
Consistency-diversity-realism Pareto fronts of conditional image generative models

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Abstract

1 Building *world models* that accurately and comprehensively represent the real
2 world is a holy grail for image generative models as it would enable their use as
3 world simulators. For conditional image generative models to be successful world
4 models, they should not only excel at image quality and prompt-image consistency
5 but also ensure high representation diversity. However, current research in
6 generative models mostly focuses on creative applications that are predominantly
7 concerned with human preferences of image quality and aesthetics. We note that
8 generative models have inference time mechanisms – or *knobs* – that allow the
9 control of generation consistency, quality, and diversity. In this paper, we use
10 state-of-the-art text-to-image and their knobs to draw consistency-diversity-realism
11 Pareto fronts that provide a holistic view on consistency-diversity-realism
12 multi-objective. Our experiments suggest that realism and consistency can both be
13 improved simultaneously; however there exists a clear tradeoff between realism/
14 consistency and diversity. By looking at Pareto optimal points, we note that earlier
15 models are better at representation diversity and worse in consistency-realism, and
16 more recent models excel in consistency-realism while decreasing significantly
17 the representation diversity. Overall, our analysis clearly shows that there is *no*
18 *best model* and the choice of model should be determined by the downstream
19 application. With this analysis, we invite the research community to consider
20 Pareto fronts as an analytical tool to measure progress towards world models.

21 1 Introduction

22 Progress in foundational vision-based machine learning models has heavily relied on large-scale
23 Internet-crawled datasets of real images (Schuhmann et al., 2022). Yet, with the acceleration of
24 research on generative models and the unprecedented photorealistic quality achieved by recent text-
25 to-image generative models (Podell et al., 2023; Esser et al., 2024; Ramesh et al., 2022; Saharia et al.,
26 2022), researchers have started exploring their potential as *world models* that generate images to train
27 downstream representation learning models (Astolfi et al., 2023; Hemmat et al., 2023; Tian et al.,
28 2024).

29 World models aim to represent the real world as accurately and comprehensively as possible.
30 Therefore, visual world models should not only be able to yield *high quality* image generations,
31 but also generate content that is representative of the *diversity* of the world, while ensuring *prompt*
32 *consistency*. However, state-of-the-art conditional image generative models have mostly been
33 optimized for human preference, and thus, a single high-quality and consistent sample fulfills the
34 current optimization criteria. This vastly disregards representation diversity (Hall et al., 2024; Sehwag
35 et al., 2022; Zameshina et al., 2023; Corso et al., 2024; Hemmat et al., 2023; Sadat et al., 2024),
36 and questions the potential of state-of-the-art conditional image generative models to operate as

37 effective world models. Optimizing for human preferences only partially fulfills the multi-objective
38 optimization required to leverage conditional generative models as world models.

39 At the same time, state-of-the-art conditional image generative models have built-in inference time
40 mechanisms, hereinafter referred to as *knobs*, to control the realism (also referred to as quality or
41 fidelity), consistency, and diversity dimensions of the generation process. For example, it has been
42 shown that the guidance scale in classifier free guidance of diffusion models (Ho & Salimans, 2021),
43 trades image fidelity for diversity (Saharia et al., 2022; Corso et al., 2024). Similarly, post-hoc
44 filtering (Karthik et al., 2023) is used to improve consistency. Although recent works have carried
45 out extensive evaluations of image generative models (Ku et al., 2024; Lee et al., 2024), these
46 evaluations have been primarily designed from the perspective of creative applications. To the best
47 of our knowledge, a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the effect of the knobs controlling the
48 different performance dimensions of conditional image generative models has not yet been carried out.

49 In this paper, we benchmark conditional image generative models in terms of the world models’
50 multi-objective. In particular, we perform an optimization over both knobs and state-of-the-art models
51 with the goal of capturing the consistency-diversity, realism-diversity, and consistency-realism Pareto
52 fronts that are currently reachable. In our analysis, we include text-to-image (T2I) models, consid-
53 ering several versions of latent diffusion models (LDM), namely LDM_{1.5} and LDM_{2.1} (Rombach
54 et al., 2022), as well as LDM_{XL} (Podell et al., 2023). We perform the core of our analysis using the
55 ubiquitous MSCOCO (Lin et al., 2014) validation dataset. To quantify the multi-objective, we use
56 inter-sample similarity and recall (Kynkäänniemi et al., 2019) to measure representation diversity;
57 image reconstruction quality and precision (Kynkäänniemi et al., 2019) to quantify realism; and
58 the Davidsonian scene graph score (Cho et al., 2024) to assess prompt-generation consistency.

59 By drawing the Pareto fronts, we observe that progress in conditional image generative models has
60 been driven by improvements in image realism and/or prompt-generation consistency, and that these
61 improvements result in models sacrificing representation diversity. On MSCOCO, our analysis sug-
62 gests that more recent models should be used when the downstream task requires samples with high
63 realism – LDM_{XL-Turbo}– and consistency – LDM_{XL}–. However, older models – LDM_{1.5} and LDM_{2.1}–
64 are preferable for tasks that require good representation diversity. We believe that the proposed
65 evaluation framework and the findings that arise from it will enable faster progress towards enabling
66 the use of conditional image generative models as world models, and we hope it will encourage the
67 research community to work on models that present softer consistency-diversity-realism tradeoffs.

68 2 Methodology of the analysis

69 In this section, we summarize the metrics we use to evaluate conditional image generative models,
70 and describe existing knobs that control the consistency-diversity-realism multi-objective. For a
71 more detailed description of the metrics and knobs adopted, we refer to Appendix D.

72 **Evaluating conditional image generation** We evaluate conditional image generation in terms of
73 prompt-sample consistency, sample diversity and realism (also referred to as quality or fidelity in
74 the literature). We consider two complementary ways of quantifying the performance of conditional
75 image generative models: conditional and marginal. On the one hand, *conditional metrics* are
76 prompt-specific scores computed on the set of image generations resulting from a prompt. An overall
77 score may be obtained by averaging out all prompt-specific scores. On the other hand, *marginal*
78 *metrics* are overall scores computed on the generations resulting from *all* the prompts directly. In
79 practice, marginal metrics compare a set of generated images to a reference dataset while ignoring
80 the prompts used to obtain the sets. In the remainder of this subsection, we define consistency – that is
81 always conditional –, conditional and marginal diversity, as well as conditional and marginal realism.

