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Accident Detection using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Shrutika Nandanwar, Shruti Patil, Swami Patil , Pranav Zadge, Prof. N .R. Talhar

Department of Computer Engineering

AISSMS College of Engineering, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract: *This paper presents an accident detection system utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) models. The system uses Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) to analyze video footage and detect accidents. The primary objective is to improve road safety by accurately identifying accidents in pre-recorded videos, which may help in faster decision-making and improved response by emergency services. Experimental results demonstrate the system's effectiveness, achieving a high detection accuracy of 98%..*

Keywords: Accident Detection, AI, Machine Learning, CNN, Video Processing, Object Detection, Computer Vision

I. INTRODUCTION

With increasing traffic on the roads, accidents are becoming more frequent and pose significant challenges to both emergency services and road safety management. Traditional methods of accident detection are often slow and reliant on human intervention. This paper explores the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) techniques to automatically detect accidents from video footage, aiming to provide an efficient, scalable solution to improve accident detection and response times.

Our system leverages Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) to process video frames from pre-recorded accident videos. By identifying key features such as objects, motion patterns, and scene changes, the system aims to accurately classify accident scenarios. The dataset used consists of accident videos collected from online sources, providing varied real-world conditions for training and evaluation.

II. MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHMS

The system's heart is a machine learning model that detects accidents by analyzing patterns in video data. We use CNNs for the primary task of feature extraction and classification, as they have proven to be highly effective in processing and recognizing visual data in images and video sequences. The system is trained on labeled data, where each frame of the video is annotated as either ”Accident” or ”Non-Accident,” to allow the model to learn to differentiate between these two categories.

A. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) are a class of deep learning algorithms designed for processing grid-like data, such as images. CNNs excel in tasks such as object recognition and scene interpretation, which are central to accident detection. A CNN processes an image by applying several layers of convolutions, pooling, and non-linear activations to detect patterns like edges, textures, and shapes. By stacking multiple layers, CNNs can detect increasingly complex features in the image.

The CNN architecture in our system consists of several convolutional layers followed by pooling layers to reduce the dimensionality of the feature maps. Finally, fully connected layers are used to make the final classification decision (Accident vs. Non-Accident). The model is trained using the labeled dataset, allowing the CNN to learn distinguishing features of accidents, such as vehicle collisions, abrupt stops, or pedestrians crossing the road.

III. OBJECT DETECTION

In addition to accident detection, the system employs object detection models to identify vehicles, pedestrians, and other objects that are key indicators of an accident. By detecting and tracking the movement of these objects in the video frames, the system can better understand the context of the accident. For instance, the sudden presence of pedestrians on the road or multiple vehicles colliding can trigger an alert.

The object detection model is implemented using a combination of region proposal networks (RPNs) and CNNs. These networks propose regions of interest in the image where objects are likely to be found. The model then classifies these regions and identifies whether the object is a vehicle, pedestrian, or other relevant element.

IV. USER-CENTRIC DESIGN

The user interface (UI) of the system is designed with the goal of facilitating easy interaction with emergency responders or traffic management authorities. It provides real-time visualizations of detected accidents, along with the ability to view specific details such as the type of accident, the number of vehicles involved, and the location of the incident.

The UI also includes features for users to review detected incidents in the videos, with a timeline to jump to the specific moments of accidents. Additionally, users can manually override or validate the detection if necessary. This ensures that the system is not only efficient but also flexible enough to account for cases that require human intervention.

V. ADAPTIVE SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The architecture of the system is designed to be adaptive and extensible. It allows for easy integration with new technologies or data sources, such as IoT devices (e.g., sensors on vehicles or smart traffic lights) that can provide additional context to improve the accuracy of accident detection.

Future enhancements include the possibility of incorporating vehicle telemetry data (e.g., speed, brake status, GPS location) into the accident detection system. By combining video footage with real-time sensor data, the system could improve its accuracy in detecting accident scenarios, particularly for edge cases where visual data alone may be insufficient.

VI. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

A. Data Dependency

The performance of the accident detection system heavily relies on the quality and variety of the training data. In this project, accident videos were sourced from YouTube, but this dataset might not capture all types of accidents or environmental conditions. To improve the model's robustness, additional data from diverse sources (e.g., different weather conditions, lighting, or road types) would be beneficial.

B. False Positives and Negatives

As with any machine learning model, there is a risk of false positives (incorrectly detecting an accident) and false negatives (failing to detect an accident). These errors could impact the trustworthiness of the system, particularly in safety-critical applications. A continuous cycle of retraining the model with fresh data could help mitigate these issues over time.

