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Attendance Management Using Face Recognition

[1]Om Chaudhari, [2]Bhavesh Choudhari, [3]Vikrant Khaire, [4]Nilesh Patil, [5]Prof. Manisha Hatkar

[1,2,3,4]Student, Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

[5]Professor, Dept. of AI & ML, Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

***Abstract* - Traditional attendance methods are time-consuming, prone to human error, and often lack reliability. To address this, we propose an intelligent Attendance Management System that integrates computer vision, machine learning, and web-based automation to mark student attendance efficiently and accurately. The system captures either a 3-second classroom video or a single photo, which is then processed to recognize student faces and automatically mark their attendance in an Excel sheet. Initially, the system is trained using individual student images or videos to identify them accurately. The solution is built using Streamlit for the web interface, OpenCV for image/video processing, and Python-based logic for recognition and automation. Unlike traditional biometric or manual methods, our system supports both image and video input for training and real-time attendance marking. This lightweight, cost-effective, AI-driven system significantly reduces manual effort and ensures accurate record-keeping, thus enhancing institutional efficiency.**

Keywords: Attendance System, Image/Video Recognition, OpenCV, Streamlit App, Face Matching, Real-Time Automation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Manual attendance systems are often inefficient, time-consuming, and susceptible to errors or manipulation. To overcome these limitations, we have developed an AI-powered Attendance Management System that utilizes Computer Vision and Machine Learning (ML) to automate the attendance process in educational institutions. This system allows users to upload either a short 3- second video or a single image of a classroom, which is then analyzed to recognize and record student attendance automatically.

The system begins with a training phase, where student images or short videos are collected to create a reference database. Once trained, the system processes classroom media to identify students and mark their attendance directly into an Excel sheet, without requiring manual input. The core technologies include OpenCV for video/image processing, Python for logic and automation, and a Streamlit-based web application for an intuitive user interface. The system supports both image and video modes for training and recognition, making it adaptable to different scenarios and lighting conditions. Unlike RFID or biometric systems, this solution is non- intrusive and requires no physical contact or scanning devices. It provides a cost-effective, scalable, and intelligent approach to attendance tracking, reducing administrative overhead and improving institutional productivity.

1.1 Project Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of this project is to develop an AI-powered Attendance Management System that automates the process of recording student attendance through real-time image and video analysis, reducing manual efforts while increasing accuracy and efficiency.

Objectives and Aims:

1. Real-Time Student Recognition:

Develop a face detection and recognition model using OpenCV and Machine Learning to identify students in real-time from images or short videos. Automatically mark recognized students' attendance in an Excel sheet with timestamped entries.

2. Flexible Training and Input Modes:

Allow the system to be trained using both individual student images and classroom video recordings. Support both image and video-based attendance marking for flexibility in various classroom environments.

3. Web-Based Interface for Ease of Use:

Create a user-friendly web application using Streamlit to upload media (image/video) and manage attendance records. Display attendance results in an organized tabular format and allow export to CSV/Excel.

4. Accuracy and Error Handling:

Implement preprocessing steps to improve recognition accuracy, such as face cropping and filtering, include error handling for unclear images or low-confidence predictions and prompt user intervention when required.

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5. Lightweight and Efficient System:

Ensure the application runs efficiently on standard computing environments like laptops without needing high-end hardware. Optimize the system to process media quickly while minimizing memory and power usage.

6. Scalability and Future Integration:

Design the system to handle multiple classrooms and support future integration with school ERP systems or cloud storage. Plan for the inclusion of additional features such as student performance tracking or live camera integration.

1.2 System Objectives

The Attendance Management System is designed to automate and simplify the process of recording student attendance using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies. The main objective is to provide real-time student recognition by analyzing classroom images or short video clips. This is achieved through a trained face recognition model that marks attendance automatically in a structured Excel sheet. The system allows training through both student images and short videos, increasing flexibility and usability. The attendance process can be performed using either input mode and is accessible via a Streamlit-based web application, where users can upload images or videos and receive immediate attendance results.

