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# Prune and Repaint: Content-Aware Image Retargeting for any Ratio

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## Abstract

1 Image retargeting is the task of adjusting the aspect ratio of images to suit different  
2 display devices or presentation environments. However, existing retargeting meth-  
3 ods often struggle to balance the preservation of key semantics and image quality,  
4 resulting in either deformation or loss of important objects, or the introduction of  
5 local artifacts such as discontinuous pixels and inconsistent regenerated content.  
6 To address these issues, we propose a content-aware retargeting method called  
7 PruneRepaint. It incorporates semantic importance for each pixel to guide the  
8 identification of regions that need to be pruned or preserved in order to maintain  
9 key semantics. Additionally, we introduce an adaptive repainting module that  
10 selects image regions for repainting based on the distribution of pruned pixels  
11 and the proportion between foreground size and target aspect ratio, thus achieving  
12 local smoothness after pruning. By focusing on the content and structure of the  
13 foreground, our PruneRepaint approach adaptively avoids key content loss and de-  
14 formation, while effectively mitigating artifacts with local repainting. We conduct  
15 experiments on the public RetargetMe benchmark and demonstrate through objec-  
16 tive experimental results and subjective user studies that our method outperforms  
17 previous approaches in terms of preserving semantics and aesthetics, as well as  
18 better generalization across diverse aspect ratios. Code will be publicly available.

## 19 1 Introduction

20 With the popularity of multi-screen and multi-aspect environments, people’s demands for the adapt-  
21 ability and aesthetics of images across different devices are increasing. Consequently, image retar-  
22 geting [35, 20, 9], which aims to adjust the aspect ratio to fit various display devices or presentation  
23 environments while preserving the key content and maintaining the quality of the images, has  
24 distinctive applications yet is understudied.

25 The core challenge of image retargeting lies in simultaneously 1) preserving the main information  
26 and 2) avoiding artifacts such as deformation and distortion on key objects. Intuitive solutions for this  
27 task include scaling and cropping. As shown in Figure 1 (b), scaling entirely preserves all contents  
28 but results in severe deformation, decreasing aesthetic appeal and image quality, making it difficult  
29 to recognize the figures. On the contrary, crop-based methods [38, 29] introduce no artifacts but  
30 often results in the loss of key semantics (see Figure 1 (c)). To relieve these problems, following  
31 methods typically use pixel-shifting operators. Noticeable works include seam-carving [1, 28], which  
32 calculates energy using manual operators [6, 2] to identify seams for deletion. Some other works  
33 [5, 39, 14] further integrate these traditional operators to enhance the generalization to different  
34 scenarios. However, as illustrated in Figure 1 (d), without semantics guidance for crucial regions, this  
35 line of methods often leads to content loss or distortion on important objects, as well as inconsistent  
36 pixels in the foreground.

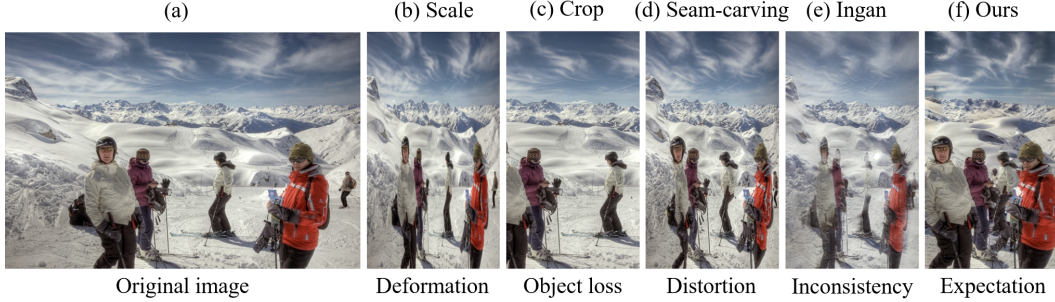


Figure 1: An example to show bad cases such as deformation, content loss, discontinuity in lines, inconsistent results and a good case.

37 Regarding the power of deep learning tools, some methods [16, 34, 4] integrate deep semantic features  
 38 to guide the deletion or preservation of pixels in traditional pixel-shifting methods. However, these  
 39 methods fail to differentiate the semantic significance within objects (e.g., face is more important  
 40 than hair in a person), thus often leading to object distortion when meets oversized objects. Moreover,  
 41 these methods only focus on foreground regions, typically leading to discontinuous backgrounds  
 42 and decreased aesthetic appeal. Towards better aesthetics and region consistency, other works  
 43 [3, 31, 22, 8] achieve image retargeting from a generative perspective with Generative Adversarial  
 44 Networks (GANs) [10]. These methods often implicitly learn the semantic distribution of images  
 45 to regenerate retargeted images. Due to the absence of explicit semantic prior and the weakness of  
 46 GANs in capturing the global data distribution [23], these methods will generate all regions without  
 47 selection, resulting in inconsistent generation of key objects (Figure 1 (e)).

