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## Human Age Prediction from Facial Images

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**ABSTRACT:** Age prediction can be regarded as the problem of pattern recognition including two common steps: extraction of features and identification. Identification can easily be done using regression and classification process from an extracted feature. Age classification is basically problematic with the training set through which system is trained and test set on which testing is applied for age classification. The main objective is to develop an algorithm that identifies the person's age from the extracted features. The system can be useful for preventing the young children from, not to have access to the adult contents or materials from the internet and stop or prevent underage drinkers from buying alcohol, cigarette, etc. It provides a wide variety of applications like content analysis of multimedia, designing an interactive and intelligent robot. To attain our goal, good databases are needed like Morph or FG- Net so that these databases can be used to train the classifier by using K-NN and employ the test set on K-NN classifier to resolve our problem. The main objective is age prediction so the work worries about the frontal images of the faces. Now, Gaussian filtering, Viola-Jones algorithm, K-Nearest Neighbors that have been employed in our system implementation.

**KEYWORDS:** Age Prediction; Gaussian Filtering; Viola Jones Algorithm; K-NN; MSE; PSNR.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Age estimation can be defined as determination of a person's age or age group. Person's age can be determined in many ways, but this research is concerned with age estimation based on two-dimensional images of human subjects. Estimated age is the age defined by computer based on person's appearance. Appearance age is usually very close to the actual or chronological age. The objective of age estimation is that estimated age is as close to appearance age as possible.

The problem of Age classification from the facial images is very captivating, but also the demanding one because age of human varies based on the various factors which may be internal factors or external factors. Internal factors vary age include gender, genetics etc. while the external factors that affect the age include lifestyle, drugs, ethnicity, etc. and these two factors could make it complicated to perfectly formulate the human growth pattern. It is also worth mentioning that age prediction has been useful in the different systems such as demographic classification, Age Specific Human Computer Interaction (ASHCI) and image datasets indexing etc.

In the automatic age classification, the main objective is to develop a sacred algorithm that enables to classify the age based on feature extracted facial images. One of the main challenges of the age classification is the accurateness level, which is due to the intricacy of the human ageing pattern. So, it is not only adequate to classify the human age, but also essential to predict it as precisely as possible. Another important issue that is relevant to the age prediction problem is the age-groups range and this parameter is a key aspect as different characteristics of ageing pattern appear in different age-groups, hence the system got trained to cope with specific ranges might not be relevant to a more diverse range of age-group. Therefore, in this study, we are encountering the human age prediction task to an acceptable degree of classification accuracy based on facial images.

### II. RELATED WORK

The age determination algorithm was first stated by Lobo and Kwon [1]. They used geometric ratios and skin wrinkles to make a distinction between babies and other groups and classified the age into three categories: babies,



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Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2016

adult and old. They achieved performance rate of less than 68% to identify children was below 68%. Their work says that high resolution images are required for the good prediction.

Eliminating the limitations of Kwon and Lobo, Horng et al. in [2] proposed a model that includes the different approaches to solving the wrinkles features and geometric ratios. They have used neural network to do classification and attained the accuracy of 81.6% for 230 test images.

Hayashi et al. in [3], predicted age and gender based on the facial wrinkles. They used histogram equalization to enhance the wrinkles features and then shorter and the longer wrinkles are extracted using DHT (Digital Template Hough Transform). Finally, age and gender are predicted by using a look-up table. They used 300 images ranging from 14 years to 65 years of age. They have achieved 27% of accuracy on the age prediction and 83% on gender estimation.

Lanitis et al. in [4], focused on the different facial parts: whole face (including hair), internal face (excluding hair), lower part of face, upper part of the face. His work was limited to only 0 to 35 years of age. Experimental results showed that the region around the eyes is most crucial for age prediction and the upper facial part minimizes an error.

