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 the discriminator in GANs should have high capacity and robustness to achieve the diversity of generated data. However, a discriminator with high capacity tends to overfit and guide the generator toward collapsed equilibrium. In this study, we propose a novel discriminative forest GAN, named Forest-GAN, that replaces 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 prove that a discriminative forest has a generalization error bound, which is determined by the strength of individual discriminators and the correlations among them. Hence, a discriminative forest can provide very large capacity without any 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; Zhong et al. 2023) inherently requires being able to capture and model complex statistics in real-world data distribution. Generative adversarial networks (GANs) have been widely investigated in the field of AIGC research. In GANs, only the discriminator touches real data, and thus its capacity and robustness have a critical effect on 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. However, a discriminator with high capacity tends to overfit and guide 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 GANs (Gui et al. 2021; Li et al. 2023) have been proposed to generate more realistic samples. 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 D2GAN by using disjoint partitions of input data for multiple discriminators. MCL-GAN (Choi and Han 2022) employs a Multiple Choice Learning (MCL) framework to learn multiple discriminators and update the generator via a set of expert discriminators. Generally speaking, a GAN with multiple discriminators studies the ensemble strategies of discriminators, including the sampling of training data and the aggregation of multiple discriminators. However, for ensemble learning, Random Forest (RF) (Breiman 2001) has been theoretically and practically shown to be robust with a generalization error bound by aggregating a number of randomly built decision trees. Inspired by the RF, we wonder if we construct a set of discriminators as a discriminative forest instead of the one to compete with the generator, could this discriminative forest provide high capacity and robustness to improve the generative diversity?

Therefore, in this study, we propose 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 results 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 against overfitting of the 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 correlation between them. Such a proof provides the foundation of understanding the relationship between dis-

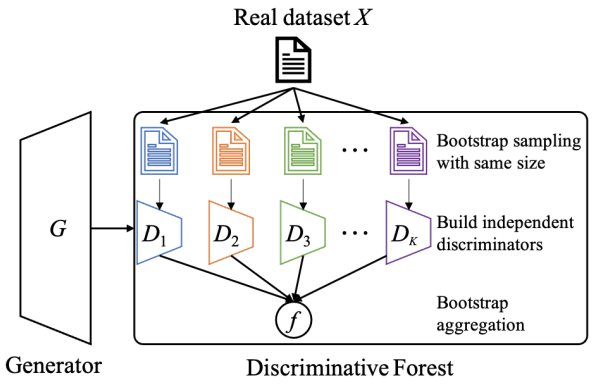

Figure 1: The framework of proposed Forest-GAN.

criminators and generation error, in that the more strength of individual discriminators and less correlation among them leads to a lower generalization error bound. For the experimental contributions: (1) AutoGAN achieves a FID of 19.27 on STL10 (96 $\times$ 96, 105K images), significantly improving over the state of the art of 30.71. (2) And StyleGAN2 (ADA) achieves a new record FID of 6.87 from 9.22 on LSUN-cat (256 $\times$ 256, 200K images). Besides, Forest-GAN is also flexible as it can be combined with any loss function and weight normalization. Since discriminators are independently trained, Forest-GAN can be deployed with any parallel computing paradigm.

Preliminaries

Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)

A GAN is composed of a *generator* (G) and a *discriminator* (D), which play an adversarial game. Specifically, G learns the distribution p_g over the real data distribution p_r by mapping a random noise vector $z \sim p_z$ to generate a sample $x \sim p_g$. D is trained to maximize the probability of assigning the correct labels to both real samples and fake samples. Its value function $V(G, D)$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} &\min_G \max_D V(G, D) \\ &= E_{x\sim p_r}[\varphi(D(x))] + E_{z\sim p_z}[\varphi(1 - D(G(z)))] \,, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where the φ is a *measuring function*. If $\varphi(x) = \log(x)$, Eq. (1) is the objective function in a classic GAN (Goodfellow et al. 2014). When $\varphi(x) = x$, Eq. (1) becomes a Wasserstein GAN (WGAN) (Arjovsky, Chintala, and Bottou 2017).

