

## **Research Article**

# Key Frame Extraction for Sports Training Based on Improved Deep Learning

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With the rapid technological advances in sports, the number of athletics increases gradually. For sports professionals, it is obligatory to oversee and explore the athletics pose in athletes' training. Key frame extraction of training videos plays a significant role to ease the analysis of sport training videos. This paper develops a sports actions' classification system for accurately classifying athlete's actions. The key video frames are extracted from the sports training video to highlight the distinct actions in sports training. Subsequently, a fully convolutional network (FCN) is used to extract the region of interest (ROI) pose detection of frames followed by the application of a convolution neural network (CNN) to estimate the pose probability of each frame. Moreover, a distinct key frame extraction approach is established to extract the key frames considering neighboring frames' probability differences. The experimental results determine that the proposed method showed better performance and can recognize the athlete's posture with an average classification rate of 98%. The experimental results and analysis validate that the proposed key frame extraction method outperforms its counterparts in key pose probability estimation and key pose extraction.

#### 1. Introduction

With the advent of artificial intelligence, performance analysis in sport has undergone significant changes in recent years. In general, manual analysis performed by trained sports analysts has some drawbacks such as being timeconsuming, subjective in nature, and prone to human errors. Objective measurement and assessment for sports actions are indispensable to understand the physical and technical demands related to sports performance [1]. Intelligent sports action recognition methods are developed to provide objective analysis and evaluation in sport and improve the accuracy of sports performance analysis and validate the efficiency of training programs. Common sports action recognition systems can be developed using advanced machine learning methods to process the data collected via computer vision systems and wearable sensors [2]. Sports activities recorded through a computer vision system can be used for athlete action detection, movement analysis, and pose estimation [3]. The vision-based sports action

recognition can provide real-time feedback for athletes and coaches. However, the player's actions in sports videos are more complex and skillful. Compared with daily activities, the analysis of sports videos is more challenging. This is because, the players while playing perform rapid and consistent actions within the camera view, thus degrading the action recognition performance [4].

In sports video analysis and processing for action recognition, pertinent and basic information extraction is a mandatory task. If the video is large, then it is hard to process the whole video in a short time while preserving its semantics [5]. The extraction of the key frame is a prime step of video analysis. The key frame provides eloquent information and is a summary of the entire video sequence [6]. A video is normally recorded 30 frames per second and contains additional information for the recognition of a particular computer vision task. Key frame detection is mainly applied in video summarization and visual localization in videos. To use all the frames of a video, more computational resources and memory are required. In many computer vision applications, one or few key frames may be enough to accomplish the desired recognition results [3].

The key frames are applied in many applications such as searching, information retrieval, and scene analysis in videos [7]. The video represents a composite structure and is made of several scenes, shots, and several frames. Figure 1 shows the division of video into shots and frames. In many video and image processing tasks, such as scene analysis and sequence summarization, it is essential to perform an analysis of the complete video. During the analysis of videos, the major steps are scene segmentation, detection of shot margin, and key frame extraction [8, 9]. The shot is a contiguous, adjacent combination of frames recorded by a camera. The key objective of extracting key frames is to extract unique frames in a video and prepare the video sequences for quick processing [10]. In this paper, we propose an effective method for the extraction of a key frame from athlete sports video, which is accurate, fast, and efficient. The proposed key frame extraction model uses a long sports action video as input and extracts the key frames, which can better represent the sports action for recognition. We introduced an improved convolution neural network method to detect key frames in athletes' videos. We performed experiments on athletes' training video dataset to show the triumph of our method for key frames' detection.

We structured the rest of the paper as follows. In Section 2, related work is presented. Section 3 provides the detail of the proposed method. Sections 4 and 5 are about the experimental results and conclusion, respectively.

#### 2. Related Work

With the advancement of sports, competition in sports is becoming a base to develop people's social life and emotions. In order to enhance the competitive skills of athletes, active investigation of sports training is one of the central issues. Many previous analysis methods in this field depend on using a segmentation-based approach [11]. These methods usually extract visual features from videos. One of the first attempts discovered local minimum changes within videos concerning similarity between the consecutive frames. Later on, other works augmented this approach by using the key points' detection method for local feature extraction and combining the key points to find the key frames [12]. All of these methods have a common shortcoming of extracting redundant frames rather than fully covering the video contents.

