## CVPR 2024 Best Paper Generative Image Dynamics

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- **Author**
- **Background**
- **Method**
- **Experiments**



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# Background: Animating an Image

### **Task: Generate a video based on an input image**

Method 1: Directly generate **raw RGB pixel volume**:

- Computationally expensive
- Inconsistency



Input Image



Result from Runway

# Background: Animating an Image

### **Task: Generate a video based on an input image**

Method 2: **Moving the image content around** according to motion:

- Since most pixel information are **shared** across the video
- Consistency
- Utilize **optical flow**



Input Image



Result from Generative Image Dynamics

## **Optical Flow**

- Description of displacement field
- $F(\mathbf{p}) : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$  is to describe the **relative position** of a pixel from frame 1 in position  $p$  to frame  $2$ :

$$
I_1(\mathbf{p})=I_2(\mathbf{p}+F(\mathbf{p}))
$$

$$
(x, y)
$$
\n
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(x, y)
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(x + u, y + v)
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(x + u, y + v)
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#### **Optical Flow**



### **Estimation of Optical Flow**

• Lucas-Kanade / Horn-Schunck method: Assume similar flows in nearby pixels Solve the equation for all  $\mathbf{p}$ :

 $I_1({\bf p}) = I_2({\bf p} + F({\bf p}))$ 

(Details are shown in *Experiments* section)

Machine learning method: Train models from video datasets

### **Recover Video from Optical Flow**  $I_1(\mathbf{p}) = I_2(\mathbf{p} + F(\mathbf{p}))$

Handling conflicts Solutions:

(a) Average splatting (b) Linear splatting (c) Softmax splatting



### **Recover Video from Optical Flow**

Handling conflicts

Solutions:

(a) Average splatting:

- Directly calculate the average of colors
- Blend overlapping regions

(b) Linear splatting (c) Softmax splatting



## **Recover Video from Optical Flow**

Handling conflicts

Solutions:

(a) Average splatting

(b) Linear splatting:

- Calculate the **weighted** average
- High weight for **foreground** parts
- Low weight for **background** parts
- Require depth map

(c) Softmax splatting



## **Recover Video from Optical Flow**

Handling conflicts

#### Solutions:

(a) Average splatting

(b) Linear splatting

(c) Softmax splatting:

- Calculate the **weighted** average
- High weight for **moving** parts
- Low weight for **still** parts



• The weight function is trained in a network or computed from motion

### **Recover Video from Optical Flow**

#### **Feature level** softmax splatting

Render smoother results



Softmax Splatting for Video Frame Interpolation. CVPR, 2020.

### **Generating Video using Optical Flow**

Using neural networks to predict optical flow from an image



### **Generating Video using Optical Flow**

Using U-Net to predict optical flow





Animating Landscape: Self-Supervised Learning of Decoupled Motion and Appearance for Single-Image Video Synthesis. arXiv preprint, 2019.

### **Generating Video using Optical Flow**

Feature level splatting





## **Generating Video using Optical Flow**

Limitation: Individual  $t \in \{1, ..., T\}$  across video frames

- Computationally expensive
- Temporal inconsistency

Solution:

(1) Autoregressive

Using frame  $t-3, t-2, t-1$  to predict frame  $t$ 

(2) Timestep embedding

Using embedded  $t$  as input of model

## **Generating Video using Optical Flow**

Limitation: Individual  $t \in \{1, \ldots, T\}$  across video frames

- Computationally expensive
- Temporal inconsistency

Solution:

(3) **Spectral volume**

- The **frequency form** of motion
- The **Discrete Fourier Transform** of optical flow
- Capable of separating high-/low-frequency information
- Motion composed of summation of cosine curves **→** consistency

# Background: Discrete Fourier Transform

#### **Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)**

Decomposes functions into summation of **cosine curves** Transforms **time-domain** data into **frequency-domain** information



## Background: Spectral Volume

### **Spectral Volume**

For a T-frame video, optical flow:  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p}) = \{F_t(\mathbf{p}) | t = 1, \ldots, T\}$ DFT transforms optical flow into spectral volume with  $K$  frequencies

$$
\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{p}) = \{S_{f_k}(\mathbf{p}) | k = 0, \ldots, K - 1\}
$$
  
where  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{p}) = DFT(\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p}))$ 

Note that if  $K \ll T$ , the motion is stored in less parameters



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#### **How to Generate Video using Spectral Volume**

Using neural networks to predict spectral volume from an image





Input during training: Noisy latent features encoded from GT spectral volume





Input during inferencing: Gaussian noise





Denoising: Downsampled initial frame **as condition**





Output: Denoised features decoded to produce 4K-channel spectral volume





How to choose frequencies?

