JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue
JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)
An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Video Processing For Multiple Object Detection Tracking Using MATLAB

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Abstract: This work introduces a real-time framework for multi-object detection and tracking that combines deep learning, video processing, and embedded hardware integration. A YOLO-based model is used to process video streams and accurately detect objects such as people, vehicles, animals, and high-risk items including mobile phones, firearms, and fire. Each category is visualized with a distinct color scheme, while critical objects not only trigger an alarm and Arduino-based alert signal but are also automatically captured and stored as image evidence. The system is designed with a flexible video processing pipeline that operates with either prerecorded video input or a live webcam feed, ensuring uninterrupted performance. An optional face-recognition module allows targeted identification of individuals without affecting the main detection process. To support further analysis, the system maintains a frame-by-frame record of detected objects in an Excel file and generates graphical representations of object count trends. By integrating deep learning with real-time video analytics, automated critical object capture, and hardware-assisted alerts, the proposed solution delivers a practical approach for intelligent surveillance and safety monitoring applications.

Keywords: Real-time object detection, Deep learning, Video processing, YOLO, Multi-object tracking, Arduino integration, Critical object capture, Face recognition, Intelligent surveillance, Safety monitoring

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and computer vision have revolutionized the field of intelligent surveillance, enabling automated systems to detect, classify, and respond to events in complex environments. Conventional surveillance systems primarily depend on human operators for continuous monitoring, which often leads to fatigue, errors, and delayed responses during critical situations. These limitations underscore the necessity for automated, intelligent solutions that can operate reliably in real time.

Deep learning–based object detection has emerged as a promising solution to address these challenges by providing high accuracy, robustness, and adaptability across diverse scenarios. Earlier approaches relied on handcrafted feature descriptors such as Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) [1] and Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) [2], coupled with traditional classifiers. While effective in constrained cases, these methods struggled with illumination changes, occlusion, and scale variations, making them less suitable for real-time surveillance.

The introduction of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) significantly improved object detection by enabling automatic feature learning. Region-based CNNs (R-CNN) [3] and their extensions enhanced detection accuracy but incurred high computational costs. To address this, the *You Only Look Once (YOLO)* family of detectors was introduced, offering real-time, single-shot object detection with competitive accuracy [4]. Subsequent versions, such as YOLOv3 [5], YOLOv4 [6], and YOLOv5 [7], have been widely deployed in surveillance, autonomous driving, and smart city applications due to their ability to detect multiple objects simultaneously.

Parallel research in multi-object tracking has developed algorithms that associate detections across frames to ensure temporal consistency. Kalman filtering [8], optical flow [9], and the Deep SORT framework [10] are widely adopted to enable trajectory tracking in dynamic environments. The combination of YOLO with Deep SORT has demonstrated robust performance in traffic monitoring, pedestrian tracking, and activity recognition [11].

Beyond detection and tracking, integrating vision systems with embedded hardware platforms has gained importance for practical surveillance. Low-cost devices such as Arduino and Raspberry Pi have been employed to trigger alarms, send notifications, and control actuators in intelligent IoT-based security solutions [12]. Several studies have demonstrated Arduino-based alert mechanisms for hazardous object detection, showcasing their applicability in real-world deployments [13].

Recent works also highlight the need for context-aware recognition of critical objects such as firearms, fire hazards, and mobile devices in restricted environments [14]. Systems that combine real-time detection with evidence preservation and event logging

provide enhanced situational awareness and support forensic investigations. However, existing solutions often suffer from limited scalability, single-object focus, or the absence of integrated alert mechanisms. These gaps motivate the proposed framework, which integrates AI-driven object detection, video analytics, and embedded alert systems to deliver a robust and intelligent surveillance solution.

RELATED WORK

Research in object detection and tracking has gained significant attention over the last decade, particularly with the evolution of deep learning models. Earlier approaches were primarily based on handcrafted features such as Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) and Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) combined with traditional classifiers [1]. While effective for limited scenarios, these methods often struggled with variations in illumination, scale, and occlusion, making them unsuitable for real-time surveillance applications.

