Decoupled Learning for Conditional Adversarial Networks

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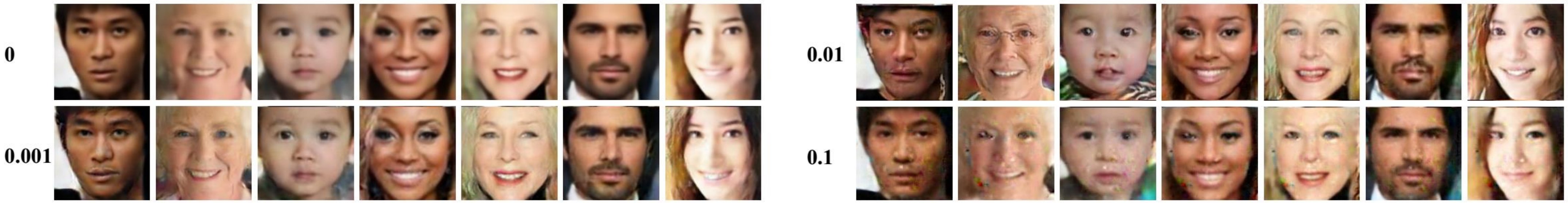
Motivation:



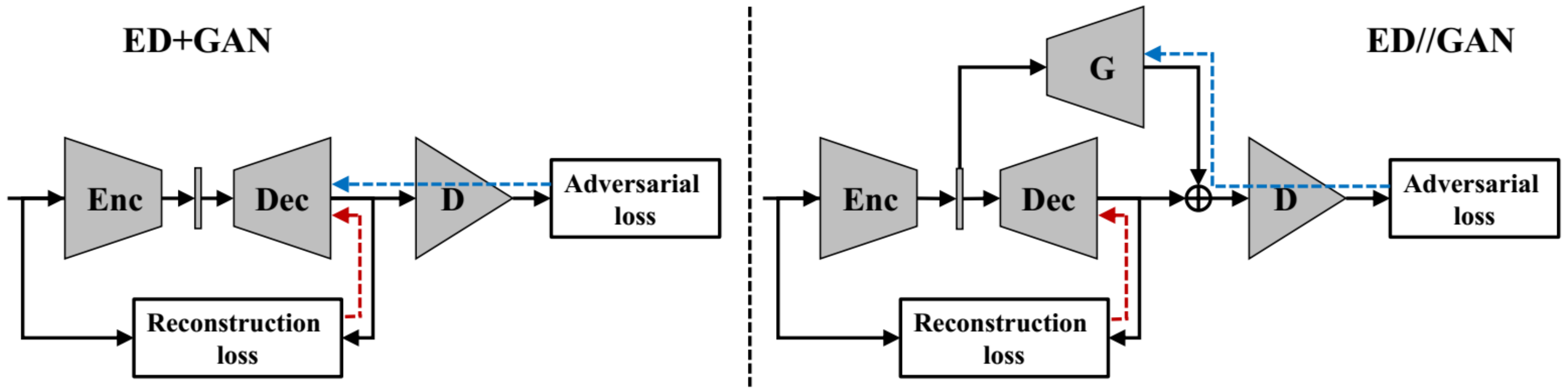
The conditional adversarial networks applied in existing works mainly consists of two parts:

1) the encoding-decoding nets (ED)
2) the GANs, which are tied in the parts of decoder and generator.

Therefore, the reconstruction loss and adversarial loss interact/compete with each other, potentially causing unstable results as shown above.
Existing works have to introduce a weighting factor (e.g., the values in the figure) to balance the effect of the two losses. How to adaptively set an appropriate weight or completely remove the necessity of the weighting factor is a problem unexplored.

