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Privacy Preserving Workload Reduction in Biometric Systems

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2024-07-08



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Agenda



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Introduction

Thesis Scope

Biometric Workload Reduction

Privacy Protection Analysis

Summary

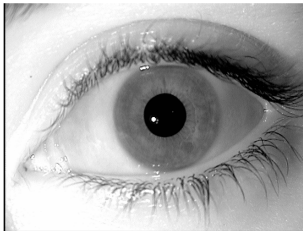


Biometric recognition

*“Automated recognition of individuals based on their **behavioural** and **biological** characteristics”*



Face



Iris

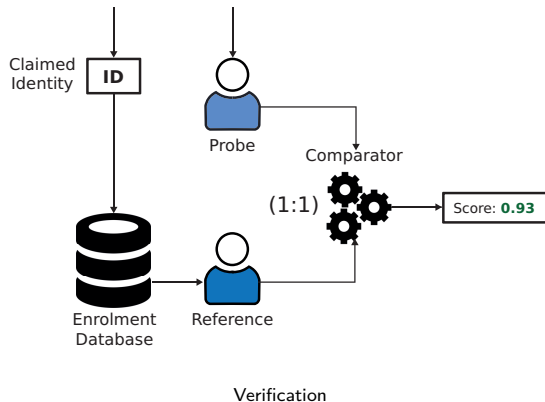


Fingerprint

Biometric operation modes

- ▶ A biometric claim to an identity is made.
- ▶ A **1:1 comparison** is performed in order to reach a decision.
- ▶ Computational complexity is limited to a **one-to-one comparison**.

⇒ **Computationally** trivial process!

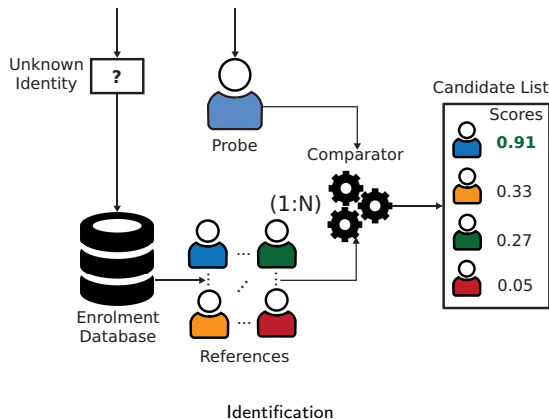




Biometric operation modes

- ▶ There is no biometric claim.
- ▶ **1:N comparisons** are performed to reach a decision using the biometric data alone.
- ▶ Computational complexity is limited to the **1:N comparisons** (in worse case: **exhaustive search**).

⇒ **Computationally** non-trivial which leads to different **challenges**.



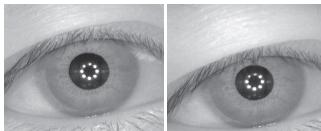


Challenges in identification

- ▶ Computational costs: the computational workload of the biometric system in terms of the number of enrolled subjects.
⇒ the **investment** in advanced technologies (e.g. hardware and device investment).
- ▶ False positive costs: the cost of a **false match** increases as the number of enrolled subjects increases.
- ▶ Biometric data is **fuzzy**.



Faces



Iris



Fingerprint

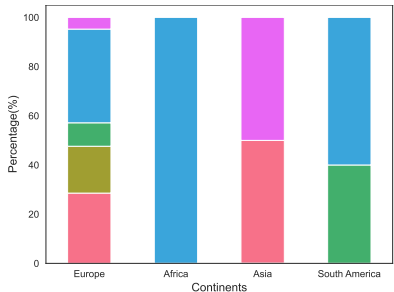
⇒ an inherent order, variance, and variations across different biometric characteristics.

⇒ **Identification** is more challenging than verification!

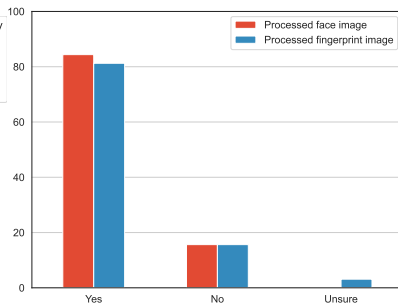


Privacy protection

- ▶ Questionnaire containing the answers from 32 subjects.
- ▶ Privacy depends on human **perception** and **culture**.
- ▶ From the legal framework (GDPR), biometric data is defined as **sensitive data**.
- ▶ Need for research on **privacy-preserving biometric systems** in compliance with the GDPR.



