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A Project Report on

Sketch To Face Synthesizer

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in

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

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Sketch to Face Synthesizer

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ABSTRACT

The ability to generate realistic face images from sketches has been a longstanding challenge in the field of computer vision. This project proposes a novel deep learning framework for the generation of face images from freehand sketches. Our approach leverages the power of generative adversarial networks (GANs) combined with an encoder-decoder architecture to produce high-quality and visually coherent face images that closely resemble the input sketches.

The proposed framework consists of two main components: a sketch encoder and a face generator. The sketch encoder takes a freehand sketch as input and maps it to a latent representation in a lower-dimensional space. This encoding process captures the important features and characteristics of the sketch, enabling the subsequent generation of a corresponding face image. The face generator, built upon a GAN architecture, takes the encoded sketch representation and synthesizes a realistic face image that matches the input sketch.

The proposed framework consists of two main components: a sketch encoder and a face generator. The sketch encoder takes a freehand sketch as input and maps it to a latent representation in a lower-dimensional space. This encoding process captures the important features and characteristics of the sketch, enabling the subsequent generation of a corresponding face image. The face generator, built upon a GAN architecture, takes the encoded sketch representation and synthesizes a realistic face image that matches the input sketch.

To train our model, we utilize a large-scale dataset of paired sketches and corresponding face images. The generator is trained to minimize the discrepancy between the generated face images and the real face images, while the discriminator aims to distinguish between real and generated images. The adversarial training process facilitates the convergence of the model, resulting in the generation of highly realistic face images from sketches.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Proposed Framework

Creating realistic human face images from scratch benefits various applications including criminal investigation, character design, educational training, etc. Due to their simplicity, conciseness and ease of use, sketches are often used to depict desired faces. The recently proposed deep learning based image-to-image translation techniques allow automatic generation of photo images from sketches for various object categories including human faces, and lead to impressive results.

Most of such deep learning based solutions for sketch-to-image translation often take input sketches almost fixed and attempt to infer the missing texture or shading information between strokes. To some extent, their problems are formulated more like reconstruction problems with input sketches as hard constraints. Since they often train their networks from pairs of real images and their corresponding edge maps, due to the data-driven nature, they thus require test sketches with quality similar to edge maps of real images to synthesize realistic face images. However, such sketches are difficult to make especially for users with little training in drawing.

To address this issue, our key idea is to implicitly learn a space of plausible face sketches from real face sketch images and find the closest point in this space to approximate an input sketch. In this way, sketches can be used more like soft constraints to guide image synthesis. Thus we can increase the plausibility of synthesized images even for rough and/or incomplete input sketches while respecting the characteristics represented in the sketches. Learning such a space globally (if it exists) is not very feasible due to the limited training data against an expected high dimensional feature space. This motivates us to implicitly model component-level manifolds, which makes a better sense to assume each component manifold is low-dimensional and locally linear. This decision not only helps locally span such manifolds using a limited amount of face data, but also enables finer-grained control of shape details

1.2. Conditional Generative Adversarial Network

The sketch encoder takes a freehand sketch as input and maps it to a latent representation in a lower-dimensional space. This encoding process captures the essential features and characteristics of the sketch, enabling the subsequent generation of a corresponding face image. The face generator, built upon a GAN architecture, takes the encoded sketch representation and synthesizes a realistic face image that matches the input sketch. To train the model, a large-scale dataset of paired sketches and corresponding face images is required. The dataset should encompass a wide range of facial variations, including different ages, genders, ethnicities, and expressions. The generator is trained to minimize the discrepancy between the generated face images and the real face images, while the discriminator aims to distinguish between real and generated images. The adversarial training process encourages the generator to improve its ability to generate realistic face images that are visually indistinguishable from real

1.3. GAN Based Training

In addition to the GAN-based training, this project introduces a perceptual loss function that incorporates a pre-trained face recognition network. This loss function guides the generator to produce face images that not only resemble the input sketches but also exhibit meaningful facial features and identities. By incorporating the perceptual loss, the model generates face images that are not only visually appealing but also semantically consistent with the given sketches. This ensures that the generated face images capture the essence of the sketched subjects and exhibit realistic facial attributes. Evaluation of the proposed deep generation framework involves both qualitative and quantitative assessments. The qualitative evaluation includes visual inspections of the generated face images, comparing them against the input sketches and real face images. The goal is to assess the visual fidelity, facial details, and overall image quality of the generated faces. Additionally, quantitative metrics such as structural similarity index (SSIM) and peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) are employed to measure the similarity between the generated face images and the ground truth face images. To validate the effectiveness

of the proposed framework, extensive experiments are conducted. The project compares the performance of the proposed approach against several state-of-the-art techniques for face image generation from sketches. The experiments consider various challenging scenarios, including sketches with incomplete information, extreme poses, and different artistic styles. The results demonstrate the superiority of the proposed framework in terms of visual fidelity, facial details, and overall image quality.

1.4. Real World Application

As the name implies, the primary goal of this project is to assist the vision impaired in navigating across an area. The deep generation of face images from sketches has several real-world applications that can significantly benefit various industries. Here are some notable examples: Digital Art and Animation: Artists and designers can utilize the deep generation framework to quickly transform their sketches into digital paintings or animated characters. This technology allows them to streamline the creative process and bring their artistic visions to life in a digital format. Facial Reconstruction and Forensic Investigations: Forensic artists often work with rough sketches of suspects or unidentified individuals. The deep generation framework can aid in creating more accurate and realistic facial reconstructions based on these sketches, assisting law enforcement agencies in identifying suspects or missing persons. Entertainment Industry: The entertainment industry, including film, gaming, and virtual reality, can leverage the deep generation of face images from sketches for character creation and development. This technology enables the generation of lifelike and visually consistent characters based on initial sketches, enhancing the immersive experience for viewers and players. Personalized Avatars and Emojis: Social media platforms and messaging applications can employ the deep generation framework to allow users to create personalized avatars or emojis from their sketches. This adds a fun and creative element to online interactions and self-expression. Cosmetic Surgery and Facial Transformations: Plastic surgeons and cosmetic clinics can utilize the deep generation framework to simulate the potential outcomes of facial surgeries or transformations based on initial sketches. This technology can assist in patient consultations and help individuals make informed decisions about aesthetic procedures.

Human-Computer Interaction and Virtual Assistants: Incorporating the deep generation framework into virtual assistants or chatbots can enhance their visual representation. By generating realistic face images based on user-provided sketches or descriptions, virtual assistants can offer a more personalized and engaging interaction experience.

Education and Training: The deep generation of face images from sketches can be integrated into educational platforms and training simulations. For instance, in medical education, this technology can generate lifelike facial representations of patients for training purposes, allowing medical students to practice diagnosing and interacting with virtual patients.

Fashion and Makeup Industry: The fashion and makeup industries can utilize the deep generation framework to create virtual try-on experiences. Users can sketch their desired makeup looks or fashion styles, and the system can generate virtual representations showcasing how the applied makeup or clothing would appear on their faces.

Gaming and Character Customization: Game developers can incorporate the deep generation framework into character customization systems, enabling players to create unique and personalized game avatars based on their sketches. This enhances player immersion and customization options within video games.

Human-Robot Interaction: Robots or virtual agents that interact with humans can benefit from the deep generation framework to generate more visually appealing and expressive facial features. This enhances the communication and emotional connection between humans and robots, improving the overall user experience.

2. Problem Definition and Proposed Solution

2.1. Problem Statement

To develop the Deep Generation of Face Images from Sketches is to develop a deep learning model that can generate realistic face images from sketches with high fidelity and accuracy. The primary challenge is to learn the complex mapping between the low-level visual features of sketches and the high-level semantic information of face images. This requires the model to capture the shape, texture, shading, and other subtle details of faces, as well as to generalize to different poses, expressions, and lighting conditions.

Another challenge is to ensure that the generated face images are diverse and natural-looking, and do not suffer from common artifacts such as blurriness, distortion, or unnatural colors. This requires the model to balance between fidelity and creativity, and to avoid overfitting to the training dataset.

Furthermore, the problem statement includes exploring various deep learning architectures, loss functions, and optimization strategies to improve the performance of the model. It also involves collecting and curating a large and diverse dataset of sketches and corresponding face images, and designing appropriate evaluation metrics to measure the quality of the generated images.

Creating realistic human face images from scratch benefits various applications including criminal investigation, character design, educational training, etc. Due to their simplicity, conciseness and ease of use, sketches are often used to depict desired faces. The recently proposed deep learning based image-to-image translation techniques allow automatic generation of photo images from sketches for various object categories including human faces, and lead to impressive results.