48 To tackle the issues mentioned above, we present a content-aware retargeting model that can maintain  
 49 the essential semantics, their appearance consistency, and aesthetics while being adaptable to any  
 50 aspect ratio. To alleviate semantic loss, we introduce content-aware seam-carving (CSC), which incor-  
 51 porates hierarchical semantic information induced from semantic/spatial saliency to differentiate the  
 52 energy to perform scene-level (i.e., background and foreground) and object-level (i.e., components in  
 53 the foreground) pruning, thereby maximizing the preservation of key objects and their discriminative  
 54 semantic elements. To mitigate artifacts introduced by pixel removal, we further propose an adaptive  
 55 repainting (AR) method based on diffusion models, consisting of an Adaptive Repainting Region  
 56 Determination (ARRD) module and an Image-guided Repainting (IR) module.

57 The two modules work together to adaptively repaint scenes with varying foreground sizes. The  
 58 ARDD module is responsible for determining which regions of the image need to be repainted.  
 59 It does this by identifying abrupt pixels that have a high density of removed surrounding pixels.  
 60 Then, it considers the foreground size and desired ratio to determine inpainting or outpainting. This  
 61 approach ensures that important objects are preserved in the image even if they exceed the expected  
 62 size, resulting in a flexible method that can handle images with any aspect ratio. Subsequently, IR  
 63 refines the repainting process by using the original image as a reference to restore and repaint these  
 64 regions. Compared to previous global generation methods [3, 31, 22] without maintaining foreground  
 65 consistency with the original image, our approach selectively regenerates the abrupt pixels, preserv-  
 66 ing the foreground consistency and local smoothness effectively.

67 Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- 68 1) We introduce a content-aware image retargeting framework that is applicable to any aspect ratio.  
 69 By incorporating content-aware seam-carving, our approach enables pixel pruning with hierarchical  
 70 semantic differentiation
- 71 2) We propose an adaptive repainting method that utilizes image-conditioned stable diffusion models.  
 72 This method dynamically determines whether to inpaint or outpaint based on different aspect ratios,  
 73 leading to local smoothness and aesthetically pleasing outcomes.
- 74 3) Through extensive experiments involving various aspect ratios, our method demonstrates superior  
 75 performance compared to other approaches in terms of both objective and subjective evaluations. It  
 76 excels in preserving object completeness, coherence, and generalization.

## 77 2 Related Work

### 78 2.1 Image Retargeting

79 Existing image retargeting methods revolve around two main themes: preserving the main information  
80 and avoiding artifacts. Early image retargeting methods often fail to balance these two aspects. For  
81 instance, scaling attempts to maintain overall elements by uniformly removing pixels but struggles  
82 with significant changes in aspect ratios, resulting in severe deformation of key objects. Cropping-  
83 based methods [38, 29] chooses the best window of target size from the original image, which  
84 preserves the structure but leads to the loss of crucial information outside the window. Seam-carving  
85 [1] attempts to balance content completeness and quality by calculating energy maps to remove  
86 lower-energy seams. However, due to the lack of semantics, when the background is complex, this  
87 method usually result in the distortion in foreground.

88 The rise of deep learning [15] has introduced semantic information to image retargeting. DeepIR [16]  
89 adopts pretrained VGG [32] to explicitly extract semantic information and retargets the image from a  
90 coarse semantic space to fine pixel space. SmartScale [4] utilizes existing object detection model  
91 to assist seam-carving. However, these methods ignore the semantic differences within important  
92 regions, resulting in deformation within the oversized regions. In addition, neglecting the background  
93 can lead to discontinuities in background pixels, thereby affecting the aesthetic appeal of the image.  
94 For aesthetics and local smoothness, some methods adopt Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)  
95 [10] to generate the retargeted results. InGAN [31] and SinGAN [30] divide the image into patches  
96 and learn the internal distribution of patches, destroying the overall semantics. To training a GAN  
97 without partitioning the image, MRGAN [22] adopts multi-operator to generate a paired dataset,  
98 which is constrained by the handcraft, MCGAN [7] introduces mask to highlight importance areas.  
99 However, due to the limitations of implicit semantic expression, these methods preserve the global  
100 semantics but destroy the details, resulting in inconsistent appearance with the original image.

101 In contrast, our method is content-aware for selective pruning and adaptive repainting. It is able to  
102 maintain the key semantics and appearance while ensuring local smoothness and aesthetics, and it  
103 has stronger generalization for different aspect ratios.

