Available online at www.qu.edu.iq/journalcm
JOURNAL OF AL-QADISIYAH FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
ISSN:2521-3504(online) ISSN:2074-0204(print)

Next-Generation Biometric Authentication: Overcoming the Twin Identification Challenge with Advanced Facial Recognition and Multi-Modal Analysis Techniques

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received: 11 /07/2025
Rrevised form: 02 /08/2025
Accepted : 04/08/2025
Available online: 30/09/2025

Keywords:

Biometric Authentication, Facial Recognition, MTCNN, FaceNet, MediaPipe, Geometric Analysis, Cybersecurity

ABSTRACT

Conventional facial recognition struggles with individuals sharing near-identical facial features, particularly monozygotic twins. This research introduces a robust, real-time methodology to overcome this by integrating geometric, textural, and dynamic facial characteristics. The framework employs Multi-Task Cascaded Convolutional Networks (MTCNN) for face detection and alignment, followed by FaceNet for 128-dimensional facial embedding generation. MediaPipe's 468-point facial landmark extraction quantifies subtle structural variations via transformation matrix analysis and blend-shape evaluation, capturing static geometric discrepancies and dynamic micro-expressions. Validated on 7,200-image dataset (70% training, 30% testing), the system achieved 97.73% accuracy, operating efficiently on consumer-grade GPUs. This approach significantly enhances biometric technology, offering improved identity verification for genetically similar individuals in critical security applications like border control and secure access management, thereby addressing a key limitation in current facial recognition systems.

https://doi.org/10.29304/jqcsm.2025.17.32383

1. Introduction

Facial recognition technology has gone through significant advancements in recent years, positioning it as a cornerstone application in biometrics and computer vision. Despite these strides, distinguishing between individuals with highly similar facial structures such as identical twins remain a critical challenge. Even state-of-the-art deep learning-based models often experience elevated false acceptance rates when attempting to differentiate between identical twins. Their nearly indistinguishable facial features frequently surpass the capabilities of conventional recognition algorithms, leading to significant limitations in real-world applications [1] [2]. Challenges in twin discrimination are particularly evident in

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high-stakes fields like security and forensics, in which precise identification is critical. Existing methods often struggle to handle these edge cases due to the subtle geometric similarities shared by identical twins, which traditional recognition systems fail to differentiate. These challenges highlight the gaps in current methods, which rely primarily on static facial features, neglecting the dynamic variations between identical individuals. The novelty lies in integrating cutting-edge technologies like Multi-Task Cascaded Convolutional Networks (MTCNN), FaceNet, and MediaPipe to overcome these issues. This framework introduces a dynamic approach, utilizing facial landmark analysis, transformation matrix comparisons, and blend-shape evaluations to address the twin discrimination problem. Multi-Task Cascaded Convolutional Networks (MTCNN) is employed for precise face detection, where FaceNet generates embeddings for facial comparison, and MediaPipe extracts hundreds of facial landmarks. This combination allows the system to capture subtle geometric differences, even among identical twins, which were previously difficult to detect [3,4]. The contributions of this work are illustrated in four aspects:

1. **Methodological Innovation**: A multi-modal approach that integrates geometric, textural, and dynamic facial features to differentiate identical twins with high precision.
2. **Real-Time Efficiency**: The system operates efficiently on consumer-grade GPUs, making it viable for deployment in resource-constrained environments.
3. **Comprehensive Evaluation**: Rigorous validation on a diverse dataset, including monozygotic and dizygotic twins, demonstrates superior performance in terms of accuracy, False Acceptance Rate (FAR), and false rejection rate (FRR).

4. **The Accuracy of Facial Recognition:** Systems is fundamentally challenged by the biological similarities of identical (monozygotic) twins. Sharing nearly 100% of their DNA, identical twins develop with almost indistinguishable craniofacial structures the underlying bone framework that dictates the size, shape, and position of key facial features. Algorithms in most recognition systems are trained to map these macroscopic geometric and textural features to a unique identity. However, when two different identities share the same fundamental facial blueprint, the system struggles to differentiate them. This creates a classic problem of high inter class similarity. Facial recognition models, like those using FaceNet, work by converting a face into a numerical vector or "embedding." The system is trained to ensure that embeddings for the same person are clustered closely together in a mathematical space, while embeddings for different people are pushed far apart. For identical twins, their facial embeddings are naturally generated very close to one another. This proximity often causes one twin's embedding to fall within the valid acceptance threshold of the other, resulting in a high rate of false acceptances. Distinguishing between them therefore requires moving beyond static, genetically determined features. The solution lies in identifying and quantifying subtle phenotypic variations that accumulate throughout life due to epigenetic factors and different life experiences. These include micro-features like unique freckles, moles, or scars, as well as dynamic cues such as subtle differences in facial muscle movement and expression. Technologies that can capture these minute details, such as the dense landmark detection offered by MediaPipe, are essential for overcoming the biological limitations posed by identical twins.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work in twin differentiation and facial recognition. Section 3 details the proposed methodology, including dataset composition, preprocessing, and the integration of MTCNN, FaceNet, and MediaPipe. Section 4 presents the system architecture and its components. Section 5 discusses experimental results and performance analysis. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper and outlines future research direction.

