



MULTI-HUMAN INTERACTIVE TALKING DATASET

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ABSTRACT

010 Existing studies on talking video generation have predominantly focused on single-
 011 person monologues or isolated facial animations, limiting their applicability to
 012 realistic multi-human interactions. To bridge this gap, we introduce MIT, a large-
 013 scale dataset specifically designed for multi-human talking video generation. To
 014 this end, we develop an automatic pipeline that collects and annotates multi-person
 015 conversational videos. The resulting dataset comprises 12 hours of high-resolution
 016 footage, each featuring two to four speakers, with fine-grained annotations of
 017 body poses and speech interactions. It captures natural conversational dynamics
 018 in multi-speaker scenario, offering a rich resource for studying interactive visual
 019 behaviors. To demonstrate the potential of MIT, we furthur propose CovOG, a
 020 baseline model for this novel task. It integrates a Multi-Human Pose Encoder
 021 (MPE) to handle varying numbers of speakers by aggregating individual pose
 022 embeddings, and an Interactive Audio Driver (IAD) to modulate head dynamics
 023 based on speaker-specific audio features. Together, these components showcase
 024 the feasibility and challenges of generating realistic multi-human talking videos,
 025 establishing MIT as a valuable benchmark for future research. *The code and data
 026 will be fully public available.*

1 INTRODUCTION

030 Recent advancements in human-centric video generation [25, 24] have markedly improved the
 031 synthesis of high-fidelity human videos. Among the most prominent research directions are pose-
 032 guided animation [5, 29, 16, 49], which enables fine-grained control over full-body movements,
 033 and audio-driven talking avatar generation [7, 10, 60], which focuses on producing accurate lip
 034 synchronization and expressive head motion conditioned on speech. Within the domain of audio-
 035 driven generation, substantial progress has been made in co-speech gesture synthesis [13] and talking
 036 head animation [38, 45]. The former seeks to align upper-body gestures with spoken content, while
 037 the latter aims to generate realistic facial expressions, head poses, and lip movements driven by
 038 audio input, thereby enhancing the expressiveness and naturalness of talking avatars. Despite these
 039 advances, existing methods predominantly focus on *single-person monologues* or *isolated facial
 040 regions*, lacking the capacity to model multi-speaker interactions. This limitation significantly
 041 constrains their applicability in realistic settings such as interviews, panel discussions, or films, where
 042 natural, multi-party conversations are essential.

043 In contrast to single-speaker scenarios, multi-speaker interactions involve complex dynamics, includ-
 044 ing turn-taking, fluid role transitions between speaking and listening, and non-verbal communicative
 045 behaviors such as eye contact and gesturing. Moreover, current datasets [9, 13] and generation frame-
 046 works [27, 26] are not designed to capture such multi-speaker conversational dynamics. Although
 047 recent work such as INFP [61] has taken initial steps toward interactive talking-head generation with
 048 multiple speakers, it remains restricted to facial animation alone. As a result, it fails to incorporate
 049 full-body behavioral cues critical for modeling realistic social interactions, thereby limiting both the
 050 quality and application of the generated content.

051 To advance beyond the limitations of single-speaker and facial-only generation, we define a new
 052 task, Multi-Human Talking Video Generation, which aims to synthesize realistic multi-person
 053 talking videos conditioned on reference images, body poses, and speech audio, as illustrated in
 Figure 1. Constructing a dataset suitable for this task is particularly challenging, as it requires
 the accurate extraction of multi-person conversational scenes, stabilization of camera motion, and

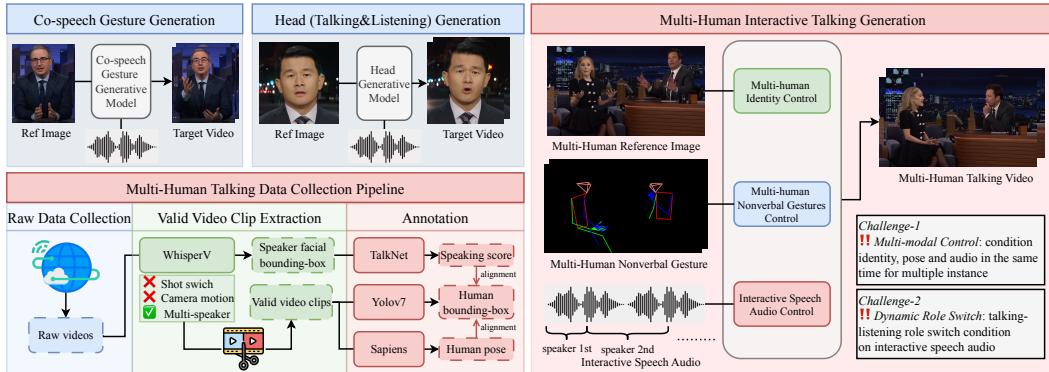


Figure 1: **Single Speaker Generation v.s. Multihuman Interactive Talking Generation and Automatic Data Collection Pipeline.** The pipeline of existing tasks are shown in blue, Co-speech Gesture Generation [13, 26], and Talking or Listening Head Generation [10, 45]. In contrast, Multi-person Interactive Talking Generation enables dynamic speaker interactions by incorporating identity, interactive pose and audio control, as shown in red. And the automatic data collection is shown consisting of raw data collection, valid video clip extraction and annotation.

