

# MIGS: Multi-Identity Gaussian Splatting via Tensor Decomposition

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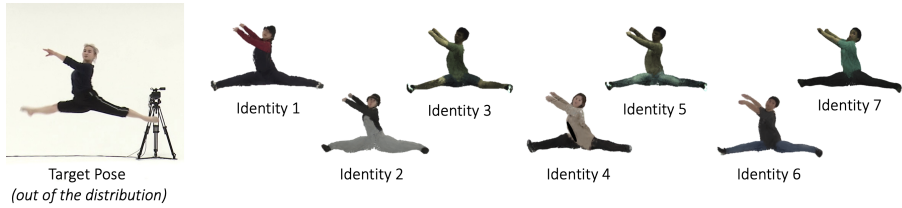
**Abstract.** We introduce MIGS (Multi-Identity Gaussian Splatting), a novel method that learns a single neural representation for multiple identities, using only monocular videos. Recent 3D Gaussian Splatting (3DGS) approaches for human avatars require per-identity optimization. However, learning a multi-identity representation presents advantages in robustly animating humans under arbitrary poses. We propose to construct a high-order tensor that combines all the learnable 3DGS parameters for all the training identities. By assuming a low-rank structure and factorizing the tensor, we model the complex rigid and non-rigid deformations of multiple subjects in a unified network, significantly reducing the total number of parameters. Our proposed approach leverages information from all the training identities and enables robust animation under challenging unseen poses, outperforming existing approaches. It can also be extended to learn unseen identities. Project page: <https://aggelinacha.github.io/MIGS/>.

**Keywords:** Human Body Animation · Multiple Identities · 3D Gaussian Splatting

## 1 Introduction

Synthesizing and animating digital humans has broad applications, ranging from immersive telepresence in AR/VR to video games and the movie industry. However, this task presents significant challenges, since humans are highly deformable entities in the real world. Capturing their large variety of spatio-temporal (4D) rigid and non-rigid deformations is a widely studied topic in computer vision and graphics [47, 50, 89]. A vast number of works [47, 48, 50, 60, 64, 72] have proposed to learn parametric models of the human body, like SMPL [47], using large datasets of human scans. These models can be used as a prior, conditioning neural representations of human avatars [55, 69, 89, 92].

Advances in implicit representations and neural rendering, including Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) [53], have enabled photo-realistic modeling of the appearance and geometry of humans [15, 55, 62, 89, 92, 96]. The non-rigid and rigid deformations of the human body are represented by one or more multi-layer perceptrons (MLPs). The learned dynamic representation can be used for novel view synthesis and animation under novel poses [55, 89, 92]. More recently, 3D Gaussian Splatting (3DGS) [69] achieves real-time rendering of radiance fields



**Fig. 1:** We introduce MIGS (multi-identity Gaussian splatting) that learns a *single* neural representation for *multiple identities* based on tensor decomposition. MIGS enables robust animation of human avatars under novel poses, out of the training distribution.

with a high quality. By representing a scene with a set of 3D Gaussians and proposing a fast rasterization method, 3DGS significantly outperforms NeRFs that require expensive optimization and long inference times. Recent works extend 3DGS to human avatars [24, 25, 69, 95], by conditioning on a human articulation prior [47]. However, given a monocular setting, these approaches can only learn single-identity representations. Only a few works have proposed more generic neural representations, but require multiple views for training [39, 70, 94].

In this work, we address the less studied problem of learning a single neural representation of multiple identities from monocular videos. In multi-view settings, related methods usually learn blending mechanisms, extract features from nearby views, and infer a novel view in feed-forward manner [10, 39, 81, 94]. Constrained by the input views, such multi-view approaches cannot animate humans under novel poses. In contrast, in a monocular setting, we cannot leverage nearby views as input. Learning a single representation of multiple subjects is an interesting research topic, since we need to preserve individual characteristics in a generic model, and presents the following advantages. (a) By leveraging information from multiple identities, it learns a better representation of the human body articulation, enabling robust animation under unseen, even out-of-distribution, poses. (b) Even though recent neural rendering methods have become faster, they still require per-identity optimization [25, 69, 89], which can lead to a prohibitive number of learnable parameters for a large number of identities.

We introduce MIGS (Multi-Identity Gaussian Splatting), a novel method that learns a *multi-identity* 3DGS representation of human avatars. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first method that extends 3DGS to multiple identities, learned in a monocular setting. Inspired by ideas that go back to TensorFaces [79], we construct a high-order tensor of all the learnable parameters of our 3DGS representation. The core premise of our method is to learn a tensor decomposition [35, 61] of the high-order tensor. The intuition is that different identities share common characteristics. Thus, we assume a *low-rank structure* of the high-order tensor and decompose it into a sum of rank-one tensors [23, 35]. These rank-one tensors correspond to the only learnable parameters of our optimization procedure. In this way, we learn a *single* unified representation of multiple subjects, and use only a *fraction* of the total parameters that would be required by training multiple per-identity 3DGS representations. By leveraging information from multiple identities, MIGS enables robust animation under chal-

lenging out-of-distribution poses. We also demonstrate how it can be extended to learn novel identities.

