

LDEdit: Towards Generalized Text Guided Image Manipulation via Latent Diffusion Models

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Abstract

Research in vision-language models has seen rapid developments off-late, enabling natural language-based interfaces for image generation and manipulation. Many existing text guided manipulation techniques are restricted to specific classes of images, and often require fine-tuning to transfer to a different style or domain. Nevertheless, generic image manipulation using a single model with flexible text inputs is highly desirable. Recent work addresses this task by guiding generative models trained on the generic image datasets using pretrained vision-language encoders. While promising, this approach requires expensive optimization for each input. In this work, we propose an optimization-free method for the task of generic image manipulation from text prompts. Our approach exploits recent Latent Diffusion Models (LDM) for text to image generation to achieve zero-shot text guided manipulation. We employ a deterministic forward diffusion in a lower dimensional latent space, and the desired manipulation is achieved by simply providing the target text to condition the reverse diffusion process. We refer to our approach as LDEdit. We demonstrate the applicability of our method on semantic image manipulation and artistic style transfer. Our method can accomplish image manipulation on diverse domains and enables editing multiple attributes in a straightforward fashion. Extensive experiments demonstrate the benefit of our approach over competing baselines.

1 Introduction

Using natural language descriptions is an intuitive and easy way for humans to communicate visual concepts. Hence, a tool which can automatically manipulate images using textual descriptions can greatly ease editing. This requires a careful control to modify only the relevant semantic attributes and styles while preserving the desired content representations. However, accomplishing this is highly challenging, especially when manipulating open-domain images using arbitrary text prompts. As a result, many existing works allow manipulations which are restricted to a specific image classes [28, 40, 56, 81] or a specific manipulation task [6, 42, 54]. Further, some of these methods require fine-tuned models [28, 40] for specific text prompts, further limiting their utility for flexible open domain image manipulation. In contrast to these techniques, the works [19, 45] handle general image manipulation from text prompts. While

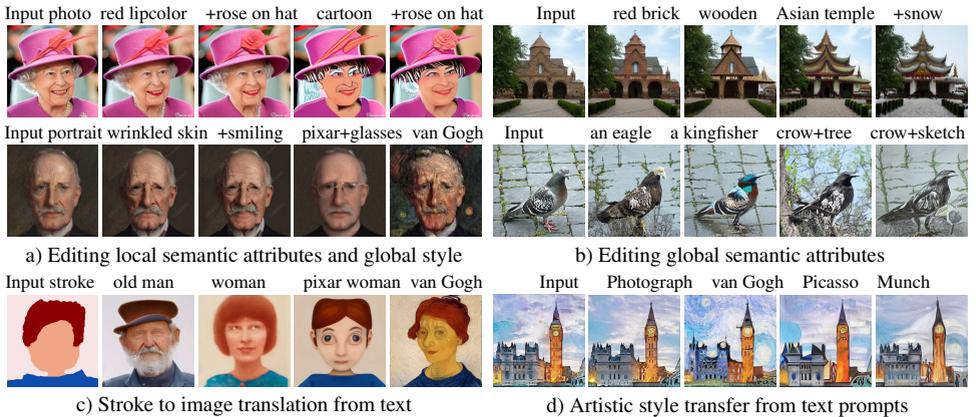


Figure 1: LDEdit can edit local and global semantic attributes and also perform artistic style transfer on real-world images using a single model.

[45] focuses on semantically simple transformations, [19] allows more general text-to-image generation as well as manipulation using an expensive latent space optimization.

In this work, we attempt to develop a fast and flexible approach to open domain image manipulation using arbitrary text prompts. Our goal is to accomplish a wide range of manipulations from text prompts ranging from simple change in colour of an object, to modification of multiple semantic attributes of image, and artistic styles, all with a single model. Our work is inspired by the recent dramatic developments in realistic image generation with language guidance [21, 58, 59, 63]. In particular, we leverage the recently proposed Latent Diffusion Model (LDM) [63] which performs diffusion in a smaller dimensional latent space of trained convolutional auto-encoders, to provide higher inference speed and computational efficiency. Further, we utilize the idea of non-Markovian diffusion proposed in Denoising Diffusion Implicit Models (DDIM) [70] which can enable faster inference and high fidelity sample reconstruction. Our key idea is the use of a shared latent representation as a link between the source image and the desired target. To this end, we employ a deterministic DDIM sampling in the forward diffusion in the latent space of LDM. We use the same latent code along with the target text prompt to condition the reverse diffusion process, effectively achieving desired transformation in the input image, while automatically maintaining consistency with the original content representation. Using this technique, we can accomplish a variety of image manipulation tasks using the pretrained LDM, in a zero-shot fashion without further optimization or fine-tuning. Further, by introducing controlled stochasticity, we can trade-off diversity for fidelity with original image. This is especially useful when the desired target is very different from the original input.