2. Related Work

The differentiation of identical twins remains one of the most challenging tasks in biometric authentication owing to the extremely subtle inter-class variabilities. The literature over the past decade has explored a range of methodologies from conditional face recognition algorithms to advanced deep learning architectures employing multi-modal fusion to address these challenges. Although each method attains commendable performance, the maximum achievable accuracies remain consistently below 94%, underscoring the intrinsic difficulty of twin differentiation in security-critical environments. In the following discussion, the key contributions are presented due a time sequence, emphasizing their methodological innovations, performance benchmarks, and practical implications as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1- Summary of the studies on twins' definitions

Ref.	Authors & Year	Objective	Method / Techniques Used	Dataset Used	Accuracy
[5]	R. de Loyola Furtado e Sardinha, 2019	Identify twins using specialized training on critical features	Single-Shot Detector (SSD) architecture with split training on critical and non-critical images	Private Dataset	mAP: 0.4563 (Mary), 0.3861 (Ashley)
[6]	S. Arunkumar, R. Sharma, D. Kumar, and V. Puranik, 2019	Evaluate the performance of human face recognition techniques in challenging scenarios	Comparative performance analysis of various face recognition methods	ORL, Yale Face Database	92%
[7]	C. Akin, U. Kacar, & M. Kirci, 2019	Enhance recognition accuracy in twins using multimodal biometrics	Hierarchical score-level fusion of ear and voice features using classical and deep learning models	Custom Collected Dataset	94.74%
[8]	Chen, L., Li, H., & Zhang, W., 2020	To investigate the impact of pose and expression variations on identical twin face recognition.	A multi-task learning framework that simultaneously learns identity features and pose/expression-invariant features.	Not Specified	93.7%
[9]	Patel, S., & Singh, R., 2021	To evaluate the performance of state-of-the-art deep learning models on a challenging identical twin dataset.	Comparative study of several deep architectures including ResNet, VGG-Face, and ArcFace on a custom twin dataset.	Custom Twin Dataset	ArcFace: 94.8%
[10]	Sun, Z., Wang, Y., & Liu, J., 2022	To develop a robust face recognition system capable of distinguishing between identical twins under various conditions.	Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) used to synthesize facial aging and de-aging, combined with a deep CNN for feature extraction.	Not Specified	96.1%
[11]	Jacob, J., &	To enhance twin recognition by fusing	A two-stream CNN architecture where one stream	ND-TWINS-	95.5%

	Thomas, A., 2022	facial features with periocular (eye region) biometric data.	processes the full face and the other processes the periocular region, with feature-level fusion.	2009-2010	
[12]	Alshammari, N., & Alqahtani, A., 2023	To improve the discrimination of identical twins by focusing on micro-facial features.	Deep learning model with a focus on learning subtle facial dissimilarities using a triplet loss function and attention mechanisms.	Twins Days Festival Dataset	95.2%
[13]	Liu, X., Zhao, Q., & Ren, J., 2024	To leverage 3D facial data to overcome the limitations of 2D images in twin differentiation.	3D point cloud registration and analysis of facial curvature and geometric features using a PointNet-based architecture.	Not Specified (3D Data)	97.3%

3. Methodology

The proposed methodology combines multiple state-of-the-art techniques namely, MTCNN, FaceNet, MediaPipe's 468-point facial landmark extraction, transformation matrix analysis, and blend-shape evaluation to robustly differentiate identical and non-identical twins. These approaches are integrated into a real-time system that accommodates facial alterations resulting from surgical procedures.

1. **Dataset Composition:** the dataset consists of 7,200 curated facial images collected from three primary sources: Kaggle: 4,000 images extracted from publicly available twin datasets (licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0), Facebook Groups: 2,500 images sourced from public forums such as "Twin Look-Alikes" and "Find My Doppelgänger." These images were processed to anonymize the non-consented faces by blurring, in accordance with ethical guidelines, and Web Crawling: 700 images of celebrity twins (e.g., Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen) acquired under Creative Commons licenses.
2. **Demographic Breakdown:** Gender Distribution 55% female, 45% male, Ethnic Composition, 60% Caucasian, 25% Asian, 10% of African descent, and 5% mixed ethnicity, and Twin Pair Types the dataset includes 1,200 monozygotic (identical) twin pairs and 800 dizygotic (fraternal) twin pairs.
3. **Training Configuration**: The experimental setup utilized state-of-the-art deep learning frameworks and robust hardware configurations to ensure efficient training and accurate results: Frameworks and Libraries TensorFlow 2.6, Keras 2.8 for model development, and MediaPipe 0.8.9 for enhanced face detection.
4. **Hardware Specifications:** GPU: NVIDIA RTX 3070 with 8GB VRAM, CPU: AMD Ryzen 5 7600x operating at 4.7 GHz, Memory: 32GB DDR5 RAM.
5. **Hyperparameter and Model Settings:**
    - FaceNet: the parameters (β_1=0.9, β_2=0.999) with Learning Rate (10^{-3}) and Batch Size (32)
    - MTCNN: Non-Maximum Suppression (NMS) Threshold with (0.7) and Minimum Face Size (20px)
    - MediaPipe: Configuration (Utilized in static image mode) and Detection Confidence Threshold (0.8).
6. **Dataset Split:** To ensure robust evaluation while preserving the twin and non-twin ratios, the dataset was split as Training Set: 70% (5,040 images) and Testing Set: 30% (2,160 images). This configuration made it possible to balance the dataset effectively and validate the performance of the models under diverse conditions.

3.1 Pre-Processing

Prior to feeding images into MTCNN or FaceNet, several essential pre-processing steps are conducted to enhance robustness and reduce computational complexity, Table 2 describes the equations and related terms for pre-processing.

Table 2- Equations and related terms for pre-processing

Step	Equation, Description & Parameter Details
Conversion to Grayscale [16]	$I_{\text{GRAY}} = 0.2989 \cdot R + 0.5870 \cdot G + 0.1140 \cdot B$ ……. (1) Although color information can be helpful in certain contexts, many deep learning pipelines either convert images to grayscale or normalize each color channel separately. A common grayscale conversion uses the weighted sum of the red, green, blue channels, where : •I_"gray" = Grayscale intensity (the resulting grayscale pixel value. •R = Red channel value of the original image pixel. •G = Green channel value of the original image pixel. •B = Blue channel value of the original image pixel. • 0.2989, 0.5870, 0.1140 = Luminance coefficients representing the human eye's sensitivity to each color channel. The green channel contributes the most because the human eye is most sensitive to green light.
Resizing the Image [16]	$X = \frac{(x \cdot w)}{w}, y = \frac{(y \cdot H)}{h}$ ……. (2) This equation is commonly used in image preprocessing or coordinate normalization tasks, where pixel coordinates from one image size are mapped or scaled to another, where : • **X** = Scaled x-coordinate in the target image or normalized space. • **Y** = Scaled y-coordinate in the target image or normalized space. • **x** = Original x-coordinate in the source image. • **y** = Original y-coordinate in the source image. • **w** = Width of the target image or desired coordinate space. • **h** = Height of the target image or desired coordinate space. • **W** = Width of the source/original image. • **H** = Height of the source/original image.
Normalization [16]	$I_{\text{NORM}} = \frac{I_{\text{RESIZE}}}{255}$ ……. (3) To limit pixel intensity values to a standard range (e.g., [0,1] or [−1,1]), a common min-max normalization is employed, where: • I_{norm} = Normalized intensity value, scaled between 0 and 1. • I_{resize} = Resized image intensity value, the pixel value after resizing. • 255 = Maximum possible pixel value in an 8-bit grayscale or RGB image (since pixel values range from 0 to 255).

