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Synthetic Driver Image Generation for Human Pose-Related Tasks

Romain Guesdon¹, Carlos Crispim-Junior¹, and Laure Tougne Rodet¹

¹Univ Lyon, Univ Lyon 2, CNRS, INSA Lyon, UCBL, Centrale Lyon LIRIS UMR5205, F-69676 Bron, France {romain.guesdon, carlos.crispim-junior, laure.tougne} @liris.cnrs.fr

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Abstract: The interest in driver monitoring has grown recently, especially in the context of autonomous vehicles. However, the training of deep neural networks for computer vision requires more and more images with significant diversity, which does not match the reality of the field. This lack of data prevents networks to be properly trained for certain complex tasks such as human pose transfer which aims to produce an image of a person in a target pose from another image of the same person. To tackle this problem, we propose a new synthetic dataset for pose-related tasks. By using a straightforward pipeline to increase the variety between the images, we generate 200k images with a hundred human models in different cars, environments, lighting conditions, etc. We measure the quality of the images of our dataset and compare it with other datasets from the literature. We also train a network for human pose transfer in the synthetic domain using our dataset. Results show that our dataset matches the quality of existing datasets and that it can be used to properly train a network on a complex task. We make both the images with the pose annotations and the generation scripts publicly available.

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1 **INTRODUCTION**

The increasing complexity of computer vision tasks 29 2 over the years has led to a growth in the size of deep 30 3 learning models. Therefore, more and more data has 31 4 been required to train the deep neural networks, with 32 5 more diversity among the images. Large-scale gen- 33 6 eral datasets have been published over the years to 34 7 answer this problem, such as ImageNet (Deng et al., 35 8 2009), COCO (Lin et al., 2015), or DeepFashion (Liu 36 9 et al., 2016) datasets. However, specific contexts lack 37 10 sufficiently large datasets, especially because of the 11 38 high cost of acquisition in comparison with the size 12 39 of the research field. 13

Human Pose Transfer (HPT) is an example of a 41 14 data-demanding task. HPT aims to generate, from a 42 15 source image of a person, a new image of that same 43 16 person in a different target pose. Generative Ad-44 17 versarial Networks (GAN) (Goodfellow et al., 2014) 45 18 achieve good performances on this task (Zhu et al., 46 19 2019; Huang et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2021), mostly 47 20 in two contexts: fashion and video surveillance im-48 21 22 ages. These two domains correspond to the two main 49 23 datasets available for this task (Liu et al., 2016; Zheng 50 24 et al., 2015). However, a substantial number of im-51 ages, with high diversity in persons, clothes, and en-52 25 vironment is required to properly train GAN models. 26 53

These requirements are difficult to achieve in specific contexts, for example, images of drivers in consumer vehicles. In this context, data acquisition requires setting up experimentations in a moving car (Guesdon et al., 2021) or at least in a simulator (Martin et al., 2019). These constraints lead to the availability of few images with little variety of subjects.

A commonly used solution to tackle a lack of training data is geometric data augmentation such as random rotation, crop, scaling, etc. (Simard et al., 2003; Krizhevsky et al., 2012). However, these methods may be sufficient for rigid objects but are not fully suitable for articulated ones. An alternative is the use of synthetic data. This process allows the generation of a high number of images with a theoretically infinite diversity and accurate annotations, within a limited time and financial cost. Even if a domain gap exists between synthetic and real images, literature has demonstrated that generated images can be used to assist the training of networks on real-world images for many tasks (Juraev et al., 2022; Wu et al., 2022; Kim et al., 2022). In the driving context, few synthetic public datasets exist (Cruz et al., 2020; Katrolia et al., 2021). Furthermore, these datasets mainly focus on monitoring tasks and emphasize more on actions than on subject diversity.

To address the lack of diversity in driving vehi-



Figure 1: Samples of images from the proposed synthetic dataset.

