Joint Generative and Contrastive Learning for Unsupervised Person Re-identification

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Abstract

Annotating identity labels in large-scale datasets is a labour-intensive work, which strongly limits the scalability of person re-identification (ReID) in the real world. Unsupervised ReID addresses this issue by learning representations directly from unlabeled images. Recent self-supervised contrastive learning provides an effective approach for unsupervised representation learning. In this paper, we incorporate a Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) and contrastive learning into one joint training framework. While the GAN provides online data augmentation for contrastive learning, the contrastive module learns view-invariant features for generation. In this context, we propose a mesh-based novel view generator. Specifically, mesh projections serve as references towards generating novel views of a person. In addition, we propose a view-invariant loss to facilitate contrastive learning between original and generated views. Deviating from previous GAN-based unsupervised ReID methods involving domain adaptation, we do not rely on a labeled source dataset, which makes our method more flexible. Extensive experimental results show that our method significantly outperforms state-of-the-art methods under both, fully unsupervised and unsupervised domain adaptive settings on several large scale ReID datasets. Source Code and pretrained models are available at https://github.com/chenhao2345/GCL.

1. Introduction

Person re-identification (ReID) aims at retrieving images of a person of interest from gallery images captured across non-overlapping cameras, given a query image. The crucial task in ReID has to do with finding discriminative representations, which allow for robust comparison of query and gallery images. In this context, supervised ReID methods [5, 34] learn representations with the guidance of human-annotated labels. However, such human annotation of cross-camera person images is time-consuming and cumbersome. Towards omitting such human annotation, researchers increasingly place emphasis on unsupervised person ReID algorithms [36, 24, 27], which learn directly from unlabeled images and thus allow for scalability in real world deployments.

Recently, self-supervised contrastive methods [16, 6] have provided an effective retrieval-based approach for unsupervised representation learning. Given an image, such methods maximize agreement between two augmented views (f1 and f2) of augmented views from Data Augmentation (DA). Right: Joint generative and contrastive learning maximizes agreement between original and generated views.

Figure 1: Left: Traditional self-supervised contrastive learning maximizes agreement between representations (f1 and f2) of augmented views from Data Augmentation (DA). Right: Joint generative and contrastive learning maximizes agreement between original and generated views.

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adaptation (UDA) problem. Under the UDA setting, researchers used both, a labeled source dataset, as well as an unlabeled target dataset to gradually adjust a model from a source domain into a target domain. GANs can be used in cross-domain style transfer, where labeled source domain images are generated in a target domain style. However, the UDA setting necessitates a large-scale labeled source dataset. Scale and quality of the source dataset strongly affect the performance of UDA methods. Recent research has considered fully unsupervised ReID [36, 24]. Under the fully unsupervised setting, a model directly learns from unlabeled images without any identity labels. Self-supervised contrastive methods [16, 6] belong to this category. In this work, we use a GAN as a novel view generator for contrastive learning, which does not require a labeled source dataset.

Here, we aim at enhancing view diversity for contrastive learning via generation under the fully unsupervised setting. Towards this, we introduce a mesh-based novel view generator. We explore the possibility of disentangling a person image into identity features (color distribution and body shape) and structure features (pose and view point) under the fully unsupervised ReID setting. We estimate 3D meshes from unlabeled training images, then rotate these 3D meshes to simulate new structures. Compared to skeleton-guided pose transfer [14, 25], which neglects body shape, mesh recovery [21] jointly estimates pose and body shape. Estimated meshes preserve body shape during the training, which facilitates the generation and provides more visual clues for fine-grained ReID. Novel views can be generated by combining identity features with new structures.

Once we obtain the novel views, we design a pseudo label based contrastive learning. With the help of our proposed view-invariant loss, we maximize representation similarity between original and generated views of a same person, while representations of other persons are pushed away.

Our proposed method incorporates generative and contrastive modules into one framework, which are trained jointly. Both modules share the same identity feature encoder. The generative module disentangles identity and structure features, then generates diversified novel views. The novel views are then used in the contrastive module to improve the capacity of the shared identity feature encoder, which in turn improves the generation quality. Both modules work in a mutual promotion way, which significantly enhances the performance of the shared identity feature encoder in unsupervised ReID. Moreover, our method is compatible with both UDA and fully unsupervised settings. With a labeled source dataset, we obtain better performance by alleviating the pseudo label noise.

