



University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of Computer and  
Information Science



# From Recognition to Generation: Advancements in Biometrics

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# COMPUTER VISION LABORATORY



Location: R2.33

We research the capture, processing and interpretation of 2D and 3D visual data, machine learning in computer vision, and the use of images in computer-human interactions. We work in the following specific areas: interactive visual signage systems, 3D documentation in archaeology and cultural heritage, interpretation of images in biometry, medicine, geology and meteorology, the forensic analysis of images and video, virtual and augmented reality, as well as in the production of computer games and in new media art installations (in cooperation with the Academy of Fine Arts).

Main research topics at the moment:

ear recognition,  
sclera and ocular region recognition,  
face deidentification,  
face privacy preservation

@ <https://fri.uni-lj.si/en/laboratory/lrv>

## Research

### Laboratories

Artificial Intelligence  
Laboratory

Bioinformatics Laboratory

Computer Communications  
Laboratory

Computer Structures and  
Systems Laboratory

→ **Computer Vision Laboratory**

Information Systems  
Laboratory

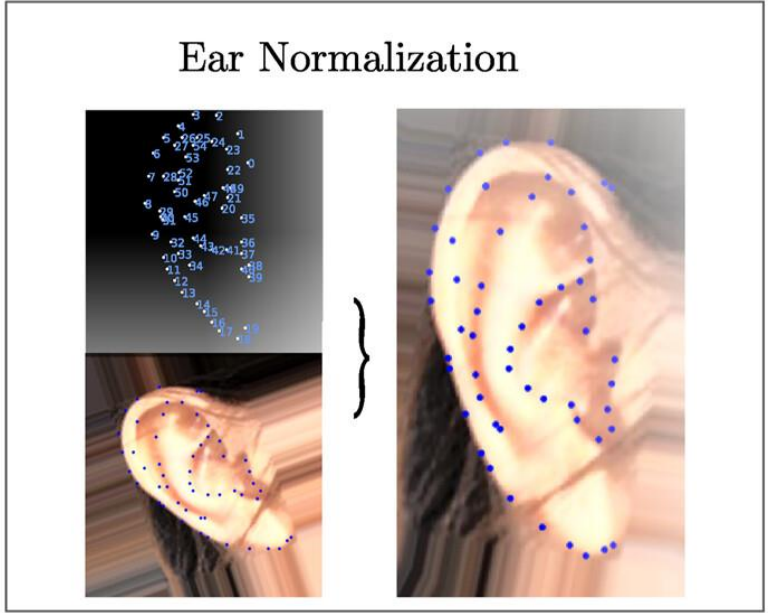
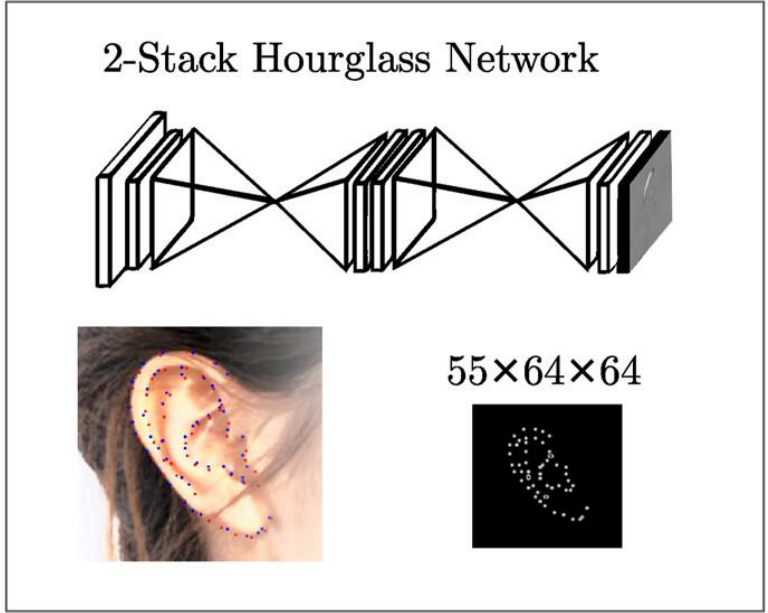
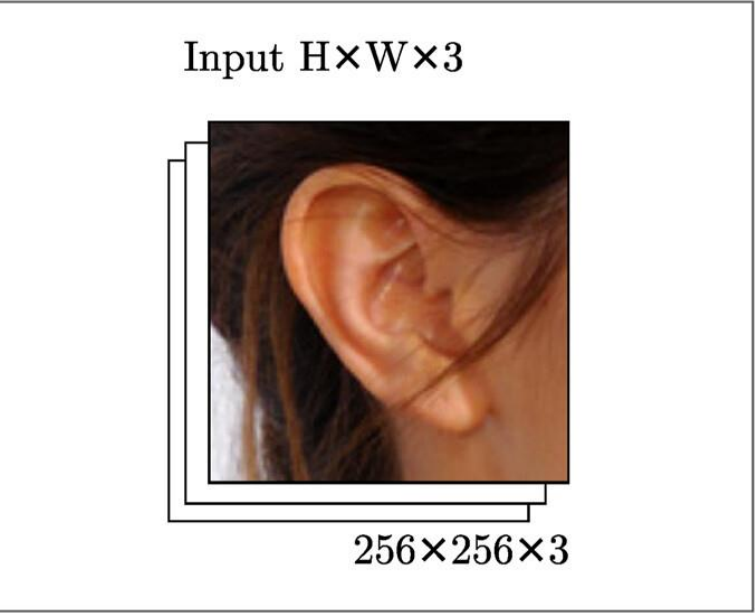
Privacy

