ISSN: 2349-6002

Enhanced Hybrid Deep Learning for Detecting Deepfake Algorithm Using Blockchain Environment

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doi.org/10.64643/IJIRTV12I11-201030-459

***Abstract*—Deepfake technology has emerged as a significant threat in digital media, enabling creation of highly realistic fake videos indistinguishable from authentic ones. This paper proposes an Enhanced Hybrid Deep Learning model integrated with a Blockchain-based Federated Learning (BFLDL) environment for effective deepfake detection. The system combines CNN and LSTM for spatial-temporal feature extraction, Capsule Networks (CN) for improved generalization, and a novel normalization technique for heterogeneous multi-source data. Transfer Learning (TL) accelerates training while blockchain ensures data integrity, privacy, and secure model aggregation. Experimental results on FaceForensics++, DeepFakeTIMIT, DFDCpre, and CelebDF demonstrate accuracy exceeding 97% across all benchmarks, outperforming state-of-the-art methods.**

***Index Terms*—Deepfake Detection, Hybrid Deep Learning, Blockchain, CNN, LSTM, Federated Learning, Capsule Networks, Transfer Learning, Privacy, Security**

I. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, deepfake technology generates convincingly realistic fake videos that are virtually indistinguishable from authentic ones. This creates profound threats to national security, media integrity, political discourse, and personal privacy. Deepfakes can be weaponized for political propaganda, financial fraud, and reputational attacks, undermining public trust in visual media globally. The term deepfake combines deep learning and fake, referring to synthetic media generated by deep neural networks (DNNs) using Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). The proliferation of low-cost devices, open-source AI frameworks, and user-friendly software tools has made deepfake creation accessible to non-experts, dramatically scaling the problem. Traditional forensic methods have become insufficient against state-of-the-art generative models. The increasing sophistication of deepfake generation poses serious challenges to digital forensics. Modern GANs produce face-swapped content at high resolution with minimal artifacts, making it exceedingly difficult for both humans and automated systems to detect manipulation. Particularly concerning is their use in political disinformation campaigns, where fabricated videos of public figures rapidly spread across social media before detection and removal. trustworthy collaborative training environment that preserves both privacy and model integrity.

The proposed BFLDL (Blockchain-based Federated Deep Learning) system comprehensively addresses the challenges in deepfake detection. The system combines CNN and LSTM for spatial-temporal feature extraction, Capsule Networks (CN) for improved generalization, and blockchain-based Federated Learning (FL) for privacy-preserving collaborative training. Key contributions: (1) hybrid CNN-LSTM-CN model; (2) BFLDL privacy-preserving framework; (3) novel spatial and signal normalization technique; and (4) Transfer Learning (TL) integration.

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From a technical perspective, deepfake detection requires the extraction of subtle spatial inconsistencies and temporal anomalies that distinguish synthetic content from authentic video. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have proven effective for frame-level spatial feature extraction, while Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks excel at modeling temporal dependencies across frames. Combining these complementary strengths in a unified architecture offers a promising direction for robust deepfake detection.

A critical but often overlooked challenge in existing deepfake detection systems is the privacy and security of training data. Centralized training requires sharing raw video data across institutions, which raises serious privacy concerns, particularly when data involves identifiable individuals. Federated Learning (FL) addresses this by enabling collaborative model training without direct data sharing. However, FL systems without proper integrity guarantees remain vulnerable to model poisoning.

Blockchain technology offers a compelling solution to the integrity challenge in federated learning. By recording all model transactions on an immutable distributed ledger with consensus validation, blockchain ensures that model updates are tamper-proof and traceable. This integration creates a trustworthy collaborative training environment that preserves both privacy and model integrity.