Our contributions can be summarized as follows.

1. We propose a joint generative and contrastive learning framework for unsupervised person ReID. Generative and contrastive modules mutually promote each other’s performance.

2. In the generative module, we introduce a 3D mesh based novel view generator, which is more effective in body shape preservation than skeleton-guided generators.

3. In the contrastive module, a view-invariant loss is proposed to reduce intra-class variation between original and generated images, which is beneficial in building view-invariant representations under a fully unsupervised ReID setting.

4. We overcome the limitation of previous GAN-based unsupervised ReID methods that strongly rely on a labeled source dataset. Our method significantly surpasses the performance of state-of-the-art methods under both, fully unsupervised, as well as UDA settings.

2. Related Work

Unsupervised representation learning. Recent contrastive instance discrimination methods [42, 16, 6] have witnessed a significant progress in unsupervised representation learning. The basic idea of instance discrimination has to do with the assumption that each image is a single class. Contrastive predictive coding (CPC) [30] included an InfoNCE loss to measure the ability of a model to classify positive representation amongst a set of unrelated negative samples, which has been commonly used in following works on contrastive learning. Recent contrastive methods treated unsupervised representation learning as a retrieval task. Representations can be learnt by matching augmented views of a same instance from a memory bank [42, 16] or a large mini-batch [6]. MoCoV2 [7] constitutes the improved version of the MoCo [16] method, incorporating larger data augmentation. We note that data augmentation is pertinent in allowing a model to learn robust representations in contrastive learning. However, only traditional data augmentation was used in aforementioned methods.

Data augmentation. MoCoV2 [7] used ‘random crop’, ‘random color jittering’, ‘random horizontal flip’, ‘random grayscale’ and ‘gaussian blur’. However, ‘random color jittering’ and ‘grayscale’ were not suitable for fine-grained person ReID, because such methods for data augmentation tend to change the color distribution of original images. In addition, ‘Random Erasing’ [46] has been a commonly used technique in person ReID, which randomly erases a small patch from an original image. Cross-domain Mixup [29] interpolated source and target domain images, which alleviated the domain gap in UDA ReID. Recently, Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) [15] have shown great success in image [23, 22, 3, 1] and video synthesis [38, 35, 4]. GAN-based methods can serve as a method for evolved data augmentation by conditionally modifying id-unrelated features (style and structure) for supervised ReID. CamStyle
used the CycleGAN-architecture \cite{2} in order to transfer images from one camera into the style of another camera. FD-GAN \cite{14} was targeted to generate images in a pre-defined pose, so that images could be compared in the same pose. IS-GAN \cite{10} was streamlined to disentangle id-related and id-unrelated features by switching both local and global level identity features. DG-Net \cite{45} recolored grayscale images with a color distribution of other images, targeting to disentangle identity features. Deviating from such supervised GAN-based methods, our method generates novel views by rotating 3D meshes in an \textit{unsupervised} manner.

**Unsupervised person ReID.** Recent unsupervised person ReID methods were predominantly based onUDA. Among UDA-based methods, several works \cite{37, 26} used semantic attributes to facilitate domain adaptation. Other works \cite{12, 33, 43, 13} assigned pseudo labels to unlabeled images and proceeded to learn representations with pseudo labels. Transferring source dataset images into the style of a target dataset represents another line of research. SPGAN \cite{9} and PTGAN \cite{40} used CycleGAN \cite{51} as domain style transfer backbone. HHL \cite{47} aims at transferring cross-dataset camera styles. ECN \cite{48, 49} exploited invariance from camera style transferred images for UDA ReID. CR-GAN \cite{8} employed parsing-based masks to remove noisy backgrounds. PDA \cite{25} included skeleton estimation to generate person structures as a new structure \textit{s}. In addition, we compute a feature reconstruction loss \textit{L} \text{feat} to refine visual similarity based pseudo labels. We note that all aforementioned fully unsupervised methods learn from pseudo labels. Deviating from that, we show in this work that disentangling view-invariant identity features is possible in fully unsupervised ReID, which can be an addition to boost the performance of previous pseudo label based methods.