Another group of traditional methods is based on feature clusters and detects the key video frames with prediction of a prominent frame in individual clusters. Zhuang et al. [13] employed the joint entropy (JE) and mutual information (MI) between successive video frames and detected key frames. Tang et al. [14] developed a clustering method for recognizing the key frame using visual content and motion analysis. A frame extraction method for hand gesture images' recognition using image entropy and density clustering was presented in [15]. Cun et al. [16] developed a method for the extraction of key frames using spectral clustering. The feature locality in the video sequence was extracted using a



FIGURE 1: Structure of sport video.

graph as an alternative to relying on a similarity measure shared between two images.

To overcome the shortcomings of traditional frame detection methods, recent works focused on deep learning to perform key frame recognition in videos [17]. Deep learning has made a great breakthrough in the application of speech recognition, vision-based systems, human activity recognition, and image classification [18]. The deep learning models simulate human neurons and form the combination of lowand high-level features, to describe and understand objects [19]. Deep learning is relative to "shallow learning." The major difference between deep learning and "shallow learning" is that the deep model contains several nonlinear operations and more layers of a neural network [20]. "Shallow learning" relies on manual feature extraction and ultimately obtains single-layer features. Deep learning extracts different levels of features from the original signal from shallow to deep. In addition, deep learning can describe learning deeper and more complex features, to better express the image, which is conducive to classification and other tasks. The structure of deep learning is comprised of a large number of neurons, each of which is connected with other neurons. The process of deep learning is to update the weights through continuous iteration. Deep neural networks (DNN) are a deep network structure. The network structure of a deep neural network includes multiple single-layer nonlinear networks. At present, the more common networks can be categorized into feedback deep networks (FBDN), bidirectional deep networks (BDDN) [21], and feedforward deep networks (FFDN).

Different supervised and unsupervised deep learning methods have been suggested for key frame detection in sports videos which considerably enhance the performance of action recognition systems. Yang et al. [22] employed the method of generative adversarial networks for the detection of key frames in videos. For key features' extraction, CNNs were employed to extract the discriminant features which were encoded using long short-term memory (LSTM) networks. Another approach using bidirectional long shortterm memory (Bi-LSTM) was introduced in [23]. The method was effective for extracting the highlighting the key video's frames automatically. Huang and Wang [24] proposed a two-stream CNNs' approach to detect the key frames for action recognition. Likewise, Jian et al. [25] devised a unique key frame and shot selection model for summarization of video. Wen et al. [26] employed a frame extraction system through estimation of the pose probability of each neighboring frame in a sports video. Moreover, Wu et al. [27] presented a video generation approach based on key frames. In this study, we propose an improved key frame extraction technique for sports action recognition using a convolutional neural network. FCN is applied to get the ROI for a more accurate pose detection of frames followed by the application of a CNN to estimate the pose probability of individual frames.

#### 3. Methods

3.1. Overview of CNN. CNN is an artificial neural network that mimics the human brain and can grip the training and learning of layered network structures. CNN uses the local receptive field to acquire autonomous learning capability and handle huge data images for processing. CNN is a specific type of FFDN. It is extensively used for recognition of images. CNN represents image data in the form of multidimensional arrays or matrices. CNN extracts each slice of an input image and assigns weights to each neuron based on the important role of the receptive field. Simultaneous interpretation of weight points and pooling functions reduces the dimension of image features, reduces the complexity of parameter adjustment, and improves the stability of network structure. Lastly, prominent features are generated for classification, so they are broadly used for object detection and classification of images.

CNN is primarily comprised of the input layer, convolution layer, pooling layer, full connection layer, and output layer. The input image is given to the input layer for processing. The convolution layer performs convolution operation over the input matrix between the input layer and convolution layer, and the input image is processed for feature extraction. The function of the pooling layer is to take the maximum value of the pixels in the target area of the input image, to condense the resolution of the feature image and avoid overfitting. The full connection layer is composed of zero or more neurons. Each neuron is linked with all the neurons in the preceding layer. The obtained feature vector is mapped to the output layer to facilitate classification. The function of the output layer is to classify feature vectors mapped from the full connection layer and create a onedimensional output vector, with dimensions equal to the number of classes.

#### 3.2. Deep Key Frame Extraction

3.2.1. Proposed Algorithm. In this section, we provide the details of the proposed deep key frame extraction method for sports training. The method is based on athlete skeleton extraction. As illustrated in Figure 2, the proposed frame extraction technique consists of four steps: preprocessing of the athlete training video, ROI extraction based on FCN,

skeleton and feature extraction, and CNN-based key frame extraction. The proposed deep frame extraction method examines the poses of athletes in training videos. It first divides input videos into frame sequences followed by exploring ROI. FCN is applied for the extraction of foreground features of the athlete. Next, all the video frames are cropped according to the extracted ROI in the first frame.

