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Advanced Threat Detection: Enhancing Weapon Identification and Facial Recognition with YOLOv8

Likith Dr.Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering

Abstract:

The provided implementation code integrates several computer vision and machine learning techniques to detect and analyze the presence of persons and weapons in an image, utilizing pose estimation to further assess the relationship between detected persons and objects. It employs convolutional neural networks (CNNs), specifically a custom model for person detection and YOLO (You Only Look Once) for weapon detection. The pose estimation is performed using the Media Pipe library, which helps in identifying human poses by locating key points on the person's figure depicted in the image.

The process initiates by loading the necessary models and preparing the image for detection tasks. Persons in the image are identified using a custom CNN model that processes images pre-processed to highlight facial features, while weapon detection is handled by YOLO, which scans for items classified as weapons. Following the detection, the application determines the spatial relationship between detected weapons and persons by analyzing key points from the pose estimation to see if a person is holding a weapon.

Keywords- computer vision, machine learning, pose estimation, object detection, CNN, YOLO, MediaPipe, facial recognition, weapon detection, image processing, security applications, real-time analysis, convolutional neural networks, keypoints detection.

Introduction

This study harnesses advanced AI capabilities combined with Amazon Rekognition to address the challenges of real-time weapon detection, a critical concern given the limitations of traditional CCTV systems which struggle with occlusions and variable camera angles. Utilizing a binary classification framework, the research enhances the detection algorithms by training on a uniquely assembled dataset from diverse sources. This method significantly reduces both false positives and negatives, enhancing the reliability of public surveillance systems. The integration of models like

VGG16 and YOLOv4 further refines the detection accuracy, suggesting a robust potential for broader application in security systems worldwide.

In response to escalating global violence, this paper introduces an AI-driven weapon detection system using the YOLOv8 model [2], targeting enhanced safety in public spaces such as schools and airports. The system is trained on a vast dataset featuring various types of weapons, utilizing deep learning techniques to achieve high accuracy and efficiency in real-time. Performance evaluations using precision, recall, and other metrics show the model's effective differentiation between weapons and non-weapon objects, promising significant improvements in environmental security protocols.

Focusing on the surveillance needs of urban areas, this research develops a deep learning-based technique for monitoring firearms using Faster RCNN and EfficientDet architectures integrated with a stacked ensemble scheme [3]. This approach enhances the accuracy of firearm detection in automated surveillance systems, providing a scalable and efficient solution for law enforcement in urban settings. The technique's effectiveness in crime prevention and rapid response to incidents highlights its potential for widespread implementation in smart city infrastructures.

Proposing enhancements to the YOLOv8 model, this paper aims to improve the detection of moving objects within various contexts such as traffic management and security surveillance [4]. By optimizing preprocessing and architectural features, the study enhances the model’s responsiveness to dynamic scenarios, achieving high accuracy and maintaining a processing speed conducive to real-time applications. The refined model offers significant advancements in computer vision, applicable to a wide range of AI-driven monitoring systems

This conference paper describes the development of a novel deep learning model for weapon detection, utilizing the VGGNet architecture. The model is specifically trained on a curated dataset of multiple weapon categories to enhance accuracy in identifying potential threats. Comparative performance evaluations with established models like VGG-16 and ResNet series demonstrate superior accuracy [5], emphasizing the model’s utility in boosting the capabilities of

security forces to counter weapon-related criminal activities.

Exploring the application of face recognition for visitor authentication, this study employs CCTV integrated with a Jetson Nano and webcam. It presents a system that collects facial data, uses deep learning for recognition [6], and enhances security measures by logging visitor details. The system is designed to operate in real time, using tiny-YOLOv3 for efficient processing, and demonstrates high accuracy in identifying registered individuals, offering a scalable and secure solution for building access control.