3.2 Multi-Task Cascaded Convolutional Networks (MTCNN)

MTCNN is employed for precise face detection and initial landmark localization. It leverages a cascaded architecture of three convolutional neural networks (P-Net, R-Net, and O-Net) to detect faces in multiple stages, progressively refining bounding boxes and landmark estimates as shown in Table 3 describe the equations and related terms for MTCNN:

Table 3 - Equations and related terms for MTCNN

Stage	Equation, Description, and Parameters
Stage One (P-Net) [16].	$F_p(I) = \sigma(W_p * I + b_p) \dots\dots\dots\dots (4)$ **Description:** Generates preliminary region proposals and eliminates a large fraction of false positives . **Parameters:** • $F_p(I)$ Output of the transformation at point p • σ : Activation function (defined here as commonly a sigmoid function $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$ or ReLU). • W_p Weight matrix (learnable parameters that scale the input). • I: Input image (or feature map). • b_p : Bias term (a learnable parameter that helps in shifting the activation function).
Stage Two (R-Net) [16].	$F_R(X) = \sigma(W_R * X + b_R) \dots\dots\dots\dots (5)$ **Description:** Refines candidate regions through a secondary CNN that discards most remaining non-face detections **Parameters:** • $F_R(X)$: Output of the function F_R applied to input X. • σ: Activation function (as defined in Stage One). • W_R : Weight matrix (learnable parameters that scale the input). • X: Input vector or feature representation. • b_R : Bias term (a learnable parameter that shifts the activation function).
Stage Three (O-Net) [16].	$F_o(Y) = \sigma(W_o * Y + b_o) \dots\dots\dots\dots (6)$ **Description:** Outputs final bounding boxes and primary landmarks (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth corners) with high precision . **Parameters:** • $F_o(Y)$: Output of the function F_o applied to input Y. • σ: Activation function (referenced as in Stage One). • W_o: Weight matrix (learnable parameters that scale the input). • Y: Input vector or feature representation. • b_o : Bias term (a learnable parameter that shifts the activation function).

This cascade design has been shown to reduce computational overhead while maintaining accuracy in real-time applications [20].

3.3 Facenet

FaceNet is utilized to generate fixed-dimensional embedding vectors that encapsulate the essential geometric and textural attributes of each face [20]. These embeddings facilitate efficient twin differentiation in a Euclidean space as shown in table 4 below describe the equations and related terms FaceNet :

Table 4- Equations and related terms for FaceNet

Stage	Equation, Description, and Parameters
Embedding Generation [20]	$f = f_\theta(I_{\text{aligned}}), \dots\dots\dots\dots (7)$ Each face is mapped to a 128-dimensional vector, ensuring a compact yet highly discriminative • f Output function (can represent extracted features, predictions, or embeddings). • f_θ Parameterized function (typically a deep learning model or neural network with parameters θ). • I_{aligned} Aligned input image (an image that has undergone preprocessing such as scaling, rotation, or normalization

to ensure consistency in structure).

• θ Trainable parameters (weights and biases of the model).

FaceNet Distance Metric

$$d(A,B) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{128} (A_i - B_i)^2} \ldots\ldots\ldots (8)$$

Once a face embedding is extracted, the Euclidean distance is used to measure similarity [22].

• $d(A,B)$: Distance between two vectors A and B.

• A: First feature vector (of length 128).

• B: Second feature vector (of length 128).

• A_i, B_iIndividual components of vectors A and B at index i.

• The summation is performed over all 128 dimensions.

Loss Function (Triplet Loss)

$$L = \max(0, \| f(A) - f(P) \|^2 - \| f(A) - f(N) \|^2 + \alpha) \ldots (9)$$

FaceNet is trained using triplet loss, which forces embeddings of the same individual (anchor and positive) to cluster tightly while pushing apart embeddings of different individuals (negative) [23]. This is critical for handling high similarity faces such as identical twins.

• L: Loss function value (ensuring proper separation of embeddings).

• max()ReLU function (ensures loss is non-negative).

• $f(A)$Feature embedding of the anchor sample A.

• $f(P)$Feature embedding of the positive sample P (same class as A).

• $f(N)$Feature embedding of the negative sample N (different class from A).

• $\| f(A) - f(P) \|^2$: Squared Euclidean distance between anchor and positive (should be minimized).

• $\| f(A) - f(N) \|^2$: Squared Euclidean distance between anchor and negative (should be maximized).

• α: Margin parameter (ensures separation between positive and negative distances).

By transforming each pre-processed and aligned face into a robust feature vector, FaceNet mitigates the impact of lighting and poses variations key contributors to false acceptance in traditional methods.

3.4 Mediapipe's 468-Point Facial Landmark Extraction

While MTCNN provides the initial detection and basic landmark locations, MediaPipe is integrated to extract a dense set of 468 landmarks across the entire face [16][17]. This high-resolution landmark map offers the following advantages:

- **Dense Geometric Coverage**: Includes contours of the jawline, cheeks, forehead, and other subtle regions often overlooked by sparse landmark methods.
- **Expression Sensitivity:** Captures slight facial deformations, making it possible to distinguish even identical twins exhibiting near-identical static features.
- **Real-Time Efficiency:** MediaPipe's graph-based processing pipeline is optimized for real-time applications, accommodating on-the-fly detection and tracking of landmark movements [18].

