

# Effectively Learning Moiré QR Code Decryption from Simulated Data

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SHANGHAI JIAO TONG  
UNIVERSITY



SIMON FRASER  
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Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## QR Code



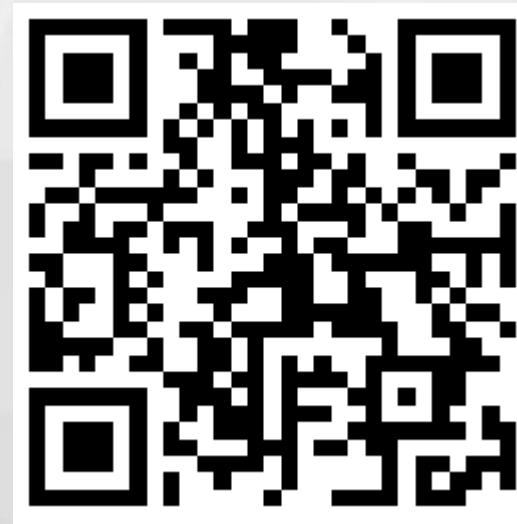
Q

R

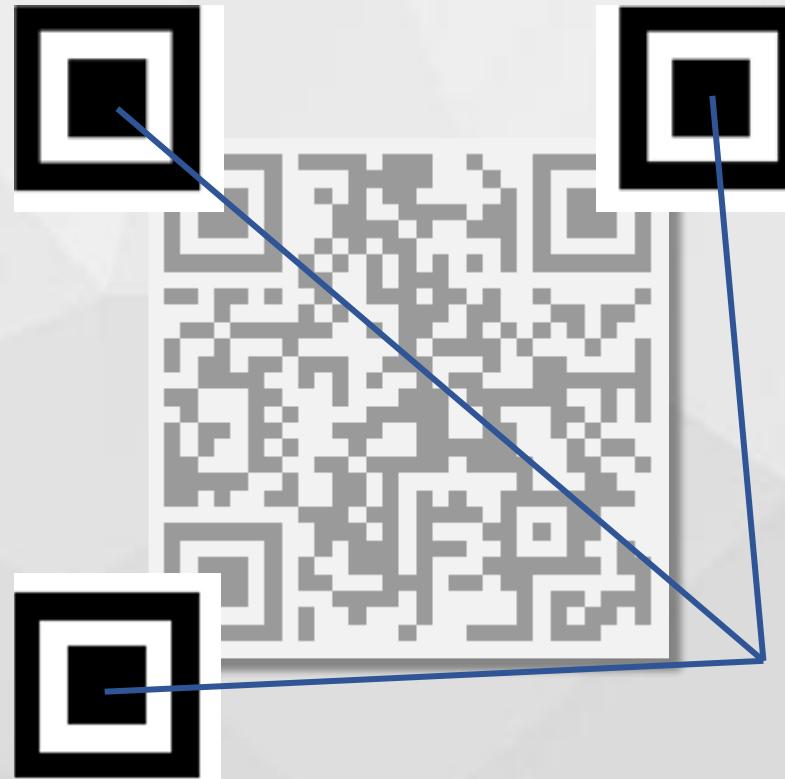
Code



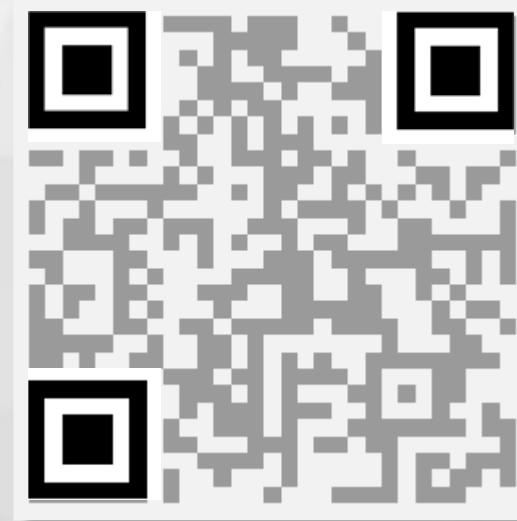
# Quick Response Code

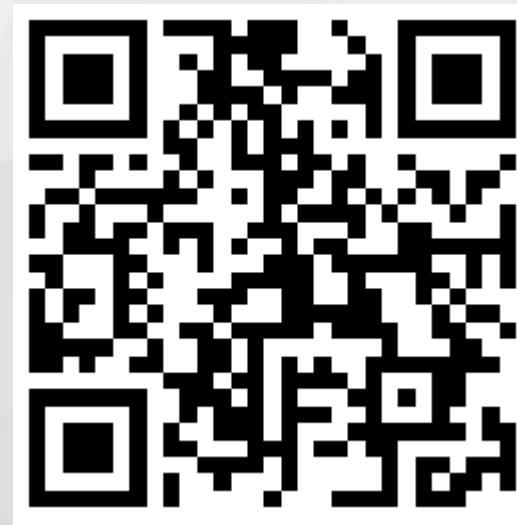


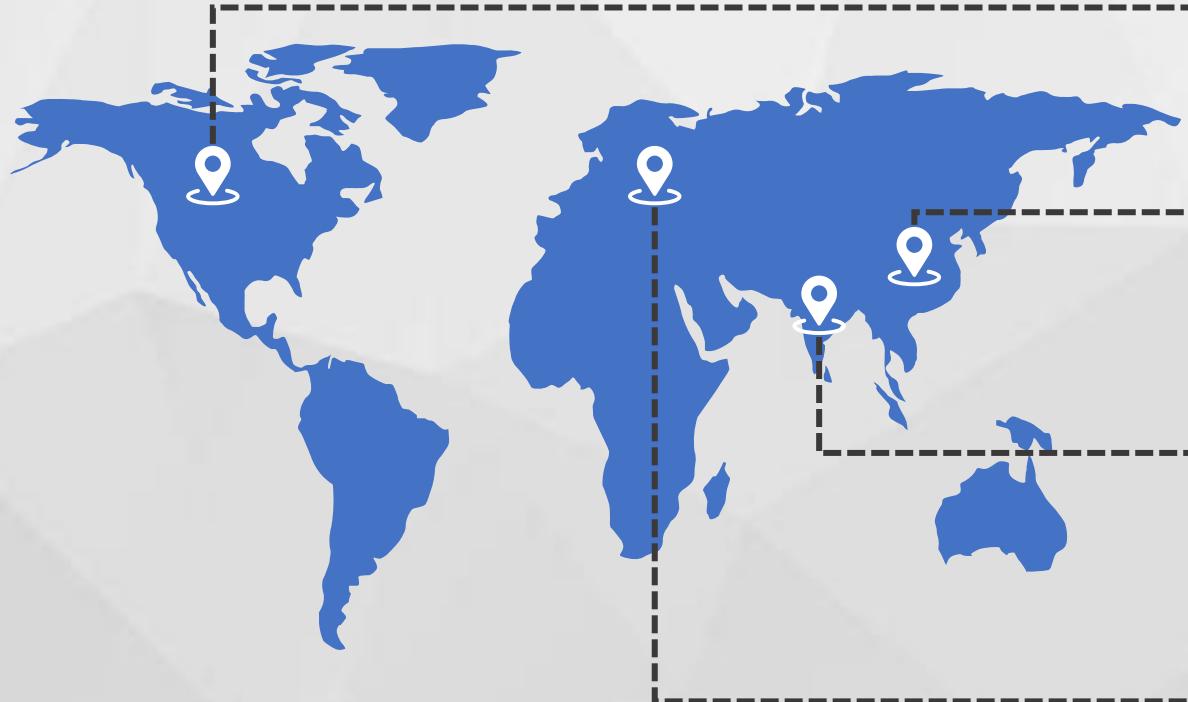




**Position  
Markers**







**In 2021, 75.8 million users in the US scanned a QR Code on their mobile.**

**The QR Codes payments now account for over 90% of China's mobile payments.