

# Neural Network Inversion in Adversarial Setting via Background Knowledge Alignment

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- Linden, A.T., & Kindermann, J. (1989). *Inversion of multilayer nets*. International 1989 Joint Conference on Neural Networks, 425-430 vol.2.
- Lee, S., & Kil, R.M. (1994). *Inverse mapping of continuous functions using local and global information*. IEEE transactions on neural networks, 5 3, 409-23 .

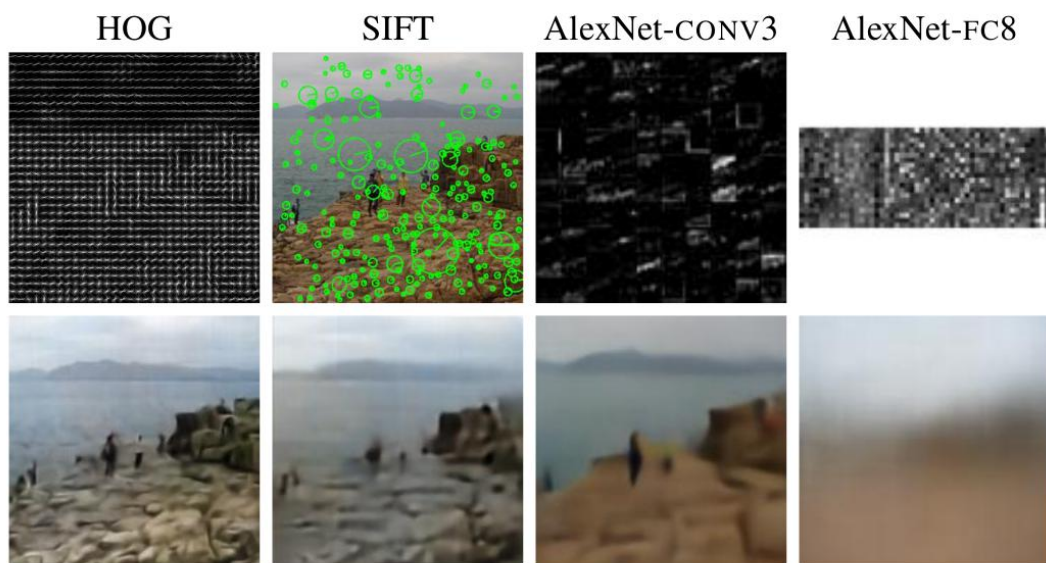


Figure 1: We train convolutional networks to reconstruct images from different feature representations. **Top row:** Input features. **Bottom row:** Reconstructed image. Re-

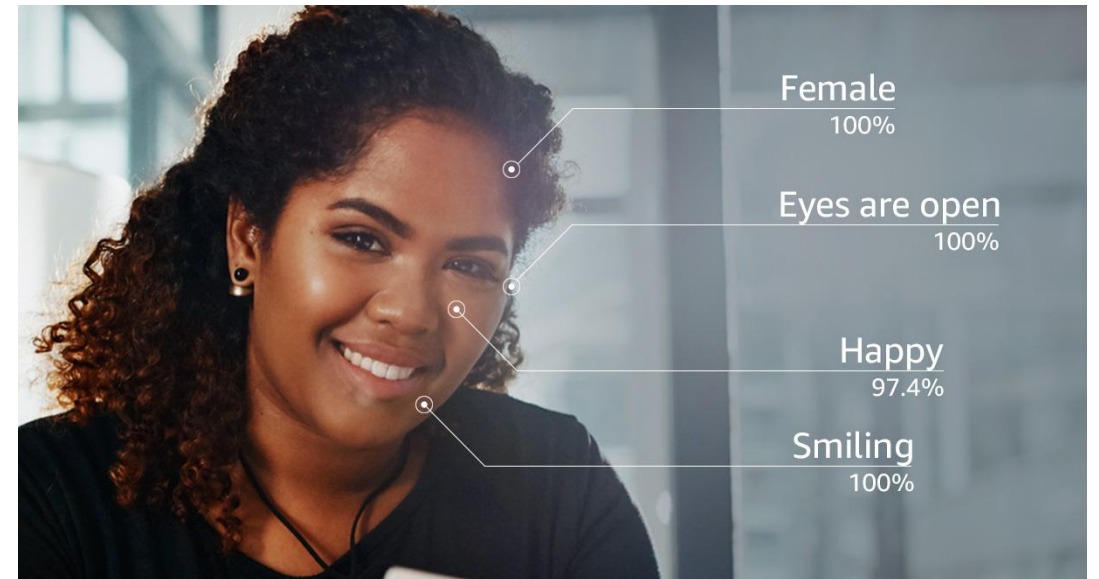
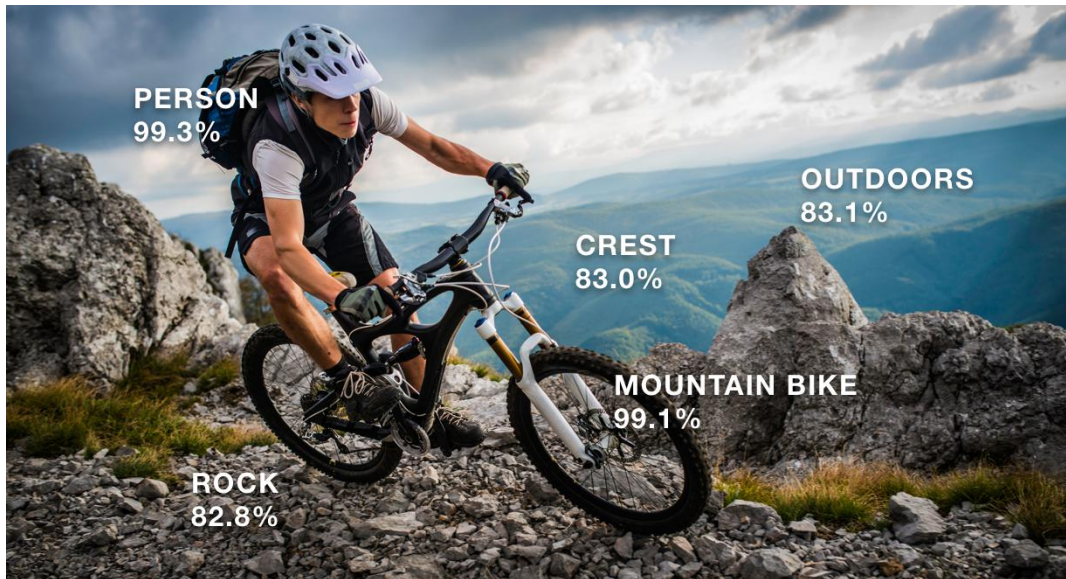


Figure 1: An image recovered using a new model inversion attack (left) and a training set image of the victim (right). The attacker is given only the person's name and access to a facial recognition system that returns a class confidence score.

