Cloth segmentation, styling and pose transfer for different body types

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Abstract

Recent years have witnessed the increasing demand for online shopping for fashion items. Despite the convenience online fashion shopping provides, consumers are concerned about how a particular fashion item would look on them when buying apparel online. Thus, allowing consumers to virtually see how the clothes look on different body types will enhance the shopping experience, transforming the way people shop for clothes. This project aims to style a piece of clothing on different body types to help with this issue. We will further extend it to incorporate different poses.

1. Introduction

1.1. Motivation

This pandemic saw an increase in online shopping due to mobility restrictions. Ordering something with a click from anywhere and getting it delivered wherever you want is a luxury that saves a lot of time and effort. However, one major challenge is wondering how the product would look on us. This served as the motivation for this project. This project will help us try different clothes on different body types with different poses. We believe this will solve one of the significant issues with online shopping and help increase its reach, comfort, and accessibility.

1.2. Updated Problem Statement

Using our project, we aim to solve the problem of imagining ourselves in clothes. We are trying to develop a system that segments clothes from images, styles them by allowing them to picture themselves in the custom input cloth, and applies pose transfer techniques to get different poses that output on different body types. For this deadline, we developed a process that styles the fabric and works efficiently for different body types.

1.3. Challenges Involved

- While obtaining the cloth mask from different images from the dataset, the hair could be present on top of the dress. In that case, transferring the dress from one pose to another could lead to mismatches because the algorithm fails to determine what could be present in the location where hair was present on top of the dress.
- Transferring initial poses to complex poses could lead to unclear output poses or being transferred improperly because the poses are rarely present in the dataset.

2. Updated Related Work

- **Paper 1** [1]: Research on Interactive cloth segmentation has been very active for the past few years. Traditional cloth segmentation methods usually rely on hand-crafted features and are often computationally expensive. But with recent technological advancements, many researchers developed methods for cloth segmentation using deep learning-based approaches. However, these approaches require a large amount of labeled data and may not be suitable for interactive applications. Researchers proposed a new method combining interactive segmentation with style transfer to counter this limitation. Style transfer involves transferring the style of one image to another while preserving its content. So here, the researchers use style transfer to generate a segmentation mask for an input image. In this paper, the proposed methods consist of two main steps:
  1) Saliency Detection: This step identifies the most

salient regions of the input image using a deep convolutional neural network. Now, the saliency map is used to guide the style transfer process.
2) Style Transfer: Now, the researchers use a cGAN (conditional generative adversarial network) to generate a segmentation mask for the input image. The results show that the proposed method outperforms many techniques regarding computational efficiency and segmentation accuracy. This proposed method can generate high-quality segmentation masks in real-time, which can be used for interactive applications, VR applications, etc.

- **Paper 2** [2]: The paper "A Review on Applications of Deep Learning Techniques in Speech Emotion Recognition" by Hanying Wang, Haitao Xiong, and Yuanyuan Caithis proposes an interactive image localized style transfer method, especially for clothes, by the use of outline image, which is extracted from content image by interactive algorithm. FIrstly a rectangle is made around the desired clothing after which an outline loss function is generated using the distance between the rectangle and the desired clothing. This method generates the new style only in the desired clothing part rather than the whole image including the background which helps in preserving the original clothing shape.

- **Paper 3** [3]: In this paper, an algorithm called “StyleBank" is proposed which is basically a CNN model composed of multiple convolutional filters having a new style per filter. For the implementation, the filter bank corresponding to the specific style to be transferred is convolved on top of the intermediate feature embedding produced by a single auto-encoder, decomposing the image into multiple feature response maps and thus providing an efficient mechanism for style transfer. StyleBank and the autoencoder are jointly learnt in the feed-forward network which helps in learning new styles by learning a new filter bank while keeping the auto-encoder fixed.

- **Paper 4** [4] : In this paper by Dae Young Park and Kwang Hee Lee, they present a novel style-attentional network (SANet) and decoders for efficient style transfer according to the semantic spatial distribution of the image. The algorithm utilizes a new identity loss function and multi-level feature embeddings to preserve the structure of the image content while posing style transfer. The SANet uses a learnable similarity kernel that represents content feature map as a weighted sum of style features, using the identity loss function during training. This helps to maintain the content structure while efficiently adapting the style onto it.

- **Paper 5** [5]: In the paper by George. A. Cushen and Mark. S. Nixon, they present a real-time clothing segmentation model for video and single images. It initializes points on the upper body clothing instead of detecting the face of the subject using distance metrics which is advantageous because it helps prevent skin segmentation instead of clothing. It takes advantage of intensity and hue histograms for efficient segmentation.

3. Methodologies

3.1. Techniques/Algorithms

Our methodology can be divided into three steps. The first step is to create a saliency map generation and do cloth segmentation on the input reference person. The second step is to transfer the style to the input person. The last step is to blend the stylized image.

3.1.1 Saliency map generation and Cloth Segmentation

We used a pre-trained U-2-Net model for Cloth Segmentation. The model was trained on (this) dataset. The model accurately segments cloth components based on upper body cloth, lower body cloth, whole body cloth and background. The Saliency map generation was also done by the pre-trained U-2-Net model.

