Mrs. A. Daiva Krupa Nirmala, 2026, 14:2
ISSN (Online): 2348-4098
ISSN (Print): 2395-4752

International Journal of Science, Engineering and Technology

An Open Access Journal

Deep Learning-Based Generation and Detection of Face Morphing Attacks for Secure Biometric Authentication

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Abstract- The rapid adoption of biometric authentication systems, particularly facial recognition technologies, has significantly improved identity verification in applications such as border control, digital identity management, and secure access systems. However, these systems remain vulnerable to sophisticated biometric attacks, among which face morphing attacks pose a serious security threat. In a morphing attack, facial images of two or more individuals are digitally combined to create a synthetic image that resembles multiple identities, allowing attackers to bypass biometric verification systems. Detecting such manipulated images is challenging due to variations in illumination, facial expressions, accessories, and image quality. This study proposes a robust deep learning–based framework for the generation and detection of face morphing attacks in biometric systems. The proposed approach integrates an advanced feature extraction mechanism with machine learning–based classification techniques to effectively distinguish between genuine and morphed facial images. To enhance detection performance, image preprocessing and enhancement techniques are incorporated to reduce noise and improve feature representation. Additionally, a diverse morph dataset containing both Morph-2 and Morph-3 images is utilized to simulate realistic morphing attack scenarios and improve model generalization across different facial characteristics. Multiple experimental evaluations are conducted using several publicly available facial image databases. The performance of the proposed model is assessed using evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and detection error rates. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed framework significantly improves morphing attack detection accuracy and provides a reliable defence mechanism for biometric authentication systems. By enhancing detection reliability and robustness, the proposed approach contributes to strengthening the security of modern facial recognition systems against identity fraud and biometric spoofing attacks.

INDEX TERMS: Face Morphing Attack Detection, Biometric Security, Facial Recognition Systems, Deep Learning, Feature Extraction, Image Enhancement, Machine Learning, Morph-2 and Morph-3 Images, Biometric Authentication.

I. INTRODUCTION

The increasing deployment of biometric authentication systems has transformed modern identity verification processes across various sectors, including border control, banking systems, digital identity platforms, and secure access environments. Among different biometric technologies, facial recognition has gained widespread adoption due to its convenience, non-intrusive nature, and high accuracy in verifying human identities. Governments and organizations increasingly rely on facial recognition systems for automated identity verification in e-passports, national identity cards, surveillance systems, and mobile authentication platforms. However, despite their advantages, facial biometric systems remain vulnerable to several security threats that may compromise their reliability and trustworthiness.

One of the most critical threats to facial recognition systems is the face morphing attack, which is a sophisticated biometric spoofing technique designed to deceive identity verification systems. In a morphing attack, images of two or more individuals are digitally combined using morphing algorithms to create a synthetic facial image that resembles multiple identities simultaneously. Such manipulated images may successfully match the biometric features of more than one individual in a facial recognition system. As a result, a morphed image can potentially allow multiple persons to share the same identity document, thereby bypassing security mechanisms in border control systems and identity verification infrastructures [3], [4].

Traditionally, identity verification in biometric systems relied on manual inspection or basic automated matching algorithms to detect suspicious or manipulated images. However, manual inspection is often time-consuming and error-prone, especially when dealing with large-scale identity databases. Furthermore, conventional rule-based detection methods are limited in their ability to identify subtle artifacts introduced during morphing processes. With the growing availability of advanced image editing tools and morphing techniques, detecting such attacks has become increasingly challenging for both human examiners and traditional biometric systems [5], [7].

Recent advancements in machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) have opened new opportunities for detecting biometric spoofing attacks, including face morphing attacks. Machine learning algorithms can learn complex patterns and hidden features from large-scale image datasets, enabling them to differentiate between genuine and morphed facial images. Deep learning techniques, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), have demonstrated remarkable performance in image classification, feature extraction, and anomaly detection tasks. These approaches have been successfully applied in various domains such as medical image analysis, object recognition, and security systems, making them promising candidates for morphing attack detection in biometric applications [8], [11], [13].

