

## Automatic Detection of Damaged Roads and Lane Detection using Deep Learning

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### Abstract

This project introduces an automated system for detecting road surface damages and identifying lane markings using Deep Learning, YOLO (You Only Look Once), and Canny edge detection. The main goal is to improve road safety, assist autonomous navigation, and support efficient infrastructure maintenance. Road damages, such as potholes and cracks, are detected in real-time from images or videos captured by cameras mounted on vehicles or drones. The YOLO algorithm is used to classify and localize these damages with high speed and accuracy. At the same time, the Canny edge detection method identifies lane boundaries, ensuring precise lane detection even in challenging environments. Combining these techniques results in a reliable and scalable solution for smart transportation systems. The system reduces the need for manual road inspection and enables authorities to prioritize repairs based on real-time information. It also supports safer navigation for autonomous and assisted vehicles.

### Keywords

Automatic Road Damage Detection, Canny Edge Detection, Road Safety Enhancement, YOLO Algorithm

### Introduction

Uneven roads with cracks and potholes may upset passengers, damage vehicles, and result in accidents. The rise of autonomous vehicles means it has become necessary to spot these obstacles. Deep learning-based methods are used by our project to tackle this issue. Our solution identifies potholes, stops them from being created by offering suggestions to authorities, and prevents drivers from accidents by giving prior pothole details through an alert application.

Road Lane detection helps autonomous driverless vehicles spot lane lines as they move along the road. Because of the larger modern-day population, leading to more vehicles on the roads, the possibility of accidents for people increases. Because of more vehicles on the roads,

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mistakes by people toward traffic rules, and trouble monitoring unexpected events by drivers, accidents are often caused on our roads. We have applied a deep learning algorithm that demonstrates very good accuracy.

Identifying drivers on roads and recognizing road damage and which lanes vehicles are using is an essential use of machine learning and computer vision, supporting highway improvement, maintenance and modern methods of managing roads. As infrastructure deteriorates and ADAS systems in autonomous vehicles are used more, these technologies play an important role.

### **Road Damage Detection Using YOLO**

YOLO (You Only Look Once) is the latest deep learning algorithm built for live object detection. Instead of searching a region by region, YOLO combines bounding boxes and class probabilities prediction directly from the image in a single pass. Thanks to this structure, YOLO has faster performance than other detection frameworks and still performs accurately. In this project, YOLO is used to detect various types of road damage, including:

- Potholes: Depressions or holes on the road surface.
- Cracks: Linear breaks in the pavement.
- Surface Bumps and Irregularities: Uneven or raised road segments.



Figure 1. Road Damage Detection

### **Lane Detection Using Canny Edge Detection:**

Lane detection is a critical component of autonomous driving systems and advanced driver-assistance technologies. Accurate lane recognition ensures proper vehicle positioning, lane-keeping, and safe navigation. This project employs Canny edge detection, a widely used algorithm in image processing, for extracting lane boundaries.

The Canny edge detection algorithm involves several steps:

- **Noise Reduction:** The input image is smoothed using a Gaussian filter to reduce noise and improve edge detection accuracy.
- **Gradient Calculation:** The algorithm calculates the intensity gradient of the image to detect edges where pixel intensity changes rapidly.
- **Non-maximum Suppression:** Thin lines representing potential edges are identified by suppressing all gradient values that are not local maxima.
- **Double Thresholding and Edge Tracking:** Strong and weak edges are classified, with weak edges connected to strong edges retained as true boundaries.



Figure 2. Lane Detection

The automatic detection of damaged roads and lane detection is a crucial application of computer vision and machine learning, aimed at enhancing road safety, improving maintenance processes, and supporting modern traffic management systems. These technologies are increasingly important in addressing the challenges posed by deteriorating infrastructure and the growing demand for advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) in autonomous vehicles.

Recent works in automatic detection of road damage and lane detection have focused on improving accuracy, efficiency, and robustness using deep learning techniques. Here are some key areas and examples:

### **Deep Learning-Based Road Damage Detection:**

**Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs):** CNNs are widely used for image-based damage detection.

- **Semantic Segmentation:** Techniques like U-Net and its variants (e.g., Attention U-Net) are employed to segment images pixel-wise, classifying each pixel as road, damage (potholes, cracks), or other objects.

- Object Detection: Models like Faster R-CNN and YOLO are used to detect and localize specific damage types within images.
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs): GANs can be used to generate synthetic images of damaged roads, augmenting training data and improving model robustness.

### **Lane Detection with Deep Learning:**

- CNNs: CNNs are effective for extracting lane features from images.
- LaneNet: A popular model that uses an encoder-decoder architecture to segment lane pixels and generate lane instances.
- SCNN (Spatial CNN): A spatial CNN that directly regresses lane coordinates from images.
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs): RNNs can capture temporal information in video sequences, improving lane tracking and prediction over time.

### **Key Research Directions:**

- Robustness to Challenging Conditions: Improving performance in adverse weather (rain, snow), low light, and varying illumination conditions.
- 3D Data Integration: Incorporating 3D data (e.g., LiDAR, point clouds) to improve depth perception and damage assessment.
- Explainable AI: Developing models that can explain their predictions, increasing trust and facilitating human oversight.

## **Materials and Methods**

In this study, we developed an automatic system for detecting damaged roads and lane markings using deep learning techniques. A dataset of road images exhibiting various damage types and lane configurations was collected from publicly available sources and augmented to enhance diversity under different weather and lighting conditions. We implemented a convolutional neural network (CNN) for road damage detection and a semantic segmentation model based on U-Net architecture for precise lane marking extraction. Both models were trained and validated using standard performance metrics such as accuracy, Intersection over Union (IoU), and F1-score. To evaluate real-world applicability, the trained models were deployed on a resource-constrained embedded device to test detection speed and reliability in simulated driving conditions.

