Web Objectionable Video Recognition Based on Deep Multi-Instance Learning with Representative Prototypes Selection

Xinmiao Ding, Bing Li, Yangxi Li, Wen Guo, Yao Liu, Weihua Xiong, Weiming Hu

Abstract—To protect underage people from accessing objectionable videos in the Internet, an effective objectionable video recognition algorithm is necessary for web filtering. Recently, the multi-instance learning has been introduced for objectionable video recognition and achieves impressive results. However, hand-crafted features as well as redundant and noisy frames in objectionable videos become an intractable problem that inevitably degrades the recognition performance. In this paper, we propose a novel representative prototype selection algorithm embedding deep multi-instance representation learning. In the proposed method, an improved convolutional neural network is designed for multimodal multi-instance feature learning and a self-expressive dictionary learning model based on sparse and low rank constraint is designed to select the representative prototypes from each subspace of instances. Then the bag-level feature is constructed via mapping the bag to the selected prototypes. Experiments on three objectionable video sets show the effectiveness of our method for objectionable video recognition.

Index Terms—Representative prototype selection, Objectionable video recognition, Deep learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

With an exceptional boosting in the creation and propagation of multimedia content through Internet, the lack of control has allowed the distribution of many harmful documents related with pornography, violence, horror, racism, etc. To prevent people, especially sensitive social groups (e.g., children), from all kinds of harmful materials on the Internet, many content-based web filtering systems have been developed [1, 2, 3]. Effective recognition of objectionable videos is necessary for such web content security [4]. Recognition of objectionable videos is a newly emergent research topic in the context of excellent multimedia applications including multimedia retrieval [5, 6, 7, 8], multimedia content understanding [9, 10, 11, 12, 13], and multimodal fusion [14, 15, 16, 17], etc. In this paper, we focus on horror and violent video recognition which are still being under exploration.

A. Related Work

The definition of violence and horror is very subjective. In this paper, we simplify the concept by such definitions: violent scene will stimulate emotion impulses through showing the use of force to injure others or oneself, it usually includes fights, gun shots, explosions, and self-mutilation; while horror scene will stimulate the primary emotions of fear, horror, and terror, it usually includes serial killings, ghosts, monsters, vampires, animal killing, and irreligion [18]. The existing recognition methods for violent and horror videos can be classified into two types, video-based methods and frame-based methods, that differ in the way how the frames in a video are treated. Video-based method can be viewed as a global solution, while frame-based method can be viewed as a local one.

The video-based method treats a video as a single sample and extracts a global feature vector from the whole video without considering the content of a single frame in it. Yang et al. [19] presented a set of features for horror video recognition and studied the strength and disadvantage of classical affective recognition algorithms in horror video recognition. Inspired by

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emotional perception theory, Wang et al. [20] extracted several effective holistic features and used support vector machine (SVM) to identify horror videos. Datta et al. [21] addressed the problem of detecting human violence in a video based on motion trajectory information and orientation information of a person’s limbs. JeHo Nam et al. [22] exploited multiple “audio-visual” signatures to create a perceptual relation for conceptually meaningful violent video scene identification. Considering the importance of local spatio-temporal features in characterizing the multimedia content, De Souza [23] presented a violence detector built on the concept of visual codebooks, it used linear support vector machines that considered local spatio-temporal features with bags of visual words. To get discriminative features for the representation of violent video segments, Acar et al. [24] constructed mid-level audio features with vector quantization-based (VQ-based) method and sparse coding-based (SC-based) method. Based on Multiple Kernel Learning and the combination of visual and audio features, Shinichi et al. [25] introduced Mid-level Violence Clustering to solve violent scenes recognition. The big problem of the video-based method is that those global features extracted from a whole video are lack of discrimination because horror/violent scenes do not often show up in the majority frames.

To avoid such limitations, the frame-based methods follow the paradigm of multi-instance learning (MIL) which has been successfully used in visual applications and exploited new idea of traditional computer vision [26, 27]. It treats each video as a bag of frames and labels it objectionable if there exists at least one objectionable frame. The features of each frame are extracted and considered by MIL algorithms during recognition. Such kind of solution can be dated back to the work of Wang et al. [28] and Wu et al. [29], who firstly introduced MIL into horror video recognition. In the MIL-based methods, a video is represented as a bag of key frames with corresponding independent features. To consider the multiple semantics of the objectionable video, Hu et al. [18] proposed Multi-Perspective Context-Aware Cost-Sensitive Multi-Instance Sparse Coding combining Multi-Instance Learning (MC-MI-J-SC) to recognize violent and horror videos. Hao et al. [30] classified the video into violent and non-violent using Multi-Modal Multi-Instance Learning and Attribute Discovery approach by combining audio-video with text information for web video recognition.

Although frame-based methods with MIL generally achieve better performance, it is still subject to two limitations. On the one hand, the features used in most existing methods are hand-crafted feature descriptors which usually require substantial prior domain knowledge. With the increasing popularity of the deep learning-based approaches, deep feature learning has shown much better performance in many visual applications [31,32,33,34]. There needs more advanced feature to capture high-level semantics in diverse unconstrained videos. On the other hand, the non-objectionable instances in objectionable bags bring a large amount of redundant and noise information that has no discrimination for recognition. How to effectively prune these useless instances and keep the discriminative and representative ones still remains a challenging problem for objectionable video recognition.

