

Supplementary material: FitDiff: Robust monocular 3D facial shape and reflectance estimation using Diffusion Models

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1. Future Work

In this work, we present the first-of-its-kind diffusion model conditioned on expressive facial embeddings, which is essentially a step towards a facial foundation model. Such models require vast datasets of labeled data [19], in our case paired facial images with geometry, reflectance and identity embeddings. These are immensely challenging to acquire in numbers, and hence we have to rely on a synthetic dataset and inherit its method’s limitations [13]. Nevertheless, our method could be trivially extended to larger datasets of even scanned datasets (e.g. [24]), given their availability. Moreover, the “fitting” nature of our method, is limited by the ambiguity between scene illumination and skin tone, especially in single-image inference. To that end, the recent method of TRUST [10], could be incorporated into our diffusion model, as an additional conditioning mechanism, given however the availability of training data.

2. Implementation Details

A comprehensive overview of this training approach is presented in Fig. 1. We provide the essential information required to reproduce our method. The code-base for the brached multi-modal AutoEncoder is built on the public repository of the VQGAN AutoEncoder [9]. We made the following changes: A) The first downsampling layer of the encoder \mathcal{E} and the last upsampling layer of the decoder \mathcal{D} are branched, by making 3 copies of the respective layers. B) As proposed in FitMe [13], we use a branched discriminator, in the essence of having 2 copies of the main discriminator, except the last convolutional layer. The branch, dedicated for diffuse (\mathbf{A}_D) and specular (\mathbf{A}_S) albedos, gets a 6-channel input whereas the normals (N) branch gets a 3-channel input.

On the other hand, the main training phase is built on the public repository of Latent Diffusion Models [19]. We modified the provided UNet code by turning it into a 1-D UNet network and replaced the attention-based conditional mechanism with SPADE layers [17]. The hyper-parameters

f	$ \mathcal{Z} $	Embed. dim
8	16384	1
z channels	Channels	Channels mult.
4	128	1,2,2,4
Res. Blocks	Attention Res.	Batch Size
2	32	16

Table 1. Hyper-parameters used during training the branched multi-modal AutoEncoder.

for the Conditional UNet using SPADE layers are presented in Tab. 2 while it gets trained for 800 epochs.

As mentioned in the main paper, the overall training loss under which FitDiff is trained, is the following:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{noise} + \mathcal{L}_{id} + \mathcal{L}_{per} + \mathcal{L}_{verts}$$

where \mathcal{L}_{noise} is the noise prediction loss as defined in Section 3.3, \mathcal{L}_{id} is the identity distance, \mathcal{L}_{per} the identity perceptual loss and \mathcal{L}_{verts} the shape loss.

Identity distance To supervise the identity similarity between the ground truth and the predicted facial avatars, we follow the methodology presented in [12, 13]. We employ a face recognition network [7] with n layers : $\mathcal{C}^n(\mathbf{I}) : \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{512}$. The identity distance is estimated by computing the identity similarity between the feature embeddings of the input image \mathbf{I} , and the estimated initial image $\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0$:

$$\mathcal{L}_{id} = 1 - \frac{\mathcal{C}^n(\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0) \cdot \mathcal{C}^n(\mathbf{I})}{\|\mathcal{C}^n(\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0)\|_2 \cdot \|\mathcal{C}^n(\mathbf{I})\|_2} \quad (1)$$

Identity perceptual loss To enforce perceptual consistency between the generated and ground truth avatars, we also penalize the discrepancy between the intermediate activation layers of the face recognition network \mathcal{C} . The identity