82 **Consistency-diversity-realism knobs.** We steer the generations of conditional generative using two
83 well-known knobs: guidance scale and post-hoc filtering. The guidance scale is a parameter that
84 controls the strength of the conditioning in the denoising process of diffusion models; higher values
85 steer the generation to be more aligned with the textual prompt. Post-hoc filtering first generates
86 multiple samples given the same prompt, but different prior, and then select the ones with the highest
87 consistency to the prompt based on automatic metrics like CLIPScore.

88 **Pareto fronts.** We perform an optimization over state-of-the-art models and their knobs with the goal
89 of capturing the consistency-diversity, realism-diversity, and consistency-realism Pareto fronts that are
90 currently reachable, and building understanding on the consistency-diversity-realism multi-objective.
91 More precisely, we quantify consistency, diversity and realism for each pair of (model, knob-value)

92 using the metrics presented in Section ?? . We then leverage all the resulting measurements to obtain
 93 the Pareto fronts that capture the optimal consistency-diversity-realism values achieved by current
 94 state-of-the-art conditional image generative models. For visualization ease, we transform the multi-
 95 objective into three bi-objectives: consistency-diversity, realism-diversity and consistency-realism.

96 3 Experiments

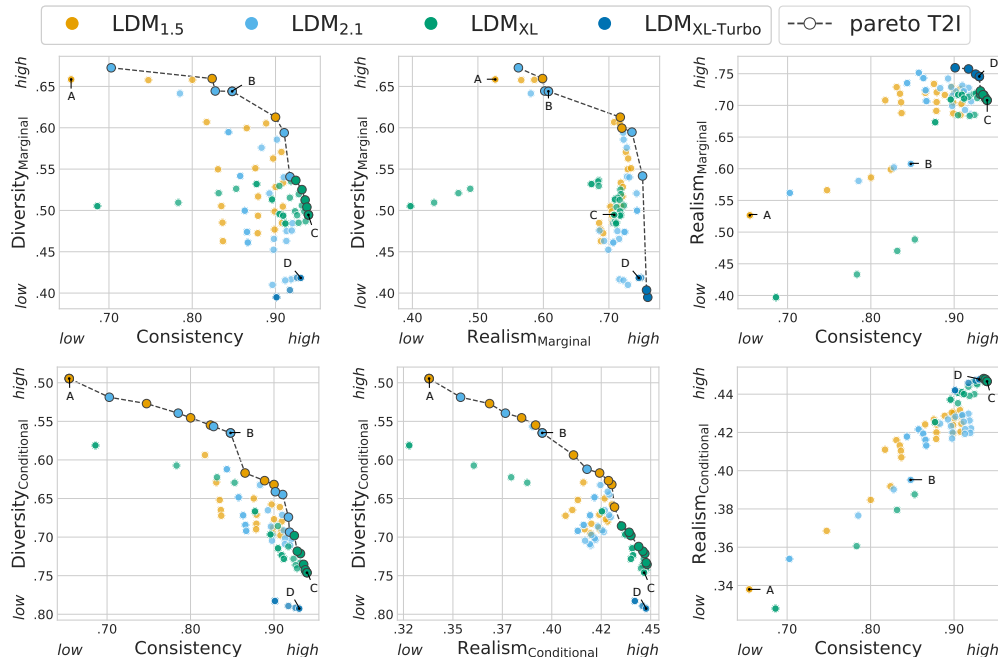


Figure 1: Consistency-diversity (left), realism-diversity (middle) and consistency-realism (right) Pareto fronts for T2I generative models. (top) marginal, (bottom) conditional metrics. Each dot is a configuration of model’s knobs. Labeled dots (A-D) are visualized in Fig. 2.

97 3.1 Setting

98 **Models.** We consider different versions of latent diffusion models: LDM_{1.5}, LDM_{2.1} (Rombach
 99 et al., 2022), LDM_{XL} (Podell et al., 2023)¹, and LDM_{XL-Turbo} (Sauer et al., 2023). We report
 100 the knobs ablated in Appendix. Moreover, in Appendix we extend Pareto fronts to measure the
 101 geographical diversity of the same models.

102 **Datasets.** We benchmark the models on MSCOCO (Lin et al., 2014; Caesar et al., 2018). In particular,
 103 we use the validation set from the 2014 split (Lin et al., 2014), which contains 41K images, to compute
 104 the marginal metrics, and the 2017 split (Caesar et al., 2018), which contains 5K images, to compute
 105 the conditional metrics. This choice is mostly to limit computational costs, as conditional metrics
 106 require multiple samples per conditioning.

107 3.2 Consistency-diversity-realism multi-objective for text-to-image models

108 In Fig. 1, we depict consistency-diversity, realism-diversity and consistency-realism Pareto fronts for
 109 open source T2I generative models. In particular, Fig. 1 (top) depicts marginal realism and diversity
 110 metrics while Fig. 1 (bottom) shows their conditional counterparts. Note that consistency is computed
 111 in the same way (DSG) in both figures. We now discuss each of the pair-wise metrics Pareto fronts.