B. Our Method

To address the two problems of frame-based methods, we propose a novel representative prototype selection algorithm (MILRPS) embedding deep multi-instance representation learning and apply it to objectionable video recognition. In this method, a novel multi-instance convolutional neural network is proposed to learn discrimination features of each instance. Then a self-expressive dictionary learning model with low-rank and sparse constraints is proposed to select a set of representative prototypes. After bag feature mapping to these prototypes, a more effective objectionable video recognition system can be built.

The main contributions of our work are two-fold.

(i) The proposal of the deep multi-instance representation learning. Most existing deep representation learning methods are trained for single instance applications. They cannot be used directly in MIL applications due to the unknown labels of instances. To overcome this limitation, a novel CNN with new prediction loss is especially designed for MIL. It can be trained using bag’s label instead of instances’. In addition, to fuse both visual and audio features, a two-channel structure is integrated to learn a high level multimodal instance features.

(ii) The proposal of a novel instance selection framework embedding three constraints according to the characteristics of the selected representative prototypes:

- **Sparsity criteria** which ensures that the most informative instances will be selected.
- **Low rank criteria** which ensures that the selected prototypes will distribute among each subspace.
- **Error term E** which improves the robustness through modeling the noisy and possible corruption.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. We briefly introduce the overview of the proposed method in section II. Section III gives out the construction of deep multi-instance representation learning. The details of the prototype selection based on self-expressive dictionary learning are presented in section IV. The experimental results and analysis are reported in section V. Section VI concludes this paper.

II. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The objectionable video recognition proceeds in five main stages: shot segmentation and key frame extraction, deep multi-instance representation learning, representative prototypes selection, bag feature mapping and objectionable video recognition. Fig. 1 gives an overview of our framework.

**Step 1: Shot segmentation and key frame extraction.** Given a set of videos, we firstly divide each of them into shots through measuring mutual information (MI) transported from one frame to another [35]. Then central frame of every shot is extracted as key frame and audio of each shot is transformed into 2-D image based on the spectrogram [36].

**Step 2: Deep multi-instance representation learning.** The key frames and the spectrograms in a video are integrally fed
into the designed multi-instance CNN (MI-CNN) to learn the deep instance feature. Two fully connected layers are designed for multimodal fusing and a new loss prediction based on the assumption of MIL is designed for back propagation. After training, we get the output of the second fully connected layer in the CNN as the high level feature of instance. Then, the video bag is considered as a set of deep instance features extracted from its key frames and audio spectrograms.

**Step 3: Representative prototypes selection.** To prune the redundancy and disturbance (non-objectionable instance) in bags, especially those positive bags (objectionable videos), we construct self-expressive dictionary learning to select representative prototypes. To make the representatives approach the distribution of instance subspaces to the utmost, we add sparse and low rank constraint to the self-expressive model. Meanwhile, an additional error term is also appended to improve robustness of proposed method when confronting data noise and corruption. We measure the importance of representatives through ranking their capacity and select top $k$ representatives to compose the mapping prototype set (MPS).

**Step 4: Bag feature mapping.** Through bag feature mapping which computes the similarity between a bag and each mapping prototype in MPS, we can obtain the bag-level feature. Then a SVM classifier is trained on these bag-level features with corresponding bag labels.

**Step 5: Objectionable video recognition.** For a test video, after feature extraction and bag construction, we map the test video bag to MPS and get test bag’s feature. Finally, we apply the trained SVM on a test video to estimate its category (objectionable or non-objectionable).

**III. DEEP MULTI-INSTANCE REPRESENTATION LEARNING**

In this section, we present a novel deep multi-instance representation learning method. Before giving out the details, we briefly review the definition of MIL. Given a training data set \( \{(C_1, y_1), \ldots, (C_N, y_N)\} \), where \( C_i = \{c_{i1}, \ldots, c_{il}\} \)
\( c_1, \ldots, c_n \) is a video bag and \( y_l \in \{ -1, +1 \} \) is its label. The \( c_l \) is an instance in bag \( C \) which specifically refers to the key frame as well as its contextual audio spectrogram. \( N \) is the number of training bags, \( n_i \) is the number of instances in \( C_i \). If there exists \( g \in \{ 1, \ldots, n_i \} \) such that \( c_{ig} \) is a positive instance, then \( C_i \) is a positive bag and therefore \( y_i = +1 \); otherwise \( y_i = -1 \).

### A. Deep MIL Framework

Considering the success of the AlexNet [33] in visual applications, we use it as our basic architecture to learn the instance features. The proposed deep MIL framework is as shown in Fig. 2. There are two channels to learn the visual and audio features respectively. Each channel is a CNN with five convolutional layers followed by a pooling layer and three fully connected layers. To fuse the multimodal features, the visual and audio channels are combined at the last two fully connected layers (FC2 and FC3).

