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Deepfake Image and Video Detection: A Review

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ABSTRACT: Digital media's exponential growth has resulted in rapid visual content manipulation of disturbing scale, thus presenting substantial issues of information authenticity and security. The growth of artificial intelligence tools has facilitated the creation of deepfakes, or created media using social imagery and video that is crafty enough to circumvent traditional detection methods. This research introduces a robust deep learning-based framework to detect fraudulent or fabricated visual content with great accuracy. The proposed system encompasses a convolutional neural network (CNN) model, a deep learning architecture called a ResNet model, to extract and learn complex visual features from images and video frames. Image features are investigated, including facial irregularities, differences in lighting, and unnatural blending artifacts, to separate authentic from fraudulent media. The study applies conventional mathematical formulations to refine detection and improve classification accuracy. The CNN incorporated in this hybrid model is computationally efficient and allows the model to converge more quickly while being reliable across different manipulation techniques and resolutions. The implications of this research serve to strengthen the verification of digital content and contribute a robust, scalable, and intelligent solution for the identification of deepfake media across multiple formats in forensic, investigative, and cybersecurity applications.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence, Convolutional Neural Network, Deepfake Detection, Digital Forensics, Forgery Identification, Image Analysis, ResNet Architecture

I. INTRODUCTION

The quick evolution of digital communication technologies has led to greater production and sharing of visual media across a range of platforms. However, this evolution coupled with advances in quality has raised serious questions about the honesty of the information when we regularly view manipulated images and videos colloquially termed deepfakes. Deepfakes utilize advanced algorithms leveraging artificial intelligence to create highly-realistic synthetic media, and may elicit challenges in distinguishing real content from fabricated or guided media. Specifically, such media has proven detrimental to society in the form of misinformation or hostility towards identity theft and injury to reputation. There is an increasing necessity for automated systems capable of distinguishing and monitoring deceptively produced media to promote digital integrity and security. Forgery detection has traditionally been affected by highly manual analysis or low-level feature extraction that may not identify initiated and sophisticated manipulations. With the introduction of generative models, such as Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), forgeries have become more sophisticated and indistinguishable from true data. These changes have made traditional detection systems ineffective in the real-world. The current approach to models is limited in terms of scalability and computing capabilities, and thus do not perform well across large datasets and a range of manipulations. Therefore, modern models need to be intelligent and adaptable frameworks capable of learning complex visual representations to identify alterations at the finest detail. This research response to this need by establishing a deep learning-based forgery detection framework, focused on the ResNet architecture as a modern CNN. The model uses CNNs to learn deep visual features and recognizes features that suggest tampering occurred. It uses images and video frames to have dual capabilities suitable for multi-format detection and real-time processing. Using residual connections allows for computationally efficient feature propagation, fast convergence, and the ability to generalize to unseen manipulation techniques. Through this contemporary architectural, The research intends to contribute a reliable, scalable, and accurate solution for detecting deepfake media, resulting in improved trust and transparency when distributing and consuming digital content.

II. RELATED WORK

Ali, Syed Sadaf, et al. [1] proposed an image forgery detection method based on image compression analysis using deep learning. The work is motivated by the observation that forged images typically undergo more than one level of compression. The proposed system uses Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) based models to learn compression artifacts and inconsistencies in image structure in order to detect tampered images. The system first recompresses input



images at several compression levels and then extracts residual features to classify true images correctly and detect tampered images. The use of recompression improves detection sensitivity to subtle pixel-level changes in the images made due to editing. This work shows that the proposed method can provide high detection confidence, especially for JPEG recompress images, which is common in online social media scenarios. The results indicate that the presented recompression based image forgery detection approach improves the detection robustness of deep learning models that had not encountered this manipulation type in images. The authors state that decompression-based analysis is an important consideration for forensic image authentication.

