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National Engineering Laboratory for Brain-Inspired
Intelligence Technology and Application

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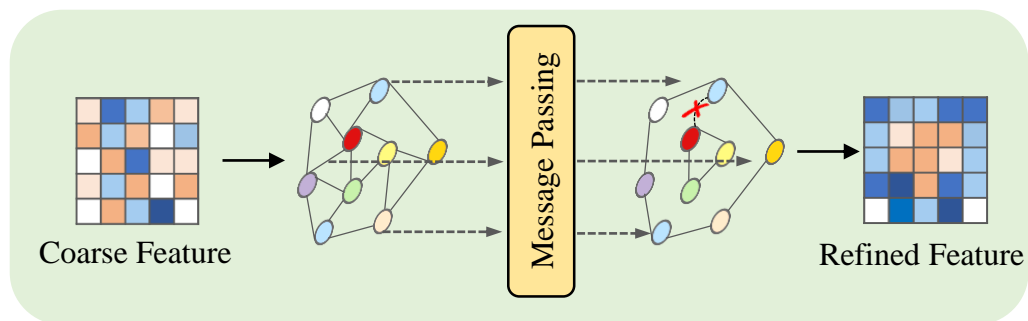
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Edge-aware Regional Message Passing Controller for Image Forgery Localization

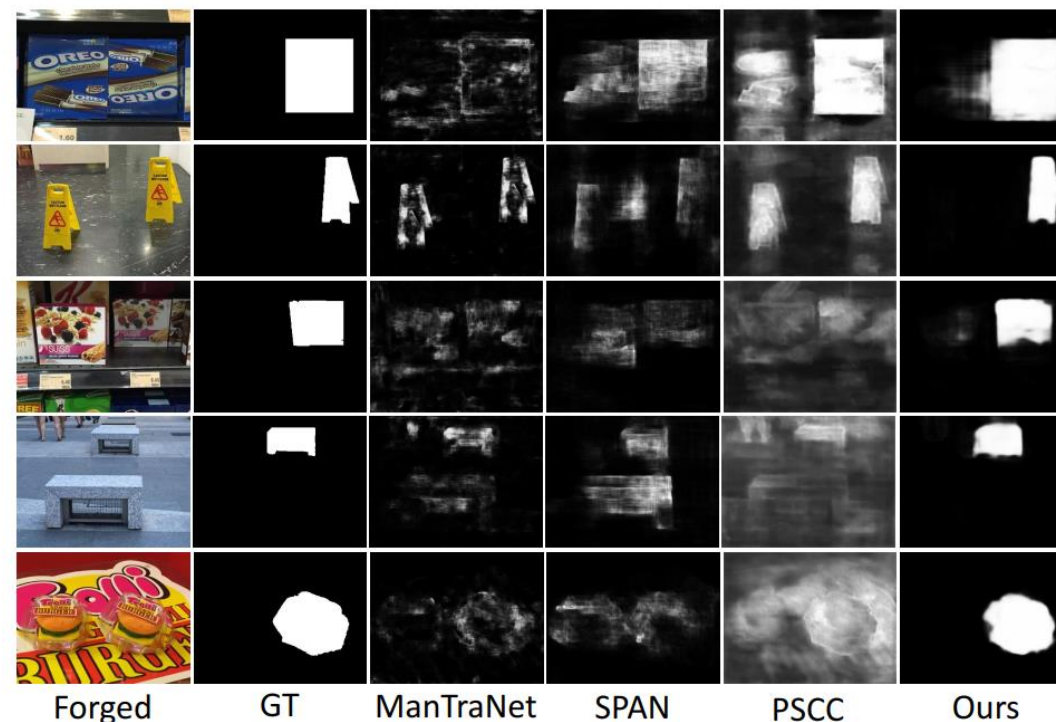
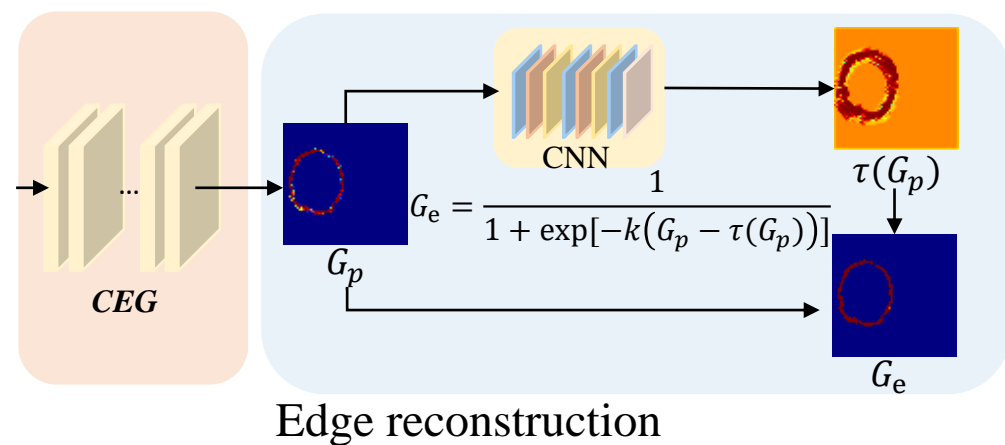