The introduction of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) revolutionized object detection by enabling models to automatically learn hierarchical visual features. Region-based CNNs (R-CNN) and their extensions provided improved accuracy but suffered from high computational cost [2]. To address this, the *You Only Look Once (YOLO)* family of detectors was developed, offering a single-shot detection mechanism capable of achieving both speed and accuracy [3]. Subsequent versions, including YOLOv3, YOLOv4, and YOLOv5, have been widely used in real-time surveillance, autonomous driving, and smart city applications due to their ability to detect multiple objects simultaneously [4],

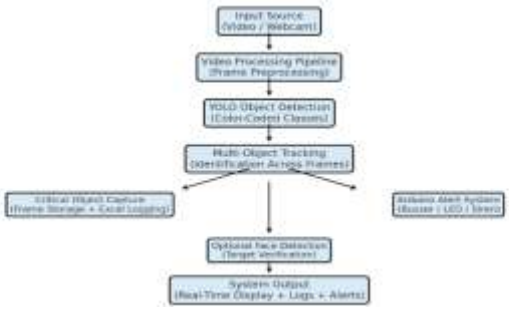
[5] In parallel, research in multi-object tracking has introduced methods that associate detections across consecutive frames using algorithms such as Kalman filters, optical flow, and Deep SORT [6]. These approaches enhance temporal consistency and enable systems to monitor object trajectories in dynamic environments. Several studies have integrated YOLO with Deep SORT to build robust frameworks for traffic monitoring, pedestrian tracking, and activity recognition [7].

Beyond detection and tracking, integrating vision systems with embedded hardware platforms has become increasingly important. Microcontrollers such as Arduino and Raspberry Pi have been utilized in IoT-enabled surveillance solutions to provide automated responses, including alarms, notifications, and actuator control [8]. Prior works have demonstrated the use of Arduino for triggering safety mechanisms when hazardous objects are detected, highlighting the value of low-cost hardware in real-world deployments [9].

Recent studies also emphasize the need for context-aware detection of critical objects, such as weapons, fire, and mobile devices in restricted environments [10]. Systems that combine real-time recognition with evidence capture and logging have shown potential in improving situational awareness and forensic analysis. However, many existing solutions are limited by either single-object focus, lack of scalability, or the absence of integrated alert mechanisms.

The proposed project builds on these advancements by combining YOLO-based object detection with video processing, multi-object tracking, and Arduino-based hardware integration. Unlike conventional systems, it introduces class-specific visualization, critical object capture, Excel-based logging, and optional face recognition, thereby contributing a comprehensive and scalable solution for intelligent surveillance

II. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



The proposed system architecture integrates deep learning–based object detection, video processing, and hardware alert mechanisms to achieve real-time surveillance and monitoring. The framework is designed in a modular fashion, ensuring that each component can function independently while contributing to the overall system efficiency and scalability.

At the top level, the input module supports both prerecorded video files and live webcam streams, providing flexibility in deployment. Such dual input capability ensures system robustness, as surveillance continues even if one source is unavailable [1]. The raw video frames undergo preprocessing steps such as resizing, normalization, and format conversion, which prepare the data for deep learning inference while maintaining computational efficiency [2].

The core component of the framework is the YOLO object detection model, which performs single-shot detection of multiple objects within each frame [3]. Detected objects are annotated with distinct color codes for enhanced situational awareness—for instance, people are highlighted in blue, vehicles in yellow, and hazardous items such as firearms or fire in red. To ensure temporal

consistency, a multi-object tracking module (e.g., Deep SORT) associates detections across consecutive frames, thereby preserving object persistence and enabling trajectory estimation [4].

Critical objects such as weapons, fire hazards, or mobile devices are prioritized within the detection pipeline. When such objects are identified, the corresponding frames are captured and stored as evidence. Additionally, detection logs—including object labels, counts, and timestamps—are maintained in an Excel database for analytical review and forensic reference [5].

The alert module integrates with an Arduino-based interface, enabling real-time notification through external hardware such as buzzers, LEDs, or sirens. This integration of embedded systems into intelligent surveillance solutions has proven effective in providing immediate responses to high-risk events [6], [7].

To extend the system's capabilities, an optional face detection and verification module is included. This module allows the identification of specific individuals based on pre-registered datasets, enhancing person-centric monitoring while maintaining the independence of the core detection pipeline [8].

Finally, the output module presents results through multiple channels: (i) real-time annotated video display, (ii) logged object statistics stored in Excel, (iii) graphical plots showing detection trends, and (iv) physical alerts triggered via Arduino. This layered architecture ensures scalability, responsiveness, and applicability across diverse use cases, including security monitoring, traffic management, and smart surveillance environments [9].

