

# Label-Only Model Inversion Attacks via Knowledge Transfer

Ngoc-Bao Nguyen<sup>\*1</sup>

Keshigeyan Chandrasegaran<sup>\*2‡</sup>

Milad Abdollahzaden<sup>1</sup>

Ngai-Man Cheung<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

<sup>2</sup> Stanford University

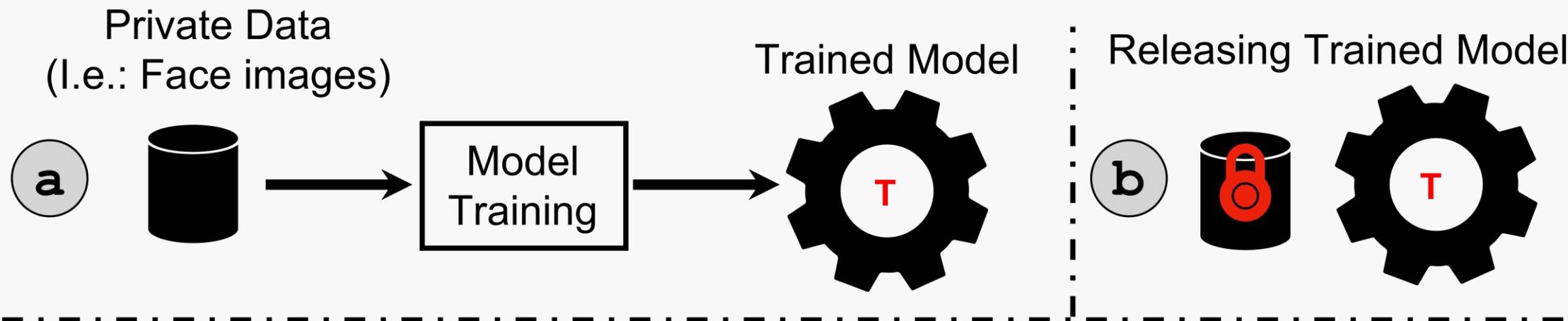
# Our contributions

- We propose **Label-only Model inversion via Knowledge Transfer (LOKT)** by transferring decision knowledge from the target model to surrogate models and performing white-box attacks on the surrogate models.
- We propose a new T-ACGAN to leverage generative modeling and the target model for effective knowledge transfer.
- We perform analysis to support that our surrogate models are effective proxies for the target model for MI.

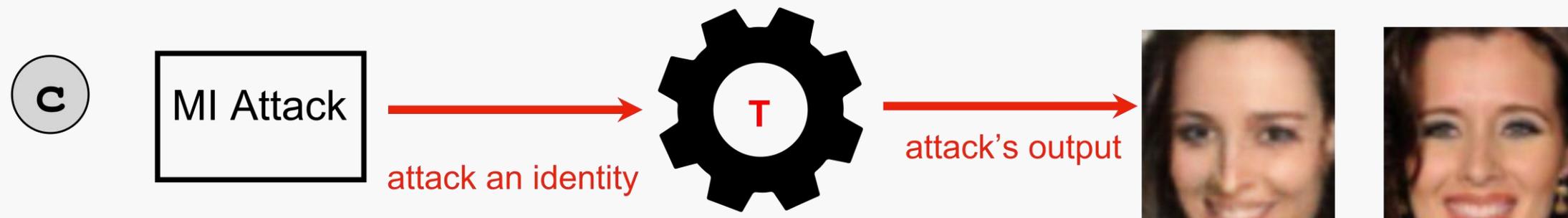
<i>Private Training Data</i>		<b>Attack Acc. (↑)</b>
<i>Existing SOTA</i>		<b>73.93%</b>
<b>Our Reconstruction Results</b>		<b>93.93%</b>

# Model Inversion (MI)

Model inversion (MI) attacks aim to infer and reconstruct private training data by abusing access to a model.