Multi-Discriminator GANs

Multi-discriminator GANs consist of one generator and multiple discriminators. D2GAN (Nguyen et al. 2017) has one generator G and two discriminators D_{Θ_1} and D_{Θ_2} that have different parameters Θ_1 and Θ_2, playing three-player minimax optimization game:

$$\begin{aligned} &\min_G \max_{\{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^2} V(G, \{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^2) \\ &= \alpha E_{x\sim p_r}[\varphi(D_{\Theta_1}(x))] + E_{z\sim p_z}[\varphi(1 - D_{\Theta_1}(G(z)))] \\ &+ E_{x\sim p_r}[\varphi(1 - D_{\Theta_2}(x))] + \beta E_{z\sim p_z}[\varphi(D_{\Theta_2}(G(z)))] \,. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Given a sample x, D_{Θ_1} rewards a high score if x is drawn from the data distribution p_r, and gives a low score if generated from the model distribution p_g. In contrast, D_{Θ_2} returns a high score for x generated from p_g while giving a low score for a sample drawn from p_r.

PAR-GAN (Chen et al. 2021) extended the D2GAN by using disjoint partitions of input data for multiple different discriminators. More specifically, a training dataset $X = \{x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n\}$ with a distribution p_X is randomly split into K disjoint partitions $X_1^r, X_2^r, \cdots, X_K^r$, each with the distribution $p_{X_1^r}, p_{X_2^r}, \cdots, p_{X_K^r}$ respectively. Then K different discriminators, $\{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K$, are trained independently on the K partitions. The generator competes with all of these K discriminators. The value function in PAR-GAN is:

$$\begin{aligned} &\min_G \max_{\{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K} V(G, \{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K) = \frac{1}{K} \times \\ &\sum_{k=1}^{K} \{E_{x\sim p_{X_k^r}}[\varphi(D_{\Theta_k}(x))] + E_{z\sim p_z}[\varphi(1 - D_{\Theta_k}(G(z)))]\} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Compared to PAR-GAN, our proposed Forest-GAN is a general multi-discriminator GAN framework that provides a more effective solution by constructing a discriminative forest instead of one discriminator. Intuitively, as the number of discriminators increases, the discriminative forest can capture more complex distribution of real data, subsequently leading the generator to produce samples with high quality and diversity. However, for PAR-GAN, when the training dataset is limited, more number of discriminators leads to smaller data partitions for each discriminator, resulting in more difficult for the discriminators to learn valid distributions on small data partitions. In contrast, Forest-GAN has no such concerns, because its discriminators are constructed on bootstrapping datasets which are sampling repeatedly with replacement from the original dataset. Each bootstrapping dataset has the same size with the original dataset. Taking the advantage of bootstrapping strategy, Forest-GAN theoretically guarantees the generalization of discriminative forest, but D2GAN and PAR-GAN have no such properties.

Generalization Bound of Random Forest

RF is an ensemble learning method that applies **b**ootstrap **agg**regat**in**g (bagging) to construct multiple independent decision trees for classification at training time. The predictive output is the class voted by the majority of trees. Given a training set (X, Y) with size of n, an RF works by bootstrapping samples repeatedly K times with replacement from the training set (X, Y) to generate bootstrapping datasets $\{(X_k, Y_k)\}_{k=1}^K$, each with a size of n, and then fitting decision trees $\{f_k\}_{k=1}^K$ on bootstrapping datasets. After training, the classification for unseen samples x' is made by averaging predictions from all individual trees on x': $\hat{f} = \frac{1}{K}\sum_{k=1}^K f_k(x')$ or taking the majority vote.

The generalization error of RF can be bounded as long as the trees in RF are not correlated. Bootstrap sampling is an effective solution to de-correlate trees by showing them different training sets, as sampling with replacement ensures each bootstrap is independent. Since sampling is conducted with replacement, some observations may be repeated in

each bootstrapping dataset (X_k, Y_k). For a limited large size n, each dataset (X_k, Y_k) is expected to have a fraction $(1-1/e \approx 63.2\%)$ of unique observations of (X, Y). The remaining observations are called out-of-bag datasets. To decorrelate the trees, RF also includes *feature bootstrapping* since some features are very strong predictors for the response variable. Selecting these features in many trees will cause them to be correlated. In this study, we will adapt the key idea of RF to Forest-GAN, and show its effectiveness in facilitating model generalization and diversity of GANs.

