

VOODOO 3D: Volumetric Portrait Disentanglement for One-Shot 3D Head Reenactment

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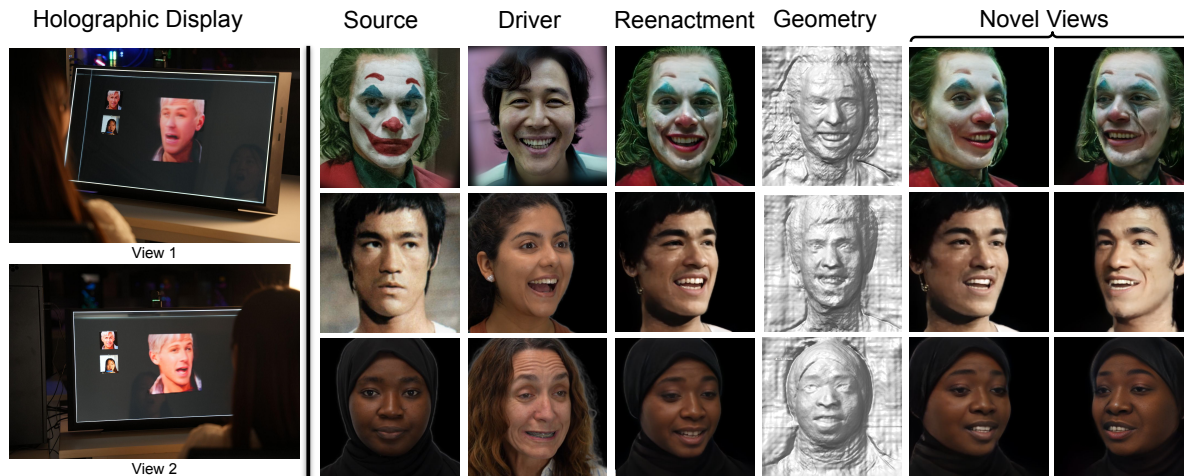


Figure 1. We introduce **VOODOO 3D**: a high-fidelity 3D-aware one-shot head reenactment technique. Our method transfers the expression of a driver to a source and produces view consistent renderings for holographic displays.

Abstract

We present a 3D-aware one-shot head reenactment method based on a fully volumetric neural disentanglement framework for source appearance and driver expressions. Our method is real-time and produces high-fidelity and view-consistent output, suitable for 3D teleconferencing systems based on holographic displays. Existing cutting-edge 3D-aware reenactment methods often use neural radiance fields or 3D meshes to produce view-consistent appearance encoding, but, at the same time, they rely on linear face models, such as 3DMM, to achieve its disentanglement with facial expressions. As a result, their reenactment results often exhibit identity leakage from the driver or have unnatural expressions. To address these problems, we propose a neural self-supervised disentanglement approach that lifts both the source image and driver video frame into a shared 3D volumetric representation based on tri-planes. This representation can then be freely manipulated with expression tri-planes extracted from the driving images and rendered from an arbitrary view using neural radiance fields. We achieve this disentanglement via self-

supervised learning on a large in-the-wild video dataset. We further introduce a highly effective fine-tuning approach to improve the generalizability of the 3D lifting using the same real-world data. We demonstrate state-of-the-art performance on a wide range of datasets, and also showcase high-quality 3D-aware head reenactment on highly challenging and diverse subjects, including non-frontal head poses and complex expressions for both source and driver.

1. Introduction

Creating 3D head avatars from a single photo is a core capability in making a wide range of consumer AR/VR and telepresence applications more accessible, and user experiences more engaging. Graphics engine-based 3D avatar digitization methods [9, 14, 33, 37, 46, 47, 49, 57] are suitable for today’s video games and virtual worlds, and many commercial solutions exist (AvatarNeo [5], AvatarSDK [1], ReadyPlayerMe [6], in3D [2], etc.). However, the photo-realism achieved by modern neural head reenactment tech-

niques is becoming increasingly appealing for advanced effects in video sharing apps and visual effects. For immersive telepresence systems that use AR/VR headsets, facial expression capture is typically achieved using tiny video cameras built into HMDs [29, 50, 55, 64, 69], while the identity of the source subject recorded using a separate process. However, the teleconferencing solutions based on holographic 3D displays (LookingGlass [4], LEIA [3], etc.) use regular webcams [81] or depth sensors [48]. As opposed to a video-based setting, head reenactment for immersive applications needs to be 3D-aware, meaning that in addition to generating the correct poses and expressions from a photo, multi-view consistency is critical.

While impressive facial reenactments results have been demonstrated using 2D approaches [26, 27, 83, 97, 102, 103], they typically struggle with preserving the likeness of the source and exhibit significant identity changes when varying the camera pose. More recently, 3D-aware one-shot head reenactment methods [36, 43, 53, 54, 59, 99] have used either 3D meshes or tri-plane neural radiance fields as a fast and memory efficient volumetric data representations for neural rendering. However, the expression and identity disentanglement in these methods is based on variants of linear face and expression models [15, 52] which lack expressiveness and high-frequency details. While these methods can achieve view consistency, facial expressions are often uncanny, and preserving the likeness of the input source portrait is challenging, especially for views different than the source image. Hence, input sources with extreme expressions and non-frontal poses are often avoided.