It is well known that the input of CNN is single instance and the output of the last fully connected layer with a softmax is the label prediction of the instance. Through optimization of the loss between prediction and target with back propagation, the weights of the network can be learned. However, the instance label in MIL is unknown so that the traditional training process cannot be used for MIL paradigms. In this paper, we consider to utilize the label of bag to modify the training of the CNN network.

Based on the assumption of MIL, the bag label is determined by the labels of its instance. Consequently, in the training process, a bag of instances instead of one instance are inputted into the network and an additional prediction layer “Noisy OR” is added after the last fully connected layer as shown in the Fig. 2. Through the additional layer, the bag label can be predicted based on the label predictions of all instances in it. We call this modified CNN multi-instance CNN (MI-CNN).

To train the MI-CNN, a new prediction loss is designed to realize the back propagation. Inputting one training bag \( (C_i, y_i) \) into the network, for each of its instances \( c_{ij}, y_i \) we can get layer-wise features from the first convolutional layer (Conv1) to the output of the last fully connected layer (FC3). Supposing the FC3 output of the \( j \)th instance is \( f_{ij} \in \mathbb{R} \), followed by a softmax layer, \( f_{ij} \) is transformed into a probability distribution \( p_{ij} \in \mathbb{R} \) for objects of binary classification as following:

\[
 p_{ij} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-f_{ij})}
\]  

(1)

However \( p_{ij} \) cannot be used to compute the loss for the unknown label of instance. Under the definition of MIL, if there exists one positive instance in the bag, then the bag is positive; otherwise, the bag is negative. We introduce the NoisyOR generative model [38] and predict the probability distribution \( p_i \) of a bag as a “Noisy OR” of instance probability:

\[
 p_i = 1 - \prod_j (1 - p_{ij})
\]  

(2)

Next, cross entropy is used to measure the prediction loss of the network. Specifically, we have:

\[
 \text{Loss} = -[y_l \log(p_l) + (1 - y_l) \log(1 - p_l)]
\]  

(3)

Then the gradients of the deep convolutional neural network are calculated via back propagation:

\[
 \frac{\partial \text{Loss}}{\partial f_{ij}} = \frac{\partial \text{Loss}}{\partial p_l} \cdot \frac{\partial p_l}{\partial p_{ij}}
\]

\[
 = - \left( \frac{y_l}{p_l} - \frac{1 - y_l}{1 - p_l} \right) \cdot \prod_{k \neq j} (1 - p_{ik}) \cdot \frac{p_{ij}(1 - p_{ij})}{p_i}
\]  

(4)

According to (4), we can iteratively update the weights of networks using the back propagation until getting ideal loss.

### B. Deep Instance Feature Extraction

For an unknown video bag, the MI-CNN can be directly used to predict its label. In the experiments section, we will test its performance. However, the MI-CNN is intuitively constructed based on MIL. According to aforementioned analysis, some of the instances might not be responsible for the observed classification of the bags. Such redundant or irrelevant instances may bring much disturbance to the intuitive classification. So, MI-CNN can also be used as a deep feature extractor and a more effective MIL classifier is proposed based on the deep features in Section IV. For each instance \( c_{ij} \), we can extract the output of the second fully connected layer (FC2) as its deep feature, represented as \( x_{ij} \). Then a video bag \( C_i \) can be represented as \( X_i = \{ x_{i1}, \ldots, x_{ij}, \ldots, x_{in} \} \subset \chi \).

### IV. REPRESENTATIVE PROTOTYPE SELECTION BASED ON SELF-EXPRESSIVE DICTIONARY LEARNING

After obtaining the deep features of each instance, this section is to design an effective MIL classifier. How to effectively prune the useless instances and keep the discriminative and representative ones still remains a challenging problem for MIL-based objectionable video recognition. Although there are excellent strategies to select prototypes [7,39,40], MILES [39] has the difficulty of holding the increasing mapping dimension when confronting large number of instances and the strategies in [7,40] are lack of representativeness so as to missing information of the instance space. So, more progressive selection framework should be designed.

It can be observed that data has the self-expressiveness property, stating that each data point in a union of subspaces can be efficiently reconstructed by a combination of other points in the dataset [41]. Representative instances selection in this paper is just to learn those instance points which can reconstruct all instances coming from the union of subspaces. If we choose instances as dictionary atoms, we can select the representative ones with proper constraint.
A. Self-expressive Dictionary Learning With Low Rank and Sparse Coding (SEDL-LRSC)

Let \( Q = [q_1, q_2, ..., q_M] = [x_{11}, ..., x_{1n_1}, ..., x_{i1}, ..., x_{in_i}, ..., x_{N1}, ..., x_{Nn_N}] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times M} \), \( M = n_1 + n_2 + ... + n_N \), represent all the instances in training video bags. Then the matrix of data points \( Q \) can be considered as a self-expressive dictionary in which each point can be written as a linear combination of other points. For all instances, we can get the expression as:

\[
Q = QZ, \quad \text{diag}(Z) = 0 \tag{5}
\]

where \( Z = [z_{i,j}]_{i,j=1}^M \) is the reconstruction coefficient vector and the constraint \( z_{i,j} = 0 \) eliminates the trivial solution of writing a point as a linear combination of itself. However, the representation of \( q_i \) in the dictionary \( Q \) is not unique in general. This comes from the fact that the number of data points in a subspace is often greater than its dimension. So, appropriate constraint term should be added.