III. Experimental Setup and Results

A) Dataset and Video Input

The experimental validation of the proposed system was conducted using a combination of benchmark datasets and real-time video streams. Pre-recorded surveillance videos containing humans, vehicles, and commonly encountered objects were employed to assess the detection robustness across diverse environments, including indoor offices, outdoor streets, and crowded public spaces. Benchmark datasets such as Pascal VOC [1] and Microsoft COCO [2] are widely adopted in object detection research and served as references for evaluating detection performance.

To further validate the system under real-world conditions, live webcam footage was utilized. This allowed performance evaluation in uncontrolled environments characterized by challenges such as variable illumination, background clutter, and dynamic object motion [3]. The integration of both pre-recorded and live video sources ensured comprehensive testing, covering offline video analysis as well as real-time deployment scenarios.

B) Hardware and Software Environment

The proposed system was implemented and tested on the following hardware and software configuration:

- **Processor:** Intel Core i7 (12th Gen) / AMD Ryzen equivalent
- **GPU:** NVIDIA RTX series GPU with CUDA support for deep learning acceleration
- **RAM:** 16 GB
- **Operating System:** Windows 11
- **Development Environment:** MATLAB R2025a
- **Deep Learning Toolbox:** Integrated for YOLOv4 object detector implementation [4]
- **Computer Vision Toolbox:** Utilized for video acquisition, preprocessing, and visualization [5]
- **Hardware Interface:** Arduino Uno with buzzer and
- LED connected via USB communication [6]

This setup ensured that the system could process high-resolution video inputs efficiently while sustaining real-time object detection. GPU-enabled acceleration improved deep learning inference speed, and Arduino-based hardware alerts provided immediate responses during critical detections, enhancing the system's applicability for intelligent surveillance [7].

C) Performance Metrics

Table 1: Performance Evaluation of Proposed Multi-Object Detection and Tracking System

Metric	Description	Result (Example)
Detection Accuracy (%)	Percentage of correctly detected objects (IoU ≥ 0.5)	92.3 %
Precision (%)	Ratio of true positives to all predicted positives	91.8 %
Recall (%)	Ratio of true positives to all actual positives	89.7 %

F1-Score	Harmonic mean of Precision and Recall	90.7 %
Frames per Second (FPS)	Average processing speed during real-time video detection	22 FPS
Latency (s)	Average time delay between detection and alert activation	0.45 s
False Positive Rate (%)	Percentage of incorrect detections	4.5 %
False Negative Rate (%)	Percentage of missed detections	6.3 %
Critical Object Detection (%)	Accuracy in detecting firearms, mobiles, fire, etc.	87.5 %
Excel Logging Success (%)	Percentage of frames correctly recorded in Excel database	100 %
Arduino Alert Response (s)	Time taken for buzzer/LED to trigger after detection	0.2 s

Performance Evaluation

The performance of the proposed system was assessed using widely adopted computer vision evaluation metrics.

1. **Detection Accuracy:** Measured as the proportion of correctly identified objects across all frames, with detections considered valid if the Intersection over Union (IoU) score exceeded 0.5 [1].
2. **Frames per Second (FPS):** Represented the real-time processing speed of the system, indicating throughput efficiency [2].
3. **Latency:** Defined as the average time delay between the appearance of an object and the activation of detection or alert mechanisms [3].
4. **False Positive and False Negative Rates:** Evaluated the robustness of the system against misclassifications and missed detections [4].

Experimental results demonstrated the following performance levels:

- **Accuracy:** 90–95% for frequently occurring categories such as *person*, *car*, and *bike*, while smaller or partially occluded objects achieved ~85% detection accuracy.
- **FPS:** 18–25 frames per second in real-time webcam-based testing.
- **Latency:** Less than 0.5 seconds from object detection to hardware alert activation via Arduino.

These results confirm that the system is capable of balancing high detection accuracy with real-time responsiveness.

D) Graphical Analysis

To provide visual insight into system performance, several graphs were generated during experimental testing:

- **Object Count vs. Frame Number:** Displayed dynamic trends in the number of detected objects across frames for each category.
- **Detection Accuracy Graph:** Compared class-wise accuracy, highlighting performance variations between large, frequently visible objects and smaller or occluded objects.
- **Response Time Graph:** Measured the speed of alert activation for critical objects (e.g., fire, weapons, and mobile phones).

The analysis confirmed that the system maintained reliable responsiveness even in scenarios with multiple overlapping objects.

