Adv-Attribute: Inconspicuous and Transferable Adversarial Attack on Face Recognition —Supplementary Material—

In this supplementary material, we provide more details and experimental results to complement the manuscript. Firstly, we report the frequency of different attributes when attacking diverse targets with our importance-aware attribute selection. Secondly, we plot the variations of the overall loss with or without our multi-objective optimization during optimization. Thirdly, we provide the complete proof of Pareto-stationary solution. Finally, we illustrate the comparison of edited faces by the original StyleGAN [1] and the proposed Adv-Attribute attack.

A Important-aware Attribute Selection

When editing the same source face, different attributes could play a different role on the identification of FR models. During training, the proposed important-aware attribute selection can choose the optimal attribute for the different pairs of target faces and source faces. Due to the limited page in the submission, we supply more frequency of different attributes when attacking different target faces from FFHQ [2] and CelebA-HQ [3], as illustrated in Figure A. We report the frequency of five attributes (*i.e.*, smiling, eyeglass, mustache, blurry and pale skin) between different source faces and different target faces. When attacking the same target face, diverse source faces choose different attributes in each step. In other words, the same source face also selects different attributes for different target faces.



Figure A: The frequency of each attribute for different source faces when attacking the same target face from the FFHQ [2] and CelebA-HQ [3] datasets.

B Multi-Objective Optimization

During the training process, Figure B plots the variation of the overall loss with or without the multi-objective optimization. As the training steps increase, ω_1 and ω_2 are dynamically adjusted to balance the weights of the impersonation attack loss \mathcal{L}_{adv} and the stealthy loss \mathcal{L}_{stea} with our strategy,

36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2022).

whereas we set $\omega_1 = 0.5$ and $\omega_2 = 0.5$ fixed when applying our attack without the multi-objective optimization. Although both the overall losses \mathcal{L}_{all} are decreasing with the increase of epochs, our method combined with the multi-objective optimization achieves a more efficient training approach and yields a stronger attack.



Figure B: Comparison of the overall training loss with or without the multi-objective optimization.

C Proof of Pareto-stationary Solution

Lemma 1. Suppose the overall training loss \mathcal{L}_{all} consists of two conflicting objectives, the stealthy loss \mathcal{L}_{stea} and the adversarial loss \mathcal{L}_{adv} . According to the multi-objective optimization [4], the aim is to optimize the trade-off parameters ω_1 and ω_2 to satisfy as:

$$\min_{\omega_1,\omega_2} \| \omega_1 \cdot g_{stea}^i + \omega_2 \cdot g_{adv}^i \|_2^2,$$

s.t. $\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1, \ \omega_1 \ge c_1, \omega_2 \ge c_2,$ (1)

where g^i indicates the gradients with respect to the corresponding loss function, c_1 and c_2 are the boundary constraints that control the predefined bias. The solutions to ω_1 and ω_2 that $\omega_1 * g^i_{stea} + \omega_2 * g^i_{adv} = 0$ are the Pareto-stationary points under a KKT condition:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\omega}_1^* \\ \hat{\omega}_2^* \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{M})^{-1} \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{c} \\ 1 - \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{c} \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T & \mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{e}^T & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$
(2)

where $\mathbf{G} = [g_{stea}^i, g_{adv}^i]^T$, $\mathbf{e} = [1, 1]^T$, $\mathbf{c} = [c_1, c_2]^T$ and λ denotes the Lagrange multipliers.

Proof of Lemma 1. To solve this optimization problem, we denote $\hat{\omega}_1 = \omega_1 - c_1$, $\hat{\omega}_2 = \omega_2 - c_2$ and minimize the objective:

$$\min_{\hat{\omega}_1,\hat{\omega}_2} \| (\hat{\omega}_1 + c_1) \cdot g^i_{stea} + (\hat{\omega}_2 + c_2) \cdot g^i_{adv} \|_2^2,
s.t. \, \hat{\omega}_1 + \hat{\omega}_2 = 1 - (c_1 + c_2), \, \hat{\omega}_1 \ge 0, \hat{\omega}_2 \ge 0.$$
(3)

The equality constraints can be formulated as a relaxed problem, which can be written as:

$$\min_{\hat{\omega}} \frac{1}{2} \hat{\omega}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \hat{\omega} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \hat{\omega} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{c}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{e}^T \hat{\omega} = 1 - \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{c}, \tag{4}$$

where $\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = [\hat{\omega}_1, \hat{\omega}_2]^T$, $\mathbf{G} = [g_{stea}^i, g_{adv}^i]^T$, $\mathbf{e} = [1, 1]^T$ and $\mathbf{c} = [c_1, c_2]^T$.

After that, we use the Lagrange multipliers and solve the Lagrangian as:

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}},\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}} + \lambda \mathbf{e}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}} - 1 + \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{c}.$$
 (5)

The partial derivatives with respect to $\hat{\omega}$ and λ are computed to find the Pareto-stationary points,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}},\lambda)}{\partial \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}},\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = 0.$$
(6)



Figure C: Comparison of the original source faces, the edited faces by original StyleGAN [1] and the edited faces by our attack (from the left to right). The number below the face images denotes the similarity score computed by MobileFace [6] as black-box attack.