Fig 1 illustrates the diverse image editing tasks that can be accomplished by our LDEdit using only text prompts. We can modify objects in the image while largely preserving the original pose or structure, see Fig. 1 b). LDEdit can accomplish simultaneous global style manipulation as well as fine-grained (multiple) attribute changes such as change in expression, wrinkles, makeup while preserving identity in human faces, see Fig. 1 a). Further, without requiring an input mask, simple local edits such as adding a flower on a woman’s hat, or eye glasses are achieved though text alone. Our approach can operate on diverse types of input images such as natural photographs, paintings, sketches, and strokes. By providing an

Method	Image input	Text input	Semantic (Global)	Artistic Style	local edits	Comments
DiffusionCLIP[40]	Class-Specific	Predefined	✓	✓	✗	Separately fine-tuned models for each text prompt
StyleCLIP[56]	Class-specific	Arbitrary	✓	✗	✗	Latent Optimization/Pretrained Encoders
GLIDE[54]	Open domain	Arbitrary	✗	✗	✓	Trained model for inpainting with mask input
CLIPStyler[42]	Open domain	Arbitrary	✗	✓	✗	Test-time optimization w/o pretrained generator
VQGAN+CLIP[19]	Open domain	Arbitrary	✓	✓	Limited	Optimization with pretrained generator
LDEdit(Ours)	Open-domain	Arbitrary	✓	✓	✓	A pretrained LDM is used

Table 1: Comparison of recent state of the methods for text guided image manipulation.

intuitive target text prompt "a photograph of a woman" or a "pixar animation of a woman", our method can translate from stroke to a semantically consistent image in the corresponding domain, see Fig. 1 c). We can observe realistic details are hallucinated while transferring to the domain of natural photos, for example, wrinkles in the picture of old man, in Fig. 1 c), or details in the clock Fig. 1 d). Further, artistic style transfer is also achieved via simple text prompts, such as "a Picasso style painting". It can be seen that our approach can accomplish manipulations that are semantically and stylistically consistent with the given target text prompt, while remaining faithful to original content.

By offering significant advantages in flexibility, faster run-times and capability to generate diverse samples in parallel, LDEdit can facilitate efficient user-guided editing. Our experimental results demonstrate that LDEdit can accomplish diverse manipulation tasks, in addition to achieving performance close to recent state of the art baselines.

2 Related Work

Image Generative Models Ever since the seminal works of VAEs [41] and GANs [31], image generative models have achieved significant improvements, and modern generative models can generate highly photo-realistic images [12, 20, 25, 38, 39, 60, 70]. While GANs [31] achieve high quality generation, they are difficult to train and are prone to mode collapse. Likelihood-based models, [41, 60] on the other hand, have a stable training and capture more diversity. Score based [71, 72] or denoising diffusion [34, 69] models are a new class of likelihood-based models built from a hierarchy of denoising auto-encoders [78]. These models have recently demonstrated generative capabilities surpassing GANs [20, 53]. Yet, high quality diffusion models are computationally expensive to train, and have slower inference times than GANs, due to expensive Markovian sampling and iterative network evaluations required for diffusion. These problems can be alleviated by accelerated stochastic sampling techniques or by performing diffusion in a smaller latent space [63, 76]. Employing deterministic diffusion process [70] can also speed up inference, in addition to enabling high fidelity sample reconstruction, which can be exploited for image recovery and manipulation.