### 104 2.2 Diffusion Models for Image Generation

105 Nowadays, diffusion models [11, 33, 26] have become the mainstream models for generative tasks  
106 due to their powerful ability to model complex distributions. Stable Diffusion [26] is the first  
107 generative model based on latent diffusion models. The progressively denoising diffusion in latent  
108 space significantly enhances the efficiency, stability, realism, and controllability of image generation.  
109 Subsequently, various improvements [24] and variations [37, 36] of stable diffusion models have been  
110 proposed. For instance, SDXL [24] adopts a larger backbone and finetunes it using a complicated  
111 dataset with multiple aspect ratios to improve its versatility.

112 However, such text-to-image (T2I) models are hard to generate complex scenes and achieve more  
113 detailed control, as a significant amount of text control is labor-intensive and the T2I models struggle  
114 to accurately comprehend numerous and complex text prompts. To tackle this issue, other conditioning  
115 methods [37, 36] are proposed. The introduction of ControlNet [37] expands the applications of  
116 Stable Diffusion with different image-based conditional control, including depth images, mask images,  
117 canny images, etc. IP-Adapter [36], a newly proposed image-to-image (I2I) model, introduces image  
118 prompts to control condition with an decoupled cross-attention adapter branch, highly enhancing the  
119 controllability of the generative image.

120 In our task, we introduce image-guided local repainting into image retargeting, which enjoys the  
121 advantage of more precise semantic preservation and more controllable local generation compared to  
122 global regeneration.

## 123 3 Method

### 124 3.1 Overall Architecture

125 The overall architecture is illustrated in Figure 2. Specifically, a saliency detection model is adopted  
126 to obtain the semantic saliency, which will further be combined with the initial energy map to guide

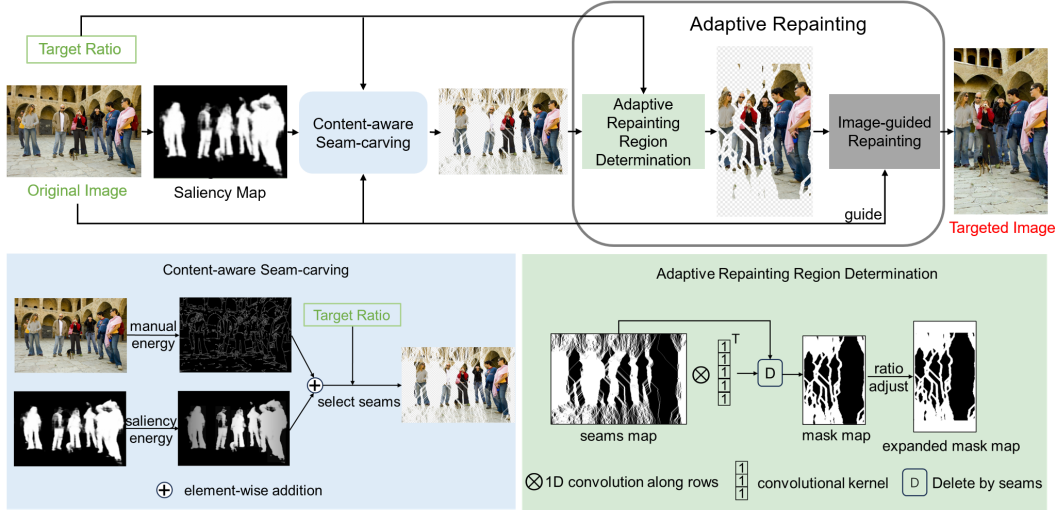


Figure 2: The overall architecture of our proposed PruneRepaint. The input consists of a RGB image and a target ratio. The saliency map, obtained by saliency detection, is further introduced into content-aware seam-carving module for preliminary retargeting. The preliminary retargeted result is then processed by the adaptive repainting region determination module to identify the abrupt pixel regions that need to be repainted. Utilizing the original image as guidance, the image is inpainted with the image-guided repainting module, generating the final targeted image with target ratio.

127 the determination of pruning pixels, making the pruning content-aware. After that, an adaptive  
 128 repainting region determination module is applied to identify the abrupt pixels and determine the  
 129 repainting regions, and an image-guided stable repainting module is further used to repaint them to  
 130 output the final retargeted image.

