

# Face Morphing Attack Detection Methods

Ulrich Scherhag, Christian Rathgeb, **Christoph Busch**

copy of slides available at:

<https://christoph-busch.de/about-talks-slides.html>

more information at:

<https://christoph-busch.de/projects-mad.html>

latest news at:

[https://twitter.com/busch\\_christoph](https://twitter.com/busch_christoph)

EAB workshop July 13, 2022

# Overview

## Agenda

- Introduction - Problem description
- Morphing Attack Detection - Scenarios and Methods
- Status: Face Morphing Attack Detection
- Conclusion

# ICAO 9303 Logical Data Structure

## Data stored on the chip (LDS)

- DG1: Information printed on the data page
- DG2: Facial image of the holder (mandatory)
- DG3: Fingerprint image of left and right index finger
- DG4: Iris image



....

- DG15: Active Authentication Public Key Info
  - DG16: Persons to notify
- Document Security Object
- Hash values of DGs

		DATA ELEMENTS			
REQUIRED	ISSUING STATE OR ORGANIZATION DATA	Detail(s) Recorded in MRZ	DG1	Document Type	
				Issuing State or organization	
				Name (of Holder)	
				Document Number	
				Check Digit - Doc Number	
				Nationality	
				Date of Birth	
				Check Digit - DOB	
				Sex	
				Data of Expiry or Valid Until Date	
				Check Digit DOE/VUD	
				Optional Data	
				Check Digit - Optional Data Field	
				Composite Check Digit	
OPTIONAL	ISSUING STATE OR ORGANIZATION DATA	Encoded Identification Feature(s)	Global Interchange Feature	DG2	Encoded Face
			Additional Feature(s)	DG3	Encoded Finger(s)
		Displayed Identification Feature(s)			DG4
			DG5	Displayed Portrait	
			DG6	Reserved for Future Use	
		Encoded Security Feature(s)	DG7	Displayed Signature or Usual Mark	
			DG8	Data Feature(s)	
			DG9	Structure Feature(s)	
			DG10	Substance Feature(s)	
			DG11	Additional Personal Detail(s)	
			DG12	Additional Document Detail(s)	
			DG13	Optional Detail(s)	
			DG14	Security Options	
			DG15	Active Authentication Public Key Info	
			DG16	Person(s) to Notify	

Source: ICAO 9303 Part 10, 2015

# Is the Principle valid on the left Side?

Principle of unique link of ICAO

- **One** individual - one passport



We don't want this principle of **unique link** to be broken

- **Multiple** individuals - one passport

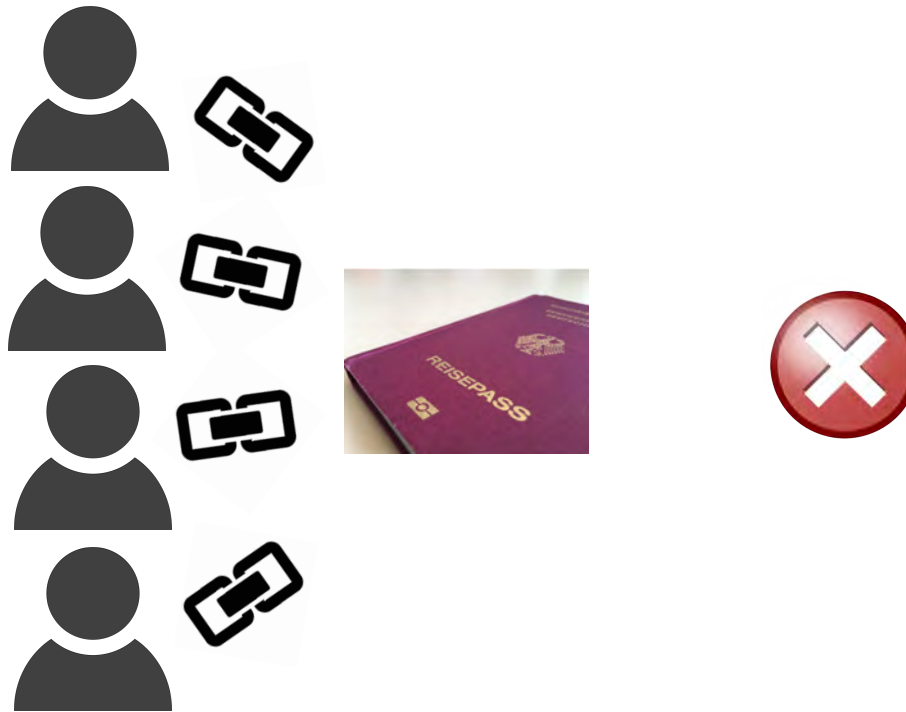


image source: <https://pixabay.com/de/vectors/tick-sternchen-kreuz-rot-gr%C3%BCn-40678/>

# What is Morphing?

# What is Morphing?

In our real world morphing can become a threat

- with a criminal and an accomplice as actors
- take the **criminal**
- and the **accomplice** (or any other good EU citizen)
- morphing can transform one face image into the other





# What is Morphing?

In our real world morphing can become a **threat**

- with a criminal and an accomplice as actors
- take the **criminal**
- and the **accomplice**
- morphing can transform one face image into the other
- and you can stop half way in the transformation



# A good Morph ...

... is not as simple as you think

- Inaccurate landmarks, insufficient landmarks, fine details

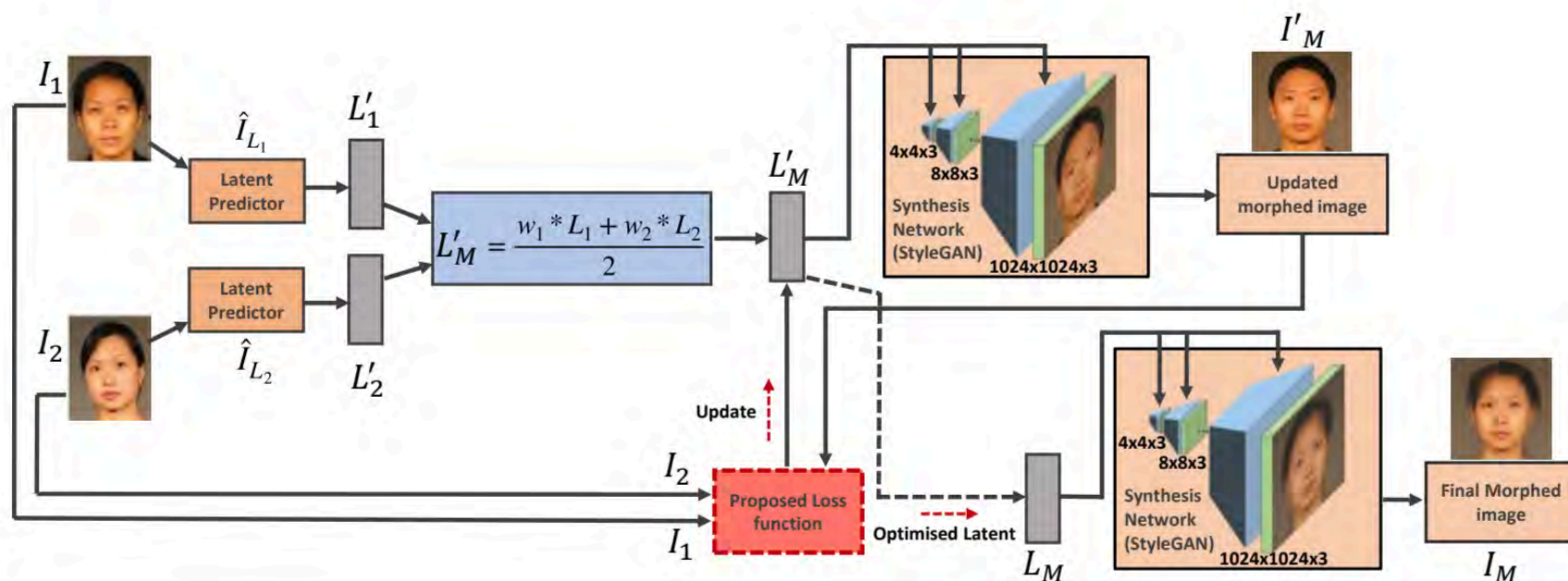




# A good Morph ...

... generated with MIP-GAN

- Morphing through Identity Prior driven Generative Adversarial Network
  - high quality morphs
  - enforced identity priors



[Zhang2021] H. Zhang, S. Venkatesh, R. Raghavendra, K. Raja, N. Damer, C. Busch: "MIPGAN - Generating Strong and High Quality Morphing Attacks Using Identity Prior Driven GAN", in IEEE Transactions on Biometrics, Behavior, and Identity Science (TBIOM), (2021)

# Problem Description

# Problem: Morphing Attacks

Is it a really problem ? - **YES!**

- In September 2018 German **activists**
  - ▶ used a morphed images of Federica Mogherini (High representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and a member of their group
  - ▶ and received an **authentic German passport**.