Discriminative Forest GAN

We proposed a novel discriminative Forest GAN (Forest-GAN) that is composed of one generator and one *discriminative forest*. The discriminative forest consists of multiple discriminators constructed upon bootstrap sampling data. Formally, given a real dataset $X = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ that consists of n samples and with distribution of p_{X^r}, we utilized bootstrapping to repeatedly sample K times from X to generate corresponding datasets $\{X_k^r\}_{k=1}^K$, each of size n and distribution of $p_{X_k^r}$. The discriminative forest $D = \{D_{\Theta_k}(X_k^r)\}_{k=1}^K$ is then constructed on bootstrapping datasets, where $D_{\Theta_k}(X_k^r)$ represents the k-th discriminator built on X_k^r with parameters Θ_k, and each Θ_k is initialized independently with same distribution. The value function of Forest-GAN can be defined as Eq (4).

$$\min_G \max_{\{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K} V(G, \{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K) = E_{x\sim p_{X_k^r}}[\phi(\varphi(D_{\Theta_k}(x)))] + E_{z\sim p_z}[\phi(\varphi(1 - D_{\Theta_k}(G(z))))], \tag{4}$$

where φ is a measuring function, and ϕ is an aggregating function which can be an average function, max function or majority votes of multiple discriminators. Without loss of generality, we use the average function in the following.

Algorithm 1 shows the training process of Forest-GAN. Intuitively, since only the discriminative forest touches real data in Forest-GAN, "averaging" individual discriminators' outputs does not change the expected value but reduces its variance, subsequently leading to a better and more generalized generator. In the following, we will show Forest-GAN approximates a mixture distribution of bootstrapping datasets. This result indicates that Forest-GAN has a natural character to defend overfitting of training samples. We will then provide the robustness of discriminative forest in Forest-GAN with an upper bound of the generalization error, and show that the bound is determined by the strength of individual discriminators and the correlation between them.

Global Optimality

If we take the discriminative forest as a whole, Forest-GAN can be considered as a standard GAN. This indicates that the convergence of Forest-GAN can be guaranteed.

We first consider the global optimality of each individual discriminator and the generator. Because each discriminator is trained on its corresponding bootstrapping dataset, for any fixed generator G, the optimal discriminator D_{Θ_k} on bootstrapping dataset X_k^r with distribution of $p_{X_k^r}$ are:

$$D^*_{\Theta_k}(x) = \frac{p_{X_k^r}(x)}{p_{X_k^r}(x) + p_g(x)} . \tag{5}$$

Algorithm 1: Training process of Forest-GAN.

Input: Real data X^r, with n samples and distribution of p_{X^r}; Random noise z is sampled from a normal distribution p_z; K is the number of individual discriminators in Forest-GAN.
Output: Trained generator G_{Θ^g} and discriminative forest $\{D_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K$.

Initialize generator G with random weights Θ^g;
for *Number of individual discriminators* K **do**
  Initialize each discriminator D_{Θ_k} with i.i.d weights Θ_k;
  Bootstrap sample from real data X^r with replacement to produce X_k^r, with a sample size of n and distribution of $p_{X_k^r}$;
for *Number of training iterations* **do**
  for *Number of individual discriminators* K **do**
    Sample a batch of m noisy samples $\{z_1, z_2, \cdots, z_m\}$ from a noise prior p_z;
    Sample a batch of m real samples $\{x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_m\}$ from X_k^r dataset;
    Update the discriminator D_{Θ_k} ascendingly by following its stochastic gradient: $\nabla_{\Theta_k} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m [\varphi(D_{\Theta_k}(x_i)) + \varphi(1 - D_{\Theta_k}(G(z)))]$.
  for *Number of individual discriminators* K **do**
    Sample a batch of m noisy samples $\{z_1, z_2, \cdots, z_m\}$ from a noise prior p_z;
    Calculate the generator's stochastic gradient competed with D_{Θ_k}: $\Delta_{\Theta_k^g} = \nabla_{\Theta^g} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m [\varphi(1 - D_{\Theta_k}(G(z)))]$.
  Update the generator descendingly by following the mean of all generators' stochastic gradients: $\frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \Delta_{\Theta_k^g}$.

As each bootstrapping dataset is independently sampled from the original dataset with replacement, more than 36% samples of the original dataset are out-of-the-bag. Subsequently, when the training data is limited in large size, the bootstrapping dataset distributions $\{p_{X_k^r}\}_{k=1}^K$ are different. According to Eq. (5), the global optimality of discriminators is slightly different.

We next consider the global optimality of generator G. Given K individual discriminators that have achieved their optimal solutions $\{D^*_{\Theta_k}(x)\}_{k=1}^K$. The globally optimized solution of the generator is achieved if and only if G learns the minimum Jensen-Shannon divergence (JSD) of all bootstrapping datasets.

$$\min_G V(G, \{D^*_{\Theta_k}\}_{k=1}^K) \Leftrightarrow \min_{p_g} \sum_{k=1}^K JSD(p_{X_k^r} \parallel p_g) . \tag{6}$$

This result demonstrates that the global solution of p_g approximates a mixture distribution of all bootstrapping distributions $\{p_{X_k^r}\}_{k=1}^K$ when the train dataset is limited, which indicates that Forest-GAN has a natural character to defend

overfitting of original samples.

