Innovation and Integrative Research Center Journal
ISSN: 2584-1491 | www.iircj.org
Volume-4 | Issue-2 | February - 2026 | Page 33-50

Vision-Based Real-Time Vehicle Accident Detection with Automated Emergency Alert Using Machine Learning

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Abstract

Road traffic accidents are one of the major causes of injuries and fatalities worldwide. In many situations, accidents are not reported immediately, especially on highways or in low traffic areas. This delay in reporting increases the time required for emergency medical assistance and may lead to severe consequences. Therefore, there is a strong need for an automated system that can detect accidents quickly and notify emergency services without human intervention. This research proposes a vision-based real-time vehicle accident detection system integrated with an automated emergency alert mechanism using machine learning techniques. The system analyzes traffic video streams obtained from surveillance cameras or vehicle-mounted cameras. Video frames are processed using computer vision techniques to detect vehicles and monitor their movement patterns. Sudden changes in vehicle motion, abnormal trajectories, and collision patterns are analyzed using machine learning models to identify possible accident events. Once an accident is detected, the system automatically generates an emergency alert containing the accident information and location details. This alert can be sent to nearby hospitals, ambulance services, or traffic authorities so that immediate assistance can be provided. The proposed system aims to reduce accident response time and improve road safety by enabling faster detection and automated reporting. The experimental results demonstrate that vision-based monitoring combined with machine learning techniques can effectively detect accident situations in real time. The proposed framework can contribute to the development of intelligent transportation systems and help emergency services respond more quickly to road accidents.

Keywords: Vehicle Accident Detection, Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Real-Time Traffic Monitoring, Emergency Alert System

1. Introduction

Road traffic accidents have become one of the most serious global safety issues. Every year, a large number of people lose their lives or suffer serious injuries due to road accidents. According to the World Health Organization, road accidents are among the leading causes of death worldwide, particularly among young people aged between 15 and 29 years [1]. The rapid increase in the number of vehicles, high-speed transportation, and lack of immediate emergency response are some of the major factors contributing to this problem.

In many cases, accidents occur in locations where immediate assistance is not available. For example, accidents that happen on highways, rural roads, or during late night hours often remain unnoticed for a long period of time. The delay in detecting accidents and informing emergency services can significantly increase the severity of injuries and reduce the chances of survival. Therefore, reducing the response time between accident occurrence and emergency assistance has become a critical challenge for modern transportation systems.

Traditional accident detection methods mainly rely on manual reporting, eyewitness information, or emergency calls made by victims or nearby people. However, these methods are not always reliable because victims may be unconscious or unable to contact emergency services. To overcome these limitations, researchers have started exploring automated accident detection systems using modern technologies such as sensors, Internet of Things (IoT), and computer vision [2].

In recent years, computer vision and machine learning techniques have shown promising results in many intelligent transportation applications, including traffic monitoring, vehicle detection, and abnormal event recognition [3]. These technologies allow systems to analyze visual data obtained from traffic cameras or vehicle-mounted cameras and automatically detect unusual events such as collisions or sudden vehicle stops. Vision-based systems are particularly useful because they can monitor a large area and analyze traffic behavior in real time.

Several studies have explored the use of deep learning and object detection models for analyzing traffic videos. For example, object detection algorithms such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) and Faster R-CNN have been widely used for detecting vehicles and tracking their movement in video frames [4], [5]. By analyzing vehicle trajectories and motion patterns, it becomes possible to identify abnormal behavior that may indicate a possible accident.

Despite the progress in this area, many existing systems focus mainly on detecting accidents from recorded videos or offline analysis. In practical scenarios, however, it is more important to detect accidents in real time and immediately notify emergency services. Integrating accident

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ISSN: 2584-1491 | www.iircj.org
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detection with an automated emergency alert system can significantly improve response time and help authorities take quick action.

In this research, a vision-based real-time vehicle accident detection system integrated with an automated emergency alert mechanism using machine learning techniques is proposed. The system analyzes video streams to detect vehicles, monitor their movement, and identify abnormal patterns that may indicate an accident. Once an accident is detected, the system automatically generates an alert that can be sent to emergency services such as hospitals, ambulance units, or traffic authorities. The main objective of this work is to reduce accident response time and support the development of intelligent traffic monitoring systems.