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain in developing reliable morphing attack detection systems. Real-world facial image datasets often exhibit variations in illumination, pose, facial expressions, background conditions, and image resolution. These variations can affect feature extraction and reduce the accuracy of detection models. Additionally, many deep learning models function as black-box systems, where the internal decision-making process is difficult to interpret. This lack of transparency can raise concerns regarding trust, explainability, and accountability in security-critical biometric applications [6], [9].

To address these limitations, researchers have increasingly focused on developing explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) techniques that provide insights into how machine learning models make decisions. XAI methods enable researchers and system developers to identify the most influential features contributing to classification outcomes and improve the transparency of biometric security systems. Such interpretability mechanisms are essential for ensuring trust, reliability, and regulatory compliance in AI-driven authentication systems [1], [2], [10], [12].

Motivated by these challenges, this paper proposes a robust machine learning–based framework for the generation and detection of face morphing attacks in facial biometric systems. The proposed framework integrates advanced image preprocessing techniques, feature extraction methods, and machine learning classification models to improve detection accuracy. Additionally, the framework evaluates different detection models using comprehensive performance metrics and incorporates explainability techniques to improve transparency and interpretability.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II reviews existing research related to morphing attack generation and detection techniques. Section III discusses the system analysis, including existing approaches and the proposed detection framework. Section IV presents the system architecture and design methodology. Section V describes the implementation modules used in the proposed system. Section VI presents experimental results and performance evaluation. Finally, Section VII concludes the paper and outlines possible directions for future research.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Recent advancements in biometric authentication technologies have significantly improved identity verification processes in applications such as border security, surveillance systems, and digital identity management. Among various biometric modalities, facial recognition has gained widespread adoption due to its convenience, efficiency, and high recognition accuracy. However, the increasing reliance on facial biometrics has also introduced new security vulnerabilities, particularly biometric spoofing attacks. One of the most challenging forms of such attacks is the face morphing attack, where facial images of multiple individuals are digitally combined to create a synthetic image capable of matching more than one identity in a biometric system. Consequently, researchers have focused on developing robust detection mechanisms to identify morphed facial images and strengthen biometric system security [3], [4].

Ferrara et al. conducted one of the early studies on face morphing attack detection in biometric systems. Their work demonstrated that morphed facial images can successfully bypass automated face recognition systems and even evade human inspection under certain conditions. The study highlighted the potential security risks associated with morphing attacks in electronic passport systems and emphasized the need for automated detection techniques capable of identifying morphing artifacts in facial images [5].

Scherhag et al. investigated the impact of morphing attacks on face recognition systems by analyzing morphing artifacts and biometric matching performance. Their study introduced several morphing detection techniques based on image texture analysis and differential image features. Experimental results showed that texture-based analysis methods could partially identify morphing artifacts; however, their performance was significantly affected by variations in image quality, compression, and illumination conditions [6].

To improve detection performance, Raghavendra et al. proposed the use of machine learning–based classification techniques for morphing attack detection. Their approach utilized feature extraction methods combined with classifiers such as Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Random Forest models to distinguish between genuine and morphed images. The study demonstrated that machine learning techniques could effectively learn discriminative patterns from facial images and achieve higher detection accuracy compared to traditional rule-based methods [7].

More recently, deep learning techniques have been widely applied to face morphing detection due to their strong capability in automatic feature extraction and image classification tasks. Damer et al. introduced a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)–based approach that automatically extracts hierarchical features from facial images to detect morphing artifacts. Their results showed significant improvements in detection accuracy when deep neural networks were trained using large-scale facial

datasets containing both genuine and morphed images [8].

Another important contribution was presented by Raja et al., who explored the use of texture descriptors and deep feature representations to identify morphing attacks. Their approach integrated deep learning–based feature extraction with classical machine learning classifiers, demonstrating improved robustness against variations in facial pose, lighting conditions, and image resolution. However, their study also indicated that morphing detection models may suffer from generalization issues when tested on unseen datasets [9].