Human Perception and Culture

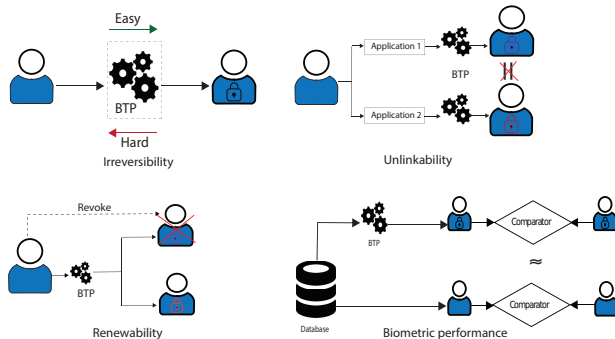


Level of sensitivity: Face vs Fingerprint



Biometric data protection

- ▶ Strong mechanisms for the **full protection** of the biometric reference.
- ▶ Requirements defined in ISO/IEC 24745:
 1. Irreversibility
 2. Renewability
 3. Unlinkability
 4. Biometric performance
- ▶ Biometric template protection schemes (BTP):
 1. Biometric Cryptosystems
 2. Homomorphic Encryption
 3. Cancelable Biometrics



⇒ **High computational workload on exhaustive searches!**



Research Questions

1. Is it possible to combine workload-reduction (WR) strategies with BTP schemes while maintaining accuracy and high privacy protection?
 - ▶ Is it possible to combine pre-selection strategies (e.g. prefiltering, binning, data structures) with BTP (e.g. cryptobiometrics, homomorphic encryption, and cancelable biometrics)?
2. Is it possible to create a multi-biometric system which combines WR strategies with BTP schemes and demands a low workload, while deploying high privacy protection for the different biometric characteristics (or fusion levels)?
 - ▶ Techniques of information fusion at the feature level.
3. How can the trade-offs between biometric performance, template protection, and workload reduction in a biometric identification system be analysed and interpreted?
 - ▶ Is it possible to theoretically/formally model the trade-offs between biometric performance, template protection, and workload reduction in a biometric identification system?
 - ▶ Is it possible to empirically evaluate these trade-offs?



Research Questions

4. Can existing privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) be successfully employed for privacy protection?
 - ▶ Is it possible to design novel attacks that reveal new vulnerabilities of the soft-biometric privacy-enhancing face approaches?



Work focus

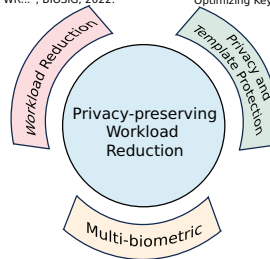
- ▶ **Workload Reduction:** non-exhaustive and stable searches.
- ▶ **Template Protection:** combination with template protection.
- ▶ **Multi-biometric system:** improvement of the biometric performance, interoperability, usability, and combination.
- ▶ **Privacy:** novel vulnerabilities.

“Stable hash generation...”
IEEE T-BIOM, 2021.

“Benchmarking fixed-length Fingerprint...”, BIOSIG, 2023.
“Indexing Protected Deep Face Templates...”, IJCB, 2022.
“Exploring quality scores for WR...”, IWBF, 2022.
“Analysis of Minutiae Quality for WR...”, BIOSIG, 2022.

“An Attack on Facial Soft-Biometric...”
IEEE T-BIOM, 2022.

“Reversing Deep Face Embeddings...”, WIFS, 2023.
“Optimizing Key-Selection...”, WIFS, 2023.



“Privacy-preserving Multi-biometric Indexing...”
IEEE TIFS, 2024.



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Biometric WR



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Biometric Workload Reduction



WR Methods

- ▶ pre-selection: focused on reducing the number of biometric template comparisons (i.e. search space) by designing e.g. binning schemes, data structures, etc.

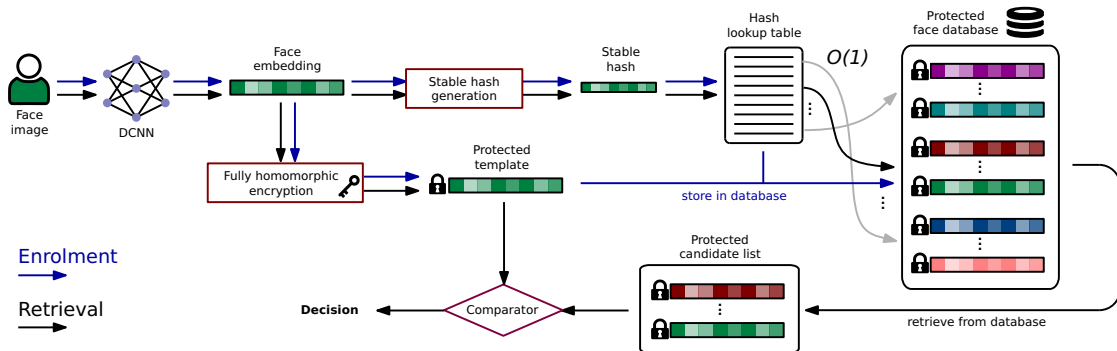
Take-away messages

- ▶ Homomorphic encryption as BTP scheme.
- ▶ Computational complexity $O(1)$ \Rightarrow non-fuzzy comparison.
- ▶ Stable search and specific machine-learning techniques \Rightarrow without exposing the dimensional biometric feature vector.
- ▶ Unsupervised clustering-based approaches with product quantization \Rightarrow compact hash codes and invalidate any practical security analysis.
- ▶ Algorithm agnostic across biometric characteristics \Rightarrow proof-of-the-concept: Face.