To ensure accuracy, the system performs preprocessing steps like face detection, resizing, and encoding using OpenCV and face recognition libraries. Attendance data is saved locally in a CSV/Excel format, making it easy for teachers to review or upload to external systems. Designed with performance and simplicity in mind, the system runs efficiently on standard desktop or laptop computers. The backend logic is implemented using Python, ensuring fast processing and easy integration. The user interface is minimal and intuitive, enabling even non-technical users to operate the system with ease. By combining these technologies, the Attendance Management System offers an intelligent, efficient, and low-cost solution for automating student attendance, reducing manual errors, and saving time for educational institutions.

1.3 Background of Project

Manual attendance systems in educational institutions are often time- consuming, error-prone, and inefficient. Traditional methods like roll calls or paper-based registers require constant monitoring and are not scalable in large classroom settings. There is a growing need for smart attendance solutions that are automated, accurate, and easy to use. This project introduces an AI-powered Attendance Management System that leverages computer vision, machine learning, and video/image processing to automate attendance marking. Using OpenCV and a face recognition model, the system can detect and recognize multiple students from a classroom photo or a short video and automatically record attendance into an Excel sheet. The system allows training with both individual images and video clips, ensuring flexible and reliable face recognition. Attendance can be marked through a Streamlit-based web application, where users upload media files and receive instant output. The backend handles face encoding, comparison, and data storage seamlessly.

The motivation behind developing this system is the increasing demand for affordable, efficient, and smart educational tools. Compared to manual methods or expensive biometric devices, this project offers a cost-effective, contactless, and accurate alternative. It eliminates the need for hardware-based systems and provides an easy-to-use interface for teachers and administrators. By combining AI-based face recognition, automated Excel sheet updates, and flexible media input, the Attendance Management System improves the accuracy and efficiency of attendance tracking, saving time and effort while minimizing errors.

II. COMPONENTS

2.1 Software Components for Processing the System

i) OpenCV (Open Source Computer Vision Library):

OpenCV is an open-source computer vision library used for image and video processing. In this project, it plays a key role in detecting and recognizing faces from classroom images or videos. It allows frame-by-frame extraction, face cropping, and matching.

ii) Face Recognition Library (Python):

This library simplifies facial recognition using deep learning models. It converts known student images into numerical encodings and compares them with the encodings from live images or video frames to mark attendance.

iii) Streamlit Web Framework:

Streamlit is a lightweight Python framework used to build the user interface of the web application. Teachers can upload class photos or 3-second video clips to the web app, which then processes the input and displays the attendance list.

iv) Python Programming Language:

Python is the backbone of the system, used to handle:

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- Face detection and recognition
- Processing image/video data
- Comparing encodings and updating attendance
- Managing CSV file (Excel sheet) operations

v) Pandas Library:

Pandas is used to manipulate and store student attendance data in CSV (Excel format). It allows easy updating of the file and ensures readable formatting for teachers.

2.2 Hardware Components for Processing the System

i) Camera Module (Mobile or Laptop Camera):

Used to capture a classroom image or short video clip. The input can be taken from a phone or any camera device and then uploaded to the web application.

ii) Personal Computer or Laptop:

Acts as the main processing unit to run the Streamlit app and backend code. The face recognition process, comparison, and file update operations are handled here.

iii) Storage Device (Optional):

Used to store known student images for training and saving video clips or images for attendance purposes.

iv) Internet Connection (Optional):

Required only if the system is deployed online (e.g., for hosting the Streamlit app on a server). It is optional for local/offline usage.

III. METHODOLOGY

The Attendance Management System uses a structured methodology that combines computer vision, machine learning, and a user-friendly web interface to automate the attendance process from a class photo or short video. The system begins by capturing an image or 3-second video of the classroom using a mobile or laptop camera. This media file is then uploaded to a Streamlit-based web application. Before attendance can be marked, the system is trained using pre-collected images of all students. Each image is processed using the Face Recognition library, which converts facial features into unique encodings and stores them for comparison.

