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FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES - BITOLA
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

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CONTENTS

Invited Speakers

The Latest Trends in IT Project Management	15
Vesna Makitan	
Virtual Reality: The Gateway to Next-Generation Skill Development and Talent Attraction	23
Nikola Rendeovski, Blagoj Risteovski	

Regular Papers

Cyber Risk Management Tool for Improving the Cybersecurity Maturity in the Companies	30
Kire Jakimoski, Oliver Iliev, Gorgi Kakashevski, Biljana Stojchevska, Jelena Gjorgjev, Elena Petrova	
Cyberbullying: Characteristics, Consequences, and Impact on Youth In North Macedonia	37
Marina Dodevska, Nikola Janev	
Internet Of Things, Big Data and Privacy Issues	45
Nebojsa Denić, Sonja D. Radenković, Ana Kovačević, Kostadinka Stojanović	
Leveraging Social Media within Integrated Service Delivery of Personalized Public Services towards Proactive E-government	50
Mimoza Bogdanoska Jovanovska, Jadranka Denkova, Dragan Grueski, Renata Petrevska Nechkoska, Natasha Blazheska-Tabakovska	
Social Media Algorithms and their Impact on Sustainable Internet Marketing Strategies	58
Mihalj Bakator, Dragan Čočkalović, Mila Kavalić, Sanja Stanisavljev, Edit Terek-Stojanović	
Modeling in Social Systems Meet Artificial Intelligence	66
Kalistrat Sandjakoski, Ljubinka Gjergjeska Sandjakoska	
Ensuring Web Accessibility of UI Components by following Web Content Accessibility Guidelines	72
Nikola Mandić, Branko Markoski, Velibor Premceovski	
DIRA Learning Platform as a Learning Management System (LMS) for Roma Adults Gaining Knowledge and Skills in E-Services	81
Nikola Rendeovski, Dimitar Veljanovski, Andrijana Bocevska, Monika Markovska, Prakash Dhakal, Anca Enache	
Selection of Key Functionalities for Website Development with a Real Example	90
Predrag Novokmet, Vesna Makitan, Dragana Glušac, Eleonora Brtka, Mila Kavalić, Siniša Mitić	
Use of Python and OpenCV in Thermal Image Processing	96
Sinisa Mihajlović, Dragan Ivetić, Ivana Berković, Dalibor Dobrilović	
Light Sensor Analyses for Usage in Open-Source Hardware Platforms for Solar Data Acquisition	102
Sinisa Mihajlovic, Milica Mazalica, Jovana Borovina, Dalibor Dobrilovic, Jasmina Pekez	

Smart City - Belgrade: Opportunities and Challenges	110
Mirjana Tomic, Kostadinka Stojanovic, Dragan Zlatkovic, Nebojsa Denic	
Challenges of Knowledge Management in Industry 4.0 –Preliminary Literature Review	119
Jelena Slavić, Zeljko Stojanov	
ChatGPT and AI for Learning – Opportunities and Challenges	126
Mimoza Anastoska-Jankulovska	
AI and Tracking Data Exchanges on Maps	134
Marko Blažić, Dubravka Sladić, Višnja Ognjenović, Ivana Berković, Katarina Vignjević	
Machine Learning Algorithms for Heart Disease Prognosis using IoMT Devices	141
Anita Petreska, Blagoj Ristevski, Daniela Slavkovska, Saso Nikolovski, Pero Spirov, Nikola Rendevski, Snezhana Savoska	
Comparative Analysis of ML Algorithms for Breast Cancer Detection	151
Daniela Slavkovska, Blagoj Ristevski, Anita Petreska	
Future Challenges for Object Detection and Image Recognition Techniques	162
Buen Bajrami, Kostandina Veljanovska, Zoran Kotevski	
An Example of Application for Custom Design Automation using SolidWorks Application Programming Interface	169
Hristijan Stojceski, Andrijana Bocevska, Igor Nedelkovski, Nikola Rendevski	
Enhancing Spatial Exploration of Outdoor Object Recognition and Tracking with ARToolkit NFT Markers	178
Blagoj Nenovski, Igor Nedelkovski	
NFT Marker Recognition in Multi-Marker Environment and Media Integration in ARToolkit	187
Blagoj Nenovski, Igor Nedelkovski	
Content-Based Image Retrieval: Contemporary Trends and Challenges	195
Buen Bajrami, Zoran Kotevski, Kostandina Veljanovska	
Latest Advances in Video Indexing and Retrieval	201
Nora Pireci Sejdiu, Zoran Kotevski, Blagoj Ristevski, Kostandina Veljanovska	
VR as a Tool for EVs Maintenance Training	207
Naile Emini, Konstantin Veljanovski, Nikola Rendevski	
Automation and Monitoring on Integration ETL Processes while Distributing Data	212
Aneta Trajkovska, Tome Dimovski, Ramona Markoska, Zoran Kotevski	
Finding the Eigenspaces of a Matrix with GeoGebra	220
Sonja Mančevska, Elena Karamazova Gelova, Mirjana Kocaleva Vitanova	
Exploring the Impact of Pair Programming on Student Achievement: A Comparative Analysis	228
Ilker Ali1, Aybeyan Selim, Blagoj Ristevski, Sonja Mančevska	
Graph-Based Task Management Parameterized by Linguistic Path Attributes	236
Dalibor Šeljmeši, Vladimir Brtko, Edit Boral, Berković	
Data Mining and Big Data Analytics Using Accelerate Data	244
Valmir Sinani, Blagoj Ristevski	

