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AI-Powered Container Yard Management System using Object Detection and OCR

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Abstract: ***Efficient management of container yards is a critical challenge in modern logistics and port operations, where manual identification and tracking of containers often lead to delays, errors, and increased operational costs. This paper presents an AI-Powered Container Yard Management System that automates the detection and identification of containers using advanced computer vision techniques. The proposed system integrates Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition to accurately detect containers from images or real-time video streams and extract their identification numbers.***

The methodology involves image preprocessing, followed by container detection using a deep learning model such as YOLO (You Only Look Once), which provides real-time performance with high accuracy. The detected regions are then processed using OCR techniques to recognize and extract alphanumeric container IDs. The extracted information is stored in a database for efficient tracking and management.

Experimental results demonstrate that the system achieves high detection accuracy and reliable text extraction under stan- dard conditions, significantly reducing manual effort and im- proving operational efficiency. Although performance may vary under challenging conditions such as low lighting or occlusion, the proposed system provides a scalable and effective solution for automated container yard management. This approach has strong potential for real-world deployment in logistics, shipping, and port management systems.Efficient management of container yards is a critical challenge in modern logistics and port operations, where manual identification and tracking of containers often lead to delays, errors, and increased operational costs. This paper presents an AI-Powered Container Yard Management Sys- tem that automates the detection and identification of containers using advanced computer vision techniques. The proposed system integrates Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition to accurately detect containers from images or real-time video streams and extract their identification numbers.

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Index Terms: Parkinson's disease, Tremor detection, TinyML, Wearable device, MPU6050, IoT, TensorFlow Lite, Early diagnosis.

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of global trade and logistics has signif icantly increased the volume of containerized cargo handled in ports and container yards. Efficient management of these containers is essential to ensure smooth operations, minimize delays, and reduce operational costs. Traditionally, container identification and tracking are performed manually or through semi-automated systems, which are often time-consuming, error-prone, and inefficient in large-scale environments. These limitations highlight the need for intelligent and automated solutions for container yard management. Recent advancements in computer vision and deep learning have enabled the development of automated systems capable of analyzing visual data with high accuracy. Techniques such as Object Detection allow systems to identify and localize ob- jects within images or video streams, while Optical Character Recognition enables the extraction of textual information from visual inputs. The integration of these technologies provides a promising approach for automating container detection and identification processes.

In this paper, an AI-Powered Container Yard Management System is proposed, which utilizes deep learning-based models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) for real-time container detection. The detected container regions are further processed using OCR techniques to extract unique container identifica- tion numbers. The system is designed to operate efficiently under various conditions and to provide accurate and reliable results for practical deployment.

The main contributions of this work include:

1) The development of an automated pipeline for container detection and identification,
2) Integration of object detection and OCR techniques for end-to-end processing, and
3) Evaluation of system performance under different envi- ronmental conditions.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work, Section 3 describes the proposed methodology, Section 4 presents experimental results and discussion, and Section 5 concludes the paper with future directions.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study is to develop an intelligent and automated system for efficient container yard management using advanced computer vision techniques. The specific ob- jectives are as follows:

1) To design an automated framework for container detec- tion using Object Detection.
2) To implement Optical Character Recognition for accu- rate extraction of container identification numbers.
3) To achieve near real-time performance using deep learn- ing models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once).
4) To improve operational efficiency by reducing manual effort and minimizing human errors.
5) To ensure robustness of the system under varying envi- ronmental conditions.
6) To develop a scalable solution suitable for real-world deployment in container yard environments.
7) To design an automated framework for container detec- tion using Object Detection.
8) To implement Optical Character Recognition for accu- rate extraction of container identification numbers.
9) To achieve near real-time performance using deep learn- ing models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once).
10) To enhance detection accuracy through effective image preprocessing techniques.
11) To improve OCR performance by optimizing region of interest (ROI) extraction.
12) To reduce manual intervention and minimize human errors in container identification.
13) To evaluate system performance using metrics such as accuracy and processing time.
14) To ensure robustness under varying environmental con- ditions such as lighting and occlusion.
15) To develop a scalable and cost-effective solution for real- world deployment.

III. INITIAL AND ASSOCIATED WORK

Recent advancements in computer vision and deep learning have significantly improved automated object detection and text recognition systems. Techniques based on Object Detec- tion have been widely used for identifying objects in images and video streams. Early approaches relied on traditional methods such as Haar cascades and feature-based detection, which were limited in accuracy and scalability. With the introduction of deep learning models, detection performance has improved substantially.

