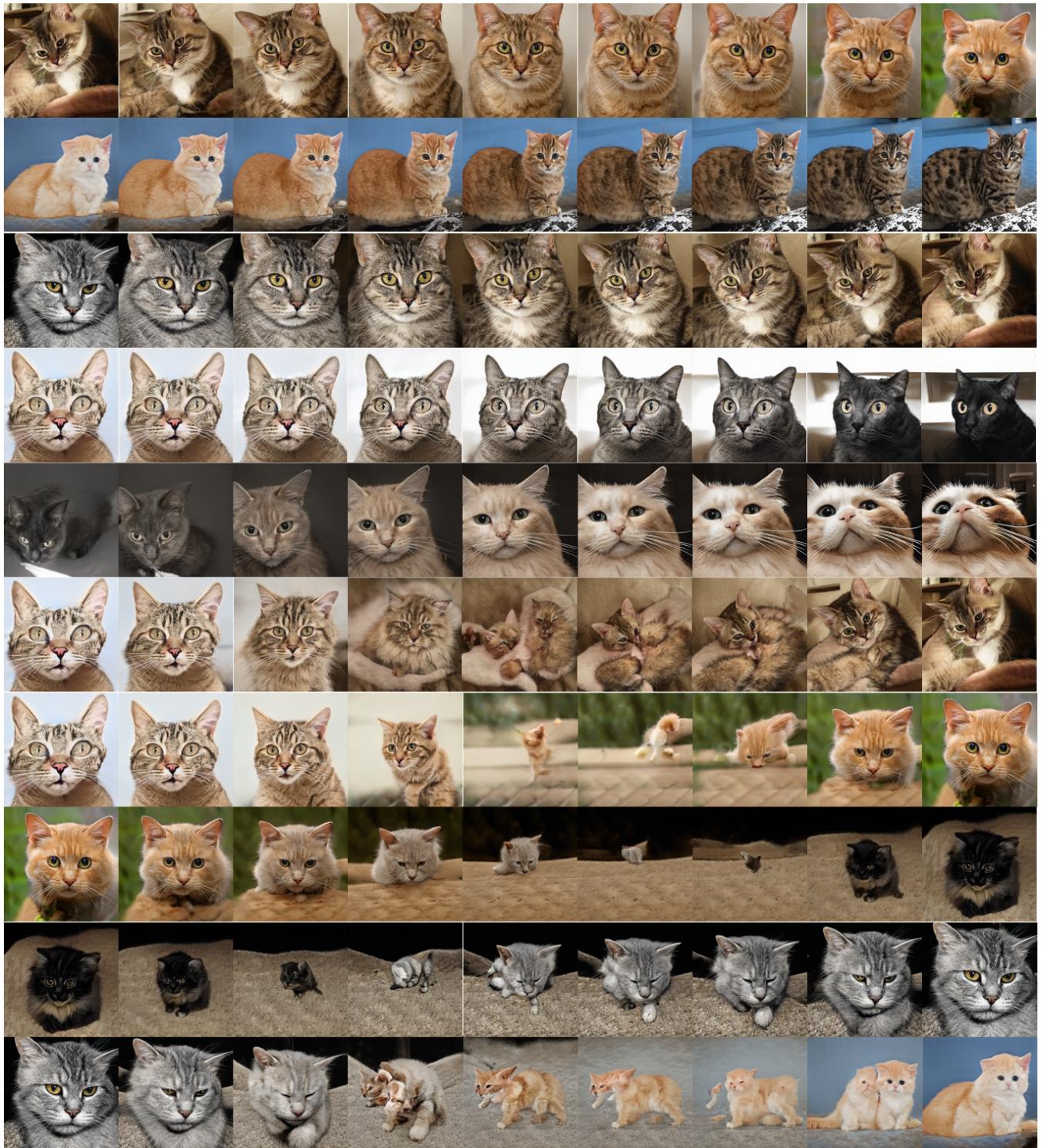


Figure D6: The style space interpolation of original StyleGAN2\\_ADA. Although it can realize the interpolation operation, some intermediate modes cannot be correctly mapped into valid images.