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AI and ML-Driven Smart Attendance System: Real-Time Face Recognition Using DNN and NVIDIA Jetson Nano

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Abstract: Attendance management is an essential task in educational and organizational settings, often plagued by inefficiencies in traditional methods such as manual roll calls and sign-in sheets. This paper proposes an AI and ML-based Face Recognition Attendance System that leverages the NVIDIA Jetson Nano for real-time, automated attendance tracking. The system utilizes advanced facial recognition technology, employing the OpenCV Deep Neural Network (DNN) framework and Haar Cascade Classifier for accurate face detection and recognition. The NVIDIA Jetson Nano's GPU-accelerated capabilities ensure efficient processing, enabling the system to operate in real-time without reliance on external servers.

Key components of the system include capturing facial data through a webcam, detecting faces using Haar Cascade, and recognizing them through the OpenCV DNN framework. Attendance data is logged automatically and updated in realtime in an Excel spreadsheet, simplifying reporting and reducing administrative burdens. This fully automated system addresses challenges associated with traditional and biometric attendance methods, including time inefficiency, scalability limitations, and susceptibility to errors.

Experimental results demonstrate a recognition accuracy of 94% under standard conditions and 88% in low-light environments, with an average processing time of 1.5 seconds per recognition. These results highlight the system's reliability, scalability, and adaptability for diverse applications. The proposed solution aligns with the global trend toward digital transformation, showcasing the potential of AI and ML in addressing real-world challenges while maintaining data security and integrity.

Keywords: Face Recognition, Deep Learning, OpenCV DNN, NVIDIA Jetson Nano, Haar Cascade.

I. INTRODUCTION

Attendance management is a fundamental administrative task in educational institutions and workplaces, serving as a critical metric for monitoring participation and productivity. Traditional methods of attendance tracking, such as manual roll calls or sign-in sheets, are not only time-consuming but also prone to errors and manipulation[1][2].Even biometric systems, including fingerprint scanning and RFID, face challenges such as scalability, hygiene concerns, and susceptibility to fraudulent practices[3][9].These inefficiencies necessitate the adoption of innovative, automated solutions that are efficient, accurate, and secure.

Facial recognition technology has emerged as a robust alternative, leveraging advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). By analyzing unique facial features, these systems provide contactless, non-intrusive, and highly accurate methods of identifying individuals. Recent research highlights the effectiveness of algorithms such as Haar Cascade for face detection and Local Binary Patterns Histogram (LBPH) for recognition in real-time applications[7][8]The use of deep learning models, integrated with platforms like OpenCV DNN, further enhances accuracy and adaptability in varying environmental conditions[8][9]

Edge computing devices like the NVIDIA Jetson Nano have revolutionized the deployment of such systems, offering powerful GPU-accelerated processing capabilities in a cost-effective, compact form factor. Studies comparing Raspberry



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Pi and Jetson Nano consistently demonstrate the latter's superior performance in handling computationally intensive tasks, such as real-time facial recognition.[10]By reducing reliance on cloud infrastructure, these devices ensure low-latency operations and enhanced data security, making them ideal for resource-constrained environments[10][8]

This paper presents a fully automated AI and ML-based attendance system leveraging the NVIDIA Jetson Nano. The system employs advanced facial recognition techniques to capture, detect, and identify faces in real-time. Key features include the use of Haar Cascade for initial face detection and OpenCV DNN for recognition, ensuring high-speed and reliable operations. Attendance records are logged automatically and updated in Excel sheets for ease of access and reporting, streamlining administrative workflows[6][7].

