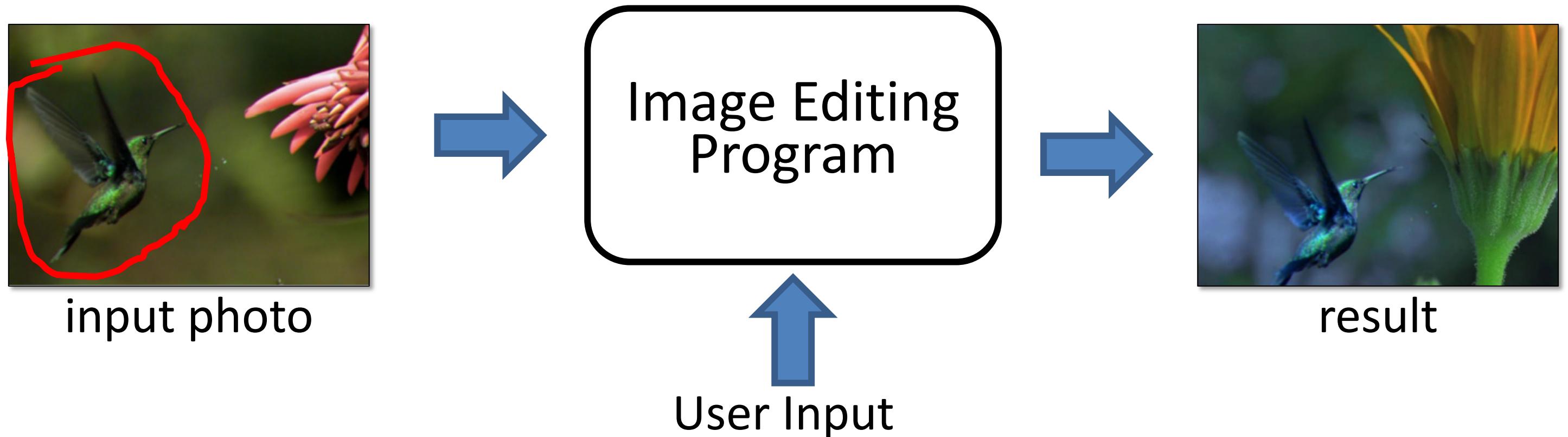


Image Editing with Optimization (part I)

Jun-Yan Zhu

16-726, Spring 2025

Image Editing with Optimization

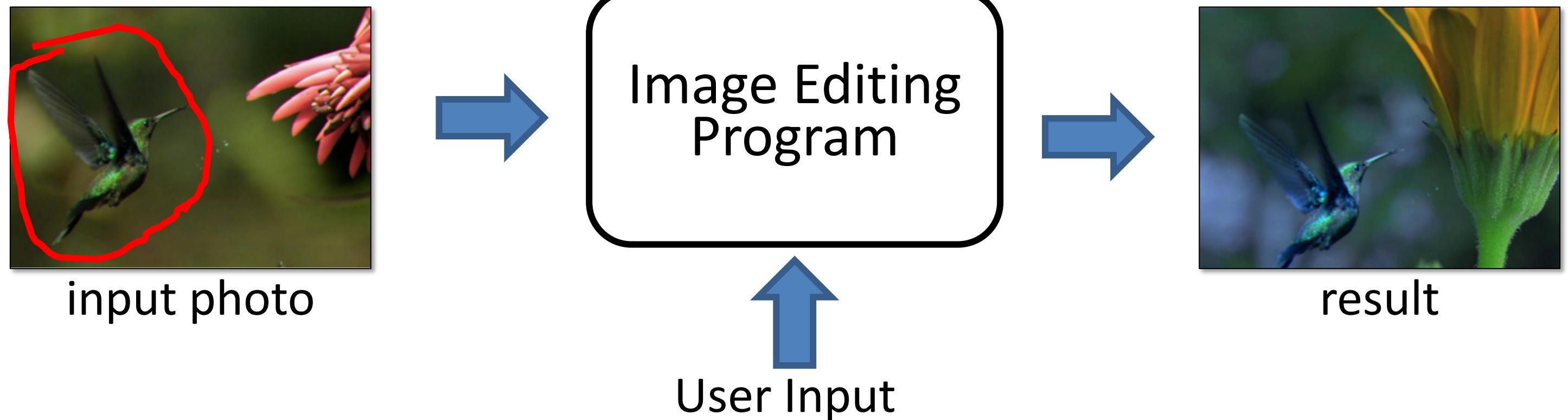


$$\arg \min_{\hat{y}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{background_boundary}}(\hat{y}, y) + \lambda \mathcal{L}_{\text{source_gradient}}(\hat{y}, x)$$

↑
result background result object

[Tao et al. 2014]

Image Editing with Optimization



Desired output:

- stay close to the input.
- satisfy user's constraint.

Image Editing with Optimization

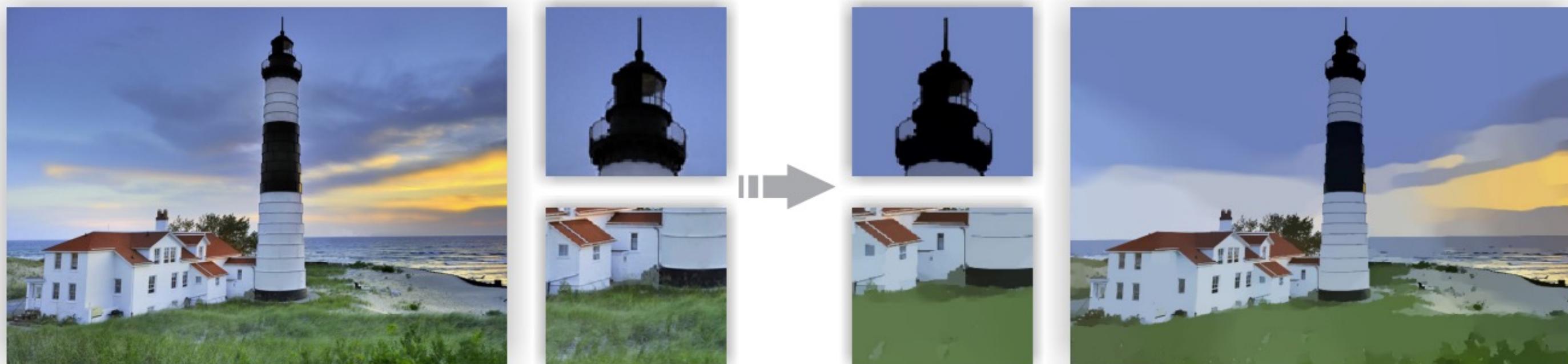
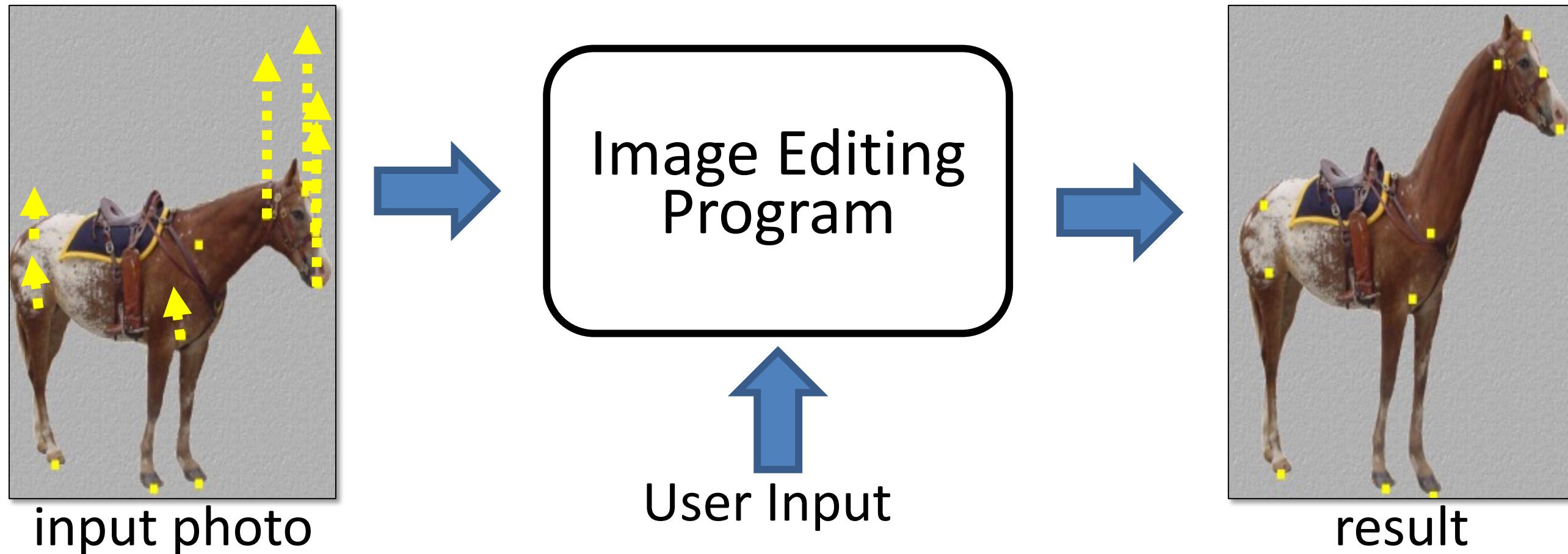


Image Smoothing via L0 Gradient Minimization [Xu et al., SIGGRAPH Asia 2011]

$$\arg \min_{\hat{y}} \{ ||\hat{y} - x|| + \lambda C(\hat{y}) \}$$

↑ ↑ ↑
output input L0 norm on image gradients
(the total number of nonzero elements)

Image Editing with Optimization



Moving least squares + transformation parameters.

Desired output:

- stay close to the input.
- satisfy user's constraint.

