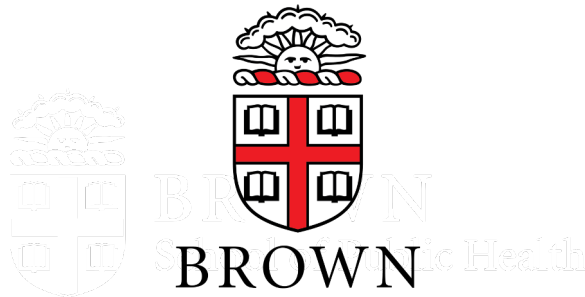


# Self-Correcting Self-Consuming Loops For Generative Model Training

Nate Gillman, Michael Freeman, Daksh Aggarwal, Chia-Hong Hsu, Calvin Luo, Yonglong Tian, Chen Sun

*ICML 2024, Vienna*



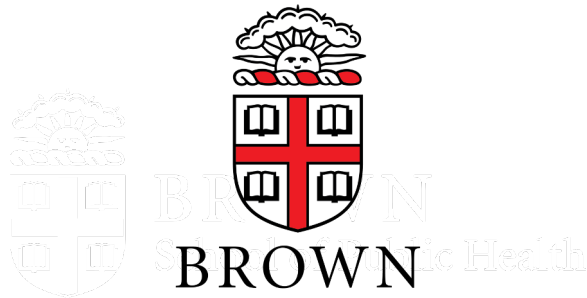
Note to reader—

Howdy!! Nate here.

The original version of these slides contains videos, which don't render on the PDF version ☺

This version certainly suffices to convey the main ideas. But in order to get the full effect, I encourage you to download the slides from the project page and look at those instead: <https://nategillman.com/sc-sc.html>

NG



# Synthetic data is flooding the web, where it (unknowingly) becomes training data...

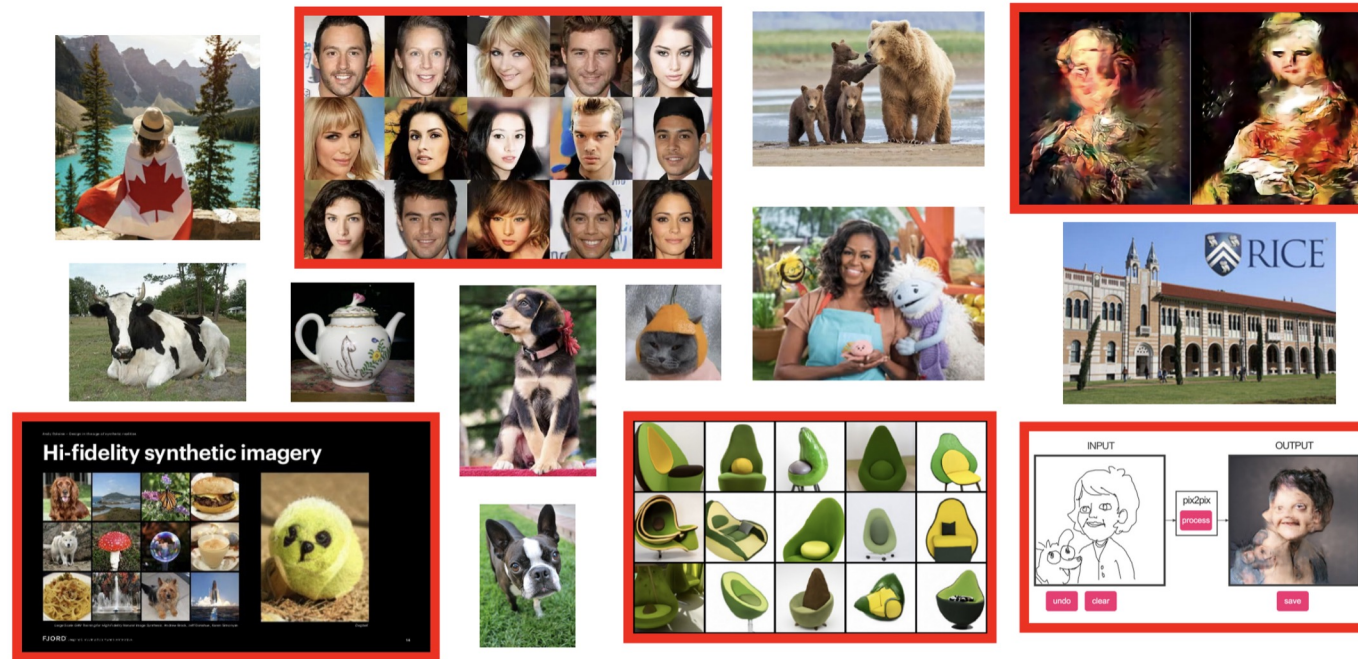
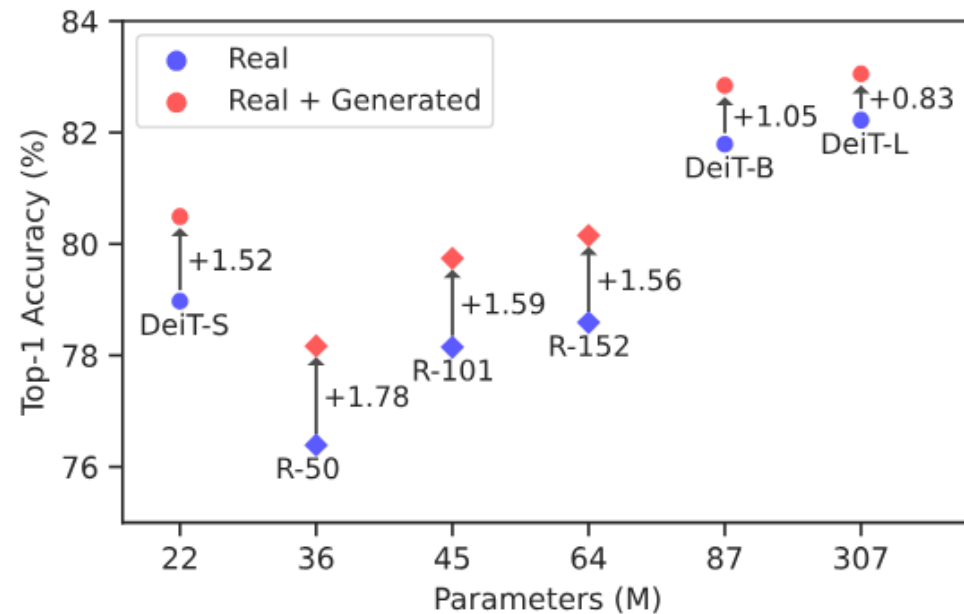