Hash Look-up Table for Indexing Hashed Faces Homomorphically

Overview

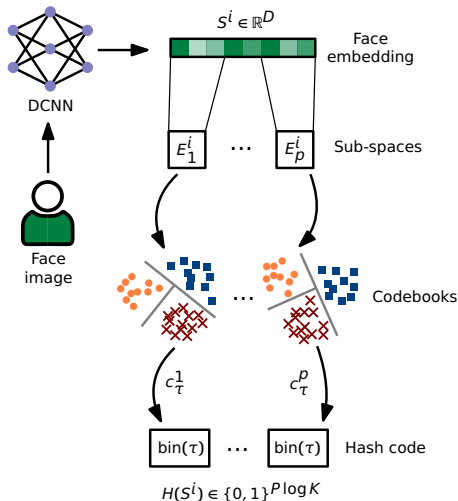




Hash Generation Scheme

Theory and Computational Workload

- Concatenation of P sub-vectors of equal size.
- P approximated and represented by the nearest cluster.
- $W_{proposed} = N \times p \times \theta + \beta$ (hash look-up table).
- An exact match, i.e. $\beta \ll 1.00\text{ms}$.
- Cost of a one-to-one comparison $\rightarrow \theta$.
- Total of subjects enrolled $\rightarrow N$
- Penetration rate $\rightarrow p = \frac{\gamma}{N}$.
- It is expected $W_{proposed} \ll W_{baseline}$
- $W_{baseline} \rightarrow 100\%$.



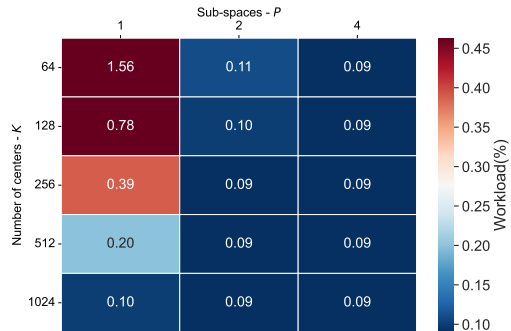


Hash Generation Scheme

Results: workload reduction

Relation between sub-spaces and the number of centres. $N=1,177$

K	Metrics	$P = 1$	$P = 2$	$P = 4$
64	γ	18.3906	1.3282	1.0020
	p	156×10^{-4}	11×10^{-4}	9×10^{-4}
	W	1.56%	0.11%	0.09%
128	γ	9.1953	1.1444	1.0007
	p	78×10^{-1}	10×10^{-4}	9×10^{-4}
	W	0.78%	0.10%	0.09%
256	γ	4.5977	1.0815	1.0022
	p	39×10^{-4}	9×10^{-1}	9×10^{-4}
	W	0.39%	0.09%	0.09%
512	γ	2.2988	1.0591	1.0022
	p	20×10^{-4}	9×10^{-1}	9×10^{-4}
	W	0.20%	0.09%	0.09%
1024	γ	1.1424	1.0148	1.0012
	p	10×10^{-4}	9×10^{-1}	9×10^{-4}
	W	0.10%	0.09%	0.09%



⇒ Workload depends on the number of sub-spaces

⇒ Best Workload is 0.09% for a constant N .

⇒ 0.09% → 99% with respect to baseline 100%



Hash Generation Scheme

Results: biometric performance

FPIR and FNIR (in %), Open-set scenario in LFW¹ database.

Approach	P	FPIR=0.1(%)	FPIR=1.0(%)
Unprotected (Exhaustive search) ²	-	51.58	0.52
Protected (Hash look-up)	$P = 1$	36.40	2.68
Protected (Hash look-up)	$P = 2$	34.99	2.97
Protected (Hash look-up)	$P = 4$	37.63	3.76

- ▶ Robustness analysis \Rightarrow open-set scenarios.
- ▶ High variation of the image quality over LFW.
- ▶ Biometric performance in the protected domain is competitive with respect to the unprotected domain.
- ▶ Trade-off controlled by the number of sub-spaces.

¹G. Huang, M. Ramesh, T. Berg, et al. "Faces in the wild: a database for studying face recognition in unconstrained environments." In: *Technical Report* (2007), pp. 07–49, p. 1.

²X. Dong, S. Kim, Z. Jin, et al. "Open-set face identification with index-of-max hashing by learning." In: *Pattern Recognition* 103 (2020), p. 107277, p. 2.



Multi-biometric systems

- ▶ Combine or fuse multiple sources of information to improve the **overall discriminative power** of a single biometric recognition system.
- ▶ Combining biometric data at **different levels** of the processing pipeline:
Sensor, Feature, Score, Rank, Decision

