

# Erasing Undesirable Concepts from Text-to-Image Diffusion Models

## Recent advances and applications

Tuan-Anh Bui<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Data Science and AI  
Faculty of Information Technology  
Monash University

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## 2 Background

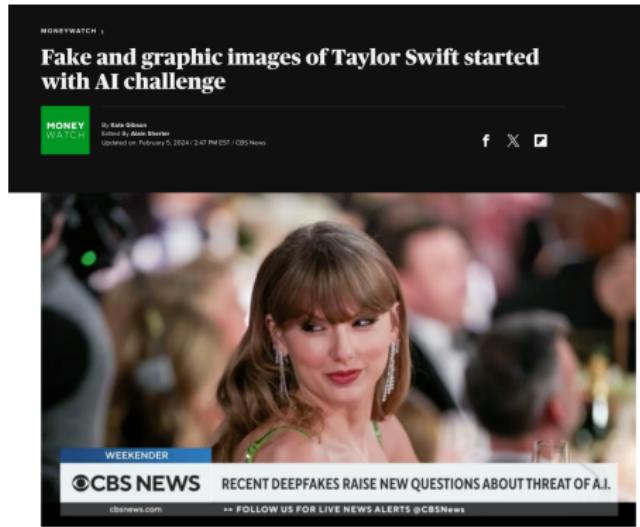
## 3 Removing Concepts with Learnable Prompts

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# Prevent misuse of AI-generated content



- **Sexually explicit AI-generated** images of Taylor Swift shared on X (Twitter). Attracted more than 45 million views, 24,000 reposts, remained live for about 17 hours before its removal. (The Verge)

# Prevent misuse of AI-generated content



*With just a single reference image, our Infinite-ID framework excels in synthesizing high-quality images while maintaining superior identity fidelity and text semantic consistency in various styles.*

- **Personalization-GenAI** becomes extremely good<sup>1</sup>. The risk is now for everyone.

<sup>1</sup>Wu, et al. "Infinite-ID: Identity-preserved Personalization via ID-semantics Decoupling Paradigm." arxiv 2024

# Prevent misuse of AI-generated content

- **Personalization-GenAI** becomes extremely good<sup>1</sup>. The risk is now for everyone. And it is already happening as reported here and here

The screenshot shows a news article from LifeHacker. At the top, there's a navigation bar with categories: LATEST, TECH, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, HEALTH, MONEY, and HOME & GARDEN. Below the header, the main title reads "Evil Week: You Can Make Personalized Porn Images With AI". A subtext below the title says, "It's hard to generate dirty words with artificial intelligence, but you can make all the images you want." The author is Stephen Johnson, and the date is November 1, 2023. The article features a large image of a woman in a maid costume sitting on the grass in front of the White House. In the bottom left corner of the image, there's a logo for "EVIL WEEK". At the very bottom of the page, there's a small credit line: "Credit: Unlucky Diffusion/Stephen Johnson".

The screenshot shows a news article from AP (Associated Press). The top navigation bar includes links for WORLD, U.S., ELECTION 2024, POLITICS, SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, BUSINESS, SCIENCE, FACT CHECK, OBITUARIES, NEWSLETTERS, VIDEO, and HEALTH. Below the navigation, a headline reads "AI image-generators are being trained on explicit photos of children, a study shows". The main image of the article is a portrait of a man with a beard and glasses, standing outdoors in front of a building with orange trees in the background. At the bottom of the article, there's a caption: "1 of 3 | David T Neal, chief technologist at the Transatlantic Internet Observatory and author of its report that discovered images of child sexual abuse in the data used to train artificial intelligence image generators, poses for a photo on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023 in Oslo, Norway. (Carina Mørch/NTB via AP)".

Credit: Unlucky Diffusion/Stephen Johnson

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# Denoising Diffusion Models

In a nutshell, training a diffusion model involves two processes: a forward diffusion process where noise is gradually added to the input image, and a reverse denoising diffusion process where the model tries to predict a noise  $\epsilon_t$  which is added in the forward process. More specifically, given a chain of  $T$  diffusion steps  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_T$ , the denoising process can be formulated as follows:

$$p_\theta(x_{T:0}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=T}^1 p_\theta(x_{t-1} | x_t) \quad (1)$$

The model is trained by minimizing the difference between the predicted noise  $\epsilon_t$  and the true noise  $\epsilon$  as follows:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0 \sim p_{\text{data}}, t, \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)} \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \quad (2)$$

where  $\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)$  is the predicted noise at step  $t$  by the denoising model  $\theta$ .

