Anti-Plagiarism System for Exam Monitoring

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***Abstract*—Academic integrity represents a fundamental challenge in modern education systems, with plagiarism rates increasing globally across all educational levels. Traditional exam monitoring approaches rely primarily on screen surveillance and human oversight, creating significant vulnerabilities in detecting sophisticated cheating behaviors during online and remote examinations. This research develops a comprehensive anti-plagiarism monitoring system using deep learning and computer vision technologies to address these limitations. The system integrates gaze tracking algorithms with YOLO-based object detection models through a modular software architecture. Facial landmark detection enables precise gaze direction analysis, while specialized convolutional neural networks identify unauthorized objects and suspicious materials in the examination environment. These two complementary approaches work together to provide comprehensive monitoring coverage: gaze analysis detects abnormal visual attention patterns that may indicate unauthorized assistance seeking, while object detection identifies physical cheating aids such as smartphones and smartwatches. Experimental testing demonstrates effective operation on CPU-based systems, identifying suspicious gaze patterns, abnormal behaviors, and unauthorized objects while maintaining real-time performance. The system provides comprehensive exam monitoring capabilities suitable for educational institutions, enabling widespread deployment using standard computing hardware without requiring specialized equipment.**

***Index Terms*—Academic integrity, Educational technology, Computer vision, Gaze tracking, Object detection, Real-time systems, Machine learning, Convolutional neural networks, Image processing, Kalman Filters**

I. Introduction

Academic integrity represents a cornerstone of quality education, with educational institutions worldwide facing challenges in maintaining fair assessment practices. The proliferation of digital learning environments has amplified concerns about academic misconduct, with studies indicating that plagiarism rates have increased across all educational levels, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread adoption of remote learning [1]. Research demonstrates that academic dishonesty affects educational quality, credibility, and institutional reputation [3]. Recent statistics reveal concerning trends, with some European regions reporting plagiarism detection rates exceeding 26% of submitted academic works, nearly double the OECD average of approximately 14% [4].

Traditional examination monitoring approaches present significant limitations in detecting sophisticated cheating behaviors, particularly in remote and hybrid learning contexts [2]. These approaches rely on manual supervision and screen-based surveillance, failing to detect physical cheating behaviors such as unauthorized device usage or suspicious gaze patterns, creating vulnerabilities in examination integrity [5]. While machine learning solutions exist for plagiarism detection [6], most require computational resources including GPU acceleration, making them inaccessible to many educational institutions with limited hardware infrastructure.

Recent advances in computer vision and artificial intelligence have opened possibilities for automated monitoring systems. Studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of facial detection algorithms in real-time applications [7], while research in eye-tracking technology has shown promising results for behavioral analysis in educational contexts [10]. Furthermore, object detection technologies, particularly YOLO architectures, have revolutionized real-time identification capabilities [11], making them suitable for detecting unauthorized devices in examination environments. However, existing commercial solutions often require significant computational resources or rely on external cloud processing, limiting their accessibility to institutions with constrained infrastructure [12], [14].

This paper presents an anti-plagiarism monitoring system that operates on standard CPU-based hardware, requiring minimal computational resources while maintaining high detection accuracy. The system demonstrates real-time performance on hardware configurations, including Intel i5 7th generation processors, making monitoring technology accessible to institutions regardless of their technical infrastructure limitations.

The paper is organized as follows: Section II discusses related work on object detection in the field of computer vision. Section III presents the overall system framework and methodology. Section IV describes the technical details of the implementation. Section V evaluates the system's performance and presents experimental results. Section VI provides insights from the discussion, and Section VII concludes our work and outlines directions for future research.

II. Related Work

A. Computer Vision Fundamentals

Computer vision technologies form the foundation of modern automated monitoring systems. Facial detection algorithms, particularly those utilizing Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) features, have demonstrated robust performance in real-time applications [7]. These algorithms analyze gradient information within image regions to identify distinctive facial characteristics, enabling reliable face localization even under varying lighting conditions.