# Amazon Rekognition API

a cloud-based computer vision platform

Website: <https://aws.amazon.com/rekognition/>



# Amazon Rekognition API

a real prediction sample

... ..

```
"Emotions": {
  "CONFUSED": 0.06156736373901367,
  "ANGRY": 0.5680691528320313,
  "CALM": 0.274930419921875,
  "SURPRISED": 0.01476531982421875,
  "DISGUSTED": 0.030669870376586913,
  "SAD": 0.044896211624145504,
  "HAPPY": 0.0051016128063201905
```

```
},
```

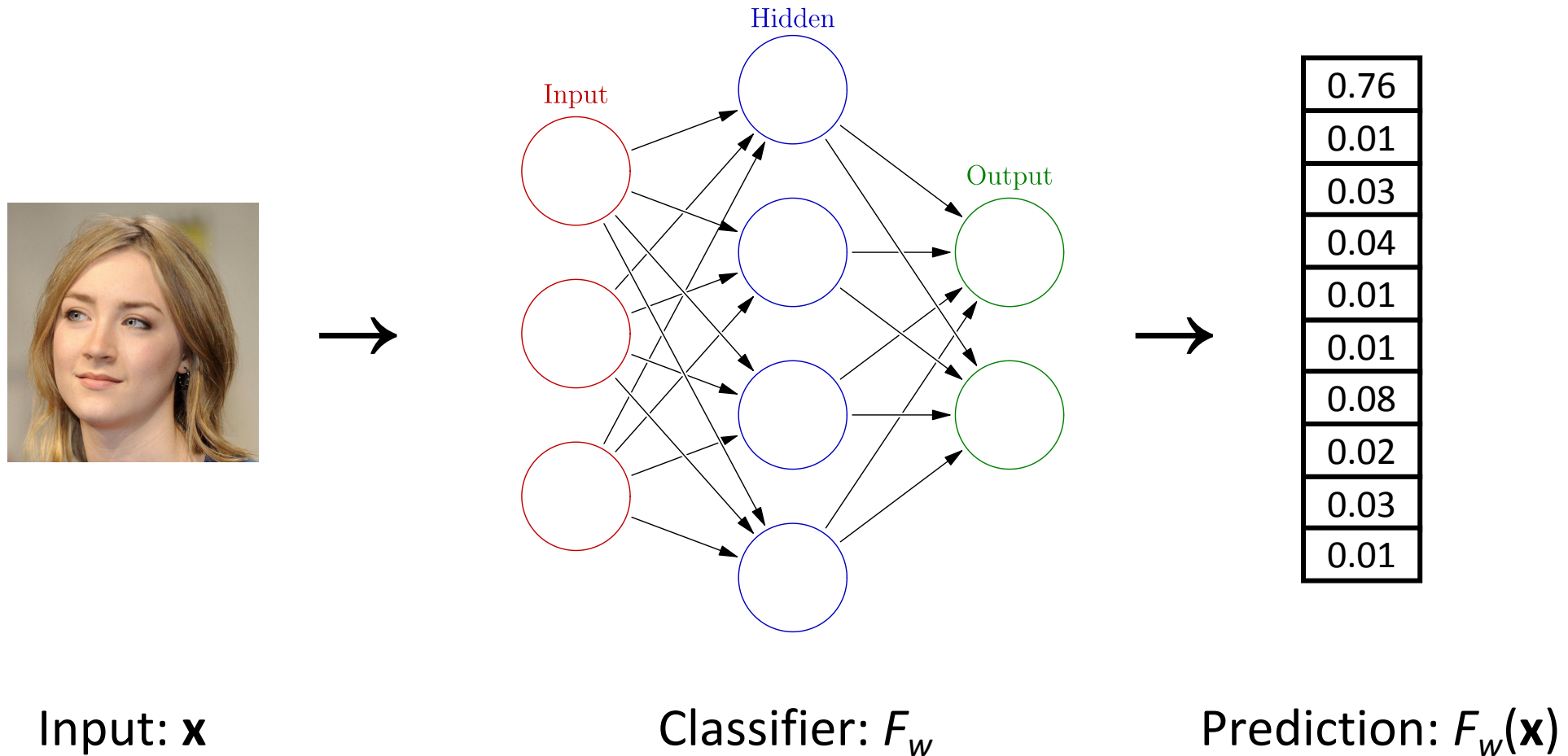
```
"Smile": 0.003313331604003933,
"MouthOpen": 0.0015682983398437322,
"Beard": 0.9883685684204102,
"Sunglasses": 0.00017322540283204457,
"EyesOpen": 0.9992143630981445,
```

... ..

```
{
  "Emotions": {
    "CONFUSED": 0.06156736373901367,
    "ANGRY": 0.5680691528320313,
    "CALM": 0.274930419921875,
    "SURPRISED": 0.01476531982421875,
    "DISGUSTED": 0.030669870376586913,
    "SAD": 0.044896211624145504,
    "HAPPY": 0.0051016128063201905
  },
  "Smile": 0.003313331604003933,
  "MouthOpen": 0.0015682983398437322,
  "Beard": 0.9883685684204102,
  "Sunglasses": 0.00017322540283204457,
  "EyesOpen": 0.9992143630981445,
  "Mustache": 0.07934749603271485,
  "Eyeglasses": 0.0009058761596679732,
  "Gender": 0.998325424194336,
  "AgeRange": {
    "High": 0.52,
    "Low": 0.35
  },
  "Pose": {
    "Yaw": 0.398555908203125,
    "Pitch": 0.532116775512695,
    "Roll": 0.47806625366211
  },
  "Landmarks": {
    "eyeLeft": {"X": 0.2399402886140542, "Y": 0.3985823600850207},
    "eyeRight": {"X": 0.5075000426808342, "Y": 0.3512716902063248},
    "mouthLeft": {"X": 0.294372202920132, "Y": 0.7884027359333444},
    "mouthRight": {"X": 0.5111179957624341, "Y": 0.7514958062070481},
    "nose": {"X": 0.26335677944245883, "Y": 0.5740609671207184},
    "leftEyeBrowLeft": {"X": 0.16586835071688794, "Y": 0.33359158800003375},
    "leftEyeBrowRight": {"X": 0.2344663348354277, "Y": 0.27319636750728526},
    "leftEyeBrowUp": {"X": 0.1791416455487736, "Y": 0.27319679970436905},
    "rightEyeBrowLeft": {"X": 0.39377442930565504, "Y": 0.24260599816099127},
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    "leftEyeUp": {"X": 0.2320460442636834, "Y": 0.38003991664724146},
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    "rightEyeDown": {"X": 0.5091470851272833, "Y": 0.37251352858036124},
    "noseLeft": {"X": 0.2878986010785963, "Y": 0.6362120963157492},
    "noseRight": {"X": 0.40161600660105223, "Y": 0.6085103161791537},
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    "midJawlineLeft": {"X": 0.36578599351351376, "Y": 0.8324899719116535},
    "chinBottom": {"X": 0.45123760622055803, "Y": 1.0087064474187},
    "midJawlineRight": {"X": 0.8626791375582336, "Y": 0.7551260456125787},
    "upperJawlineRight": {"X": 0.924227731660937, "Y": 0.348934908623391}
  }
}
```