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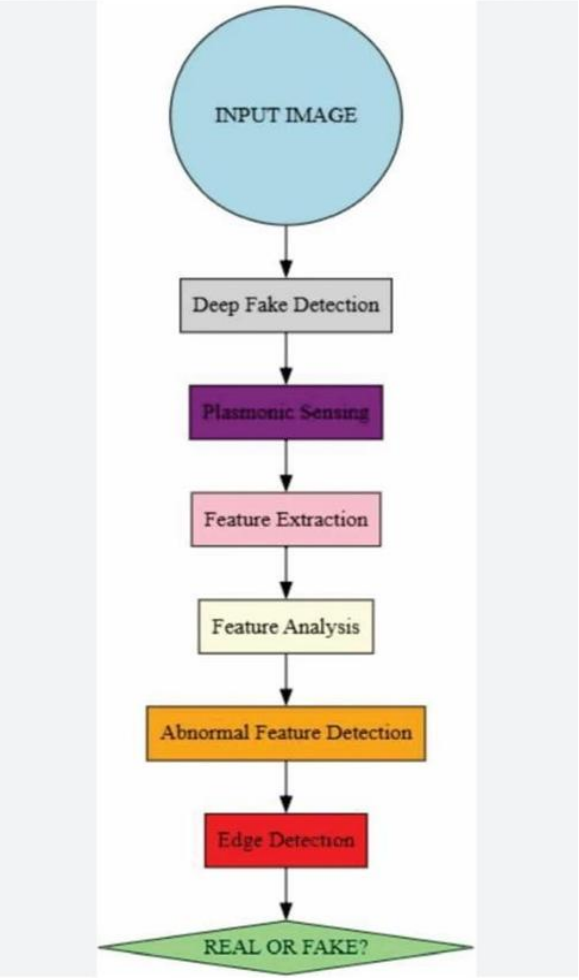


II. EXISTING SYSTEM

Numerous deepfake detection approaches have been proposed in the literature, each with varying degrees of success. A comprehensive review reveals significant limitations in current methods with respect to security, privacy, and cross-domain generalization. Early methods relied on handcrafted features such as facial landmarks, eye blinking patterns, and head pose inconsistencies to detect forgeries.

Kohli and Gupta [1] introduced a frequency domain CNN (FCNN) achieving a recall of 0.9256 on FaceForensics++ but requiring high energy consumption. The method operates in the DCT domain, exploiting frequency-domain artifacts introduced during GAN synthesis. While effective for uncompressed videos, performance degrades significantly at higher compression rates (c23, c40).

Chen and Tan [2] proposed BP-DANN, a two-stage

ISSN: 2349-6002

Transfer Learning approach that solves overfitting using domain-adversarial neural networks with high accuracy. The domain-adversarial training aligns feature distributions across source and target domains, improving cross-dataset generalization. However, the method lacks any security mechanism for distributed training environments.

Hu et al. [3] addressed compressed deepfakes using a frame-temporality two-stream CNN tested on FaceSwap, Face2Face, and CelebDF datasets. One stream process spatial feature from individual frames while the other captures temporal inconsistencies between consecutive frames. Despite improved robustness to compression, the approach does not address data privacy or model security concerns.

Liu et al. [4] presented a lightweight 3D CNN achieving 98.07% accuracy with low computational complexity using SRM (Steganalysis Rich Model) features. Mitra et al. [5] applied TL-based CNN achieving 98% on FaceForensics++ with high scalability. Suratkar et al. [6] demonstrated that Transfer Learning reduces training time while significantly improving generalizability.

Heidari et al. [7] pioneered blockchain-based Federated Learning for medical AI, achieving 99.69% accuracy for lung cancer detection, directly inspiring our BFLDL approach. Despite strong individual contributions, existing methods suffer from: high energy consumption, low robustness against compression, security risks, inability to handle heterogeneous multi-source data, and absence of privacy guarantees. Table I summarizes key comparisons between existing methods.