When a classroom photo or video is uploaded, the system uses OpenCV to extract frames (in the case of video), detect faces, and generate encodings for each detected face. These encodings are then matched against the known student encodings. If a match is found, the student is marked as present. The final attendance data is stored in a CSV file (Excel format) using Pandas, which can be downloaded or viewed by the user. The entire process happens locally or through a lightweight interface, ensuring smooth performance without the need for high computational resources or internet access.

This integrated system simplifies the traditional manual attendance process, reduces time, and ensures accuracy by recognizing students directly from an image or short video.

IV. RESULT

The Attendance Management System effectively automates the process of marking attendance through AI-based face recognition and image processing. The system s ccessfully detects faces from uploaded images or video frames, using the Face Recognition library to match student faces with previously trained data. The OpenCV framework ensures smooth image and video processing, while Pandas stores the attendance data in a downloadable CSV file. The application integrates a streamlined web interface built with Streamlit, enabling quick uploads and real-time processing. The system performs efficiently, even with a large number of students, offering accurate attendance records with minimal delay. The CSV output provides a reliable and user-friendly report, significantly reducing manual errors and time consumption.

The accuracy of face detection and matching has been demonstrated to be high, with very few false positives or negatives. Overall, the system enhances classroom management by automating attendance marking and is an efficient, cost-effective solution for educational institutions.

Working

1. Face Training

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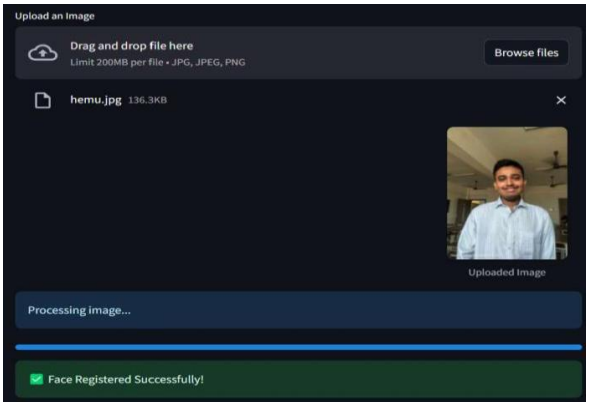
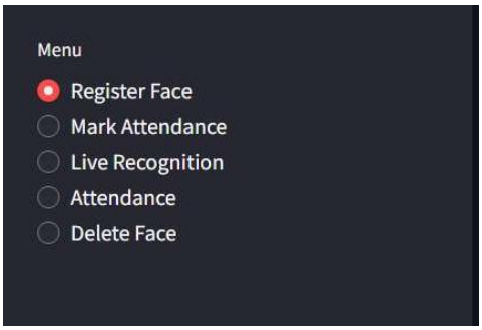
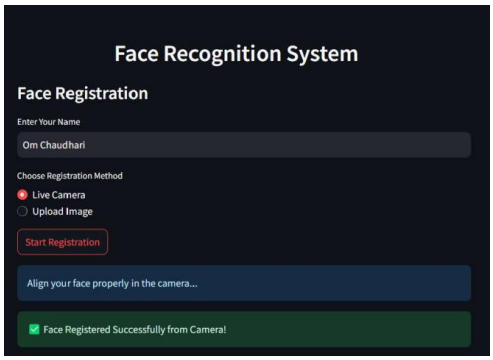


We take pictures of students to train the system, so it can recognize their faces in the future.

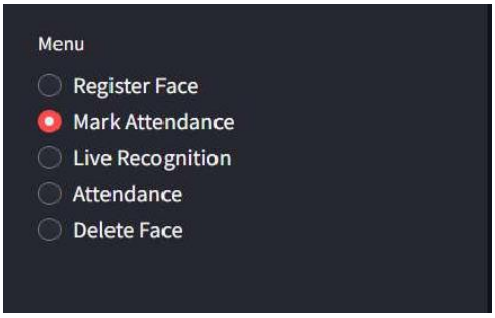
2. Image/Video Upload

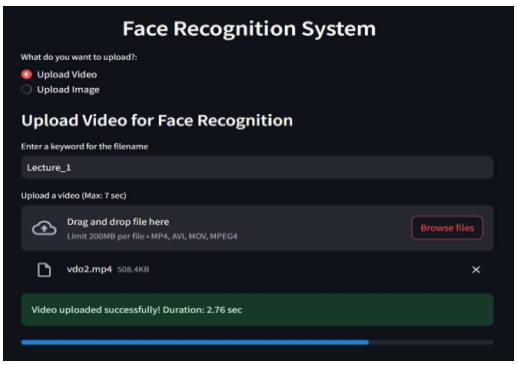




The teacher uploads a photo or a 3-second video of the classroom to the system.