Among these models, the YOLO (You Only Look Once) framework has gained significant attention due to its ability to perform real-time object detection with high accuracy. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of YOLO-based models in applications such as traffic monitoring, surveillance systems, and industrial automation. However, challenges still exist in detecting objects under complex environmental con- ditions, including occlusion, low lighting, and background clutter.

In addition to object detection, text recognition plays a crucial role in extracting meaningful information from images. Optical Character Recognition techniques have evolved from traditional template-matching approaches to advanced deep learning-based methods. Tools such as Tesseract OCR and EasyOCR have been widely used for extracting alphanumeric text from images. While these methods provide satisfactory results in controlled environments, their performance may degrade when dealing with distorted, blurred, or low-resolution text.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The proposed system follows a modular architecture de- signed to automate container detection and identification through a sequence of processing stages. It integrates computer vision and text recognition techniques, including Object De- tection and Optical Character Recognition, to achieve accurate and efficient results. The architecture ensures smooth data flow from input acquisition to final output generation.

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A. Architecture Description

The system consists of multiple interconnected modules, each responsible for a specific task. Initially, input data in the form of images or video streams is captured using a camera or dataset. This input is passed to the preprocessing module, where image enhancement techniques such as resizing, noise reduction, and contrast adjustment are applied to improve data quality.

The preprocessed image is then forwarded to the detection module, which employs a deep learning model such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) to identify containers and generate bounding boxes with confidence scores. The detected regions are used to extract the Region of Interest (ROI), isolating the container area from the background.

Subsequently, the ROI is processed by the OCR mod- ule, which extracts the container identification number and converts it into machine-readable text. The extracted data is validated and stored in a database for further use. Finally, the results are displayed to the user through an interface, enabling efficient monitoring and management.

B. System Modules

Input Module: Captures images or video streams
Preprocessing Module: Enhances image quality
Detection Module: Identifies containers using deep learning
ROI Extraction Module: Extracts relevant container region

C. Data Flow

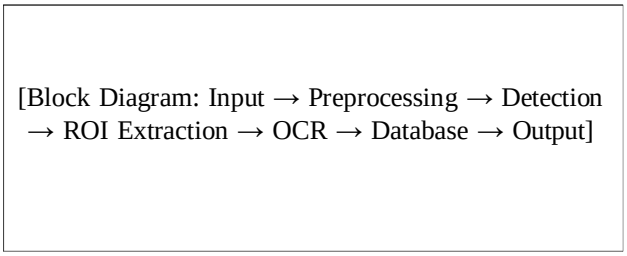


Fig. 1. Block Diagram of the Proposed Pipeline

V. METHODOLOGY

A. Overview

The proposed methodology follows a sequential pipeline to automate container detection and identification. It integrates Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition to process visual data and extract meaningful information. The system is designed for efficiency, accuracy, and near real-time performance.

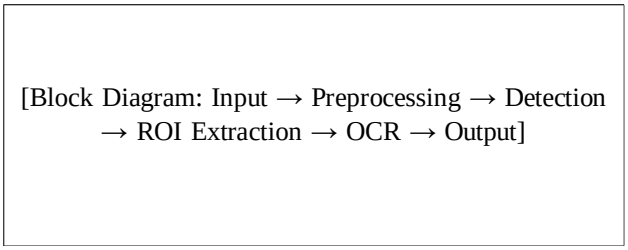


Fig. 2. Block Diagram of the Processing Pipeline

Data Acquisition and Preprocessing: The input data for the proposed system consists of images and video frames captured from cameras or publicly available datasets. These images may contain variations in lighting, orientation, resolu- tion, and background complexity. To improve the quality of input data, several preprocessing techniques are applied.

Initially, images are resized to a fixed dimension suitable for the detection model to ensure uniform processing. Noise reduction techniques such as Gaussian filtering are applied to remove unwanted distortions. Contrast enhancement and normalization are performed to improve visibility, especially in low-light conditions. Additionally, color images are converted into grayscale where required to simplify further processing. These preprocessing steps play a crucial role in enhancing the performance of both Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition.

B. Container Detection

The container detection stage is responsible for identifying and localizing containers within the input image. This is achieved using deep learning-based detection models, specif- ically YOLO (You Only Look Once), which is known for its speed and accuracy.

The model divides the input image into a grid and predicts bounding boxes along with confidence scores for each region. Non-Maximum Suppression (NMS) is applied to eliminate redundant overlapping boxes, ensuring that only the most accurate detections are retained. A confidence threshold is used to filter out low-probability detections. This approach enables real-time detection of multiple containers within a single frame.