NoSQL Database Support to Big Data Storage Systems and Specific Use Cases: a Review	253
Valmir Sinani	
New Possibilities of Applying Digital Marketing in Business	263
Duda Balje	
A Model of Problems Related to Scrum Team Communication in Meetings and Their Impact on Job Satisfaction	271
Maja Gaborov, Željko Stojanov, Srđan Popov	
Navigating the Future: How Information Technologies are Shaping Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in Society 5.0	279
Dragan Čočkalo, Mihalj Bakator, Sanja Stanisavljev, Melita Čočkalo-Hronjec, Dragana Kovač	
On the Applicability of Bloom's Taxonomy and Teacher Digital Competencies for Learning how to Code in Primary Schools	286
Maja Videnovik, Ana Madevska Bogdanova, Elena Vlahu Gjorgjievaska, Vladimir Trajkovik	
Development of Human Resources in The Digital Age	293
Svetlana Stojkov, Mila Kavalić, Edit Terek	
An Integrated System for Efficient Student Attendance Management	301
Piroška Stanić Molcer, Robert Pinter, Sanja Maravić Čisar, Zlatko Čović	
EasyLoanDecision: A Expert System for Consumer loan	308
Natasha Blazheska-Tabakovska, Lijeta Hodja, Igor Nedelkovski, Mimoza Bogdanoska Jovanovska, Marina Blazekovic-Toshevski	
Intellectual Capital and its Importance for an Entrepreneurial IT Company in The Period to Come	315
Bozidar Milenkovski, Sasho Nikolovski, Nikola Rendevski	
Software Testing Strategies, Approaches, Methods and Techniques - Overview	321
Zoltan Kazi, Maria Kazi	
Edge Computing System to Form a Data Center on Air Pollution in the Traffic Environment of Smart Cities	330
Gordana Jotanovic, Aleksandar Damjanovic, Goran Jausevac, Zeljko Stojanov, Vladimir Brtko, Dragan Perakovic, Miroslav Kostadinovic	
Communication Performance of The Laboratory System for Measuring Fuel Mass Flow	338
Zoran Ristikić, Svetko Milutinović, Milan Eremija, Ibrahim Badnjar	
Preliminary Research on the Possibilities of PPG (Photoplethysmogram) Signal Analysis of Medical Sensors and Smart Watch Sensors	344
Ivana Popovic, Sonja Djukic Popovic, Stefan Popovic, Stevan Ivankovic	
ChatGPT for EFL Teachers and Students	351
Lela Ivanovska	
Design Considerations for a Generic Graph Database in Archival Document Management	360
Ilija Hristoski, Jelena Stojanov, Željko Stojanov	
Exploring the Impact of AI-Driven Marketing Strategies on Player Retention in the Video Game Industry	368
Stefan Ugrinov, Dragan Čočkalo, Mihalj Bakator, Mila Kavalić, Verica Gluvakov	

Overview of E-invoice in Serbia	374
Milica Mazalica, Biljana Radulovic, Aleksandra Stojkov Loncarski	
Chatbots – Architecture and Applications	381
Igor Vecštejn, Verica Gluvakov, Maja Gaborov	
Comparative Study of React, Angular, and Vue for Front-end Development	389
Tamara Milić, Igor Vecštejn, Eleonora Brtko, Maja Gaborov	
Human-Computer Interaction Using XBOX Kinect Technology	397
Marjana Pardanjac, Snežana Jokić, Aleksandra Karuović, Isidora Jokić, Marija Dunjić	
An Overview of Metric Models for Evaluating Website Security	404
Vuk Amizic, Ljubica Kazi	

Future Challenges for Object Detection and Image Recognition Techniques

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Abstract:

Object detection and object recognition are the two main techniques that enable the identification of objects in images and videos. These techniques utilize Deep Learning and Machine Learning by simulating human-like image recognition. There are various methods developed recently, which have made significant progress in object detection or image recognition, and therefore, through this work, we present the latest advances in this field and their operation through Machine Learning and Deep Learning. We discuss the challenges that appear in object detection and the necessary improvements that must be made in order to increase the efficiency of this technology. Furthermore, the future challenges for object recognition has been addressed as well, by providing an analysis on the possibilities of continuous development and facilitation of these techniques in various domains.