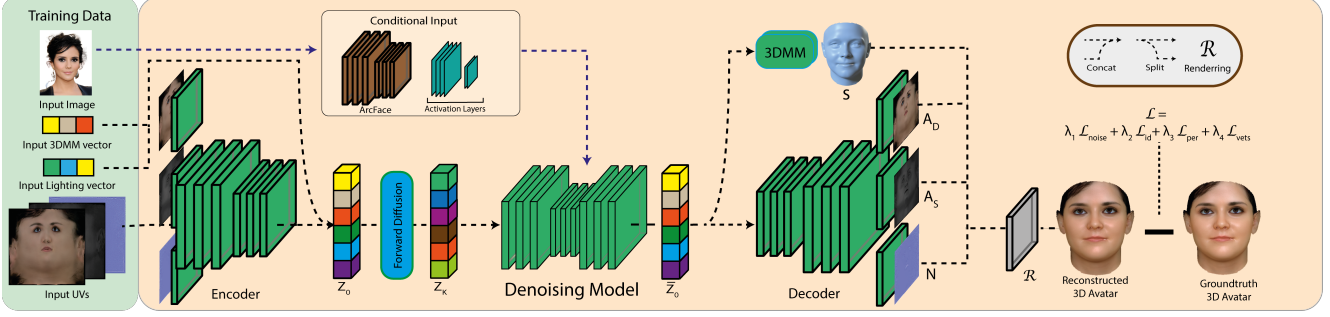


Figure 1. Overview of the main phase of our training scheme: At each training iteration, the facial reflectance maps are first projected into the latent space and subsequently concatenated to the latent vector \mathbf{z}_0 , to which noise is introduced. After estimating the initial latent vector $\bar{\mathbf{z}}_0$ and rendering (\mathcal{R}) the estimated initial avatar, perceptual and face recognition losses are applied.

Diffusion steps	Noise Schedule	Input Channels
1000	linear	1
Channels	Cond. Dim	SPADE dim.
192	1048	128
Channels mult	Depth	Heads
1,2,4,8	2	4
Heads Channels	Batch size	LR
32	16	$3.2e-05$

Table 2. Hyper-parameters of the main training phase.

perceptual loss is computed as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{per} = \sum_j^n \frac{\| \mathcal{C}^j(\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0) - \mathcal{C}^j(\mathbf{I}) \|_2}{H_{C_j} \cdot W_{C_j} \cdot C_{C_j}} \quad (2)$$

where H_{C_j} , W_{C_j} , and C_{C_j} denote the height, width, and number of channels of the j -th activation map, respectively.

Shape loss The difference between the estimated facial shape $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_0$ and the ground truth facial shape \mathbf{v} is calculated using the L1-norm:

$$\mathcal{L}_{verts} = \| \bar{\mathbf{v}}_0 - \mathbf{v} \|_1 \quad (3)$$

3. Guidance Algorithm

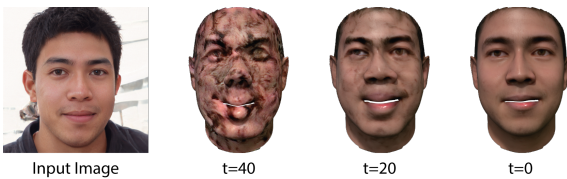


Figure 2. An example of the sampling process for $t = \{40, 20, 0\}$,

FitDiff is a diffusion-based architecture conditioned on an identity embedding vector. It accurately generates facial identities by incorporating an effective identity guidance method during the sampling phase. An example of this process is illustrated in Fig. 2. The proposed guidance method uses the guidance loss which is formulated as:

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_{id}^{cos} + \lambda_1 \mathcal{G}_{id}^{per} + \lambda_2 \mathcal{G}_{mse} + \lambda_3 \mathcal{G}_{lan} + \lambda_4 \mathcal{G}_{vgg} \quad (4)$$

The values of the used lambdas are $\lambda_1 = 50$, $\lambda_2 = 10$, $\lambda_3 = 200$, $\lambda_4 = 1$ where we use a gradient scale $s = 75$. We run our sampling method for $T = 50$ steps. When run on an NVIDIA Tesla V100-PCIE-32GB GPU, the diffusion sampling process takes about 54 seconds, timed comparable with other fitting methods like FitMe [13] and Relightify [16] which take about 50 seconds and about 1min respectively.