112 **Consistency-diversity.** The Pareto fronts in Fig. 1 (left, top and bottom), are composed of three mod-
 113 els: LDM_{1.5}, LDM_{2.1} and LDM_{XL}. We observe that improvement in diversity, both marginal (Recall)
 114 and conditional (DreamSim score), comes at the expense of consistency (DSG). On the one hand,
 115 LDM_{2.1} and LDM_{1.5} achieve the best marginal and conditional diversities, respectively. On the other
 116 hand, and perhaps unsurprisingly, LDM_{XL} reaches the best consistency ($\geq 95\%$ of DSG accuracy),
 117 while LDM_{1.5} and LDM_{2.1} dominate the middle region of the frontier. Moreover, by comparing these

¹For LDM_{XL} we use the base model v1.0 without the refiner

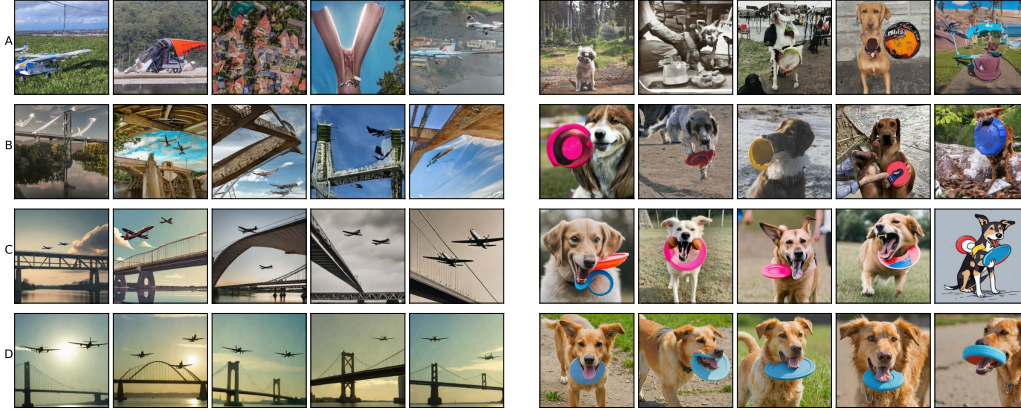


Figure 2: T2I qualitative results on MSCOCO. A-D refer to the models marked in Fig. 1. (left) Two planes flying in the sky over a bridge. (right) There is a dog holding a Frisbee in its mouth.

118 two models, we notice that Pareto optimal hyperparameter configurations of $LDM_{2,1}$ obtain slightly
 119 higher consistency scores. In Fig. 2, we validate these observations showcasing samples from $LDM_{1,5}$
 120 (A) at high-diversity/low-consistency, $LDM_{2,1}$ (B) from the middle of the frontier, and LDM_{XL} (C)
 121 at high-consistency/low-diversity. Both in the case of the “two planes” and of the “dog”, the variance
 122 of colors and backgrounds are reduced when visual quality is increased. Other samples are in ??.

123 **Realism-diversity.** The marginal realism-diversity (Precision-Recall) Pareto front in Fig. 1 (middle,
 124 top), is composed of three models: $LDM_{1,5}$, $LDM_{2,1}$ and $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$. In this case, we also
 125 observe a tradeoff: higher marginal diversity coincides with lower realism for $LDM_{1,5}$ and $LDM_{2,1}$.
 126 $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ obtains the samples of highest realism. However, we observe that the realism gain
 127 compared to $LDM_{2,1}$ is rather small and leads to a steep decrease in sample diversity. We attribute
 128 this drop to the adversarial objective used to distill $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ from LDM_{XL} , as also noted by
 129 Sauer et al. (2023). Interestingly, LDM_{XL} does not appear on the Pareto front, and it is even quite far
 130 away from it. This is probably due to LDM_{XL} (without refiner) generating smooth images lacking
 131 of high frequency details (e.g., see the dog in Fig. 2 and (Podell et al., 2023)), and the marginal
 132 metrics, which are computed with InceptionV3 features, are sensitive to those frequencies (Geirhos
 133 et al., 2018). Instead, by looking at the conditional metrics in Fig. 1 (middle), which are based on
 134 DreamSim that extract more semantical features (Fu et al., 2023), we observe that LDM_{XL} belongs to
 135 the Pareto front together with $LDM_{1,5}$, $LDM_{2,1}$. In particular, LDM_{XL} achieves the best conditional
 136 realism, obtained at the expense of conditional diversity. Here, we remark that $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ only gets
 137 comparable (slightly lower) realism but considerably lower diversity. This difference is evident by
 138 looking at C (LDM_{XL}) vs. D ($LDM_{XL-Turbo}$) in Fig. 2. When comparing Pareto optimal points of
 139 $LDM_{1,5}$ and $LDM_{2,1}$, we note that $LDM_{1,5}$ reaches slightly better conditional realism than $LDM_{2,1}$.

140 **Consistency-realism.** In Fig. 1 (right, top and bottom) we observe that realism and consistency
 141 show relatively strong positive correlation as improvement in one metric oftentimes leads to an
 142 improvement in the other metric, with the correlation being stronger for the conditional metrics than
 143 for the marginal ones. We observe that the Pareto front is dominated by LDM_{XL} and $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$
 144 model, highlighting how the advancement of T2I generative models have favored consistency-realism
 145 over the diversity objective. Indeed, we can also notice that in the distribution of non-Pareto-optimal
 146 points, $LDM_{2,1}$ seems better than $LDM_{1,5}$, matching the historical development of these models.

Conclusions

- Progress in T2I models has been driven by improvements in realism and/or consistency. State-of-the-art T2I models improve consistency and/or realism by sacrificing representation diversity. Yet, improvements in realism are correlated with improvements in consistency.
- More recent models should be used when the downstream task requires samples with high realism – $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ – and consistency – LDM_{XL} –. However, older models – $LDM_{1,5}$ and $LDM_{2,1}$ – are preferable for tasks that require good representation diversity.
- Both marginal and conditional metrics display correlated Pareto fronts.
- There is no best model and the choice of model should be determined by the downstream application.