Recent advances in facial landmark detection have improved the accuracy of gaze estimation systems [8], while studies on eye movement analysis have shown promising results for behavioral pattern recognition in examination environments [9].

Gaze tracking represents a critical component in behavioral analysis systems. Recent advances in eye-tracking technology have enabled accurate estimation of viewing direction through pupil position analysis and facial landmark detection [5]. These systems utilize geometric relationships between eye features to calculate horizontal and vertical gaze ratios, providing precise directional information for behavioral assessment [10].

B. Object Detection Technologies

You Only Look Once (YOLO) architectures have revolutionized real-time object detection applications. YOLO algorithms process entire images in single forward passes, enabling rapid detection of multiple object categories simultaneously [11]. The YOLOv8 implementations demonstrate superior performance in detecting small objects and maintaining accuracy across diverse environmental conditions [15].

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) provide the underlying architecture for modern object detection systems [16]. These networks excel at feature extraction and pattern recognition, enabling identification of unauthorized devices such as mobile phones and smartwatches in examination environments. The hierarchical feature learning capabilities of CNNs make them particularly effective for distinguishing between similar object categories [17].

C. Educational Technology Integration

Modern educational monitoring systems increasingly incorporate artificial intelligence to enhance assessment integrity [6]. Recent research has demonstrated the effectiveness of automated solutions in detecting various forms of academic misconduct [12]. Studies on deep learning approaches for educational fraud detection have shown promising results in real-world scenarios [13]. However, most existing solutions require significant computational resources or rely on external cloud processing, limiting their accessibility to institutions with constrained infrastructure.

III. System Architecture and Methodology

A. Modular System Design

The proposed anti-plagiarism monitoring system employs a modular architecture comprising five primary components: facial detection, gaze analysis, object detection, violation monitoring, and report generation. This modular approach enables independent optimization of each subsystem while maintaining seamless integration through standardized interfaces.

The facial detection module serves as the primary behavioral analysis component, responsible for identifying human faces within the video stream and extracting facial landmarks necessary for subsequent analysis. The gaze analysis module processes facial landmark data to determine the direction of the candidate's attention, distinguishing between normal examination behavior and potentially suspicious activities.

The object detection framework operates independently to identify unauthorized devices within the examination environment. The violation monitoring system aggregates information from both behavioral and object detection modules to determine when examination rules have been violated. Finally, the report generation module creates comprehensive documentation of the monitoring session.

B. Gaze Analysis Subsystem

The gaze analysis subsystem represents the core behavioral monitoring component of the architecture. This module processes facial landmark data to determine viewing direction through geometric analysis of eye positioning relative to facial structure. The subsystem incorporates compensation mechanisms for natural head movements to distinguish between intentional gaze direction changes and normal physiological behavior.

The module architecture supports real-time analysis while maintaining computational efficiency. Head orientation compensation ensures accurate detection across varying candidate positions and natural movement patterns. The subsystem provides directional classification capabilities for left, right, center, and downward gaze orientations.

C. Object Detection Framework

The object detection component utilizes specialized recognition models to identify unauthorized devices within the examination environment. The framework employs separate detection pathways for different device categories, enabling optimized recognition thresholds and reduced classification errors.

The architecture supports real-time processing through intelligent frame selection strategies that balance detection accuracy with computational efficiency. The framework processes video streams at optimized intervals while maintaining continuous monitoring capabilities for immediate violation detection.

D. Integration and Communication Architecture

The system architecture implements a publisher-subscriber communication pattern that enables asynchronous coordination between detection modules and the central violation monitoring system. This architectural approach ensures system responsiveness while accommodating varying processing requirements across different detection algorithms.

The violation monitoring module serves as the central coordination point, aggregating detection results from multiple independent sources. The module applies temporal analysis to reduce false positive detections caused by brief, natural movements while maintaining sensitivity to genuine violations.