Image Manipulation As images can be manipulated in various ways, (e.g. artistic style, image translation, semantic manipulation, local edits), a variety of methods exist. Approaches for image translation include CNN based optimization using style and content images [30], conditional GANs trained on pair of domains [5, 36, 87, 90], GANs for multi-domain translation [14, 15] and more recently, conditional diffusion models [64, 66]. An alternate approach [11, 89] is to manipulate images in the latent space of pretrained GANs. StyleGANs [38, 39] are a popular choice for such latent space editing due to their disentanglement properties in the latent space [1, 16, 32, 68, 80, 88]. This is achieved through optimization or by using encoders for GAN inversion [3, 62, 75]. However, GAN inversion may not yield faithful reconstruction [8]. Improving StyleGAN inversion for editing is an active area of research [3, 4, 22, 75, 79].

In contrast to GANs, diffusion models can readily be leveraged for inpainting [48] and stroke guided image editing [50] and even unpaired image translation [73].

Text Guided Generation and Manipulation: Earlier works employed RNNs [49] and GANs [43, 61, 82, 84, 84, 85, 86, 91, 92] for text guided image synthesis, and manipulation [23, 44, 52]. Nevertheless, these works are often restricted to class specific image generation and are trained on smaller datasets. In the recent past, there is a rapid surge in vision-language models, with the developments in cross-modal contrastive learning [37, 57] and powerful text-to-image generative models [54, 58, 59, 65]. These models are trained on massive datasets to learn joint image-text distributions. Some of these models [21, 27, 58] use autoregressive(AR) transformers for generation, while some others [54, 59, 65] employ diffusion based models for the generation task. However, training these models for high quality generation requires massive computational resources. To address this, some recent works [10, 24, 33, 35, 63, 74] instead perform the diffusion in a lower dimensional latent space resulting in faster training and inference. In our work, we exploit Latent Diffusion Models (LDM) [63] as they offer good reconstruction quality, latency, and perform diffusion in a continuous latent space.

CLIP [57] is a cross modal encoder which provides a similarity score between an image and a caption. Several recent approaches to text guided image synthesis [17, 18, 19, 29, 46, 47, 51, 55] steer pretrained generative models [12, 20, 25] towards a user provided text prompts using CLIP. This approach of CLIP controlled latent space navigation is directly applicable for image manipulation [19], mask guided local editing [6, 9], semantic manipulation of class-specific images [2, 56, 83] via StyleGAN inversion [3]. CLIP has also been applied to fine-tune output domain and style [28, 40] of class-specific image generators. While these approaches are promising, optimization in latent space for each text-prompt is expensive and time-consuming. On the other hand, the fine-tuned models are fast, but restricted to the specific fine-tuned tasks. Further, class-specific generators are not suited for manipulation of open domain images. Instead of using pretrained generative models, some recent works employ test-time optimization for each image and target text, using CLIP, for tasks such as local object appearance [7], global texture-style manipulation [42], rendering drawings [13, 26], however such optimization is task specific, and is expensive requiring many augmentations. Tab. 1 provides an overview comparing the pros and cons of recent methods for text guided manipulation. As we can see, our approach and VQGAN+CLIP [19] can accomplish flexible manipulation tasks. Additionally, our approach allows fast manipulations.

3 Preliminaries

Diffusion Models: Denoising diffusion probabilistic models (DDPM) [34] are characterized by two diffusion processes: i) a forward process to gradually corrupt data samples into a tractable distribution e.g. Gaussian distribution, ii) a learned iterative denoising process to convert Gaussian noise to samples from data distribution. The forward diffusion involves progressively noising a clean image x_0 in T time-steps with transitions $q(x_t | x_{t-1}) := \mathcal{N}(\sqrt{1 - \beta_t}x_{t-1}, \beta_t \mathbf{I})$, where $\{\beta_t\}_{t=0}^T$ is the noise variance schedule. The evolution of x_t can be expressed as

$$x_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t}x_0 + \sqrt{(1 - \alpha_t)}\zeta, \quad \text{where } \zeta \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) \text{ and } \alpha_t := \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \beta_s). \quad (1)$$

The generative process progressively denoises x_T to x_0 also via a Gaussian transition, which is approximated by learned noise approximation model ϵ_θ .