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cles, we propose a large dataset of synthetic images 77
for pose-related tasks. We develop a pipeline where 78
we diversify the subjects (with 100 driver models), 79
but also the car cockpits, the environment, the lighting conditions, etc. The images are publicly available, 81
as well as the scripts used for data generation 1.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 83 60 presents related work on driver image datasets. In 84 61 Section 3, we present our proposed process and the 85 62 synthetic dataset along with the choices made for the 86 63 generation. We show and evaluate in Section 4 the 87 64 generated images and an application of our dataset 88 65 with an HPT architecture. Finally, Section 5 presents 89 66 our conclusions and future work. 67 90

68 2 RELATED WORK

Work in the computer-vision field about drivers in 69 consumer vehicles mainly focuses on passenger mon-70 itoring, mostly for safety-related tasks. Therefore, 71 datasets in real-world conditions or in driving simu-72 lators have been published for tasks such as driver ac-73 tivity recognition (Ohn-Bar et al., 2014; Jegham et al., 74 2019; Martin et al., 2019; Borghi et al., 2020), driver 75 pose estimation (Guesdon et al., 2021), driver gaze 76

estimation (Ribeiro and Costa, 2019; Selim et al., 2020), driver awareness monitoring (Abtahi et al., 2014).

Most of these datasets contain RGB images from video clips annotated for the target tasks. However, these datasets usually do not provide pose annotations required for the study of human pose transfer tasks. Drive&Act (Martin et al., 2019) proposes a multimodal (RGB, NIR, depth) and multi-view dataset in a static driving simulator, with 3D human pose and activity annotations. DriPE dataset (Guesdon et al., 2021) depicts drivers in consumer vehicles in realworld driving conditions, with manually annotated poses. However, these two datasets contain only 15 and 19 subjects, respectively, which is not enough to fully train deep neural networks on a complex task, such as HPT, according to our observations.

Regarding synthetic data for driver monitoring, two datasets have been published. SVIRO (Cruz et al., 2020), a synthetic dataset for scenarios in the passenger cockpit. It depicts people and objects in the car back seat with different placements and provides RGB images along with infrared imitation, depth maps, segmentation masks, and human pose groundtruth keypoints. TICaM (Katrolia et al., 2021) is a dataset with both real and synthetic images for vehicle interior monitoring, with real images recorded in a car cockpit simulator. The dataset provides RGB, depth, and infrared images with action annotations and segmentation ground-truth masks. The two main issues

¹Images and generation scripts are publicly available ¹⁰⁴ on : https://gitlab.liris.cnrs.fr/aura_autobehave/synthetic_ drivers ¹⁰⁵



Figure 2: Global process for the generation of the synthetic driver images.

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with these datasets are the front view angle, which 133 107 does not allow a clear view of the driver's full body, 108

and the subject diversity which is still low for large 134 109 models such as GAN (Goodfellow et al., 2014) on 135 110 these data without overfitting. We can also mention 136 111 Cañas et. al. (Canas et al., 2022) which describe 137 112 a global approach to generate synthetic images for 138 113 passenger monitoring. However, their work only par- 139 114 tially considers the question of random pose genera- 140 115 tion, and no script nor images have been made pub- 141 116 licly available so far. 142 117

In summary, there currently exists no publicly 143 118 available dataset suited to study driver pose transfer 144 119 with a high variety of driver subjects and a full body 145 120 view camera angle. 146 121

DATASET GENERATION 3 122

151 Because the driver datasets in the literature for hu-123 man pose-related tasks lack diversity, deep generative 124 methods cannot be trained and used to increase the 125 available data quantity. We propose a process based 153 126 on a standard pipeline for 3D scene generation to ren-127 154 der new synthetic images. Using this method, we 128 build a large dataset depicting one hundred human in-155 129 stances, several car models, variations of luminance, ¹⁵⁶ 130 etc. In this section, we describe the generation pro-157 131 cess and present statistics about the generated images. 158