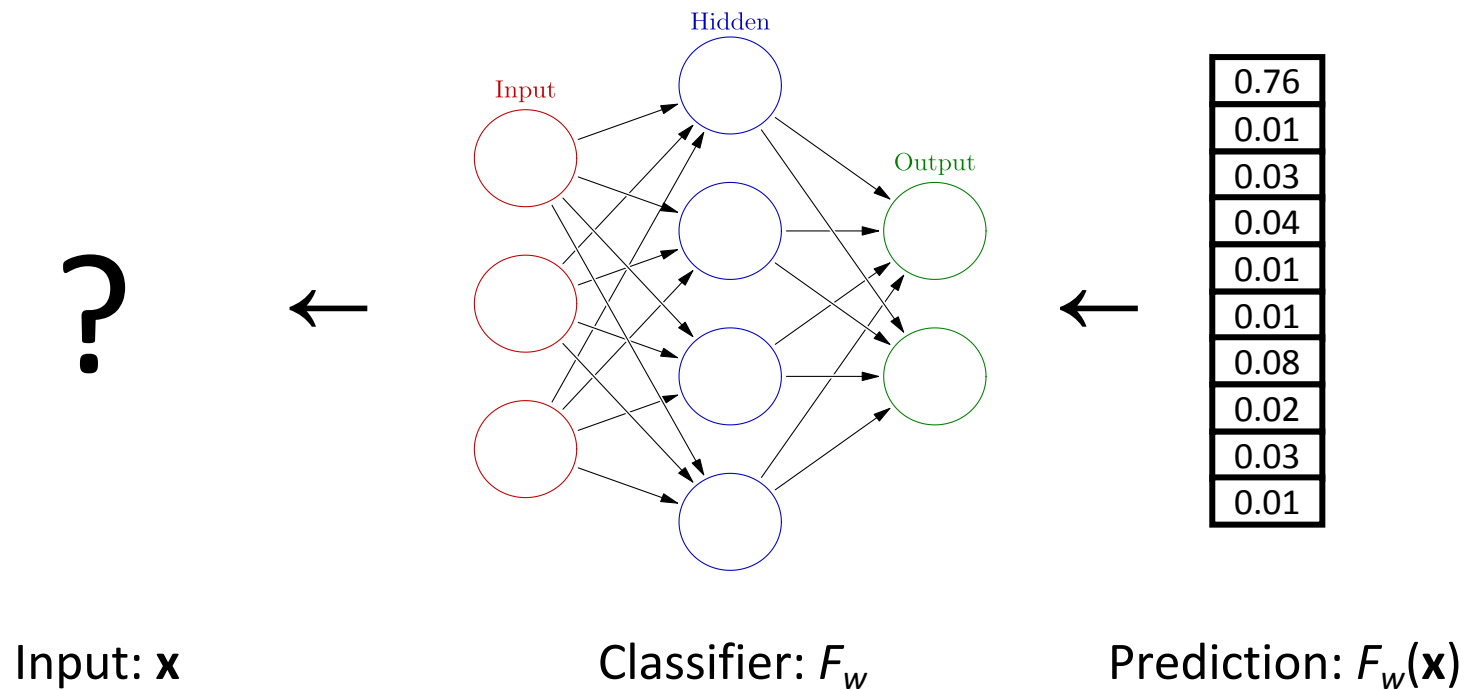
the complete result of the  
left partial prediction

# Generic Neural Network

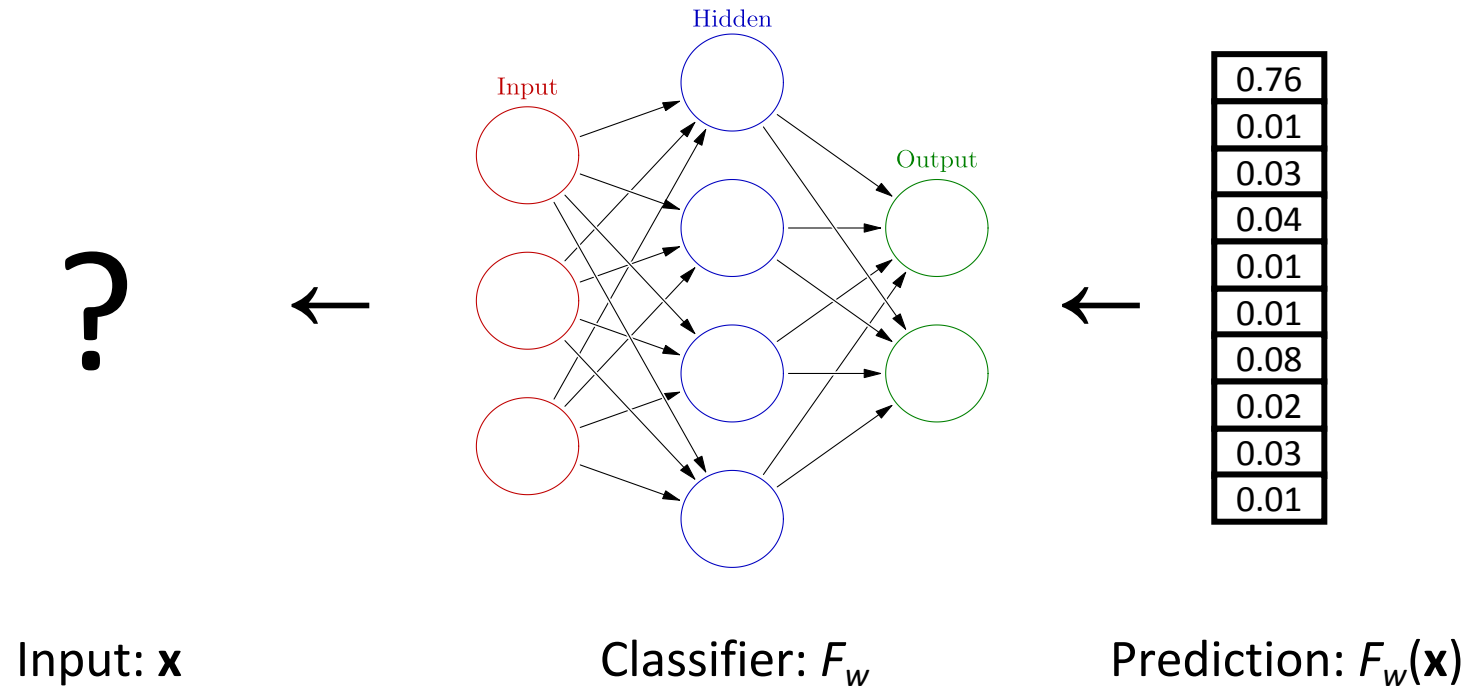


# Model Inversion Attack

Can we inverse the prediction process, inferring input  $\mathbf{x}$  from prediction  $F_w(\mathbf{x})$ ?



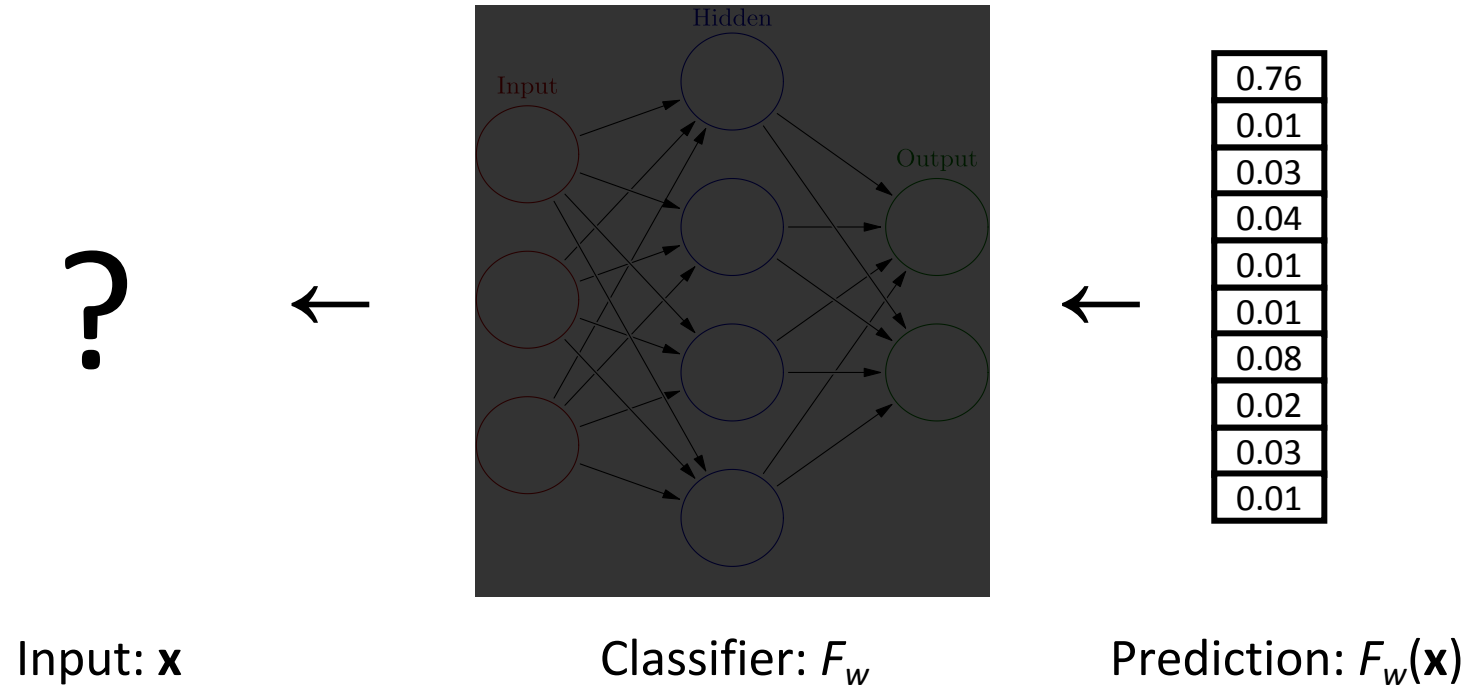
# Adversarial Settings



For a realistic adversary, access to many components should be restricted.