So far so good

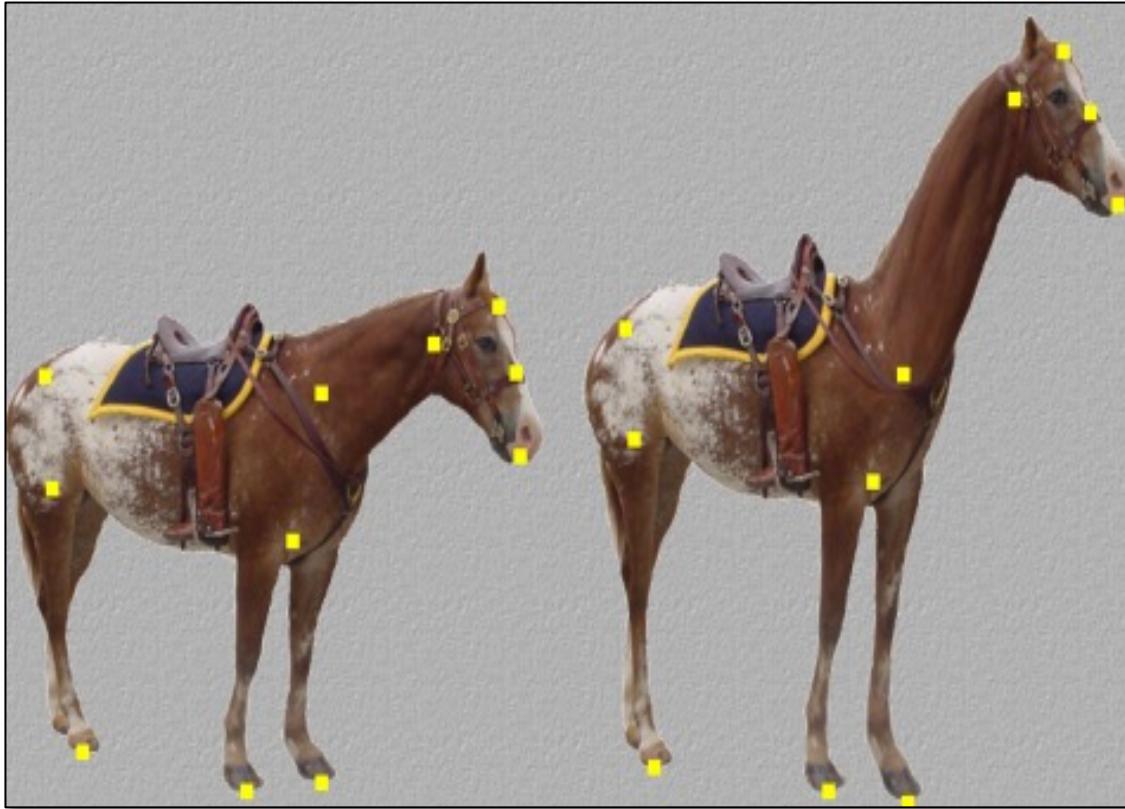


Image Warping

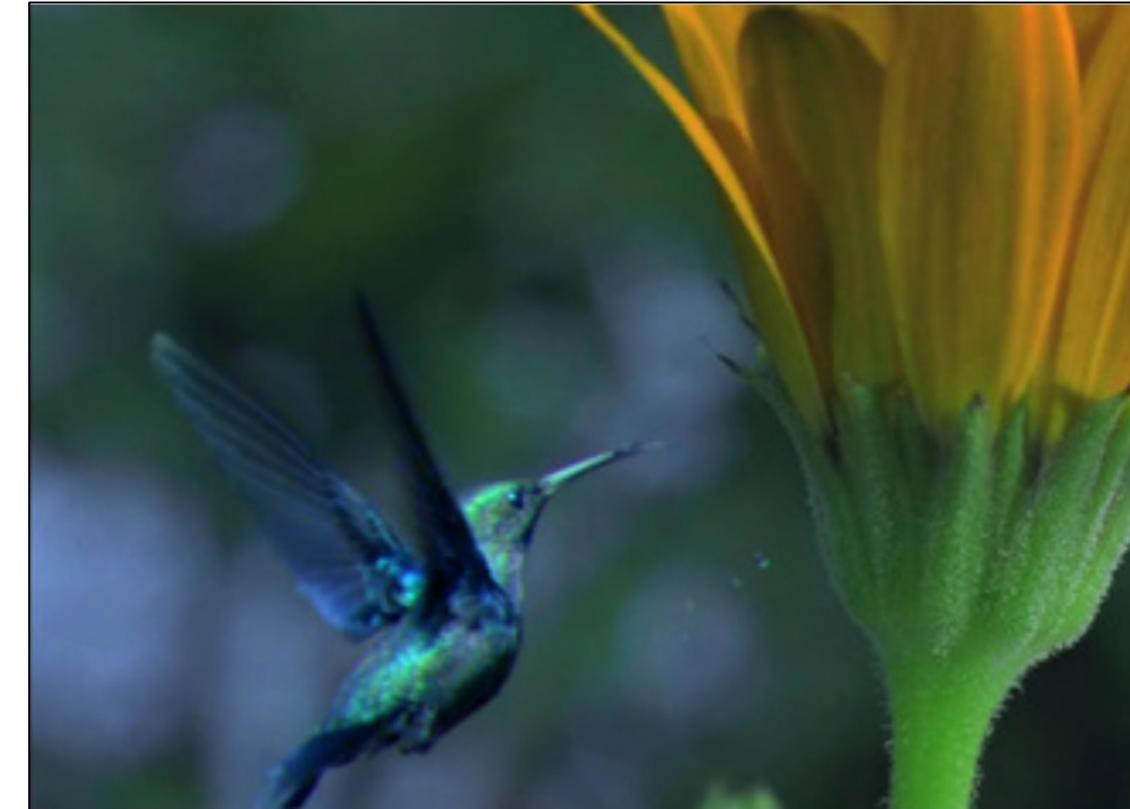


Image Composition

Things can get really bad



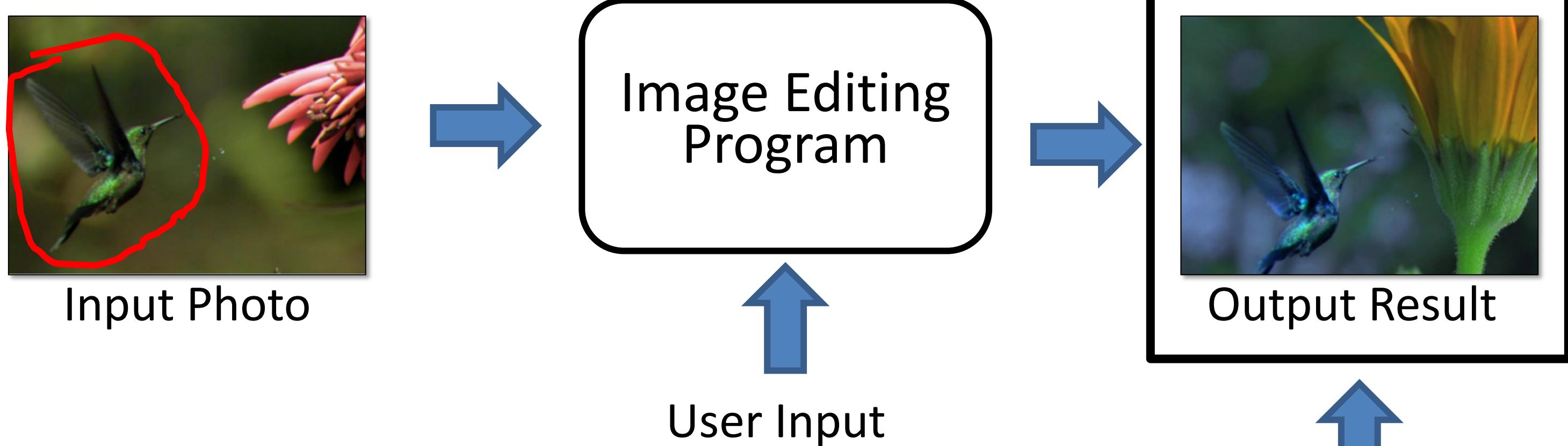
Image Warping



Image Composition

The lack of “safety wheels”

Adding the “safety wheels”



A desired output:

- stay close to the input.
- satisfy user's constraint.
- Lie on the natural image manifold

Natural Image
Manifold

Learning Natural Image Manifold

- Deep generative models: $G(z) : z \rightarrow x$
 - Generative Adversarial Network (**GAN**)
(e.g., DCGAN, StyleGAN2, BigGAN)
 - Variational Auto-Encoder (**VAE**)
(e.g., VQ-VAE2)
 - Flow-based models (e.g., RealNVP, Glow)...
 - Diffusion models (e.g., DDPM, DDIM)

...