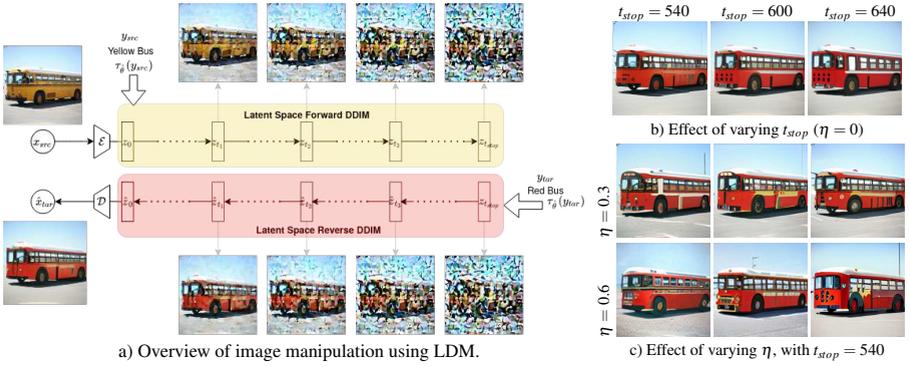


Figure 2: a) Overview of LDEdit, illustrating forward and reverse diffusion in latent space of autoencoder. b) and c) illustrate the effects of varying time steps t_{stop} and stochasticity hyperparameter η respectively

The reverse diffusion process is expressed as:

$$x_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta_t}} \left(x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1-\alpha_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \xi, \quad \text{where } \xi \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}). \quad (2)$$

Denoising Diffusion Implicit Models(DDIM) [70] employ a different non-Markovian forward process with the same forward marginals as DDPM. The reverse DDIM process is given as

$$x_{t-1} = \sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \left(\frac{x_t - \sqrt{1-\alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \right) + \sqrt{1-\alpha_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t) + \sigma_t^2 \xi, \quad (3)$$

where $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ and $\alpha_0 := 1$, by definition. Varying σ leads to different generative processes with the same model $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}$. When σ_t is set to 0, the DDIM sampling becomes fully deterministic, enabling fast inversion of the noised latent variable to the original images (or to x_0 in our case) [70, 72]. In this case, the deterministic forward DDIM process expressed as:

$$x_{t+1} = \sqrt{\alpha_{t+1}} \left(\frac{x_t - \sqrt{1-\alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \right) + \sqrt{1-\alpha_{t+1}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t) \quad (4)$$

and the deterministic reverse DDIM process is expressed as:

$$x_{t-1} = \sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \left(\frac{x_t - \sqrt{1-\alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \right) + \sqrt{1-\alpha_{t-1}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(x_t, t) \quad (5)$$

For different subsequences τ in $[1, \dots, T]$ [70] consider σ of the form:

$$\sigma_{\tau_i}(\eta) = \eta \sqrt{(1-\alpha_{\tau_{i-1}})/(1-\alpha_{\tau_i})} \sqrt{1-\alpha_{\tau_i}/\alpha_{\tau_{i-1}}}, \quad (6)$$

where the hyperparameter $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ controls the degree of stochasticity, with $\eta = 1$ leading to original DDPM generative process and $\eta = 0$ leading to DDIM.

Latent Diffusion Models: The main idea of LDMs is to perform diffusion in the latent space of an autoencoder to improve speed and computational efficiency. Given an image $x_{src} \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times C}$, the encoder \mathcal{E} maps x_{src} into a down-sampled latent code $z_0 = \mathcal{E}(x_{src})$, and the decoder \mathcal{D} is trained to recover the image from this latent. This encoding results in a lossy compression, i.e. $\|\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}(x_{src})) - x_{src}\|$ is non-zero, which is a trade-off for computational efficiency. Following encoding into latent space, diffusion process can happen via DDPM or