In this paper, we introduce the first 3D aware one-shot head reenactment technique that disentangles source identities and the target expressions fully volumetrically, and without the use of explicit linear face models. Our method is real-time and designed with holographic displays in mind, where a large number of views (up to 45) can be rendered in parallel based on their viewing angle. We leverage the fact that real-time 3D lifting for human heads has recently been made possible [81] with the help of Vision Transformers (ViT) [25], which avoids the need for inefficient optimization-based GAN-inversion process [68]. In particular, 3D lifting allows us to map 2D face images into a canonical tri-plane representation for both source and target subjects and treat identity and expression disentanglement independently from the head pose.

Once the source image and driver frame are lifted into a pose-normalized tri-plane representation, we extract appearance features from the source subject and expressions from the driver. The pose of the driver is estimated separately using a 3D face tracker and used as input to a neural renderer. Tri-plane-based feature extraction ensures view-consistent rendering, while facial appearance and driver expression feature use frontalized views from the 3D lifting

to enable robust and high-fidelity facial disentanglement. To handle highly diverse portraits (variations in facial appearance, hairstyle, head covering, eyewear, etc.), we propose a new method for fine-tuning Lp3D on real datasets by introducing a mixed loss function based on real and synthetic datasets. Our volumetric disentanglement and rendering framework is trained only using in-the-wild videos from the CelebV-HQ dataset [112] in a self-supervised fashion.

We not only demonstrate that our volumetric face disentanglement approach produces qualitative superior head reenactments than existing ones, but also show on a wide and diverse set of source images how non-frontal poses and extreme expressions can be handled. We have quantitatively assessed our method on multiple benchmarks and outperform existing 2D and 3D state-of-the-art techniques in terms of fidelity, expression, and likeness accuracy metrics. Our 3D aware head reenactment technique is therefore suitable for AR/VR-based immersive applications, and we also showcase a teleconferencing system using a holographic display from LookingGlass [4]. We summarize the main contributions as follows:

- First fully volumetric disentanglement approach for real-time 3D aware head reenactment from a single photo. This method combines 3D lifting into a canonical tri-plane representation and formalized facial appearance and expression feature extraction.
- A 3D lifting network that is fine-tuned on unconstrained real-world data instead of only generating synthetic ones.
- We demonstrate superior fidelity, identity preservation, and robustness w.r.t. current state-of-the-art methods for facial reenactment on a wide range of public datasets. We plan to release our code to the public.

2. Related Work

2D Neural Head Reenactment. The problem of generating animations of photorealistic human heads given images or video inputs has been thoroughly explored using various neural rendering techniques in the past few years, outperforming traditional 3DMM-based methods [8, 26, 31, 44, 63, 66, 78, 79, 96] which often appear uncanny due to their compressed linear space. These approaches can be categorized into one-shot and multi-shot ones. While multi-shot methods generally achieve high-fidelity results, they are not suitable for many consumer applications as they typically require an extensive amount of training data, such as a monocular video capture [10, 11, 18, 21, 30, 34, 93, 108–110, 113], and sometimes even a calibrated multi-view stereo setup [13, 29, 55, 58, 69]. More recently, few-shot techniques [104] have also been introduced.

To maximize accessibility, a considerable number of methods [17, 26, 27, 32, 35, 39, 66, 72–74, 76, 77, 83, 86, 87, 89, 97, 101–103, 107] use a single portrait as input by leveraging advanced generative modeling techniques based

on in-the-wild video training data. While most methods rely on linear face models to extract facial expressions, the head reenactment technique from Drobyshev et al. [27] directly extract expression features from cropped 2D face regions, allowing them to obtain better face disentanglements, which results in higher fidelity face synthesis. While similar to our proposed approach in avoiding the use of low dimensional linear face models, their method is purely 2D and struggle with ensuring identity and expression consistency when novel views are synthesized.

3D-Aware One-Shot Head Reenactment. Due to potential inconsistencies when rendering from different views or poses, a number of 3D-aware single shot head reenactment techniques [7, 19, 20, 24, 62, 65, 70, 75, 88, 92, 94, 95] have been introduced. These methods generally use an efficient 3D representation, such as neural radiance fields or 3D mesh, to geometrically constraint the neural rendering and improve view consistency. ROME [43] for instance is a mesh-based method using FLAME blendshapes [51] and neural textures. While view-consistent results can be produced for both face and hair regions, the use of low resolution polygonal meshes hinders the neural renderer to generate high-fidelity geometric and appearance details.

Implicit representations such as HeadNeRF [36] and MofaNeRF [38] use a NeRF-based parametric model which supports direct control of the head pose of the generated images. While real-time rendering is possible, these methods require intensive test-time optimization and often fail to preserve the identity of the source due to the use of compact latent vectors. Most recent methods [53, 54, 99] adopt the highly efficient tri-plane-based neural fields representation [20] to encode the 3D structure and appearance of the avatars head. Compared to the previous works on view-consistent neural avatars [36, 43, 53, 54, 59, 99], we refrain from depending on parametric head models for motion synthesis and, instead, learn the volumetric motion model from the training data. This methodology enables us to narrow the identity gap between the source and generated images and yield a superior fidelity of the generated motion compared to competing approaches, and hence a higher quality disentanglement for reenactment.