Changing Variables

- Traditional method: Optimizing the image

$$\hat{y}^* = \arg \min_{\hat{y}} \mathcal{L}(x, y, \hat{y})$$

user constraint
↑
input output

- New method: Optimizing the latent code

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(x, y, G(z))$$

user constraint
↓
input ↑
Latent code
Generator

Projecting and Editing an Image



original photo



different degree of image manipulation

Project



projection on manifold

Editing UI



Edit Transfer



transition between the original and edited projection

Projecting and Editing an Image



original photo



different degree of image manipulation

Project



projection on manifold

Editing UI



Edit Transfer



transition between the original and edited projection

Projecting an Image into GAN Manifold

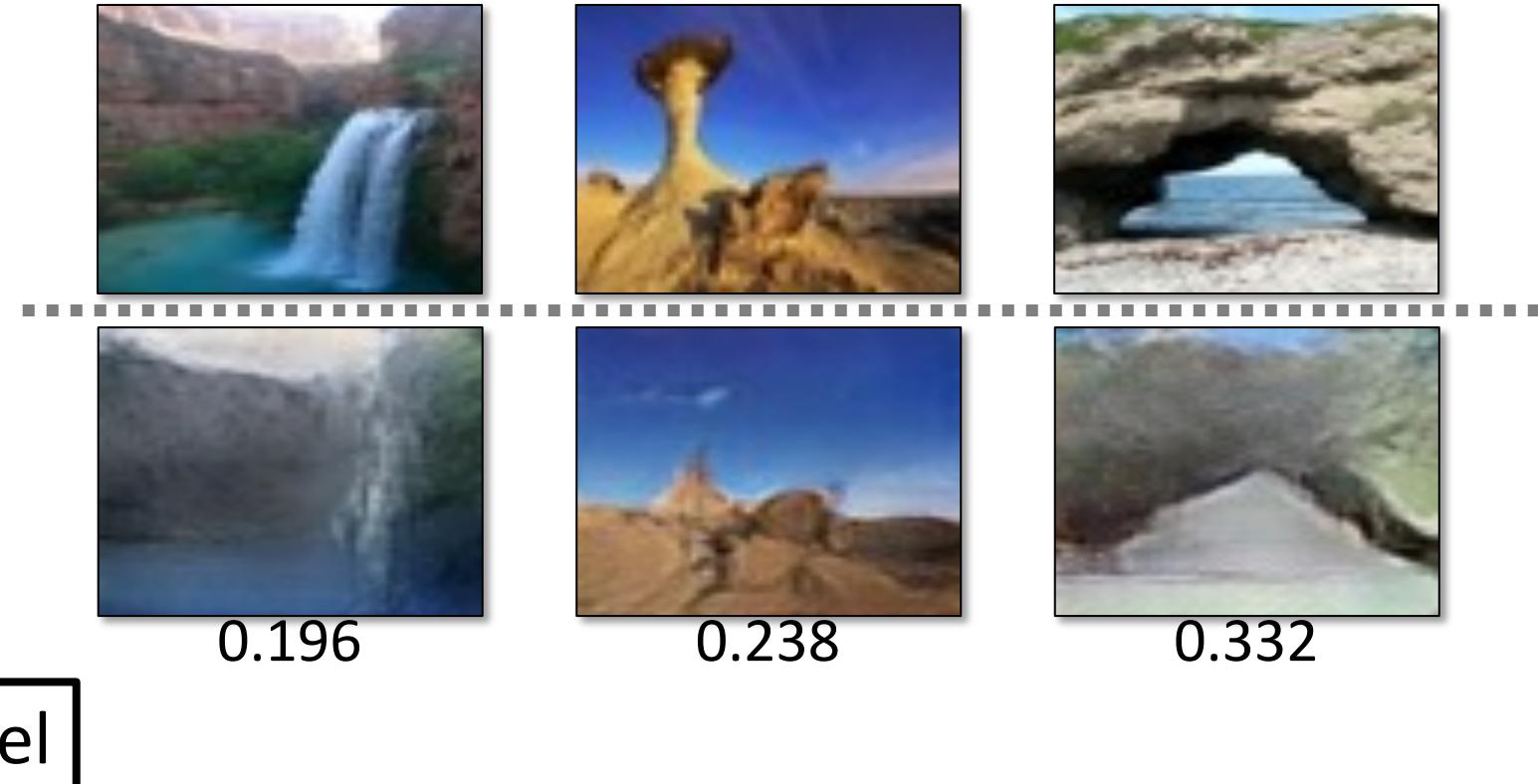
Input: real image x
Output: latent vector z

Optimization

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z), x)$$

Reconstruction loss

Generative model



Projecting an Image into GAN Manifold

Input: real image x
Output: latent vector z

Optimization

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z), x)$$

Inverting Network $z = E(x)$

$$E = \arg \min_E \mathbb{E}_x \underbrace{\mathcal{L}(G(E(x)), x)}_{\text{Auto-encoder}} \text{ with a fixed decoder}$$



Projecting an Image into GAN Manifold

Input: real image x
Output: latent vector z

Optimization

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z), x)$$

Inverting Network $z = E(x)$

$$E = \arg \min_E \mathbb{E}_x \mathcal{L}(G(E(x)), x)$$

Hybrid Method
Use the **network** as initialization
for the **optimization** problem



Manipulating the Latent Code



original photo

Project



projection on manifold

Editing UI



different degree of image manipulation

Edit Transfer



transition between the original and edited projection

Manipulating the Latent Code

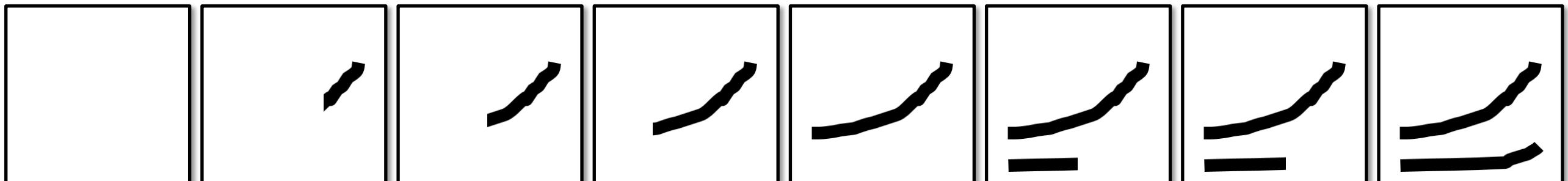
$$\text{constraint violation loss } L_g$$
$$\text{user guidance image}$$

Objective:
$$z^* = \arg \min_{z \in \mathbb{Z}} \left\{ \underbrace{\sum_g (\mathcal{L}_g(G(z), v_g) + \lambda_s \cdot \|z - z_0\|_2^2)}_{\text{data term}} \right\}.$$

manifold smoothness

Guidance

v_g



$G(z)$



z_0

Post-Processing



original photo

Project



projection on manifold

Editing UI



different degree of image manipulation

Edit Transfer

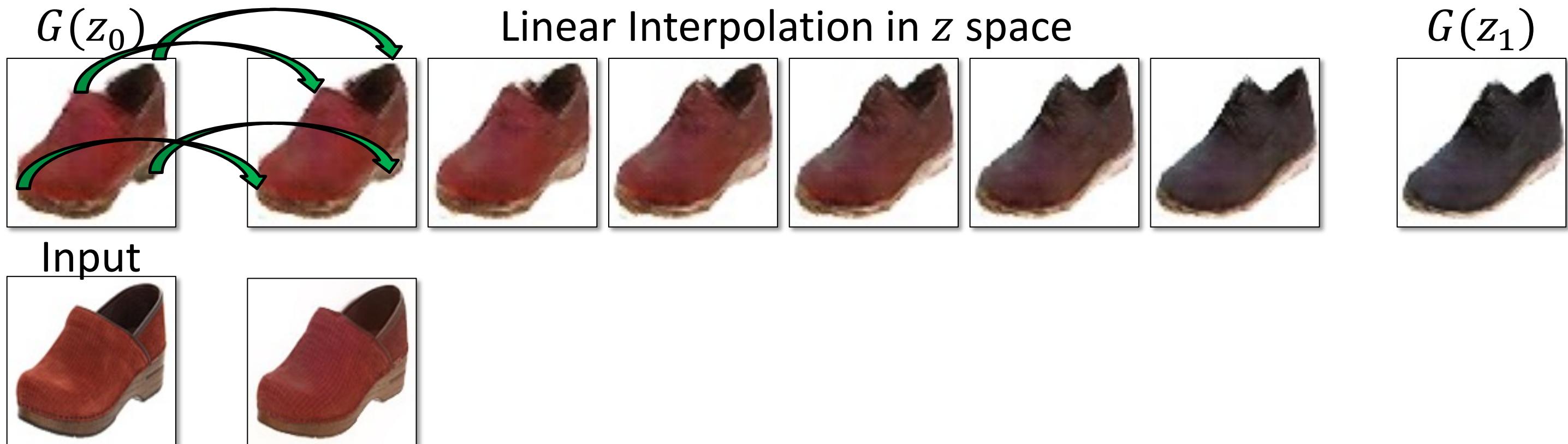


transition between the original and edited projection

Edit Transfer

Motion (u, v) + Color ($A_{3 \times 4}$): estimate per-pixel geometric and color variation

$$\iint \underbrace{\|I(x, y, t) - A \cdot I(x+u, y+v, t+1)\|^2}_{\text{data term}} + \underbrace{\sigma_s(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla v\|^2)}_{\text{spatial reg}} + \underbrace{\sigma_c \|\nabla A\|^2}_{\text{color reg}} dxdy$$

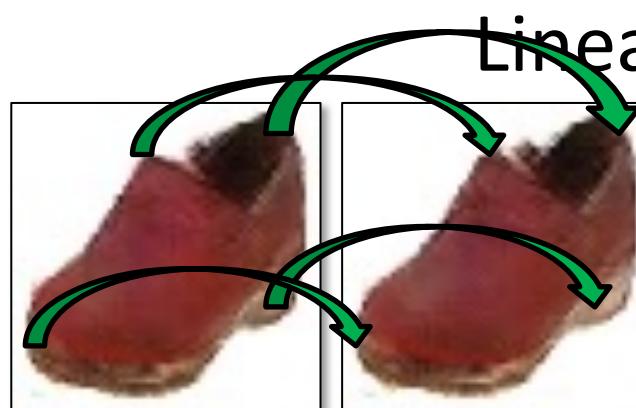


Edit Transfer

Motion (u, v) + Color ($A_{3 \times 4}$): estimate per-pixel geometric and color variation

$$\iint \underbrace{\|I(x, y, t) - A \cdot I(x+u, y+v, t+1)\|^2}_{\text{data term}} + \underbrace{\sigma_s(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla v\|^2)}_{\text{spatial reg}} + \underbrace{\sigma_c \|\nabla A\|^2}_{\text{color reg}} dxdy$$

$G(z_0)$



Linear Interpolation in z space

$G(z_1)$



Input



Edit Transfer

Motion (u, v) + Color ($A_{3 \times 4}$): estimate per-pixel geometric and color variation

$$\iint \underbrace{\|I(x, y, t) - A \cdot I(x+u, y+v, t+1)\|^2}_{\text{data term}} + \underbrace{\sigma_s(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla v\|^2)}_{\text{spatial reg}} + \underbrace{\sigma_c \|\nabla A\|^2}_{\text{color reg}} dxdy$$