the removal of occlusions and post-production artifacts. In this paper, we propose an automatic data collection pipeline and use it to build a benchmark for this task. Specifically, we introduce the Multi-human Interactive Talking dataset(MIT), a fine-grained collection of 12 hours of multi-human videos featuring 2–4 speakers with diverse identities. This dataset includes multi-human pose annotations aligned with each speaker’s speaking score label that indicates whether the human is speaking. Furthermore, we propose a baseline model designed for this task, namely CovOG: ConversationOriginal. Built on AnimateAnyone [1], CovOG integrates two key components: the Multi-Human Pose Encoder (MPE) and the Interactive Audio Driver (IAD). The MPE aggregates individual pose embeddings, allowing the model to accommodate a flexible number of human speakers. Meanwhile, the IAD dynamically refines speaker-specific head and pose features using an audio-driven speaking score, ensuring smooth and natural transitions between speaking and listening. Our work aims to lift audio-driven human-centric video generation to a more realistic setting, offering a significant contribution to the field.

To summarize, the contributions of this paper are:

- To the best of our knowledge, we first explore multi-human talking generation which lift exiting audio-driven video generation to a more realistic, universal setting.
- We develop an automatic data collection pipeline and construct the first dataset for multi-human talking video generation, featuring annotations of pose and speech interaction.
- We present a baseline model for this novel task, which supports a flexible number of human speakers and captures the dynamics of speech interactions. We further conduct extensive studies to benchmark our baseline against existing methods and analyze its performance.

2 RELATED WORK

2.1 HUMAN-CENTRIC VIDEO GENERATION MODEL

Recent advancements in diffusion models [35, 37, 14, 6, 52] have significantly enhanced video generation in terms of length, quality, and controllability. Stable Video Diffusion [4] employs latent diffusion to model video distributions within a latent space, enabling efficient and high-quality video synthesis. Furthermore, DiT-based models [31], such as CogVideoX [51] and MovieGen [36], improve video length and fidelity by diffusion transformers. Building on the advancements of these base models, human-centric video generation [25, 24] has garnered increasing attention due to its significant application potential. Text-driven models, such as Performer [21] and DirectorLLM [39], synthesize diverse human motions based on text prompts. Meanwhile, pose-based methods [11, 5, 29]

108 generate fine-grained controllable motions by leveraging pose sequences and reference images.
 109 Notably, AnimateAnyone [16] employs ControlNet [53] to maintain identity consistency throughout
 110 motion synthesis, while MagicAnimate [49] integrates an additional control branch to achieve better
 111 pose alignment.

113 2.2 AUDIO-DRIVEN CHARACTER ANIMATION

115 **Single Portrait Image Animation.** Single portrait image animation, which generates a talking or
 116 listening head from a given audio and portrait image, has recently gained significant attention. In
 117 talking head generation, various datasets [38, 9, 41] have been proposed. Notably, MEAD [47] focuses
 118 on emotion control, offering data across eight emotions with three intensity levels, while CelebV-
 119 HQ [59] provides diverse identities in realistic settings. Early approaches [33, 44, 54] relied on GAN-
 120 based models to improve lip synchronization. Recently, diffusion-based models [40, 20, 7, 10, 46]
 121 have significantly enhanced realism, consistency, and control ability. In listening head modeling,
 122 RLHG [56] first proposed ViCo dataset and built a sequential auto-encoder to generate non-verbal
 123 facial feedbacks given the speech audio and portrait image. Recent approaches [18, 30, 12, 27] have
 124 advanced reaction quality and controllability(*e.g.*, pose and text), by leveraging superior generative
 125 models(*e.g.*, VQ-VAE) and LLMs.

126 **Single-human Co-speech Generation.** Co-speech generation enhances single-head generation by
 127 incorporating nonverbal gestures, making the content more expressive. To facilitate research in this
 128 area, a high-quality dataset, SSGD [13], has been developed, providing co-speech video clips of 10
 129 speakers along with pose annotations. Early approaches [34, 28, 60, 15] typically follow a two-stage
 130 pipeline: first, human poses are generated based on speech audio, and subsequently, pose-to-video
 131 methods (*e.g.*, AnimateAnyone [16]) are employed to synthesize co-speech gesture videos using
 132 a reference image. More recently, some studies have explored retrieval-based solutions for this
 133 task. Gesture video reenactment [58, 26] utilizes a short reference video clip (*e.g.*, two minutes) to
 134 generate stylized gesture videos that align with novel speech inputs, resulting in more faithful and
 135 visually coherent outputs.

136 **Multi-human Conversation Generation.** Despite notable advancements in audio-driven single-
 137 human animation, it remains limited in capturing the richness of multi-human interactive conversa-
 138 tions, which are more common and expressive in real-world applications (*e.g.*, movie dialogues, talk
 139 show interviews, and live streams). Recently, several studies [45, 57, 43] have explored interactive
 140 head generation, producing two talking-listening heads in a dyadic manner forming a conversation.
 141 Notably, INFP [61] introduced a large-scale dataset comprising extensive head-only conversational
 142 videos between two individuals and proposed an interactive motion guide to facilitate seamless
 143 talking-listening transitions. These approaches are constrained to generate only two individuals'
 144 head areas, as they fail to incorporate non-verbal contents such as eye contact, physical interaction,
 145 thereby restricting their applicability in more dynamic and natural conversational full-body interaction
 146 settings. Moreover, existing studies primarily focus on ideal turn-taking scenarios, where speakers
 147 alternate systematically, while challenges such as rapid role-switching and overlapping speech remain
 148 inadequately addressed. Existing methods fail to address multi-human talking generation in terms of
 149 full-body interactions and dynamic talking patterns, which requires specific models and datasets to
 150 capture multi-human interactive talking videos.