In brief, our contributions are as follows:

- We propose to construct a high-order tensor that combines all the learnable parameters of a 3DGS representation for multiple human avatars.
- By factorizing this tensor with a tensor decomposition, we learn a single unified representation for multiple identities, and significantly reduce the total number of learnable parameters compared to single-identity representations.
- By leveraging information from multiple identities, our proposed MIGS enables robust animation under novel poses, outperforming existing approaches.

## 2 Related Work

**Human Body Modeling.** Reconstructing and animating humans has been a long standing problem in computer vision and graphics. Earlier approaches develop stereo techniques, relying on multi-view studio setups [7, 29, 51]. They model the non-rigid and rigid deformations of humans with mesh [80] or volume [13] representations. Motion retargeting has also been explored [18, 41]. With the advent of generative adversarial networks [20], many approaches propose image-to-image translation methods [26, 84, 85] for 2D motion transfer [9, 57, 67], based on pose detection systems [5, 6, 74, 87]. A vast number of works [47, 48, 50, 60, 64, 72] have proposed to learn parametric models of the human body, like SMPL [47], using large datasets of 3D human scans. These models can represent a human with a set of parameters for the body shape, joint position and rotation. They have been beneficial for reconstructing and tracking humans over time in videos [4, 30, 71]. They have also been used as a human articulation prior to condition implicit neural representations of human avatars [55, 69, 89, 92].

**Neural Rendering of Human Avatars.** Recent advances in implicit representations and neural rendering have enabled photo-realistic modeling of the appearance and geometry of humans. Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) [53] have been first proposed for static scenes, showing remarkable results for novel view synthesis [2, 3, 45, 53]. They have been extended to dynamic scenes [43, 44, 68], making them a popular choice for modeling human bodies [16, 27, 31, 46, 58, 65, 66, 90] and faces [15, 62, 63]. While many of those NeRF-based approaches use multi-view videos, recent works attempt to capture the 4D dynamics and appearance of humans from monocular videos [15, 21, 28, 55, 75, 83, 89, 92]. Most of these works align the observed poses of different video frames in a single canonical space, and learn a conditional 3D representation. The non-rigid and rigid deformations of the human body are represented by one or more multi-layer perceptrons (MLPs). The learned dynamic representation can be used for novel view synthesis and animation under novel poses [55, 89, 92]. However, all these approaches require expensive per-identity optimization. A few works have proposed more generic representations [10, 34, 39, 55, 76, 81, 91], but these require static settings or multiple views for training. In contrast, we propose to learn a single representation for multiple identities, from just monocular videos of challenging poses.

**3D Gaussian Splatting.** More recently, several approaches propose techniques for faster training and rendering of radiance fields, with 3D Gaussian Splatting (3DGS) becoming very popular [69]. 3DGS achieves real-time rendering of complex static scenes with a high visual quality. It represents a scene with a set of 3D Gaussians. Each Gaussian is associated with learnable parameters, namely a position (mean), an anisotropic covariance matrix, an opacity, and a color. The 3D Gaussians are projected to 2D splats in the image space through a fast rasterization procedure. Recent works extend 3DGS to dynamic human avatars [24, 25, 69, 95], by conditioning the 3DGS representation on a human articulation prior [47]. However, these approaches only learn single-identity representations. Learning a more generic neural representation would require multiple views for training [39, 70, 94]. In this work, we extend 3DGS to multiple identities, in a monocular setting, demonstrating the benefits of such a multi-identity representation in robustly animating human avatars under novel poses.

**Tensor Structures.** Tensors are multi-dimensional arrays that can naturally represent data of multiple dimensions [35, 61]. They have been used in related fields to represent visual data and capture higher-order similarities or interactions [12, 17]. TensorFaces [79] is an early approach that approximates different modes of variation using a multilinear tensor decomposition. Tensor-based operations have been proposed within deep neural networks to leverage the topological structure in the data [36, 37]. Tensor decomposition extends the concept of matrix decomposition [78] to higher-order tensors for dimensionality reduction and data compression. It has been applied to neural networks to significantly reduce the number of learnable parameters and mitigate the curse of dimensionality [1, 40, 59]. A widely used tensor decomposition is the CANDECOMP/PARAFAC (CP) decomposition [8, 22, 23, 35] that decomposes a tensor into a sum of rank-one tensors. Computing the CP decomposition of a tensor requires optimization algorithms, like Alternating Least Square (ALS) [54]. In this work, we propose to construct a high-order tensor of all the learnable parameters of a 3DGS representation, and learn a CP tensor decomposition to model multiple identities in a unified network and use a reduced number of parameters. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first approach that applies such a decomposition to 3DGS and learns a multi-identity 3DGS representation.