As we all know, some instances in video bags are redundant and useless, so self-expressive dictionary learning should have the ability of select the most informal instances. Sparse constraint can well ensure such purpose. Furthermore, instances in video bags are diverse. They may be horrible, bloody, violent, sad, nauseating, exciting and so on. We can suppose that these instances are from different subspaces. It has been proven that, under mild conditions, low-rank representation can correctly preserve the membership of samples that belong to the same subspace [42,43]. In addition, the data are often noisy and even grossly corrupted in real applications, e.g. damaged frame or noisy voice, so we add a noise term \( E \) to the reconstruction term \( Q = QZ \) in Eq.(5) as \( Q = QZ + E \). Suppose that a fraction of random entries in the instance vectors are grossly corrupted, then \( E \) should be sparse. So, we extend the self-expressive dictionary learning with following constraints:

\[
\min_{Z,E} [\|Q\|_F^2 + \|Z\|_{1,1} + \lambda \|E\|_1] \tag{6}
\]

where \( \| \cdot \|_F \) is the nuclear norm of a matrix [44], i.e., the sum of the singular values of the matrix, \( \| \cdot \|_{2,1} \) is the \( \ell_{2,1} \)-norm of a matrix and \( \| \cdot \|_1 \) is the \( \ell_1 \)-norm of a matrix. A nonnegative constraint is also added in Eq. (6) because it is more consistent with the biological modeling of visual data and often leads to better performance for data representation [45,46,47].

B. Optimization for SEDL-LRSC

To solve the SEDL-LRSC problem in Eq. (6), we extend the Augmented Lagrangian Multiplier (ALM) [48] that has been widely used for the standard low-rank problem. By introducing a new parameter \( H \), Eq. (6) can be converted into the following equivalent problem:

\[
\min_{Z,E} [\|Q\|_F^2 + \|Z\|_{1,1} + \lambda \|E\|_1] \tag{7}
\]

\[
\text{s. t. } Q = QZ + E, Z = H, H \geq 0
\]

The Eq. (7) can be solved by the ALM method that minimizes the following augmented Lagrange function [49,50]:

\[
L(Z, H, E, Y_1, Y_2, \mu) = [\|Q\|_F^2 + \beta \|H\|_{2,1} + \lambda \|E\|_1 + (Y_1 Q - QZ - E) + (Y_2 Z - H) + \frac{\mu}{2} (\|Q - QZ - E\|_F^2 + \|Z - H\|_F^2)] \tag{8}
\]

where \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \) indicates inner product, \( Y_1 \) and \( Y_2 \) are Lagrange multipliers, and \( \mu > 0 \) is a penalty parameter. The function (8) is minimized by updating each of the variables \( Z, H \) and \( E \) one at a time and then the Lagrange multipliers \( Y_1 \) and \( Y_2 \). More details represent at Appendix.

C. Representative Prototype Selection

To get more discriminative features used in bag-level feature mapping, we should select most representative instances to form the mapping prototype set. As Eq. (6) learned, the nonzero rows of \( Z \) indicate the representatives. Furthermore, the \( \ell_2 \)-norm of each row in \( Z \) provides its relative importance ranking. More precisely, representative whose corresponding row in the optimal coefficient matrix \( Z \) has higher \( \ell_2 \)-norm has a higher important ranking to take part in the reconstruction of many points in the instance space. Denote the jth column of \( Z \) as \( z_j \), the ith row as \( z^i \). Thus, we rank \( s \) representatives \( p_{t_1}, ..., p_{t_s} \) as \( t_1 \geq t_2 \geq ... \geq t_s \), i.e., \( p_{t_s} \) has the highest rank and \( p_{t_1} \) has the lowest rank, whenever for the corresponding rows of \( Z \) we have

\[
\|z^1\|_2 \geq \|z^{t_2}\|_2 \geq ... \geq \|z^{t_s}\|_2 \tag{9}
\]

where \( \|z\|_2 \) is the \( \ell_2 \)-norm of vector \( z \) and is regarded as a measurement of the capacity of representatives.

We order instances in \( Q \) according to their capacity in descending order and select top \( \delta \) instances as the mapping prototype set (MPS).