151 3 MULTI-HUMAN INTERACTIVE TALKING DATSET

152 We present a high-quality dataset for multi-human interactive talking video generation, comprising
 153 over 12 hours of high-resolution conversational clips with diverse interaction patterns and approx-
 154 imately 200 distinct identities. The dataset was constructed through a fully automated pipeline,
 155 facilitating future scale-up with minimal manual intervention. We provide a detailed description of
 156 this process in the following subsections, covering the data collection methodology (Section 3.1) and
 157 a analysis of interaction types and annotation statistics (Section 3.2).

158 3.1 AUTOMATIC DATA COLLECTION PIPELINE

159 As illustrated in Figure 1, the data collection pipeline comprises three main stages: raw video
 160 collection, valid clip extraction, and multi-modal annotation. First, conversational videos are collected

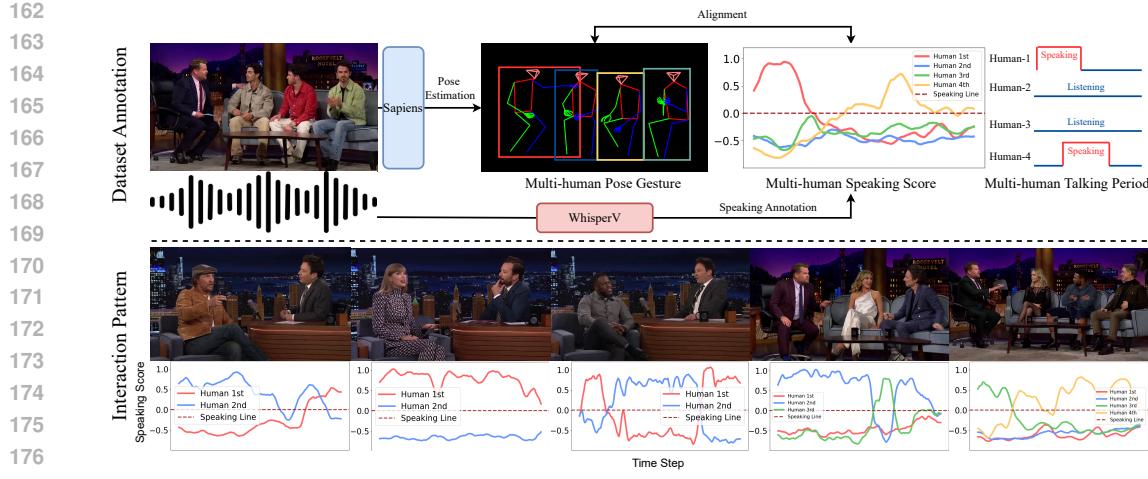


Figure 2: **Multi-human Interactive Talking Dataset.** Sapiens [23] and WhisperV [17] are used to annotate multi-human gesture and interactive speech respectively. MIT dataset captures rich conversation interaction patterns of multi-human, such as talking-listening, tune-talking, over-talking and other complex patterns.

from online platforms. However, most real-world videos undergo post-editing and include multiple shots from different perspectives (*e.g.*, close-up shots of faces and wide shots of the entire scene), which are unsuitable for current video generation models that require temporally consistent visual content. To address this, WhisperV [17] is adopted to segment videos into individual shots and to track facial trajectories of speakers within each shot. Clips featuring multiple active speakers within a single continuous shot are then extracted to preserve interactive dynamics. Finally, foundational perception models are employed to extract speaking scores, human poses, and bounding boxes. The bounding boxes serve as spatial anchors to align multi-modal signals, enabling consistent annotation for each individual speaker.

Pose Annotation. As part of the annotation process, 2D skeletal keypoints are extracted using Sapiens-2B [23] in the COCO133 [22] format. A subset of 59 keypoints is selected to represent the head, body, arms, legs, and hands, as illustrated in Figure 2. Specifically, only three keypoints are retained for the head to define its orientation, as finer facial expressions (*e.g.*, lip movement, emotions) are primarily driven by audio. Notably, although the detected pose keypoints are pseudo-labels rather than manually annotated ground truth, they are obtained using a state-of-the-art pose estimation model, similar to SSGD [13]. This provides sufficient accuracy for generation tasks despite the absence of human supervision.

Speaking Score. In parallel, speaking scores are extracted using TalkNet [3], a model that performs speech activity detection. As illustrated in Figure 2, each individual is associated with a speaking score curve indicating periods of speech and silence. A score approaching 1 indicates active speaking, while a score nearing -1 corresponds to non-speaking states. The figure further illustrates how speaking scores reflect various interaction patterns: clear alternation between high and low scores indicates speaker turns; overlapping high scores across speakers correspond to simultaneous speech; and smooth transitions between high and low values capture speaking–listening dynamics.