### 131 3.2 Content-aware Seam-carving

132 Seam-carving is a typical pixel-shifting retargeting method, which calculates the energy of image  
 133 and prioritizes deleting the seams with lower energy. For simplicity, we only discuss the scenario  
 134 of deleting vertical seams in this section. The energy function in seam-carving is formulated as  
 135 follows[1]:

$$Energy(I(x, y)) = \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} I(x, y) \right| + \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial y} I(x, y) \right|, \quad (1)$$

136 where  $I(x, y)$  denotes the pixel at position  $(x, y)$  in the image. Seam-carving is often criticized for its  
 137 lack of semantic information, which can lead to the distortion of key objects. To address this issue,  
 138 we propose content-aware seam-carving (CSC), which incorporates semantic and spatial saliency  
 139 priors. As illustrated by the blue region in Figure 2, the energy function of semantic seam-carving is  
 140 formulated as follows:

$$Energy(I(x, y)) = \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} I(x, y) \right| + \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial y} I(x, y) \right| + S(x, y) \odot \left( 1 - \frac{|x - x_0|}{W} \right), \quad (2)$$

141 where  $\odot$  denotes element-wise multiplication,  $S(x, y)$  represents the saliency value at position  $(x, y)$ ,  
 142  $x_0$  is the x-coordinate of the saliency centroid achieved by averaging all saliency pixels,  $W$  is the  
 143 width of the image. The saliency map can be obtained through a pretrained salient object detection  
 144 network [17]. By enhancing the energy in important areas, the saliency prior  $S(x, y)$  prevents key  
 145 objects from deformation. The spatial prior  $\left( 1 - \frac{|x - x_0|}{W} \right)$  further differentiates the importance within  
 146 key regions, where the significance gradually decreases from the centroid towards the edges, thereby  
 147 encouraging the model to prioritize seam removal from outer regions and retain key semantic elements  
 148 for an object, ultimately avoiding distortion.

149 For convenience, we follow [1] to describe a vertical seam in an image as  $s^x = \{s_i^x\}_{i=1}^W =$   
 150  $\{(x(i), i)\}_{i=1}^W$ , where  $x(\cdot)$  is a mapping subject to  $|x(i) - x(i - 1)| \leq 1$ . Given the energy function,

151 we define the cost of a seam as  $cost(s) = \sum_{i=1}^W Energy(s_i)$ . The seam to be deleted is selected by  
 152 minimizing the cost:

$$s^* = \min_s \sum_{i=1}^W Energy(s_i). \quad (3)$$

153 Using dynamic programming, we can efficiently find the seams with the least energy. We set a  
 154 tolerable saliency loss ratio  $\lambda$  to control the maximum loss of salient regions, which will be elaborated  
 155 in Section 3.3.1. The maximum number of deleted seams is determined jointly by the saliency map and  
 156 the tolerable saliency loss ratio  $\lambda$ . Specifically, the quantity of seams to be deleted, which intersect  
 157 the saliency map, must not exceed the product of the saliency width  $W_s$  and the tolerable saliency  
 158 loss ratio  $\lambda$ , whether the image reaches the target ratio. We further get a binary mask  $S$  where 0  
 159 represents the low energy pixel to delete and 1 is the pixel to be preserved. The initial retargeting  
 160 results can be obtained by performing a dot product between the original image and the mask  $S$  and  
 161 then concatenating the non-zero pixel regions.

### 162 3.3 Adaptive Repainting

163 The pixel-shift method inherently introduces pixel inconsistency, and bridging the resulting pixel gap  
 164 poses a significant challenge. To address this issue, we introduce Adaptive Repainting (AR), a novel  
 165 approach consisting of two primary components: the Adaptive Repainting Region Determination  
 166 module (ARRD) and the Image-guided Repainting module (IR).

#### 167 3.3.1 Adaptive Repainting Region Determination

168 The ARRD is designed to dynamically identify regions that require inpainting, which are characterized  
 169 by inconsistencies among individual pixels. Additionally, ARRD determines the optimal repaint  
 170 strategy (*i.e.*, inpaint or outpaint) and corresponding regions by comparing the current ratio with the  
 171 target ratio.

172 To generate the inpainting mask, we identify pixels with a high number of deleted neighboring  
 173 pixels in the content-aware seam carving (CSC) result as abrupt. As depicted by the green region  
 174 in Figure 2, we employ a one-dimensional sliding window of length  $l$  on the mask map  $S$  of seam-  
 175 carving to calculate the mean value within the window. This can be formalized as a one-dimensional  
 176 convolution:  $M = conv1d(S, K)/l$ , where  $conv1d$  is a one-dimension convolution operator,  $k$  is a  
 177 one-dimensional convolution kernel of length  $l$  with all values equal to 1. We then binarize  $M$  into  
 178  $\hat{M}$  using a threshold  $\eta$ , where 0 indicates areas to be inpainted and 1 denotes pixels to be preserved.