**3. Proposed Method**

We refer to our proposed method as joint \textit{Generative and Contrastive Learning} as GCL. The general architecture of GCL comprises of two modules, namely a novel View Generator, as well as a View Contrast Module, see Fig. 2. Firstly, the novel View Generator uses cycle-consistency on both, image and feature reconstructions in order to disentangle identity and structure features. It combines identity features and mesh-guided structure features to generate novel views of one person. Then, original and generated views are exploited as positive pairs in the View Contrast Module, which enables our network to learn view-invariant identity features. We proceed to elaborate on both modules in the following.

### 3.1. Novel View Generator (Generative Module)

As shown in Fig. 2, the proposed View Generator incorporates 4 networks: an identity encoder \textit{E} \text{id}, a structure encoder \textit{E} \text{str}, a decoder \text{G} and an image discriminator \textit{D}. Given an unlabeled person ReID dataset \textit{X} = \{x_1, x_2, ..., x_\text{N}\}, we generate corresponding 3D meshes with a popular 3D mesh generator Human Mesh Recovery (HMR) \cite{21}, which simultaneously estimates body shape and pose from a single RGB image. Here, we denote the 2D projection of a 3D mesh as original structure \textit{s} \text{ori}. Then, as depicted in Fig. 3, we rotate each 3D mesh by \text{45°, 90°, 135°, 180°, 225°, 270° and 315°}, respectively and proceed to randomly pick one 2D projection of these rotated meshes as a new structure \textit{s} \text{new}. Next, unlabeled images are encoded to identity features by the identity encoder \textit{E} \text{id} : x \rightarrow \text{x} \text{id}, while both original and new structures are encoded to structure features by the structure encoder \textit{E} \text{str} : s \text{ori} \rightarrow \text{s} \text{str} \text{(ori)}, \text{s} \text{new} \rightarrow \text{s} \text{str} \text{(new)}. Combining both, identity and structure features, the decoder generates synthesized images \text{G} : (\text{f} \text{id}, \text{f} \text{str} \text{(ori)}) \rightarrow \text{x} \text{ori}, (\text{f} \text{id}, \text{f} \text{str} \text{(new)}) \rightarrow \text{x} \text{new}, where a prime is used to represent generated images.

Given the lack of real images corresponding to the new structures, we consider a cycle consistency \cite{51} in the View Generator. We encode and decode the generated images once again \textit{G}(\text{id} \text{x} \text{new}, \text{s} \text{ori}) \rightarrow \text{x} \text{ori}. We calculate an image reconstruction loss as follows.

\[
\text{L} \text{img} = \mathbb{E}[\|\text{x} - \text{x} \text{ori}'\|_1] + \mathbb{E}[\|\text{x} - \text{x} \text{ori}''\|_1]
\]

(1)

In addition, we compute a feature reconstruction loss

\[
\text{L} \text{feat} = \mathbb{E}[\|\text{id} - \text{id} \text{id}(\text{x} \text{new})\|_1] + \mathbb{E}[\|\text{id} - \text{id} \text{id}(\text{x} \text{ori}''\|_1).
\]

(2)

The discriminator \textit{D} attempts to distinguish between real and generated images with the adversarial loss

\[
\text{L} \text{adv} = \mathbb{E}[\log \text{D}(\text{x}) + \log(1 - \text{D}(\text{x} \text{ori}))] + \mathbb{E}[\log \text{D}(\text{x}) + \log(1 - \text{D}(\text{x} \text{new}))] + \mathbb{E}[\log \text{D}(\text{x}) + \log(1 - \text{D}(\text{x} \text{ori}')).
\]

(3)

Consequently, the overall GAN loss combines the above named losses with weighting coefficients \text{\lambda} \text{img} and \text{\lambda} \text{feat}

\[
\text{L} \text{gan} = \lambda \text{img} \text{L} \text{img} + \lambda \text{feat} \text{L} \text{feat} + \text{L} \text{adv}.
\]

(4)
where the generative module is prone to fail due to lack of information pertained to the side view. This issue can be alleviated by enhancing view-invariance of representations.