Advantages

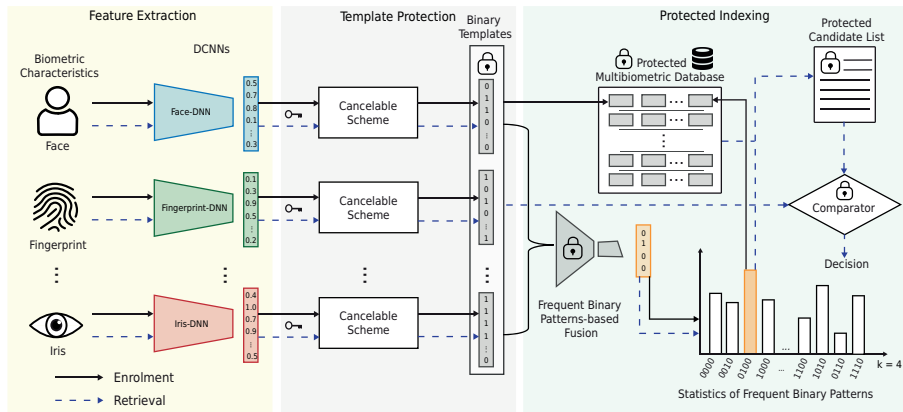
- ▶ Fusion strategies can be **flexible** to operate at different levels of the biometric processing pipeline.
- ▶ Feature-level fusion \Rightarrow the highest **privacy protection and security** level of a biometric system.
- ▶ Protection of the biometric template \Rightarrow retained at the **feature-level fusion**.
- ▶ Application to cancelable approaches as BTP schemes.

\Rightarrow Need for research on **common protected feature** representation!



Privacy-preserving Multi-biometric Indexing based on Frequent Binary Patterns

Overview

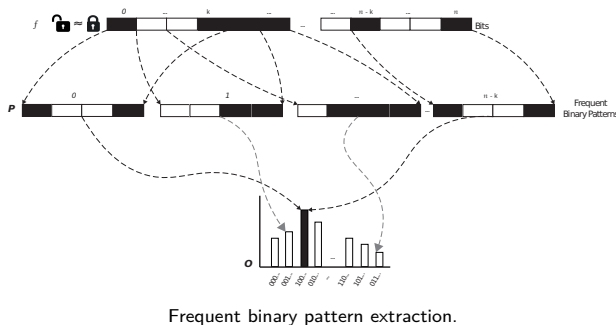




Work on Frequent Binary Patterns

Theory

- ▶ Sampling and computation of the statistics (**O**) of the frequent binary patterns extracted (**FBP**).
- ▶ Fusion on the feature level taking advantage of the novel concept for retrieval and indexing.
 1. Feature-concatenation (Feature-level)
 2. Ranked-codes (Representation-level based on **FBP**)
 3. XOR-codes (Representation-level based on **FBP**)



⇒ Data subjects are indexed with at most 2^k bins!
⇒ Search of a threshold $1 \leq t \leq 2^k$ for retrieval!

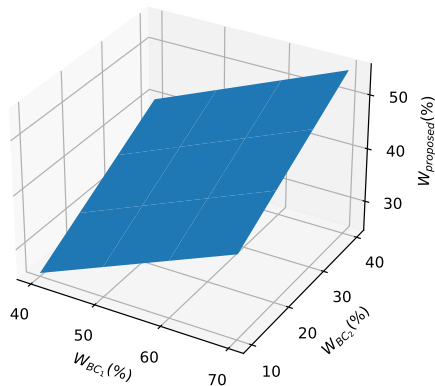


Work on Frequent Binary Patterns

Computational Workload

$$W_{proposed} = \sum_{i=1}^t |b_i| \cdot m, \quad (1)$$

- ▶ Application to single-biometric characteristics and different types of m biometric characteristics.
- ▶ Depends on threshold t .
- ▶ $W_{proposed}$ depends on the biometric characteristics involved (BC_1 and BC_2).
- ▶ $W_{proposed}$ increases with the workloads of the types of BC_1 and BC_2 .
- ▶ It is expected $W_{proposed} \ll W_{baseline}$



Relation between the $W_{proposed}$ and the BC s involved



Results in terms of FNIR(%) and WR(%) for single-biometric characteristic

FNIR (%) in FPIR=0.01% and FPIR=0.1%, WR(%)

BC	Search	k	#Bins	WR(%)	FPIR=0.01(%)	FPIR=0.1(%)
Face	exhaustive indexing	-	-	100.00	33.91	21.42
		5	25	75.52	36.21	33.15
Fingerprint	exhaustive indexing	-	-	100.00	44.43	36.80
		7	29	32.23	39.57	31.21
Iris	exhaustive indexing	-	-	100.00	44.60	32.52
		6	45	69.04	74.42	49.42

- ▶ Results shown for Biohashing³ in open-set scenario.
- ▶ Workload reductions are remarkable with respect to the baseline workload.
- ▶ Differential biometric performance and workload reduction across biometric characteristics utilised.
- ▶ Multi-biometric indexing scheme is expected to outperform the biometric performance of the retrieved individual biometric characteristic, while maintaining the overall workload of the system.

³ATB. Jin, DNC. Ling, and A. Goh. "Biohashing: two factor authentication featuring fingerprint data and tokenised random number." In: *Pattern recognition* 37.11 (2004), pp. 2245–2255, p. 1.