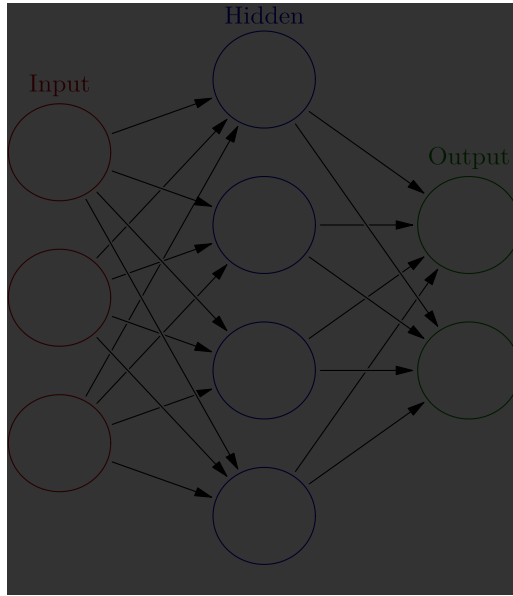
# Adversarial Settings



- Black-box classifier  $F_w$



# Adversarial Settings



Classifier:  $F_w$

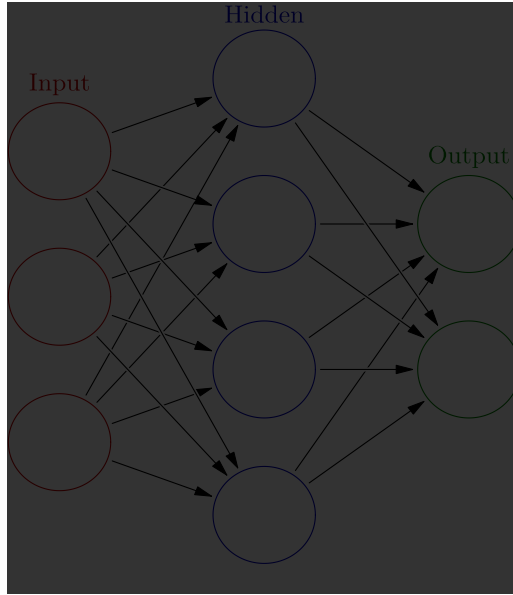


0.76
0.01
0.03
0.04
0.01
0.01
0.08
0.02
0.03
0.01

Prediction:  $F_w(\mathbf{x})$

- Black-box classifier  $F_w$
- No access to training data

# Adversarial Settings



Classifier:  $F_w$



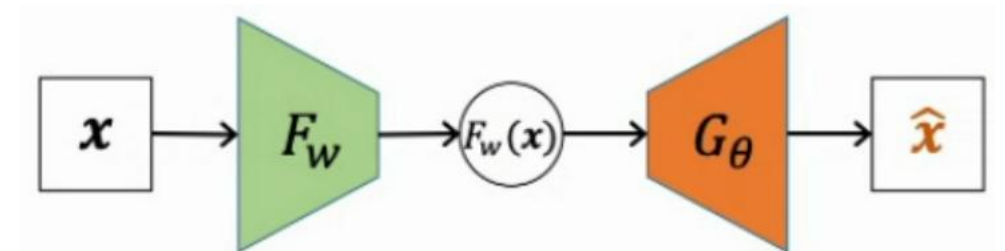
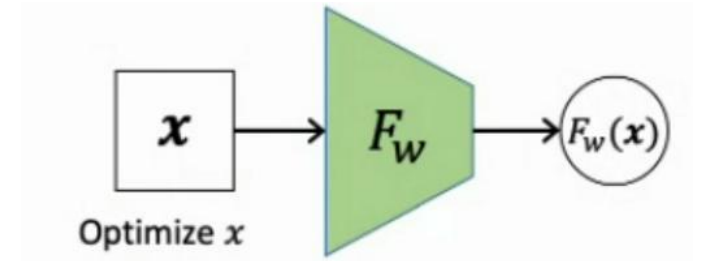
0.76
0.00
0.00
0.04
0.00
0.00
0.08
0.00
0.00
0.00

Partial Prediction  
(top3 values):  $F_w(\mathbf{x})'$

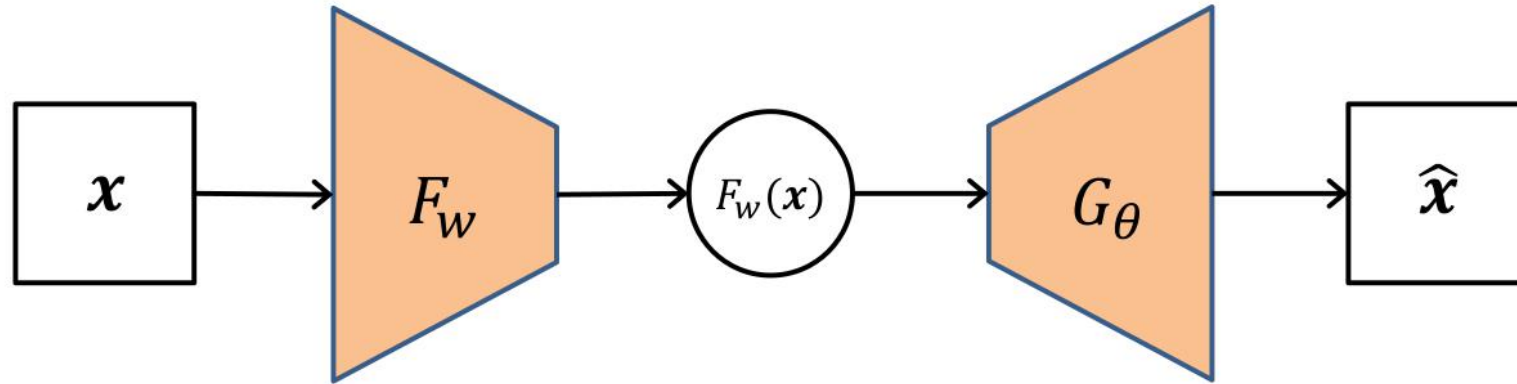
- Black-box classifier  $F_w$
- No access to training data
- Partial prediction results  $F_w(\mathbf{x})'$

# Related Works

- Optimization-based inversion
  - White-box  $F_w$ 
    - Cast it as an optimization problem of  $\mathbf{x}$
  - Unsatisfactory inversion quality
    - no notion of semantics in optimization
  - Simple  $F_w$  only
    - not for complex neural network (6s on GPU, while training-based 5ms)
- Training-based inversion (non-adversarial)
  - Learn a second model  $G_\theta$ 
    - act as the inverse of  $F_w$
  - Train  $G_\theta$  on  $F_w$ 's training data
  - Full prediction results  $F_w(\mathbf{x})$