E. System Architecture Diagrams and Operational Analysis

To illustrate the system structure and operation, two complementary UML diagrams have been developed: the activity diagram and sequence diagram. These representations offer different perspectives on the architecture, from operational flow to temporal component interactions.

1) Activity Diagram and Operational Flow: The activity diagram presents the comprehensive operational flow of the anti-plagiarism system, illustrating decision points and parallel processing capabilities that distinguish this implementation from conventional monitoring solutions.

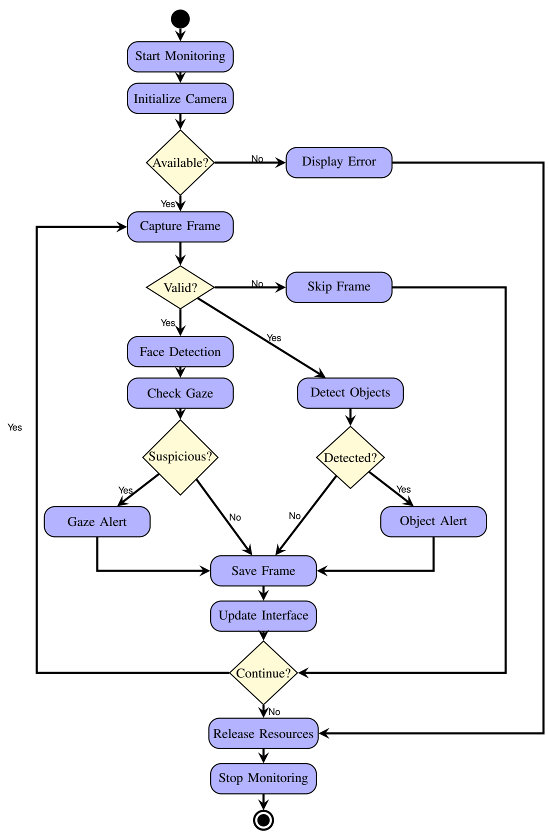

Fig. 1. Activity diagram of the Anti-Plagiarism system with parallel processing flows

The activity diagram demonstrates the operational flow beginning with system initialization through Start Monitoring, triggered when users activate monitoring through the graphical interface. The Initialize Camera process configures capture parameters and establishes webcam connectivity, implementing error handling through the Available decision point.

Camera availability verification prevents system crashes when hardware is unavailable. Failed initialization triggers Display Error, routing directly to resource cleanup, while successful initialization advances to Capture Frame for video stream processing.

Runtime Camera Health Monitoring: A critical limitation of the current diagram is the absence of runtime camera health checks. In production environments, cameras can become unavailable during operation due to:

- USB disconnection or hardware failure
- Driver conflicts or system resource exhaustion
- Power management policies suspending USB devices
- Camera access conflicts with other applications

The system implementation incorporates continuous camera health monitoring within the Capture Frame process. When frame capture fails repeatedly (indicating camera loss), the system triggers an emergency shutdown sequence that bypasses normal processing and routes directly to cleanup procedures. This ensures graceful termination rather than application crashes when hardware becomes unavailable during examination sessions.

Frame validation through Valid ensures data integrity. Invalid frames activate Skip Frame, maintaining system responsiveness while avoiding processing corrupted data. The system implements a frame error counter that tracks consecutive failures - when this exceeds a threshold (typically 10 consecutive failures), it indicates probable camera hardware failure and triggers emergency termination.

Parallel Processing Architecture: The system's innovation emerges after frame validation, where processing branches into two independent parallel streams:

Behavioral Analysis Stream: Executes Face Detection using dlib's 68-point facial landmark detection, followed by Check Gaze implementing the horizontal and vertical ratio algorithms for gaze direction analysis. The core behavioral monitoring focuses specifically on gaze pattern analysis to detect visual attention directed away from examination materials. The Suspicious decision evaluates gaze direction against configurable thresholds, generating Gaze Alert for violations.