Most of such deep learning based solutions for sketch-to-image translation often take input sketches almost fixed and attempt to infer the missing texture or shading information between strokes. To some extent, their problems are formulated more like reconstruction problems with input sketches as hard constraints. Since they often train

their networks from pairs of real images and their corresponding edge maps, due to the data-driven nature, they thus require test sketches with quality similar to edge maps of real images to synthesize realistic face images. However, such sketches are difficult to make especially for users with little training in drawing. To this end we present a novel deep learning framework for sketch-based face image synthesis, as . Our system consists of three main modules, namely, CE (Component Embedding), FM (Feature Mapping), and IS (Image Synthesis). The CE module adopts an auto-encoder architecture and separately learns five feature descriptors from the face sketch data, namely, for “left eye”, “righteye”, “nose”, “mouth”, and “remainder” for locally spanning the component manifolds. The FM and IS modules together form another deep learning sub-network for conditional image generation, and map component feature vectors to realistic images.

2.2. Challenges

Improving the other are several challenges in the deep generation of face images from sketches, including:

Learning the complex mapping: The primary challenge is to learn the complex mapping between the low-level visual features of sketches and the high-level semantic information of face images. This requires the model to capture the shape, texture, shading, and other subtle details of faces, as well as to generalize to different poses, expressions, and lighting conditions.

Diverse and natural-looking output: Ensuring that the generated face images are diverse and natural-looking, and do not suffer from common artifacts such as blurriness, distortion, or unnatural colors. This requires the model to balance between fidelity and creativity, and to avoid overfitting to the training dataset.

Large and diverse datasets: Deep generation of face images from sketches requires a large and diverse dataset of sketches and corresponding face images for training. The quality and diversity of the dataset can greatly affect the performance of the model.

Real-time generation: Real-time generation of high-quality face images from sketches is a challenging task that requires efficient algorithms and architectures.

Ethical Consideration: The use of face images raises ethical concerns related to privacy, bias, and fairness. Careful consideration must be given to ensure that the generated images do not infringe on the rights of individuals or perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

2.3. Proposed Solution

Generating realistic face images from sketches is a challenging task in computer vision and deep learning. However, there have been several recent advances in this field that have shown promising results. Here are some possible solutions for deep generation of face images from sketches:

Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks (cGANs): cGANs are a type of deep learning model that can generate realistic images from a given input. In the case of face image generation from sketches, cGANs can be trained on pairs of sketches and their corresponding face images to learn the mapping between the two. Once trained, the cGAN can generate realistic face images from new sketches.

Variational Autoencoders (VAEs): VAEs are another type of deep learning model that can generate images. They work by encoding the input image into a lower-dimensional representation (latent space) and then decoding this representation to generate a new image. In the case of face image generation from sketches, VAEs can be trained on pairs of sketches and their corresponding face images to learn the latent space representation. Once trained, the VAE can generate new face images from new sketches by sampling from the latent space.

Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs): GANs are a type of deep learning model that can generate realistic images by training two neural networks against each other. In the case of face image generation from sketches, GANs can be trained on pairs of sketches and their corresponding face images to learn to generate realistic face images from sketches.

Sketch-to-Photo Translation Networks: These are deep learning models that specifically focus on the task of generating photo-realistic images from sketches. They are often trained on large datasets of paired sketches and photos and are designed to learn the complex mapping between the two. Once trained, they can generate new face images from sketches.

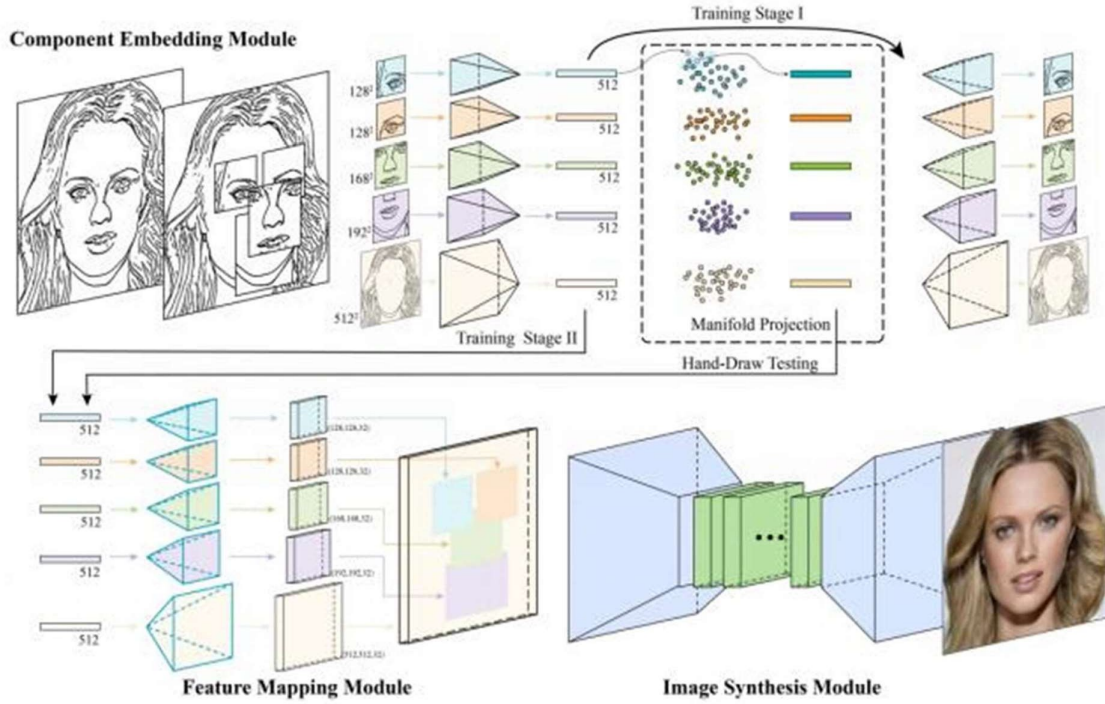


Figure 2.1: Illustration of our network architecture.

The upper half is the Component Embedding module. We learn feature embeddings of face components using individual auto-encoders. The feature vectors of component samples are considered as the point samples of the underlying component manifolds and are used to refine an input hand-drawn sketch by projecting its individual parts to the corresponding component manifolds. The lower half illustrates a sub-network consisting of the Feature Mapping (FM) and the Image Synthesis (IS) modules. The FM module decodes the component feature vectors to the corresponding multi-channel feature maps ($H \times W \times 32$), which are combined according to the spatial locations of the corresponding facial components before passing them to the IS module.

2.4. Related Work Deep Generation of Face Images from Sketches

In recent years, conditional generative models, in particular, conditional Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), have been popular for image generation conditioned on various input types. Karras et al. propose an alternative for the generator in GAN that separates the high level face attributes and stochastic variations in generating high quality face images. Based on conditional GANs, Isola et al. present the pix2pix framework for various image-and-image translation problems like image colorization, semantic segmentation, sketch-to-image synthesis.

Wang et al. generate an image given a semantic label map as well as an image

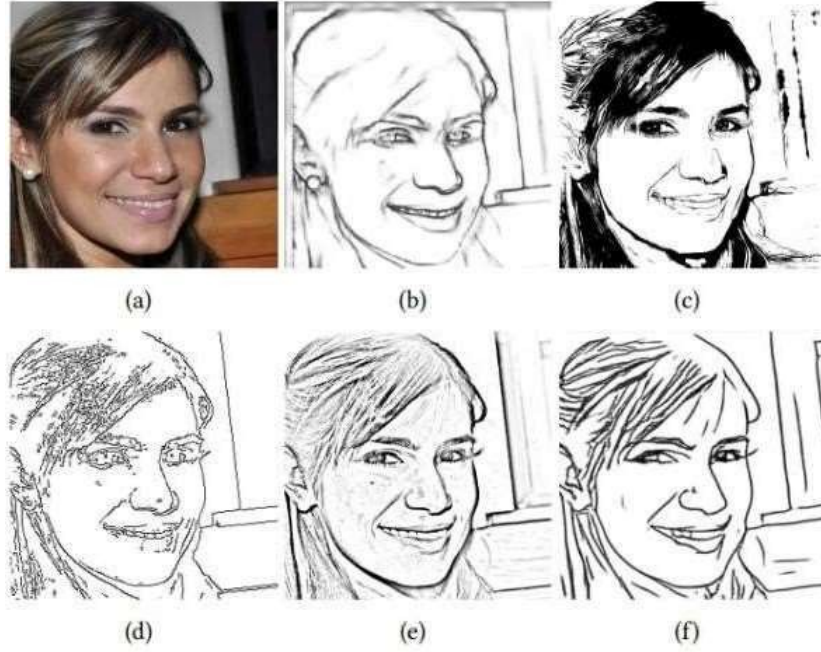


Figure 2.2: The comparisons of different edge extraction methods.

(a): Input real image. (b): Result by HED [42]. (c): Result by APDrawingGAN [43].

(d): Canny edges [4]. (e): the result by the Photocopy filter in Photoshop. (f):

Simplification of (e) by [35]. Photo (a) courtesy of © LanaLucia.

exemplar. Sangkloy et al. take hand-drawn sketches as input and colorize them under the guidance of user specified sparse color strokes. These systems tend to overfit to conditions seen during training, and thus when sketches being used as conditions, they achieve quality results only given edge maps as input. To address this issue, instead of training an end-to-end network for sketch-to-image synthesis, we exploit the domain knowledge and condition GAN on feature maps derived from the component feature vectors.

