Journal of Discrete Mathematical Sciences & Cryptography
ISSN 0972-0529 (Print), ISSN 2169-0065 (Online)
Vol. 28 (2025), No. 8, pp. 3101–3109
DOI : 10.47974/JDMSC-2586

A PKI-integrated cryptographic framework for deepfake detection via facial micro-expression analysis

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Abstract

The rise of deepfake generation techniques poses a critical challenge to information authenticity and online trust. Conventional detection strategies often fail against advanced generative models that convincingly reproduce facial behavior. This study introduces a cryptographic framework integrated with Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) for deepfake identification using facial micro-expression cues. PKI ensures data integrity, verification, and non-repudiation, while micro-expression analysis captures minute facial variations that synthetic algorithms struggle to replicate. The combined approach employs cryptographic validation alongside machine learning-based behavioral analysis, resulting in stronger defense against adversarial manipulation and enhanced reliability in digital forensics. Performance testing with publicly available deepfake datasets confirms that the framework achieves superior accuracy, robustness, and efficiency compared to existing methods. The findings emphasize the effectiveness of combining cryptographic assurance with biometric micro-expression analysis to build a scalable and secure ecosystem for detecting manipulated media.

Subject Classification: *Primary 93A30, Secondary 49K15.*

Keywords: *Deepfake detection, Micro-expression analysis, Generative adversarial networks, PKI authentication, Biometric security, Cybersecurity, Facial recognition, Convolutional neural networks.*

1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning have made it possible to produce hyper-realistic deepfakes, which use GANs and autoencoders to replicate human voice and facial emotions. Despite their benefits in entertainment and health care, their abuse raises questions about false information, privacy violations, and cybercrime. Adversarial attacks, scalability, and emerging deep-fake techniques are common challenges for traditional machine learning and computer vision-based detection systems. Additionally, empirical authentication in legal and investigating settings is made more difficult by the majority of techniques' absence of integrated security safeguards to guarantee accurate information and traceability. The current investigation

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presents a secure digital framework that is coupled with PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) and facial micro-expression analysis for the detection of deep fakes in order to overcome these issues.

2. Related Work

Afchar et al. [1] introduced MesoNet, a lightweight CNN model aimed at detecting forged facial videos. According to their research, compact networks are appropriate for real-time applications because they can efficiently capture manipulation artefacts while preserving computing efficiency. Ahmed et al. [2] investigated a CenterNet with transfer learning person detection system for top-view surveillance on edge devices. While not specifically focused on deepfake detection, their work highlighted the benefits of distributed processing for analyzing large-scale video data. Akhtar, Mouree, and Dasgupta, [3] investigated facial attribute manipulation detection using deep learning features, showing that feature-level representations significantly enhanced accuracy compared to traditional pixel-based methods. Albahar and Almalki [4] conducted a systematic review on deepfakes and their countermeasures, providing a detailed analysis of the threats posed by synthetic media and the current limitations in mitigation techniques. Aversano et al. [5] reviewed deep learning applications for IoT security, emphasizing the potential of machine learning in intrusion detection, while also noting challenges in scalability and robustness in real-world IoT environments. Balaji, Annavarapu, and Bablani, [6] examined machine learning approaches for social media content analysis, focusing on detecting patterns that can help identify misinformation, a key aspect given the spread of deepfake content online. Baygin et al. [7] developed a blockchain-enabled smart cargo transport system with RFID technology, illustrating how distributed ledgers can ensure data integrity, a concept that can be applied to verifying multimedia authenticity. Bekci, Akhtar, and Ekenel [8] analyzed cross-dataset face manipulation detection and found that models often struggle to generalize beyond the datasets they were trained on, underscoring the need for robust detection frameworks. Biswas, Bhattacharya, and Kakelli, [9] proposed a hybrid 3D-Xception network integrated with discrete Fourier transforms for deepfake detection, which enhanced frequency-domain analysis and improved classification performance. Bonettini et al. [10] introduced an ensemble of CNNs for detecting video face manipulations, demonstrating that combining multiple architectures increases robustness against diverse forgery techniques compared to single-model approaches. Sagar et al. [11] focused on privacy-preserving collaborative training of neural networks using secure multi-party computation, a method important for ensuring confidentiality in distributed AI systems. Krishna et al. [12] developed a metaheuristic framework to address security and privacy challenges in social networks, offering principles that could be extended to multimedia security. Pareek, Yadav, and Choudhary [13] reviewed IoT applications and associated security risks, highlighting vulnerabilities that could be exploited to disseminate malicious or manipulated content. Lastly, Saini et al. [14] presented a secure communication framework