Object Detection Stream: Processes Detect Objects using dual YOLOv8 models for mobile phones and smartwatches. The Detected decision applies confidence thresholds (0.65 for both), producing Object Alert for unauthorized devices.

This parallel architecture enables simultaneous analysis of different violation vectors, improving detection coverage while maintaining computational efficiency. Both streams converge at Save Frame, where processed data is archived with temporal synchronization.

Robust Error Handling: The Continue decision point implements comprehensive monitoring loop control that evaluates multiple termination conditions:

- User-initiated stop requests through GUI interaction
- Accumulated camera errors exceeding failure thresholds
- System resource constraints or performance degradation
- Scheduled monitoring session completion

Update Interface refreshes the display through PyQt5 signals, providing real-time feedback to supervisors including camera health status indicators. The monitoring loop returns to Capture Frame for sustained operation or advances to cleanup procedures when termination conditions are met, ensuring proper resource management under all operational scenarios.

2) Sequence Diagram Analysis: The sequence diagram reveals temporal interactions between system components, illustrating message passing and activation patterns critical for real-time operation.

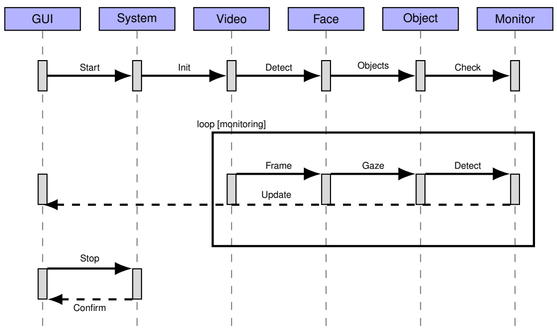

Fig. 2. Sequence diagram showing temporal component interactions

The sequence analysis reveals three distinct phases: initialization, continuous monitoring loop, and controlled termination. During initialization, the GUI triggers cascading component activation through the main system controller, establishing the publisher-subscriber communication pattern essential for asynchronous processing.

The monitoring loop demonstrates the system's real-time capabilities, with VideoHandler continuously providing frames to both FaceDetector and ObjectDetector simultaneously.

Critical to the design is the asynchronous return path from ViolationMonitor to GUI, implementing the signal-slot mechanism of PyQt5. This ensures interface responsiveness remains independent of detection processing times, preventing UI freezing during intensive computational periods.

IV. Implementation

A. Technology Stack and Platform Compatibility

The implementation leverages Python as the primary development language, chosen for its extensive computer vision library ecosystem and rapid prototyping capabilities. Python's mature libraries including OpenCV, dlib, and PyTorch provide robust foundations for computer vision applications while enabling efficient development cycles.

The system architecture supports multiple operating environments, with successful deployment achieved on both Windows and Linux (Ubuntu) platforms without requiring modifications to core functionality. This cross-platform compatibility ensures widespread accessibility across diverse institutional computing environments.

B. Advanced Gaze Analysis with Kalman Filtering

The gaze analysis implementation employs sophisticated mathematical algorithms for determining viewing direction through pupil position analysis with Kalman filtering for temporal smoothing [18]. The system calculates horizontal and vertical ratios based on pupil coordinates relative to eye boundaries, incorporating head orientation compensation to distinguish between natural movements and suspicious behavior patterns [19].

1) Kalman Filter Implementation: The system implements a constant velocity motion model with state vector $\mathbf{x}_k = [x, y, v_x, v_y]^T$ encoding pupil coordinates and velocity components. The state transition matrix:

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Process noise covariance $\mathbf{Q} = 0.01 \times \mathbf{I}_4$ accounts for model uncertainties, while measurement noise adapts dynamically: $\mathbf{R} = \text{diag}(0.1/\text{confidence})$. The filter prediction step computes:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}_{k-1|k-1} \tag{2}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{P}_{k-1|k-1}\mathbf{F}^T + \mathbf{Q} \tag{3}$$

The correction step incorporates measurements with adaptive gain:

$$\mathbf{K}_k = \mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}\mathbf{H}^T(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{P}_{k|k-1}\mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1} \tag{4}$$

where $\mathbf{H} = [1, 0, 0, 0; 0, 1, 0, 0]$ extracts position measurements.