Image source: <https://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/netzpolitik/biometrie-im-reisepass-peng-kollektiv-schmuggelt-fotomontage-in-ausweis-a-1229418.html>

# Problem: Morphing Attacks

Is it a really problem ? - **YES!**

Report by the Slovenian Police [Tork2021]

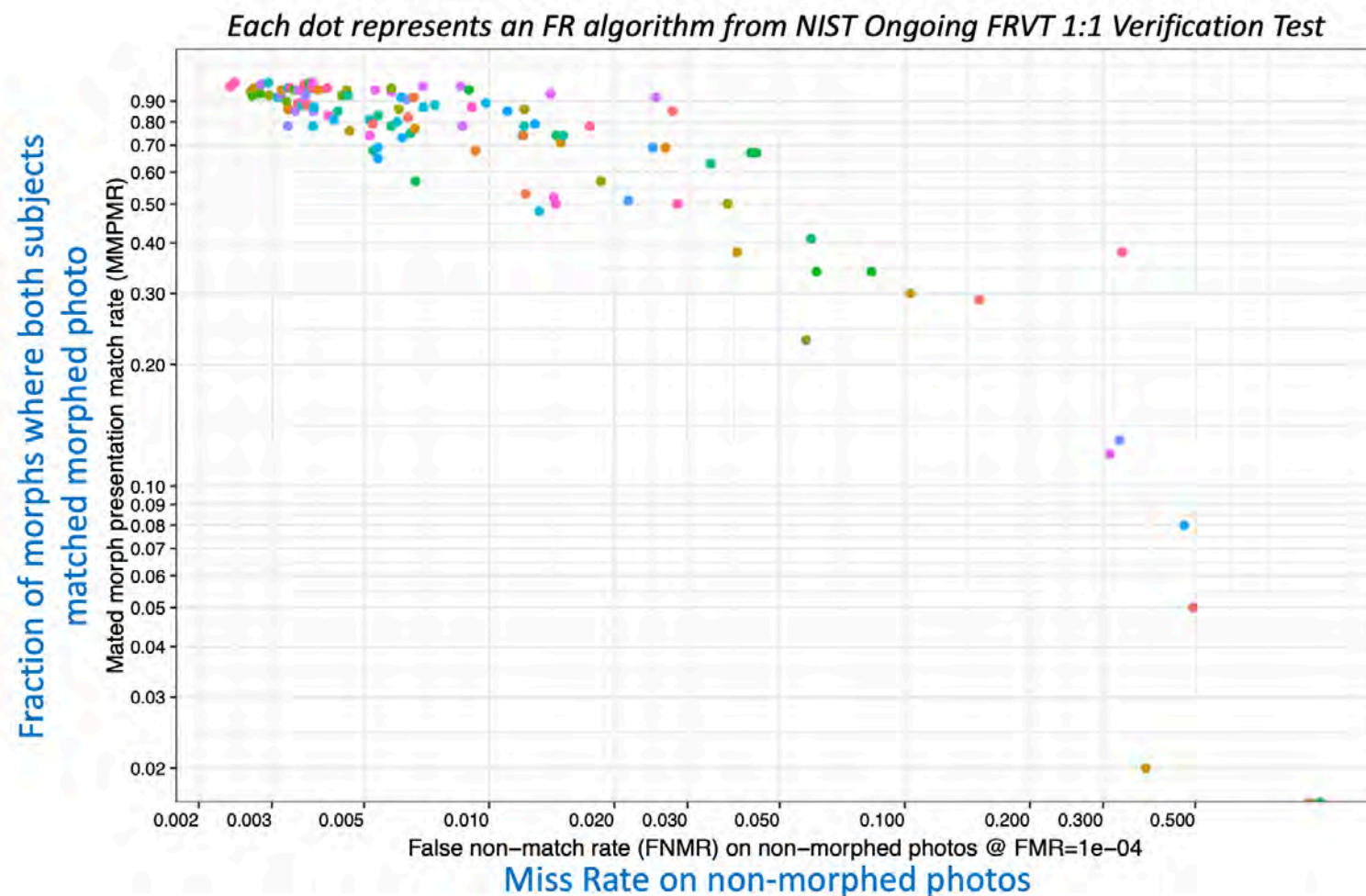
- Reported in September 2021 that in last 12 month more than 40 morphing cases
  - ▶ were detected at Airport Police in Ljubljana
- Business model:
  - ▶ Albanian citizens, applying for a Slovenian passport
  - ▶ offered as a professional service travel route via Vienna and Warsaw to Canada

[Tork2021] M. Torkar: “Morphing Cases in Slovenia”, German Biometric Working Group, (2021), <https://eab.org/events/program/220>

# Scale of the Problem: Vulnerability

## NIST report on FRS vulnerability [Ngan2021]

- **Accurate** FRS are **more vulnerable**!



[Ngan2021] M. Ngan: "FRVT MORPH: Face Morphing Detection Evaluation", NBLAW, (2021)  
<https://eab.org/events/program/229>



# Scale of the Problem: Vulnerability

## The **morphing attack paradox**

- The better the face recognition system (FRS)
  - ▶ the lower the false non-match rate (FNMR)
  - ▶ the more **tolerant** is the FRS at the defined FMR (e.g. 0.01 %)
- The more tolerance the FRS has
  - ▶ the more **vulnerability** we can observe
- **Accurate** FRS are **more vulnerable**!



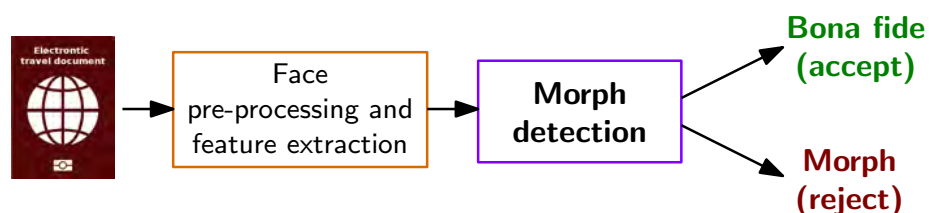
# Morphing Attack Detection (MAD)

## Scenarios and Methods

# Morphing Attack Detection Scenarios

## Real world scenarios

- **Single image** morphing attack detection (S-MAD)
  - ▶ One **single suspected** facial **image** is analysed (e.g. in the passport application)

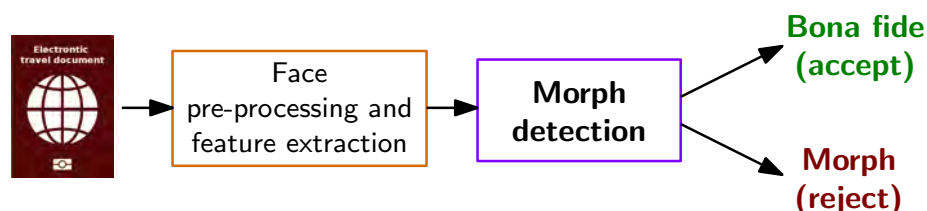


[SRB2018a] U. Scherhag, C. Rathgeb, C. Busch: "Towards Detection of Morphed Face Images in electronic Travel Documents", in Proceedings of the 13th IAPR International Workshop on Document Analysis Systems (DAS), April 24-27, (2018)