Pose–Speech Alignment. After obtaining pose annotations and speaking scores—which are independently extracted and thus not inherently aligned—alignment is performed for each individual using human bounding boxes detected by YOLOv7. For each frame, pose annotations are assigned to the individual whose bounding box contains the highest number of keypoints. Similarly, each face track is matched to the individual whose bounding box most frequently overlaps with the facial bounding boxes across frames, leveraging the fact that face tracks are already aligned with speaking scores. By using the human bounding box as a shared spatial reference, both pose and speech annotations are consistently associated with the correct individual.

3.2 DATASET ANALYSIS

Data Source. Real-world videos often contain camera motion, occlusions, and post-editing artifacts, which are challenging to remove and typically require extensive manual intervention, such as region-

216
 217 **Table 1: Existing Datasets v.s. MIT.** Compared to previous datasets that focus on single-person
 218 speech and isolated facial animation, our MIT dataset uniquely features multi-person talking videos
 219 with full-body interactions.

220 Dataset	221 Num.	222 Area	223 Character	224 Pose	225 Speak	226 Res.	227 Total Len.(h)
221 SSGD [13]	222 One	223 Body	224 Speaking	225 ✓	226 ✗	227 1920x1080	228 144
221 HDFTD [55]	222 One	223 Head	224 Speaking	225 ✗	226 ✗	227 512x512	228 16
221 ViCo [56]	222 One	223 Head	224 Listening	225 ✗	226 ✗	227 384x384	228 2
221 RealTalk[12]	222 Two	223 Head	224 Interactive	225 ✗	226 ✓	227 1280x720	228 115
221 DyConv [61]	222 Two	223 Head	224 Interactive	225 ✗	226 ✓	227 400x400	228 200
221 MIT	222 Multi	223 Body	224 Interactive	225 ✓	226 ✓	227 1920x1080	228 12

228
 229 specific inpainting. To mitigate these issues while ensuring diverse and interactive multi-speaker
 230 scenarios, we curate classic and representative interview videos from two channels—*The Tonight*
 231 *Show*¹ and *The Late Late Show*²—as our data sources. These videos feature interactive multi-speaker
 232 scenarios that reflect real-world social behaviors, captured with static camera setups and minimal
 233 occlusions, making them well-suited for training models on interactive talking video generation.
 234 Despite the limited scene variety, the dataset features complex interactions and diverse identities,
 235 demonstrating its potential applicability to news, live broadcasting, and cinematic content.

236 **Interaction Pattern.** Multi-human interaction patterns constitute a critical yet challenging aspect
 237 of generating talking videos with multiple speakers, due to their inherent diversity and complexity.
 238 The most common pattern is turn-taking, where speakers alternate their roles, as explored in prior
 239 works [61] for interactive talking head. However, real-world conversations often exhibit more intricate
 240 dynamics, such as interruptions (over-talking), pauses, and rapid shifts between speaking and listening
 241 roles. Figure 2 illustrates the diverse interaction patterns captured in the MIT dataset, highlighting its
 242 suitability for advancing research in multi-human talking video generation.

243 **Dataset Statistics.** A comparison between MIT and existing datasets is presented in Table 1. MIT
 244 is the only dataset that features multi-human full-body interactions within conversational contexts.
 245 Although the total duration is limited to 12 hours, the automated data collection pipeline enables
 246 future scalability, compensating for this limitation.

247 **Quality of Data Annotations.** On a subset of 20 testing videos, we evaluate the automatic pose
 248 detections against human annotations and find that the pseudo ground truth is sufficiently accurate for
 249 our task. We also manually annotate the speaking–listening transition points (*i.e.*, the zero point of the
 250 speaking score) for each speaker, achieving an average temporal error below 0.1 second. Furthermore,
 251 we verify that pose–speaking alignments of all samples are correct.

253 4 BASELINE: COVOG

255 To tackle this task, we introduce CovOG, a tailored model built upon the single-person animation
 256 framework AnimateAnyone [16] which leverages Stable Diffusion [4] as base model and ensures
 257 identity consistency through ReferenceNet while incorporating conditional poses by embedding their
 258 features into the latent space via Pose Guider. Expanding on this foundation, CovOG integrates two
 259 key modules: the Multi-Human Pose Encoder (*i.e.*, Pose Guider/Adaptor) and the Interactive Audio
 260 Driver (IAD) as shown in Figure 3. The detail of each module is provided below.

262 4.1 NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

264 **Overview.** The overview of CovOG is shown in Figure 3 (a). Specifically, the multi-human pose
 265 embedding is incorporated into the multi-frame latent noise as pose control before being fed into
 266 DenoisingNet. Additionally, ReferenceNet is introduced for identity control using reference images,
 267 while IAD modules are incorporated to control the facial area based on speech audio.

