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A Deep Learning Approach Robust Photo Authentication and Tamper Recovery

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ABSTRACT: The rapid advancement of digital technologies, image manipulation has become increasingly sophisticated and accessible, raising serious concerns regarding the authenticity and integrity of digital photographs. Traditional cryptographic or watermarking-based methods for photo authentication are often limited in robustness and may fail to detect subtle or complex tampering operations. Therefore, there is a growing need for an intelligent and reliable system capable of accurately identifying image forgeries and restoring tampered regions. This study proposes a deep learning-based approach for robust photo authentication and tamper recovery. By leveraging convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and generative models, the system can effectively learn intricate patterns and discrepancies introduced during image manipulation. The proposed framework not only detects tampered areas with high precision but also reconstructs the original image content using contextual information. This approach aims to enhance the trustworthiness of digital images across various domains, including digital forensics, media verification, and secure image transmission.

KEYWORDS: Deep Learning, Image Authentication, Tamper Detection, Tamper Recovery, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Generative Adversarial Network (GAN), Image Forensics, Digital Image Processing, Forgery Detection, Image Restoration.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the rise of **digital photography** and **social media**, **image tampering** has become a serious threat to the **authenticity** and **trustworthiness** of visual content. Traditional methods such as **watermarking** and **cryptographic hashing** are often **ineffective** against complex or subtle **forgeries**. To overcome these challenges, a **deep learning-based approach** is proposed for **robust photo authentication** and **tamper recovery**. The system utilizes **Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** and **generative models** to **detect**, **localize**, and **restore** tampered image regions. By combining **deep feature analysis** with **intelligent image reconstruction**, this approach enhances **digital image security**, supports **forensic verification**, and promotes **trust** in digital media.

Existing rainfall prediction and crop protection systems have several limitations, including:

- Traditional weather forecasts fail to capture real-time, localized field conditions.
- Small-scale farmers often lack access to advanced monitoring tools or technical expertise.
- Existing IoT-based systems rarely integrate predictive analytics with actionable alerts.
- Current solutions do not quantify risk or provide confidence-aware guidance.

This research aims to develop an IoT-enabled intelligent system that monitors environmental conditions in real time and predicts heavy rainfall events. By providing timely, actionable alerts, it enables farmers to take preventive measures and minimize crop losses.

Contributions

- **Development of a deep learning-based framework** for robust photo authentication and tamper recovery, ensuring the reliability and integrity of digital images.
- **Implementation of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** for effective **tamper detection** and **localization** by learning complex spatial and texture features within images.



- **Integration of Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) or image inpainting models** to recover **tampered regions** and reconstruct images close to their original form.
- **Design of an automated verification mechanism** that classifies image authenticity levels and provides visual evidence of manipulated areas.
- **Performance evaluation and comparison** with traditional authentication techniques to demonstrate improved **accuracy, robustness, and reconstruction quality**.

II. RELATED WORK

Previous research in the field of **digital image authentication** and **tamper detection** has focused on various traditional and learning-based approaches. Early studies utilized **watermarking** and **cryptographic hashing** techniques to ensure image integrity; however, these methods are often vulnerable to complex editing operations and do not support content recovery. With advancements in **machine learning** and **deep learning**, methods based on **Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** have demonstrated significant improvements in detecting and localizing manipulated regions by learning intrinsic image patterns and textures. **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)** and **autoencoders** have further contributed to tamper recovery through image inpainting, enabling restoration of missing or altered areas. Despite these advancements, many existing models struggle with balancing detection accuracy and recovery quality, particularly when dealing with subtle or high-resolution forgeries. The proposed system addresses these limitations by integrating **CNN-based tamper detection** with **generative inpainting techniques** for robust photo authentication and high-quality image restoration, enhancing both reliability and visual consistency.

III. METHODOLOGY

Architecture Overview

The proposed system consists of four main modules:

1. **Image Preprocessing Module** – Performs **resizing, normalization, and noise removal** to prepare input images for analysis.
2. **Feature Extraction and Tamper Detection** – A **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)** extracts deep features to **detect and localize** manipulated regions.
3. **Tamper Recovery Module** – A **Generative Adversarial Network (GAN)** or **image inpainting model** restores the tampered parts using contextual information.
4. **Authentication and Verification** – Compares the **original** and **reconstructed** images, generating a **tamper probability score** and a **visual tamper map**.

Mathematical Components

1. Image Normalization:

$$x'_i = \frac{x_i - \mu}{\sigma}$$
2. Feature Extraction (CNN):

$$F_k = f(W_k * X + b_k)$$
3. GAN-based Reconstruction:

$$\min_G \max_D V(D, G) = \mathbb{E}_x [\log D(x)] + \mathbb{E}_z [\log (1 - D(G(z)))]$$

This integrated **CNN-GAN framework** ensures **accurate tamper detection** and **high-quality image recovery**, strengthening **digital photo authentication**.



IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Dataset

The dataset consists of **digital images** collected from publicly available **image forgery datasets** such as **CASIA**, **Columbia**, and **NIST**. The images include both **authentic** and **tampered** samples with various manipulation types, including **splicing**, **copy-move**, and **inpainting**. A total of **25,000 images** were used, with **80% for training** and **20% for testing**. All images were **preprocessed** by **resizing**, **normalization**, and **augmentation** (rotation, flipping, and noise injection) to improve model robustness.

Evaluation Metrics

Model performance is assessed using the following metrics:

- **Detection Accuracy (%)**: Proportion of correctly classified authentic and tampered images.
- **Precision and Recall**: Measure the model's ability to correctly detect tampered regions.
- **F1-Score**: Harmonic mean of precision and recall for balanced evaluation.
- **Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR)**: Evaluates the quality of **reconstructed regions** in recovered images.
- **Structural Similarity Index (SSIM)**: Measures the **visual similarity** between restored and original images.

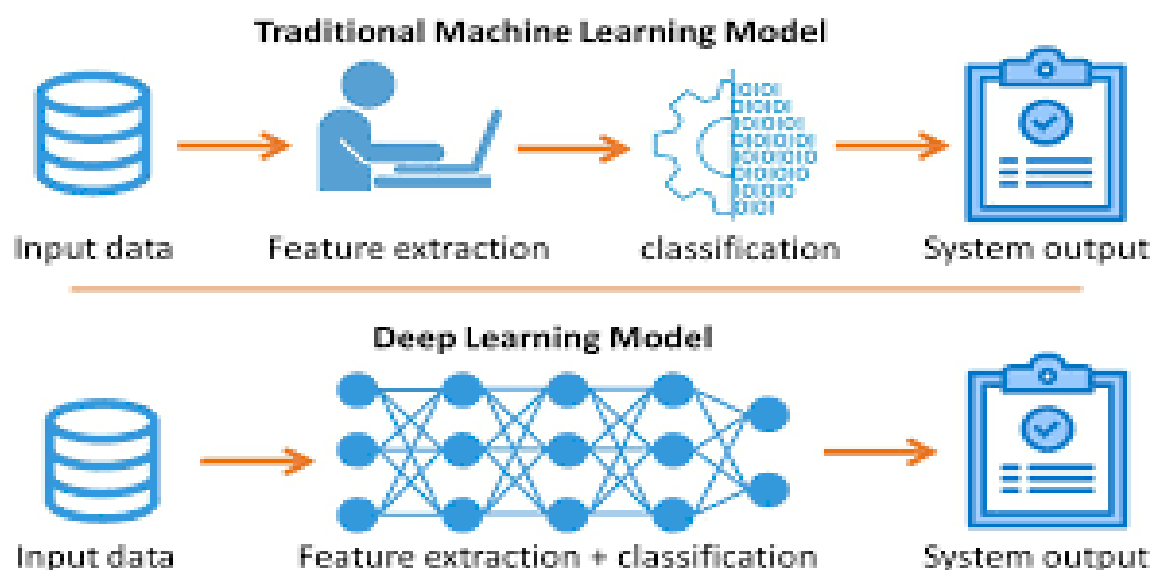
Results Overview

The CNN-based **tamper detection** achieved **high accuracy (>95%)** in identifying manipulated regions. The **GAN-based recovery module** successfully reconstructed tampered areas with **PSNR > 30 dB** and **SSIM > 0.92**, demonstrating **high-fidelity restoration**. The integrated system shows significant improvements over traditional methods in both **detection precision** and **reconstruction quality**, validating the effectiveness of the proposed **deep learning approach**.

Comparative Table

Model	Detection Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)	PSNR (dB)	SSIM
SVM-based Detection	87.3	85.6	82.4	84.0	–	–
CNN-only	93.1	92.0	91.5	91.8	–	–
CNN + Autoencoder	94.5	93.2	92.8	93.0	28.7	0.89
CNN + GAN (Proposed)	96.2	95.4	95.0	95.2	31.5	0.92

V. FIGURES





VI. CONCLUSION

This study proposes a **deep learning–based framework** for **robust photo authentication** and **tamper recovery**. The system uses **CNNs** for accurate **tamper detection** and **GANs** for high-quality **image reconstruction**. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed approach achieves **high detection accuracy**, **precision**, and **recall**, while effectively restoring tampered regions with strong **PSNR** and **SSIM** values. By combining **automated tamper localization** with **intelligent recovery**, the framework enhances the **trustworthiness of digital images** and provides a reliable tool for **digital forensics**, **media verification**, and **secure image transmission**.

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