3.1. Sampling Guidance pseudo-code

Following Algorithm 1, we feed the input image \mathbf{I} into \mathcal{C} , to extract the latent identity embedding vector \mathbf{V}_{trgt} and the intermediate activation maps. On top of that, we conduct an alignment step wherein the scene parameters of \mathbf{I} are extracted by using a face detection network [21] and a facial landmark detection network \mathcal{M} [2]. For each reverse diffusion step $t \in \{T, \dots, 1\}$, we firstly predict the injected noise and the corresponding noised variable \mathbf{z}_t . Then, according to the formula in line 5 of Algorithm 1, the initial expected latent vector $\bar{\mathbf{z}}_0$ is estimated, followed by the decoding step. The estimated initial facial texture $\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0$ and the estimated initial facial shape $\bar{\mathbf{S}}_0$ are computed using the multi-branch facial texture decoder \mathcal{D} and the PCA model \mathcal{F}_{shp} , respectively. After being rendered, the expected facial image $\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0$ is generated. We compare the identity embedding vectors between the target image \mathbf{I} and the expected facial image $\bar{\mathbf{I}}_0$ by using the identity cosine distance and identity perceptual loss as defined in [13]. Finally, we obtain accurate illumination and facial expression parameters by

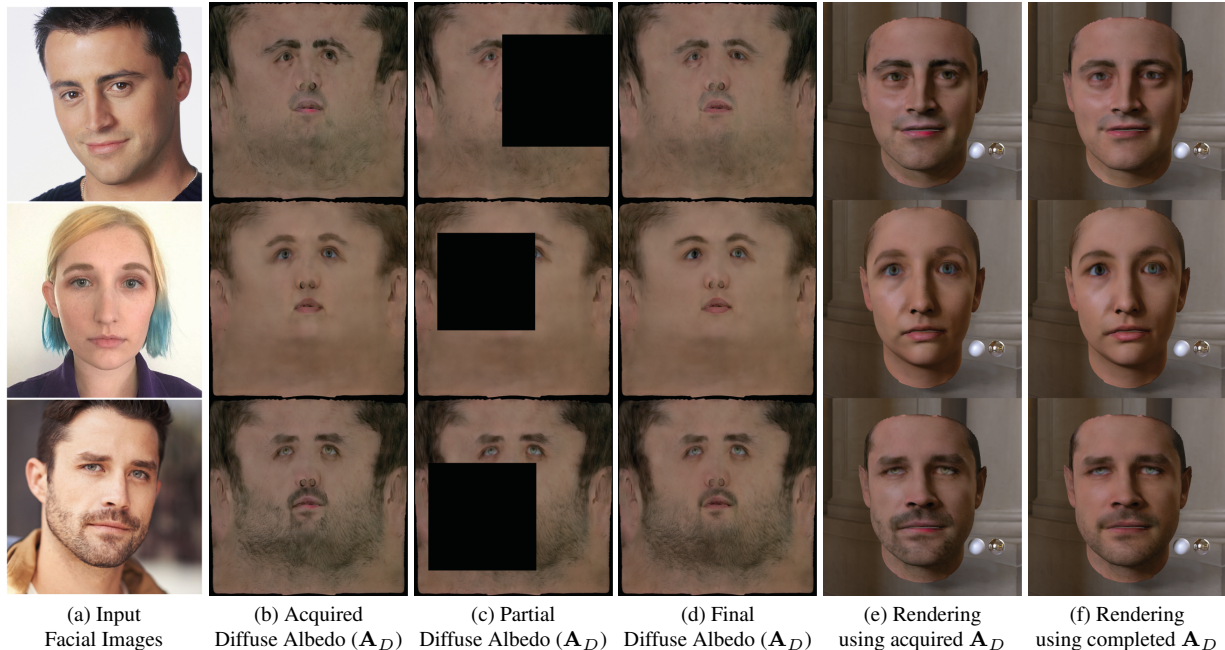


Figure 4. Our method can be used for facial texture completion.

