

Talking Head Generation with Probabilistic Audio-to-Visual Diffusion Priors

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Figure 1. Given only an audio source and an arbitrary identity image, our system can generate a video with natural-looking and diverse facial motions (pose, expression, blink & gaze), while maintaining accurate audio-lip synchronization. Here we show randomly sampled sequences from our diffusion prior for two identities, note that the lip-irrelevant facial motion varies but the lip is still in-sync.

Abstract

We introduce a novel framework for one-shot audio-driven talking head generation. Unlike prior works that require additional driving sources for controlled synthesis in a deterministic manner, we instead sample all holistic lip-irrelevant facial motions (i.e. pose, expression, blink, gaze, etc.) to semantically match the input audio while still maintaining both the photo-realism of audio-lip synchronization and overall naturalness. This is achieved by our newly proposed audio-to-visual diffusion prior trained on top of the mapping between audio and non-lip representations. Thanks to the probabilistic nature of the diffusion prior, one big advantage of our framework is it can synthe-

size diverse facial motion sequences given the same audio clip, which is quite user-friendly for many real applications. Through comprehensive evaluations of public benchmarks, we conclude that (1) our diffusion prior outperforms autoregressive prior significantly on all the concerned metrics; (2) our overall system is competitive with prior works in terms of audio-lip synchronization but can effectively sample rich and natural-looking lip-irrelevant facial motions while still semantically harmonized with the audio input.

1. Introduction

Audio-driven face reenactment and talking head generation have received raising attention due to the broad killer applications in movie production, gaming, virtual digital avatars, and potentially more while we move toward the era

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of the metaverse. The past literature tries to advance this area from various perspectives. One line of research focuses on improving the generation quality originating from regular GAN-based methods [64, 65] to pre-trained StyleGAN [3] and to the most recent Neural Radiance Field (NeRF) based methods [13, 42]. Orthogonal to direction, another line of works emphasizes the importance of disentangled representation from the audio [32, 21, 66] for controlled generations. *i.e.*, [21] can predict the emotion from the audio input while [66] can decouple the speech signal into speaker identity and the phonetic content. A closely related set of works targeting more granular controlled talking head generation by providing additional input signals. For example, PC-AVS [65] requires a separate video to provide the pose signal in addition to the audio clip but does not support the control of expression and blinking. To remedy this, GC-AVT [27] requires inputting additional driving video for expression in addition to pose and audio driving clip. The technical challenge behind those approaches is how to faithfully transfer the desired driving signal (*i.e.*, pose, expression, audio) into the results without affecting each other through intrinsic disentanglement. Although encouraging results have been reported, we argue such a setting is **not practical** for broader applications. It is quite challenging, or at least labor-intensive, for novice users to find the “best” individual driving sources for each controlled dimension to make the final talking head video overall look not only life-like but also coherent from semantic and emotional perspectives. Therefore, it is both more practical and generalizable if the setting only requires an audio signal as the driving source and expects a data-driven model to sample reasonable other facial motions irrelevant to lips.

By no means, we are the first to advocate an audio-only driving setup for talking head generation. Audio2head [54] predicts the poses from audio input with an LSTM network. [29] employs an autoregressive model by assuming the poses are jointly determined by the audio and past head motions along the sequence, although the results are encouraging, the model can’t generalize due to their person-specific training strategy. FACIAL [61] could infer the blink, but requires a reference video input rather than a one-shot reference image. There are other related works along this direction, but they either only infer one facial attribute (*i.e.*, emotion in EVP[21], pose from [54]) using ad-hoc methods, or they simply do not support inferring other facial motions [38], or treat it as a block-box mapping model [3] without explicitly respecting the one-to-many mapping nature between audio and other visual facial attributes (pose, expression, blink). A more principled solution is desired to consolidate this line of work.

In this paper, we introduce a novel framework that can holistically infer all the non-lip-related facial attributes from the audio input while maintaining accurate synchronization

between audio and the corresponding visual lip motions. This is achieved by two important learning steps in our pipeline. (1) A pre-trained identity-irrelevant facial motion representation can help decouple the lip and non-lip representations. To promote this learning, we employ a novel orthogonal loss on top of the modified facial reenactment framework [6]. The disentanglement enables to generate one-to-one mapping with lip representations to ensure the synchronization, and generate richer non-lip representations with a one-to-many mapping. (2) A novel audio-to-visual diffusion prior model is introduced to address the probabilistic sampling from audio representations to the above-learned non-lip representation. This prior is expected to solve the one-to-many mapping and provide diverse results during the inference stage. The entire pipeline can be easily built up on top of the existing framework, such as PC-AVS[65] without heavily retraining every component. To sum up, we make the following contributions:

- To our best knowledge, we are the first to holistically predict non-lip facial motions based on audio input only, providing good usability for reenactment or dubbing applications without extra driving video sources. Our method addresses the intrinsic one-to-many challenge in a probabilistic way, allowing diverse and realistic facial motion generation under the same audio input, as shown in Fig. 1.
- We leverage the pre-trained visual identity-irrelevant facial motion representations. And further, learn disentangled lip-related and lip-irrelevant representations through a novel orthogonal loss on top of PC-AVS[65]. A powerful diffusion prior model is then introduced to effectively infer all lip-irrelevant facial motions for a given audio segment in the representation space.
- We systematically evaluate the naturalness and diversity of the results with new metrics, which paves a way for future studies. Meanwhile, results show that our method can produce natural-looking head poses and facial motions without hurting the audio-lip synchronization. Our model will be released.