D. Bag Feature Mapping and Classification

After getting the MPS, we can get the bag-level feature through the similarity-based feature mapping, as in MILES [40]. Let \( \{p_1, p_2, ..., p^8\} \) be the MPS. For a bag \( X_i \) and instance \( x \), the similarity between them is given by

\[
\text{sim}(X_i, x) = \max_{x_j \in X_i} \exp(-\theta \|x_j - x\|^2) \tag{10}
\]

where \( \theta \) is a similarity scale parameter. Then, the bag-level feature vector of \( X_i \) can be constructed based on the similarity between \( X_i \) and each instance in MPS as following:

\[
f_{X_i} = [\text{sim}(X_i, p_1), \text{sim}(X_i, p_2), ..., \text{sim}(X_i, p^8)]^T \tag{11}
\]

Similarly, we can get the bag-level feature of a given test video bag \( (X', y') \) as:

\[
f_{X'} = [\text{sim}(X', p_1), \text{sim}(X', p_2), ..., \text{sim}(X', p^8)]^T \tag{12}
\]

Finally, a SVM classifier is introduced to recognize whether a video bag is objectionable or not.
A. Experiment Setup

(i) Data Set

Due to the lack of publicly available video sets for objectionable video recognition, we collect two sets from the Internet. One set includes 800 horror and non-horror video clips (referred to as Horror Set), and the other one includes 800 violent and non-violent video clips (referred to as Violent Set). In addition, a public competition data set, violent scene detection set (VSD) 2014 [51], is also introduced to evaluate the performance of our method.

* Horror Set

We download a large number of movies from the Internet which consist of 100 horror movies and 100 non-horror movies, these movies are from China, US, Japan, South Korea and Thailand etc. The genres of the non-horror movies include comedy, action, drama and cartoon. We truncate each movie into several movie clips and each clip is treated as a bag. Then we invited 10 students in our laboratory to label each video clip as one of three categories: non-horror, a little horror and horror. We define “horror” scenes as those including serial killings, ghosts, monsters, vampires, animal killing, and irreligion so as to arouse the primary emotions of fear, horror, and terror and aren’t suited a child under 12-year-old to watch. If the “horror” elements of a scene evoke week emotions of fear, horror and terror and one can let child between 12 and 18 to watch, then it can be labeled “a little horror”. Others can be labeled “non-horror”. Then the final label of the video clip is decided by voting. Label with vote of more than 90% will be retained, otherwise it will be discarded. Finally, 400 video clips labeled “horror” and 400 video clips labeled “non-horror” with different genres are selected from the candidate video set to compose the Horror Set.

* Violent Set

Similar to Horror Set, we also collect 100 violent movies and 100 none-violent movies from Internet. After truncating and manual labeling, 400 violent video clips and 400 non-violent video clips are finally selected to compose the Violent Set. For the annotators, we define “violent” scenes as those including fights, gun shots, explosions, and self-mutilation so as to stimulate mental impulses through showing the use of force to injure others or oneself and also aren’t suited child under 12-year-old to watch. Labels with more than 90% votes are decided as the final labels.

* VSD2014

VSD2014 is a benchmark violence detection dataset and gets the validation during the 2014MediaEval Violence Scenes Detection (VSD) task [52,53]. The annotations have been created by several human assessors in a hierarchical, bottom-up manner. The training set in the dataset has 24 Hollywood movies and the testing dataset is composed by a set of 7 Hollywood movies and 86 YouTube video clips.

To make the dataset suitable for testing objectionable video recognition whose target is to identify whether a video is objectionable with video’s label instead of frames’, we truncate the movies into video segments and each segment is treated as a video bag. Its instances are constructed by key frames and spectrograms extracted from shots in the video bag via shot detection[35]. If there are violent shots in the video bag, it is annotated as positive bag, otherwise the bag is annotated as negative bag.

(ii) Evaluation Criteria

We used the precision (Pre), recall (Rec), and $F_1$-measure ($F_1$) to evaluate the performance of an algorithm. For each data set, given the ground truth of an objectionable video set (HS) as well as recognition results (ES) of an algorithm, the precision (Pre), recall (Rec), and $F_1$-measure ($F_1$) defined in Eq. (13) are used to evaluate the performances.

$$\text{Pre} = \frac{|HS \cap ES|}{|ES|}, \text{Rec} = \frac{|HS \cap ES|}{|HS|}, F_1 = \frac{2 \times P \times R}{|P + R|}. \quad (13)$$

B. Experiment Results

In the experiments, for Horror and Violent data sets, we conduct 3-fold cross validations 10 times and report the average performance. The parameters are selected by cross validation on the training set with regard to the $F_1$-measure in each procedure. For VSD2014, we report the experiment results using the given training and testing set and select the parameters in the same way.

(i) Comparison among Different Features

In this experiment, two types of features, deep multi-instance feature and hand-crafted feature (HCR), are compared. The deep one is the proposed multimodal deep multi-instance feature (MDMF). Hand-crafted features are ones applied to recognize horror or violent video scene in [20], [29], [30] and [52]. The features in [20] are mostly extracted based on color emotion and color harmony theories for “horror” detection which we refer as “EVA”. While in [29], twenty visual, audio and motional features are tested individually for horror video recognition and five features are selected which are referred as “CAM”. Features extracted in [30] and [52] are designed for violent video recognition. In [30], special attributes are learned from violent video description and corresponding visual, audio and motional features are extracted. In [52], except normal visual, audio and motional features, improved trajectory features are extracted. We refer features in [30] and [52] as “Attr” and “VAT”. The details of HCR are shown in Table 1.

