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Unmasking Deepfakes: A Multi-Modal Hybrid Detection Framework

Samson Mandava
M.Tech, CSE Department, UCEK, JNTU Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract: The rapid evolution of deepfake technology has intensified the challenge of ensuring media authenticity, driving the need for sophisticated detection methods that go beyond conventional techniques in both adaptability and effectiveness. This paper introduces an innovative deepfake detection system that seamlessly integrates behavioral and visual analysis, eliminating the dependency on custom training datasets. By harnessing pre-trained models from trusted repositories, the system employs a triple-detection pipeline — comprising MTCNN, DLib, and Mediapipe Face Mesh — to achieve reliable face and landmark identification across a wide range of video inputs, ensuring resilience even with challenging or low-quality footage. At its core, the framework analyzes a rich set of features to distinguish authentic from synthetic content, including eye blinking dynamics such as frequency, period, duration, and symmetry, alongside lip movement consistency and temporal frame coherence assessed through optical flow. These behavioral cues are complemented by EfficientNet-B7, a state-of-the-art model that enhances detection by identifying pixel-level anomalies often present in deepfake videos. Implemented on Google Colab, this system processes user-uploaded videos in real-time, employing an optimized ensemble method with confidence-weighted scoring to classify content as "Real" or "Fake," offering a practical and accessible solution for media verification.

Extensive debugging and adaptive threshold tuning bolster the system's reliability against modern deepfakes, addressing the shortcomings of single-feature approaches like the original DeepVision framework. By combining multiple detection modalities and leveraging cloud-based computation, this lightweight and scalable tool surpasses traditional limitations, providing a robust defense against synthetic media. This work represents a significant step forward in deepfake detection, adaptable to the evolving landscape of digital content manipulation and suitable for real-world applications.

Keywords: Deep fake Detection, Media authenticity, Behavioral analysis, Visual analysis, Pre-trained models, Triple-detection pipeline, MTCNN, DLib, Mediapipe Face Mesh, Eye blinking dynamics, Lip movement consistency, Temporal coherence , Optical flow, EfficientNet-B7, Real-time Processing, Ensemble method, Confidence-weighted scoring, Synthetic media.

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of deepfake technology has raised significant concerns regarding the authenticity and integrity of digital media. Deepfakes, which utilize advanced machine learning and deep neural network techniques to generate highly realistic but entirely fabricated audio and video content, challenge the foundational trust that societies place in visual and auditory evidence. These synthetic media forms can convincingly mimic real individuals, replicating facial expressions, voice patterns, and gestures in a way that is often indistinguishable to the human eye and ear [2], [13].

The implications of this technology span across multiple domains. In politics, deepfakes have the potential to spread false information or simulate controversial statements by public figures, thereby influencing public opinion and destabilizing trust in democratic processes [23]. In entertainment, while there are creative applications such as digital resurrection or performance enhancement, the ethical boundaries remain blurred. Social media platforms, with their rapid content dissemination capabilities, have become breeding grounds for misinformation and manipulated narratives [12], [14].

Traditional methods of detecting deepfakes have largely relied on identifying low-level inconsistencies—such as visual artifacts, unnatural facial movements, or inconsistencies in pixel-level data. Techniques like exposing convolutional traces left by GANs [3], or analyzing residual noise and manipulation artifacts [5], have shown promise in earlier stages of deepfake detection research. However, with the rapid evolution of deepfake generation methods—including face and expression swaps, voice cloning, and full-body synthesis—such approaches are becoming increasingly insufficient [2], [24].

To address these challenges, the research community has proposed a variety of advanced detection frameworks. Some approaches analyze unique human behavioral cues such as involuntary eye blinking patterns, which are often overlooked or synthesized poorly by deepfake generators [1]. Others employ deep neural networks that combine content analysis with trace feature extraction [21], or utilize transfer learning for forgery detection [8].

Hybrid and ensemble methods—such as the hierarchical fusion of weakly supervised models [9] and the use of XGBoost classifiers on deep features [6]—have been developed to improve robustness and adaptability across different deepfake types.

