9 Stage 3 – Facial Recognition

The focus of Stage 3 is to build a subsystem that can detect and recognise a person's face. If recognised, the person will be granted access to the property, otherwise access will be denied¹⁰.

9.1 Requirements

The subsystem developed in this stage aims to meet the following minimum requirements:

- The Serving Unit must...
 - o Capture images of a person
 - o Process/prepare images for facial detection and recognition
 - O Scan images in order to detect a person's face
 - o Store the relevant information required to recognise the person
 - o Recognise the faces of people that are enrolled with the system
 - o Not recognise the faces of people that are not enrolled with the system
- Users must be able to...
 - Add a person to the system (in order to be recognised)
 - O View a list of all people currently enrolled with the system
 - o Remove a person who is enrolled with the system
 - o Be recognised by the system (if enrolled)

¹⁰ Access to the property will be simulated.

9.2 Research

9.2.1 Facial Recognition Overview

Facial recognition is a term used to describe the task of authenticating the identity of an individual's face (Marcel *et al.*, 2007; Oxford English Dictionary, 2015). For more than 20 years it has attracted the attention of psychophysicists, neuroscientists, and engineers, and has drawn from various disciplines such as digital image processing, machine learning, neural networks, pattern recognition and data mining (Chellappa *et al.*, 1995; Yang *et al.*, 2002; Carrera, 2010).

Due to their continual decline in price to performance ratio, computer vision system's can now be deployed in desktop and embedded systems for the purpose of facial recognition (Yang *et al.*, 2002). Commonly used for security purposes, these systems typically capture and store specific data of a person's face known as a faceprint, which is then compared with data captured from an image (Jones, 2012).

Initially, computer-aided facial recognition systems must verify whether a face is present. Referred to as face detection, this process aims to calculate the location of faces within an image, if present. Researchers have proposed numerous methods for face detection, many of which are described in detail by Yang et al. (Yang et al., 2002).

There are many different approaches to machine-based facial recognition, though typically a 3-step process is used involving detection, extraction and recognition (Carrera, 2010; Oscós *et al.*, 2014). All approaches begin with an image; this could be either a static photograph or a still taken from a video. Firstly, the image is processed to determine whether a face is present. If present, the features of the face are extracted to obtain the relevant data that identifies the face. When identifying a face, the data is passed to a classification algorithm that performs a comparison with existing facial data, for which the identity of the person is known. A prediction is made a result of the comparison, and a level of accuracy/confidence is also provided.

9.2.2 Facial Recognition Algorithms

The 3 most widely used algorithms for facial recognition are Fisherfaces, Eigenfaces and Local Binary Patterns Histogram (LBPH) (Ahmed and Amin, 2015; Wagner, 2012). A comprehensive explanation of each can found in Liu et al. (Liu *et al.*, 1991). There is much debate in the academic community regarding the pros and cons of said algorithms. However, general comparisons have been made (Lobdell, 2014; Marcel *et al.*, 2007), the most relevant of which are summarised below:

- LBPH is significantly faster than both Fisherfaces and Eighenfaces
- LBPH requires less image preparation than both Fisherfaces and Eigenfaces
- Fisherfaces and Eighenfaces require re-training when new images are added
- LBPH can be updated without re-training the dataset
- LBPH is less sensitive to changes in lighting conditions

9.2.3 Facial Recognition in Python

As alluded to in Section 7.2.4, OpenCV has a *FaceRecognizer* class that enables Python users to implement and experiment with facial recognition systems (OpenCV Dev Team, 2015a). Example 25, Example 26 and Example 27 show the fundamental operations required to perform facial detection and recognition using OpenCV.

```
# Create the cascade classifier for face detection.

cascade = cv2.CascadeClassifier("lbpcascade_frontalface.xml")

# Load an image from file in grayscale format.

img = cv2.imread("image_file.jpg", cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)

# Detect faces in the image.

faces = cascade.detectMultiScale(img)

# Do something with the faces detected.

for (x, y, w, h) in faces:

print 'Face detected at location:', 'x =', x, 'y =', y, 'width =', w, 'height =', h
```