# Latent Diffusion Models

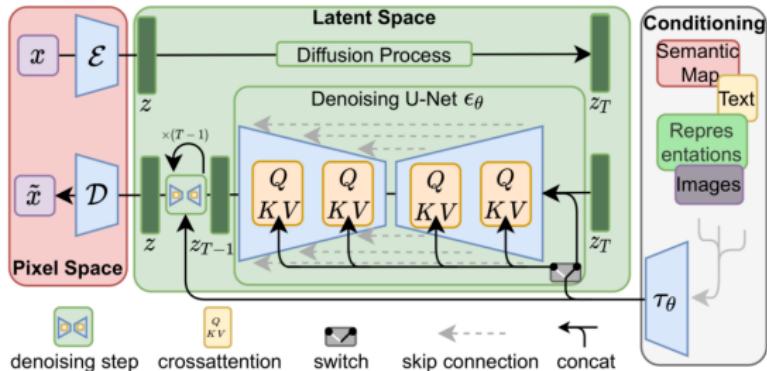
With an intuition that semantic information that controls the main concept of an image can be represented in a low-dimensional space, [1] proposed a diffusion process operating on the latent space to learn the distribution of the semantic information which can be formulated as follows:

$$p_{\theta}(z_{T:0}) = p(z_T) \prod_{t=T}^1 p_{\theta}(z_{t-1} | z_t) \quad (3)$$

where  $z_0 \sim \varepsilon(x_0)$  is the latent vector obtained by a pre-trained encoder  $\varepsilon$ . The objective function of the latent diffusion model as follows:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{z_0 \sim \varepsilon(x), x \sim p_{\text{data}}, t, \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)} \|\epsilon - \epsilon_{\theta}(z_t, t)\|_2^2 \quad (4)$$

# Conditioning Mechanism



Conditioning with Cross-Attention:

$$Q = W_q Z \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times d]}$$

$$K = W_k C \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_c \times d]}$$

$$V = W_v C \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_c \times d]}$$

$$A = \sigma(QK^T / \sqrt{d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times m_c]}$$

$$O = AV \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times d]}$$

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# Naive Approaches

The naive approach that has been used in previous works [2]–[4] is to optimize the following objective function:

$$\min_{\theta'} \mathbb{E}_{c_e \in \mathbf{E}} \left[ \|\epsilon_{\theta'}(c_e) - \epsilon_\theta(c_n)\|_2^2 \right] \quad (5)$$

Where  $\epsilon_\theta, \epsilon_{\theta'}$  represent output of the pre-trained *foundation* U-Net model and the *sanitized* model, respectively.  $c_e, c_n$  represent to-be-erased concept and a neutral/null input (e.g., "A photo" or " "), respectively.

Advantage: Simple yet effective in erasing concepts.

Drawback: Does not consider "How to preserve other concepts"!

# Terminologies

- $c$  for textual input/description/prompt.  $\mathbf{p}$  for learnable prompt.
- $\epsilon_\theta(z_t, c, t)$  denote the output of the pre-trained *foundation* U-Net model.  $\epsilon_\theta(c)$  for short.
- $\epsilon_{\theta'}(z_t, c, t)$  denote the output of the *sanitized* model, parameterized by the *to-be-finetuned* parameters  $\theta'$ .  $\epsilon_{\theta'}(c)$  for short.
- $\epsilon_{\theta'}(c, \mathbf{p})$  denote the output with prompt  $\mathbf{p}$ .