179 To generate the outpainting mask, we binarize the saliency map  $S$  into  $\hat{S}$  using the mean value as the  
 180 threshold. For each connected region in the saliency map, we compute its maximum width and then  
 181 take the union of all these widths to obtain the saliency width  $W_s$ . This can be formalized as:

$$W_s = sum(Union(w_1, \dots, w_H)), \quad (4)$$

182 where  $w_i$  is the  $i$ -th row of the binary saliency map  $\hat{S}$ ,  $Union(a, b)$  represents the union of two binary  
 183 vectors  $a$  and  $b$ , and  $sum(a)$  denotes the sum of all elements in the vector  $a$ . Given the target ratio  $r$ ,  
 184 we compare it with the target width  $W_t$ , which can be calculated as:  $W_t = H * r$ , where  $H$  is the  
 185 height of original image. The final targeted width  $W_f$  can be determined as:

$$W_f = \begin{cases} W_s * (1 - \lambda), & W_s * (1 - \lambda) > W_t \\ W_t, & W_s * (1 - \lambda) \leq W_t \end{cases}, \quad (5)$$

186 where  $\lambda$  is the tolerable saliency loss ratio, set to 0.3 in our experiment. The final height  $H_f$  is then  
 187 calculated as  $W_f/r$ , and we can determine if the image needs expanding by comparing  $H_f$  and  $H$ .  
 188 The expanded height  $(H_f - h)$  will be evenly distributed to the top and bottom of the image. The  
 189 outpainting mask in this stage can be merged into the inpainting mask  $\hat{M}$ , hence the retargeting  
 190 results can be obtained with a unified repainting process with  $\hat{M}$ .

#### 191 3.3.2 Image-guided Repainting

192 As shown in Figure 3, to achieve repainting, a pretrained ControlNet [37], replicated from the Stable  
 193 Diffusion (SD) [26] Unet, is parallelly combined with the SD model. This ControlNet (specifically,

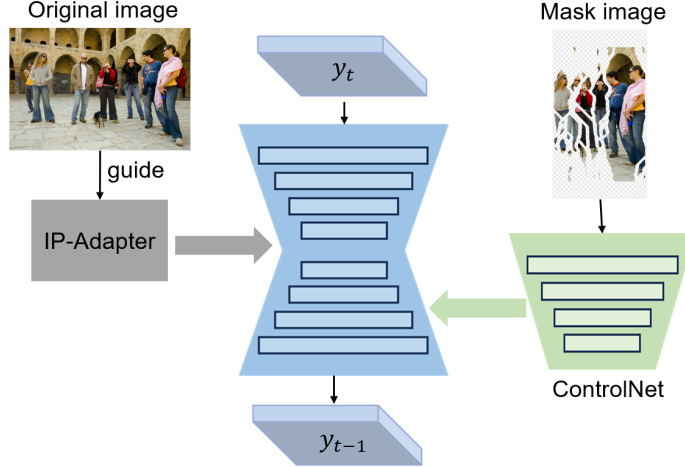


Figure 3: The architecture of image-guided repainting module.

194 the inpaint version) serves to introduce features associated with visible regions of the image to be  
 195 repainted. To harness the guidance provided by the original image, we further introduce an IP-Adapter  
 196 [36], which consists of a CLIP image encoder [25] and a lightweight adapter [12], to fuse image  
 197 prompts with text prompts using decoupled cross-attention.

198 With the repainting mask  $\hat{M}$  obtained in Section 3.3.1, we can formulate one reverse step in the  
 199 diffusion process [19] to achieve repainting as follows:

$$y_{t-1} = \hat{M} \odot y_{t-1}^{known} + (1 - \hat{M}) \odot y_{t-1}^{unknown}, \quad (6)$$

200 where  $y_{t-1}^{known}$  is sampled with the unmasked pixels in the given image  $\hat{M} \odot y_0$ , while  $y_{t-1}^{unknown}$  is  
 201 sampled from the model with the previous iteration  $y_t$ .

## 202 4 Experiments

### 203 4.1 Dataset and Evaluation Metrics

204 We evaluate the proposed method on the public image retargeting datasets, RetargetMe [27], which  
 205 contains 80 images from various scenes. According to the common sizes of prevalent electronic  
 206 devices, we set the target aspect ratio for image retargeting as 16:9, 1:1, 4:3 and 9:16.

207 The metrics for image retargeting have remained undetermined and existing evaluation metrics  
 208 [21, 18, 13] exhibit discrepancies with human perception, such as treating foreground and background  
 209 equally. To intuitively evaluate the effectiveness of image retargeting methods, we propose **Saliency**  
 210 **Discard Ratio** (SDR) to assess the semantic preservation. The SDR can be calculated as follows:

$$SDR = \frac{W_s^{ori} - W_s^{out}}{W_s^{ori}}, \quad (7)$$

211 where  $W_s^{ori}$  is the saliency width of the original image defined in equation 4 and  $W_s^{out}$  is the saliency  
 212 width of the retargeted image.