Results for multi-biometric characteristics: Face(FA), Fingerprint(FP), Iris(IR)

FNIR (%) in FPIR=0.01% and FPIR=0.1%, WR(%)

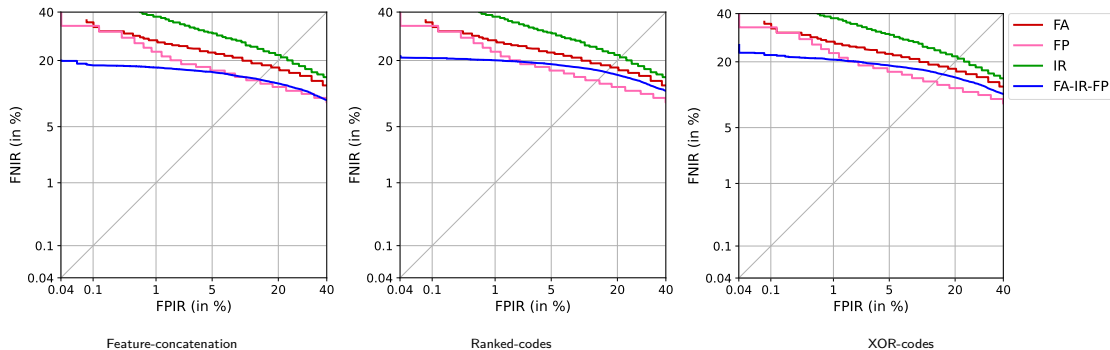
Method	BC	k	#Bins	WR(%)	FPIR=0.01(%)	FPIR=0.1(%)
Single BC	FA	5	25	75.52	36.21	33.15
	FP	7	29	32.23	39.57	31.21
	IR	6	45	69.04	74.42	49.42
Feature-concatenation	IR-FP	6	31	53.07	32.20	24.69
	FA-FP-IR	6	38	61.61	19.81	19.36
Ranked-codes	IR-FP	6	30	53.40	32.14	25.36
	IR-FP-FA	6	33	57.40	21.55	20.81
XOR-codes	IR-FP	5	25	78.03	35.25	29.36
	FA-FP-IR	7	63	81.55	26.24	22.38

- Advantage of the fusion for some biometric characteristics in terms of workload reduction.
- Improvement in biometric performance but the overall computational workload increases for specific biometric characteristics.



Results for multi-biometric characteristics: Face(FA), Fingerprint(FP), Iris(IR).

Detection Error Trade-off (DET) curves between FPIR and FNIR.



- Biometric performance of the multi-biometric system outperformed at the high-security thresholds: (i.e. FPIR = 0.01%).



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Privacy Protection Analysis



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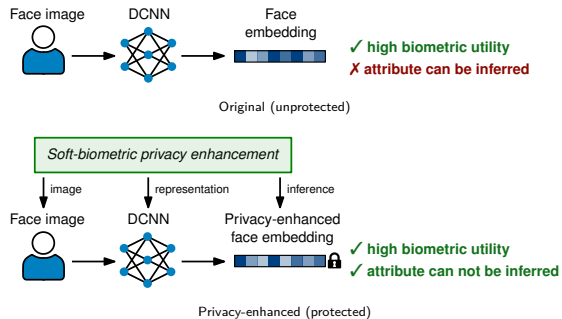
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Privacy Protection Analysis



Soft-biometric privacy enhancement

- ▶ Facial Soft-biometric Privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs).
- ▶ Mechanisms can operate on the feature level by cancelling the attribute or minimizing data.
- ▶ High utility on biometric data is preserved, even, when soft-information is cancelled or removed.
- ▶ Removal or suppression of facial information yields less discriminative face embeddings?

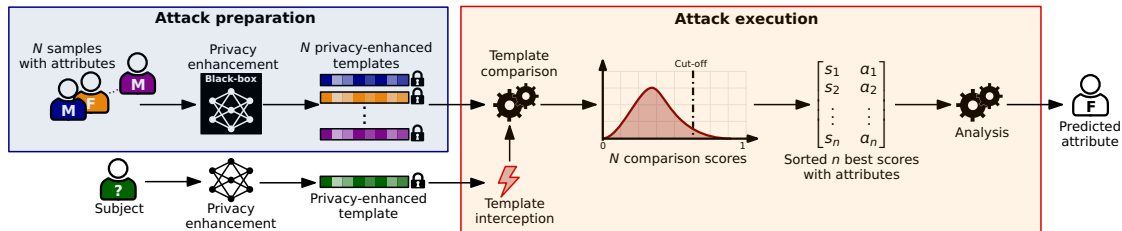


⇒ Need for a closer examination of soft-biometric privacy enhancement methods!



An Attack on Facial Soft-biometric Privacy Enhancement

Overview

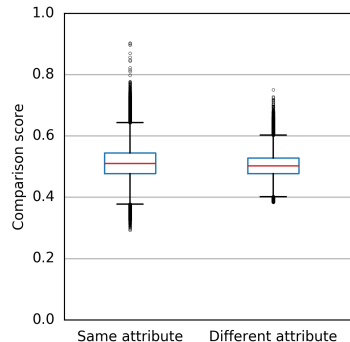




An Attack on Facial Soft-biometric Privacy Enhancement

Execution

- ▶ Application of the privacy-enhancing method as black-box.
- ▶ Use of a small database of arbitrary face images.
- ▶ Two state-of-the-art algorithms for facial soft-biometric privacy enhancement: PFR-Net⁴ and PE-MIU⁵.
- ▶ Predict the soft-biometric attribute gender.
- ▶ Analyse the effect of broad homogeneity⁶ in privacy-enhanced domains.



Boxplots of similarity scores.