Example 25: Basic use of OpenCV's CascadeClassifier class and its detectMultiScale function to perform face detection in OpenCV.

```
# Create the LBPH face recognizer object for face recognition.

recognizer = cv2.createLBPHFaceRecognizer()

# images = the facial images; loaded in grayscale format and converted to a NumPy array.

# labels = a NumPy array of ints that identify who each image belongs to. images, labels = loadImagesAndLabels()

# Train the recognizer using the list of images and labels.

recognizer.train(images, labels)

# Or, if the recognizer has already been trained then...

recognizer.update(images, labels)
```

Example 26: Basic use of OpenCV's FaceRecognizer class and its train/update functions. The resulting recognizer object can be used to predict the identity of a person's face, as demonstrated in Example 27.

```
# Prediction needs a cropped, grayscale, NumPy image containing only the detected face.

face_img = scan_webcam_for_face_image()

# Use the recognizer to make a prediction.

predicted_label, confidence = recognizer.predict(face_img)

# Report the results of the prediction.

print 'Recognized as label', predicted_label, 'with a confidence of', confidence
```

Example 27: Using OpenCV's FaceRecognizer class to perform face recognition/prediction. The recognizer object that was created and trained in Example 26 can be used to predict the identity of a person's face.

9.3 Design

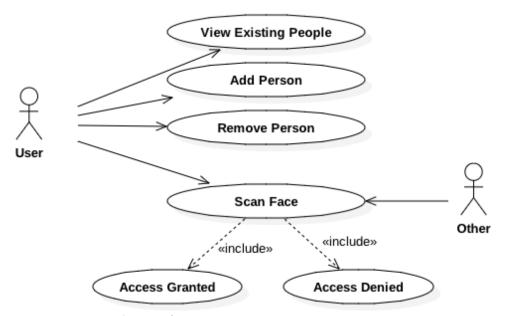


Figure 29: Use case diagram for Stage 4.

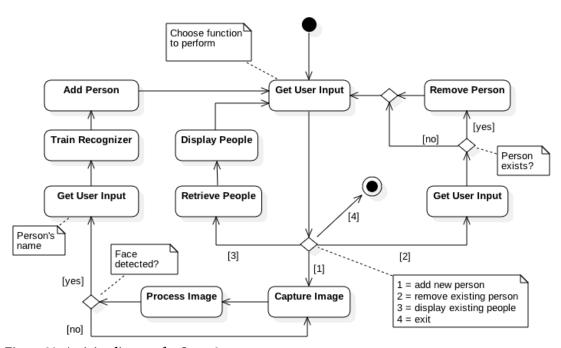


Figure 30: Activity diagram for Stage 3.

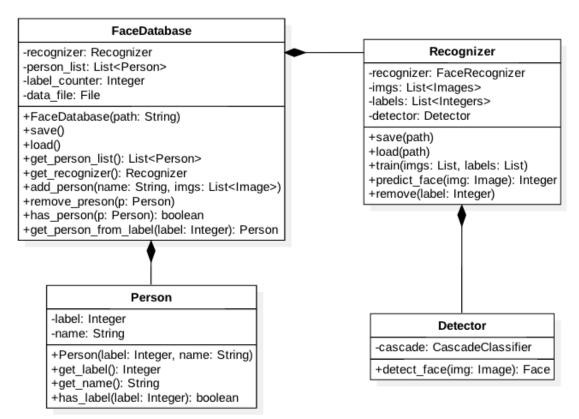


Figure 31: Class diagram for Stage 3.

9.4 Implementation

9.4.1 Creating, Saving and Loading the Face Database

Upon first launch, the application instantiates a *FaceDatabase* object that is responsible for managing all data. It stores a reference to the *Recognizer* object, a list of the people registered with the system and the name of the csv file used for storing the labels and names of people registered with the system. If the path provided in the __init__ function already exists, it is assumed that a database is present in this location, and is loaded via the *self.load* function. Alternatively, a new database is created. This process is shown in Example 28.