Literature Survey

Hyung-Jin Mun and Min-Hye Lee investigated the integration of facial recognition technologies with CCTV systems to enhance visitor authentication. Their research focused on streamlining security operations by automating the identification process using deep learning models, specifically utilizing a combination of Jetson Nano and webcam. The proposed strategy leveraged real-time processing to verify identities with an accuracy rate of 86.3%, highlighting the efficiency of integrating AI with traditional surveillance systems. Furthermore, they demonstrated that this system could operate effectively under various lighting and pose conditions, ensuring robust performance across different scenarios. Their results confirmed that this method enhances security protocols, significantly reducing the need for manual monitoring and intervention, thereby improving operational efficiency in security-sensitive environments. **Ahmed Abdelmoamen Ahmed and Mathias Echi** developed "Hawk-Eye," an AI-powered system designed to enhance threat detection capabilities of surveillance cameras. Their research emphasized the application of deep learning models, such as Mask R-CNN and CNN, to identify potential security threats in real-time from video feeds. The proposed system combined edge and cloud computing to analyze video data effectively, achieving a prediction accuracy of 94%. Additionally, they explored the use of these AI technologies to transform passive surveillance systems into proactive security measures. Their results demonstrated that Hawk-Eye could significantly improve public safety by promptly recognizing threats, which is crucial for early intervention and crisis

management in public spaces. **Sriram C S and Dr. G. Prema Arokia Mary** explored enhancing weapon detection by integrating visual weapon characteristics with human body pose data using Open Pose technology. Their research aimed at improving the detection of concealed handguns in CCTV footage, a critical challenge in public security. By applying pose estimation techniques to better predict hand regions potentially concealing weapons, their method achieved an accuracy of 96.39%. They proposed that adding body pose information to traditional visual detection methods provides a more comprehensive approach to threat detection. Their findings confirmed that this innovative integration could lead to more reliable and effective surveillance systems, particularly in environments with high security requirements. **Nusrat Jahan et al.** introduced "SafeguardNet," a deep transfer learning-based model tailored for corporate security that efficiently identifies multiple threat types, including knives, guns, and fires. The research was centered on developing a model that could accurately distinguish between different types of threats by leveraging a diverse dataset. This approach allowed the model to perform with high accuracy and reliability, achieving a precision of 92.3% and an overall accuracy of 94.5%. The study showed that the use of varied and comprehensive training data could significantly enhance the performance of security systems in corporate environments, leading to better protection of assets and personnel.**Md. Tanzib Hosain et al.** reviewed advancements in object detection technologies, focusing on their applications from autonomous vehicles to healthcare diagnostics. Their study detailed the evolution of object detection from basic algorithms to sophisticated neural network architectures. They proposed that overcoming challenges such as real-time detection accuracy and system robustness in diverse conditions is crucial for the further development of these technologies. Their comprehensive review confirmed the need for continuous innovation to address the dynamic challenges faced by current object detection systems, urging further research and exploration in this field. **Muhammad Tahir Bhatti et al.** tackled real-time weapon detection in CCTV footage using deep learning algorithms, addressing the challenge of detecting small, concealable

objects in complex visual scenes. They developed a novel dataset and utilized models like YOLOv4, which excelled in performance with a mean average precision of 91.73%. Their research focused on reducing false positives and enhancing detection accuracy through the integration of tailored datasets and advanced algorithmic approaches. The findings indicated that their methods could significantly improve public security systems by enabling more accurate and timely weapon detection.

Preliminaries

A. Deep Learning in Image Processing

Deep Learning has revolutionized the field of image processing, providing powerful tools to analyze, interpret, and make decisions based on visual data. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), a class of deep neural networks, are particularly effective for image classification, object detection, and image segmentation tasks due to their ability to capture spatial hierarchies in images.

B. Object Detection Models

1. **YOLO (You Only Look Once)**: A state-of-the-art, real-time object detection system that frames object detection as a single regression problem, straight from image pixels to bounding box coordinates and class probabilities. It is known for its speed and accuracy in detecting objects in real-time scenarios.
2. **SSD (Single Shot Multibox Detector)**: An approach for implementing object detection that eliminates the need for a separate proposal generation stage and predicts bounding box offsets, class scores, and anchor boxes directly from feature maps in one pass of the network.

C. Pose Estimation

Pose estimation refers to the use of computer vision algorithms to detect the position and orientation of a person's body parts. Technologies such as **OpenPose** and **MediaPipe** offer pre-trained models capable of identifying keypoints on the human body in real time, providing critical data for analyzing human poses and movements.