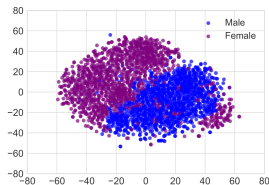
⁴B. Bortolato, M. Ivanovska, P. Rot, et al. "Learning privacy-enhancing face representations through feature disentanglement." In: *2020 15th IEEE Intl. Conf. on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG 2020)*. IEEE. 2020, pp. 495–502, p. 1.

⁵P. Terhörst, K. Riehl, N. Damer, et al. "PE-MIU: A training-free privacy-enhancing face recognition approach based on minimum information units." In: *IEEE Access* 8 (2020), pp. 93635–93647, p. 2.

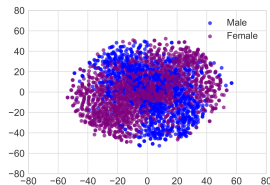


An Attack on Facial Soft-biometric Privacy Enhancement

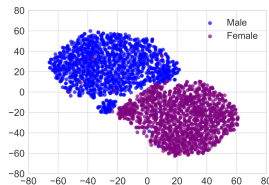
Results: performance analysis.



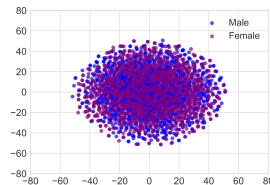
Original - VGGFace2



Privacy-enhanced - PRF-Net



Original - FaceNet



Privacy-enhanced - PE-MIU

- ▶ Privacy-enhanced face templates showed similar biometric performance with respect to unprotected templates.
- ▶ Privacy is preserved using machine learning technique-based evaluations.
- ▶ Visualization through the dimensionality reduction-based tools.
- ▶ Machine learning classifiers are not able to learn the pattern of a soft-biometric attribute, it means the pattern does not exist?



An Attack on Facial Soft-biometric Privacy Enhancement

Results: vulnerability analysis.

Summary of the best average attack success rates across all cross-database scenarios (in %).

Method	Attack success rate					
	$n = 1$	$n = 5$	$n = 10$	$n = 50$	$n = 100$	$n = 200$
PFRNet	74.92 ± 4.79	79.04 ± 7.08	79.50 ± 7.42	78.96 ± 9.06	77.54 ± 9.88	75.63 ± 12.79
PE-MIU	85.23 ± 3.97	88.12 ± 3.28	88.65 ± 3.68	88.95 ± 3.99	88.26 ± 4.08	86.91 ± 4.38

- Vulnerability with statistical analysis of the similarity scores: Majority vote, Average, and Weighted Average.
- Best average $\Rightarrow \sim 88\%$ and Best accuracy $\Rightarrow \sim 90\%$.
- Privacy-enhancing face templates retain certain properties of the original face recognition systems.
- The attack can be applied to other biometric characteristics where the effect of broad homogeneity is observed.
- Attack prevention \Rightarrow BTP schemes.



Take-away Messages and Contributions

In relation to research questions

1. Is it possible to combine workload-reduction (WR) strategies with BTP schemes while maintaining accuracy and high privacy preservation?
 - ▶ Proposed indexing methods together with BTP schemes which reduced the computational workload, but do not impair the biometric performance of a biometric identification system.
 - ▶ The design of the proposed indexing methods allows the end-to-end protection of the biometric identification transaction, i.e. from the index to the biometric template.
2. Is it possible to create a multi-biometric system which combines WR strategies with BTP schemes and demands a low workload, while deploying high privacy protection for the different biometric characteristics (or fusion levels)?
 - ▶ Incorporated the fusion in a common protected feature representation at the feature level across different and protected types of biometric characteristics maintaining an acceptable overall workload of the biometric system, good biometric performance, and high privacy protection.



Take-away Messages and Contributions

In relation to research questions

3. How can the trade-offs between biometric performance, template protection, and workload reduction in a biometric identification system be analysed and interpreted?
 - ▶ Trade-offs in terms of biometric performance, privacy protection, and workload reduction was evaluated empirically and analysed theoretically.
4. Can existing privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) be successfully employed for privacy protection?
 - ▶ Novel vulnerabilities on facial soft-bimetric privacy-enhancing technologies.



Future work

- ▶ Scalability and Security with homomorphic encryption.
- ▶ Multi-biometric fixed-length representations.
- ▶ Evaluation of privacy-preserving workload-reduction schemes.
- ▶ Privacy analysis in biometric template protection.

Thank you for listening!

This work is supported by the TReSPAsS-ETN project funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 860813.



Publications (First Author)

Journals

1. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Lázaro J. González-Soler, Christian Rathgeb and Christoph Busch, "Privacy-preserving Multi-biometric Indexing based on Frequent Binary Pattern", TIFS, 2024.
2. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Christian Rathgeb, Pawel Drozdowski, Philipp Terhórst, Vitomir Štruc, Christoph Busch, "An Attack on Facial Soft-biometric Privacy Enhancemen", TBIOM, 2022.
3. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Christian Rathgeb, Pawel Drozdowski, Christoph Busch, "Stable Hash Generation for Efficient Privacy-Preserving Face Identification", TBIOM, 2021.