3D GAN Inversion. When training a whole reconstruction and disentangled reenactment model end-to-end on facial performance videos, one can introduce substantial overfitting and reduce the quality of the results. To address this problems, we focus our training approach to an inversion of pre-trained 3D-aware generative models for human heads.

We use tri-plane-based generative network EG3D [20] as the foundational generator, due to its proficiency in producing high-fidelity and view-consistent synthesis of human heads. For a given image, an effective 3D GAN inver-

sion method should leverage these properties for estimating latent representations, which can be decoded into outputs that maintain view consistency and faithfully replicate the contents of the input. One naive approach is to adapt GAN inversion methods that were initially designed for 2D GANs to the EG3D pre-trained network. These methods either do a time consuming but more precise optimization [42, 68] or train a fast but less accurate encoder network [67, 80] to obtain the corresponding latent vectors. They often produce incorrect depth prediction, leading to clear artifacts in novel view synthesis. Hence, some methods are specifically designed for inverting 3D GANs, which either do multi-view optimization [45, 91] or predict residual features/tri-plane maps for refining the initial inversion results [12, 81, 98, 100].

In this work, we rely on the state-of-the-art EG3D inversion method Lp3D [81]. While achieving excellent novel-view synthesis results, it lacks disentanglement between the appearance and expression of the provided image and is unable to impose various driving expressions onto the input. To address this limitation, we propose a new method that introduces appearance-expression disentanglement in the latent space of tri-planes using our new self and cross-reenactment training pipeline while relying on a pre-trained but fine-tuned Lp3D network for regularization which enables highly consistent view synthesis.

3. 3D-Aware Head Reenactment

As illustrated in Fig. 2, our head reenactment pipeline consists of three stages: 1) 3D Lifting, 2) Volumetric Disentanglement, and 3) Tri-plane Rendering. Given a pair of source and driver images, we first frontalize them using a pre-trained but fine-tuned tri-plane-based 3D lifting module [81]. This driver alignment step is crucial and allows our model to disentangle the expressions from the head pose, which prevents overfitting. Then, the frontalized faces are fed into two separate convolutional encoders to extract the face features F_s and F_d . These extracted features are concatenated with the ones extracted from the tri-planes of the source, and all are fed together into several transformer blocks [90] to produce the expression tri-plane residual, which is added to the tri-planes of the source image. The final target image can be rendered from the new tri-planes using a pre-trained tri-plane renderer using the driver’s pose.

3.1. Fine-Tuned 3D Lifting

We adopt Lp3d [81] as a 3D face-lifting module, which predicts the radiance field of any given face image in real-time. Instead of using an implicit multi-layer perceptron [61] or sparse voxels [28, 71] for the radiance field, Lp3D [81] uses tri-planes [20], which can be computed using a single forward of a deep learning network. Specifically, for a given source image x_s , we first extract the tri-planes T using a

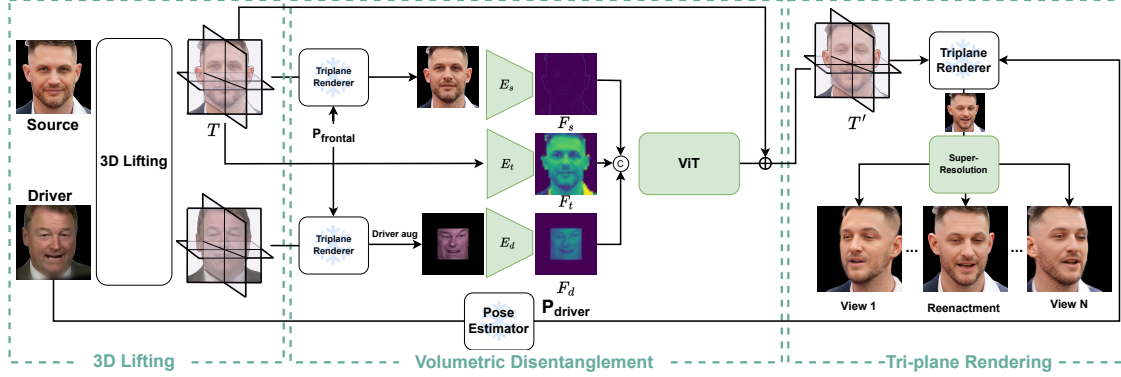


Figure 2. Given a pair of source and driver images, our method processes them in three steps: **3D Lifting** into tri-plane representations, **Volumetric Disentanglement**, which consists of source and driver frontalization and tri-plane residual generation, and **Tri-plane Rendering** via volumetric ray marching with subsequent super-resolution.

transformer-based appearance encoder \mathbf{E}_{app} :

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{app}}(x_s) = T \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times H \times W \times C} = \{T_{xy}, T_{yz}, T_{zx}\}. \quad (1)$$

