COLLABORATIVE SYNTHESIS

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Collaborative synthesis means people creating something together, guided by a synthesis algorithm that is simultaneously learning from what those people are creating.

Most abstractly, it fits almost any situation. It's like painting with a friend on the same canvas, while the algorithm is like another who observes and mixes the paints for you, or makes suggestions to help you both cooperate and create a coherent whole. Or the algorithm is like the paint itself, pre-mixed and also "synthetic" in the ordinary physical sense — there's a feedback loop in this situation too, as the manufacturer produces more of the kinds of paints that painters like to use. The synthesis also operates as a constraint or filter — you can only use the paints that are available to you in this analogy, not any kind you can imagine.

Applied to software and more narrowly construed, collaborative synthesis means using machine-learned algorithms to perform the synthesis while training those same algorithms directly from user actions, creating an always-evolving synergy. Those algorithms can be anchored to external data sources by persistent training, or they can be left to drift, influenced only by the feedback loop. Training can be configured by the user, but also by automated analytics.

makemore peaple is a general-purpose collaborative image synthesizer based on neural networks designed to communicate and explore the concept in a fun, educational, and engaging way and cultivate a unique creative community.