**

**As of October 2021, the usage of the Bharat QR Code grew above 4.5 million in India.**

**75% of consumers have scanned a QR Code on FMCG products.**

# **QR Code has become popular!**

**QR Code has become popular!**



**Payment**



**Advertisements**

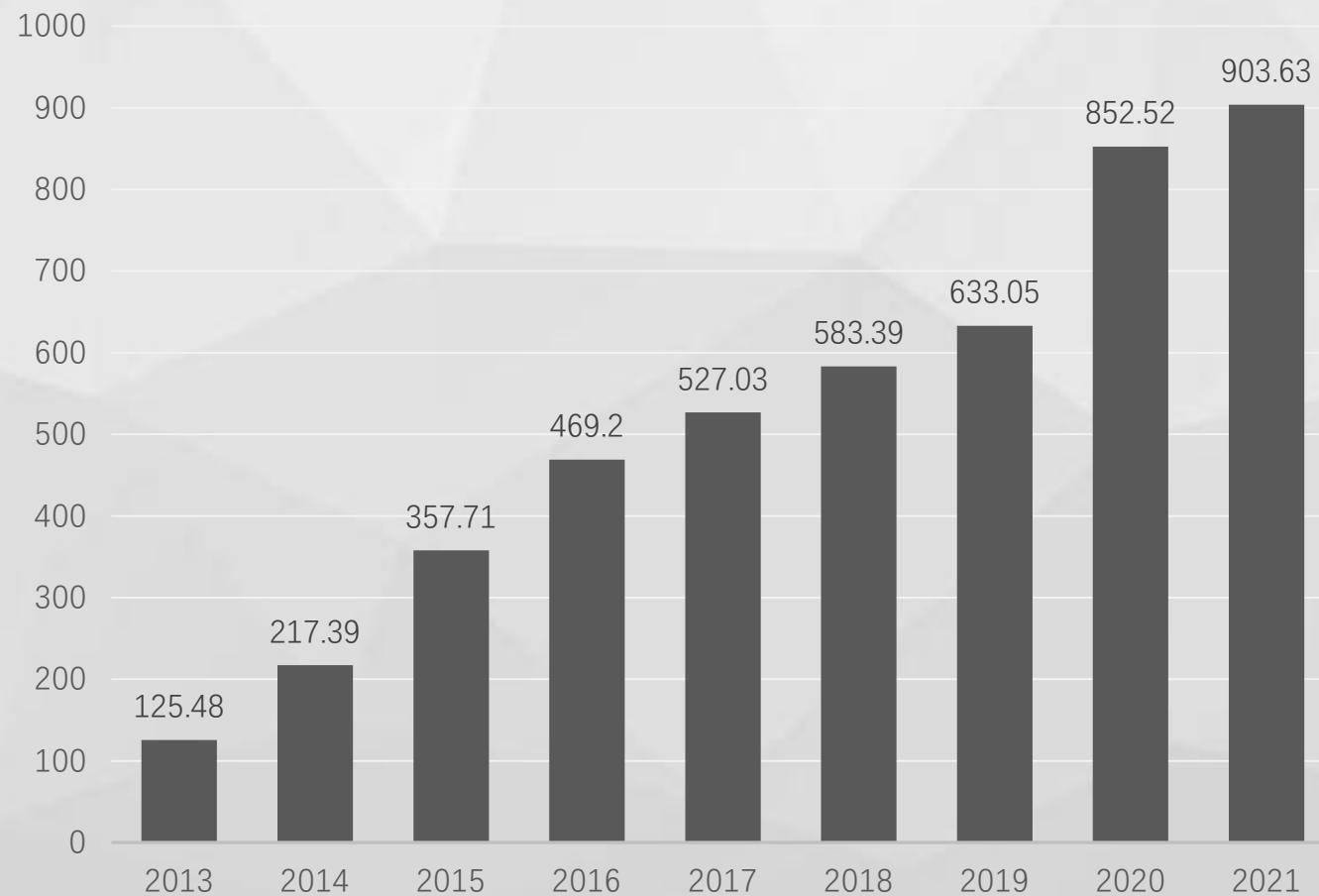


**Social E-cards**



# Growing up for Mobile Payments

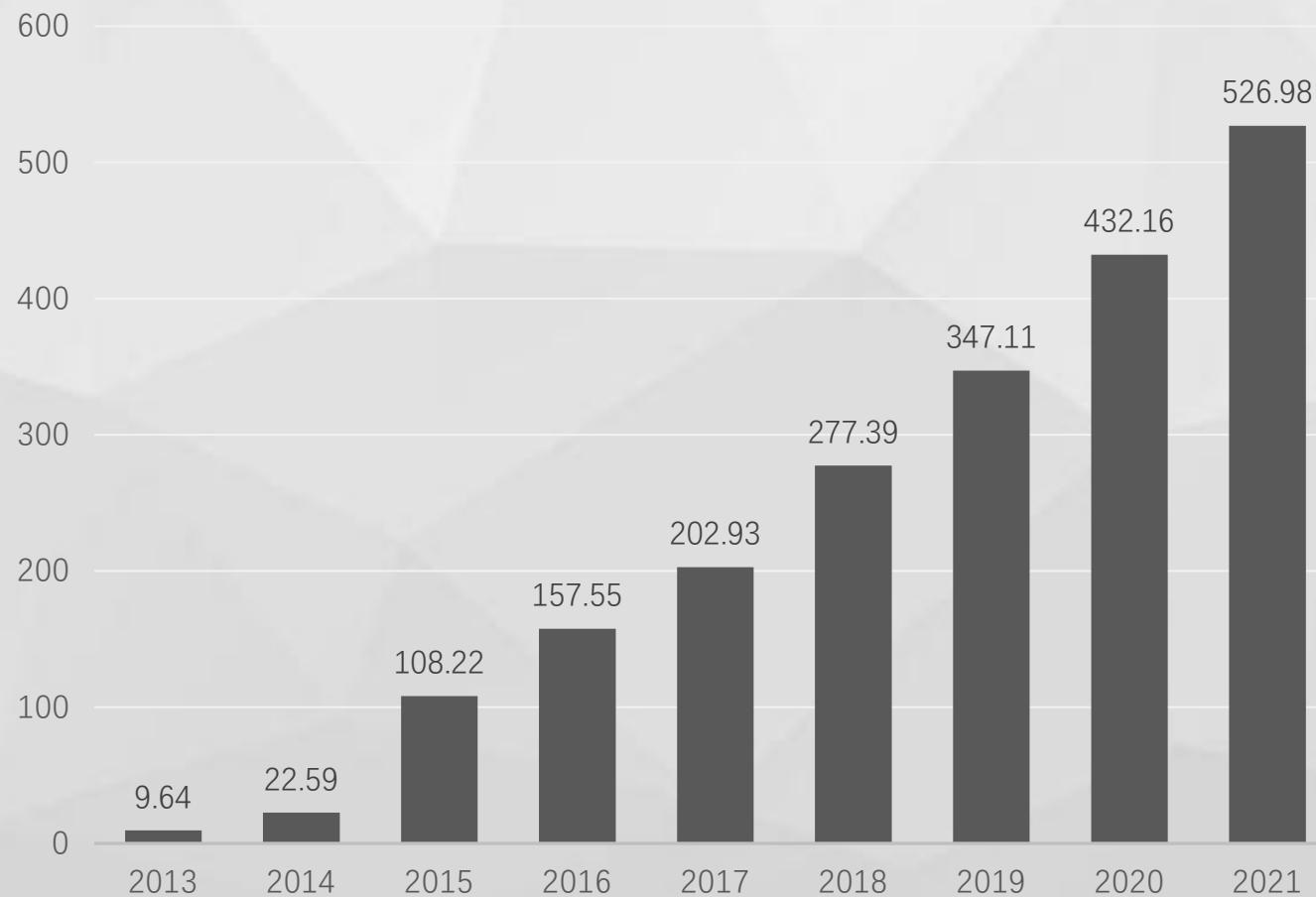
## How Many People in China Use Mobile Payments (million)



Sources  
CNNIC

# Growing up for Mobile Payments

## The growth of Mobile Payment by Value in China (Trillion yuan)

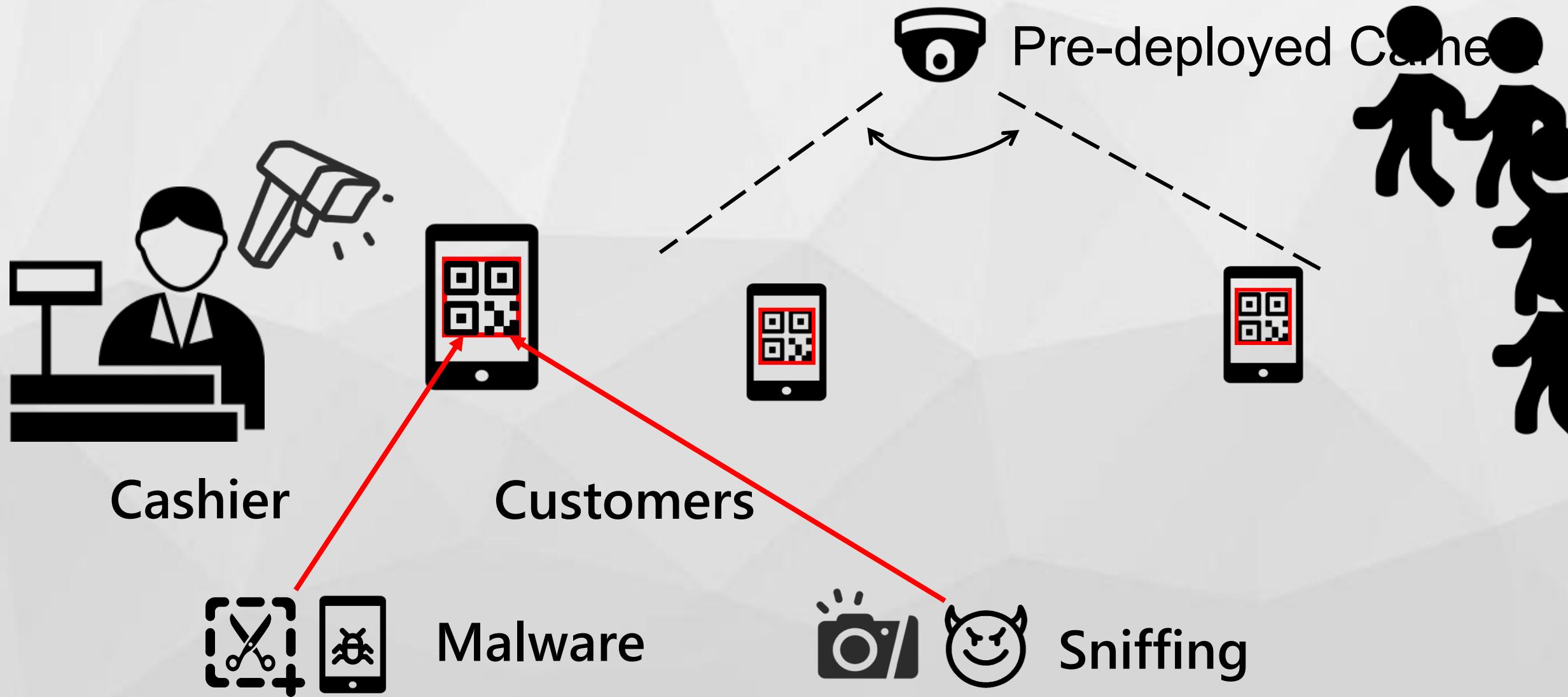


### Sources

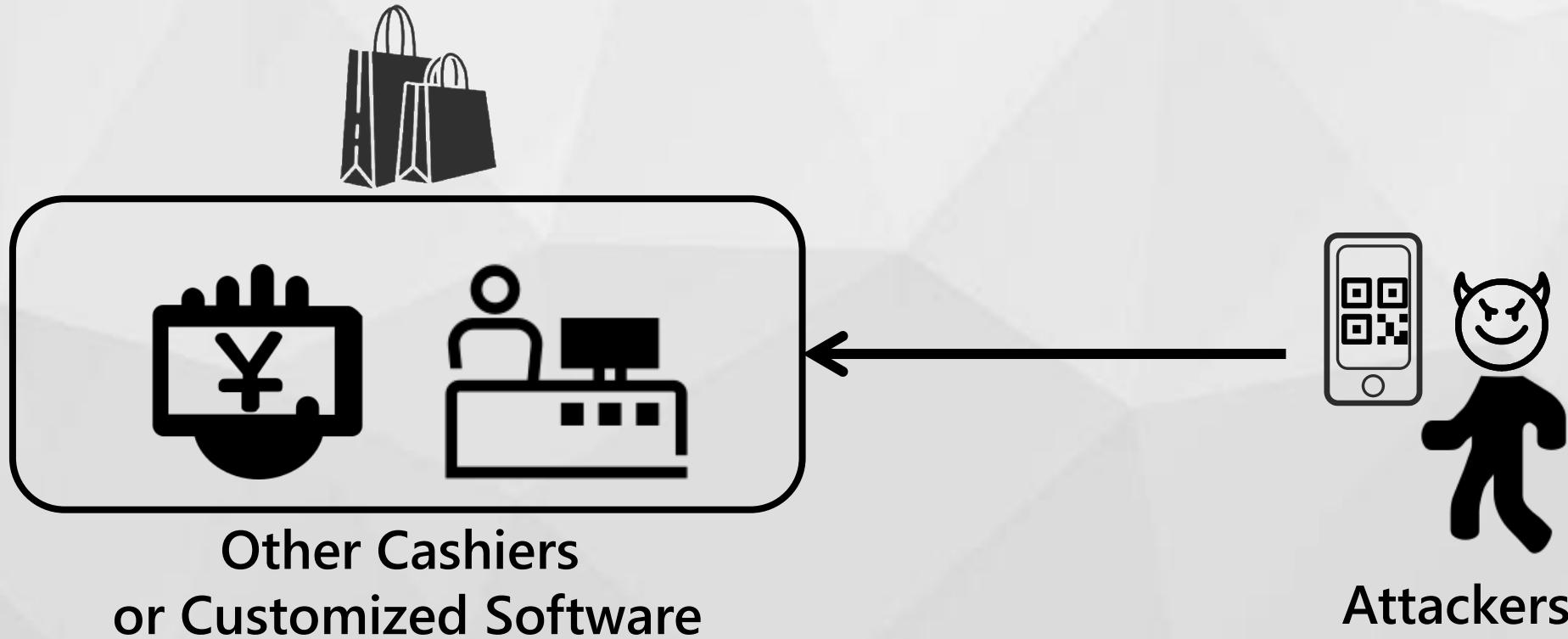
State Administration of Foreign Exchange;  
People's Bank of China

