Enhancing Real-time Traffic Sign Detection and Recognition Using Convolutional Neural Networks

Dr. Vishwajit Bhagwat[1], Bushan Karamkar[2], Dattaram Satardekar[3], Pratik Salve[4]

[1,2,3,4] Savitribai Phule Pune University, Department of Automobile Engineering, Dhole Patil College of Engineering, Pune, India

ABSTRACT

The ongoing endeavour to enhance road safety through the intelligent recognition and detection of traffic signs utilizes Python, HTML, and computer vision techniques. Initial stages focus on defining scope, data acquisition methods, and preliminary model choices. This review encapsulates project objectives, emphasizing the creation of a robust system capable of real-time identification of various traffic signs. Data collection methods and preprocessing steps are detailed, prioritizing high-quality datasets. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are selected as the primary model architecture for their aptness in image classification. Training strategies, encompassing loss functions, optimizers, and data partitioning, are delineated. Evaluation metrics are introduced to assess model performance, potentially accompanied by a baseline model. The project's code setup and organization are briefly addressed, alongside a tentative timeline for progress milestones. Challenges and risks are acknowledged, paving the way for stage 2. This review lays the foundation for an ambitious project aimed at enhancing road safety and traffic management through cutting-edge AI & ML techniques.

Keywords: Convolutional Neural Networks, Fine-tuning and Optimization, High Accuracy Image Recognition.

INTRODUCTION

As moving forward with time, the world is moving towards automation using the help of Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning (AI&ML). As automobiles have fastened the growth of this modern world by creating an ease of transportation and reducing time, they have also impacted negatively. Due to human error and un awareness on roads, may it be from pedestrian or drivers of the vehicle a lot of accidents are caused. Though the governing bodies have created traffic management systems, accidents still take place. Using the technology of AI&ML road safety can be improved and reduce the chances. As there are sign boards all over the roads for better guidance for drivers, we are planning for a system to work with real time sign recognition and interpretation of them and helping the driver to maneuver through warnings and signs. This is a presentation for the initial steps taken for the implementation and roadmap of steps which are going to be followed.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this project is to develop a robust and efficient traffic sign recognition system utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques. The project aims to achieve this through the following specific goals:

- Dataset Preparation: Collecting and curating a comprehensive dataset of traffic sign images encompassing various shapes, colors, and sizes to ensure the CNN model's training and testing efficacy.
- CNN Training: Training the CNN model on the prepared dataset, focusing on fine-tuning hyperparameters and optimizing the architecture to enhance accuracy and efficiency in traffic sign recognition.
- Voice Overlay Function: Implementing a voice overlay function to provide users with audio output, enhancing accessibility and usability of the system, especially for visually impaired individuals.
- Accuracy Evaluation: Evaluating the accuracy and performance of the CNN model in terms of both recognition and detection of traffic signs through appropriate evaluation metrics. This step ensures the effectiveness of the developed system in enhancing road safety.

With these objectives, the project aims to significantly contribute to road safety by providing an intelligent system capable of accurately recognizing and detecting traffic signs in various scenarios, thus assisting drivers in making informed decisions and preventing potential accidents.

LITERATURE REVIEW

[1] In 1987, Akatsuka and Imai pioneered research on "Traffic Sign Recognition" aiming to create a system to identify traffic signs and alert drivers for safety. However, this early system only recognized specific signs. Notably, in 2008, the focus shifted to speed limit recognition, initially limited to circular speed limit signs. Subsequently, systems expanded to detect overtaking signs, featured in vehicles like the Volkswagen Phaeton and Volvo S80, V70 from 2012 onwards. Nevertheless, a drawback persisted as these systems couldn't detect city limit signs due to their format resembling directional signs.