Keywords:

Object Detection, Image Recognition, Deep Learning, Machine Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks

1. Introduction

Object detection and image recognition techniques have recently had substantial development in a fair proportion to the advancement of technology in the world. Many Machine Learning and Computer Graphics researchers have intensified their work in improving and advancing these techniques. Object detection has found high application in video games, in automotive industry, in medical devices, in traffic safety etc. On the other hand, face recognition is increasingly becoming an authentication paradigm, finding application in a large number of mobile applications that require face recognition, as well as in biometric applications. These vast application possibilities present an urgent requirement to increase security, due to the rapid development of digitalization. In addition to these two techniques, we will also focus on some other paradigms, to analyze their implementation progress, as well as to see the shortcomings and sensitive points where we estimate that there is still a need for improvements in the future.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we first make a review of the literature to give a right orientation to our analysis. We emphasize the importance of this technology and its development so far. Next, in section 3 and section 4 we provide separate analyzes for both technologies, i.e. object detection techniques and image recognition techniques and the challenges and issues in their further development. Finally, in Section 5, we give a recommendation about what issues developers should deal with more specifically, in order to make greater advancement of this field.

2. State-of-the-art

Object detection and image recognition techniques are the two highly used object recognition techniques. In order to achieve a complete understanding of the image, it must be made clear that we have several other tasks to deal with in addition to classifying the different images, i.e. to accurately

assess the concepts and locations of the objects contained in each image. This task is referred to as object detection [1]. After the realization of this first phase, the next phase consists of several other subtasks such as face detection [2], pedestrian detection [3] and skeleton detection [4]. In order to be able to recognize objects better and have stronger semantics, we need to extract representative features, which is achieved through Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) [5], Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) [6] and Haar-Like that considers adjacent rectangular regions at a specific location in a detection window of the image then sums up the pixel intensities in each region and finally calculates the difference between these sums [7]. HOG is a feature descriptor that is used in computer vision and processing of images for object detection and recognition. FiSIFT as a technique for image matching can identify and match features in images that are invariant to scaling, rotation, and affine distortion and it is widely used in computer vision, image matching, object recognition, and also, 3D reconstruction. We can say that Deep Neural Networks (DNNs), or the more representative Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), operate in a completely different manner compared to traditional approaches. CNNs have deeper architectures with the ability to learn more complex features than shallow ones. Also, expressiveness and powerful training algorithms enable us to obtain features of objects without having to draw them by hand [8].

3. Object Detection

When we talk about object detection, we mean the computer's ability to detect objects within a given frame, similar to how humans are able to detect objects within a given image. Object recognition [9] is widely used in machine vision industry for inspection, registration and manipulation tasks. We will cover some of the object detection tasks, for example, objects under different angles, lighting and variations within the classroom and challenges in object detection [10]. We estimate that object detection is divided into two periods. Object detection Based on traditional methods until 2014, and after 2014 we have object detection based on deep learning. We will address the biggest developments, applications of these technologies as well as the challenges these technologies are facing.

A. Object Detection in Computer Vision

Computer vision is extremely important in improving object detection. These algorithms have found high application in medicine, such as in detection of tumors, in detection of potential anomalies of children yet to be born etc. Other implementations of object detection include security systems with face detection, traffic management with car license plates recognition and implementation in automotive industry where high precision detectors have been developed to detect objects that may have a direct or indirect impact on the moving vehicle. Of course, object detection is used in a very large number of everyday-life fields as well, such as ensuring that people on the "No Fly" list do not pass through security gates at airports, animal monitoring in agricultural farms and zoos, detection of roads, pedestrians and traffic lights in autonomous vehicles, scanning and verification of faces against passports at airports, detection of health abnormalities etc.