Considering the known structure of human faces, researchers have explored component-based methods for face image generation. For example, given an input sketch, Wu and Dai first retrieve best-fit face components from a database of face images, then compose the retrieved components together, and finally deform the composed image to approximate a sketch. Due to their synthesis-and-deforming strategy, their solution requires a well drawn sketch as input. To enable component-level controllability, Gu et al. use auto-encoders to learn feature embeddings for individual face components, and fuse component feature tensors in a maskguided generative network. Our CE module is inspired by their work. However, their local embeddings learned from real images are mainly used to generate portrait images

2.5. Methodology

The 3D shape space of human faces has been well studied (see the classic morphable face model). A possible approach to synthesize realistic faces from hand-drawn sketches is to first project an input sketch to such a 3D face space and then synthesize a face image from a generated 3D face. However, such a global parametric model is not flexible enough to accommodate rich image details or support local editing. Inspired by , which shows the effectiveness of a local-global structure for faithful local detail synthesis, our method aims for modeling the shape spaces of face components in the image domain.

To achieve this, we first learn the feature embeddings of face components . For each component type, the points corresponding to component samples implicitly define a manifold. However, we do not explicitly learn this manifold, since we are more interested in knowing the closest point in such a manifold given a new sketched face component, which needs to be refined. Observing that in the embedding spaces semantically similar components are close to each other, we assume that the underlying component manifolds are locally linear. We then follow the main idea of the classic locally linear embedding (LLE) algorithm to project the feature vector of the sketched face component to its component manifold.

The learned feature embeddings also allow us to guide conditional sketch-to-image synthesis to explicitly exploit the information in the feature space. Unlike traditional sketch-to-image synthesis methods, which learn conditional GANs to translate sketches to images, our approach forces the synthesis pipeline to go through the component feature spaces and then map 1-channel feature vectors to 32-channel feature maps before the use of a conditional GAN.

2.6. Data Preparation

To train our network, it requires a reasonably large-scale dataset of face sketch-image pairs.

There exist several relevant datasets like the CUHK face sketch database [39, 46]. However, the sketches in such datasets involve shading effects while we expect a more abstract representation of faces using sparse lines. We thus contribute to a new dataset of pairs of face detection.

2.7. Sketch-to-Image Synthesis Architecture

Our deep learning framework takes as input a sketch image and generates a high-quality facial image of size 512×512 . It consists of two sub-networks: The first sub-network is our CE module, which is responsible for learning feature embeddings of individual face components using separate auto-encoder networks. This step turns component sketches into semantically meaningful feature vectors. The second sub-network consists of two modules: FM and IS. FM turns the component feature vectors to the corresponding feature maps to improve the information flow. The feature maps of individual face components are then combined according to the face structure and finally passed to IS for face image synthesis.

Component Embedding Module. Since human faces share a clear structure, we decompose a face sketch into five components, denoted as S^c , $c = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ for “left-eye”, “right-eye”, “nose”, “mouth”, and “remainder”, respectively. To handle the details in-between components, we define the first four components simply by using four overlapping windows centered at individual face components (derived from the pre-labeled segmentation masks in the dataset), as illustrated in Figure 3 (Top-Left). A “remainder” image corresponding to the “remainder” component is the same as the original sketch image but with the eyes, nose and mouth removed. Here we treat “left-eye” and “right-eye” separately to best explore the flexibility in the generated faces (see two examples in Figure 4). To better control of the details of individual components, for each face component type we learn a local feature embedding. We obtain the feature descriptors of individual components by using five auto-encoder networks, denoted as E^c, D^c with E^c being an encoder and D^c a decoder for component c .

Each auto-encoder consists of five encoding layers and five decoding layers. We add a fully connected layer in the middle to ensure the latent descriptor is of 512 dimensions for all the five components.

We experimented with different numbers of dimensions for the latent representation (128, 256, 512) – we found that 512 dimensions are enough for reconstructing and representing the sketch details. Instead, lower-dimensional representations tend to lead to blurry results. By trial and error, we append a residual block after every convolution/deconvolution operation in each encoding/decoding layer to construct the latent

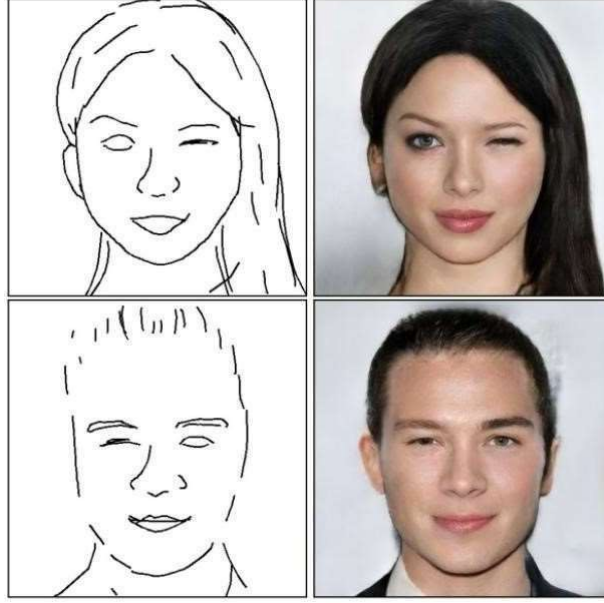


Figure 2.3: Two examples of generation flexibility supported by using separate components for the left and right eyes.

descriptors instead of only using convolution and deconvolution layers. We use Adam solver in the training process.

Image Synthesis Module. Given the combined feature maps, the IS module converts them to a realistic face image. We implement this module using a conditional GAN architecture, which takes the feature maps as input to a generator, with the generation guided by a discriminator. Like the global generator in pix2pixHD , our generator contains an encoding part, a residual block, and a decoding unit. The input feature maps go through these units sequentially. Similarly , the discriminator is designed to determine the samples in a multi-scale manner

Two-stage Training: As we adopt a two stage training strategy to train our network using our dataset of sketch-image pairs. In Stage I, we train only the CE module, by using component sketches to train five individual autoencoders for feature embeddings. The training is done in a self supervised manner, with the mean square error (MSE) loss between an input sketch image and the reconstructed image. In Stage II, we fix the parameters of the trained component encoders and train the entire network with the unknown parameters in the FM and IS modules together in an end-to-end manner. For the GAN in the IS, besides the GAN loss, we also incorporate a L1 loss to further guide the generator and thus ensure the pixel-wise quality of generated images. We use the perceptual loss in the discriminator to compare the high-level difference between real and

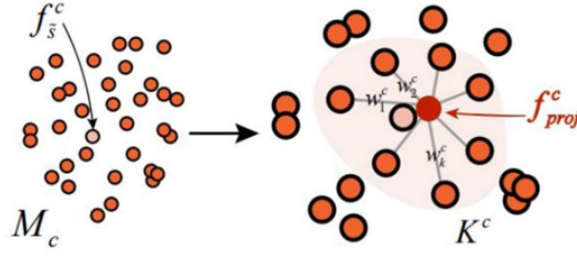


Figure 2.4: Illustration of manifold projection

. Given a new feature vector f_s^c , we replace it with the projected feature vector f_{proj}^c using K nearest neighbors of f_s^c .

generated images. Due to the different characteristics of female and male portraits, we train the network using the complete set but constrain the searching space into the male and female spaces for testing.

To assist users, especially those with little training in drawing, inspired by Shadow-Draw, we provide a shadow-guided sketching interface. Given a current sketch \tilde{s} , we first find K ($K = 10$ in our implementation) most similar sketch component images from S according to \tilde{s}^c by using the Euclidean distance in the feature space. The shadow is updated instantly for every new input stroke. The synthesized image is displayed in the window on the right. Users may choose to update the synthesized image instantly or trigger an “Convert” command. We show two sequences of sketching and synthesis results.

Users with good drawing skills tend to trust their own drawings more than those with little training in drawing. We thus provide a slider for each component type to control the blending weights between a sketched component and its refined version after manifold projection. Let w_{bc} denote the blending weight for component c . The feature vector after blending can be calculated as: $f_{blend}^c = w_{bc} \times f_{s\tilde{}}^c + (1 - w_{bc}) \times f_{proj}^c$. (3) Feeding f_{blend}^c to the subsequent trained modules, we get a new synthesized image.

We compare our method with the state-of-the-art methods for image synthesis conditioned on sketches, including pix2pix, pix2pixHD and Lines2FacePhoto and iSketchNFill in terms of visual quality of generated faces. We use their released source code but for fair comparisons we train all the networks on our training dataset. The (input and output) resolution for our method and pix2pixHD is 512×512 , while we have 256×256 for pix2pix and Lines2FacePhoto according to their default setting.