The major contributions of this research are summarized as follows:

1. A vision-based framework for detecting vehicle accidents using video data.
2. Integration of machine learning techniques to identify abnormal vehicle behavior and collision patterns.
3. Development of an automated emergency alert system for notifying emergency services.
4. Evaluation of the proposed approach for real-time accident detection in traffic monitoring systems.

2. Related Work

Automated vehicle accident detection has received significant attention from researchers in recent years due to the rapid growth of intelligent transportation systems. Various approaches have been proposed to detect accidents using sensors, smartphones, and computer vision techniques. Each approach has its own advantages and limitations depending on the type of data used and the environment in which the system operates.

Early research in accident detection mainly focused on sensor-based systems. These systems use sensors such as accelerometers, gyroscopes, and vibration detectors installed inside vehicles to identify sudden impacts or abnormal motion patterns. For example, a smartphone-based accident detection system was proposed that used built-in sensors such as accelerometers and GPS modules to detect collisions and send emergency alerts to predefined contacts [6]. Although such systems are useful for individual vehicles, their performance depends heavily on sensor accuracy and the correct placement of devices inside the vehicle.

Another line of research explored Internet of Things (IoT)-based accident detection systems. In these systems, sensors installed in vehicles communicate with external networks to send accident information automatically. For instance, some studies proposed IoT-based frameworks that combine accelerometer data, GPS location information, and wireless communication to notify emergency services after a crash occurs [7]. These systems improve response time but require additional hardware installation and infrastructure support, which may increase the overall cost of deployment.

With the advancement of artificial intelligence and computer vision technologies, researchers have started using video-based accident detection systems. Traffic surveillance cameras are widely deployed in many cities, making them a valuable source of visual data for monitoring road conditions. Computer vision techniques allow systems to analyze video frames and identify unusual events such as vehicle collisions, sudden stops, or abnormal driving behavior. Several studies have applied deep learning models for vehicle detection and traffic analysis. Object detection algorithms such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have been widely used to identify vehicles in traffic videos and track their movement patterns [8]. By analyzing vehicle trajectories and motion changes, it becomes possible to identify situations that may indicate accidents or dangerous driving behavior.

Some researchers have also focused on event detection using video surveillance. For example, deep learning models have been used to detect abnormal traffic events such as vehicle collisions, rollovers, or sudden braking by analyzing spatial and temporal features in video sequences [9]. These methods improve detection accuracy but often require large datasets and high computational resources for training deep neural networks.

More recently, researchers have proposed real-time accident detection systems using machine learning and computer vision techniques. In these systems, video frames are continuously analyzed to detect vehicles, monitor their movement patterns, and identify abnormal events that may indicate accidents. For example, trajectory analysis and motion prediction methods have been used to detect sudden vehicle behavior that deviates from normal traffic flow [10]. These approaches are promising for real-time applications because they can monitor multiple vehicles simultaneously using traffic cameras.

Despite the progress made in this area, several challenges still remain. Many existing systems focus mainly on accident detection without integrating a complete emergency notification mechanism. In real-world situations, simply detecting an accident is not sufficient; the system must also communicate the information quickly to emergency services so that immediate assistance can be provided. In addition, some systems are designed for offline video analysis rather than real-time monitoring.

To address these limitations, the present research proposes a vision-based accident detection system integrated with an automated emergency alert mechanism using machine learning techniques. The proposed approach focuses on real-time monitoring of traffic video streams, detection of abnormal vehicle behavior, and automatic notification of emergency services. By combining computer vision, machine learning, and automated communication systems, the proposed framework aims to improve accident detection efficiency and reduce emergency response time.

3. Proposed System Architecture

The proposed system is designed to automatically detect vehicle accidents from traffic video streams and immediately notify emergency services. The system integrates computer vision techniques, machine learning models, and automated communication mechanisms to create a real-time accident monitoring framework. The overall architecture is designed as a sequential processing pipeline in which each module performs a specific task such as video acquisition, preprocessing, vehicle detection, motion analysis, accident classification, and emergency alert generation.

The main goal of this architecture is to analyze traffic scenes captured by surveillance cameras or dashboard cameras and identify abnormal vehicle behavior that may indicate a collision or accident. Modern object detection models such as YOLO and Faster R-CNN have shown strong performance in detecting vehicles in complex traffic environments, making them suitable for intelligent transportation systems [11], [12].