# Face Pre-processing and Feature Extraction

## Morphing Attack Detection (S-MAD) with texture analysis

- Image descriptors as **hand-crafted** features

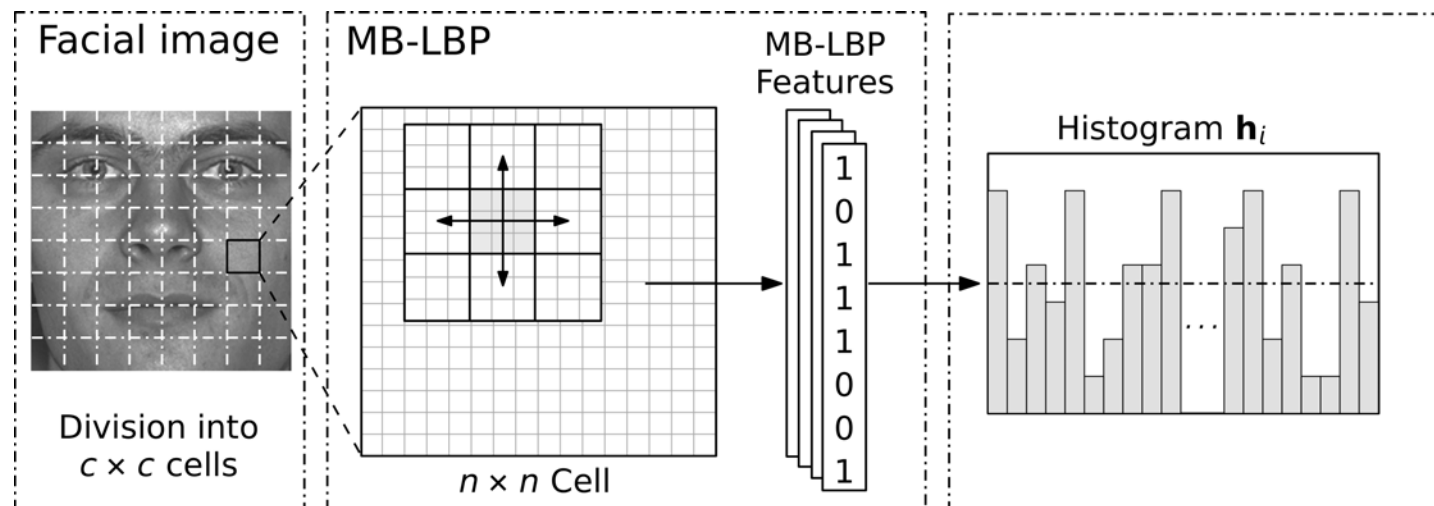


[SRB2018b] U. Scherhag, C. Rathgeb, C. Busch: „Detection of Morphed Faces from Single Images: a Multi-Algorithm Fusion Approach“, in Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Biometric Engineering and Applications (ICBEA), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, May 16-18, (2018)

# Face Pre-processing and Feature Extraction

## S-MAD with image descriptor

- Local Binary Pattern (LBP)