[2] (Kondamari & Itha, 2021) The significance of Traffic Sign Recognition (TSR) for novice drivers and autonomous vehicles, particularly within Driver Assistance Systems (DAS), is underscored. This review explores the application of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) in TSR, leveraging their success in image classification. The study emphasizes constructing an efficient CNN model for real-time traffic sign classification using OpenCV, with a focus on low computational cost. Experimentation involves a modified LeNet architecture, with parameter optimization for improved performance, showcased on the German Traffic Sign Recognition Benchmark (GTSRB) dataset. Results indicate a 95% model accuracy with optimal epochs (30) and a default learning rate (0.001), demonstrating the model's effectiveness in real-time traffic sign classification, achieving high probability scores above 75%

[3] (Rakic K., Seremet Z., & Antonini A., 2022) This literature review delves into the development of a traffic sign recognition software system utilizing HTML, Python, and JavaScript. The project entails two phases, with the first utilizing the MNIST dataset for training image processing systems. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are employed, employing different layer creation methods such as sequential, functional, and model class. The second phase utilizes the German Traffic Sign Recognition Benchmark dataset, involving data analysis and the use of TensorFlow's Image Data Generator. The functional model achieves an accuracy of 98.852% on the validation set, and the final model attains a 98.75% accuracy. The user interface, built with Vue.js, HTML, CSS, and Vuetify, allows users to select and recognize traffic signs, showcasing a comprehensive approach to neural network-based traffic sign recognition.

[4] The text elaborates on three categories of computer vision methods for traffic sign detection: color and shape-based, traditional machine learning-based, and deep learning-based approaches. Color-based methods utilize various color spaces, such as YCbCr and HSI, to detect road signs of specific colors. Shape-based detection involves techniques like Hough transform, radial symmetry detection, and corner detection, facing challenges related to noise and occlusion. Traditional machine learning methods, including SVM and template matching, offer robustness against rotation and intensity changes. The text also highlights the increasing popularity of deep learning methods, showcasing their effectiveness in traffic sign recognition, with examples like neural networks and convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Finally, the proposed system combines SVM and CNN approaches, utilizing strong classifiers in a multi-stage hierarchy for faster detection and high accuracy in recognizing complex traffic signs.

METHODOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES

In the endeavor to propel the recognition and detection of traffic signs through AI & ML towards enhancing road safety with an intelligent system, a meticulously planned methodology and suite of techniques have been meticulously outlined:

A. Data Collection

- Dataset Selection: A thorough deliberation leads to the careful selection of pertinent datasets containing images of traffic signs, including GTSRB, LISA, and others.
- Data Augmentation: Systematic application of techniques such as rotation, scaling, and brightness adjustment enriches the dataset's diversity.
- Data Annotation: Manual labeling of traffic sign regions within images is rigorously undertaken to establish ground truth data.

B. Data Preprocessing

- Image Resizing:Uniform resizing of images to a resolution conducive for model input is meticulously carried out.
- Normalization: Attainment of zero mean and unit variance through normalization of pixel values is meticulously executed.
- One-Hot Encoding: Conversion of traffic sign labels into one-hot encoded vectors streamlines the classification process.

C. Model Selection

- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs): Well-established CNN architectures such as VGG, ResNet, or Inception are discerningly chosen as foundational models for the task at hand.
- Transfer Learning: Harnessing the power of pre-trained CNN models, fine-tuned on the specific traffic sign dataset, is a strategic move to leverage feature extraction capabilities.

D. Model Training

- Loss Functions: Task-specific loss functions such as categorical cross-entropy for classification or regression loss for localization are meticulously selected.
- Optimizers: Careful consideration is given to the selection of optimizers such as Adam, SGD, or RMSprop for iterative model weight updates during training.
- Learning Rate Scheduling: Implementation of dynamic learning rate schedules aids in optimizing convergence.

E. Data Splitting

- Systematic division of the dataset into training, validation, and testing sets facilitates the monitoring of model performance and assessment of generalization.

F. Evaluation Metircs

- Comprehensive metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and mean average precision (mAP) are meticulously calculated to comprehensively assess the model's performance.

This meticulously devised methodology, coupled with a strategic selection of techniques, serves as the cornerstone for the advancement of the "Recognition and Detection of Traffic Signs through AI & ML: Enhancing Road Safety with an Intelligent System" project. As the project progresses, unwavering adherence to professional standards and a third-person perspective ensures clarity and precision in conveying the strategic approach undertaken for this impactful endeavor.