Chen, Yi-Wen, et al. in [5], used Lucas-Kanade image alignment method for locating 52 features points and constructed an active appearance model (AAM) using them. Then, texture features are sent to the SVM after facial image warping to predict the level of each group. Finally, average recognition of 81.1% has been achieved using gray scale value and but when applied Sobel detection method, they got 87.8% of recognition rate and achieved 82.2% of recognition rate after combining the gray image with the edge image.

Tonchev, K., et al. in [6], developed a system consisting of Face Detection using Haar-like features and the Convolution Neural Network (CNN), Normalization of face, Subspace Projection for noise reduction by a combination of algorithms Spectral Regression and Principal Component Analysis and Support Vector Machine for the of age group prediction.

Khryashchev et al. in [7], presented an algorithm for features extraction using local binary pattern and SVM classification. They have used MORPH, FG-NET and their own database to present experimental results and predict the comparison of humans and machines.

Weixing, et al. in [8], extracted features by three methods. First, texture features, i.e. uniform local binary pattern (ULBP) using Gabor wavelet transform, secondly, facial partition based on the ASM approach and third, ratio feature based on facial skin areas and wrinkles region are extracted. They have used FG-NET database and self made face database for the training and testing. Adaboost based binocular location method is used to label the eye position. Finally, strong SVM classifier is employed according to three extracted features above and their method reached a recognition rate of 85.75% with the  $180 \times 180$  resolution images.

Guo, Guodong, et al. in [9], developed a Probabilistic Fusion Approach (PFA) that produce higher age estimation performance and fuses regression and classification process. In their system both SVM and SVR work sequentially. Intermediate decision using SVR results then sent to the SVM classifier for the multi-class classification of age.

Gunay et al. in [10], exercised Local Binary Pattern (LBP) for the feature extraction and LBP histograms is produced for each image by splitting the image into  $n$  regions and feature vector are generated to classify the image into one of the predefined classes of age using K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and provided the accuracy of 80%.

Mohammad Ali et al. in the paper [11] proposed Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG) features based age-group estimation algorithm. This algorithm provides the histogram of oriented gradients in the local parts of image and features are computed from the several different regions such as eye-corners, forehead, near cheekbones and below the eyes to make a feature vector and then probabilistic neural network (PNN) classifier is used for age group prediction.

Izadpanahiet al. in [12], classified the age group using three classifiers SVM classifier, neural network classifier (NN) and density based linear classifier (LDC). Geometric feature first finds facial landmarks and calculates the six biometric ratios by using those seventeen landmarks After extracting the biometric ratios, these ratios are used by the classifiers to categorize the images into five different age groups, namely AG1 (0-2), AG2 (3-7), AG3 (8-19), AG4 (20-39), AG5 (40-60). He has achieved a success rate of 98% in classifying the babies (0-2) from other age groups.

Ren C. in [13], presented a method that involves two stages: one was the image preprocessing and enhancement stage and another is face detection with the Adaboost algorithm using Haar-like features and then SVM categorized the images in one of the age groups and achieved the success rate of 76% in set1 and 93% in set 2. So the average recognition rate achieved was 84.5%.

Weixin Li et al. presented an algorithm based on Sparse Representation based Classification (SRC) in [14] which chooses human age in a hierarchical manner. After image preprocessing, Local Binary Patterns (LBP) method is

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2016

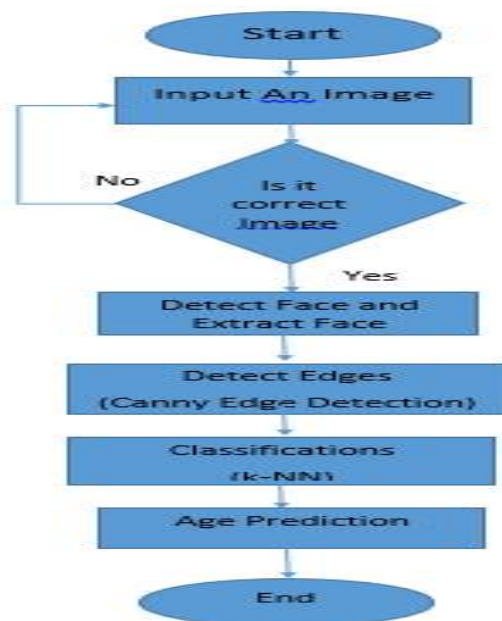
used to extract texture features and then Active Shape Model (ASM) for shape features. But SRC required a lot of training samples of each class, so Ordinal Hyper-planes Ranker (OHR) was used to improve age estimation results.