*3.2.2. Extracting Athletes' Skeletons.* We used the ROI image extracted by the FCN network and the previously labeled ground truth to make the training data of the deep skeleton network. The original training image and the labeled ground truth are shown in Figure 3.

The Matlab (R2015a) software was used to extract the athletes' skeleton information of ground truth. The Matlab 'bwmorph' function was applied to perform the morphological operation on all images. The general syntax of Matlab bwmorp function is as follows:

BW2 = bwmorph (BW, operation, n), which applies morphological operation n times and n can be inf; in this case, the operation is repeated until the image no longer changes. Table 1 lists some of the different morphological operations that can be performed on images.

The different morphological operations can be selected to generate the athlete's skeleton information. The athlete's skeleton information of the four key postures is shown in Figure 4.

It can be seen from the athletes' skeleton information map that the four key postures have different athletes' skeleton information. The 373 labeled images were used to extract their athletes' skeleton information as the label of training deep skeleton network.

3.2.3. Generation of Athlete Skeleton Information. We prepared the training and test files, as shown in Figure 5. The left side represents the original image, whereas the right side is the ground truth.

Because the CNN network is changed from VGG (visual geometry group) network, some parameters of the VGG network are selected. The VGG is the conventional CNN architecture and consists of blocks, where each block consists of 2D convolution and max pooling layers. Similar to the FCN training method, the deep skeleton is different from the traditional single-label classification network but uses the image of athletes' skeleton information as the label.

After 20000 iterations, the trained model is obtained. The test set was randomly selected to test the recognition performance. According to the predicted value of each pixel, after normalization, the predicted gray image is drawn. The original and predicted images are shown in Figure 6.

The white portion in the figure indicates the skeleton information of athletes. The higher the value is, the more likely it is to be the skeleton information of athletes. Next, the nonmaximum suppression (NMS) algorithm is used to find the athletes' skeleton information. The NMS technique is used in several image processing tasks. It is a group of algorithms that chooses one entity out of many entities. We



FIGURE 2: Algorithm framework.



FIGURE 3: Original and ground truth.

TABLE 1: bwmorph morphological operations on images.

Operation	Description				
Botha'	It is a morphological "bottom cap" transformation operation, and the returned image is the original image minus th morphological closing operation (closing operation: first expand and then corrode)				
Bridge	Disconnected pixels: the value pixel is set to 1 if it has two nonzero unconnected (8 neighborhood) pixels				
Clean	Remove isolated pixels (by O 1)				
Close	Perform morphological closing operation (expansion before corrosion)				
Diag	The diagonal filling is used to eliminate the 8 connected regions in the background				
Dilate	The structure ones (3) are used to perform the expansion operation				
Erode	The structure ones (3) are used to perform the corrosion operation				
Fill	Fill in isolated internal pixels (0 surrounded by 1)				



FIGURE 4: (a) The original picture of athlete's and the ground truth of athletes' skeleton. (b) The original drawing of the knee lead and the ground truth of the athlete's skeleton. (c) The original drawing and the ground truth of the athlete's skeleton. (d) The original map of the highest point and the ground truth of the athlete's skeleton.

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FIGURE 5: Training parameter.



FIGURE 6: Original and predicted results.

take 3 neighborhoods as an example to introduce the implementation of the NMS algorithm.

NMS in three neighborhoods is to judge whether the element I[x] (2 <= I <= W-1) of a dimension group I[w] is greater than its left neighbor I[I-1] and right neighbor I[x+1] (Algorithm 1).

Lines 3–5 of the algorithm flow check whether the current element is greater than its left and right neighbor elements. If the condition is met, the element is the maximum point. For the maximum point I[x], it is known that I[x] > I[x+1], so there is no need to further process the I+1 position element. Instead, it directly jumps to the I+2 position, corresponding to the  $12^{\text{th}}$  line of the algorithm flow. If the element I[x] does not meet the judgment condition of the third line of the algorithm flow, its right neighbor I[x+1] is taken as the maximum candidate, corresponding to the seventh line of the algorithm flow. A monotonically increasing method is used to search the right until the element satisfying I[x] > I[x+1] is found. If I <= W-1, this point is the maximum point, corresponding to lines 10-11 of the algorithm flow.