3.1 System Overview

The overall workflow of the proposed accident detection system is illustrated in Fig. 1. The system begins with the video acquisition module, which captures road traffic footage from CCTV cameras or vehicle-mounted cameras. The captured video stream is divided into individual frames and passed to the preprocessing module.

After preprocessing, the system performs vehicle detection to identify all vehicles present in the frame. Once the vehicles are detected, the system tracks their motion across consecutive

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frames. Motion-related features such as sudden stop, abnormal trajectory, collision patterns, and speed variations are extracted.

These features are then analyzed using a machine learning classification model to determine whether the observed event corresponds to a normal traffic condition or a vehicle accident. If an accident is detected, the system automatically generates an emergency alert containing information about the accident event. The alert can be sent to hospitals, ambulance services, or traffic authorities for immediate response.

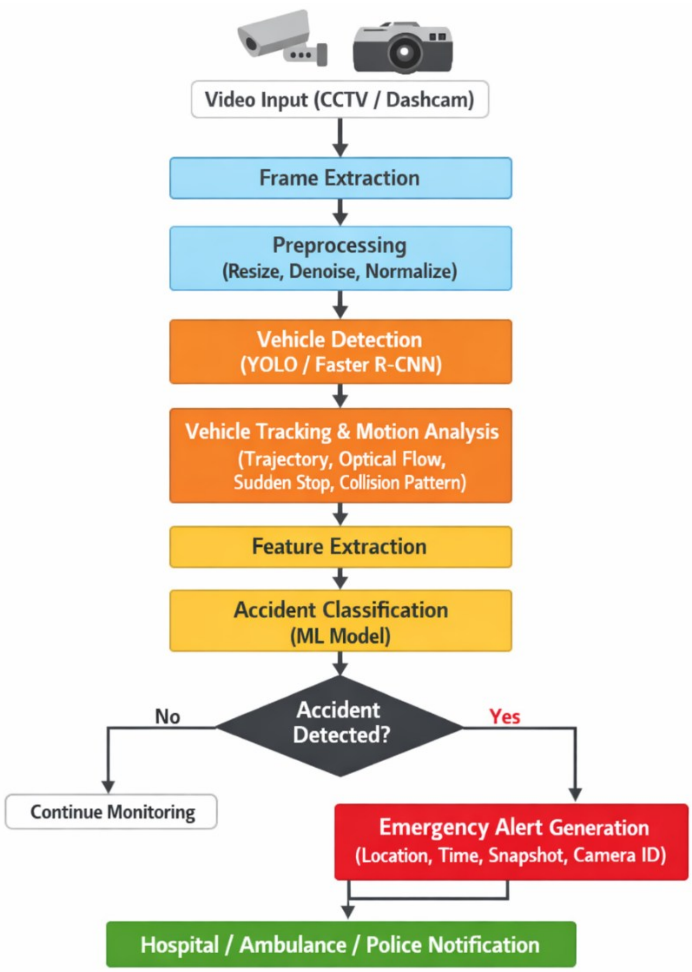

Fig. 1. Proposed architecture of the vision-based real-time vehicle accident detection and automated emergency alert system.

Figure 1 shows the overall architecture of the proposed accident detection framework. The system starts with the video input module, where traffic video is captured using surveillance

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cameras or dashboard cameras. The video is then divided into frames through the frame extraction module.

The extracted frames are processed in the preprocessing stage, where operations such as resizing, noise removal, and normalization are performed. After preprocessing, the frames are passed to the vehicle detection module, where deep learning models such as YOLO or Faster R-CNN identify vehicles in the scene.

The detected vehicles are then tracked across consecutive frames in the motion analysis module, where vehicle trajectories, speed changes, and abnormal movement patterns are examined. The extracted motion features are sent to the accident classification module, which determines whether the detected event represents a normal traffic situation or a vehicle collision.

If the system detects an accident, the emergency alert generation module sends accident information such as location, time, camera ID, and captured frame evidence to emergency authorities including hospitals, ambulance services, or police departments.

3.2 Modules of the Proposed System

The proposed architecture consists of several modules that work together to detect accidents and generate alerts.