Liu, Li in [15], utilized Active Appearance Model for extracting the features so that these features could be used to train the classifier with the Gaussian Radian Basis Function kernel (RBF). Since, feature space was so large, so they used Principle Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce the length of feature space. In the last step, SVM classifier categorize the age into one of the five groups based on the training dataset.

Ueki, Kazuya et al. in [16], presented a method based on the combination of two-phased approaches named 2DLDA and LDA. LDA discovers a projection for maximizing the ratio between the class scatter and within the class and also extract features. They used a WIT database for the various lighting images and attained the accuracy rate of 46.3% for 5-year range, 76.8% for 10-year range and 78.1% for 15-year range age-group.

Most research in the area of age prediction is limited by the good choice of database used and the size of the database. Some researchers have only focused on the certain age groups, while some have employed the wide range of classification. Due to the lack of quality database, a universal age prediction function for the wide range of ages is yet to be developed. In proposed work, Viola-Jones algorithm has been used which adapted the use of Haar-like features for the detection of face landmarks such as face, nose, eyes etc. and used Canny Edge detection for features edges detection. k-NN is used to classify and predict the age.

### III. FLOW CHART OF PROPOSED SYSTEM



### IV. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

#### A. Steps of the Proposed Algorithm:

- Step1: Open MATLAB 2013.
- Step2: Open .m File and then run it.
- Step3: Import Input Image.
- Step4: Select file to open from database
- Step5: Image Preprocessing –Gaussian Filtration.
- Step6: Detect Face –Detect Face from image.
- Step7: Extract Face – Crop detected face to eliminate unwanted background area.
- Step8: Detect Facial Part – Detects Facial Parts like Forehead, eyes, area around eyes and lips.



# International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2016

- Step9: Edge Detection – Detects Edges of detected facial parts.  
Step10: Feature Extraction – Facial feature are extracted and test features are calculated.  
Step11: Classification – Classifies using K-NN and Displays Predicted age.  
Step12: Parameters – Parameters like MSE, PSNR, Mean, Entropy are calculated.

## B. Description of the Proposed Algorithm:

**Input image:** Input image is taken from the dataset folder (FG-NET aging dataset). We have used FG-NET Aging Database. The database includes approximately 1002 image sequences from over 82 subjects. Participants in FG-NET database were ranging between months to 69 years old labelled with age as an image name. The range of ages between months to 40 years old are the most populated in the database. Many images in the database were collected by scanning photographs of the subjects found in personal collections. Due to this, face images in the FG-NET aging database display significant variability in resolution, quality, illumination, viewpoint, and expression. Many images have spectacles, facial hair, men with long or feathery beard, and faces with black skin and hats are also present in a number of images.

**Gaussian filtering:** It is used to blur images and remove noise and detail. In one dimension, the Gaussian function is:

$$G(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (1)$$

Where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the distribution.

Gaussian filters are used in image processing because they have a property that their support in the time domain, is equal to their support in the frequency domain. This comes about from the Gaussian being its own Fourier Transform. In image processing, one very important task is to remove white noise, all the while maintaining salient edges. This can be a contradictory task - white noise exists at all frequencies equally, while edges exist in the high frequency range. In image processing, one very important task is to remove white noise, all the while maintaining salient edges. This can be a contradictory task - white noise exists at all frequencies equally, while edges exist in the high frequency range. Since the Fourier Transform of a Gaussian is also a Gaussian, the Gaussian filter does not have a sharp cut-off at some pass band frequency beyond which all higher frequencies are removed. Instead, it has a graceful and natural tail that becomes ever lower as the frequency increases. This means that it will act as a low pass filter, but also allow in higher frequency components adequately with how quickly its tail decays. This then allows one to attain not only noise removal but also edge preservation.