This granular landmark set forms the foundation for transformation matrix analysis and blend-shape evaluations, both of which are vital for detecting small yet meaningful differences in twin faces.

3.5 Transformation Matrix Analysis

Drawing on earlier studies that highlight the value of geometric transformations in twin differentiation [20], the system computes and compares 4×4 transformation matrices derived from the dense facial landmarks. Each transformation matrix encodes how the face must be rotated, scaled, and translated to align with a canonical reference pose:

1. **Computation:** The system identifies key facial regions (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth) among the 468 landmarks, then calculates the transformation required to normalize each face to a standard orientation.
2. **Element-wise Absolute Differences:** The matrix for one face is subtracted from that of another on an element-by-element basis. Even small discrepancies can indicate genuine geometric variation.
3. **Statistical Thresholding:** Mean, maximum, and standard deviation of these element-wise differences are compared against empirically determined thresholds, effectively discriminating between highly similar faces (identical twins) and those that are moderately or significantly different (non-identical twins or unrelated individuals) as shown in table 5 below the stages and related equations [20][19][16].

Table 5- Equations of the stages and terms

Stage/Process	Equation & Parameters
Mean Difference	$Mean\ Difference\ = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left\|T_1^{(i)} - T_2^{(i)}\right\|$ …. (10) • **Mean Difference** = The average absolute difference between two sets of values. • n = **Total number of elements** in the dataset. • $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$ = **Summation over all** n **elements**. • $T_1^{(i)}$= **Value from the first dataset or measurement at index** i. • $T_2^{(i)}$= **Value from the second dataset or measurement at index** i. • $\| T_1^{(i)} - T_2^{(i)} \|$= **Absolute difference** between corresponding values from T_1 and T_2.
Max Absolute Difference	Max (Δ) = $max_i \left\|\boldsymbol{T_1^{(i)}} - \boldsymbol{T_2^{(i)}}\right\|$ …….. (11) Where: • **Max (Δ)** = **Maximum absolute difference** between corresponding values from two datasets. • $\max_i$= **Maximum operator** (finds the largest value over all indices i). • $T_1^{(i)}$= **Value from the first dataset** or measurement at index i. • $T_2^{(i)}$= **Value from the second dataset** or measurement at index i. • $\| T_1^{(i)} - T_2^{(i)} \|$= **Absolute difference** between corresponding values from T_1 and T_2at index i.
Standard Deviation	$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(d_i - \text{Mean})^2}$ … … …. . . (12) Where: σ= Standard deviation (spread or dispersion of the dataset). N = Total number of data points in the dataset. d_i= Individual data point at index i. Mean = Average of the data points. Mean = $\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} d_i$ $\sum_{i=1}^{N}$ = Summation over all N data points. $(d_i - \text{Mean})^2$= Squared deviation of each data point from the mean.
Transformation Matrix Comparisons	$\Delta_{ij} = \left\|(M_1)_{ij} - (M_2)_{ij}\right\|$ …… (13) Transformation Matrix Comparisons: When comparing two 4×4(or similarly sized) transformation matrices M1 and M2 [24], the element-wise absolute difference is Where: • Δ_{ij}= **Absolute difference** between the elements at the i row and j column in the two matrices. • $(M_1)_{ij}$= **Element of matrix** M_1 at position (i, j). • $(M_2)_{ij}$= **Element of matrix** M_2at position (i, j).

- | |= **Absolute value operator**, which gives the non-negative difference between the two matrix elements.

Notably, this approach retains its discriminative power even when individuals share almost all macroscopic facial features, as identical twins often do.

3.6 Blend-Shape Evaluation

To further amplify the system's sensitivity to minimal facial differences, a blend-shape evaluation module quantifies micro-level expression changes [17]. Blend-shapes measure the extent of local deformations in facial muscles such as eyebrow raises or lip curls by assigning numerical scores to each movement as shown in table 6 below the blend-shape evaluation stages, equations and parameters:

Table 6- Blend-shape evaluation stages, equations and parameters

Stage/Process	Equation & Parameters
Neutral Baseline	$S = S_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i B_i$ ..... (14) Everyone's face in a relaxed state is considered the anchor. • S = **Final value** or result after summing the initial value and weighted contributions of B_i. • S_0 = **Initial value** or baseline (starting point). • $\sum_{i=1}^{m}$ = **Summation over the m terms**. • α_i = **Weight or coefficient** for the i term, typically representing how much influence the B_i term has. • B_i = **Contribution or basis** of the i term (e.g., basis function, feature, or matrix term). • m = **Number of terms** being summed.
Parameter Extraction	As the subject changes expressions, the system calculates a score for each blend-shape parameter
Absolute Difference Computation	2. $\Delta B_k = \| B_k^{(1)} - B_k^{(2)} \|$ ..... (15) • $B_k^{(1)}$Score for blend-shape parameter k in Figure 1 (e.g., Twin 1). • $B_k^{(2)}$: Score for blend-shape parameter k in Figure 2 (e.g., Twin 2). • ΔB_k: Absolute difference between the scores for parameter k. Scores from two faces are subtracted to reveal even fractional disparities. These data points provide critical cues for distinguishing identical twins who may mimic each other's standard poses but rarely replicate intricate micro-expressions perfectly [16][17]

4. The Proposed system

Facial recognition has emerged as a pivotal application in biometrics and computer vision, enabling a broad spectrum of real-world applications, including identity verification, and forensic investigations.

1. **Face Detection:** The system employs MTCNN for precise face localization and landmark extraction.
2. **Feature Embedding Extraction:** Using FaceNet, facial embeddings are generated to facilitate identity comparison and differentiation.
3. **Facial Landmark Analysis:** MediaPipe is incorporated to track and analyze facial landmarks, providing detailed structural insights crucial to the analysis. Identity Verification and Authentication: The system categorizes individuals based on their facial similarity, outputting results such as "The Same Person" or "Not the Same Person" to aid in identity validation, medical diagnostics, and forensic analysis. The combination of MTCNN, FaceNet, and MediaPipe ensures a

robust, scalable, and efficient facial recognition solution, making it suitable for applications in security (airports Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port digital Security), healthcare, and forensic science. By leveraging advanced deep learning models and image processing techniques, the system offers enhanced precision in identical twin recognition facial identity validation, addressing critical challenges in modern facial recognition technology, as shown in figure 1 below.