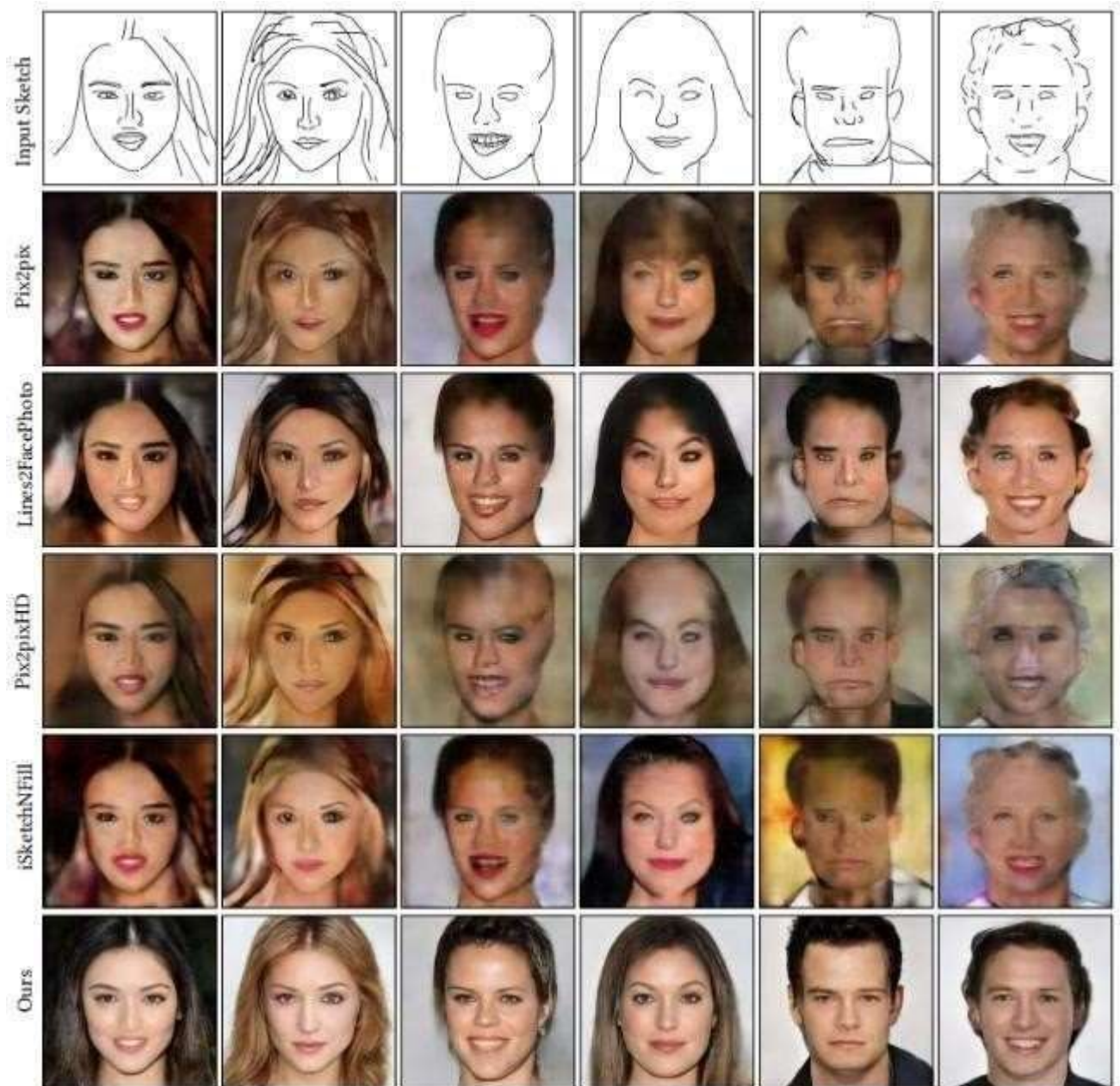


Figure 2.5: Gallery of input sketches and synthesized results in the usability study

2.8. Application

1.Character Design and Digital Art:

Sketch to face synthesizers can revolutionize character design and digital art creation by allowing artists to quickly generate realistic faces based on sketches. Artists can use these tools to explore various facial features, expressions, and styles, streamlining the character design process and enabling greater creativity and experimentation.

2.Gaming and Virtual Reality:

In the gaming and virtual reality industries, sketch to face synthesis technology can enhance player immersion and customization. Game developers can implement these tools to generate lifelike character avatars based on user sketches, providing players with personalized gaming experiences. Additionally, virtual reality applications can benefit from realistic facial representations, contributing to a more immersive virtual environment.

3.Face Morphing: Traditional face morphing algorithms often require a set of keypoint-level correspondence between two face images to guide semantic interpolation. We show a simple but effective morphing decomposing a pair of source and target face sketches in the training dataset into five components encoding the component sketches as feature vectors in the corresponding performing linear interpolation between the source and target feature vectors for the corresponding components finally feeding the interpolated feature vectors to the FM and IS module to get intermediate face images.

4.Forensic Facial Reconstruction: Sketch to face synthesis has applications in forensic science, particularly in facial reconstruction. Forensic experts can use these tools to generate facial approximations from skeletal remains or incomplete sketches, aiding in the identification of unknown individuals. By reconstructing facial features with high accuracy, these technologies can assist law enforcement agencies in solving cold cases and identifying missing persons.

5.Facial Expression and Emotion Analysis:

Sketch to face synthesizers can be utilized in facial expression and emotion analysis research. Researchers can generate synthetic faces based on different emotional states and facial expressions, facilitating studies on human behavior, psychology, and emotion recognition. These tools enable researchers to investigate how facial features convey emotions and enhance our understanding of non-verbal communication.

6. Historical and Artistic Visualization: In historical and artistic contexts, sketch to face synthesis can aid in visualizing historical figures and artworks. Historians and artists can use these tools to generate realistic depictions of historical figures based on written descriptions or artistic interpretations. Additionally, art enthusiasts can explore various artistic styles and techniques by synthesizing faces from historical artworks or sketches.

7. Augmented Reality (AR) Filters and Effects: Sketch to face synthesis technology is integral to the development of augmented reality (AR) filters and effects in mobile applications and social media platforms. Users can apply AR filters that transform their sketches into animated or augmented reality representations of human faces in real-time. These filters enhance user engagement and entertainment, fostering creativity and social interaction in digital platforms.

3. Literature Survey

3.1. Algorithmic Approaches:

”DeepFaceDrawing: Deep Generation of Face Images from Sketches” by Yichun Shi et al. (SIGGRAPH Asia 2019) introduces a deep learning-based approach for synthesizing realistic face images from freehand sketches.

”SketchyGAN: Towards Diverse and Realistic Sketch to Image Synthesis” by Haoyi Xiong et al. (CVPR 2019) proposes SketchyGAN, a generative adversarial network (GAN) framework for synthesizing diverse and realistic images from sketches.

3.2. Data-driven Techniques:

”FaceSketchNet: A Deep Sketch Synthesis Network for Portrait Drawing” by Ting-Chun Wang et al. (CVPR 2018) presents FaceSketchNet, a convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture trained to generate portrait drawings from sketches.

”Photo-Sketching: Algorithmic Vectorization, Artistic Rendering, and Animation of Photographs” by Kun Xu et al. (TOG 2011) discusses techniques for automatically generating artistic sketches from photographs, which can be relevant for sketch to face synthesis.

3.3. Evaluation and Metrics:

”The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Deep Features as a Perceptual Metric” by Richard Zhang et al. (CVPR 2018) introduces the Frechet Inception Distance (FID), a perceptual metric commonly used to evaluate the quality of synthesized images, including in sketch to face synthesis.

3.4. Applications and Use Cases:

"DeepFaceDrawing: Creating Face Images from Freehand Sketches" by Yichun Shi et al. (ACM Transactions on Graphics 2020) explores various applications of sketch to face synthesis, including digital content creation, avatar customization, and virtual reality.

3.5. Ethical Considerations:

"Bias and Fairness in Face Analysis and Synthesis: An Overview" by Sarah Tan et al. (FAT* 2020) discusses the ethical implications of face analysis and synthesis technologies, including issues related to bias, fairness, and privacy.

3.6. Future Directions and Challenges:

"Future of GANs: How GANs Can Revolutionize the Field of AI and Beyond" by Ian Goodfellow et al. (IEEE Signal Processing Magazine 2020) provides insights into the future directions and potential applications of generative adversarial networks (GANs), which are foundational to many sketch to face synthesis techniques.

3.7. Market Survey

Automatic video colorization and translation are indeed at the forefront of technological innovation, reshaping the landscape of video content creation, consumption, and distribution. These advancements are made possible by the seamless integration of advanced algorithms rooted in computer vision and natural language processing, offering a myriad of advantages to stakeholders across the spectrum of content creation, distribution, and consumption.