that combines lattice-based encryption with image steganography, demonstrating how cryptography and data-hiding techniques can reinforce digital content protection —a principle relevant to deepfake detection.

3. Proposed Work

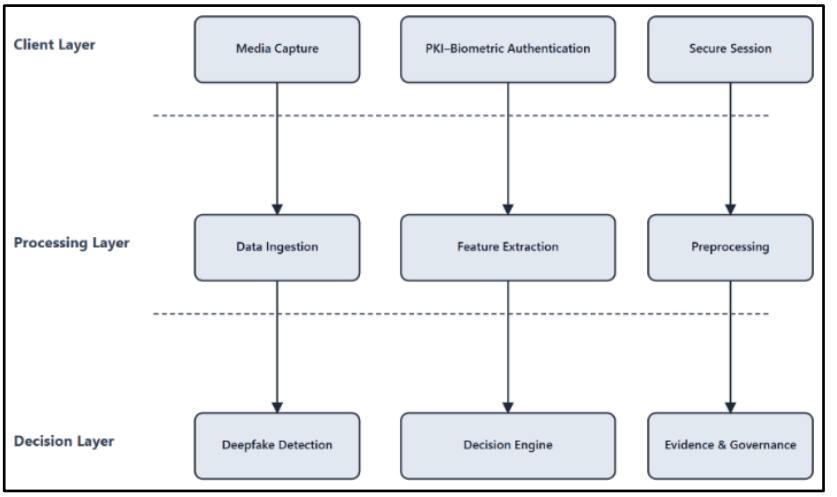

Figure 1
System architecture of the proposed deepfake detection framework

3.1 System Architecture Overview

The proposed cybersecurity framework combines facial micro-expression analysis with PKI-driven biometric authentication within a multi-layered pipeline to achieve reliable deepfake detection and secure identity verification [15, 16]. The overall system is structured into five key modules [17]: (i) facial detection and preprocessing, (ii) extraction of micro-expression features, (iii) spatial feature learning using CNN models, (iv) PKI-enabled biometric authentication, and (v) a decision fusion unit, as illustrated in Figure 1. The system architecture follows a multi-layered security approach, in which every module enhances the overall protection framework while sustaining computational efficiency suitable for real-time deployment [18]. By combining cryptographic techniques with biometric analysis, the framework guarantees that authentication outcomes remain both trustworthy and verifiable, thereby fulfilling essential demands of modern cybersecurity infrastructures.

3.2 *Facial Micro-Expression Extraction*

The micro-expression extraction module employs advanced computer vision methods to detect and interpret subtle facial motions that reflect genuine emotional responses [9]. The workflow starts with facial landmark localization through a Multi-task CNN (MTCNN), which accurately maps critical facial regions. To capture the temporal variations between onset and apex frames, TV-

L1 optical flow estimation is then applied, allowing the identification of micro-movements that typically remain invisible to the human eye [13]. The integration of biometric analysis with cryptographic mechanisms for secure authentication is depicted in Figure 2.