**However  
QR code is insecure...**

# Replay Attack in a Mobile Payment Scenario



# Replay Attack in a Mobile Payment Scenario



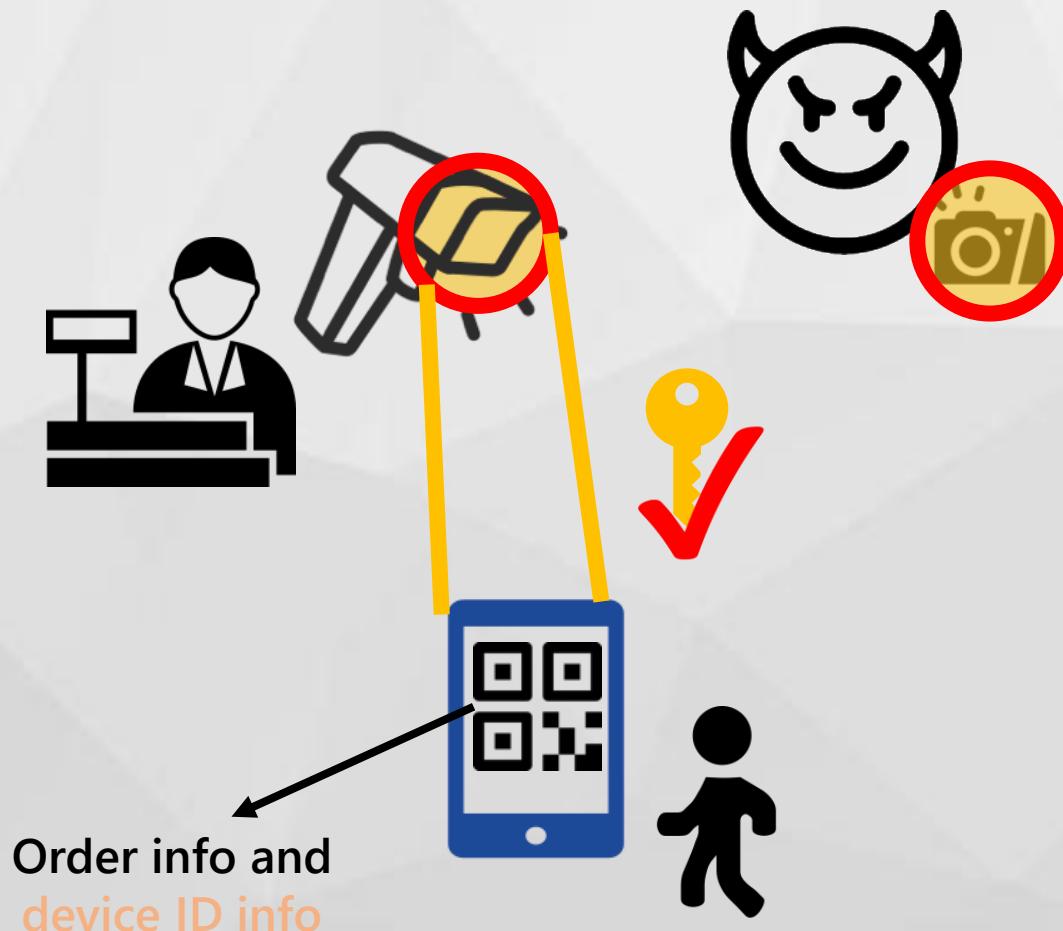
# Why are QR codes vulnerable to replay attacks?