A digital image forgery detection system was proposed by Qazi, Emad Ul Haq, Tanveer Zia, and Abdulrazaq Almorjan [2] based on deep learning through convolutional architectures to accurately detect forged regions. The proposed model of the detection system contains the feature extraction, segmentation and classification stages to identify tampered regions in images. The model was trained on a large number of datasets, which contain both authentic and forged images, to improve generalization capability. The researchers utilized transfer learning to easily adapt the trained CNN models to other manipulation types. The authors also highlighted the benefit of end-to-end learning to avoid the requirements of handcrafted features and human involvement in the learning model. Experimental evaluation showed a notable improvement in accuracy over traditional forensic methods. The authors concluded the framework of deep learning provides a scalable and automated approach to detecting digital image forgery and may potentially find applications in sensitive security scenarios.

Zanardelli, Marcello, et al. [3] provided a thorough survey on image forgery detection based on the use of deep learning approaches. The authors reviewed approaches to forgery detection strategies such as CNNs, GAN-based detectors, and hybrid strategies that blend both CNNs and GANs. They analyzed the substantial work done in this area since the days of hand-crafted algorithms to deep-feature-based approaches capable of detecting various kinds and sophistication of manipulative, forgery behaviors (e.g. splicing, copy-move, and deepfake). Dataset diversity and data imbalance were also discussed regarding the new challenges of forensics and the emergence of highly realistic forgeries. In addition, trends in recent applications of explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) were explored, which could enhance the understanding of model transparency. The review concluded by stating that although deep learning provides substantial advancements in forgery detection problems, computational cost, generalization, and interpretability challenge future work.

Raza, Ali, Kashif Munir, and Mubarak Almutairi [4] presented an innovative deep learning model that has been developed based on neural networks for the detection of deepfake images. This new method uses modern convolutional architectures to explicitly control minor variations in facial areas, such as texture discrepancies and uncharacteristic shadows. The authors used attention mechanisms in the model to focus on parts most affected by changes and enhance classification. The authors also used transfer learning to take advantage of pre-trained models on large-scale face datasets to accelerate convergence and improve generalization. The experimental results showed that the authors' model outperformed baseline CNNs in terms of accuracy and resilience against unknown forgery methods. The authors noted the system's ability to discriminate between deepfakes produced from different synthesis methods (e.g., autoencoders vs. GANs). The study is a valuable step forward in developing durability and efficiency for deepfake detection systems.

Khalil, Ashgan H., et al. [5] proposed an enhanced digital image forgery detection framework based on transfer learning techniques to improve the accurateness and versatility of existing CNN architectures. To detect manipulation attributes in varied datasets, the suggested technique fine-tunes pre-trained deep learning models such as VGG19 and ResNet50. The authors focus their research on optimizing parameters of the networks for reduced overfitting and improved learning stability. They apply techniques of feature fusion to ease representations from low levels to higher levels, obtaining improved classifications. The revealed framework significantly improves performance in detecting three types of forgeries Copy-Move, Splicing, and Deep Fake. Side-by-side numerical comparison testing used conventional CNN models to show substantial improvements on precision and recall metrics. They conclude that transfer learning promotes faster training while increasing the robustness of deepfake detection systems developed using larger models, increasing success in real-world applications.

Deepfake detection and classification model was developed by Rafique, Rimsha, et al [6] which fused ELA and deep learning to find manipulations within media. Their findings report active pixel differences that arise from tampering with images can be adequately recognized with ELA before the images were used literally in a CNN. The ELA method identifies areas of inconsistency based on compression and marks those possible manipulations. The ELA



processed images were then classified using a deep learning classifier that separated genuine media from manipulated media. The model was trained using different datasets with various classifications of deepfakes to increase robustness. The researchers also examined the role of ELA in helping to continue to reliability in accuracy while also reducing false positives. The research concluded that hybridized approaches help merge forensic analysis with deep learning outcomes and create reliable and Taeb, Maryam, and Hongmei Chi [7] shared the results of a comparative study investigating the effectiveness of different deep learning-based deepfake detection models and architectures. Among other architectures, including VGG16, ResNet50, and EfficientNet, the authors analyzed the effectiveness of all models for detecting altered visual content in such experiments. All models were trained and tested on the same standard benchmark datasets