Given an anchor image \( x \), the first step is to find positive images that belong to the same identity and negative images that belong to different identities. Here, we store all instances that have different pseudo identities and one instance that has the same pseudo identity with \( x \) from the memory bank. Note that \( f_{pos} \) is from a random positive image that usually has different pose and camera style from \( x \) and \( x'_{\text{new}} \). \( x \) and \( x'_{\text{new}} \) are encoded by \( E_{id} \) into identity feature vectors \( f \) and \( f'_{\text{new}} \). Next, \( f'_{\text{new}} \) and \( f_{pos} \) are used in turn to form three positive pairs. The \( f'_{\text{new}} \) and \( K \) different identity instances in the memory bank are used as \( K \) negative pairs.

Towards learning robust view-invariant representations, we extend the InfoNCE loss \([30]\) into a view-invariant loss between original and generated views. We use \( \text{sim}(u, v) = \frac{u}{\|u\|_2} \cdot \frac{v}{\|v\|_2} \) to denote the cosine similarity. We define the view-invariant loss as a softmax log loss of \( K + 1 \) pairs as following.

\[
\mathcal{L}_{vi} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \log \left( 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \exp \left( \text{sim}(f'_{\text{new}}, k_i) / \tau \right)}{\exp \left( \text{sim}(f, f_{pos}) / \tau \right)} \right) \right] \quad (6)
\]

\[
\mathcal{L}'_{vi} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \log \left( 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \exp \left( \text{sim}(f'_{\text{new}}, k_i) / \tau \right)}{\exp \left( \text{sim}(f'_{\text{new}}, f) / \tau \right)} \right) \right] \quad (7)
\]

\[
\mathcal{L}''_{vi} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \log \left( 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \exp \left( \text{sim}(f'_{\text{new}}, k_i) / \tau \right)}{\exp \left( \text{sim}(f_{\text{new}}, f_{pos}) / \tau \right)} \right) \right] \quad (8)
\]

We use a clustering algorithm DBSCAN \([11]\) on all memory bank feature vectors to generate pseudo identity labels \( \mathcal{Y} = \{y_1, y_2, ..., y_J\} \), which are renewed at the beginning of every epoch. Given the obtained pseudo labels, we have \( N_{pos} \) positive and \( N_{neg} \) negative instances for each training instance. \( N_{pos} \) and \( N_{neg} \) vary for different instances. For simplicity in a mini-batch training, we fix common positive and negative numbers for every training instance. Given an image \( x \), we randomly sample \( K \) instances that have different pseudo identities and one instance representation \( f_{pos} \) that has the same pseudo identity with \( x \) from the memory bank.

3.2. View Contrast (Contrastive Module)
where $\tau$ indicates a temperature coefficient that controls the scale of calculated similarities. $L_{vi}$ maximizes the invariance between original and memory positive views. $L'_{vi}$ maximizes the invariance between synthesized and original views. $L''_{vi}$ maximizes the invariance between synthesized and memory positive views. Meanwhile, the synthesized view is pushed away from $K$ negative views in the latent space. Replacing $\text{sim}(f'_{\text{new}}, k_i)$ in Eq. 6, Eq. 7 and Eq. 8 with $\text{sim}(f, k_i)$ is another possibility, which pushes away the original view from negative instances. After testing, $\text{sim}(f'_{\text{new}}, k_i)$ works better, because pushing away the synthesized view from negative instances aid the generation of more accurate synthesized views that look different from the $K$ negative instances.

3.3. Joint Training

Our proposed GCL framework is trained in a joint training way. Both GAN and contrastive instance discrimination can be trained in a self-supervised manner. While the GAN learns a data distribution via adversarial learning on each instance, contrastive instance discrimination learns representations by retrieving each instance from candidates. In our designed joint training, the two modules work as two collaborators with the same objective: enhancing the quality of representations built by the shared identity encoder $E_{id}$. We formulate our GCL as an approach to augment contrastive modules. Firstly, the generative module generates online data augmentation, which enhances the positive view diversity for contrastive module. Secondly, the contrastive module, in turn, learns view-invariant representations by matching original and generated views, which refine the generation quality. The joint training boosts both modules simultaneously. Our joint training conducts forward propagation initially on the generative module and subsequently on the contrastive module. Back-propagation is then conducted with an overall loss that combines Eq. 4, Eq. 6, Eq. 7 and Eq. 8.

