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AI-Powered Face Recognition System for Automated Attendance Management

Mayank Singh Manral, Mohd Shahvez Tyagi, Asra Mufti

Department of Computer Science and Engineering (AI/ML Specialization) Raj Kumar Goel Institute of Technology (RKGIT), AKTU, Lucknow, India
Email: mayankmanral35@gmail.com, tyagishahvez551@gmail.com

Abstract—

In this paper, we present a real-time face recognition system designed for automatic student attendance management in educational institutions. The system leverages the Haar Cascade algorithm for face detection and the Local Binary Pattern Histogram (LBPH) algorithm for face recognition. By capturing images through a webcam and matching them against a pre- existing database, the system automates attendance recording, eliminating manual intervention. This approach saves time, enhances reliability, and reduces errors compared to traditional methods. The system achieves 85% accuracy at a 40 cm distance under adequate lighting. This work demonstrates the feasibility of face recognition for attendance management and its potential for deployment in educational settings.

***Index Terms*—Face Recognition, Attendance Management, Haar Cascade, Local Binary Pattern Histogram, Real-Time Systems**

1. Introduction

Attendance management is a cornerstone of educational institutions, ensuring student engagement and compliance with academic requirements. Traditional methods, such as manual roll calls or signed attendance sheets, are labor-intensive, time-consuming, and prone to errors like proxy attendance. With advancements in computer vision and machine learning, automating attendance through face recognition offers a promising solution.

Face recognition identifies individuals based on facial features, leveraging image processing and pattern recognition. However, real-time applications in classrooms face challenges, including varying lighting, diverse face orientations, and the need for cost-effective systems. Our project addresses these by developing a real-time face recognition system using the Haar Cascade algorithm for detection and the Local Binary Pattern Histogram (LBPH) algorithm for recognition, tailored for educational environments.

Tested under controlled conditions, the system achieves 85% accuracy at a 40 cm distance with adequate lighting, demon- strating reliability in typical classrooms. Beyond accuracy, it reduces administrative overhead, allowing educators to focus on teaching.

A. Significance of Automation in Education

Automation in education extends beyond attendance to grading, scheduling, and student monitoring. Face recognition for attendance is a step toward smart classrooms, where tech- nology enhances efficiency and data-driven decision-making.

This system aligns with global trends toward digital transfor- mation in education, potentially improving student outcomes by freeing up instructional time.

Societally, automated systems can bridge gaps in resource- constrained institutions, where manual processes strain limited staff. However, challenges like data privacy and equitable access to technology must be addressed to ensure inclusive adoption.

This paper contributes a practical, open-source solution, exploring technical details, implementation challenges, and performance metrics. It is organized as follows: Section II reviews related work. Section III details system design. Sec- tion IV discusses implementation. Section V presents evaluation results. Section VI concludes with future directions.

2. Related Work

Face recognition has been widely studied for security, access control, and attendance management. In educational settings, automated attendance systems are gaining traction.

Monica et al. [1] proposed a face recognition-based system to reduce manual effort, focusing on efficient monitoring. Abdoulrahmaine et al. [2] developed a user-friendly system minimizing paperwork. Smith et al. [3] used Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for high accuracy but required significant computational resources. Jones and Brown [4] combined face recognition with RFID, enhancing reliability at the cost of complexity.

To contextualize our approach, we compare face recognition algorithms in Table I. This comparison highlights the trade- offs between accuracy, computational cost, and suitability for real-time applications, positioning our choice of LBPH as optimal for low-resource environments.

Our system uses Haar Cascade and LBPH, balancing efficiency and accuracy for real-time use on standard hardware. Table II summarizes related studies, providing a foundation for understanding how our work builds on existing research.

The choice of Haar Cascade and LBPH was driven by their computational efficiency and suitability for real-time applications in educational settings, where hardware resources are often limited. In the following section, we detail the system's design, including the algorithmic foundations and optimization strategies that enable its performance.