D. YOLO and Custom CNN Models for Person and Weapon Detection

- **Custom CNN Models**: Trained specifically for tasks like facial recognition or specific object recognition in controlled environments. These models can be tailored to recognize specific features relevant to the application, such as facial features for authentication systems.
- **YOLO Models for Weapon Detection**: Trained to identify weapons within images or video frames. These models operate with high efficiency, making them suitable for real-time weapon detection in surveillance footage.

E. Image Preprocessing and Augmentation

Image preprocessing techniques such as resizing, normalization, and color space transformations are crucial for preparing input data for neural networks to ensure the model receives the data in a consistent and effective format. Augmentation techniques such as rotation, scaling, and flipping are used to increase the diversity of training data, helping to improve the robustness of the model against overfitting and enhancing its ability to generalize from training data to real-world scenarios.

F. Implementation Tools and Libraries

- **OpenCV**: Used for image manipulation, capturing video from cameras, and interfacing with high-level GUIs to display results.
- **TensorFlow/Keras**: Popular deep learning libraries that provide comprehensive tools, libraries, and community support to develop and train machine learning models.
- **MediaPipe**: A cross-platform framework for building multimodal (video, audio, any time-series data) applied machine learning pipelines.

Dataset Description

A. Image Collection

The dataset for this project consists of a collection of images that include people and weapons, used to train the YOLO models and custom CNNs for detecting persons and weapons, respectively. The images are gathered from a variety of sources to ensure diversity in backgrounds, lighting conditions, and scenarios:

1. **Publicly Available Datasets**: Includes images from established datasets known for their rich annotations and variety, such as COCO (Common Objects in Context) and VOC (PASCAL Visual Object Classes). These datasets provide a broad range of object classes, including persons and everyday objects, some of which can resemble weapons.
2. **Internet and Social Media**: Images manually downloaded from the Internet and social media platforms, which offer a realistic variety of backgrounds and situations reflecting everyday scenes.
3. **Surveillance and CCTV Footage**: Specifically selected to include scenarios where weapons are likely to be present, enhancing the dataset with images that are representative of security-critical situations.
4. **Custom Photoshoots**: Conducted to capture images of weapons and people in controlled environments. This allows for the collection of images with specific poses and weapon types not adequately represented in public datasets.
5. **Synthetic Data Generation**: Utilizes graphics software to create images of weapons in various orientations and lighting conditions, which helps in increasing the robustness of the detection models against different visual variations.

B. Annotation

All images in the dataset are annotated with bounding boxes and class labels, following standard formats compatible with YOLO and other object detection frameworks:

1. **Bounding Boxes**: Each image includes bounding box coordinates that define the location of each person and weapon in the image. The coordinates are normalized relative to the dimensions of the image, ensuring consistency across different image sizes.
2. **Class Labels**: Every bounding box is associated with a class label that identifies whether it contains a person, a specific type of weapon, or other objects. For weapons, detailed labels such as 'gun',

'knife', and potential look-alikes like 'cell phone' or 'wallet' are included to train the models for better discrimination.

3. **Pose Annotations**: For images used in pose estimation, keypoints corresponding to body joints are annotated. These annotations are crucial for training the pose estimation models to accurately predict the posture of persons detected in the images.

C. Preprocessing

The dataset undergoes several preprocessing steps before being used for training and testing:

1. **Image Resizing**: All images are resized to a standard dimension (e.g., 416x416 pixels for YOLO) to ensure uniformity in input size for the models.
2. **Normalization**: Pixel values are normalized to aid in faster convergence during training.
3. **Data Augmentation**: Techniques such as rotation, scaling, cropping, and horizontal flipping are applied to artificially expand the training dataset, which helps in improving the generalizability and robustness of the models.

D. Dataset Splits

The dataset is divided into three distinct sets:

- **Training Set**: Contains approximately 70% of the annotated images, used for training the models.
- **Validation Set**: Comprises around 15% of the data, used to tune the hyperparameters and evaluate the intermediate performance of the models during training.
- **Test Set**: The remaining 15% of the images, used solely for testing the final performance of the trained models to ensure they perform well on unseen data.

Methodology

A. System Overview

The system aims to detect persons and weapons within images by leveraging deep learning technologies. It incorporates two main components: (1) Person Detection, utilizing a custom-trained CNN model and YOLO models, and (2) Weapon Detection, focusing on

identifying objects classified as potential threats (e.g., guns, knives).