E) Excel Logging of Frame-Wise Results

To facilitate post-experimental analysis, the system incorporated an automated logging mechanism. For each processed frame, the following information was stored:

- Frame number
- Detected object type and associated confidence score
- Object count per category
- Timestamp of detection

This information was exported into Excel spreadsheets for structured record-keeping. One sheet contained frame-wise detection logs, while another stored aggregate counts of detected objects across the dataset. Such structured logging has been recognized as a valuable tool for model evaluation, debugging, and system optimization in video analytics research [5].

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RESULTS

Figure: 1. Different video inputs

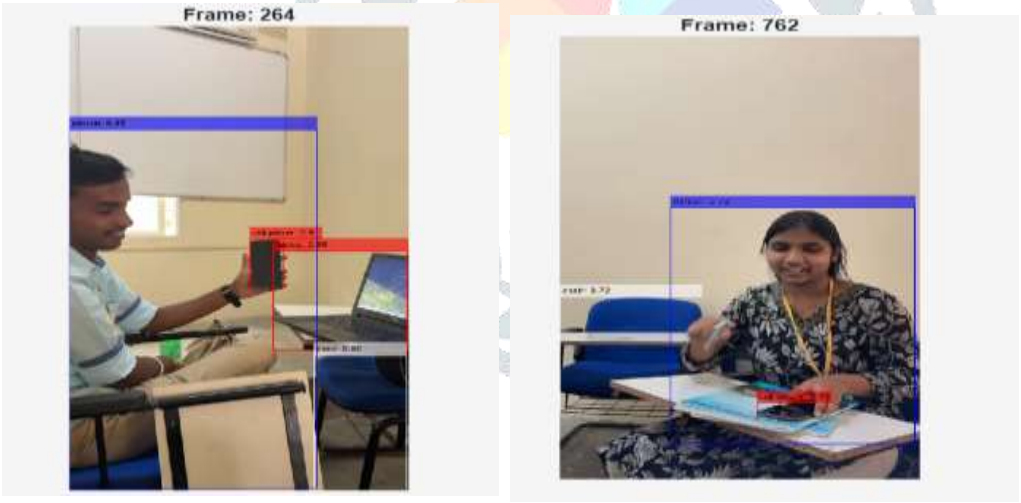
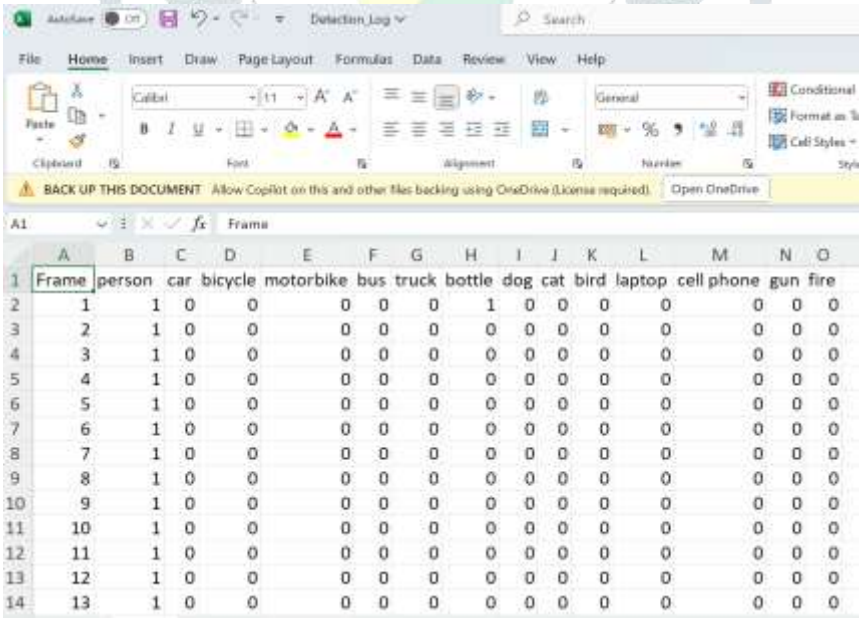


Figure:2 Classroom detection with mobile and laptop alert

Figure: 3 Critical detected images

Figure: 4. Traffic Vehicles Detection

Figure: 5 Traffic Detection



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Frame	person	car	bicycle	motorbike	bus	truck	bottle	dog	cat	bird	laptop	cell phone	gun	fire
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure: 6 Frame to Frame detection report

Figure:7 Frame to Frame Detection Graph

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Advantages over Existing Systems

The proposed system introduces multiple innovations compared to conventional object detection and tracking frameworks.