We used the NMS method of MATLAB toolkit, according to the results of deep skeleton network output, and, finally, determined the information pixels that may be athletes' skeleton. The predicted results and NMS results are shown in Figure 7. The test effect picture including the athlete skeleton is shown in Figure 8.

#### 4. Results

In this section, we performed experimental analysis to confirm the performance of the proposed key frame extraction method. We performed experiments on sports videos collected from the Chinese Administration of Sports. All the videos contain four key athletes' poses.

4.1. CNN-Based Key Pose Estimation. The proposed key frame extraction method used CNN with ROI of the extracted video frames as input to predict probabilities of all poses. In all sports videos, there are four groups of key poses. The CNN model was used to calculate the probability of each frame for all frames estimated with accurate or inaccurate poses. Table 2 provides the classification results of 4 subjects corresponding to 4 poses of sport action videos. Firstly, 612 image frames are tested. Table 2 provides the number of correct and wrongly predicted frame number and the associated accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity for all poses predicted by CNN. It is evident that the accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity of pose probability estimated in the proposed model are higher than 90% on all the poses which provide a base for the ultimate key pose extraction in sports training.

4.2. Experimental Comparison. To ratify the superiority of the proposed key frame extraction method, we compared the obtained results with the existing pose estimation methods. The comparison results are shown in Table 3. Compared with the traditional deep learning method, the method in this paper has a great improvement. Because the athlete

(1) $x = 2$					
(1) $w = 2$ (2) While $I \le w - 1$ do					
(3) If $I[x]x > xI[x+1]$ then					
(4) If $I[x] >= I[x-1]$ then					
(5) Maximum At $(x)$					
(6) Else					
$(7) \qquad x = x + 1$					
(8) While $x \le w-1$ AND $I[x] \le I[x+1]$ do					
$(9) \qquad x = x + 1$					
(10) If $x \le w - 1$ then					
(11) Maximum At $(x)$					
(12) $I = x + 2$					

ALGORITHM 1: NMS for three neighborhoods.



FIGURE 7: Prediction results and NMS results.



FIGURE 8: Test effect picture including athlete skeleton.

skeleton information is extracted from the key objects, the feature expression of human posture is enhanced, and the accuracy is improved. It can be observed that athletes'

	Total	Correct	Wrong	Accuracy (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
Pose 1	169	166	3	98.2	92.4	94.7
Pose 2	130	125	5	96.1	90.4	95.3
Pose 3	155	152	3	98.1	96.3	98.3
Pose 4	158	155	3	98.1	97.6	97.7

TABLE 2: Test accuracy of four key frames.

TABLE 3: Experimental comparison.

Method	Accuracy (%)
Wu et al. [27]	90.6
Jian et al. [28]	97.4
Proposed skeleton-based method	97.7



FIGURE 9: Test the results of the video.

skeleton extraction of key objects can improve the accuracy of classification. Wu et al. [27] achieved the highest accuracy of 90.6%, whereas Jian et al. [28] reported 97.4% accuracy. Compared with the aforementioned two methods, the proposed key frame extraction method achieved the highest average accuracy of 97.7% for all the pose categories.

4.3. Key Frame Extraction. Figure 9 shows the probability distribution of proposed skeleton-based key frame extraction for four groups of poses from training videos. It can be seen that the unique characteristics of each pose are properly captured, and the estimation of all four poses is good. In addition, the method in this paper has a very obvious performance in performance and effect and has a strong expression in each type of key posture. It combines FCN with CNN to extract ROI and distinct features and lays down the foundation for key frame extraction from sports videos. It further confirms that the proposed skeleton-based method conquers other key frame extraction methods. Test the results of the video is shown in Figure 9.

#### 5. Conclusion

Object detection and behavior understanding in the video has become a point of contention in the field of machine vision.

Sports video contains a lot of information related to the human movement which is complex and highly skilled. Compared with the analysis of human daily movements, the analysis and recognition movements in sports video are more challenging. In this study, we have presented a deep key frame extraction method for sport video analysis based on CNN. This paper extracts the key posture of athletes' training, to assist the coach to carry out more professional training for athletes, and puts forward a method to extract the skeleton information of human athletes. The human body in sports training action video is extracted through the skeleton of athletes to enhance the expression of features and the accuracy of key frame extraction. The experimental results and analysis validate that the proposed skeleton-based key frame extraction method outperforms its counterparts in key pose probability estimation and key pose extraction.

#### **Data Availability**

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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