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**UC San Diego**  
**JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**  
Computer Science and Engineering



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
**WISCONSIN**  
MADISON

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# LISHIELD: AUTOMATING VISUAL PRIVACY PROTECTION USING A **SMART LED**

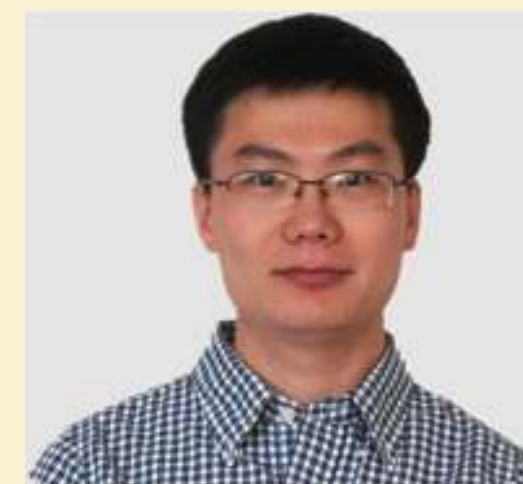
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# VISUAL PRIVACY PROTECTION IS URGENT



We don't want to be photographed!

**PASSIVE PHYSICAL OBJECTS**

STYLE



**A** MALE SECURITY GUARD USES STORE surveillance cameras to zoom in on the cleavage of an unsuspecting

jockstrap, is one plaintiff in a pending lawsuit against the company for invasion of privacy. "I worked real hard for them and

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# EXISTING RUDIMENTARY APPROACHES



# LISHIELD SYSTEM OVERVIEW

- **Corruption:** block illegal camera users
- **Authorization:** unblock legal camera users
- **Watermarking:** conveying 'no distribution' message



# AUTHORIZATION

Only allow Mom  
to take picture



**PICTURE TAKEN BY MOM**

# AUTHORIZATION



**PICTURE TAKEN BY OTHER PEOPLE**



Upload fail.  
Image is  
confidential



# CAMERA: ROLLING SHUTTER

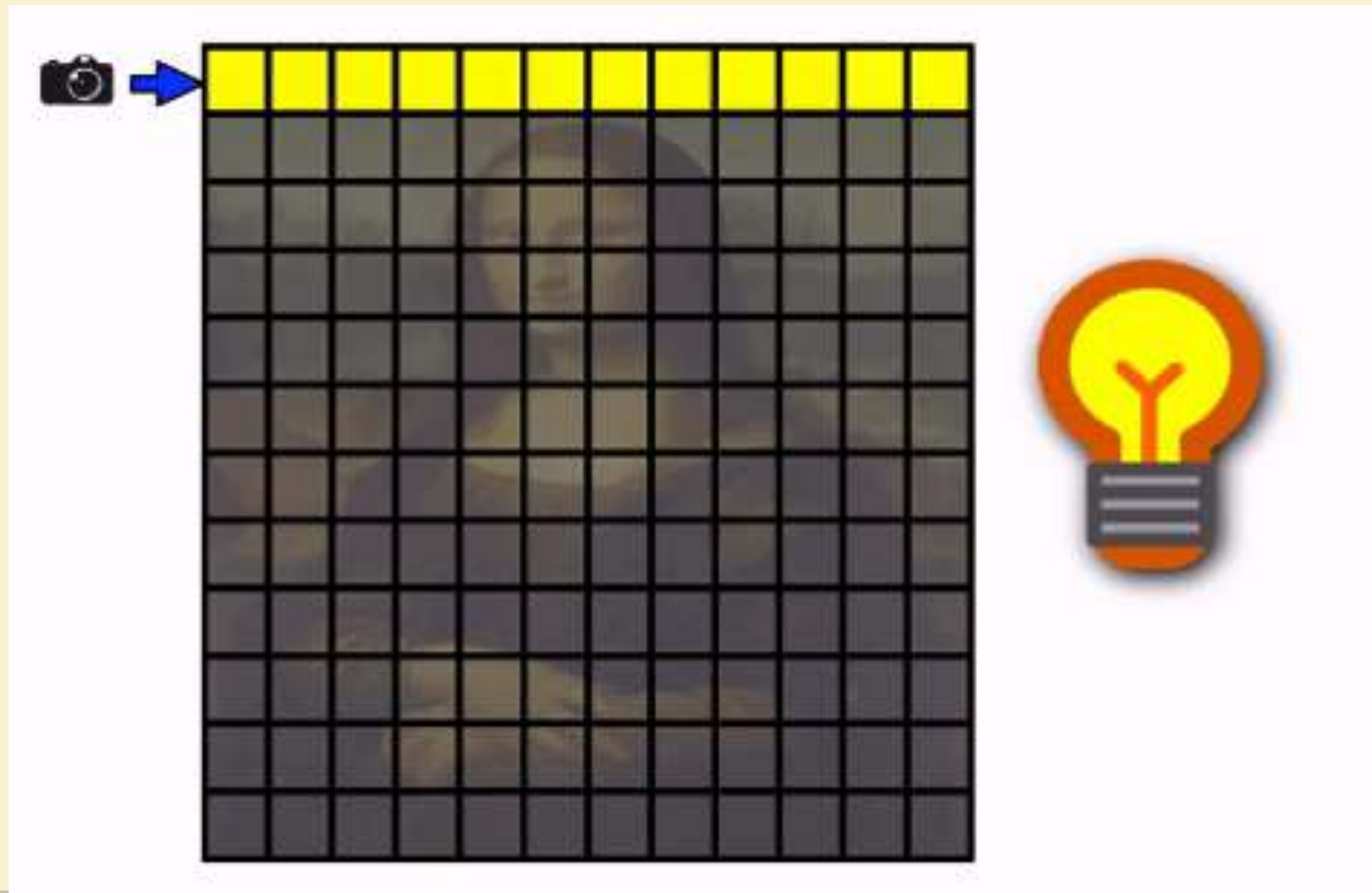


Intensity

Normal indoor lights

Exposure

Time





# ROLLING SHUTTER + LIGHT WAVEFORM



Intensity

LED waveform



Exposure

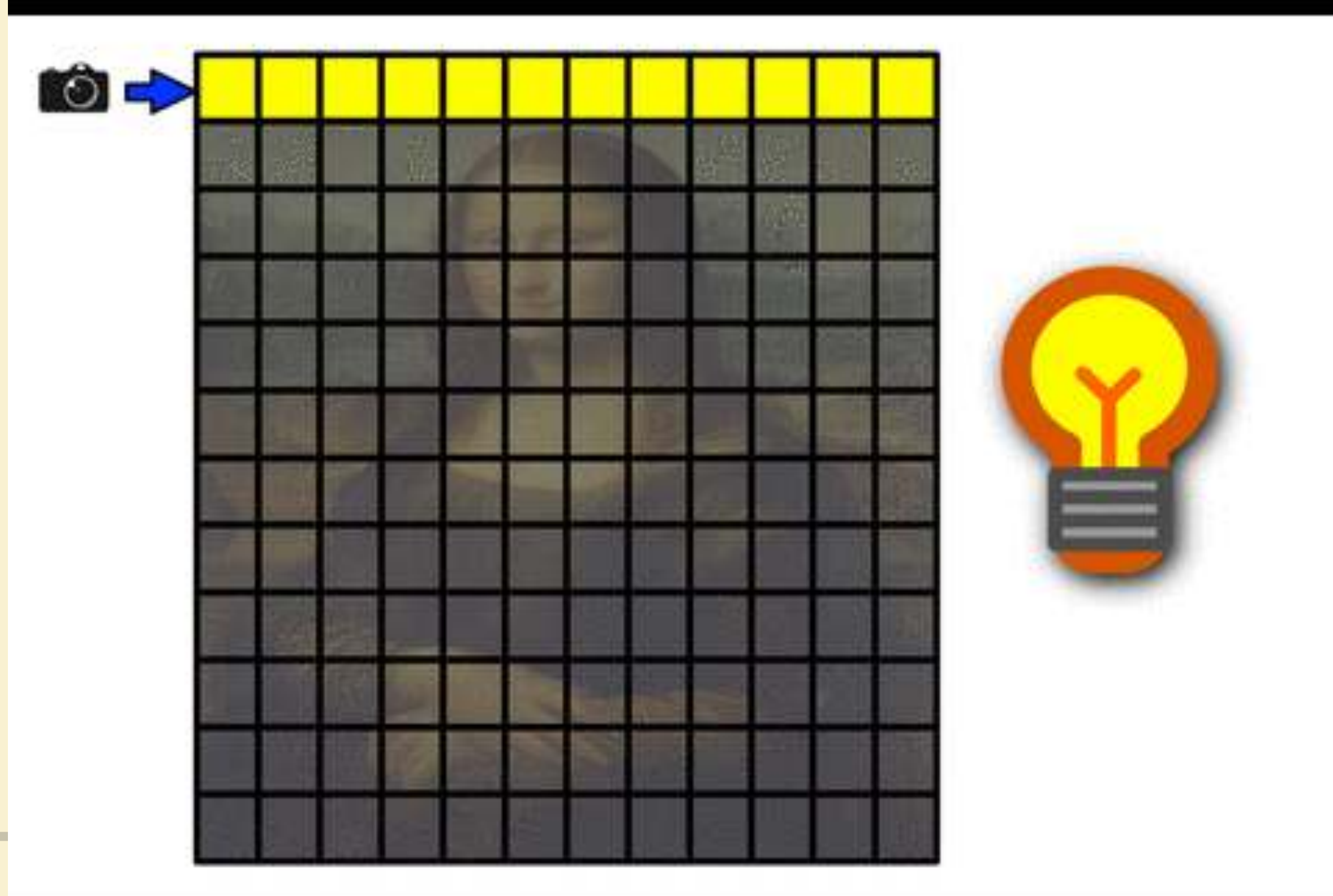
Time



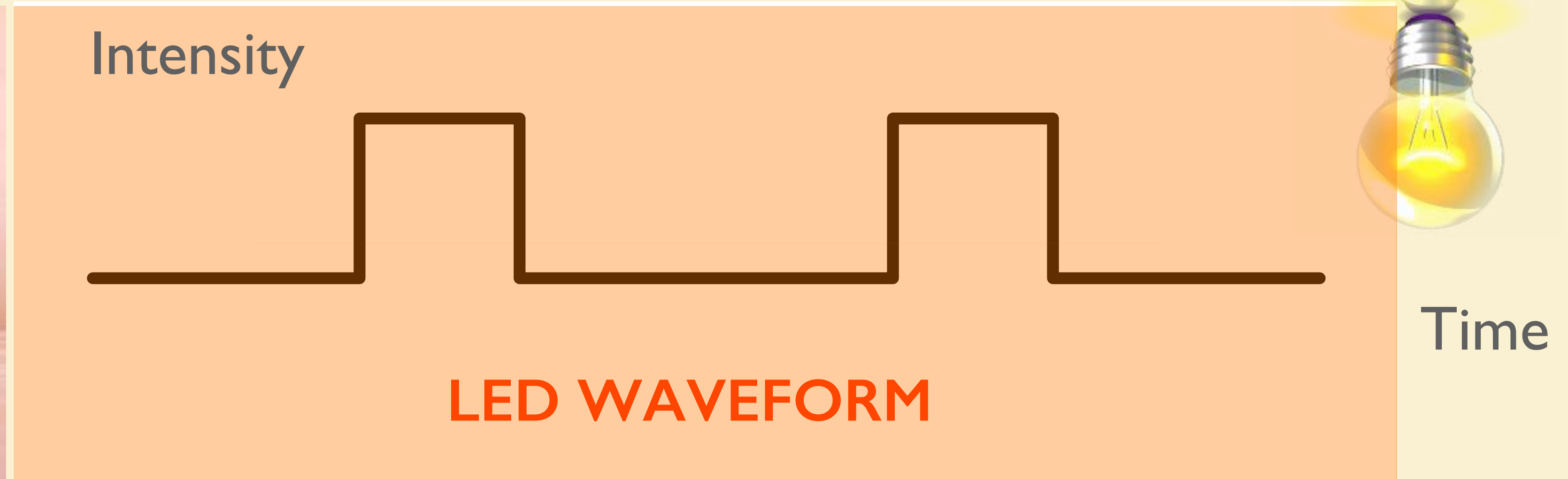
Black-white waveform



RGB waveform



# CHALLENGE #1: WAVEFORM IS TRANSPARENT TO HUMAN EYES



$f > 100\text{Hz}$



# CHALLENGE #2: ROBUSTNESS AGAINST CAMERA MANIPULATION

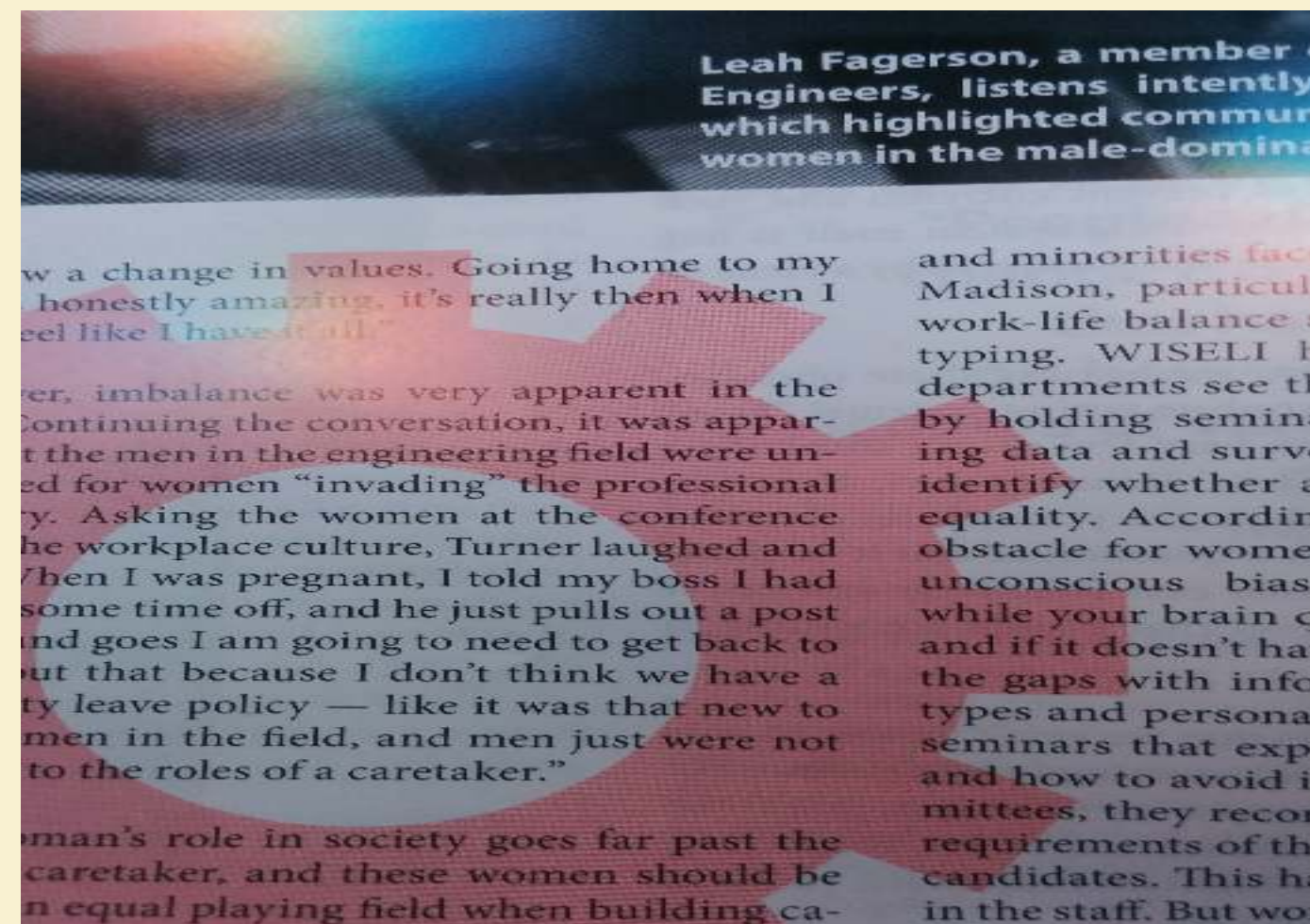


Intensity

LED waveform

Exposure

Time



$$T(\text{wave}) = T(\text{exp})$$

# CHALLENGE #2: ROBUSTNESS AGAINST CAMERA MANIPULATION

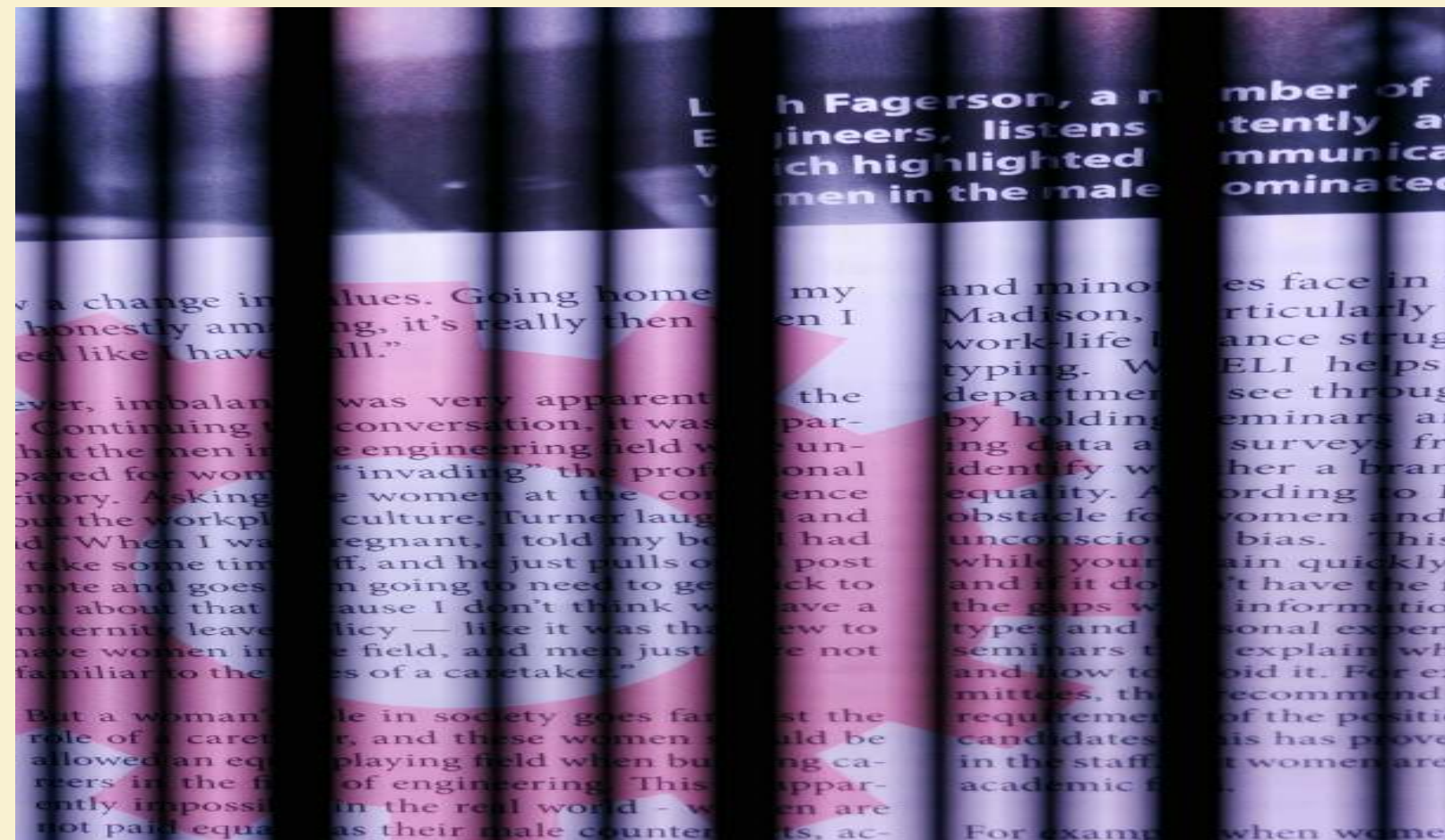


Intensity

LED waveform

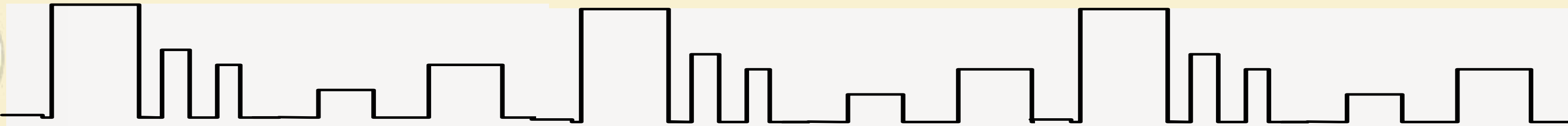
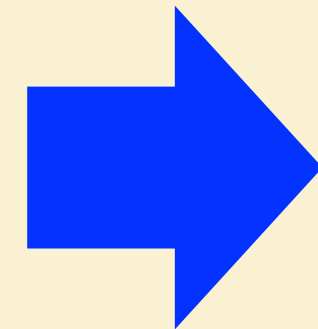
Exposure

Time



$$T(\text{wave}) \neq T(\text{exp})$$

# CHALLENGE #3: ROBUSTNESS AGAINST MULTI-FRAME RECOVERY



LED WAVEFORM

# CAMERA AUTHORIZATION

CAMERA CAN RECOVER IMAGES  
GIVEN THE LED WAVEFORM

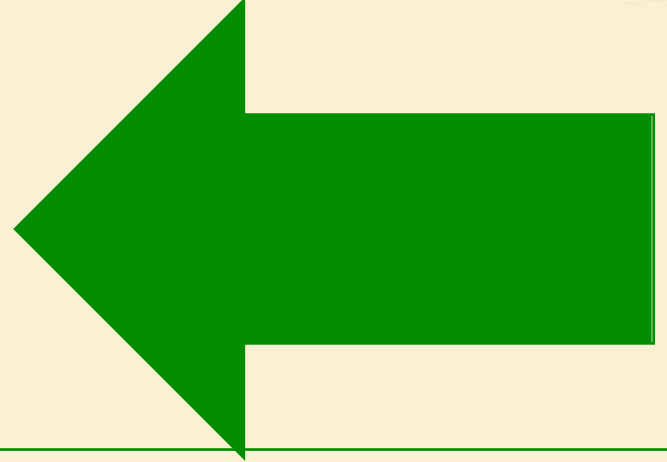
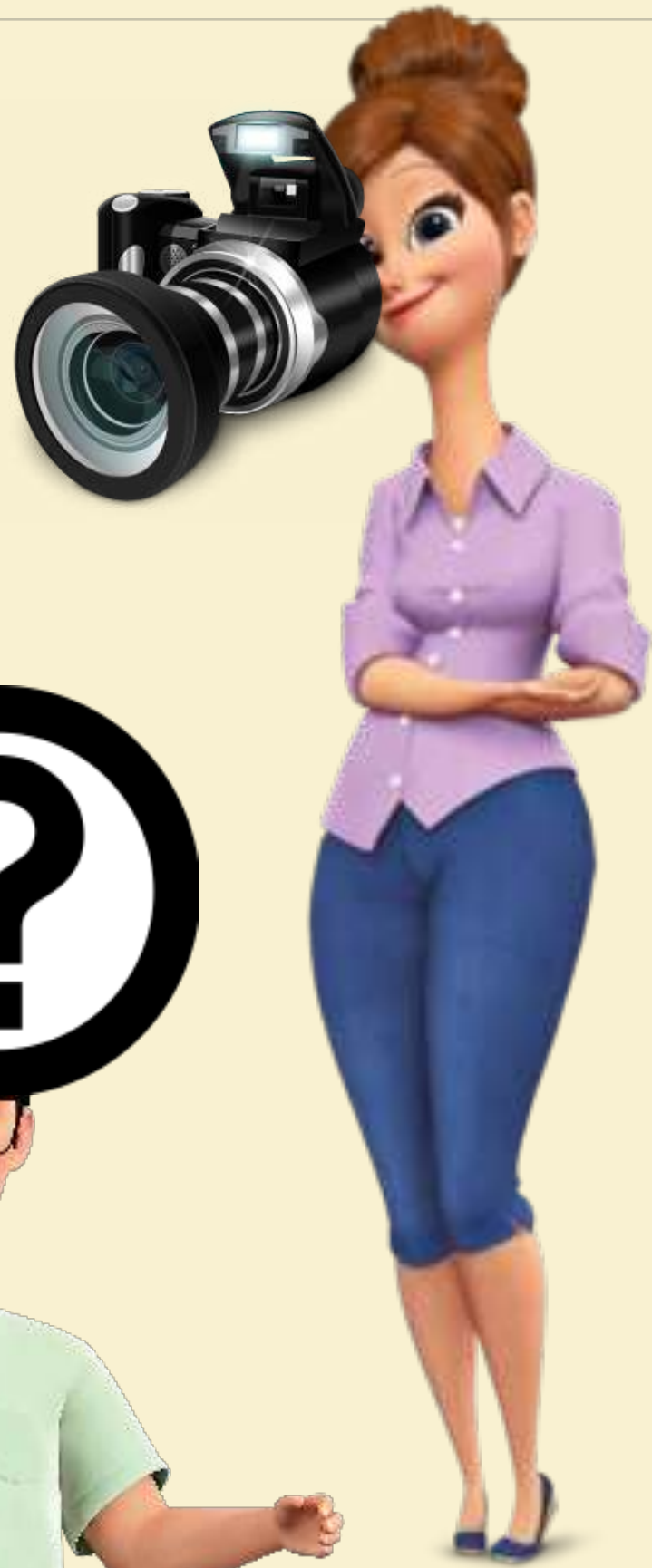


LiShield

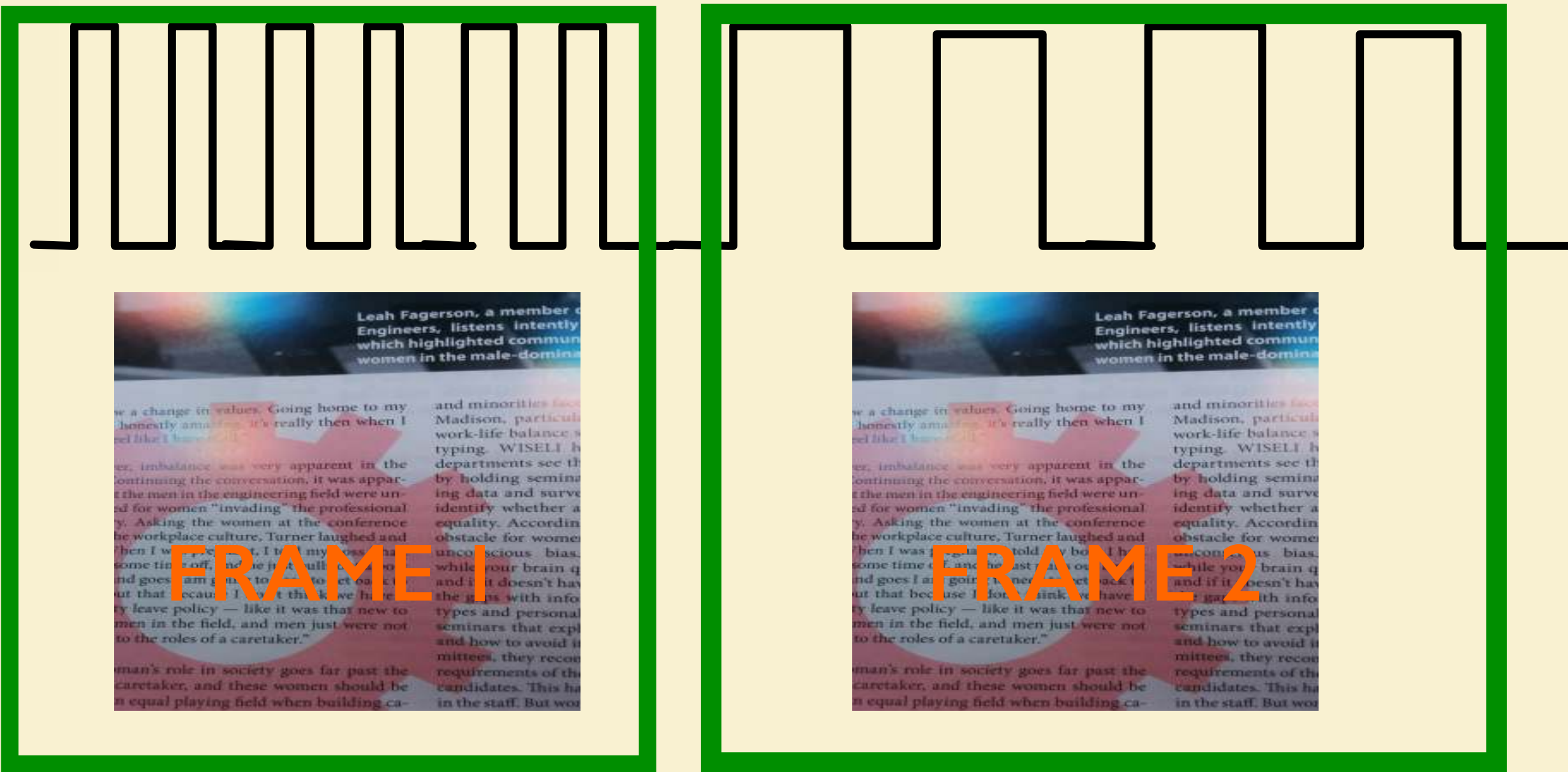


Challenge: How to unblock one person while keep blocking the others?

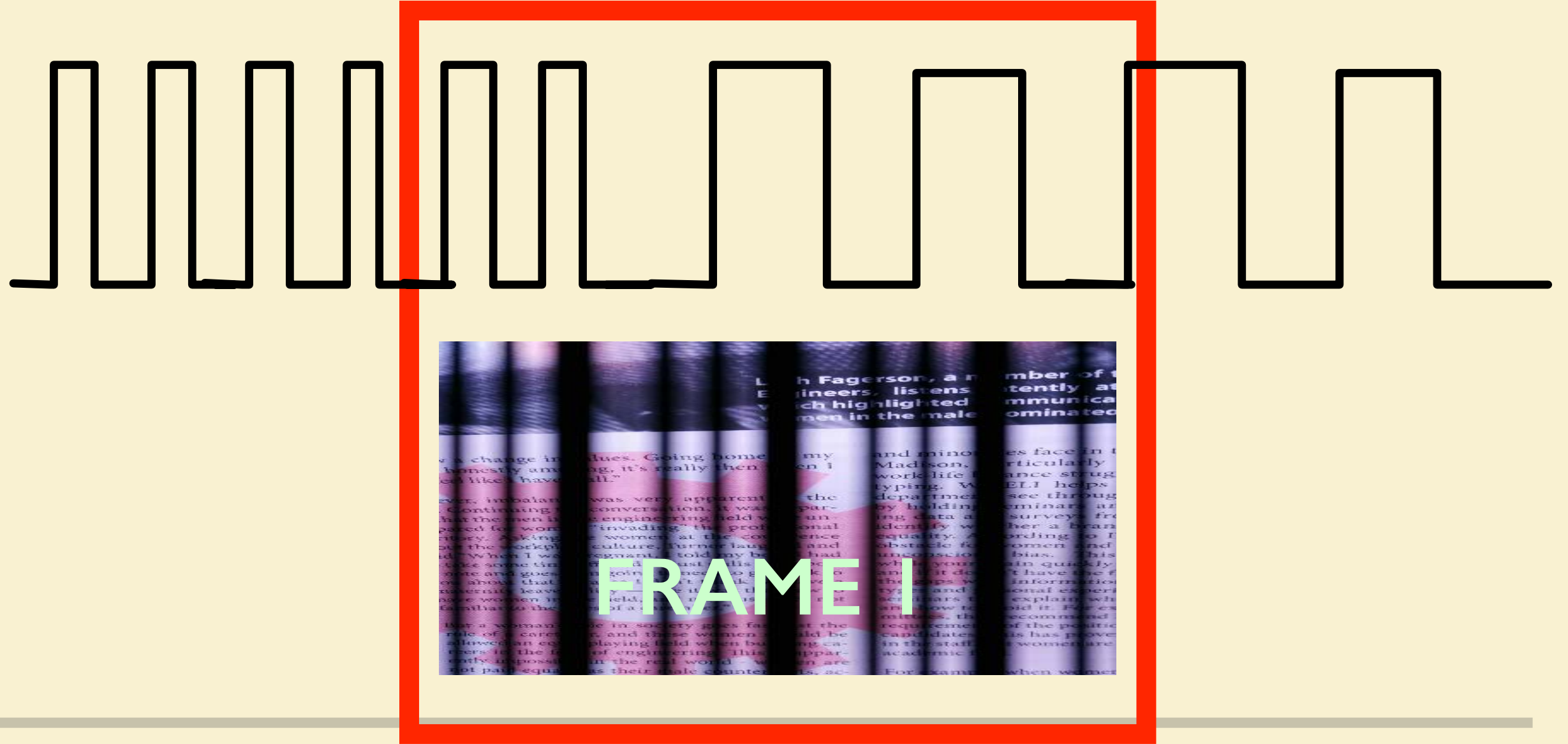
# LED WAVEFORM



**Authorized User**



**Attacker**





Upload fail.  
Image is  
confidential

Sometimes sunlight coming inside from windows,  
LED can have little influence on image quality.

What should we do?



# WATERMARKING



# WATERMARK ENCODER



**Intensity**

Affected by scene and ambient light noise



Vary with camera exposure



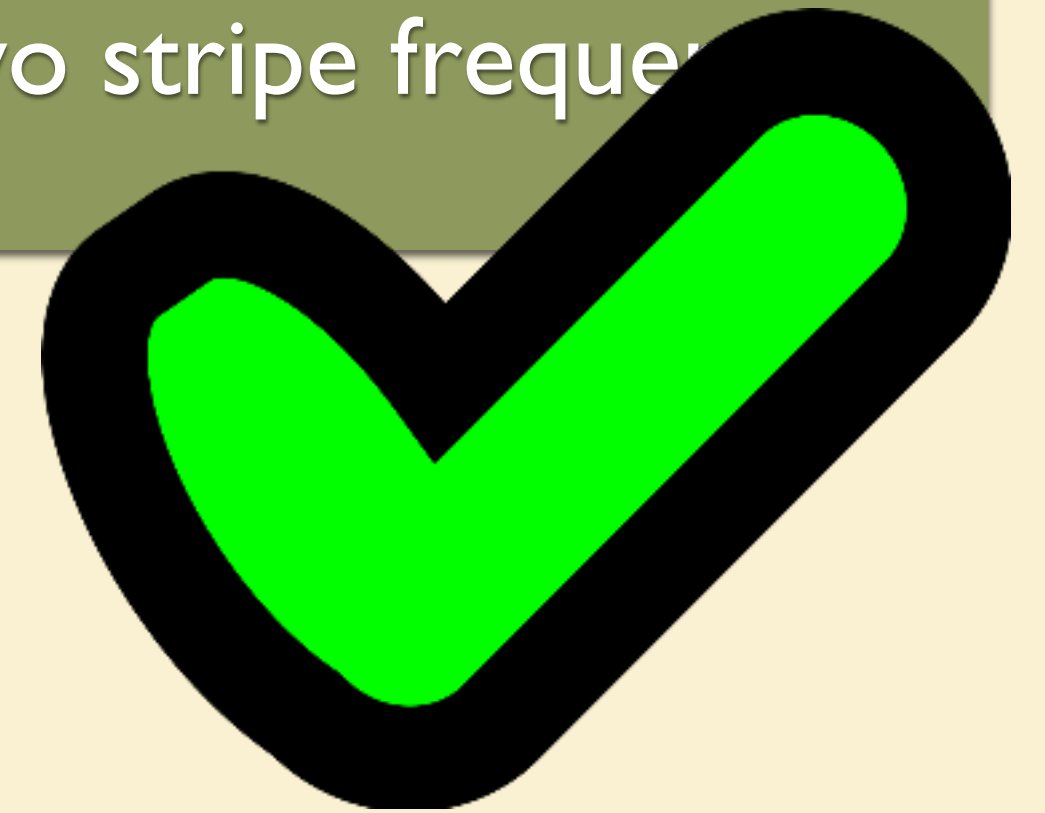
**Duty Cycle**

Ratio of two stripe frequencies



**Frequency**

Vary with camera sampling rate

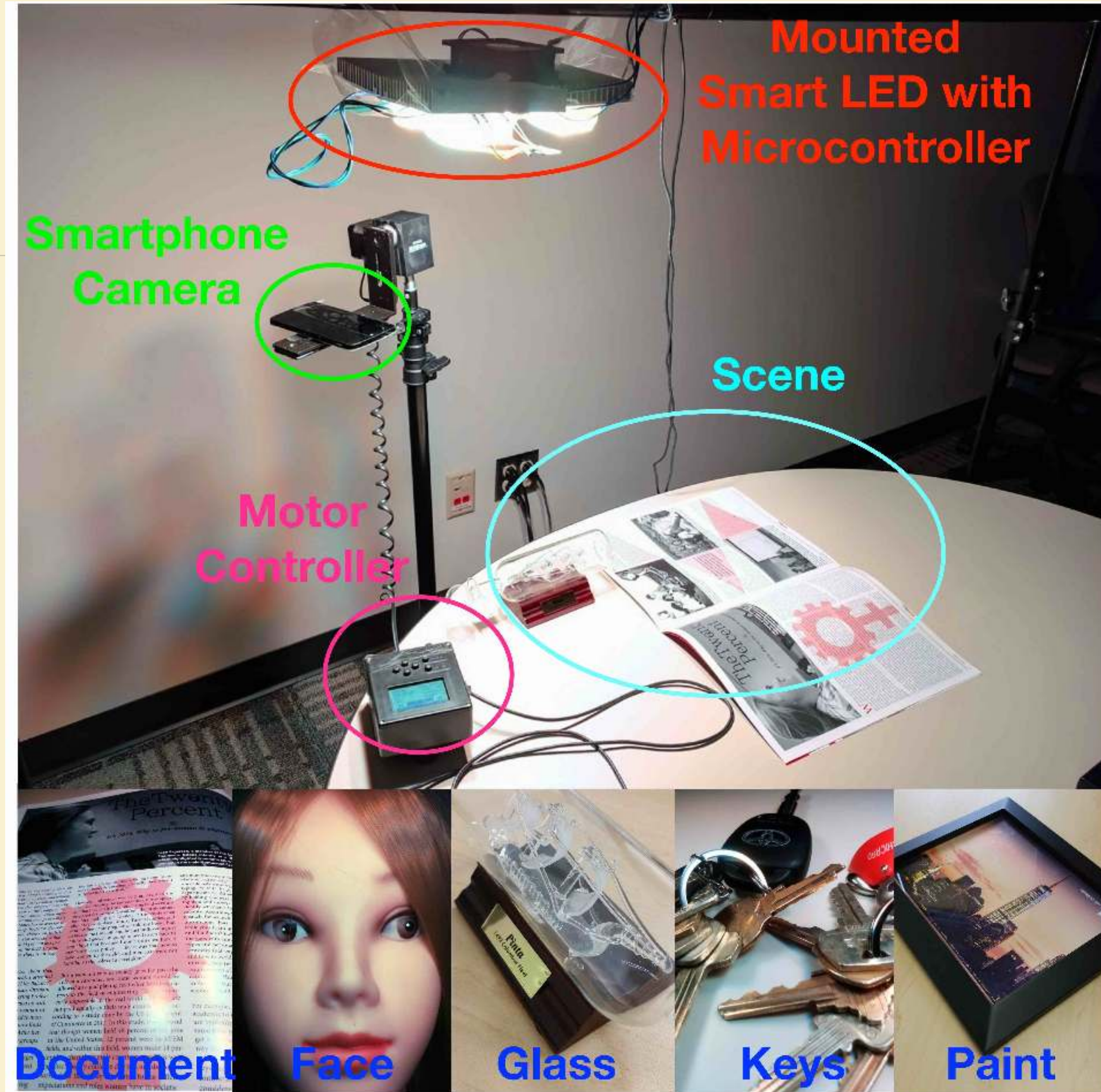


# IMPLEMENTATION

- LED can generate OOK waveform specified by LiShield's image corruption and watermarking modules
- Authorization is implemented on Android

# EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

- Various privacy-sensitive objects
- Metrics: PSNR, CW-SSIM, CIEDE2000

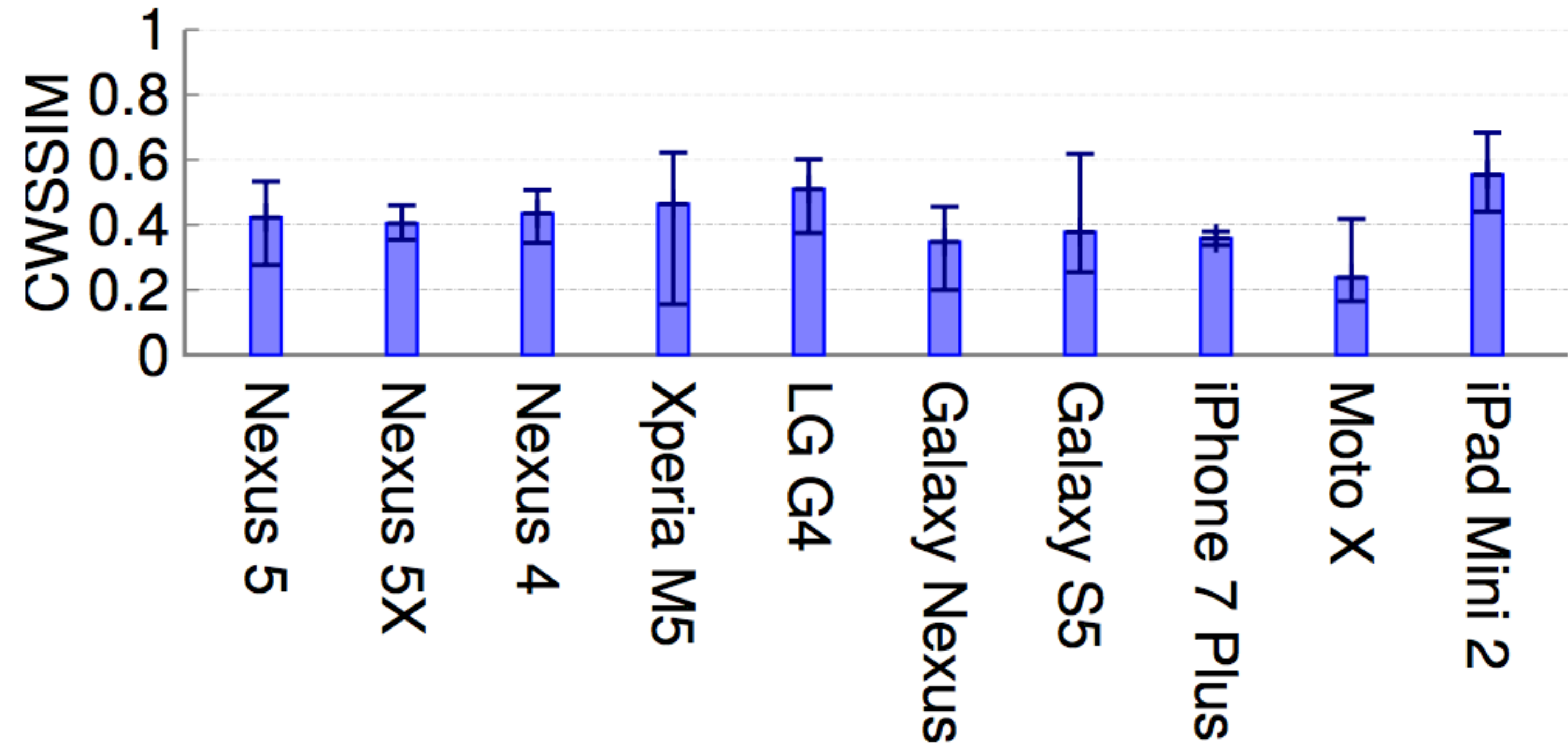


# RESULT #1: QUALITY DEGRADATION

PSNR = 6 dB (>25 dB required)

CW-SSIM = 0.3 (>0.9 required)

CIEDE2000 = 35 (<4 required)



# RESULT #2: CAMERA AUTHORIZATION



**Unprotected**



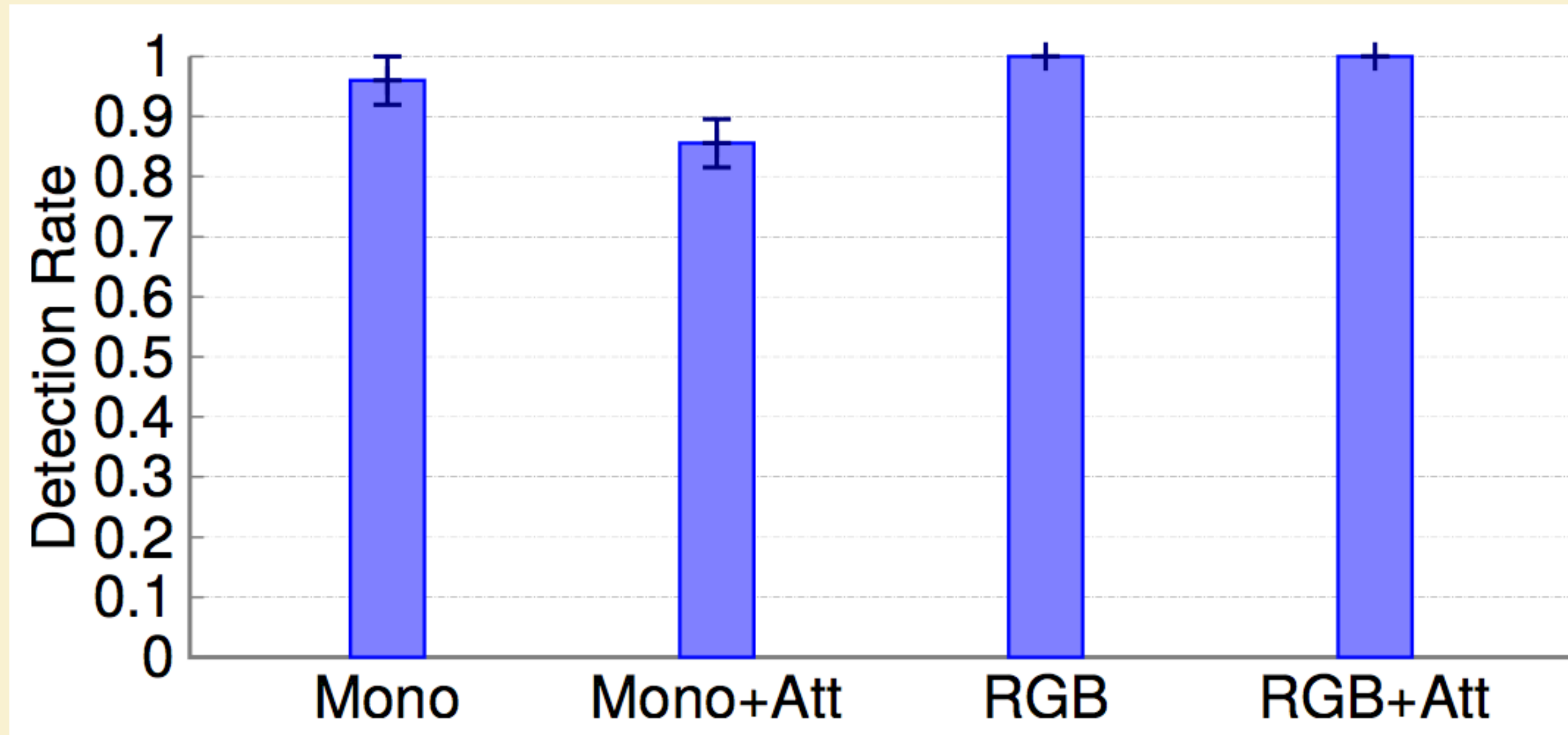
**Authorized**



**Attacker**

Authorized users get a high-quality image/video while we still block attackers

# RESULT #3: WATERMARKING



False alarm rate  $< 5\%$   
Average detection rate  $> 90\%$

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# RESULT #4: ROBUSTNESS AGAINST ATTACKS AND ENVIRONMENTS

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LiShield is robust against camera manipulation and multi-frame recovery

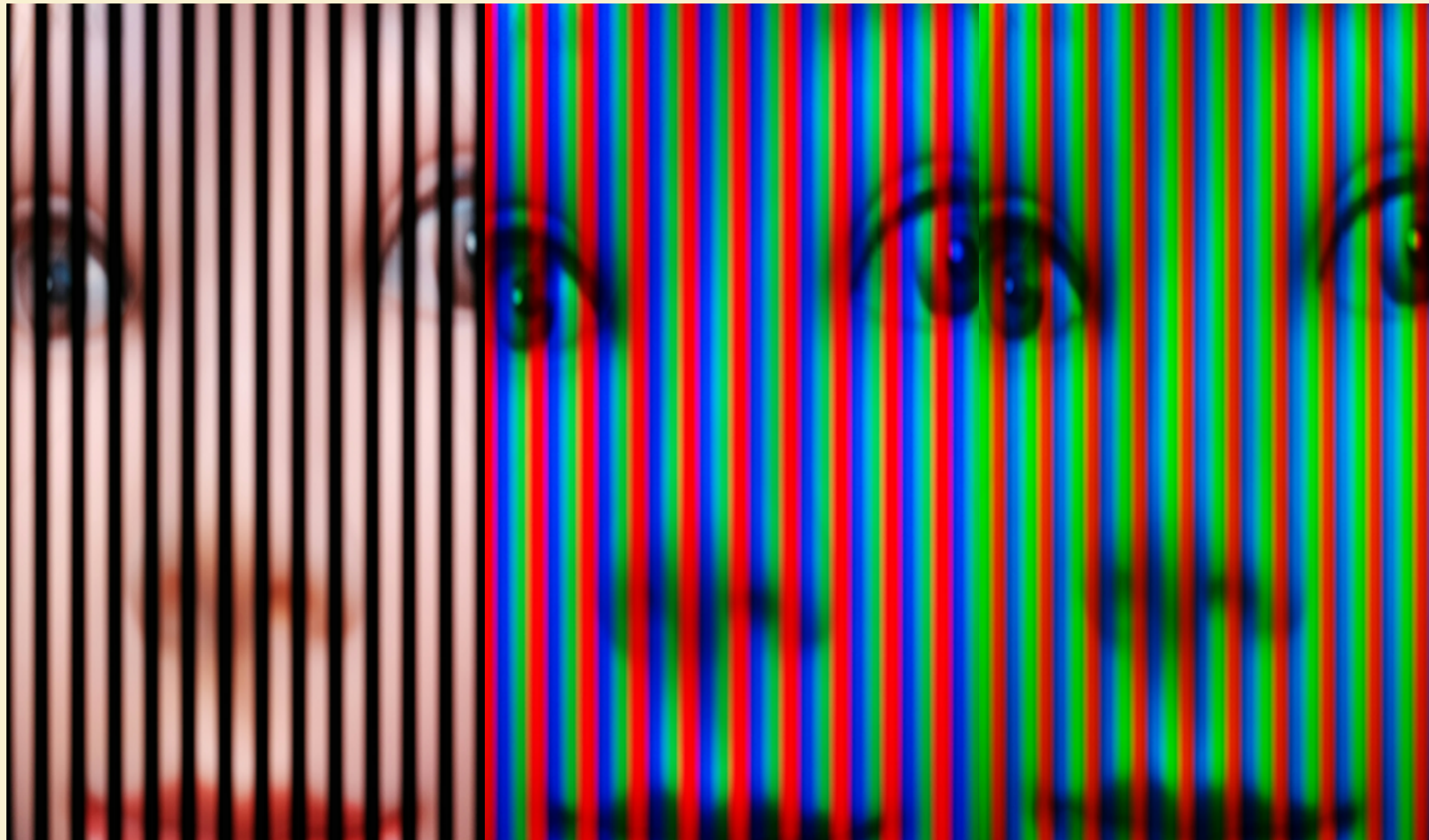
LiShield is robust against post-capture repairing algorithms

LiShield is robust against normal ambient lights

LiShield is robust against long distance using multiple LEDs

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# RESULT #5: SIDE BENEFITS



Color stripes destroy automatic white balance



Dynamic scene reduces space of exposure manipulation

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# CONCLUSION

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- LiShield is a **cost-effective**, **automatic**, and **easy-to-setup** system enabling privacy protection against illegal cameras
- We design an **authorization scheme** to unblock specific user
- **Watermarking** adds 'no distribution' message recognizable by online servers



Fast setup



Low cost



Effective protection

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