- It is a visible light communication
- It is a one-way communication

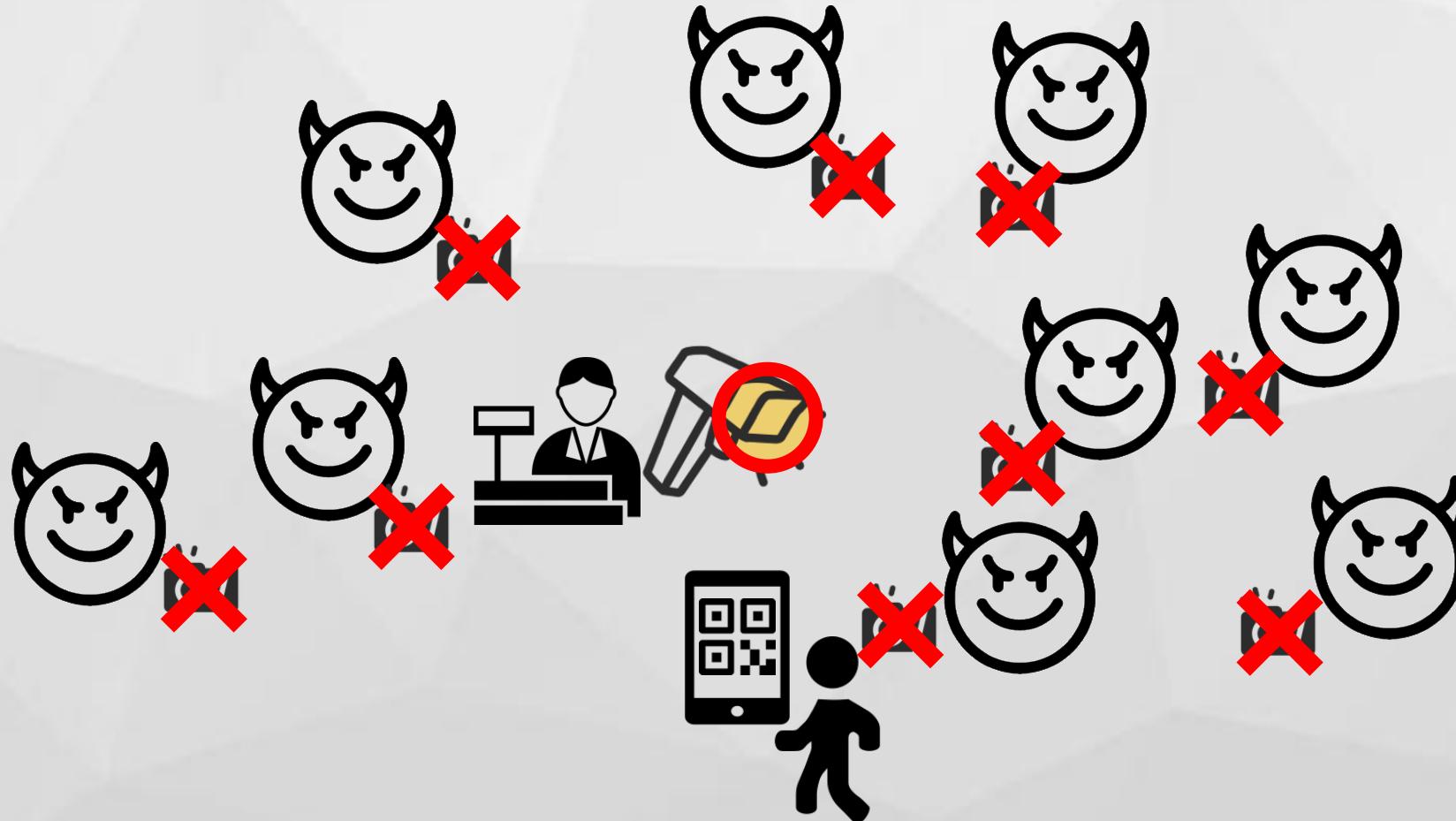


## Related work: Add hardware info to realize authentication



Add the device ID information

# Can we add the security of the screen-camera channel?



Reduce reception range

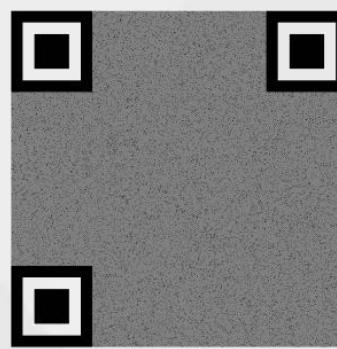


**Nonlinearity of  
Spatial Frequency  
in Light !**

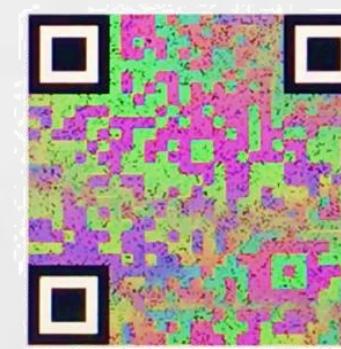
# Solutions: Moiré QR Code



QR code



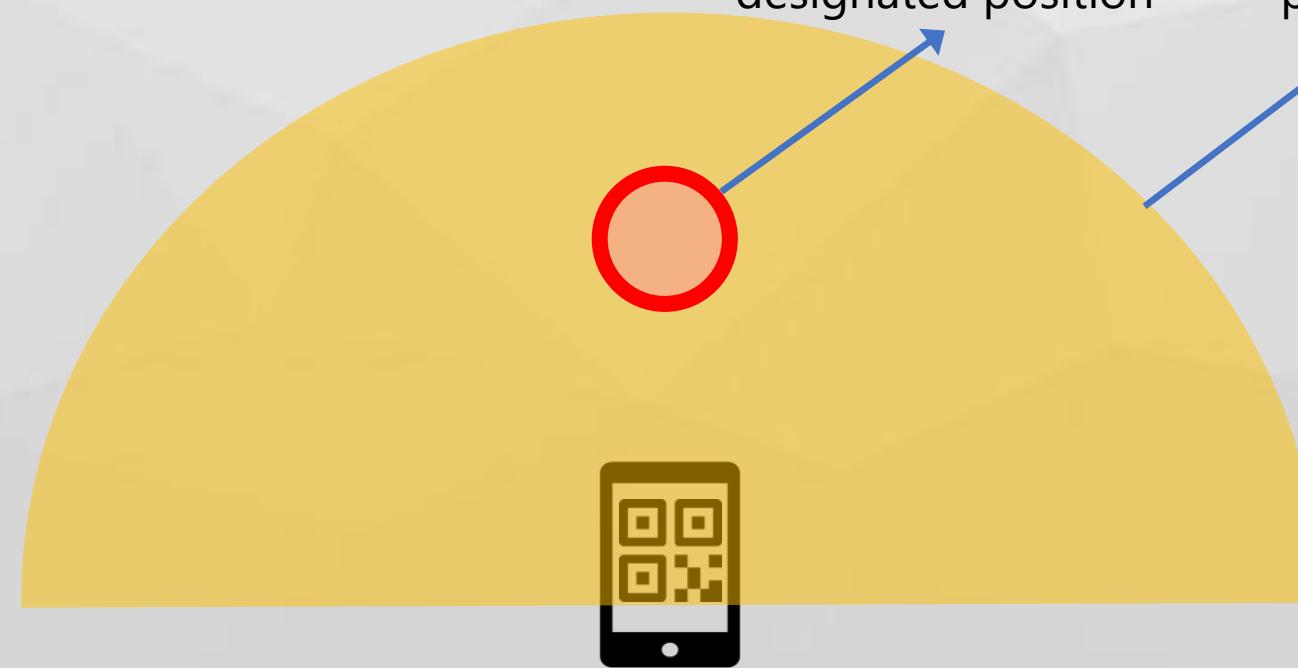
Moiré QR Code



Photographs taken at the designated position



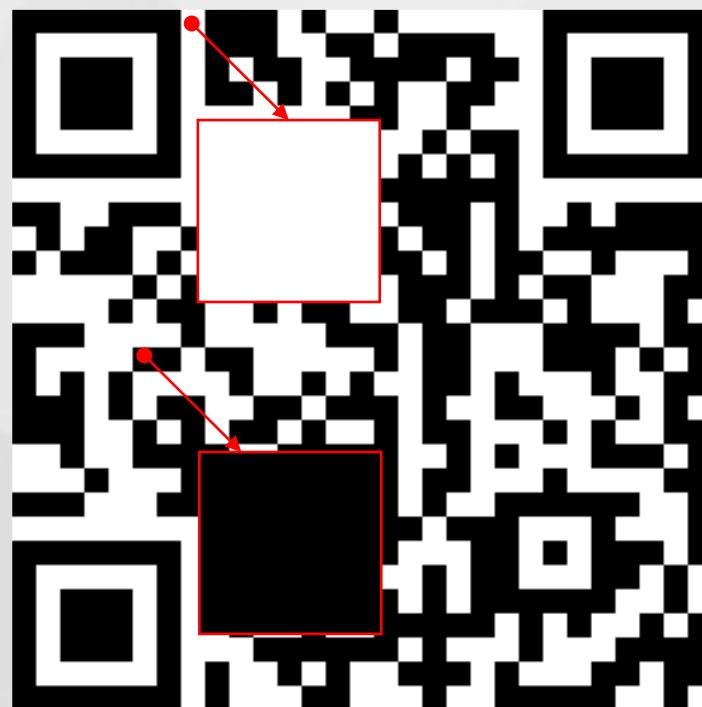
Photographs taken at other positions



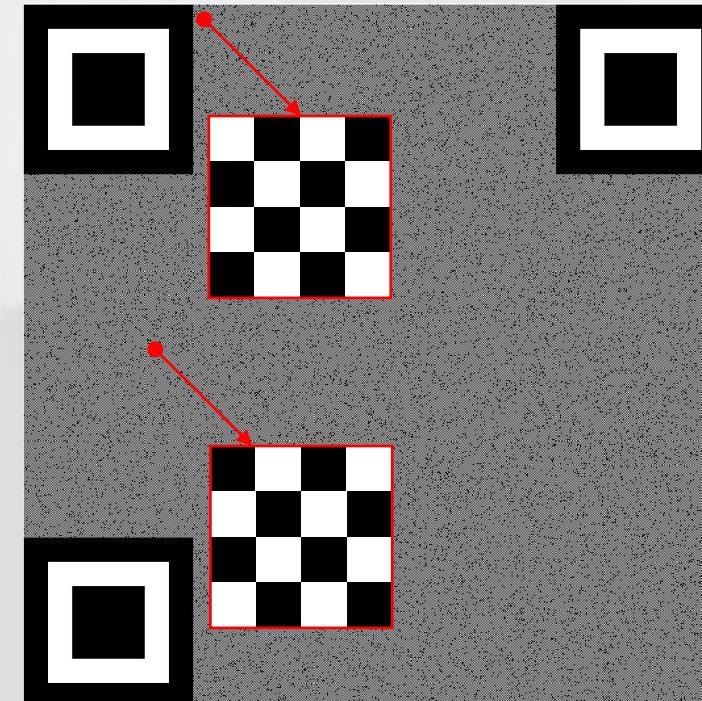
● Moiré-visible Area

● Out of Moiré-visible Area

# Encryption Scheme of Moiré QR Code

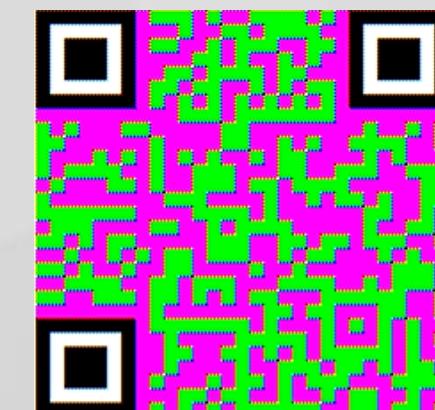
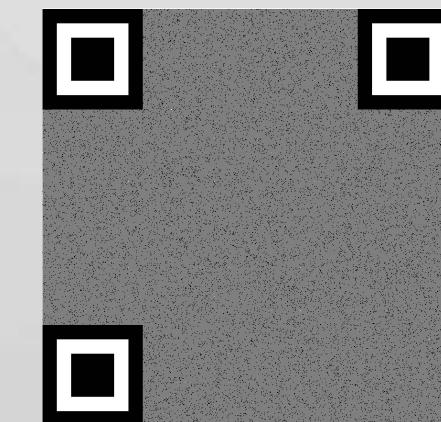
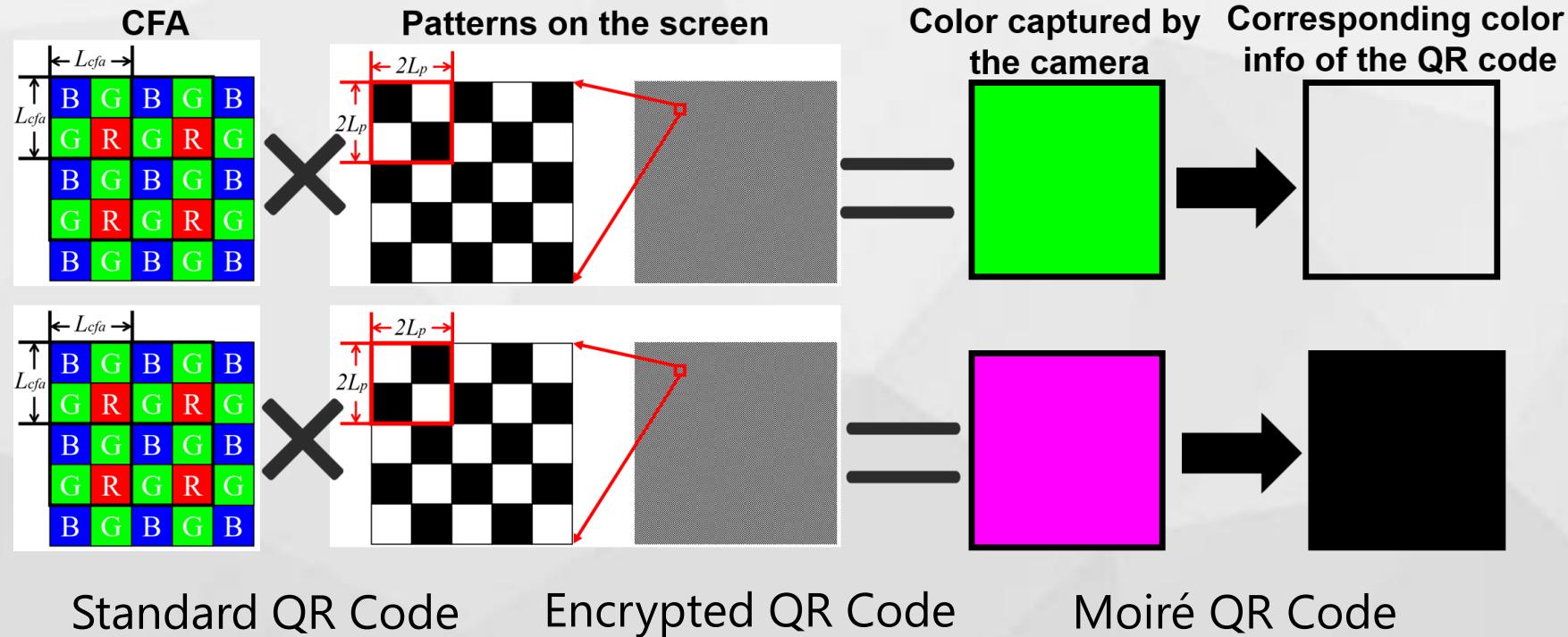