ORIGINAL RESEARCH | Open Access |

# Efficient ear alignment using a two-stack hourglass network

Anja Hrovatič, Peter Peer, Vitomir Štruc, Žiga Emeršič

First published: 13 March 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1049/bme2.12109>



framework for ear alignment that relies on a two-step procedure: (i) automatic landmark detection and (ii) fiducial point alignment. For the first (landmark detection) step, the authors implement and train a Two-Stack Hourglass model (2-SHGNet) capable of accurately predicting 55 landmarks on diverse ear images captured in uncontrolled conditions. For the second (alignment) step, the authors use the Random Sample Consensus (RANSAC) algorithm to align the estimated landmark/fiducial points with a pre-defined ear shape (i.e. a collection of average ear landmark positions). The authors evaluate the proposed framework in comprehensive experiments on the AWEx and ITWE

# Occluded thermal face recognition using *BoCNN* and radial derived descriptor

Sumit Kumar<sup>a</sup>  , Satish Kumar Singh

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.imavis.2023.104646> 

## Abstract

In this work, we propose a Radial derived handcrafted feature descriptor for disguised face recognition. The radial encoding has been done so that the performance is well over challenging datasets. We propose a cascaded framework that combines two modules, namely *BoCNN* and the RDGF descriptor. The cascading architecture estimates the performance of *BoCNN* before classification. It also uses a dynamic classifier selector in run time to choose between handcrafted features and the CNN framework to enhance the overall performance. We also propose a thermal face dataset with partial occlusion. We have compared the performance of the *RDGF* descriptor with state-of-the-art

Subject 1



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Subject 2



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)

# Person-Specific Gaze Estimation from Low-Quality Webcam Images

by  Mohd Faizan Ansari <sup>1,\*</sup>  ,  Pawel Kasprowski <sup>1</sup>  and  Peter Peer <sup>2</sup> 

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*Sensors* **2023**, *23*(8), 4138; <https://doi.org/10.3390/s23084138>

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(This article belongs to the Special Issue **Eye Tracking Sensors Data Analysis with Deep Learning**)