**Natural oscillations** are composed mainly of **low-frequency** components

Keep the lowest 16 frequencies ( $K = 16$ ) is sufficient







Directly predict 4K-channel spectral volume: computational expensive / inconsistency Solution: frequency embedding, **as condition** (cross attention)





During denoising, data should be ranged in  $[-1, 1]$   $[1, 0]$ 

Solution:

(1) Directly scaling according to resolution:

• Coefficients at higher frequencies close to 0  $\log_{10}$ 

(2) Adaptive normalization:

- 
- Coefficients distribute more evenly







#### **Recover Video from Spectral Volume**

Calculate optical flow:

$$
\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{p})=DFT^{-1}(\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{p}))
$$

Recover video from optical flow using softmax splatting:



The weight function is calculated by: $W(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_i ||F_t(\mathbf{p})||_2.$ 

(b) Learned  $W$  (c)  $W$  from motion (a) Average-splat

30

# Application



Input still picture



#### **Seamless looping video**



**Interactive dynamics** 

## Application: Seamless Looping Video



## Application: Seamless Looping Video



## Application: Interactive Dynamics



$$
||\mathbf{q}_{f_j}(0)|| = ||\frac{\mathbf{f}(0)}{||\mathbf{f}(0)||_2} \cdot S_{f_j}||_2 \quad \phi_{\text{drag}}(\mathbf{q}_{f_j}(0)) = -\phi(\frac{\mathbf{f}(0)}{||\mathbf{f}(0)||_2} \cdot S_{f_j})
$$

See supplementary material p.1 and the state of  $\sim$  34



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## Experiments: Data

Collected 3000+ natural scenes exhibiting oscillatory motions Extracted GT motions from a classical flow method (DL-based flow method: too smooth)

$$
I(x, y, t) = I(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y, t + \Delta t)
$$
  
\n
$$
I(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y, t + \Delta t) \approx I(x, y, t) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \Delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \Delta t
$$
  
\n
$$
\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \Delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \Delta t = 0
$$
  
\n
$$
I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0
$$
  
\n
$$
E(u, v) = \iint \left[ (I_x u + I_y v + I_t)^2 + \alpha^2 \left( |\nabla u|^2 + |\nabla v|^2 \right) \right] dx dy
$$



#### **Metrics**

- **Frechet Inception Distance** (FID)
- **Kernel Inception Distance** (KID)

distance between the distributions of generated frames and GT frames

- **Frechet Video Distance** (FVD, FVD<sub>32</sub>) ) and the set of  $\overline{a}$
- **Dynamic Texture Frechet Video Distance (DTFVD, DTFVD<sub>32</sub>)**  $)$ reflect synthesis quality for the natural oscillation motions



### **Ablation**

Retaining of frequencies



### **Ablation**

Scaling according to resolution



### **Ablation**

No frequency embedding



### **Ablation**

No latent



### **Ablation**

Learnable weights in softmax splatting





# **Conclusion**

- 1. A new approach for modeling natural oscillation dynamics from a single still picture
- 2. Produces photo-realistic animations from a single picture and significantly outperforms prior baselines
- 3. Demonstrates potential to enable several downstream applications such as creating seamlessly looping or interactive image dynamics



#### **Limitation:**

The model is not capable of generating:

- (a) non-oscillating motions
- (b) high-frequency oscillations (only low-frequencies were kept)
- (c) contents not covered by dataset



1. Creative combination of existing works

Require broad foundations and insights

- 2. Fancy results
- 3. Interesting downstream applications

Interactive image dynamics

## **Thanks for listening!**