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3D Models 3.1

To generate synthetic driver images, two objects need to be modeled: cars and humans. Human models are generated using MakeHuman Community (MakeHuman, 2022). This open-source software produces 3D models with many parameters like age, height, muscle mass, ethnicity, face proportions, etc. Models are generated with a rigged skeleton, which allows animating them easily and realistically. We use the default clothes from MakeHuman along with some provided by the community. To generate many models, we use the Mass Produce module which allows setting an interval for each parameter. We also randomly change the color of the clothes' textures when generating the full scene to increase the diversity. The car models are obtained on the Unity Asset store (Unity, 2022). We select different types of consumer vehicles to represent various car cockpits (e.g., family cars, sports cars, pick-ups), with equipment going from plain dashboards to touchscreens.

3.2 **Pose Generation**

Human models are animated using the included rigged skeleton (Figure 3-a). Theoretically, each bone can rotate freely around the body joint where its head is attached, which gives it three degrees of liberty. However, several constraints must be considered in our case. First, no real human bone can fully rotate



Figure 3: Illustrations of the generation process in Blender with (a) the skeleton rig, (b) the fixed wrist targets (only used for the additional driving images), (c) the default scene perspective, an example of the final scenes without (d) and with (e) the light rendering, and (f) a view from the camera.

in any direction. If we take the forearm for exam- 188
ple and consider that it is fully open by default, it can 189

¹⁶¹ ple and consider that it is fully open by default, it can ¹⁸⁹ approximately rotate from 0 to 150° around the pitch ¹⁹⁰

and the roll axis and cannot rotate around its yaw axis 191

(Maik et al., 2010). Secondly, the car cabin is a con- 192

stricted space, which brings many constraints to avoid 193

the human and the car models colliding. Therefore, to 194

address these constraints, we proceed as follows:

1681. We define a default pose, which corresponds to
the person sitting straight on the car seat with the
arms close to the upper body.196
197170arms close to the upper body.198
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We perform small random rotations on the head, 200
back, and legs considering the human body con-201
straints and the car cabin.

3. We randomly defined a target for each wrist, in 202
 front of the subject and within the arm range.

We also add a constraint to force the targets to 203
be within a defined box that represents the cabin 204
space. The boxes are manually defined before- 205
hand for each car model to best match their shape. 206

We use an inverse kinematic solver integrated 207 4. 180 into the 3D modeling software to place the wrists ²⁰⁸ 181 on the targets. We only move the upper arms ²⁰⁹ 182 and forearms during this process, which does not ²¹⁰ 183 modify the back inclination. This is to avoid un-²¹¹ 184 natural poses in the car seat. Kinematic angle con-²¹² 185 straints are set on each involved bone to match ²¹³ 186 214 real body constraints. 187

This process allows us to easily generate many random plausible poses while taking into consideration body and environment constraints.

However, random positioning is very unlikely to generate standard driving poses, such as hands on the wheel or the gear lever. This is not problematic when considering the car as an autonomous vehicle of level 2 or 3 for example, but can be less realistic for manual driving tasks (in a vehicle of levels of autonomy 0 or 1). Therefore, we additionally set in each car model fixed wrist targets on the wheel, gear lever, and dashboard (Figure 3-b). We use these targets instead of random ones to separately generate more realistic driving images.

3.3 Generation Process

To set up the full scene and render the images, we use Blender 3.2 (Blender, 2022) modeling software. Its advantages are that it is free and open-source, accessible, and can be fully automated using python scripts. The global rendering process is summarized in Figure 2.

We first create the default scene by setting up a fixed camera, a sunlight source, and a panel for the background image (Figure 3-c). We use high-quality images of landscapes to simulate the background, which allows us to easily leverage a high number of different backgrounds from free picture databases. The 3D models are then imported into the scene.