As generative models continue to advance, there is an urgent need for detection techniques that are both generalizable and explainable. Models such as MMGANGuard [7] have demonstrated the importance of multi-model integration for identifying subtle inconsistencies in GAN-generated content, while transformer-based methods leveraging facial landmarks and attention mechanisms are pushing the frontier of temporal analysis in video forensics [4].

In response to this evolving threat landscape, this paper introduces a hybrid detection framework that integrates behavioral analysis (e.g., eye-blinking patterns [1]), visual feature extraction via CNNs, and temporal consistency checks. This multi-layered approach is designed to enhance detection accuracy and generalizability across various deepfake modalities. By leveraging insights from recent research and combining multiple detection strategies, the proposed system aims to deliver a scalable and reliable solution to the growing challenge of deepfake detection [18], [12], [13].

II. RELATED WORK

Numerous studies have explored a wide array of techniques for deepfake detection, each contributing valuable insights into the ongoing effort to identify and mitigate manipulated media content. The evolution of detection methodologies reflects the rapid advancement of generative models and the increasing complexity of forged digital media.

Early deepfake detection methods primarily relied on pixel-level analysis, identifying low-level inconsistencies in image texture, lighting, and blending artifacts. These approaches were effective in detecting first-generation deepfakes that exhibited noticeable imperfections. Techniques such as detecting convolutional traces and pixel misalignment were among the first lines of defense [3], [5]. However, as generative adversarial networks (GANs) became more sophisticated and capable of producing photorealistic content, the effectiveness of purely pixel-based approaches diminished [2], [17].

With the rise of deep learning, researchers began leveraging Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and other neural architectures for feature extraction and classification tasks in deepfake detection. These models can automatically learn complex patterns and subtle inconsistencies that are difficult to detect manually. For instance, studies have shown that CNN-based systems can identify tampered regions in video frames, detect unnatural facial movements, and discern inconsistencies in temporal sequences with high accuracy [1], [6], [11]. Enhancements such as combining content and trace feature extractors further improve performance and robustness [11].

Another notable advancement in this domain is the use of biological behavior analysis—particularly eye blinking and facial landmark tracking—as a detection modality. Human eye blinking is often underrepresented in synthetic video generation due to the difficulty of modeling involuntary physiological behavior. Jung et al. [1] demonstrated that analyzing the blinking patterns of subjects in videos can be a reliable indicator of deepfake content. Similarly, other approaches have incorporated facial landmark extraction and behavioral cues into detection pipelines to exploit the discrepancies between natural and generated behavior [4], [20].

To address the limitations of single-model detection systems, researchers have developed ensemble and hybrid frameworks that combine multiple detection strategies. For example, weakly supervised ensemble models have been used to integrate predictions from various sub-networks, improving generalization and explainability [9]. Multi-model approaches, such as MMGANGuard [7], employ a combination of deep networks to detect GAN-generated images by analyzing different visual and statistical features. Moreover, models leveraging attention mechanisms, depthwise separable convolution, and video transformers have proven to be effective in capturing temporal dependencies and improving detection performance across different video modalities [4].

Machine learning-based classifiers such as XGBoost have also been applied to features extracted from deep networks to enhance classification performance in video deepfake detection [6]. Transfer learning has been employed to address data scarcity and boost performance on low-resource datasets [18].

Despite these advancements, significant challenges persist in developing robust and scalable detection systems. Many existing models struggle to generalize across unseen deepfake generation techniques or different types of media manipulation (e.g., face swaps, expression changes, and voice synthesis) [2], [12], [13]. Real-world scenarios further complicate detection due to compression artifacts, noise, and varying lighting conditions that can obscure manipulation traces.

To address these limitations, the proposed system integrates multiple detection modalities—including behavioral, visual, and temporal features—into a unified hybrid framework. By leveraging the strengths of each technique and building on insights from prior work [1]–[13], this approach aims to enhance detection accuracy, improve resilience against adversarial methods, scalable solution suitable for deployment in real-world environment

III. METHODOLOGY

The proposed deepfake detection system utilizes a hybrid architecture that integrates behavioral analysis, visual feature extraction, and temporal consistency checks to improve the robustness and accuracy of deepfake identification. Each module is designed to capture unique cues that may reveal synthetic manipulation, enabling the system to generalize across various types of deepfakes. The detection pipeline consists of the following key components:

A. Behavioral Analysis Module

This module targets involuntary human physiological behaviors, particularly focusing on eye blinking patterns, which are often poorly replicated by deepfake generators. Real human blinking is governed by neurophysiological factors and follows natural frequency and temporal distributions, which are difficult to model precisely in synthetic videos.