### 3 Preliminary

**Notation.** We follow the notation introduced by Kolda and Bader [35]. We denote scalars as  $w \in \mathbb{R}$ , vectors as  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{I_1}$ , and matrices as  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{I_1 \times I_2}$ . Tensors are symbolized by calligraphic letters, *e.g.*  $\mathcal{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times \dots \times I_d}$ . Tensor fibers  $\mathbf{w}_{i,j,:}$  are higher-order analogues of matrix rows and columns. Tensor slices  $\mathbf{W}_{i,:,:}$  are 2-dimensional sections of a tensor.

#### 3.1 3D Gaussian Splatting

3D Gaussian Splatting (3DGS) [32] has been first proposed to represent static scenes, achieving fast and high-quality novel view synthesis. A scene is repre-



sented by a set of anisotropic 3D Gaussians. Each Gaussian is defined by a position (mean)  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  and a covariance matrix  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ :

$$G(\mathbf{x}) = e^{(\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})} , \quad (1)$$

and associated with an opacity  $\alpha$  and a color  $\mathbf{c}$  that are used for  $\alpha$ -blending. The 3D Gaussians are projected to 2D splats in the image space following EWA splatting [97], where Zicker *et al.* demonstrate how the corresponding 2D covariance matrix can be derived from  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ . The whole representation is differentiable, optimized via gradient descent. In order to ensure that  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  has a physical meaning, it is constrained to be positive semi-definite, by defining a parametric ellipsoid with a diagonal scaling matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  and a rotation matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ :

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{R}^T . \quad (2)$$

In practice, the parameters of each Gaussian are stored as a position vector  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , a 3D scaling vector  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and a quaternion  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^4$  to represent the rotation [32]. The locations of the Gaussians are initialized by a sparse point cloud, obtained by Structure-from-Motion [73]. Then, they are optimized based on successive iterations of rendering, guided by a photometric loss and using an adaptive densification scheme [32]. The color  $C$  of a pixel is computed by blending all Gaussians  $g$  that overlap the pixel, after sorting them by depth:

$$C = \sum_g \mathbf{c}_g \alpha_g \prod_{j=1}^{g-1} (1 - \alpha_j) , \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{c}_g$  is the color and  $\alpha_g$  is the learned opacity weighted by the probability density of the  $g$ -th projected 2D Gaussian splat. The color  $\mathbf{c}_g$  can be a view-dependent color computed from learned spherical harmonic (SH) coefficients [14, 32, 56] or can be a learned RGB color vector [49, 69].

### 3.2 Deformable 3D Gaussian Splatting for Humans

Many recent works extend 3DGS to represent human avatars [24, 25, 69, 95], combining the 3D Gaussians with a human articulation prior. They follow a widely adopted paradigm, mapping the observation to the canonical space and learning a representation of the human body in the canonical pose [28, 82, 88, 89]. They use linear blend skinning (LBS) to deform the human body under arbitrary poses, based on the SMPL model [48].

Given a monocular video of a human, corresponding SMPL parameters and foreground masks per frame, we learn a set of 3D Gaussians  $\{G^{(g)}\}_{g=1}^{N_g}$  that represent the human body in the canonical pose. We initialize them by randomly sampling  $N_g$  points on the SMPL mesh surface under canonical pose. Following HumanNeRF [89] and 3DGS-Avatar [69], we decompose the complex human deformation to rigid and non-rigid parts, which model the skeletal motion and non-rigid cloth deformation correspondingly (see overview in Fig. 2 right).

**Non-rigid Deformation.** First, we learn a non-rigid deformation module  $f_d$  that maps the set of 3D Gaussians under canonical pose  $\{G_c\}$  to a non-rigidly deformed space  $\{G_d\}$ . More specifically, given the parameters of a Gaussian in the canonical space (position  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_c$ , scale  $\mathbf{s}_c$ , and rotation quaternion  $\mathbf{q}_c$ ) and a latent code  $\mathbf{z}_p$ ,  $f_d$  outputs offsets and a feature vector  $\mathbf{z}$  as follows:

$$(\delta\boldsymbol{\mu}, \delta\mathbf{s}, \delta\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{z}) = f_d(\boldsymbol{\mu}_c; \mathbf{z}_p), \quad (4)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_d = \boldsymbol{\mu}_c + \delta\boldsymbol{\mu}$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_d = \mathbf{s}_c \cdot e^{\delta\mathbf{s}}$ ,  $\mathbf{q}_d = \mathbf{q}_c \cdot [1; \delta\mathbf{q}]$ , and  $\mathbf{z}_p$  is a latent code that encodes the SMPL parameters for pose and shape as the output of an hierarchical encoder [52, 69].

