FACIAL ATTENDANCE HUB: A SMART ATTENDANCE SYSTEM USING FACE RECOGNITION

Prof Ashwini Wakodikar
Assistant Professor, Computer Application, K. D. K College of Engineering, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
ashwini.wakodikar@kdkce.edu.in

Rupal Khobragade
MCA, Computer Application, K. D. K College of Engineering, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
rupalkhobragade.mca23@kdkce.edu.in

Bhawana Asatkar
MCA, Computer Application, K. D. K College of Engineering, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
bhawanaasatkar.mca23@kdkce.edu.in

Abstract
*Managing attendance in educational institutions and workplaces manually is often time-consuming and prone to errors. Traditional methods, such as roll calls or paper-based records, lack efficiency and are vulnerable to proxy attendance. To overcome these limitations, this paper introduces Facial Attendance Hub, an advanced system that utilizes facial recognition technology to automate the attendance process. The system integrates **OpenCV** for detecting faces, **Local Binary Patterns Histograms (LBPH)** for face recognition, and **Firebase** for real-time database management. By processing live video streams, the system identifies individuals by matching their faces with a pre- trained database, marking attendance seamlessly. Designed for scalability, ease of use, and security, the system ensures precise and efficient attendance tracking. Experimental evaluations indicate high accuracy and real-time responsiveness, making it a practical solution for modern attendance.*

***Keywords**: Face Recognition, Attendance System, LBPH, OpenCV, Firebase, Biometric Authentication, Real-Time Processing.*

I. Introduction

Effective attendance management plays a crucial role in maintaining discipline and productivity in educational institutions and workplaces. However, conventional attendance-tracking methods, such as manual roll calls and paper-based records, are outdated, inefficient, and susceptible to human errors. These traditional approaches require substantial time and effort, making them impractical for large- scale organizations. Additionally, one of the major drawbacks of manual systems is their vulnerability to proxy attendance, where an individual marks attendance on behalf of an absent student or employee. Such fraudulent activities compromise the reliability of attendance records and undermine institutional policies. With advancements in biometric technologies, face recognition has emerged as a promising and non- intrusive alternative to traditional attendance management systems. Unlike fingerprint or RFID-based methods that require physical contact or card swiping, face recognition offers a contactless and automated approach, making it more convenient and hygienic. The Facial Attendance Hub is a smart attendance system developed to leverage face recognition technology for automating attendance marking. It processes live video streams, detects individuals' faces, and matches them with a pre- registered database to accurately track attendance in real-time. The system is designed to be scalable, user-friendly, and highly secure, ensuring a seamless experience for both administrators and users. By eliminating the need for manual intervention, the system enhances efficiency and reduces the possibility of attendance manipulation.

1.1. Problem Statement

Traditional attendance-tracking methods have several limitations that make them unsuitable for modern institutions and workplaces. Manual processes, such as calling out names for roll calls or using physical registers, are time-consuming, error-prone, and inefficient, especially when managing large groups. Additionally, these conventional methods lack scalability, making it difficult for institutions with thousands of students or employees to maintain accurate records.

A significant issue with manual attendance systems is proxy attendance, where individuals manipulate the system by marking attendance on behalf of absent peers. This practice compromises the integrity of attendance records and can have serious consequences in academic and professional environments. Moreover, paper-based attendance logs are susceptible to damage, loss, or unauthorized alterations, further reducing their reliability. Given these shortcomings, there is a need for an automated, secure, and scalable attendance management solution that minimizes errors and prevents fraudulent attendance marking.

1.2. Objectives

The main goals of the **Facial Attendance Hub** include:

1. **Automating the attendance process** through advanced face recognition technology.
2. **Preventing proxy attendance** and ensuring precise attendance monitoring.
3. **Offering a scalable and user-friendly system** for efficient attendance management.
4. **Incorporating real-time database management** via Firebase to ensure secure data storage.

II. Literature Survey

Several studies have examined the effectiveness of face recognition technology in automating attendance management. These studies have explored different approaches, including integrating RFID technology, utilizing machine learning algorithms, and implementing various face recognition techniques. Below is a summary of key research contributions in this domain:

1. Face Recognition and RFID-Based Attendance Verification System (Akbar et al., 2018)

Akbar and colleagues proposed a hybrid attendance management system that combined face recognition with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology. The system aimed to improve accuracy and security in verifying student attendance. The RFID module was used for initial identity verification, while the face recognition system served as an additional layer of authentication. The study demonstrated high accuracy rates in attendance tracking; however, the system's reliance on RFID hardware increased implementation costs and required additional infrastructure.