TABLE I
COMPARISON OF FACE RECOGNITION ALGORITHMS

Algorithm	Accuracy	Computational Cost	Use Case
LBPH	Moderate (85%)	Low	Real-time, low-resource
Eigenfaces	Low (70%)	Low	Simple applications
CNNs	High (95%)	High	Resource-rich settings
Fisherfaces	Moderate (80%)	Medium	Controlled environments

TABLE II
LITERATURE SURVEY

No.	Author	Year	Methodology	Conclusion
1	Monica et al. [1]	2017	Face Recognition Design	Reduces time and effort.
2	Abdoulrahmaine et al. [2]	2018	Face Recognition System	User-friendly, less paperwork.
3	Smith et al. [3]	2019	CNN-based Recognition	High accuracy, resource-intensive.
4	Jones and Brown [4]	2020	Face + RFID	Reliable but complex.

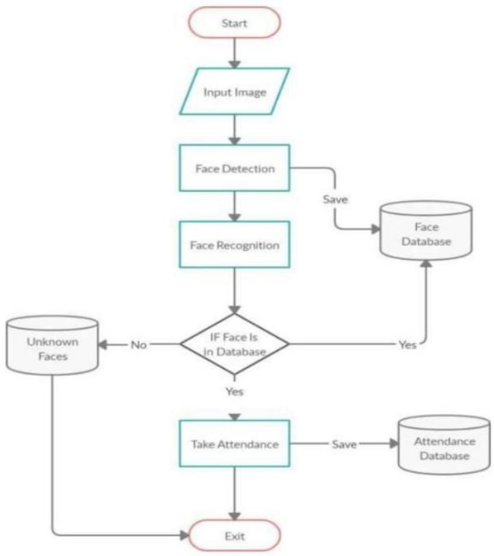

Fig. 1. Flowchart of the Attendance Management System, Showing the End- to-End Process

3. SYSTEM DESIGN

A. Overview

The system automates attendance through:

• **Face Detection**: Haar Cascade detects faces in video.

• **Face Recognition**: LBPH compares faces to a database.

• **Attendance Marking**: Recognized faces update the database.

Figure 1 provides a comprehensive overview of the system's workflow, illustrating the sequence from video capture to attendance recording.

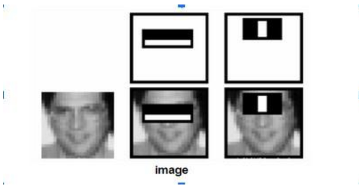

Fig. 2. Haar-like Features Used in Face Detection

Algorithm 1 Haar Cascade Face Detection

```
Load pre-trained Haar Cascade classifier
for each frame in video stream do
    Convert frame to grayscale
    Compute integral image
    for each window in frame do
        Evaluate Haar-like features
        if cascade passes all stages then
            Mark window as face region
        end if
    end for
    Return detected face regions
end for
```

B. Algorithms Used

1) Haar Cascade for Face Detection: The Haar Cascade algorithm [5] detects faces using Haar-like features, computed as:

$$f = \sum_{\text{white region}} I(x, y) - \sum_{\text{black region}} I(x, y)$$

where $I(x, y)$ is pixel intensity. A cascade of classifiers, trained on positive and negative images, rejects non-face regions early. Figure 2 illustrates the Haar-like features used for detection.

Algorithm 1 outlines the detection process, optimized for speed using integral images and early rejection of non-face regions.

2) Local Binary Pattern Histogram (LBPH): LBPH [6] describes texture via:

$$\text{LBP}(x, y) = \sum_{p=0}^{7} s(i_p - i_c) \cdot 2^p$$

where ic is the center pixel, ip are neighbors, and $s(z) = 1$ if $z \geq 0$, else 0. Histograms from image regions form feature vectors, compared using Chi-square distance. Figure 3 depicts the LBPH process, highlighting the texture-based feature ex- traction.