2. Related Works

Audio-Visual Cross-modal Learning Cross-modal representation learning is a long-standing research topic, ranging from speech enhancement [11], speech source separation [26] to synchronization [8, 22] and other speech disentanglement [34, 21, 32]. Among them, EVP [21] used cross-modal supervision to disentangle speech content and emotion from the audio signal with landmark as the intermediate representation. Recently, CMC [49] discussed how multi-view “modality” can be jointly utilized to boost intrinsic representation through contrastive learning, rather than predictive (or reconstruction) learning, it also demonstrated

that the more views, the better. Concurrently, MMV [2] introduced different modality embedding graphs for effective cross-modal representations, again through contrastive learning. More recently, HCMoCo [16] extended similar ideas with a hierarchical strategy to learn different levels of representations for human-centric perception tasks. Although impressive results were reported, it is still unclear how it performs on face analysis tasks, not mention to on synthesis tasks. Our work shares a similar spirit but a different purpose, where we first pre-train a non-identity visual representation which then helps learn a lip and non-lip space, the latter further serves as the upper-bound learning target for subsequent audio-to-visual diffusion prior.

Face Reenactment & Talking Head Generation Face Reenactment is designed to transfer part or full facial motion from a driving source to the target video with good ID-preserved appearance and background. It can be further divided into two categories depending on whether the driving source is from video [17, 18, 5, 48, 24, 36, 59, 19, 60, 6, 56] or audio [52, 47, 62, 21, 55, 37, 63, 30]. Among them, audio-driven face reenactment generally aims to edit the mouth regions of the target video in order to match the input audio while leaving other facial attributes mostly unchanged, *i.e.*, pose. EVP [21] tries to infer the non-rigid facial expression in addition to lip motion from the audio input. A closely related line of work is the audio-driven talking-head generations [38, 66, 61, 3] where only one target reference face is given, hence, other face attributes including pose, expression, blink and gaze have to be either explicitly given [65, 27] or partly inferred through statistical methods [66, 31, 61, 29, 3, 47]. Specifically, Lu *et al.* [29] employed an auto-regressive model while Min *et al.* [31] leveraged normalized flow prior to predicting a natural-looking pose sequence from the input audio, both showed encouraging results. Compared with them, we aim to infer more diverse facial motions including pose, expression, and even blink and gaze in a holistic manner through an audio-to-visual diffusion prior model.

Diffusion Generative Models The diffusion model [44, 15, 45], which is a likelihood-based model consisting of cascading denoising autoencoders, has recently shown great success in numerous generative tasks with different modalities including image [10, 35, 40, 41], audio [25], video [43], and motion [46]. To name a few, DDPM [15] explored the diffusion model for unconditional image generation. GLIDE [35] introduced text-conditional diffusion model and showed that classifier free guidance has better performance than CLIP [39] guidance. DALLE-2 [40] modified GLIDE to generate semantically consistent images conditioned on a CLIP image embedding, and proposed a diffusion prior that produces the image embedding given a text caption. MDM [46] utilized a classifier-free diffusion-based

generative model for text-to-motion and action-to-motion tasks, allowing motion completion and editing as well.

3. Method

Given L segments of audio $A_{1:L} = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_L)$ and a reference image I_{ref} as inputs, our model M synthesizes video frames $\hat{X}_{1:L} = (\hat{X}_1, \hat{X}_2, \dots, \hat{X}_L)$ having the same identity as I_{ref} and lip motion synchronized to $A_{1:L}$:

$$\hat{X}_{1:L} = M(A_{1:L}, I_{ref}). \quad (1)$$

An overview of our proposed framework is shown in Fig. 2, which consists of three major components:

- **Lip & Non-lip Disentanglement** Given a pre-trained identity- and appearance-irrelevant facial motion encoder E_v , we first leverage it to learn two complementary features, \mathbf{f}_l^a for lip, and \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v for non-lip features including pose, expression, blink and gaze.
- **Audio to Non-lip Diffusion Prior** A diffusion prior network P_{a2nl} models the one-to-many mapping from audio feature \mathbf{f}^a to the “hallucinated” non-lip feature \mathbf{f}_{nl}^a , which is trained to be close to its visual counterpart \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v , allowing audio-only facial driving at inference time.
- **Audio-based Talking Head Generation** Given an identity feature \mathbf{f}_{id} , a lip feature \mathbf{f}_l^a , and a non-lip feature \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v generated with the diffusion prior, we concatenate them together and feed into a GAN similar to LPD [6] or PC-AVS [65] to output the final reenacted video.