2. Automated Attendance System Leveraging Machine Learning (Rathod et al., 2017)

This study focused on the application of machine learning techniques in face recognition-based attendance systems. The researchers employed Support Vector Machines (SVM) to classify and identify faces in an educational setting. Their model yielded high accuracy under controlled conditions. However, the study highlighted a significant limitation.

3. Attendance Monitoring Using the Local Binary Pattern Histogram (LBPH) Algorithm (Jadhav et al., 2017)

Jadhav and colleagues implemented an attendance system using the Local Binary Pattern Histogram (LBPH) algorithm, a widely used approach in facial recognition. The LBPH model proved to be highly accurate in recognizing faces based on stored facial patterns. Despite its effectiveness, the system was primarily tested in controlled laboratory conditions and lacked extensive real-time evaluation, raising concerns about its robustness in practical applications.

4. Face Recognition-Based Class Attendance System (Wagh, 2018)

Wagh's study introduced an attendance tracking system that utilized the AdaBoost algorithm for face detection and recognition. The system performed well in terms of accuracy and efficiency in classroom settings. However, a key limitation was its dependency on high-resolution images for optimal recognition, making it less reliable in cases where students were positioned at a distance or when image quality was compromised.

III. System Architecture

The **Facial Attendance Hub** follows a multi-layered architecture to ensure reliability, security, and efficiency. The system consists of the following components:

3.1 system Architecture

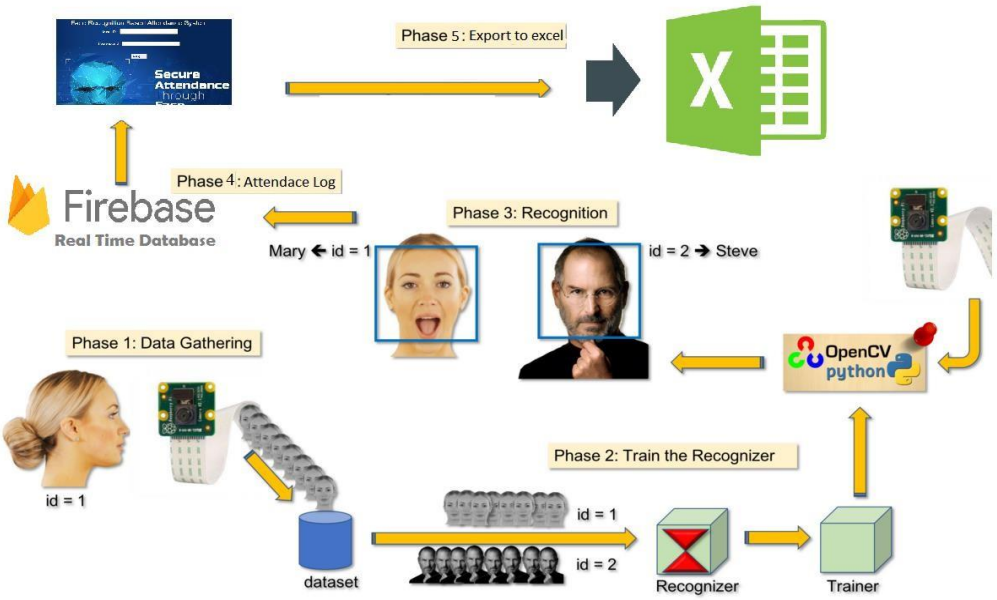

Figure 1. System Architecture

Face Detection

The proposed system integrates the Haar Cascade Classifier for detecting faces within images and video streams. This machine learning-based method uses Haar-like features to identify facial structures. The classifier has been pre-trained on large datasets containing both facial and non-facial images, allowing it to accurately detect faces in real time. Haar Cascade is computationally efficient and widely used in facial recognition applications, ensuring rapid and precise face detection even in dynamic environments.

Face Recognition

For recognizing individuals, the system employs the Local Binary Patterns Histogram (LBPH) algorithm. LBPH is a powerful facial recognition technique that extracts local texture-based features from grayscale images. It converts an image into a series of binary patterns, which are then used to create histograms representing distinct facial characteristics. By comparing these histograms against a pre-trained dataset, LBPH efficiently identifies and verifies individuals, even under varying lighting conditions, facial expressions, and orientations. Its robustness and adaptability make it well-suited for real-world attendance management applications.

Database Management (Firebase Realtime Database)

The system utilizes Firebase Realtime Database, a cloud-based NoSQL database, to handle real-time storage and retrieval of attendance records. Firebase ensures instant synchronization across multiple devices, allowing administrators and students to access up-to-date attendance data. The database supports secure authentication, automated backups, and role-based access control, ensuring that sensitive information remains protected. Its scalability and efficiency make it an ideal choice for managing attendance records seamlessly.