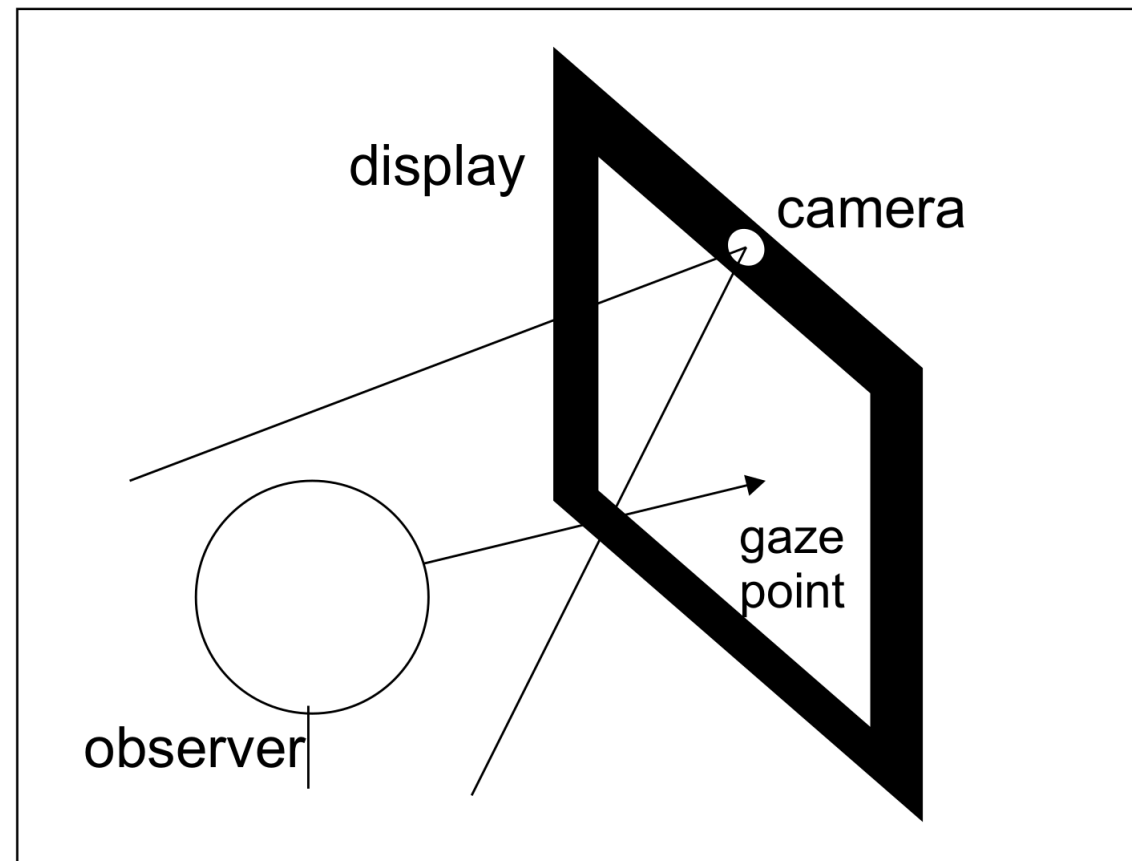
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Versions Notes

## Abstract

Gaze estimation is an established research problem in computer vision. It has various applications in human–computer interactions to health care and virtual reality, making it more viable for many applications. Due to the significant success of deep learning techniques in other computer vision tasks such as image classification, object detection, object segmentation, and object tracking—deep learning—also received more attention in recent years. This paper uses a convolutional neural network for person-specific gaze estimation. The person-specific gaze estimation utilizes a single model trained on data from a specific user, contrary to the commonly-used generalized models trained on multiple people's data. We use low-quality webcam images directly collected from a standard desktop webcam, so our method can be applied to any computer equipped with such a camera without additional hardware requirements. First, we used a large dataset of face and eye images. Then, we tested different combinations of CNN parameters and dropout rates. Our findings show that building a person-specific eye-tracking model produces better results with a selection of good hyperparameters when compared to universal models that are trained on multiple users' data. In particular, we achieved the best results for the left eye with 38.20 MAE (Mean Absolute Error) in pixels, the right eye with 36.01 MAE, both eyes combined with 51.18 MAE, and the whole face with 30.09 MAE, which is equivalent to approximately 1.45 degrees for the left eye, 1.37 degrees for the right eye, 1.98 degrees for both eyes combined, and 1.14 degrees for full-face images.