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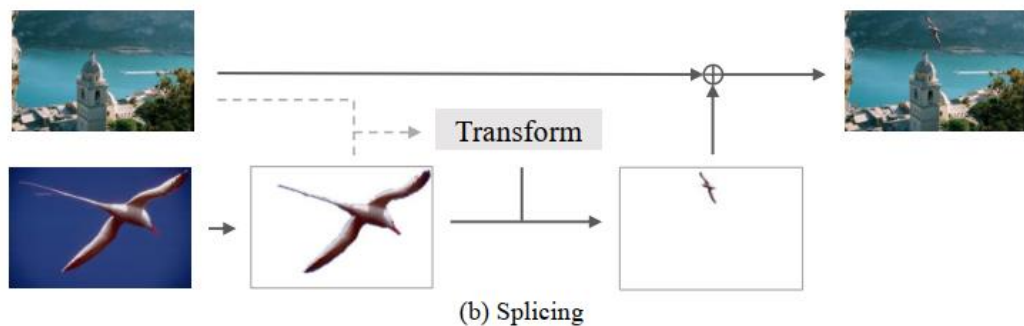
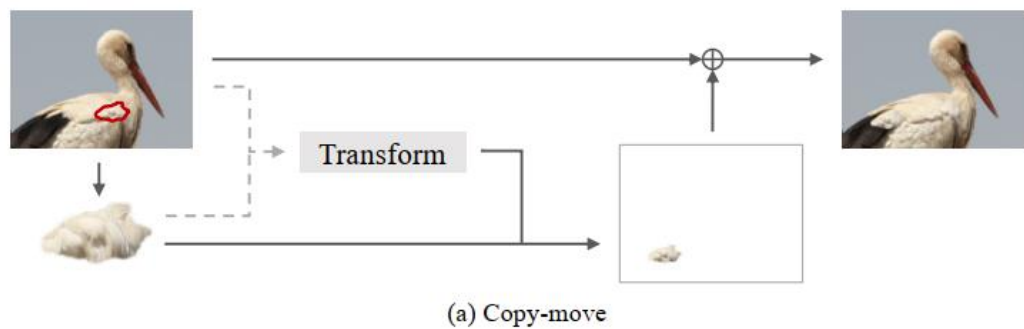
- We propose a novel method to avoid feature coupling of the forged regions and authentic regions for image forgery localization:
Edge-Aware Region Message Passing Controller (ERMPC).
- Graph convolutions can control the message passing between two regions by tuning the adjacency matrix.
- Taking edge information as the main task and using it as a basis to explicitly model the inconsistency.