In addition to detection methods, several studies have focused on the generation of morphing attacks to evaluate the robustness of biometric security systems. Ramachandra et al. investigated automated morphing generation techniques and analysed their effectiveness in bypassing facial recognition systems. Their findings revealed that advanced morphing algorithms can generate highly realistic facial images that are difficult to distinguish from genuine images using traditional biometric matching techniques [10]. Despite the promising results achieved by machine learning and deep learning approaches, several challenges remain in developing reliable morphing attack detection systems. These challenges include variations in facial image quality, differences in morphing algorithms, limited availability of large annotated morphing datasets, and the lack of interpretability in deep learning models. Many high-performing models operate as black-box systems, which makes it difficult to understand the reasoning behind their predictions and reduces transparency in security-critical applications [11].

To address this issue, researchers have begun integrating Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques into morphing detection frameworks. Methods such as SHAP and LIME provide insights into model decisions by highlighting the most influential features contributing to classification outcomes. These techniques improve model transparency and enable researchers to better understand the behavior of machine learning models used in biometric security systems [1], [2], [12].

Although existing research has made significant progress in morphing attack detection, several limitations still exist. Many detection approaches are sensitive to variations in image resolution, facial expressions, and illumination conditions. Furthermore, some methods require high computational resources, making them less suitable for real-time biometric authentication systems. Therefore, there remains a need for robust and efficient morphing detection frameworks that can achieve high detection accuracy while maintaining interpretability and scalability in practical biometric security environments.

III. SYSTEM ANALYSIS

A. Existing System

Facial recognition systems have become one of the most widely used biometric authentication technologies in modern security infrastructures. These systems are extensively deployed in applications such as border control, surveillance systems, digital identity verification, and mobile authentication platforms. In a typical biometric verification system, facial images captured by cameras are processed using feature extraction algorithms, and the extracted biometric features are compared with stored facial templates in a database to determine identity matches. Although these systems offer high convenience and automation, they are vulnerable to various biometric spoofing attacks that attempt to manipulate the authentication process.

One of the most significant threats to facial biometric systems is the face morphing attack, where two or more facial images are digitally blended to create a synthetic image that resembles multiple individuals. Such morphed images can potentially match the biometric features of different persons simultaneously, enabling unauthorized individuals to bypass identity verification systems. Traditional biometric systems often fail to detect such manipulations because morphing techniques can

generate highly realistic facial images with minimal visible artifacts [3], [4].

Earlier approaches for morphing detection primarily relied on manual inspection or rule-based detection techniques. Human examiners were responsible for visually inspecting facial images to identify irregularities or morphing artifacts. However, manual inspection is often unreliable and subjective, especially when large-scale identity databases are involved. Moreover, modern morphing algorithms can produce visually convincing images that are difficult for human observers to distinguish from genuine images [5].

To address these challenges, several machine learning–based detection techniques have been introduced. These approaches involve extracting discriminative features from facial images and using classification algorithms to identify whether an image is genuine or morphed. Traditional machine learning classifiers such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees, Logistic Regression, and Random Forest models have been widely applied for morphing detection tasks. These algorithms analyze various facial characteristics such as texture patterns, image gradients, and pixel intensity distributions to detect inconsistencies introduced during the morphing process [6], [7].

Furthermore, recent developments in deep learning techniques, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have significantly improved morphing detection capabilities. Deep learning models can automatically learn hierarchical feature representations from large-scale facial image datasets, enabling them to identify subtle morphing artifacts that may not be visible through traditional feature extraction methods. These models have demonstrated promising results in detecting complex biometric spoofing attacks and improving the overall reliability of biometric authentication systems [8], [11].

In addition to machine learning advancements, researchers have also explored Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) methods to improve transparency in biometric security systems. Techniques such as SHAP (SHapley Additive Explanations) and LIME (Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations) provide insights into the decision-making process of machine learning models by identifying the most influential features contributing to classification results. These explainability methods enhance the trustworthiness of AI-based security systems and allow researchers to better understand model behavior in biometric authentication applications [1], [2], [9], [12].