## Face deidentification with contr protection

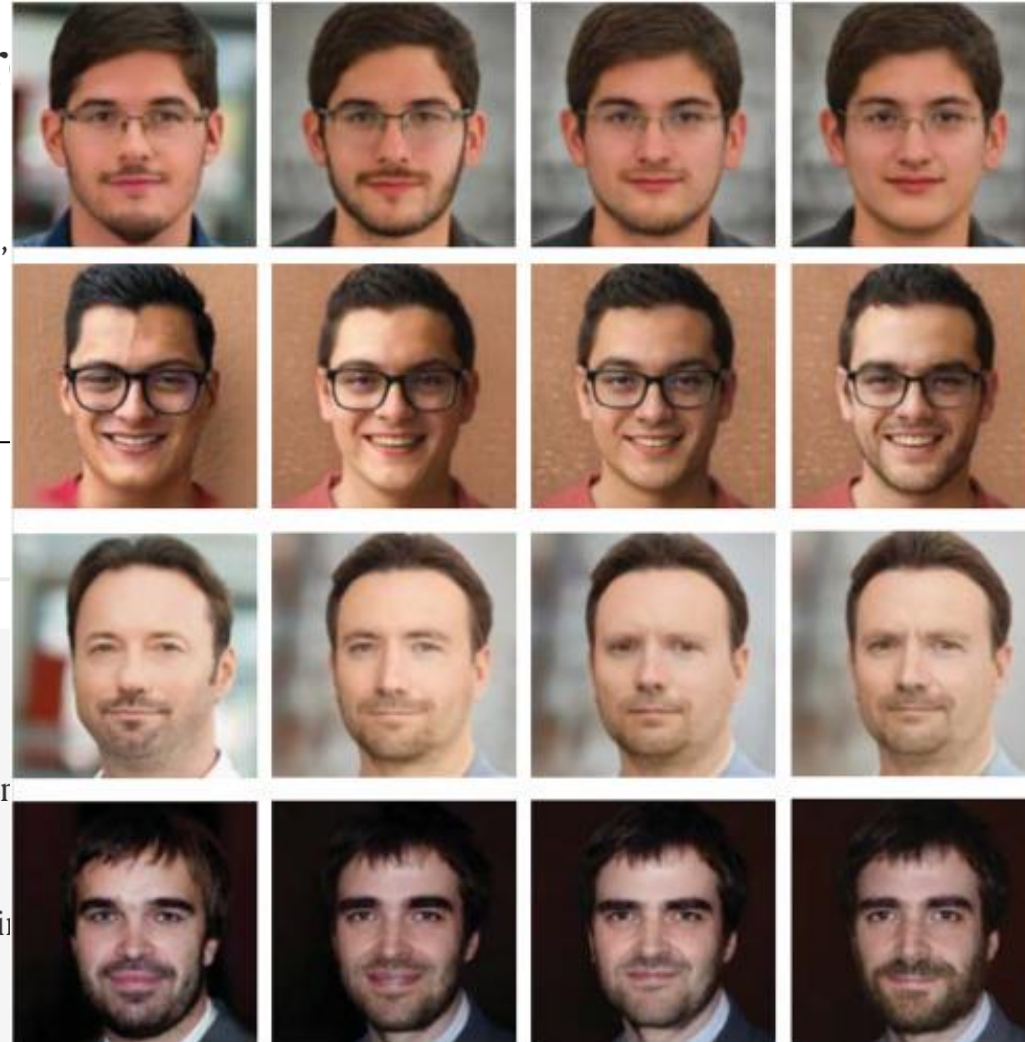
Blaž Meden<sup>a</sup>  , Manfred Gonzalez-Hernandez<sup>b</sup>, Peter Peer<sup>a</sup>,

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.imavis.2023.104678> 

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### Highlights

- CPP-DeID is a face deidentification algorithm allowing privacy.
- Algorithm performs optimization on the input face image using a criteria loss.
- Our approach preserves as many visual details from the input facial image as possible.
- It shows competitive performance compared to the state-of-the-art

# ChildNet: Structural Kinship Face Synthesis Model With Appearance Control Mechanisms

Publisher: IEEE

[Cite This](#)

[PDF](#)

Martin Pernuš  ; Mansi Bhatnagar ; Badr Samad ;

167

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## Abstract

### Document Sections

- [I. Introduction](#)
- [II. Related Work](#)
- [III. Methodology](#)
- [IV. Next Of Kin Dataset](#)
- [V. Experimental Setup](#)

## Abstract:

Kinship face synthesis is particularly the task of producing faces that have been limited in terms of image resolution and tightly controlled appearance. ChildNet, a method for kinship face synthesis of a state-of-the-art Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) problems. ChildNet is designed to generate faces that bears high resemblance to the parents, while providing age and gender manipulation capabilities.