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334 A Related work

335 The evaluation of recent state-of-the-art image generative models is often carried with human studies
336 focusing on human preference (Ku et al., 2024; Dong et al., 2024; Kirstain et al., 2023; Otani et al.,
337 2023; Zhou et al., 2019), where human annotators are asked to choose among images generated
338 with different models. They are usually asked to select either the image they like the most or the
339 image that is more aligned with the prompt used to generate it. However, due to the high cost of
340 human annotations, works like Xu et al. (2024) use the collected human preferences to train a model
341 to predicts them, in order to compute these metrics at lower cost. While the outcome of all these
342 studies is useful to detect the most appealing generations, it provides only limited signal when the
343 objective is to evaluate image generative models as world models, where several aspects need to
344 be evaluated simultaneously. To this end, other works have focused on extending the evaluation to
345 different aspects of the generation like fine-grained prompt-image alignment (*e.g.*, object counting
346 and color consistency) (Ghosh et al., 2024; Hinz et al., 2020), compositionality (Li et al., 2024;
347 Huang et al., 2023; Zhu et al., 2023; Park et al., 2021) and reasoning (Cho et al., 2023). Finally,
348 HEIM (Lee et al., 2024) and HRS (Bakr et al., 2023) recently proposed to holistically evaluate
349 T2I models, addressing up to 13 aspects including robustness, generalization, bias, fairness, and
350 others, in addition to prompt-image alignment and image quality. However, some crucial aspects
351 such as sample diversity are not investigated in these works, and more importantly, the several
352 aspects analyzed are not combined together to understand the trade-offs and the multi-objective
353 optimization of world models. In this regard, Yang et al. (2024); Rame et al. (2024) have investigated
354 the multi-objective optimization in the context of finetuning foundation models including multimodal
355 models and T2I models. In particular, these studies use Pareto fronts of multiple objectives as rewards
356 to be directly optimized via reinforcement learning. However, none of these works considers the
357 consistency-diversity-realism multi-objectives for conditional generative models as we do.

358 B Limitations

359 Our analysis only considers open models as evaluating closed models is very expensive or sometimes
360 not possible. It would be interesting placing the dots of closed state-of-the-art models within the
361 multi-objective pareto front. Moreover, it would be interesting to extend the analysis to ablate further
362 knobs. For example, we have not included the knob of structured conditioning, like layouts, sketches
363 or other form of control typically used to increase consistency. Another aspect that our analysis does
364 not ablate is the effect of different data distribution on the consistency-diversity-realism pareto fronts
365 —this aspect is currently very hard to study due to the closed data filtering recipes of most models.
366 Furthermore, for certain evaluated knobs like the retrieval augmented generation, the analysis could
367 be deepened by considering for example the effect of different retrieval databases or stronger/more
368 recent models than RDM—unfortunately, there is a scarcity of open models using RAG. Finally, our
369 work suggests future research to understand whether the observed tradeoffs are fundamental, or could
370 be overcome by future generations of better generative models.

371 C Additional results

372 C.1 Pareto fronts for geographic disparities in T2I models

373 We extend the use of consistency-diversity-realism Pareto fronts to characterize potential geographic
374 disparities of state-of-the-art conditional image generative models. In particular, we follow Hall et al.
375 (2024) and investigate geographic disparities of T2I models using the GeoDE dataset (Ramawamy
376 et al., 2024).

377 **Consistency-diversity.** Fig. 3 (left) depicts the region-wise consistency-diversity Pareto fronts.
378 We observe that Europe, the Americas, and Southeast Asia exhibit the best Pareto fronts, with
379 consistently higher diversity and consistency than Africa and West Asia. As previously noted,
380 improving diversity (computed as marginal or conditional) comes at the expense of consistency.
381 When considering marginal metrics (top), we observe that Europe and the Americas present the
382 best Pareto fronts. Remarkably, LDM_{1.5} appears in all region-wise Pareto fronts, whereas LDM_{2.1}
383 appears remarkably less frequently, and does not appear at all in the Pareto front of Europe. This
384 is in line with prior works that demonstrate that recent advancements on standard benchmarks may

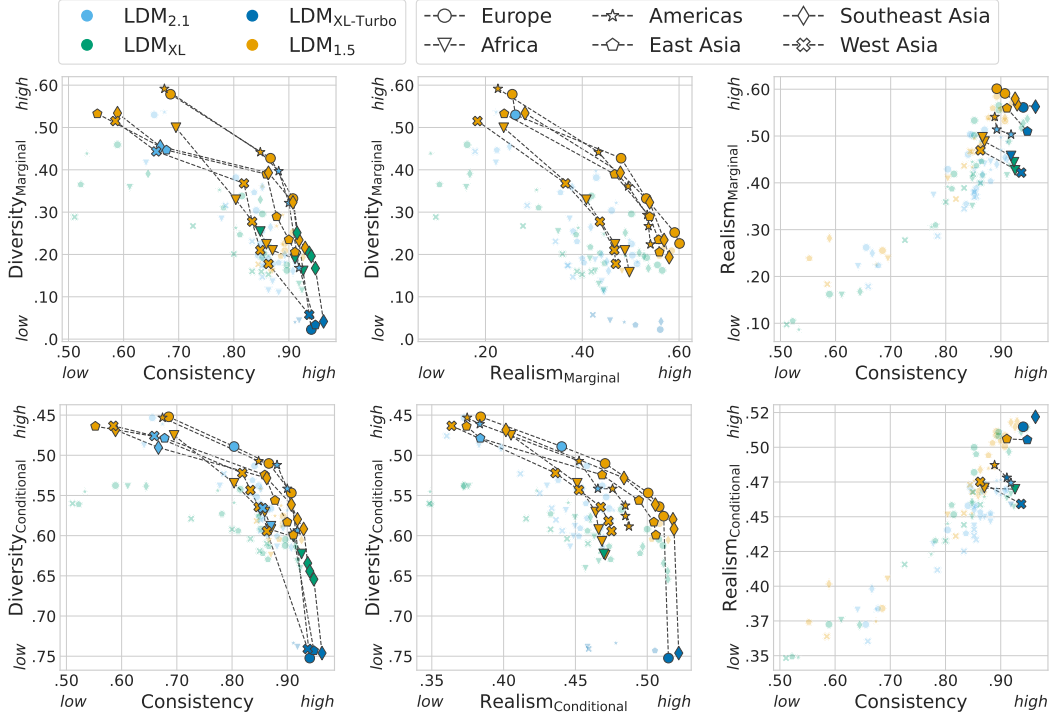


Figure 3: Consistency-diversity (left), realism-diversity (middle) and consistency-realism (right) Pareto fronts for T2I models on the GeoDE dataset. Consistency measures only the presence of the object in the image. Each models’ configuration differ solely for guidance scale value.