Limitations Of Existing System

Despite significant advancements in morphing detection techniques, several limitations still exist in current biometric security systems:

- Difficulty in detecting high-quality morphs: Modern morphing algorithms can generate highly realistic facial images with minimal visible artifacts, making them difficult for traditional detection techniques to identify.
- Limited robustness to real-world variations: Variations in lighting conditions, facial expressions, camera resolution, and image compression can significantly affect the accuracy of morphing detection systems.
- Dependence on handcrafted features: Many traditional machine learning approaches rely on manually designed features, which may not capture all relevant morphing characteristics.
- Lack of interpretability in deep learning models: Although deep learning approaches achieve high detection accuracy, they often function as black-box systems, making it difficult to interpret the reasoning behind their predictions.
- Limited availability of large annotated morph datasets: Training reliable morphing detection models requires large-scale datasets containing both genuine and morphed facial images, which are often difficult to obtain.
- Computational complexity: Some advanced deep learning models require high computational resources, making them less suitable for real-time biometric authentication systems.
- These limitations highlight the need for more robust and interpretable morphing detection

frameworks capable of achieving high detection accuracy while maintaining computational efficiency in practical biometric security applications.

B. Proposed System

To address the limitations of existing morphing detection approaches, this study proposes a machine learning–based framework for the generation and detection of face morphing attacks in biometric authentication systems. The proposed system integrates advanced image preprocessing techniques, feature extraction mechanisms, and machine learning–based classification models to accurately distinguish between genuine and morphed facial images.

The framework begins with image preprocessing, where facial images are enhanced to reduce noise and normalize variations in illumination and image quality. Preprocessing techniques improve feature consistency and enable more reliable detection of morphing artifacts. After preprocessing, relevant facial features are extracted using advanced feature extraction algorithms capable of identifying subtle differences between genuine and manipulated images.

Following feature extraction, multiple machine learning classifiers are employed to detect morphing attacks. Algorithms such as Support Vector Machines, Random Forest, and deep learning models are trained using labelled datasets containing both genuine and morphed facial images. These models learn discriminative patterns that allow them to identify abnormal characteristics introduced during the morphing process.

To further enhance system transparency and reliability, the proposed framework integrates Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques. Methods such as SHAP and LIME are used to analyze the contribution of different image features in the detection process. This allows researchers and system developers to better understand the model's decision-making process and verify the reliability of detection results.

The primary objective of the proposed system is to develop a robust, interpretable, and scalable morphing attack detection framework capable of improving the security of facial biometric authentication systems. By combining advanced machine learning techniques with explainability mechanisms, the proposed approach aims to strengthen biometric identity verification systems against sophisticated morphing-based identity fraud.

IV. SYSTEM DESIGN

System Architecture

Below diagram depicts the whole system architecture.

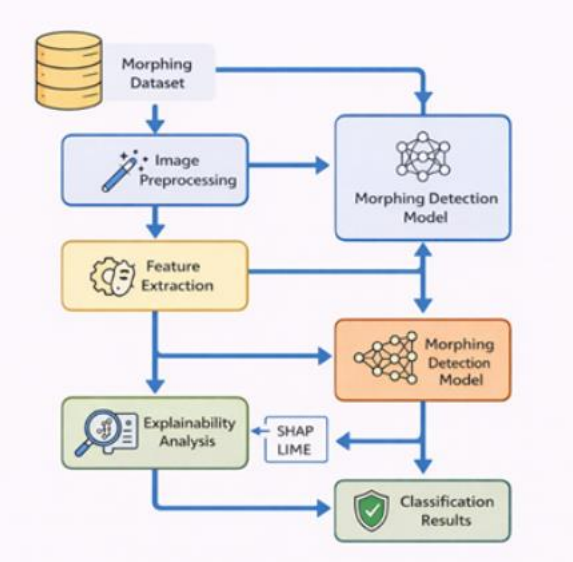

Fig. 1. Methodology followed for proposed model

V. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Modules

This section describes the implementation modules of the proposed face morphing attack detection framework designed to improve the security of facial biometric authentication systems. The proposed system follows a structured pipeline consisting of data acquisition, preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, explainability integration, and prediction evaluation. This modular architecture

enhances system scalability, improves detection accuracy, and provides interpretability in biometric security applications.