**Rigid Transformation.** The non-rigidly deformed Gaussians  $\{G_d\}$  are mapped to the observation space via a rigid transformation module. The rigid transformation is based on LBS [48], where  $B$  rigid bone transformations  $\{\mathbf{B}_b\}_{b=1}^B$  are linearly blended via a set of skinning weights learned by a neural skinning field represented as an MLP  $f_r$  [11, 69, 89]:

$$\mathbf{T} = \sum_{b=1}^B f_r(\boldsymbol{\mu}_d)_b \mathbf{B}_b. \quad (5)$$

Then, the position and rotation of the Gaussians in the observation space are computed as:  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_o = \mathbf{T}\boldsymbol{\mu}_d$  and  $\mathbf{R}_o = \mathbf{T}_{:3,:3}\mathbf{R}_d$ , where  $\mathbf{R}_d$  is the rotation matrix derived from the quaternion  $\mathbf{q}_d$ .

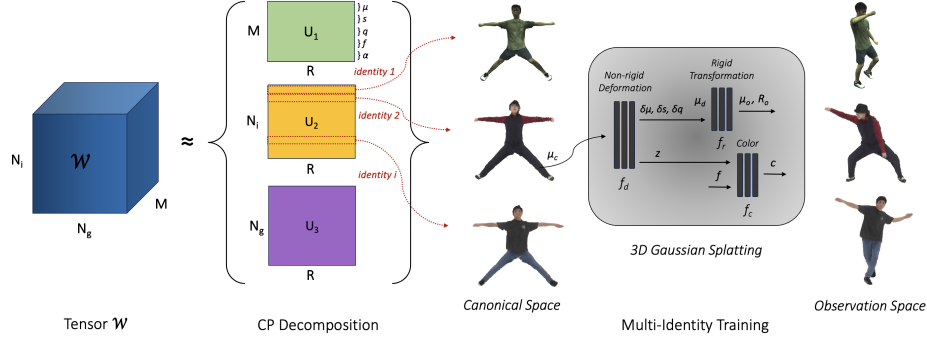
**Color.** Following 3DGS-Avatar [69], we predict the color  $\mathbf{c}$  of a Gaussian using an MLP  $f_c$ , conditioned on a per-Gaussian learnable feature vector  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^{32}$ , the output  $\mathbf{z}$  of the non-rigid network  $f_d$ , and the SH basis  $\gamma(\hat{\mathbf{d}})$ :

$$\mathbf{c} = f_c(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{z}, \gamma(\hat{\mathbf{d}})), \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathbf{d}$  is the viewing direction wrt the camera center and  $\hat{\mathbf{d}} = \mathbf{T}_{:3,:3}^{-1}\mathbf{d}$  is the canonicalized viewing direction to ensure consistency under the applied transformations [69]. Note that in contrast to 3DGS-Avatar, we do not learn any per-frame latent code, in order to avoid any overfitting to the training frames. Our goal is to learn a more general representation of the human body, given multiple identities.

## 4 Method

We present MIGS, a novel method that learns a multi-identity 3DGS representation for human avatars, based on tensor decomposition. An overview of our approach is illustrated in Fig. 2. Given only monocular videos of different subjects, we learn a unified neural representation that models their appearance and articulation. Inspired by ideas that go back to TensorFaces [79], we construct a high-order tensor of the Gaussian parameters of all our training identities. Given that different identities share common characteristics, we assume a low-rank structure of the high-order tensor. Applying a tensor decomposition [35, 61],



**Fig. 2: Overview of MIGS.** Given monocular videos of multiple identities, we learn a unified 3DGS representation for human avatars based on CP tensor decomposition. We construct a tensor  $\mathcal{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i \times N_g \times M}$ , where  $N_i$  is the number of identities,  $N_g$  the number of 3D Gaussians and  $M$  the number of parameters per Gaussian. In practice, we assume a low-rank structure of the tensor  $\mathcal{W}$  and thus, we only learn the matrices  $\mathbf{U}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{U}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{U}_3 \in \mathbb{R}^{N_g \times R}$  that approximate  $\mathcal{W}$  through the CP decomposition with  $R \ll N_g$ . By leveraging information from the diverse deformations of different subjects, MIGS enables robust animation under novel challenging poses.

we decompose it into a sum of rank-one tensors. In this way, we share weights between different identities, using a minimum number of total learnable parameters for our Gaussian splatting. By learning a unified representation, MIGS enables robust animation of the training subjects under completely unseen poses. We also demonstrate how MIGS can be extended to novel identities.

#### 4.1 Multi-Identity Representation

Previous works [24, 25, 69, 95] propose single-identity 3DGS representations for human avatars, where the parameters of the 3D Gaussians are learned from a monocular video of a single subject. Section 3.2 defines the 3DGS representation for a single identity. In this section, we demonstrate how we construct our *multi-identity* representation based on high-order tensors. Tensors are a multi-dimensional generalization of matrices [35, 61] that can represent data of multiple dimensions and capture high-order similarities or interactions.