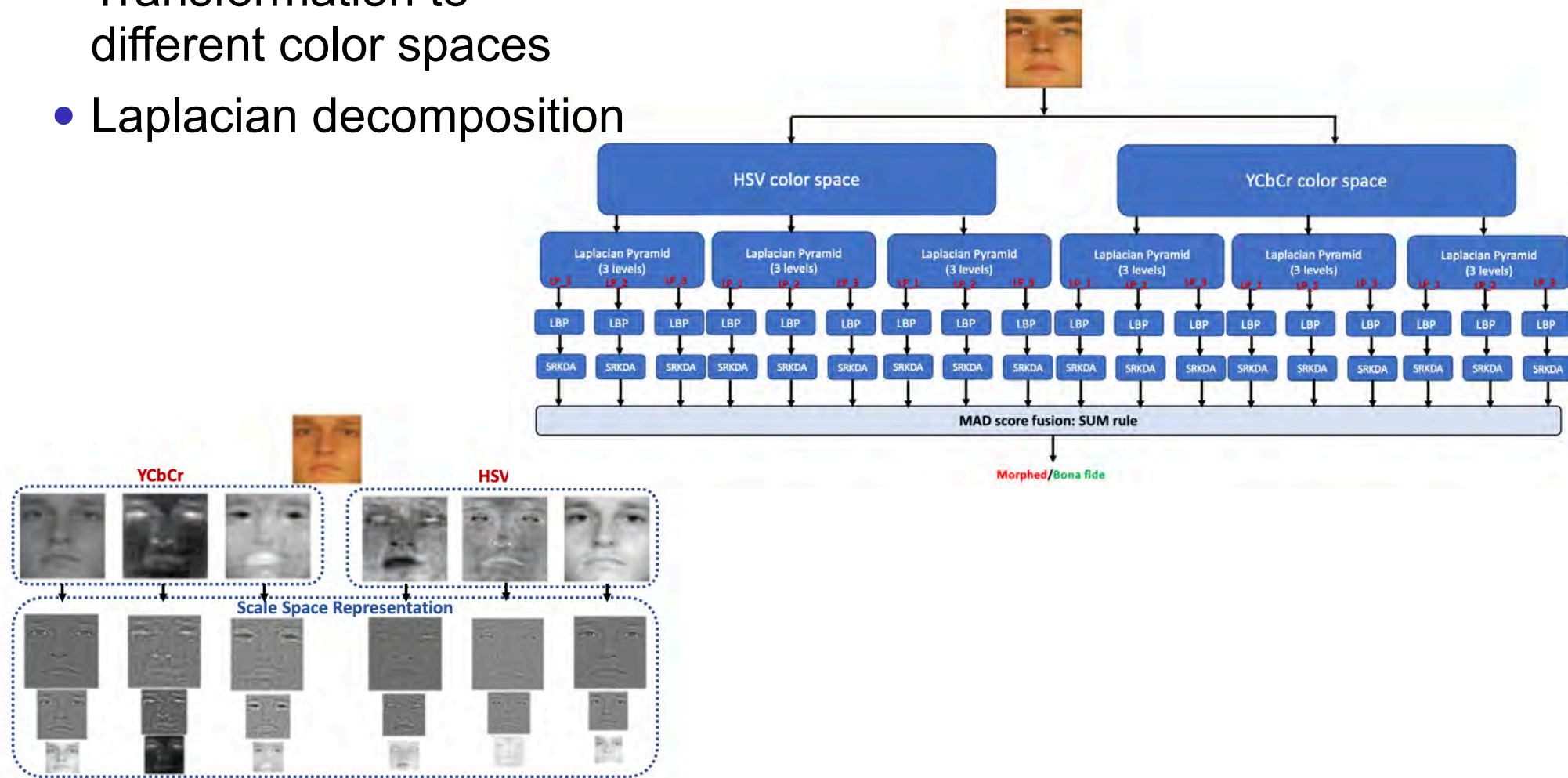




# Face Pre-processing and Feature Extraction

## S-MAD with **Scale-Space** features

- Transformation to different color spaces
- Laplacian decomposition

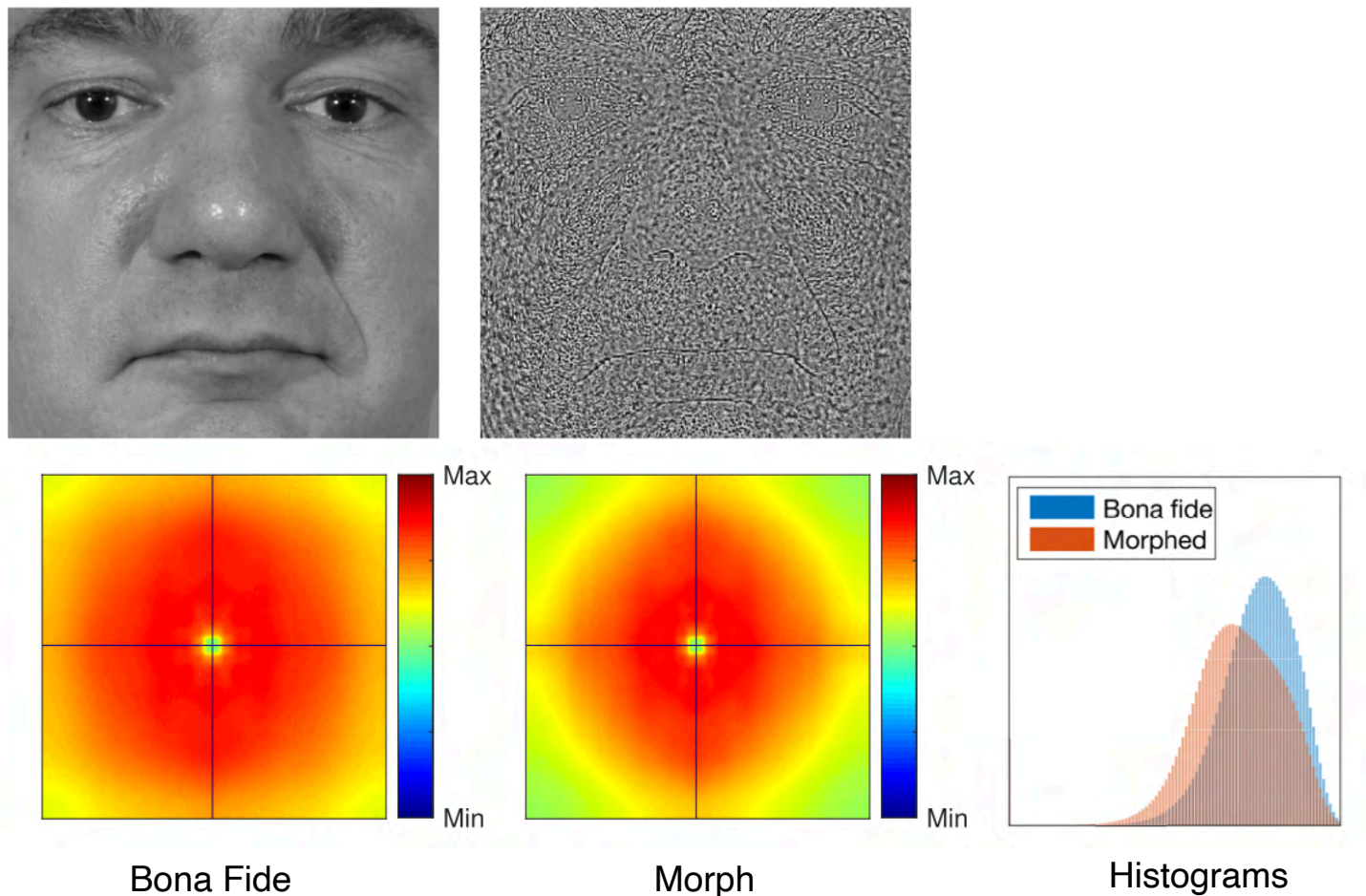


[RVRB2019] R. Raghavendra, S. Venkatesh, K. Raja, C. Busch: "Towards making Morphing Attack Detection robust using hybrid scale-space Colour Texture Features", in Proceedings of the International Conference on Identity, Security and Behavior Analysis (ISBA), (2019)

# Face Pre-processing and Feature Extraction

S-MAD with image descriptor / forensic approach

- Photo Response Non-Uniformity (PRNU)

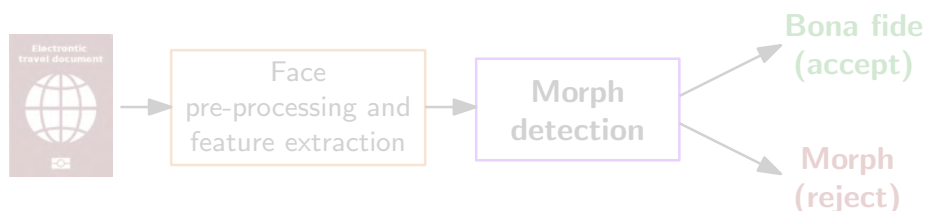


[SDRBU2019] U. Scherhag, L. Debiasi, C. Rathgeb, C. Busch and A. Uhl: "Detection of Face Morphing Attacks based on PRNU Analysis", in IEEE TBIOM, (2019)

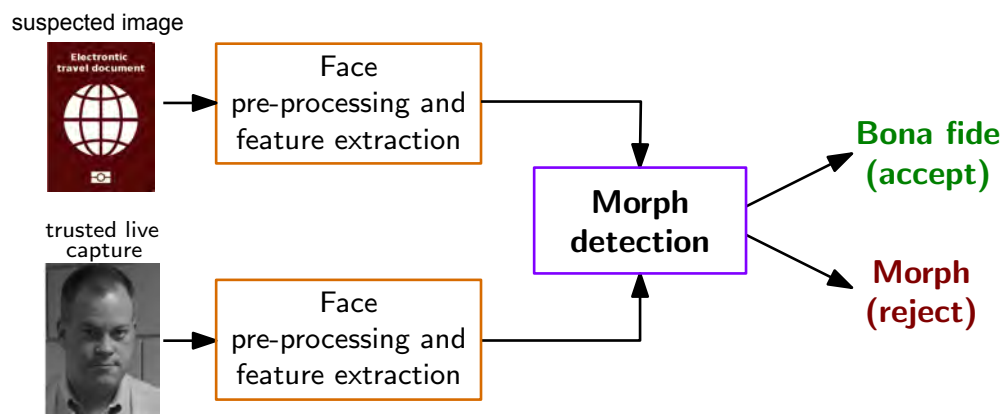
# Morphing Attack Detection Scenarios

## Real world scenarios

- Single image morphing attack detection (S-MAD)
  - ▶ One **single suspected** facial **image** is analysed (e.g. in the passport application)



- **Differential** morphing attack detection (D-MAD)
  - ▶ A **pair** of images is analysed - and one is a trusted Bona Fide image
  - ▶ Biometric verification (e.g. at the border)

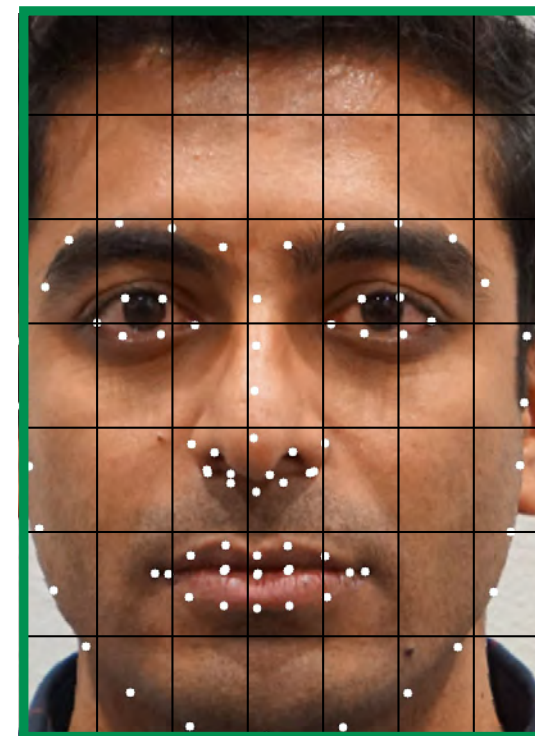
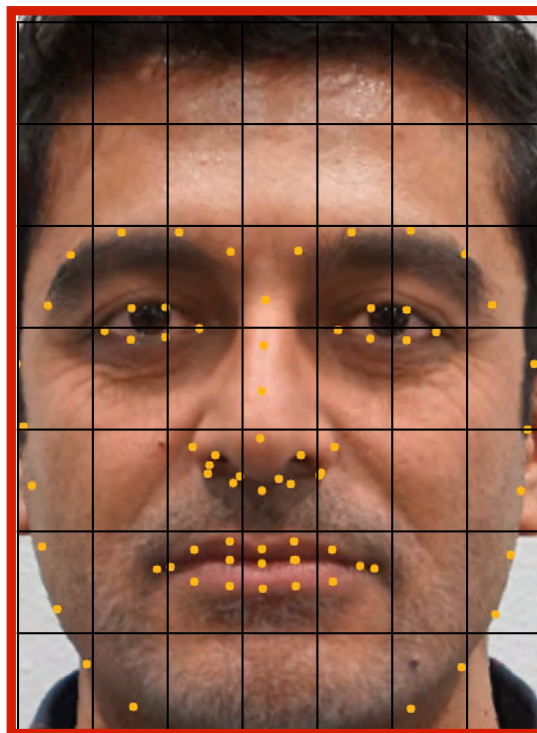
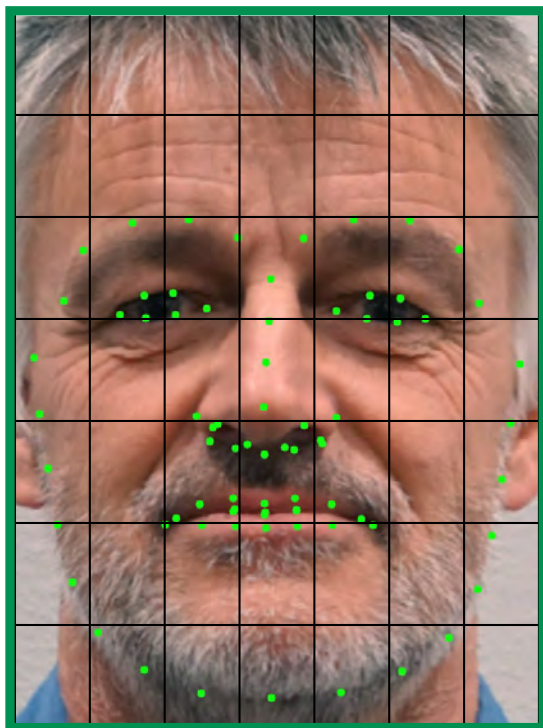
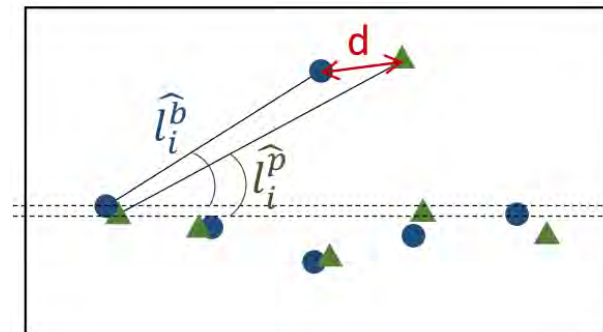