$G(z_0)$



Linear Interpolation in z space



$G(z_1)$



Input



Result

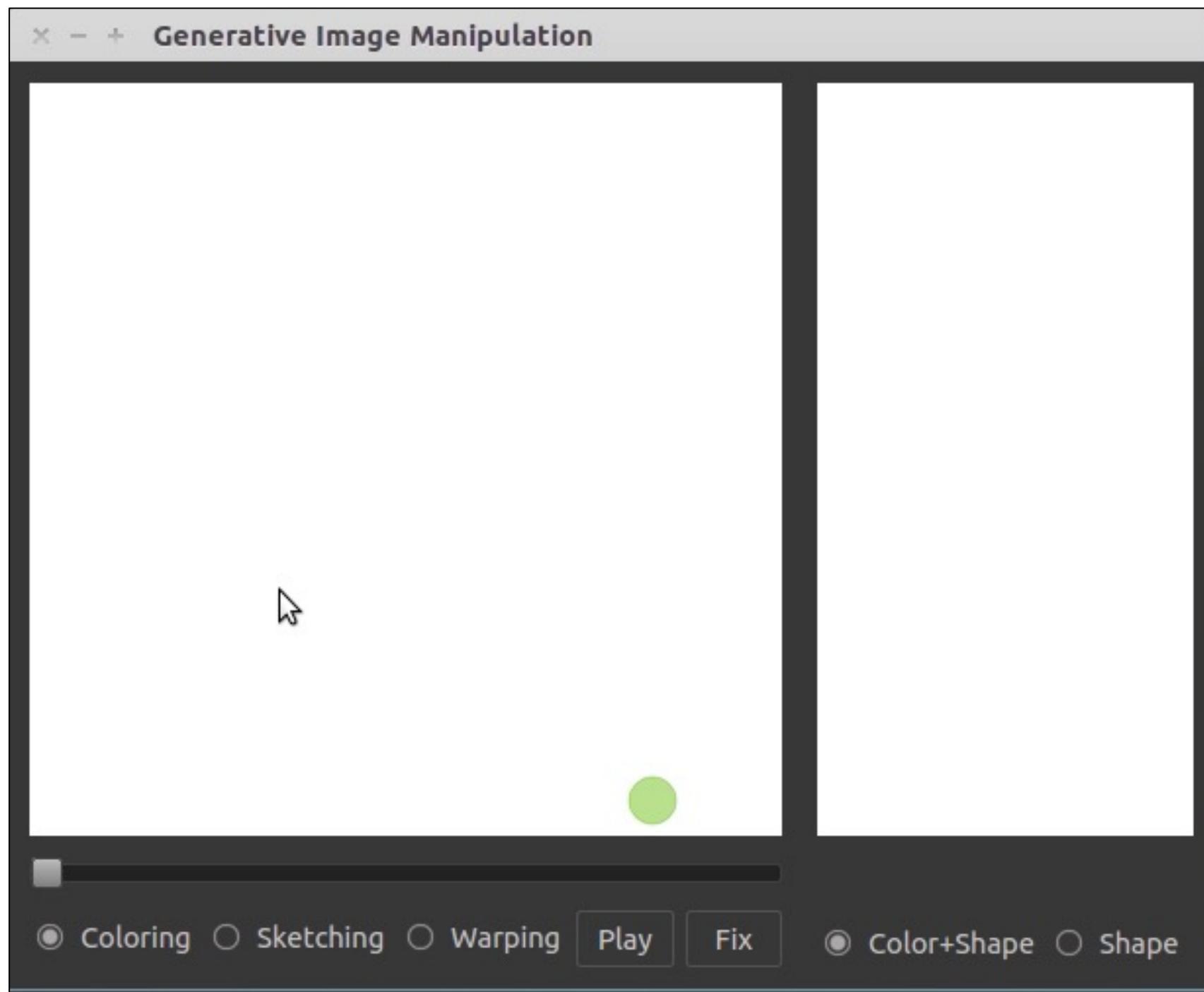
Image Manipulation Demo



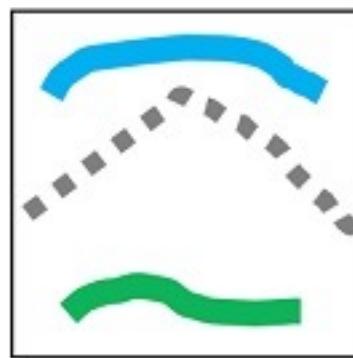
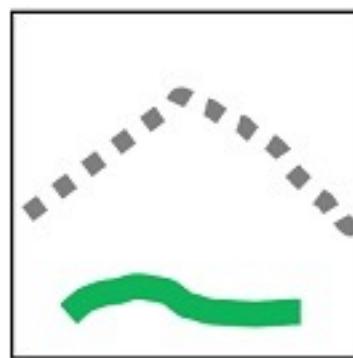
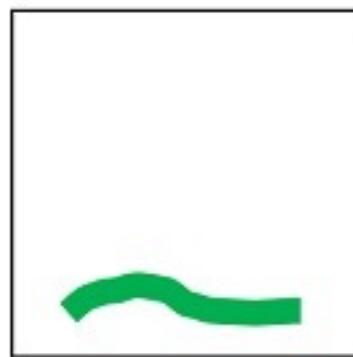
Image Manipulation Demo



Interactive Image Generation



User edits



Generated images



 Color

 Sketch

iGAN [Zhu et al. 2016]. Also see Neural Photo Editor [Brock et al. 2017]

Changing Variables

- Traditional method: Optimizing the image

$$\hat{y}^* = \arg \min_{\hat{y}} \mathcal{L}(x, y, \hat{y})$$

user constraint
↑
input result

- New method: Optimizing the latent code

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(x, y, G(z))$$

user constraint
↓
input ↑
Latent code
Generator

Projecting and Editing an Image



original photo



different degree of image manipulation

Project



projection on manifold

Editing UI



Post-processing



transition between the original and edited projection

Image Editing with GANs

- Step 1: Image Projection/Reconstruction

$$z_0 = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z), x)$$

- Step 2: Manipulating the latent code

$$z_1 = z_0 + \Delta z$$

- Step 3: Generate the edited result

$$G(z_1)$$

Image Projection with GANs

Image Reconstruction (high-res images, Big Models)



Original image x

Image Reconstruction (high-res images, Big Models)

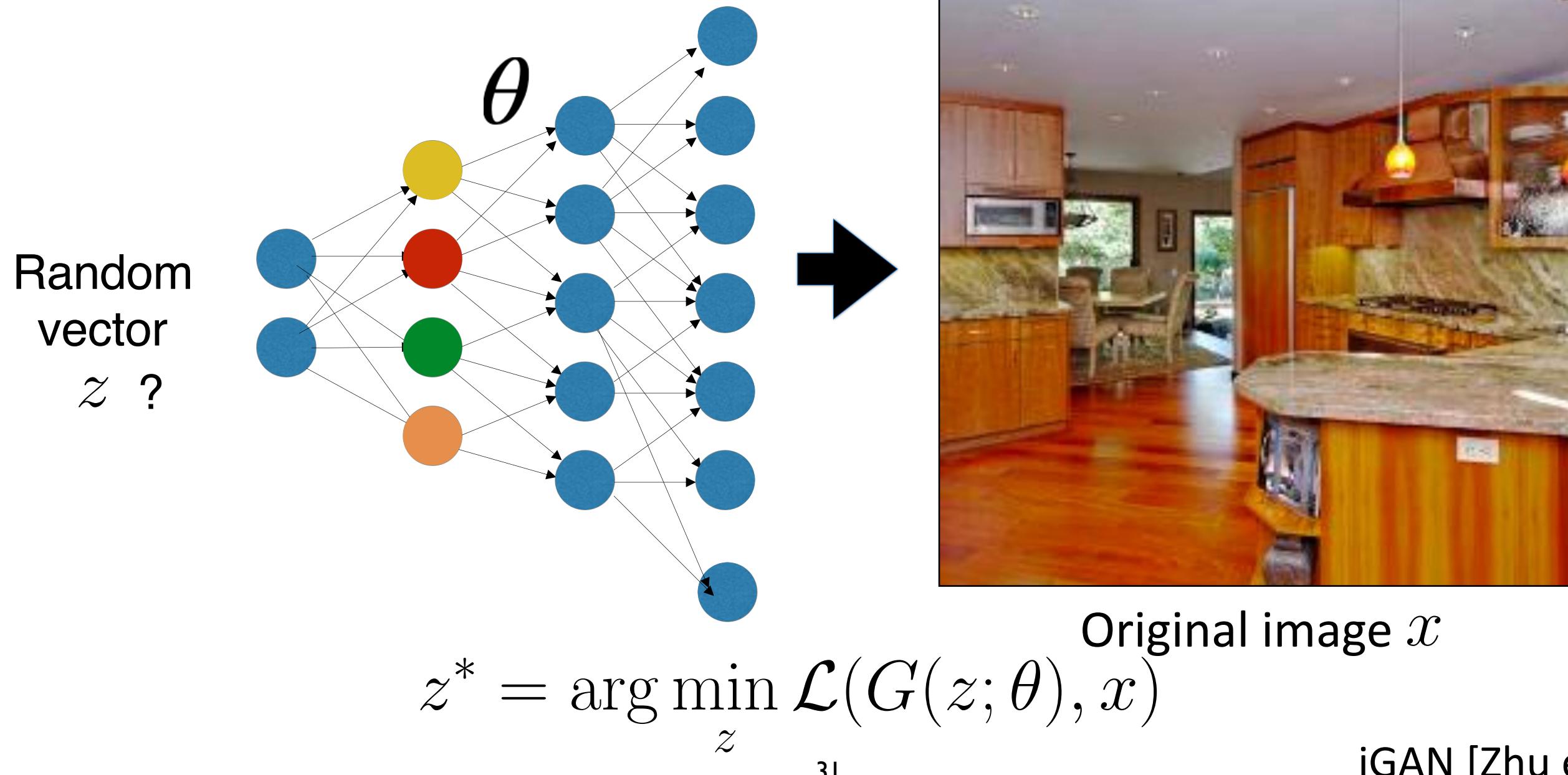
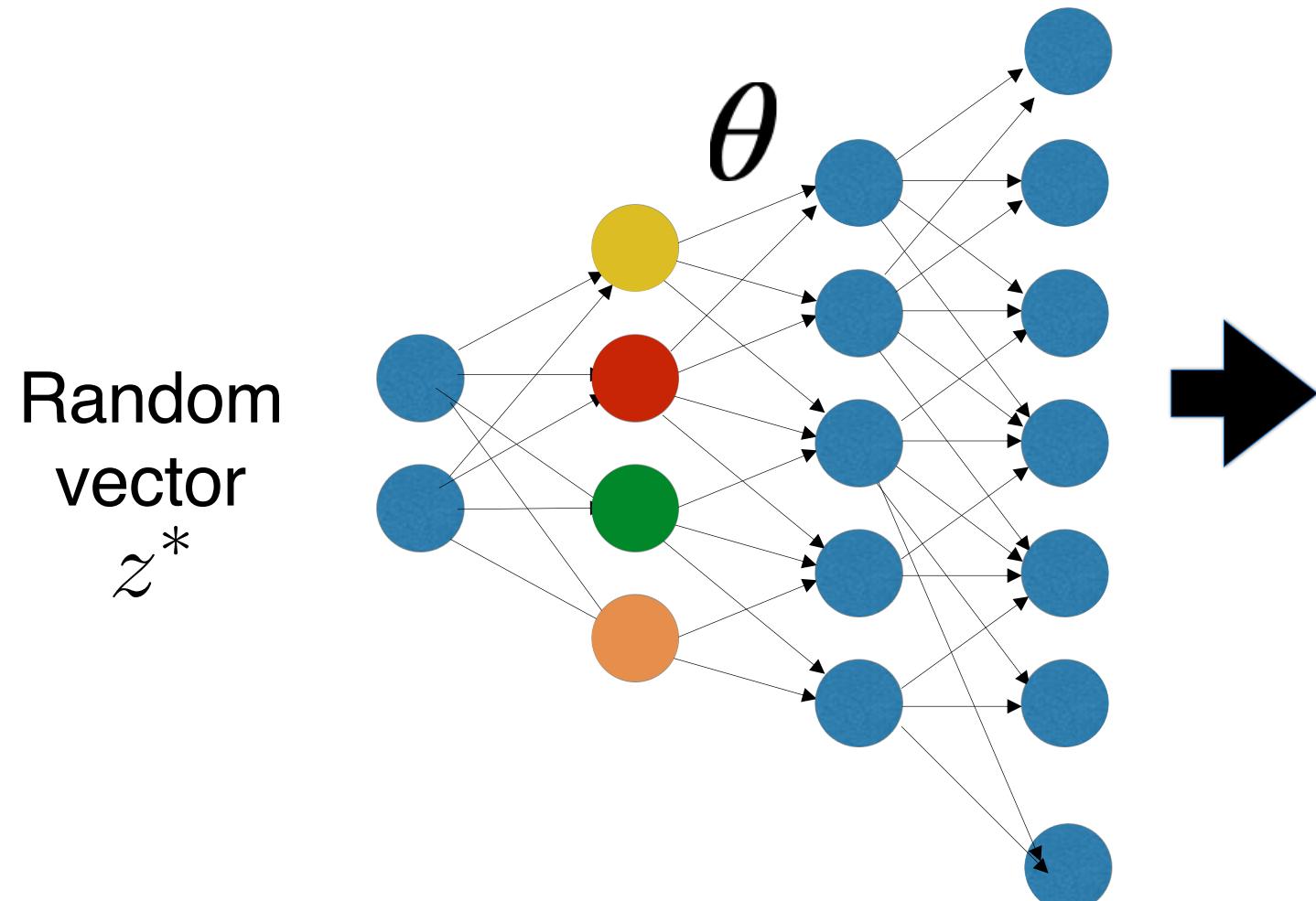