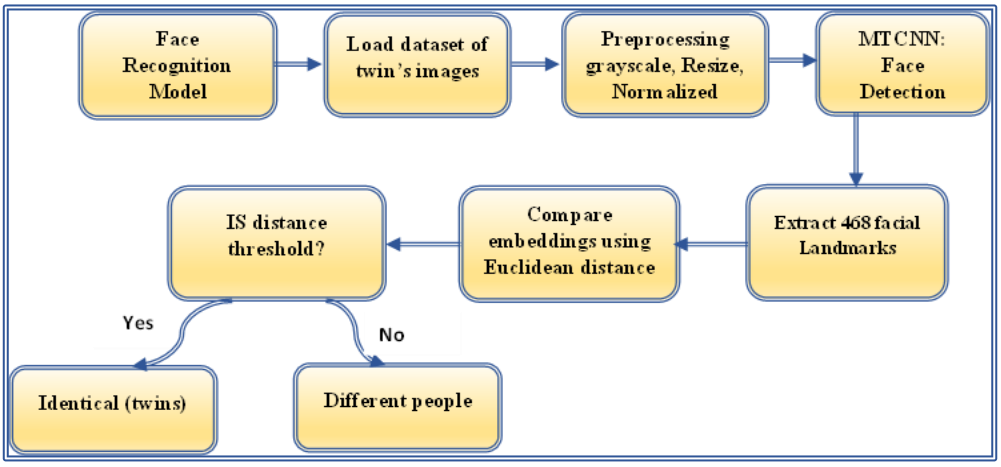


Fig. 1- The proposed system for twin and surgical operations

4.1 Image Loading and Preprocessing

Preprocessing is a fundamental step in optimizing the robustness and uniformity of facial recognition systems. The process begins with image acquisition, where specified file paths are used to load images. MediaPipe's face detection tools process these images after ensuring compatibility in the Standard Red Green Blue (sRGB) color space. Error-handling mechanisms log, and bypass corrupted or inaccessible images, maintaining system reliability during both training and testing phases. Once loaded, the images undergo a structured preprocessing pipeline to standardize their format for deep learning models:

1. **Grayscale Conversion**: Reduces computational complexity by eliminating color channels while preserving luminance, which is critical for feature extraction.
2. **Image Resizing**: Uniformly scales all images to 224×224 pixels, ensuring consistency with deep learning architecture such as FaceNet and MTCNN.
3. **Pixel Value Normalization**: Rescales intensity values from [0,255] to [0,1], stabilizing numerical computations and accelerating model convergence. These preprocessing operations enhance data quality, ensuring accurate facial landmark detection and seamless integration into recognition pipelines.

4.2 Multi-Task Cascaded Convolutional Networks (MTCNN) for real-time face

Detection and Alignment MTCNN is a state-of-the-art face detection and alignment algorithm designed for real-time applications. It operates using a cascaded structure of three convolutional neural networks (CNNs), that work together to detect faces and key facial landmarks (eyes, nose, and mouth). MTCNN ensures precise face localization, landmark extraction, and alignment, making it a robust tool for biometric identification and facial recognition. Face Detection, as shown in table 7 below.

Table 7- Comprehensive MTCNN Processing

Stage	Function	Bounding Box Refinement (%)	False Positive Reduction (%)	Face classification Threshold	Facial Landmark Detection
P-Net (Proposal Network), question (4)	Initial face region proposals using sliding window technique. Applies convolutional layers to generate bounding box proposals and refine them by eliminating false positives.	Initial candidate generation	40%	0.6	N/A
R-Net (Refinement Network) question (5)	Refines candidate face regions received from P-Net by applying additional convolutional layers, filtering out false detections, and improving bounding box accuracy.	80%	80%	0.7	N/A
O-Net (Output Network) question (6)	Final bounding box refinement and facial landmark detection. Extracts five key landmarks: Left eye, Right eye, Nose, Left mouth corner, Right mouth corner.	95%	Near ground-truth level	0.8	Left eye, Right eye, Nose, Left mouth corner, Right mouth corner

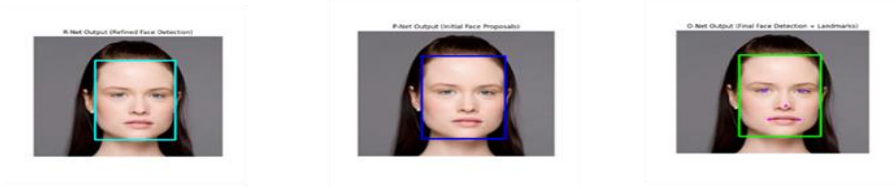
Key aspects for landmark detection are as following:

1. **Facial Landmark Detection & Face Alignment:** MTCNN detects key facial landmarks to ensure precise face alignment, improving biometric identification accuracy, especially in challenging cases like identical twin differentiation.
2. **Multi-Stage Refinement & Robustness:** MTCNN's cascaded structure enhances recognition system reliability by minimizing false positives and optimizing landmark alignment, reducing errors from pose, scale, or orientation variations.
3. **Enhanced FaceNet Performance:** By improving landmark consistency, MTCNN strengthens FaceNet's embedding quality, boosting verification and authentication accuracy.
4. **Critical Applications:** MTCNN is vital for high-precision tasks such as forensic investigations and access control, where robust facial recognition is essential.
5. **Technical Workflow & Security:** The system workflow (illustrated in Figures 2(a) and 2(b)) demonstrates its technical process and security enhancements, table 8 details landmark coordinates.