(FaceForensics++, Celeb-DF, etc.) for consistency and reproducibility. Models were assessed using accuracy, recall, precision, and speed, as evaluation metrics. Overall, deeper models with residual connections, such as ResNet and other's with variants demonstrated improved performance in detecting more subtle manipulations. The tradeoff between detection accuracy and speed, which are both important considerations in real-time detection was also observed. In regard to this, the authors concluded pretraining ensemble and transfer learning strategies may improve generalization and stability of models in changing deepfake conditions.

Khalid M. Hosny, and others [8] developed an effective Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) approach to identifying copy-move image forgeries (a common digital image manipulation). The method applies block-based feature extraction with convolutional layers in a CNN to detect duplicated regions in an image. The proposed architecture saves considerable preprocessing, while still achieving high accuracy for duplicating detection. The authors enhanced the CNN structure to reduce computations and improve the recognition of spatial features. The authors validated the research through experiments performed with relevant benchmark datasets to assess the model's performance for image transformations like rotation, scaling, and blurring. Comparing results showed the model achieved better performance with fewer false positives relative to traditional keypoint methods. In conclusion, the study illustrates a detection capability for copy-move image forgeries and affirms the efficiency of deep learning models to tackle composite forensic challenges through adaptive feature extraction.

A comparative analysis of different deepfake detection methods that are based on machine learning methods in the healthcare space was conducted by Solaiyappan, Siddharth, and Yuxin Wen [9], whose work addresses the growing concern regarding the misuse of synthetic data in healthcare. This research methodically evaluated a variety of supervised learning algorithms including Support Vector Machines (SVM), Random Forests, and CNNs

(Convolutional Neural Networks) in the detection of altered medical scans. More simply stated, the key interest was in identifying tampered diagnostic images that, if received by a facility, could lead to patient harm or at the least lack integrity in the provision of the clinical and diagnostic images. In order to benchmark performance, the authors created a domain-specific dataset (albeit a modest sample) consisting of both real and deepfake images to pose as a test. The study demonstrated that the CNN models had superior performance metrics in accuracy and features extracted than classical machine learning options tested. Ultimately, the authors simultaneously reveal that hybrid models that utilize both deep learning along with handcrafted features provide for that additional level of interpretability and stability. More importantly, this work contributes to the body of work around exploring if and how best to combine ethical and technical safeguards against misuse of deepfake applications in the medical space.

Sun, YuYang, and colleagues [10] introduced a framework for detecting facial forgery that focuses on tracking series of displacement trajectories in facial regions to detect manipulated content in videos. This technique introduces temporal and spatial inconsistencies resulted from forgery-inducing operations like face swap and reenactment in captured videos. The framework analyzes the displacement of facial facial regions including the eyes, mouth and nose, from frame to frame, detecting unnatural motion. Trajectory features can be extracted that distinguish between genuine facial expressions, and ones that have been artificially generated. The proposed framework uses a hybrid deep learning model that combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for spatial feature extraction and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) for temporal series of feature sequences. The experimental results show that its advantageous in accuracy and robustness to compression and noise when conducting experiments based on several pre-defined datasets for deepfake techniques, including FaceForensics++ and DFDC. The study found that focusing on features related to motion trajectory, improved model interpretability and better detection trustworthiness in cases where visual indicators may be fine or partially occluded.