3.2.1 Video Acquisition Module

This module collects real-time video from traffic monitoring cameras or dashcams. These cameras continuously capture road scenes, which provide important information for monitoring vehicle movement and identifying traffic incidents. Video-based monitoring systems are widely used in modern smart transportation infrastructures because they allow large areas of road networks to be observed simultaneously [13].

3.2.2 Frame Preprocessing Module

The captured video stream is divided into frames so that image processing techniques can be applied. Before further analysis, each frame undergoes preprocessing operations such as resizing, noise reduction, and normalization. These operations help improve image quality and ensure consistent input for object detection algorithms. Image preprocessing techniques are commonly used in computer vision systems to enhance detection accuracy [14].

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3.2.3 Vehicle Detection Module

In this module, vehicles present in the frame are detected using deep learning-based object detection algorithms. Models such as YOLO and Faster R-CNN are widely used for vehicle detection because they can identify multiple objects in real time while maintaining high detection accuracy. These models generate bounding boxes around detected vehicles and provide class labels for each object [11], [12].

3.2.4 Vehicle Tracking and Motion Analysis

After detecting vehicles in each frame, the system tracks their movement across consecutive frames. Motion analysis helps determine how vehicles move over time and allows the system to identify abnormal behavior.

Features analyzed in this stage include:

- sudden speed reduction
- abnormal trajectory change
- vehicle overlap or collision
- abrupt stop

Motion tracking methods such as optical flow and trajectory tracking are commonly used to analyze object movement in video sequences.

3.2.5 Accident Classification Module

The extracted motion features are provided to a machine learning model that determines whether the observed event corresponds to a normal traffic situation or an accident. The classification model can be trained using labeled datasets containing examples of both normal driving scenarios and accident events.

Common machine learning models used for classification include:

- Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- Random Forest
- Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

The trained model analyzes the extracted features and predicts whether the event represents an accident.

3.2.6 Emergency Alert Generation Module

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When the system detects an accident, the emergency alert module is activated. This module automatically generates a notification message that includes accident information such as location, time, camera identification, and captured frame evidence.

The alert can be transmitted to emergency authorities through mobile networks or internet-based communication systems. This automated notification helps reduce response time and allows emergency services to reach the accident location quickly.

4. Methodology

This section explains the methodology used for developing the proposed vision-based vehicle accident detection system. The objective of the methodology is to analyze traffic video streams, identify vehicles, track their movement patterns, and detect abnormal situations that may indicate a vehicle accident. The proposed method integrates computer vision techniques, motion analysis, and machine learning classification models to detect accidents in real time.

The methodology is divided into several stages including data acquisition, preprocessing, vehicle detection, motion feature extraction, accident classification, and alert generation. Each stage plays an important role in ensuring accurate accident detection.

4.1 Data Acquisition

The first step of the methodology involves collecting traffic video data. The system receives video streams from traffic surveillance cameras, roadside cameras, or dashboard cameras installed in vehicles. These cameras continuously capture road scenes and provide visual information about vehicle movements.

The captured video stream is divided into individual frames so that image processing techniques can be applied. Frame extraction allows the system to analyze changes in vehicle movement between consecutive frames. Video-based monitoring has become an important component of intelligent transportation systems because it enables continuous observation of road conditions and traffic behavior [15].

4.2 Frame Preprocessing

Before performing vehicle detection, the extracted frames undergo a preprocessing stage. The purpose of preprocessing is to improve image quality and ensure consistent input for the detection model.

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Typical preprocessing operations include:

- Image resizing
- Noise reduction
- Image normalization
- Background subtraction

Image resizing ensures that all frames have the same dimensions, which simplifies model training and reduces computational cost. Noise reduction techniques such as Gaussian filtering help remove distortions caused by lighting variations or camera noise. Image preprocessing techniques are widely used in computer vision systems to improve object detection performance [14].

4.3 Vehicle Detection

After preprocessing, the system detects vehicles present in each frame using deep learning-based object detection algorithms. Models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) and Faster R-CNN have been widely used for detecting vehicles in traffic monitoring systems because they can identify multiple objects in real time while maintaining high detection accuracy [11], [12].

The detection model analyzes each frame and generates bounding boxes around detected vehicles along with class labels. These bounding boxes represent the spatial location of vehicles in the image.