ChildNet is capable of generating multiple child images per parent pair input, while providing a way to



Father

Mother

Real child

Synthesized  
child



## IPAD: Iterative

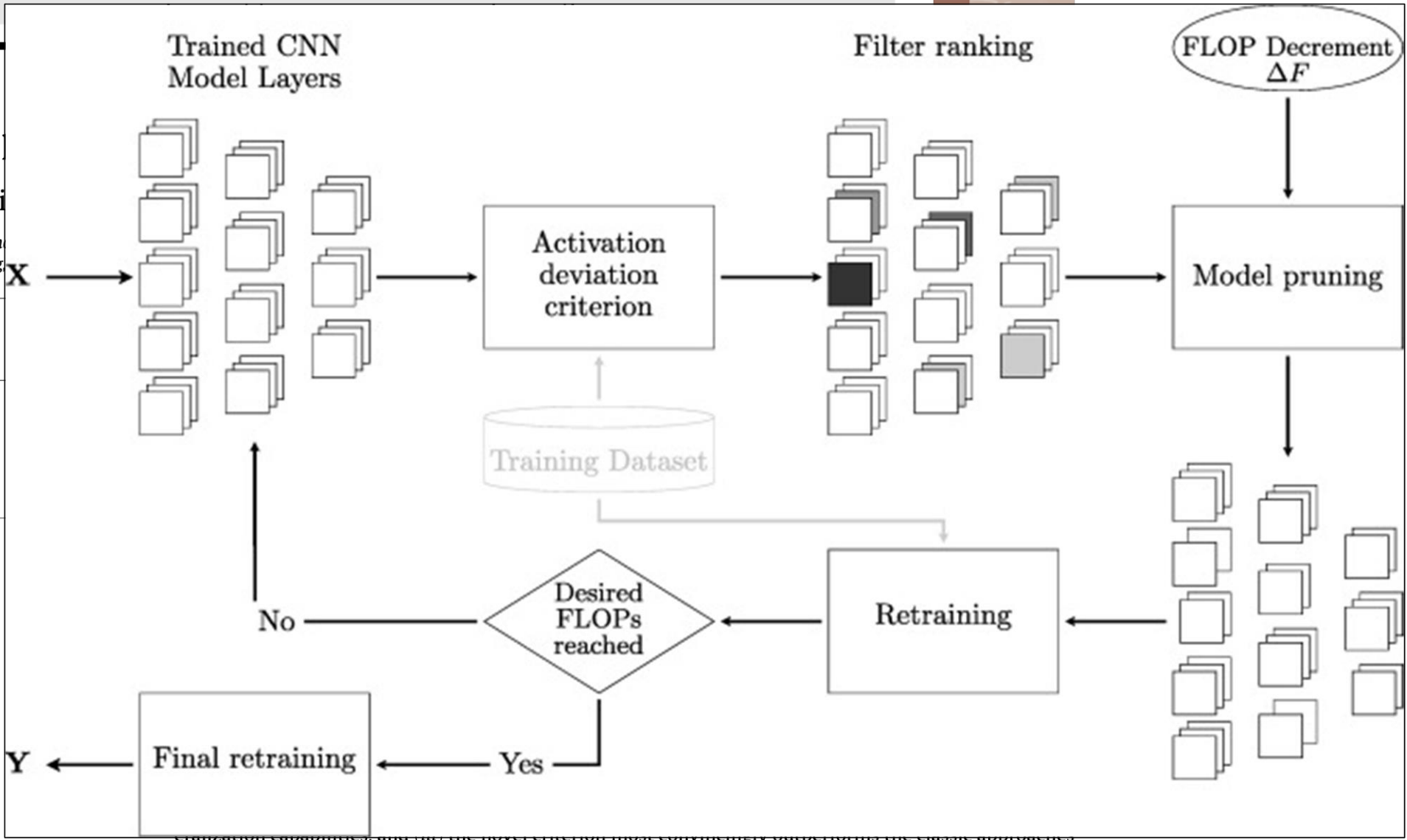
Matej Vitek<sup>a,\*</sup>, Matjaž

<sup>a</sup> Faculty of Computer and Informatics  
<sup>b</sup> Faculty of Electrical Engineering

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Ocular segmentation  
Model pruning  
Lightweight deep learning



...ization capabilities, and (iii) the novel criterion most convincingly outperforms the classic approaches when sufficient training data is available, implying that the abundance of data leads to more robust activation-based importance computation.