3.1. Lip & Non-lip Disentanglement

The identity encoder E_{id} is designed to capture identity and appearance information, while E_v is instead to remove both while encoding all facial motions. Both encoders are pre-trained in a similar setting as LPD [6] and PC-AVS [65]. After pretraining, we conduct lip & non-lip disentanglement consisting of audio-visual contrastive learning for lip feature learning and decorrelation for non-lip feature learning, as well as face reconstruction, as described below:

Audio-Visual Pretraining for Audio Lip Space An audio encoder E_a is trained to provide accurate audio feature $\mathbf{f}^a = E_a(A_{1:N})$ through contrastive learning [39] with $\mathbf{f}_{cl}^v = \text{MLP}_{cl}(E_v(X_{1:N}))$, where N is the number of samples and $X_{1:N}$ are N frames in the same video corresponding to audio $A_{1:N}$. Then \mathbf{f}^a is further compressed to filter out lip-irrelevant information and get audio lip feature \mathbf{f}_l^a through MLP_{al} since \mathbf{f}^a mainly contains lip related information, as shown in Sec. 4.3. The contrastive loss is defined as $L_{con}(m, n) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\exp(m_i / \|m_i\|_2 \cdot n_i / \|n_i\|_2)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(m_j / \|m_j\|_2 \cdot n_j / \|n_j\|_2)}$, resulting in a total contrastive loss between \mathbf{f}^a and \mathbf{f}_{cl}^v ,

$$L_{cl} = \frac{1}{2} [L_{con}(\mathbf{f}^a, \mathbf{f}_{cl}^v) + L_{con}(\mathbf{f}_{cl}^v, \mathbf{f}^a)]. \quad (2)$$

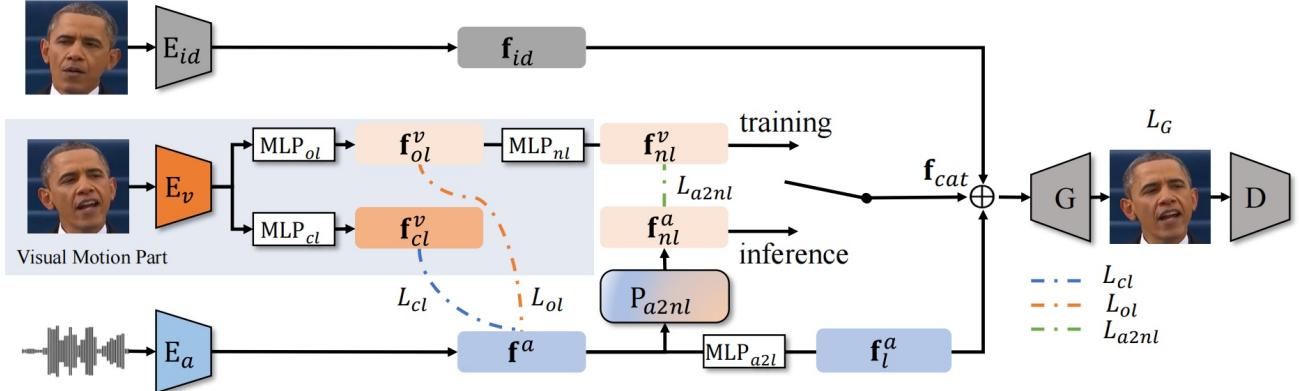


Figure 2. The overall pipeline of our proposed framework. The dotted lines represent the loss functions that are used only in training, i.e., L_{cl} , L_{ol} and L_{a2nl} . L_G is the training loss for visual non-lip space. Note that there is a switch in the figure, which means the different forward processes in training and inference: in training, the concatenated feature $\mathbf{f}_{cat} = cat(\mathbf{f}_{id}, \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v, \mathbf{f}_l^a)$; at inference stage, $\mathbf{f}_{cat} = cat(\mathbf{f}_{id}, \mathbf{f}_{nl}^a, \mathbf{f}_l^a)$. Thus, the visual motion part is not needed anymore at the inference stage.

Reconstruction Learning for Visual Non-lip Space To learn a good non-lip space, we propose an orthogonal loss to penalize the correlation between \mathbf{f}_{ol}^v and \mathbf{f}^a , which uses the well-learned audio space to disentangle lip-related motions. The orthogonal loss is used together with reconstruction since there should also be a completeness constraint to avoid mode collapse of lip-irrelevant features. In practice, we maintain two memory banks (**MB**) for storing \mathbf{f}_{ol}^v and \mathbf{f}^a in previous $K - 1$ steps, in order to have more samples than N . We denote the feature dimension of \mathbf{f}^a as d_a , and \mathbf{f}_{ol}^v as d_v . The orthogonal loss is defined as follows:

$$L_{ol} = \frac{1}{d_v} \sum_{i=1}^{d_v} \sum_{j=1}^{d_a} P_{cor}(\mathbf{f}_{ol}^v, \mathbf{f}^a)_{(i,j)}^2, \quad (3)$$

where $P_{cor}(\mathbf{f}_{ol}^v, \mathbf{f}^a) \in d_a \times d_v$ computes the Pearson correlation coefficient between \mathbf{f}_{ol}^v and \mathbf{f}^a . Since the correlation between lip motions and audio features is strong, L_{ol} (which encourages the linear uncorrelation between \mathbf{f}_{ol}^v and \mathbf{f}^a) is effective to disentangle lip-related motions. Then, MLP_{nl} further projects \mathbf{f}_{ol}^v into a smaller space to remove undesired content and get non-lip feature \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v .