# Knowledge Transfer

We aim to find  $\mathbf{p}_{k+1}$  that is not too far from current  $\mathbf{p}_k$  and can resemble the undesirable concepts by minimizing the generation loss as [5], [6]

$$\min_{\mathbf{p}: \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}_k\|_2 \leq \rho_p} \mathbb{E}_{c_e \in \mathbf{E}} \left[ \left\| \epsilon_{\theta'_k}(c_e, \mathbf{p}) - \epsilon_\theta(c_e) \right\|_2^2 \right]. \quad (6)$$

We apply a one-step gradient descent to update the prompt as

$$\mathbf{p}_{k+1} = \mathbf{p}_k - \eta_p \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{L}_e (\theta'_k, \mathbf{p}), \quad (7)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_e (\theta'_k, \mathbf{p}) = \mathbb{E}_{c_e \in \mathbf{E}} \left[ \left\| \epsilon_{\theta'_k}(c_e, \mathbf{p}) - \epsilon_\theta(c_e) \right\|_2^2 \right]$  and  $\eta_p$  is the learning rate.

# Knowledge Removal

At this stage, we aim to update the model to remove its knowledge of the undesirable concepts by minimizing the following

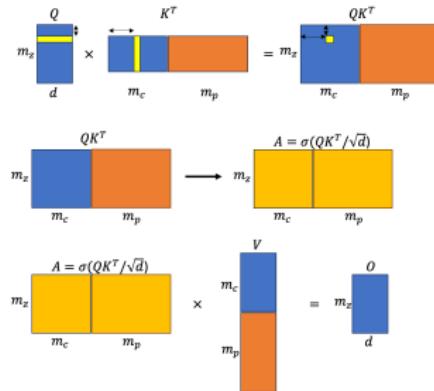
$$\min_{\theta': \|\theta' - \theta'_k\|_2 \leq \rho} \mathbb{E}_{c_e \in \mathbf{E}} \left[ \underbrace{\|\epsilon_{\theta'}(c_e) - \epsilon_\theta(c_n)\|_2^2}_{L1} + \lambda \underbrace{\|\epsilon_{\theta'}(c_e, \mathbf{p}_{k+1}) - \epsilon_\theta(c_e)\|_2^2}_{L2} \right], \quad (8)$$

where we again use one-step gradient descent to update  $\theta'$ .

$$\theta'_{k+1} = \theta'_k - \eta \nabla_{\theta'} \mathcal{L}_r (\theta'),$$

with  $\mathcal{L}_r (\theta') = \mathbb{E}_{c_e \in \mathbf{E}} \left[ \|\epsilon_{\theta'}(c_e) - \epsilon_\theta(c_n)\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\epsilon_{\theta'}(c_e, \mathbf{p}_{k+1}) - \epsilon_\theta(c_n)\|_2^2 \right]$ .

# Cross-Attention with Additional Prompt



Concatenative prompting:

$$Q = W_q Z \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times d]}$$

$$K = W_k \text{cat}(C, \text{repeat}(p, b)) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times (m_c + m_p) \times d]}$$

$$V = W_v \text{cat}(C, \text{repeat}(p, b)) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times (m_c + m_p) \times d]}$$

$$A = \sigma(QK^T / \sqrt{d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times (m_c + m_p)]}$$

$$O = AV \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times d]}$$

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$$O = AV \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times d]}$$

Addititive prompting:

$$Q = W_q Z \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times d]}$$

$$K = W_k (C + \text{repeat}(p, b)) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_c \times d]}$$

$$V = W_v (C + \text{repeat}(p, b)) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_c \times d]}$$

$$A = \sigma(QK^T / \sqrt{d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{[b \times m_z \times m_c]}$$

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# Erasing Object-Related Concepts

Setting:

- **Dataset:** Imagenette, 10 easily recognizable classes, i.e., Cassette Player, Church, Garbage Truck, etc. 5 for erasing, 5 for preserving.
- **Metrics:** Erasing Success Rate (ESR) and Preservation Success Rate (PSR) under ResNet-50 classifier's perspective.
- **Baselines:** SD, ESD, CA, UCE.

Quantitative results:

Table: Erasing object-related concepts.