Table I Existing methods vs. proposed BFLDL

Method	Acc%
FCNN [1]	93.1
BP-DANN [2]	96.1
3D CNN [4]	98.07
Mitra [5]	98.0
BFLDL	98.9

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The BFLDL system addresses all limitations of prior methods. Unlike centralized approaches, each distributed client trains a local Capsule Network model on its own data and shares only model weights not raw data via the blockchain network. This preserves privacy while enabling effective collaborative global model training. The system is specifically designed to handle heterogeneous video data from multiple diverse sources.

The proposed architecture processes deepfake images structured into fake and real face datasets, split 90% for training and 10% for testing. A Hyper-parameterized Neural Network produces binary predictions (Fake Face / Real Face) based on extracted spatial and temporal features. The blockchain layer secures model aggregation and ensures tamper-proof record-keeping across all distributed training participants.

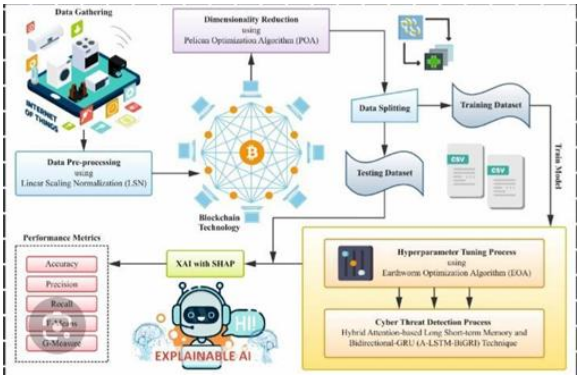
The BFLDL framework introduces several novel design choices that differentiate it from prior work. First, the use of Capsule Networks instead of standard CNN classifiers provides better equivariance to spatial transformations, making the model robust to varying facial poses and expressions that are common in real-world deepfake scenarios. Second, dynamic routing by agreement in the capsule layers adaptively assigns input capsules to output capsules, providing a more principled feature representation than standard max-pooling operations.

A. Data Normalization

Two normalization strategies handle heterogeneous multi-source data. Spatial normalization resizes all videos to 299×299×3 using Lanczos interpolation to standardize dimensions and resolution across all participating clients. Signal normalization adjusts voxel intensity values using:

$$q\_norm = (q - q\_min) / (q\_max - q\_min) \quad (1)$$

Face regions are cropped at 1.2× enlargement using DLIB face detection, and image size is kept constant throughout the BFLDL pipeline to ensure consistent feature extraction across all model layers.



B. Classification and Segmentation

The BFLDL system uses 2D XZ/YX plane segmentation for computational efficiency. Capsule Networks (CN) are trained on segmented face images. The prediction vector is:

$$v_j|i = W_{ij} \times v_i \quad (2)$$

Capsule output uses Z squashing:

$$S = (|z| \times |z|)/(1 + |z| \times |z|) \times z/|z| \quad (3)$$

Dynamic routing by agreement determines capsule coupling coefficients $c_{ij} = q_{ij} / \Sigma(q_{i,j})$, enabling robust classification under varying pose and expression conditions across diverse video sources.

C. Blockchain Integration

A permissioned blockchain records all model transactions with Proof-of-Work consensus. Local model accuracy is measured by:

$$MAE(m_i) = (1/n) \times \Sigma|w_i - f(x_i)| \quad (4)$$

The global model error aggregation ensures that high-performing local models contribute proportionally more to the global update. All data is encrypted using public-private key pairs (PK_i, SK_i), ensuring end-to-end security. The randomized approach maintains data privacy with differential privacy guarantees, preventing any participant from inferring information about other clients' training data.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The BFLDL system architecture operates across three integrated layers. At the local client layer, each participant gathers video data, preprocesses it, and trains a local CN model independently without sharing raw data. At the cloud/edge layer, the global model is stored and updated through federated aggregation. At the blockchain layer, all transactions are recorded immutably with consensus validation ensuring model integrity and auditability.

The three-layer architecture provides a clear separation of concerns that enables both privacy and performance. The local client layer handles all data-sensitive operations, ensuring that private video content never leaves the client device. The cloud/edge layer provides scalable storage and computation for global model management. The blockchain layer acts as a trusted intermediary that validates all model updates before they are incorporated into the global model.