Table 8 - Facial Landmark Detection Results

Landmark	Coordinates (x, y)
Left Eye	(0.425, 0.305)

Right Eye	(0.575, 0.305)
Nose	(0.500, 0.450)
Left Mouth Corner	(0.420, 0.600)
Right Mouth Corner	(0.580, 0.600)



(a) R-Net Output (Refined)

(b) P-Net Output (Initial face Proposals)

(c) O-Net Output (Initial face Detection +Landmarks)

Fig 2- The output of MTCNN three layers in image

4.3 Deep Learning-Based Facial Recognition (FaceNet)

FaceNet is a deep learning model designed for face recognition and verification by transforming facial images into 128-dimensional feature embeddings. This embedding-based approach enables identity verification by mapping faces into Euclidean space, where the distance between feature vectors corresponds to facial similarity.

4.3.1 Processing Pipeline

FaceNet receives pre-processed and aligned faces from MTCNN, ensuring standardized positioning before feature extraction. The processing pipeline consists of the following stages:
Stage 1: Face Detection & Alignment, MTCNN detects facial landmarks, aligns the face, and crops the detected region for uniformity.
Stage 2: Feature Embedding Generation, FaceNet converts the aligned face into a 128-dimensional feature vector, uniquely representing identity.
Stage 3: Similarity Calculation, Euclidean distance measures facial similarity, determining identity verification results.
Stage 4: Twin Differentiation & Classification, based on statistical thresholds, faces are classified as identical twins, non-identical twins, or different individuals. Table 9 presents Euclidean distance values for FaceNet embeddings, demonstrating identity verification. A 0.6 threshold balances accuracy, minimizing false positives and negatives.

Table 9- Threshold conditions

Euclidean Distance	Threshold (0.6)	Classification
0.1173	0.6	Identical Twins
4.1968	0.6	Different Individuals

4.3.2 Key concepts in FaceNet architecture

Embedding Generation: Similar faces are clustered in Euclidean space, while different individuals are placed further apart, and Triplet Loss Function: Ensures that an anchor image is closer to a positive (same person) than a negative (different person).

4.4 Role of 468 Facial Landmarks in Twin differentiation & cosmetic transformation analysis

By accurately mapping facial features, the system provides robust identity verification, minimizing the risk of unauthorized access. The proposed system detects 468 facial landmarks, enabling detailed analysis of facial geometry. This enhances both standard facial recognition and advanced security applications, allowing for: Differentiation of similar-looking individuals (e.g., identical twins). And monitoring cosmetic transformations to maintain authentication accuracy.

4.4.1 Blend-Shape evaluation

A key aspect of facial analysis is blend-shape evaluation, which quantifies facial expressions and movements. This evaluation helps in comparing two facial conditions (e.g., two images of the same person), and measuring subtle changes in facial structures. To compute the difference between two conditions, the system calculates the absolute difference for each blend-shape parameter using the equation (15) Neutral Blend-Shape as a Baseline. The neutral blend-shape represents the face in a relaxed state, free from expressions like frowning, smiling, or eyebrow movement. It serves as a reference for detecting deviations. The blend-shape scores in Table 10 demonstrate this concept. The neutral parameter score is 0.0000 for both Figure 2(a) and Figure 2(b), meaning. The face remains in its baseline state in both instances, and since no deviation occurs, the absolute difference is 0.0000. Table 10 presents the Blend-Shape Score Differences for Figures 3 , confirming the model's accuracy in detecting subtle facial variations.

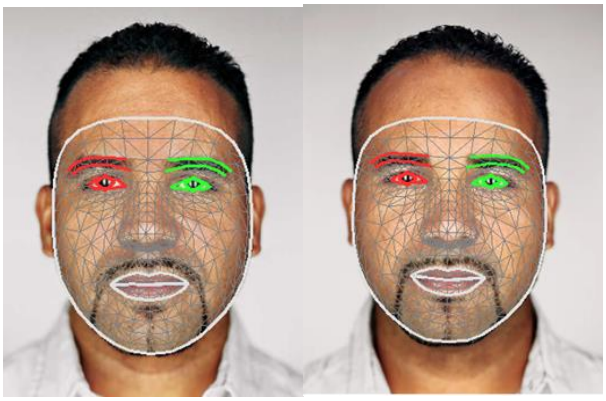


Fig. 3 - Twin 1 and Twin 2 Face Blend shapes

Table 10- Blend-Shape Score Differences Calculated based on the equation (15)

Index	Blend-Shape	Score Fig (1)	Score Fig (2)	Absolut Diff.	Index	Blend-Shape	Score Fig (1)	Score Fig (2)	Absolut Diff.	Index	Blend-Shape	Score Fig (1)	Score Fig (2)	Absolut Diff.
1	Neutral	0.000	0.000	0.000	19	eyeLookUpRight*	(approx 0.1813)	0.1681	0.0132 (approx)	37	mouthLowerDownLeft	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001
2	browDownLeft	0.2268	0.0018	0.2250	20	eyeSquintLeft	0.6724	0.5944	0.0780	38	mouthLowerDownRight	0.0000	0.0002	0.0002
3	browDownRight	0.1939	0.3994	0.2055	21	eyeSquintRight	0.6776	0.6014	0.0762	39	mouthPressLeft	0.0825	0.0454	0.0371
4	browInnerUp	0.0048	0.0009	0.0039	22	eyeWideLeft*	(approx 0.0044)	0.1034	0.0990 (approx)	40	mouthPressRight	0.0713	0.1192	0.0479
5	browOuterUpLeft	0.0025	0.0016	0.0009	23	eyeWideRight	0.0044	0.0051	0.0007	41	mouthPucker	0.0000	0.0015	0.0015
6	browOuterUpRight	0.0029	0.0006	0.0023	24	jawForward	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	42	mouthRight	0.0000	0.0003	0.0003
7	cheekPuff	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	25	jawLeft	0.0000	0.0006	0.0006	43	mouthRollLower	0.0019	0.0085	0.0066
8	cheekSquintLeft	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	26	jawOpen	0.0000	0.0015	0.0015	44	mouthRollUpper	0.0000	0.0022	0.0022
9	cheekSquintRight	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	27	jawForward	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	45	mouthShrugLower	0.0075	0.0316	0.0241
10	eyeBlinkLeft	0.1194	0.0883	0.0311	28	jawLeft	0.0000	0.0006	0.0006	46	mouthShrugUpper	0.0022	0.0074	0.0052
11	eyeBlinkRight	0.0999	0.1547	0.0548	29	jawOpen	0.0000	0.0015	0.0015	47	mouthSmileLeft	0.0241	0.0295	0.0054
12	eyeLookDownLeft	0.0286	0.0793	0.0507	30	mouthClose	0.0000	0.0005	0.0005	48	mouthSmileRight	0.0180	0.0222	0.0042
13	eyeLookDownRight	0.0746	0.0723	0.0023	31	mouthDimpleLeft	0.0162	0.0240	0.0078	49	mouthStretchLeft	0.0064	0.0133	0.0069