The graph controls the message passing

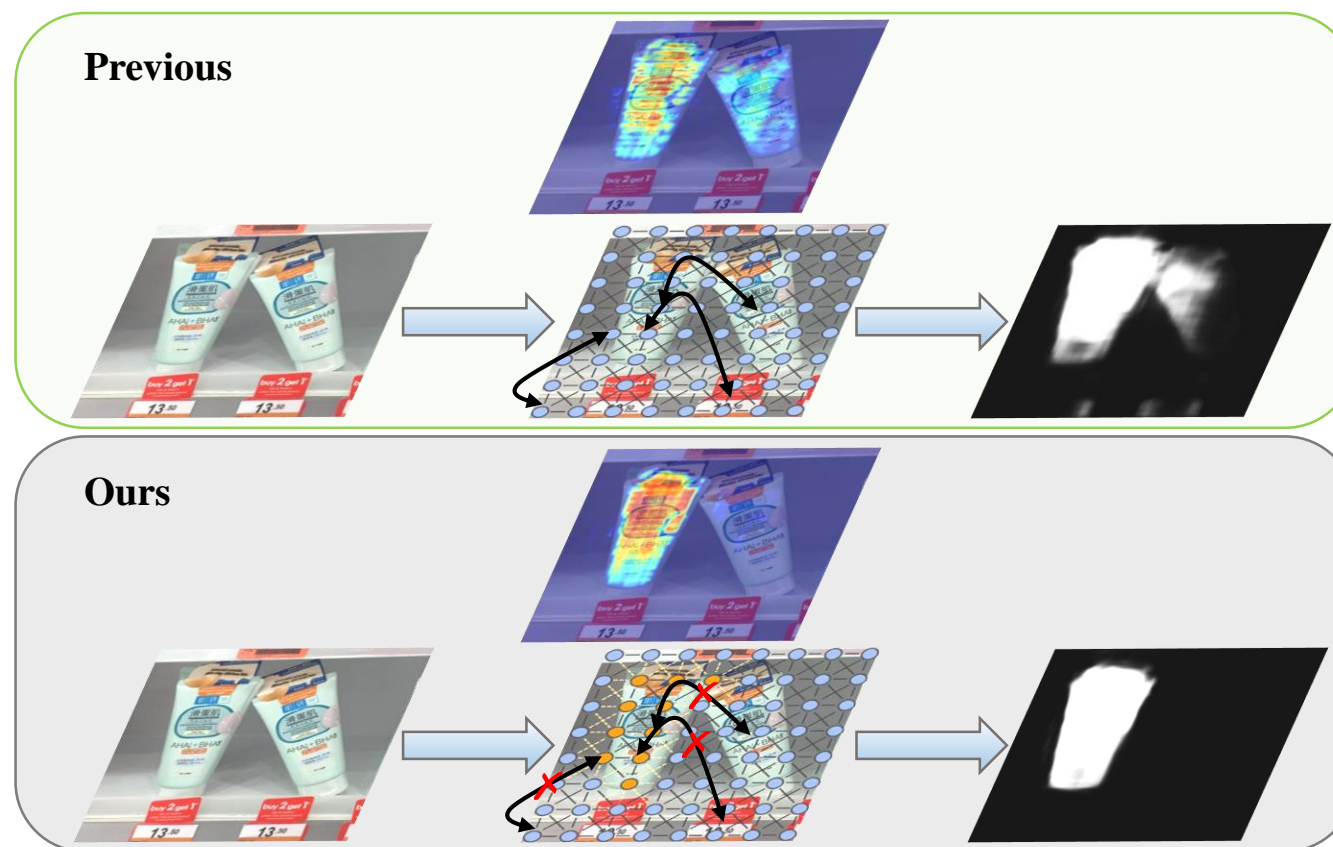


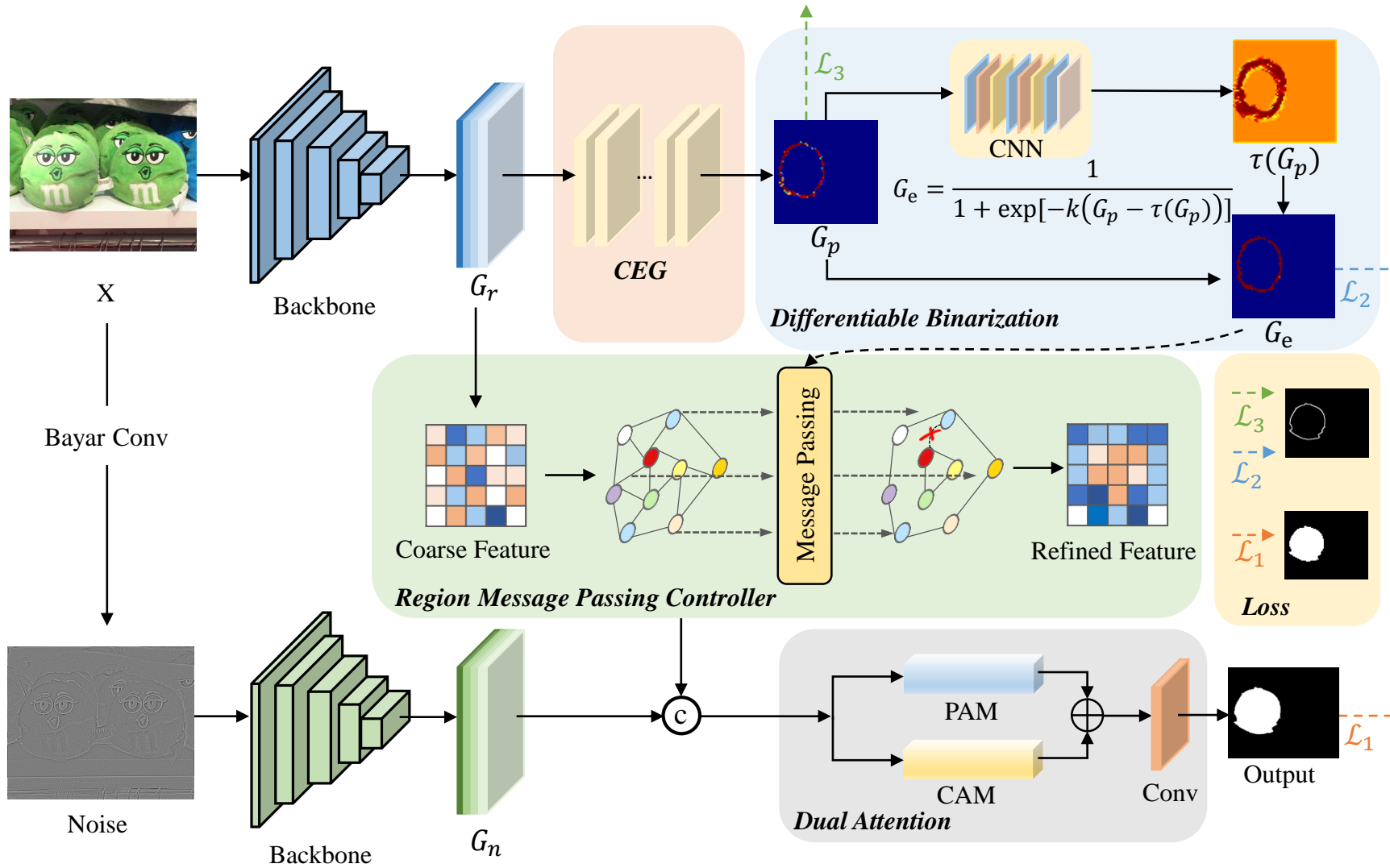
Background



Forged images pose risks to society.

- Previous methods usually **suffer from severe feature coupling** between the forged and authentic regions.
- We **control the message passing** between the forged and authentic regions to locate the tampered regions for elaborately forged images accurately.





The overview of our proposed Edge-Aware Region Messaging Controller (ERMPC).

$$XN(P_i, P_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{Inside and outside the edges} \\ 1 & \text{On the same side of edges} \end{cases}$$