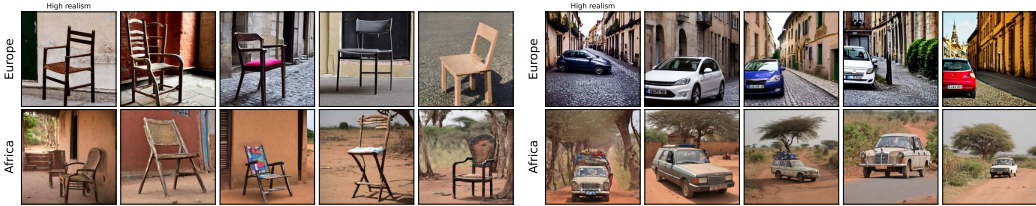


Figure 4: GeoDE qualitative. Left: A chair in {region}. Right: A car in {region}

385 have come at the cost of reduced real world geographic representations (Hall et al., 2024). However,
 386 we positively discover that disparity *reduction* occurs via LDM_{XL} which appears in the Pareto fronts
 387 of Africa, West Asia and South East Asia, bringing the results of Africa closer to those of Europe or
 388 the Americas. Yet, $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ only appears in the Pareto fronts of some regions, and presents the
 389 highest consistency. We observe that the improvements achieved by LDM_{XL} for Africa are notably
 390 reduced when distilling the model into $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$. When considering conditional metrics (bottom),
 391 we see that all T2I models appear in the Pareto fronts. Once again, $LDM_{1.5}$ shows the highest
 392 diversity and $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ the highest consistency. As in the previous case, LDM_{XL} only appears
 393 in the Pareto fronts of West Asia, Africa, and South East Asia, and bridges the consistency and
 394 diversity performance gap between Africa and both Europe and the Americas. Yet, the improvements
 395 observed in LDM_{XL} for Africa disappear when considering $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$.

396 **Realism-diversity.** Fig. 3 (middle) depicts the region-wise realism-diversity Pareto fronts. In the
 397 top panel (precision vs. recall), we observe that, similarly to MSCOCO2014 (Fig. 1), realism and
 398 diversity performance of T2I models present a clear tradeoff. Focusing on the regions, we see that
 399 the Pareto fronts of West Asia and Africa are visibly worse than the others. In terms of models,
 400 $LDM_{1.5}$ is the model that generally dominates the Pareto fronts of all regions. Moving to conditional
 401 metrics (bottom), we notice similar trends. However, LDM_{XL} appears in the highest realism part
 402 of the Pareto front of Africa, and $LDM_{XL-Turbo}$ appears in the highest realism part of the Pareto fronts

403 of Europe and Southeast Asia. By looking at the inter-region disparities along different areas of
 404 the Pareto fronts, we notice a gradual increase of the inter-region variance when moving from high
 405 diversity (low realism) to high realism (low diversity). This result suggest that maximizing realism
 406 might exacerbate stereotypes – as suggested by the lower diversity – and increase geographical
 407 disparities – as suggested by the increased variance across region-wise Pareto fronts. We provide
 408 a visual validation of this phenomenon in Fig. 4 (See ??? in ?? for more examples).

409 **Consistency-realism.** Fig. 3 (right) depicts the region-wise consistency-realism Pareto fronts. As
 410 shown in the figure, consistency and realism correlate as previously noticed on MSCOCO2014. The
 411 region-wise stratification shows that West Asia and Africa are again the regions with the worst Pareto
 412 fronts. The regions that exhibit the best Pareto fronts are East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Europe.
 413 Focusing on the top plot (marginal metrics), the Pareto fronts of all regions except the Americas
 414 contain LDM_{1.5} and LDM_{XL-Turbo}. Note that LDM_{1.5} consistently stands out in terms of realism,
 415 whereas LDM_{XL-Turbo} shines in consistency. LDM_{2.1} and LDM_{XL} are only present in the Pareto
 416 of the Americas and Africa, respectively. In the bottom plot (conditional metrics), the situation
 417 is very similar, but we notice that for Europe and Southeast Asia the Pareto is only composed by
 418 LDM_{XL-Turbo}.

Key insights

- Improving generation diversity comes at the expense of consistency for all regions considered. Realism and diversity also present a clear tradeoff for all regions, whereas realism and consistency appear correlated.
- Interestingly, the oldest model, LDM_{1.5} dominates the most recent ones, and consistently appears in the Pareto fronts of all regions, when considering any pair-wise objective. However, LDM_{XL} reduces the disparities between Africa and Europe or the Americas in terms of diversity and consistency, as we move towards the high consistency part of the Pareto fronts.
- Advances in T2I models reduce region-wise disparities in terms of consistency and increase the disparities in terms of realism, while sacrificing diversity across all regions.

419

420 C.2 The impact of knobs on consistency-diversity-realism

421 Finally, in this section, we study the effect of different knobs that control consistency, diversity and
 422 realism of conditional image generative models. In the interest of space, we focus on the conditional
 423 metrics, and perform the analysis on MSCOCO2014.