Image Reconstruction (high-res images, Big Models)



$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x)$$



Reconstructed image $G(z^*; \theta)$

Find the Differences...



Original image

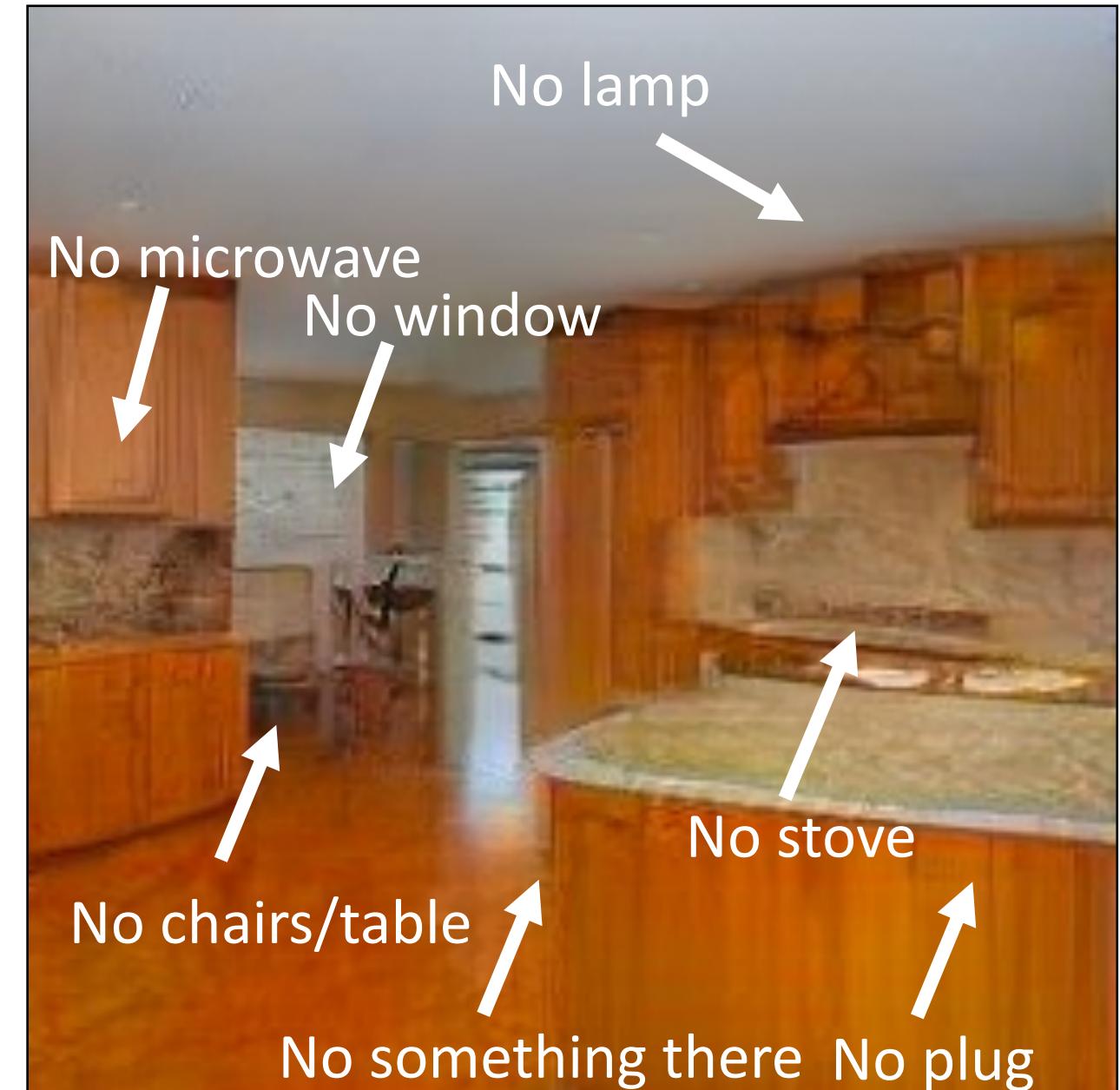


GAN reconstructed image

Find the Differences...