Key Advantages of the Proposed System:

- 1. Accuracy and Efficiency: Achieves recognition rates exceeding 90% while minimizing processing time, making it suitable for real-time applications[8][9]
- 2. Scalability: The system's modular architecture allows easy expansion to accommodate larger datasets and more complex environments[10]
- 3. Edge Computing Integration: By utilizing the NVIDIA Jetson Nano, the system ensures reduced latency, enhanced data security, and cost-effectiveness[10][3]

As educational institutions and organizations increasingly adopt digital solutions, automated attendance systems are becoming essential for improving operational efficiency and accuracy. This research highlights the transformative potential of integrating AI and ML technologies with edge computing, offering a practical, scalable solution to modern attendance management challenges.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The development of automated attendance systems has been a significant focus in the domain of computer vision and machine learning, with numerous studies addressing the limitations of traditional methods. This literature survey highlights key contributions from the provided papers, focusing on facial recognition technologies, algorithms, and implementation platforms relevant to the proposed system.

A. Facial Recognition in Attendance Systems.

Facial recognition technology has emerged as a reliable alternative to traditional and biometric attendance systems. Systems utilizing algorithms like Haar Cascade and LBPH (Local Binary Patterns Histogram) have demonstrated significant potential for real-time face detection and recognition. These methods, while effective, often require high computational resources for large-scale deployments. OpenCV-based implementations have shown success in achieving high accuracy rates, with studies reporting recognition accuracy exceeding 90% in controlled environments[7][8][9].

The adoption of deep learning techniques, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and the OpenCV Deep Neural Network (DNN) module, has further enhanced the robustness of facial recognition systems. These models excel in handling variations in lighting, facial orientations, and occlusions, addressing common challenges faced by earlier algorithms[8][9].Moreover, the integration of real-time data processing capabilities ensures seamless attendance logging, as demonstrated in multiple studies [7][10].

B. Algorithm Selection and Performance.

- Haar Cascade Classifier: Widely utilized for its simplicity and efficiency in face detection, Haar Cascade operates by identifying facial features in real-time. Its implementation in Python using OpenCV has been instrumental in developing cost-effective attendance systems[2][9].
- LBPH Algorithm: LBPH enhances recognition accuracy by extracting local features and comparing them to a pre-trained dataset. Its ability to handle low-resolution images makes it a popular choice for facial recognition in real-time applications[7][8]
- K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN): Studies have demonstrated the use of KNN for face classification due to its simplicity and adaptability. By evaluating feature vectors of detected faces against pre-stored data, KNN achieves reliable results in attendance systems[9]
- OpenCV DNN: The OpenCV DNN module has gained prominence for its compatibility with deep learning frameworks and efficiency in edge-based facial recognition systems. It facilitates the deployment of pre-trained models on devices like the NVIDIA Jetson Nano, enabling real-time recognition with high accuracy[8][10].



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C. Edge Computing Platforms.

The rise of edge computing has revolutionized the deployment of real-time attendance systems. Comparative analyses of Raspberry Pi and NVIDIA Jetson Nano have highlighted the latter's superior performance in running computationally intensive algorithms. The Jetson Nano's GPU-accelerated architecture supports parallel processing, enabling seamless execution of AI models[10]

Studies have demonstrated the feasibility of deploying deep learning models on the Jetson Nano for applications such as face detection and recognition. Its low cost, ease of use, and high processing capabilities make it an ideal platform for edge-based attendance systems[3][10]

D. Practical Implementations.

Several research efforts have explored practical implementations of facial recognition-based attendance systems:

- Real-Time Attendance Logging: Systems utilizing cameras for real-time face detection and recognition have shown significant improvements in accuracy and efficiency compared to manual methods. Data logging in secure formats, such as Excel, ensures accessibility and ease of reporting.[7][8]
- Multi-Camera Deployments: Studies have explored multi-camera setups to reduce occlusion effects and enhance detection accuracy, especially in large classrooms or offices[8]
- Data Security: Ensuring secure storage and processing of facial data is critical. Many systems employ encrypted databases and restricted access to maintain data integrity[1][5]

E. Challenges and Future Directions.

While facial recognition-based attendance systems address many challenges of traditional methods, several limitations persist. Low-light performance, scalability for larger datasets, and handling variations in facial expressions remain areas for improvement[8][10]Future research should focus on integrating advanced deep learning models and enhancing system robustness under diverse conditions[7]. The research aims to address these challenges by integrating advanced recognition models, incorporating data augmentation techniques, and optimizing algorithms for edge devices. Studies also emphasize the potential of combining facial recognition systems with other emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence-based activity monitoring, to enhance overall functionality[4][7].