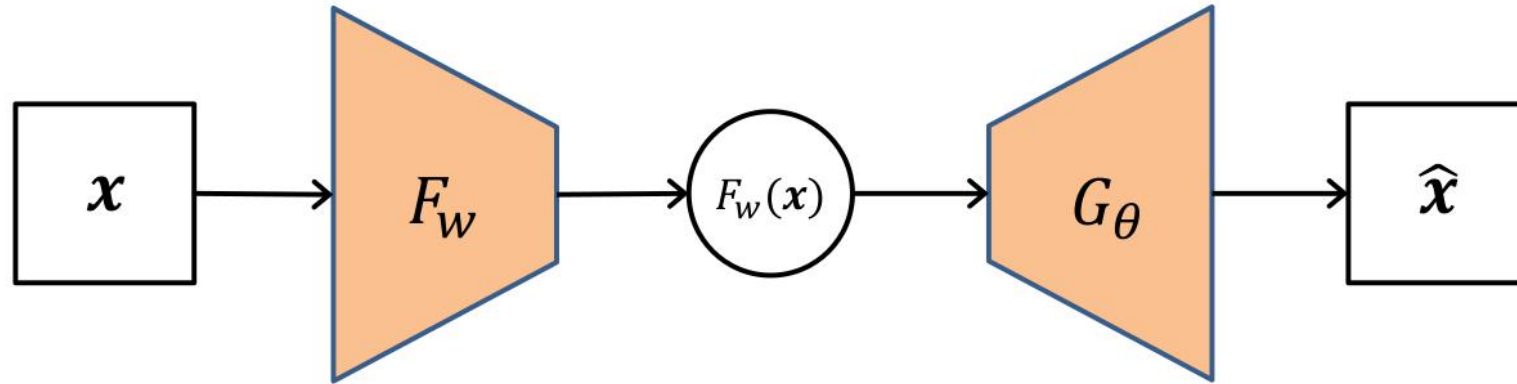
# Training-based Inversion



## Notations

- $F_w$ : black-box classifier
- $F_w(\mathbf{x})$ : prediction
- $\text{trunc}_m(F_w(\mathbf{x}))$ : truncated (partial) prediction.  $m$  is the number of retained values after truncation, e.g., retaining top-3 values,  $m = 3$
- $G_\theta$ : inversion model

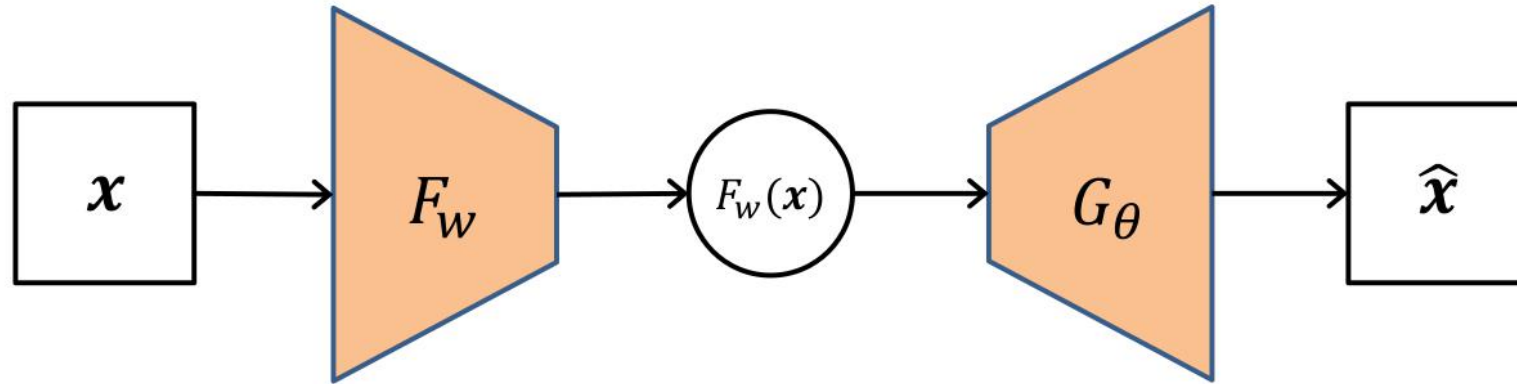
# Training-based Inversion



So we have,

- $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = G_\theta( \text{trunc}_m( F_w( \mathbf{x} ) ) )$

# Training-based Inversion



Inversion model training objective: to minimize the reconstruction loss between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  (The author used  $\mathbf{a}$  in the paper)

$$C(G_\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim p_a} [\mathcal{R}(G_\theta(\text{trunc}_m(F_w(\mathbf{a}))), \mathbf{a})]$$

$R$  is the reconstruction loss, usually implemented as Mean Square Loss. And  $p_a$  is the training data distribution.

# Training-based Inversion

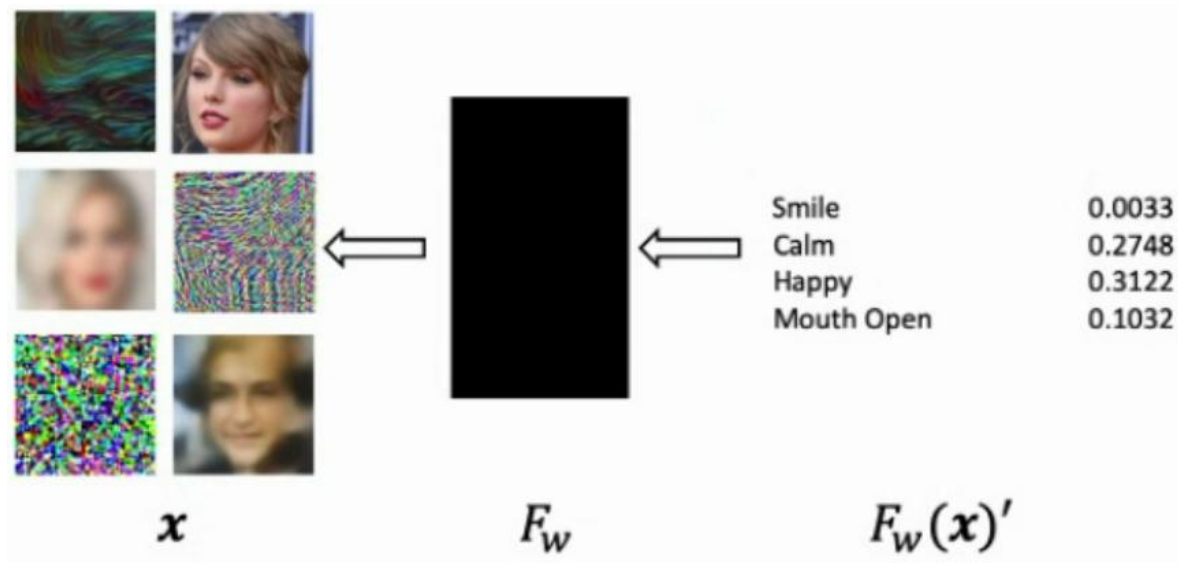
$$C(G_\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim p_a} [\mathcal{R}(G_\theta(\text{trunc}_m(F_w(\mathbf{a}))), \mathbf{a})]$$

- Two practical problems
  - training data distribution  $p_a$  is intractable
    - use training dataset  $D$  to approximate  $p_a$
  - adversary can't access training dataset  $D$ 
    - use auxiliary dataset  $D'$ , which is sampled from a more generic distribution than  $p_a$ , e.g., crawl face images from the Internet, as auxiliary dataset for attacking Amazon Rekognition