# PrivacyProber: Assessment and Detection of Soft-Biometric Privacy-Enhancing Techniques

Publisher: IEEE

Cite This

PDF

Peter Rot ; Klemen Grm ; Peter Peer ; Vitomir Štruc All Authors

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## Abstract

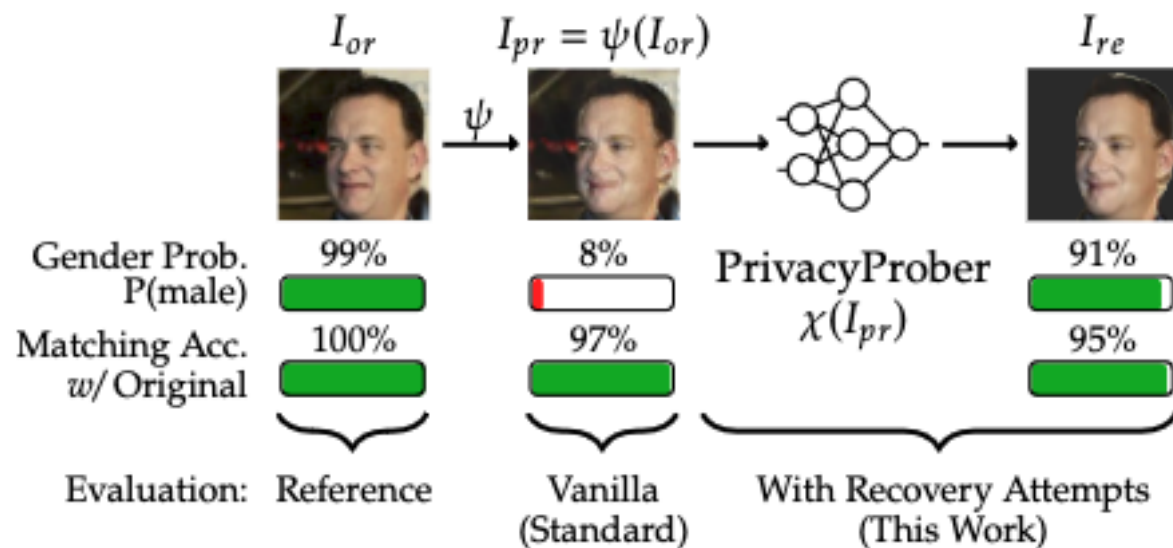
Authors

Keywords

Metrics

## Abstract:

Soft-biometric privacy-enhancing techniques represent machine learning methods that aim to: (i) mitigate privacy concerns associated with face recognition technology (e.g., age, ethnicity) and (ii) make unsolicited extra information increasingly used in real-world applications, inverted and how much attribute information they have not been investigated in the literature. In this paper, we propose a state-of-the-art soft-biometric privacy-enhancing technique framework for restoring soft-biometric information. We conduct comprehensive experiments on three public datasets. The proposed framework is able to restore a consistent amount of information compared to the technique used (e.g., adversarial perturbation). We evaluate the robustness of existing privacy-enhancing techniques by comparing the suppressed information. Additionally, we demonstrate that PrivacyProber can also be used to detect privacy-enhancement in



# BiFaceGAN: Bimodal Face Image Synthesis

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<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Biotechnology,  
Tržaška cesta 27, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