[SRB2018a] U. Scherhag, C. Rathgeb, C. Busch: "Towards Detection of Morphed Face Images in electronic Travel Documents", in Proceedings of the 13th IAPR International Workshop on Document Analysis Systems (DAS), April 24-27, (2018)

# Differential Morphing Attack Detection

## D-MAD with landmark analysis

- **Angle** based features
- **Distance** based features



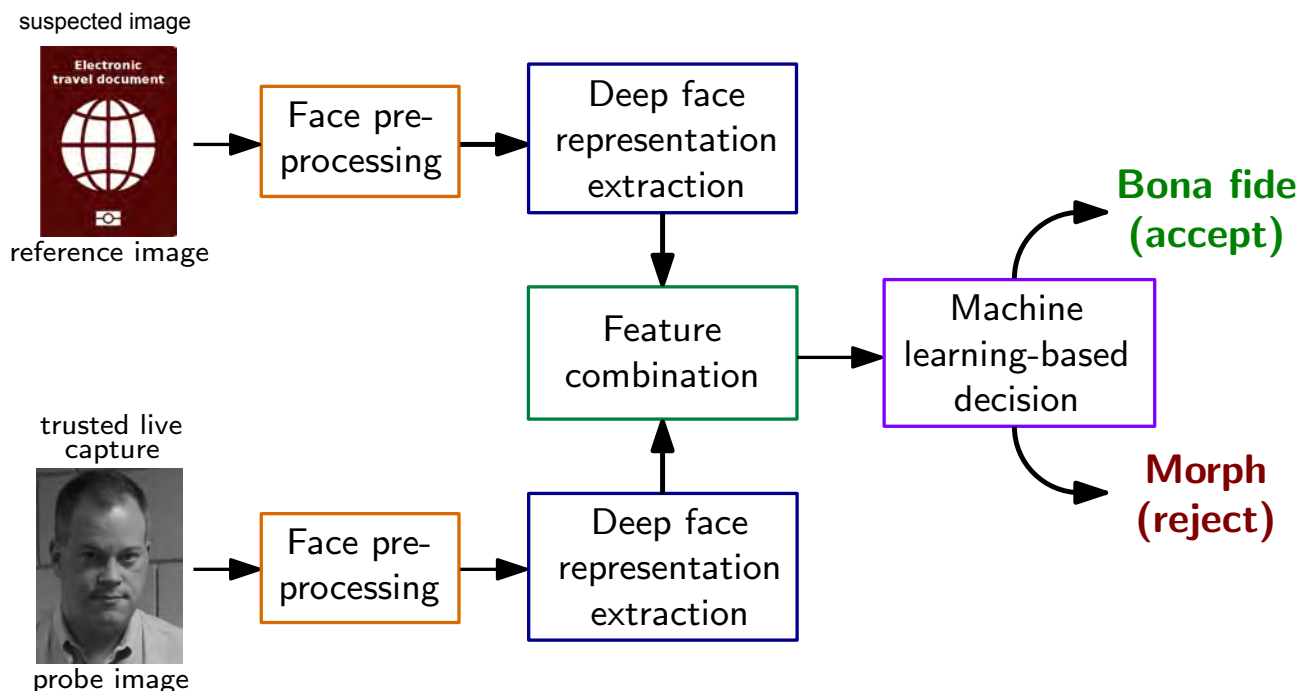
[SDGB2018] U. Scherhag, D. Budhrani, M. Gomez-Barrero, C. Busch: "Detecting Morphed Face Images Using Facial Landmarks", in Proceedings of International Conference on Image and Signal Processing (ICISP), (2018)



# Differential Morphing Attack Detection

## D-MAD with deep learning

- **Deep Face** representations of Deep CNNs



- ▶ Deep representations extracted by the neural network (on the lowest layer)
- ▶ Feature space with **small dimension**: 512 (for ArcFace)
- ▶ SVM with radial basis function

[SRMB2020] U. Scherhag, C. Rathgeb, J. Merkle, C. Busch: "Deep Face Representations for Differential Morphing Attack Detection", in IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security (TIFS), (2020)



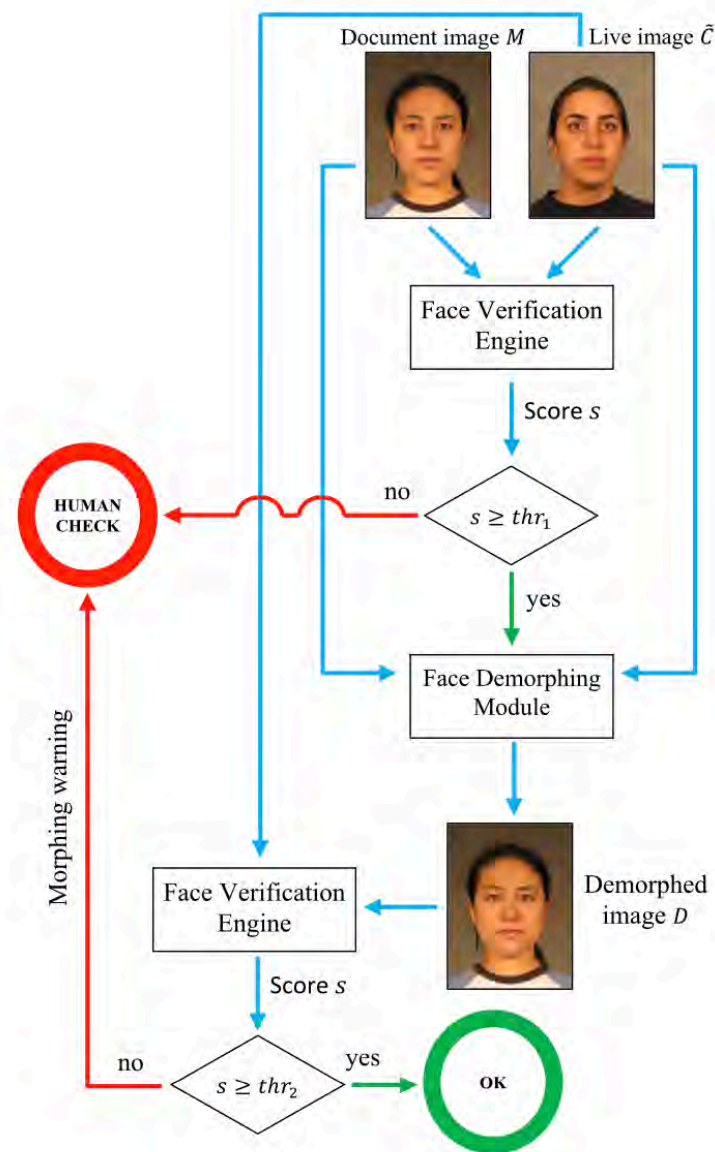
# Differential Morphing Attack Detection

