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Visual Fall Detection Analysis Through Computer Vision and Deep Learning – Technology Proposition

C Kiranmai, B Srivalli, CH Komali, G Apurva, B Sneha Yesshaswi

Abstract *– Advances in modern medicine have increased humans' life span. Older adults face mobility problems as they age. They also feel less fit to continue any activity for short intervals. This is due to declining fitness levels or muscle strength, diminished dexterity, and loss of balance. These symptoms can lead to the individual's fall and sometimes be fatal if not immediately attended to. It's an alarming issue for people staying alone. They may pose significant health risks and need immediate assistance. Fall detection technologies are majorly categorised as wearable sensors and ambient sensors. Fall detection wearable devices, such as pendant necklaces, watches, and wristband devices, as well as clip-on medical alerts, use accelerometers to detect rapid downward movements that can indicate a fall. They often also include manual alert buttons for increased accuracy. This requires a level of comfort and awareness with technology for practical usage. Ambient home sensors use video cameras to monitor the user's movement and detect falls. When the fall is transmitted to a monitoring centre, a representative typically calls the user to check on them before notifying contacts or calling for emergency services, but this can depend on the user's preferences and risk factors. In this paper, we propose a technology that utilises security cameras to record videos and create a video-based fall detection system. The system utilises computer vision and deep learning algorithms to recognise fall-related movements and distinguish them from regular activities accurately. This system can be integrated to prompt alerts to emergency contacts, thus assisting in providing immediate aid to individuals who have experienced a fall. For higher accuracy, this system integrates multiple-angle videos and multi-person tracking to estimate the intensity of the fall, enabling immediate attention. Thus, this fall detection system can contribute to the safety, well-being and independence of individuals at risk of falling.*

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**Correspondence Author(s)*

Dr. C Kiranmai, Department of Computer Science, Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad (Telangana), India. E-mail: ckiranmai@vnrvjiet.in, ORCID ID: 0000-0003-3808-6332

B Srivalli*, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad (Telangana), India. E-mail: srivallib16@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0006-8993-1574

CH Komali, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad (Telangana), India. E-mail: cherukoorikomali@gmail.com ORCID ID: 0009-0000-2167-7764

G Apurva, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad (Telangana), India. E-mail: gunnalleapurva@gmail.com ORCID ID: 0009-0004-4084-933X

B Sneha Yesshaswi, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Yesshaswi, Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad (Telangana), India. E-mail: snehayeshaswi28@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0009-1693-1954

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I INTRODUCTION

Falls among the elderly and individuals with limited mobility are a growing public health concern, given the increasing ageing population and the desire for seniors to live independently in their own homes.

These incidents can have severe consequences, leading to injuries, decreased quality of life, and even mortality. The requirement for a dependable and autonomous fall detection system that can operate continuously and provide prompt assistance when needed is a significant challenge in solving this problem. In this context, the integration of deep learning and computer vision technologies plays a pivotal role in revolutionizing the approach to fall detection.

Deep learning has demonstrated remarkable aptitude in tackling complex tasks, particularly those involving the processing of visual data. The goal of computer vision is to enable machines to analyze and comprehend visual data. The importance of deep learning in this context lies in its capacity to automatically extract relevant features from video streams and learn intricate patterns that may signify a fall event. It can distinguish between everyday activities and fall-related movements, thus reducing false alarms and ensuring the system's effectiveness in real-world scenarios. By leveraging the power of neural networks, deep learning enables the fall detection system to adapt and improve its accuracy over time through training on large datasets, making it increasingly reliable and precise. Computer vision allows the system to process and understand the spatial and temporal characteristics of video data. It empowers the system to identify key elements such as human postures, gestures, and environmental context. This contextual understanding is crucial in differentiating a fall from other similar actions or events.

The combined application of deep learning and computer vision in the proposed work, for fall detection, promises to offer a highly accurate and robust solution. By continuously analysing video data from surveillance cameras or webcams, the system can recognise fall-related events in real-time, ensuring a timely response and assistance. The incorporation of multiple-angle videos and multi-person tracking enhances the system's adaptability to diverse home environments and living situations.

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Notably, this method goes beyond the binary detection of falls. It also assesses the intensity of the fall, aiding in the determination of the situation's urgency. This is achieved through computer vision techniques that analyse the force and impact of the fall, a feature that can be invaluable in emergency response situations. In addition to fall detection, this methodology can also analyse health records, emphasising the importance of monitoring the health conditions of individuals at risk of falling.

This holistic approach ensures that immediate assistance is provided not only in the event of a fall but also when health-related issues are detected.