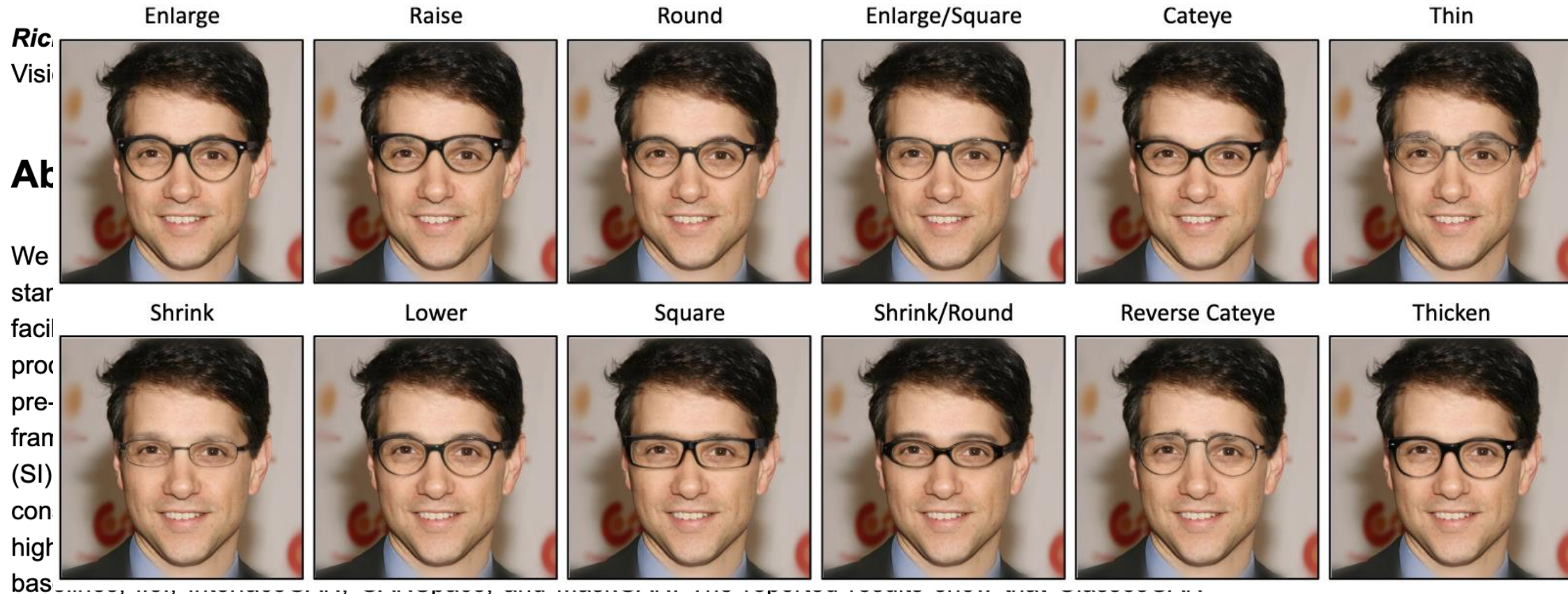
\*Corresponding author: [darian@iis.upr.si](mailto:darian@iis.upr.si)  
Contributing authors: [peter.peer@upr.si](mailto:peter.peer@upr.si), [vitomir@upr.si](mailto:vitomir@upr.si)



Modern face recognition and learning approaches, rely on large-scale annotated datasets to achieve competitive performance. However, gathering biometric data often raises privacy concerns and presents a labor-intensive and time-consuming task. Researchers are currently also exploring the use of multispectral data to improve existing solutions, limited to the visible spectrum. Unfortunately, the collection of suitable data is even more difficult, espe-

Springer Nature book on  
Face Recognition Across the  
Imaging Spectrum, 2024

# GlassesGAN: Eyewear Personalization Using Synthetic Appearance Discovery and Targeted Subspace Modeling



convincingly outperforms all competing techniques, while offering functionality (e.g., fine-grained multi-style editing) not available with any of the competitors. The source code for GlassesGAN is made publicly available.



[Submitted on 21 Nov 2022]

## SeeABLE: Soft Discrepancies and Bounded Contrastive Learning for Exposing Deepfakes

Nicolas Larue, Ngoc-Son Vu, Vitomir Struc, Peter Peer, Vassilis Christophides

Modern deepfake detectors have achieved encouraging results, when training and test images are drawn from the same collection. However, when applying these detectors to faces manipulated using an unknown technique, considerable performance drops are typically observed. In this work, we propose a novel deepfake detector, called SeeABLE, that formalizes the detection problem as a (one-class) out-of-distribution detection task and generalizes better to unseen deepfakes. Specifically, SeeABLE uses a novel data augmentation strategy to synthesize fine-grained local image anomalies (referred to as soft-discrepancies) and pushes those pristine disrupted faces towards predefined prototypes using a novel regression-based bounded contrastive loss. To strengthen the generalization performance of SeeABLE to unknown deepfake types, we generate a rich set of soft discrepancies and train the detector: (i) to localize, which part of the face was modified, and (ii) to identify the alteration type. Using extensive experiments on widely used datasets, SeeABLE considerably outperforms existing detectors, with gains of up to +10% on the DFDC-preview dataset in term of detection accuracy over SoTA methods while using a simpler model. Code will be made publicly available.