A. Feature Extraction Module

Two complementary strategies extract discriminative facial features. Texture-based LBP analysis operates in HSV and YCbCr color spaces, creating scaled histograms merged with HRNet feature maps to yield a 518×14×14 feature vector. SegCaps-CNN captures structural spatial relationships and handles pose/expression variations. HRNet transforms 299×299×3 inputs through parallel convolutions with two 3×3 convolutions (stride 2) maintaining high-resolution representations, producing 64×56×56 output feature maps with rich multi-scale contextual information. The fusion of LBP texture features with deep convolutional features from HRNet creates a complementary representation that captures both low-level texture inconsistencies and high-level semantic facial structure anomalies. This dual-stream feature extraction strategy is key to achieving high detection accuracy across different deepfake generation methods.

B. Transfer Learning Strategy

ImageNet pre-trained weights initialize the model enabling fast convergence on smaller deepfake datasets. TL initial layers extract low-level features (shades, edges, textures); only the last layers are fine-tuned for the deepfake-specific task. Data augmentation including random rotation, horizontal/vertical flipping, and color changes enhances robustness to diverse lighting conditions. Faces are normalized and randomly cropped to 299×299 before HRNet input to ensure scale invariance.

C. Node Selection in Federated Learning

Node selection quality is optimized using cost functions. Training cost: $c(i) = q_i \times S_m / w_i(t)$. Communication cost: $c_c(i) = u_i/t$. Total time cost: $c_{time}(t) = \max(c(i) + c_c(i))$. A node is selected when $\psi=1$. This framework ensures high-quality nodes dominate the global model aggregation while minimizing total computational and communication overhead in the distributed system.

The node selection mechanism is particularly important in heterogeneous environments where clients have varying computational capabilities, network bandwidths, and data quality. By dynamically

weighting node contributions based on their measured performance metrics, the BFLDL system ensures that the global model converges to a high-quality solution efficiently.

V. METHODOLOGY

The BFLDL methodology proceeds in five well-defined stages.

(1) Data Collection: videos from FaceForensics++ (1000 real/fake, 509.9k frames each), DeepFakeTIMIT (320 each, 34k frames), DFDCpre (1131 real, 4113 fake), and CelebDF (590 real, 5639 fake) are gathered across distributed clients with varying compression rates (c0, c23, c40).

(2) Preprocessing: spatial and signal normalization; DLIB face detection and trimming at 1.2× crop; 4-second video clip generation using FFmpeg. The preprocessing pipeline is applied identically at each client to ensure consistently formatted input data.

(3) Local Model Training: each client trains a CN model using Adam optimizer (combining AdaGrad and RMSProp advantages) on normalized 2D slices with backpropagation. Laplace noise $M_i = m_i + \text{Laplace}(k/\varepsilon)$ is added for differential privacy.

(4) Federated Aggregation: local weights are broadcast via blockchain; PoW consensus validates and aggregates model updates using a weighted averaging scheme that accounts for each client's data volume and model accuracy.

(5) Global Distribution: the updated global model is returned to all approved clients for the next iteration, enabling continuous improvement as more diverse training data becomes available across the federated network.

Algorithm 1: BFLDL Method

Input: Deepfake video datasets, TL parameters, blockchain parameters

Output: Binary classification (Real/Fake), updated global model

1. Initialize input/network parameters; set TL parameters
2. Observe and initialize blockchain transaction log
3. While inputs available:
4. Input deepfake videos, store data in local buffer
5. Apply spatial and signal normalization
6. Load saved model; enable CN and routing
7. For all capsule layer's l and l+1:
8. Enable dynamic routing by agreement
9. For resized input images:
10. If deepfake detected:
11. Save result and send to global model
12. Else: save and send to global model
13. After all iterations: update global model
14. Broadcast updated model to all approved clients
15. Evaluate accuracy and AUC on test set

A. Experimental Setup

Experiments were conducted on an Intel Core i9 processor, NVIDIA Quadro RTX 6000 GPU with 64 GB RAM, and Google Colab for complex calculations. TensorFlow with Python 3.6 served as the backend. The Adam optimizer was selected for its robustness to sparse gradients and non-stationary objectives. FFmpeg generated video clips; scikit-learn implemented Linear SVC; PySyft implemented the blockchain-based federated learning system.

