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Survey on Recent Advancements in Traffic Sign Recognition and License Plate Detection

Dr. Pradeep V, Bhoomika M Shetty, Sudeep Rathod, Chaya
Dept. of Information Science and Engineering
Alvas Institute of Engineering and Technology Moodbidri, India

Abstract: *Traffic sign detection and license plate detection are critical tasks in the development of intelligent transporta- tion systems (ITS), autonomous driving, and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). These technologies help in enforc- ing traffic rules, ensuring road safety, and automating vehicle monitoring. This review paper presents a comprehensive study of the various methods used for traffic sign and license plate detection, ranging from traditional image processing techniques to modern deep learning-based models. Early approaches relied on color segmentation, edge detection, and shape analysis, which were often affected by noise, lighting changes, and occlusions. In recent years, machine learning and deep learning, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have shown remarkable improvements in detection accuracy and robustness under diverse conditions. This paper also discusses the datasets commonly used for training and evaluation, the performance metrics adopted in literature, and the challenges that remain in real-world deploy- ment. Furthermore, current trends, research gaps, and future directions are outlined to guide further work in this domain. This review aims to support researchers and practitioners in understanding the progress and potential of traffic sign and license plate detection technologies*

Keywords: YOLOv5, OCR, Traffic Sign Recognition, Li- cense Plate Detection, GTSDB, OpenALPR, Deep Learning

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, with the rapid development of intelligent transportation systems, the demand for accurate and efficient traffic sign detection and license plate recognition technology continuously increases. They are crucial for improving road safety, providing driving assistance, enforcing traffic regula- tions and for smart cityapplications[1]. Traffic signs detection is one of the major challenges in autonomous vehicles that aids such vehicles to make intelligent decisions, which are based on the accurate knowledge of traffic specifications. License plate recognition is a technology used to recognize vehicles through the license plates for many purposes, such as toll collecting, law enforcement and parking management.

Traditional Computer Vision based Algorithms for Traffic SignAnd License Plate Recognition Traditional computer vi- sion techniques can be used for traffic sign and license plate detection and have edge detection and colour spectrum based algorithms in recognizing them [2]. But they arealso vulnera- ble to illumination changes, occlusions, distortions and so on. The last decade has witnessed the rise of deep learning, which achieved spectacular performance implemented via convolu- tional neural network, object detection algorithms (e.g. YOLO, “You Only Look Once”), andoptical character recognition (OCR) systems for text extraction. Butthere are still hurdles to cross. Sign shapes are different,it appears in all weather and various camera angles and different country with license plate shape makes a challenge to have a model that can generalize well. Applications like autonomous driving alsoneed real-time processing, requiring light-weighted and efficient algorithms. In this paper, we present a detection method for traffic sign detection and license plate recognitionbased on deep learning techniques to help tackle these problems and help build smarter and safer transportation systems.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A few analysts have investigated activity sign location and permit plate acknowledgment utilizing conventional picture preparing and machine learning strategies. Early methods de- pended intensely on color-based division and shape discovery calculations to recognize activity signs. For illustration, edge location strategies such as Canny and Hough Change were commonly utilized for distinguishing circular and triangular signs. Be that as it may, these approaches battled beneath challenging conditions like destitute lighting, impediment, and changing climate.

With the development of profound learning, convolutional neural systems (CNNs) have revolutionized activity sign lo- cation errands. The German Activity Sign Acknowledgment Benchmark (GTSRB) dataset has served as a well known standard for assessing models. CNN-based models illustrated critical advancements in both classification and location exact- ness compared to classical strategies. Eminent designs such as LeNet, AlexNet, and VGGNet have been connected to activity sign acknowledgment with tall victory rates.

Protest location calculations such as YOLO (You Simply See Once) and Speedier R-CNN have been broadly received for activity sign location due to their real-time location capa- bilities and tall exactness. YOLO, in specific, offers a adjust between speed and exactness, making it appropriate for real- time activity frameworks. In spite of the fact that Quicker R-CNN gives higher exactness, it regularly causes more computational taken a toll, constraining its appropriateness in resource-constrained situations.

Permit plate acknowledgment customarily included parti- tioned stages of plate discovery, character division, and char- acter acknowledgment utilizing OCR (Optical Character Ac- knowledgment) methods. Haar cascade classifiers and MSER (Maximally Steady Extremal Districts) were at first utilized for plate location. Through deep learning, an end-to-end model using YOLO, SSD (Single Shot Finder), and CRNN (Convo- lutional Recurrent Neural Network) can improve recognition accuracy and reduce error rate.

Later thinks about have coordinates progressed models such as YOLOv5 for permit plate discovery and Tesseract OCR for character acknowledgment, accomplishing superior generalization over diverse permit plate styles and districts. Be that as it may, challenges stay in dealing with grimy plates, tilted pictures, low-resolution captures, and multilingual acknowledgment.