Model Inversion (MI) attack on Target Model to recover Private Training Data

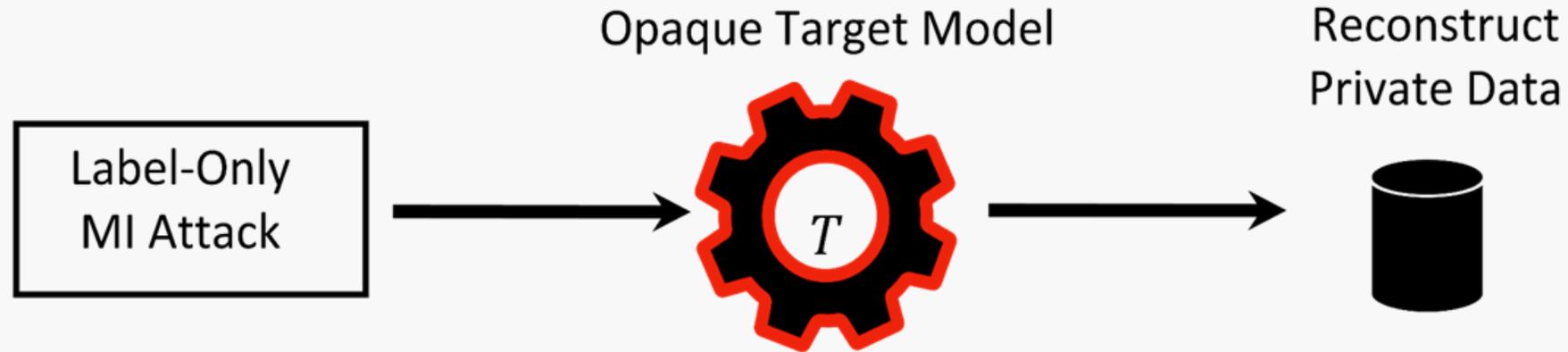


# Model Inversion (MI)

We focus on **label-only model inversion attack** which is the most challenging setup.

Criteria	Architecture / Parameters	Soft-labels	Hard-labels	Concern reg. Queries
White-box	✓	✓	✓	Low
Black-box	✗	✓	✓	High
Label-only	✗	✗	✓	High

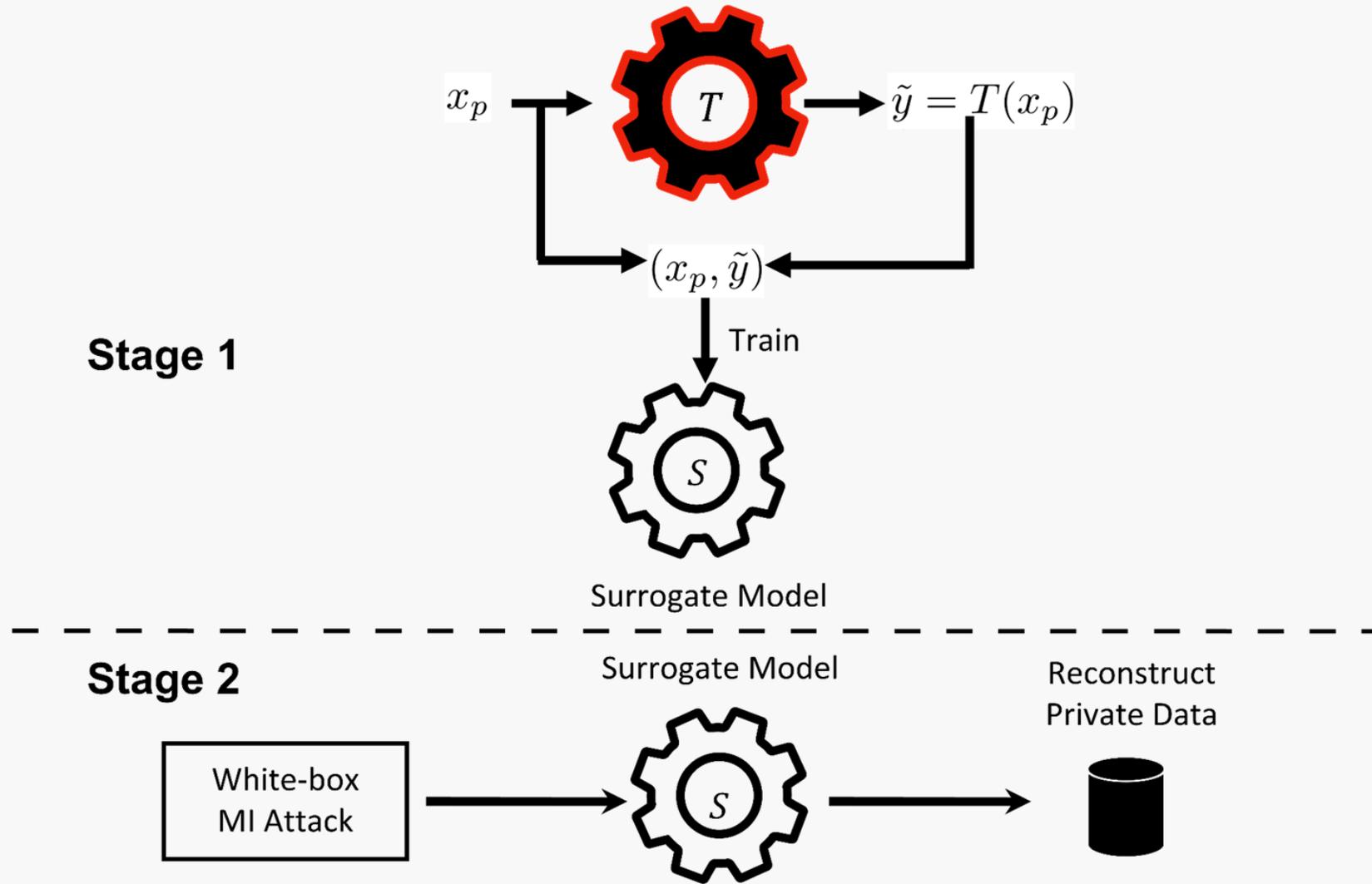
# Existing work on Label-only Model Inversion Attack