The proposed MILRPS is used to compare the performance of different features as shown in Table 2. Comparing among the four hand-crafted features, EVA and CAM achieve better performance on horror set for their emotional features. While on three violent sets which have more action, gunshot, explosion and bloodiness scene, Attr and VAT achieve better performance because they focus on trajectory-based features, motion intensity, flame and bleeding features and so on. Even on the violent video sets, the performance comparison between
Attr and VAT indicates that the hand-crafted feature is lack of flexibility and portability on varying datasets. However, the proposed deep feature MDMF can learn the high level semantic and adapt to different data sets automatically as the best results shown in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCR</th>
<th>Feature description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVA [20]</td>
<td>Emotional intensity; Color harmony; Variance of color; Lighting; Texture; Rhythm; MFCC; Spectral power; Spectral centroid; Time domain zero crossing rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAM [29]</td>
<td>Color structure; Audio Fundamental Frequency; Audio Signature; Audio Spectrum Spread; Motion Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attr [30]</td>
<td>Motion intensity; Flame; Bleeding; Audio energy; Energy entropy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT [52]</td>
<td>Improved dense trajectories; histograms of oriented gradients; histograms of optical flow; motion boundary histograms; trajectory shape</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Experimental results on different features (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enviroment</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>MDMF</th>
<th>EVA</th>
<th>CAM</th>
<th>Attr</th>
<th>VAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horror</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>89.33</td>
<td>86.96</td>
<td>86.01</td>
<td>85.77</td>
<td>85.13</td>
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| VSD2014 (Hollywood) | 67.93 | 61.61 | 62.73 | 63.58 | 64.25 |
| VSD2014 (YouTube)  | 70.87 | 65.60 | 66.48 | 67.38 | 67.81 |

(ii) Comparison among Different Recognition Methods

We compare the proposed instance selection method MILRPS with single instance methods and most prevailing MIL methods using the same deep features learned by the proposed deep MIL framework, as:

MILS [39]: this is a MIL method which implicitly provides the earliest instance selection solution through bag mapping feature selection based on $\ell_1$-norm SVM classifier.

MILIS [40]: this method improves MILS which proposes to use a normalized probability density function (PDF) to model all negative instances in negative bags, and then selects the most positive (negative) instance from each positive and negative bag, respectively.

mi-Graph [54]: this method uses a graph to model the context between instances in a bag.

MI-kernel [55]: this method regards each bag as a set of feature vectors and then applies a set-based kernel directly for bag classification.

MI-SVM [56]: this method is extended from SVM to deal with MIL problems. It represents a positive bag by the instance farthest from the separating hyper-plane.

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multi-perspective cost-sensitive MIL-J-SC (MC-MI-J-SC) [18]: this is an objectionable video recognition method based on Multi-instance joint sparse coding which considers multi-perspective of objectionable video simultaneously.

MIL with Key Instance Shift (MIKI) [57]: this method addresses the problem that the distribution of key instances varies between training and testing phase by proposing an
embedding based method MIKI.

MIL based on Isolation Set-Kernel (ISK) [58]: this method investigates a novel data-dependent kernel derived directly from data and introduces it into MIL.

Video classification with CNN (VCNN) [59]: this work provides an extensive empirical evaluation of CNNs on large-scale video classification. It studies multiple approaches for extending the connectivity of a CNN in time domain to take advantage of local spatio-temporal information. In this experiment, the “frame with slow fusion” framework is selected to be compared for its good performance.

Table 3 shows the average Precision (Pre), Recall (Rec) and F$_1$-measure (F$_1$) of different methods. From Table 3, the following points can be observed:

- MILRPS achieves better performance than most other methods. This shows that reasonable mapping prototype selection could improve the objectionable video recognition accuracy.
- The results of classification with MI-CNN show that MI-CNN achieves better performance than simple MIL methods such as MI-kernel, MI-SVM and video-based methods (SVM and KNN). While the improved MIL methods based on instance selection such as MILRPS, MILES and MILIS outperform MI-CNN. It reconfirms that instance selection is an effective way to improve the recognition performance of MIL-based methods. In addition, the performance on Pre and F$_1$ of MI-CNN is better than VCNN. It is because that in VCNN the label of a frame or clip is treated the same as its video. It is not exact for objectionable video in which not all frames are objectionable. While in MI-CNN such problem can be well solved by the additional “NoisyOR” layer with which the deep network can be learned with bag’s (video’s) label instead of instances’ (frames’) and the higher semantic from instance to bag can be learned.
- Comparison among several MIL methods based on selected prototype mapping, including MILRPS, MILES and MILIS, shows that our method MILRPS has best performance. In MILES, the selected prototypes are not given out explicitly; instead all the instances participate in the bag feature mapping and the selection will be implicitly conducted through feature selection based on $\ell_1$-norm SVM classifier. Although it has comparable accuracy, the high dimensionality of feature mapping limits its efficiency in applications with a large number of instances, e.g. video classification. MILIS first selects prototypes whose number is fixed as bag number and then gets bag mapping feature based on the prototypes. Although it avoids the high dimensional feature mapping, it still has following problems. (1) Although the most positive (negative) instances in bags are very typical training samples, they cannot represent the distribution of positive (negative) instances very well. So they have less effect on the real classification hyper plane. (2) The instance prototypes are devoid of representativeness and sensitive to noise or corruption. Our method not only avoids high dimension’s feature mapping, but also avoids fixing one instance for each bag with sparse constraint. The low rank constraint can simultaneously consider the subspace structure of instances to confirm the more informative of prototypes.
- In MI-kernel, bag feature is designed as average similarity distance between all instances in any two bags. It can be considered as an approximate method with MILES or MILIS without instance selection. The overall evaluation among MI-kernel with MILIS, MILES, MILRPS shows that instances selection can improve the discrimination of video bag feature. More reasonable selection strategy can get better recognition result.
- Although MC-MI-J-SC has no instance selection, they also achieve good performance owing to its multi-perspective and instance context in the bag.
- Comparing MIL-based methods with SVM and KNN, we can find that MIL-based methods (frame-based methods) achieve better performance for taking the structure of video into account. Furthermore, if more cues existed in objectionable video recognition can be considered, much better performance can be achieved, just as MILRPS and MC-MI-J-SC shown.
- MIKI achieves best performance on YouTube86, because YouTube86 is a generalization set in VSD2014 with different type of videos between train and test set. MIKI just focuses to address the problem that the distribution of key instances varies between training and testing phase through learning the importance weights for transformed bag vectors and incorporating original instance weights into them to narrow the gap between train/test distributions. The comparable performance achieved by our method shows its robustness when confronting variable data because of its ability to get the principal semantic by prototype selection.

(iii) Experiments on the Representativeness of the Selected Instances

In order to validate the representativeness of selected prototypes in MILRPS, we set the total number of the selected prototypes in MILRPS to be $k_p \%$ of the instance numbers, i.e. $B = k_p \% \times M$. We try different value of $k_p$ from $\{10, 20, ..., 100\}$. For each value of $k_p$, the average $F_1$-measure of 10 times 3-fold cross validations on the three benchmark sets are given in Fig. 3. It is very interesting to notice that the MILRPS generally achieves stable and best performance when $k_p \in [30, 40]$. This phenomenon shows that the selected instances can represent the most information of the whole instance space.

In Fig. 4 we show some selected prototype examples from two objectionable video clips in horror and violent set. Each video clip is shown with its key frames and the prototypes as frames inside the red rectangles. Note that the prototypes obtained by our algorithm capture the main events of the video and the unimportant instances are certainly pruned. Through computing the mapping distance to these prototypes, more discrimination video bag feature is obtained.
VI. CONCLUSION

Two potential problems that hinder the effectiveness of MIL-based objectionable video recognition come from weak features and redundant and noise instances which contribute little to discrimination. In this paper, we proposed a MIL model based on representative prototype selection embedding deep instance representation learning. In this model, deep instance features are extracted from a novel deep network designed for MIL and a set of prototypes are selected through learning a self-expressive dictionary with sparse and low rank constraint. These prototypes not only have the representativeness of whole instances, but have the approaching distribution of instance subspaces. So, mapping to these prototypes, more discriminative bag feature can be obtained and deservedly improve the performance of objectionable video recognition. In the future, we will extend the deep multi-instance representation learning to more general classification task.

Video1:

Video2:

Fig 4 Examples of selected prototype
REFERENCES


Optimization Detail of SEDL-LRSC

Let \( g(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{Y}_1, \mathbf{Y}_2, \mu) = \frac{\mu}{2} \left( \| \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu} \|_F^2 + \left\| \mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{H} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu} \right\|_F^2 \right) \). Eq. (8) is simplified as following:

\[
\begin{align*}
L(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{Y}_1, \mathbf{Y}_2, \mu) &= \| \mathbf{Z} \|_1 + \beta \| \mathbf{H} \|_{2,1} + \lambda \| \mathbf{E} \|_1 + g(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{Y}_1, \mathbf{Y}_2, \mu) - \frac{1}{2\mu} \left( \| \mathbf{Y}_1 \|_1 + \| \mathbf{Y}_2 \|_1 \right). \tag{14}
\end{align*}
\]

We replace the quadratic term \( g \) by its first order approximation and add a proximal term [60]; With some algebra, the updating schemes are as follows, in which the subscript \( k \) indicates the iteration number.

\[ \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Z}} \frac{\mu}{2} \| \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu} \|_F^2 + \left\| \mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{H} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu} \right\|_F^2 \]  \quad (15)

where \( \eta_1 = \| \mathbf{Q} \|_2^2, \varepsilon = 1/\eta_1 \mu \), and \( \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{Z}_k + \left( \mathbf{Q}^T (\mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Z}_k - \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu_k}) \right) \). As suggested by [61], The solution to the above problem can be solved as:

\[ \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} = \mathbf{U}_k \mathbf{S}_k \mathbf{V}_k^T \]  \quad (16)