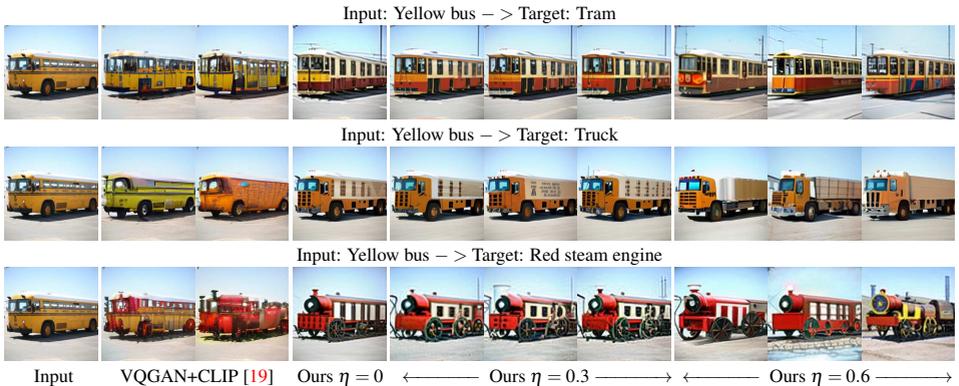


Figure 3: Comparison with VQGAN+CLIP [19]: Manipulation results of yellow bus according to target texts ‘a tram’, ‘a truck’ and ‘a red steam engine’.

DDIM (1)–(5), but in z_t for $t \in [1, T]$ instead of x_t . The diffusion process can additionally be conditioned on user inputs such as text prompts $\mathbf{e}_\theta(z_t, t, \tau_{\hat{\theta}}(y))$. Here, the text-prompts y are tokenized using transformers $\tau_{\hat{\theta}}$ [77] for conditioning the diffusion process.

4 Text Driven Manipulation with LDEdit

In this section, we show how LDMs trained for text-to-image generation can be adapted for image manipulation. Our main idea is to use a common shared latent representation between the source image and the desired target, which is made possible by a deterministic diffusion process. The source image x_{src} is mapped to a latent code z_0 by the encoder \mathcal{E} , and forward diffusion is performed until the time step $t_{stop} < T$ using DDIM sampling, conditioned on the source text prompt y_{src} as:

$$z_{t+1} = \sqrt{\alpha_{t+1}} \left(\frac{z_t - \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} \mathbf{e}_\theta(z_t, t, \tau_{\hat{\theta}}(y_{src}))}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \right) + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t+1}} \mathbf{e}_\theta(z_t, t, \tau_{\hat{\theta}}(y_{src}))$$

The reverse diffusion conditioned on the target text prompt y_{tar} starts from the same noised latent code $z_{t_{stop}}$ to arrive at \hat{z}_0 :

$$z_{t-1} = \sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \left(\frac{z_t - \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} \mathbf{e}_\theta(z_t, t, \tau_{\hat{\theta}}(y_{tar}))}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \right) + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1}} \mathbf{e}_\theta(z_t, t, \tau_{\hat{\theta}}(y_{tar})) \quad (7)$$

Due to deterministic sampling, a near cycle-consistency is automatically maintained between source and target images [73]. Fig. 2 a) provides an overview of our approach, with an example where a source image with y_{src} ‘a yellow bus’, is transformed according to the y_{tar} ‘a red bus’ in a straightforward way. The visualized results obtained by decoding latents sampled in $[1, t_{stop}]$ during the forward and reverse diffusion process demonstrate the gradual transformation in the reverse process. Additionally, we can also introduce controlled stochasticity by varying η (6), which can produce diverse outputs as seen in Fig. 2 c), with magnitude of η controlling consistency with the original image. Further, Fig. 2 b) shows that changing the number of DDIM steps can also lead to some variance in our results. In the following section, we demonstrate that this technique can accomplish a variety of image manipulation tasks using the pretrained LDM, in a zero-shot fashion without further optimization or fine-tuning.