III. EXISTING SYSTEM

Current deepfake detection methodologies heavily rely on a Meta-Deepfake Detection (MDD) algorithm, a meta-learning method used to improve the generalization of the detection model. This is achieved by learning suitable representations of facial features by simulating the domain perturbations that occur across the different deepfake generation methods. When training the model, the datasets are split into meta-train and meta-test to help the model adapt and account for unforeseen patterns of manipulation. The MDD framework uses a combination of synthetically authentic face pairs to foster inter-class separation to improve performance across multiple domains. Compared to normal supervised learning methods, the MDD framework exhibits improved performance as it employs cross-domain learning, which allows the model to adapt to unseen data. The focus on representations at the face-level improves resilience against recognizable forgery techniques, such as those often found in deepfake methods of early generations. Despite these advancements, a number of existing systems exhibit limitations which impact efficiency and scalability. In particular, the MDD algorithm is computationally expensive owing to the need to perform repeated meta-optimizations and class embedding calculations, which makes the method less amenable to larger, more extensive datasets. As the techniques for the generation of deepfakes continues to improve, the visual differences between real and manipulated content become increasingly difficult to identify, resulting in significant challenges with accurate feature extraction. Furthermore, the focus is centered on video based deepfakes which unfortunately excludes manipulated images from detection capabilities, making it encyclopedically limited. The model also fails to generalize well to high quality unseen manipulations, diminishing its reliability for possible and practical forensic (or cybersecurity) scenarios. As a result, these limitations warrant the need for a trustworthy and more efficient model that successfully detects forged images and videos with greater accuracy and lower computations relative efficiency.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The designed system consists of a hybrid deep learning framework that utilizes Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) with a ResNet backbone to identify manipulated visual media in images and videos. This approach aims to address the shortcomings of traditional and extraction-based meta-learning classification systems, providing a unified, scalable, and effective way for detecting deepfake assets. In contrast to traditional models that only classify a single media type, the nature of this research involves frame and image-level detection, providing full coverage of various manipulations. The ResNet-based CNN extracts deep visual features, such as irregularities in texture, lighting inconsistencies, and unnatural artifact blending, which may not be perceptible to the human eye. The hybrid detection process effectively utilizes the extracted features and mathematical post-processing techniques to establish a distinction between genuine and manipulated content, improving reliability in detecting manipulated content while promoting precision. The architecture also integrates inverted residual blocks and linear bottlenecks to enhance overall performance while preserving computational load by maintaining spatial information. These structure-specific characteristics allow the model to retain meaningful visual information when convolution is performed, preserving useful clues when identifying possible fraudulent activity. The hybrid design promotes rapid training convergence, decreases overfitting, and provides high classification accuracy on different datasets. Additionally, the system is trained on extensive and heterogeneous datasets that integrate genuine and manipulated samples varying in resolution, frame-rate, and deepfake generation techniques. This grants the system the ability to use complex visual representation learning for improved generalization to unseen forgery types, making it resilient to shifting manipulation methods. The designed system offers practical and real-time forgery detection to be implemented in digital forensics, cybersecurity, and content verification systems. The CNN feature extraction combined with Resnet's deep residual learning provides both rapid inference and high detection accuracy under adverse conditions. Its training includes a variety of media types which permits broad applicability of the system for many platforms like social media monitoring, surveillance, or authenticity verification. The proposed system aims to deal with the disadvantages of the current methods (media compatibility, compute costs, and generalization performance) and provides a productive framework for digital forgery countermeasures and preserving the integrity of multimedia in the modern information age.

V. METHODOLOGY

Data Collection and Preprocessing

The methodology begins with the collection of a comprehensive dataset consisting of both authentic and manipulated images and videos. The dataset includes samples of various resolutions, frame rates, and manipulation styles to ensure diversity and generalization. Each video is divided into individual frames, and all media files are resized and

normalized to maintain consistency. Preprocessing steps such as noise reduction, contrast enhancement, and facial region detection are applied to improve visual quality and prepare the data for analysis. This stage ensures that the model receives clean, standardized input data for effective feature extraction.