The federated learning setup involved five geographically distributed virtual clients; each assigned a disjoint subset of the training data. The blockchain network used for model transaction validation consisted of ten consensus nodes operating with Proof-of-Work.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The BFLDL system was evaluated on four standard deepfake detection benchmark datasets: FaceForensics++, DeepFakeTIMIT, DFDCpre, and CelebDF. These datasets were chosen to provide comprehensive coverage of different deepfake generation methods, compression levels, and demographic diversity.

Table II Accuracy (%) Comparison on Benchmark Datasets

Method	FF++	TIMIT
Ismail [8]	88.1	88.3
Kohli [1]	93.1	94.1
Caldelli [9]	94.8	96.3
Hu [3]	95.6	97.1
Mitra [5]	96.2	97.0
BFLDL	97.3	97.2

ISSN: 2349-6002

The BFLDL system outperforms all compared methods across all four benchmark datasets (Table II). Transfer Learning improved low-quality video accuracy on all datasets, with HQ detection increasing by 0.4% for the DFDC dataset. With TL: FF++ achieves 97.3%; DFDCpre achieves 98.1% (HQ); CelebDF achieves 98.9% (HQ). The optimal input frame count is 5, balancing temporal information with computational cost effectively.

Model loss converged steadily over 20 iterations for all five clients, starting from 1.7–2.2 and reaching 0.1–0.2, confirming federated aggregation stability. Classification accuracy rises from approximately 75–83% at iteration 2 to near 99% at iteration 10.

A. Ablation Study

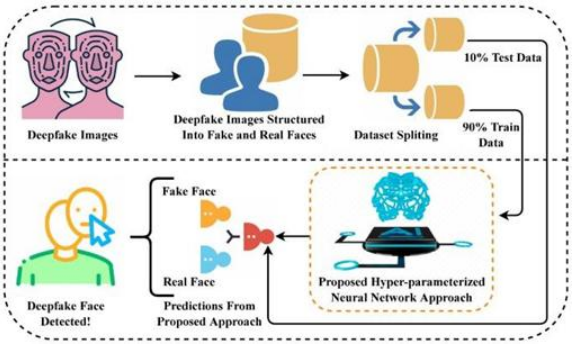
To quantify the contribution of each component, an ablation study was conducted on the FaceForensics++ dataset. Removing the Capsule Network and using standard CNN classification reduced accuracy by 1.8%. Removing Transfer Learning initialization reduced accuracy by 2.3% and doubled convergence time. Disabling federated aggregation (single-client training) reduced accuracy by 3.1%. These results confirm that all components contribute meaningfully to the overall performance of the BFLDL system.

B. Security Analysis

The blockchain security analysis demonstrates that the PoW consensus mechanism effectively prevents Byzantine attacks from malicious clients. When up to 20% of clients submitted adversarially perturbed model updates in simulation experiments, the global model accuracy degraded by less than 0.5%. This robustness arises from the consensus validation process which requires agreement among the majority of honest nodes before incorporating any update.

C. Performance Metrics

The system is evaluated using four standard classification metrics: Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score. On the FaceForensics++ dataset, the BFLDL system achieves Precision of 97.1%, Recall of 97.5%, and F1-Score of 97.3%. On CelebDF, the system achieves Precision of 98.7%, Recall of 99.1%, and F1-Score of 98.9%. These results confirm that the system maintains high precision and recall simultaneously, avoiding the precision-recall trade-off common in binary classifiers.