The color c and density σ of each point $p = (x, y, z)$ in the radiance field can be obtained by projecting p onto the three planes and by summing up the features at the projected positions:

$$c, \sigma = \mathbf{D}(F_{xy} + F_{yz} + F_{zx}), \quad (2)$$

where \mathbf{D} is a shallow MLP decoder for the tri-plane rendering, F_{xy} , F_{yz} , and F_{zx} are the feature vectors at the projected positions on xy , yz , and zx planes, respectively, calculated using bilinear interpolation. The rendered 128×128 image is then upsampled using a super-resolution module to produce a high-resolution output. To train the encoder \mathbf{E}_{app} , Lp3D [81] uses synthetic data generated from a 3D-aware face generative model [20]. While these synthetic data have ground truth camera poses, they are limited to the face distribution of the generative model. As a result, Lp3D can fail to generalize to in-the-wild images as shown in Fig. 5. To prevent this, we fine-tune the pre-trained Lp3D on a large-scale real-world dataset. We also replace the original super-resolution module in Lp3D with a pre-trained GF-PGAN [85], which is then fine-tuned together with Lp3D (see Sec. 3.4).

3.2. Disentangling Appearance and Expression

Separating facial expression from the identity appearance in a 3D radiance field is very challenging especially when source and driver subjects have misaligned expressions. In order to simplify the problem, we use our 3D lifting approach to bring both source and driver heads into a pose-oriented space where faces are frontalized. Here, we denote frontalized source and driver images as x_s^f and x_d^f , respectively. These images are then fed into two separate convolutional source and driver encoders \mathbf{E}_s and \mathbf{E}_d to produce

coarse feature maps $F_s = \mathbf{E}_s(x_s^f)$ and $F_d = \mathbf{E}_d(x_d^f)$. Since we already have the source’s tri-plane, which encodes the 3D shape of the source, we use another encoder to encode this tri-plane and concatenate it together with the coarse frontalized feature maps of the images to produce expression feature F :

$$\begin{aligned} F_t &= \mathbf{E}_t(T) \\ F &= F_s \oplus F_d \oplus F_t \end{aligned}$$

Even though face frontalization aligns the source and the driver, there is still some misalignment between the two faces, e.g., the positions of the eyes may be different, or one mouth is open while the other is closed. Therefore, we feed the concatenation of the feature maps into several transformer blocks to produce the final residual tri-plane $\mathbf{E}_v(F)$. This residual is then added back to the source’s tri-planes to change the source’s expression to the driver’s expression $T' = T + \mathbf{E}_v(F)$. Unlike LPR [54], we do not use a 3D face model to compute the expression but instead use the RGB images of the source and the driver directly, allowing the model to learn high-fidelity and realistic expressions.

3.3. Tri-Plane Rendering

The resulting tri-planes are then volumetrically rendered into one or multiple output images using pose parameters and viewing angles in the case of a holographic display. Following EG3D [20], we use a neural radiance fields (NeRFs)-based volumetric ray marching approach [60]. However, instead of encoding each point in space via positional encodings [60], the features of the points along rays are calculated using their projections onto tri-planes. Since tri-planes are aligned with the frontal face, we can compute these rays directly using camera extrinsics $\mathbf{P}_{\text{driver}}$ predicted by an off-the-shelf 3D head pose estimator [23].

While the renderings are highly view-consistent, the large number of points evaluated for each ray still limits

the output resolution for real-time performance. We therefore follow [54] and employ a 2D upsampling network [84] based on StyleGAN2 [41], which in our experiments produced higher quality results than the upsampling approach in EG3D [20]. Finally, for holographic displays, we generate a number of renderings based on their viewing angles and simply using the head pose parameter. Real-time performance is achieved using efficient inference libraries such as TensorRT, half-precision, and batched inference over multiple GPUs.

3.4. Training Strategy

Fine-Tuning Lp3D. To make Lp3D work with in-the-wild images, we fine-tune it on a large-scale real-world video dataset [111]. Unlike the use of synthetic data, real-world data do not have ground-truth camera parameters and facial expressions in monocular videos are typically inconsistent over time. While the camera parameters can be estimated using standard 3D pose estimators, the expression differences are difficult to determine. However, we found that we can ignore this expression difference and fine-tune Lp3D using real data together with continuous training on synthetic data. In particular, our experiments indicate that the fine-tuned model can still faithfully reconstruct 3D faces from the input without changing expressions and still generalize successfully on in-the-wild images. Specifically, on real video data, we sample two frames x_s^r and x_d^r and estimate their camera parameters P_s^r and P_d^r . Similar to [20], we assume a fixed intrinsics for standard portraits for all images. Then we use E_{app} from Lp3D to calculate the tri-planes of x_s^r , render it using the two poses, and calculate reconstruction losses on the two rendered images:

$$\mathcal{L}_{real} = \|\text{Lp3D}(x_s^r, P_d^r) - x_d^r\| + \|\text{Lp3D}(x_s^r, P_s^r) - x_s^r\|,$$