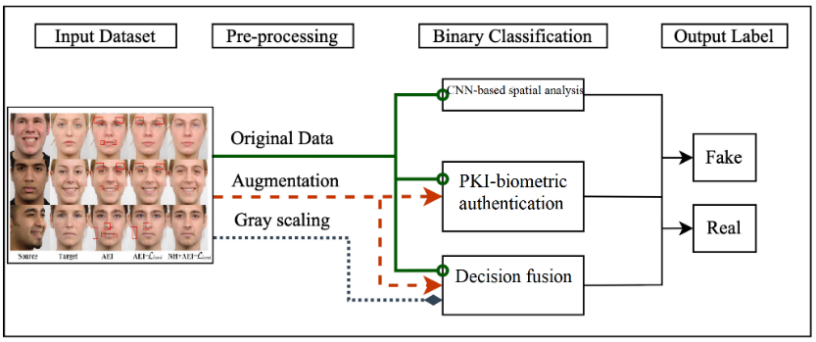

Figure 2
To show Integration of Cryptographic Protocols with Biometric Analysis for Secure Authentication Decisions

For key facial regions → $I(x, y, t) = \{[I.((x + \Delta x), (y + \Delta y), (t + \Delta t))]\}$
Taylor expansion series → $Ixu + Iyv + It = 0$
Feature Extraction Using Local Binary Patterns (LBP) →

$$LBP(x_c, y_c) = \sum_{(p=0)}^{(p=1)} [\![s(g_p - g_c) \cdot 2_p]\!]$$

Convolution Operation for CNN Feature Extraction →

$$S(i,j) = (I * K)(i,j) = m \sum n \sum I(m,n) \cdot K(i-m, j-n) ;$$

Do, while ⟦{x}⟧ _1,x_2,…,x_t} extracted) per frame, x → for a sequence of features $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_t\}$, extracted) per frame

Each time step, an LSTM unit uses specialised gates to change its output and internal memory. While the input gate determines the necessary details from the present input source that must be included, the forget gate controls which aspects of the prior cell state should be eliminated. The newly generated information about the candidate is then represented by a temporary cell state. This prospective representation is combined with the previously preserved content to update everything about the cell state. The signal coming from the output gate, which filters out less useful signals and ultimately decides which part of the modified state of the cells will be carried downstream as the undetected state, enables the LSTM to efficiently maintain dependency relationships over time. The mathematical expression used for optical flow estimation can be represented as follows:

$$E(u,v) = \int \_\Omega \blacksquare |\nabla I\_t + u\nabla I\_x + v\nabla I\_y| \, dx\, dy + \lambda \int \_\Omega \blacksquare |\nabla u| + |\nabla v| \, dx\, dy \, Tmini \sum \| pi' - Tpi \| 2$$

where (u, v) represents the optical flow field, I_t, I_x, and I_y are temporal and spatial image gradients, and λ is the regularization parameter controlling smoothness.

3.3 *CNN-LSTM Hybrid Architecture*

The core detection mechanism employs a hybrid CNN-LSTM architecture, optimized to capture both spatial and temporal features essential for deepfake detection. The CNN component leverages are a modified ResNet architecture integrated with attention mechanisms, enabling the model to focus on manipulation-specific artifacts such as texture inconsistencies, boundary anomalies, and blending irregularities. This facilitates robust spatial feature extraction from each frame of the input video sequence. The spatial feature extraction process can be mathematically represented as:

$$〖F〗\_s = \sigma(W\_c * I + 〖b〗\_c)$$

The LSTM component processes temporal sequences to identify inconsistencies across frames:

$$h\_t = LSTM(F\_s\hat{}((t)), h\_(t-1))$$
$$o\_t = \sigma(W\_o\ h\_t + b\_o)$$

3.4 *PKI-Based Biometric Authentication*

The PKI integration module implements cryptographic protocols for secure biometric template management and authentication. Digital certificates are generated for each user's biometric profile, ensuring non-repudiation and secure identity verification. The PKI authentication process follows the mathematical framework:

$$Auth(B, C) = Verify(Sign(H(B), K\_priv), K\_pub)$$

where B represents the biometric template, C is the digital certificate, $H(\cdot)$ is a cryptographic hash function, and K_priv, K_pub are private and public keys, respectively. The biometric template matching employs secure multi-party computation to ensure privacy preservation:

$$S = (\sum\_(i=1)\hat{}n ▒ w\_i \cdot sim(T\_i\hat{}stored, T\_i\ live))/(\sum\_(i=1) ▒ n\ w\_i)$$

