



International Journal of Innovative Research in Science Engineering and Technology (IJIRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.699

Volume 14, Issue 4, April 2025

Automated Attendance Management System using Face Detection and AI

C Gayathri, M D Nasim, Lokesh P, Dilip R, Gopishankar P

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Mahendra Institute of Technology, Namakkal,
Tamil Nadu, India

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Mahendra Institute of Technology, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT: This research paper introduces a novel approach to automate attendance tracking in educational institutions through the implementation of a Face Recognition-based attendance system using Python. Traditionally, attendance management has relied on manual processes, prone to errors and time-consuming activities such as roll-call or name calling. The primary objective of this project is to revolutionize attendance management by developing an automated system that utilizes facial recognition technology. By leveraging modern advancements in computer vision, this system aims to streamline the attendance-taking process, enhancing efficiency and accuracy while reducing administrative burdens. Implemented within the classroom environment, the system captures student information including name, roll number, admission number, class, department, and photographs for training purposes. These images are subjected to preprocessing, where facial characteristics are recognized and extracted using CNN-powered deep learning methodologies. The extracted facial features are subsequently matched against a pre-established repository of registered individuals' facial data for identification. This identification process is resistant to fluctuations in lighting conditions, facial expressions, and minor variations in pose, ensuring elevated precision in attendance tracking.

KEYWORDS: Face recognition, Feature extraction, Databases, Iris recognition, Principal component analysis, Support vector machines

I. INTRODUCTION

An effective Attendance Management System (AMS) for recording student attendance is an absolute necessity for monitoring academic performance and high accountability in the prevailing conditions of education today. Old-fashioned ways of conducting attendance by calling names or physically marking registers are never only time-consuming, but also inaccuracy-prone and insecure. Many automatic human identification systems, such as fingerprint scanners and card reading systems, face limitations in the form of forgotten passwords and misplaced cards. These issues can lead to unauthorized entry onto premises and wrong attendance registers. The embracing of facial recognition technology in attendance monitoring systems assures a viable solution to surmount all these problems. This automated system would ensure that a student gets identified accurately while entering the classroom and hence reduce reliance on roll calls, thereby increasing data security and saving time. With respect to facial recognition, this very invention will improve educational efficiency, keep accurate attendance, offer monitoring use ably in real time, and sort the children appropriately. The effective modern-day AMS, by using facial recognition, simply serves to smoothen operations in any educational institution, fostering accountability as well as an environment conducive to academic excellence. [1], [2].

Attendance Management Systems, in essence, are utilized widely in various educational institutions and organizations, improving both the speed and accuracy involved in attendance tracking. Mostly through schools, colleges and universities, AMS have entirely automated the student attendance marking process. Features include real-time monitoring, notifications to parents of a student's present or absent status and generated reports that show a trend of attendance over time for teachers. Besides their use in the education sector, AMS is applied in corporate settings as tools for attendance management for monitoring employee attendance, allowing organizations to maintain staff records and monitor applications for leaves in a responsible way. Most AMS packages work in conjunction with Learning Management Systems; teachers now upload lecture notes and assignments along with attendance

records to improve academic delivery alongside parental participation. These common applications of AMS have enjoyed growth with the emergence of mobile technologies, where teachers mark attendance with smartphones or tablets, and notifications are given in real-time to the parents. Again, AMS equally turns to data analytics to give families insight into general patterns to guide institutions in making informed decisions in resource allocation and curriculum planning. With this system that automates the notification about attendance, the school and parents communicate more reliably; hence parental involvement and the problem of truancy is effectively quelled. In brief, the broad scope of the application of Attendance Management Systems is by and large affirmative with respect to the special political systems and environments, revealing efficiency in both communication mode and decision-making process. [5].

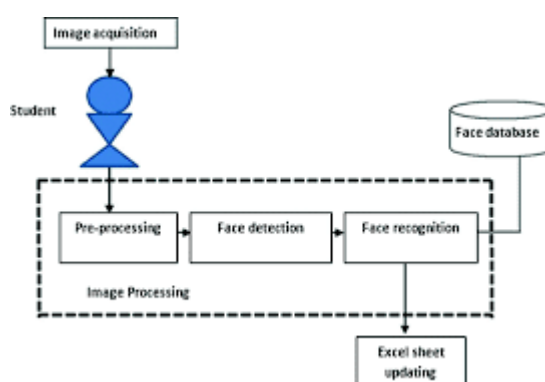


Fig 1: Face Recognition Attendance System

Several current attendance management systems rely on age-old technologies that suffer from numerous other disadvantages. Most of these systems are slow and inefficient due to the lag in attendance tracking and reporting. Traditional biometric systems like fingerprint scanners or older facial recognition technique often show inaccuracies and hence this imprecision property brings about some concern, since for such an arrangement misidentifications or failure to recognize legitimate students or employees could occur, undermining the authenticity of attendance records. On top of the limitations, many of these systems can hardly recognize a specific number of faces at once, hence a problematic situation in environments with dense population, especially in classrooms or corporate events. This means that given the attendance is taken where multiple-person recognition is required, the procedure slows down and leads to potential errors. It is apparent that reliance on outdated technologies govern present attendance management systems and remain unfit, hence become slow and inaccurate especially in dynamic setups where fast and accurate identification becomes an essential requirement. With all of the updated technologies that focus on performing real-time face recognition and absentee tracking, we have built ourselves an advanced attendance system.

YOLO (You Only Look Once) is used for object detection, and Vision Transformers (Vits) are utilized behind the scenes for image classification, thus allowing detection and classification of multiple faces in real time. The system goes about taking video frames at some interval, extracting single objects out of the video frames, processing these, then classifying them at high speed via intelligent algorithms. This allows for faster access, on-the-spot face recognition, and accurate attendance tracking. RTSP (Real-Time Streaming Protocol) provides real-time access to cameras from the application so that integration can be done seamlessly with quick notifications for absentee tracking, which is why the approach is reliable and scalable at the same time. [6].

2.Objectives The solution strives to veer away from the shackles of conventional case attendance through manual means, thus reducing errors and minimizing administrative workload. It allows for instantaneous processing with security of data while ensuring high accuracy in identifying students. Through easy access via a web interface, faculty members can monitor attendance records, generate reports, manage data effectively and its scalable nature allows multiple classrooms, branches, and faculty members to use the system, thus providing a feasible and competent attendance management tool for educational institutions. This project provides better efficiency and accuracy of attendance monitoring with a seamless user experience through an AI-based facial recognition interface, secure data handling as well as multi-device support.

•Auto attendance marking:Automated attendance via facial recognition with no human intervention.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

This system proposed by Sultan et al. (2022) effectively detects faces from various angles. Initially, an HD 1080p camera was employed to capture facial images. Subsequently, the captured images undergo noise reduction, following which the histogram-oriented gradient (HOG) technique is applied to detect facial features [1]. The system utilizes the Dlib face recognition API, achieving a face recognition accuracy of 97.38%. It also can identify and record the presence of students within the frame, documenting those whose features align with the information stored in the database. The presented system is also capable of recognizing the students' face from multiple directions. It can also recognize students' faces from various angles.

A Smart Attendance Management System Using Face Recognition [2] was built with HOG method to detect human faces in given image and faces which are not in our training dataset are marked as unknown. The frontend page of the system was based on HTML 5, CSS 3 & JS and JSON to store the student's data. The system proved to recognize images in different angle and light conditions and recognize images of students is marked in real time which are imported to excel sheet and saved by the system automatically. (Bhatti et al., 2018)

Asmara, Ridwan, and Budiprasetyo (2021) Authentication systems commonly utilize faces, employing methods like facial recognition in software applications or for accessing rooms [3]. This is because the unique structures and characteristics of the human face vary between individuals. Authentication involves identifying a person's face to authorize access for individuals with permission. Various methods have been developed and improved for detecting faces in images. Two commonly used techniques are Haar Cascade and Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).

Hati et al. (2021) describes an Artificial Intelligence-based attendance monitoring system using face recognition technology [4] to automate the attendance process in educational institutions. The system aims to replace manual attendance-taking methods with a more efficient and accurate system that does not require physical identification cards. The proposed system captures students' faces during attendance, stores the information in a database, and automatically uploads the attendance data. The goal of the system is to help lecturers and students track and manage attendance more effectively. The paper concludes that the automated attendance system can reduce errors and improve efficiency in attendance management, benefiting educational institutions. Additionally, it briefly mentions the potential use of AI-based chatbots or virtual assistants for information gathering and navigation.

This paper [5] highlights the complexities of facial recognition technology and its role in automating attendance processes. It also mentions the use of deep learning techniques, which have surpassed human performance in facial recognition tasks. The system's development specifications, scope, and intended audience are outlined, emphasizing the use of facial recognition and temperature detection technologies to improve efficiency and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Pradyumna et al., 2023). The conclusion discusses the importance of staying current with technology trends in education and highlights the advantages of using facial recognition for attendance tracking, citing it as the most affordable and flexible option.

Dang (2023) discusses the development of an efficient deep learning approach for facial recognition, particularly focusing on the architecture of an improved FaceNet model based on the MobileNetV2 backbone with SSD subsection. The proposed model [6] utilizes depth-wise separable convolution to reduce model size and computational volume while maintaining high accuracy and processing speed.

(Verma et al., 2023) proposes an automated attendance monitoring system using facial recognition technology to overcome these challenges. The system [7] captures images of students entering the classroom and compares them to a pre-existing database to mark attendance accurately. It also suggests the use of artificial intelligence to analyze attendance data, such as students' time spent in class. The implementation is done in Python, and the system aims to reduce staff time and effort while maintaining accurate attendance records. Future work includes communicating attendance percentages to parents or guardians using GSM modules.

III. METHODS

The attendance system combines advanced technology for real-time automated attendance-marking with the intended outcome of reducing human error. The system begins streaming video frames from an RTSP (Real Time Streaming Protocol) camera that runs continuously to capture live video. The YOLO (You Only Look Once) object detection algorithm is then used to detect faces in the frames. The face images identified are then sent to the Vision Transformer (Vit) classifier or Mobile Net model for feature extraction; these classifiers are pre-trained to classify the face according to relevant features. In turn, the classification results go to the attendance management system, which marks attendance from this result and subsequently records data into the database. In this way, the database makes sure of the correct storage and retrieval of attendance data, while also assuring the successful updating of records. Thereafter, the system further ensures the activation of the notification mechanism in tandem to notify students, teachers, and other associated organizations of updates on attendance status in real time. So, this is a completely automated workflow making use of object detection and deep learning models and hence becomes quite robust and effective for institutions of modern educational settings and organization.

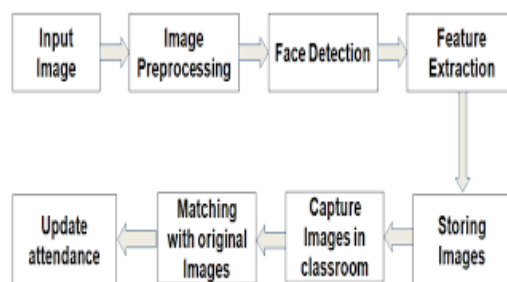


Fig 2: Implementing a Smart Attendance Management System

We proposed a new improved attendance system that is free from all the defects and limitations prevalent in traditional methods. The obtained attendance systems generally do not enable real-time operations and are not adaptable to meet the changing needs of the present. The present research employs deep learning techniques to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the system. Video frames are captured at irregular intervals from a live video feed and processed using the YOLO (You Only Look Once) framework for object detection. Each frame is processed and compared to a set template for matching students and staff with an existing database of previously registered individuals. Each detection undergoes further validation through trained deep learning models so that accuracy and reliability might be ensured. Eliminating errors with the use of processed image frames from video feeds will reduce administrative overhead while remaining futuristic and scalable to meet the demands of modern learning and work environments. The application of real-time video processing along with training the dataset to achieve intelligent face matching enhances overall efficiency for attendance tracking. Future directions may comprise cloud compatibility, mobile application use, and a multi-camera setup for broader usability.

IV. RESULT ANALYSIS

To build the dataset, we begin by capturing images of the students using a webcam. Multiple images of each student are taken, capturing different facial expressions and angles. These images go through a preprocessing stage. The first step involves cropping the images to isolate the Region of Interest (ROI), which will play a crucial role in the recognition process. Subsequently, the cropped images are resized to specific pixel dimensions. Afterward, these images are converted from RGB to grayscale. Finally, these processed images are saved with the corresponding student's names in a dedicated folder.

In this system, face detection is accomplished using the Haar-Cascade Classifier in conjunction with OpenCV. It's important to note that prior to using Haar Cascade for face detection, the algorithm must undergo a training process to recognize human faces. This training step is referred to as feature extraction.

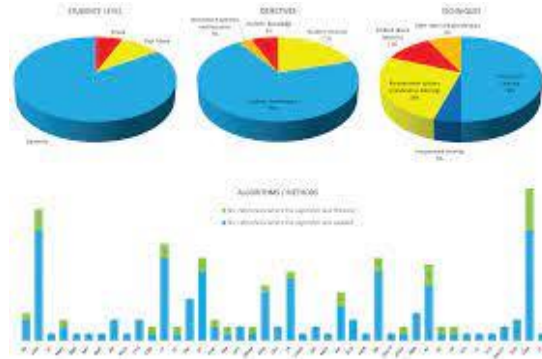


Fig 3: SMART ATTENDANCE MARKING SYSTEM USING FACE RECOGNITION

The face recognition process is typically divided into three key steps: preparing training data, training the face recognizer, and making predictions. In the first step, the training data comprises the images from the dataset. Each of these images is associated with an integer label indicating the student it belongs to. These labeled images are then utilized for face recognition. In this system, the face recognizer used is the Local Binary Pattern Histogram. Initially, the system obtains a list of local binary patterns (LBPs) for the entire face. These LBPs are converted into decimal numbers, and histograms are created based on these decimal values. As a result, a histogram is generated for each image in the training data.

Following the face recognition process, the system will mark the recognized faces as present in an Excel sheet, while the unidentified faces will be marked as absent. Additionally, a list of absent students will be generated and sent via email to the respective faculty members. At the end of each month, the faculty will receive an updated monthly attendance sheet.

V. CONCLUSION

The goal of the proposed system is to create an efficient class attendance system by leveraging face recognition methods. The intended system will have the capability to record attendance through face recognition. It will employ a webcam to detect faces and subsequently identify them. Following the successful recognition process, it will record the attendance of the identified student and update the attendance records accordingly. This system is very useful for the schools and colleges to mark the attendance of students, teachers and other staff members.

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