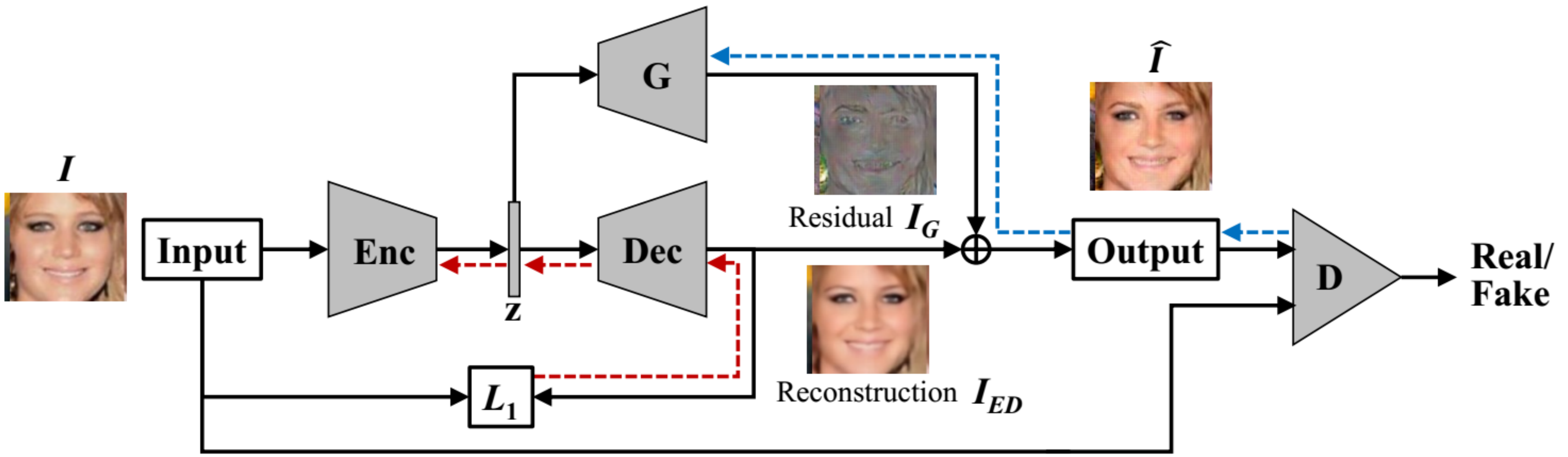
Main Idea:

Decouple the interaction between the reconstruction loss and adversarial loss in backpropagation, avoiding the competition that may cause instability.



- ED+GAN: the traditional structure
- ED//GAN: the proposed structure(decoupled learning)
- Enc and Dec: the encoder and decoder networks
- G and D: the generator and discriminator
- Black arrows: feedforward path
- Red arrows: backpropagation of reconstruction loss
- Blue arrows: backpropagation of adversarial loss

Approach:

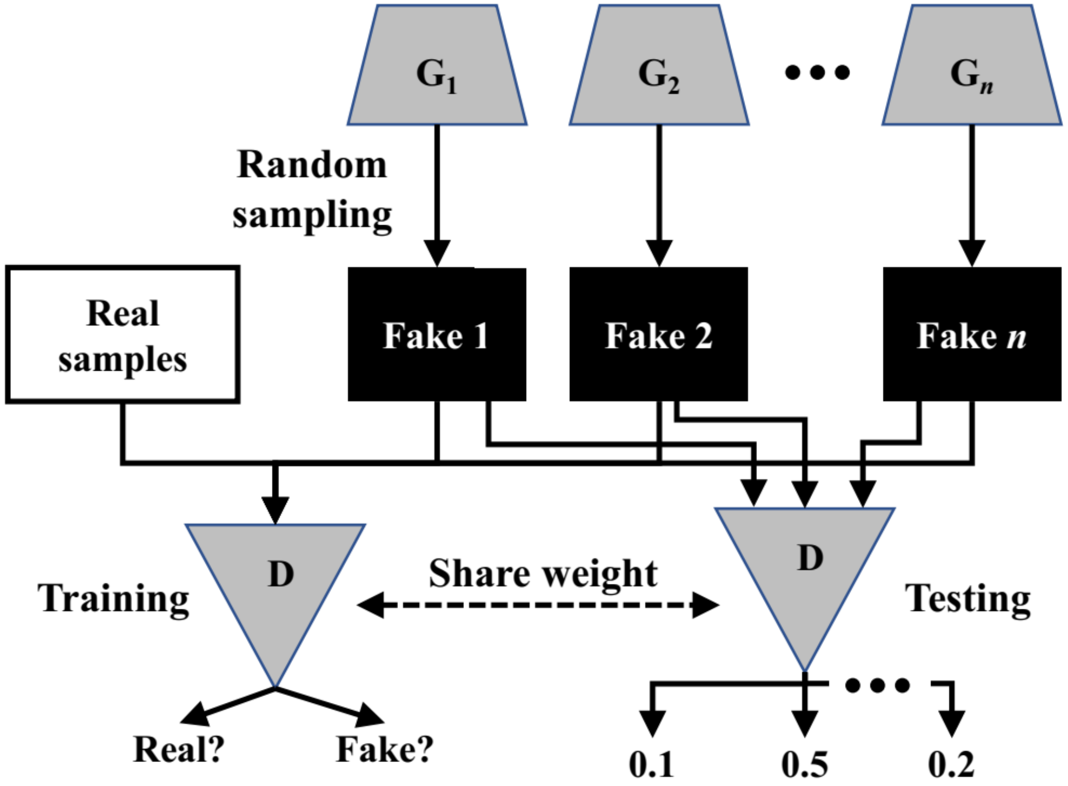


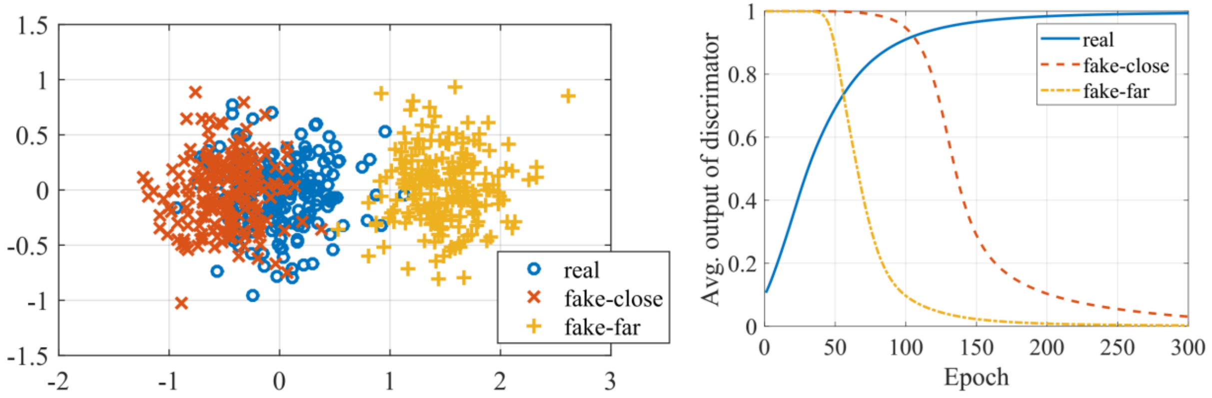
The objective function:

$$\min_{Enc,Dec} \mathcal{L}_{const}(Enc, Dec) + \min_{G} \mathcal{L}_{adv}(G) + \min_{D} \mathcal{L}_{adv}(D).$$

There are no weighting parameters between the losses in the objective function, which relaxes the manual tuning.

Normalized Relative Discriminative Score (NRDS):





A toy example of computing NRDS. Left: the real and fake samples randomly sampled from 2-D normal distributions with different means but with the same covariance. Right: the curves of epoch vs. averaged output of discriminator on corresponding sets (colors) of samples.

Experimental Results:

Compare ED+GAN and ED//GAN:

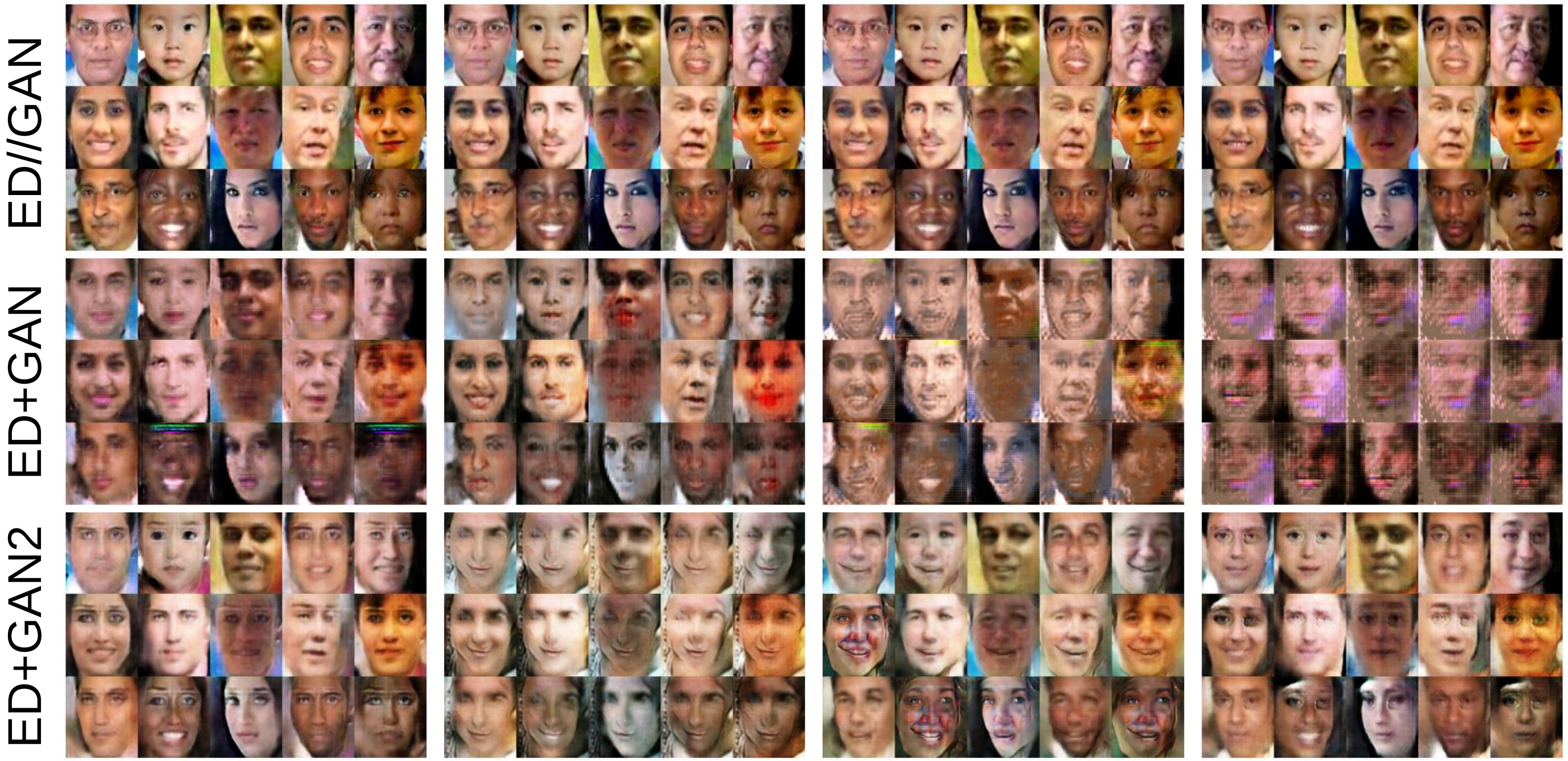


Table 2. NRDS with different weight settings and their std.

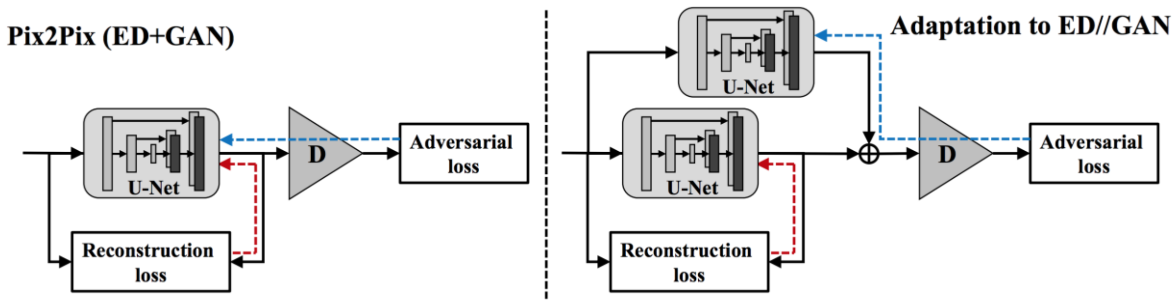
	0.001	0.01	0.1	1	std
ED+GAN	.1172	.1143	.1163	.0731	.0215
ED+GAN2	.1066	.1143	.1268	.1267	.0099
ED//GAN	.1432	.1434	.1458	.1466	.0017

ED+GAN2 denote the structure with batch normalization

ED+GAN is sensitive to weight variation. By contrast, ED//GAN is robust to weight variation, relaxing the weight tuning.