We follow the reconstruction loss L_{GAN} , L_{L1} and L_{VGG} used in [65]. The generator G receives the concatenation $\mathbf{f}_{cat} = cat(\mathbf{f}_{id}, \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v, \mathbf{f}_l^a)$ as inputs and generates final images I_{gen} with modulated convolution. The discriminator D is trained jointly by generative adversarial learning [23, 12]. Note that we omit the batch-mean operation here for convenience, but in practice, all losses used here are calculated with the average in a batch. Different from [65], we propose an additional gaze loss L_{gaze} by utilizing a pre-trained gaze encoder [1], which calculates the $L1$ distance between the gaze features of generated images and ground-truth (GT) images I as follows:

$$L_{gaze} = \|\Phi(I) - \Phi(I_{gen})\|_1. \quad (4)$$

The total loss L_G is given as:

$$L_G = \lambda_{ol} \cdot L_{ol} + \lambda_{gaze} \cdot L_{gaze} + \lambda_{L1} \cdot L_{L1} + \lambda_{GAN} \cdot L_{GAN} + \lambda_{VGG} \cdot L_{VGG}, \quad (5)$$

where λ s are weights for losses.

3.2. Audio2nonlip Diffusion Prior

Beside a strong relationship with lip motions, audio features have a complex non-linear relationship with non-lip motions and it is a one-to-many mapping problem. This is due to the fact that there are many reasonable facial motions that can be corresponded to the same audio input. As inspired by DALLE-2 [40] and MDM [46], we design an audio2nonlip diffusion prior network P_{a2nl} to address this problem. Our proposed network is depicted in Fig. 3.

Diffusion Model Diffusion model is designed based on the stochastic diffusion process. The forward diffusion process is defined below:

$$q(n_{1:L}^t | n_{1:L}^{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(n_{1:L}^{t-1}; \sqrt{\alpha^t} n_{1:L}^t, (1 - \alpha^t)I), \quad (6)$$

In our context, $n_{1:L} = (n_1, n_2, \dots, n_L)$ is a sequence of non-lip feature \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v . α^t is a hyper-parameter and $t \sim [1, T]$ is the time step of the diffusion process. Eq. 6 can be approximated to $n_{1:L}^T \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ if α^t is small enough.

During the reversed diffusion process, P_{a2nl} models the audio2nonlip distribution as $p(n_{1:L}^0 | a_{1:L})$, where $a_{1:L} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_L)$ is a sequence of audio feature \mathbf{f}^a . Instead of predicting the noise as formulated by vanilla DDPM [45], P_{a2nl} learns to predict the initial signal itself with the simplified objective function [45] described as follows:

$$L_{simple} = \mathbb{E}_{n^0 \sim q(n^0 | \mathbf{f}^a), t \sim [1, T]} [\|n^0 - P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, \mathbf{f}^a)\|_2], \quad (7)$$

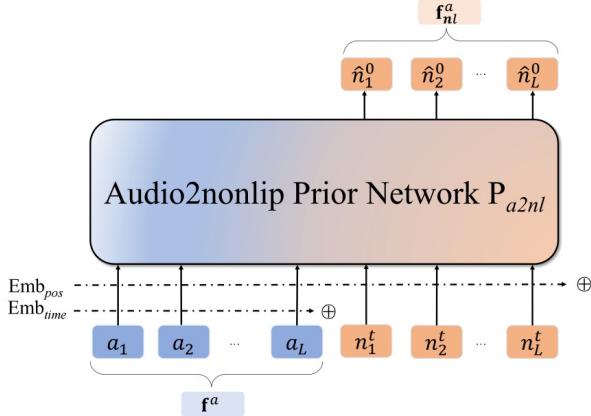


Figure 3. Our **audio2nonlip** diffusion prior network P_{a2nl} .

where we use n^0 to represent $n_{1:L}^0$ for convenience.

We implement P_{a2nl} with a transformer encoder [51] architecture. As shown in Fig. 3, an audio feature $a_{1:L}$ is added to the time embedding Emb_{time} . Then, it's concatenated with noisy non-lip feature $n_{1:L}^t$ and added with positional embeddings Emb_{pos} [51]. The model encodes the embeddings with bidirectional self-attention and feed-forward layers then output denoised non-lip feature $n_{1:L}^0$.