The reviewed studies collectively underscore the potential of integrating AI and ML technologies with edge computing devices like the NVIDIA Jetson Nano. By leveraging algorithms such as Haar Cascade, LBPH, and OpenCV DNN, these systems achieve high accuracy and reliability in real-time attendance management. The insights from these studies form the foundation for the proposed fully automated face recognition attendance system, addressing limitations of existing solutions and paving the way for scalable, secure, and efficient implementations.

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the proposed AI and ML-based fully automated face recognition smart attendance system is structured based on insights derived from the referenced studies. It integrates state-of-the-art facial recognition algorithms and edge computing technologies to provide a scalable and efficient solution.

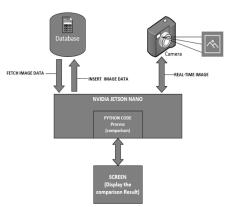


Fig-1 Block Diagram of proposed System

The above figure 1 shows us the steps for recognizing smart attendance systems using Navida Jeston Nano. First, we operate the attendance and departure cameras using the Navida Jeston Nano. The camera takes a video of the attendance.



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Second, the captured video enters the system via the Navida Jeston Nano. Third, it will compare the video captured using Python codes.

Finally, these images go to the information in the system, which is the database. The data entered is then compared there. If the images entered via the camera match the images in the stored data, the person will be numbered as present. If the images do not match, it will be entered in the system that the person was absent.

A. System Archtecture

The proposed system is designed to automate attendance management using real-time facial recognition. The system comprises both hardware and software components that work cohesively to provide a seamless attendance management solution. The complete design of a proposed system is shown in figure 2.



Fig -2 Complete design of a proposed system

• **NVIDIA Jetson Nano**: Serves as the primary computing platform, leveraging its GPU-accelerated capabilities for deep learning model inference figure 3.



Fig -3 NVIDIA Jetson Nano
Camera Module: Captures real-time video streams for face detection and recognition figure -4



Fig -4 Camera module

• **OpenCV Framework**: Facilitates image processing, including face detection and recognition figure 5.

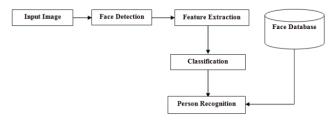


Fig -5 Block diagram of OpenCV framework



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OpenCV facilitates image preprocessing, face detection, and recognition[3][6].Haar Cascade Algorithm is used for efficient face detection by analyzing Haar-like features to identify facial structures[3][9].OpenCV DNN Module leverages deep learning models, including CNNs, for robust feature extraction and recognition[6][8].Python used for programming the system and integrating hardware and software functionalities[7][8].Attendance data is logged and stored securely for reporting and analysis.

B. Work Flow

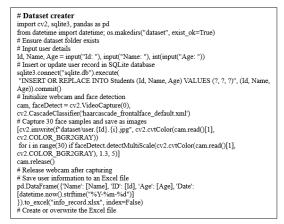
The system operates in a step-by-step workflow that ensures efficient and accurate attendance marking includes the python implementation for the key sections of the methodology.

In the subsequent stages, we mention some sample pseudo programs step by step to develop a fully automatic intelligent attendance system based on face recognition, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

• Data Acquisition

Real-time video streams are captured through a camera connected to the NVIDIA Jetson Nano. Images undergo preprocessing to normalize resolution, brightness, and contrast for consistent input quality.

This code integrates face detection, database management, and data logging into a streamlined system. It uses OpenCV to detect faces via a pre-trained Haar Cascade and captures 30 face images from a webcam, saving them in a dataset folder.



Data Acquisition

• Face Detection

Haar Cascade Classifier detects facial regions in video frames by analyzing features like eyes, nose, and mouth.Pre-trained models in OpenCV enhance detection accuracy, even under challenging conditions like occlusions or varied lighting.