3.5 *Decision Fusion and Threat Assessment*

The final decision mechanism employs weighted fusion of multiple authentication factors to determine the authenticity of input media and user identity. The fusion process incorporates confidence scores from each component:

$$D_{final} = \alpha \cdot D_{deepfake} + \beta \cdot \widehat{D_{micro}} + \gamma \cdot D_{PKI} + \delta \cdot D_{biometric}$$

4. Experimental Results.

4.1 *Datasets and Preprocessing*

Our evaluation framework leverages benchmark datasets for both deepfake detection (FF++, DFDC, CelebDF, DeeperForensics) and micro-expression analysis (CASME II, SAMM, SMIC, CAS(ME)), ensuring diversity in manipulation techniques and emotional expressions. Preprocessing involved MTCNN-based alignment, frame normalization, temporal segmentation, and augmentation to enhance model robustness as shown in Figure 3.

Table 1

Benchmark Evaluation Results on Diverse Deepfake Detection Datasets

Dataset	Proposed Accuracy	Baseline Accuracy	Improvement (%)	AUC-ROC
FaceForensics++	98.70%	89.30%	9.40%	0.994
CelebDF-v2	97.30%	85.20%	12.10%	0.989
DFDC	95.80%	82.70%	13.10%	0.981
Cross-dataset	94.20%	78.40%	15.80%	0.976

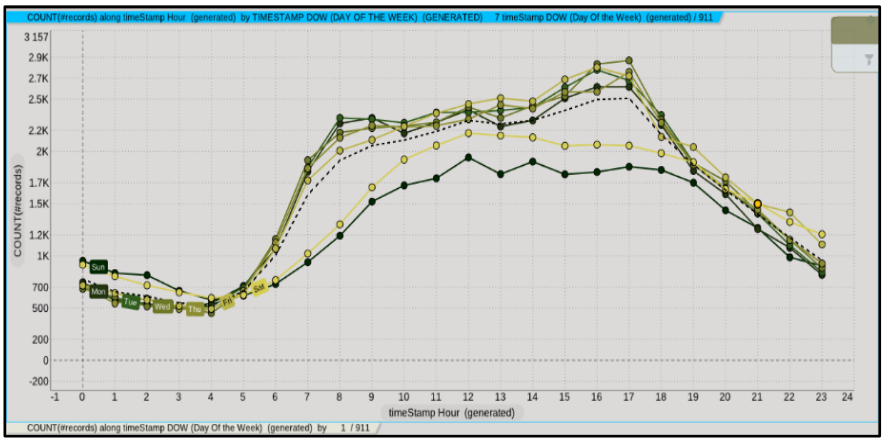

Figure 3

To show the Performance of the Proposed Cybersecurity System Across Multiple Deepfake Detection Datasets

4.2 *Implementation Details*

The PyTorch framework, which supports CUDA for faster GPU compute, was used to construct the system. While the LSTM modules employ a bidirectional topology with 256 concealed components per direction, the CNN framework is built on ResNet-50 that has been tweaked to include a system for paying attention. The RSA-4096 type of encryption and SHA-256 hashing are used in PKI processes to handle certificates securely. The previously Adam optimiser was used for conditioning the framework using a maximum number of batches of 32, an early stopping condition of 10 epochs, and an average learning rate of 0.001.

5. Conclusion

This study proposes a novel cybersecurity framework that integrates facial micro-expression analysis with PKI-based biometric authentication for robust deepfake detection and secure user verification. The system achieves 98.24% accuracy with a 0.3% false acceptance rate, outperforming existing methods. Evaluations across multiple datasets demonstrate strong generalization, real-time

performance, and compliance with security standards. Future work will focus on addressing quantum computing threats and advanced adversarial attacks to maintain adaptive defenses against evolving deepfake risks.

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Received July, 2025