The integration of deep learning and computer vision technologies in the proposed fall detection system represents a significant advancement in addressing the challenges posed by falls among the elderly and individuals with limited mobility. These technologies enable the development of a highly accurate, unobtrusive, and automated system that can significantly contribute to the safety, well-being, and independence of individuals at risk of falling, providing peace of mind to both them and their caregivers.

II LITERATURE REVIEW

The vision-based fall detection system using Deep learning methods [1] utilized technologies like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Auto-Encoders, Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP). The process typically involves the utilization of publicly available datasets, where each method is applied to the data for fall detection. Various metrics are then employed to evaluate the performance of these models.

A robust and automated vision-based human fall detection system using 3D multi-stream CNNs with an image fusion technique [2], applies a fine-tuned human segmentation model to segment human subjects from the background, enhancing the accuracy of subsequent analysis. Next, an image fusion technique is employed to improve the quality of the segmented images, thereby providing clearer input for the classification stage. Finally, the pre-processed set of live footage is classified using a 3D multi-stream Convolutional Neural Network (4S-3DCNN), which can extract spatial and temporal features from the input data for more robust and accurate classification of human fatigue.

The survey on fall detection techniques using a Machine Learning approach [3], used the wearables based methods, where the performance is related to the maintenance and upkeep of the device. Kumar et al., [4] demonstrates the potential of computer vision techniques for real-time body motion analysis and fall detection. The proposed approach demonstrates high accuracy and effectiveness, yielding substantial benefits in the healthcare and elderly care domains. It detects falls using computer vision techniques, such as pose estimation, activity recognition, and anomaly detection, along with algorithms like CNN, utilising datasets like ADL. The integration of multiple techniques enhances the system's robustness and reliability in various scenarios.

The Neural network-based human fall detection solution [5] relies on the Fast Pose Estimation method as its foundation. This method efficiently extracts human pose information from image frames. The solution employs two deep learning models for classifying the extracted data. The first model, Time-Distributed Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory (TD-CNN-LSTM), processes the temporal dynamics of the pose information over sequences of frames. The second model, a 1D CNN, likely operates on features extracted from individual frames or sequences to further refine the classification. This may not be reliable in all environments and is expensive to maintain.

Optimal Training Configurations of a CNN-LSTM-Based Tracker for a Fall Frame Detection System. Sensors [6] is crucial in reducing the risk of falls and injuries. The authors propose a new fall frame detection system called SmartConvFall, which uses a CNN tracker and an LSTM network to achieve high accuracy and real-time performance. SmartConvFall outperforms modern trackers on a publicly available dataset. The authors also identify the optimal training configurations for SmartConvFall, which can be used to enhance its performance across various datasets and environments.

Fall Detection Based on Body Part Tracking with Depth Cameras utilizes advanced depth-sensing cameras like Microsoft Kinect to monitor and analyze the movements and positions of an individual's body parts in three dimensions [6]. This real-time tracking enables the detection of anomalous behaviors indicative of a fall, enhancing accuracy and reliability. The proactive approach of continuously monitoring movement patterns enables timely intervention, thereby improving safety for at-risk individuals.

Microphone array technology enhances fall detection by analyzing unique audio patterns associated with falls, filling gaps where traditional sensors may falter [7]. In environments with noise or obscured spaces, this method offers a reliable alternative for accurate detection. Its ability to discern specific sound cues ensures a more comprehensive approach to safety. Integrating microphone arrays expands the scope of fall detection solutions, improving overall effectiveness across diverse scenarios. Embracing this innovation enhances safety measures, particularly in challenging environments, ensuring rapid assistance when needed.

The integration of radar sensors with RGB and depth sensors presents a powerful solution for fall detection, leveraging a multi-sensor approach to enhance accuracy and reliability [8]. By capturing detailed information about both movement and environment, this technology enables real-time detection of falls with precision. The complementary nature of radar sensors provides additional depth and context to the data from RGB and depth sensors, further enhancing detection capabilities.

Development of an intelligent walking aid for fall detection explains about mounting a microcontroller on a crutch, which transmits JSON data via an integrated Wi-Fi module[9]. Using an Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU), the system identifies fall patterns and triggers an alarm. Communication with the alarming host website is required for further action to be taken.

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Key features include the ability to differentiate between user falls and crutch falls, as well as the integration of a power-saving sleep mode that activates when the user's hand is not on the crutch. However, there are limitations, such as the lack of alert reception confirmation and reliance on a microcontroller with a fixed threshold that may not be suitable for all scenarios.

III PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Fall detection systems based on vision are gaining popularity due to their affordability and non-intrusive nature. However, existing vision-based fall detection systems have several limitations, including low accuracy, difficulty in detecting falls in various directions and crowded scenes, and the inability to detect the severity of falls. We propose a novel visual fall detection system that includes the following features to overcome these limitations:

- Multi-directional fall detection: Detect falls in all directions, forward, backwards, and sideways. This is achieved by using a human pose estimation method to track the body orientation.
- Multi-person fall detection: Detect falls in scenes with multiple people. This is achieved by using a CNN-based feature extractor to extract features from each person in the scene, and then utilising an LSTM-based classifier to classify these features as either a fall or no fall.
- Multiple-angle fall detection: Several camera angles are used to increase fall detection accuracy. By combining the features from all resources, this feature can be accomplished.
- Fall intensity detection: A CNN-based classifier enables classification of fall intensity as light or heavy.

IV CONCLUSION

The literature study enabled the exploration of methodologies for fall detection using vision-based systems, acoustic detection, IoT devices, smartphone-based solutions, radar, RGB-D sensors, and wearable sensors. Visual systems have significantly enhanced accuracy and reliability through the widespread adoption of deep learning techniques, such as CNNs, RNNs, and LSTM models. Several studies investigate the integration of data from multiple sensors and modalities, thereby enhancing the overall performance and robustness of fall detection systems. Solutions like exergames and smartphone-based systems aim to be less intrusive, engaging, and user-friendly, addressing the unique needs of older adults. Despite significant progress, challenges and limitations persist, including environmental noise, inadequate lighting conditions, the need for real-world testing, and potential inaccuracies in certain sensor types. Fall detection systems have made substantial progress, especially in the domains of deep learning, real-time processing, and non-intrusiveness.

The proposed approach addresses several challenges and limitations of existing fall detection systems, including the ability to detect falls in all directions and crowded scenes. It can also detect the intensity of a fall, which can help provide appropriate medical care. Additionally, it can analyse a person's medical records to monitor their health condition, which helps identify individuals at high risk of falls and provides them with preventive care. Our approach, which utilises image vision and Deep Learning technologies, holds the potential to substantially enhance the precision, dependability, and inclusiveness of fall detection systems, thereby contributing to increased safety and an improved quality of life for individuals prone to falling.

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AUTHORS PROFILE

Dr. Kiranmai Cherukuri, working as a Professor in the Department of Computer Science, VNR VJIET. She has 28 years of teaching experience, 7 years of industry experience, and 10 years of Research experience. She has published 42 papers in various reputable national and International journals. She was awarded the title of "Best teacher in Computer Science" in 2010 by the professional body, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). She served on the Editorial Board of two Springer series, Learning and Analytics in Intelligent Systems and Machine Learning Technologies and Applications, during the years 2021 and 2022. She conducted the International Conference on Advances in Computer Engineering and Communication Systems (ICACECS) for three consecutive years. Her areas of interest are communications, Data engineering and BlockChain Technologies.

Srivalli Bojja is a final-year student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering at VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology. As a passionate student researcher with a keen interest in the field of deep learning, this paper signifies her inaugural step into academic publishing. She has a genuine interest in exploring new ideas and seeking solutions. She is ardently committed to pushing the boundaries of knowledge within the realm of deep learning, seeking novel approaches to address real-world challenges. Her broad interests encompass machine learning, web development, deep learning, and cloud computing, reflecting her multifaceted approach to technological innovation and problem-solving.

Komali Cherukoori is a final-year student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering at VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology. She is a quick learner and a skilled analyst. This research paper marks her exciting debut in academic publishing. She is interested in learning more about Fall detection in the field of Deep Learning and Computer Vision. This work aims to establish a strong foundation for her future contributions that will have a significant impact on the academic conversation in this field. Her areas of interest include web development, Database Management, and Machine Learning.

Gunnalle Apurva is a final-year student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering at VNRVJIET. She is an individual with a keen interest in problem-solving and is always eager to learn new things, which has led her to be awarded one of the top 3 coders in CodeKing, a coding contest at JNTUH. She is a Superior Technical Head in the Computer Society of India Student Branch Chapter at VNRVJIET, as part of which she has conducted several helpful sessions for the members. Her areas of interest include the Spring Framework, Machine Learning, and Cloud Computing. She is an Amazon Certified Cloud Practitioner in web services.

Sneha Yesshaswi Bhukya is a final-year student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering at VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology. Her academic interests lie in the field of artificial intelligence, particularly in the application of deep learning for real-world problems. She is motivated by the potential of deep learning to enhance preventive measures and emergency responses for fall-related injuries. This research represents her first step in scientific research and publication, and she is excited to delve deeper into developing more accurate and effective fall detection systems. She possesses practical communication skills, collaborates with others, and disseminates knowledge to the broader community.

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