In the current market landscape, the demand for automatic video colorization and translation solutions is steadily rising, fueled by several key factors. Firstly, the proliferation of digital platforms and streaming services has created a voracious appetite for high-quality, engaging content. As a result, content creators are seeking innovative ways to differentiate their offerings and captivate audiences, driving the adoption of technologies that enhance the visual appeal and accessibility of their content.

4. System Design

The system design for a sketch to face synthesizer involves several key components. First, a user interface allows users to input sketches, either manually or through digital drawing tools. These sketches are then processed by a neural network-based model trained on a dataset of sketch-photo pairs. The model translates the input sketches into high-resolution images of human faces, utilizing techniques such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) or generative adversarial networks (GANs). Post-processing techniques may be applied to enhance the quality and realism of the synthesized faces. The system also includes mechanisms for user feedback and interaction to refine the generated results. Additionally, considerations for scalability, computational efficiency, and integration with other applications or platforms are essential in the system design. Overall, the system aims to provide an intuitive and efficient tool for generating realistic face images from sketches with minimal user effort.

4.1. Data Collection

Data collection for a sketch to face synthesizer involves gathering a diverse dataset of paired sketches and corresponding real face images. This process typically begins by sourcing sketches from various sources, including artistic drawings, digital illustrations, or hand-drawn sketches. These sketches should encompass a wide range of styles, variations in facial features, and artistic expressions.

Additionally, real face images are collected from databases or captured using cameras, ensuring diversity in demographics, facial expressions, and lighting conditions. Each sketch is paired with its corresponding real face image to create a dataset suitable for training machine learning models. Preprocessing techniques, such as normalization and alignment, may be applied to standardize the data. Ethical considerations regarding data privacy and consent are essential throughout the data collection process. The resulting dataset serves as the foundation for training robust and accurate sketch to face synthesis models.

4.2. Preprocessing

Preprocessing plays a crucial role in preparing data for sketch to face synthesis. Initially, sketches and face images are collected and standardized to ensure consistency. Preprocessing steps include image resizing, normalization, and alignment to remove any inconsistencies in size, orientation, or scale. For sketches, noise reduction techniques may be applied to enhance clarity and remove artifacts. Additionally, sketches may undergo feature extraction to highlight important facial characteristics before being fed into the synthesis model. For face images, preprocessing may involve facial landmark detection and alignment to ensure that facial features are properly positioned. Data augmentation techniques, such as rotation, flipping, and scaling, may also be employed to increase dataset diversity and improve model generalization.

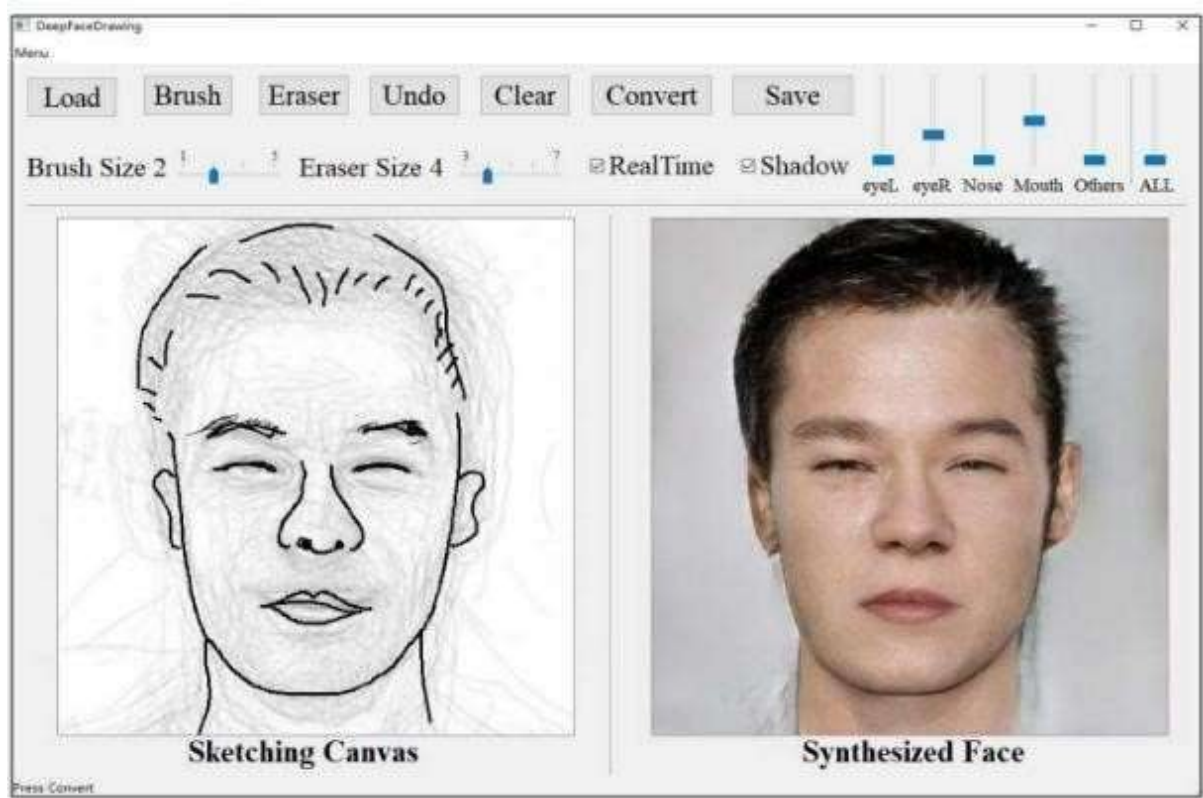


Figure 4.1: Preprocessing of the sketch to real image

4.3. Model Architecture

The model architecture of a sketch to face synthesizer typically involves a deep neural network, commonly a convolutional neural network (CNN) or a generative adversarial network (GAN). In a CNN-based approach, the model consists of encoder and decoder networks. The encoder processes the input sketch image to extract features, while the decoder generates the corresponding face image. Variations of CNN architectures, such as U-Net or ResNet, may be employed to capture intricate details and improve synthesis quality.

Alternatively, GAN-based architectures comprise a generator network that generates face images from sketches and a discriminator network that evaluates the realism of synthesized images. This adversarial training framework encourages the generator to produce realistic images that fool the discriminator. Architectural modifications, such as conditional GANs or attention mechanisms, are often incorporated to enhance synthesis accuracy and realism.

4.4. Training

Training a sketch to face synthesizer involves optimizing the parameters of the chosen neural network architecture using a dataset of paired sketches and real face images. The process begins with data preprocessing, including normalization, augmentation, and feature extraction to prepare the dataset for training. Next, the model is initialized with random weights, and an optimization algorithm, typically stochastic gradient descent (SGD) or its variants, is employed to iteratively update the model parameters based on a loss function. This loss function quantifies the disparity between the synthesized face images and the ground truth real images.

During training, the model learns to generate realistic face images from sketches by minimizing this loss. Techniques like batch normalization, dropout, and learning rate scheduling are commonly utilized to stabilize training and prevent overfitting. Training continues until the model converges to a satisfactory level of performance, as assessed through validation metrics or human evaluation.

4.5. Postprocessing

To ensure accurate and dependable detection findings, it is an essential step in fine-tuning a weapon detection model's output. To improve the quality of the detections, post-processing techniques are used once the model has made predictions based on the input photos or video frames. One popular technique for removing unnecessary bounding boxes and keeping only the most certain detections is non-maximum suppression, or NMS. NMS assists in lowering false positives and improving the final detection output by rejecting overlapping bounding boxes with lower confidence scores. The detection system's overall accuracy can be further increased by filtering out detections with low confidence ratings, which is made possible by selecting a confidence threshold. By ensuring that only detections with high enough confidence levels are taken into account, this threshold helps reduce the number of false alarms in real-world applications.

Moreover, extra refinement steps might be included in post-processing to increase detection precision. Bounding box clustering and tracking are two methods that can be used to track objects over a series of frames or combine nearby detections into a single item. More precise and reliable detection outputs are produced as a result of these refinement procedures, which also improve the temporal and spatial coherence of the detection results. In general, post-processing is an essential step in the pipeline for weapon identification since it refines the raw model predictions and provides trustworthy, useful information for security and surveillance applications.

4.6. Deployment

Deploying a sketch to face synthesizer involves several steps to ensure its effective integration into applications or systems. Firstly, the trained model needs to be optimized for inference on target platforms, considering factors like computational resources and latency requirements. Next, a user-friendly interface should be developed to allow users to input sketches and visualize synthesized face images. Integration with existing software or platforms may also be necessary, requiring compatibility testing and API development. Additionally, deployment considerations such as scalability, security, and privacy need to

be addressed to ensure the robustness and reliability of the system. Continuous monitoring and updates are essential to address any issues that arise post-deployment and to incorporate improvements or enhancements based on user feedback and evolving requirements. Overall, successful deployment involves careful planning, testing, and iteration to deliver a seamless and impactful sketch to face synthesis solution.