The proof can be found in Appendix A. Although Forest-GAN has global optimality in formulation similar to that of PAR-GAN, the bootstrapping datasets lead Forest-GAN to learn more general distribution. We also note that the global optimality of individual discriminators depends on the distribution of $p_{X_k^r}$ and the distribution of $p_g(x)$. But as in the condition of Eq. (5), with any fixed generator, discriminators approximate to their global optimalities independently. However, the learned discriminators are not exactly independent, because during training, the generator receives signals from all discriminators to update itself, and then each discriminator is trained with the generated samples from the shared generator. This issue will increase the correlation among individual discriminators. We will thus discuss the effect of correlation of discriminators to the generalization bound of discriminative forest in the next subsection.

Generalization Bound of a Discriminative Forest

In this section, we prove that a discriminative forest can achieve high capacity while keeping the robustness within a generalization bound. As a discriminative forest is constructed following the strategy of RF, we utilize the margin function of RF (Breiman 2001) to derive the upper bound of generalization error of discriminative forest. Formally, given K independent decision trees $\{T_{\Theta_k}(x)\}_{k=1}^{K}$ with the training set (X, Y), the raw margin function of RF is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{rm}(T_\Theta(X,Y)) =& \frac{1}{K}\sum_{k=1}^{K} I(T_{\Theta_k}(X)=Y) \\ & - \max_{j\neq Y} \frac{1}{K}\sum_{k=1}^{K} I(T_{\Theta_k}(X)=j)\ , \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $I(\cdot)$ can be an indicator function or activation function that outputs probability ranging [0,1], and $T_\Theta(X, Y)$ is the decision tree with a set of independent weights Θ trained in dataset (X, Y). The margin measures the extent to which the average difference at (X, Y) for the right class exceeds any other class. For a large number of trees, the raw margin function converges to

$$\begin{aligned} f_m(D_\Theta(X,Y)) =& P(T_\Theta(X)=Y) \\ & - \max_{j\neq Y} P(T_\Theta(X)=j). \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Specifically in Forest-GAN, the discriminative forest is a binary classifier, where the training set (X, Y) consists of the real data $(X^r, 1)$ and generated data $(X^g, 0)$.

Definition 1. *The margin function of a discriminative forest D with a large number of individual discriminators is defined as :*

$$\psi(D_\Theta(X,Y)) = 2 * P(D_\Theta(X)=Y) - 1\ . \tag{9}$$

When the margin function $\psi(D_\Theta(X, Y))$ is lower than 0, the discriminative forest makes a wrong prediction. Thus, the discriminative generalization error can be defined as a probability that D can't distinguish correctly whether an input is real or not.

Definition 2. *The generalization error of the discriminative forest D is defined as*

$$\Psi_D = P(\psi(D_\Theta(X,Y)) < 0)\ . \tag{10}$$

The larger the margin is, the more confidence the discriminative forest is for classification. Thus, the strength of the discriminative forest can be defined as its expectation of margin function $s = E[\psi(D_\Theta(X, Y))]$, which measures how accurate each individual discriminator is. We define the correlation between two members of the discriminative forest as $\rho(D_\Theta, D_{\Theta'})$, and the mean value of correlation is $\bar{\rho} = E[\rho(D_\Theta, D_{\Theta'})]$, which is a result of the same architecture and feature space. The upper bound of discriminative error can be derived in terms of the expected strength s and mean correlation $\bar{\rho}$.

Theorem 1. *The upper bound on the generalization error of the discriminative forest D is given by*

$$\Psi_D \leq \bar{\rho}(1-s^2)/s^2. \tag{11}$$

The proof can be found in Appendix B. **Theorem 1** indicates that the generalization error of discriminative forest is dependent on two terms, namely the strength s of individual discriminators and the mean correlation $\bar{\rho}$ among them in terms of the margin function. Hence, these two terms, s and $\bar{\rho}$, form the foundation of understanding how to reduce the upper bound of generalization error. The more strength of individual discriminators and less correlation among them, the lower is the generalization error bound of the discriminative forest. But the limitation of **Theorem 1** is that it doesn't give a way to calculate the correlation and strength. Specifically, the shared generator among multiple discriminators could make them correlated. We will discuss some strategies to reduce the correlation in *Discussion* section.