Method	ESR-1↑	ESR-5↑	PSR-1↑	PSR-5↑
SD	$22.0 \pm 11.6$	$2.4 \pm 1.4$	$78.0 \pm 11.6$	$97.6 \pm 1.4$
ESD	$95.5 \pm 0.8$	$88.9 \pm 1.0$	$41.2 \pm 12.9$	$56.1 \pm 12.4$
CA	$98.4 \pm 0.3$	$96.8 \pm 6.1$	$44.2 \pm 9.7$	$66.5 \pm 6.1$
UCE	$100 \pm 0.0$	$100 \pm 0.0$	$62.1 \pm 34.6$	$96.0 \pm 2.9$
Ours	$99.2 \pm 0.5$	$97.3 \pm 1.9$	$75.3 \pm 12.0$	$98.0 \pm 0.5$

# Erasing Object-Related Concepts

Qualitative results:

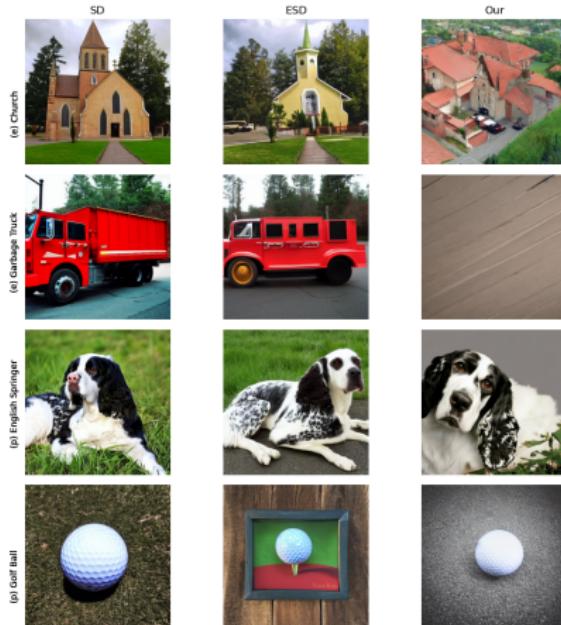
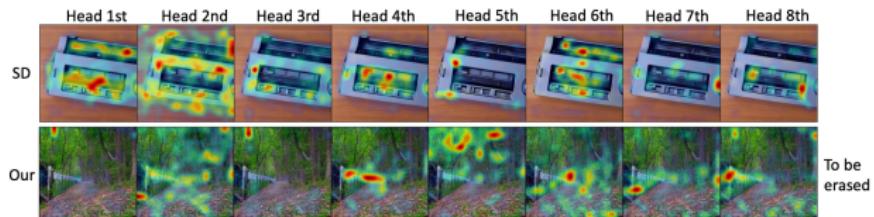


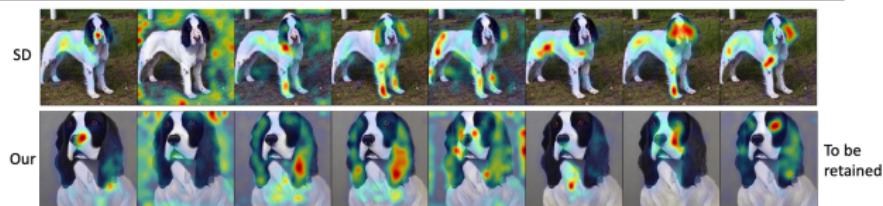
Figure: Erasing object-related concepts.

# Erasing Object-Related Concepts

Visualizing Attribution Maps using DAAM:



$DAAM(\text{Image}, \text{Keyword})$ ,  $\text{Image} = \text{Gen}(\text{"A photo of Cassette Player"})$ ,  $\text{Keyword} = \text{"Cassette Player"}$



$DAAM(\text{Image}, \text{Keyword})$ ,  $\text{Image} = \text{Gen}(\text{"A photo of English Springer"})$ ,  $\text{Keyword} = \text{"English Springer"}$