Dataset	SVIRO	TICaM	Drive&Act	DriPE	Market	Fashion	Ours
Year	2020	2021	2019	2021	2015	2016	2022
#Frames	25K	126K	9.6M	10k	33k	54k	200k
#Subjects	22 adults	13	15	19	$\sim 3k$	$\sim 10k$	100
#Views	1	1	6	1	-	-	1
Synthetic / Real	Synthetic	Both	Real	Real	Real	Real	Synthetic
Data	Depth, RGB, IR	Depth, RGB, IR	Depth, RGB, IR	RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB
Annotation	Classification labels, 2D box mask, 2D skeleton	2D+3D boxes, 3D segmenta- tion mask, activity	Activity, 2D+3D skeletons	2D boxes, skeleton	2D skeleton	2D skeleton	2D+3D skeletons and boxes

Table 1: Comparison table between different datasets.

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Then, we randomly define several configurations, 250 216 where a configuration is composed of a human model, 251 217 a car model, a background, small camera deviations, 252 218 and lighting parameters (Figure 3-d, e. Note that the 253 219 black triangle in the illustrations represents the up di- 254 220 rection of the camera model). We use a Blender add- 255 221 on that places the sun in a realistic position from GPS 256 222 coordinates and date time, which we set randomly. 257 223 We also generate night configurations by selecting 258 224 night backgrounds and dimming the lights. The night 259 225 226 setting is randomly used 20% of the time. 260 Finally, for each configuration, we generate a pose 261 227 using the process described in Section 3.2 (Figure 3- 262 228

f) and render the image. We also save the 2D and 3D 263
coordinates of each body joint, the bounding boxes, 264
and the camera's intrinsic and extrinsic parameters. 265

232 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section, we present and discuss methods used to evaluate the relevance of the proposed dataset. We first compare it with other state-of-the-art datasets using metrics from the literature to measure the quality of the images. Then, we use the task of human pose transfer to evaluate whether our synthetic dataset is large and diversified enough for a complex task.

240 4.1 Dataset Evaluation

²⁴¹ We define a total of 1.000 configurations by randomly

picking between 7 cars and 100 human models. For

each configuration, 200 poses are generated, which

results in a dataset of 200k images.

In Table 1, we compare our dataset with sev-²⁷¹
eral other datasets from the literature. We can see ²⁷²
that our dataset possesses more images than both ²⁷³
driver synthetic and real-world HPT datasets. The ²⁷⁴
only exception is Drive&Act, which is composed of ²⁷⁵

video clips instead of single images, which multiplies the total number of frames. However, the proposed dataset presents far more driver models than previous datasets.

Then, we compare the quality of the synthetic images with the ones in other datasets. For this purpose, we use the Inception Score (IS) (Salimans et al., 2016) which is a metric commonly used to evaluate the quality of images generated by GAN (Zhu et al., 2019; Tang et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2020). This metric is based on the predictions from a pre-trained InceptionNet classifier (Szegedy et al., 2016). Since Inception Score is sensitive to image sizes, each dataset is resized to approximately match the same number of pixels. We choose a standard size of 49,152 pixels, which corresponds to a shape of 192 * 256 pixels. The Inception Score is computed on the full datasets using a Pytorch implementation of the original IS algorithm (Pytorch metrics, 2022). Results of the evaluation can be found in Table 2.

Dataset	Inception Score (IS) \uparrow		
DeepFashion	4.247		
Market	4.223		
DriPE	1.481		
Drive&Act	1.343		
SVIRO	1.902		
TICam - synthetic	1.276		
TICam - real	1.662		
Ours	2.391		

Table 2: Evaluation of the image quality of the full dataset using Inception Score.

First, we observe in Table 2 that the two datasets used for HPT, *i.e.*, DeepFashion and Market, present a score strictly higher than the one measured on driver datasets. This can be explained by the fact that the Inception Score reflects two aspects: the intrinsic quality of each image and the variety among



Figure 4: Samples from the test inferences generated by the GAN trained on our synthetic dataset.

the dataset (Salimans et al., 2016). Since the driver 303 276 datasets present fewer subjects with large and fixed 304 277 foregrounds, we can expect a lower IS. However, we 305 278 can see that our synthetic dataset obtains a better score 306 279 than the other driver datasets. This suggests that its 307 280 images have an apparent quality similar to those from 308 281 the other driver datasets while presenting a larger va- 309 282 riety. 283 310

284 4.2 Human Pose Transfer

As mentioned in Section 1, training a model for a complex task such as human pose transfer, without heavily overfitting the training set, requires many images with a high variety of subjects.