3.1.2 Style Transfer

We used the method using the algorithm proposed in the paper [7], which combines the flexibility of the neural algorithm of artistic style with the speed of fast style transfer networks to allow real-time stylization using any content/style image pair. This specific method was used for its real-time capabilities to create styles quickly between content and style image pairing.

3.1.3 Blending the Stylized Image

For blending the stylised image, we exploited the saliency map, M, data. We wanted to have the stylized segmented

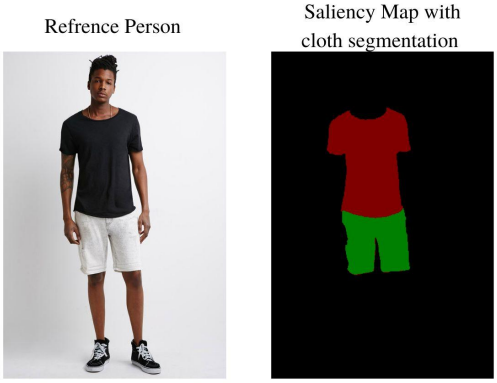
component, S, blend with the content image, C. This required us to smooth out the edges of S when using it as a mask for C. The saliency map, M, values ranged from 0-1. When the saliency value was 1, we directly used the corresponding value from S on C. if it was between 0 and 1, we used the formula proposed in the paper [8], which is shown below.

$$I[x,y]=M[x,y]*S[x,y]+(1-M[x,y])*C[x,y]$$

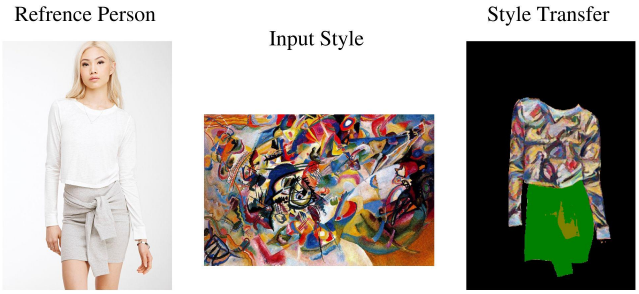
3.2. Output

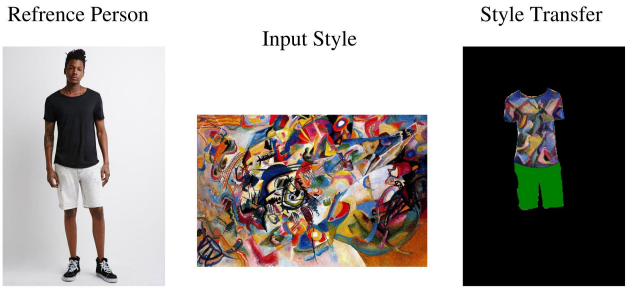
This project consists of three steps. The first step is to create a saliency map generation and do cloth segmentation on the input reference person. The second step is to transfer the style to the input person. The last step is to blend the stylized image.

The output for the saliency map generation and cloth segmentation step is shown below.

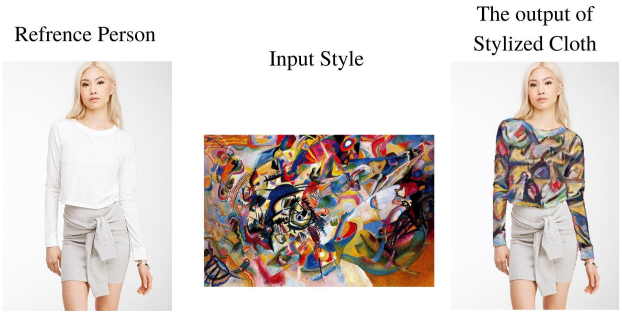


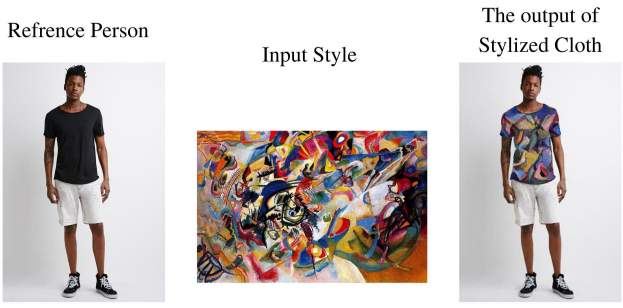
The output for style transfer is shown below.





The output for blending the stylized image is shown below.





3.3. Result Analysis and Evaluation

We can compare the initial image with the final output to see which features change through the various stages,

particularly how the initial image remains intact after the final output. We can evaluate the models based on the clarity of pictures formed primarily for regions where a portion of the image is replaced, like hair and smoothness for edges.

4. Potential Contributions

We have successfully built a technique wherein an input image of a person and an input style, when taken, will generate an output of the human wearing the same piece of clothing with the changed style. This process works well for different body types. All the group members contributed equally and worked collaboratively to achieve this project milestone successfully.

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