When loading an existing database, the labels and names are read from the csv file. Any changes to the database are saved to the csv file during runtime. The actual data used to train/update *recognizer* object is located in a separate file with the .yml extension, which is saved/loaded using its corresponding save/load functions. The operations associated with loading and saving the database can be viewed in Example 29.

```
CSV_FILE = 'labels&names.csv'
...

def __init__(self, path):
    self.recognizer = Recognizer()
    self.person_list = []
    self.label_counter = 0
    self.subdir = os.path.join(ROOT, path)
    self.csv_file = os.path.join(self.subdir, CSV_FILE)

# Check if database exists already
    if os.path.isdir(self.subdir):
        self.load()
    else: # Create the database files
        os.makedirs(self.subdir)
        self.recognizer.save(self.subdir)
        self.create_csv()
        app.log(TAG, 'New database created')
```

Example 28: The FaceDatabase's __init__ function, taken from the user-defined face module.

```
FIELD = ['label', 'name']
def load(self):
        try:
                self.recognizer.load(self.subdir)
                with open(self.csv_file) as c:
                         data = csv.DictReader(c)
                         for row in data:
                                 label = int(row[FIELD[0]])
                                 name = row[FIELD[1]]
                                 p = Person(label, name)
                                 self.person_list.append(p)
        except IOError as e:
                app.log(TAG, 'Error loading data -', e)
        if self.person_list: # Set label counter
                self.label_counter = self.person_list[-1].get_label()
        app.log(TAG, 'Existing data loaded')
def save(self):
  self.recognizer.save(self.subdir)
```

Example 29: The FaceDatabase's load and save functions, taken from the user-defined face module.

9.4.2 Scanning the Webcam for a Person's Face

Generally, the first operation performed when using a facial recognition system is to train it to recognize a person. In order to achieve this, images containing the person's face must be obtained and processed into a format suitable for the *recognizer* object. The function *scan_webcam_for_face* (in the user-defined module *face*) performs this task, the implementation of which can be viewed in Example 30.

Put simply, the function enters a loop that performs 4 key operations. Firstly, an image is captured using the webcam device; this is accomplished using the *camera* module introduced in section 7.4.1. Secondly, the image is passed to the function *detect_face* to determine whether or not the image contains a face and, if it does, where its location is in the image (*detect_face* uses a method similar to that shown in Example 25). Thirdly, if a face is detected, the image is cropped (via the user-defined function *crop_image*) around the face area. Finally, the resulting cropped image containing the face is added to a list. When the length of this list becomes equal to 10, a number often used for training and testing face recognition systems (AT&T Laboratories, 2002; Jain *et al.*, 2008), the loop is exited and the list is returned.

```
def scan_webcam_for_face():

TAG = 'FaceScanner'

face_img_list = []

while True:

success, img = camera.get_raw_image()

if success: # Try to detect a face

gray_img = image.to_grayscale(img)

has_face, face_area = detect_face(gray_img)

if has_face: # Crop the image around face area

face_img = image.crop_image(gray_img, face_area)

face_img_list.append(face_img)

app.log(TAG, 'Face added', len(face_img_list))

if len(face_img_list) == 10: # Scan complete

break # Exit the loop and return
```

Example 30: The user-defined function scan_webcam_for_face, taken from the face module.

9.4.3 Adding a Person to the Database

Once the list of images is returned by <code>scan_webcam_for_face</code>, the user is prompted to enter their name. This information is then passed to the <code>add_person</code> function shown in Example 31. The person is assigned a label, which is appended to the <code>csv</code> file along with the person's name. Finally, the list of images is passed to the <code>recognizer</code> object for training, before returning the newly created <code>Person</code> object.

Example 31: The user-defined function *add_person*, taken from the *FaceDatabase* class of the *face* module.

9.4.4 Listing Existing People in the Database

A list of existing people in the database can be obtained by calling the *get_person_list* function of the *FaceDatabase* object. Example 32 demonstrates the information that can be accessed via the list, such as the amount of people in the database and each person's label and name.

```
def list_all_persons():
    app.log(TAG, 'Existing people:', len(data.get_person_list()))
    for p in data.get_person_list():
        app.log(TAG, '>', p.get_label(), '-', p.get_name())
```

Example 32: The *get_person_list* function can be used to access the names and labels of people in the database.

9.4.5 Removing an Existing Person from the Database

As demonstrated in Example 33, a person can be removed from the database by calling the *remove_person* function with the *person* object to be removed. Since, the *recognizer* is not directly capable of removing images and labels, a helper function, called *remove_label*, was written to simulate this operation. In short, the *recognizer* object keeps lists of all images and labels it is trained/updated with. When a call is made to remove a label, it and all associated images are deleted from the lists, which are then passed to the *recognizer* for retraining. Similarly, the csv file used to store the labels and names of people is not directly capable of deleting specific entries. Hence, a new file is created to reflect the changes made.

