

Face Detection using YOLOv8

1. Introduction

Face detection is a core computer vision task that involves locating human faces in images or videos. It is widely used in applications such as biometrics, security, photo tagging, and human-computer interaction. In this project, I implemented a face detection system using YOLOv8, one of the most recent and efficient object detection models from Ultralytics.

The goal was to train a custom YOLOv8 model on a face detection dataset and evaluate its performance using standard object detection metrics.

2. Dataset

The dataset was obtained from Roboflow, a platform that provides annotated datasets for computer vision. It contained images annotated with bounding boxes around faces. The dataset was split into:

- Training set:
- Validation set:
- Test set:

The images included various face orientations,

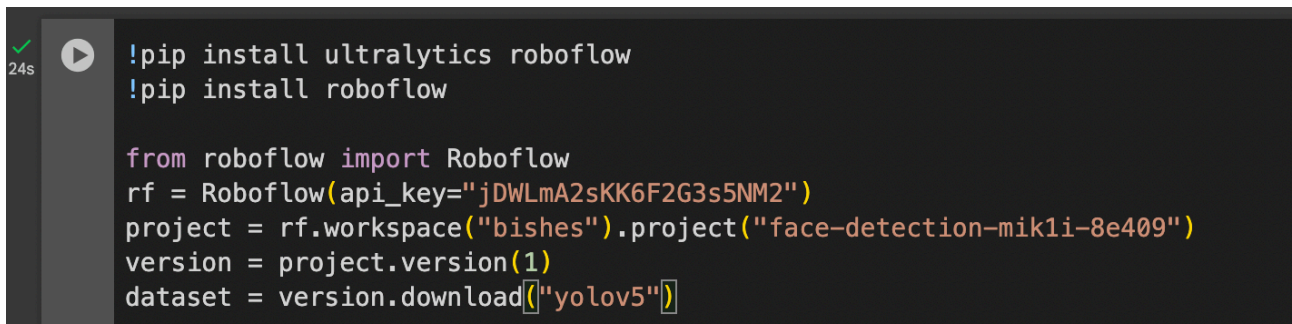
The link to the dataset: [Dataset](#)

3. Model & Training Setup

I used the YOLOv8n (nano) model, which is the smallest and fastest YOLOv8 variant, suitable for quick experimentation and limited compute.

The training configuration was as follows:

- Epochs: 25
- Batch size: 16
- Image size: 640×640
- Optimizer & loss: Default YOLOv8 settings
- Environment: Python with the Ultralytics library



```
24s !pip install ultralytics roboflow
!pip install roboflow

from roboflow import Roboflow
rf = Roboflow(api_key="jDWLmA2sKK6F2G3s5NM2")
project = rf.workspace("bishes").project("face-detection-mik1i-8e409")
version = project.version(1)
dataset = version.download("yolov5")
```

```
[6] from ultralytics import YOLO

model = YOLO('yolov8n.pt')

results = model.train(
    data='Face-Detection-1/data.yaml',
    epochs=25,
    imgsz=640,
    batch=16,
    name='face-detection'
)
```

4. Results

◆ Training Results

The training process generated performance curves for precision, recall, and mean Average Precision (mAP).

- Precision: Measures how many predicted faces were correct.
- Recall: Measures how many actual faces were detected.
- mAP@0.5: Evaluates detection performance at an IoU threshold of 0.5.
- mAP@0.5:0.95: Evaluates across multiple IoU thresholds, giving a stricter

measure.

Final results after training:

- Precision: 0.97
- Recall: 0.95.
- mAP@0.5: 0.98
- mAP@0.5:0.95: 0.75

Class	Images	Instances	Box(P	R	mAP50	mAP50-95):
all	38	49	0.978	0.959	0.982	0.755

After the model is trained, the generated weights , best.pt, is used for validation and tests

The weights location: [here](#)

```
[7] model = YOLO('./runs/detect/face-detection/weights/best.pt')

val_results = model.val(data='Face-Detection-1/data.yaml') # Uses 'val: ./valid/images'
print(f"Validation mAP@0.5: {val_results.box.map50:.4f}")

# Test on test set (final evaluation)
test_results = model.val(data='Face-Detection-1/data.yaml', split='test') # Uses 'test: ../test/images'
print(f"Test mAP@0.5: {test_results.box.map50:.4f}")

Ultralytics 8.3.192 Python-3.12.11 torch-2.8.0+cu126 CUDA:0 (Tesla T4, 15095MiB)
val: Fast image access (ping: 0.0±0.0 ms, read: 1691.8±548.5 MB/s, size: 95.3 KB)
val: Scanning /content/Face-Detection-1/valid/labels.cache... 38 images, 1 backgrounds, 0 corrupt: 100%
Class Images Instances Box(P R mAP50 mAP50-95): 100%
all 38 49 0.978 0.959 0.982 0.758
Speed: 7.2ms preprocess, 9.1ms inference, 0.0ms loss, 1.6ms postprocess per image
Results saved to runs/detect/val3
Validation mAP@0.5: 0.9818
Ultralytics 8.3.192 Python-3.12.11 torch-2.8.0+cu126 CUDA:0 (Tesla T4, 15095MiB)
val: Fast image access (ping: 0.0±0.0 ms, read: 1590.3±487.3 MB/s, size: 117.7 KB)
val: Scanning /content/Face-Detection-1/test/labels... 164 images, 28 backgrounds, 0 corrupt: 100%
val: New cache created: /content/Face-Detection-1/test/labels.cache
Class Images Instances Box(P R mAP50 mAP50-95): 100%
all 164 263 0.921 0.905 0.963 0.682
Speed: 2.1ms preprocess, 7.5ms inference, 0.0ms loss, 2.1ms postprocess per image
Results saved to runs/detect/val4
Test mAP@0.5: 0.9626
```

◆ Validation Results

The validation split was used to monitor generalization during training. YOLOv8 produced bounding box predictions on unseen images.

- Precision: 0.97
- Recall: 0.95
- mAP@0.5: 0.98
- mAP@0.5:0.95: 0.75

◆ Test Results

The test split was used for final evaluation. The trained model achieved the following results:

- Precision: 0.92
- Recall: 0.905
- mAP@0.5: 0.963
- mAP@0.5:0.95: 0.68

Note: [face-detection, val 3, val 4](#) contains the results, evaluation metrics, images it trained was with and the batches for train, validation and test images

5. Discussion

The model successfully learned to detect faces in a variety of conditions. From the metrics:

- A high precision indicates the model rarely predicts false positives.
- A high recall means it detects most of the actual faces.

- The mAP scores show how well the model balances precision and recall across different thresholds.

However, performance could be further improved. The model sometimes struggled with:

- Small faces in the background
- Faces under poor lighting
- Occluded or partially visible faces

6. Conclusion & Future Work

In this project, I trained and evaluated a YOLOv8-based face detection model using a dataset from Roboflow. The results demonstrate that YOLOv8 can effectively detect human faces with strong accuracy, even with a relatively small model (YOLOv8n).

Future improvements could include:

- Training for more epochs
- Using a larger YOLOv8 variant (s, m, or l) for higher accuracy
- Collecting more diverse training data
- Applying stronger data augmentation techniques

Overall, this project provided valuable experience in training object detection models and evaluating them with standard metrics.

The predicted results for code:

```
[11] prediction = model.predict(source="Face-Detection-1/test/images", save=True, conf=0.25)
```



Are in this folder : [Here](#)