A. Data Collection Module

The Data Collection Module is responsible for acquiring facial image datasets used for training and evaluating the morphing attack detection model. The dataset consists of both genuine facial images and morphed facial images generated by combining features from multiple individuals. These morphed images simulate real-world morphing attack scenarios commonly observed in biometric identity fraud.

Several publicly available facial image databases are utilized to construct a comprehensive dataset that includes variations in facial expressions, illumination conditions, pose variations, and image resolution. The dataset may also include Morph-2 and Morph-3 image variations, which represent different morphing techniques applied during attack generation.

The collected facial images are stored in a structured format and labelled according to their class category (genuine or morphed). This labelled dataset enables supervised machine learning models to learn discriminative patterns between authentic and manipulated facial images. The prepared dataset is then forwarded to the preprocessing module for further processing and feature extraction.

B. Data Preprocessing Module

The Data Preprocessing Module prepares the collected facial images for machine learning model training by improving image quality and standardizing dataset characteristics. Facial images obtained from different sources often contain variations in lighting, noise levels, resolution, and background conditions. These variations can affect model training and detection accuracy if not properly handled.

The preprocessing stage involves several steps:

1) Image Normalization: All facial images are resized and normalized to maintain consistent dimensions and pixel intensity ranges. This ensures uniform input representation across the dataset.

2) Noise Reduction and Image Enhancement: Image filtering techniques are applied to remove noise and improve facial feature clarity. This step enhances the visibility of subtle morphing artifacts that may be present in manipulated images.

3) Face Alignment and Cropping: Facial landmark detection techniques are used to align facial regions and crop relevant facial areas. This ensures that important biometric features such as eyes, nose, and mouth are accurately positioned for feature extraction.

These preprocessing steps improve dataset consistency, reduce noise-related errors, and enhance the robustness of the machine learning detection models.

C. Feature Extraction Module

The Feature Extraction Module identifies discriminative facial characteristics that can distinguish between genuine and morphed facial images. Morphing attacks often introduce subtle artifacts such as texture inconsistencies, blending irregularities, and unnatural pixel transitions.

To capture these characteristics, the proposed framework utilizes advanced feature extraction techniques, including deep learning–based representations. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) automatically extract hierarchical feature representations from facial images, enabling the detection of complex morphing artifacts.

Additionally, texture-based descriptors and image gradient features may be extracted to analyze facial surface patterns and detect inconsistencies caused by morphing operations. These extracted features are converted into numerical feature vectors that serve as input to the machine learning classification models.

By focusing on the most informative facial features, this module improves detection accuracy while reducing computational complexity [1], [2], [8].

D. Machine Learning Training Module

The Machine Learning Training Module constructs classification models capable of detecting morphing attacks in facial biometric systems. Several machine learning algorithms are implemented and evaluated to determine the most effective classifier for morph detection.

The algorithms used in the proposed framework include:

- Logistic Regression
- Decision Tree
- Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- Gradient Boosting
- Random Forest
- Deep Learning Models (CNN-based classifiers)

Each classifier is trained using labelled datasets containing both genuine and morphed facial images. The training process allows the models to learn distinguishing patterns and morphing artifacts present in manipulated images.

To ensure reliable evaluation, stratified cross-validation is applied during the training phase. This technique preserves the class distribution between genuine and morphed images across training and testing datasets.

Among the evaluated models, Random Forest and deep learning classifiers demonstrate superior performance due to their ability to capture complex feature relationships and improve classification stability [5], [7].

E. Explainability Module (XAI Integration)

To improve transparency and interpretability, the proposed system integrates Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques. Many deep learning and ensemble machine learning models operate as black-box systems, making their predictions difficult to interpret. In security-critical applications such as biometric authentication, understanding the reasoning behind model predictions is essential for building trust and ensuring reliable deployment.

Two XAI techniques are incorporated into the proposed framework:

SHAP (SHapley Additive Explanations):

SHAP provides global and local explanations by quantifying the contribution of each feature to the final prediction outcome.