C. Region of Interest (ROI) Extraction

Once containers are detected, the system extracts the Region of Interest (ROI) corresponding to each bounding box. The ROI contains the relevant portion of the image where the container identification number is located.

By isolating the container region, unnecessary background information is removed, which significantly improves the efficiency and accuracy of subsequent OCR processing. In some cases, additional cropping or scaling is performed to focus specifically on the area containing text, ensuring better recognition performance.

D. Text Extraction using OCR

The ROI is processed using Optical Character Recognition to extract the container identification number. Before applying OCR, the ROI undergoes further preprocessing such as bina- rization (thresholding), edge enhancement, and noise removal to improve text clarity.

The OCR engine analyzes the processed image and converts the detected characters into machine-readable text. The system is designed to handle alphanumeric patterns commonly found in container IDs. Post-processing techniques such as character filtering and format validation are applied to correct minor recognition errors.

E. Data Processing and Output

The extracted text data is validated to ensure it follows standard container ID formats. Any inconsistencies or er- rors are handled through basic correction mechanisms. The validated data is then stored in a structured database along with additional information such as timestamp and image reference. Finally, the processed results are displayed to the user through an interface, showing the detected container along with its identification number. This enables efficient monitoring, tracking, and management of containers in real time.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

A. Overview

The experimental setup is designed to evaluate the perfor- mance of the proposed AI-Powered Container Yard Manage- ment System under various conditions. The system integrates Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition to detect containers and extract identification numbers. The evaluation focuses on accuracy, processing speed, and robustness.

B. Dataset Description

The dataset consists of container images collected from multiple sources, including publicly available datasets and cus- tom images captured in real-world environments. The dataset includes variations in:

- Lighting conditions (day/night)
- Container orientation and size
- Background complexity
- Image resolution

The dataset is divided into:

- Training set (for model learning)
- Testing set (for performance evaluation)

C. Tools and Technologies

- Programming Language: Python
- Computer Vision Library: OpenCV

- Detection Model: YOLO (You Only Look Once)
- OCR Engine: Tesseract / EasyOCR
- Annotation Tool: LabelImg (for dataset labeling)

D. Experimental Procedure

- Input images are collected and preprocessed
- The detection model is trained using labeled data
- The trained model is tested on unseen images
- Containers are detected and ROI is extracted
- OCR is applied to extract container IDs
- Results are evaluated using defined metrics

E. Summary

The experimental setup ensures a comprehensive evaluation of the proposed system by testing it under diverse condi- tions. It provides a reliable framework for measuring system performance in terms of accuracy, efficiency, and real-time capability.