Conferences

4. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Paul A. Gerlitz, Christian Rathgeb, Christoph Busch, Reversing Deep Face Embeddings with Probable Privacy Protection, in IEEE Intl. Workshop on Information Forensics and Security (WIFS), 2023.
5. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Mahdi Ghafourian, Christian Rathgeb, Ruben Vera-Rodriguez, Christoph Busch, Julian Fierrez, Optimizing Key-Selection for Face-based One-Time Biometrics via Morphing, in IEEE Intl. Workshop on Information Forensics and Security (WIFS), 2023.
6. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Tim Rohwedder, Christian Rathgeb, Christoph Busch, Analysis of Minutiae Quality for Improved Workload Reduction in Fingerprint Identification, in Proc Intl. Conf. of the Biometrics Special Interest Group (BIOSIG), 2022.
7. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Christian Rathgeb, Hatem Otroschi-Shahreza, Christoph Busch, Sébastien Marcel, Indexing Protected Deep Face Templates by Frequent Binary Patterns, in International Joint Conference on Biometrics (IJCB), 2022.
8. Dailé Osorio-Roig, Torsten Schlett, Christian Rathgeb, Juan Tapia, Christoph Busch, Exploring Quality Scores for Workload Reduction in Biometric Identification, in International Workshop on Biometrics and Forensics (IWBF), 2022.



Backup



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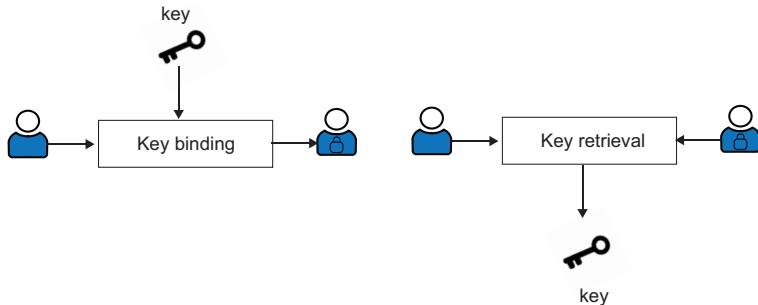
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Biometric Template Protection Schemes



Biometric data protection

► Biometric cryptosystems:

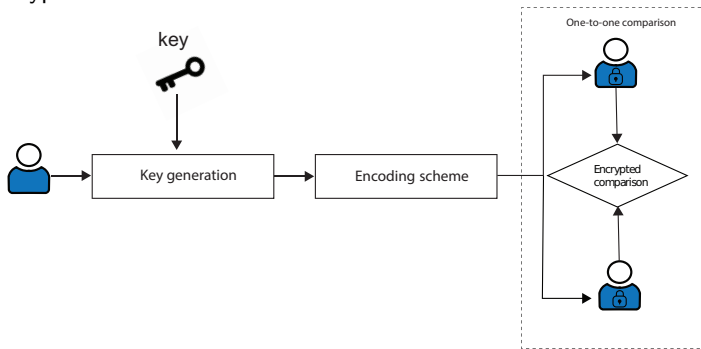


- ⇒ Enable complex processes of biometric comparison by verifying the correctness of a retrieved key.
- ⇒ Offering solutions to biometric-dependent key-release and biometric template protection.



Biometric data protection

► Homomorphic encryption:



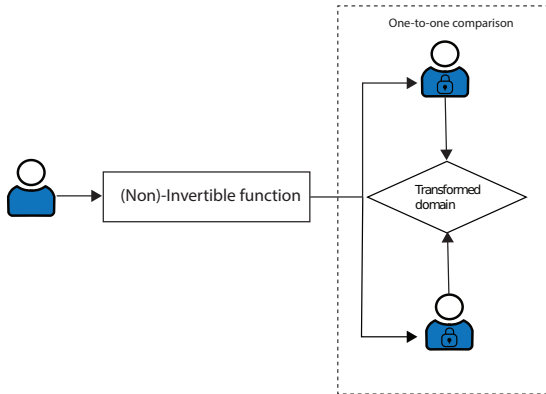
- ⇒ Optimizations depend on the encoding schemes.
- ⇒ Limited operations in the encrypted domain.
- ⇒ Preserving biometric performance.



Biometric data protection

► Cancelable biometrics:

- ⇒ Retaining efficient biometric comparators.
- ⇒ Degradation of the biometric performance.





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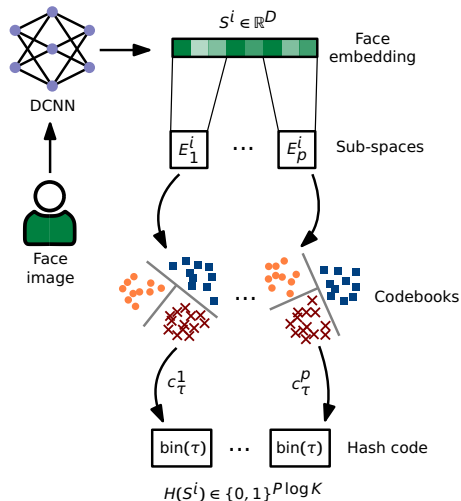
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Hash Look-up Table

Hash Generation Scheme

Theory

- ▶ Each biometric reference is represented for its corresponding face embedding extracted of size D : $\mathbf{S} = \{S^1, \dots, S^N\}$.
- ▶ Each face embedding is divided into P sub-spaces or sub-vectors that are approximated by the nearest cluster.
- ▶ Product Quantization is applied on the entire feature vector to represent a concatenation of P sub-spaces of equal size.
- ▶ A compact hash code of $P \log_2(K)$ bits is represented for each face embedding.