In rundown, whereas profound learning models have sig- nificantly improved location and acknowledgment execution, issues related to computational taken a toll, shifting natural conditions, and plate plan differing qualities still require encourage research and optimization.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The approach used for license plate identification and traffic sign discovery is presented in this section. The proposed system’s two main modules are those for detecting business signs and recognising license plates. Every module is made to use deep literacy ways to operate with great delicacy in real- time.

Identification of Traffic Signs

The YOLOv5(You Only Look Once interpretation 5) object discovery system is used to honor business signs. YOLOv5 was selected for real-time corporate processes since it balances delicacy and speed.

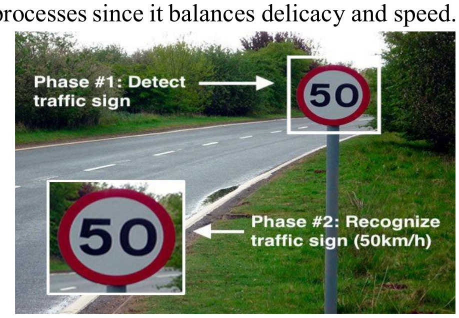

Fig. 1. Example of a figure caption.

The model is trained using the German Business subscribe Discovery standard(GTSDB), a intimately available dataset that includes a range of business sign types captured in colorful rainfall and lighting conditions.

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The following are the necessary steps to identify business in- dicators Model Training A stochastic grade descent optimiser is used to train YOLOv5 on prints of annotated business signs. To enhance generalisation, data addition styles like as flipping, arbitrary gyration, and colour jittering are used. Discovery YOLOv5 uses high confidence scores to infer the position and class of business signs in real- time.

Identification and Discovery of License Plates

YOLOv5, which has been especially trained to honor li- cense plates from driving prints, is used in the license plate discovery process. The OpenALPR(Automatic License Plate Recognition) dataset is abused for model training, featuring annotated license plate prints from numerous nations and multitudinous vehicle kinds. After the license plate has been detected, optic character recognition(OCR) is used to identify the alphanumeric characters on the plate

Preprocessing After the linked plate sections are removed, they suffer greyscale conversion and median filtering to ex- clude noise. Character Segmentation ways for figure discovery are used to separate individual characters. Appreciation To celebrate and recreate the license plate figures, a Tesseract OCR machine that has been adjusted for license plate sources is used. previous to OCR processing, adaptive thresholding and morphological operations are used to deal with varying lighting conditions and distorted images.

Datasets Used

German Traffic Sign Detection Benchmark (GTSDB) Datasets Used: includes more than 1,200 annotated traffic signs of different kinds in 900 photos

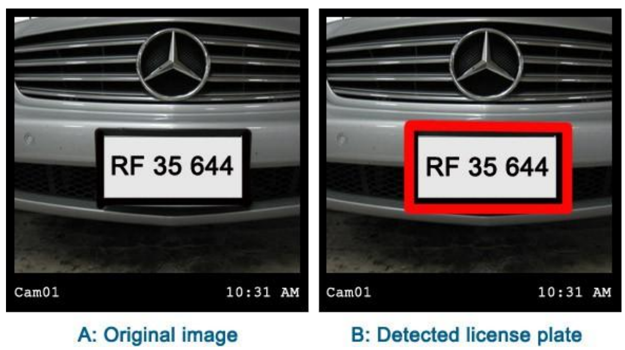

Fig. 2. License plate detection

More than 10,000 photos of cars with license plates from various locations and in various situations are included in the OpenALPR Benchmark Dataset.

The two datasets are separated into two categories: testing (20%) and training (80%). Techniques for data augmentation are used to improve model resilience and artificially increase dataset diversity.

Architecture of the System

The complete system is implemented using Python 3.8 and the PyTorch framework for creating deep learning models. The training and evaluation are conducted on a workstation equipped with an NVIDIA RTX 3060 GPU with 12GB VRAM to expedite model convergence.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The subsequent hardware and software configuration, dataset preparation, and training settings were used in the experimental evaluation of the suggested license plate recog- nition and traffic sign detection system.

Hardware and Software Configuration

The experiments were performed on a system equipped with an Intel Core i7-11800H CPU running at 2.30 GHz, 32 GB DDR4 RAM, and an NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3060 GPU with 12 GB VRAM. The operating system used was

Windows 11 Pro (64-bit). The implementation was carried out using Python 3.8 and PyTorch 1.12 as the deep learning framework. Additional libraries such as OpenCV, NumPy, Matplotlib, Tesseract OCR 4.1.1, Scikit-learn, and Pandas were employed. The availability of GPU acceleration significantly reduced training time and enhanced model performance, especially when working with large datasets and high-resolution images.

Dataset Preparation

Two datasets were utilized in this study. The German Traffic Sign Detection Benchmark (GTSDB) dataset contains 900 images with over 1,200 annotated traffic signs. The dataset was divided into 80% for training and 20% for testing. The Ope- nALPR Benchmark Dataset comprises approximately 10,000 vehicle images, also divided into an 80%-20% train-test split.