## D-MAD with Demorphing

- **Invert** the morphing process
- Then **confirm** the similarity **score**



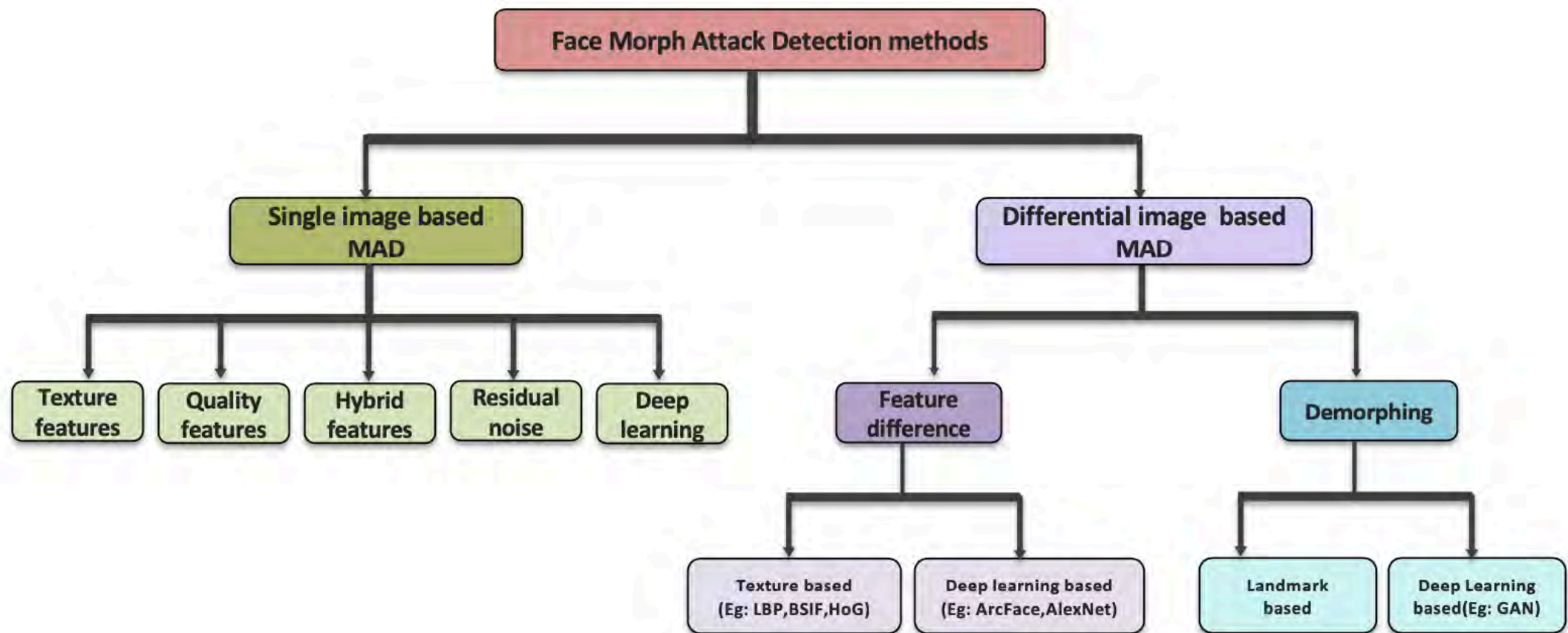
- a) suspected image  
b) and c): trusted live capture image  
d) and e): recovery image



[Ferrara2018] M. Ferrara, A. Franco, D. Maltoni: "Face Demorphing",  
in IEEE Transactions on Information Forencics and Security (TIFS), (2018)

# State of the Art - MAD Algorithms

## Taxonomy of Morphing Attack Detection



[Venkatesh2021] S. Venkatesh, R. Raghavendra, K. Raja, C. Busch: "Face Morphing Attack Generation & Detection: A Comprehensive Survey", in IEEE Transactions on Technology and Society (TTS), (2021)

# MAD Evaluation

# Standardized Testing Metrics

Definition according to ISO/IEC 30107-3

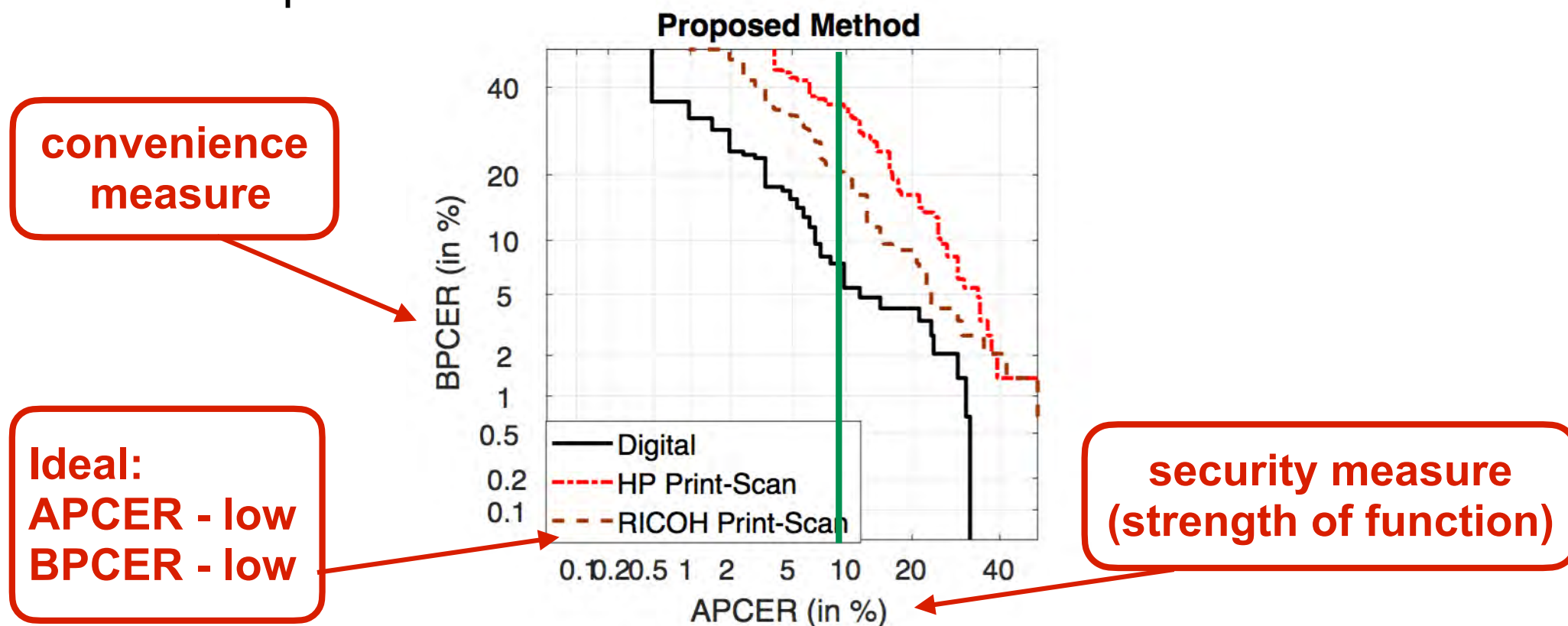
- Testing the false-negative and false-positive errors:
- **Attack presentation classification error rate (APCER)**  
*proportion of **attack presentations** using the same PAI species incorrectly **classified as bona fide presentations** in a specific scenario*
- **Bona fide presentation classification error rate (BPCER)**  
*proportion of **bona fide presentations** incorrectly **classified as attack presentations** in a specific scenario*

source: [ISO/IEC 30107-3] SO/IEC 30107-3, “Biometric presentation attack detection - Part 3: Testing and reporting”, (2017)  
<https://www.iso.org/standard/67381.html>

# Standardized Testing Metrics

## Definition of metrics in ISO/IEC 30107-3

- DET curve analyzing operating points for various thresholds and plot **convenience** measures over **security** measures
- Example:



Source: R. Raghavendra, K. Raja, S. Venkatesh, C. Busch: "Transferable Deep-CNN features for detecting digital and print-scanned morphed face images", in Proceedings of 30th International Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshop (CVPRW 2017), Honolulu, Hawaii, July 21-26, (2017)



# MAD Evaluation Methodology

Face Morphing Attack **evaluations** are complex

- Evaluations must consider a dedicated **methodology** [SNR2017]
- Evaluations must consider **many parameters**

*result = f (dataset-training, dataset-testing, morphing-attack,  
landmark-detector, feature-extractor, classifier,  
scenario (S-MAD vs. D-MAD),  
post-processing, printer, scanner, ageing)*

- Postprocessing:
  - ▶ Unprocessed
  - ▶ resized (to passport resolution)
  - ▶ JPEG2000
  - ▶ Print/Scan-JPEG2000

[SRB2022] U. Scherhag, C. Rathgeb, C. Busch, “Face Morphing Attack Detection Methods”, in Springer Handbook of Digital Face Manipulation and Detection: From DeepFakes to Morphing Attacks, (2022)

# MAD Evaluation in SOTAMD

EU funded project: February 2019 – January 2020



- Partners:

- ▶ National Office for Identity Data, NL, Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), DE
- ▶ University of Bologna (UBO), IT, Hochschule Darmstadt (HDA), DE
- ▶ The University of Twente (UTW), NL, NTNU, NO

## Specific objectives:

- Capture face images from **150 subjects**
  - ▶ with photo equipment and automated border control gates
- Generate **morphed** face images with **at least 3 algorithms**
- Post-process automatically and manually
- Print and scan all morphed face images
- MAD Test on the Bologna-Online-Evaluation-Platform (BOEP)
  - ▶ Provide **open access benchmark** tests.
  - ▶ D-MAD evaluation:  
<https://biolab.csr.unibo.it/FVCOngoing/UI/Form/BenchmarkAreas/BenchmarkAreaDMAD.aspx>



# Research on Morphing Attack Detection



## MAD Evaluation in SOTAMD

- SOTAMD dataset and BOEP testing platform

<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9246583>

### Morphing Attack Detection - Database, Evaluation Platform and Benchmarking

Kiran Raja\*, Matteo Ferrara<sup>†</sup>, Annalisa Franco<sup>‡</sup>, Luuk Spreeuwers<sup>‡</sup>, Ilias Batskos<sup>‡</sup>, Florens de Wit<sup>‡</sup>, Marta Gomez-Barrero<sup>\*\*</sup>, Ulrich Scherhag<sup>††</sup>, Daniel Fischer<sup>††</sup>, Sushma Venkatesh\*, Jag Mohan Singh\*, Guoqiang Li\*, Loïc Bergeron\*, Sergey Isadskiy<sup>††</sup>, Raghavendra Ramachandra\*, Christian Rathgeb<sup>††</sup>, Dinusha Frings<sup>§</sup>, Uwe Seidel<sup>††</sup>, Fons Knopjes<sup>§</sup>, Raymond Veldhuis<sup>‡</sup>, Davide Maltoni<sup>†</sup>, Christoph Busch\*  
<sup>\*</sup>NTNU, Norway, <sup>†</sup>UBO, Italy, <sup>‡</sup>UTW, The Netherlands, <sup>\*\*</sup>HS-Ansbach, Germany, <sup>††</sup>HDA, Germany, <sup>§</sup>NOI, The Netherlands, <sup>††</sup>Bundeskriminalamt, Germany

**Abstract**—Morphing attacks have posed a severe threat to Face Recognition System (FRS). Despite the number of advancements reported in recent works, we note serious open issues such as independent benchmarking, generalizability challenges and considerations to age, gender, ethnicity that are inadequately addressed. Morphing Attack Detection (MAD) algorithms often are prone to generalization challenges as they are database dependent. The existing databases, mostly of semi-public nature, lack in diversity in terms of ethnicity, various morphing process and post-processing pipelines. Further, they do not reflect a realistic operational scenario for Automated Border Control (ABC) and do not provide a basis to test MAD on unseen data, in order to benchmark the robustness of algorithms. In this work, we present a new sequestered dataset for facilitating the advancements of MAD where the algorithms can be tested on unseen data in an effort to better generalize. The newly constructed dataset consists of facial images from 150 subjects from various ethnicities, age-groups and both genders. In order to challenge the existing MAD algorithms, the morphed images are with careful subject pre-selection created from the contributing images, and further post-processed to remove morphing artifacts. The images are also printed and scanned to remove all digital cues and to simulate a realistic challenge for MAD algorithms. Further, we present a new online evaluation platform to test algorithms on sequestered data. With the platform we can benchmark the morph detection performance and study the generalization ability. This work also presents a detailed analysis on various subsets of sequestered data and outlines open challenges for future directions in MAD research.

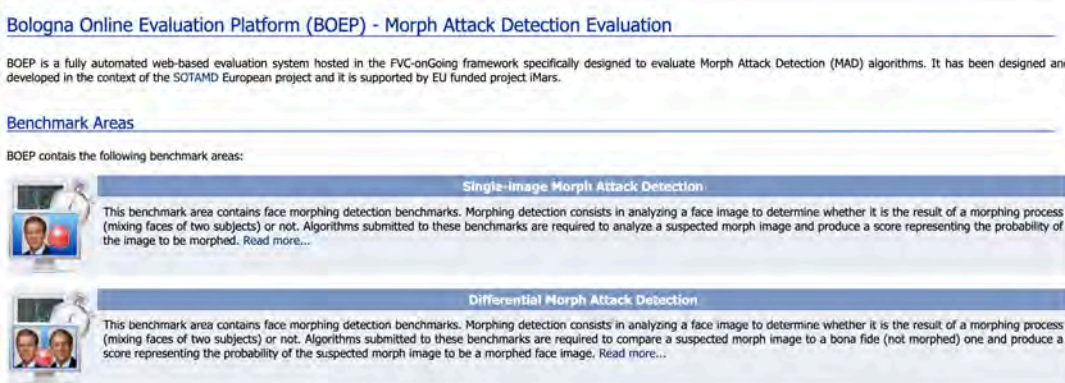
**Index Terms**—Biometrics, Morphing Attack Detection, Face Recognition, Vulnerability of Biometric Systems

[Raja2020] K. Raja, M. Ferrara, A. Franco, L. Spreeuwers, I. Batskos, F. Wit, M. Gomez-Barrero, U. Scherhag, D. Fischer, S. Venkatesh, J. Singh, G. Li, L. Bergeron, S. Isadskiy, R. Raghavendra, C. Rathgeb, D. Frings, U. Seidel, F. Knopjes, R. Veldhuis, D. Maltoni, C. Busch: "Morphing Attack Detection - Database, Evaluation Platform and Benchmarking", in IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security (TIFS), (2020)

# MAD Evaluation

## Bologna Online Evaluation Platform (BOEP)

- A new benchmark area for **morphing attack detection**  
<https://biolab.csr.unibo.it/fvcongoing/UI/Form/BOEP.aspx>



- **Both** scenarios: D-MAD and S-MAD
- Two benchmarks to evaluate **different image types**:
  - ▶ **Digital** or **Printed/Scanned** images
- Possibility of analysing results according to specific factors:
  - ▶ **Manual** or **automatic** morphing
  - ▶ Morphing **approaches** and parameters (e.g., morphing factor)
  - ▶ Gender, ethnicity, age, etc.