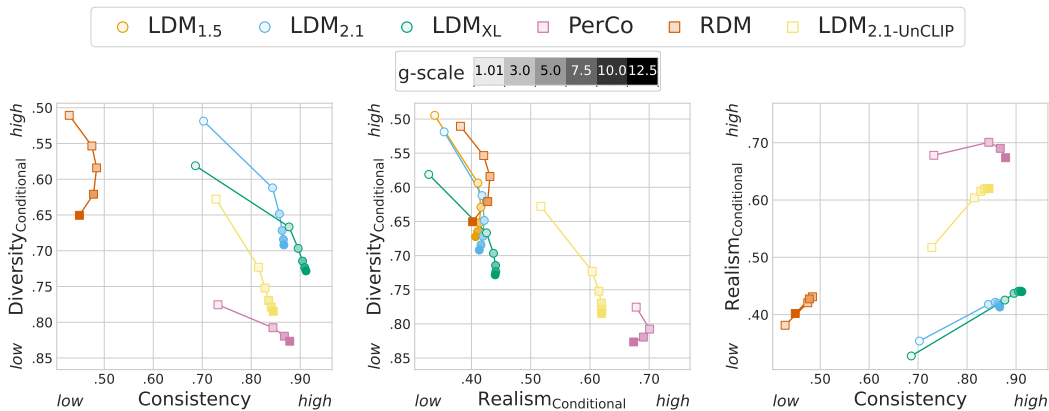


Figure 5: Ablation on guidance scale. To help readability, we report only a subset of the points presented in Fig. 1 and ??, selecting runs with default values for other knobs.

424 **Guidance scale.** Fig. 5 depicts the effect of guidance scale on consistency-diversity (left panel),
 425 realism-diversity (middle panel), and consistency-realism (right panel) objectives. By looking at
 426 the consistency-diversity plot, we observe that increasing the guidance scale leads to improved
 427 consistency at the expense of the diversity in most cases², with LDM_{XL} showing the highest relative
 428 improvements. Moreover, for all models we notice that the initial increase in the guidance scale –

²

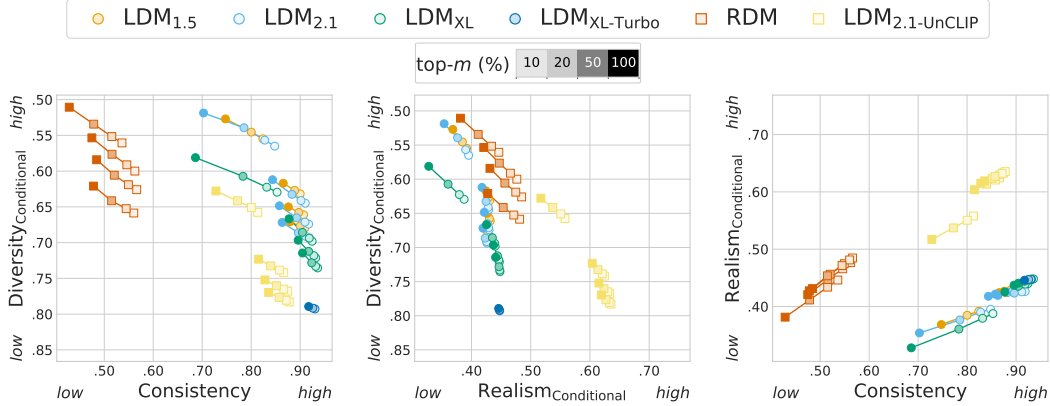


Figure 6: Ablation on top- m filtering.

429 from 1.01 to 3.0 – leads to the biggest consistency improvements. By looking at the realism-diversity
 430 plot, we note that the increase in the guidance scale often leads to increase in realism at the
 431 expense of diversity, with LDM_{2.1-UnCLIP} and PerCo benefiting the most and the least from this
 432 knob, respectively. Moreover, we note that, in most cases, increasing the guidance scales beyond
 433 7.5 no longer results in realism improvements. Finally, the consistency-realism plot reveals that
 434 by increasing the guidance scale the models generally improve both the consistency and realism.
 435 However, too large values of guidance may lead to decreasing the image realism; this happens for
 436 all models except of LDM_{2.1-UnCLIP} and LDM_{XL}.

437 **Post-hoc filtering.** Fig. 6 depicts the effect of applying top- m filtering. In the consistency-diversity
 438 plot (left), we observe that top- m filtering (based on CLIPScore) leads to improvements in consistency
 439 for all models – the lower the value of m , the higher the consistency. Unsurprisingly, the models that
 440 initially have high consistency scores do not gain as much when leveraging top- m filtering as the mod-
 441 els that start with low consistency scores. Moreover, we observe that the post-hoc filtering consistently
 442 leads to a diversity decrease. However, this decrease is less pronounced for the top- m filtering than
 443 for the guidance knob, as is the case for the consistency increase (*cf.* Fig. 5). The diversity-realism
 444 plot (middle) shows that post-hoc image filtering leads to an increase in the realism at the expense
 445 of diversity. By looking at the realism-consistency plot (right), we note that the post-hoc filtering is
 446 an effective way to increase both image realism and consistency, with the latter one improving faster.

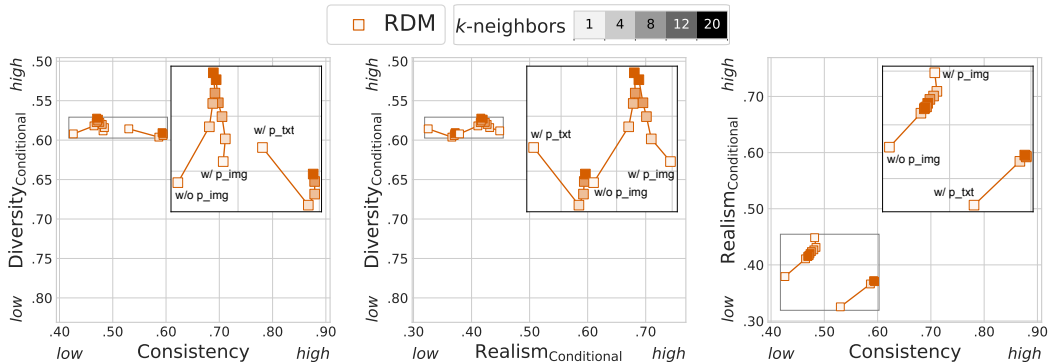


Figure 7: The effect of the neighborhood size on diversity, consistency and realism metrics. To improve readability we report a zoomed-in view in the top right of each plot.