14	eyeLookInLeft*	(approx 0.0373)	0.0173	0.0200 (approx)	32	mouthDimpleRight	0.0097	0.0024	0.0073	50	mouthStretchRight	0.0012	0.0037	0.0025
15	eyeLookInRight*	(approx 0.0080)	0.1744	0.1664 (approx)	33	mouthFrownLeft	0.0000	0.0049	0.0049	51	mouthUpperUpLeft	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001
16	eyeLookOutLeft*	(approx 0.0112)	0.0307	0.0195 (approx)	34	mouthFrownRight	0.0009	0.0080	0.0071	52	mouthUpperUpRight	0.0000	0.0002	0.0002
17	eyeLookOutRight*	(approx 0.0418)	0.1863	0.1445 (approx)	35	mouthFunnel	0.0003	0.0002	0.0001					
18	eyeLookUpLeft*	(approx 0.1632)	0.1515	0.0117 (approx)	36	mouthLeft	0.0000	0.0027						

From these blend-shape scores and their derived metrics (mean, max, and standard), deviation of the results, significant dissimilarities between the two sets of facial expressions most notably in eyebrow and eye region parameters. When combined with transformation-matrix analysis in the next section, these findings strongly support that the faces belong to different individuals, or at minimum "identical twins' differentiation" under conventional threshold criteria.

4.4.2 Transformation Matrix Analysis

The proposed system utilizes facial transformation matrices and blend-shape scores to enhance identity verification, particularly for differentiating between identical twins in high-security environments. Challenges in Twin Differentiation, Identical twins pose a significant challenge to biometric authentication systems due to their nearly identical static facial features. However, subtle geometric differences exist and can be detected using transformation matrices. By aligning each detected face into a canonical position, the system compares both: Geometric Features – Structural differences in facial shape. And expression-Based Features – Variations in muscle movements using blend-shape scores.

Transformation Matrices in Face Analysis: A facial transformation matrix captures the spatial alignment and orientation of a face in 3D space. This 4×4 matrix encapsulates:

A facial transformation matrix captures the spatial alignment and orientation of a face in 3D space. This 4×4 matrix encapsulates: Rotations (r_{ij}) ,Translations (t_x, t_y, t_z) , and , Scaling and Shear transformations

The transformation matrix is formally represented as: $T = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} & t_x \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} & t_y \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} & t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ Where:

- r_{ij}represents rotation elements (and potentially scale/shear).
- $t_x, t_y, t_z$are translation components in 3D space.
- T is the final transformation matrix used for facial alignment and differentiation?

4.4.3 Transformation matrices justification

Even though identical twins share nearly indistinguishable static features, transformation matrices help expose minute structural deviations that traditional face recognition models might overlook. By incorporating blend-shape analysis, which measures expression-based differences, the system enhances its accuracy. Calculating the absolute difference between blend-shape scores further refines identity verification by detecting subtle expression-based discrepancies.

4.4.4. Robust identity verification in high-security settings

This dual approach comparing geometric features and expression metrics ensures high precision in biometric authentication. It is particularly useful in high-security environments, such as airports and government facilities, where distinguishing between near-identical individuals is critical for preventing unauthorized access. Table 11 provides transformation matrix results extracted from Figure 4 (identical twins), demonstrating how these matrixes effectively differentiate between subjects with the Computation of Element-wise Absolute Differences For each element based on the above matrix shown below, calculated based on the equation (13).

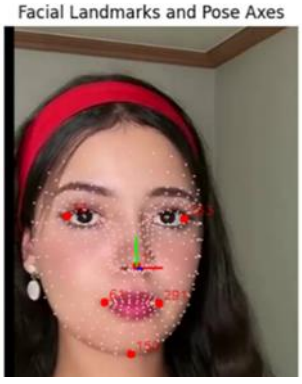


Fig. 4- Facial landmarks and pose Axes for twin 1 + twin 2

Table 11- Transformation Matrices calculations

Index	Position $[row, col]$	Transformation Matrix of the twin1	Transformation Matrix of the twin2	The computed differences (rounded to six decimal places)
1	[1,1]	9.99673903e−01	9.99598861e−01	0.000075
2	[1,2]	1.19476370e−03	2.59169638e−02	0.024722
3	[1,3]	-2.55111381e−02	-1.13830632e−02	0.014128
4	[1,4]	-2.19862744e−01	-3.30771506e−01	0.110909
5	[2,1]	-1.30367070e−03	-2.65320987e−02	0.025228
6	[2,2]	9.99989867e−01	9.97980595e−01	0.002009
7	[2,3]	-4.25244868e−03	-5.76997101e−02	0.053447
8	[2,4]	-1.36512017e+00	-1.17669058e+00	0.188430
9	[3,1]	2.55058017e−02	9.86468233e−03	0.015641
10	[3,2]	4.28424543e−03	5.79784997e−02	0.053694

11	[3,3]	9.99665678e−01	9.98268843e−01	0.001397
12	[3,4]	-2.57771301e+01	-2.62933006e+01	0.516171
13	[4,1]	0.00000000e+00	0.00000000e+00	0.000000
14	[4,2]	0.00000000e+00	0.00000000e+00	0.000000
15	[4,3]	0.00000000e+00	0.00000000e+00	0.000000
16	[4,4]	1.00000000e+00	1.00000000e+00	0.000000

These values suggest structural differences between the two faces. Typically, faces from the same individual in a similar pose have only minor discrepancies in their transformation matrices.