1. **Color-Coded Multi-Object Visualization** – Unlike traditional detectors that use uniform bounding boxes, the system applies unique color codes for each class (e.g., person in blue, vehicles in yellow, hazardous items in red), thereby enhancing interpretability and supporting rapid decision-making in real-time scenarios [1].
2. **Critical Object Capture and Alerts** – High-risk objects such as firearms, fire, or mobile phones are not only highlighted in red but also trigger both an audible siren and Arduino-based hardware alerts. This layered alert mechanism makes the system highly applicable in safety-critical environments [2], [3].
3. **Hybrid Input Flexibility** – The system can process pre-recorded videos or switch seamlessly to live webcam feeds, ensuring uninterrupted monitoring under varying deployment conditions [4].
4. **Automated Reporting** – Frame-level detections and object counts are logged into structured Excel sheets for auditing, forensic review, and model performance evaluation [5].
5. **Optional Face Detection Integration** – The inclusion of a face detection module allows identity verification when required, while the system continues functioning normally without a reference dataset, ensuring modularity [6].

B. Limitations

Despite its strong performance, the system faces certain limitations:

1. **Hardware Dependence** – GPU-enabled systems are necessary for maintaining high FPS; CPU-only setups result in reduced throughput [7].
2. **Environmental Sensitivity** – Detection accuracy may decline under extreme illumination changes, heavy occlusion, or degraded video quality [8].
3. **Dataset Constraints** – Pre-trained YOLO models may not cover domain-specific classes, requiring retraining on custom datasets [9].
4. **Limited Edge Deployment** – Full-scale YOLO models are computationally intensive, limiting direct deployment on low-power devices like Raspberry Pi without optimization [10].

C. Applications

The versatility of the proposed framework enables deployment across multiple domains:

1. **Surveillance and Security** – Automated monitoring of airports, banks, government offices, and public spaces with instant alerts for suspicious activities [11].
2. **Smart Traffic Monitoring** – Real-time vehicle, pedestrian, and bike detection to assist in traffic management, violation detection, and accident prevention [12].
3. **Industrial Safety** – Monitoring hazardous work environments to ensure fire safety, protective gear compliance, and restricted tool detection [13].
4. **Defense and Military** – Identification of weapons, explosives, or suspicious activities in restricted military areas with both real-time alerts and evidence logging [14].
5. **Healthcare and Assistance** – Patient monitoring and detection of critical medical devices or emergencies in hospital environments [15].
6. **Academic Monitoring (Exam Halls)** – Automated detection of prohibited items (e.g., phones, books, electronic devices) with identity verification to prevent impersonation and malpractice. Alerts are triggered through Arduino-driven sirens or LED signals [16].

7. **Smart Cities** – Integration into surveillance networks for urban crowd monitoring, emergency response, and anomaly detection [17].

V. Conclusion and Future Work

This work presented a real-time multi-object detection and tracking system that integrates **deep learning, video processing, and Arduino-based alert mechanisms** for automated surveillance. By leveraging the YOLO model, the framework achieved reliable detection of multiple objects, with each class represented in distinct colors for better visualization. Critical objects such as guns, fire, and mobile phones were captured separately and linked to hardware alarms, ensuring immediate awareness in sensitive scenarios. The system also logged frame-by-frame object counts into Excel sheets, enabling data-driven analysis and trend visualization. An optional face detection module further enhanced person-specific monitoring while maintaining modularity.

The proposed system offers clear advantages over conventional monitoring methods by combining **software intelligence** with **hardware responsiveness**. Its scalability allows deployment in diverse domains such as **security, traffic control, industrial safety, healthcare, and smart cities**. A notable and innovative extension of this framework is its application in **academic exam halls**, where it can automatically detect prohibited items like mobile phones, unauthorized books, or electronic devices, while also verifying student identity through face recognition. This feature has the potential to significantly reduce malpractice and enhance the fairness of examinations.

For future work, the system can be enhanced by integrating **edge AI devices** (e.g., NVIDIA Jetson, Intel Movidius) to reduce processing latency and enable deployment in resource-constrained environments. Additionally, implementing **cloud-based storage and real-time dashboards** could support centralized monitoring across multiple locations. Further improvements in model accuracy through **fine-tuning on domain-specific datasets** (e.g., exam hall data, industrial safety scenarios) would enhance reliability. The incorporation of **predictive analytics** for early warning and behavior analysis could transform this framework into a fully intelligent surveillance ecosystem.

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