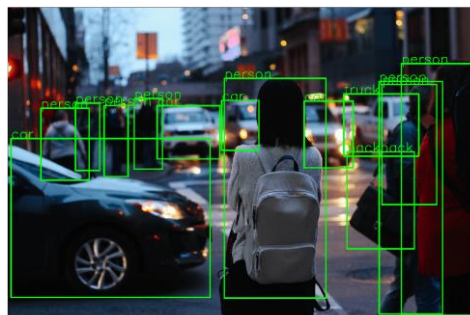


Figure 1: R-CNN Object Detection

In recent years, object detection algorithms have been further enhanced by deep learning, increasing processing speed, as well as providing more accurate results. Some of the most popular deep learning

architectures in object detection are known as: Fast R-CNN, Yolo, SSD, R-CNN. The Fast Region-based Convolutional Neural Network method (Fast R-CNN) works as a CNN (usually pre-trained on the ImageNet classification task) with its final pooling layer replaced by a region-of-interest pooling (ROI pooling) layer and its final fully connected layer (FC) (that operates on a flattened input where each input is connected to all neurons) is replaced by two branches: a $(K + 1)$ category softmax layer branch and a category-specific bounding box regression branch. YOLO (You Only Look Once) deep learning architecture as a popular object detection algorithm has made a revolution in the field of computer vision with its characteristics as fast, efficient and easily applicable in real-time object detection tasks. Single Shot Detectors architecture (SSD) is also a popular and efficient in object detection. SSD uses a single CNN in order to predict bounding boxes and class labels for objects in an image, and that makes it faster and more efficient than other methods. For the last architecture, regions with convolutional neural networks (R-CNN) it is a technique where objects are detected in an image by combining rectangular region proposals with convolutional neural network features.

B. Object Detection Algorithms and Detectors

Below is a list of some of the most important developments in object detection technology:

- a) The detectors of Viola and Jones [11], where in 2001 they achieved for the first time in real time the detection of human faces without any limitations. This VJ detector was hundreds of times faster than the algorithms of that time.
- b) HOG detector, N. Dalal and B. Triggs developed this detector during 2005 where a significant improvement of scale invariant feature transformation was achieved [12] and shaping contexts of his time [13].

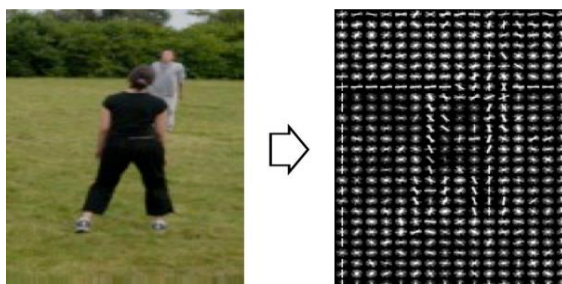


Figure 2: Input Image & Visualization of the HOG features

- c) R-CNN, makes the extraction of a set of proposed objects through a selective search. Then all of these propositions are converted into still images and fed into a CNN model, so that features can be extracted from them [14].
- d) SPPNet model is an improvement over CNN models, as they require input of fixed size, while SPPNet does not depend on fixed dimensions of input images. It also has an object detection speed about 20 times faster than R-CNN.
- e) Fast R-CNN, is a new model developed in 2015. Which is an improvement over R-CNN and SPPNet models, where it has an object detection speed of about 200 times greater than R-CNN. This model allows to simultaneously handle a detector and a regressor within the same link.
- f) FPN algorithm, developed during 2017 and proposed by T.-Y.Lin [15], has increased accuracy in locating objects in contrast to the above models.

C. Object Detection Challenges

Throughout all these developments, Object detection has also had challenges, some of which have been improved while others still need to be worked on in the future. Below we list some of the key challenges for which we believe more can be done.

- a) Disadvantages of RCNN are excessive feature calculations on a large number of overlapping propositions (over 2000 boxes from one image) lead to an extremely slow detection speed (14 seconds per image with GPU)
- b) SPPNet still has some shortcomings, such as the training is still performed in multi-stage and it only adjusts its fully connected layers, while simply ignoring all previous layers.
- c) Deformation. In many cases object detection detectors are trained for solid objects and have difficulty detecting fluid or very flexible objects.
- d) Occlusion. Object detection detectors also encounter difficulties when asked to find an object, where part of it is covered by another object. For humans this is not a problem.
- e) Illumination conditions. In different illuminations the detectors assign different features to the same object and as a result several different objects are detected.

4. Image Recognition Techniques

Image recognition is a machine vision, which has the ability to recognize objects, images, people, etc., knowing how to distinguish and compare the same features in different images. Image recognition requires many processes, which require high processing speed, then accuracy in recognition, as well as small tolerance in the obtained results. Below we have made an analysis about image recognition through deep learning and machine learning. We have also shown the most frequent applications of this technology and finally the challenges that this technology faces.