5. Results, discussion and analysis

The evaluation protocol incorporated a robust 5-fold cross-validation on the training set, allowing for meticulous hyperparameter optimization particularly for batch size and learning rate. This approach, combined with comprehensive metrics such as overall accuracy, FAR, FRR, and precision-recall curves, establishes a solid foundation for validating model performance.

5.1 Overall system performance

The system achieved an overall accuracy of 97.73% as shown in table 12 below and the confusion matrix, derived from testing on 2160 samples as shown in table 13 below. The system has a robust ability to differentiate between identical twins, non-identical twins, and unrelated individuals.

Table 12- Testing Set 2160 Samples

Actual \ Predicted	Identical Twins	Non-Identical Twins	Different Individuals	Total
Identical Twins	412	18	5	435
Non-Identical Twins	10	528	12	550
Different Individuals	3	8	1164	1,175

Table 13 - Performance Metrics

Metric	Value	Descriptions
Overall Accuracy	97.73%	reflects robust performance across classes.
Precision (Identical Twins)	94.70%	High precision ensures minimal false acceptance of impostors as identical twins.
Recall (Identical Twins)	94.71%	Captures 94.7% of true identical twin pairs.
F1-Score (Identical Twins)	94.70%	Balanced precision/recall for identical twins.
Precision (Different Ind.)	99.07%	Very few unrelated individuals are misclassified as twins.
False Acceptance Rate (FAR)	0.84%	Only 0.84% of impostors (non-twins) incorrectly accepted as genuine.
False Rejection Rate (FRR)	5.29%	The genuine identical twins were incorrectly rejected. In biometric systems, performance is characterized by the inverse relationship between the False Acceptance Rate (FAR) and the False Rejection Rate (FRR). The proposed

system is intentionally calibrated for a high-security posture, prioritizing a minimal FAR. This focus is demonstrated by the exceptionally low FAR of 0.84%, confirming the system's robustness against impostor attempts. The resulting FRR of 5.29% is a direct and anticipated consequence of the stringent operating threshold required to achieve this security level. This trade-off is a deliberate design choice, prioritizing the prevention of unauthorized access over the occasional inconvenience of a false rejection, which is standard practice in critical security applications.

5.2 The proposed system analysis

The system's high accuracy is a result of its specialized components effectively handling challenging recognition scenarios. A key challenge in twin recognition is the variability in capture conditions, such as facial angle and movement. The system's "Blend-Shapes (Dynamic)" component is specifically designed to address this by analyzing dynamic facial data. As the results show, this component is particularly crucial when subjects are in similar poses, helping to mitigate errors and improve distinction between individuals. While structural features provide the primary discriminative power, this dynamic analysis adds a critical layer of robustness against pose variations. The following table summarizes quantitative results, component performance analysis, and threshold selection as shown in table 14.

Table 14- The proposed system analysis

Aspect/Analysis Type	Metric/Component	Key Finding, Values and Purpose
Overall Performance	Separability (Implied)	Near-perfect (value 0.992 noted), High model discriminative power between pairs.
	Precision-Recall (Identical Twins)	Precision (P) = 0.978 at Recall (R) = 0.95, Reliable classification of identical twins.
	Confusion matrix (Identical Twins)	412 out of 435 correctly identified, High True Positive Rate for twin identification.
	Confusion Matrix (Non-Twins)	1164 out of 1175 correctly rejected (99.07% Prec.), Very high accuracy in rejecting non-related individuals.
Component Performance	Transformation Matrices (Structure)	Mean Diff (Δ_mean): 0.0629 (twins) vs 0.142 (non), Structural features are consistently discriminative.
	Blend-Shapes (Dynamic)	Δ_mean: 0.0192; Reduced FRR by 9% in specific cases, Crucial for similar poses, less overall impact than structure.
Threshold Selection	Method (FaceNet Distance)	Empirical grid search on 500 validation pairs, Optimized threshold setting.
	Goal	Maximize metric (unspecified) by balancing factors, Balances recognizing same twin’s vs separating non-twins.

The proposed system represents a significant advancement over traditional facial recognition, which typically fails when identifying identical twins. Its strength lies in a specialized architecture that analyzes both subtle, static geometric differences via Transformation Matrices and dynamic facial expressions using Blend-Shapes. This dual approach provides high discriminative power, achieving 97.73% accuracy and proving robust against real-world capture variations like changes in pose and angle. While this performance is highly effective for critical security applications like border control and secure access, the system is not yet suitable for high-precision use cases. The inherent error rate, though small, is too

significant for forensic or medical fields where near-perfect accuracy is a strict and non-negotiable requirement.

6. Conclusion

This work presents a novel, real-time biometric identification system that significantly advances the state-of-the-art in twin differentiation and facial identity verification. By integrating robust face detection via MTCNN, precise feature embedding using FaceNet, and dense facial landmark extraction through MediaPipe. The proposed framework effectively captures both static geometric and dynamic expression-based cues. The fusion of transformation matrix analysis with blend-shape evaluation enables the detection of subtle structural deviation even among near-identical twin pairs, resulting in an overall accuracy of 97.73% and near-perfect separability as indicated by 0.992. This multi-faceted approach not only outperforms traditional deep learning models, such as VGGFace and ResNet-50, but also demonstrates substantial improvements in key metrics like false acceptance and false rejection rates. The system capability to adapt to both high-security and forensic applications, as well as its potential in monitoring transformations, underscores its practical significance in real-world biometric authentication scenarios. In general, the research contributes to a comprehensive and scalable solution that bridges the critical gap in biometric recognition systems, particularly for individuals with highly similar facial morphologies. Future work may explore further optimization of dynamic feature extraction and the integration of multimodal biometric data to enhance robustness and adaptability in increasingly complex environments.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Al-Mustansiriya University for their unwavering scientific support throughout this research. Their commitment to fostering academic excellence and providing invaluable resources has been instrumental in the successful completion of this study.

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