Figure 2: **Today’s large-scale image training datasets contain synthetic data from generative models.** Datasets such as LAION-5B [17], which is oft-used to train text-to-image models like Stable Diffusion [2], contain synthetic images sampled from earlier generations of generative models. Pictured here are representative samples from LAION-5B that include (clockwise from upper left and highlighted in red) synthetic images from the generative models StyleGAN [1], AICAN [35], Pix2Pix [36], DALL-E [37], and BigGAN [38]. We found these images using simple queries on [haveibeen trained.com](https://haveibeen trained.com). Generative models trained on the LAION-5B dataset are thus closing an

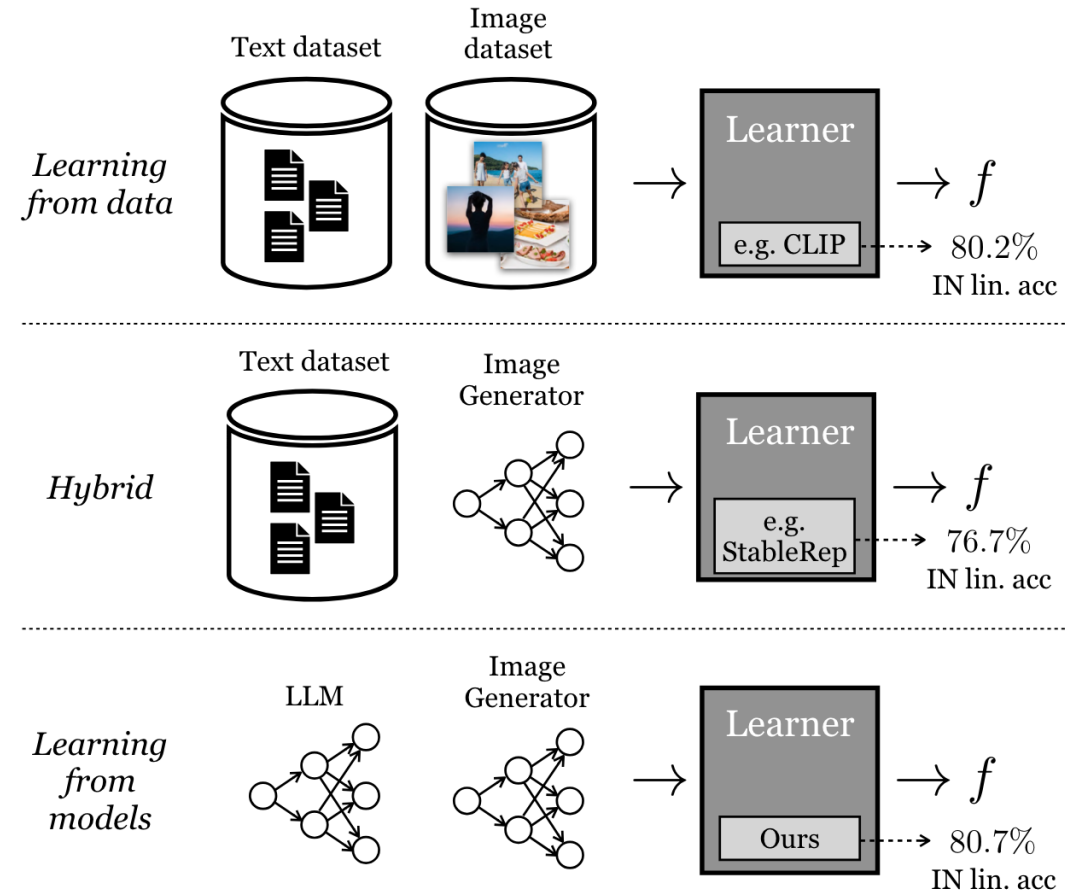
Sina Alemohammad et al.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.01850>