For each identity  $i$ , we assume a set of 3D Gaussians  $\{G^{(i,g)}\}_{g=1}^{N_g}$  that model the human avatar under canonical pose. Each Gaussian  $G^{(i,g)}$  is defined by the following learnable parameters: a position (mean)  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(i,g)} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , a scaling vector  $\mathbf{s}^{(i,g)} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , a quaternion  $\mathbf{q}^{(i,g)} \in \mathbb{R}^4$ , a feature vector  $\mathbf{f}^{(i,g)} \in \mathbb{R}^{32}$  and an opacity  $\alpha^{(i,g)} \in \mathbb{R}$ . The color  $\mathbf{c}^{(i,g)}$  of the Gaussian is given by the output of a color MLP as in Eq. (6). Given videos of  $N_i$  identities, we construct a tensor:

$$\mathcal{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i \times N_g \times M}, \text{ where } \mathbf{w}_{i,g,:} = [\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(i,g)}; \mathbf{s}^{(i,g)}; \mathbf{q}^{(i,g)}; \mathbf{f}^{(i,g)}; \alpha^{(i,g)}], \quad (7)$$

where  $M$  derives by adding the dimensions of the parameters for a Gaussian  $g$  and an identity  $i$ :  $M = 3 + 3 + 4 + 32 + 1 = 43$ .

## 4.2 Tensor Decomposition

Increasing the number of identities leads to a prohibitive number of learnable parameters in the tensor  $\mathbf{W}$ . We assume a low-rank structure of  $\mathbf{W}$  and apply CANDECOMP/PARAFAC (CP) tensor decomposition [23, 35] to decompose it into a sum of a finite number of rank-one tensors. More specifically, we first matricize the tensor  $\mathbf{W}$  using the unfolding in the second dimension, such that  $\mathbf{W}_{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_g \times (N_i M)}$ . Then, we set:

$$\mathbf{W}_{(2)} \approx \mathbf{U}_3 (\mathbf{U}_2 \odot \mathbf{U}_1)^T, \quad (8)$$

where  $\odot$  denotes the Khatri-Rao product [33],  $\mathbf{U}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{U}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i \times R}$ ,  $\mathbf{U}_3 \in \mathbb{R}^{N_g \times R}$  are the factor matrices, and  $R$  is a positive integer that corresponds to the selected rank of the decomposition. In an exact CP decomposition, where there is equality in Eq. (8), the smallest number of rank-one tensors that can generate  $\mathbf{W}$  as their sum is equal with the rank of the tensor  $\mathbf{W}$  [35].

In practice, we only learn the matrices  $\mathbf{U}_1, \mathbf{U}_2, \mathbf{U}_3$ . Thus, we learn  $(M + N_i + N_g)R$  parameters, instead of  $MN_iN_g$  parameters, which leads to a significant decrease for a large number of identities  $N_i$ , when  $R \ll N_g$ . In our experiments,  $R = 100$  and  $N_g = 5 \times 10^4$ . For  $N_i = 30$  identities, MIGS learns only  $(M + N_i + N_g)R \approx 5 \times 10^6$  parameters, compared to  $MN_iN_g \approx 6.5 \times 10^7$  that would be required by single-identity 3DGS representations, leading to a decrease *by at least one order of magnitude* in the total number of learnable parameters. During each iteration, we use Eq. (8) to derive  $\mathbf{W}_{(2)}$  and then rewrite it as a tensor  $\mathbf{W}$  (see Eq. (7)). Each fiber  $\mathbf{w}_{i,g,:}$  corresponds to the parameters of a 3D Gaussian  $G^{(i,g)}$  for an identity  $i = 1, \dots, N_i$  and  $g = 1, \dots, N_g$ .

## 4.3 Optimization

**Initialization.** We initialize  $\mathbf{U}_1, \mathbf{U}_2, \mathbf{U}_3$  by using the parameters of only one identity. More specifically, for the identity  $i = 1$ , we randomly sample  $N_g$  points on the SMPL mesh surface under canonical pose to initialize the locations  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^{(1,g)}$  for  $g = 1, \dots, N_g$ . We follow [32] to initialize the rest of the parameters  $\mathbf{s}^{(1,g)}$ ,  $\mathbf{q}^{(1,g)}$ ,  $\mathbf{f}^{(1,g)}$ ,  $\alpha^{(1,g)}$  and we construct the tensor slice  $\mathbf{W}_{1,:,:}$ . We then compute the CP decomposition of  $\mathbf{W}_{1,:,:}$  by applying Robust Tensor Power Iteration (CP-Power) using TensorLy [38]<sup>3</sup>. This gives us the initial matrices  $\mathbf{U}_1, \mathbf{U}_3$ , and the first row of  $\mathbf{U}_2$  that we populate to all the rows to get our initial  $\mathbf{U}_2$ . We absorb the output weights of CPPower in  $\mathbf{U}_3$ .

**Training.** We follow the 3DGS implementation for human avatars as described in Sec. 3.2. We jointly optimize  $\mathbf{U}_1, \mathbf{U}_2, \mathbf{U}_3$ , as well as the parameters of  $f_d$ ,  $f_r$ , and  $f_c$ , by iteratively rendering frames from each training identity. Given the estimated  $\mathbf{U}_1, \mathbf{U}_2, \mathbf{U}_3$  at each iteration, we derive the parameters of the 3D Gaussians for a specific identity, as described in Sec. 4.2. We use the same loss function as 3DGS-Avatar [69] that consists of a photometric RGB loss, a mask

<sup>3</sup> <https://tensorly.org/stable/modules/generated/tensorly.decomposition.CPPower.html>

loss, a skinning weight regularization, and an as-isometric-as-possible regularization loss (see supplementary document for more implementation details).