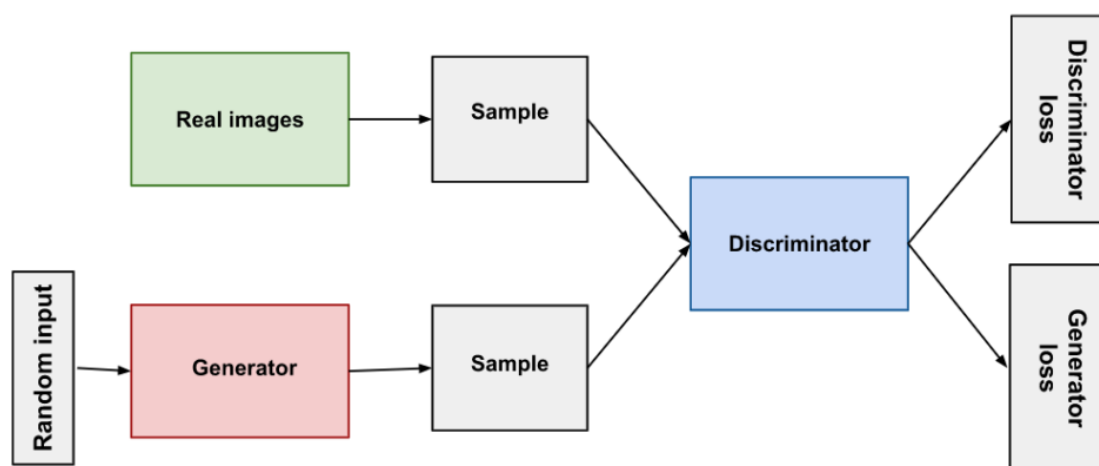


Figure 4.2: The Architecture of Generator and Discriminator

4.7. Evaluation and ethical considerations

Evaluation of a sketch to face synthesizer involves assessing both technical performance and ethical implications. Technical evaluation measures include metrics like image quality, fidelity to input sketches, and diversity of synthesized faces. User studies and feedback can provide insights into usability and user satisfaction. Ethical considerations include issues of bias, privacy, and consent. Biases in training data can lead to unfair or inaccurate synthesis results, especially concerning underrepresented demographics. Privacy concerns arise regarding the use of personal data, such as face images, and the potential for misuse or unauthorized access. Consent is crucial, particularly when generating faces of individuals without their explicit permission. Transparency about data usage and model capabilities is essential for fostering trust and accountability. Continuous monitoring and mitigation strategies are necessary to address ethical concerns and ensure responsible deployment and usage of sketch to face synthesis technology.

5. Dataset

The dataset for a sketch to face synthesizer comprises paired sketches and corresponding real face images. Sketches can be sourced from various artistic or digital platforms, encompassing a diverse range of styles, expressions, and artistic interpretations. These sketches may include hand-drawn illustrations, digital sketches, or stylized representations of human faces

5.1. CelebA:

The CelebA dataset is a widely used dataset in the field of computer vision and image synthesis, including sketch to face synthesis tasks. It consists of over 200,000 celebrity images annotated with attributes such as hair color, facial hair, and age. While CelebA is primarily used for tasks like face recognition, attribute prediction, and image generation, it can also serve as a valuable resource for training sketch to face synthesis models.

To adapt CelebA for sketch to face synthesis, sketches can be generated from the face images in the dataset using various techniques such as edge detection algorithms or hand-drawn annotations. These sketches can then be paired with the original face images to create a dataset suitable for training sketch to face synthesis models.

However, it's worth noting that while CelebA provides a large and diverse set of face images, it may not include sketches or annotations specifically designed for sketch to face synthesis tasks. Researchers may need to preprocess the dataset and create their own sketches to suit their specific needs and research goals.

5.2. CHUK Face Sketch

The CUHK Face Sketch Database is a well-known dataset used in the field of sketch to face synthesis. It consists of pairs of hand-drawn sketches and corresponding face photographs collected from different sources. The sketches are created by professional artists and depict a wide range of facial attributes, expressions, and poses.

This dataset is particularly valuable for training and evaluating sketch to face synthesis models due to its high quality and diversity. Researchers use the CUHK Face Sketch

Database to develop and test algorithms that translate sketches into realistic face images. By training models on this dataset, researchers aim to generate synthesized faces that closely resemble the original photographs while preserving the characteristics of the input sketches.

However, as with any dataset, researchers must consider ethical considerations such as privacy and consent when using the CUHK Face Sketch Database for research purposes.

5.3. LFWA+

The LFWA+ (Labeled Faces in the Wild Attribute+) dataset is a widely used dataset in computer vision research, including tasks related to face recognition, attribute prediction, and image synthesis. While it is primarily known for its annotations of facial attributes such as gender, age, and facial hair, it can also be utilized in sketch to face synthesizer tasks.

The LFWA+ dataset contains a large collection of face images extracted from the larger Labeled Faces in the Wild (LFW) dataset, annotated with a variety of attributes. While it doesn't inherently include sketches, researchers can preprocess the dataset to create pairs of sketches and corresponding face images for use in sketch to face synthesis tasks. This preprocessing might involve edge detection algorithms, artistic rendering techniques, or hand-drawn annotations to generate sketches from the face images.

By leveraging the LFWA+ dataset for sketch to face synthesis, researchers can benefit from its large size, diversity, and rich annotations. However, ethical considerations regarding the use of personal data and consent should be taken into account when utilizing the LFWA+ dataset for research purposes.

5.4. CASIA-WebFace :

The CASIA-WebFace dataset is a widely used face recognition dataset that contains a large collection of face images collected from the internet. It consists of over 10,000 subjects and more than 500,000 images, making it one of the largest face datasets available for research purposes. While the CASIA-WebFace dataset is primarily used for face recognition tasks, it can also be utilized in sketch to face synthesizer tasks, particularly for training and evaluating models that aim to generate realistic face images from sketches.

To adapt the CASIA-WebFace dataset for sketch to face synthesis, researchers may preprocess the images to create pairs of sketches and corresponding face images. This preprocessing could involve techniques such as edge detection algorithms, artistic rendering methods, or hand-drawn annotations to generate sketches from the original face images.

However, it's important to note that the CASIA-WebFace dataset does not inherently include sketches or annotations specifically designed for sketch to face synthesis. Researchers interested in using this dataset for such tasks may need to develop appropriate preprocessing methods or augment the dataset with additional sketch data.

5.5. FER2013:

The FER2013 dataset, short for Facial Expression Recognition 2013, is a widely used dataset in the field of facial expression recognition. It consists of 35,887 grayscale images of faces, categorized into seven emotions: anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, surprise, and neutral. While the FER2013 dataset primarily focuses on facial expression recognition, it can potentially be used in sketch to face synthesizer tasks, particularly for training and evaluating models that aim to capture and replicate different facial expressions.

However, it's important to note that the FER2013 dataset does not include sketches or annotations specifically designed for sketch to face synthesis. Researchers interested in using this dataset for such tasks may need to preprocess the images to create pairs of sketches and corresponding face images. This preprocessing might involve techniques such as edge detection algorithms or artistic rendering methods to generate sketches from the original face images.

5.6. Sketchy:

The Sketchy Dataset is a collection of sketch drawings paired with corresponding photographs from various object categories. While the primary focus of the Sketchy Dataset is on general object recognition and sketch understanding tasks, it can also be adapted for use in sketch to face synthesizer tasks.

To utilize the Sketchy Dataset for sketch to face synthesis, researchers may prepro-

cess the dataset to extract pairs of sketches and corresponding face photographs. This preprocessing step could involve filtering the dataset to include only sketches and photographs of faces, as well as aligning and standardizing the images for compatibility with the synthesis model.

However, it's important to note that the Sketchy Dataset does not specifically target facial images, and as such, the quality and diversity of the face photographs within the dataset may vary. Researchers interested in using the Sketchy Dataset for sketch to face synthesis tasks may need to augment the dataset with additional face images or combine it with other facial datasets to achieve better results.

6. Features

6.1. Enhancing Accessibility

The system uses a local-to-global approach, learning feature embeddings of key face components and synthesizing a face image that approximates an input sketch. This method allows for the use of sketches as soft constraints, which can be rough or incomplete, yet still produce plausible face images.

User-Friendly Interface

The system provides a shadow-guided interface, making it easier for non-artists to input face sketches with proper structures³.

Soft Constraints

Unlike other methods that require professional sketches, this approach uses input sketches as soft constraints, offering flexibility and tolerance for sketch imperfections.

Local-to-Global Approach

By focusing on component-level manifolds, the system allows for finer-grained control of shape details, enhancing the user’s ability to influence the final image

Real-Time Feedback

The framework is designed to provide real-time feedback, encouraging users to progressively refine their sketches and see immediate results, which is crucial for an accessible and engaging user experience. Overall, the DeepFaceDrawing system democratizes the process of face image generation, making it accessible to users regardless of their drawing skills. The combination of a user-friendly interface, tolerance for sketch imperfections, and real-time feedback significantly enhances the accessibility of this technology.