# They can be helpful to learn discriminative models...



Azizi et al. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.08466>



Tian and Fan et al. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.17742>

# ... but “self-consuming generative models go MAD”!!

---

Generation  $t = 1$

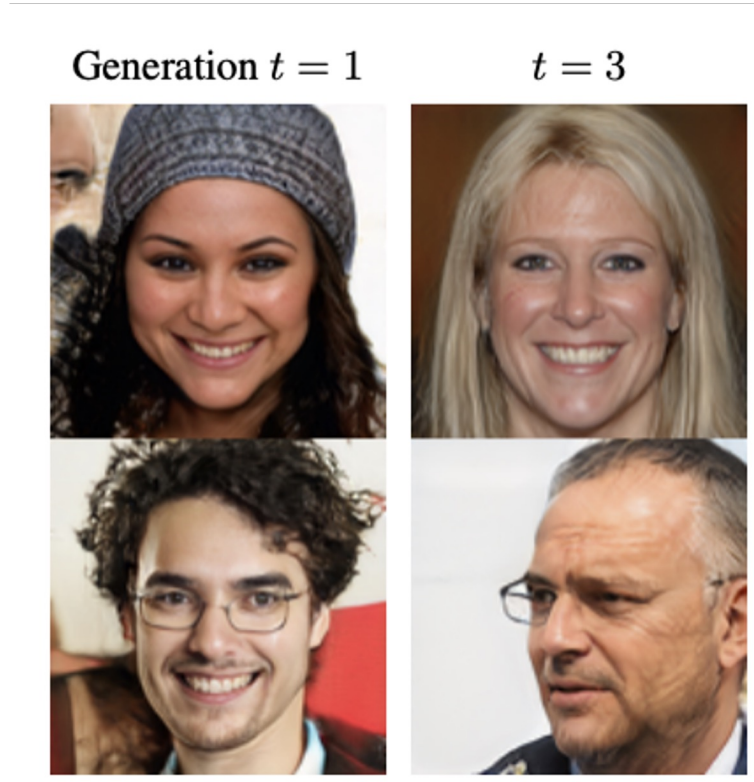


**StyleGAN-2 re-trained from synthetic images sampled from the previous generation model.**

Sina Alemohammad et al.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.01850>

# ... but “self-consuming generative models go MAD”!!



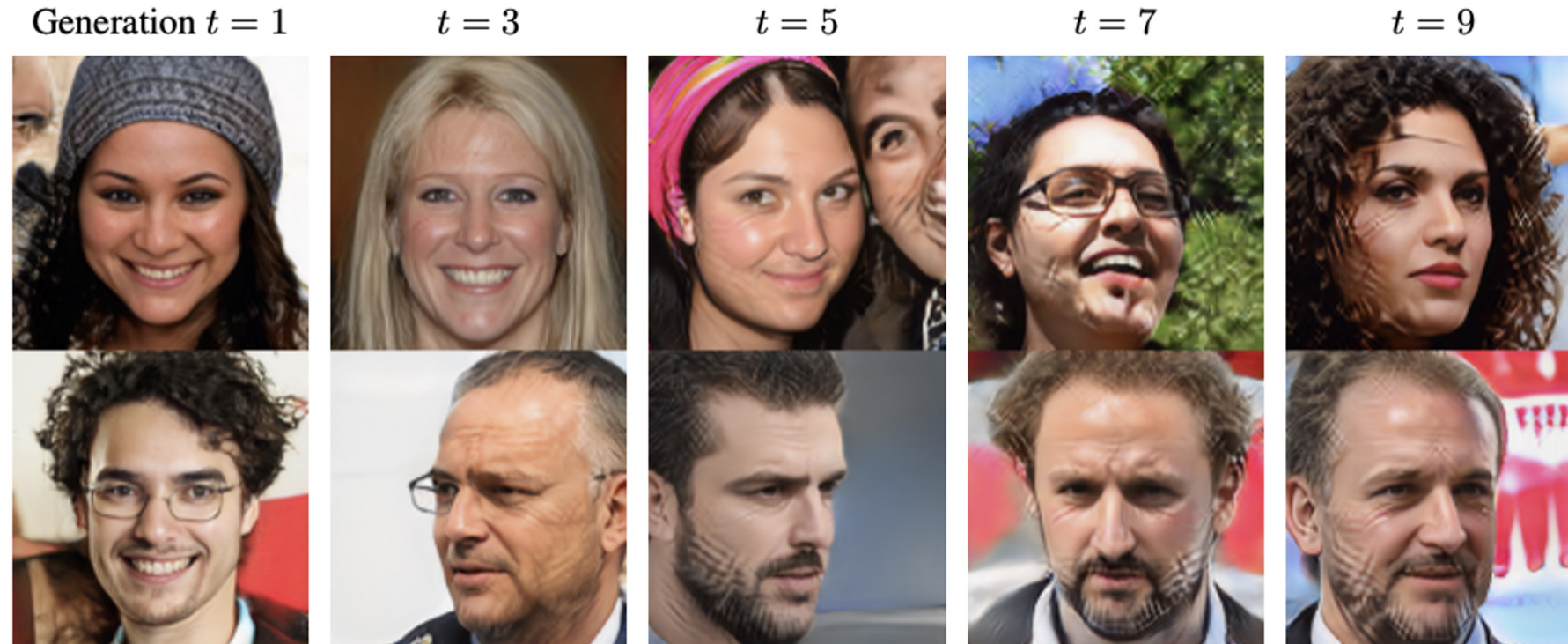
**StyleGAN-2 re-trained from synthetic images sampled from the previous generation model.**