268
 269 ¹<https://www.youtube.com/@fallontonight>

²<https://www.youtube.com/@TheLateLateShow>

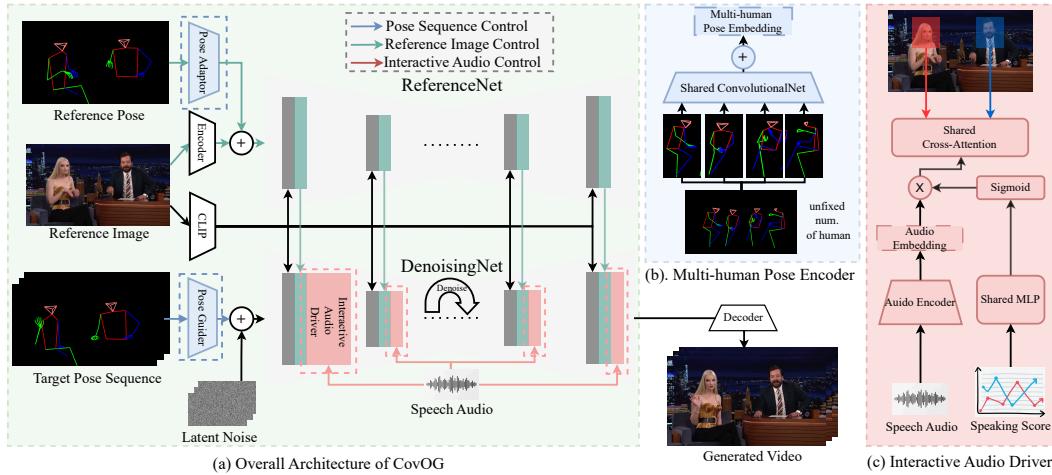


Figure 3: **Overview of proposed method CovOG.** (a) The overall architecure of CovOG. (b) Implement of Multi-human Pose Encoder used in Pose Adaptor and Pose Guider. (c) Implement of Interactive Audio Driver to capture the dynamic facial interaction between multiple speakers.

Multi-human Pose Control. To address multi-human pose control, we propose the Multi-human Pose Encoder (MPE) as Pose Guider as shown in Figure 3 (b). This module begins by utilizing instance masks to isolate individual human poses. Next, a shared convolutional network $\mathcal{F}_{\text{pose}}$ extracts features from each human pose p_i separately. Finally, these features are aggregated to generate a unified embedding that comprehensively represents the poses of all individuals:

$$e_{\text{pose}} = \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\text{pose}}^i; e_{\text{pose}}^i = \mathcal{F}_{\text{pose}}(p_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad (1)$$

where $e_{\text{pose}}^i \in \mathbb{R}^{f, c, w, h}$ stands for pose embedding of each human. This design is motivated by two key considerations. First, since pose control is independent for each individual, the model extracts and processes poses separately using a shared convolutional network, which promotes identity-invariant representations. Second, given that the number of individuals is variable, our design enhances robustness by allowing the network to manage pose of each human independently rather than being confined to a fixed number of individual.

Multi-human Identity Control. As the reference image contains multiple identities needed to be controlled, we propose a Pose Adaptor with the MPE architecture that extracts multi-human spatial cues. First, the reference pose is input into the Pose Adaptor to obtain a pose embedding. This embedding is then fused with the latent representation of the corresponding reference image and fed into ReferenceNet to provide spatial cues for each individual. This approach effectively accommodates variations in both the positions and the number of individuals across cases.

Multi-human Interactive Audio Control. In split of the complex patterns of interaction mentioned in Section 3, the speaking scores of individual speakers serve as a good indicator of the underlying interaction patterns. As shown in Figure 3 (c), we proposed the Interactive Audio Driver(IAD) to model the alignment between audio features and the corresponding lip movements and facial expressions. For i -th speaker, we use his speaking score $a^i \in \mathbb{R}^f$ to adjust the audio embedding $e_{\text{audio}} \in \mathbb{R}^{f, m, d}$. Subsequently, we employ the adjusted audio embedding e_{audio}^i and hidden features h_k from the DenoisingNet to perform a cross-attention $\mathcal{F}_{\text{audio}}$ using a facial mask:

$$h_{k+1} = h_k + \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{F}_{\text{audio}}(h_k, e_{\text{audio}}^i, \text{mask}_i); e_{\text{audio}}^i = e_{\text{audio}} \cdot \sigma(\text{MLP}(a^i)), \quad (2)$$

where the parameters of this module are also shared across all speakers and mask_i is obtained by the bounding box computed using three key head landmarks of human i . This design not only ensures that the model learns an identity-invariant alignment between audio and facial features, but also models the entire interactive process, thereby achieving a natural transition between listening and speaking. As shown in Figure 3 (a), the IAD module is inserted after each DenoisingNet block.

324
 325 **Table 2: Quantitative Comparison and Ablation Study.** Experiments are conducted on the
 326 *TonightShow* for two-human scenarios and the *LateLateShow* for multi-human scenarios, under both
 327 easy and challenging test. The data from *TonightShow* consists of conversations with 2 speakers,
 328 while data from *LateLateShow* includes dialogues involving 2 to 4 speakers. Bold text indicates the
 329 best, while underlined text represents the second best.