Example 33: The user-defined function remove_person, taken from the FaceDatabase class of the face module.

9.4.6 Recognizing/Predicting People

A similar method to that shown in Example 27 is used to predict the identity of a person. The LBPH recognition algorithm was selected for the reasons specified in Section 9.2.2. Firstly, the *scan_webcam_for_face* function is employed to obtain images of the person's face. These are then passed to the function shown in Example 34, which iterates the list of images making a prediction for each. The most commonly predicted label is returned, unless it is equal to -1, which indicates that the face was not recognised.

```
def predict_face_from_list(self, imgs):
    pred_labels = []
    for img in imgs:
        label, conf = self.predict_face(img)
        app.log(self.TAG, 'Label: {} Conf: {}'.format(label, conf))
        pred_labels.append(label)
    predicted_label = Counter(pred_labels).most_common(1)[0][0]
    if predicted_label == -1: # Face wasn't recognised
        return None
    return predicted_label
```

Example 34: The user-defined function *predict_face_from_list*, taken from the *Recognizer* class of the *face* module.

9.4.7 Practical Demonstration

Figure 32: The application upon first launch. Note that an existing database is not found, thus a new database is created.

```
Face detected. ..... 03:46:27PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
 FaceScanner:
     Face detected. ..... 03:46:27PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
     FaceScanner:
     FaceDetector:
 FaceScanner:
     FaceDetector:
     FaceScanner:
     Face added 4. ..... 03:46:27PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
     FaceScanner:
     FaceDetector:
     FaceScanner:
     FaceDetector:
     Face detected. ...... 03:46:28PM on 27-Sep-2015
 FaceScanner:
     Face added 7. ...... 03:46:28PM on 27-Sep-2015
     Face detected. ...... 03:46:28PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
     Face added 8. ...... 03:46:28PM on 27-Sep-2015
 FaceScanner:
FaceScanner:
     Face added 9. ..... 03:46:28PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
     Please enter your name: Matthew
```

Figure 33: The user has selected the option to add a new person to the database. The facial images are obtained from the webcam, a name is entered and both the database and recognizer update accordingly.

Figure 34: The user has selected the option to list all existing people in the database.

```
FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
      Face added 1. ....
                           03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
      FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
      FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
      Face added 5. ....
                           03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
      Face detected. ..... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
      Face added 6. ..... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceScanner:
FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
      Face added 7. ...... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
      Face detected. ..... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
FaceScanner:
      Face added 8. ...... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
      Face detected. ...... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
      FaceDetector:
      FaceScanner:
Recognizer:
Recognizer:
      Label: 1 Conf: 12.7001858912. ............................... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
      Recognizer:
Recognizer:
      Recognizer:
      Recognizer:
      Label: 1 Conf: 13.1345461011. ............................... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
      Label: 1 Conf: 13.4138011475. ............................... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
      Recognizer:
      Access granted. Recognised as Matthew. .......... 03:47:43PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceRecDemo:
```

Figure 35: The user has selected the option to predict the face of the person in the webcam. In this instance, the person is the user added in Figure 33, hence access is granted.

```
Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. .....
                                                           03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-201
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. ..... 03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. .....
                                                           03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. .....
                                                           03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. ..... 03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. ..... 03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. ..... 03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. ................ 03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. ..... 03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
Recognizer:
Recognizer:
            Label: -1 Conf: 1.79769313486e+308. .....
                                                           03:49:44PM on 27-Sep-2015
FaceRecDemo:
```

Figure 36: The user has selected the option to predict the face of the person in the webcam. In this instance, the person is <u>NOT</u> the user added in Figure 33, hence access is denied.

Figure 37: The user has selected the option to exit the application; existing data is saved.

Figure 38: The application upon first launch. This time, the database saved in Figure 37 is loaded.

Figure 39: The user has selected the option to remove an existing person from the database. The user enters the label to be removed and both the database and recognizer update accordingly. The removal is confirmed by the following command to list all existing people.

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