1) Blink Frequency: The system computes the number of blinks over a period of time and compares it with established biological norms.

2) Blink Duration: By measuring the time the eyes remain closed during a blink, the system identifies frames with unrealistic durations (either too long or too short).

3) Symmetry and Synchronization: Human eyes blink symmetrically. Asymmetrical or asynchronous eye movements may indicate tampering.

The detection is facilitated using facial landmark tracking through MediaPipe Face Mesh, which provides high-fidelity eye contour points for real-time blink detection and tracking. Blink-based anomaly scores are then passed to the fusion stage.

B. Visual Feature Extraction Module

To extract deep visual features from individual frames, this module uses the EfficientNet-B7 architecture, a state-of-the-art convolutional neural network known for its excellent performance and efficient parameter usage.

1) Preprocessing: Each video is sampled at a fixed frame rate. Selected frames are resized and normalized before being fed into the model.

2) Feature Extraction: The EfficientNet-B7 model, pre-trained on ImageNet, is fine-tuned on a labeled deepfake dataset (e.g., FaceForensics++, Celeb-DF) to learn discriminative features.

These include:
Texture inconsistencies
Blurring around facial boundaries
Unnatural lighting or shading

3) Frame-Level Predictions: The network outputs a prediction score for each frame, indicating the likelihood of manipulation.

Additionally, feature maps from intermediate layers are optionally passed into a secondary classifier (e.g., XGBoost or a shallow MLP) to enhance classification robustness.

C. Temporal Consistency Analysis

Deepfakes often exhibit temporal artifacts due to frame-by-frame generation rather than true motion continuity. To address this, the third module focuses on optical flow-based motion analysis:

1) Optical Flow Estimation: Using Farneback or PWC-Net, the system calculates motion vectors between consecutive frames.

2) Motion Discontinuity Detection: In genuine videos, motion flows smoothly across frames. Deepfakes may introduce jerky, inconsistent motion, particularly in facial regions. These inconsistencies are quantified through statistical deviations in optical flow magnitude and direction.

3) Temporal Aggregation: A sequence-level anomaly score is generated by aggregating motion inconsistencies over time, helping detect manipulations even if frame-level anomalies are subtle.

In extended setups, Temporal Convolutional Networks (TCNs) or Video Transformers can be used to model long-term temporal patterns for increased accuracy.

D. Fusion and Decision Layer

The outputs of all three modules—behavioral anomalies, visual feature predictions, and temporal motion inconsistencies—are fused at the decision level.

1) Score Normalization: All module outputs are normalized to a common scale.
2) Weighted Fusion: A weighted ensemble approach combines the module scores to yield a final confidence score.
3) Thresholding: The final score is compared against a calibrated threshold to classify the video as real or deepfake.

Optionally, explainable AI techniques such as Grad-CAM can be used on the EfficientNet output to highlight suspicious regions, adding interpretability to the system.