Method	@Nose			@Mouth		
	avg	med	std	avg	med	std
HiFace-f [4]	1.036	0.992	0.280	1.450	1.388	0.413
HiFace-c [4]	1.054	1.021	0.317	1.461	1.381	0.430
HRN [14]	1.722	1.685	0.330	1.357	1.226	0.523
Deep3D [8]	1.719	1.683	0.354	1.368	1.301	0.439
AlbGAN [18]	1.656	1.636	0.374	2.087	1.927	0.839
MGCNet [22]	1.771	1.741	0.380	1.417	1.355	0.409
GANFit [12]	1.928	1.881	0.490	1.812	1.769	0.544
FitMe [13]	1.833	1.796	0.434	1.752	1.629	0.539
PSL [15]	1.708	1.688	0.349	1.708	1.777	0.563
DECA-c [11]	1.697	1.654	0.355	2.516	2.465	0.839
CEST [23]	2.779	2.717	0.835	1.448	1.438	0.406
EMOCA-c [6]	1.868	1.821	0.387	2.679	2.419	1.112
MICA [26]	1.585	1.542	0.325	3.478	3.439	1.204
DECA-f [11]	2.138	2.137	0.461	2.802	2.699	0.868
EMOCA-f [6]	2.532	2.563	0.539	2.929	2.676	1.106
FitDiff(Ours)	1.821	1.770	0.438	1.751	1.611	0.523

Table 3. Results in the REALY benchmark [3]

Our model’s performance can be explained by the fact that our approach is trained using synthetic data obtained from a fitting methodology [13] and generates both albedo and normals UV maps. The utilization of synthetic data imposes inherent limitations on our method’s ability to accurately retrieve facial shapes. This limitation stems from the constraints imposed by FitMe on shape retrieval performance. We eventually beat FitMe’s performance, as well

as similar methods (e.g. GANFit), showing that our results are bounded by the training data, and could improved given a real captured dataset. Additionally, as highlighted by the authors of FitMe, the concurrent reconstruction of both facial shape and texture normals introduces further constraints on the approach’s shape reconstruction performance. Specifically, a portion of the shape information is occasionally encoded in the normals domain rather than in