$$L_{\text{all}} = L_{\text{gan}} + L_{vi} + L'_{vi} + L''_{vi}$$

To accelerate the training process and alleviate the noise from imperfect generation quality at beginning epochs, we need to warm up the four modules used in the View Generator $E_{id}$, $E_{str}$, $G$ and $D$. We firstly use a state-of-the-art unsupervised ReID method to warm up $E_{id}$, which is then considered as a baseline in our ablation studies. Generally speaking, any unsupervised ReID method can be used to warm up $E_{id}$. Before conducting the View Contrast, we freeze $E_{id}$ and warm up $E_{str}$, $G$, and $D$ only with GAN loss in Eq. 4 for 40 epochs. In the following, we bring in the memory bank and the pseudo labels to jointly train the whole framework with $L_{\text{all}}$ for another 20 epochs. During the joint training, pseudo labels are updated at the beginning of every epoch.

4. Experiments

4.1. Datasets and Evaluation Protocols

Three mainstream person ReID datasets are considered in our experiments, including Market-1501 [44], DukeMTMC-reID [31] and MSMT17 [40]. Market-1501 is composed of 12,936 images of 751 identities for training and 19,732 images of 750 identities for test captured from 6 cameras. DukeMTMC-reID contains 16,522 images of 702 persons for training, 2,228 query images and 17,661 gallery images of 702 persons for test from 8 cameras. MSMT17 is a larger dataset, which contains 32,621 training images of 1,041 identities and 93,820 testing images of 3,060 identities collected from 15 cameras.

Following state-of-the-art unsupervised ReID methods [36, 24], we evaluate our proposed method GCL under fully unsupervised setting on the three datasets and under four UDA benchmark protocols, including Market→Duke, Duke→Market, Market→MSMT and Duke→MSMT. We report both quantitative and qualitative results for unsupervised person ReID and novel view generation.

4.2. Implementation Details

We firstly present network design details of $E_{id}$, $E_{str}$, $G$ and $D$. In the following descriptions, we write the size of feature maps in $\text{channel} \times \text{height} \times \text{width}$. Our model design is mainly inspired by [45, 52]. (1) $E_{id}$ is a ImageNet [32] pre-trained ResNet50 [17] with slight modifications. The original fully connected layer is replaced by a fully connected embedding layer, which outputs identity representations $f$ in $512 \times 1 \times 1$ for the View Contrast. In parallel, we add a part average pooling that outputs identity features $f_{id}$ in $2048 \times 4 \times 1$ for the Novel View Generator. (2) $E_{str}$ is composed of four convolutional and four residual layers, which output structure features $f_{str}$ in $128 \times 64 \times 32$. (3) $G$ contains four residual and four convolutional layers. Every residual layer contains two adaptive instance normalization layers [19] that transform $f_{id}$ into scale and bias parameters. (4) $D$ is a multi-scale PatchGAN [20] discriminator at $64 \times 32$, $128 \times 64$ and $256 \times 128$.

Then, we present the training and testing configuration details. Our framework is implemented in Pytorch and trained with one Nvidia Titan RTX GPU. (1) For the $E_{id}$ warm-up, we consider JVTC [24], because it is a state-of-the-art ReID method that is compatible with both fully unsupervised and UDA settings. We also test other baselines, e.g., MMCL [36] and ACT [43] to demonstrate the generalizability of our method. (2) For training, inputs are resized to $256 \times 128$. We empirically set a large weight $\lambda_{img} = \lambda_{feat} = 5$ for reconstruction in Eq. 4. With a batch size of 16, we use SGD to train $E_{id}$ and Adam optimizer to train $E_{str}$, $G$ and $D$. Learning rate is set to $1 \times 10^{-4}$ during the warm-up. In the joint-training, learning rate in Adam is set to $1 \times 10^{-4}$ and $3.5 \times 10^{-4}$ in SGD and are multiplied by 0.1 after 10 epochs. (3) In the View Contrast module,
we set the momentum coefficient $\alpha = 0.2$ in Eq. 5 and the temperature $τ = 0.04$ in Eq. 6. The number of negatives $K$ is 8192. DBSCAN density radius is set to $2 \times 10^{-5}$. (4) For testing, only $E_{id}$ is conserved and outputs representations $f$ of dimension 512.