User Interface

The system provides an intuitive and user-friendly graphical interface for both administrators and students. Administrators can use the interface to manage attendance records, add or remove users, and generate attendance reports. Students can check their attendance status in real time through a simple dashboard. The interface is designed with responsive navigation, clear visuals, and accessibility features, ensuring smooth operation on desktops, tablets, and mobile devices. The goal is to make attendance management efficient, transparent, and easy to use for all stakeholders.

IV. Methodology

The **Facial Attendance Hub** follows a structured approach for automating attendance management. The methodology consists of three key stages: **face detection, face recognition, and attendance logging**.

4.1 Face Detection

The system captures live video streams from a webcam or an integrated camera and applies the Haar Cascade Classifier for facial detection. This machine learning-based method identifies human faces within the video frames. Once detected, the facial regions are cropped, normalized, and resized to a standard resolution, ensuring consistency for subsequent recognition. This preprocessing step

enhances accuracy by reducing the impact of varying lighting conditions, angles, or background noise.

4.2 Face Recognition

After face detection, the system uses the Local Binary Patterns Histogram (LBPH) algorithm for facial recognition. LBPH analyzes the local texture features of grayscale facial images, generating histograms unique to each individual. These histograms are then compared with the pre-registered database to verify identities. Upon successful identification, the system assigns a Unique Identification Number (ID) to the recognized individual and marks their attendance accordingly. The algorithm is designed to handle variations in lighting, facial expressions, and minor occlusions, ensuring high recognition accuracy in real-world scenarios.

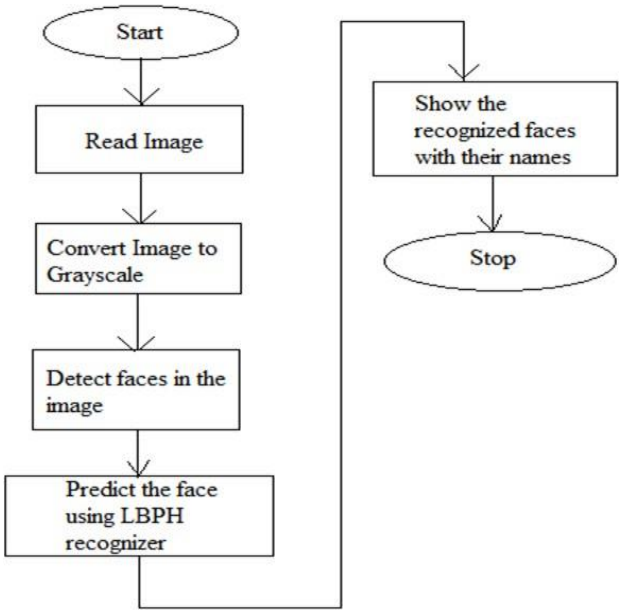

Figure 2 Flow-chart of the methodology used for Face Detection and Recognition

4.3 Attendance Logging

Once an individual is successfully recognized, the system logs their attendance details into Firebase Realtime Database for secure and real-time storage. The recorded attendance information includes:

- **Student's Name**
- **Unique Identification Number (ID)**
- **Department Name**
- **Timestamp (Date & Time of Attendance Marking)**

To facilitate easy data retrieval and reporting, the system allows attendance records to be exported in formats such as **Excel (XLSX) or CSV**. The real-time synchronization feature ensures that the attendance data remains accessible across multiple connected devices, providing transparency, efficiency, and accuracy in monitoring attendance.

V. Implementation

The Facial Attendance Hub is implemented using the following technologies:

1. **OpenCV:** For face detection and image processing.
2. **LBPH Algorithm**: For face recognition.
3. **Firebase:** For real-time database management.
4. **Python:** For backend development.
5. **PyQt5:** For user interface development.

5.1 Training Process

The effectiveness of any face recognition system depends on the quality of its training phase. To build a robust recognition model, the following steps are undertaken:

1. **Dataset Creation:** A collection of facial images is obtained for each individual. Multiple images are captured under different lighting conditions and facial orientations to improve the model's adaptability.
2. **Preprocessing:** The images are converted into grayscale to reduce computational complexity while preserving essential features.
3. **Feature Extraction:** The system applies **LBPH**, which divides the image into small grids and computes local texture patterns. These patterns are converted into histograms that uniquely represent each individual's facial structure.
4. **Model Training:** The extracted features are mapped to corresponding identities and stored in a structured database. This step enables the system to differentiate between various individuals with high accuracy.
5. **Validation:** The trained model undergoes multiple testing cycles to evaluate its performance under varying conditions. Adjustments are made to enhance accuracy and reduce false positives.