Velocity Loss Note that our designed P_{a2nl} denoises $n_{1:L}^t$ in a non-autoregressive way. To encourage the naturalness and coherence of generated non-lip motion, we borrow the velocity loss from MDM [46] defined as follows:

$$L_{vel} = \frac{1}{L-1} \sum_{i=2}^L \|(\hat{n}_i^0 - \hat{n}_{i-1}^0) - (n_i^0 - n_{i-1}^0)\|_2, \quad (8)$$

where n_i^0 is the GT non-lip feature and \hat{n}_i^0 is the predicted denoised non-lip feature at the i -th position respectively. The intuition here is that the difference between adjacent non-lip features should be close to the difference in the GT. The total loss of this stage is defined as:

$$L_{a2nl} = L_{simple} + L_{vel}. \quad (9)$$

Classifier-free Guidance We use classifier-free guidance [35] for conditioned diffusion generation. In training time, we randomly set the condition to \emptyset for 10% of the samples so that $P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, \emptyset)$ approximates n^0 . At inference stage, the output of the P_{a2nl} is extrapolated further in the direction of $P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, f^a)$ and away from $P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, \emptyset)$:

$$P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, f^a) = s \cdot P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, f^a) + (1-s) \cdot P_{a2nl}(n^t, t, \emptyset), \quad (10)$$

where s is a scaling parameter while increasing it improves sample quality at the cost of diversity.

Sequential Mask Editing To deliver a smooth non-lip facial sequence with arbitrary length, we design a mechanism to ensure continuity between generated segments, and provide an editing method to do so. Specifically, we randomly mask 90% of the non-lip tokens n^0 and concatenate them with noisy non-lip tokens n^t as the input of P_{a2nl} at training stage. Practically, we found it easy for P_{a2nl} to quickly learn how to fill in the masked region using hints from the non-lip features in the unmasked regions, generating continuous feature prediction without any extra design in training loss. As a result, it is possible to use P_{a2nl} for audio-guided non-lip motion generation as well as non-lip motion editing at inference time, providing non-lip facial motion with good naturalism and diversity.

3.3. Audio-based Talking Head Generation

The main difference at inference time is that non-lip visual feature f_{nl}^v is replaced with f_{nl}^a generated by P_{a2nl} through reversed diffusion process. Thanks to the random noise introduced in the diffusion process, P_{a2nl} can generate various visual non-lip features given the same audio input, resulting in diverse and reasonable reenactment videos without any extra needs of driving video sources.

To generate a video sequence longer than the maximal length of the model input with smooth transitions, the first input non-lip feature to P_{a2nl} is set to the last generated non-lip feature from P_{a2nl} in the previous step, to ensure continuity in non-lip facial motion.

4. Experiments

Our proposed method was evaluated from two aspects: 1) synchronization between audio and lip motions; 2) naturalness and richness of lip-irrelevant facial motions. Both quantitative and qualitative experiments were conducted to showcase the superiority of our method. In addition, we also come up with a novel metric to measure the overall quality of generated facial motions.

Datasets Our model was trained on VoxCeleb2 and evaluated on both VoxCeleb1 and VoxCeleb2. Here are the details of the two datasets,

- **VoxCeleb1** [33]: The dataset consists of 100,000 utterances from 1,251 celebrities. 100 videos with 25 identities in total were randomly chosen for the test.
- **VoxCeleb2** [7]: The dataset contains 1 million utterances with 6,112 identities. 500 test videos with 25 identities were randomly chosen for the test.

Comparing Methods Some prior works such as PC-AVS [65], GC-AVT [28], and EAMM [20] require additional driving sources instead of predicting them based on

Method	A	S	S_c^{gt}	VoxCeleb2			VoxCeleb1		
				FID ↓	$S_c \uparrow$	$N_c \downarrow$	FID ↓	$S_c \uparrow$	$N_c \downarrow$
Wav2Lip [38]	X	X	7.80	22.3	9.23	0.18	44.7	8.80	0.13
EAMM [20]	X	X	1.76	26.1	4.75	1.70	42.6	2.78	0.58
PC-AVS [65]	X	X	7.35	14.4	8.21	0.12	35.4	8.42	0.15
MakeItTalk [66]	✓	X	7.35	19.5	2.03	0.72	40.2	2.16	0.71
Audio2head [54]	✓	X	7.35	101	6.42	0.13	104	6.65	0.10
Ours + AR	✓	X	7.35	24.3	7.23	0.02	49.7	7.05	0.04
Ours + Diff.	✓	✓	7.35	14.2	7.34	0.00	35.0	7.31	0.01

Table 1. The quantitative results of synchronization and image quality under self-reenactment scenario. **Bold** means the best. **A** indicates the ability to **generate** non-lip motions with **audio-only** signals without other signals, while **S** means the ability to sample **different** results for each round.