It is known that image recognition has found a very large application in practice, where today it is used by a large part of the industry, security systems, smart phones, etc. Some of the applications of this technology include:

- a) Medical diagnosis, i.e. in health, image recognition is used quite a lot, especially in software that is integrated into devices through which many recordings are made, such as X-Ray devices, etc., where through advanced algorithms it is possible to recognize abnormalities in patients.



Figure 3: Detection anomalies in X-Ray with CNN

- b) People identification. In these cases the security institutions use special equipment that enables people to be recognized through the collected photographs and videos.
- c) Fingerprint recognition is one of the simplest implementations based on small features such as fingerprints-impressions.
- d) Face recognition [16] is a technology that is mostly used in smart phones, in access control, and recently in cars.
- e) Visual search is a search method that allows people to search for something via input image, as Google Lens tool makes searches.
- f) Iris scan recognition. After DNA, iris is the second most unique organ in the human body and contains more information about the human than fingerprint impressions [17]. Therefore, recently we have technology developments where iris recognition is used as authentication

instead of fingerprint or face recognition. This technology has started to be used also in ATM devices.



Figure 4: ATM authentication with Iris recognition

A. Image Recognition with Machine Learning & Deep Learning

Deep learning [18] as a new field, comes from machine learning which aims to build a neural network, which is capable of analyzing data and learning similarly to humans, through advanced algorithms. Deep learning has boosted image recognition in a rapid manner. Mainly, traditional models have applied color for image recognition, as well as features of image shape and structure [19]. One of the main concepts in image recognition through deep learning is Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). This concept consists of several smaller layers of neurons that all contain parts of the image, and after image processing, all parts are superimposed in one place. And so the layer below repeats this process, learning more about the composition of the image. CNN [20] brought a revolution in the field of computer vision by increasing the accuracy of image classification, but also many times improved scene classification, object detection, semantic segmentation of biological images and face detection, text recognition and human body recognition in natural images. The main practical success of CNN is the face recognition and autonomous driving of cars. Also, we have Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) with a feed forward learning algorithms. MLP is a frequent choice because of its simplicity and its capability in supervised pattern matching. It has been successfully applied to many pattern classification problems [21, 22]. Linear discriminant analysis (LDA) is a powerful method for face recognition. This model gives effective representation that linearly transforms the original data space into a low-dimensional feature space. A subspace analysis method for face recognition called kernel discrimination locality preserving projections (MMDLPP) was proposed in [21] based on LDA analysis.

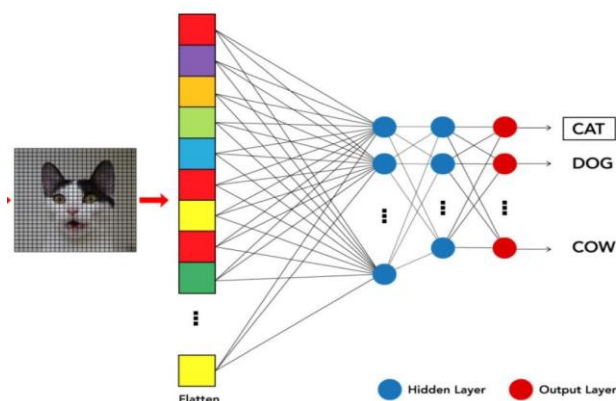


Figure 5: Image recognition using CNN

B. Image Recognition Challenges

After analyzing the techniques for image recognition, we estimate that we have found some shortcomings, which we have listed below.

- a) CNN requires a large database which helps in image detection, comparison and recognition, but consequently comes with a higher cost.

- b) False image recognition. This happens in many cases, for example, when the algorithm recognizes another person who has some features similar to the person who is really being searched for.
- c) Racial bias. This is a strange issue, but it is worth noting that image recognition algorithms distinguish black people more easily than white people.
- d) There are challenges in protecting personal data.

5. Conclusion

After evaluating the results obtained from the literature review, we estimate that a remarkable amount of work has been done in the last two decades. Both object detection and image recognition technologies have found a great application in practice, greatly facilitating some processes that were quite difficult until recently. There is a growing trend of organizations dealing with the development of complex algorithms, which will continue to facilitate this process. In general, the advantages of using these technologies are significantly greater than the shortcomings or drawbacks. Where, after the analysis of the results found, we recommend to work more with the image recognition technology, which has greater challenges due to the various factors that we mentioned above. We recommend that more work be done in the future in the field of health, where there is great potential for this very important sector for people to shine through the advanced use of these technologies. Also, one of the most sensitive sectors is undoubtedly privacy, the protection of personal data, since through the use of image recognition we have a high exposure of our personal images as well as our sensitive data. Therefore, more work is required in terms of protecting the data, code them, in order to be more confident in the use of various applications related to object detection and image recognition.

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