Mathematically, vehicle detection can be represented as:

$$D = f(I)$$

Where:

- I represents the input image frame
- f represents the object detection model
- D represents detected vehicles with bounding box coordinates

4.4 Vehicle Tracking and Motion Analysis

Once vehicles are detected in individual frames, the system tracks their movement across consecutive frames. Vehicle tracking helps determine how vehicles move over time and allows the system to identify unusual movement patterns.

Motion analysis focuses on extracting features such as:

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- Vehicle displacement
- Speed variation
- Direction change
- Sudden stop
- Collision overlap

One commonly used approach for motion estimation is optical flow, which calculates the apparent motion of objects between consecutive frames. Optical flow techniques help identify sudden motion changes that may indicate vehicle collisions [16].

Vehicle displacement between frames can be estimated using the following expression:

$$\Delta P = P_t - P_{t-1}$$

Where:

- P_t= vehicle position in the current frame
- P_{t-1}= vehicle position in the previous frame
- ΔP= displacement of the vehicle

Large displacement changes or sudden stops may indicate abnormal vehicle behavior.

4.5 Feature Extraction

After tracking vehicle movement, important motion-related features are extracted from the video sequence. These features help the classification model distinguish between normal traffic conditions and accident events.

Typical features used for accident detection include:

- vehicle speed change
- trajectory deviation
- collision angle
- vehicle overlap ratio
- sudden acceleration or deceleration

These features provide useful information about vehicle behavior and help the system identify abnormal events.

4.6 Accident Classification

The extracted features are provided to a machine learning classification model that determines whether the detected event corresponds to normal traffic behavior or a vehicle accident.

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Machine learning models commonly used for classification include:

- Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- Random Forest
- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)

The classification model is trained using labeled datasets containing both normal driving scenarios and accident events. During training, the model learns patterns associated with vehicle collisions and abnormal movement.

The classification decision can be expressed as:

$$C = g(F)$$

Where:

- Frepresents extracted motion features
- $g$represents the classification model
- Crepresents the predicted class (Accident or Normal)

4.7 Emergency Alert Generation

If the classification model predicts an accident event, the emergency alert module is activated. This module automatically generates a notification message that contains important information about the accident.

The alert message may include:

- accident time
- camera identification
- location information
- captured frame evidence

The alert can then be transmitted to emergency services such as hospitals, ambulance units, police stations, or traffic control centers through internet-based communication systems.

Automated alert generation helps reduce response time and ensures that emergency authorities receive accident information quickly.

5. Experimental Setup and Performance Evaluation

This section describes the experimental environment used to evaluate the proposed vision-based vehicle accident detection system. The purpose of the experiments is to measure the effectiveness of the proposed approach in detecting vehicle accidents from traffic videos and

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generating emergency alerts. The evaluation focuses on detection accuracy, response time, and reliability of the machine learning model used in the system.

The experiments were conducted using traffic video datasets that contain both normal driving situations and accident events. These datasets provide various traffic conditions such as multiple vehicles, different camera angles, and varying lighting environments. The system processes the video frames, detects vehicles, analyzes their motion patterns, and classifies whether an accident has occurred.

5.1 Dataset Description

For experimental evaluation, traffic video datasets containing accident and non-accident scenarios are used. These datasets include real-world road scenes captured from surveillance cameras and dashboard cameras. The dataset contains various traffic situations such as normal driving, sudden braking, vehicle collisions, and abnormal vehicle movement.

The dataset is divided into two categories:

- **Normal traffic scenarios**
- **Accident scenarios**

Each video sequence is converted into frames so that image processing and machine learning algorithms can analyze vehicle movement. A labeled dataset is used to train the accident classification model so that it can distinguish between normal traffic behavior and accident events.

5.2 Hardware Configuration

The experiments were conducted on a computer system with the following configuration:

- Processor: Intel Core i7
- RAM: 16 GB
- GPU: NVIDIA CUDA-enabled GPU (optional for deep learning acceleration)
- Storage: 512 GB SSD

A GPU-based system significantly improves the speed of deep learning models used for vehicle detection and classification.

5.3 Software Environment

The proposed system was implemented using widely used computer vision and machine learning tools.

The software environment includes:

- Programming Language: Python
- Deep Learning Framework: TensorFlow / PyTorch
- Computer Vision Library: OpenCV
- Development Environment: Jupyter Notebook / Anaconda

OpenCV is commonly used for image processing and video frame extraction, while deep learning frameworks such as TensorFlow and PyTorch are used for implementing object detection and classification models [17].