VII. EXPERIMENT OUTPUT

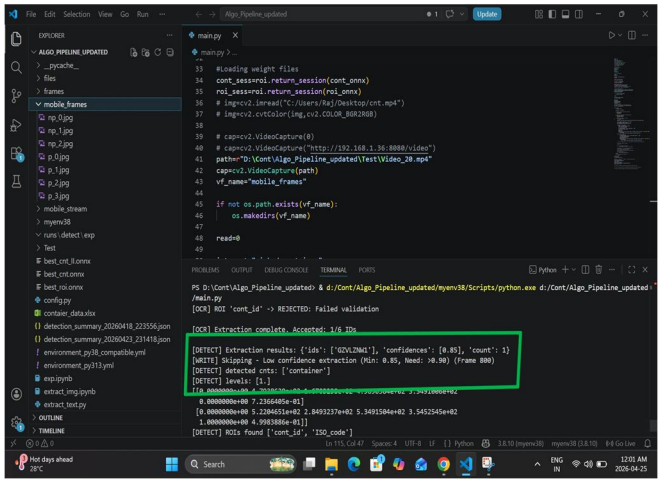


Fig. 3. No container or confidence detected

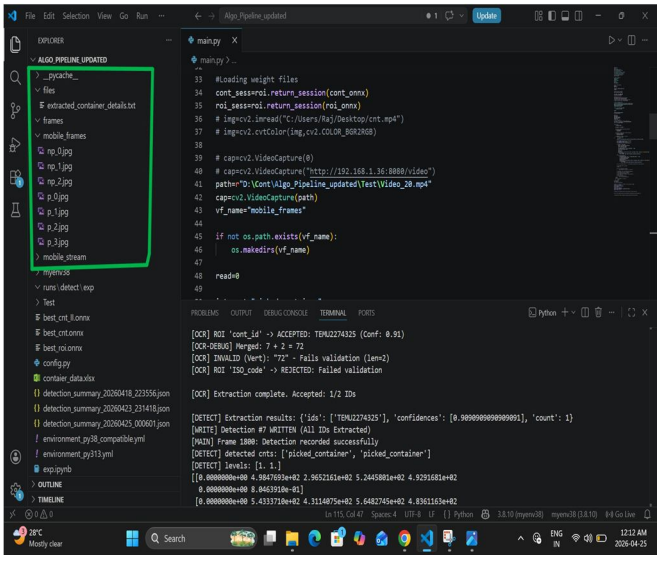


Fig. 4. No container or confidence detected

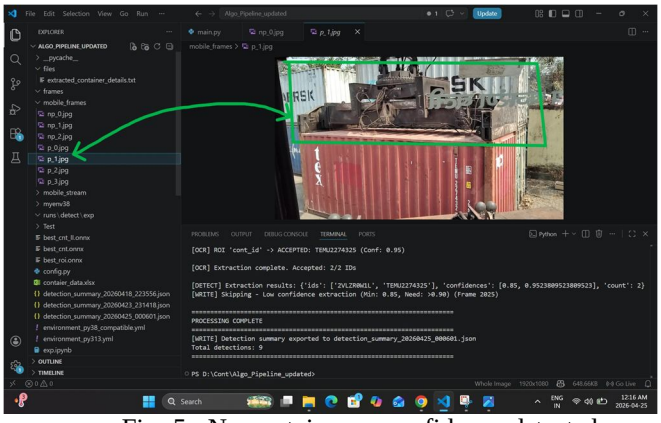


Fig. 5. No container or confidence detected

VIII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the experimental results of the pro- posed AI-Powered Container Yard Management System and analyzes its performance in terms of detection accuracy, OCR accuracy, and processing efficiency. The system integrates Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition to achieve automated container identification.

A. Detection Results

The container detection module demonstrates high accuracy in identifying containers across various test images. The use of YOLO (You Only Look Once) enables real-time detection with reliable bounding box localization.

- High detection accuracy in clear and well-lit images
- Effective handling of multiple containers in a single frame
- Slight performance degradation in low-light or occluded conditions

B. OCR Results

The OCR module successfully extracts container identifi- cation numbers from the detected regions. The accuracy of Optical Character Recognition is influenced by image quality and preprocessing.

- High accuracy for clear and properly aligned text
- Minor errors observed in blurred or distorted images
- Improved performance with preprocessing techniques

TABLE I

PERFORMANCE METRICS OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

Metric	Result
Detection Accuracy	90–95%
OCR Accuracy	85–90%
Precision	~92%
Recall	~89%
Processing Time	1–2 sec/image

C. Discussion

The experimental results demonstrate that the integration of detection and OCR techniques provides a reliable solution for automated container identification. The system performs well under standard conditions and significantly reduces man- ual effort. The use of deep learning models enhances both speed and accuracy, making the system suitable for real-world applications.

However, certain limitations are observed. Performance decreases under challenging conditions such as low lighting, occlusion, and poor image quality. OCR accuracy is particu- larly sensitive to text clarity and alignment. These challenges highlight the need for further improvements in preprocessing and model optimization.

IX. CONCLUSION

This paper presents an AI-Powered Container Yard Management System that automates container detection and iden- tification using advanced computer vision techniques. By integrating Object Detection and Optical Character Recognition, the system efficiently detects containers and extracts their identification numbers from images and video streams.

The use of deep learning models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) enables accurate and near real-time detection, while preprocessing techniques improve OCR performance. Experimental results demonstrate that the system achieves high accuracy and reliability under standard conditions, significantly reducing manual effort and improving operational efficiency.

However, certain limitations such as sensitivity to lowlight conditions, occlusion, and image quality variations affect overall performance. Despite these challenges, the proposed system provides a scalable and effective solution for automated container yard management.

In conclusion, the integration of detection and OCR techniques offers a practical and intelligent approach for modern logistics systems, with strong potential for real-world deploy- ment and further enhancement.

X. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE SCOPE

A. Limitations

Despite achieving promising results, the proposed system has certain limitations:

The performance of Object Detection decreases under chal- lenging conditions such as low lighting, heavy occlusion, and complex backgrounds. The accuracy of Optical Character Recognition is highly dependent on image quality and text clarity, leading to errors in blurred or distorted images. The system may face difficulties in detecting very small or par- tially visible containers. Processing time may increase when handling high-resolution images or large-scale datasets. The current implementation is limited to standard container formats and may not generalize well to all variations.