213 **User study metric.** Given the subjective nature of retargeting results, we employ manual scoring as  
 214 an additional evaluation method. Specifically, we invite 20 volunteers to rate the results on a scale  
 215 from 0 to 3 across four aspects: content completeness, deformation, local smoothness, and aesthetics.  
 216 These aspects are defined as follows: content completeness assesses whether key areas are cropped,  
 217 deformation examines the degree of deformation within crucial areas, local smoothness evaluates the  
 218 continuity of local regions in the image, and aesthetics evaluates the overall harmony and aesthetic  
 219 appeal of the visual composition. A higher score indicates better performance.

220 **4.2 Implement Details**

221 Our method is implemented using Pytorch on a RTX 3090. The length of the sliding window in  
 222 Section 3.3.1 is set to  $l = 25$ , and the threshold is set to  $\eta = 15$ . We utilize the VST model [17]  
 223 for salient object detection in CSC. For the image-to-image repainting model in AR, we employ a  
 224 composition of SD1.5<sup>1</sup>, ControlNet-Inpainting<sup>2</sup> and IP-Adapter [36].

225 **4.3 Compare with Other Retargeting Methods**

226 We quantitatively evaluate the performance of our proposed model by comparing it with three other  
 227 prevalent image retargeting methods, namely scaling, cropping, and seam-carving [1], using the  
 228 objective metric ‘SDR’ and four subjective metrics across different aspect ratios.

Table 1: Comparison of SDR values with other retargeting methods on the RetargetMe dataset with different aspect ratios. Lower values indicate better semantic completeness. The best results are highlighted in **bold**.

Aspect Ratio	16/9	4/3	1/1	9/16
Scale	0.571	0.446	0.307	0.222
Crop	0.386	0.259	0.129	0.094
Seam-carving	0.490	0.367	0.242	0.161
Ours	<b>0.151</b>	<b>0.074</b>	<b>0.031</b>	<b>0.006</b>

229 Table 1 presents the performance of various methods on objective metric. As shown in the table,  
 230 our method achieves a significant reduction in the loss of salient regions, primarily due to the  
 231 incorporation of saliency priors.

Table 2: Subjective comparison with other retargeting methods in aspect ratio 16:9.  $\uparrow$  indicates that larger are better. The best results are highlighted in **bold**.

Settings	Content completeness score $\uparrow$	Deformation score $\uparrow$	Local smoothness score $\uparrow$	Aesthetic score $\uparrow$	Average score $\uparrow$
Scale	<b>2.875</b>	0.975	1.878	1.153	1.720
Crop	1.295	<b>2.905</b>	<b>2.926</b>	2.355	2.370
Seam-carving	2.829	0.973	1.000	1.038	1.461
Ours	2.345	2.757	2.689	<b>2.538</b>	<b>2.582</b>

232 Table 2 presents the performance of different methods on four subjective evaluation metrics. As  
 233 shown in the table, scaling and cropping exhibit two extremes, with scaling prioritizing content  
 234 completeness and cropping prioritizing shape control. In contrast, our method receives high ratings  
 235 across all four evaluation metrics. Notably, when compared to Table 1, scaling exhibits significant  
 236 discrepancies between subjective and objective metrics in terms of key content preservation. We  
 237 believe this is because the human eye has a natural interpolation ability compared to machines.  
 238 Therefore, for scaling methods that uniformly delete pixels, subjective observers may not perceive  
 239 strong content loss, even though objective metrics may indicate otherwise.

240 To qualitatively evaluate the performance of our proposed method, we visually compare our model  
 241 with other 3 retargeting methods, including scaling, cropping and seam-carving [1] on different  
 242 ratios. We conduct experiments with different ratios to provide an overall assessment of each method.  
 243 Figure 4 and Figure 5 illustrate the comparison of retargeting results with two extreme target ratios  
 244 respectively. We can intuitively observe that most traditional methods produce inferior results due  
 245 to the lack of semantic information or the oversized salient areas. They struggle to balance the  
 246 trade-off between preserving key content and preventing significant object deformation. In contrast,  
 247 our proposed method effectively preserves the essential content and structure of foreground objects  
 248 while simultaneously maintaining harmonious and consistent background.