447 **Retrieval augmentation neighborhood size.** The amount of neighbors used in retrieval augmen-
 448 tation may impact consistency, diversity, realism based on the semantic of the neighbors. In Fig. 7, we
 449 study the impact of the neighborhood size k for RDM. We notice that, in absolute terms, the impact
 450 of k is minor in all the pairs of metrics considered, suggesting that this knob is not as effective as
 451 the previous ones. In the consistency-diversity plot (left), we observe that increasing k from 4 to 20
 452 leads to a small but consistent increase in diversity, while maintaining consistency. However, when
 453 increasing k from 1 to 4, we generally see a small improvement in consistency. This result is expected

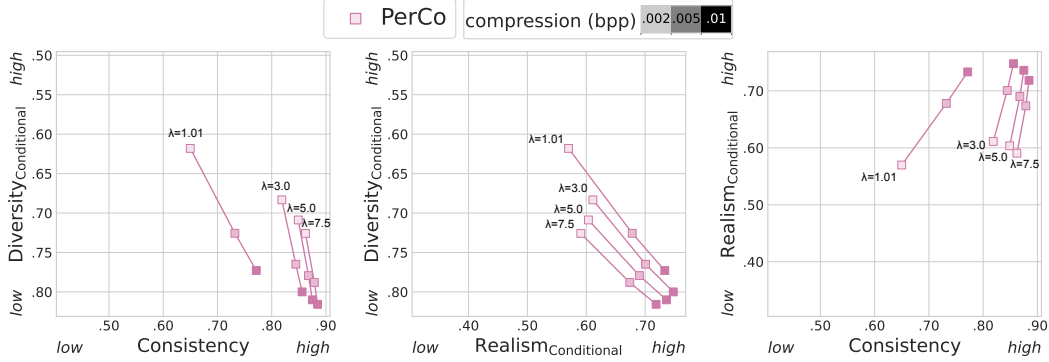


Figure 8: The effect of the compression rate on diversity, consistency and realism metrics.

454 as by increasing the neighborhood size we might include more diverse neighbors, and as long as
 455 those neighbors are semantically similar to the query image, they will not affect the consistency
 456 of the generation. In the realism-diversity plot (middle), we observe similar trends: increasing k from
 457 4 to 20 results in small diversity improvements with little to no effect on realism, while increasing
 458 k from 1 to 4 results in small realism improvements. Interestingly, RDM prompted with text achieves
 459 lower realism than the others models. Moreover, increasing k when the query image is present
 460 together with the neighbors, slightly harms the realism. Finally, in the consistency-realism plot
 461 (right), we note a positive correlation between the two metrics when text query or no query is used.

462 **Compression rate.** The reconstructions produced by an image compression model are highly dependent
 463 on the selected compression rate, measured in terms of bit-per-pixel (bpp) of the compressed
 464 image, where high compression rate means low bpp. In Fig. 8 we assess PerCo with different bitrates
 465 and at different guidance scales. By looking at the left panel, we observe that decreasing the bitrate
 466 leads to notable increases in conditional diversity, which is inline with qualitative observations made
 467 by Careil et al. (2024). Moreover, these diversity increases only marginally reduce consistency,
 468 especially for guidance scales > 3 , suggesting that even at high compression rates, the reconstructed
 469 images maintain their semantics. By contrast, in realism-diversity (middle), higher compression leads
 470 to a pronounced loss in realism, suggesting that the reconstructed images do not necessarily capture
 471 all the details from the original images. Finally, the results presented for consistency-realism (right)
 472 suggest, once again, that consistency and realism are correlated.

Key insights

- Guidance scale trades diversity for consistency and realism. Consistency and realism improve with higher guidance scale, but realism improvements saturate earlier than consistency improvements.
- Post-hoc filtering improves consistency and realism at the expense of diversity. Although both consistency and realism improve with this knob, consistency increases at a faster pace. Overall, post-hoc filtering appears less effective than guidance scale.
- The effect of retrieval augmentation on consistency-diversity-realism appears minor, questioning the knobs efficacy to control the multi-objective.
- Compression rate affects image realism and diversity, but has little effect on consistency, as compression models tend to maintain the image semantics.

473

474 D Analysis details

475 D.1 Evaluation metrics

476 **Consistency, \mathcal{C} .** Prompt-generation consistency is measured either with distance or similarity-based
 477 scores – *e.g.*, CLIPScore (Hessel et al., 2021), LPIPS score (Zhang et al., 2018) and DreamSim
 478 score (Fu et al., 2023) – or with visual question answering (VQA) approaches – *e.g.*, TIFA (Hu et al.,
 479 2023), VQAScore (Lin et al., 2024), and DSG (Cho et al., 2024) metrics –. In our analysis, we opt to
 480 use VQA approaches as they are reported to be more calibrated and interpretable than the distance and
 481 similarity-based scores (Cho et al., 2024). Concretely, we measure the prompt-generation consistency
 482 with DSG. DSG relies on questions \mathbf{Q} generated from the prompt \mathbf{p} and their corresponding answers

483 **A.** Per-prompt consistency, \mathcal{C}^p , is defined as:

$$\mathcal{C}^p = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{Q_j} \sum_{i=1}^{Q_j} \mathbb{1}(\text{VQA}(\mathbf{Y}_j, \mathbf{Q}_i), \mathbf{A}_i), \quad (1)$$

484 where N represents the number of images generated per conditioning prompt, Q_j represents
 485 the number of question per j -th image, and $\mathbb{1}$ represents the indicator function. The consistency
 486 over a set of prompts may be aggregated into a global consistency score, \mathcal{C} , by averaging all the
 487 conditioning-wise DSG scores, \mathcal{C}^p .

488 **Conditional diversity, \mathcal{D}_C .** We measure per-prompt conditional diversity as follows:

$$\mathcal{D}_C^p = \frac{1}{N^2 - N} \sum_{j \neq i} \mathcal{S}(f_\phi(\mathbf{Y}_j), f_\phi(\mathbf{Y}_i)), \quad (2)$$

489 where \mathcal{S} is a similarity or distance function, and f_ϕ is an image feature extractor. In our analysis,
 490 we use cosine similarity and the DreamSim (Fu et al., 2023) feature extractor. DreamSim leverages
 491 an ensemble of modern vision encoders, including DINO (Caron et al., 2021) and two independently
 492 trained CLIP encoders, and is reported to correlate well with human perception. The conditional
 493 diversity over a set of prompts may be aggregated into a global score, \mathcal{D}_C , by averaging all the
 494 conditioning-wise scores, \mathcal{D}_C^p .