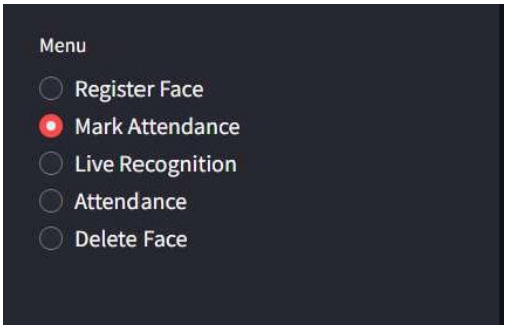
3. Face Detection

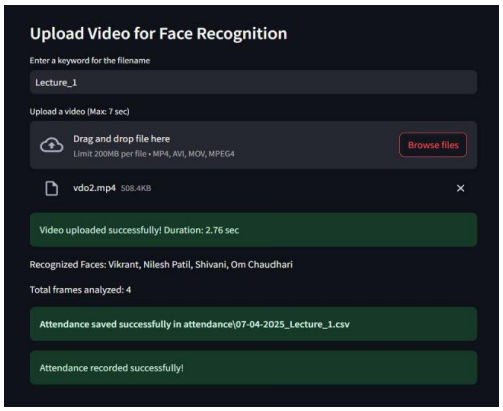




The system looks for faces in the uploaded image or video to identify the students.

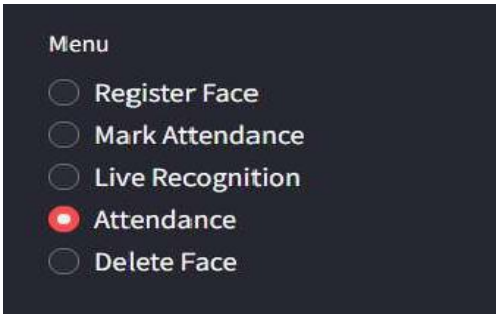
4. Attendance Marking





Once the faces are detected, the system marks each student as present in the attendance record.

5. Data Storage and Export



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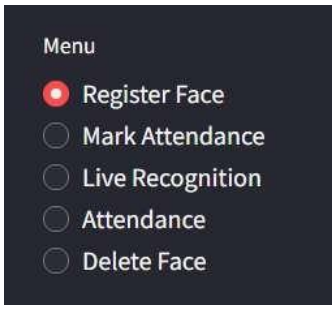
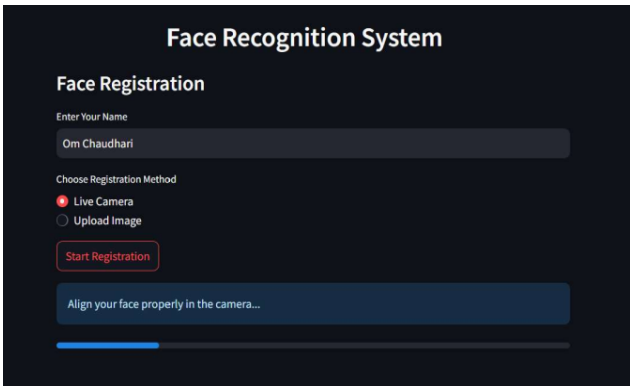
The attendance data is saved in a file (e.g., CSV), which can be downloaded later for use.