C. Processing Power Requirements

The need to process video frames and perform object detection requires substantial computational resources. While the current system is feasible with high-performance hardware, its implementation in low-resource environments may require optimization techniques such as frame skipping or hardware acceleration to ensure smooth performance.

D. Privacy Concerns

The use of video footage raises privacy concerns, especially in jurisdictions with strict data protection laws. The system should ensure compliance with local privacy regulations, potentially by anonymizing or encrypting video data before processing and only retaining necessary information for accident detection purposes.

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VII. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The dataset for training and testing the system consists of 6 pre-recorded accident videos collected from YouTube. The videos were selected to include a range of accidents, including vehicle collisions, pedestrian accidents, and road obstructions. The footage was pre-processed using OpenCV, where frames were extracted and labeled manually as ”Accident” or ”NonAccident.”

The labeled frames were used to train a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. The CNN architecture consisted of multiple convolutional layers, followed by pooling layers, and fully connected layers. The model was trained using the TensorFlow framework with a batch size of 32 and a learning rate of 0.001 for 50 epochs.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The CNN model achieved an impressive accuracy of 98% in detecting accidents from the test dataset. The precision, recall, and F1-score metrics for each class (Accident and NonAccident) are summarized in Table I.

TABLE I: PERFORMANCE METRICS OF THE ACCIDENT DETECTION MODEL

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-score
Accident	0.98	0.97	0.975
Non-Accident	0.97	0.98	0.975

The model’s high precision and recall scores indicate its ability to accurately detect both accidents and non-accident frames. However, further work is needed to address edge cases and improve the system’s ability to handle varied environmental conditions.

A. Visual Results

Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 show examples of frames from the dataset where accidents and non-accidents were detected. The system correctly classifies the accident scenario and alerts the user.

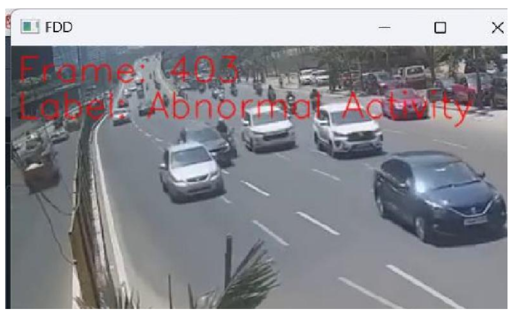

Fig. 1. Example of a frame from an accident video classified as ”Abnormal Activity”

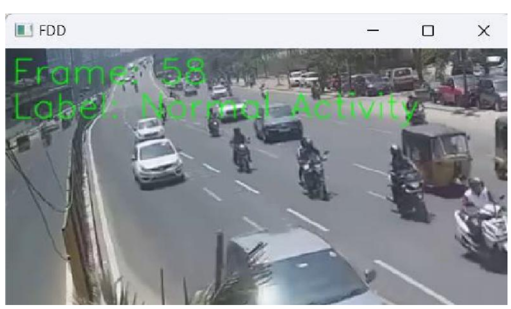

Fig. 2. Example of a frame from a non-accident video classified as ”Normal Activity”

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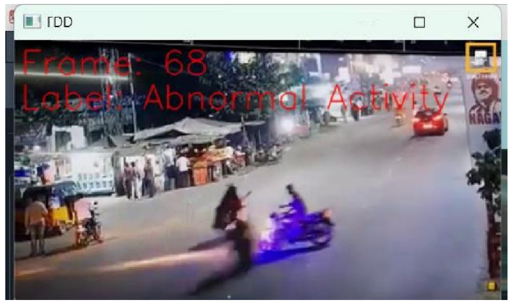

Fig. 3. Another example of a frame from an accident video classified as traffic accident detection using machine learning," "Abnormal Activity."

Fig. 4. Another example of a frame from a non-accident video classified as "Normal Activity."

IX. CONCLUSION

This paper presented an accident detection system using AI and ML, employing Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for video frame analysis. The system demonstrated an accuracy of 98% in detecting accidents from pre-recorded footage, offering a promising approach to improving road safety through automated detection. While challenges remain, particularly with data variability and system optimization, the results indicate that this approach holds significant potential for future development. Future work will involve expanding the dataset to include more diverse accident scenarios and integrating additional data sources, such as vehicle telemetry and environmental sensors, to further enhance the system's performance.

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