Experimental Results:

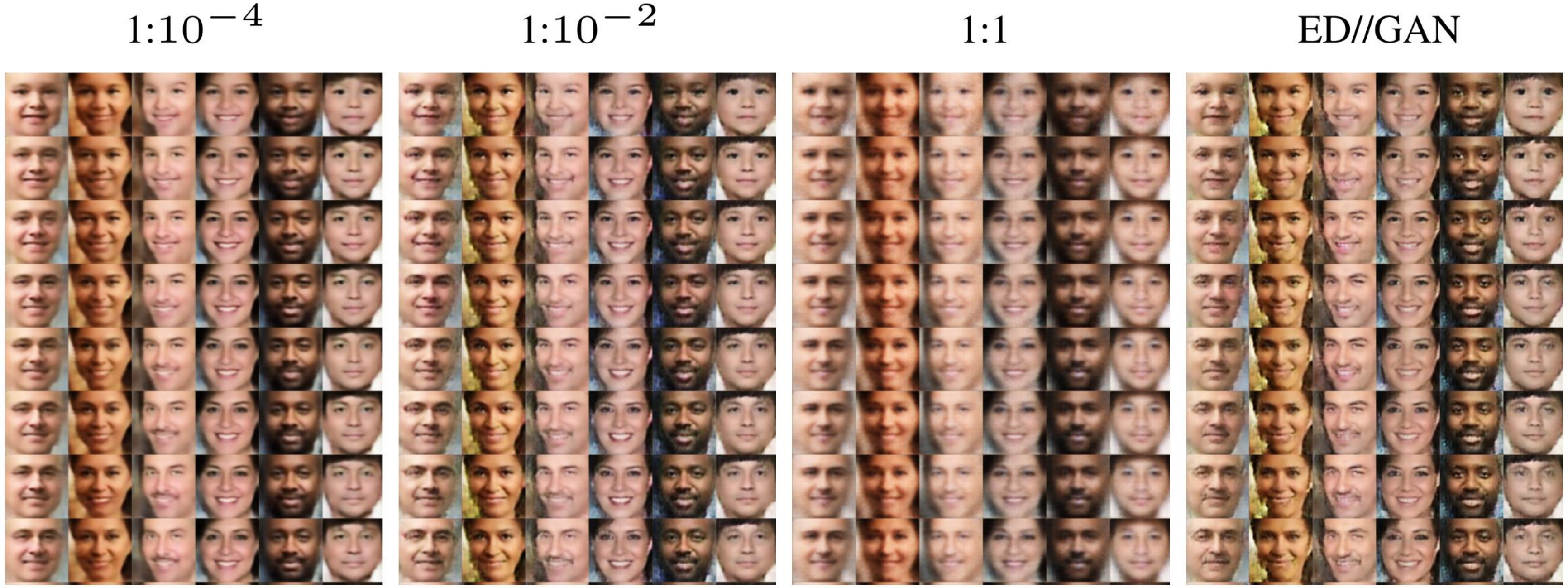
Adapt Pix2Pix [Isola et al., 2017] to ED//GAN:

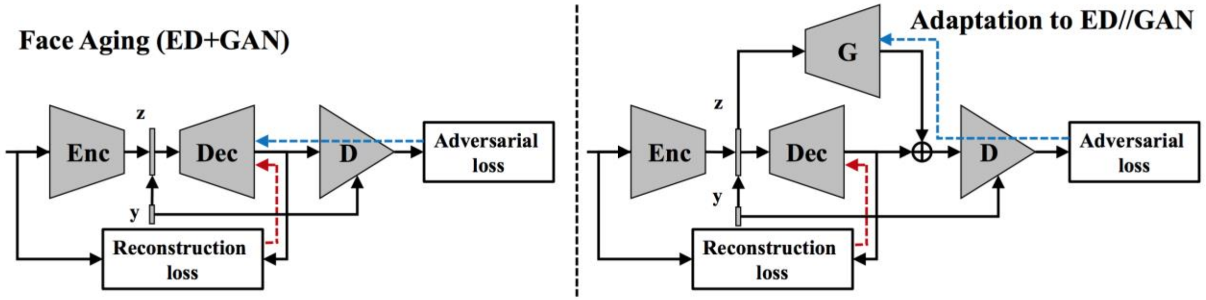


Method	ED+GAN			ED//GAN
	1:1	100:1	1000:1	
NRDS	.2190	**.2641**	.2572	.2597

Experimental Results:

Adapt CAAE [Zhang et al., 2017] to ED//GAN:





Method	ED+GAN			ED//GAN
	$1{:}10^{-4}$	$1{:}10^{-2}$	1:1	
NRDS	.2527	.2496	.2430	**.2547**

Conclusion:

We relax the weight tuning in conditional adversarial nets by decouple the back prorogation from the reconstruction loss and adversarial loss, achieving more stable results.

Thank You