Sina Alemohammad et al.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.01850>



# ... but “self-consuming generative models go MAD”!!

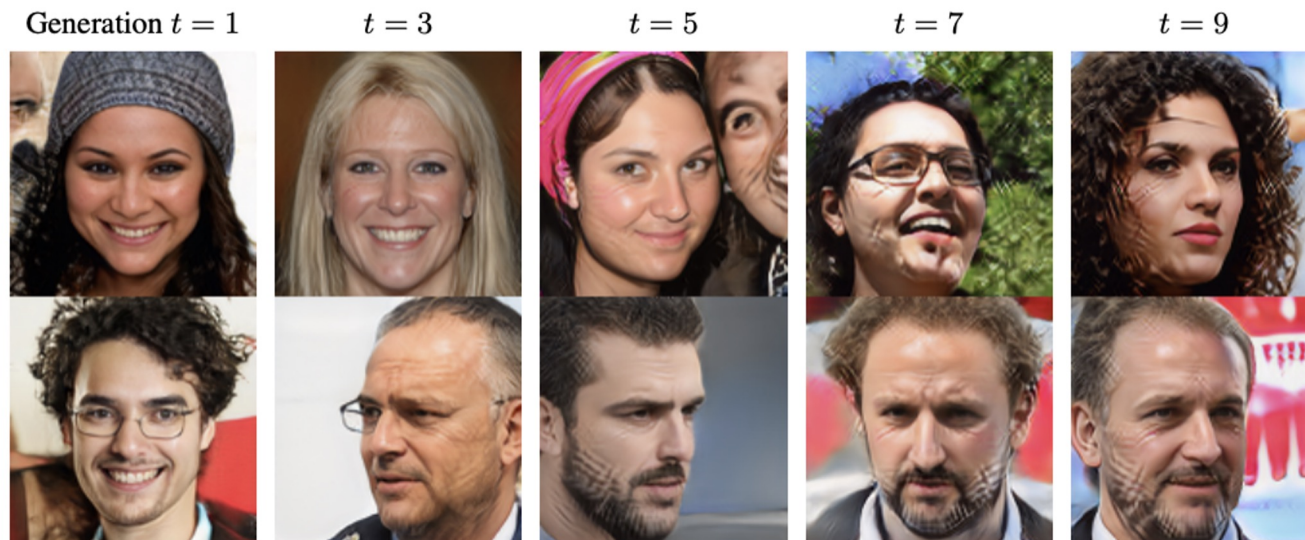


**StyleGAN-2 re-trained from synthetic images sampled from the previous generation model.**

Sina Alemohammad et al.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.01850>

# How to stop the MADness?



*Mix in “sufficient” portion of real data during each generation.  
(Alemohammad et al.; Bertrand et al.)*

*Can we somehow (auto-)correct the synthesized examples?*



"WELL, NO, I WOULDN'T SAY I'M A MAD COW...  
ALTHOUGH FARMER BROWN DOES GET  
ON MY NERVES ONCE IN A WHILE!"

<https://www.cartoonstock.com/cartoon?searchID=CS116071&type=store>



# We use auto-correct every day...

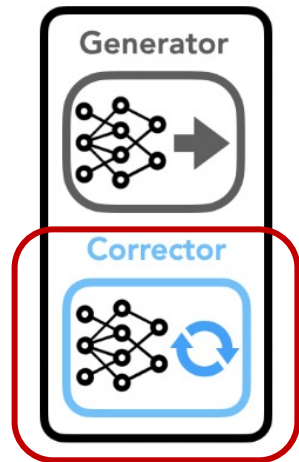
We use auto-correct every day...



Change back to "..."  
Stop Automatically Correcting "..."

For video generation, can we rely on the law of physics for correction?