SOTA Label-only Model Inversion attacks employ **black-box search on the target model  $T$**  to reconstruct private data.

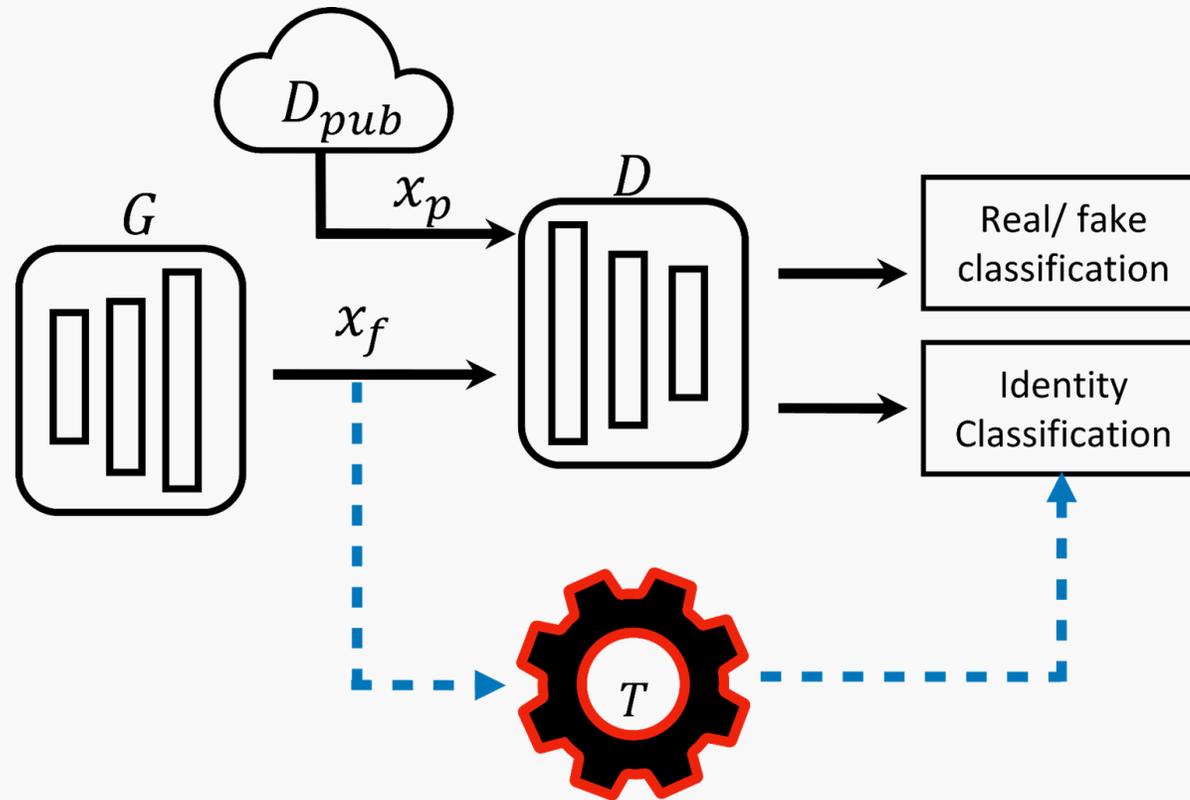
# Label-only Model inversion via Knowledge Transfer (LOKT)