Results

Experimental settings. We conducted evaluation on simulated data, real-word images STL10 (96×96, 105K images) (Coates, Ng, and Lee 2011) and LSUN-Cat(256×256, 200K images) (Yu et al. 2015), respectively. We first investigated the effectiveness of Forest-GAN and visualized the changes of diversity in generated samples on simulated data. The simulated data was generated using a 2D Gaussian Mixture Model (2D-GMM) with 9 mixture components. Then we employed the AutoGAN (Gong et al. 2019) as a basis model on STL10 dataset to evaluate the effect of capacity of discriminative forest by controlling the number of total parameters. We also employed StyleGAN2 (Karras et al. 2019) as the basis model on LSUN-cat dataset to evaluate the improvement of Forest-GAN on the large and high-resolution dataset. Since more efficient generalization error bound may be established when the number of individual discriminators K is larger, we evaluated Forest-GAN with K=1,2,5,10,20,50 on simulated data. But considering the time-consuming of training, we evaluated Forest-GAN with K=1,2,5,10 on STL10 and with K=1,5 on LSUN-cat. To highlight the effectiveness of Forest-GAN, we kept the backbone of basis methods, other than the number of discriminators. Implementation details are described

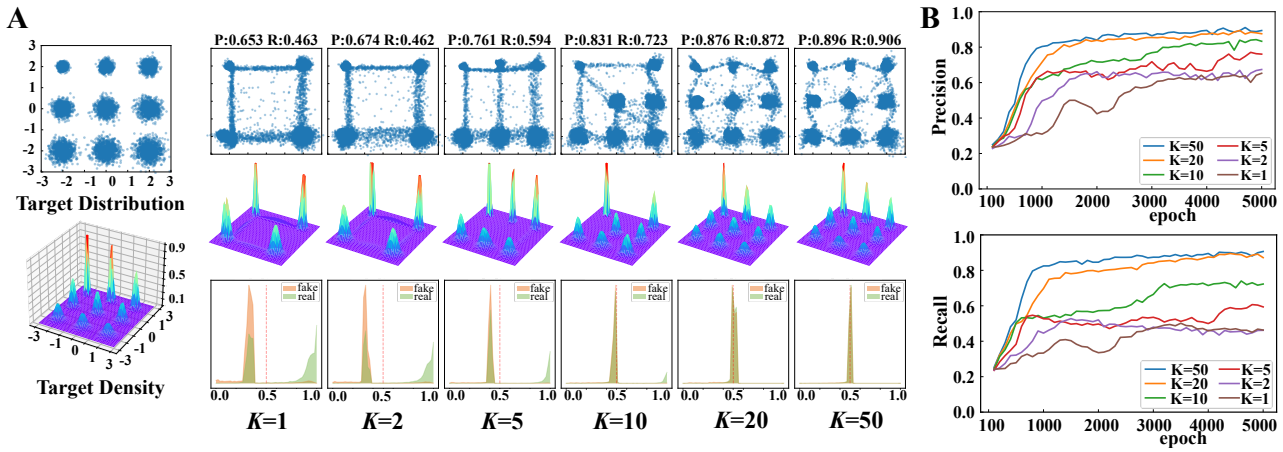

Figure 2: Illustration of effectiveness of discriminative forest on simulated data. (A) Comparison of mode distribution, density estimation and distribution of discriminative forest's scores. (B) Precision and recall curves of Forest-GAN during training.

in Appendix C. Implementation details can be found at https://github.com/chen-bioinfo/Forest-GAN.

Metrics. As common metrics such as Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) (Heusel et al. 2017) and Inception Score (IS) (Salimans et al. 2016) are only able to distinguish sample quality but the coverage of the sample distribution, we also evaluated the generated distributions of GANs using precision (**P**) and recall (**R**) (Sajjadi et al. 2018; Kynkäänniemi et al. 2019), which disentangle the divergence into two dimensions to separately measure the generative quality and diversity. The higher score of Precision means the model can learn more realistic modes from real dataset, and the higher score of Recall means more modes are recalled from real dataset. While the original formulation of precision and recall fails to consider distribution density in the high-dimensional feature space, we modified the conditional function by adding a density constraint $\lambda \geq \frac{d_g}{d_r} \geq \frac{1}{\lambda}$, where d_g and d_r are the radius of hypersphere in generated space and real data space, and λ was optimized as 3 on simulated data. Thus, we set $\lambda = 3$ in this study. Above metrics are calculated based on the high-dimensional feature space of the Inception-V3 network (Simonyan and Zisserman 2014).