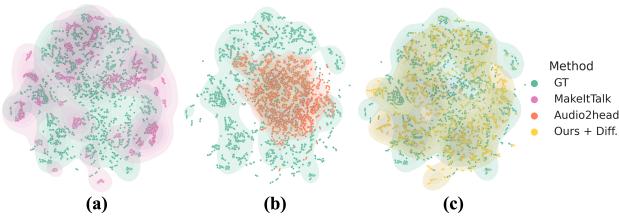


Figure 4. Distribution visualization of generated poses.

audio input. We only compare those methods on lip synchronization and image quality but emphasize that our setup is targeting a more practical scenario. Other works such as Wav2Lip [38] only focus on revising the lip region without touching other facial motions, which are not directly comparable either. MakeItTalk [66] and Audio2head [54] are two closely related works to ours in terms of problem setup, however, our method is designed to predict all the non-lip facial motions with diversity, rather than only limited poses.

Implementation Details Backbones of our models including E_{id} , E_v , E_a , G , and D are borrowed from [65]. For the diffusion prior network P_{a2nl} , we use a 8-layer transformer [51] with 512-d tokens and 1024-d fully feed-forward layers. Note that our models were trained on VoxCeleb2 only but tested on both VoxCeleb1 and VoxCeleb2. All models were trained on 4 NVIDIA A100 GPUs.

4.1. Quantitative Evaluation

Evaluation Metrics We evaluate the performance of generated talking head from the following aspects: image quality, audio-lip sync accuracy, the variation and naturalness of non-lip facial motion. Frechet Inception Distance (**FID**) score [14] is used for the evaluation of image quality. A lower **FID** score indicates a lower distance between the distribution of generated images and real images. Following prior works [38, 65], we use SyncNet Error-Confidence (S_c) as the indicator of audio-lip synchronization, where greater confidence indicates better synchronization. However, the

normalized confidence score **NLSE-C** (short for N_c) is used to address the concern raised in recent works [57, 53] regarding the strong relationship between S_c and its training data, which can make it unfair to compare methods trained on different data. N_c is defined as $N_c = \frac{|S_c^{gen} - S_c^{gt}|}{S_c^{gt}}$, where S_c^{gen} is the confidence value of generated images and S_c^{gt} is that of its training data.

To evaluate facial motions such as pose, expression, and blink, we utilize a pre-trained 3D morphable face model [9] and include shape irrelevant 3DMM parameters to calculate the following metrics.

- **Var**: The variance of generated facial motions, *i.e.*, the variance of the 3DMM coefficients for each video is calculated and then averaged over the test set. A closer **Var** to GT indicates a better match to the variation of real data.
- **FID_{fm}**: FID score of 3DMM coefficients calculated as follows: $\text{FID}_{fm} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \text{FID}(\beta_i)$, where β_i is a sequence of 3DMM coefficients in the i -th video.
- **FID_{Δfm}**: FID score of 3DMM coefficient difference between consecutive frames, *i.e.*, $\text{FID}_{\Delta fm}$, which is similar to **FID_{fm}** but the 3DMM coefficient difference between consecutive frames is measured, taking temporal naturalness into consideration.
- **SND**: Our new proposed metric, denoted as **Sequence Naturalness Distance**. It is the sum of **FID_{fm}** and **FID_{Δfm}** indicating the difference of distribution between generated motion and GT motion, from both spatial and temporal perspectives, *i.e.*, $\text{SND} = \text{FID}_{fm} + \text{FID}_{\Delta fm}$. The lower **SND**, the better naturalness.

Evaluation Results Our main results consist of two parts: audio-lip synchronization and image quality as shown in Table 1; richness and sequence naturalness which are shown in Table 2.

It shows that our method with diffusion prior achieves the best synchronization ability compared to other methods in Table 1. Note that although Wav2Lip [38] and PC-AVS [65] achieve the highest SyncNet scores, our best N_c indicates the most substantial synchronization ability [57], which is demonstrated in Sec. 4.2. Meanwhile, the image quality of our model with diffusion prior is the best in both test sets.

In Table 2, our method shows significantly higher variance than the other two audio-driven methods and it is closer to the variance of real data. This indicates that our method can produce reasonable diverse head movements and expressions, rather than slight head movement. It's notable that auto-regressive prior, trained with causal attention and regression loss, has a higher variance than GT because it often generates extreme motions, showing a low naturalness score in Table 3. For naturalness, our method achieves the lowest **FID_{fm}**, **FID_{Δfm}** as well as **SND** on

Method	VoxCeleb2				VoxCeleb1			
	Var →	FID _{fm} ↓	FID _{Δfm} ↓	SND ↓	Var →	FID _{fm} ↓	FID _{Δfm} ↓	SND ↓
GT	1.98	-	-	-	1.88	-	-	-
MakeItTalk [66]	0.67	4.70	1.74	6.44	0.80	4.27	1.07	5.34
Audio2head [54]	0.89	5.94	1.30	7.24	0.76	5.03	1.01	6.04
Ours + AR	3.07	5.43	2.22	7.65	2.92	6.21	1.68	7.89
Ours + Diff.	1.57	3.60	1.08	4.68	1.66	3.98	0.87	4.85
w/o <i>L_{vel}</i> training w/o editing	2.09	4.02	1.27	5.29	2.28	4.65	1.11	5.76
	3.09	6.76	2.00	8.76	3.06	6.96	1.70	8.66

Table 2. The quantitative results of variance and naturalness of generated non-lip motions under self-reenactment scenario. "→" indicates a closer score to GT is better. Due to setting differences, *i.e.*, Wav2Lip, EAMM, and PC-AVS, are not valid comparisons here.