The optimization of this problem can be solved as:

$$\mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\omega}_1^* \\ \hat{\omega}_2^* \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}^T\mathbf{c} \\ 1 - \mathbf{e}^T\mathbf{c} \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix}.$$
(7)

According to the Moore-Penrose inverse [5], the final results are expressed as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\omega}_1^* \\ \hat{\omega}_2^* \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{M})^{-1} \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{c} \\ 1 - \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{c} \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{G}^T & \mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{e}^T & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
(8)

D Comparison with Original StyleGAN

To study the effect of identity when editing the faces by the original StyleGAN [1], we choose 100 face images from FFHQ and CelebA-HQ and randomly select from these five attributes with different magnitudes to edit the faces ten times. Meanwhile, we calculate the average recognition accuracy between original faces and edited faces by original StyleGAN. We find that the recognition accuracy is 100% for all three FR models (*i.e.*, IR152, MobileFace and FaceNet) on both datasets, which indicates that editing facial attributes with StyleGAN [1] does not change its original identity.

Dataset	FFHQ			CelebA-HQ		
FR Model	IR152	MobileFace	FaceNet	IR152	MobileFace	FaceNet
Original faces Edited faces by original StyleGAN Edited faces by our attack	0.045 0.043 0.231	0.168 0.147 0.306	0.083 0.061 0.412	0.052 0.049 0.237	0.179 0.157 0.306	0.099 0.072 0.429

Table A: Cosine similarity between target faces and original faces, edited faces by original StyleGAN and edited faces by our attack.



Figure D: Comparison of the original source faces, the edited faces by original StyleGAN [1] and the edited faces by our attack (from the left to right).

On the other hand, the aim of our attack is to make FR models recognize the adversarial faces as the targeted person. We compute the average cosine similarity between target faces and original faces, edited faces by original StyleGAN and edited faces by our attack on FFHQ [2] and CelebA-HQ [3], as reported in Table A. Note that the edited face images by original StyleGAN [1] are crafted without the proposed noise generators and we control the editing level by original StyleGAN [1] as close to our attack method. These results indicate that the original attribute editing hardly affects the similarity to the target face, whereas the adversarial faces by our attack successfully impersonate the targeted identity with higher cosine similarity. Additionally, Figure C illustrates a qualitative comparison between edited faces by our method are close to the editing faces by original StyleGAN [1], but our attack also increases the similarity score with target faces to achieve impersonation attacks.



Figure E: Comparison of the original source faces, the edited faces by original StyleGAN [1] and the edited faces by our attack (from the left to right).

E More Qualitative Results

This section provides more qualitative results from FFHQ [2] and CelebA-HQ [3]. Figure D and Figure E compare the original source faces, the edited faces by original StyleGAN [1] and the edited faces by our attack. In general, the majority of adversarial edited faces achieve favorable visual quality and attacking performance, while only several examples (e.g., the second row in Figure E) are slightly semantically-inconsistent with the original image for human observers. Moreover, since we choose pale skin and blurry as two of five selected attributes in our editing spaces, these two attributes could smooth and lose partial textures on edited faces by both the original StyleGAN and our attack. The synthetic ability of StyleGAN decides the quality of edited face images, serving as a potential weakness of our attack.

References

- [1] Ji Lin, Richard Zhang, Frieder Ganz, Song Han, and Jun-Yan Zhu. Anycost gans for interactive image synthesis and editing. In *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, 2021.
- [2] Tero Karras, Samuli Laine, and Timo Aila. A style-based generator architecture for generative adversarial networks. In *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, 2019.
- [3] Tero Karras, Timo Aila, Samuli Laine, and Jaakko Lehtinen. Progressive growing of gans for improved quality, stability, and variation. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2018.
- [4] Xiao Lin, Hongjie Chen, Changhua Pei, Fei Sun, Xuanji Xiao, Hanxiao Sun, Yongfeng Zhang, Wenwu Ou, and Peng Jiang. A pareto-efficient algorithm for multiple objective optimization in e-commerce recommendation. In ACM RecSys, 2019.
- [5] Roger Penrose. On best approximate solutions of linear matrix equations. In *MATH PROC CAMBRIDGE*, 1956.
- [6] Sheng Chen, Yang Liu, Xiang Gao, and Zhen Han. Mobilefacenets: Efficient cnns for accurate real-time face verification on mobile devices. In *Chinese Conference on Biometric Recognition*, 2018.

Checklist

- 1. For all authors...
 - (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's contributions and scope? [Yes]
 - (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? [Yes]
 - (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? [Yes]
 - (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to them? [Yes]
- 2. If you are including theoretical results...
 - (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? [Yes]
 - (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? [Yes]
- 3. If you ran experiments...
 - (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main experimental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? [Yes]
 - (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they were chosen)? [Yes]
 - (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experiments multiple times)? [Yes]
 - (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? [Yes]
- 4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets...
 - (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? [Yes]
 - (b) Did you mention the license of the assets? [N/A]
 - (c) Did you include any new assets either in the supplemental material or as a URL? [N/A]
 - (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you're using/curating? [N/A]
 - (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable information or offensive content? [N/A]
- 5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects...
 - (a) Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if applicable? [N/A]
 - (b) Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? [N/A]
 - (c) Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount spent on participant compensation? [N/A]