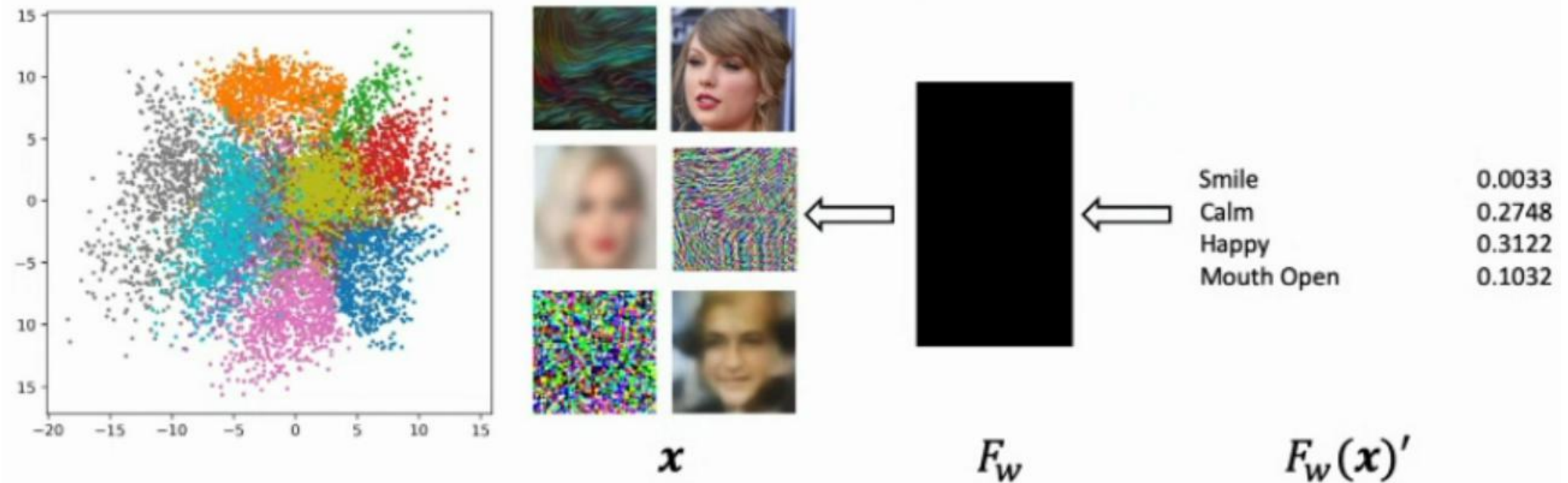
# Background Knowledge Alignment

- Neural network inversion is an ill-posed problem
  - Many inputs can yield the same truncated prediction
  - Which  $\mathbf{x}$  is the one we want?



# Background Knowledge Alignment

- Neural network inversion is an ill-posed problem
  - Which  $\mathbf{x}$  is the one we want?
  - Expected  $\mathbf{x}$  should follow the underlying data distribution



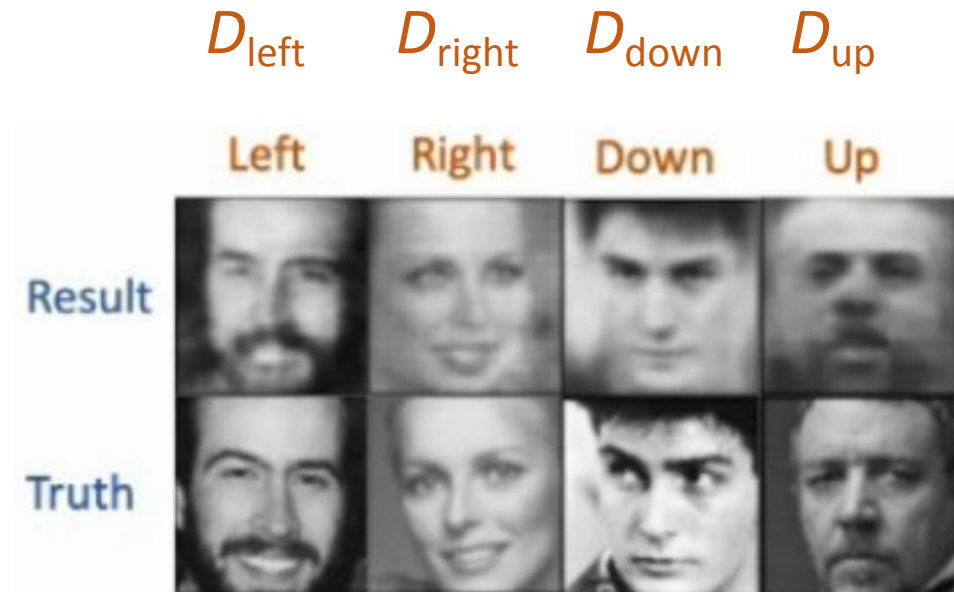
# Background Knowledge Alignment

- Neural network inversion is an ill-posed problem
  - Which  $\mathbf{x}$  is the one we want?
  - Expected  $\mathbf{x}$  should follow the underlying data distribution
  - Learn training data distribution from auxiliary dataset, which is sampled from a more generic distribution

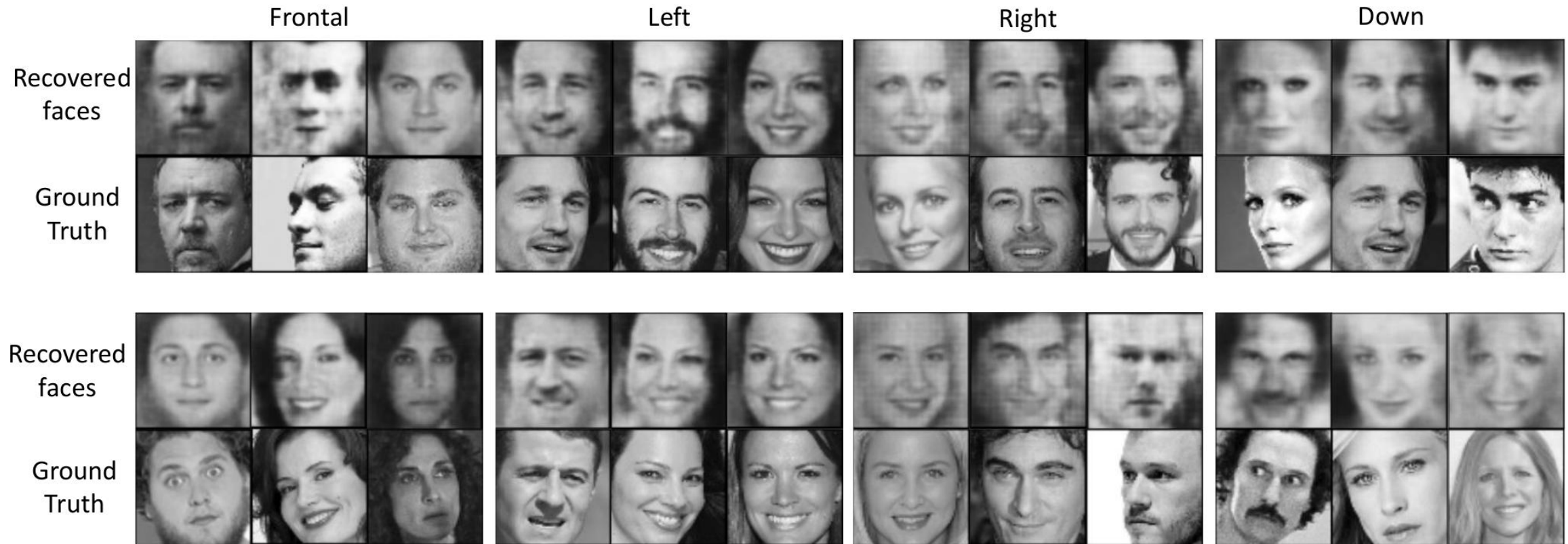
# Background Knowledge Alignment

An example to show how the inversion model learns data distribution from the aligned auxiliary dataset.