Method	Two Human			Multiple Human			All Test		
	SSIM↑	PSNR↑	FVD↓	SSIM↑	PSNR↑	FVD↓	SSIM↑	PSNR↑	FVD↓
<i>Comparison with Previous Methods</i>									
AnimateAnyone [16]	0.60	18.98	322.08	0.64	19.96	353.11	0.62	<u>19.47</u>	337.60
ControlSVD [48]	0.31	13.46	1036.96	-	-	-	-	-	-
CovOG	0.62	19.16	306.01	0.66	20.21	308.68	0.64	19.69	307.35
<i>Ablation Study</i>									
CovOG w/o MPE	0.60	18.88	317.41	0.65	20.00	330.50	0.63	19.44	323.96
CovOG w/o IAD	0.61	19.06	313.69	0.65	19.86	347.92	0.63	19.46	330.80

339 5 EXPERIMENT

340 5.1 DATASETS AND EVALUATION METRICS

341 **Datasets.** In our experiment, we first split the test set from the MIT datasets, which consists of
 342 approximately 200 easy cases and 200 challenging cases sourced from both the *TonightShow* and the
 343 *LateLateShow*. The easy cases feature identities present in the training set but with novel pose and
 344 audio control parameters, whereas the challenging cases involve entirely unseen control signals to
 345 represent real application.

346 **Evaluation Metrics.** To qualitatively analyze model performance, we utilize Structured Similarity
 347 (SSIM), Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR) and Frechet Inception Distance (FVD) to evaluate the
 348 quality of generated samples. Unlike single-person talking head scenarios, lip alignment cannot be
 349 reliably assessed using LIPS [8] in our setting, as multi-person interactions involve both speaking and
 350 listening roles, often with side-facing views that LIPS is not designed to handle. How to effectively
 351 evaluate lip synchronization in such interactive contexts remains an open problem. To address this
 352 limitation, we complement our evaluation with user studies for visual-audio alignment.

353 5.2 IMPLEMENTATION

354 We pretrain our model following the two-stage paradigm proposed in AnimateAnyone [16], ini-
 355 tializing it with weights from [1]. The model is trained on the entire training set, encompassing
 356 videos with varying numbers of speakers. The first stage and the second stage all comprised 30,000
 357 steps with a resolution of 640×384 , frame number of 15 and a batch size of 4 on 4 NVIDIA A6000
 358 GPUs. The Pose Adaptor is integrated into the first stage and remains fixed in the second stage,
 359 while Interactive Audio Driver is incorporated into the second stage with the motion module. During
 360 inference, similar to Hallo2 [10], we utilize the final six frames from the previous inference as
 361 motion frames, incorporating them as the initial six frames of the subsequent inference while keeping
 362 them fixed to ensure the continuity and smoothness of generation. In addition, we obtained audio
 363 embedding using Wav2Vec [2].

364 5.3 COMPARISON

365 **Quantitative Evaluation.** We compare CovOG with two representative controllable video gen-
 366 eration baselines: AnimateAnyone [16] and ControlSVD [48]. While more recent methods have
 367 emerged [32], we select these two due to their simplicity and broad representativeness, which allow
 368 for clearer comparisons. To ensure fairness, AnimateAnyone follows the same inference setup as
 369 CovOG. For ControlSVD, we use pose embeddings as input to ControlNet, initialize from the first
 370 frame, and generate videos autoregressively. As shown in Table 2, CovOG consistently outperforms
 371 both baselines across all metrics. AnimateAnyone struggles with multi-person scenarios, as its
 372 encoder jointly drives all subjects, while CovOG’s MPE models each person independently and
 373 aggregates their effects. Moreover, lacking audio control, AnimateAnyone produces random facial

378 motions, whereas CovOG’s IAD leverages personalized audio embeddings to enhance head dynamics
 379 and ensure audio-visual alignment. ControlSVD suffers from autoregressive error accumulation,
 380 leading to degraded quality over time, while CovOG maintains stability throughout generation.
 381

382 **User Study.** We conduct a user study to
 383 evaluate character consistency, background
 384 consistency, audio-visual alignment, and
 385 overall visual quality. Seven participants
 386 rated 10 randomly selected samples per
 387 method on a 1–5 scale (higher is better),
 388 based on the reference image and speaking
 389 score. As shown in Table 3, CovOG out-
 390 performs other methods across all criteria,
 391 indicating superior control alignment and
 392 visual quality.

393 **Cross-modal Experiment.** To evaluate the
 394 generalization and practical applicability of
 395 our method, we conducted a cross-modal
 396 experiment. Specifically, we randomly se-
 397 lected 20 test cases by combining an iden-
 398 tity image, a pose sequence, and corresponding speech audio from two different source videos, while
 399 ensuring that they involve the same number of speakers. Since ground-truth videos are unavailable
 400 for these cross-modal combinations, we employ VBench [19] to assess the generated results in terms
 401 of temporal consistency and visual quality, as shown in Table 4. The results demonstrate that CovOG
 402 achieves superior generalization both temporally and spatially.

403 404 5.4 ABLATION STUDY

405 As shown in Table 2, removing either MPE
 406 or IAD leads to a clear drop in performance
 407 across all metrics. The absence of MPE
 408 results in the most significant decline, as
 409 torso control—essential for multi-person
 410 pose generation—heavily impacts visual
 411 quality. Without IAD, the model lacks suf-
 412 ficient control signals, causing unnatural
 413 head movements due to the absence of au-
 414 dio guidance. User study results in Table 3
 415 further confirm these findings: character
 416 and background consistency degrade without MPE, while audio-visual alignment suffers notably
 417 without IAD. These results validate the complementary roles of MPE for multi-person pose control
 418 and IAD for audio-driven facial synchronization.