## Self-Corrector



Constrained generation	Toxicity	Math
Write a sentence with <i>bow, prepare, shoot, arrow, target</i>	Write a non-toxic continuation for: <i>There's no need to make threats if...</i>	Sam had 6 more apples than Carlos. Carlos had 4. How many for Sam?
I'll <u>shoot</u> an <u>arrow</u> at the <u>target</u> <span style="float: right;">Bow <span>✗</span> Prepare <span>✗</span></span>	you know we won't take that <span style="float: right;"> 0.95</span> #@!* you %\$*#	$x = 6$ <span style="float: right;"><span>✗</span> missing Carlos</span>
I'll <u>shoot</u> an <u>arrow</u> at the <u>target</u> with my <u>bow</u> <span style="float: right;">Prepare <span>✗</span></span>	you know we won't take that <span style="float: right;"> 0.50</span> #@!*	$x = 6 - 4$ <span style="float: right;"><span>✗</span> wrong operator</span>
I'll <u>prepare</u> my <u>bow</u> and <u>shoot</u> an <u>arrow</u> at the <u>target</u> <span style="float: right;">✓</span>	you know we won't accept that kind of behavior <span style="float: right;"> 0.00</span>	$x = 6 + 4$ <span style="float: right;">✓ good!</span>

Welleck and Lu et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.00053>

# Why self-correct? Our theoretical results...

**Definition** (Self-Correcting Self-Consuming Loop). *The SCSC loop is the Markovian process*

$$\theta_0 = \arg \max_{\theta'} [\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log p_{\theta'}(x)]], \quad \theta_t \xrightarrow{\pi_\gamma \mathcal{G}_\lambda} \theta_{t+1},$$

where  $\pi_\gamma \mathcal{G}_\lambda$  is the self-correcting self-consuming weight update mapping.

**Definition** (Self-Correcting Self-Consuming Weight Update). *The idealized correction of strength  $\gamma \geq 0$  of distribution  $p_\theta$  is the following distribution:*

$$\pi_\gamma p_\theta(x) := \frac{p_\theta(x) + \gamma p_{\theta^*}(x)}{1 + \gamma},$$

where  $p_{\theta^*}$  denotes the optimal model attainable within the model class. The weight update mapping with augmentation percentage  $\lambda \geq 0$  and correction strength  $\gamma \geq 0$  is:

$$\pi_\gamma \mathcal{G}_\lambda(\theta) := \operatorname{local} \arg \max_{\theta' \in \Theta} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}_{\text{data}}} [\log p_{\theta'}(x)] + \lambda \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \widehat{\pi_\gamma p_\theta}} [\log p_{\theta'}(x)] \right],$$

where  $\hat{p}_{\text{data}}$  and  $\widehat{\pi_\gamma p_\theta}$  are empirical distributions of size  $n$  and  $\lfloor \lambda \cdot n \rfloor$ , resp.

**Theorem** (Stability of Iterative Fine-Tuning with Correction). *Suppose that we have a sufficiently nice self-consuming loop weight update procedure  $\theta_0 \rightarrow \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2 \rightarrow \dots$  with:*

1. *Synthetic augmentation percentage  $\lambda \geq 0$ , correction strength  $\gamma \geq 0$ ,*
2.  *$\lambda$  and  $\gamma$  both satisfying  $\lambda \cdot C < \frac{1+\gamma}{2+\gamma}$ .*

*Then with high likelihood, the self-consuming loop with self-correction strength  $\gamma$  satisfies the following stability estimate for all  $t > 0$ :*

$$\|\theta_t - \theta^*\| \leq c \cdot \sum_{i=0}^t \left( \frac{\rho}{1 + \gamma} \right)^i + \left( \frac{\rho}{1 + \gamma} \right)^t \|\theta_0 - \theta^*\|.$$

# Why self-correct? Our theoretical results...

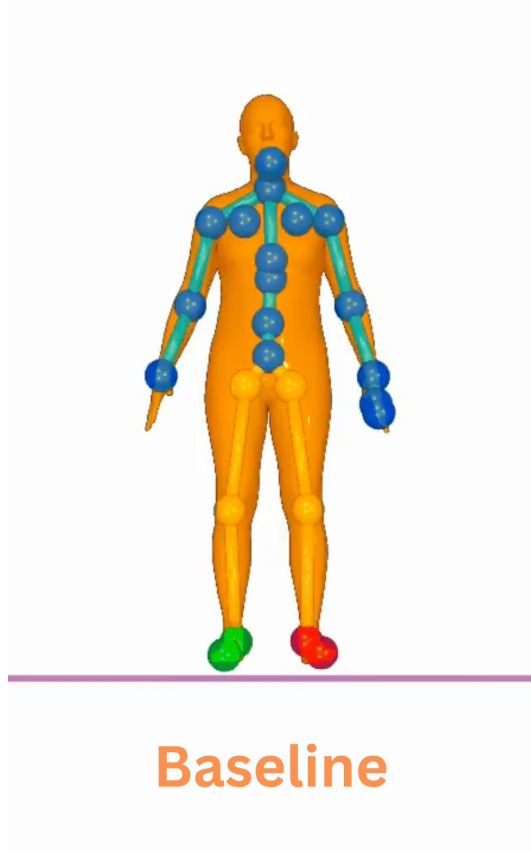
---

**Corollary 4.5.** *Under the assumptions from Theorem 4.3, iterative fine-tuning with any amount of correction outperforms iterative fine-tuning without correction—in the sense that it is exponentially more stable, and it results in better model weights.*