Effectiveness of a Discriminative Forest on Simulated Data

We first used simulated data to investigate the capability of Forest-GAN in improving generative diversity and enhancing density estimation. The simulated dataset includes 10,000 points with 9 mixture components, where the centroids of these components are [-2, 2], [0, 2], [2, 2], [-2, 0], [0, 0], [2, 0], [-2, -2], [0, -2], [2, -2] and variances are 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04, 0.05, 0.06, 0.07, 0.08, 0.09, respectively. As each component has the same number of points, the densities of 9 components are decreasing. Capturing accurate density is more challengeable than only learning the components.

Improving generative diversity. We evaluated generative diversity by qualitatively visualizing the generated mode coverage and quantitatively calculating precision and recall. The ground truth and generated distributions produced by Forest-GAN are shown in **Figure 2A**. When $K = 1$, the learned distribution only has four components out of 9 components in the real distribution. More components are learned as K increases. Forest-GANs learn all 9 modes until $K \geq 20$, and its performance is further improved when K is 50, achieving a precision of 0.896 and recall of 0.906.

Enhancing density estimation. Compared to mode coverage, density estimation is to learn the probability mass function, requiring more close approximation to real distribution. We calculated the density of each component using 2D-GMM, and visualized the densities of simulated and generated modes in 3D plots (**Figure 2A**). As the number K increases, the learned densities of components are significantly improved. Both Forest-GAN with $K = 20$ and $K = 50$ learn all 9 components, but Forest-GAN at $K = 50$ provide more accurate density estimation of the target distribution. These results indicate that a larger K provides more promising generative capability.

Reducing overfitting of discriminative forest. When the number of discriminators is small, Forest-GANs suffer from the mode collapse. To investigate the reason, we visualized the distribution of discriminative forest's outputs (**Figure 2A**). It's obvious that the discriminative forest is overfitting when $K = 1$, and the overfitting is inhibited as the K increases. We can draw a similar conclusion according to the precision and recall curves during training (**Figure 2B**). The recall of Forest-GANs with $K = \{1, 2\}$ decreases after training 1,000 epochs, which indicates that models with small K are prone to overfit, guiding the generator towards mode collapse. As K increases, discriminative forest inhibits overfitting and leads the generator to be more diverse.

Enhancement of AutoGAN by a Discriminative Forest on STL10 Dataset

We further evaluated the enhancement of discriminative forest framework on existing GANs. We first employed AutoGAN (Gong et al. 2019) as the basis model on a popular real-world image dataset, STL10 (96×96, 105K images).

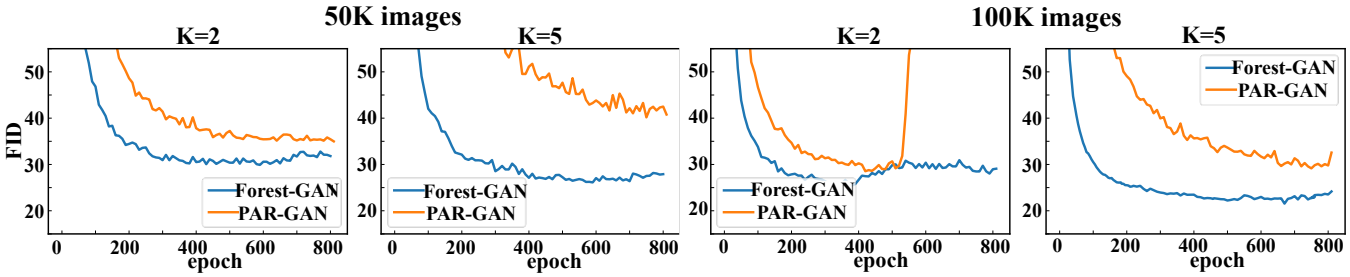

Figure 3: Performance comparison between Forest-GAN and PAR-GAN on STL dataset with 100K samples and 50K samples.

Method		FID	IS	Precision	Recall
Para 1M	K=1	30.71	9.42	0.538	0.471
	K=2	28.01	9.82	0.542	0.509
	K=5	25.88	9.82	0.564	0.540
	K=10	24.52	9.64	0.556	0.554
Para 2M	K=1	29.10	9.23	0.538	0.520
	K=2	25.46	9.66	0.573	0.556
	K=5	23.08	10.09	0.577	0.556
	K=10	22.72	10.07	0.565	0.572
Para 5M	K=1	27.96	9.30	0.530	0.535
	K=2	26.98	9.53	0.600	0.574
	K=5	22.21	9.79	0.593	0.574
	K=10	19.82	10.03	0.594	0.605
Para 10M	K=1	31.23	9.19	0.515	0.501
	K=2	25.79	9.56	0.578	0.548
	K=5	21.78	8.89	0.606	0.562
	K=10	19.27	10.12	0.607	0.596

Table 1: The performance of AutoGAN is enhanced by discriminative forest on STL10 in different parameter settings. Para indicates the total number of parameters in discriminator forest. 1M means 1 Million.