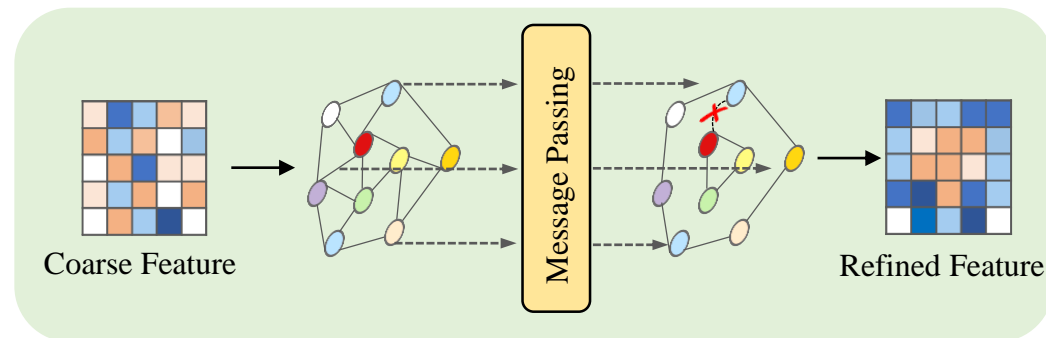
For each of the N ($N = H_e \times W_e$) nodes features, we calculate its XN , thus generating the **matrix** $A_e \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

$$\psi = Wx \quad \psi' = W'x$$

$$\alpha_{i,j} = \psi(x_i)^T \psi'(x_j)$$

$$A_{r_{i,j}} = \frac{\exp(\alpha_{i,j})}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(\alpha_{i,j})}$$

Following Graph Attention Network(GAT), we calculate the adjacency **matrix** $A_r \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ of the feature map.