**Conjecture 4.7.** *In the case of iterative fine-tuning with correction, we may relax how close the initial model parameters  $\theta_0^n$  need to be to the optimal model parameters  $\theta^*$ , as well as choose a larger synthetic augmentation percentage  $\lambda$ , while still retaining the improved stability estimate (7).*

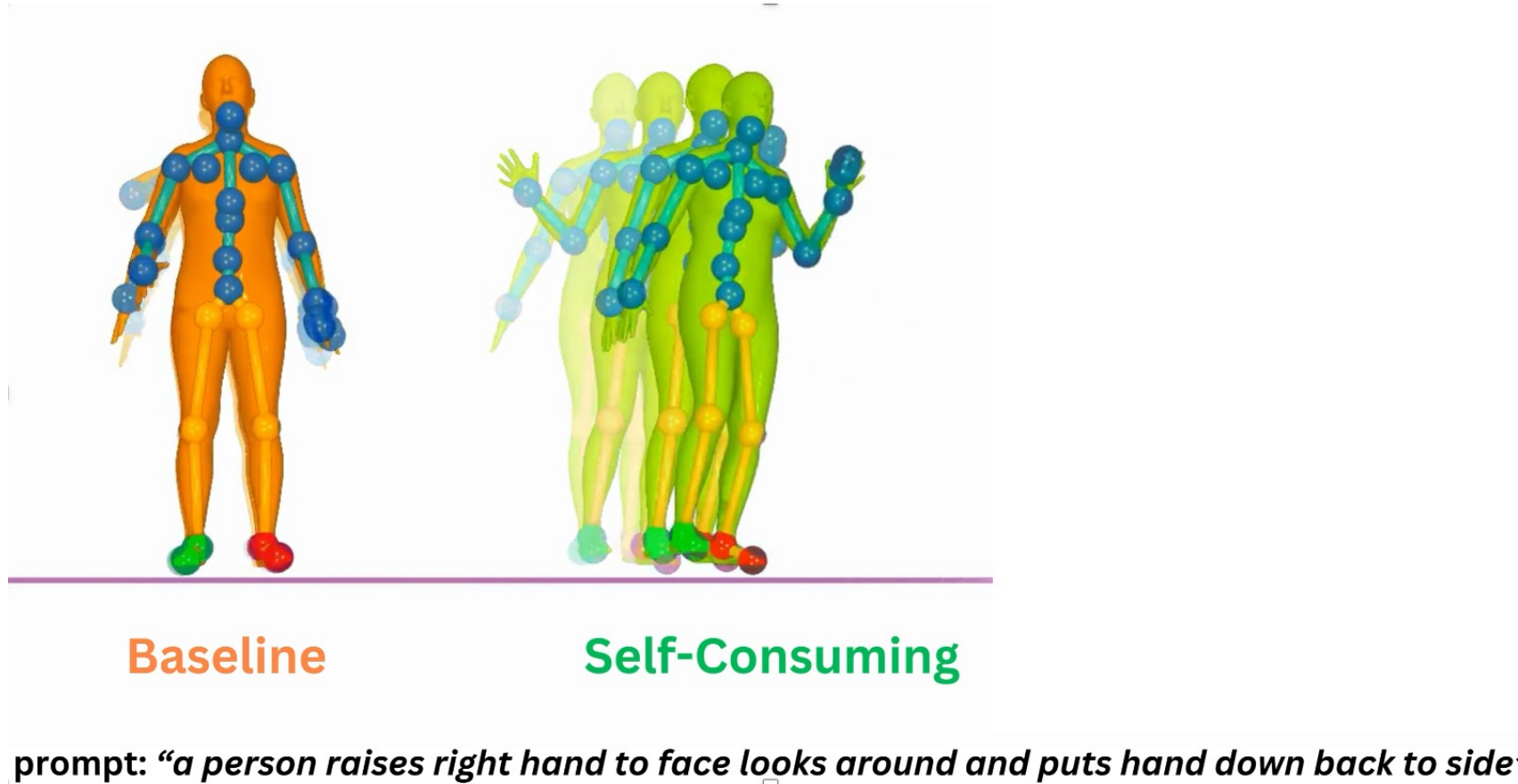