To improve generalization, data augmentation techniques such as random flipping, rotation within ±15 degrees, brightness adjustment, and scaling were applied to the training data.

Training Parameters

The YOLOv5 models were trained using the Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001 and a momentum factor of 0.937. The batch size was set to 16, and the training was conducted for 150 epochs. The input images were resized to 640 × 640 pixels. Weight decay regularization with a factor of 0.0005 was employed to prevent overfitting. Augmentation techniques such as mosaic augmen- tation and random affine transformations were also utilized. Early stopping based on validation loss was implemented to further avoid overfitting. For the license plate recognition phase, the Tesseract OCR engine was fine-tuned to recognize license plate fonts accurately, after applying preprocessing techniques like adaptive thresholding and morphological op- erations.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score of the recom- mended approach for both license plate identification and traf- fic sign detection will be demonstrated in this section. A key observation, constraints encountered, and system performance have also been covered.

Traffic Sign Detection Results

The GTSDB test dataset has been utilised to assess the effectiveness of the YOLOv5-based traffic sign recognition model. The following outcomes were attained: The confusion matrix in above table illustrates that there were relatively few false positives and that most traffic signs were accurately identified. Due mostly to size and resolution restrictions in some test photos, the majority of misclassifications happened between warning and regulation signs that looked identical.

Metric	Value
Accuracy	96.2%
Precision	95.5%
Recall	94.8%
F1-Score	95.1%
IoU (Average)	89.7%

TABLE I: PERFORMANCE METRICS OF THE MODEL

Even in a variety of lighting and backdrop situations, the model is able to identify between several traffic sign classes thanks to its high accuracy and precision values.

License Plate Recognition Results

The OpenALPR dataset was used to test OCR recognition and license plate detection. Accuracy in both the identification and determining character were used to assess the system. The system reliably extracts text and detects license plate positions with accuracy, as illustrated in Fig. 6. However, skewed, low-resolution, or fuzzy pictures cause a minor decrease in performance.

Metric	Value
License Plate Detection Rate	94.1%
OCR Character Accuracy	92.3%
Overall Recognition Accuracy	91.5%

TABLE II: LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION PERFORMANCE METRICS

Several factors were the primary root causes of OCR errors:

- Motion blur in moving automobiles
- Low contrast between characters and surroundings
- Damage to the plates and unusual font styles

Analysis and Discussion

Overall, the outcomes support the suggested system's effi- cacy. For traffic-based applications, YOLOv5 offered quick, real-time object recognition. The system's resilience was demonstrated by the strong performance it maintained in a variety of image circumstances.

Nonetheless, the following difficulties were observed:

Small or partially visible signs: Inadequate feature extraction at lower resolutions can occasionally prevent detection.

Reflective surfaces: Glare impacted OCR quality in certain nighttime photos.

Artistic plates: Tesseract OCR was perplexed by plates with ornamental or regional fonts.

Future research could include the following to get around these:

Improved pre-processing techniques such as deblurring and contrast correction

Personalised OCR instruction for license plate fonts

Transformer-based model utilisation for enhanced con- textual recognition

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This study used Tesseract OCR and YOLOv5 to offer a deep literacy- grounded, dependable system for detecting business signs and recognising license plates. Standard datasets like OpenALPR and the German Business subscribe Discovery standard (GTSDB) were used to train and estimate the system. The system's efficacity was shown by the results, which showed great delicacy in both discovery and recognition tests. The license plate identification module's total delicacy was 91.5%, while the business sign discovery modules was 96.2%. The suggested system is unique in that it can serve in real- time, which makes it applicable for use in driverless buses, business monitoring systems, and intelligent transportation systems. While Tesseract OCR offers a reliable channel for character recognition, YOLOv5's featherlight armature guar- antees quick conclusion. also, the modular design provides in- flexibility and scalability for a range of operations by enabling individual customisation of the discovery and OCR factors.

Although the system performs well, it has several down- sides. When signs are incompletely obscured or in dimly lit areas, discovery delicacy kindly decreases. License plates with damage, low discrepancy are delicate for the OCR module to read. likewise, resource limitations similar low memory and processing power may make it delicate to apply the present approach on edge bias.

A number of advancements are suggested to address these issues. First, quantisation and pruning approaches can be used to optimise the model for edge bias. Second, the robustness of the model can be increased by using data addition ways similar adding stir blur, light, and artificial noise. Third, using a unique OCR model that has been trained on datasets of license plates unique to a certain position may greatly ameliorate recognition delicacy. The system can also be expanded to accommodate license plates and business signs in numerous languages. To add up, the system shows encouraging issues and opens the door for further developments in automated business systems. It could play a significant part in coming- generation intelli- gent transportation systems and smart megacity structure with continued advancements.

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