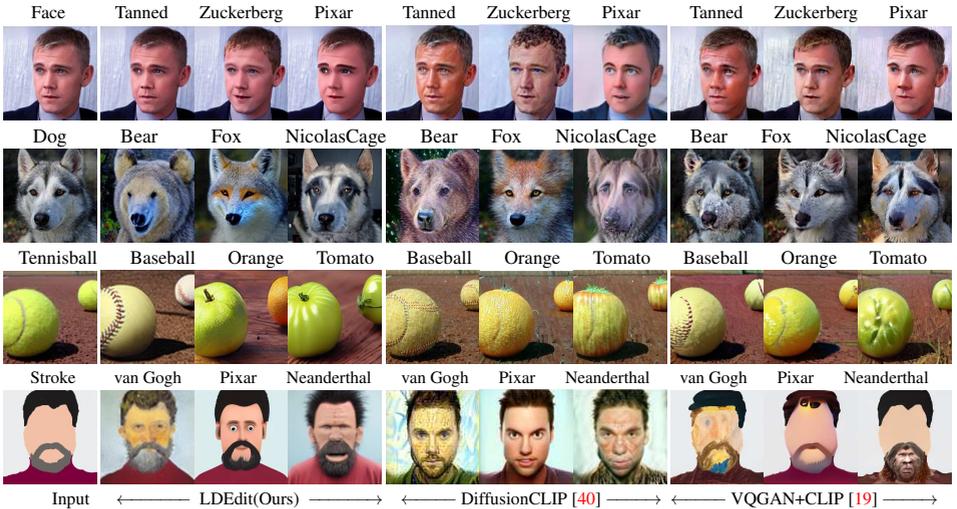


Figure 4: Visual comparison of image manipulation task with DiffusionCLIP [40] and VQGAN+CLIP [19]. Our LDEdit can successfully transform input image into target classes while retaining the original pose.

5 Experiments

We perform all our experiments with different image manipulation tasks using the text-to-image LDM with a downsampling factor of 8 pretrained using the openly available LAION dataset [67] containing open-domain image-text pairs. We do not fine-tune this model for any task. We set $t_{stop} \in [300, 640]$ out of the total 1000 steps and use fewer (20-80) steps between $[1, t_{stop}]$ in the deterministic forward and reverse diffusion. We perform experiments on both class-specific and open-domain images and compare with VQGAN+CLIP [19] which is versatile to handle general manipulation tasks. In addition, we also compare with class-specific approaches [56, 81] and fine-tuned models [28, 40] on the domain-specific tasks. All these comparisons are performed on images of dimension 256×256 . Further manipulation results and comparisons are included in the supplementary material.

We first demonstrate our method on the task of manipulating an image of a yellow bus according to the target prompts: ‘a tram’, ‘a truck’ and ‘a red steam engine’. Fig. 3 illustrates the results of this manipulation. The results indicate that LDEdit is able to manipulate the input according to the target texts even with a simple DDIM forward and reverse process with $\eta = 0$. Further, by increasing η , our method is able to generate an assortment of diverse samples that are consistent with the pose of the yellow bus in the input image. The diversity increases as the parameter η is increased. We also illustrate the results obtained by VQGAN+CLIP [19] on this task using two sets of hyper-parameters for comparison. While [19] can successfully transform the input image to that of ‘a tram’, we were unable to obtain satisfactory results for the other two tasks, despite manual hyper-parameter tuning.

We further test our approach on manipulating images from diverse classes using test images from [40]. We compare our performance with the generic approach of VQGAN+CLIP [19] and DiffusionCLIP [40], a state of the art method using class-specific models fine-tuned for the specific target texts. Fig. 4 illustrates the results of this experiment. As DiffusionCLIP uses specific fine-tuned models on these tasks, it can effortlessly accomplish the desired