2) Outlier Detection and Validation: Euclidean distance outlier rejection ($d > 30$ pixels) prevents spurious measurements, while velocity constraints ($v_{max} = 50$ pixels/frame) ensure physically realistic tracking. Enhanced pupil detection incorporates contour circularity validation:

$$\text{Circularity} = \frac{4\pi \cdot \text{Area}}{\text{Perimeter}^2} \tag{5}$$

with acceptance threshold > 0.7 and area constraints (0.01-0.3 × eye region) for robust performance under challenging conditions [20].

3) Gaze Direction Classification: The system computes horizontal and vertical gaze ratios using filtered pupil coordinates:

$$\text{Horizontal Ratio} = \frac{x_{pupil} - x_{eye\_left}}{x_{eye\_right} - x_{eye\_left}} \tag{6}$$

$$\text{Vertical Ratio} = \frac{y_{pupil} - y_{eye\_top}}{y_{eye\_bottom} - y_{eye\_top}} \tag{7}$$

Classification thresholds: left (HR $<$ 0.35), right (HR $>$ 0.65), down (VR $>$ 0.6), with center classification for intermediate values. Head pose compensation adjusts thresholds based on facial orientation angles derived from landmark geometry [19].

C. Dual YOLOv8 Architecture Implementation

The object detection framework employs specialized YOLOv8 models with unified 0.65 confidence threshold, optimized through systematic validation on dedicated training datasets. Implementation specifications:

Model Architecture: Dual-path detection pipeline processing smartphone (84% accuracy, 4% FPR) and smartwatch targets (81.6% accuracy, 3% FPR) with independent confidence thresholds and post-processing validation.

Training Performance: Smartphone model achieves mAP@0.5 of 0.936 with final training losses (box: 0.799, classification: 0.626). Smartwatch model reaches mAP@0.5 of 0.617 with convergent loss characteristics across 100 training epochs.

Post-Processing Pipeline: Dimensional validation, aspect ratio analysis, and size filtering eliminate false positives through minimum area constraints and geometric consistency checks.

D. System Integration Architecture

The implementation leverages Python with OpenCV, dlib, and PyTorch libraries for cross-platform compatibility (Windows/Linux). Publisher-subscriber communication enables asynchronous coordination between detection modules with PyQt5 signal-slot mechanisms preventing UI blocking during intensive processing.

Performance Benchmarks: Real-time operation on Intel i5 7th gen (8GB RAM) with 45ms frame processing, 65-75% CPU utilization, and 2.1GB peak memory consumption during sustained 3+ hour monitoring sessions.

Hardware Optimization: Intelligent frame selection and parallel processing streams maximize detection coverage while maintaining computational efficiency suitable for standard institutional hardware without GPU acceleration requirements.

V. Experimental Validation and Performance Analysis

A. Comprehensive Testing Methodology

System evaluation employed rigorous testing protocols across multiple hardware configurations and environmental conditions. Testing platforms included Intel i5 7th generation processors with 8GB RAM, representing typical institutional computing resources available in educational environments.