Therefore, we train an HPT generative network 289 on our synthetic dataset to evaluate the diversity of 290 its images. We chose from the state of the art the 312 291 APS architecture (Huang et al., 2020), which presents 313 292 competitive performances with no need for additional 314 293 input data such as segmentation maps. We train the 315 294 network using the scripts provided by the authors in 316 295 their repository. We adopted the same hyperparame- 317 296 ters used for training on the DeepFashion dataset and 318 297 resize our synthetic images to 192x256 pixels to get 319 298 closer to the size of the DeepFashion images. The 320 299 proposed dataset is split into a training set of 180k ₃₂₁ 300 pictures and a testing set of 20k pictures, and these 322 301 two sets do not share any subject model. 302

To measure the quality of our results, we evaluate the images using several state-of-the-art metrics (Table 3): Inception Score (IS), Frechet Inception Distance (FID) (Heusel et al., 2017), and Structural Similarity (SSIM) (Wang et al., 2004). FID and SSIM are computed using the same script as IS (Pytorch metrics, 2022). Unlike the evaluation of the datasets in Section 4.1, the metrics here are only computed on the images generated by the network on the test set.

Dataset	IS ↑	$FID\downarrow$	SSIM ↑
Fashion	3.565	16.84	0.669
Market	3.144	41.49	0.312
Synthetic	2.456	38.06	0.810

Table 3: Evaluation of images generated by an APS network trained on different datasets.

First, we observe that the Inception Score of the generated images is close to the one measured on the full synthetic dataset in Table 2. Then, the FID distance between the driver images generated by the GAN and the ground truth images is close to the one observed with the Market dataset. Furthermore, the SSIM score, which measures the structural similarity between two images, is higher on our synthetic dataset than on both Fashion and Market. This can be explained by the fact that more than half the surface of driver images is composed of a fixed background that

the GAN network can easily preserve since it almost 369 does not change during the pose transfer.

ages in the two other datasets.

Finally, Figure 4 presents qualitative results of the 379 332 trained GAN. The generated images show that the 380 333 network learned to reproduce the pose while preserv- 381 334 ing most of the visual characteristics of the subject 382 335 383 and the global environment. This result indicates that 336 384 the network can learn and generalize on our dataset. 337 385 In the end, the evaluation results combined with the $\frac{1}{386}$ 338 qualitative results suggest that our dataset contains 387 339 enough diversity to train a network for a complex task 388 340 without overfitting. 341 389

342 5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have presented a dataset of 200k 395 343 synthetic driver images for human pose-related tasks 396 344 with a large diversity of human models to answer the ³⁹⁷ 345 lack of available datasets on driver monitoring tasks. 346 Using state-of-the-art metrics, we demonstrated that 347 400 the quality of our synthetic images is comparable to 348 401 the one measured in existing datasets, synthetic or 402 349 real-world. We finally trained a GAN for human 403 350 pose transfer, a data-demanding task, on our synthetic 404 351 dataset. The network achieved similar performances 405 352 to those trained for HPT on real-world datasets for 406 353 other applications, which demonstrates that the pro-⁴⁰⁷ 354 posed synthetic dataset is diverse enough to train large 355 409 networks. This dataset is publicly available as well as 356 410 the script used to generate it. 357 411 Future work will investigate the problem of do- $\frac{1}{412}$ 358 main adaptation from synthetic to real-world driver 413 359 images in models for human pose-related tasks. 414 360 Moreover, the proposed pipeline could be used to ex- 415 361 tend our dataset with multiple views to approach tasks 416 362

- ³⁶³ such as 3D human pose estimation, or with real activ- ⁴¹⁷
- ities for passenger monitoring.

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