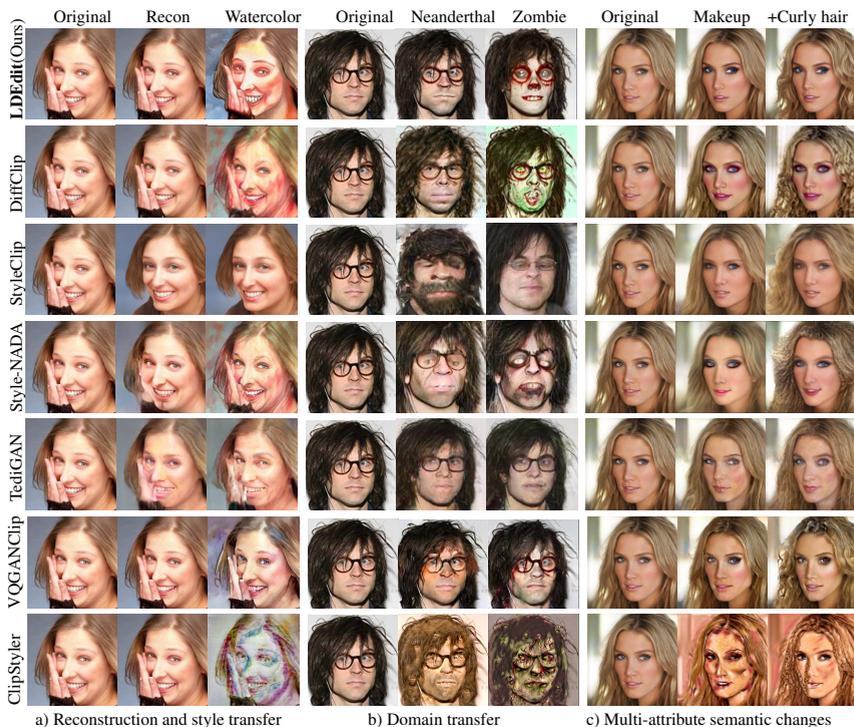


Figure 5: Comparison with recent baselines: DiffusionCLIP[40] StyleCLIP[56], StyleGAN-NADA [28], TEDIGAN [81], CLIPStyler [42], VQGAN+CLIP [19].



Figure 6: Simultaneous editing of multiple attributes and objects of an image. Shown from left to right are (i) input (ii) girl+watermelon (iii) woman+corgi (iv) paint+cat+old woman (v) paint + boy+ big egg (vi) paint + man + rabbit (vii) paint + man + dog (viii) man+cat

manipulations. On the other hand, VQGAN+CLIP struggles to achieve desired changes when the target is highly different from the input. Despite not being fine-tuned for the specific tasks, our LDEdit can accomplish the manipulations quite well. The task of manipulating a stroke image according to the target prompts is particularly challenging, as the input image lacks details. Handling such manipulation requires introducing stochasticity in the forward process, without which it is not possible to produce the desired edits.

We further perform multiple manipulation tasks on face images, including semantic (multi)-attribute manipulation, style transfer, domain manipulation and compare with the recent state-of-the-art methods which are trained for face manipulation [28, 40, 56, 81]. The StyleGAN based methods [28, 56, 81] employ the same encoders for GAN inversion as per the original setting in their work. Further, we include comparison with CLIP-Styler [42] a CLIP guided texture manipulation approach, and VQGAN+CLIP [19] which can perform flexible image manipulation. Fig. 5 illustrates our results. While StyleGAN inversion

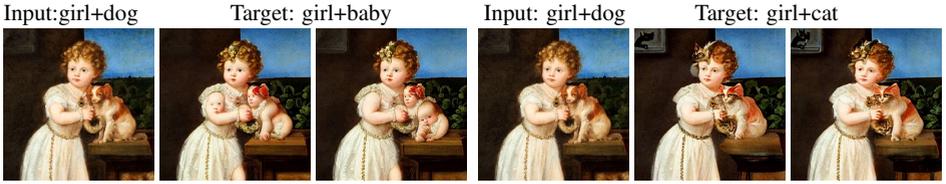


Figure 7: Failure cases of image manipulation using LDEdit



Figure 8: Masked image manipulation using LDEdit

based approaches [28, 56, 81] can manipulate semantic attributes see Fig.5 c), they struggle to reconstruct face images in atypical poses, see Fig.5 a). Unexpected details present in the original image such as hand on the face are completely removed or distorted in the reconstructions. Since such atypical faces are hardly encountered during training, StyleGAN inversion results in a high representation error. Similarly, it is hard to transfer to a different style *e.g.* a watercolour painting, or domain *e.g.* zombie using StyleGAN latent space search alone Fig.5 a) and b). StyleGAN-NADA instead enable these manipulations using domain-specific fine-tuning. On the other hand, ClipStyler [42] can only accomplish global texture manipulations, and the result may drift away from the original colour palette. Among the compared methods, LDEdit, DiffusionCLIP [40] and VQGAN+CLIP[19] accomplish the different manipulation tasks in addition to achieving good reconstructions, preserving identity better than StyleGAN inversion based methods. Interestingly, though VQGAN+CLIP and LDEdit are trained on generic images, these methods are still able to perform on par with state of the art DiffusionCLIP [40] fine-tuned using CLIP and a small dataset of target domain images.