495 **Conditional realism, \mathcal{R}_C .** We measure per-prompt conditional realism as follows:

$$\mathcal{R}_C^p = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \max_i \mathcal{S}(f_\phi(\mathbf{X}_i), f_\phi(\mathbf{Y}_j)), \quad i \in \{1, \dots, N'\}, \quad (3)$$

496 where $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N' \times H \times W \times 3}$ represents a tensor of N' real images. Note that both \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} represent
 497 generations and real images of the same prompt \mathbf{p} , respectively. Similarly to conditional diversity,
 498 we implement \mathcal{S} as cosine similarity and use DreamSim as feature extractor. The conditional
 499 realism over a set of prompts may be aggregated into a global score, \mathcal{R}_C , by averaging all the
 500 conditioning-wise scores \mathcal{R}_C^p .

501 **Marginal diversity, \mathcal{D}_M .** Commonly used metrics of marginal diversity, such as *recall* (Sajjadi et al.,
 502 2018; Kynkäänniemi et al., 2019) or *coverage* (Naeem et al., 2020), compare real and generated
 503 image distributions by leveraging a reference dataset of real images to ground the notion of diversity.
 504 Marginal diversity may also be measured with metrics which do not rely on a reference dataset,
 505 such as the Vendi Score (Friedman & Dieng, 2023). In our analysis, we use recall (Sajjadi et al.,
 506 2018; Kynkäänniemi et al., 2019) to compute marginal diversity given its ubiquitous use in the
 507 literature. Recall measures marginal diversity as the probability that a random real image falls within
 508 the support of the generated image distribution.

509 **Marginal realism, \mathcal{R}_M .** The most commonly used metric to estimate image realism is the Fréchet
 510 Inception Distance (FID) (Heusel et al., 2017). FID relies on a pre-trained image encoder (usually,
 511 the Inception-v3 model trained on ImageNet-1k (Szegedy et al., 2015)) that embeds both generated
 512 and real images from a reference dataset. The metric estimates the distance between distributions
 513 of features of real images and features of generated images, relying on a Gaussian distribution
 514 assumption. The FID summarizes image realism and diversity into a single scalar. In our analysis,
 515 to disentangle both axes of evaluation, we use precision (Kynkäänniemi et al., 2019; Naeem et al.,
 516 2020) as marginal realism metric. Precision measures marginal realism as the probability that a
 517 random generated image falls within the support of the real image distribution.

518 **D.2 Consistency-diversity-realism knobs**

519 **Guidance scale.** To control the strength of the conditioning, a guidance scale (g-scale) hyper-
 520 parameter can be used to bias the sampling of diffusion models like DDPM (Ho et al., 2020), see
 521 e.g., classifier (Dhariwal & Nichol, 2021) or classifier-free guidance (CFG) (Ho & Salimans, 2021).
 522 More precisely, rewriting ?? for diffusion models trained with CFG, we obtain:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \lambda g_\theta(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{p}) + (1 - \lambda) g_\theta(\mathbf{Z}, \emptyset), \quad (4)$$

523 where λ is the guidance scale, \emptyset is an empty conditioning prompt, and the first and second terms
 524 indicate conditional and unconditional samplings, respectively. Importantly, λ can be arbitrarily
 525 increased (> 1) in order to steer the model to generate samples more aligned with the conditioning \mathbf{p} .

526 **Post-hoc filtering.** To improve the generated images, *e.g.* in terms of realism or consistency, or to
 527 avoid certain undesirable generations, a set of images generated for the same prompt may be filtered
 528 to retain the top- m images based on a predefined criterion, which can be either based on human
 529 preferences or automatic metrics. Considering the latter case, a common choice of metric is the
 530 CLIPScore, resulting in:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \text{top}\left(m, \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{p}, f_\phi(\mathbf{Y}_j))\right), \quad (5)$$

531 where decreasing m ensures higher consistency.

532 D.3 Implementation details.

533 We adopt the `Diffusers` library for the LDM models (von Platen et al., 2022) and the official models’
 534 repos for RDM and PerCo. We set the number of inference steps to 50 (20 for PerCo as suggested in
 535 their paper) using deterministic sampling strategies, DPM++ (Lu et al., 2022) for `Diffusers` models
 536 and DDIM (Song et al., 2020) for others. For the conditional metrics on MSCOCO, we sample 10
 537 images per prompt, using the 5,000 image-caption pairs of the 2017 validation split, while for the
 538 marginal metrics we sample 1 image per conditioning, using 30,000 randomly selected data points
 539 from the validation set of 2014. Note that, as MSCOCO contains multiples captions for each image,
 540 we fix the first caption as prompt for generations. For GeoDE, we sample 180 images for each of
 541 the `{object}` in `{region}` prompts for both conditional and marginal metrics. We disaggregate
 542 metrics by groups, per Hall et al. (2024), to measure disparities between geographic regions. For met-
 543 rics based on DreamSim we use the ensemble backbone as recommended from the official repository.
 544 For marginal metrics we use the implementation of `prdc`. For DSG, we leverage GPT-3.5-turbo to
 545 generate questions from the prompts, and InstructBLIP (Dai et al., 2024) to make the predictions.
 546 When performing top- m filtering based on CLIPScore, we use CLIP-ViT-H-14-s32B-b79K from
 547 Hugging Face. Finally, we ablate different values for each knob as reported in Tab. 1.

Table 1: Knob values ablated per model.

| Knob | values |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| g-scale | [1.01, 3.0, 5.0, 7.5, 10.0, 12.5]; |
| top- m filtering | [10, 20, 50, 100]% |