The details of AutoGAN are shown in Appendix D.

Keeping same architecture of individual discriminators. We kept the backbone and training hyperparameters of the generator and discriminator in AutoGAN, and only increased the number of discriminators according to the discriminative forest framework settings. All discriminators have the same architecture, but are independently initialized and trained on their own bootstrapping datasets. We investigated the performance of Forest-GANs with K=1,2,5,10. The discriminator of the original AutoGAN has 1 Million parameters. For K discriminators in a discriminator forest, the total parameters become as K times, as all discriminators have the same architecture. Thus, with keeping same architecture of discriminators, we sought to compare the results of Para=1M (K=1), Para=2M (K=2), Para=5M (K=5) and Para=10M (K=10) in **Table 1**. These results show that when K increases, discriminator forest indeed improves the generated sample quality of AutoGAN's generator in terms of FID, IS and Precision, and generative diversity in terms of Recall. The Forest-GAN with K=10 significantly improved the generated sample quality of AutoGAN with a new record FID of 19.27 from the FID of 30.71 achieved by original AutoGAN, as well as a generative diversity with recall of 0.596. As training more epochs (**Figure D2**), we observed that the model with fewer discriminators tends to deteriorate after it reaches an optimal value, but the discriminator forest with more discriminators can effectively alleviate this dilemma.

Keeping the total number of parameters in a discriminator forest. For a fair comparison, we also evaluated the effectiveness of Forest-GAN with the same total parameters. The number of parameters in discriminator forest is controlled by scaling the width in each layer rather than adjusting its depth. Same as above comparison, we set up four experiments with total parameters of 1M, 2M, 5M and 10M, respectively. Each of them conducted four experiments with K=1,2,5,10, which indicates that there are Para/K parameters per discriminator (**Table 1** and **Figure D2**). With the same number of parameters, in other words, discriminator forest has the same capacity, the generated sample quality is improved as the K increases in terms of FID, IS and Precision, as well as the generative diversity in terms of Recall. However, with the same number of discriminators, when the total number of parameters increases, in other words, the discriminator forest has more capacity, but the generative quality and diversity are not improved. These results indicate discriminator forest can own very large capacity without worries about overfitting so that capturing and modeling more complex statistics in real-world data distribution.

Comparison with PAR-GAN. Considering the SOTA performance of PAR-GAN and its correlation with Forest-GAN, we compared them on STL10 dataset with 50K and 100K images (**Figure 3**). It is obvious that Forest-GAN outperforms PAR-GAN under all comparisons. When compared on the STL10(50K images), Forest-GAN becomes slightly better as the number of discriminators K increases. However, PAR-GAN becomes worse. When compared on the STL10(100K images), PAR-GAN(K=2) suffers from mode collapse. Although PAR-GAN(K=5) improves the performance, it's still significantly worse than Forest-GAN. These results are not surprising. PAR-GAN builds multiple discriminators on disjoint partitions of input data. Subsequently, PAR-GAN could suffer from underfitting, especially when it has a large number of discriminators trained on a small dataset, as the partitions of the small dataset have fewer samples that are not enough to optimize individual discriminators. While Forest-GAN builds multiple discrimina-

	Original StyleGAN2-ADA	PAR-GAN (K=5)	Forest-GAN (K=5)
FID	9.22	7.45	**6.87**
Precision	0.595	0.624	**0.625**
Recall	0.202	0.274	**0.279**
PPL ↓	541	485	**482**

Table 2: Forest-GAN improves the generation performance.