**Per-identity Updates.** Our proposed approach provides the option to update the parameters for only a specific identity  $i$  at a given iteration, by using only the row  $i$  of  $\mathbf{U}_2$  in Eq. (8). In our experiments, we observe similar results in both cases, *i.e.* using either the full  $\mathbf{U}_2$  at each iteration or the corresponding row of  $\mathbf{U}_2$  of the current identity  $i$ . However, we note that individual per-identity updates can be useful in other cases.

#### 4.4 Personalization

Trained on multiple identities simultaneously, MIGS learns a large variety of rigid and non-rigid deformations. To enhance the output visual quality for a particular subject, we can further fine-tune our color MLP  $f_c$  (see Eq. (6)), keeping the rest of the parameters frozen, using a short video of that subject. We observe that this “personalization” procedure is useful when we train our network for a large number of identities. Increasing the number of identities leads to an increase in robustness under novel poses, but a smoother result, where our generic network might not capture high-frequency details. This is expected, since for a given number of parameters, we learn a single unified representation of a large number of identities with diverse characteristics. We address this with the personalization that, with only a few iterations, successfully captures identity-specific details.

**Novel Identity.** Learning a novel identity (that is not part of the initial training set) is also possible, by just adding an additional row to  $\mathbf{U}_2$ . Given a short video of the new identity, we optimize only the corresponding row of  $\mathbf{U}_2$  and the color MLP  $f_c$ , keeping the rest of our representation frozen. In this way, we learn the characteristics of the new identity, without forgetting the large variety of the human body deformations captured by our multi-identity representation.

## 5 Experiments

### 5.1 Datasets

To evaluate our method, we use 2 datasets, namely ZJU-MoCap [66] and AIST++ [42, 77]. ZJU-MoCap is a widely used dataset that contains multi-view recordings of human subjects, performing motions such as kicking and arm swings. In our experiments, we assume a monocular setting and only use the camera 1 for training. Similarly with other works [55, 69, 89, 92], we use 6 subjects (377, 386, 387, 392, 393, 394) and the corresponding camera parameters, SMPL [47] body poses, and segmentation masks provided by the dataset.

AIST++ [42, 77] is a dance motion dataset that includes a large variety of human body movements. In contrast to ZJU-MoCap that consists of mostly repetitive sequences with limited variation, AIST++ contains more diverse and challenging human body articulations. It contains 30 subjects and 10 dance genres. Each subject performs a specific number of *basic* and *advanced* dance



**Fig. 3: Animation of human avatars under novel out-of-distribution poses.** Qualitative comparison with state-of-the-art approaches, namely HumanNeRF [89], MonoHuman [92], GauHuman [25], and 3DGS-Avatar [69]. The training subjects are from the ZJU-MoCap dataset [66] and the target poses (column 1) are from the AIST++ dataset [42, 77]. Since the target poses are out of the training distribution (first 3 come from the advanced dance videos of AIST++), animation under these poses is challenging. Our method demonstrates significant robustness.

choreographies. We randomly select 1 basic ( $\sim 12$  sec.) and 1 advanced ( $\sim 30$  sec.) video per subject. We assume a monocular setting by only using the camera 1 for training. To get more accurate and smooth tracking over time, we use 4DHumans [19] to get the corresponding SMPL annotations, camera parameters, and segmentation masks for this dataset. We construct 2 test sets: (a) a “Basic Test” set that consists of 10 basic dance videos, and (b) an “Advanced Test” set of 10 advanced dance videos, specifically chosen to evaluate the robustness of our method to novel and more challenging (out-of-distribution) poses.

## 5.2 Evaluation

**Baselines.** We compare our method against recent approaches for animatable human avatars, learned from monocular videos. We include both NeRF-based

**Table 1: Quantitative evaluation on ZJU-MoCap.** We compare our method with state-of-the-art approaches (HumanNeRF [89], MonoHuman [92], GauHuman [25], 3DGS-Avatar [69]) on novel view synthesis, using the standard test set of ZJU-MoCap. We report PSNR, SSIM and LPIPS\* = LPIPS  $\times 10^3$  on 4 subjects (377, 386, 392, 394).