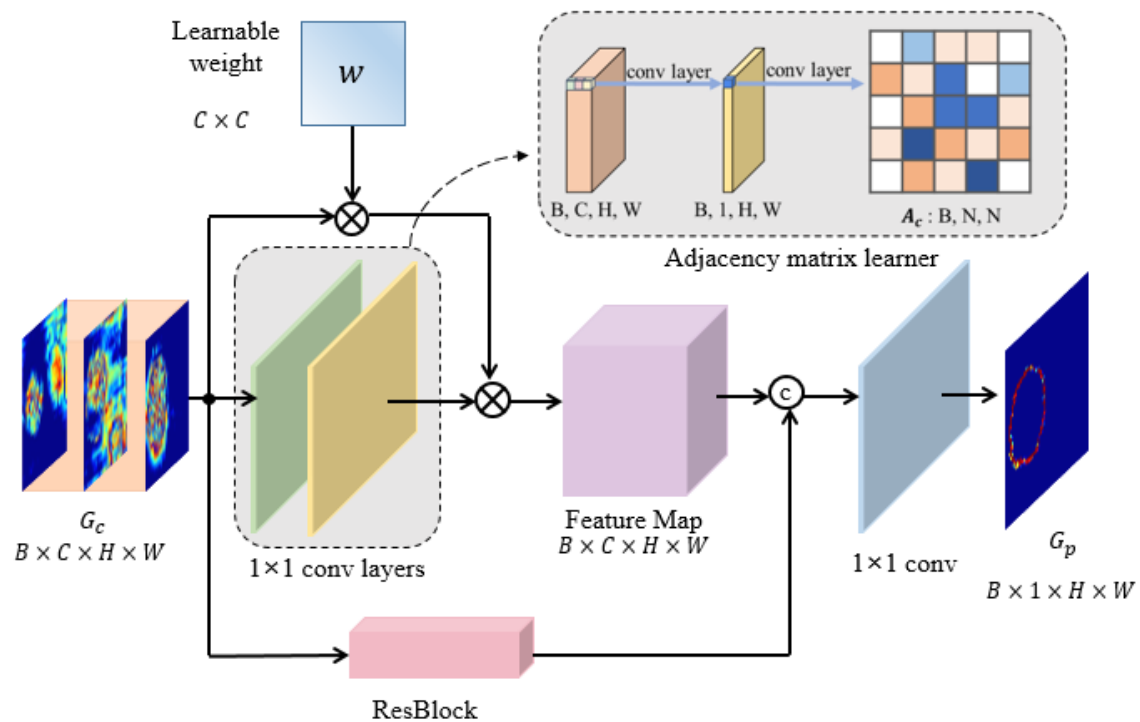


Region Message Passing Controller (RMPC)

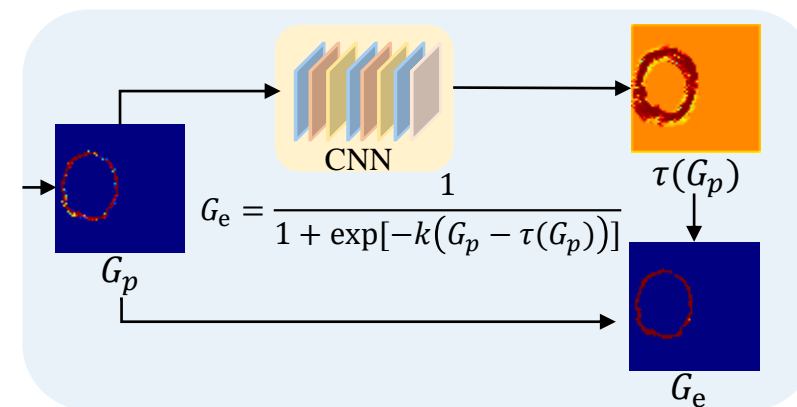
$$A'_r = A_r \odot A_e$$

$$Z_r = \text{ReLU}(A'_r G'_r W_z)$$

We take the Hadamard product of two matrices to obtain the dynamic adjacency **matrix** $A'_r \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.



Context-enhanced graph (CEG).



Threshold-adaptive differentiable binarization module (TDB).

Quantitative results

| Method | Data | Columbia | Coverage | CASIA | NIST16 | IMD20 |
|--------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ManTraNet | 64K | 82.4 | 81.9 | 81.7 | 79.5 | 74.8 |
| SPAN | 96k | 93.6 | 92.2 | 79.7 | 84.0 | 75.0 |
| PSCCNet | 100k | 98.2 | 84.7 | 82.9 | 85.5 | 80.6 |
| ObjectFormer | 62K | 95.5 | 92.8 | 84.3 | 87.2 | 82.1 |
| Ours | 60K | 96.8 | 94.4 | 87.6 | 89.5 | 85.6 |

Table 1. Comparisons of manipulation localization AUC (%) scores of different pre-trained models.

| Methods | Coverage | | CASIA | | NIST16 | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | AUC | F1 | AUC | F1 | AUC | F1 |
| J-LSTM | 61.4 | - | - | - | 76.4 | - |
| H-LSTM | 71.2 | - | - | - | 79.4 | - |
| RGB-N | 81.7 | 43.7 | 79.5 | 40.8 | 93.7 | 72.2 |
| SPAN | 93.7 | 55.8 | 83.8 | 38.2 | 96.1 | 58.2 |
| PSCCNet | 94.1 | 72.3 | 87.5 | 55.4 | 99.1 | 74.2 |
| ObjectFormer | 95.7 | 75.8 | 88.2 | 57.9 | 99.6 | 82.4 |
| Ours | 98.4 | 77.3 | 90.4 | 58.6 | 99.7 | 83.6 |

Table 2. Comparison of manipulation localization results using fine-tuned models.