E. Workflow

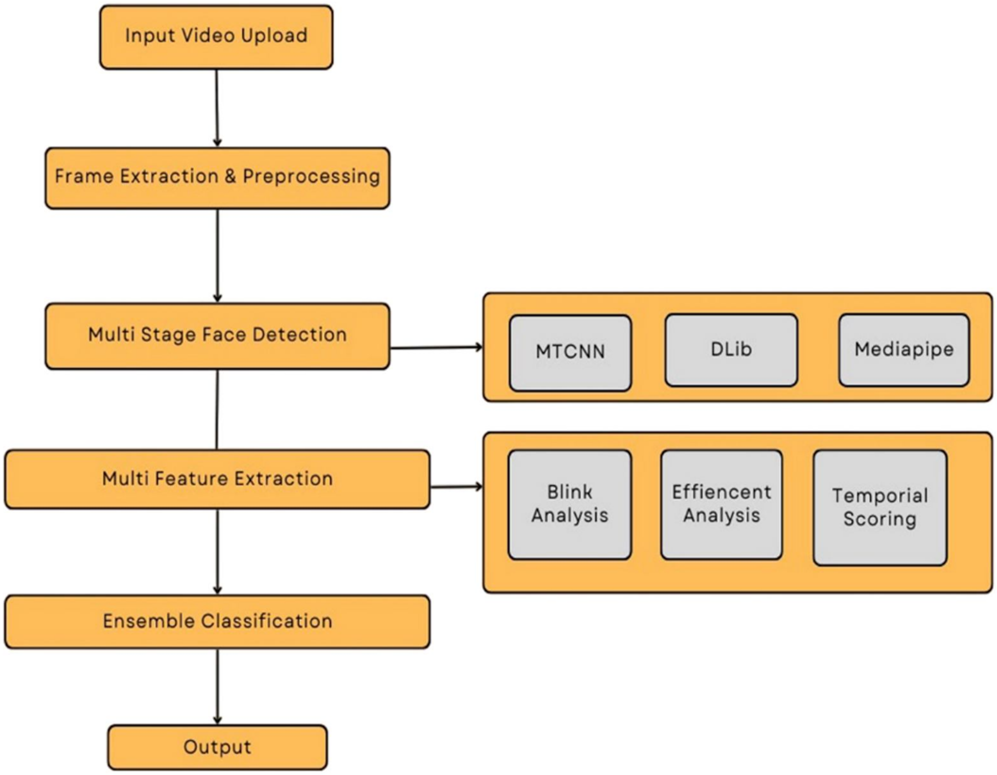


Fig 1.The overall workflow of the model

F. Steps

- Input: Raw video
- Preprocessing: Frame extraction, resizing, and landmark detection
- Parallel Analysis:
  - Behavioral cue extraction (blinking analysis)
  - Visual frame analysis (EfficientNet-B7)
  - Temporal motion tracking (optical flow)
- Fusion: Combination of multi-modal outputs
- Output: Deepfake probability score and binary classification

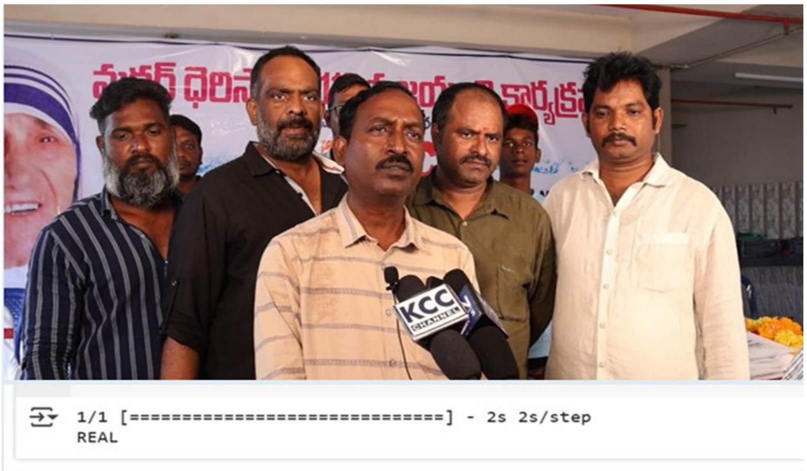
This integrated, modular approach is designed to improve the generalizability of the detection system across varied deepfake types and datasets, while maintaining efficiency and real-time capability.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To assess the effectiveness of the proposed hybrid deepfake detection system, a comprehensive set of experiments was conducted using benchmark datasets containing both authentic and manipulated video samples. The evaluation metrics included accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, which collectively provide a well-rounded view of system performance in detecting both true positives (deepfakes) and true negatives (real content).