where $\text{Lp3D}(x, P)$ is the face in x re-rendered using camera pose P and \mathcal{L}_{real} is the loss for real images. Simultaneously, we render two synthetic images employing an identical latent code but through varying camera views and calculate the synthetic loss \mathcal{L}_{syn} :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{syn} &= \|\text{Lp3D}(x_s^f, P_d^s) - x_d^s\| + \|\text{Lp3D}(x_s^f, P_s^s) - x_s^s\| \\ \mathcal{L}_{tri} &= \|E_{app}(x_s^f) - T\|, \end{aligned}$$

where T is the ground-truth tri-planes returned by EG3D [20] and \mathcal{L}_{tri} is the tri-plane loss adopted directly from Lp3D. The final loss \mathcal{L}_{app} for fine-tuning Lp3D can be formulated as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{app} = \mathcal{L}_{real} + \lambda_{syn}\mathcal{L}_{syn} + \lambda_{tri}\mathcal{L}_{tri}$$

where λ_{syn} and λ_{tri} are tunable hyperparameters.

Disentangling Appearance and Expressions. In this stage, we also use real-world videos as training data. For a

pair of source and driver images x_s and x_d sampled from the same video, we apply the reconstruction loss \mathcal{L}_{recon} which is a combination of $L1$, perceptual [105], and identity losses, between the reenacted image $x_{s \rightarrow d}$ and the corresponding ground-truth x_d :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{recon} &= \|x_{s \rightarrow d} - x_d\|_1 + \phi(x_{s \rightarrow d}, x_d) \\ &+ \mathcal{L}_{cos}(\text{ID}(x_{s \rightarrow d}), \text{ID}(x_d)), \end{aligned}$$

where ϕ is the perceptual loss, $\text{ID}(\cdot)$ is a pretrained face recognizer [82], and \mathcal{L}_{cos} is the cosine similarity loss:

$$\mathcal{L}_{cos}((u, v)) = \frac{\langle u, v \rangle}{\max(\|u\|, \epsilon) \times \max(\|v\|, \epsilon)}$$

Here ϵ is a small constant to void division by 0. Similar to other works that use RGB images directly to calculate expressions [27], our proposed encoder also suffers from an ‘‘identity leaking’’ issue. Since there is no cross-reenactment dataset, the expression module is trained with self-reenactment video data. Therefore, without proper augmentation and regularization, the expression module can leak identity information from the driver to the output, making the model fail to generalize to cross-reenactment tasks. Hence, we introduce a *Cross Identity Regularization*. Specifically, we further sample an additional driver frame $x_{d'}$ from another video. We incorporate a GAN loss where real samples are $\text{Lp3D}(x_s, P^d)$ and fake samples are $x_{s \rightarrow d'}$. This GAN loss is also conditioned on the identity vector of the source $\text{ID}(x_s)$. Following [27], we also apply strong augmentation (random warping and color jittering) and additionally mask the border of the driver randomly to further reduce potential identity leaks. The loss for expression training can be summarized as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{exp} = \mathcal{L}_{recon} + \lambda_{CIR}\mathcal{L}_{CIR},$$

where \mathcal{L}_{CIR} and λ_{CIR} are cross identity regularization and its hyperparameter, respectively.

Global Fine-Tuning. After training both Lp3D and the expression module, we iteratively fine-tune the two modules using the same losses as the previous sections. Specifically, for every 10000 iterations, we freeze one module and fine-tune the other and vice versa. In addition, we add a GAN loss on the super-resolution output of the Lp3D module.

4. Experiments

Implementation Details. We train our model on CelebV-HQ dataset [112] using 7 NVIDIA RTX A6000 ADA (50Gb memory each). We use AdamW [56] to optimize the parameters with a learning rate of 10^{-4} and batch size of 28. The Lp3D finetuning takes 5 days for 500K iterations to converge. Training the expression module takes 2 days, and the

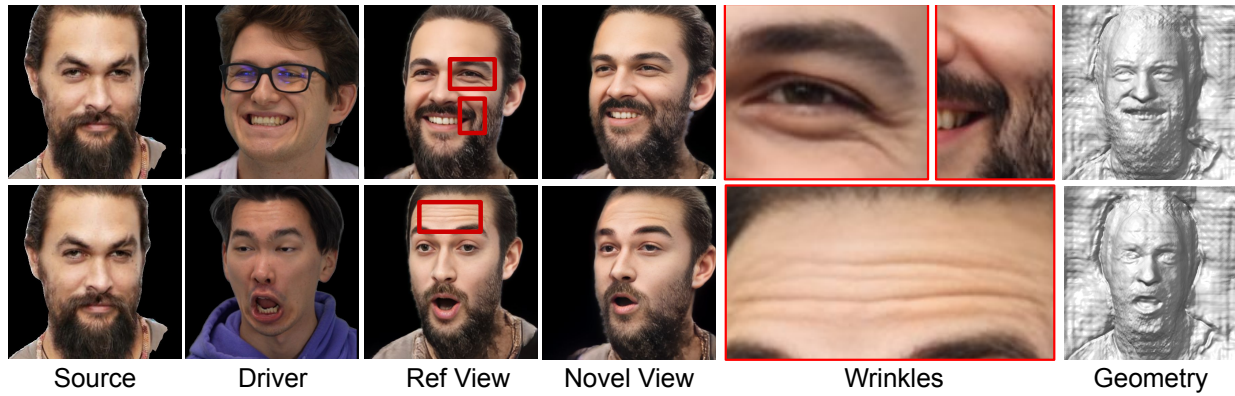


Figure 3. Expression dependent high-fidelity details, incl. eye and forehead wrinkles, as well as nasolabial folds (see zoom-ins)