By incorporating **diverse training data** and **feature-based recognition**, the system ensures reliability even in real-world settings.

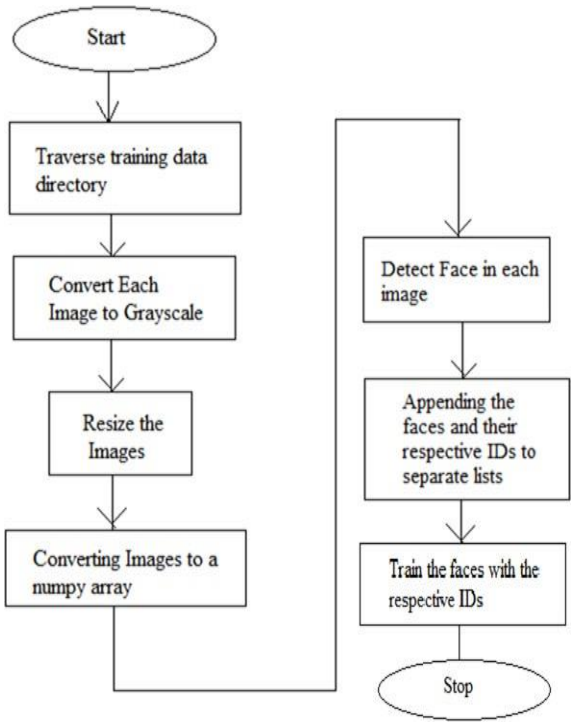

Figure 3 Flow-chart of the methodology used for Training Process

5.2 Real-Time Processing

Once the system is trained, it operates in real-time to automate attendance marking. The following steps define its execution:

1. **Video Stream Capture:** The system continuously processes live video input, identifying individuals in the field of view.
2. **Face Detection:** The **Haar Cascade classifier** detects and isolates faces from the video feed.
3. **Feature Matching:** The detected faces undergo feature extraction using **LBPH**, which compares the extracted patterns with stored representations in the database.
4. **Identity Verification:** If a match is found, the system authenticates the individual and updates their attendance status in **Firebase**.
5. **Real-Time Data Storage:** The recognized individual's attendance is logged, and updates are synchronized instantly across all connected devices.
6. **Error Handling:** The system incorporates mechanisms to handle occlusions, pose variations, and lighting inconsistencies to maintain accuracy.

The real-time nature of this approach eliminates manual intervention, reduces administrative workload, and mitigates the risk of proxy attendance, making it an efficient and secure solution for attendance management.

VI. Future Work

The Facial Attendance Hub was tested in a classroom environment with 50 students. The system achieved an accuracy of 95% in face recognition and attendance tracking. The system was able to process attendance in under 3 seconds, making it suitable for real-time applications.

Automatic attendance system can be improved by increasing the number of features which can be extracted to increase accuracy of face recognition. Once the software is developed and tested properly, it could be improved to cover full institutions such as the faculty of engineering.

To improve the functionality and reliability of the system in the future we can add some of the following enhancements:

1. Add a self-generating defaulter list , that is created after a certain amount of fixed time has passed for any student whose attendance is below seventy five percent.
2. The system will have to separate between recognized and unrecognized faces; faces that go unrecognized can be stored in a secondary database.

The Prototype system can be developed for another purpose and in related usage of OpenCV. Such as Online registration through Face recognition & Employee's Face recognition Attendance System & Time log.

VII. Conclusion

Base on initial testing of the prototype system that has been done, There are findings that the Face detection OpenCV Python library is a great assistance to Developers for they don't need to manually code the function of detecting images. The testing of the system has given expected results and the process of taking the attendance using Face detection is running well by planning. The Feature of the system can further enhance the design as a suggestion of the tester. OpenCV Real-time Face recognition attendance system is usable for the reason that it can save time for a teacher or user for taking attendances and taking of attendance by capturing the image that is recognized by OpenCV is much easier as it automatically records the names that are registered in the image and you can convert it into an excel file for documentation. Since it is an Online platform its usability is efficient for those who work remotely or in any situation or circumstances that keep us from traveling and its applicability can be a solution for a problem in a time of the pandemic. The development obtained of prototype system OpenCV Real-time face recognition attendance system's are:

•It can be a solution for taking attendances while classes are ongoing.
- It can assist teachers to monitor the students that are attending class.
- It easily to record the names of students and avoids misspelling.
- It can save money for teacher or user that can work home or remotely.

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