Decision Knowledge Transfer



Casting Label-only MI Attack as a White-box MI Attack

# Decision Knowledge Transfer using our T-ACGAN



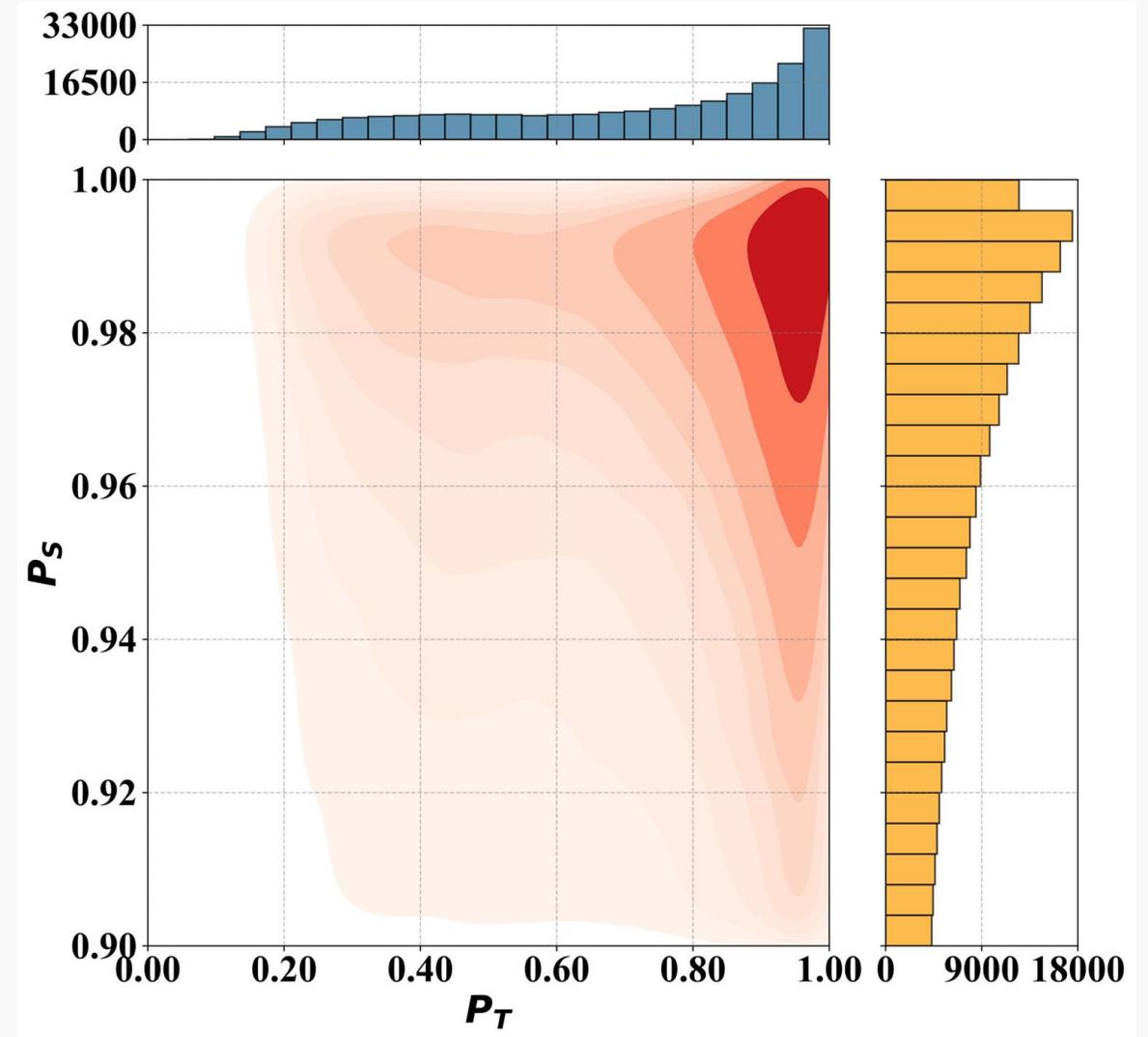
Decision Knowledge Transfer