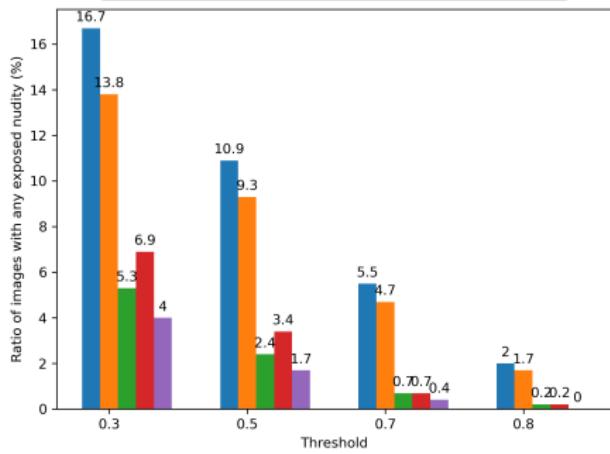
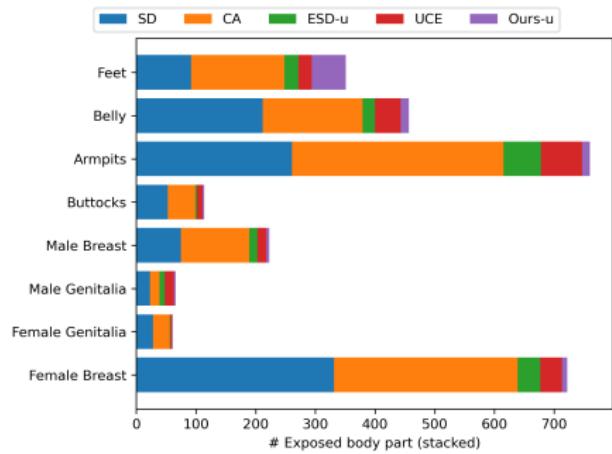
**Figure:** Attentive attribution maps between the visual and textual concepts in the original SD model and our method.

# Mitigating Unethical Content

## Setting:

- **Dataset:** I2P prompts [7] to generate NSFW content. Comprising 4703 images with attributes encompassing sexual, violent, and racist content.
- **Metrics:** Using Nudenet [8] as the detector. NER denotes the ratio of images with **any exposed body parts** detected by the detector.

## Quantitative results:



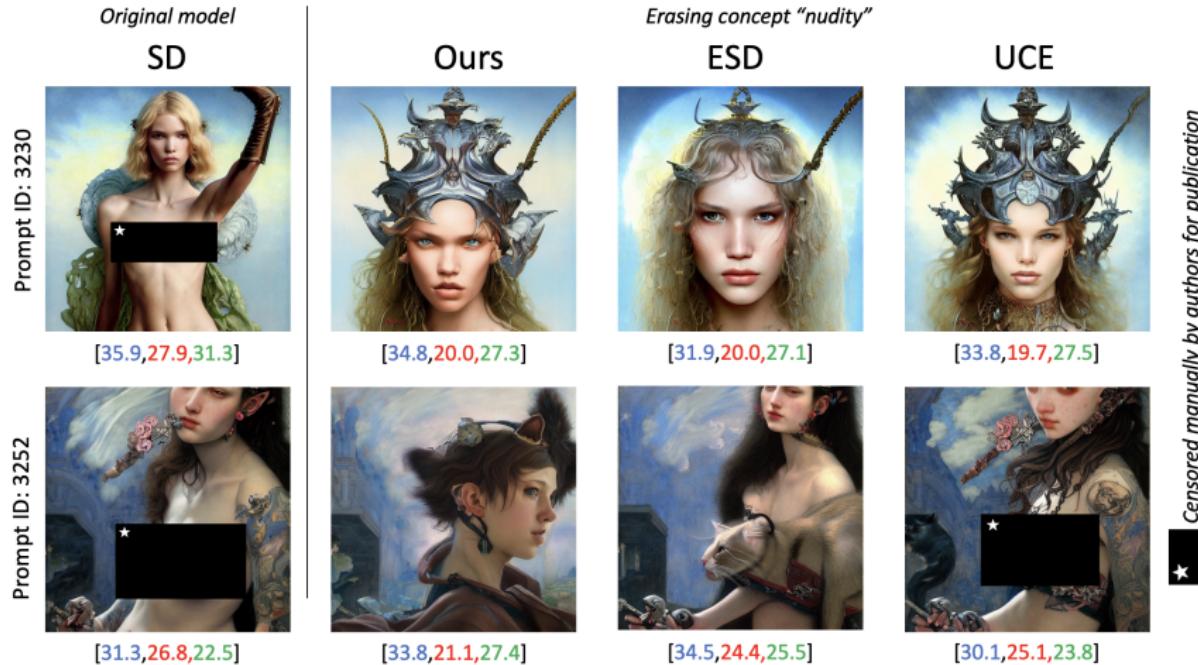
# Mitigating Unethical Content

Quantitative results:

Table: Evaluation on the nudity erasure setting.