Original image

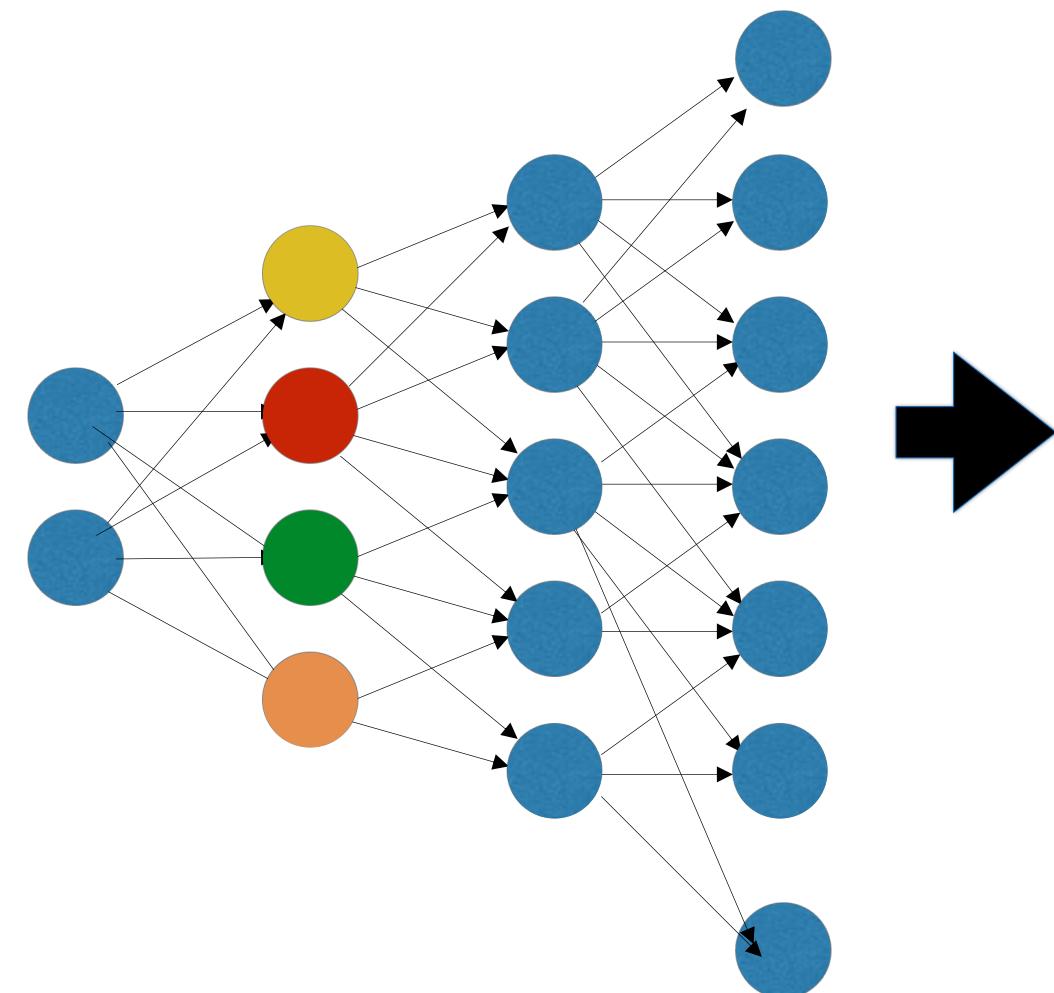


GAN reconstructed image



Original image

Random
vector
 z^*



Reconstructed image $G(z^*; \theta)$

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x)$$

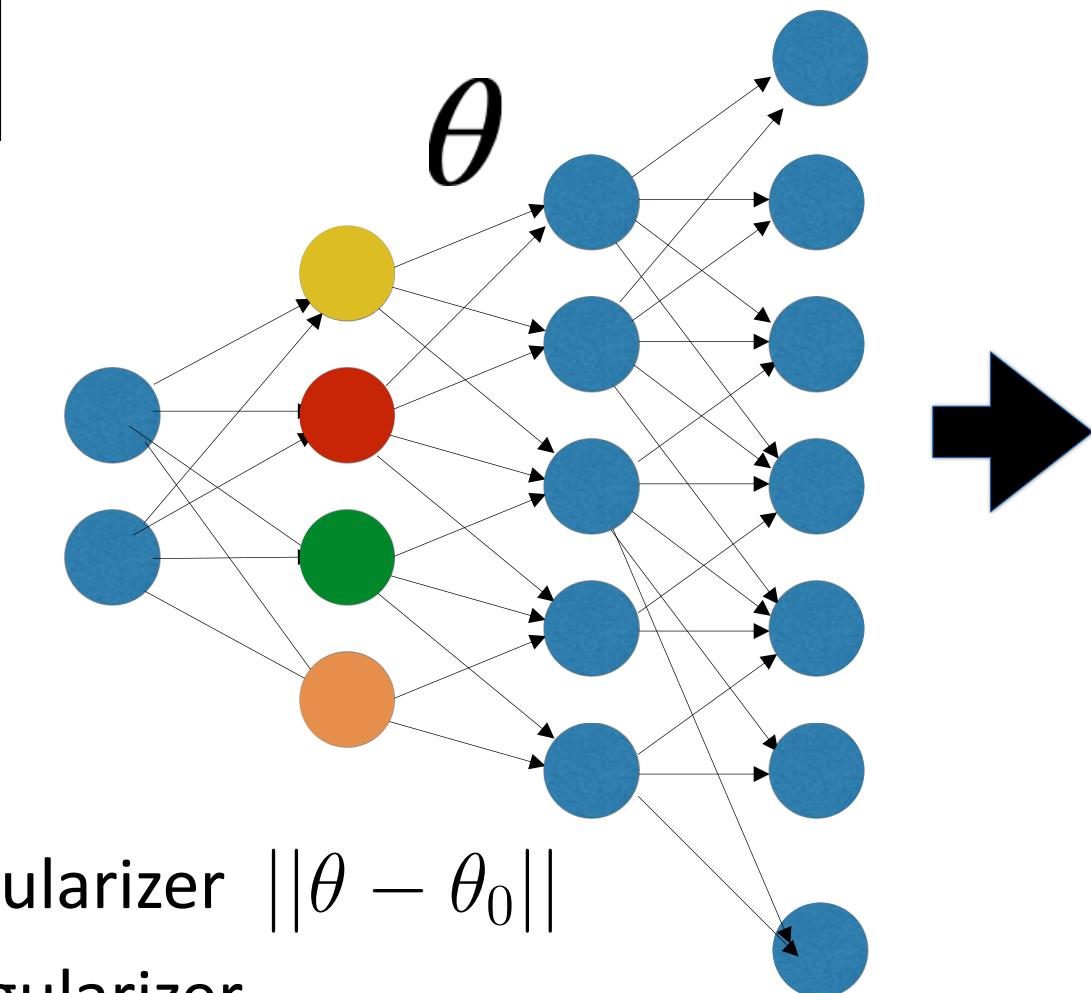


Original image

Random
vector
 z^*

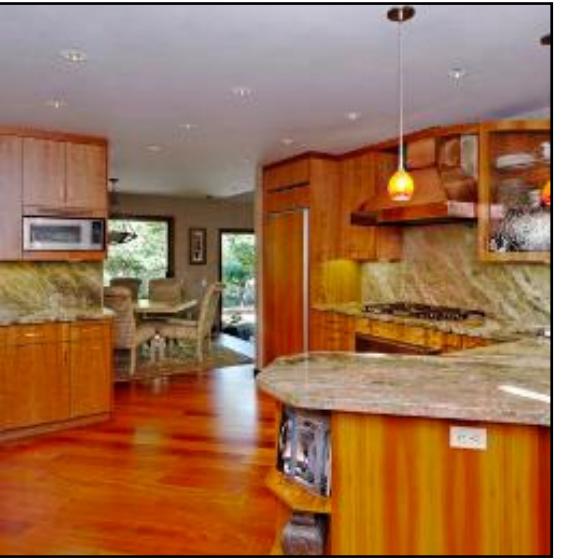
Weight space regularizer $\|\theta - \theta_0\|$

Feature space regularizer



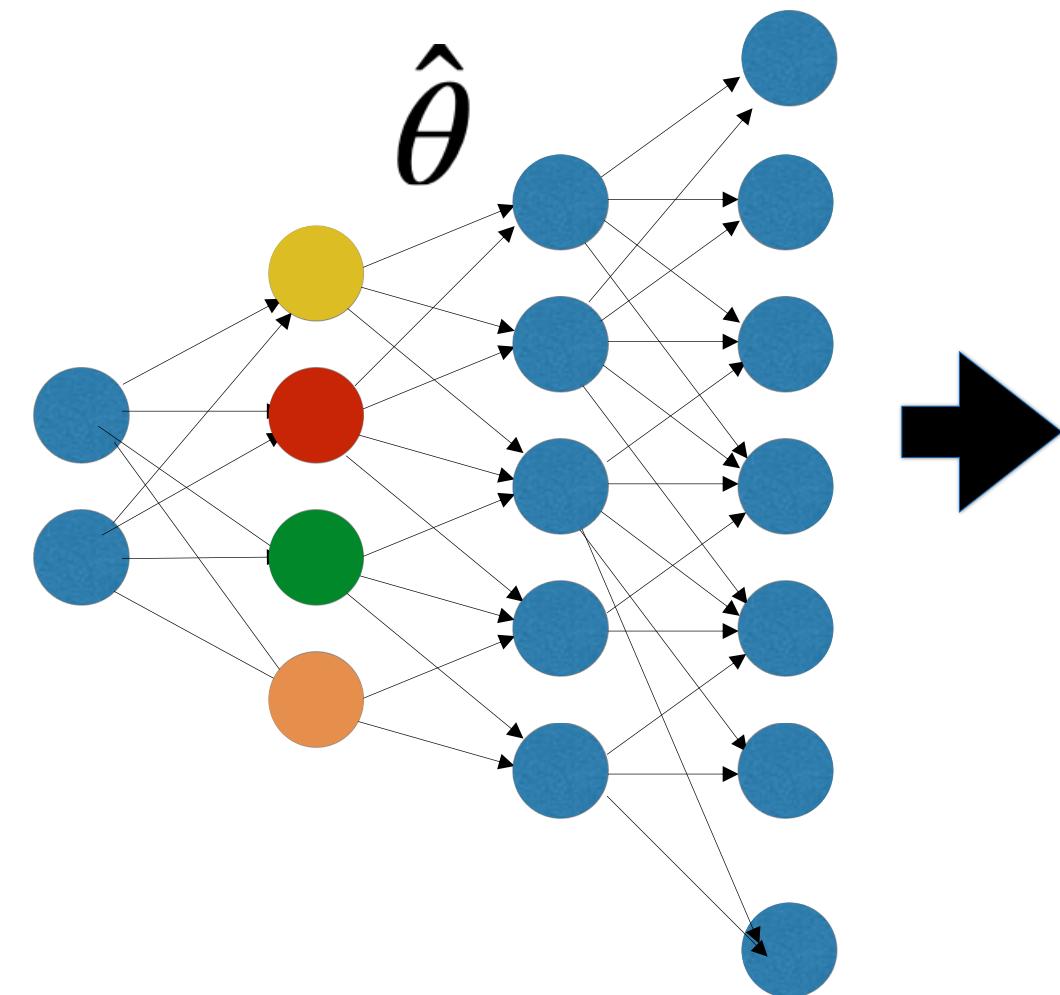
Reconstructed image $G(z^*; \theta)$

$$z^*, \theta^* = \arg \min_{z, \theta} \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x)$$



Original image

Random
vector
 z^*



Reconstructed image $G(z^*; \theta^*)$

$$z^*, \theta^* = \arg \min_{z, \theta} \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x) + R(\theta) \leftarrow \text{Regularizer}$$

Reconstructing a Real Photo



Original image



With z^*

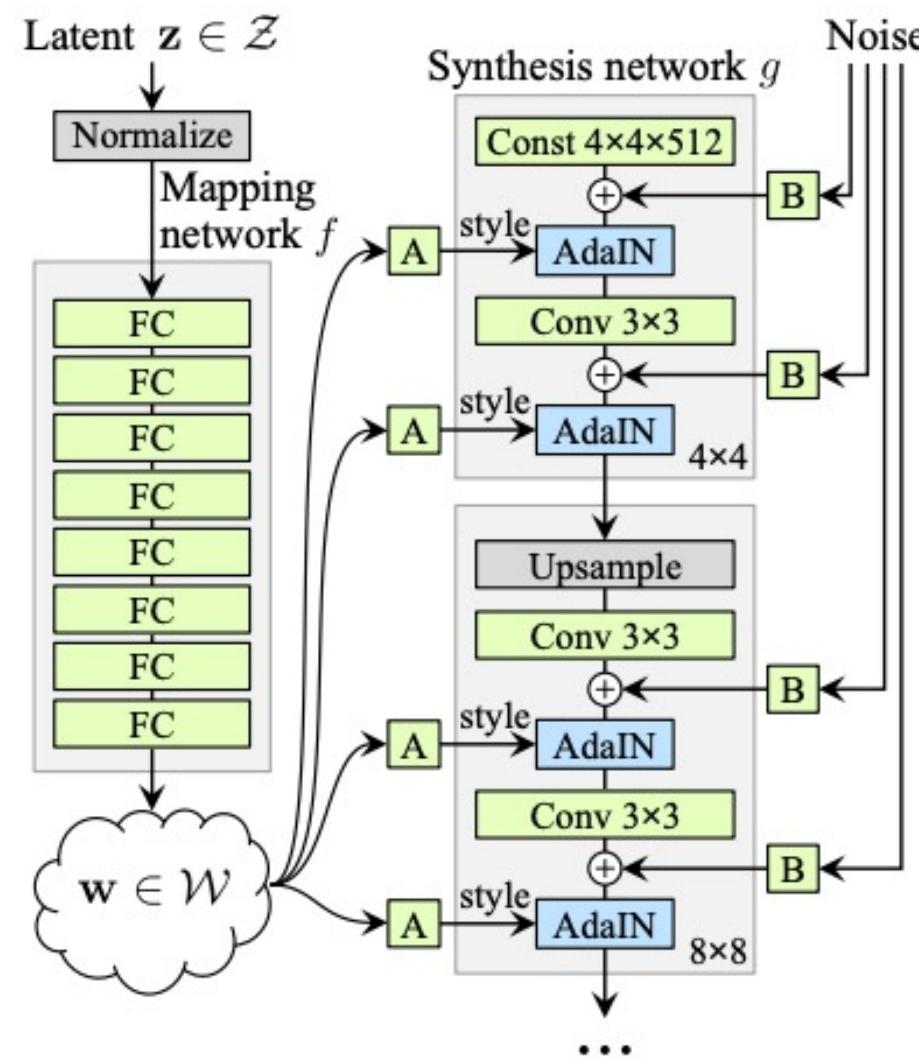


With z^* and θ^*

Semantic Photo Manipulation [Bau, Strobelt, Peebles, Wulff, Zhou, Zhu, Torralba, SIGGRAPH 2019]

Inspired by Deep Image Prior [Ulyanov et al.] and Deep Internal learning [Shocher et al.]