Original QR Code



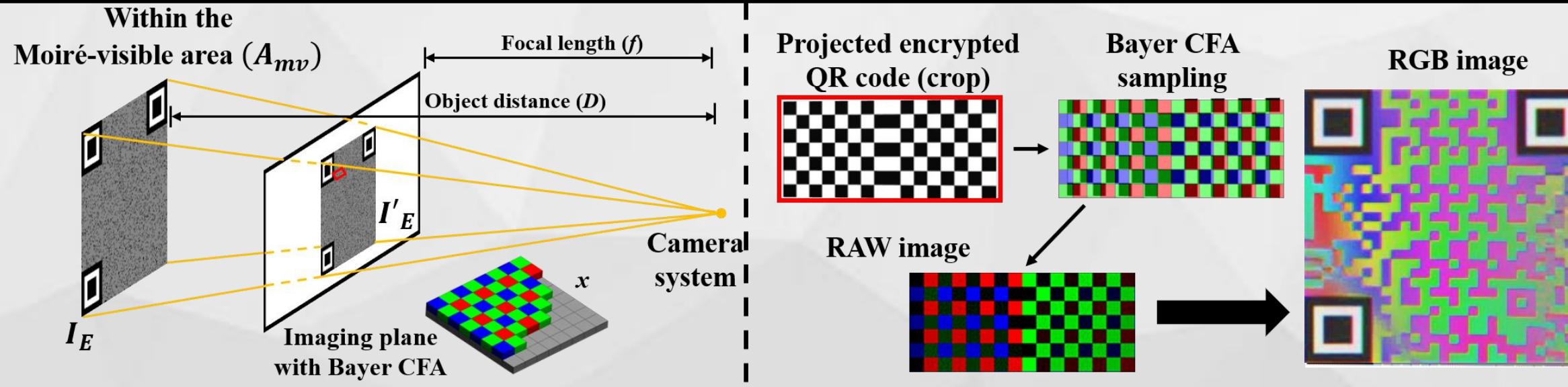
Encrypted QR Code

# Encryption Scheme of Moiré QR Code



Perfect-match Pose

# Blur and Color inversion



Blur phenomenon



Color inversion phenomenon

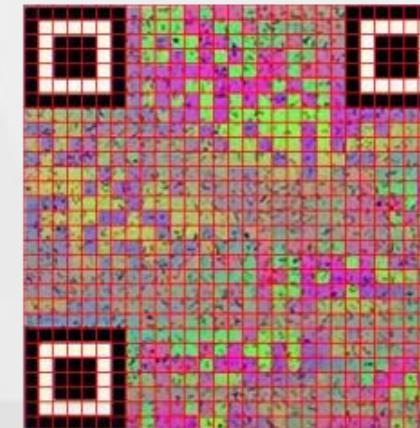
# Traditional decryption process



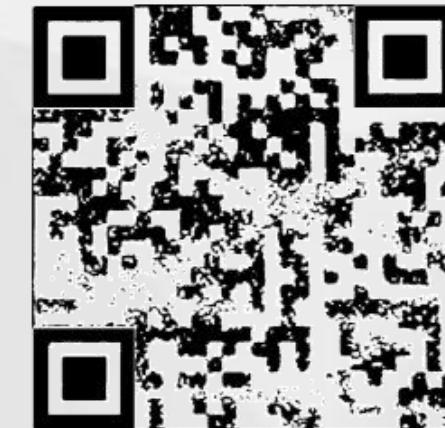
(a) *mQR* code taken by camera



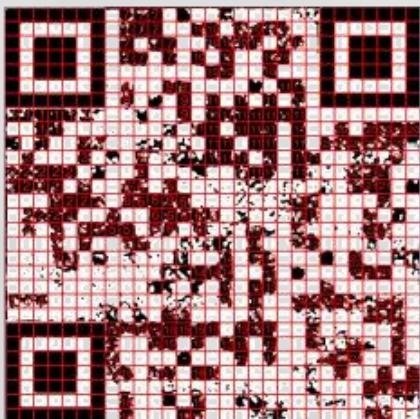
(b) Enhance saturation



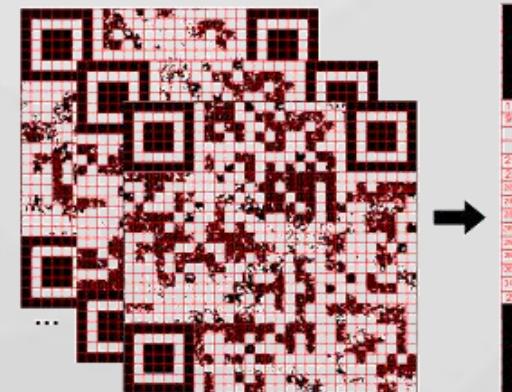
(c) Segment into blocks



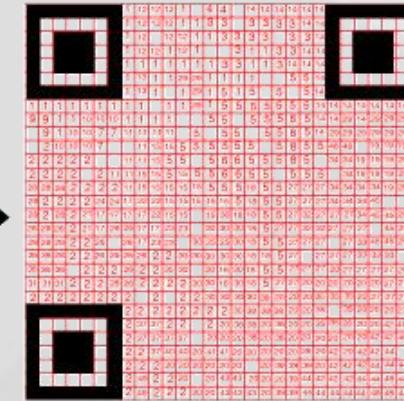
(d) Convert into black and white



(e) Label adjacent blocks with the same color



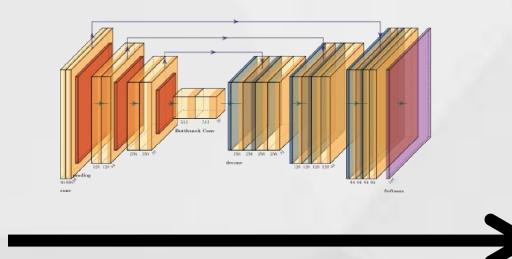
(f) Combine multiple frames



(g) Color blocks with black and white

Computationally complex & Slow (Latency 5.4s)!

# New decryption process



Neural Network

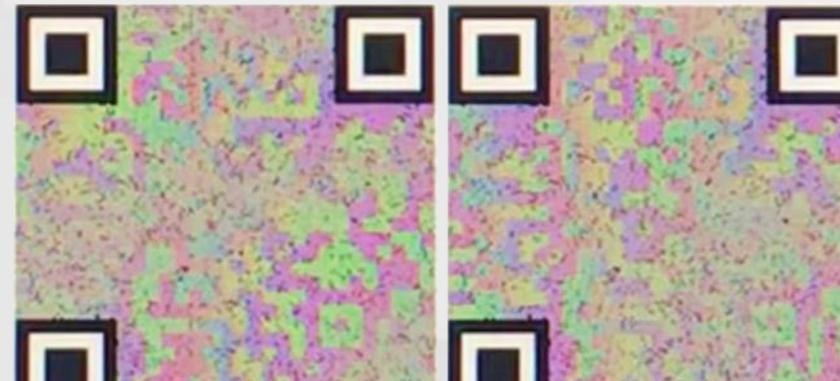


Lower  
Decryption  
Latency

Higher  
Decryption  
Rate



## Challenge: Data collection is high-cost



QR c

Our solution:

- ✓ Moiré simulator to solve position sensitivity
- ✓ Data augmentation to solve device diversity

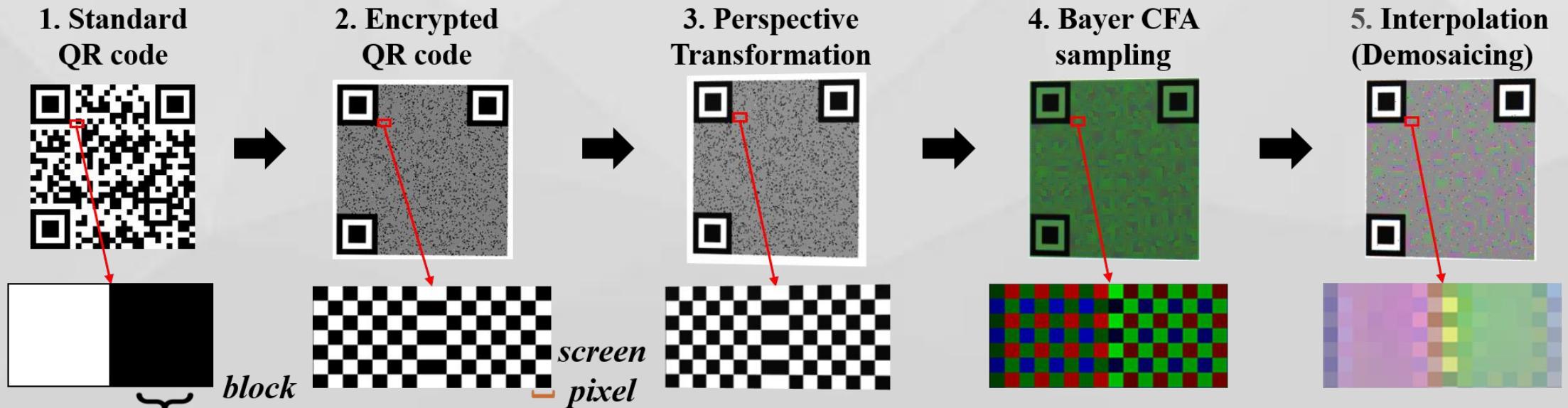
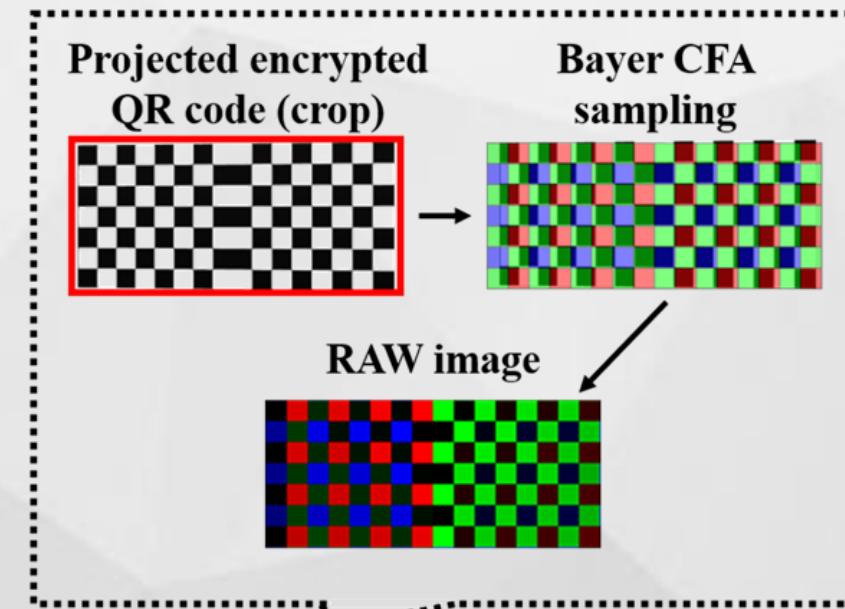
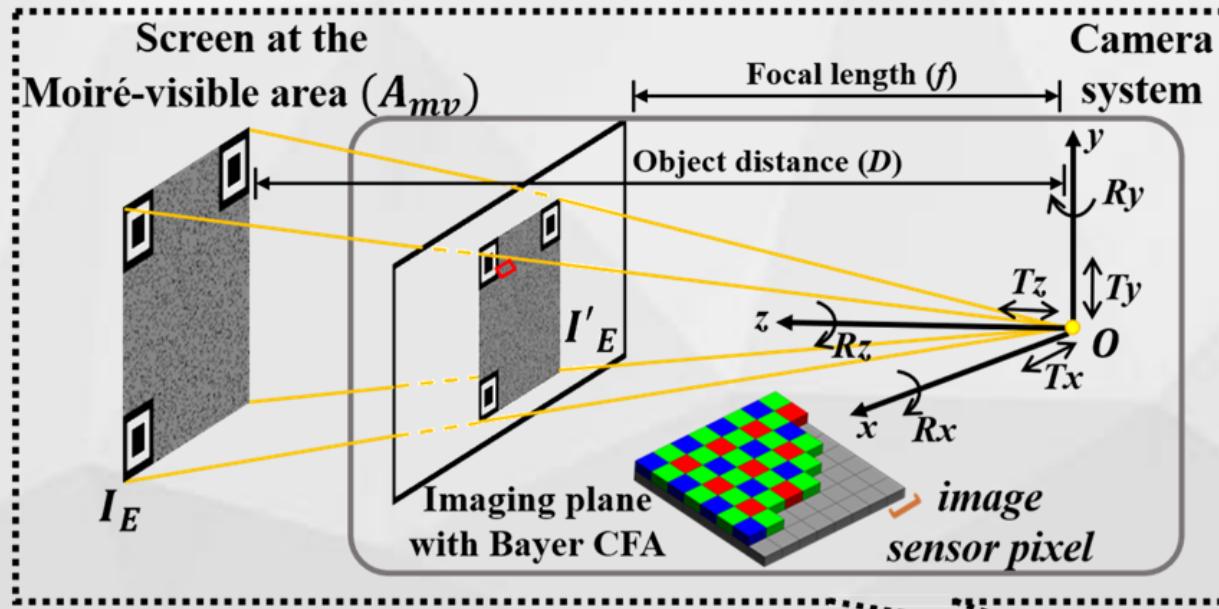