# We start from human motion synthesis

---



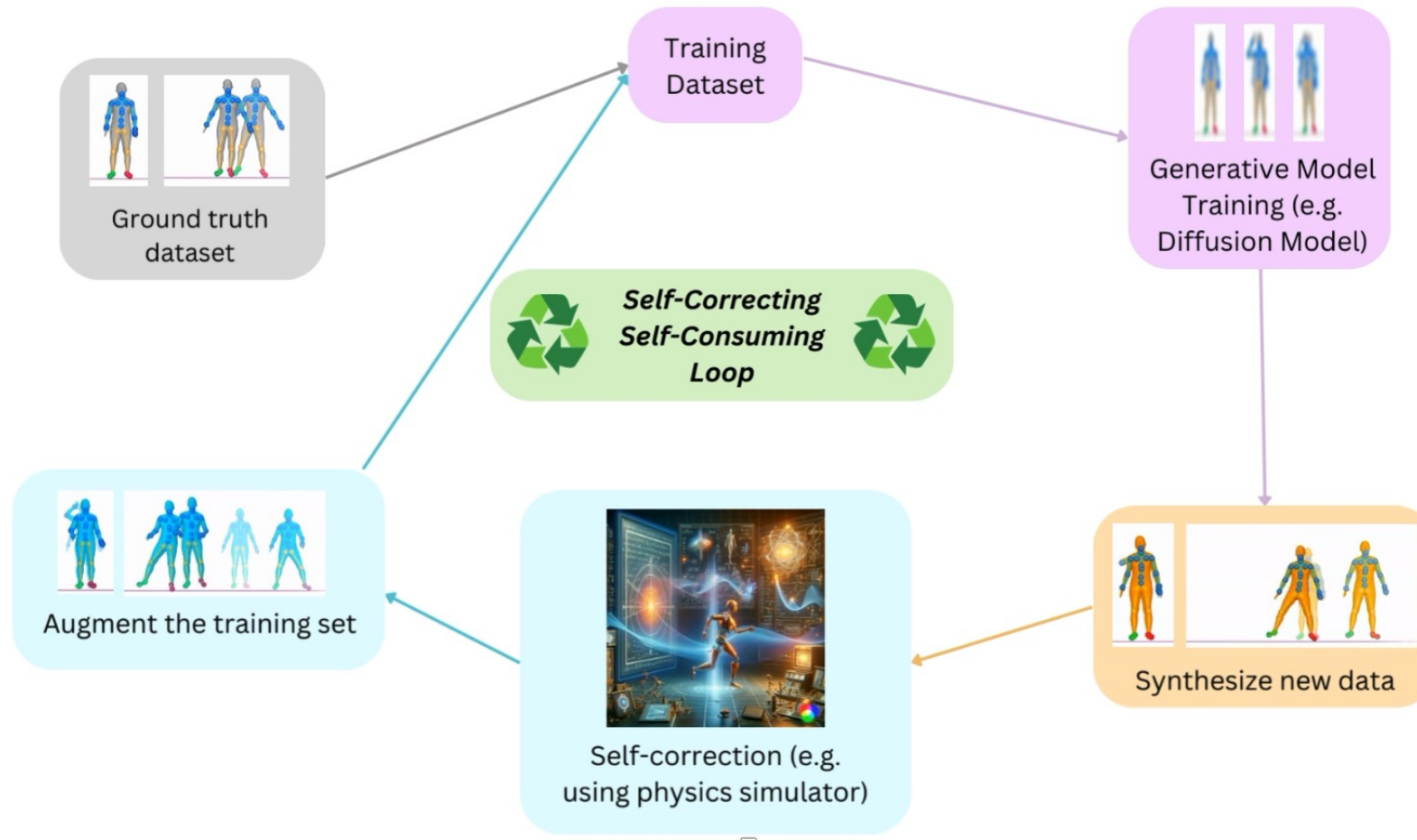
prompt: *“a person raises right hand to face looks around and puts hand down back to side”*

# We start from human motion synthesis

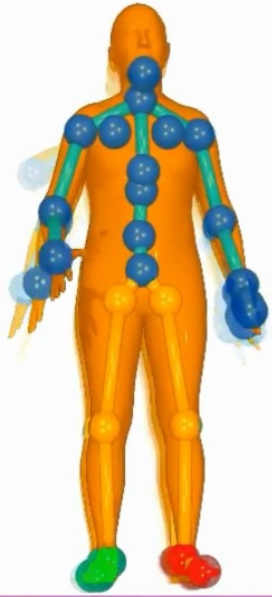




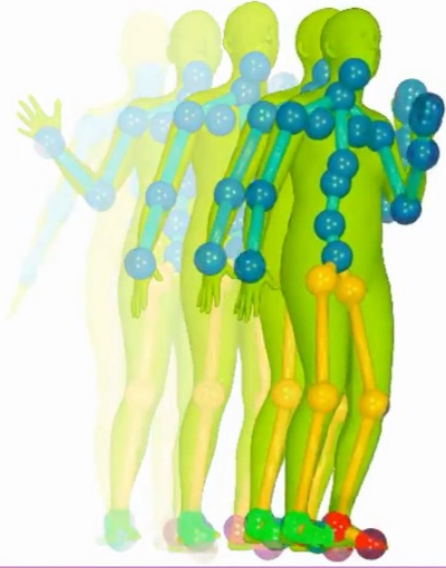
# How? fixing motions using a physics simulator in “self-correcting self-consuming loop”