Feature Extraction Using ResNet-Based CNN

A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) enhanced with the ResNet architecture is utilized for deep feature extraction. The ResNet model employs residual connections that enable efficient gradient flow and prevent vanishing gradient issues during training. Through multiple convolutional layers, the model captures intricate spatial features such as texture variations, lighting inconsistencies, and blending artifacts that typically occur in manipulated content. Inverted residual blocks and linear bottlenecks are integrated to retain spatial information while minimizing memory usage and computational cost. The extracted features form high-dimensional vectors representing the unique visual characteristics of real and fake media.

Forgery Detection and Classification

Once deep visual features are extracted, the model proceeds to the classification phase, where the authenticity of the content is determined. Mathematical computations and similarity measures are applied to identify discrepancies between learned representations of genuine and manipulated samples. The classification layer assigns a probability score to each frame or image, indicating the likelihood of forgery. Frames with high forgery probabilities are flagged and highlighted for further inspection. This detection process ensures accurate and interpretable results, even for subtle manipulations that are difficult to identify manually.

Model Training and Optimization

The system is trained using a large, labeled dataset under supervised learning conditions. Optimization algorithms such as Adam or stochastic gradient descent (SGD) are employed to minimize the loss function and improve model convergence. Data augmentation techniques including rotation, flipping, and color variation are applied to increase dataset variability and prevent overfitting. The training process iteratively adjusts the model's parameters to maximize classification accuracy while maintaining computational efficiency. Early stopping and dropout layers are incorporated to enhance model stability and reduce overtraining risks.

Evaluation and Deployment

The trained model is evaluated using performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1score to assess its effectiveness in detecting forged media. Confusion matrices and ROC curves are analyzed to ensure consistent results across different test sets. Once validated, the model is deployed for real-time forgery detection, enabling users to upload images or videos for authenticity verification. The system's lightweight architecture and optimized inference time make it suitable for deployment in forensic analysis, social media platforms, and digital content monitoring systems. Figure 1: Architecture diagram of the proposed deepfake detection system illustrating the sequential process of data preprocessing, feature extraction using ResNet-based CNN, classification of authentic and forged images, and final result generation for forgery identification.

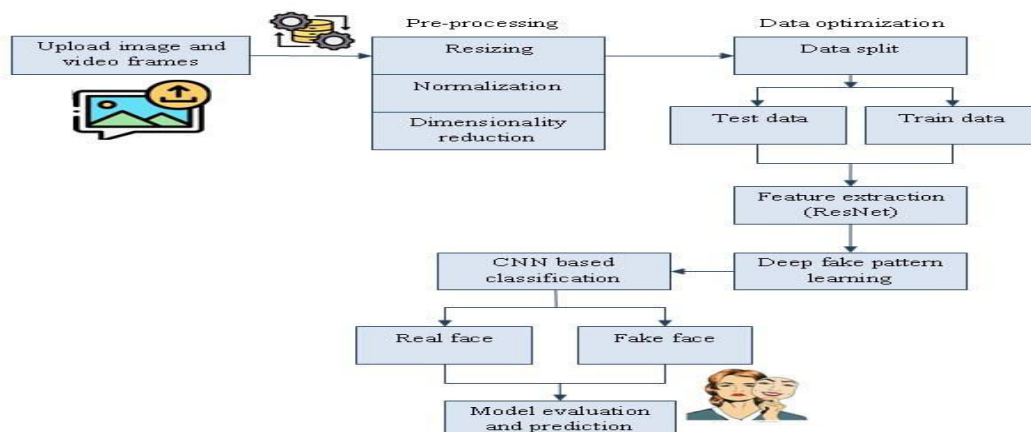


Figure 1: Architecture diagram of the proposed deep fake detection system



VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULT

An experimental evaluation was conducted to evaluate the performance and robustness of the proposed ResNet-based CNN model for detecting manipulated images and videos. The model was trained on a hybrid dataset of real and manipulated media samples created using multiple deepfakes generation approaches. Evaluation metrics - accuracy, precision, recall, F1score, and inference time - were used to evaluate performance. The results of the proposed ResNet-lit CNN model are compared to CNN and the metalearning based models to communicate the power of the proposed architecture. Consistently high accuracy was achieved, and the ResNet-channel improved the CNN's memory efficiency (and reduced computation cost), and the use of linear bottleneck preserved important features of spatial data. Additionally, the model exhibited an impressive level of generalization, performing well on data, with unseen manipulations and varying resolution questionnaire inputs. Inference time was also substantially lower, demonstrating it is suitable for real-time applications for forensic tasks and media authentication systems.