camera and screen

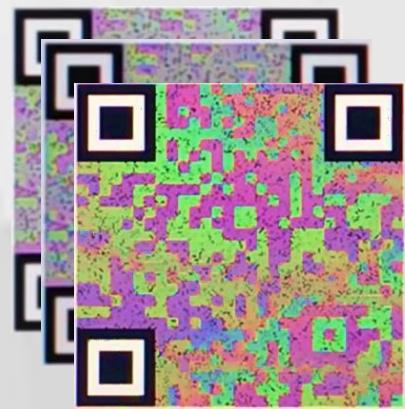
screen 1/position 1 screen 2/position 1

Device diversity: camera and screen

# Moiré Simulator



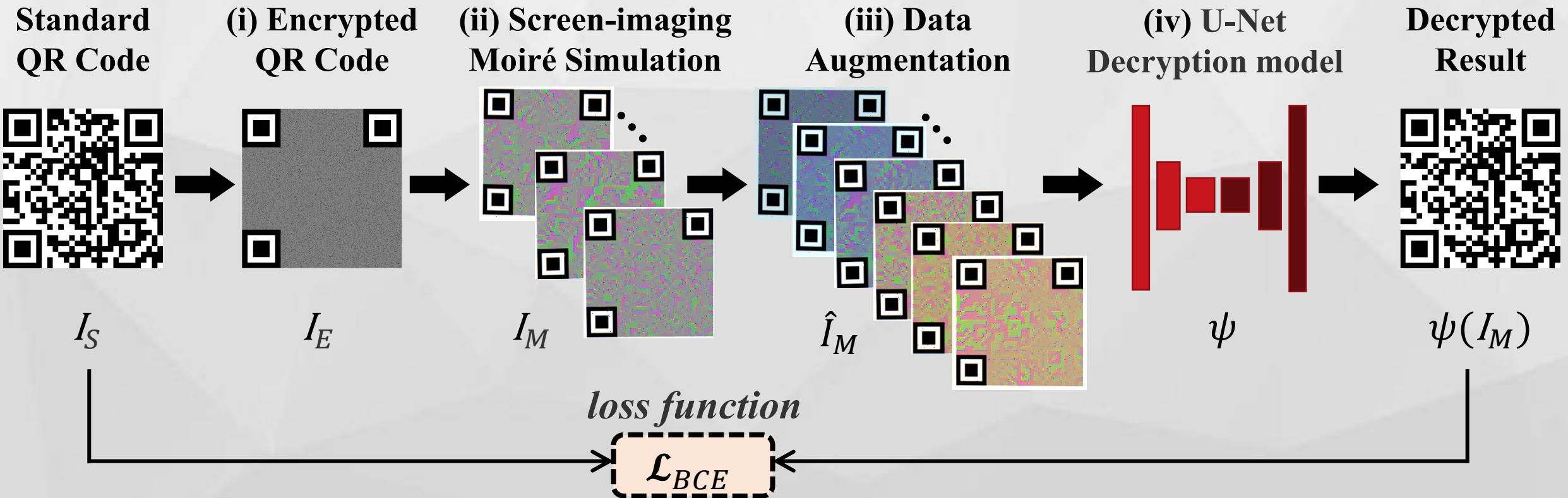
# Data Augmentation



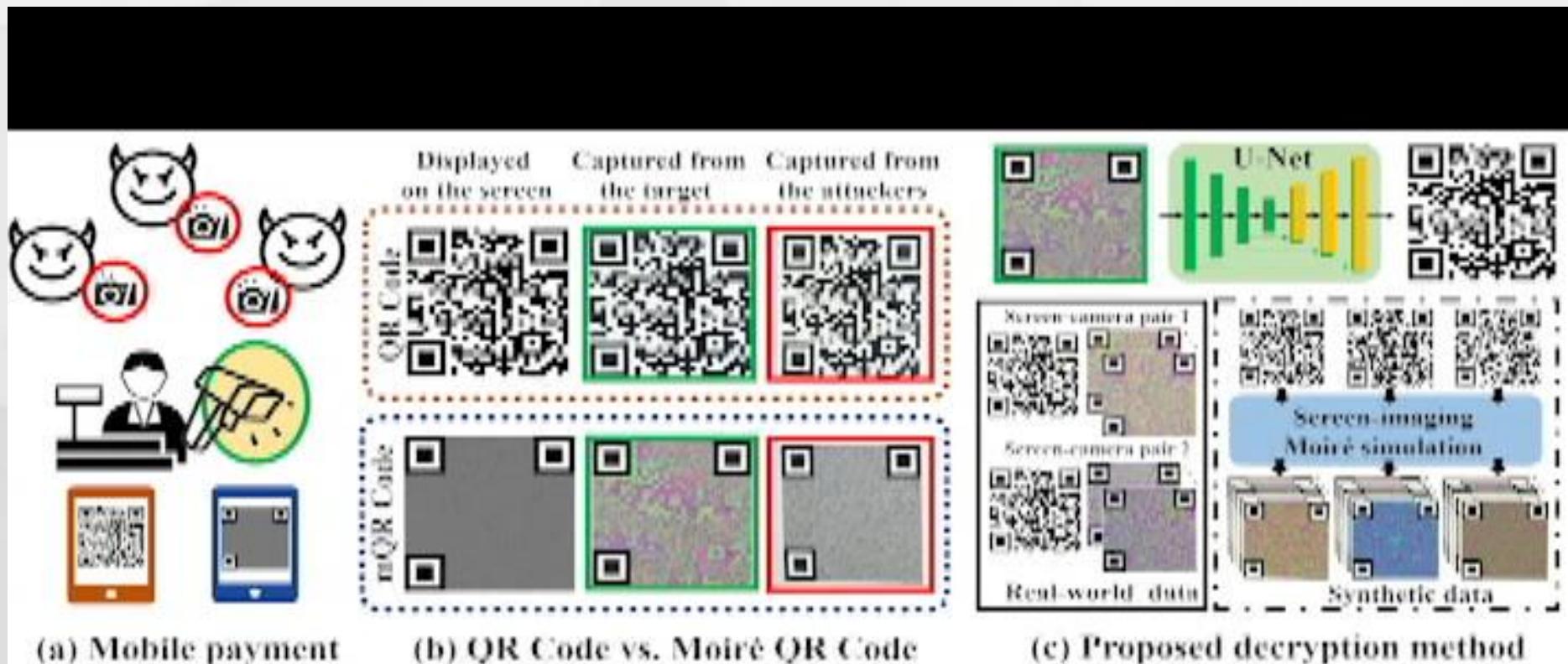
- Saturation
- Brightness and contrast
- Color temperature



# The Training Process of Decryption Model



# Demo



Supplementary Demo Video

# Performance Evaluation

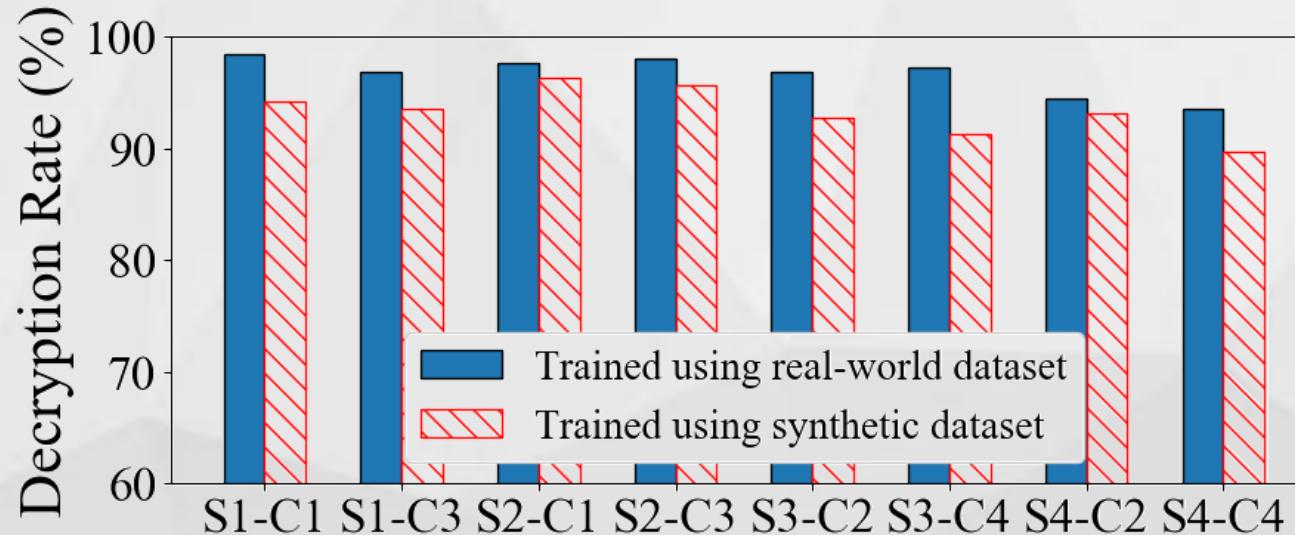
- **Experiment Setup and Metrics:**

- We randomly generate 1000 original QR code images with version from 1 to 5.
  - For **Synthetic Dataset**, 800 original QR code images are used to simulate the Moiré QR code images.

- For **Real-world Dataset**, 200 original QR code images are encrypted, displayed on the different digital screens and captured by different cameras.

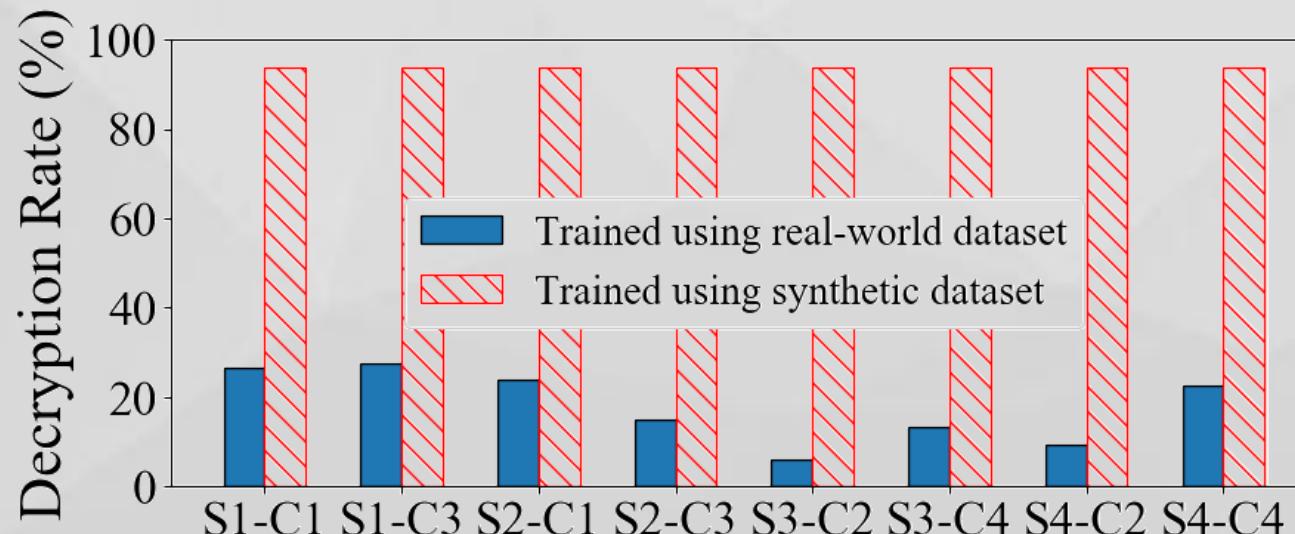
- **Decryption Rate** = 
$$\frac{\text{Number of QR codes successfully decrypted}}{\text{Number of all the test QR codes}}$$

# Performance Evaluation - Real-world vs. Moiré Simulation



Test with the real-world dataset collected in the limited screen-camera relative poses.