Important parameters are set by a grid search on the fully unsupervised Market-1501 benchmark. The temperature $τ$ is searched from $\{0.03, 0.04, 0.05, 0.06, 0.07\}$ and finally is set to 0.04. A smaller $τ$ increases the scale of similarity scores in the Eq. 6, Eq. 7 and Eq. 8, which makes view-invariant losses more sensitive to inter-instance difference. However, when $τ$ is set to 0.03, these losses become too sensitive and make the training unstable. The number of negatives $K$ is searched from $\{2048, 4096, 8192\}$. A larger $K$ pushes away more negatives in the view-invariant losses. Since the Market-1501 dataset has only 12936 training images, we set $K = 8192$.

### 4.3. Unsupervised ReID Evaluation

#### Comparison with state-of-the-art methods

Tab. 1 shows the quantitative results on the Market-1501 and DukeMTMC-reID datasets. Tab. 2 shows the quantitative results on the MSMT17 dataset. Our method is mainly designed for fully unsupervised ReID. Under this setting, we test the performance of GCL with three different baselines, including MMCL, JVTC and JVTC+. Our implementation of the three baselines provides results that are slightly different from those mentioned in the corresponding papers. Thus, we firstly report results of our implementations and then add our GCL on these baselines. Our method improves the performance of the baselines by large margins. These improvements show that GANs are not limited to cross-domain style transfer for unsupervised ReID.

Under the UDA setting, we also evaluate the performance of GCL with three different baselines, including ACT, JVTC and JVTC+. The labeled source dataset is only used to warm up our identity encoder $E_{id}$, but not used in our joint generative and contrastive training. Compared to fully unsupervised methods, the UDA warmed $E_{id}$ is stronger and extracts improved identity features. Thus, the performance of UDA methods is generally higher than fully unsupervised methods. With a strong baseline JVTC+, our GCL achieves state-of-the-art performance.

#### Ablation Study

To better understand the contribution of generative and contrastive modules, we conduct ablation experiments on the two fully unsupervised benchmarks: Market-1501 and DukeMTMC-reID. Quantitative results with a JVTC baseline are reported in Tab. 3. By gradually adding loss functions on the baseline, our ablation experiments correspond to three scenarios. (1) Only Generation: with only $L_{gan}$, our generation module disentangles iden-
The JVTC [24] warmed fully unsupervised setting and state-of-the-art methods. (1) Only Contrast: \( L_{\text{gan}} \) corresponds to generation w/o contrast. \( L_{vi} \) corresponds to contrast w/o generation. (3) \( L_{gan} + L_{vi} \) (\( L_{vi}' \) and \( L_{vi}'' \)) correspond to joint generative and discriminative learning.

| Method | Reference | Source | mAP | R1 | R5 | R10 |
|--------|-----------|--------|-----|----|----|-----|
| MMCL [36] | CVPR'20 | None | 11.2 | 35.4 | 44.8 | 49.8 |
| JVTC [24] | ECCV'20 | None | 15.1 | 39.0 | 50.9 | 56.8 |
| JVTC* | This paper | None | 17.3 | 43.1 | 53.8 | 59.4 |
| JVTC+ | This paper | None | 16.3 | 40.4 | 55.6 | 61.6 |
| ours(JVTC*) | This paper | None | 18.0 | 41.6 | 53.2 | 58.4 |
| ours(JVTC+*) | This paper | None | 21.3 | 45.7 | 58.0 | 64.5 |

Table 2: Comparison of unsupervised Re-ID methods (%) with a ResNet50 backbone on MSMT17. * refers to our implementation based on authors’ code.

- We observe that there exists blur in images generated by FD-GAN and IS-GAN. DG-Net generates sharper images, but different body shapes and some incoherent objects (bags and clothes) are observed. PDA [25] and DG-Net++ [52] are UDA methods, whose source code is not yet released.
- We can only compare several generated images with unknown identities as illustrated in their papers. PDA generates blurred cross-domain images, whose quality is similar to FD-GAN and IS-GAN. DG-Net++ extends DG-Net into cross-domain generation, which has same problems of body shape and incoherent objects. Our GCL preserves better body shape information and does not generate incoherent objects. Moreover, our GCL is a fully unsupervised method.