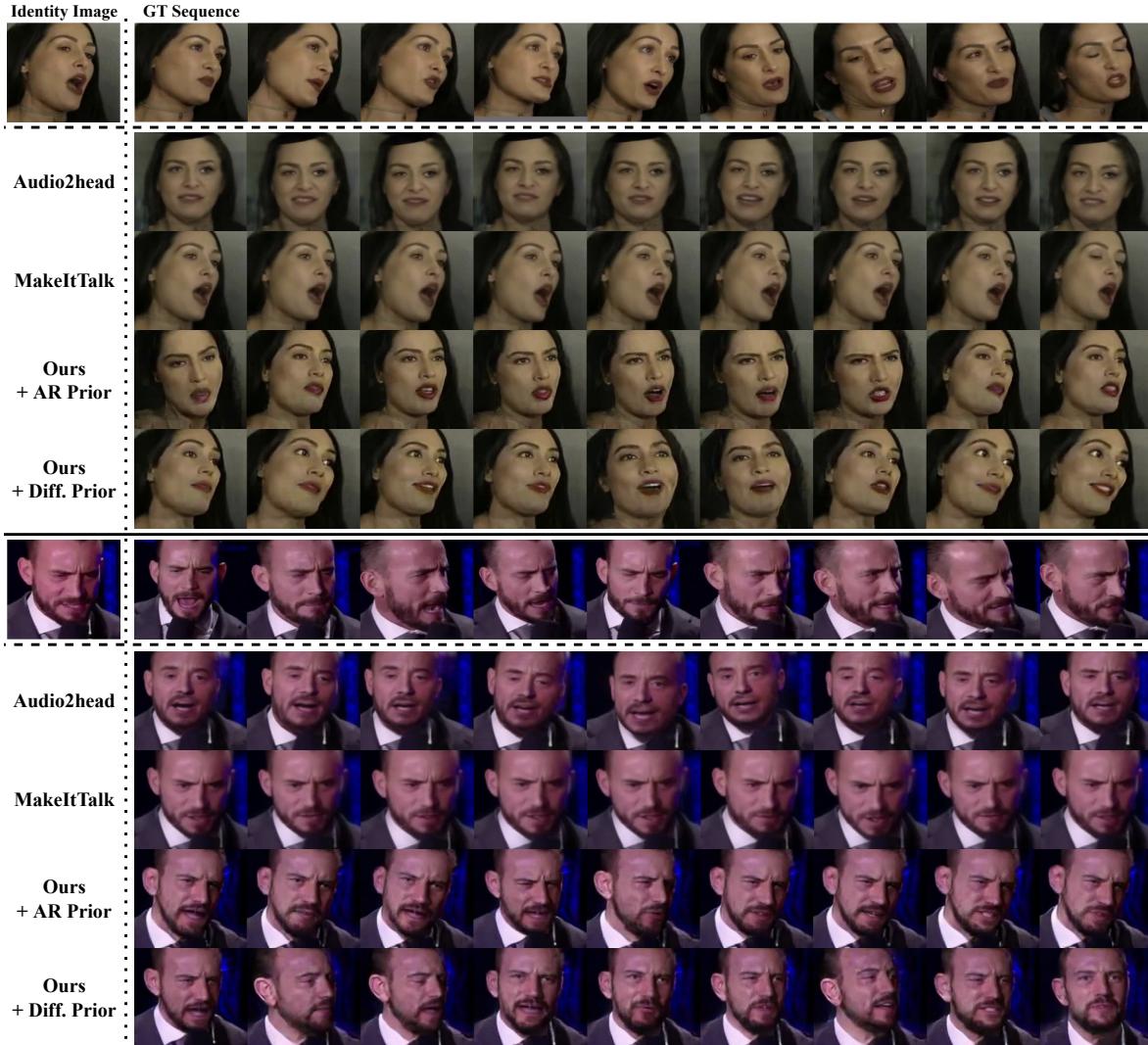


Figure 5. Qualitative results of our method compared to other baselines. Each row shows nine uniformly sampled frames from videos. Here we use two audio sources to drive different identities respectively. Our method shows accurate lip-audio synchronization with diverse and natural poses and expressions.

both VoxCeleb1 and VoxCeleb2, surpassing other state-of-the-art by a large margin. Also, we randomly sample 5,000 poses for each method and employ t-SNE [50] for visual-

ization in Fig. 4, which demonstrates that the distribution we generate is the most comprehensive to GT. More details and examples are shown in the supplementary. In summary,

Method	Sync Accuracy	Naturalness	Richness
GT	4.61	4.41	4.18
MakeItTalk [66]	1.97	2.35	2.10
PC-AVS [65]*	3.13	2.68	2.68
Audio2head [54]	2.56	2.35	2.34
Ours + AR	3.46	2.53	3.37
Ours + Diff.	4.08	3.82	3.68

Table 3. Human evaluation on generated samples on VoxCeleb2. * means that PC-AVS was evaluated on cross-reenactment scenario.

our method can generate rich facial motions with excellent realism (*i.e.*, a lower distribution distance) and naturalness.