*synthetic*  $\approx$  *real – world*

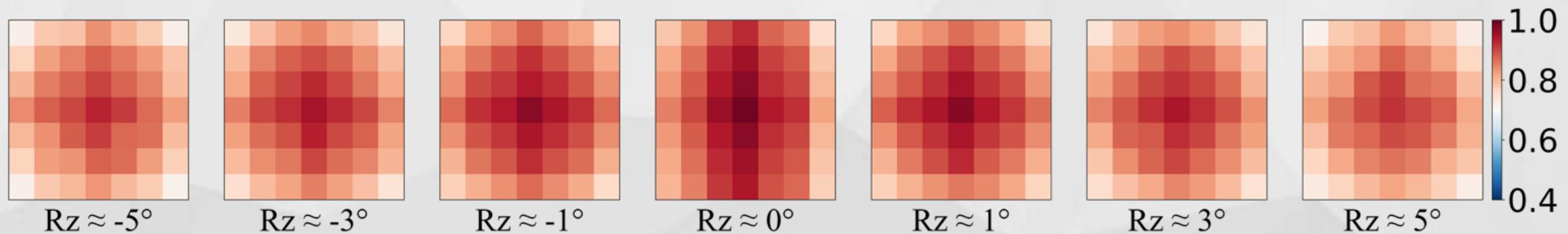


Test with the real-world dataset collected in the entire Moiré-visible area.

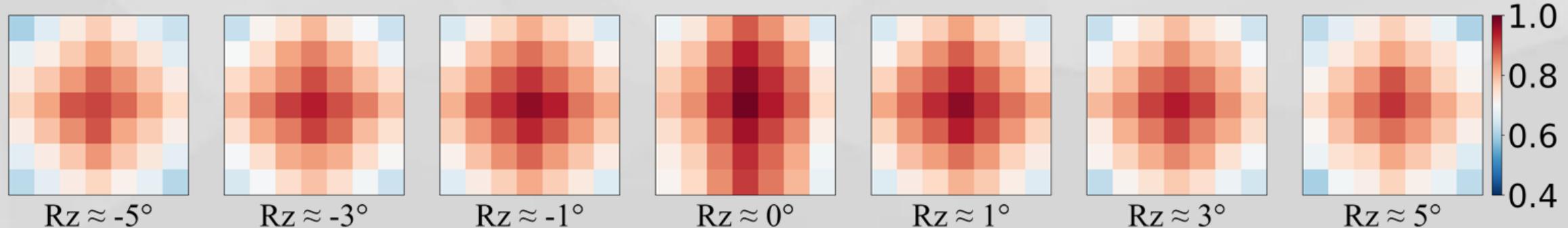
*synthetic*  $>$  *real – world*

# Deep Learning Based vs. Traditional Multi-frame

The decryption rate of deep learning based decryption method for different angle offset.

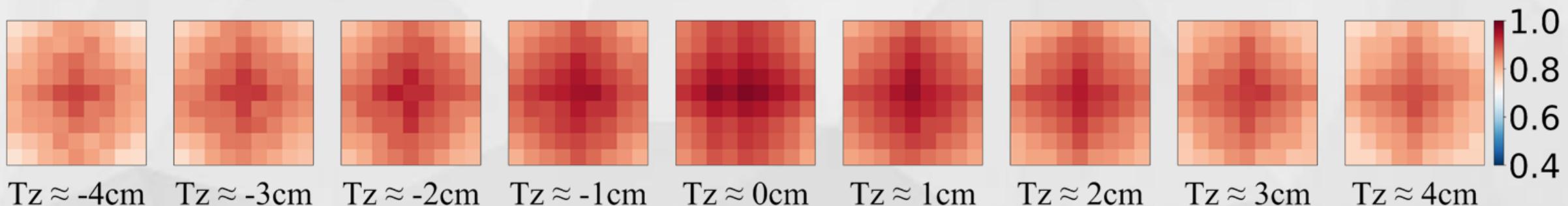


The decryption rate of traditional multi-frame decryption method for different angle offset.

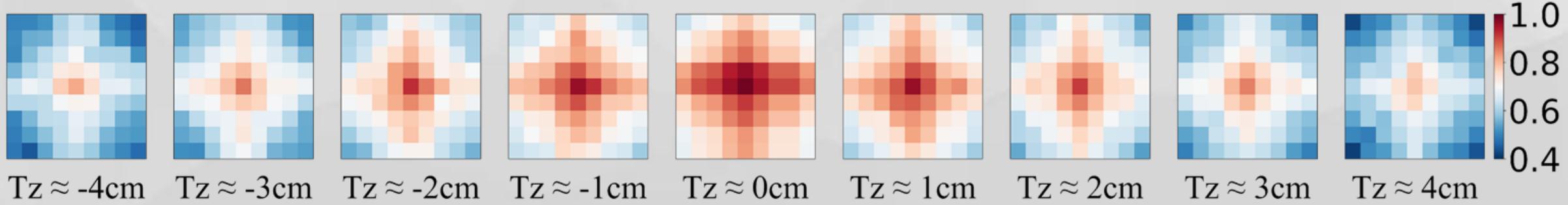


# Deep Learning Based vs. Traditional Multi-frame

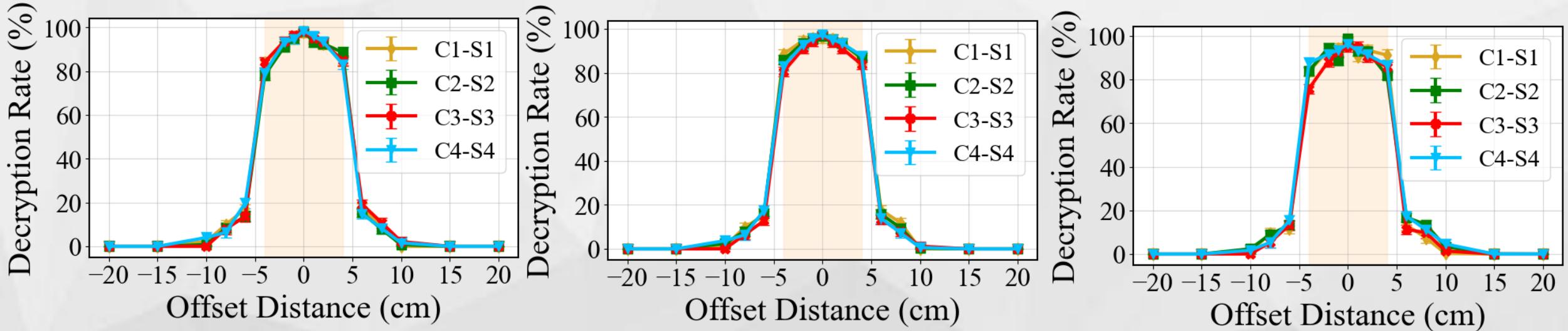
The decryption rate of deep learning based decryption method for different distance offset.



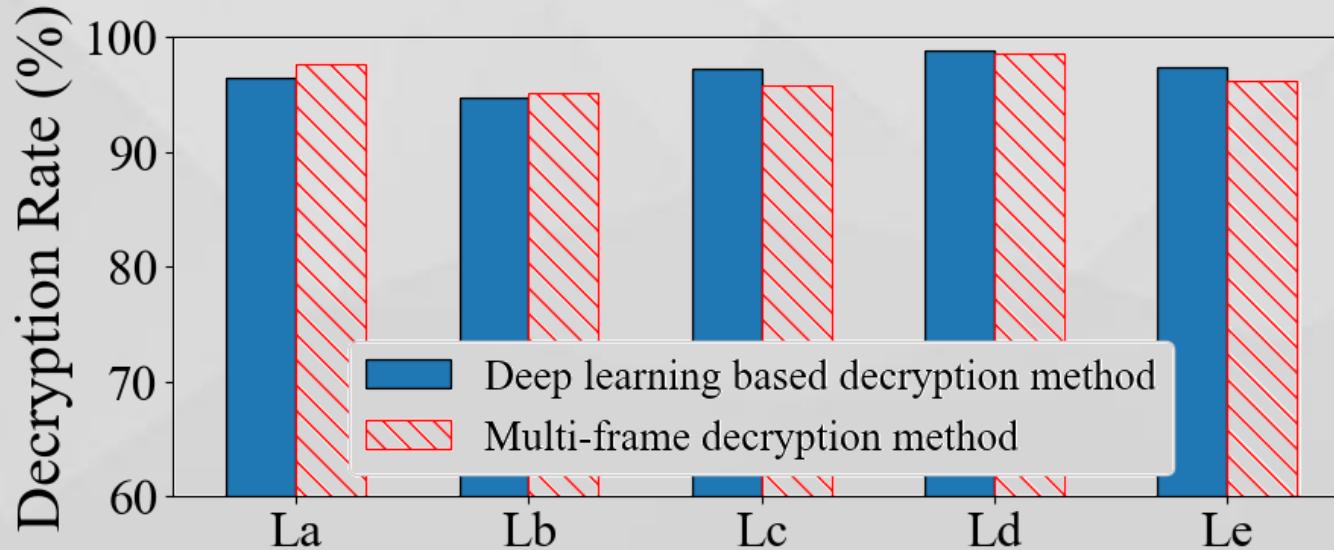
The decryption rate of traditional multi-frame decryption method for different distance offset.



# Secure Scanning Range & Impact of Environment/Ambient



With high decryption rate in Moiré-visible Area and extremely low decryption rate out of the Moiré-visible Area, the Moiré QR code system is still **secure**.



*La: Outdoor at 8AM;  
Lb: Outdoor at 12AM;  
Lc: Outdoor at 11PM;  
Ld: Office;  
Le: Indoor with all lights off.*

## Overall comparison

	Traditional Multi-frame	Deep Learning Based
Distance range	$[-2cm, 2cm]$	$[-4cm, 4cm]$
Angle range	$[-4^\circ, 4^\circ]$	$[-6^\circ, 6^\circ]$
Decryption rate	98.6%( <i>11.3 frames</i> )	<b>98.8%(<i>2 frames</i>)</b>
Decryption latency	$5.4 \pm 0.07s$	<b><math>0.02 \pm 0.006s</math></b>
RAM	$27.4MB$	$224.2MB$

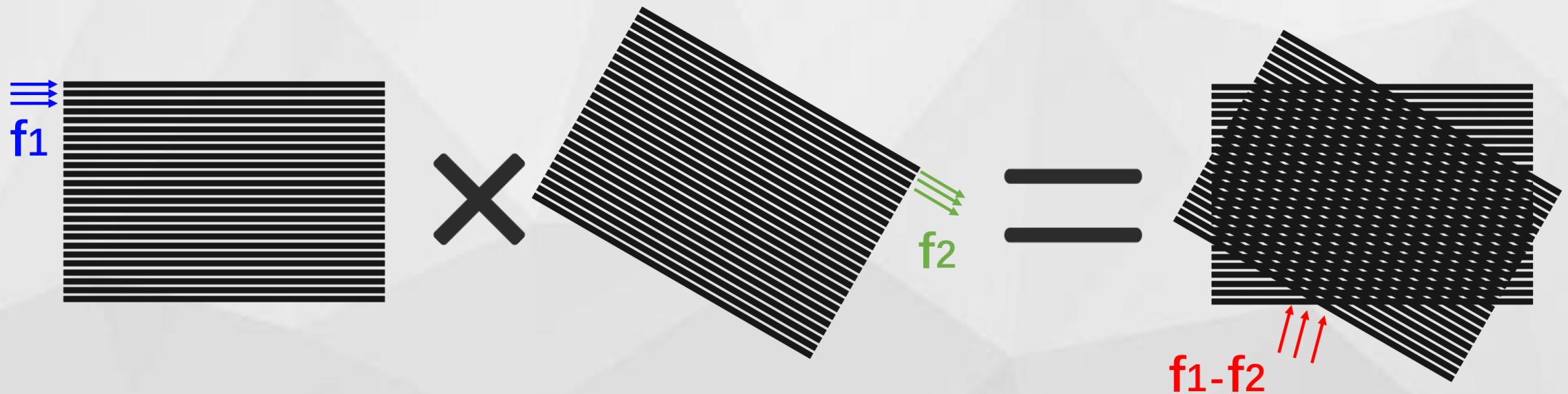
# Conclusion

- We propose a deep learning based Moiré QR code decryption method which can **reduce the average decryption latency**.
- We propose a screen-imaging Moiré simulation methodology that approximates the “physical transmission”, and synthesize Moiré QR code images to **improve the robustness** of the training dataset.
- We conduct extensive experiments to verify the **effectiveness** of the screen-imaging Moiré simulation.

**Thanks  
For Watching!**



# Encryption Principle

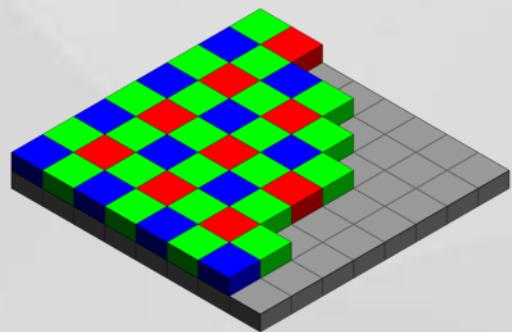


$$\begin{aligned}m &= m_1 \times m_2 \\&= (a_1 + b_1 \cos 2\pi f_1 t) \times (a_2 + b_2 \cos 2\pi f_2 t) \\&= a_1 a_2 + a_2 b_1 \cos 2\pi f_1 t + a_1 b_2 \cos 2\pi f_2 t + \\&\quad b_1 b_2 \cos 2\pi(f_1 + f_2)t + b_1 b_2 \cos 2\pi(f_1 - f_2)t\end{aligned}$$

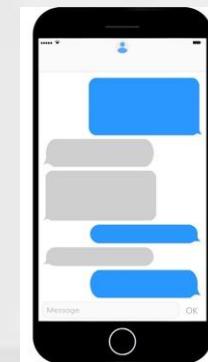
# Encryption Principle



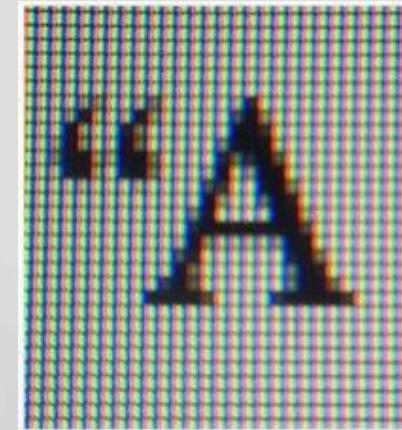
Camera



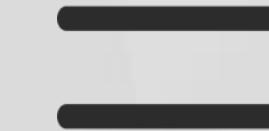
Color Filter Array



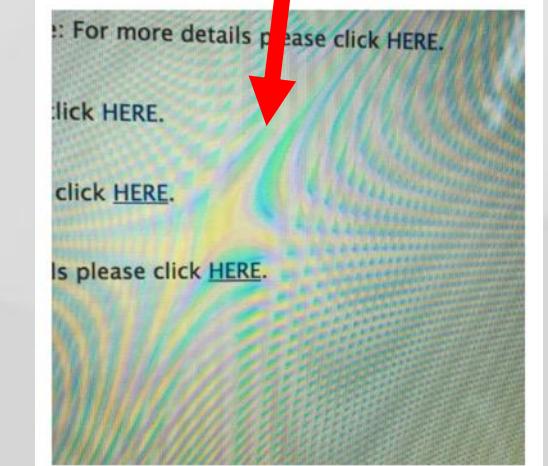
Display



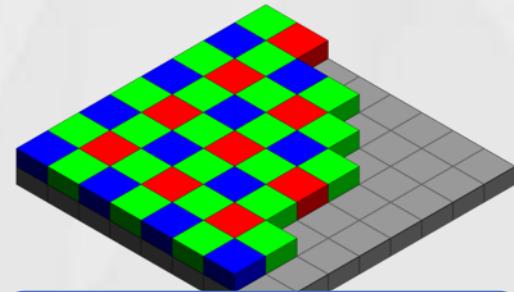
Pixel Array



Low-frequency Colorful  
Noise Patterns

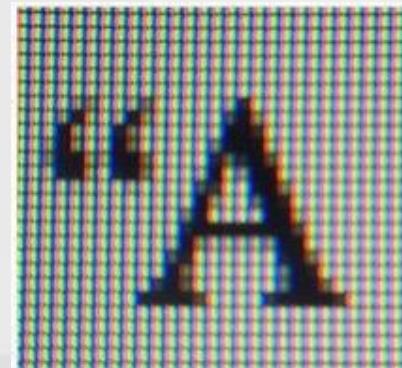


# Encryption Principle



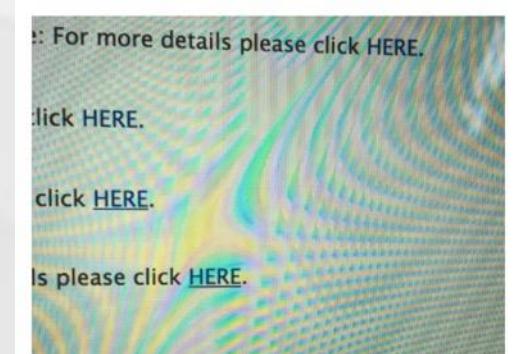
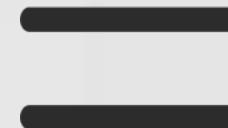
Known

$$m_1(x, y)$$



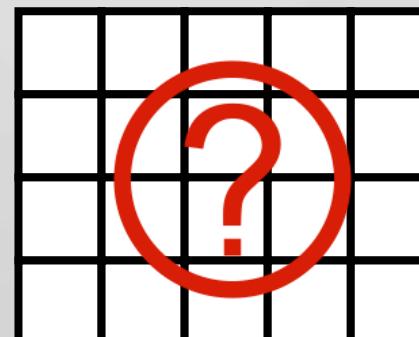
Computed

$$m_2(x, y)$$



Known

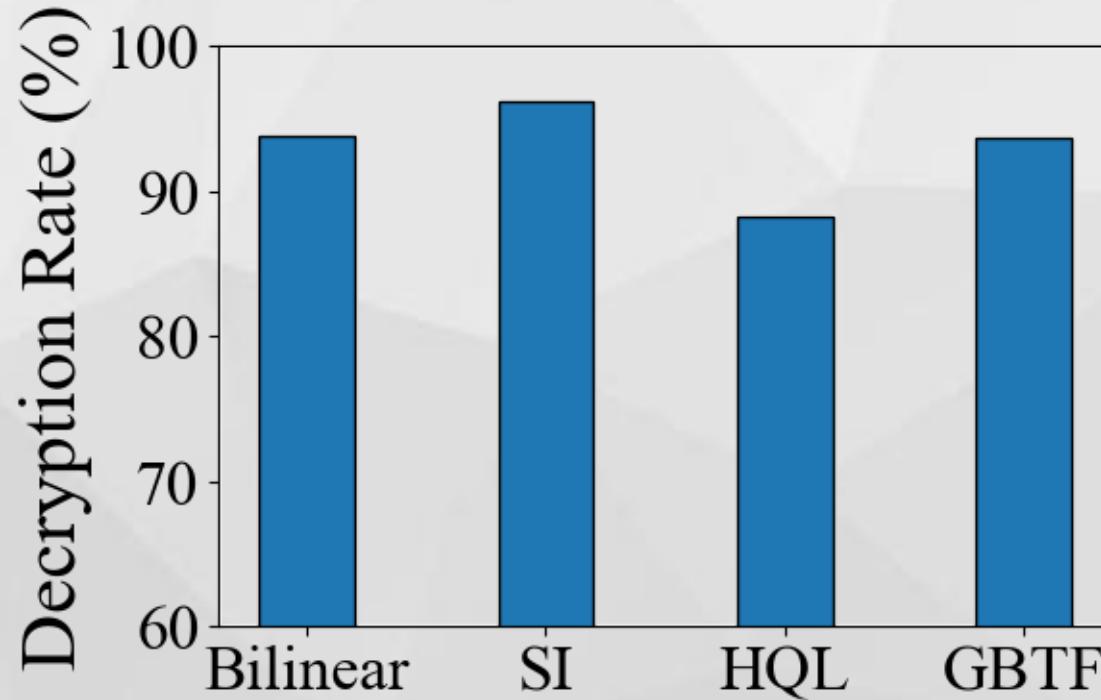
$$m_3(x, y) = m_1(x, y) \times m_2(x, y)$$



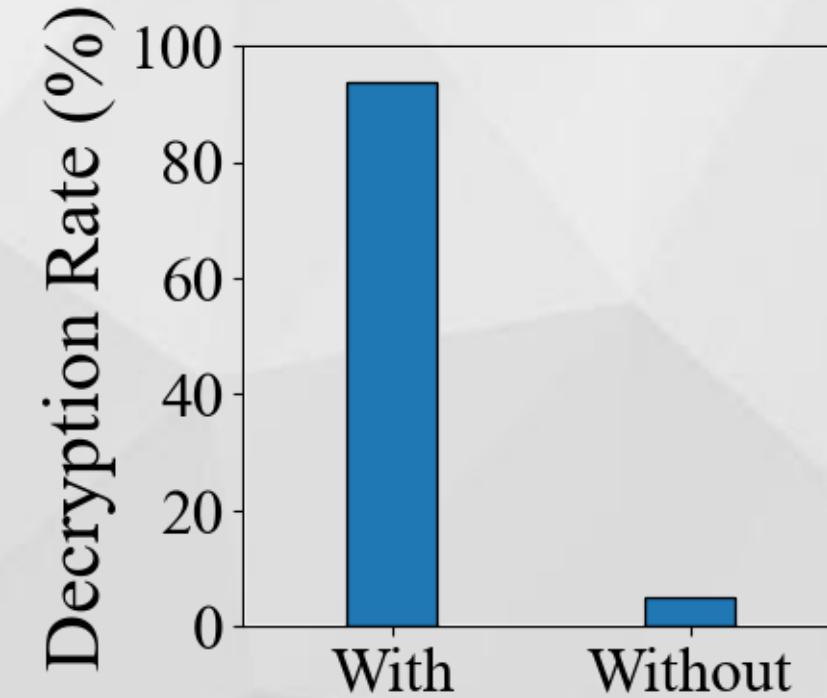
mQR Code



## Evaluation: Interpolation algorithm & Data Augmentation



All interpolation algorithms provide a **satisfactory** decryption performance.



The data augmentation module is indeed an **essential** part of the simulator.