- Sample images that look to different directions
- Align them to four different inversion model training set

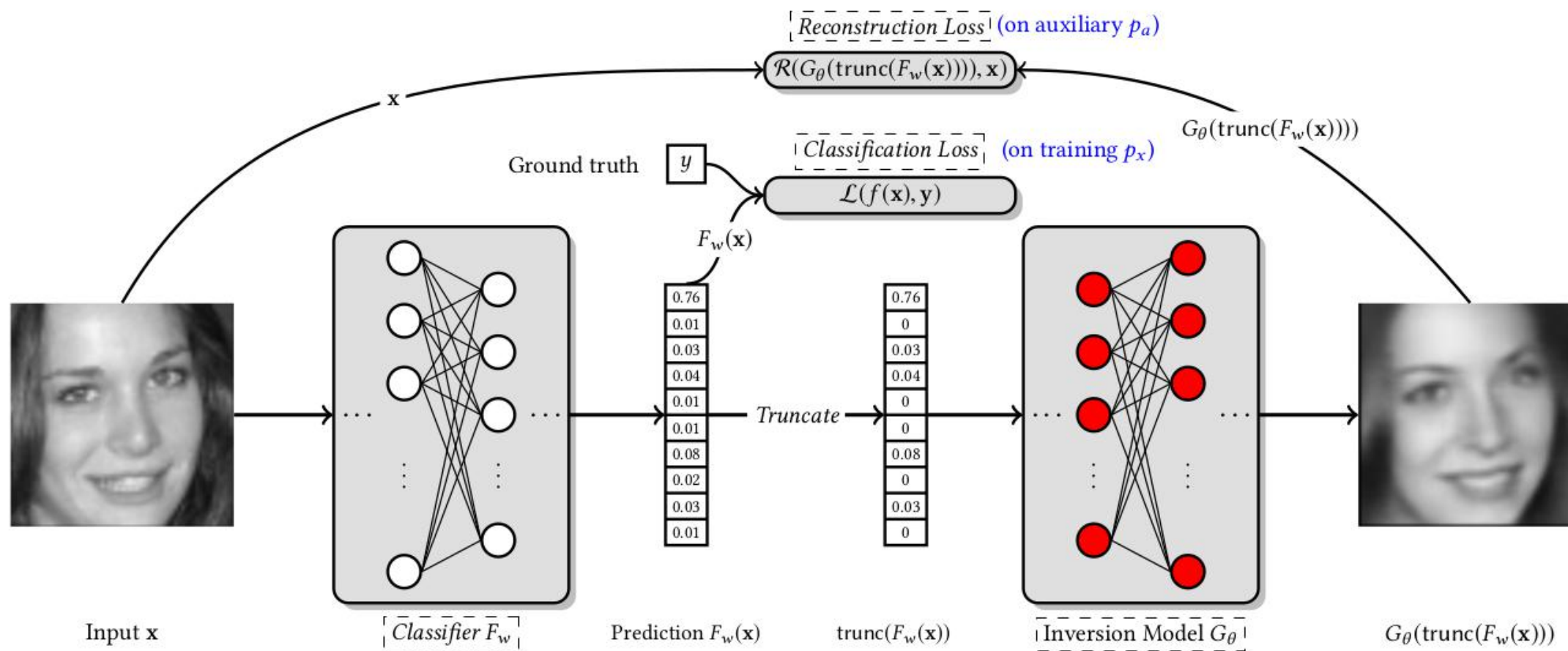


# Background Knowledge Alignment



Ground truth faces may look to different directions, but the recovered faces all look to the aligned direction.

# Methodology



# Evaluation

- Effect of auxiliary set
- Effect of truncation
- Attacking commercial prediction API

## Datasets

- FaceScrub: 100,000 images of 530 individuals
- CelebA: 202,599 images of 10,177 celebrities. Remark that the author removed 297 celebrities included in FaceScrub
- CIFAR10
- MNIST



# Effect of Auxiliary Set

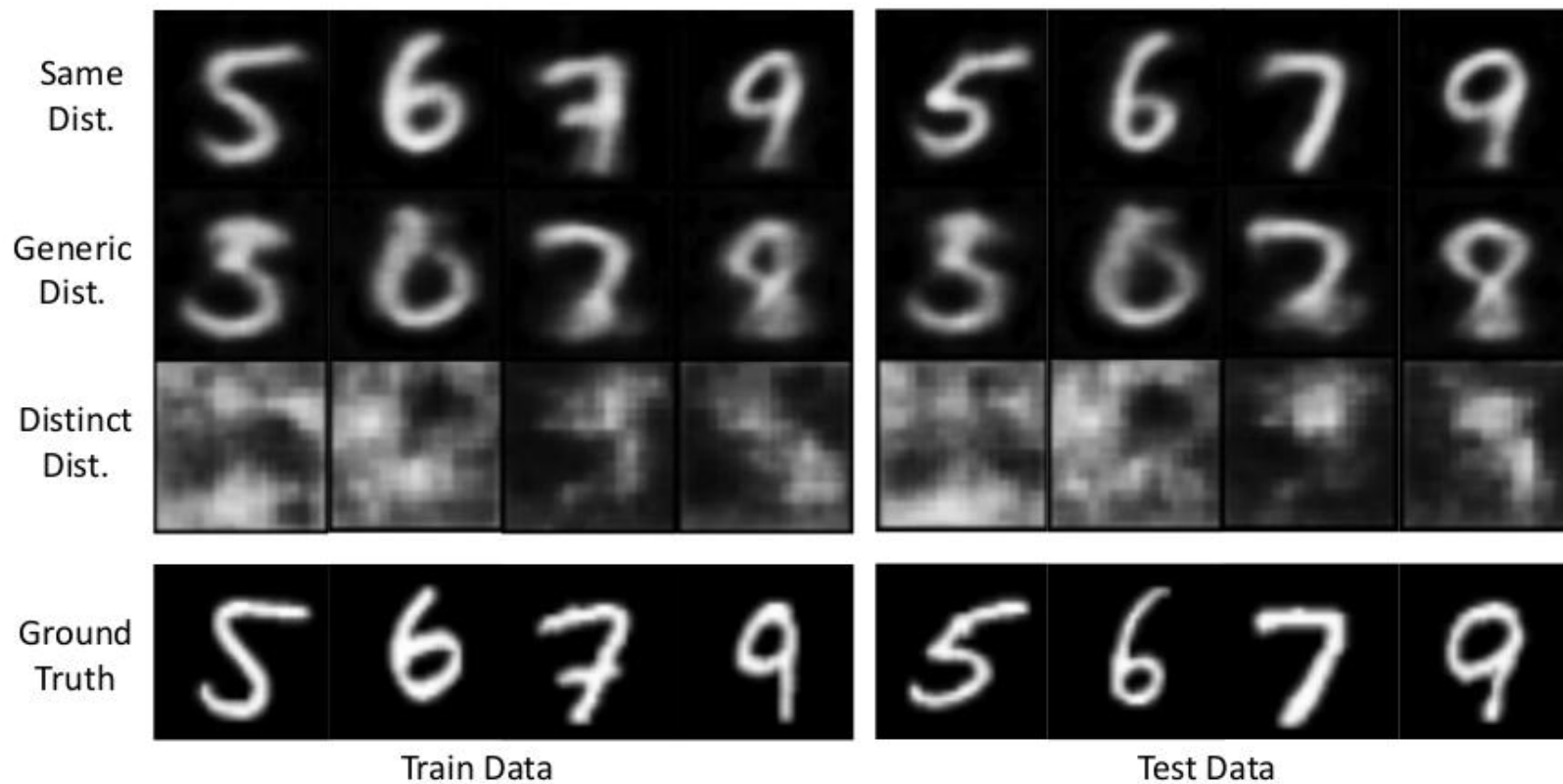
Three parts:

- train inversion model on classifier  $F_w$ 's training dataset (Same distribution)
- a more generic dataset (Generic distribution), e.g. train classifier on FaceScrub, and train inversion model on CelebA
- a distinct dataset (Distinct distribution), e.g. train classifier on FaceScrub, and train inversion model on CIFAR10

# Effect of Auxiliary Set



# Effect of Auxiliary Set



# Effect of Auxiliary Set

Summary I: Even with no full knowledge about the classifier  $F_w$ 's training data, accurate inversion is still possible by training  $G_\theta$  using auxiliary samples drawn from a more generic distribution derived from background knowledge.