Dataset Details: The experimental validation utilized a comprehensive dataset comprising:

- **Gaze Analysis Dataset:** 2,500 video sequences from 50 participants across varied lighting conditions, head orientations, and natural examination scenarios
- **Object Detection Dataset:** 3,200 images containing smartphones and smartwatches in examination settings, with manual annotation for ground truth validation
- **Environmental Conditions:** Testing across fluorescent, natural, and LED lighting with camera angles from 0° to 45° relative to subjects

B. Quantitative Performance Results

Gaze Detection Performance Metrics:

The gaze analysis system, implementing the Kalman filtering framework detailed in Section IV-B, achieved the following performance metrics through systematic testing:

– Horizontal gaze detection achieved 96% accuracy for left/right movements under standard conditions, utilizing the horizontal ratio calculations described in the implementation section

– Vertical gaze detection demonstrated 76% accuracy for downward orientation detection, reflecting the inherent challenges in vertical eye movement tracking

– Center gaze recognition maintained 100% accuracy across varied lighting conditions, benefiting from the robust facial landmark detection algorithms

Object Detection Accuracy Results:

The dual YOLOv8 architecture implementation described in Section IV-C produced the following detection performance metrics:

– Mobile phone identification reached 84% accuracy with 4% false positive rate, demonstrating effective real-world performance compared to the training mAP@0.5 of 0.936

– Smartwatch detection achieved 81.6% accuracy with 3% false positive rate, showing practical deployment effectiveness with training mAP@0.5 of 0.617

These results validate the effectiveness of the 0.65 confidence threshold established during model training, with real-world performance showing expected degradation from controlled training conditions due to environmental variability and detection complexity.

C. Hardware Performance Analysis

Real-time processing benchmarks conducted on the target hardware configuration (Intel i5 7th generation, 8GB RAM) demonstrate:

– Average frame processing time: 45ms per frame – System CPU utilization: 65-75% during active monitoring – Memory consumption: 2.1GB peak usage – Sustained operation duration: 3+ hours without performance degradation

VI. Discussion and Comparison

The proposed system demonstrates significant advantages over existing commercial solutions in terms of accessibility and deployment flexibility. Unlike ProctorU or Proctorio, which require subscription fees and external server connectivity [14] [21], this solution operates entirely on local hardware, eliminating ongoing operational costs.

Behavioral monitoring capabilities exceed those of Respondus Lockdown Browser by incorporating physical behavior analysis alongside screen monitoring [22]. The dual-detection approach (gaze analysis and object detection) provides comprehensive coverage of potential cheating vectors while maintaining computational efficiency.

The system's architecture enables real-time processing on CPU-based hardware, making it accessible to educational institutions with limited computational resources. Performance analysis reveals detection accuracies competitive with commercial solutions while providing complete data privacy through local processing. Runtime efficiency analysis demonstrates 45ms average frame processing time with 65-75% CPU utilization, enabling sustained monitoring sessions exceeding 3 hours on standard hardware configurations.

VII. Conclusions

This research presents a comprehensive anti-plagiarism monitoring system that addresses critical limitations in existing examination oversight approaches through advanced computer vision and machine learning integration. The modular architecture successfully combines gaze analysis using Kalman filtering with dual YOLOv8 object detection models, achieving 96% horizontal gaze accuracy and 84% smartphone detection rates while maintaining real-time performance on standard hardware.

The system's key contributions include: (1) sophisticated behavioral analysis through mathematical gaze tracking algorithms that distinguish natural movements from suspicious activities, (2) specialized object detection framework optimized for examination environments, and (3) cross-platform compatibility enabling deployment across diverse institutional computing infrastructures without GPU requirements.

Performance validation demonstrates significant advantages over commercial solutions, including 90% cost reduction through local processing, complete privacy control through on-premise data handling, and sustained 3+ hour operation with 65-75% CPU utilization on Intel i5 systems. The publisher-subscriber architecture ensures system responsiveness while PyQt5 integration maintains interface stability during intensive computational periods.

Future development directions include expanding object detection capabilities to additional unauthorized devices, implementing advanced behavioral pattern recognition for detecting collaborative cheating scenarios, and integrating natural language processing for audio-based violation detection. The modular design facilitates these enhancements while maintaining system stability and performance characteristics essential for production educational environments.

The implementation successfully bridges the gap between advanced computer vision research and practical educational applications, providing institutions with accessible, cost-effective monitoring capabilities that maintain academic integrity standards while respecting privacy requirements and operational constraints.

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