It is also possible to achieve further challenging manipulations involving simultaneous changes in multiple attributes, local manipulations and artistic style changes as seen in Fig. 6. However, in some cases, our method may fail to produce desired manipulations. For example, in Fig. 7, we obtain features of target objects additionally in undesired locations, such as a baby face on the girl’s hand, or a cat face in the hair and in the background picture frame. These undesired effects can be avoided by using a mask, which can aid in localization of edits. **Editing with Masks:** Our method can be modified to include a user-specified mask to localize the changes. Similar mask-guided editing has also been shown in [6, 54]. The user-specified mask is also down-sampled such that it has the same spatial extent as the latent code. Let $z_{t_{stop}}$ be the latent code after forward diffusion, the desired localized edit can be obtained by performing the reverse diffusion process on multiple copies of $z_{t_{stop}}$, by changing the target text for the respective masked regions. For seamless blending of the masked and unmasked regions, the latent code corresponding to the two regions are combined at each diffusion step. This even allows us to specify different levels of stochasticity for the different regions. Fig. 8 shows the result of such mask masked editing. We can see that our approach

Method	#images	GPU Memory	run-time	(n_{for}, n_{rev})
LDEdit	1	8831MB	2.02s±5.58 ms	(25,25)
LDEdit	24	16947MB	22.6±169ms	(25,25)
LDEdit	1	8831MB	6.05s±35.6 ms	(75,75)
LDEdit	24	16947MB	67.2s±704ms	(75,75)
VQGAN+CLIP [19]	1	10413 MB	4-6 mins	–
VQGAN+CLIP [19]	2	18933 MB	5-8 minutes	–
DiffusionCLIP [40]	1	5385MB	11.54s±66.3ms	(200,40)
DiffusionCLIP [40]	1	5385MB	4.01s±10.5ms	(40,40)
DiffusionCLIP [40]	24	15257MB	156.94s±470ms	(200,40)

Table 2: Comparing inference times and GPU memory usage of LDEdit with VQGAN+CLIP [19] and DiffusionCLIP [40]. Images are of dimension 256×256 . n_{for} and n_{rev} refer to the number of forward and reverse diffusion steps. Mean and standard deviation of run-times over 10 runs are reported for LDEdit and DiffusionCLIP.

successfully results in a seamless local editing.

Run-time: Tab. 2 provides a comparison of GPU memory requirements and run-times. The experiments were conducted on a computer with AMD Ryzen 9 3950X 16-Core processor and NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3090 with 24GB GPU memory. The run-times are highest for VQGAN+CLIP [19] due to expensive optimization. The run-times of both DiffusionCLIP [40] and our proposed LDEdit are significantly lower. Note that fine-tuning DiffusionCLIP [40] for each text prompt using 30 – 50 target domain images incurs an overhead of 2 – 6 minutes. Due to diffusion in smaller dimensional latent space, LDEdit has smaller run-times and also scales well in terms of processing multiple images in parallel. In contrast, using VQGAN+CLIP, only 2 image manipulations can be performed in parallel.

User Study: We conducted user studies to compare user preference of image manipulation results of our method vs VQGAN+CLIP [19] and DiffusionCLIP [40]. Users participated in two surveys, where they were provided with source image, target text description and the results obtained with LDEdit and baseline method (VQGAN+CLIP/ DiffusionCLIP in each of the surveys) in a random order, and voted their preferred result using a survey platform. In human evaluation, the results of LDEdit were preferred 83.87% of the time in the survey comparing LDEdit with VQGAN+CLIP, whereas user preference for LDEdit is 49.15% when compared against DiffusionCLIP. More details are provided in the supplementary material.

6 Discussion and Conclusions

We proposed LDEdit, a fast and flexible approach to open domain image manipulation using arbitrary text prompts. Our approach utilizes recent text-to-image latent diffusion model to achieve zero-shot manipulation. Experiments demonstrate that the proposed method can accomplish fast and diverse manipulations, making our approach a versatile tool to facilitate efficient user-guided editing. As with other image generation and manipulation methods, there is a potential for LDEdit being misused by bad actors for generating deepfakes and doctored pictures for propaganda. Further, since LDEdit leverages a pretrained text to image latent diffusion model, our approach inherits the inherent biases of its training dataset, including, but not limited to gender, age, and ethnicity of people and cultural biases.

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