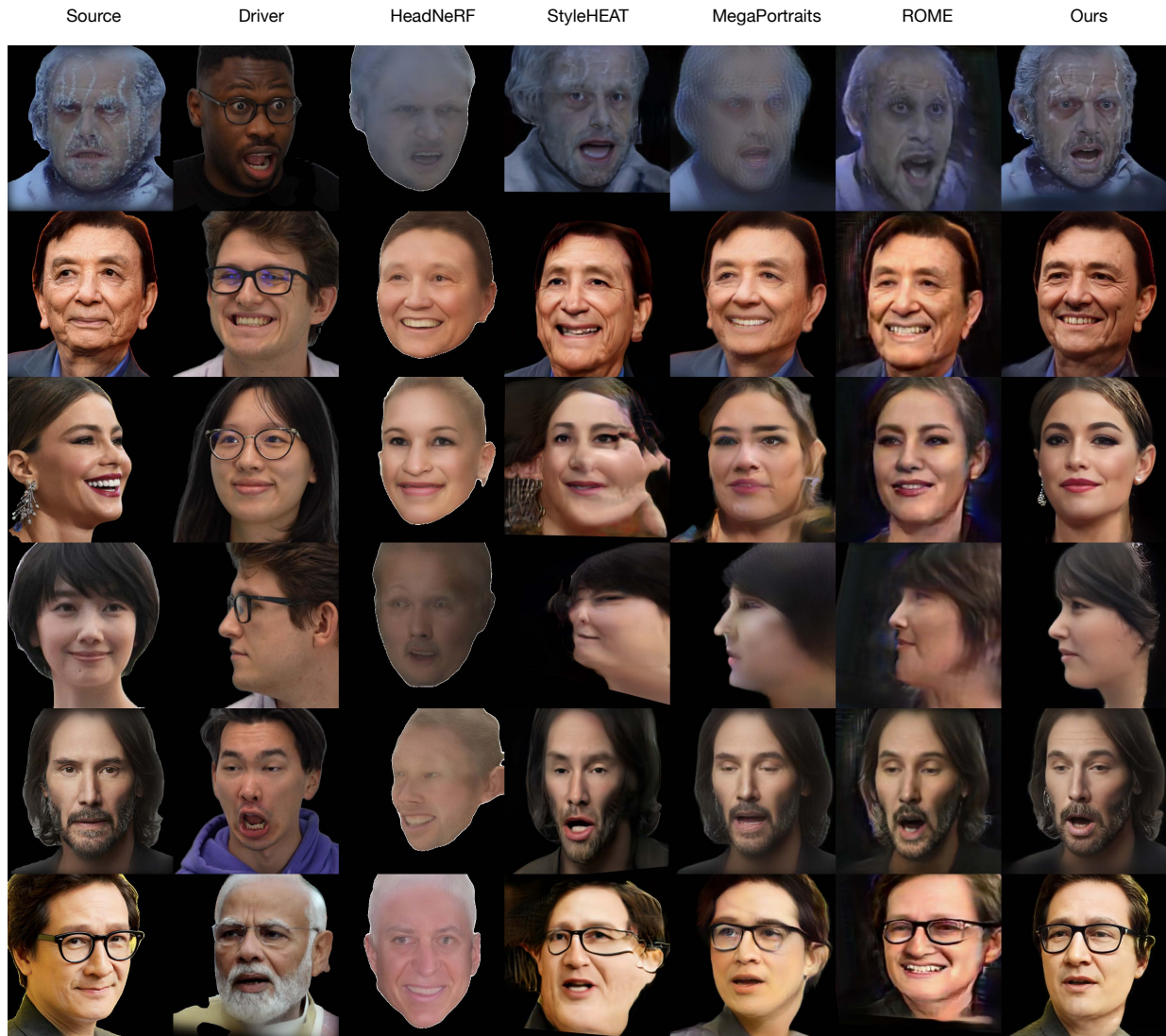


Figure 4. A qualitative comparison with the baselines on in-the-wild photos. Notice that our method is capable of producing a variety of facial expressions, and handle highly diverse subjects, with and without accessories, as well as extreme head poses, such as rows 3 and 4.