$$\mathcal{L}_{D,C} = -E[\log P(s = Fake|x_f)] - E[\log P(s = Real|x_p)] - E[\log P(c = \tilde{y}|x_f)]$$

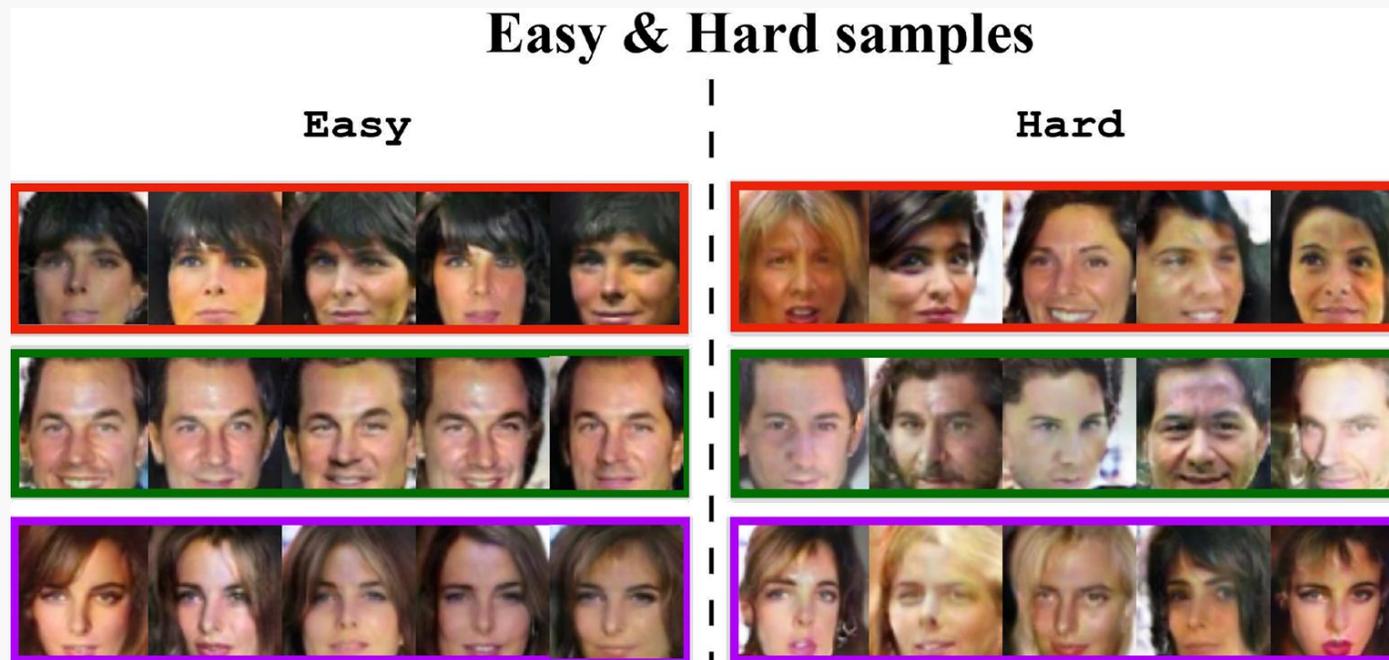
# Analysis for justification of surrogate models