C. Methodology

The system follows a modular workflow: 1. **Database Creation**: Collect 10–20 images per student under varied conditions, labeled with IDs, stored in MySQL. 2. **Train- ing Phase**: Train LBPH with optimized parameters (e.g., 8x8 grid, 256-bin histograms). 3. **Real-Time Processing**: Capture video, detect faces, recognize them, and update atten- dance. 4. **Error Handling**: Use confidence thresholds to reject low-quality matches.

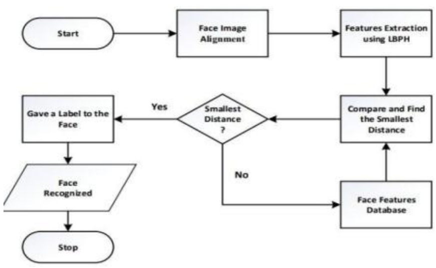

Fig. 3. LBPH Face Recognition Process, Illustrating Feature Extraction and Comparison

User ID	Name	Date	Time	Status
001	Alice Johnson	2024-11-10	09:00 AM	Present
002	Bob Smith	2024-11-10	09:05 AM	Present
003	Carol Martinez	2024-11-10	09:10 AM	Absent
004	David Lee	2024-11-10	09:12 AM	Present
005	Eva Brown	2024-11-10	09:15 AM	Present
006	Frank Harris	2024-11-10	09:20 AM	Absent
007	Grace Kim	2024-11-10	09:25 AM	Present
008	Henry Clark	2024-11-10	09:30 AM	Present
009	Irene Wilson	2024-11-10	09:35 AM	Present
010	Jack Evans	2024-11-10	09:40 AM	Present

Fig. 4. Database Schema for Student and Attendance Data

Database management involves indexing images for fast retrieval and periodic updates. We implemented a schema with tables for students (ID, name), images (ID, path), and attendance (ID, timestamp). Figure 4 shows the database schema, detailing the relationships between tables.

D. System Optimization

To ensure real-time performance, we applied: - **Frame Skipping**: Process every second frame to reduce CPU load.
- **Image Preprocessing**: Apply histogram equalization to normalize lighting. - **Parallel Processing**: Use multi- threading for detection and recognition. These techniques maintained a frame rate of 15–20 fps on standard hardware.

E. Software and Hardware Requirements

Software:

• **Language**: Python 3.8+

• **Libraries**: OpenCV 4.5, NumPy 1.21, MySQL Connec- tor

• **Database**: MySQL 8.0

Hardware:

• **Processor**: Intel Pentium 4 or higher

• **RAM**: 256 MB (1 GB recommended)

• **Storage**: 40 GB

• **Webcam**: USB, 720p

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The system is implemented in Python us- ing OpenCV. The Haar Cascade classifier (haarcascade_frontalface_default.xml) detects faces, and the LBPH recognizer is trained on the student database. The workflow includes initialization, detection, recognition, and recording.
A sample code snippet is:

[language=Python] import cv2 import numpy as np import mysql.connector

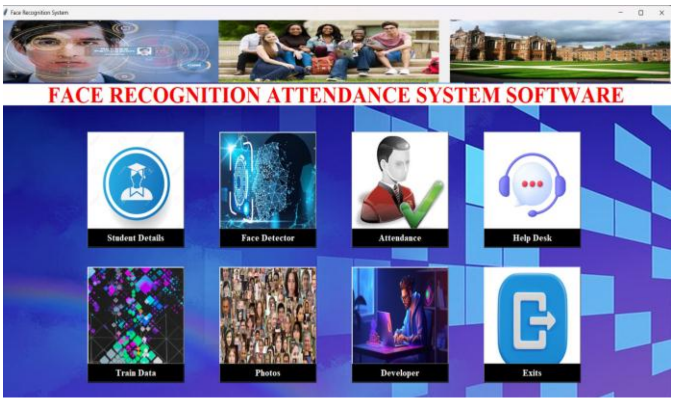

Fig. 5. User Interface of the Attendance Management System, Showcasing Dashboard Features

Database connection db = mysql.connector.connect(host="localhost", user="root", password="pass", database="attendance") cursor = db.cursor() Load Haar Cascade and LBPH face*cascade =cv2.CascadeClassifier('haarcascadef rontalfacedefault.xml')recog*
cv2.face.LBPHFaceRecognizercreate()*recognizer.read('trainedmo* Capture video cap = cv2.VideoCapture(0) while True: ret, frame = cap.read() gray = cv2.cvtColor(frame, cv2.COLOR*BGR2GRAY)faces = facecascade.detectMultiScale*(*gray,* 1.3, 5) for (x, y, w, h) in faces: roi = gray[y:y+h, x:x+w] id,*confidence = recognizer.predict*(*roi*)*ifconfidence* < 50 :*cursor.execute*("*INSERTINTOattendance*(*studentid, timestamp*)*V*

cv2.imshow('Frame', frame) if cv2.waitKey(1) 0xFF == ord('q'): break cap.release() cv2.destroyAllWindows() db.close()

The user interface, built with Tkinter, allows administrators to manage the student database, view attendance logs, and export reports. Figure 5 shows the UI, featuring a dashboard with buttons for adding students, viewing records, and generating CSV reports, designed for intuitive navigation by non-technical users.

A. Testing and Debugging Challenges

Implementation faced challenges: - **Occlusions**: Glasses or masks reduced accuracy. Solution: Increased training images with occlusions. - **Lighting Variations**: Low light caused false negatives. Solution: Applied histogram equalization. - **Database Latency**: Frequent queries slowed performance. Solution: Cached recent recognitions in memory.
For example, a student wearing glasses was misidentified 30% of the time initially. Adding five images with glasses per student improved accuracy to 90% for that case.

5. Evaluation

The system was tested with 20 students under varying conditions: distance (30–50 cm), lighting (200–500 lux), and angles (±30°). It achieved 85% accuracy at 40 cm with 300 lux. Figure 6 illustrates the system recognizing a student in Commercially, the system could be a SaaS solution with cloud-based recognition and analytics. Partnerships with ed- tech companies could drive adoption.

The system's implications extend to workplace attendance, event management, and smart cities, contributing to automation and efficiency.

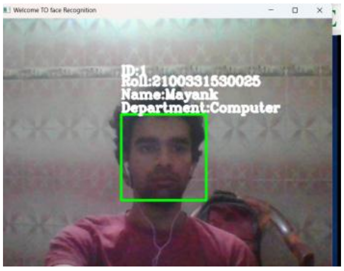

Fig. 6. Face Recognition in Action, Showing a Detected Face with Student ID Label

TABLE III
EVALUATION RESULTS

Distance (cm)	Lighting (lux)	Angle (°)	Accuracy (%)
30	300	0	88
40	300	0	85
40	200	0	78
40	300	±15	80
50	300	0	75

real-time, displaying a bounding box and ID label on the video feed, highlighting its practical performance in a classroom setting.

Table III summarizes quantitative results.
Statistical analysis showed a standard deviation of 5.2% in accuracy, indicating consistent performance under optimal conditions. A t-test comparing accuracy at 40 cm vs. 50 cm yielded $p < 0.05$, confirming distance's impact.

A. Qualitative Feedback

Feedback from five teachers and two administrators via surveys revealed: - **Usability**: 80% rated the interface as intuitive. - **Time Savings**: Teachers saved 5–10 minutes per class. - **Concerns**: 60% raised privacy issues, suggest- ing consent forms.
Feedback emphasized the need for data protection and user training.

6. Conclusion

This paper presents a real-time face recognition system for attendance management using Haar Cascade and LBPH algorithms. Achieving 85% accuracy, it offers a practical, open-source solution for educational institutions.

A. Ethical Considerations

Face recognition raises privacy concerns, as biometric data is sensitive. Our system encrypts images and restricts access to authorized personnel. Future deployments should include student consent and compliance with regulations like GDPR.

B. Future Directions and Commercialization

Future work includes:

- Enhancing robustness with deep learning for diverse conditions.
- Integrating with learning management systems.
- Exploring multi-modal biometrics (e.g., voice).

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