Robustness evaluation

| Distortion | SPAN | ObjectFormer | Ours |
|------------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|
| no distortion | 83.95 | 87.18 | 89.49 |
| Resize($0.78\times$) | 83.24 | 87.17 | 89.33 0.16 ↓ |
| Resize($0.25\times$) | 80.32 | 86.33 | 87.72 1.77 ↓ |
| Blur($k = 3$) | 83.10 | 85.97 | 89.22 0.27 ↓ |
| Blur($k = 15$) | 79.15 | 80.26 | 87.13 2.36 ↓ |
| Noise($\sigma = 3$) | 75.17 | 79.58 | 88.25 1.24 ↓ |
| Noise($\sigma = 15$) | 67.28 | 78.15 | 83.40 6.09 ↓ |
| Compress($q = 100$) | 83.59 | 86.37 | 89.42 0.07 ↓ |
| Compress($q = 50$) | 80.68 | 86.24 | 88.82 0.67 ↓ |

Table 3. Localization performance on NIST16 dataset under various distortions. AUC scores are reported (in %), (Blur: Gaussian-Blur, Noise: GaussianNoise, Compress: JPEGCompress.)

Qualitative results

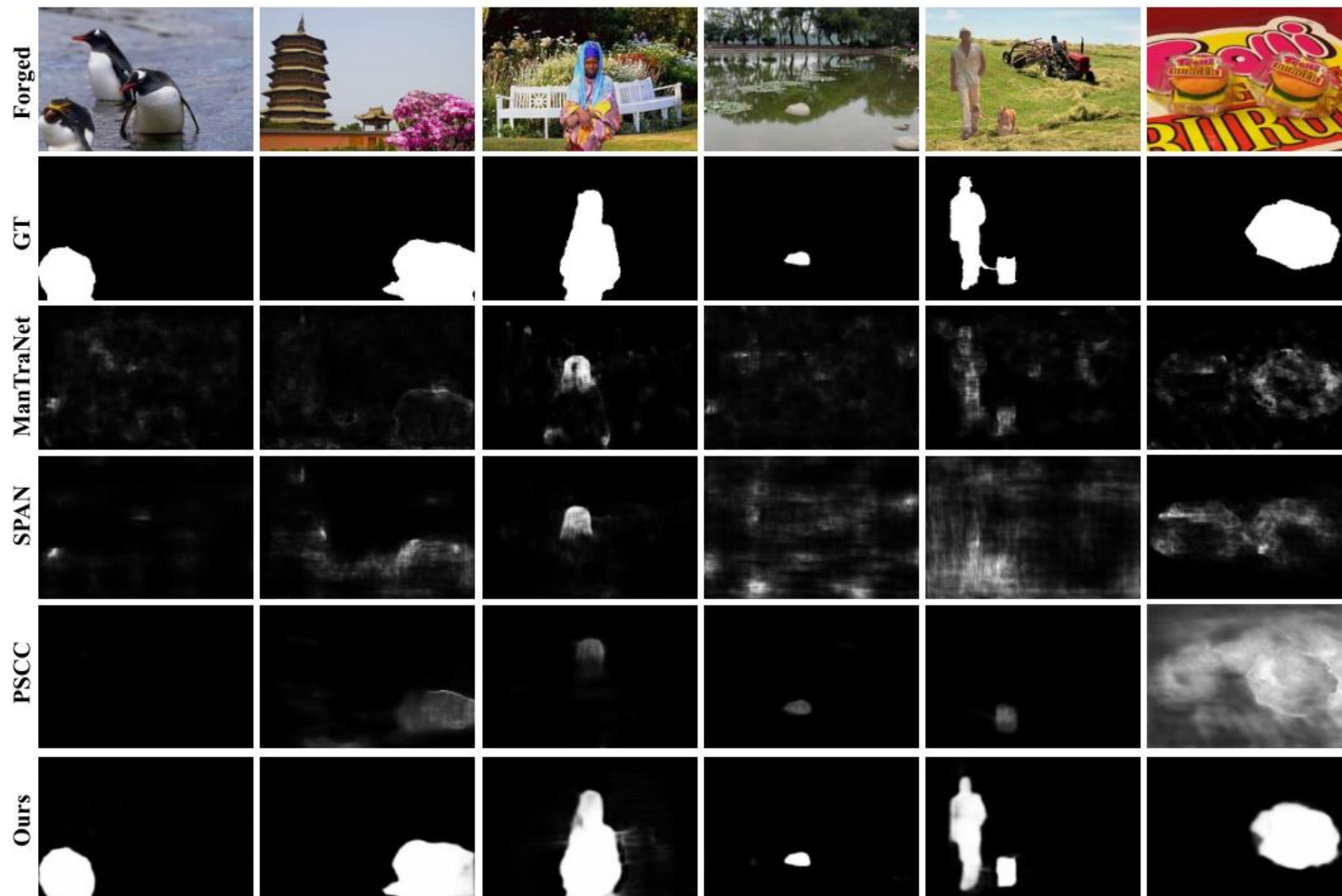


Figure 4. Visualization of the predicted manipulation mask by different methods. From top to bottom, we show forged images, GT masks, predictions of ManTraNet, SPAN, PSCC-Net, and ours.