Face Detection

• Face Recognition

Detected faces are passed to the OpenCV DNN framework for recognition, utilizing CNN-based feature extraction. Complementary algorithms like Local Binary Patterns Histogram (LBPH) and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) are integrated to further improve recognition accuracy and adaptability to diverse datasets.

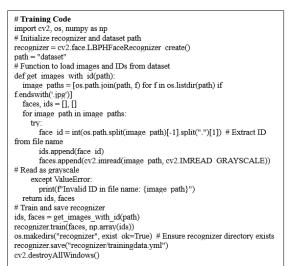


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Face Recognition

• Attendance Logging

Recognized faces are matched against a pre-stored database. Attendance is automatically marked in an Excel spreadsheet, with records updated in real-time for easy reporting and analysis.

Take Attendance: import cv2, os, sqlite3, pandas as pd from datetime import datetime
Load face detection and recognition models
facedetect = cv2.CascadeClassifier('haarcascade_frontalface_default.xml') recognizer = cv2.face.LBPHFaceRecognizer_create(); recognizer.read("recognizer/trainingdata.yml") cam, attendance_ids = cv2.VideoCapture(0), set()
Initialize camera and attendance tracker
while True: ret, frame = cam.read(); gray = cv2.cvtColor(frame, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
<pre># Capture and preprocess frame for (x, y, w, h) in facedetect.detectMultiScale(gray, 1.3, 5): # Detect faces face_id, conf = recognizer.predict(gray[y:y+h, x:x+w]) # Recognize face if conf < 50 and face_id not in attendance_ids:</pre>
Check confidence and avoid duplicate attendance
profile = sqlite3.connect("sqlite.db").execute("SELECT * FROM Students WHERE id=?", (face_id,)).fetchone() if profile: attendance_ids.add(face_id); now = datetime.now()
Fetch profile and record attendance pd.DataFrame([{'Name': profile[1], 'ID': profile[0], 'Day': now.strftime("%Y- %m-%d"), 'Time': now.strftime("%H:%M:%S"), 'Attendance': 'Present')]).to_excel('attendance_records.xlsx', index=False, mode='a', header=not os.path.exists('attendance_records.xlsx') if cv2.waitKey(1) & 0xFF == ord('q'): break # Exit loop on 'q' cam.release(); cv2.destroyAllWindows() # Release camera and close windows

Attendance Logging

C. System Optimization

Data augmentation methods, such as rotation, scaling, and normalization, are applied to improve recognition under varying conditions. The NVIDIA Jetson Nano ensures low-latency processing by leveraging its GPU architecture, enabling realtime facial recognition without reliance on cloud infrastructure. The system supports the addition of more users and multicamera setups without significant degradation in performance.



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D. Experimental Setup

The system is tested in various environments, including classrooms and offices, with diverse lighting and occlusion conditions. A custom dataset of facial images is created, featuring variations in lighting, angles, and facial expressions to train and test the system effectively. The system is evaluated based on recognition accuracy, processing time, and system reliability.

The system is expected to identify and log attendance within 1–2 seconds per individual. An accuracy rate exceeding 90% is targeted under standard conditions, with consistent performance even in low-light environments. The modular architecture supports larger datasets and multi-camera deployments for broader coverage.

This methodology ensures that the proposed attendance system leverages advanced algorithms and hardware for high performance, accuracy, and scalability. By integrating real-time facial recognition with efficient data logging, it addresses the inefficiencies of traditional methods and provides a foundation for future advancements in attendance management systems.

IV. RESULTS

A. Detecting face.

Our objective is to process an input image and output a bounding box, defined by coordinates (x, y, width, height), indicating the location of any detected face(s) within the image. After capturing the image, the system compares it with photos stored in a database and retrieves the most relevant matches. To achieve this, we utilize "Haar-like" features for immediate face detection in videos. This technique identifies eyes, noses, mouths, and other facial features by applying edge, line, and center detection. By recognizing and extracting the most relevant elements, the method detects faces in an image is shown in figure 6.