Method	Self-reenactment						Cross-reenactment		
	PSNR \uparrow	SSIM \uparrow	LPIPS \downarrow	NAKD \downarrow	ECMD \downarrow	FID \downarrow	CSIM \uparrow	ECMD \downarrow	FID \downarrow
ROME [43]	18.46	0.488	0.351	0.030	0.594	138	0.507	0.740	172
StyleHeat [97]	19.73	0.689	0.278	0.035	0.748	89.8	0.398	0.744	95.5
OTAvatar [59]	19.28	0.749	0.289	0.035	0.651	67.0	0.462	0.901	72.4
MegaPortraits [27]	21.10	0.731	0.291	0.022	0.755	52.0	0.729	0.771	61.7
Ours	22.83	0.768	0.168	0.012	0.426	40.5	0.754	0.754	36.4

Table 1. Evaluation on HDTF [106] dataset. Our method outperforms the competitors across almost all of the metrics for both self- and cross-reenactment scenarios.

Method	Cross-reenactment		
	CSIM \uparrow	ECMD \downarrow	FID \downarrow
ROME [43]	0.519	0.91	52.6
HeadNeRF [36]	0.346	0.88	113
StyleHeat [97]	0.467	0.85	50.2
MegaPortraits [27]	0.647	0.77	29.2
Ours	0.608	0.79	23.6

Table 2. Evaluation on CelebA-HQ [40] dataset.

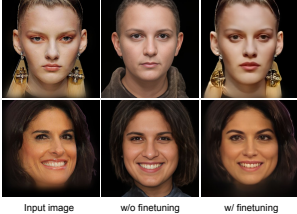


Figure 5. Our implementation of Lp3D [81] before and after CelebV-HQ [112] fine-tuning.

	CSIM \uparrow	ECMD \downarrow
Lp3D	0.548	0.82
Lp3D-FT	0.670	0.76
w/o frontal	0.668	1.01
w/o CIR	0.570	0.97
Ours	0.608	0.79

Table 3. Ablation studies conducted on CelebA-HQ [40] dataset. FT is a fine-tuned version of Lp3D, and “frontal” denotes frontalization of the source and driver.

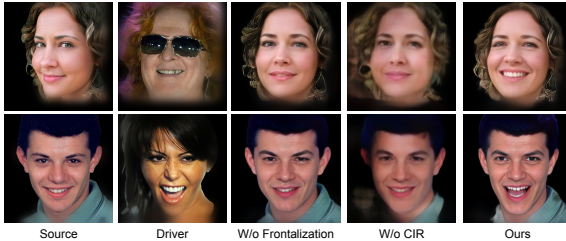


Figure 6. Ablation study for source and driver frontalization and cross identity regularization (CIR).

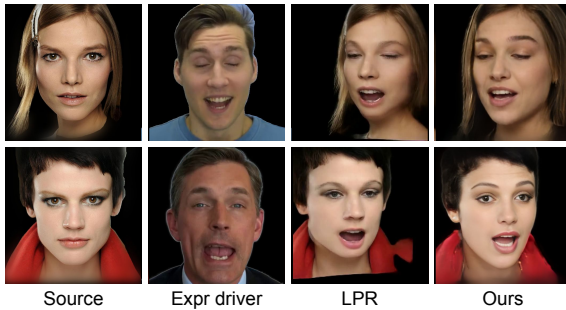


Figure 7. Qualitative comparison with LPR [54] method on the samples from HDTF [106] dataset.

iterative fine-tuning takes another 5 days. More training details, such as hyperparameter fine-tuning or architecture of the networks, can be found in the supplementary materials.

Unlike Lp3D, our method reenacts faces without relifting in 3D for every frame. The tri-plane encoding and frontalization of the source image are only performed once. For each driver, we perform a single frontalization for the driver image (0.0115 ms), one expression encoding (0.0034 s), one tri-plane rendering at 128×128 resolution (0.0071 s), and one neural upsampling (0.0099 s). Each view runs at 31.9 fps on an Nvidia RTX 4090 GPU including I/O. More details are provided in the supplemental materials.

We compare our method with state-of-the-art 3D-based [36, 43, 59] and 2D-based [27, 97] models. For MegaPortraits [27], we use our own implementation that was trained on the CelebV-HQ dataset. Similar to previous works, we evaluate our method using public benchmarks, including CelebA-HQ [40] and HDTF [106]. For CelebA-HQ, we split the data into two equal sets. Each set contains around 15K images. Then, we use one set as the source and the rest as driver images. For the HDTF dataset, we perform cross-reenactment by using the first frame of each video as source and 200 first frames of other videos as drivers, which is more than 60K data pairs. Similarly, to evaluate self-reenactment, we also use the first frames of each video as sources and the rest of the same video as the driver. Furthermore, we also collected 100 face images on the internet and around 100 high-quality videos for qualitative comparisons. Video results are provided in the supplementary materials.

Evaluation. Given a source image x_s , a driver image x_d , and reenacted output $x_{s \rightarrow d}$ we use EMOCaV2 [22] to extract the FLAME [52] expression coefficients of the prediction and the driver, as well as the shape coefficients of the source. We then compute 2 FLAME meshes using the predicted shape coefficients in world coordinates, one with the expression coefficients of the driver and one with the expression coefficients of the reenacted output. We measure the distance between the 2 meshes and denote this expression metric as ECMD. Moreover, we also use cosine similarity between the embeddings of a face recognition network (CSIM) [101], normalized average keypoint distance (NAKD) [16], perceptual image similarity (LPIPS) [105], peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR), and structure similarity index measure (SSIM).