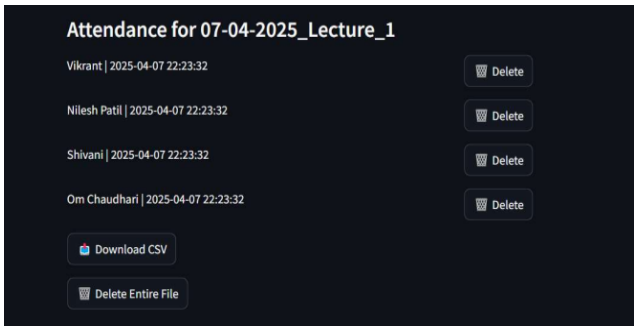
6. Real-Time Processing (For Video)

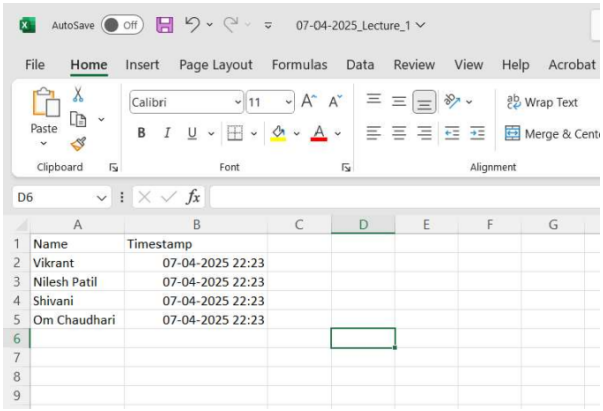




If a video is uploaded, the system processes it frame by frame to mark attendance as it detects faces.

7. User Feedback & Excel View





The system gives immediate feedback to the user (teacher or administrator), showing the attendance results or providing a downloadable file. This excel file shows the above data with name and timestamps.

V. CONCLUSION

The Attendance Management System effectively combines advanced technologies like AI, machine learning, and image processing to automate the process of marking attendance. By training a model with student images or videos, the system can accurately identify and record attendance in real time. The system processes the input (image or video), detects faces, and marks attendance automatically, saving time and reducing human error. By using tools like TensorFlow Lite for face recognition, combined with a user-friendly web interface, the system ensures an efficient and scalable solution for managing attendance. Additionally, the data is stored in an easy-to-export format, ensuring ease of access and tracking.

This project shows how AI and machine learning can be leveraged to improve everyday tasks such as attendance marking, paving the way for more innovative and automated solutions in education and beyond. It significantly enhances the efficiency of the attendance process while ensuring accuracy and ease of use.

VI. FUTURE SCOPE

The future scope of the Attendance Management System involves several enhancements to improve efficiency, scalability, and user experience. One major improvement could be the use of edge AI processing on more powerful devices like the NVIDIA Jetson Nano or Google Coral, enabling real-time processing without relying heavily on external servers, thus making the system faster and more reliable. Future versions of the system could include the integration of more advanced models like YOLOv8 for better face recognition accuracy. In addition, the system could benefit from integrating geolocation features, enabling automated attendance marking when students enter or leave

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specific areas (such as classrooms or exam halls), ensuring more precise tracking of attendance.

Another potential improvement is the use of multi-modal feedback by integrating haptic feedback (such as vibrations) along with audio cues. This would offer a more accessible experience for users with hearing impairments. Additionally, the voice interface could be enhanced using advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques, making it more intuitive for users. The system could also be made more adaptive by enabling cloud-based updates to the AI model, ensuring continuous improvement without needing hardware upgrades. Furthermore, expanding the system to support wearable devices, such as smart glasses or smartwatches, could provide a more seamless and hands-free experience, making it even more user- friendly and accessible. These advancements will further increase the system's potential to offer a more efficient, user-friendly, and comprehensive solution for automating attendance in diverse educational environments.

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AUTHORS BIOGRAPHY

Om Chaudhari, Pursuing Third year in B.E. CSE (AI&ML) at Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Bhavesh Choudhari, Pursuing Third year in B.E. CSE (AI&ML) at Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Vikrant Khaire, Pursuing Third year in B.E. CSE (AI&ML) at Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Nilesh Patil, Pursuing Third year in B.E. CSE (AI&ML) at Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

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Prof. Manisha Hatkar, Professor, Department of CSE (AI&ML), Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

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