The next step involves drawing a rectangular box around the detected face(s) by specifying the coordinates for x, y, w, and h, highlighting the region of interest. Once the face position is determined, the image is saved as training data. This detection method is also employed during the recognition process to identify faces.

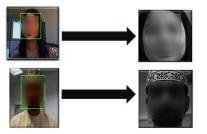


Fig-6 Detecting face

B. Training the Dataset (face images)

A dataset containing the student's facial images is required for training data. We also need to supply the ID and the student's name for every image for the algorithm to identify it and deliver a result. The same ID must appear in every picture of the same student. Those pictures are all kept in one folder. This is how the structure is displayed:

To generate a training model file, the LBPH (Local Binary Pattern Histogram) computation must be completed once the dataset has been prepared. The process begins by converting the facial attributes into a binary image that closely resembles the original. This binary LBP image is then divided into multiple grids, allowing each grid to be processed separately. For a grayscale image, each grid's histogram will have 256 bins (values ranging from 0 to 255) representing the frequency of pixel intensities.

| --- > Student A.2.jpg | --- > Student B.2.jpg

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Subsequently, the histograms from all grids are concatenated into a single, larger histogram. For example, if the image is divided into a 10x10 grid, the final histogram will contain 10x10x256 = 25,600 bins. This concatenated histogram effectively captures the distinctive features of the image. Finally, the histograms for dall individuals in the dataget are generated and stored collectively in a single file named "Trainner.yml" (a commonly used file format for trained models with the suffix .ml) is shown in the figure 7.



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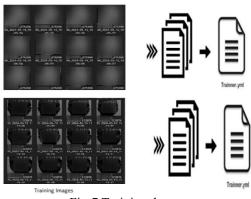


Fig-7 Training dataset

After an image has been trained, a Trainner.yml file is generated for each one. Throughout the entire recognition process, this file is used.

C. Face Recognition and Marking Attendance.

An external camera can be mounted to capture real-time images, which are then processed to recognize a student's (or person's) face. The face detection method previously discussed is applied to identify faces in the captured images, and the LBPH algorithm is used on the detected faces. For each detected face, a set of histograms is generated. These histograms are then compared to those in the pre-trained model file ("Trainer.yml") to find the closest match.

Various methods, such as Euclidean distance, absolute value, or chi-square, can be employed to calculate the distance between histograms and identify the closest one. In this approach, the Euclidean distance is used to determine the similarity between histograms. The facial recognition algorithm returns the label of the histogram with the smallest distance. Additionally, the algorithm provides the distance value, often referred to as the "confidence level." Lower confidence levels indicate a smaller difference between histograms, meaning a more accurate match clearly shown in figure 8.

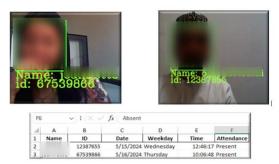


Fig-8 Face Recognition and Marking Attendance

A threshold value can be applied to determine the success of facial recognition. When the confidence level is below the defined threshold, the recognition is deemed successful.

A person's attendance is recorded in the attend_rds.xlsx" file whenever their face is recognized. The name, ID, date, weekday, time, and attendance of the individual are all contained in the excel file.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMANDATIONS

The fully automated face recognition smart attendance system, powered by NVIDIA Jetson Nano, AI, and ML, is a significant advancement in attendance management. By leveraging deep learning, it ensures real-time, accurate, and efficient attendance recording while reducing errors and preventing proxy attendance. However, privacy and ethical considerations must be addressed by ensuring proper consent and robust data protection.

Future enhancements could improve the system's accuracy through refined algorithms, regular updates, and advancements in AI/ML. The system's scalability can also be expanded by accommodating more users and adapting



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templates to account for significant changes in facial features. While this implementation serves as a prototype, these recommendations highlight its potential for further development and flexibility.

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