Gaussian filtering is used to remove noise and detail. It is not particularly effective at removing salt and pepper noise. Gaussian filtering is more effective at smoothing images. It has its basis in the human visual perception system. It has been found that neurons create a similar filter when processing visual images. This is a common first step in edge detection.

**Face and facial parts Detection (Viola Jones):** The features used by this method involve the addition of image pixels within areas of the rectangular region. In general, Viola and Jones use features that rely on the several different regions of rectangle area are more complex [17]. We used Haar like features for our approach.

Haar like features are used to detect variation in the black and light portion of the image. This computation forms a single rectangle around the detected face. Based on the color shades near nose or forehead a contour is formed. Haar-like feature can be calculated with the following equation (2):

$$\text{Feature} = \sum_{i \in \{1..N\}} w_i \cdot \text{RecSum}(x, y, w, h) \quad (2)$$

Where  $\text{RecSum}(x, y, w, h)$  is the summation of intensity in any given upright or rotated rectangle enclosed in a detection window and  $x, y, w, h$  are for coordinates, dimensions, and rotation of that rectangle, respectively.

**Face Extraction (image cropping):** Cropping refers to the removal of the outer parts of an image to improve framing, accentuate subject matter or change aspect ratio. In this process, the cropping is especially used to remove the unwanted backgrounds rather than the face region.

**Edge Detection:** An image contains different Information of scene, such as object shape, size, color, and orientation. In order to extract the contour of an object, we must detect the edges forming that object, and this fact

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

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Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2016

reveals the constitutional importance of edge detection in image processing. Edge detection is a process that detects the presence and location of edges constituted by sharp changes in color intensity (or brightness) of an image. Canny's edge detection algorithm performs better than all the operators under almost all scenarios and under noisy conditions. So we use Canny Edge Detection[18].

**Canny Edge Detection:** It is an optimal edge detection technique as provide good detection, clear response and good localization. It is widely used in current image processing techniques with further improvements.

Advantages of canny edge detection algorithm.

- 1) Less sensitive to noise
- 2) It removes streaking problem
- 3) Adaptive in nature: Canny algorithm depends on variable or adjustable parameter like  $\sigma$  which is the standard deviation of Gaussian filter and threshold values.
- 4) Good localization: Canny operator provides edge gradient orientation which results in good localization.

The Canny edge detector is an edge detection operator that uses a multi-stage algorithm to detect a wide range of edges in images. Canny also produced a computational theory of edge detection Canny edge detection is a technique to extract useful structural information from different vision objects and dramatically reduce the amount of data to be processed. It has been widely applied in various computer vision systems. Canny has found that the requirements for the application of edge detection on diverse vision systems are relatively similar. Thus, an edge detection solution to address these requirements can be implemented in a wide range of situations. As human grows old, the aging process brings different changes in the face of an individual. The changes could be textural changes or change in geometric features. In order to estimate the age group of an individual, these features have to be extracted from the face images and classified appropriately. The stage of feature extraction begins with detection of face and regions of interest, followed by canny edge detection[18].

-1	0	1
-2	0	2
-1	0	1

$G_x$

1	2	1
0	0	0
-1	-2	-1

$G_y$

Fig 1 : Mask Operated by Canny edge Detector

**Classification:** In pattern recognition, the k-Nearest Neighbors algorithm (or k-NN for short) is a non-parametric method used for classification and regression. In both cases, the input consists of the k closest training examples in the feature space. The output depends on whether k-NN is used for classification or regression.

In k-NN classification, the output is a class membership. An object is classified by a majority vote of its neighbors, with the object being assigned to the class most common among its k nearest neighbors (k is a positive integer, typically small). If k = 1, then the object is simply assigned to the class of that single nearest neighbor.