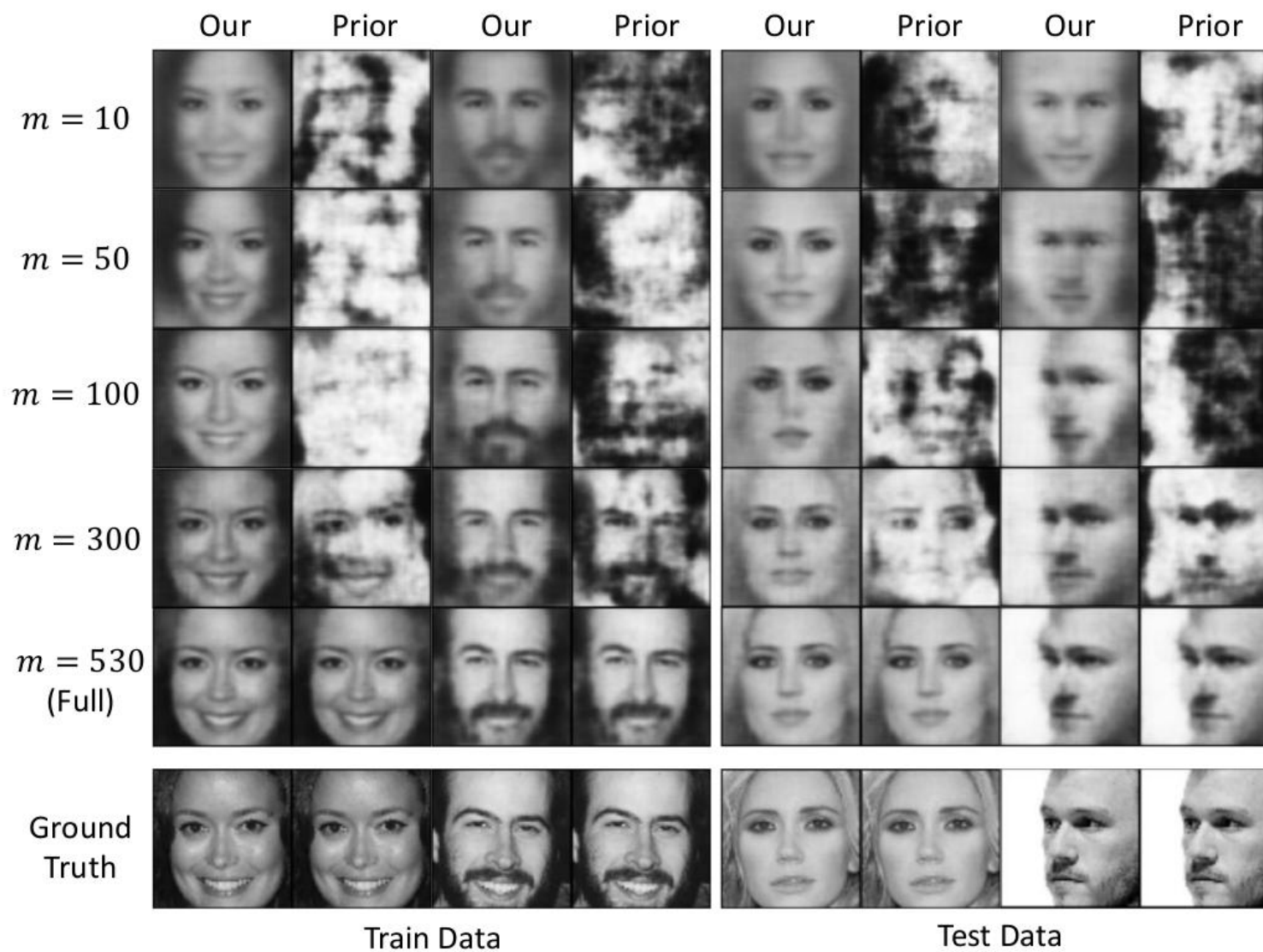
# Effect of Truncation

$$F_w(\mathbf{x})' = \text{trunc}_m( F_w(\mathbf{x}) )$$

Experiments: set m to different values

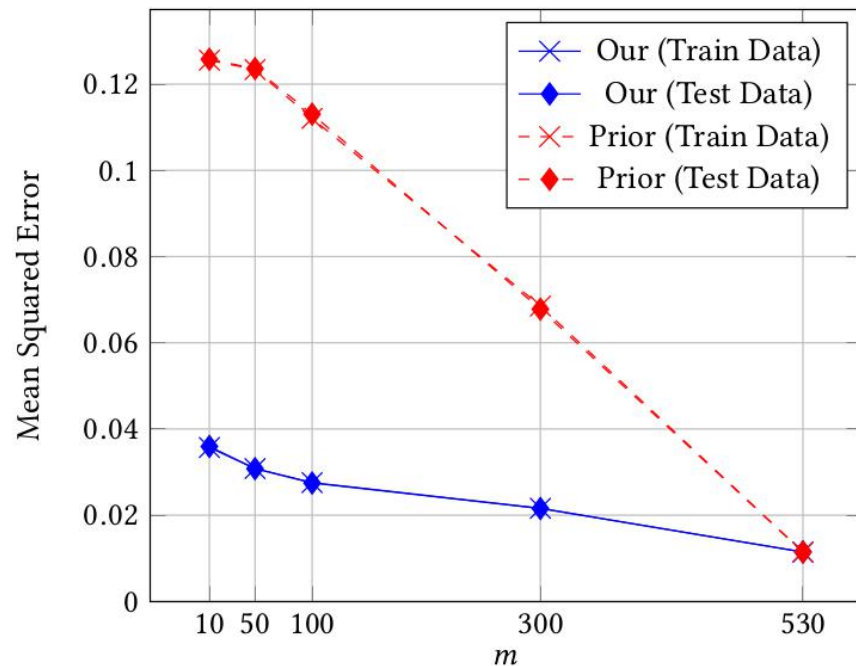
- 530 features in total, set m = 10, 50, 100, 300, 530

# Effect of Truncation



Prior: prior works

# Effect of Truncation



**Figure 8: Quantitative measurement of the effect of truncation ( $m$ ) for  $G_\theta$  on the inversion quality on FaceScrub  $F_w$ . The  $x$ -axis is the  $m$ , and the  $y$ -axis is mean squared error.**

Summary II: Our truncation method of training the inversion model  $G_\theta$  makes it still possible to perform accurate inversion when the adversary is given only partial prediction results.



# Attacking commercial prediction API

## Amazon Rekognition API

- no knowledge of backend model
- query API with auxiliary dataset to get training data for inversion model

# Attacking commercial prediction API



# Attacking commercial prediction API

**Table 4: Quantitative measurement (mean squared error) of the inversion on Amazon Rekognition API.**

Features	Unknown individuals	Known individuals but unknown images
Remove Landmark & Pose	0.0472	0.0469
Remove Landmark	0.0470	0.0462
Round(1)	0.0454	0.0443
Round(3)	0.0437	0.0438
Round(5)	0.0437	0.0438
No round (80 features)	0.0437	0.0438

# Discussion

## Contributions

- a successful training-based black-box model inversion attack
- extended experiments that provide insights into how inversion model learns data distribution from auxiliary dataset