Using Different Layers



Optimizing the latent code

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z), x)$$

Optimizing the style code

$$w^* = \arg \min_w \mathcal{L}(g(w), x)$$

Optimizing the extended style code

$$w_+^* = \arg \min_{w+} \mathcal{L}(g(w_+), x)$$

Using Different Layers: w space



StyleGAN — generated images

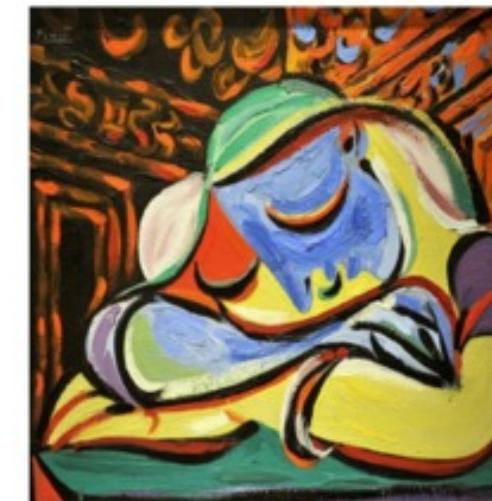
StyleGAN2 — generated images

Using Different Layers: w space



StyleGAN2 — real images

Using Different Layers: w+ space



All the results are reconstructed using Face Model

Reconstruction \neq Editing



Interpolations between two images

Reconstruction ≠ Editing



Interpolations between two images

How to Improve GANs Projection

- Baseline: Optimizing the latent code

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x)$$

- Generator fine-tuning:

$$z^*, \theta^* = \arg \min_{z, \theta} \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x) + R(\theta)$$

- Optimizing intermediate features

$$w_+^* = \arg \min_{w+} \mathcal{L}(g(w_+), x)$$

How to Improve GANs Projection

- Baseline: Optimizing the latent code

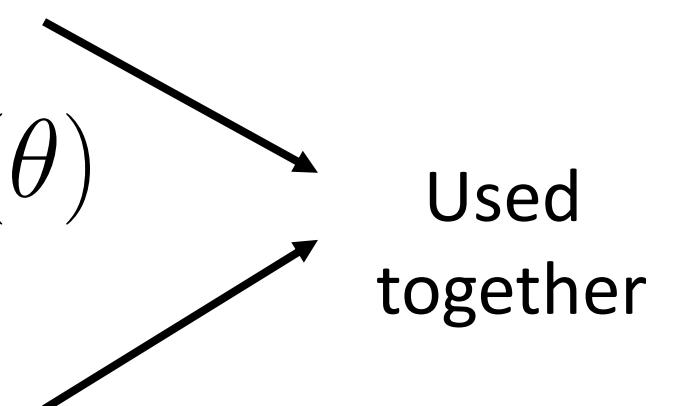
$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x)$$

- Generator fine-tuning:

$$z^*, \theta^* = \arg \min_{z, \theta} \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x) + R(\theta)$$

- Optimizing intermediate features

$$w_+^* = \arg \min_{w+} \mathcal{L}(g(w_+), x)$$



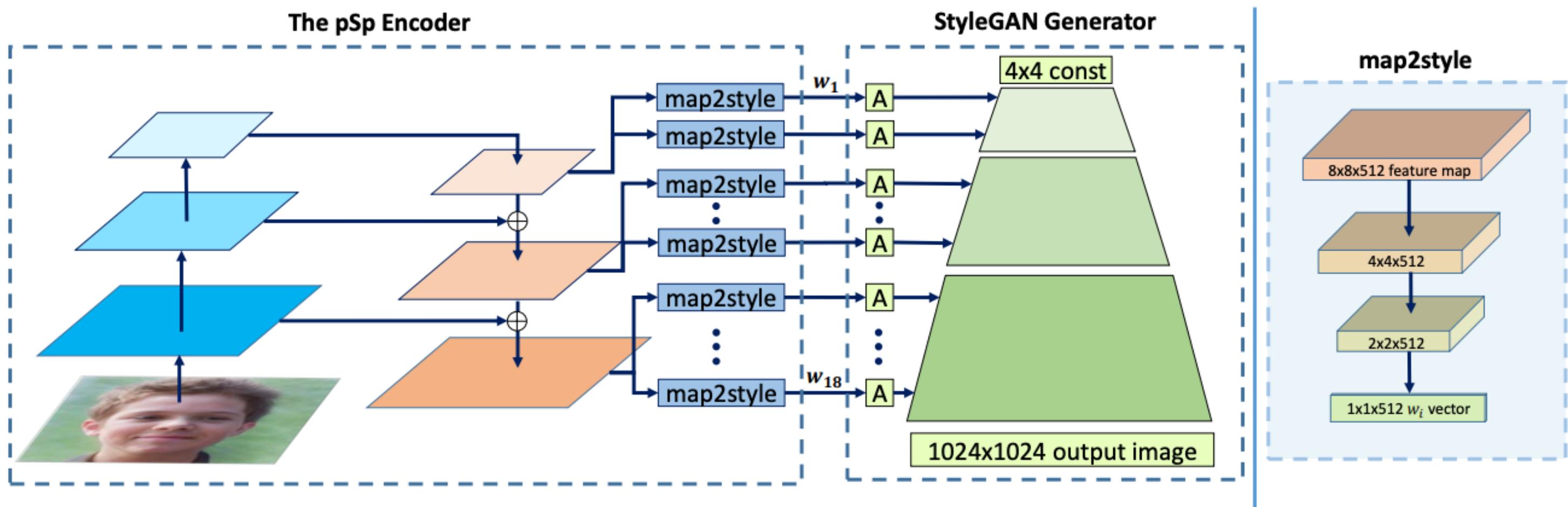
How to Improve GANs Projection

- Baseline: Optimizing the latent code

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x)$$

- Training an encoder $E(x)$. Advantages?
 - Faster inference
 - More reliable initialization
- Encoder design depends on
 - Generator architecture.
 - Which latent space: z , w , $w+$.
 - Pre-trained network weights.

Example: An StyleGAN Encoder



Encoding in Style: a StyleGAN Encoder for Image-to-Image Translation
[Richardson et al., CVPR 2021]

Example: An StyleGAN Encoder

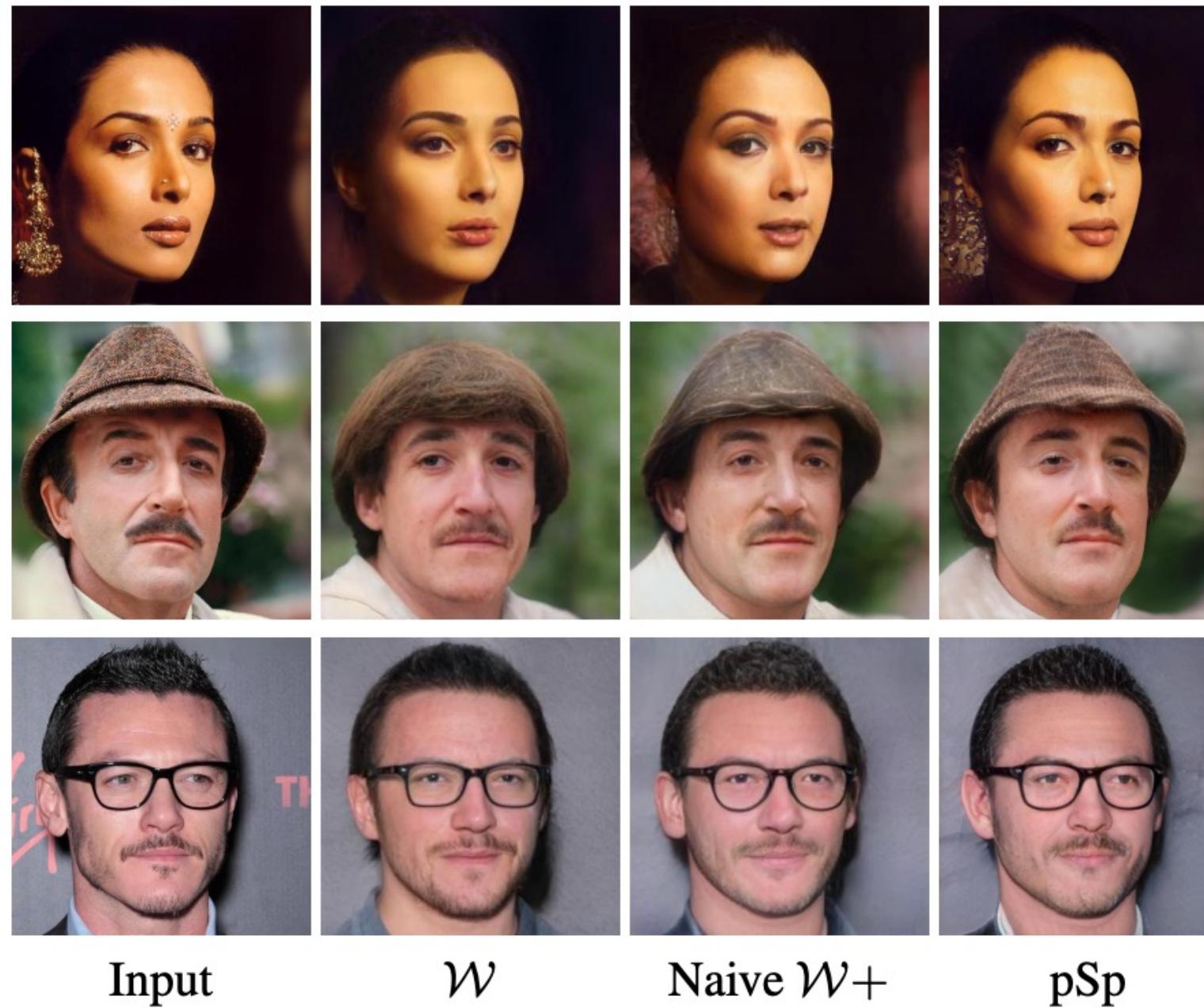


Image Editing with GANs

- Step 1: Image Projection/Reconstruction

$$z^*, \theta^* = \arg \min_{z, \theta} \mathcal{L}(G(z; \theta), x) + R(\theta)$$