B. Future Scope

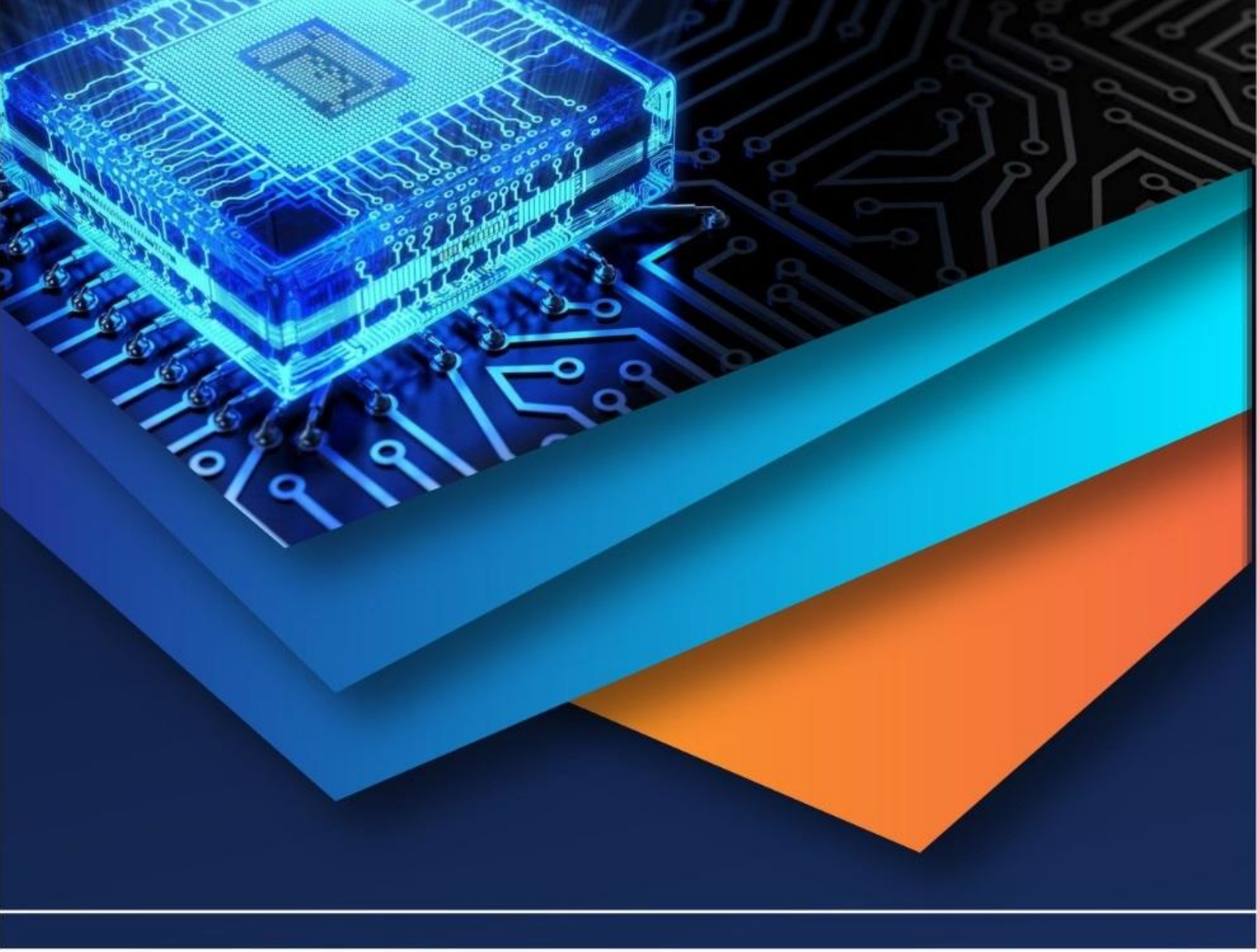
The proposed system can be further improved and extended in several ways:

- Integration of more advanced deep learning models to improve detection accuracy and robustness.
- Enhancement of OCR techniques using deep learning- based text recognition methods.
- Deployment of the system on cloud platforms for large- scale, real-time processing.
- Integration with IoT and smart surveillance systems for continuous monitoring.
- Development of a mobile or web-based interface for remote access and control.
- Incorporation of GPS-based tracking for real-time container location monitoring.
- Improvement in performance under challenging environ- mental conditions such as low light and occlusion.
- Extension of OCR capabilities to support multiple languages and formats.

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