Ablation

| Variants | CASIA | | NIST16 | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | AUC | F1 | AUC | F1 |
| Baseline | 71.6 | 38.3 | 77.1 | 52.6 |
| w/o RMPC | 76.9 | 45.6 | 86.4 | 60.7 |
| w/o CEG | 85.1 | 51.5 | 93.4 | 75.3 |
| w/o TDB | 88.6 | 57.3 | 98.2 | 81.9 |
| Ours | 90.4 | 58.6 | 99.7 | 83.6 |

Table 4. Ablation results on CASIA and NIST16 dataset using different variants of ERMPC. AUC and F1 scores (%) are reported.

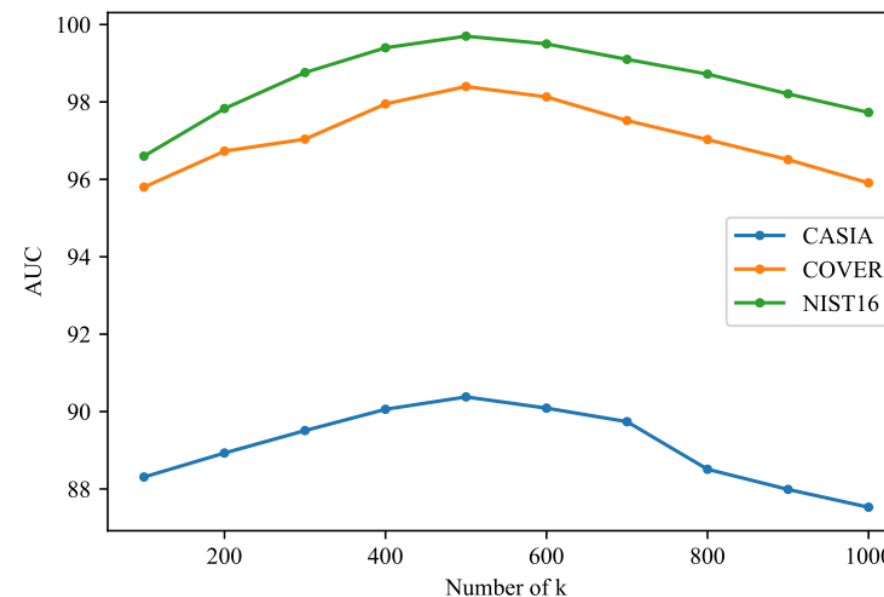


Figure 5. The effect of parameter k in TDB

Visualizations

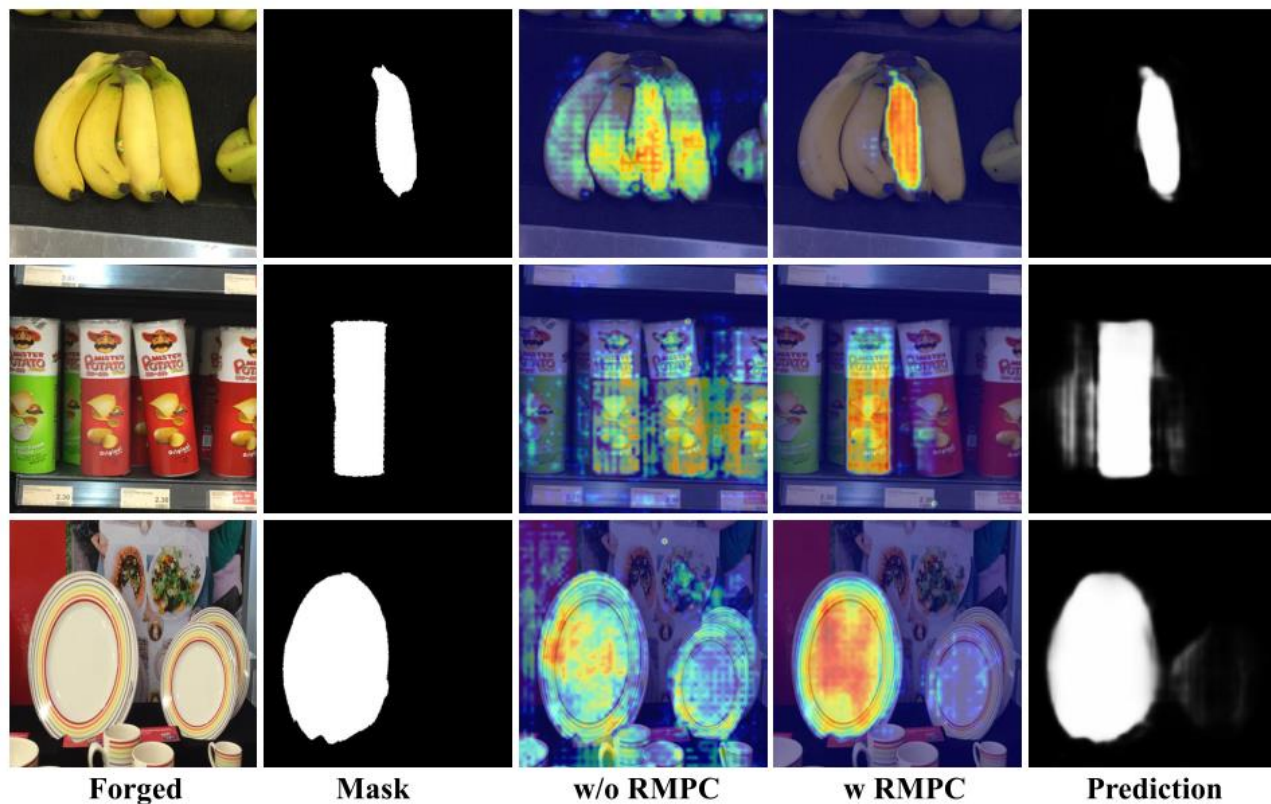


Figure 6. Visualization of message passing controller. From left to right, we display the forged images, masks, GradCAM [42] of the feature map without (w/o) and with (w) RMPC, and predictions.

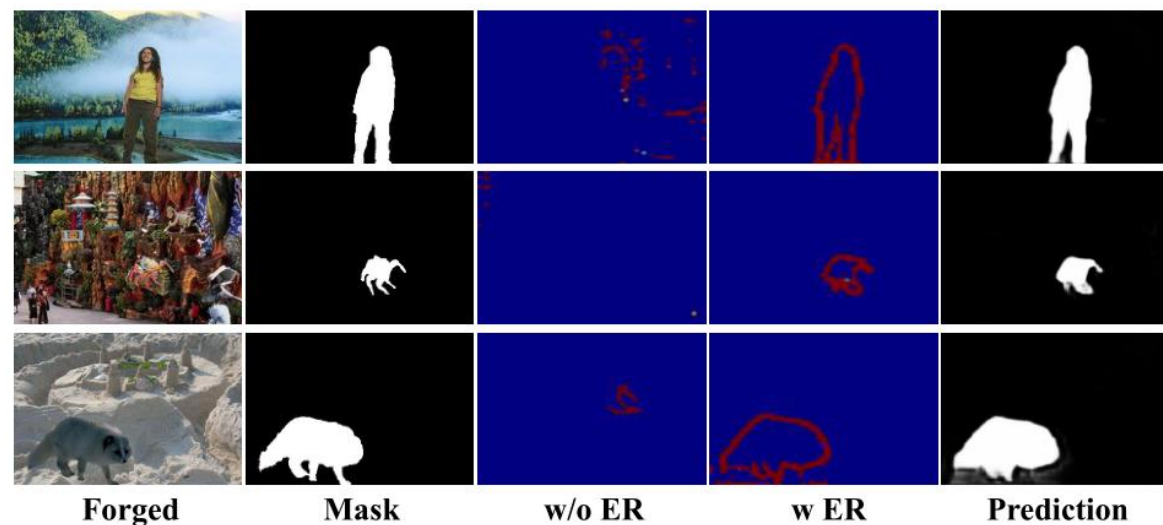


Figure 7. Visualization of edge reconstruction. From left to right, we display the forged images, masks, the features without (w/o) and with (w) the edge reconstruction module, and prediction.

- We propose ERMPC, a novel **two-step coarse-to-fine framework** for image forgery localization, using edge information **to explicitly model the inconsistency** between forged and authentic regions. It provides a new research strategy to **solve the misjudgment problem** in the field of image forgery localization.
- We propose an **edge-aware dynamic graph**, also known as RMPC, to control the message passing between two regions (forged and authentic) in the feature map.
- We develop an **edge reconstruction** module containing a context-enhanced graph and a threshold-adaptive differentiable binarization module to obtain the desired edge information.
- Extensive experimental results on several benchmarks demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm.