WWW.IJRPR.COM

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

PEOPLE COUNTING SYSTEM IN REAL-TIME

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ABSTRACT :

A People Counting System in real time is a modern solution designed to track and monitor the number of individuals within a given space as events unfold. Leveraging technologies such as computer vision, infrared sensors, and AI-based video analytics, these systems provide instant data on crowd density, movement patterns, and occupancy rates. Real-time people counting is widely used in shopping malls, airports, public transportation, smart buildings, and during large-scale events to enhance crowd management, optimize resource allocation, and ensure safety compliance. With the rising demand for intelligent infrastructure and responsive environments, real-time people counting has become an essential tool for both public and private sectors, enabling smarter decision-making and improving user experiences across various industries.

INTRODUCTION

The ability to count people in real time has become a crucial requirement in various domains, including transportation hubs, retail environments, public events, and smart city infrastructure. Real-time people counting systems enable organizations to monitor crowd density, track movement patterns, and optimize the use of resources, enhancing both operational efficiency and safety. Traditional methods of people counting, such as manual observation or basic infrared sensors, are often inadequate in dynamic or crowded settings, leading to inaccuracies and a lack of scalability. This limitation has spurred the need for more advanced, automated systems that can deliver high precision in real-time.

Background of the project People Counting System in real time:

Advancements in computer vision and deep learning technologies have paved the way for the development of intelligent people counting systems. These systems leverage state-of-the-art techniques such as object detection and tracking to accurately identify and monitor individuals within a given area. Technologies like YOLO (You Only Look Once), an efficient object detection model, have revolutionized the ability to process real-time video feeds with high accuracy and speed. Additionally, tracking algorithms such as centroid tracking and Kalman filtering play a crucial role in maintaining consistent identification of individuals across consecutive frames, even in complex environments.

Purpose of the research and objectives of People Counting System in real time:

This research focuses on developing a robust, efficient, and scalable real-time people counting system that operates effectively even on edge devices with limited computational resources. By integrating deep learning-based object detection with lightweight tracking mechanisms, the proposed system aims to strike a balance between high accuracy and operational feasibility. The study evaluates the system's performance in both controlled benchmarks and real-world settings, demonstrating the potential of modern computer vision techniques to provide effective solutions for real-time people counting applications. These advancements offer significant improvements over traditional counting methods, providing not only accurate occupancy data but also supporting decision-making in crowd management, security, and resource allocation.

METHODOLOGY

Overall Description of the Real-Time People Counting System

The real-time people counting system is designed to effectively monitor the number of people within a specified space, providing organizations with accurate, real-time occupancy data. This system primarily uses video feeds from strategically placed cameras to track individuals' movements and count their presence within a given area. By leveraging advanced machine learning techniques such as object detection and tracking algorithms, the system can provide continuous, real-time updates on foot traffic, ensuring organizations can manage their resources and spaces efficiently. This technology is applicable in environments like retail spaces, public transportation hubs, event venues, and smart buildings, where accurate crowd management and space

utilization are essential. The system offers the advantage of real-time data collection and analysis, helping organizations make data-driven decisions related to staffing, safety, and operations.

Data Collection Methods and Analysis Techniques:

Object Detection Using YOLO (You Only Look Once):

Object detection is central to identifying people in video streams. For this task, the **YOLO (You Only Look Once)** model is implemented, a highly efficient and fast object detection algorithm. YOLO works by dividing each frame into a grid and then predicting bounding boxes and class labels (such as "person") for any detected object within those boxes. The YOLO model is ideal for real-time applications due to its speed and accuracy, allowing the system to detect people in crowded or dynamic environments while maintaining high frame rates. This makes YOLO particularly suitable for environments where rapid decision-making is required.

Tracking Algorithm (Centroid Tracking and Kalman Filtering):

Once individuals are detected, the next challenge is to track their movements across successive video frames. To maintain continuity and ensure accurate counting, tracking algorithms like **Centroid Tracking** and **Kalman Filtering** are employed. Centroid tracking works by calculating the centroid, or centre, of the bounding box of each detected person, assigning an ID to the individual, and following their movement across frames. Kalman Filtering enhances this tracking by predicting the future position of individuals based on their movement patterns and correcting for any discrepancies in detection. These combined tracking techniques ensure the system can maintain consistent identification of people, even as they move quickly or in dense crowds.

FUNCTIONS AND FEATURES

1. Real-Time Monitoring of Occupancy Levels

The core function of a real-time people counting system is to monitor and track the number of people in a designated area instantaneously. Using video streams from strategically placed cameras, the system detects when individuals enter or exit the monitored space, updating occupancy data in real time. This is critical for businesses, event organizers, and facilities that need to manage space usage and ensure safe crowd management.

2. Precise Detection Through Object Detection

A key feature of the system is its ability to detect people with high accuracy, even in crowded or dynamic environments. The system utilizes advanced **YOLO (You Only Look Once)** object detection algorithms, which are known for their speed and reliability. YOLO processes video frames to identify and classify people, allowing the system to quickly and accurately count individuals within the scene, minimizing the chance of errors or missed detections.

3. Tracking Movement Across Frames

After detecting individuals, the system employs advanced tracking algorithms to follow their movements over time. Techniques such as **Centroid Tracking** and **Kalman Filtering** are used to track each person's movement across consecutive video frames, ensuring continuous monitoring. These tracking mechanisms allow the system to distinguish between individuals, even in fast-paced or crowded scenarios, preserving accurate counts and identifying the specific paths people take.

4. Edge Computing for Instant Processing

The real-time processing capability of the system is supported by **edge computing**, which enables local data processing directly at the camera site or nearby servers. By processing the data locally, the system reduces latency, ensuring that occupancy data is updated instantly. This setup avoids the delays often associated with cloud-based processing, making the system ideal for environments where timely decision-making is essential.

5. Scalability and Flexibility for Various Environments

One of the defining features of the system is its **scalability**. Whether deployed in a small office space or a large public venue, the system can scale to meet the specific needs of any environment. Additional cameras or sensors can be integrated into the system as needed, allowing it to adapt to changing layouts or expanding spaces. This flexibility ensures the system remains effective regardless of the size or complexity of the monitored area.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

User feedback and satisfaction rating:

Quality Assurance:

User feedback and satisfaction ratings play an essential role in assessing the performance of a real-time people counting system. These insights help measure the system's accuracy, reliability, and efficiency. Positive feedback indicates the system's ability to accurately count people in various environments, ensuring high user satisfaction and trust in the technology. This feedback is a key indicator of how well the system fulfils the needs of businesses, event organizers, or facility managers. Negative feedback, on the other hand, provides actionable insights into areas that need improvement, such as refining system performance in dense crowds or optimizing user interface elements for better accessibility.

User Engagement:

Collecting feedback from users demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and transparency. Engaging users in the feedback process fosters trust and collaboration, making them feel involved in the development of the system. This open communication contributes to more effective improvements that enhance user experience, operational efficiency, and the overall success of the system. The continuous feedback loop ensures that the system adapts over time to meet the real-world needs of users, which enhances long-term performance and satisfaction.

Pre-Technology vs. Post-Technology Performance

1.Performance Before the Implementation of Advanced Systems:

In the past, traditional methods for people counting often relied on manual processes or outdated technologies, which presented several challenges:

a. Manual Counting: Manual headcounts were time-consuming and prone to human error, particularly in crowded or fast-moving environments. This approach required significant staff resources and was not practical for large or complex spaces, leading to inefficiency and inconsistent results.

b. Limited Detection Accuracy and Scalability:

Older technologies, such as infrared sensors or pressure mats, struggled to deliver accurate results in dynamic settings. These systems often failed to provide reliable counts in high-traffic or crowded areas, resulting in incomplete or inaccurate data that could not be used effectively for decision-making.

c. Delayed Data Reporting:

Traditional systems typically reported data after significant delays, preventing real-time decision-making. This lag in data collection and analysis meant organizations had limited visibility into crowd behaviour or occupancy levels, hindering their ability to react quickly in changing circumstances.

1.Performance After the Implementation of Advanced Real-Time Systems:

The adoption of modern technologies, such as object detection models like YOLO and real-time tracking algorithms, has significantly enhanced people counting systems. These improvements provide several advantages:

a. Automated and Accurate Detection:

Real-time systems, utilizing sophisticated object detection algorithms, ensure highly accurate counting of individuals, with minimal human involvement. These systems can handle crowded spaces and rapidly moving individuals with great precision, minimizing errors and providing consistent data.

b. Intelligent and Dynamic Tracking:

The integration of tracking algorithms like Kalman filtering and centroid tracking ensures continuous monitoring of individuals, even when they move quickly or interact with others. This dynamic tracking ensures that each individual is counted correctly throughout the space, overcoming many challenges faced by earlier technologies.

c. Real-Time Data Processing and Insights:

The ability to process data in real time is one of the most notable advancements. Modern systems provide continuous updates on occupancy levels and crowd density, allowing for immediate action. This capability allows businesses or event organizers to respond promptly to changes in the environment, such as adjusting staffing levels or managing crowd flow.

d. Improved Decision-Making and Safety Management:

The system's ability to detect patterns and anomalies in crowd behaviour has a direct impact on safety and operational efficiency. Real-time alerts about overcrowding or unusual movements can trigger swift action from security personnel or staff, ensuring a safer environment. Additionally, predictive insights into peak times help organizations plan and allocate resources more effectively, optimizing operations and enhancing the overall experience for individuals in the space.

FUTURE SCOPE

1.Integration of Advanced AI and Deep Learning Models:

Future developments in people counting systems may incorporate more advanced versions of deep learning algorithms that further enhance detection accuracy under challenging conditions. These improvements can help the system function effectively in environments with varying lighting, occlusions, and complex human interactions.

2. 3D and Thermal Sensing Integration:

Adding 3D cameras or thermal imaging sensors can significantly improve the system's ability to differentiate individuals in densely packed areas. This would enable more precise crowd counting and person detection, even in low-light or nighttime conditions, making the system useful in a broader range of applications including emergency scenarios.

3.Scalability for Smart City Applications:
With urban infrastructure evolving into smart cities, real-time people counting systems could be scaled to integrate with traffic monitoring, public transportation analytics, and urban planning tools. This would help authorities monitor crowd flow, manage public safety, and optimize city services in real time.

4. Privacy-Preserving Techniques:
As concerns over surveillance and personal data continue to grow, future systems may adopt privacy-preserving techniques such as anonymized tracking and edge-based processing. These approaches would ensure that individuals are not personally identifiable while still allowing accurate people count and behaviour analysis.

5.Cross-Platform and IoT Integration:
Future systems may be designed to work seamlessly across multiple platforms, including mobile apps and IoT devices. This integration could support remote monitoring, real-time alerts, and automated control of physical infrastructure, such as adjusting HVAC systems based on occupancy levels

CONCLUSION :

The implementation of real-time people counting systems powered by artificial intelligence has marked a significant advancement in crowd monitoring and space management. By leveraging modern computer vision techniques and intelligent tracking algorithms, these systems provide accurate, automated, and efficient solutions for counting individuals across a wide range of environments. This technology minimizes the need for manual monitoring, reduces human error, and delivers immediate insights that support data-driven decisions in sectors such as retail, transportation, event management, and smart infrastructure. Moreover, the scalability and adaptability of AI-based people counting systems make them well-suited to meet the demands of dynamic and high-traffic environments. As digital innovation continues to evolve, real-time people counting will play a critical role in enhancing safety, optimizing operations, and enabling intelligent resource planning in both public and private spaces.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our deep appreciation to Shri Ramswaroop Memorial College of Management for all of their help with this initiative. We particularly grateful to Mr. Rishabh Shukla for his technical know-how, sage advice, and unwavering support. We also value the commitment of all lectures and college employees who have helped us flourish. We really appreciate your support and direction. We welcome your contribution to our journey.
We also like to express our gratitude to all of the colleges staff members and professors who made contributions to our personal development.
We are grateful for all of your support and inspirations.

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