Subjects: **Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (cs.CV)**

Cite as: [arXiv:2211.11296](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.11296) [cs.CV]

(or [arXiv:2211.11296v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.11296v1) [cs.CV] for this version)

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2211.11296> 





*Sclera Segmentation and Joint Recognition Benchmarking Competition: SSRBC 2023*

*The Unconstrained Ear Recognition Challenge 2023: Maximizing Performance and Minimizing Bias*

*DFGC-VRA: DeepFake Game Competition on Visual Realism Assessment*

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*DiffIQA: Face Image Quality Assessment Using Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models*





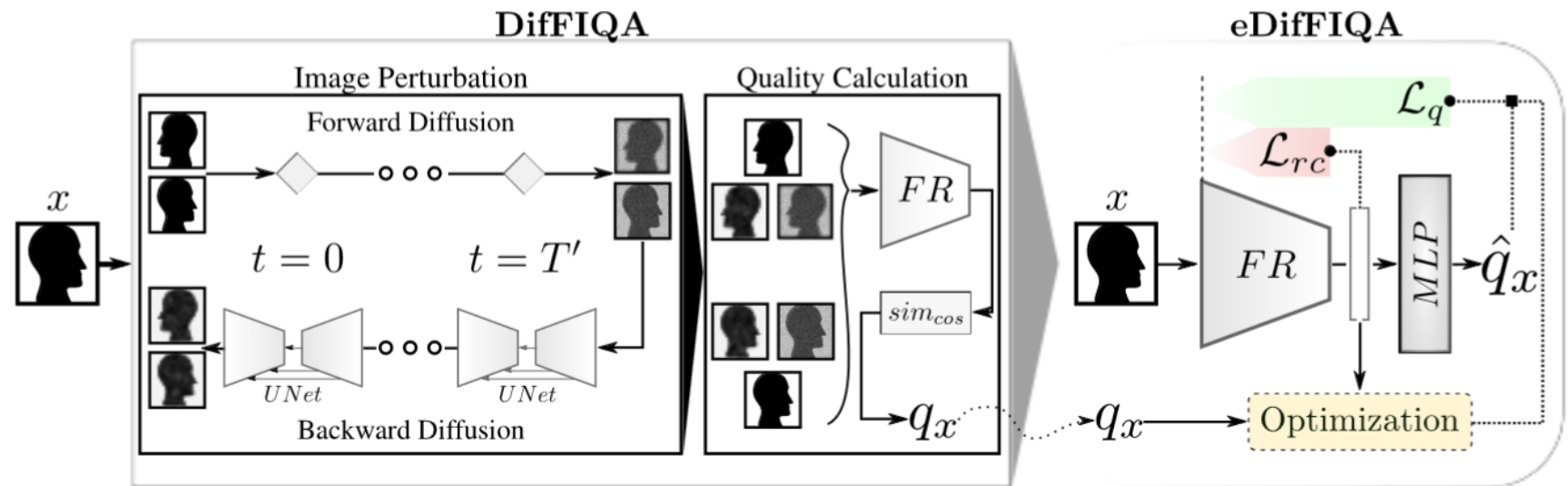
# eDifFIQA: Towards Efficient Face Image Quality Assessment based on Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models

IEEE Transactions on Biometrics, Behavior, and Identity Science (to be published)

Žiga Babnik, *Member, IEEE*, Peter Peer, *Senior Member, IEEE*, and Vitomir Štruc, *Senior Member, IEEE*

**Abstract**—State-of-the-art Face Recognition (FR) models perform well in constrained scenarios, but frequently fail in difficult real-world scenarios, when no quality guarantees can be made for face samples. For this reason, Face Image Quality Assessment (FIQA) techniques are often used by FR systems, to provide quality estimates of captured face samples. The quality estimate provided by FIQA techniques can be used by the FR system to reject samples of low-quality, in turn improving the performance of the system and reducing the number of critical false-match errors. However, despite steady improvements, ensuring a good trade-off between the performance and computational complexity of FIQA methods across diverse face samples remains challenging. In this paper, we

present DifFIQA, a powerful model (DDPMs) and the expensive backward processes of DDP embeddings for quality prediction. Using eDifFIQA approach, by employing label quality-regression model. Duposition of the embedding to feature extraction backbone between the predictive capabilities in comprehensive experiments CNN-based FR models and the initial DifFIQA baseline an optimization. The results show computationally complexity competitive results. Furthermore, we also show that the distilled model can be used directly for face recognition and leads to highly competitive results.



**Index Terms**—Computer Vision, Face Recognition, Face Image Quality Assessment, Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models, Knowledge Distillation, Label Optimization

# Machine learning for science and humanities postdoctoral program



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- 2-year full time fellowship (salary in the rang of full professorship)
- Contact Peter Peer ([peter.peer@fri.uni-lj.si](mailto:peter.peer@fri.uni-lj.si)) for topics related to computer vision



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