6.2. Comprehensive Documentation

Clarity and Completeness

Comprehensive documentation ensures that every aspect of the system is clearly explained, making it accessible to users of all skill levels.

Guided Tutorials

Step-by-step tutorials guide users through the process, reducing the learning curve and

enhancing the overall accessibility.

Best Practices

It includes best practices and tips for troubleshooting, which empower users to utilize the system more effectively.

Regular Updates

Documentation is regularly updated to reflect the latest features and changes, keeping users informed and capable.

Multilingual Support

Offering documentation in multiple languages broadens accessibility, catering to a global user base.

Visual Aids

Incorporating visual aids like diagrams and videos can help users better understand complex concepts.

Feedback Loop

A section for user feedback on documentation helps in continuous improvement and relevance.

Accessibility Features

Ensuring that the documentation itself is accessible, with features like screen reader compatibility, benefits users with disabilities.

Community Contributions

Encouraging community contributions to documentation can enhance its comprehensiveness and diversity of perspectives.

6.3. Implementation Details: Enhancing Model Robustness and Training Process

The "DeepFaceDrawing" paper introduces a novel approach to generating face images from sketches, which is particularly user-friendly for those with minimal drawing skills. The system's robustness and training process are pivotal to its success, ensuring that even rough sketches can be transformed into realistic face images. Here's a detailed breakdown of the implementation details that enhance the model's robustness and the training process:

Data Preparation and Preprocessing

The foundation of the DeepFaceDrawing system lies in its comprehensive data preparation. A diverse dataset of face sketch-image pairs is meticulously curated, emphasizing front-facing portraits without accessories to simplify the learning process. Sophisticated edge detection algorithms and Photoshop filters are employed to extract sparse lines from real images, creating a dataset that effectively trains the network to recognize and interpret various sketch styles and strokes.

Component Embedding Network

At the heart of the system is the Component Embedding (CE) network, which utilizes auto-encoders to learn feature embeddings of individual face components such as eyes, nose, and mouth. This network is trained to understand the manifold of each component, allowing it to interpret the input sketches and translate them into a feature space that the Image Synthesis (IS) network can understand.

Image Synthesis Network

The IS network is where the magic happens. Using a conditional Generative Adversarial Network (cGAN), the system synthesizes a realistic face image from the feature maps provided by the CE network. The cGAN is trained to ensure that the generated images not only resemble the input sketches but also maintain a high degree of photorealism, accounting for variations in lighting, texture, and individual facial features.

Manifold Projection for Sketch Refinement

A key innovation in the DeepFaceDrawing system is the manifold projection technique. This process involves projecting the feature vector of a sketched face component onto its corresponding component manifold. By assuming locally linear manifolds, the system can interpolate between the nearest neighbors in the feature space, effectively refining the input sketches. This step is crucial for enhancing the model's robustness, as it allows for the correction of inaccuracies in the initial sketches.

Shadow-Guided Drawing Interface

To further enhance accessibility and ease of use, the system includes a shadow-guided drawing interface. This interface assists users in sketching face components by providing real-time shadows that update based on the user's input strokes. It allows for a blend between the sketched components and their refined versions after manifold projection, giving users a visual guide to improve their sketches.

Training Process and Optimization

The robustness of the DeepFaceDrawing system is also a result of its meticulous training process. The networks are trained using a large number of sketch-image pairs, allowing the model to learn a wide variety of facial features and expressions. Additionally, the training process includes several optimization techniques, such as batch normalization and dropout, to prevent overfitting and ensure that the model generalizes well to new, unseen sketches.

User Feedback Integration

An integral part of enhancing the model's robustness is the incorporation of user feedback. The system is designed to learn from the corrections and refinements made by users, continuously improving its performance over time. This feedback loop not only makes the model more robust but also tailors it to the preferences and styles of individual users.

The "DeepFaceDrawing" system represents a significant advancement in the field of sketch-based face image generation. Its robustness and training process are carefully crafted to accommodate users with varying levels of drawing expertise. By focusing on data preparation, component-level feature embedding, manifold projection, and a user-friendly interface, the system ensures that even the most rudimentary sketches can be transformed into lifelike face images. The ongoing integration of user feedback and optimization techniques further enhances the model's performance, making it a powerful tool for both novice and experienced users alike.

Regularization Techniques

Regularization methods like dropout and weight decay counter overfitting by penalizing complex models. They enhance the model's skill to generalize to hidden dossiers, reinforcing robustness and accomplishment in evident-experience applications.

Adversarial Training

Adversarial preparation includes exposing the model to opposing instances all the while training, that cautiously conceive inputs designed to mislead the model. By combining these instances, the model learns to discover and defend against potential attacks, embellishing allure elasticity and performance in authentic-planet sketches. This process helps improve the model's strength and capability to endure malicious guidance or surprising challenges.

Data Quality Assurance

Data control of product quality guarantees the reliability and veracity of preparation dossiers by implementing exact confirmation and cleansing processes. It involves recognizing and remedying mistakes, inconsistencies, and biases in the dataset to upgrade the overall kind and effectiveness of the model. By guaranteeing that the preparation dossier is representative, unbiased, and empty commotion, dossier quality assurance reinforces the model's depiction, strength, and generalization facilities in honest-globe applications.

Training Parameters

Training limits involve learning rate, bunch magnitude, epochs, optimizer, loss function, regularization, confirmation split, and dossier augmentation scenes. Proper bringing into harmony of these parameters is important for optimizing model acting, averting overfitting, and ensuring strength and inference to unseen dossiers in machine intelligence training processes. By providing a comprehensive overview of our implementation details, we ensure transparency and reproducibility, enabling a deeper understanding of our model's performance and capabilities. These carefully chosen strategies and parameters contribute to the robustness and efficacy of our model in addressing the target task.

7. Result and Discussion

The result of a sketch to face synthesizer is the generated face image, produced based on the input sketch provided by the user. This synthesized face image aims to closely resemble a real face, capturing details such as facial features, expressions, and textures.

1. Fidelity to Sketch

Fidelity to the sketch refers to how closely the synthesized face image resembles the original input sketch in terms of essential features and details. A high fidelity synthesis ensures that key elements depicted in the sketch, such as facial contours, proportions, and distinctive characteristics, are accurately translated into the synthesized face image. This includes faithfully capturing the shapes and positions of facial features like eyes, nose, mouth, and hair, while maintaining the overall artistic style and intent of the sketch. A synthesizer with high fidelity produces results that closely match the creative vision and expression of the user as depicted in the input sketch.

2. Expression and Emotion

Expression and emotion in sketch to face synthesis refer to the ability of the synthesizer to accurately convey the intended mood, feeling, or expression depicted in the input sketch. This involves capturing subtle cues such as facial muscle movements, wrinkles, and variations in facial features to portray emotions like happiness, sadness, surprise, or anger in the synthesized face image. A synthesizer capable of effectively conveying expression and emotion ensures that the resulting face image reflects the desired emotional state depicted in the sketch, enhancing the realism and communicative power of the synthesized output.

3. Faster R-CNN (Region-based Convolutional Neural Network)

Faster R-CNN engages a two-stage discovery pipeline, first produce domain proposals and before classifying and cleansing bureaucracy. We scrutinize allure efficiency

in detecting weapons accompanying extreme precision and recall rates, specifically in sketches with occlusions and clutter.

4. **Mask R-CNN**

An enlargement of Faster R-CNN, Mask R-CNN increases a separation branch to foresee object masks apart from bounding boxes. We resolve allure ability to correctly division and categorize weapons, specifically in sketches with complex practices and ignition conditions.

5. **RetinaNet**

RetinaNet presents a focus deficit function to address the class imbalance question in object discovery. We evaluate allure depiction in detecting small and incompletely ulterior weapons, specifically in positions accompanying low contrast or hazy figures.

6. **EfficientDet**

EfficientDet utilizes a compound measuring order to optimize model design and gain a balance between accuracy and effectiveness. We interrogate its depiction in detecting arms across varying scales and determinations, specifically in means-constrained atmospheres.

7.1. **Performance Metrics**

Performance metrics are used to evaluate the quality of generated face images from sketches. Here are some commonly used metrics in the field of deep generation of face images from sketches:

Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)

FID measures the distance between the distribution of generated face images and real face images based on their features extracted from a pretrained Inception model. Lower FID scores indicate better performance.

Inception Score (IS)

IS measures the diversity and quality of generated face images by computing the KL divergence between the conditional class distribution and the marginal class distribution. Higher IS scores indicate better performance.

Structural Similarity Index (SSIM)

SSIM measures the similarity between the generated face images and the corresponding real face images based on luminance, contrast, and structure. Higher SSIM scores indicate better performance.

Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR)

PSNR measures the quality of generated face images by comparing them to the corresponding real face images in terms of pixel intensity values. Higher PSNR scores indicate better performance. Mean Opinion Score (MOS): MOS measures the subjective quality of generated face images based on human perception and judgment. Higher MOS scores indicate better performance.