We provide quantitative comparisons on HDTF and CelebA-HQ datasets in Tab. 1 and Tab. 2, respectively, and show that our method outperforms existing methods on both datasets. We also note that our FID and CSIM scores are significantly more reliable than the others, while expression-based metrics such as NAKD and ECMD are either better or very close to the best baseline, w.r.t output quality, expression accuracy, and identity consistency.

We showcase the qualitative results of cross-identity reenactment on in-the-wild images in Fig. 4 and Fig. 3. Compared to the baselines [27, 36, 43, 97], our reenactment faithfully reconstructs intricate and complex elements,

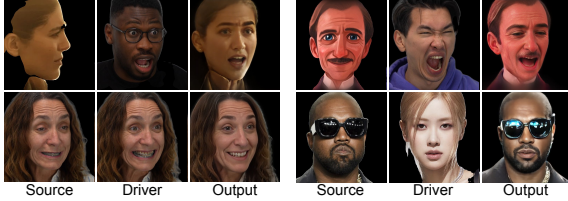


Figure 8. Failure cases of our method include side views in the source, extreme expressions, modeling of cartoonish characters and paintings, as well as modeling the reflections and semi-transparency of the eyewear.

such as hairstyle, facial hair, glasses, and facial makeups. Furthermore, our method effectively generates realistic and fine-scale dynamic details that match the driver’s expressions including substantial head pose rotations. We also conduct a comparative analysis of our results with the current state-of-the-art 3D-aware method LPR [54] in Fig. 7. Compared to LPR, our method achieves superior identity consistency. We further refer to the supplemental video for a live demonstration of our holographic telepresence system and animated head reenactment results and comparisons, with and without disentangled poses.

Ablation Study. We compare Lp3D with and without fine-tuning on the CelebA-HQ dataset in Tab. 3 and show several examples in Fig. 5. Without fine-tuning on real data, our implementation of Lp3D fails to preserve the identity of the input image, resulting in a considerably lower CSIM score. We also try without any facial frontalization in the expression module and instead use the source and driver images directly to calculate the expression tri-plane residual. We observe in Fig. 6 that without face frontalization, the model completely ignores the expression of the driver and keeps the expression of the input source instead. We show in Tab. 3, that facial frontalization leads to much better ECMD score. We then measure the effectiveness of the GAN-based cross-identity regularization on the CelebA-HQ dataset, \mathcal{L}_{CIR} . Without this loss, identity characteristics (hairstyle or color) can leak from the driver to the output. See column 4 in Fig. 6. Tab. 3 also shows that cross-identity regularization can reduce identity leaking and improve the CSIM score. Lastly, we have also attempted to train our model end-to-end using the same losses and optimization process instead of our proposed iterative fine-tuning. Even with a lower learning rate and the use of pre-trained Lp3D weights, we were unable to succeed.

Limitations. Limitations of our approach are illustrated in Figure 8. For source images that are extremely side ways (i.e., over 90°), our method can produce a plausible frontal face, but the likeness cannot be guaranteed due to insufficient visibility. For very highly stylized portraits, such as cartoons, our framework often produces photorealistic facial elements such as teeth which can be inconsistent in

style. Due to the dependence on training data volume and diversity, accessories such as dental braces or glasses may disappear or look different during synthesis. We believe that providing more and better training data can further improve the performance of our algorithm.

5. Discussion

We have demonstrated that a fully volumetric disentanglement of facial appearance and expressions is possible through a shared canonical tri-plane representation. In particular, an improved disentanglement also leads to higher fidelity and more robust head reenactment, when compared to existing methods that use linear face models for expressions, especially for non-frontal poses. A critical insight of our approach is that head frontalization via 3D lifting is particularly effective for extracting features that can encode fine details and expressions such as wrinkles and folds. The resulting reenactment is also highly view-consistent for large angles, making our solution suitable for holographic displays. We have also shown that the 3D lifting model can still be successfully trained with real data despite the fact that different frames with the same subject have varying facial expressions. Without a fine-tuned 3D lifting model, our 3D-aware reenactment framework would struggle with preserving the identity of the source, especially for side views. Our experiments indicate that our results achieve better visual quality and are more robust to extreme poses, validated via an extensive evaluation on multiple datasets.

Risks and Potential Misuse. The proposed method is intended to promote avatar-based 3D communication. Nevertheless, our AI-based reenactment solution produces synthetic but highly realistic face videos from only a single photo, which could be hard to distinguish from a real person. Like deepfakes and other facial manipulation methods, potential misuse is possible and hence, we refer to the supplemental material for more discussions.

Future Work. We are also interested in expanding our work to upper and full body reenactment, where hand gestures can be used for more engaging communication. To this end, we plan to investigate the use of canonical representations for human bodies, such as T-poses. As our primary motivation, we have showcased a solution using holographic displays for immersive 3D teleconferencing. However, we believe that our approach can also be extended to AR/VR HMD-based settings where full 360° head views are possible. The recent work by An et al. [7] is a promising avenue for future exploration.

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