Method	377			386			392			394		
	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS* $\downarrow$	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS* $\downarrow$	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS* $\downarrow$	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS* $\downarrow$
HumanNeRF	30.41	0.9743	24.06	33.20	0.9752	28.99	31.04	0.9705	32.12	30.31	0.9642	32.89
MonoHuman	29.12	0.9727	26.58	32.94	0.9695	36.04	29.50	0.9635	39.45	29.15	0.9595	38.08
GauHuman	29.48	0.9667	22.40	29.51	0.9648	28.80	27.86	0.9578	32.45	28.37	0.9533	34.16
3DGS-Avatar	30.64	0.9774	20.88	33.63	0.9773	25.77	31.66	0.9730	30.14	30.54	0.9661	31.21
Ours	<b>32.85</b>	<b>0.9847</b>	<b>19.67</b>	<b>34.98</b>	<b>0.9775</b>	<b>24.56</b>	<b>33.88</b>	<b>0.9805</b>	<b>25.73</b>	<b>32.28</b>	<b>0.9761</b>	<b>25.48</b>

(HumanNeRF [89] and MonoHuman [92]) and 3DGS-based (GauHuman [25] and 3DGS-Avatar [69]) methods. HumanNeRF [89] is a well-performing NeRF-based approach that achieves high-quality reconstruction of a human subject, given a monocular video. MonoHuman [92] introduces a bi-directional deformation field to improve rendering of human subjects under novel poses. It requires keyframe selection of frontal and back views from a monocular video. GauHuman [25] and 3DGS-Avatar [69] are very recent approaches that apply 3DGS for humans, achieving fast optimization and real-time rendering. In our preliminary experiments, we observe that 3DGS-Avatar achieves higher-quality results than GauHuman, and thus we build our proposed multi-identity approach upon the single-identity 3DGS-Avatar, but omitting any per-frame latent codes to avoid any overfitting to the training frames (see Sec. 3.2). We evaluate the performance of all the methods qualitatively and quantitatively when rendering a subject under novel poses and novel views.

**Evaluation Metrics.** We measure the visual quality of the generated videos, using standard reconstruction metrics, namely peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR), structural similarity index (SSIM) [86], and learned perceptual image patch similarity (LPIPS) [93]. Following related works, we report LPIPS\* = LPIPS  $\times 10^3$ .

**Results on the ZJU-MoCap dataset.** In our first evaluation setting, we train a model using the 6 subjects from ZJU-MoCap dataset [66]. Tab. 1 shows the quantitative comparisons on novel view synthesis on the standard test set. We train all methods on the same training set (camera view 1) and test on the rest 22 camera views for each subject. For fair comparison, we do the same for GauHuman and report the corresponding values (in their original code they used the refined dataset of ZJU-MoCap). See suppl. for more comparisons.

We are mostly interested in the benefit of our multi-identity representation in animating the training subjects under novel poses. Figure 3 demonstrates the effectiveness of MIGS in such a setting. More specifically, we test our model on target poses from the AIST++ dataset [42, 77] (column 1 in Fig. 3). These target poses are completely unseen and out of the training distribution, since in this case our model is trained on the 6 subjects from ZJU-MoCap. As mentioned in Sec. 5.1, ZJU-MoCap includes more repetitive and common human motion compared to the dance sequences of AIST++. In addition, some of the target



**Fig. 4: Animation of human avatars under novel poses.** Our method robustly animates all the identities under challenging unseen poses, from unseen camera views and advanced dance videos, outperforming the other methods, HumanNeRF [89], MonoHuman [92], and 3DGS-Avatar [69]. The subjects are from AIST++ [42, 77].

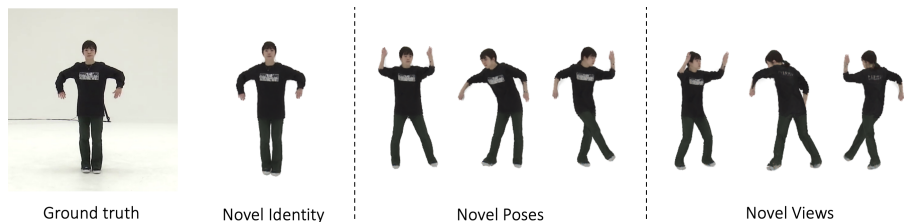
poses in Fig. 3 are from the advanced dance videos (first 3 rows). Thus, animating the subjects under those novel poses is more challenging. Artifacts under the arms and legs are visible in all other state-of-the-art methods, HumanNeRF [89], MonoHuman [92], GauHuman [25], and 3DGS-Avatar [69]. Our proposed method demonstrates significant robustness, outperforming all the methods.

**Results on the AIST++ dataset.** In our second evaluation setting, we train a model using all the 30 subjects of the AIST++ dataset [42, 77]. Our training set includes both basic and advanced dance motion videos. We evaluate our model on both our “Basic Test” and “Advanced Test” sets. Our quantitative results are shown in Tab. 2. In both settings, MIGS outperforms the existing approaches.



**Table 2: Quantitative evaluation on AIST++.** We construct 2 test sets, a “Basic Test” and an “Advanced Test” set that consists of more advanced dance videos, specifically chosen to evaluate the robustness of our method to novel poses. We compare with state-of-the-art approaches (HumanNeRF [89], MonoHuman [92], 3DGS-Avatar [69]) and report PSNR, SSIM, and LPIPS\* = LPIPS  $\times 10^3$ . Our method significantly outperforms the other methods.