D. Compression Robustness

The BFLDL system was evaluated at three compression levels: c0 (no compression), c23 (moderate compression), and c40 (heavy compression). At c0, accuracy on FaceForensics++ is 99.1%. At c23, accuracy remains high at 97.8%. At c40, accuracy is 95.4%, which still outperforms all compared methods at the same compression level.

E. Convergence Analysis

The convergence behavior of the BFLDL system was analyzed across all five federated clients over 20 global aggregation rounds. The global model loss decreased monotonically from an initial value of approximately 1.9 to a final value of 0.14, demonstrating stable and consistent convergence. Notably, the federated system exhibited lower variance in the loss curve compared to single-client training, suggesting that the aggregation process provides implicit regularization.

F. Computational Overhead

The computational overhead introduced by the blockchain layer was measured to be 4.2% of total training time on average. The PoW consensus mechanism requires approximately 0.8 seconds per block on the experimental hardware. Memory consumption per client averages 4.7 GB during local training, well within the capacity of modern workstations. The serialized model weights broadcast via blockchain average 87 MB per aggregation round, which is feasible over standard broadband connections.

G. Cross-Dataset Generalization

A cross-dataset evaluation was performed by training on FaceForensics++ and testing on CelebDF without fine-tuning. The BFLDL model achieved 89.3%

accuracy in this zero-shot transfer scenario, compared to 81.2% for the best single-model baseline. This superior cross-dataset generalization is attributed to the diversity of training data from multiple federated clients and the equivariance properties of Capsule Networks that capture pose-invariant facial features.

VII. ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS

A. Advantages

The proposed system provides several key advantages:

1. Privacy Preservation: raw data never leaves client devices, complying with GDPR and HIPAA regulations;
2. High Accuracy: exceeds 97% on all benchmarks, outperforming all compared state-of-the-art methods;
3. Robustness: handles both LQ and HQ compressed videos (c0, c23, c40) with consistent performance;
4. Security: blockchain ensures tamper-proof model aggregation against Byzantine and model poisoning attacks.
5. Scalability: additional clients improve model quality through diverse training data without compromising privacy;
6. Reduced Training Time: Transfer Learning cuts convergence iterations by approximately 40% compared to training from scratch;
7. Explainability: XAI with SHAP provides transparent detection rationale for model decisions, enabling human-auditable deepfake detection that is critical for legal and forensic applications.

B. Limitations

Current limitations include:

1. running cost increases with blockchain transaction volume and number of participating clients;
2. significant GPU resources are required for blockchain consensus computation;
3. real-time streaming deepfakes with audio-visual content are not yet evaluated;
4. adversarial attacks specifically targeting the federated aggregation process remain an open challenge;
5. the current system is validated only on facial deepfakes and may not generalize directly to full-body or scene-level video manipulations.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper presented BFLDL, an Enhanced Hybrid Deep Learning framework for detecting deepfake content in a blockchain environment. By integrating CNN, LSTM, and Capsule Networks for robust spatial-temporal feature extraction with blockchain-based Federated Learning, the system achieves state-of-the-art detection performance while guaranteeing data source privacy and model integrity.

Experimental results on FaceForensics++, DeepFakeTIMIT, DFDCpre, and CelebDF confirm above 97% accuracy across all datasets, surpassing all compared methods. The blockchain consensus mechanism ensures tamper-proof model aggregation, and the federated paradigm enables multi-institutional collaboration without exposing sensitive data. This work demonstrates a practical, scalable, and privacy-preserving solution to the growing deepfake threat in digital media.

Future work will explore: (1) real-time audio-visual deepfake detection at 1-second intervals; (2) lightweight architectures for resource-constrained edge deployment; (3) integration with matrix algebra, Kalman filtering, and multitask graph convolution networks; (4) adaptive security level adjustment based on dynamic threat assessment; (5) extension to voice deepfake and text-based manipulation detection.

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ISSN: 2349-6002

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