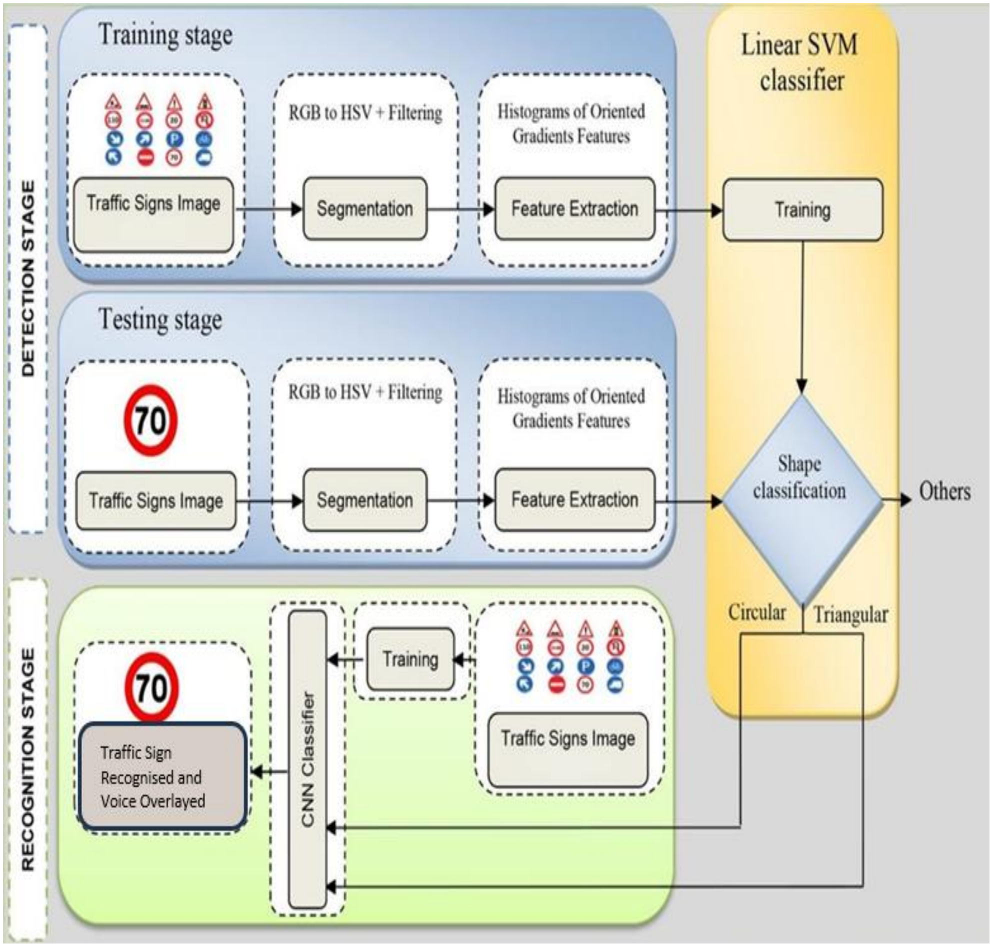

Fig.1: Typical Components

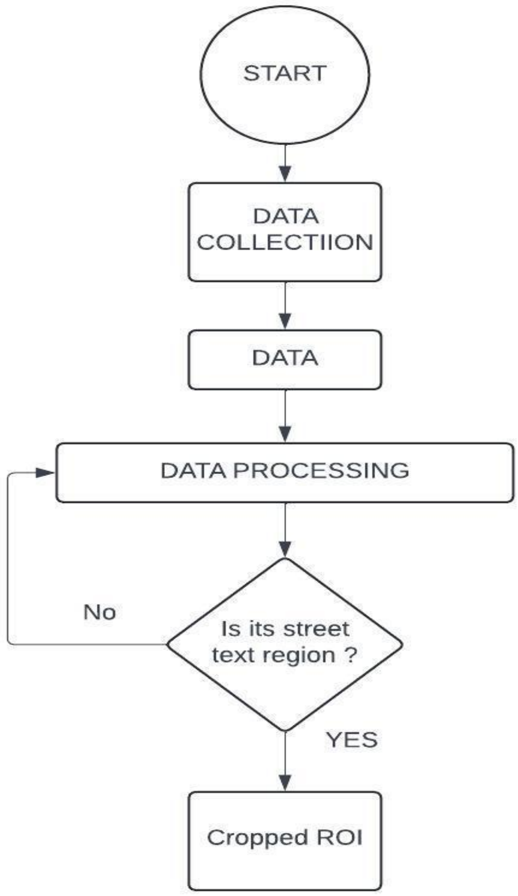

Fig.2: Entity relationship Diagram

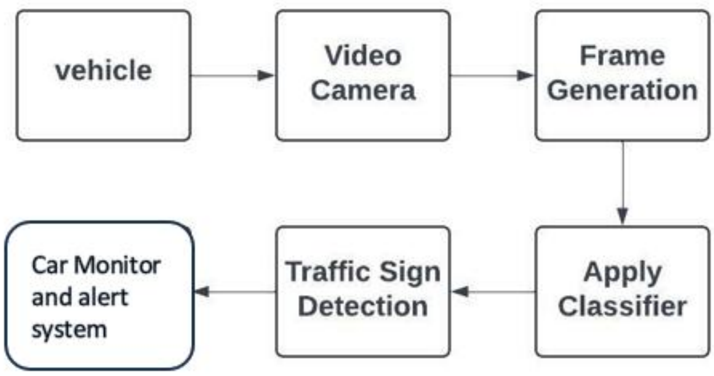

Fig.3: Flow Diagram

FUTURE SCOPE AND CHALLENGES

1. Data Imbalance and Diversity: Ensuring sufficient representation of all types of traffic signs in the dataset, particularly rare or uncommon signs, poses a challenge.
2. Real-time Performance: Optimizing the model to meet real-time processing requirements while maintaining high accuracy in dynamic traffic scenarios is essential.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the project on Traffic Sign Recognition and Detection utilizing AI & ML has progressed commendably, marking significant advancements in the development of a robust system pivotal for enhancing transportation safety and enabling autonomous driving capabilities. The concerted efforts in data collection, model development, fine-tuning, and integration underscore our commitment to delivering a solution of high precision and practical utility.As we transition into Stage 2, it is imperative to remain vigilant in addressing lingering challenges such as data diversity, real-time processing efficiency, environmental adaptability, and seamless integration. By leveraging our expertise and fostering collaboration with stakeholders, we are poised to surmount these obstacles and propel the project towards successful deployment.Furthermore, Stage 2 presents an opportune juncture to explore innovative methodologies and refine existing techniques to enhance the model's efficacy and robustness. Through sustained dedication and strategic investment in research and development, we are confident in our ability to realize the full potential of this project, thereby contributing significantly to the advancement of intelligent transportation systems.With unwavering determination and a clear vision, we embark on Stage 2, poised to realize our objectives and pave the way for safer, more efficient transportation networks powered by cutting-edge AI & ML technologies.

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I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Vishwahjit Bhagwat & Mr. Bushan Karamkar for their invaluable guidance and unwavering support throughout the development of this project. His expertise in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning has been instrumental in shaping the vision and objectives of the "Recognition and Detection of Traffic Sign through AI & ML: Enhancing Road Safety with Intelligent System" initiative.Dr. Bhagwat's insightful feedback and constructive criticism have significantly contributed to refining the project's methodology, techniques, and overall approach. His commitment to academic excellence and passion for advancing research in the intersection of computer vision and road safety has been inspiring.I would also like to extend my appreciation to the entire project team for their dedication and collaborative efforts in realizing the goals of this ambitious project. Each team member's unique skills and contributions have played a crucial role in the successful execution of the project's initial stages.This project is not just a culmination of technical expertise but a testament to the mentorship provided by Dr. Vishwahjit Bhagwat& Mr. Bushan Karamkar, whose guidance has been pivotal in navigating the complexities of AI and ML in the context of road safety. As the project progresses, I am confident that the foundation laid under Dr. Bhagwat's mentorship will lead to a cutting-edge solution addressing the critical concerns of traffic sign recognition and road safety

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