Here \( \nabla \mathcal{D} / \nabla \mathbf{S} \) is the singular value decomposition (SVD). \( \mathbf{S} \) is the singular value matrix of \( \mathbf{R} \). The operator \( \mathbf{T}_k \) \( \mathbf{S} \) in Eq. (16) is defined by element-wise thresholding of \( \mathbf{S} \), i.e., \( \mathbf{T}_k \) \( \mathbf{S} \) is diag\( (\{ \mathbf{t}_k \}, \mathbf{s}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_k \} \) for rank of \( \mathbf{R} \) being \( \mathbf{s} \) and each \( \mathbf{t}_k [s] \) is determined as:

\[
\mathbf{t}_k [s] = \begin{cases} 
s - \varepsilon & \text{if } s > \varepsilon \\
\varepsilon & \text{if } s < -\varepsilon \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]  \quad (17)

\[ \mathbf{H}_{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{H}_{k+1}} \beta \| \mathbf{H} \|_{2,1} + \frac{\mu_k}{2} \| \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \mathbf{H} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu_k} \|_F^2 \]  \quad (18)

Set \( \mathbf{B}_k = \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu_k} \), \( \mathbf{B}_k \) and \( \mathbf{H}_k \) denote the \( \mathbf{t} \)th row of the matrix \( \mathbf{B}_k \) and \( \mathbf{H}_k \), rewrite (18) as:

\[ \mathbf{H}_{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{H}_{k+1}, \mathbf{H}_{k+2}, \ldots, \mathbf{H}_{k+m}} \sum_{l=1}^M \left( \beta \| \mathbf{H}_l \|_2^2 + \frac{\mu_k}{2} \| \mathbf{B}_l - \mathbf{H}_l \|_2^2 \right) \]  \quad (19)

The optimization of (19) can be decomposed into \( M \) separate sub-problems. For each sub-problem, we have:

\[ \mathbf{H}_{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{H}_{k+1}} \beta \| \mathbf{H}_l \|_2^2 + \frac{\mu_k}{2} \| \mathbf{B}_l - \mathbf{H}_l \|_2^2 \]  \quad (20)

It is easy to show that the optimal solution \( \mathbf{H}_{k+1}^* \) of Eq. (20) must lie on the same line of \( \mathbf{B}_k \), and takes the form: \( \mathbf{H}_{k+1}^* = \gamma \mathbf{B}_k \) with \( \gamma \geq 0 \). By forming the Lagrangian dual form, the analytical solution of (20) can be easily obtained:

\[ \mathbf{H}_{k+1}^* = \left( 1 - \frac{\beta}{\mu_k \| \mathbf{B}_k \|_2^2} \right) \frac{\| \mathbf{B}_k \|_2^2}{\mu_k} \right) \| \mathbf{B}_k \|_2^2 \]  \quad (21)

The solution of (19) can be obtained by stacking \( \mathbf{H}_{k+1}^* \) as:

\[ \mathbf{H}_{k+1} = \left[ \mathbf{H}_{k+1}^*, \mathbf{H}_{k+2}^*, \ldots, \mathbf{H}_{k+m}^* \right] \]  \quad (22)

Updating \( \mathbf{E}_{k+1}^* \):

\[ \mathbf{E}_{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{E}} \| \mathbf{E} \|_1 + \frac{\mu_k}{2} \| \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu_k} \|_F^2 \]  \quad (23)

where \( \delta = \mathbf{A} / \mu_k \) and \( \mathbf{G} = \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_2}{\mu_k} \). The solution to the above problem can be solved as [61]:

\[ \mathbf{E}_{k+1}^* = \mathbf{S}_k \mathbf{E}_k \]  \quad (24)

The inexact solution method for SEDL-LRSC is summarized in Algorithm 1.
Algorithm 1 Solution for SEDL_LRSC

Input: Instance matrix $Q$, parameter $\lambda$ and $\beta$.
1: Initialize: $Z_0 = H_0 = E_0 = Y_{1,0} = Y_{2,0} = 0$, $\mu_0 = 0.1$, $\rho_0 = 1.1$, $\eta_1 = \|Q\|_2^2$, $\varepsilon = 10^{-2}$, $k = 0$.
2: while not converged do
3: Update the variables $Z_{k+1}, H_{k+1}, E_{k+1}$ as Eq. (16), (22) and (24) respectively.
4: Update Lagrang multipliers as follows:
   $Y_{1,k+1} = Y_{1,k} + \mu_k (Q - QZ_{k+1} - E_{k+1})$,
   $Y_{2,k+1} = Y_{2,k} + \mu_k (Z_{k+1} - H_{k+1})$
5: Update $\mu$ as follows:
   $\mu_{k+1} = \rho \mu_k$
6: Update $\rho$ as follows:
   $\rho = \begin{cases} 
   \rho_0, & \text{if } \max_{i=1,2} \left( \sqrt{\|H_{k+1} - H_k\|_2^2, \|Z_{k+1} - Z_k\|_2^2, \|E_{k+1} - E_k\|_2^2} \right) < \varepsilon \\
   1, & \text{otherwise}
   \end{cases}$
7: end while
Output: an optimal solution $(Z^*, H^*, E^*)$.

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