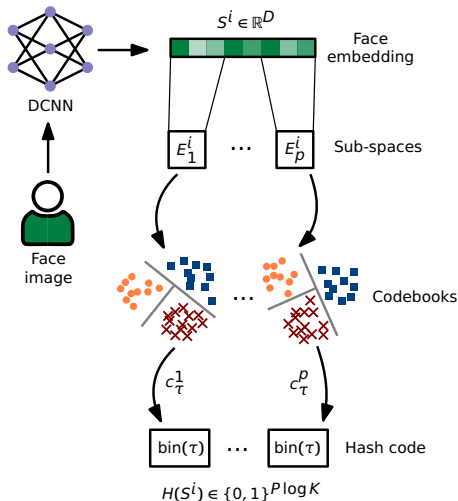




Hash Generation Scheme

Computational Workload

- $W_{proposed} = N \times p \times \theta + \beta$ (hash look-up table).
- An exact match, i.e. $\beta \ll 1.00\text{ms}$.
- Cost of a one-to-one comparison $\rightarrow \theta$.
- Penetration rate $\rightarrow p$.
- Fraction of protected templates indexed in $O(1) \rightarrow \gamma$
- Total of subjects enrolled $\rightarrow N$
- $p = \frac{\gamma}{N}$.
- It is expected $W_{proposed} \ll W_{baseline}$
- $W_{baseline} \rightarrow 100\%$.





Scenarios of evaluation

- ▶ **Closed-set scenario:** Proposed system is to correctly handle identification transactions with data subjects whose references **are present** in the enrolment database.
- ▶ **Open-set scenario:** Proposed system is to correctly handle identification transactions with data subjects whose references **are not present** in the enrolment database.

Clustering techniques

- ▶ Centroid-based clustering techniques (K-means, K-medoids).
- ▶ Density-based clustering algorithm (Gaussian mixture model).
- ▶ Graph-based clustering algorithm (Affinity propagation)
- ▶ Number of clusters and sub-vectors: $\mathbf{K} = \{64, 128, 256, 512, 1024\}$ and $\mathbf{P} = \{1, 2, 4\}$



Metrics

Closed-set scenario

- ▶ Pre-selection error rates: the proportion of subjects for which the corresponding subject identifier is not in the pre-selected subset of candidates.
- ▶ Hit-rate: which computes the complement of the preselection error rates: $1 - \text{pre-selection error rates}$.

Open-set scenario

- ▶ The Detection Error Trade-off (DET) curves between false negative identification rate (FNIR) and false positive identification rate (FPIR) .
- ▶ The FNIR observed at different FPIR values such as 1% (FNIR100) and 0.1% (FNIR1000).

Computational workload reduction

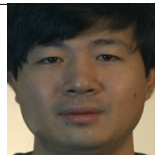
- ▶ Computational Workload: the overall computational workload of a biometric identification transaction as a percentage of the baseline (exhaustive search) workload in terms of the number of template comparisons.



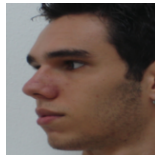
Configurations

Databases

- ▶ FERET \Rightarrow frontal face images with variations of color and expression.
- ▶ FEI \Rightarrow extreme pose variation.
- ▶ LFW \Rightarrow unconstrained face recognition problem in the wild.



FERET



FEI



LFW

Homomorphic encryption

- ▶ Brakerski/Fan-Vercauteren (BFV) scheme \Rightarrow batching technique.
- ▶ Security level \Rightarrow 128 bits.



Security and privacy protection analysis

- ▶ Compact hash code of size \Rightarrow leaks no information about the biometric feature.
- ▶ Hash code length is $4 \log(1024) = 40$ bits \Rightarrow not more than 128 bits.
- ▶ Non-fuzzy comparison \Rightarrow a hard task to get similarity information from the indexing scheme.
- ▶ Message Authentication Codes (MACs) which may involve the use of cryptographic hash functions (HMACs), e.g., SHA-256 \Rightarrow prevents cross-matching or reconstruction attacks.
- ▶ **Unlinkability, Renewability, Irreversibility** \Rightarrow guaranteed by the BTP scheme used.
- ▶ The security and privacy protection \Rightarrow upper-bounded by attackers' effort of being falsely accepted by the system, the so-called **false accept attack**.



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Multi-biometric system



Configuration

- ▶ LFW (Face).
- ▶ MCYT(Fingerprint).
- ▶ CASIA-Iris-Thousand and BioSecure (Iris).
- ▶ 1,170 identities for each database.
- ▶ Filtering by quality.
- ▶ Index-of-Maximum Hashing with Gaussian Random Projection (IoM-GRP) and Bio-Hashing approaches as Cancelable Biometrics.
- ▶ Score normalisation \Rightarrow Z-score method
- ▶ Score-level fusion \Rightarrow sum-rule fusion



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