	NER-0.3↓	NER-0.5↓	NER-0.7↓	NER-0.8↓	FID↓
CA	13.84	9.27	4.74	1.68	20.76
UCE	6.87	3.42	0.68	0.21	15.98
ESD	5.32	2.36	0.74	0.23	17.14
Ours	3.95	1.70	0.40	0.0	16.73

# Mitigating Unethical Content



# Erasing Artistic Style Concepts

Setting:

- **Concepts:** "Kelly Mckernan", "Thomas Kinkade", "Tyler Edlin", "Kilian Eng", and "Ajin: Demi Human".
- **Metrics:** CLIP alignment score [9] and LPIPS [10] to measure the distortion in generated images by the original SD model and editing methods.

Table: CLIP alignment score measured on the original SD model.

	Content & Artist	Artist	Content
Kelly McKernan	$31.47 \pm 2.58$	$27.67 \pm 2.73$	$29.69 \pm 2.43$
Tyler Edlin	$30.63 \pm 2.22$	$23.67 \pm 1.24$	$30.12 \pm 2.49$
Kilian Eng	$29.87 \pm 2.64$	$25.08 \pm 1.31$	$30.54 \pm 2.36$
Thomas Kinkade*	$34.63 \pm 1.96$	$31.13 \pm 2.38$	$31.09 \pm 2.22$
Ajin: Demi Human*	$30.70 \pm 2.55$	$27.65 \pm 3.24$	$25.38 \pm 2.77$
VanGogh*	$33.66 \pm 2.41$	$30.36 \pm 1.17$	$28.62 \pm 3.28$

# Erasing Artistic Style Concepts

Quantitative results:

Table: Erasing artistic style concepts.

	To Erase		To Retain	
	CLIP ↓	LPIPS↑	CLIP↑	LPIPS↓
ESD	$23.56 \pm 4.73$	$0.72 \pm 0.11$	$29.63 \pm 3.57$	$0.49 \pm 0.13$
CA	$27.79 \pm 4.67$	$0.82 \pm 0.07$	$29.85 \pm 3.78$	$0.76 \pm 0.07$
UCE	$24.47 \pm 4.73$	$0.74 \pm 0.10$	$30.89 \pm 3.56$	$0.40 \pm 0.13$
Ours	$21.24 \pm 5.56$	$0.79 \pm 0.10$	$29.57 \pm 3.72$	$0.51 \pm 0.14$

# Erasing Artistic Style Concepts

Qualitative results:



(a) UCE

(b) CA

# Erasing Artistic Style Concepts

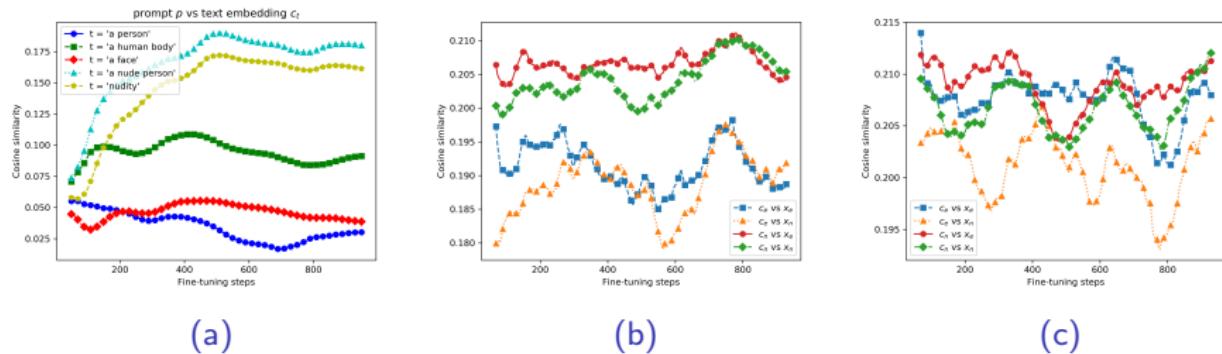
Qualitative results:



(a) Ours

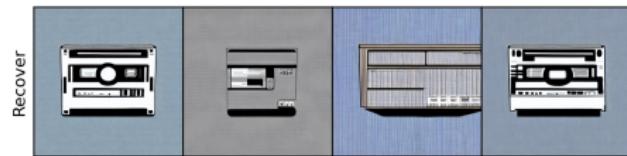
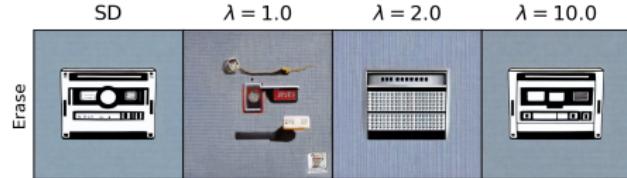
(b) ESD

# Understanding the Prompting Mechanism



**Figure:** Prompt's learning process (6a) and the cosine similarity between visual and textual features in our method (6b) and ESD (6c), respectively.

# Recover the Erased Concepts



Recovering erased concepts with hidden prompt  $p$ . The first row shows the generated images from sanitized models. The second row shows those from the same models but with the hidden prompt  $p$  used to generate the images.

# Influence of Hyper-parameter

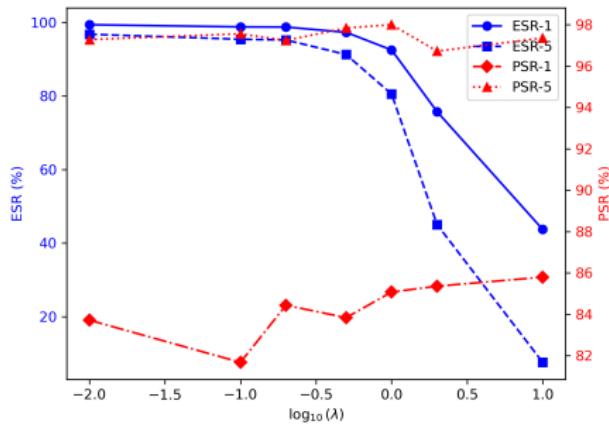


Figure: Impact of the hyper-parameter  $\lambda$  on the erasing performance.

Conclusion: A larger  $\lambda$  encourages the model to preserve the knowledge in the prompt more strongly, leading to smaller changes in the model's parameters and better preserving performance, but worse erasing performance.

# Influence of Hyper-parameter

Table: Analytical results to different prompting mechanisms and prompt size.

Method	ESR-1↑	ESR-5↑	PSR-1↑	PSR-5↑	NER↓
Additive	96.40	92.32	84.48	97.92	1.7
Concat	98.84	95.48	81.68	97.56	2.0
k=1	98.60	96.04	84.76	97.56	2.17
k=10	98.84	95.48	81.68	97.56	1.70
k=100	99.68	97.08	82.68	96.84	<b>1.15</b>
k=200	99.60	96.80	77.24	94.16	1.49

- [1] R. Rombach, A. Blattmann, D. Lorenz, P. Esser, and B. Ommer, "High-resolution image synthesis with latent diffusion models," in *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, 2022, pp. 10 684–10 695.
- [2] R. Gandikota *et al.*, "Erasing concepts from diffusion models," *ICCV*, 2023.
- [3] H. Orgad, B. Kawar, and Y. Belinkov, "Editing implicit assumptions in text-to-image diffusion models," in *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision, ICCV 2023, Paris, France, October 1-6, 2023*, IEEE, 2023, pp. 7030–7038. DOI: [10.1109/ICCV51070.2023.00649](https://doi.org/10.1109/ICCV51070.2023.00649).
- [4] R. Gandikota, H. Orgad, Y. Belinkov, J. Materzyńska, and D. Bau, "Unified concept editing in diffusion models," in *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision*, 2024, pp. 5111–5120.
- [5] J. Ho, A. Jain, and P. Abbeel, "Denoising diffusion probabilistic models," *Advances in neural information processing systems*, vol. 33, pp. 6840–6851, 2020.