4.4. Generation Quality Evaluation

Comparison with state-of-the-art methods. We compare generated images between our proposed GCL under the JVTC [24] warmed fully unsupervised setting and state-of-the-art GAN-based ReID methods in Fig. 5. FD-GAN [14], IS-GAN [10] and DG-Net [45] are supervised ReID methods. Since the source code of these three methods is available, we compare generated images of same identities. We observe that there exists blur in images generated by FD-GAN and IS-GAN. DG-Net generates sharper images, but different body shapes and some incoherent objects (bags and clothes) are observed. PDA [25] and DG-Net++ [52] are UDA methods, whose source code is not yet released. We can only compare several generated images with unknown identities as illustrated in their papers. PDA generates blurred cross-domain images, whose quality is similar to FD-GAN and IS-GAN. DG-Net++ extends DG-Net into cross-domain generation, which has same problems of body shape and incoherent objects. Our GCL preserves better body shape information and does not generate incoherent objects. Moreover, our GCL is a fully unsupervised method.

We use Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) [18] to measure visual quality, as well as Structural SIMilarity (SSIM) [39] to capture structure diversity of generated images. In
Figure 5: Comparison of the generated images on Market-1501 dataset. * refers to methods without sharing source code, whose examples are cropped from their papers. Examples of FD-GAN, IS-GAN, DG-Net and GCL are generated from six real images shown in the figure.

Table 4, we compare our method with FD-GAN [14], IS-GAN [10] and DG-Net [45], whose source code is available. FID measures the distribution distance between generated and real images, where a lower FID represents the case, where generated images are similar to real ones. SSIM measures the intra-class structural similarity, where a larger SSIM represents a larger diversity. We note that DG-Net is outperforms our method w.r.t. FID, because the distribution is better maintained with ground truth identities in the supervised method DG-Net. However, our method is superior to DG-Net w.r.t. SSIM, as DG-Net swaps intra-dataset structures, whereas our rotated meshes build structures that do not exist in the original dataset.

More discussion. To validate, whether identity and structure features can be really disentangled under a fully unsupervised ReID setting, two experiments are conducted by changing firstly only structure features and then only identity features. Results in Fig. 6 show that changing structure features only change structures and do not affect appearances. We also fix structure features and linearly interpolate two random identity feature vectors. Results in Fig. 7 show that identity features only change appearances and do not affect structures in generated images. More examples are provided in Appendices Sec. A.

Generally, it is easier to generate novel views of 45°, 180° and 315°. 45° and 315° are small rotations, in which original and synthesized images can share maximal identity information. 180° can be roughly regarded as a horizontal flip. Results in Tab. 5 verify this supposition. Our generated novel views on the three datasets will be released as a new dataset to facilitate future research on view-invariant and unsupervised ReID.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we propose a joint generative and contrastive training framework to address unsupervised person ReID. Different from previous contrastive methods with traditional data augmentation techniques, we generate diversified views with a 3D mesh guided GAN. These generated model views are then combined with original images in memory based contrastive learning, in order to learn view-invariant representations, which in turn improve generation quality. Our generative and contrastive modules mutually promote each other’s performance in unsupervised ReID.
Moreover, our framework does not rely on a source dataset which is mandatory in style transfer based methods. Extensive experiments on three datasets validate the effectiveness of our framework in both unsupervised person ReID and multi-view person image generation.

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Appendices

We illustrate more generated samples of the same subject under different views. Here, we show these samples in higher-resolution for better visualization.

A. Generated Views

We illustrate our results with more examples of generated views with a JVTC [24] fully unsupervised baseline on Market-1501 in Fig. 8, DukeMTCM-reID in Fig. 9 and MSMT17 in Fig. 10. Here, we show generated examples from both training and test sets to confirm the effectiveness of our GCL. Generally, the generation quality is good enough to help our GCL learn view-invariant representations. However, there are still some limitations, e.g., some visual blurs still exist and detailed identity information is lost in some cases (in the bottom row of Fig. 8, the red logo on the shorts disappears in the generated images). In future work, we believe that the visual blurs can be alleviated by leveraging the architectures from more recent GANs [3, 23] in our generator and detailed identity information can be better preserved when better unsupervised baselines are available.
Figure 8: Examples of generated novel views on Market-1501 training and test sets.
Figure 9: Examples of generated novel views on DukeMTMC-reID training and test sets.
Figure 10: Examples of generated novel views on MSMT17 training and test sets.