419 420 5.5 VISUALIZATION ANALYSIS

422 **Qualitative Evaluation.** We conduct qualitative evaluations on the MIT test set, as illustrated in
 423 Figure 4, where the first row presents relatively simple cases and the second row includes more
 424 challenging ones. The red and blue bounding boxes indicate the speaker and listener, respectively.
 425 Both methods produce plausible gestures. However, AnimateAnyone tends to generate an **averaged**
 426 **face** for both speakers and listeners. For instance, the listener’s mouth remains static, and the speaker
 427 exhibits only limited lip movement. In comparison, CovOG shows a higher degree of interactivity
 428 and closer alignment with the ground truth. The speaker appears more engaged in speech, while the
 429 listener displays responsive expressions such as laughter. This may be attributed to CovOG’s use
 430 of speaking scores to estimate speaking status, enabling adaptive facial expression generation. For
 431 example, when the input audio contains both speech and laughter, the model produces synchronized
 432 lip movements for the speaker and reactive expressions for the listener.

Table 3: **User Study.** ‘CC’, ‘BC’, and ‘AV-Align’ de-
 note ‘character’, ‘background consistency’, and ‘audio-
 visual alignment’, respectively. ‘Visual’ indicates over-
 all video quality.

Method	CC↑	BC↑	AV-Align↑	Visual↑
<i>Comparison with Previous Methods</i>				
AnimateAnyone [16]	2.81	3.83	2.66	2.64
ControlSVD [48]	2.57	1.86	1.86	1.57
CovOG	2.93	4.11	3.22	3.34
<i>Ablation Study</i>				
CovOG w/o MPE	2.64	3.55	2.79	2.5
CovOG w/o IAD	<u>2.84</u>	<u>3.91</u>	2.66	<u>2.81</u>

Table 4: **Cross-modal Experiment.** ‘SC’, ‘BC’, ‘AQ’, and ‘IQ’ denote ‘subject consistency’, ‘background consistency’, ‘aesthetic quality’, and ‘imaging quality’, respectively.

Method	SC↑	BC↑	AQ↑	IQ↑
AnimateAnyone [16]	0.945	0.952	0.530	0.564
CovOG	0.952	0.959	0.542	0.603

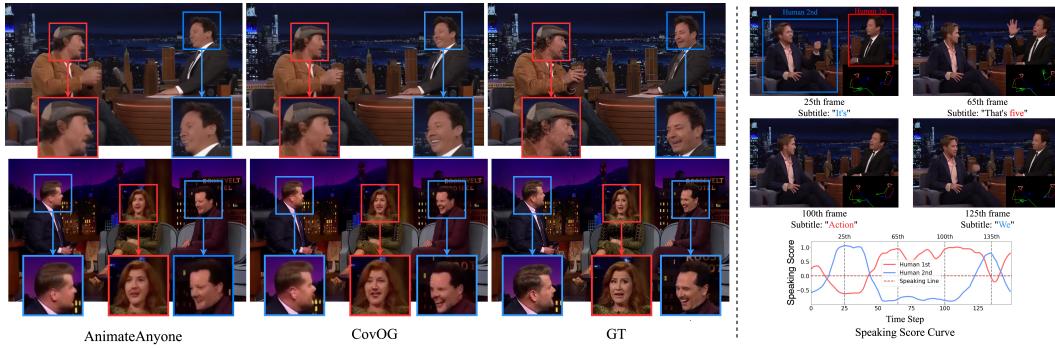


Figure 4: **Qualitative Comparison and Interaction Visualization.** Left: The red box indicates the speaker, and the blue box indicates the listener. Compared to AnimateAnyone, CovOG achieves superior lip synchronization for speakers and generates more natural, context-aware responses for listeners. Right: Visualization of the alignment with speaking scores, audio (*i.e.*, subtitles), and pose.

Interaction Visualization. We present the interaction visualization in the result generated by our CovOG, as shown in Figure 4. The speaking score curve indicates a turn-taking dialogue between two individuals. Key frames with their corresponding subtitles and the pose condition are displayed, with pronounced words highlighted in matching colors as in the speaking score curve. The results demonstrate that CovOG effectively aligns audio with lips and facial expressions for both speaker and listener, achieving natural interaction dynamics and strong audio-visual synchronization.

5.6 CHALLENGES IN MULTI-HUMAN TALKING SCENARIOS

Here, we outline the key challenges unique to multi-human talking scenarios in comparison to traditional talking-head and co-speech generation, and discuss the limitations of existing methods.

Multi-human Interaction Modeling. In a conversation, a person switches rapidly between speaking and listening, requiring the model to capture both the transitions and their dynamics. During speaking, accurate lip-audio synchronization is crucial, while during listening, the model only needs to produce natural, context-appropriate reactions. This difference in audio-visual patterns between speaking and listening poses a major challenge for generating realistic interactive speech.

Side-Face Speech Alignment and Identity Consistency. In multi-person conversational scenarios, speakers frequently turn their heads to engage with others, resulting in side-face appearances during speech. Accurately modeling lip movements in such cases remains challenging, as most talking head generation methods are primarily optimized for frontal views [42]. Furthermore, large rotational movements of the head and upper body pose challenges to maintaining visual consistency, particularly in facial features.