## Property P1:

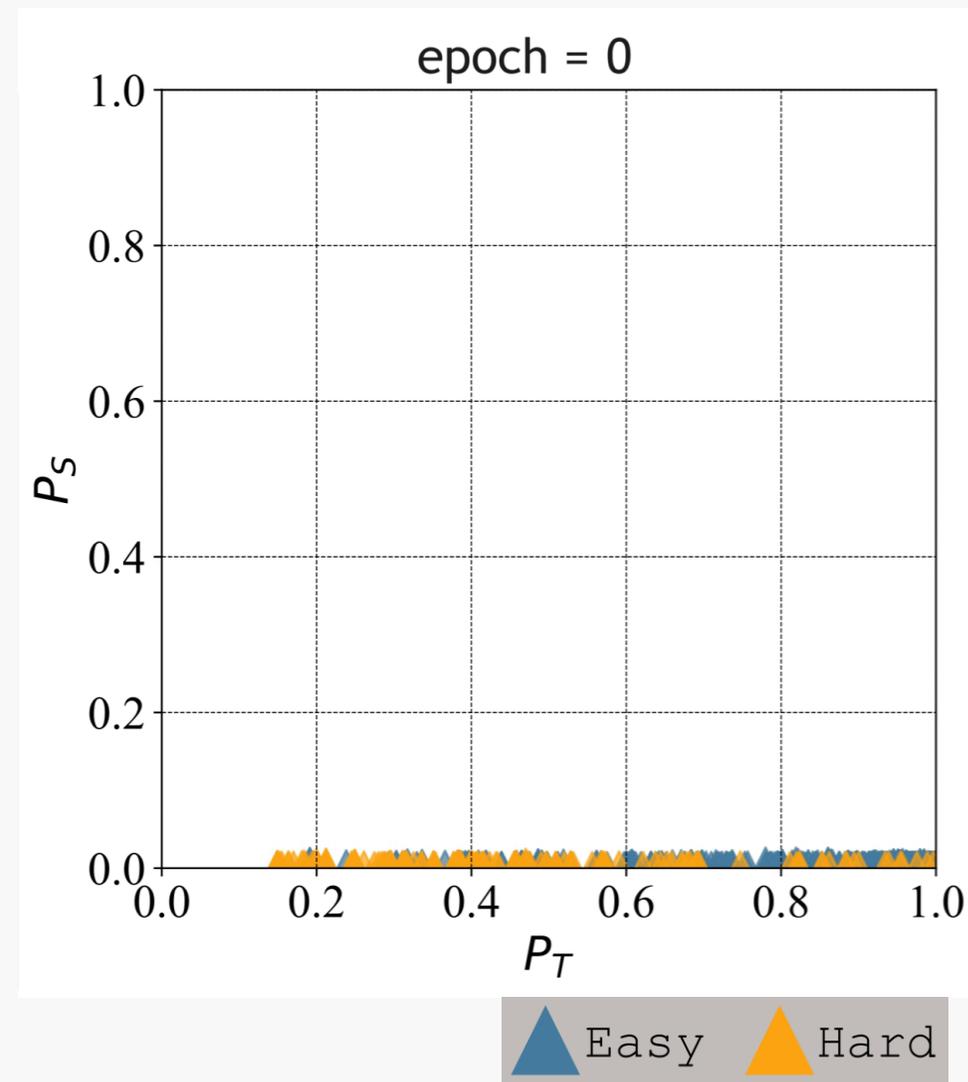
For high-likelihood samples under  $S$ , it is likely that they also have high likelihood under  $T$ .