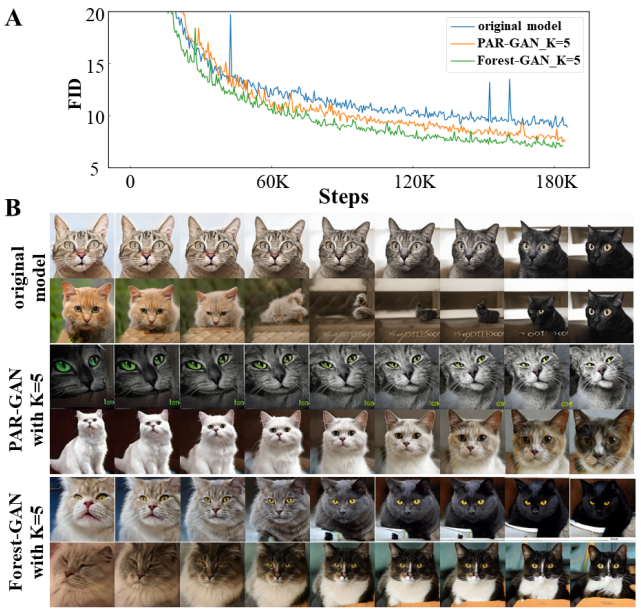

Figure 4: Comparison of training process and generated images by original model, PAR-GAN and Forest-GAN. (A) The FID curves during training process. (B) The style space interpolation.

tors on bootstrapping datasets that have the same size with the original dataset. Thus, Forest-GAN has no such issue.

Improvement on High-Resolution Images

To illustrate the validity of Forest-GAN on more complex real-world images, we selected StyleGAN2-ADA (Karras et al. 2020) as the original model on a large and high-resolution image dataset, LSUN-Cat (256 × 256, 200K images). The raw images were prepared the same as StyleGAN2-ADA. We fitted StyleGAN2-ADA into the discriminative framework with 5 discriminators (K=5), while keeping others settings. We make the similar changes to PAR-GAN for the fair comparison between the Forest-GAN and PAR-GAN.

Improving the quality and diversity. Table 2 shows PAR-GAN improves the original model from 9.22 to 7.43 on FID, while the Forest-GAN further improves the performance to a new record FID of 6.87, even higher than that trained on 1.6M images, whose best FID is 6.93 (Karras et al. 2019). The generative diversity is also significantly improved in terms of Recall. Besides, the FID curves of these three models are reproduced to compare the convergence of training, as shown in **Figure 4A**, where discriminator forest can further accelerate the optimization of the generator. Note that they may be further improved if training more epochs.

Better interpolation generation. Since above results show the generative diversity is significantly improved, the style space interpolation is further explored. We employed perceptual path length (PPL) (Karras et al. 2019) to measure the smoothness of generated samples. Discriminator forest achieves a PPL of 482, which is much better than the PPL of 541 achieved by original StyleGAN2-ADA and 485 by PAR-GAN. And **Figure 4B** shows the generative images and style space interpolation from Forest-GAN and the original model. The generator from Forest-GAN can generate realistic images from intermediate style, however, the one from the original model fails to restore the intermediate mode, which indicates the generator from Forest-GAN captured high generative diversity. Although the PAR-GAN shows comparable image interpolation performance with Forest-GAN, its generated images lack reality in the naked eye, which is consistent with its performance on FID.

Discussion

In this study, we introduce a discriminative forest GAN (Forest-GAN) framework to improve generative diversity in GANs. The discriminative forest in Forest-GAN is composed of multiple independent discriminators built on bootstrap sampling data. We have proved that the discriminative forest has an upper bound of generalization error that depends on the strength of individual discriminators and the correlation among discriminators. Experimental results demonstrate that a large number of discriminators indeed reduces the generalization error to improve diversity and quality of generated samples. A discriminative forest thus greatly improves the generative quality and diversity of existing GANs with achieving state-of-the-art performance.

Although a discriminative forest has shown its promising performance in improving generative diversity and quality, several strategies should be explored in future. **(1) Decorrelation between individual discriminators.** There is still a need to further reduce the correlatiosn among individual discriminators. De-correlating techniques such as feature bootstrapping, diverse neural network architectures, and adding random noises to input, are worth exploring to investigate their effect on the generalization of discriminative forest in Forest-GAN. **(2) Aggregating function.** In this study, we average the gradients of all discriminators to update the generator. Recent aggregation functions such as that in GMAN (Durugkar et al. 2017) describe a soft version of one Pythagorean means parameterized λ to aggregate gradients, where $\lambda = 0$ corresponds to *mean* and the *max* is recovered as $\lambda \to \infty$. This kind of aggregating function may work in Forest-GAN for future exploration. **(3) Parallel computing.** Since individual discriminators are independently trained, Forest-GAN can be deployed to a parallel computing paradigm, and thus can be adapted to distributed machine learning. **(4) Pre-trained discriminators.** Several pre-trained classifiers (Kumari et al. 2021) can be integrated into our multi-discriminator adversarial framework to improve the Forest-GAN training.

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