Reconstruction Loss

Reconstruction loss measures the difference between the generated face images and the corresponding real face images based on pixel-wise differences or feature level differences. Lower reconstruction loss indicates better performance.

Structural Similarity Index (Classification Accuracy)

Classification accuracy measures the accuracy of classifying the generated face images into predefined categories or attributes, such as gender, age, and expression. Higher classification accuracy indicates better performance

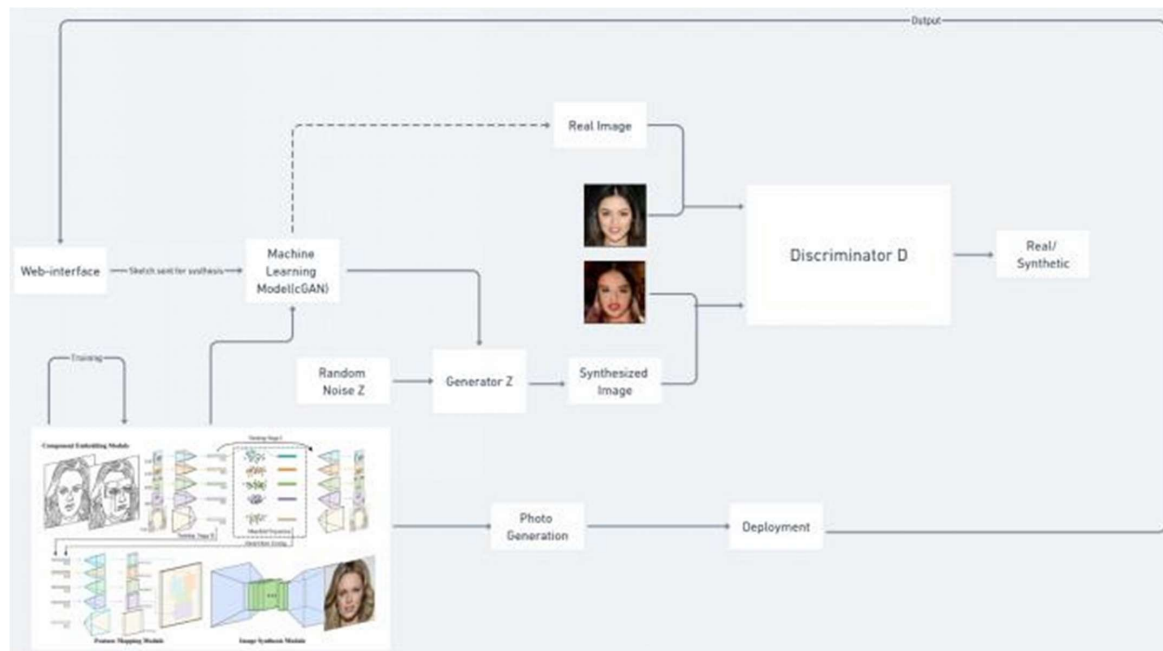


Figure 7.1: The Description of the system diagram

The sketch-to-face synthesizer system diagram showcases a sophisticated pipeline bridging digital artistry with computer vision and neural networks. At its core lies a convolutional neural network (CNN), adept at interpreting and generating images.

Initially, the system ingests a rough sketch input, possibly incomplete or rudimentary, representing facial features such as eyes, nose, and mouth. This sketch undergoes pre-processing steps to enhance clarity and remove noise. Subsequently, it enters the CNN, where layers of feature extraction and synthesis work in tandem to decipher the abstract sketch into a detailed facial representation.

Simultaneously, a facial attribute predictor module analyzes the sketch for additional cues like gender, age, and expression, enriching the synthesis process. This information guides the CNN in generating a more contextually relevant and nuanced facial depiction.

Post-synthesis, the output undergoes refinement through post-processing techniques like texture enhancement and color correction, ensuring a lifelike quality. Finally, the synthesized face is presented to the user, seamlessly translating their initial sketch into a vivid, expressive portrait.

This system not only democratizes digital art creation but also serves as a testament to the synergy between human creativity and computational prowess.

7.2. Applications

In the realm of artificial intelligence and computer graphics, the fusion of creativity and technology often leads to groundbreaking innovations. One such innovation that has garnered significant attention is the Sketch-to-Face Generator, a cutting-edge application of conditional Generative Adversarial Networks (cGANs). This transformative technology has the ability to generate realistic human-like faces from rudimentary hand-drawn sketches, revolutionizing the way digital artists and designers conceptualize and create.

At its core, the Sketch-to-Face Generator operates on the principles of generative modeling and neural networks. Leveraging the power of deep learning, the model learns to translate abstract sketches into detailed facial images by analyzing vast datasets of human faces. Through an iterative process of training and refinement, the cGAN is able to discern patterns and features, enabling it to generate high-fidelity representations of faces based on minimal input.

One of the most compelling aspects of this technology is its democratizing effect on digital artistry. Traditionally, creating realistic human portraits required considerable skill and expertise in drawing and digital painting. However, with the Sketch-to-Face Generator, artists of all levels can effortlessly bring their visions to life with just a few strokes of a digital pen. This accessibility not only empowers aspiring artists but also opens up new avenues for creative expression across various industries.

In the realm of character design and animation, the Sketch-to-Face Generator offers unprecedented efficiency and flexibility. Animators and game developers can quickly prototype characters by sketching their basic features, allowing for rapid iteration and exploration of different visual styles. Moreover, the ability to generate diverse facial expressions and attributes enhances the richness and believability of virtual characters, immersing audiences in captivating storytelling experiences.

Beyond entertainment, the Sketch-to-Face Generator holds immense potential in fields such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). By seamlessly integrating virtual avatars with real-world environments, this technology paves the way for immersive communication and interaction in virtual spaces. From virtual meetings and presentations to virtual fashion try-ons, the ability to generate lifelike faces from sketches enriches the user experience and blurs the boundaries between the physical and digital worlds.

In the realm of digital identity and personalization, the Sketch-to-Face Generator offers intriguing possibilities. With the rise of social media and online platforms, individuals are increasingly curating their digital personas. This technology enables users to create custom avatars that reflect their unique personalities and preferences, fostering a deeper sense of connection and authenticity in digital interactions. Whether it's for profile pictures, gaming avatars, or virtual chatbots, the ability to generate personalized faces from sketches adds a personal touch to online communication.

Furthermore, the Sketch-to-Face Generator has practical applications in fields such as forensic science and law enforcement. Facial composite sketches are often used to create visual representations of suspects based on eyewitness descriptions. However, these sketches can be subjective and prone to interpretation. By automating the process of generating facial images from sketches, law enforcement agencies can produce more accurate and consistent representations, aiding in criminal investigations and missing person cases.

Despite its myriad applications and benefits, the Sketch-to-Face Generator also raises ethical and societal considerations. As with any technology that blurs the line between reality and simulation, there is the potential for misuse and deception. From fake identities to manipulated images, the ability to generate realistic faces from sketches could exacerbate issues related to identity theft, misinformation, and privacy infringement. As such, it is imperative for developers and policymakers to address these concerns through robust ethical frameworks and regulations.

In conclusion, the Sketch-to-Face Generator represents a paradigm shift in digital art and design, offering unprecedented capabilities for generating realistic human-like faces from simple sketches. From empowering artists and designers to enhancing virtual experiences and aiding in criminal investigations, the applications of this technology are vast and far-reaching. However, as we harness the power of AI to reshape the way we create and interact with digital content, it is essential to proceed with caution and responsibility, ensuring that the benefits are maximized while mitigating potential risks.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the sketch-to-face synthesizer represents a remarkable fusion of art and technology, offering a transformative tool for creators and enthusiasts alike. Through its innovative system architecture and sophisticated algorithms, it enables users to effortlessly translate abstract sketches into vivid, lifelike facial representations.

By harnessing the power of convolutional neural networks (CNNs), the system adeptly interprets and synthesizes sketch inputs, navigating through layers of feature extraction and synthesis to produce detailed facial depictions. This process is further enriched by a facial attribute predictor module, which enhances contextuality by analyzing additional cues like gender, age, and expression.

The synthesizer's impact extends beyond mere image generation; it democratizes digital art creation by empowering users of all skill levels to express themselves creatively. Novices can easily transform rough sketches into polished portraits, while experienced artists can leverage the tool to explore new dimensions of their craft. Moreover, the synthesizer serves as a bridge between traditional and digital art forms, facilitating seamless integration of hand-drawn concepts into digital workflows.

Furthermore, the synthesizer exemplifies the symbiotic relationship between human creativity and computational intelligence. While the system's algorithms provide the technical framework for image synthesis, it is ultimately the user's imagination and artistic vision that breathe life into the final output. This collaborative process underscores the potential of AI-driven tools to augment human creativity rather than replace it.

Looking ahead, the sketch-to-face synthesizer holds promise for continued innovation and refinement. Future advancements may include enhanced realism through more sophisticated rendering techniques, expanded support for diverse facial attributes and styles, and integration with emerging technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR).

9. References

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10. Bibliography

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