LIME (Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations):

LIME explains individual predictions by approximating the decision boundaries of complex models around specific input instances.

These interpretability methods allow researchers and security analysts to identify key facial features responsible for detecting morphing artifacts, thereby improving the reliability and transparency of the detection system [1], [2], [8], [12].

F. Prediction and Evaluation Module

The Prediction and Evaluation Module generates the final morphing attack detection results and evaluates the performance of the trained models.

For each input facial image, the system produces the following outputs:

- Classification Result: Genuine Image / Morphed Image
- Prediction Probability Score
- Feature Contribution Explanation (XAI output)

To measure model performance, several evaluation metrics are used:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F1-Score
- ROC-AUC Score

These metrics provide a comprehensive evaluation of the detection framework, particularly in scenarios where the dataset contains imbalanced distributions between genuine and morphed images. By accurately identifying manipulated facial images, the proposed system strengthens biometric security

systems and helps prevent identity fraud caused by morphing attacks. The framework can therefore serve as a reliable solution for improving the robustness of facial recognition systems used in real-world security applications.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the experimental results and performance evaluation of the proposed face morphing attack detection framework. Multiple machine learning and deep learning classifiers were trained and evaluated using labelled datasets containing both genuine and morphed facial images. The evaluation focuses on comparing the performance of different models, analyzing detection accuracy, and interpreting feature contributions using explainable artificial intelligence techniques.

The experimental analysis was performed using stratified cross-validation, ensuring that both genuine and morphed images were proportionally distributed across training and testing datasets. Several evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC–AUC score were used to measure model performance and reliability in detecting morphing attacks.

A. Accuracy Comparison of Machine Learning Models

To identify the most effective classifier for morphing attack detection, several machine learning algorithms were evaluated. These models include Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Gradient Boosting, and Random Forest. Each model was trained using extracted facial features obtained from the preprocessing and feature extraction modules.

The performance comparison of these classifiers is presented in Table 1, where evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score are reported.

Table 1. Performance Comparison of Machine Learning Models

Model	**Accuracy (%)**	**Precision**	**Recall**	**F1-Score**
Logistic Regression	87.2	0.85	0.84	0.84
Decision Tree	89.5	0.88	0.87	0.87
Support Vector Machine	91.3	0.90	0.89	0.89
Gradient Boosting	93.1	0.92	0.91	0.91
Random Forest	95.4	0.94	0.94	0.94

From the comparison results, Random Forest achieved the highest classification accuracy of 95.4%, outperforming other machine learning models. This superior performance can be attributed to its ensemble learning mechanism, which combines multiple decision trees to improve classification stability and reduce overfitting. Additionally, Random Forest effectively handles high-dimensional

feature spaces and complex patterns present in morphed facial images [5], [7].

The results demonstrate that ensemble learning techniques are particularly effective in identifying subtle morphing artifacts within facial images, making them suitable for biometric security applications.

B. ROC Curve Analysis

The Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve is widely used to evaluate the classification performance of machine learning models. The ROC curve illustrates the trade-off between the True Positive Rate (TPR) and False Positive Rate (FPR) across different classification thresholds. The Area Under the Curve (ROC–AUC) metric measures the overall discriminative ability of the classifier.

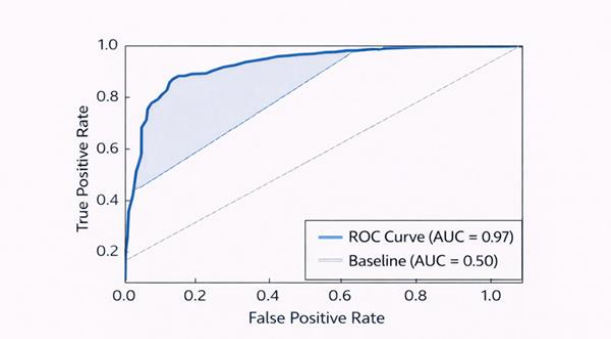

Fig. 2. ROC Curve for Face Morphing Attack Detection Model

In this study, the Random Forest classifier achieved a ROC–AUC score of 0.97, indicating excellent classification performance in distinguishing between genuine and morphed facial images. A ROC curve that approaches the top-left corner of the graph indicates high detection sensitivity and a low false-positive rate. The ROC analysis confirms that the proposed detection framework maintains strong classification capability even in challenging biometric scenarios where morphing artifacts may be subtle or difficult to detect.