<sup>1</sup><https://huggingface.co/runwayml/stable-diffusion-v1-5>

<sup>2</sup>[https://huggingface.co/l1llyasviel/control\\_v11p\\_sd15\\_inpaint](https://huggingface.co/l1llyasviel/control_v11p_sd15_inpaint)

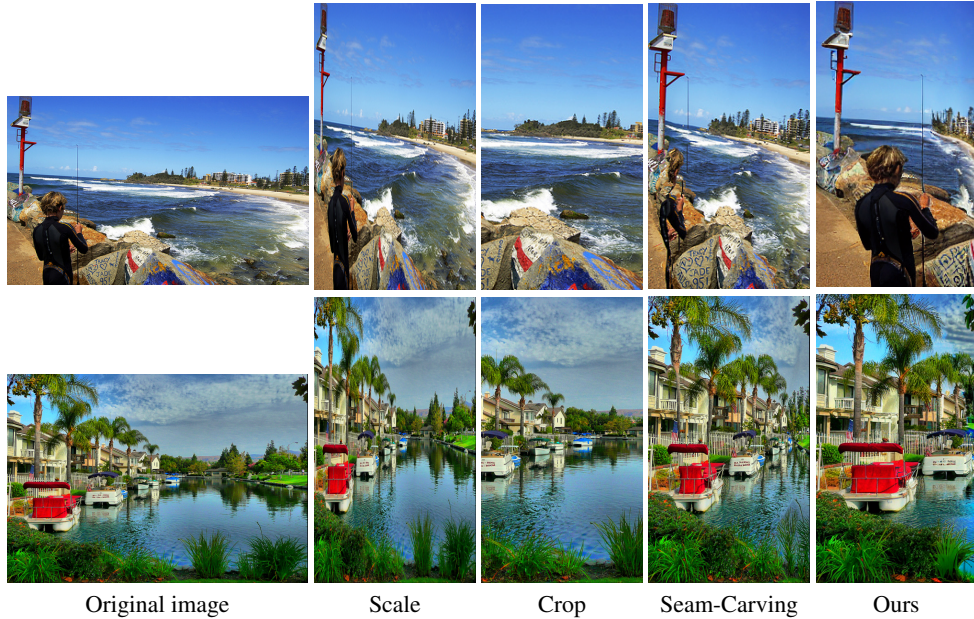


Figure 4: Visual comparison to other retargeting methods on ratio 16:9



Figure 5: Visual comparison to other retargeting methods on ratio 9:16

249 **4.4 Ablation Study**

250 In this section, we comprehensively conduct ablation experiments to verify the effectiveness of each  
 251 design in our proposed model on the popular aspect ratio 16:9.

Table 3: Ablation study of our retargeting methods on ratio 16:9.

Methods	SDR↓
Seam-carving	0.490
+CSC	0.190
+CSC+AR	<b>0.151</b>

Table 4: Comparison of background repainting and our adaptive repainting on ratio 16:9.

Methods	SDR↓
background repainting	0.190
adaptive repainting	<b>0.151</b>

252 **Effectiveness of content-aware seam-carving.** As shown in Table 3, content-aware seam-carving  
 253 (denoted by '+CSC') significantly reduces the SDR, which means the salient objects are preserved  
 254 much better. Besides, CSC can better preserve the structure of key objects, as evidenced by Figure





Figure 6: Visualization to demonstrate the effectiveness of each component in our method. ‘+CSC’ denotes content-aware seam-carving in section 3.2, ‘+CSC+BR’ means adopt background repainting based on CSC, ‘+CSC+AR’ means adaptive repainting in section 3.3 based on CSC.

255 6. Different from the original seam-carving, the addition of the CSC module results in minimal  
 256 deformation for the car. Also, the house with more complex patterns maintains its basic structure and  
 257 avoids significant global deformation.

258 **Effectiveness of adaptive repainting.** The comparison between ‘+CSC’ and ‘+CSC+AR’ in Table  
 259 3 shows consistent improvement by the adaptive repainting module. As shown in Figure 6, AR  
 260 adaptively identifies areas with abrupt pixels for repainting and adjusts the mask according to the  
 261 target aspect ratio, leading to enhanced results.

262 **Comparison between background repainting and adaptive repainting.** To further validate the  
 263 advantages of our proposed adaptive repainting method, we introduce the Background Repainting  
 264 (BR) strategy for comparison. BR identifies the background based on saliency maps as the region for  
 265 regeneration. Table 4 demonstrates the advantages of our AR method in preserving salient regions,  
 266 which is supported by Figure 6. Specifically, BR is unable to address discontinuities in foreground  
 267 pixels (see the car and the building in Figure 6), and the retargeting results are constrained by the  
 268 ratio (the structure of car in the first row of Figure 6 due to extreme ratio). In contrast, our AR can  
 269 identify all abrupt pixel regions and adapt well to extreme ratios.

#### 270 4.5 Limitations

271 Constrained by the Stable Diffusion model, the inference speed of our method is relatively slow,  
 272 averaging 7 seconds per image for retargeting. This may limit its real-time applicability in certain  
 273 scenarios. Moreover, the repainting region generated by ARRD is not complete enough, as illustrated  
 274 in the second row in Figure 6, certain distorted regions of the architectural structure remain unrepaired.