Limitation of Existing Methods. As discussed above, existing models face limitations in addressing these challenges. Moreover, talking-head methods are not designed to model full-body interactions, while co-speech models are often difficult to extend to multi-person scenarios. For instance, most recent work, TANGO [26] requires a two-minute reference video to construct an interactive audio-frame graph, which is impractical in multi-person conversations where audio-frame pairs are sparse. This sparsity hinders the feasibility to retrieve keyframes, leading to performance degradation.

6 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we introduce the Multi-human Interactive Talking (MIT) dataset, the first large-scale benchmark for multi-person talking video generation. To demonstrate its utility, we propose CovOG, a baseline model that integrates pose and audio cues to generate natural multi-human talking videos. We hope this dataset fosters further research in more challenging human-centric video generation.

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702 **7 CHECKLIST**
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704 **7.1 THE USE OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS**
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706 In our work, LLMs are used for following aspects:
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- 708 • Using an LLM to help with paper writing. We use GPT5 to help optimize language, correct
709 grammar and write L^AT_EX table code.
- 710 • Using an LLM as a research assistant. We use GPT5 to help search related works.
- 711 • Using an LLM in our methods and experiment. This is described in the paper.
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713 **7.2 ETHICS STATEMENT**
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756 8 TECHNICAL APPENDICES AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL
757758 Please refer to the supplementary webpage for video results.
759760 8.1 DISCUSSION ABOUT BASELINE MODELS
761762 Most existing studies primarily focus on talking-head generation or co-speech gesture synthesis.
763 However, extending these methods to multi-human talking video generation presents significant
764 challenges. In the following discussion, we elaborate on these limitations to clarify why only two
765 representative baseline models are selected for comparison in the experimental section.766 **Interactive Audio.** Unlike monologue scenarios with a single speaker, the audio in our setting
767 involves multiple speakers, introducing a fundamental challenge: the model must accurately align
768 each speaker’s speech to the corresponding character in the video. Directly adapting existing methods
769 proves difficult, as many are built upon assumptions of speaker continuity or global coherence.
770 Consequently, key design components in prior models, such as Hallo2 [10] and TANGO [26], become
771 ineffective in multi-speaker contexts. Specifically, TANGO constructs a graph for each speaker
772 using approximately two minutes of reference video, where each node represents a video frame
773 paired with a corresponding audio clip. This design enables the model to retrieve keyframes from the
774 graph and generate transitions using an architecture similar to AnimateAnyone [16]. While effective
775 in single-speaker scenarios, this approach faces critical limitations in multi-speaker contexts. The
776 one-to-one correspondence between frames and audio segments becomes less reliable, and the graph
777 becomes inherently sparse due to interactive audio patterns. As a result, it fails to support effective
778 keyframe retrieval in multi-human settings.779 **Multi-human Pose and Identity Control.** This still remains a highly challenging task in controllable
780 video generation. Although some recent works have explored this problem [50], they do not support
781 audio-driven lip synchronization and still apply the ControlNet [53] architecture.782 Overall, since most recent related works mainly apply ControlNet architecture we select Ani-
783 mateAnyone (ControlNet for SD)[16] and ControlSVD[48] as baseline models, as they respectively
784 represent the most relevant paradigms in single-human audio-driven generation and multi-human
785 pose-conditioned synthesis, making them sufficient for evaluating performance in our multi-human
786 interactive setting.787 8.2 DISCUSSION ON EVALUATION METRICS
788789 We evaluate model performance using both frame-level image quality and overall video quality
790 metrics with respect to the ground-truth video. In addition, we conduct user studies and cross-
791 modal experiments to assess lip synchronization and human–background consistency. However,
792 unlike previous works on talking-head generation and co-speech gesture synthesis, we do not report
793 quantitative lip alignment metrics [8]. This is because existing lip-sync metrics typically assume a
794 single active speaker, which does not apply to our setting involving multiple speakers and interactive
795 audio. The *interleaved* nature of speech in multi-human conversations makes such evaluations
796 unreliable. Designing appropriate metrics for evaluating lip synchronization in multi-human scenarios
797 remains an open research problem.798 8.3 FUTURE WORK AND POTENTIAL IMPACT
799800 **Multi-human Talking Pose Generation.** Our dataset also facilitates the study of multi-human pose
801 generation in conversational contexts—an underexplored yet meaningful task. It offers an opportunity
802 to investigate how generative models can capture human social dynamics. From a psychological
803 perspective, this line of research may not only inform model design but also provide computational
804 insights into nonverbal communication and social behavior.805 **Dataset Scale-up.** With the proposed automatic annotation pipeline, we aim to scale up the dataset
806 to cover more diverse scenarios, such as movies, live streams, and news broadcasts. This expansion
807 will enable broader applications and support research under more varied and realistic settings.808 **Multi-view Talking Video Generation.** We also plan to extend the dataset to include multi-view
809 recordings, incorporating both wide-angle full-body interactions and close-up talking-head shots, as

810 commonly found in post-edited videos. This enhancement enables the exploration of multi-human
811 generation in a multi-view setting, which better reflects real-world scenarios. In practical applications,
812 human conversations are often captured from multiple viewpoints, making it essential for generative
813 models to handle view-dependent rendering and ensure spatial and temporal coherence across views.
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