# NIST FRVT MORPH

NIST IR 8292 report presented April, 2022

## FRVT MORPH

[https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/html/frvt\\_morph.html](https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/html/frvt_morph.html)

- results for MAD algorithms from six research labs:
  - ▶ Hochschule Darmstadt (HDA)
  - ▶ Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
  - ▶ University of Bologna (UBO)
  - ▶ University of Twente (UTW)
  - ▶ Universidade de Coimbra (VIS)
  - ▶ West Virginia University (WVU)

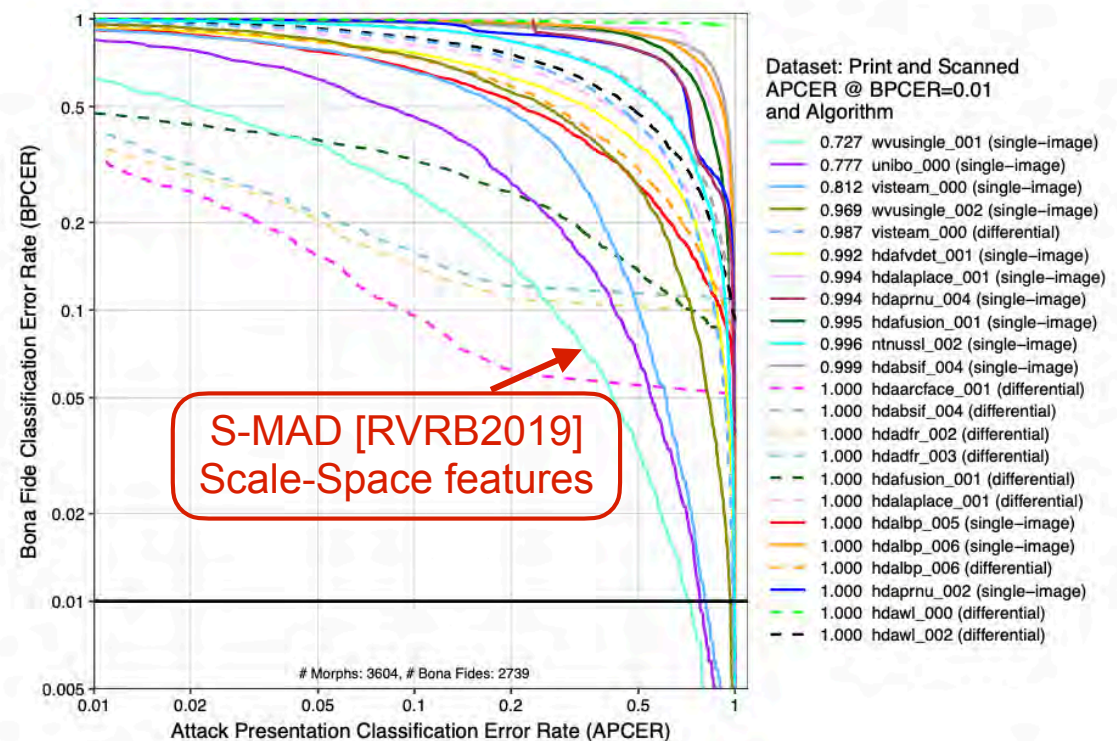
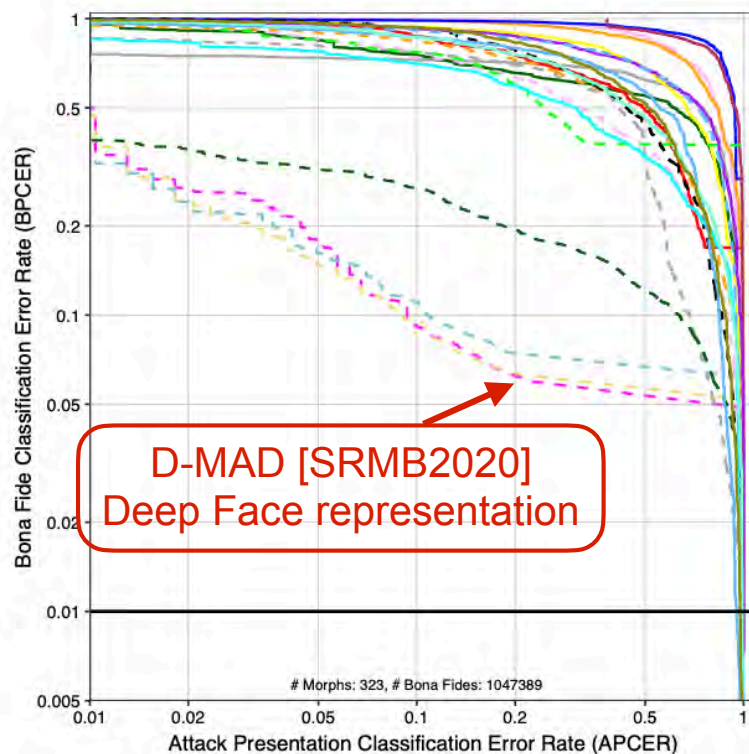




# NIST FRVT MORPH

NIST IR 8292 report presented April, 2022

- Performance of Automated Face Morph Detection  
[https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/morph/frvt\\_morph\\_report.pdf](https://pages.nist.gov/frvt/reports/morph/frvt_morph_report.pdf)
- results for **high quality** morphs versus **print and scanned**
  - note the **low number** of print and scanned images





# Conclusion

We are facing a situation, where

- Passports with morphs are already in **circulation**
  - ▶ 1000+ reported cases
  - ▶ Switch to live enrolment is a good decision, but does not solve the problem
- Passports with morphed face images will have a major impact on border security
  - ▶ introduction of EU's entry/exit system, global migration flows
- In combination with **passport brokers** a dramatic problem
  - ▶ the darknet offers numerous such opportunities ...

# More information

## The MAD website

<https://www.christoph-busch.de/projects-mad.html>

## The MAD survey papers

- U. Scherhag, C. Rathgeb, J. Merkle, R. Breithaupt, C. Busch: "Face Recognition Systems under Morphing Attacks: A Survey", in IEEE Access, (2019)  
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8642312>
- S. Venkatesh, R. Raghavendra, K. Raja, C. Busch: "Face Morphing Attack Generation & Detection: A Comprehensive Survey", in IEEE Transactions on Technology and Society (TTS), (2021)  
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9380153>



# More information

## The MAD workshop

<https://eab.org/events/program/229>

- Luuk Spreeuwers (University of Twente) - recorded talk
  - Morphing Attacks on Face Recognition Systems
- David Robertson (University of Strathclyde) - recorded talk
  - Psychological Experiments on Morphed Faces
- Kiran Raja (NTNU) - recorded talk
  - Morphing Attack Detection Approaches
- Matteo Ferrara (University of Bologna) - recorded talk
  - Bologna Online Evaluation Platform
- Frøy Løvåsdal (Norwegian Police) - recorded talk
  - Morphing Attack Detection Capabilities of Human Examiners
- Mei Ngan (NIST) - recorded talk
  - Face Morphing Detection Evaluation
- Naser Damer (Fraunhofer IGD) - recorded talk
  - Generating Morphs with Generative Adversarial Networks
- Christian Rathgeb (Hochschule Darmstadt) - recorded talk
  - Detection of Face Beautification Manipulations
- Uwe Seidel (BKA)
  - Research Needs for Morphing Attack Detection

# Thanks

I would like to thank the sponsors of this work:

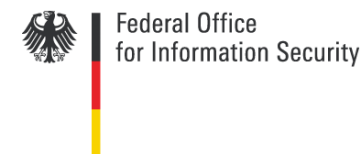
- NGBS-Project funded by ATHENE



- SWAN-Project funded by RCN



- FACETRUST-Project funded by BSI



- SOTAMD-Project funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Borders and Visa



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- ▶ The content of this presentation represents the views of the author only and is his sole responsibility.

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# Thanks

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  - ▶ Kiran Raja, Raghu Ramachandra, Loic Bergeron, Sankini Godage, Guoqiang Li, Jag Mohan Singh, Sushma Venkatesh, Haoyu Zhang
  - ▶ Ulrich Scherhag, Christian Rathgeb, Daniel Fischer, Siri Lorenz, Robert Nichols, Sergey Isadskiy, Marta Gomez-Barrero, Juan Tapia, Mathias Ibsen
- In the FACETRUST-Project:
  - ▶ Ralph Breithaupt, Johannes Merkle
- In the SOTAMD-Project and iMARS-Project:
  - ▶ Dinusha Frings, Fons Knopjes, Uwe Seidel, Frøy Løvåsdal
  - ▶ Davide Maltoni, Matteo Ferrara, Analisa Franco
  - ▶ Raymond Veldhuis, Luuk Spreeuwers,
- In the NIST-FRVT-MORPH-Project:
  - ▶ Mei Ngan, Patrick Grother

# Contact

## Research opportunities

- Darmstadt (Germany) <https://dasec.h-da.de/>
- Gjøvik (Norway) <https://www.ntnu.edu/nbl>
- **Internships** possibility for Msc and PhD students with **travel grant**
- Collaboration with governmental and industrial partners



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<https://www.athene-center.de>



## Publications available <https://www.christoph-busch.de/projects-mad.html>

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