- Step 2: Manipulating the latent code

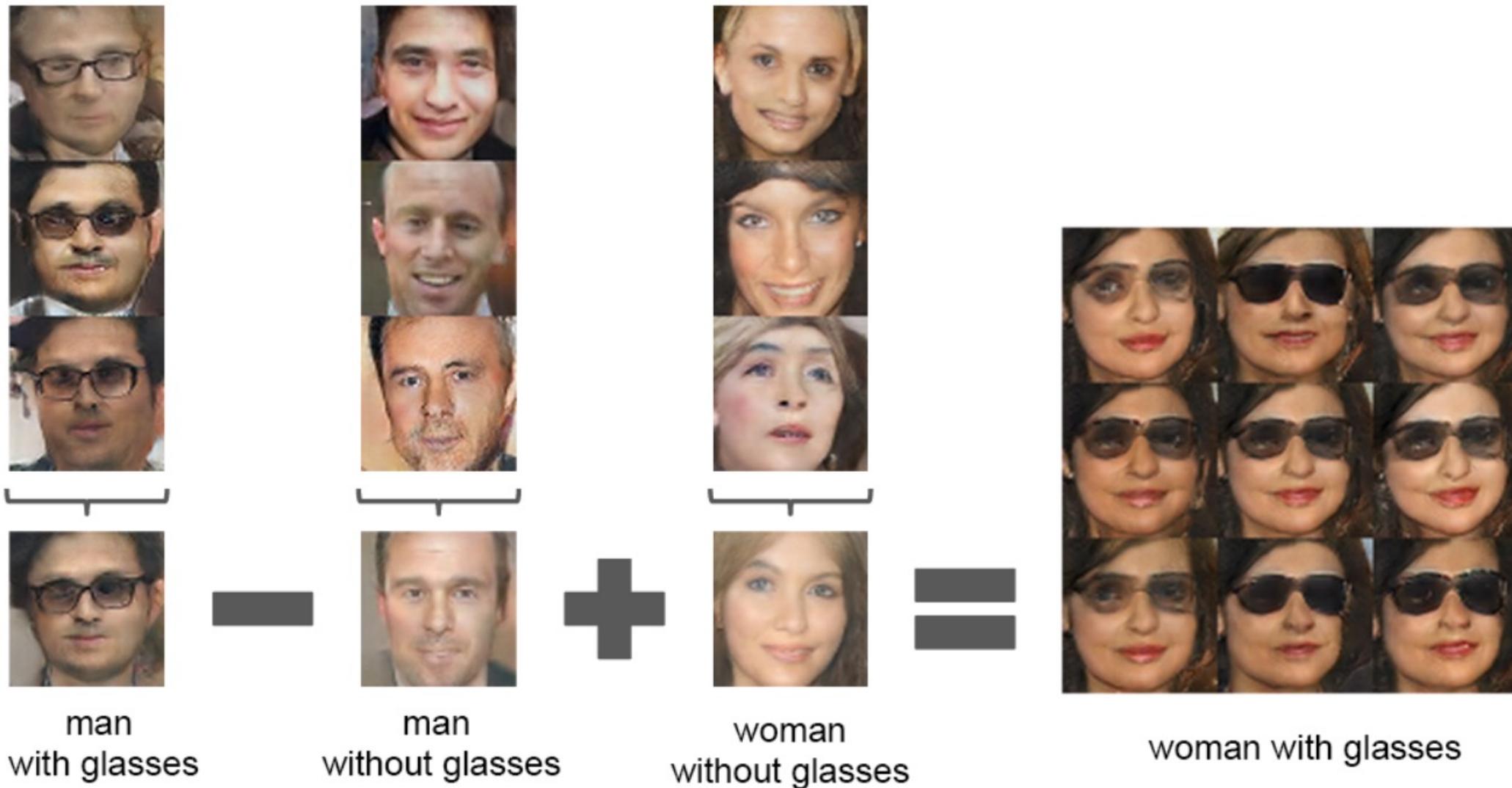
$$z_1 = z_0 + \Delta z$$

- Step 3: Generate the edited result

$$G(z_1)$$

Manipulating Latent code/layer
(computing directions offline)

Compute Δz



Step 1: annotate images (manually or via a pre-trained classifier)

Step 2: compute directions

DCGAN [Radford et al. 2016]

Manipulating Latent code/layer (PCA directions)

GANSpace: Discovering PCA directions



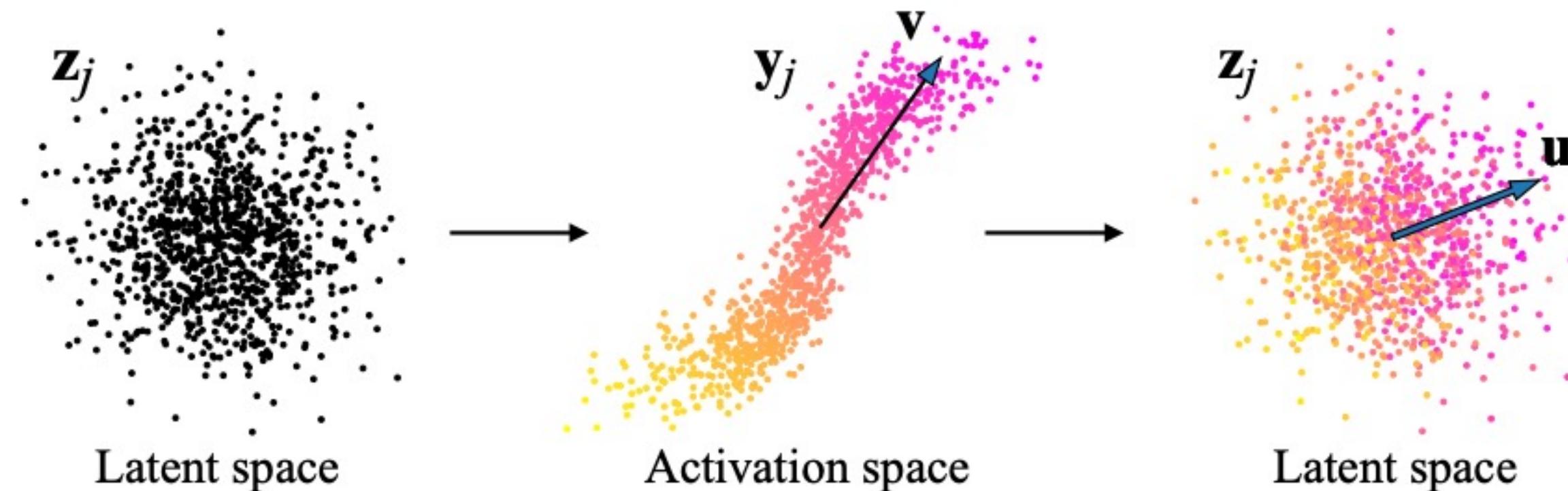
First compute potential directions (PCA), then name them

GANspace [Häkkinen et al. 2020]

GANSpace: Discovering PCA directions

z : latent codes. y : intermediate features.

v : PCA direction in feature space , u : PCA direction in latent space



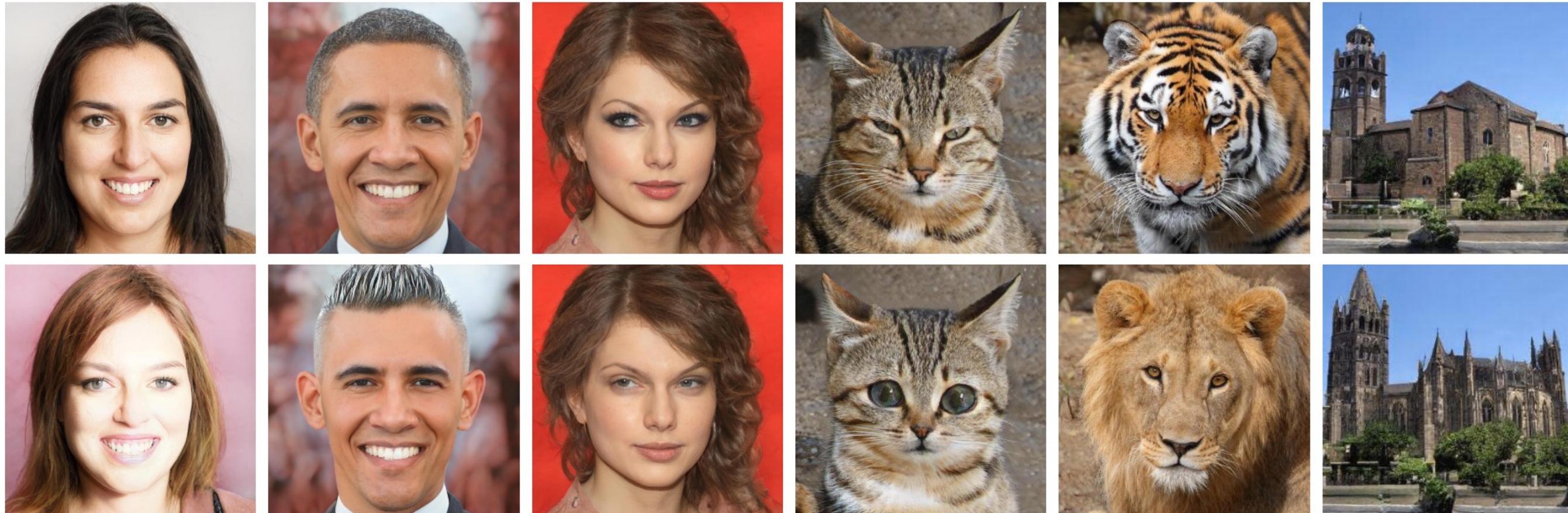
Also see “Editing in Style: Uncovering the Local Semantics of GANs”, Collins et al., CVPR 2020
“Closed-Form Factorization of Latent Semantics in GANs”, Shen and Zhou. CVPR 2021

GANSpace: Discovering PCA directions



Manipulating Latent code/layer (Text-guided optimization)

CLIP-guided Directions



“Emma Stone”

“Mohawk hairstyle”

“Without makeup”

“Cute cat”

“Lion”

“Gothic church”

$$\arg \min_{w \in \mathcal{W}^+} D_{\text{CLIP}}(G(w), t) + \lambda_{\text{L2}} \|w - w_s\|_2 + \lambda_{\text{ID}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{ID}}(w)$$

Output is close to the text Close to the original latent Output is close to input

CLIP-guided Directions



$$\arg \min_{w \in \mathcal{W}^+} D_{\text{CLIP}}(G(w), t) + \lambda_{\text{L2}} \|w - w_s\|_2 + \lambda_{\text{ID}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{ID}}(w)$$

Output is close to the text Close to the original latent Output is close to input