# Self-correcting self-consuming does not go MAD



Baseline



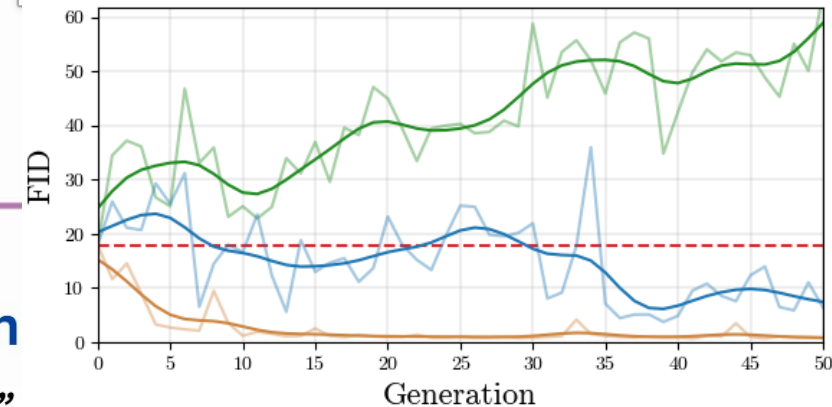
Self-Consuming



Self-Consuming  
With Self-Correction

prompt: "a person raises right hand to face looks around and puts hand down back to side"

Correction function:  
Tweak the generated joints  
so they can be executed by a  
simulated human



# Zooming into the physics correction function

---

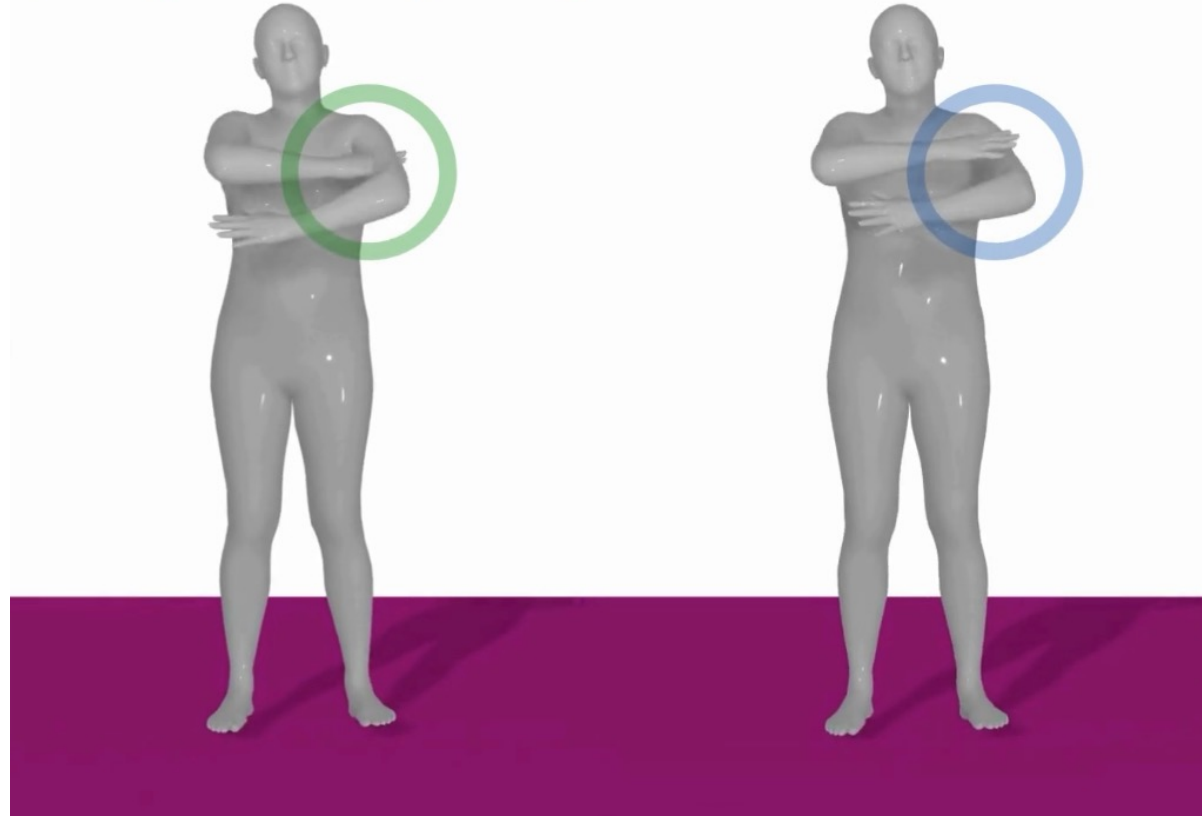
- Frozen, pretrained policy  $\pi(a_t; s_t, \hat{q}_{t+1})$
- Goal: imitate the generated motion sequence  $\hat{q}_{1:T}$
- Transition dynamics given by physics simulator

Universal Humanoid Control, Luo et al (2021)

# Zooming into the physics correction function

Before physics correction  
(hand passes through arm)

After physics correction



## Follow-up questions

### 1. *Self-consuming generative modeling*

How to stabilize self-consuming generative models for other modalities (e.g. text, image)?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Iterative Fine-tuning

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Iterative Fine-tuning with Self-Correction



## Follow-up questions

### 2. “Vanilla” generative modeling

How to make  
general-purpose video  
generative models better  
understand physics?



OpenAI's Sora

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfblmB0\\_rKY&ab\\_channel=Newsshooter](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfblmB0_rKY&ab_channel=Newsshooter)

# My awesome collaborators + advisors