In k-NN regression, the output is the property value for the object. This value is the average of the values of its k nearest neighbors.

k-NN is a type of instance-based learning, or lazy learning, where the function is only approximated locally and all computation is deferred until classification. The k-NN algorithm is among the simplest of all machine learning algorithms.

The training part of the algorithm contains the feature vector space and training sample class labels. The idea behind the k-NN is to identify the k number of samples in the training set and then utilize these samples to classify the test samples into a class. Whenever the neighbor is exploited, it implies that there is some parametric distance that is to be computed between samples on the basis of independent variables. It will worry only about the popular distance measure, i.e. Euclidean distance and is defined between the points (x, u) below in equation (3).

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - u_i)^2} \quad (3)$$

It is a noteworthy fact that the thought of using k-NN to classify the age group can be very effective when a large number of training samples in our database is taken and that would help in reducing the misclassification error.

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering

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Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2016

## V. SIMULATION RESULTS

The proposed Human Age Prediction algorithm is implemented with MATLAB. The face images used training and testing are from FGNET aging database where last two digits in name of image indicate age of image. Few samples, shown in table with actual age which is brought from name of image and predicted age column for below table indicates age predicted using our algorithm and analysis is done using parameters MSE, PSNR, Mean, Entropy :

Given a noise-free  $m \times n$  monochrome image  $I$  and its noisy approximation  $K$ , MSE is defined as:

$$MSE = \frac{1}{m \cdot n} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} [I(i, j) - K(i, j)]^2$$

The PSNR (in dB) is defined as:




$$\begin{aligned} PSNR &= 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left( \frac{MAX_I^2}{MSE} \right) \\ &= 20 \cdot \log_{10} \left( \frac{MAX_I}{\sqrt{MSE}} \right) \\ &= 20 \cdot \log_{10}(MAX_I) - 10 \cdot \log_{10}(MSE) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here,  $MAX_I$  is the maximum possible pixel value of the image. When the pixels are represented using 8 bits per sample, this is 255.

$$Entropy = - \sum_i P_i \cdot \log_2 P_i$$

(5)




In the above expression,  $P_i$  is the probability that the difference between 2 adjacent pixels is equal to  $i$ , and  $\log_2$  is the base 2 logarithm.

Input Face Image	Actual Age	Predicted Age	MSE	PSNR	Mean	Entropy
	5	4	1.26	47.10	62.13	6.86548
	7	9	1.99	45.13	105.35	6.84
	15	16	2.25	44.60	96.14	7.45227

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	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2.086</b>	<b>44.93</b>	<b>123.28</b>	<b>7.38</b>
	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>46.89</b>	<b>89.16</b>	<b>7.42</b>
	<b>58</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>45.37</b>	<b>129.02</b>	<b>7.36299</b>

## VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this work, age prediction model has been intended to predict the age from the input facial images. From this work, it can be concluded that our method improves significantly over existing age prediction methods. Our system processes include preprocessing of input image, filtering, face and facial part detection, edge detection, features extraction, train the classifier by sending extracted features to the k-NN classifier and finally, testing is done for the test data by passing it to classifier in order to obtain the results. From the experimental results achieved, it can be concluded that the k-NN classifier produces better for the age-group prediction.

From the experiments and research, it has been observed that some of the aspects could not be accomplished within the extent of this work and therefore these can be suggested for the future work. From the results obtained, it is recommended that proposed age-group prediction algorithm could be effectively employed in many applications such as Age-Specific Human Computer Interaction, web application in order to prevent the under-age from, not to have access or from buying the adult contents or materials, and Security and Surveillance system for locating animals. In the future, the work will focus on creating and using Indian Aging Database and involving other facial features like Texture features; Gabor features, etc. As we know, security and surveillance system works mostly with the video images, the work would also focus on testing the video images against the still images used in this work.

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Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2016

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