4.2. Qualitative Evaluation

Two audio-driven video sequences of our method versus other baselines are shown in Fig. 5. It’s clearly shown that our method is capable of producing much more natural-looking and diverse facial motions than other baselines, including pose, expression, blink and gaze, while maintaining accurate audio-lip synchronization compared to the GT.

User Study We invited 20 subjects for human evaluations, focusing on three aspects: 1) the accuracy of audio-lip synchronization; 2) the naturalness of non-lip motions and coherency between non-lip motions and audios; 3) the richness of non-lip motions. 50 videos are generated from audio and identity in the test set using the following methods: our diffusion prior, our auto-regressive prior, MakeItTalk [66], Audio2head [54] and PC-AVS [65] (driven by poses from another video). After shuffling the generated videos, each annotator rates from 1 (bad) to 5 (good) according to Mean Opinion Scores (MOS) rating protocol. Table 3 tells that our model with diffusion prior archives the best synchronization, naturalness and richness among all the models. Our model with auto-regressive prior archives relatively good richness compared to the remaining models, we attribute it to the exposure bias problem [4] brought by auto-regressive generation, which leads to high richness but low naturalness. Note that PC-AVS shows incompatible result in Table 3 as compared to Table 1 on S_c , indicating that choosing pose driving signals from a random video may lead to synthesis results with bad audio-lip synchronization.

It’s interesting that our proposed **SND** scores reflect the **naturalness** of user study to some degree. Nevertheless, we leave it to future work for rigorous study of their correlation through more human evaluations.

4.3. Ablation

Table 4 discusses the performance of lip & non-lip disentanglement. While tested on lip only metrics without L_{ol} , SyncNet scores get lower, which indicates that G tends to generate mouth movements with information extracted

Method	Lip Only		Non-lip Only			
	$S_c \uparrow$	$N_c \downarrow$	$B_d \downarrow$	$G_d \downarrow$	$E_d \downarrow$	$P_d \downarrow$
GT	7.35	-	-	-	-	-
w/o L_{ol}	2.84	0.61	0.0074	0.1960	0.0568	0.0021
w/o MB	7.69	0.05	0.0112	0.0315	0.0875	0.0293
Ours	7.48	0.03	0.0067	0.0163	0.0558	0.0019

Table 4. Evaluation of disentanglement between lip and non-lip on VoxCeleb2. B_d and G_d denote L2 distances of 2D landmark [58] of eyes and iris, respectively, while E_d and P_d denote L2 distances of 3DMM coefficients of poses and expressions accordingly. Note that \mathbf{f}_{nl}^v is fixed while tested on lip only metrics, and \mathbf{f}_l^v is fixed while tested on non-lip only metrics for fair comparisons.

from visual modality instead of audio. Thus, lip & non-lip space are not fully disentangled. Without **MB**, the performance of driving non-lip motions gets worse. Because it is hard to use a large batch to compute correlation, resulting in a not well decoupled non-lip space.

We conducted ablation study for P_{a2nl} from three aspects: 1) auto-regressive prior versus diffusion prior; 2) with/without velocity loss L_{vel} ; 3) training with/without editing mechanism. Diffusion prior shows significant improvements on naturalness scores including FID_{fm} , $FID_{\Delta fm}$ and **SND**, as compared to autoregressive prior shown in Table 2, with slightly better synchronization ability in Table 1. Fig. 6 shows that without L_{vel} , the prediction of non-autoregressive diffusion prior model P_{a2nl} becomes unstable, which leads to a larger variance and worse **SND** scores in Table 2. While training without the editing mechanism mentioned in Sec. 3.2, we applied editing only during sampling as in MDM [46], and observed that it jitters between adjacent frames as shown in Fig. 7, resulting in a poorer **SND** score in Table 2. Note that our model trained with editing mechanism generates smoother results.



Figure 6. Ablation study of our diffusion prior P_{a2nl} w or w/o L_{vel} . Each row shows five uniformly sampled frames.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we introduce a novel talking head generation method based on a diffusion prior model, which can generate diverse and natural-looking talking head videos with only audio and an identity image as inputs. Such “*audio-driving is all you need*” setting is very friendly



Figure 7. Ablation study of our diffusion prior P_{a2nl} trained w or w/o editing. Each row shows five adjacent frame.

for reenactment and dubbing applications. Comprehensive evaluations including our newly proposed metrics validated the effectiveness of our system.

Limitations Our method mainly focuses on non-lip motion generation. We leave the improvement of rendering quality to future works.

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