Fast Frontal Face and Eye Detection using Viola-Jones Object Detection, ICS3206, Course Project 2020

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I. Viola-Jones technical discussion

A. Introduction

The Viola-Jones paper [1] describes a machine learning technique that achieves a fast and accurate object recognition method that does not base itself on deep learning. This report is still relevant today, especially for face detection and has been cited around 22,000 times. The technique used achieves itself from particular following three steps:

- The image reproduces itself using a summed-area table referred to as the integral image.
- The target object's principal features are picked out from a training set using an algorithm based on AdaBoost and generates efficient classifiers.
- The image passes into numerous filters, referred to as a ”cascade structure” which is, in essence, a degenerate decision tree.

This paper's detector was tested on 384 by 288 images at 15 frames per second and accurate, irrelevant to facial features and ethnicity. The prompt detection of this technique is what makes it ahead of other methods.

B. The Integral Image

1) Haar-Like Features: Haar-Like Features are rectangular points marked over an image, as shown in 1 where the sum of pixels in the white rectangle subtracts from the grey rectangle's sum. By performing these calculations on raw image values, the result can take a significant amount of time. By calculating the integral image, these rectangular values can be performed quickly and in constant time. Figure 2 Shows different ways of calculating the features, (a) shows two-rectangle features, (b) shows three-rectangle features and (c) shows a four-rectangle feature.

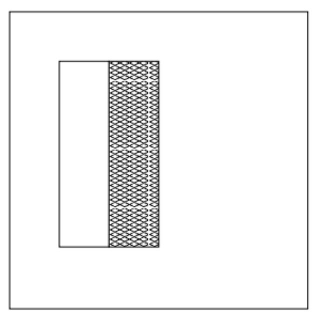


Fig. 1. Shows an example of a Haar features

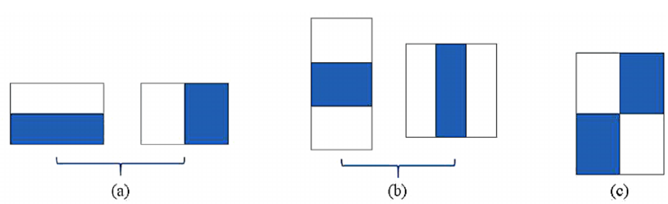


Fig. 2. Different Ways of calculating Haar Features

2) Calculating The Integral Image: The integral image is found by iterating over each pixel and computing its new value. This is obtained by calculating the sum of pixels above and to its left. The original pixel i(x,y)'s integral image ii(x,y) can be found using the following equation:

$$ii(x,y) = \Sigma_{(x \leq x, y' \leq y)}$$

Example of original image and its integral image.

1	5
2	4

Original Image

1	6
3	12

Integral Image

3) Calculating the Sum of Any Pixel Value From the Integral Image: Consider the following matrix:

1	7	4	2	9
7	2	3	8	2
1	8	7	9	1
3	2	3	1	5
3	0	5	6	6

Original Image

The sum of the greyed out area is 1+5+6+6 which is **18**. Now consider its integral image:

1	8	12	14	23
8	17	24	34	45
9	26	**40**	59	**71**
12	31	48	68	85
14	42	**64**	90	113

Integral Image

To Calculate the sum of the greyed out area subtract the summation of the unwanted areas's corner values, in this case:

113 - 64 - 71 which is -22 as shown in figure 3.

Fig. 3. Integral Image Corners

1	**8**	**12**	14	23
8	**17**	**24**	34	45
9	**26**	**40**	59	71
12	**31**	**48**	68	85
14	**42**	**64**	90	113

1	**8**	**12**	**14**	**23**
8	**17**	**24**	**34**	**45**
9	**26**	**40**	**59**	**71**
12	31	48	68	85
14	42	64	90	113

Fig. 3.

Then re-add the corner values of the areas that have been taken off twice in this case

+40 which results to **18**.

Although in this case, it did not make sense to calculate the integral image given how small the size of the original image is, in large pictures, this would save much time.

C. Learning Classification Functions Using AdaBoost

Over 180,000 features can be calculated in an image given a small detector of size 24x24 pixels. This number of features results in both slow classification and overfitting. To avoid such problems a boosting algorithm (AdaBoost) [2] is used to select a small set of critical Haar-like features using weak classifiers. For each of the features, the algorithm finds the function which separates them positively (contain a face) and negatively (do not contain a face) in the most optimal way ie. leaving the least possible number of values misclass Given a 24 by 24 image x with feature f_j, a weak classifier (h_j), is defined by

$$h_j(x) = 1 \text{ if } p_j f_j < p_j \theta_j$$
$$h_j(x) = 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

where θ_j is the treshold and p_j indicates the direction of the inequality sign.

1) Resultant Features: The figure shows the few numbers of features selected by AdaBoost. The two chief characteristics given priority are the darker eye area over the cheeks and the nose's bridge.

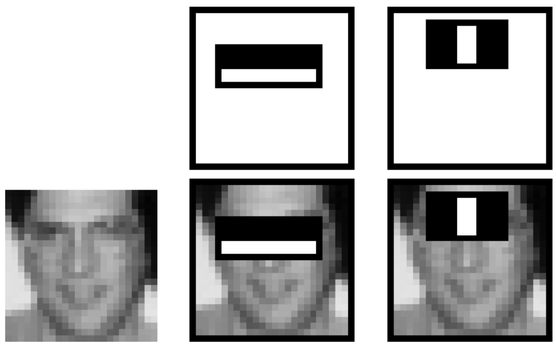
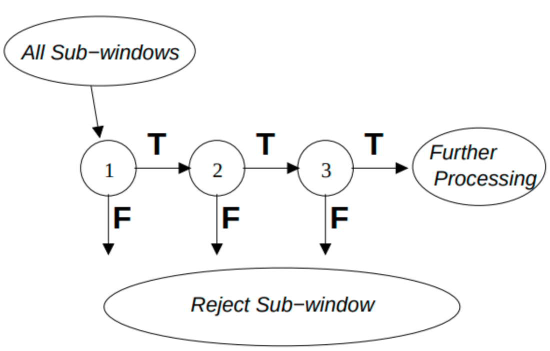


Fig. 4. Some Resultant Features

D. Cascade of Classifiers

The third part of the algorithm places the previous features in the form of ranking stages where an image would have to pass through all of the stages which contain the object/face. By doing so, this increases performance by avoiding to count all the negative features. If the image fails to pass through the first feature, it fails.



E. Useful Applications for the Viola Jones algorithm

II. METHODOLOGY

REFERENCES

[1] P. Viola and M. Jones, "Rapid object detection using a boosted cascade of simple features," in *Proceedings of the 2001 IEEE Computer Society Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. CVPR 2001*, vol. 1, 2001, pp. I–I.

[2] Y. Freund, R. Schapire, and N. Abe, "A short introduction to boosting," *Journal-Japanese Society For Artificial Intelligence*, vol. 14, no. 771-780, p. 1612, 1999.