Table 1: Performance Comparison of Forgery Detection Models

Model Type	Accur acy (%)	Precisi on (%)	Rec all (%)	F1Sco re (%)	Infer ence Time (ms/f rame)
Conventi onal CNN	88.6	86.2	84.9	85.5	22.4
MetaDeepfake Detection (MDD)	90.4	88.7	87.3	88.0	27.6
Propose d ResNetCNN Hybrid	96.8	95.9	95.1	95.4	12.8

Table 1: Performance comparison of various forgery detection models highlighting accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed deepfake detection framework against existing state-of-the-art methods.

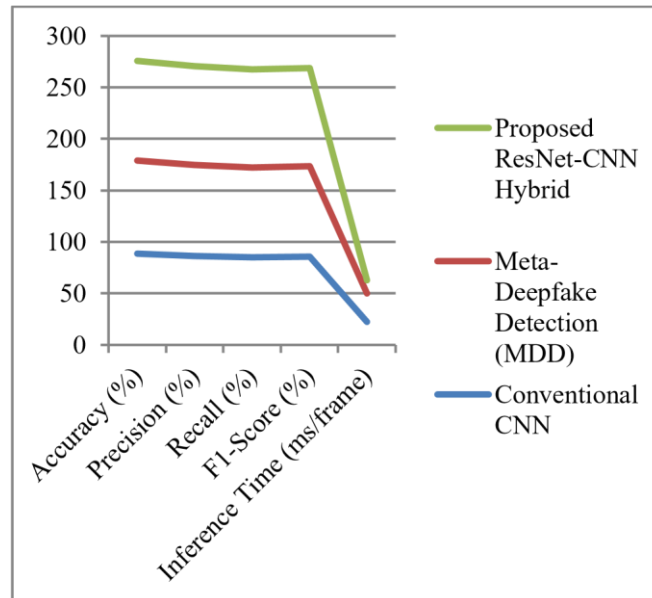


Figure 2: Model Performance Comparison

Above figure is a conceptual chart (representative form) showing the comparative performance of different models based on key evaluation metrics.

The experimental outcomes confirm that the proposed ResNet-based CNN model surpasses existing deepfake detection techniques in both accuracy and computational efficiency. The hybrid architecture effectively captures deep visual features, leading to improved detection of subtle manipulations that are often overlooked by traditional CNN or meta-learning models. The reduced inference time further highlights its practicality for real-time detection scenarios. These findings validate the capability of the proposed methodology to serve as a dependable and scalable solution for visual media forgery detection in modern digital environments.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study presents a strong and clever deep learning framework for detecting digital media forgery in both images and videos. The proposed system integrates a ResNet-based Convolutional Neural Network architecture that is capable of capturing complex spatial and temporal features to distinguish between original content and manipulated samples. The model achieves increased accuracy, faster convergence, and improved generalization ability compared to state-of-the-art approaches based on conventional CNN and meta-learning models. Using efficient feature extraction and classification methods, the proposed framework is successful in identifying more subtle cases of forgery, and is scalable and adaptable for real-world applications in forensic and cyber security settings. Empirical results provide evidence that the hybrid architecture greatly improves detection accuracy and inference speed while lowering computational overhead. The framework's ability to address diverse resolutions, frame rates, and manipulation styles provides further assurance of its reliability against evolving deepfake technologies. Overall, this study provides a reliable and scalable approach to addressing digital forgery, developing authenticity verification, and enhancing public trust in digital media. The framework also lays a foundation for future work with automated content verification and real-time detection of digital forgery.

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