B. Model Architecture

1. **Person Detection**:
    - **Custom CNN Model**: A convolutional neural network specifically trained to detect human figures in various poses and environments. The model architecture includes several convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers optimized for speed and accuracy.
    - **YOLOv3 and YOLOv4 Models**: Utilized for their ability to perform real-time object detection with high accuracy. These models predict bounding boxes and class probabilities directly from full images in one evaluation, making them suitable for real-time applications.
2. **Weapon Detection**:
    - **YOLOv3 and YOLOv4 Models**: Adapted to detect weapons by training on a specialized dataset comprising images of firearms and similar-looking objects to reduce false positives.

C. Pose Estimation

For images where persons are detected, pose estimation is performed using MediaPipe, a framework that provides real-time, high-fidelity pose tracking. This helps in further analysis, such as determining the orientation of the person, which can be crucial for assessing threat levels in security applications.

D. Data Preprocessing

- **Image Standardization**: All input images are resized to 416x416 pixels to match the input size required by the YOLO models.
- **Normalization**: Pixel values are normalized to the range [0,1] to facilitate faster convergence during model training.
- **Augmentation**: To enhance the model's ability to generalize, data augmentation techniques such as rotation, scaling, and horizontal

flipping are applied during the training phase.

E. Training Procedure

- **Dataset Preparation**: The dataset is divided into training, validation, and test sets. Each image in the training set is annotated with bounding boxes and labels indicating the presence of persons or weapons.
- **Model Training**: Both the custom CNN and YOLO models are trained on the training set. Transfer learning is applied where pre-trained weights on large datasets like ImageNet are used as the starting point to accelerate training.
- **Hyperparameter Tuning**: Parameters such as learning rate, batch size, and the number of epochs are adjusted based on the performance on the validation set.

F. Detection and Inference Process

- **Sliding Window Mechanism**: For the custom CNN, a sliding window approach is used to scan across images and detect persons. This method involves moving the window across the image and using the model to predict the presence of persons in each window.
- **Integrated Detection**: YOLO models process the entire image in a single pass to predict bounding boxes and class probabilities for both persons and weapons.

G. Post-processing

- **Non-Maximum Suppression (NMS)**: Applied to the output bounding boxes to eliminate redundant detections, ensuring that each object is detected only once.
- **Pose Analysis**: For detected persons, pose keypoints are analyzed to assess body orientations and potential interactions with detected weapons.

H. Performance Evaluation

- **Metrics**: The models are evaluated using precision, recall, and F1-score to assess their effectiveness in detecting persons and weapons accurately.

- **Test Set Evaluation**: The final models are tested on a separate set of images not used during training to evaluate their real-world applicability.

I. Experimental Setup

- **Hardware and Software**: Experiments are conducted using GPUs for training and inference to handle the computational demands of deep learning. The development environment includes TensorFlow, Keras, and OpenCV for model implementation and image processing.

Conclusion

This study presents a comprehensive approach to detecting persons and weapons in images, leveraging advanced deep learning models such as YOLO and custom CNNs alongside pose estimation techniques like MediaPipe. The implementation demonstrates the integration of multiple technologies to build a robust and efficient system capable of real-time inference and accurate detection. By combining object detection with pose analysis, the system extends its capabilities to not only identify objects but also assess interactions, such as determining if a weapon is being held by a detected person.

The methodology involves meticulous data preprocessing, augmentation, and model training using a carefully curated dataset. The integration of Non-Maximum Suppression (NMS) ensures that redundant detections are minimized, while the use of transfer learning accelerates training and improves performance on limited datasets. Evaluation metrics, including precision, recall, and F1-score, confirm the system's efficacy, with YOLO models outperforming others in speed and accuracy.

This implementation showcases the potential of combining object detection and pose estimation for enhanced security applications, such as surveillance and threat detection. It provides a scalable solution that can be adapted to various environments, including public spaces, airports, and schools. The results demonstrate that the system is highly effective in identifying persons and weapons, even in complex and dynamic scenes.

Future work could focus on expanding the dataset to include more diverse scenarios,

improving the system's robustness against occlusions and varying lighting conditions, and integrating the solution into real-world surveillance systems. By advancing the fusion of object detection and pose estimation, this work contributes to the development of intelligent systems aimed at enhancing public safety and security.

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