Method	Basic Test			Advanced Test		
	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS* $\downarrow$	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS* $\downarrow$
HumanNeRF [89]	24.58	0.9732	29.20	22.01	0.9654	39.01
MonoHuman [92]	21.02	0.8302	42.63	18.89	0.7540	85.50
3DGS-Avatar [69]	28.89	0.9846	18.20	25.51	0.9704	28.86
Ours	<b>29.82</b>	<b>0.9865</b>	<b>17.73</b>	<b>26.54</b>	<b>0.9741</b>	<b>26.02</b>



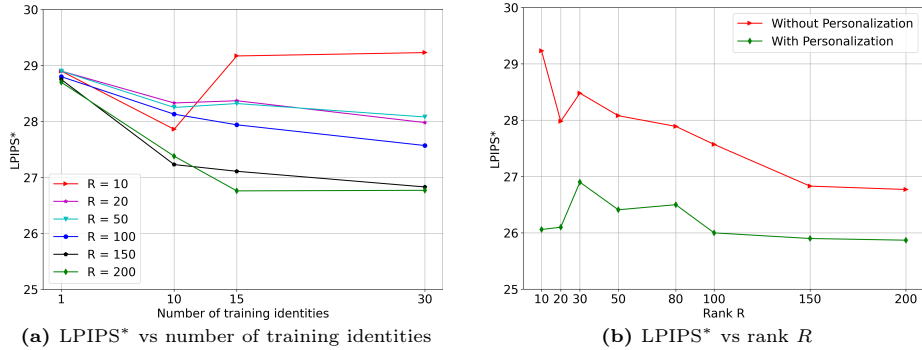
**Fig. 5: Learning a novel identity.** Our method can be extended to learn a novel identity, and then animate it under novel poses and novel views.

Figure 4 demonstrates the corresponding qualitative results, comparing with ground truth. The target poses (column 1) are unseen during training and come from unseen camera views. Poses in rows 2-4 are from challenging, more advanced dance combinations, and thus, are out of the training distribution. During training, the model has only seen more basic movements for those subjects. HumanNeRF [89] and MonoHuman [92] present significant artifacts in this case. Especially MonoHuman requires selection of frontal and back views, which might not be available in the monocular setting in the basic dance videos, leading to even wrong color (see first 2 rows in Fig. 4). 3DGS-Avatar [69] is more robust but also produces artifacts in case of unseen limb articulations. Our method demonstrates robustness in animating all identities under arbitrary poses.

Figure 5 shows the results of our method when learning a novel identity (see Sec. 4.4), animating it under novel poses and rendering it under novel views. In this case, we learn an additional row in  $U_2$ , given a short video of the new identity (10 sec.) with only basic movements. We optimize only the corresponding row of  $U_2$  and the color MLP  $f_c$ , keeping the rest of our representation frozen.

### 5.3 Ablation Study

We conduct an ablation study on the rank  $R$  of our tensor decomposition. Figure 6a shows the average visual quality on the “Advanced Test” set for different number of training identities and for different values of  $R$  (without any person-



**Fig. 6: Ablation study.** Visual quality ( $\text{LPIPS}^* = \text{LPIPS} \times 10^3$ ) on the “Advanced Test” set for different values  $R$  of our tensor decomposition. **(a)**  $\text{LPIPS}^*$  (lower the better) vs the number of training identities (without any personalization). **(b)**  $\text{LPIPS}^*$  vs rank  $R$  for the model trained on 30 identities, with or without personalization. We observe that  $R = 10$  is not enough to capture a larger number of identities with diverse articulations, while  $R = 100$  is sufficient.

alization). We observe that  $R = 10$  is not enough to capture a larger number of identities. For larger values of  $R$ , we notice that increasing the number of identities leads to (a) an increase in robustness under novel poses (lower LPIPS), since our model leverages information from more subjects with diverse human body articulation, and (b) a smoother result, where our generic network might not capture high-frequency details. We address the described smoothing with our personalization procedure that, with only a few iterations, successfully captures such identity-specific details (see Fig. 6b). With personalization, we observe similar results for  $R = 100$  and  $R = 200$ . We conclude that with just  $R = 100$  for our learned tensor decomposition, we achieve robust animation under challenging novel poses. Further ablation studies and discussion about limitations and ethical considerations are included in the suppl. document.

## 6 Conclusion

In conclusion, we introduce MIGS, a novel method that learns a unified 3DGS representation for multiple identities. We propose to construct a high-order tensor that combines all the learnable parameters for multiple human avatars. We approximate this tensor with a tensor decomposition, significantly reducing the total number of learnable parameters. We quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate our method using a standard benchmark dataset and a more challenging dance motion dataset. By leveraging information from multiple identities, MIGS enables robust animation of any training subject under novel challenging poses, out of the training distribution. In the future, we envision extending our approach to learn a generic model from thousands of identities.

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