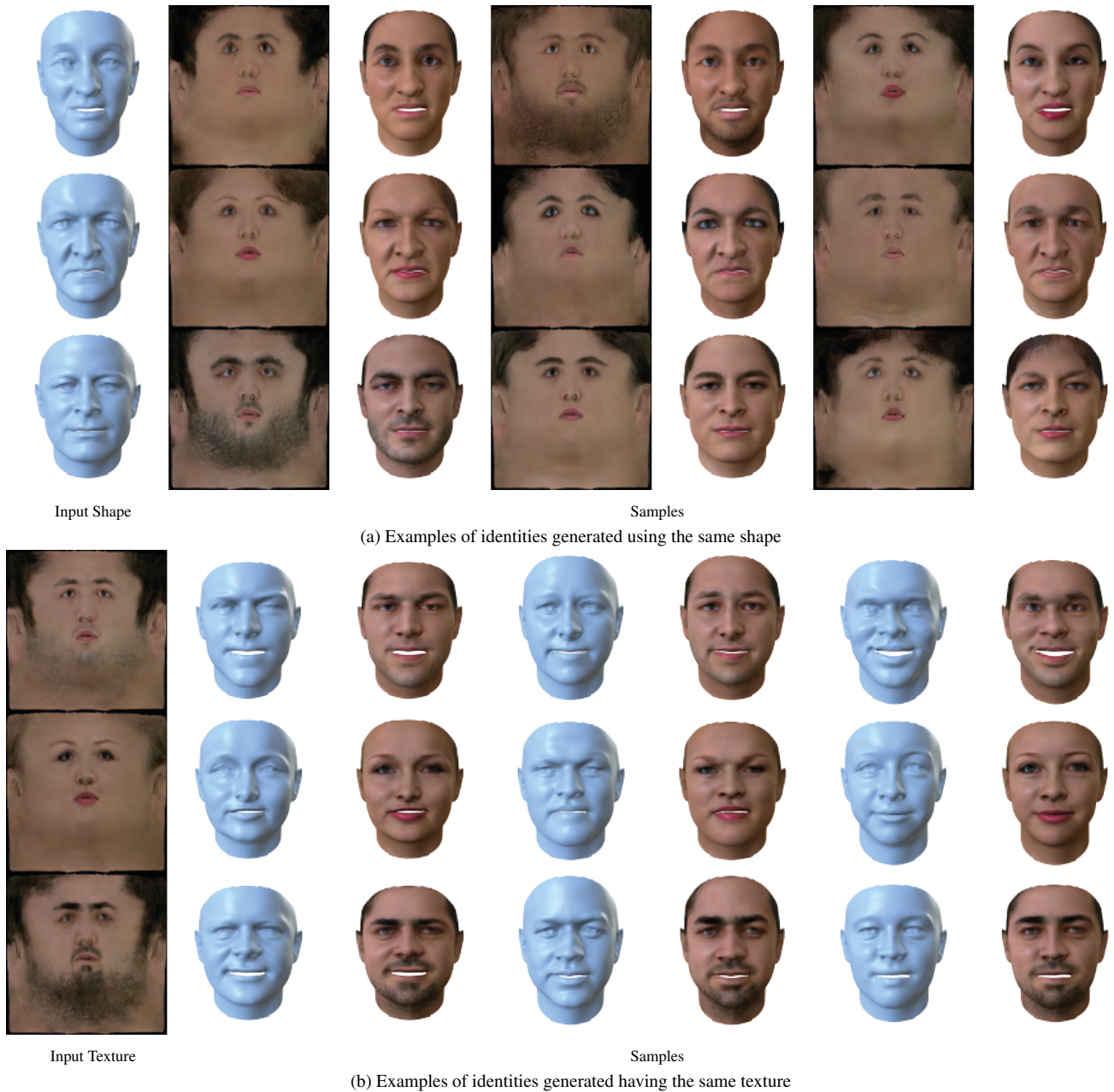


Figure 5. FitDiff can efficiently disentangle the facial shape and reflectance maps.

the actual facial shape domain.

7.2. Comparison between a single model with separate models

In this section we analyze the effectiveness of a unified single-model architecture compared to a multi-model approach. Using a randomly selected subset of 50 identities from the REALY benchmark [3], we fit our model following two distinct strategies: a) independently sampling for facial shape and reflectance maps, and b) employing

our proposed methodology. We then evaluate their identity similarity scores and the facial shape reconstruction performance by comparing the generated facial avatars against the ground truth using the evaluation pipeline provided by the REALY benchmark [3]. The results are presented in Tab. 5, and demonstrate that the unified single-model approach achieves superior performance in both metrics.

Method	@Forehead			@Cheek			All avg
	avg	med	std	avg	med	std	
HiFace-f [4]	1.324	1.296	0.334	1.291	1.240	0.362	1.275
HiFace-c [4]	1.331	1.307	0.347	1.342	1.304	0.384	1.297
HRN [14]	1.995	1.990	0.476	1.072	1.063	0.333	1.537
Deep3D [8]	2.015	2.007	0.449	1.528	1.442	0.501	1.657
AlbGAN [18]	2.102	2.035	0.512	1.141	1.103	0.303	1.746
MGCNet [22]	2.268	2.215	0.503	1.639	1.494	0.650	1.774
GANFit [12]	2.402	3.339	0.545	1.329	1.234	0.504	1.868
FitMe [13]	2.494	2.385	0.605	1.414	1.315	0.526	1.873
PSL [15]	2.350	2.343	0.551	1.593	1.482	0.540	1.882
DECA-c [11]	2.394	2.256	0.576	1.479	1.400	0.535	2.010
CEST [23]	2.384	2.302	0.578	1.456	1.321	0.485	2.017
EMOCA-c [6]	2.426	2.383	0.641	1.438	1.294	0.501	2.103
MICA [26]	2.374	2.251	0.683	1.099	1.003	0.324	2.134
DECA-f [11]	2.457	2.341	0.559	1.443	1.353	0.498	2.210
EMOCA-f [6]	2.595	2.505	0.631	1.495	1.360	0.469	2.388
FitDiff(Ours)	2.472	2.322	0.581	1.404	1.287	0.525	1.862

Table 4. Results in the REALY benchmark [3]

Method	Facial Shape ↓	ID similarity ↓
Separate Models	1.805	0.873
FitDiff(Ours)	1.764	0.911

Table 5. Comparison between the single model approach (FitDiff) and using 2 separate models for facial reconstruction

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