# Analysis for justification of surrogate models



DNNs Learn Patterns First



# Model inversion attack results

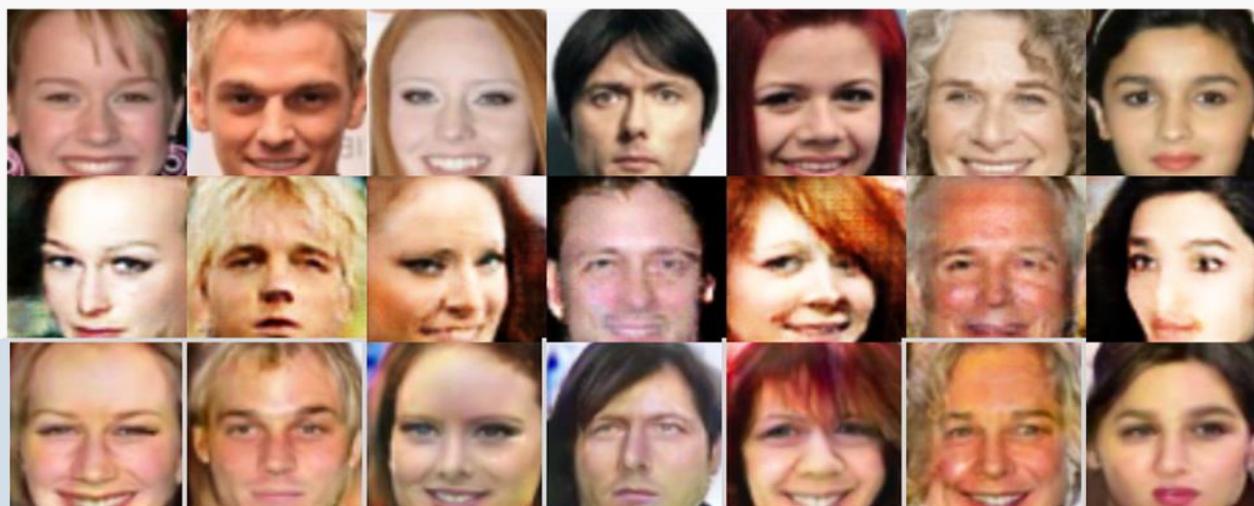
Setup		Attack	Attack acc. $\uparrow$	KNN dt. $\downarrow$
$T$ = FaceNet64 $\mathcal{D}_{priv}$ = CelebA $\mathcal{D}_{pub}$ = CelebA		BREPMI	$73.93 \pm 4.98$	1284.41
		$C \circ D$	$81.00 \pm 4.79$	1298.63
		<b>LOKT</b> $S$	$92.80 \pm 2.59$	1207.25
		$S_{en}$	<b><math>93.93 \pm 2.78</math></b>	<b>1181.72</b>
$T$ = IR152 $\mathcal{D}_{priv}$ = CelebA $\mathcal{D}_{pub}$ = CelebA		BREPMI	$71.47 \pm 5.32$	1277.23
		$C \circ D$	$72.07 \pm 4.03$	1358.94
		<b>LOKT</b> $S$	$89.80 \pm 2.33$	1220.00
		$S_{en}$	<b><math>92.13 \pm 2.06</math></b>	<b>1206.78</b>

Setup		Attack	Attack acc. $\uparrow$	KNN dt. $\downarrow$
$T$ = VGG16 $\mathcal{D}_{priv}$ = CelebA $\mathcal{D}_{pub}$ = CelebA		BREPMI	$57.40 \pm 4.92$	1376.94
		$C \circ D$	$71.33 \pm 4.39$	1364.47
		<b>LOKT</b> $S$	$85.60 \pm 3.03$	1252.09
		$S_{en}$	<b><math>87.27 \pm 1.97</math></b>	<b>1246.71</b>
$T$ = FaceNet64 $\mathcal{D}_{priv}$ = CelebA $\mathcal{D}_{pub}$ = FFHQ		BREPMI	$43.00 \pm 5.14$	1470.55
		$C \circ D$	$43.27 \pm 3.53$	1516.18
		<b>LOKT</b> $S$	$59.13 \pm 2.77$	1437.86
		$S_{en}$	<b><math>62.07 \pm 3.89</math></b>	<b>1428.04</b>

Private  
Training  
Data

Existing  
SOTA

**Our  
Reconstruction  
Results**



Attack  
Acc. ( $\uparrow$ )

73.93%

**93.93%**

# Conclusion

- We propose **Label-only Model inversion via Knowledge Transfer (LOKT)** by transferring decision knowledge from the target model to surrogate models and performing white-box attacks on the surrogate models.
- We propose a new T-ACGAN to leverage generative modeling and the target model for effective knowledge transfer.
- We perform analysis to support that our surrogate models are effective proxies for the target model for MI.

# Thank you!

Poster Session

Wed 13 Dec 10:45 a.m. CST — 12:45 p.m. CST

**Great Hall & Hall B1+B2**

**#1517**

Project page



<https://ngoc-nguyen-0.github.io/lokt/>