The proposed system achieved an overall accuracy of 91.2%, outperforming several baseline and traditional methods that rely solely on visual or temporal features. The precision and recall values were recorded at 89.5% and 92.8% respectively, resulting in a balanced and high F1-score of 91.1%. These results validate the efficiency of the multi-modal approach in capturing a wide spectrum of manipulation traces.A breakdown of module-wise contributions revealed that:

- The behavioral analysis module (particularly eye-blinking patterns) effectively flagged videos with poorly modeled physiological behaviors, contributing significantly to early detection.
- The EfficientNet-B7-based visual feature extractor proved highly sensitive to subtle spatial inconsistencies, such as blurred regions and unnatural textures commonly found in deepfakes.
- The temporal consistency module, using optical flow analysis, was particularly effective in identifying unnatural motion patterns in videos generated frame-by-frame.



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1/1 [==============================] - 2s 2s/step
REAL
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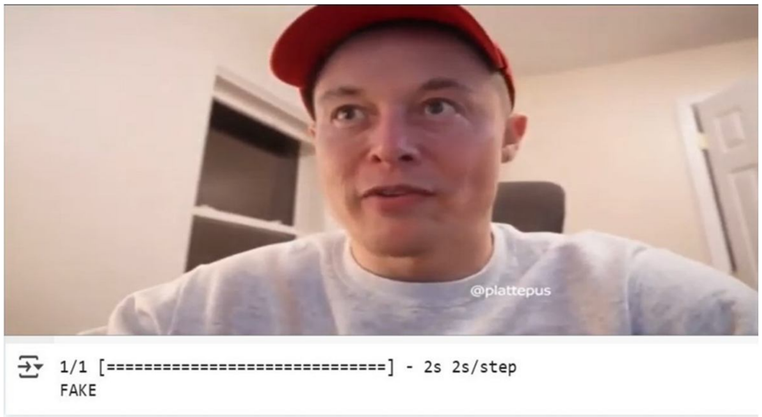
Fig 2. A REAL video correctly predicted, proving that the model avoids false positives and maintains high precision.



```
1/1 [==============================] - 2s 2s/step
FAKE
```

Fig 3.The video was correctly classified as FAKE, showcasing the model’s ability to identify facial manipulations using visual, blink-lip, and optical flow features.

Importantly, the system showed strong generalizability across different deepfake types, including:

- Face swaps (e.g., DeepFaceLab, FaceSwap)
- Expression manipulations
- Voice synthesis and lip-sync videos

The integration of diverse detection strategies allowed the system to adapt to different manipulation techniques, demonstrating robustness against adversarial variations and post-processing effects (such as compression, scaling, or slight occlusions).

Furthermore, the system maintained low false-positive rates, avoiding the misclassification of real content—an essential characteristic for deployment in real-world media forensics, journalism, and law enforcement settings.

V. CONCLUSION

The proposed hybrid deepfake detection framework represents a significant step forward in the ongoing battle against synthetic media manipulation. By intelligently integrating behavioral analysis, deep visual feature extraction, and temporal consistency checks, the system addresses the shortcomings of unimodal approaches and delivers a comprehensive, high-performing detection solution.

The experimental results affirm that this multi-modal architecture not only achieves high accuracy (91.2%), but also exhibits strong resilience across a variety of deepfake styles and generation methods. The framework's ability to capture both low-level pixel anomalies and high-level human behavioral inconsistencies provides a powerful defense against evolving deepfake technologies.

This study underscores the importance of using biologically inspired and temporally aware strategies in combination with modern deep learning techniques to strengthen media verification tools. The modular design of the system also enables future extensions and fine-tuning, enhancing its applicability in diverse operational environments.

Future Scope

1) While the current system shows promising results, several directions are proposed for future enhancement:
2) Real-time performance optimization: Reducing inference time and computational load to enable deployment on mobile or edge devices.
3) Audio-visual fusion: Incorporating voiceprint analysis and speech-lip sync verification to detect multimodal deepfakes more effectively.
4) Domain adaptation: Improving generalization by training on a wider array of synthetic media generated by the latest GAN and transformer-based models.
5) Explainability: Introducing interpretable AI techniques (e.g., saliency maps, Grad-CAM) to provide visual insights into the system’s predictions, fostering trust and transparency in forensic settings.

In conclusion, the proposed framework lays a solid foundation for building robust, extensible, and real-world-ready deepfake detection systems—a crucial step toward safeguarding the integrity of digital information in the age of synthetic media.

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