## 275 5 Conclusion

276 Our paper introduces a new image retargeting model called PrueRepaint. This model is content-aware  
 277 and adaptive, allowing it to work with any target ratio. The content-aware seam-carving method  
 278 protects important semantic regions, while the adaptive repainting module helps to maintain visual  
 279 quality even after pixels are deleted. Through extensive experiments, we have demonstrated the  
 280 effectiveness of our design and the advantages of using PrueRepaint for image retargeting.

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365 **A Appendix / supplemental material**

366 **A.1 Additional Comparative Experiments**

367 **Effectiveness of Space Prior.** Considering the adverse impact of severe foreground distortions on  
368 aesthetic appeal, we introduce a spatial prior in Section 3.2 to differentiate the degrees of importance  
369 within the foreground region, where pixel importance decays from the centroid outwards. As depicted  
370 in Figure 7, the space prior allows the foreground region to preferentially lose pixels on both sides  
371 within a certain range to maintain the structure of important areas, which better conforms to human  
372 visual perception.



Figure 7: Visualization to demonstrate the effectiveness of space prior.

373 **Comparison of different generation methods.** We compare the differences among various genera-  
374 tion methods, including full-image repainting, background repainting, and our adaptive repainting.  
375 The generated images are illustrated in Figure 8. Without the guidance of mask image, FR maintains  
376 coarse semantics but loses details. BR struggles to handle the issue of discontinuous foreground  
377 pixels (as evident in Figure 8 with the legs of the person and the pillars on both sides of the Taj  
378 Mahal). However, our AR can identify prominent areas of pixel discontinuity across the entire image  
379 for repainting.

380 **A.2 Detail of Subjective Experiments**

381 Regarding the subjective experiment, we provided brief training to the volunteers, covering an  
382 introduction to image retargeting, the differences between the four evaluation metrics, and the scoring  
383 range. Subsequently, we distributed questionnaires containing the results of 80 images from the  
384 retargetme dataset (reduced to 79 images after removing sensitive content) under four different  
385 methods. The questionnaire collection time was 2 to 3 hours, and we obtained 20 valid responses. We  
386 calculated the average scores for each evaluation metric. The specific description in the questionnaire  
387 is as follows: The left side shows the original image, and the right side shows the image after being

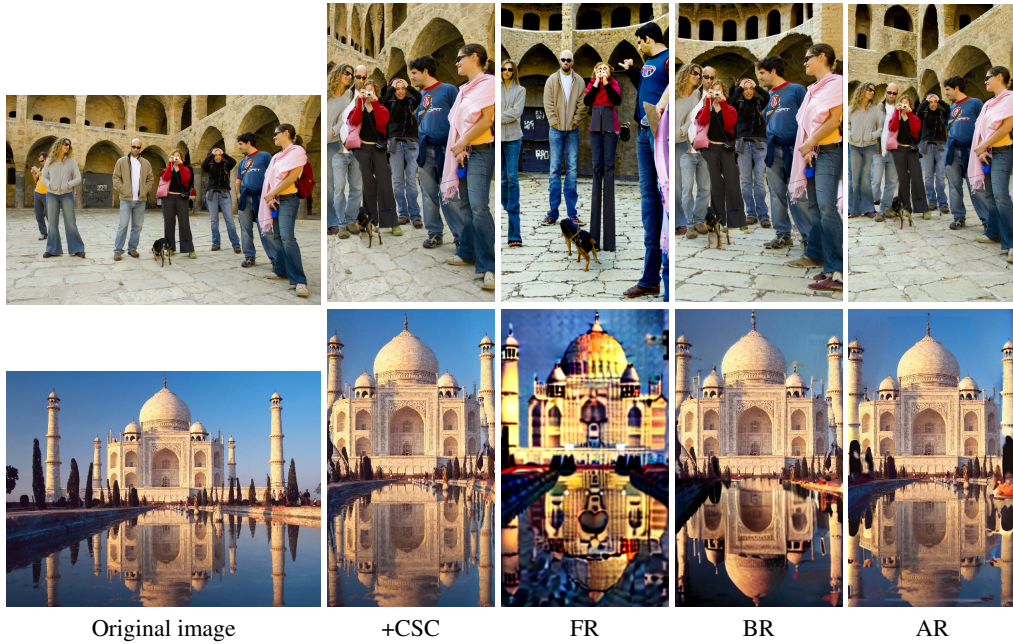


Figure 8: Comparison of different generation methods. ‘+CSC’ denotes the content-aware seam-carving in section 3.2, ‘FR’ means full-image repainting, ‘BR’ represents the background repainting and ‘AR’ is our adaptive repainting.

388 retargeted to a 16:9 aspect ratio. Please rate each processed image from 0 to 3 (higher scores indicate  
 389 better effectiveness). The compensation given to each volunteer was 500 RMB.

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