5.4 Evaluation Metrics

To evaluate the performance of the proposed accident detection system, several standard machine learning evaluation metrics are used.

The main metrics include:

Accuracy

Accuracy measures the percentage of correctly classified events.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

Where:

TP = True Positives

TN = True Negatives

FP = False Positives

FN = False Negatives

Precision

Precision measures how many detected accidents are actually correct.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

Recall

Recall measures how many actual accidents are correctly detected.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

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F1 Score

F1 score represents the balance between precision and recall.

$$F1 = \frac{2 \times Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

These metrics are commonly used in machine learning research to evaluate classification performance.

5.5 Experimental Results

The performance of the proposed accident detection system was evaluated using different machine learning models. The results show that deep learning-based models provide higher detection accuracy compared to traditional machine learning approaches.

Table 1: Performance Comparison of Different Models

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
SVM	88%	86%	85%	85.5%
Random Forest	91%	90%	88%	89%
CNN	95%	94%	93%	93.5%

The results indicate that the CNN-based model achieved the highest detection accuracy. This is because deep learning models can automatically learn complex spatial and motion features from video data.

5.6 Discussion

The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system can effectively detect vehicle accidents from traffic videos. The integration of computer vision techniques with machine learning models allows the system to analyze vehicle behavior and identify abnormal situations in real time.

The use of deep learning models improves the accuracy of vehicle detection and accident classification. In addition, the automated emergency alert mechanism ensures that accident information is transmitted quickly to emergency services.

However, some challenges remain in complex traffic environments such as poor lighting conditions, occluded vehicles, and heavy traffic congestion. Future improvements can focus on improving model robustness and integrating additional sensor data to enhance detection reliability.

6. Conclusion

In this research, a vision-based real-time vehicle accident detection system with automated emergency alert generation has been proposed. The main objective of this study was to develop an intelligent system capable of detecting vehicle accidents from traffic video streams and automatically notifying emergency services. Road accidents remain one of the major causes of injuries and fatalities worldwide, and delayed response time often increases the severity of accidents. Therefore, automated accident detection systems can play an important role in improving road safety.

The proposed system integrates computer vision techniques, motion analysis, and machine learning models to detect abnormal vehicle behavior that may indicate a collision. The system processes traffic video streams captured from surveillance cameras or dashcams and analyzes vehicle movements using object detection and tracking algorithms. Motion-related features such as sudden stop, trajectory change, and vehicle overlap are extracted and provided to a machine learning classification model for accident detection.

Experimental evaluation demonstrates that the proposed system can effectively identify accident events in traffic video sequences. The use of deep learning-based object detection algorithms improves the accuracy of vehicle detection, while machine learning classifiers help distinguish between normal traffic situations and accident events. In addition, the integration of an automated emergency alert mechanism allows accident information to be transmitted quickly to emergency services such as hospitals, ambulance units, and traffic authorities.

Overall, the proposed framework provides a promising solution for real-time accident monitoring and emergency response support in intelligent transportation systems. By combining video-based monitoring with automated alert generation, the system can help reduce accident response time and improve the efficiency of emergency rescue operations.

7. Future Work

Although the proposed system demonstrates promising performance in detecting vehicle accidents from traffic videos, several improvements can be explored in future research.

First, future work can focus on improving the robustness of the system under challenging environmental conditions such as poor lighting, rain, fog, or nighttime scenarios. Advanced deep learning models and improved image enhancement techniques can be used to improve detection accuracy under such conditions.

Second, integrating additional sensor data such as GPS information, vehicle speed sensors, or IoT devices could enhance the reliability of accident detection systems. Combining visual data with sensor-based data may help reduce false detections and improve overall system performance.

Third, future research may explore the use of advanced deep learning architectures such as transformer-based vision models to improve accident detection accuracy in complex traffic environments. These models have recently shown strong performance in computer vision tasks.

Another possible direction is to integrate the system with smart city infrastructure and traffic management systems so that accident alerts can be automatically shared with traffic control centers and emergency response units.

Finally, real-world deployment and large-scale testing of the system in urban traffic environments would provide valuable insights into its practical effectiveness and scalability.

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