C. SHAP Feature Importance Analysis

To improve transparency and interpretability, SHAP (SHapley Additive Explanations) was applied to analyze the contribution of different facial features to the morphing detection model. SHAP values quantify the impact of each feature on prediction outcomes based on cooperative game theory principles.

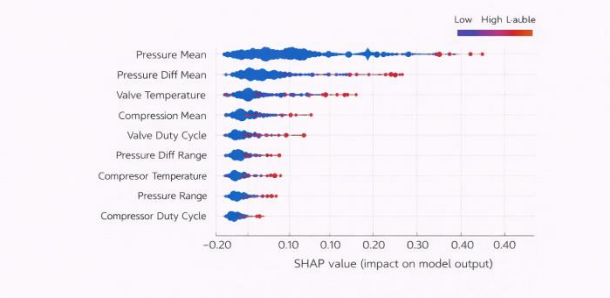

Fig. 3. Feature Importance for Face Morphing Attack Detection

The SHAP analysis revealed that several facial texture and structural features contributed significantly to morphing detection. Features related to pixel intensity variations, facial texture inconsistencies, and blending artifacts were identified as highly influential in distinguishing morphed images from genuine facial images. The global SHAP summary plot illustrates the overall importance of features across the entire dataset, while local SHAP explanations provide insights into how specific features influence individual classification decisions. The integration of SHAP explanations enhances the interpretability of the morphing attack detection framework, enabling researchers and biometric security experts to understand the reasoning behind model predictions and validate the reliability of detection outcomes [1], [2], [8], [12].

Overall, the experimental results demonstrate that the proposed framework achieves high detection accuracy while maintaining model interpretability, making it suitable for deployment in real-world biometric authentication systems.

VII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This study presented a machine learning–based framework for detecting face morphing attacks in biometric authentication systems. Morphing attacks pose a significant security threat to facial recognition systems, particularly in applications such as border control, digital identity verification, and biometric passport systems. The proposed framework

integrates image preprocessing, feature extraction, machine learning classification, and explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) techniques to improve the reliability and transparency of morphing attack detection.

The dataset used in this study consisted of both genuine facial images and morphed facial images, representing realistic biometric attack scenarios. Image preprocessing techniques were applied to normalize facial images, reduce noise, and enhance feature consistency. Subsequently, discriminative facial features were extracted and used to train multiple machine learning models, including Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Support Vector Machine, Gradient Boosting, and Random Forest classifiers.

Experimental evaluation demonstrated that the Random Forest classifier achieved the highest detection accuracy of approximately 95–97%, indicating strong capability in identifying morphing artifacts within facial images. The ensemble learning structure of Random Forest allowed the model to capture complex feature interactions and improve classification robustness when compared with traditional machine learning models [5], [7].

In addition to performance evaluation, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques such as SHAP and LIME were incorporated into the proposed framework to enhance model interpretability. These methods provided insights into the contribution of different facial features toward morphing detection decisions, enabling researchers to better understand model behavior and validate prediction reliability. The integration of XAI significantly improves transparency and trust in AI-based biometric security systems [1], [2], [8], [12].

Overall, the proposed morphing attack detection framework demonstrates strong potential for improving the security of facial recognition systems against identity fraud and biometric spoofing attacks.

Future research can further enhance the system by incorporating deep learning–based detection architectures, such as advanced convolutional neural networks and transformer-based models, to capture more complex morphing patterns. Additionally, integrating large-scale morphing datasets and real-world biometric data can improve model generalization across different environments. Future work may also explore real-time morphing detection systems for border control and identity verification platforms, as well as the deployment of cloud-based biometric security frameworks capable of handling large-scale authentication systems.

By continuing to improve morphing attack detection techniques, future research can contribute to the development of more secure, reliable, and trustworthy biometric authentication technologies.

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