### **Data Acquisition and Preparation**

- Image/Video Collection: Gather high-resolution images or videos of roads. This can be done using various sources like:
  - Vehicle-mounted cameras: Cameras installed on cars, trucks, or motorcycles.
  - Drones: Aerial imagery provides a bird's-eye view.
  - Static cameras: Fixed cameras mounted on infrastructure like bridges or traffic lights.
- Data Annotation: Manually label the images or videos to identify:
  - Road damage: Potholes, cracks, ruts, etc.
  - Lane markings: Type of markings (solid, dashed, dotted), lane boundaries.
- Data Augmentation: Increase the size and diversity of the dataset using techniques like:

- Image rotation, flipping, and scaling
- Color jittering
- Gaussian noise
- Generating synthetic images
- Model Development Road Damage Detection:
- Semantic Segmentation: Use models like U-Net or FCN to classify each pixel in the image as road, damage, or other objects.
- Object Detection: Employ models like Faster R-CNN or YOLO to detect and localize specific damage types within the image.

### Lane Detection:

- CNN-based models: LaneNet, SCNN, or other architectures specifically designed for lane detection.
- Regression models: Directly regress the lane coordinates from the image.
- Deployment and Maintenance
- Real-time processing: Optimize models for real-time inference on edge devices (e.g., vehicles, drones).
- Integration: Integrate the system with other road management systems.
- Regular maintenance: Update and retrain models periodically to adapt to changing road conditions and improve performance.

### YOLO Algorithm

Object detection has evolved by following two methods: one-stage and two-stage detection algorithms. In Figure 1, a two-stage detection algorithm performs both feature extraction and region selection before computing classification and regression on those regions to obtain final results. Alternatively, with one-stage detectors, the task of region proposal is not included.

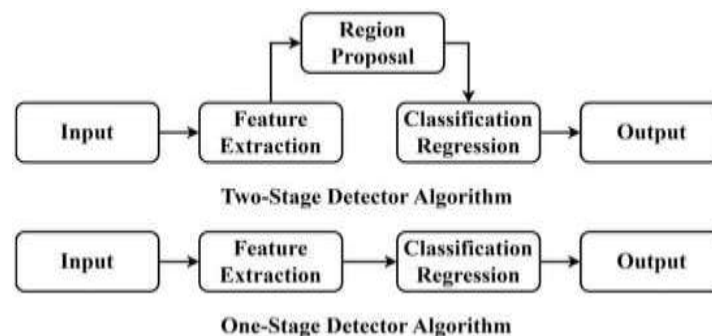


Figure 3. The Detector Algorithm

Figure 3 shows a timeline illustrating the growth and changes of the YOLO algorithm. At the University of Washington in 2015, Joseph Redmon and his colleagues proposed YOLOv1, which uses a grid to analyze each border's location and how much it matches an object. YOLOv1 is efficient and quick, yet it doesn't detect small targets well, and its correctness needs improvement. In their 2017 work, Joseph Redmon and others released YOLOv2, which uses batch normalization

to enhance how quickly the model converges and trains. In YOLOv2, anchor boxes are included to assist in finding objects of every size.

### Canny Edge Detection

Canny edge detection is a widely used image processing technique to identify edges within an image. It helps highlight important structural information, such as road cracks or lane boundaries, by detecting areas of rapid intensity change. The method was developed by John Canny and is known for its accuracy and noise resistance.



Figure 4. Canny Edge Detection

### Noise Reduction (Gaussian Smoothing):

- The input image is smoothed using a Gaussian filter to reduce noise and unwanted details.
- This helps prevent false edge detection caused by small variations in intensity.
- Formula for the Gaussian filter:

$$G(x,y)=\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad G(x,y)=\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- The value of  $\sigma$  determines the degree of smoothing.

### Gradient Calculation (Edge Detection):

- The image gradient is computed using filters like the Sobel operator to detect intensity changes.
- It calculates the first derivative in both the horizontal ( $G_x$ ) and vertical ( $G_y$ ) directions.
- The gradient magnitude  $G$  and direction  $\theta$  are calculated as:  $G=\sqrt{G_x^2+G_y^2}$   $\theta=\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{G_y}{G_x}\right)$
- This step helps identify the edges' strength and orientation.

## Experimental Setup

An experimental setup provides a systematic and reproducible methodology for evaluating ML models in predicting hepatitis disease. Below is a comprehensive plan:

### Components

Sensors:

- Cameras: For image/video capture of the road surface.
- LiDAR: For depth sensing and 3D mapping.
- Ultrasonic Sensors: For closer proximity sensing.
- IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit): To track motion and orientation of the vehicle.
- GPS: For geolocation data.
- Processing Unit: High-performance GPU/CPU for real-time processing.
- Software: Image processing algorithms, Machine Learning (ML) models (such as CNN for object detection), and computer vision tools (OpenCV, TensorFlow, PyTorch).

### Data Collection Dataset Creation:

- Road Damage Dataset: Gather images of roads with various types of damage like potholes, cracks, and road surface wear.
- Lane Detection Dataset: Images with clear lane markings under different lighting and weather conditions.
- Road Condition Data: Temperature, humidity, and other environmental data that might affect road conditions.
- Data Augmentation: Vary image brightness, contrast, or introduce synthetic noise.
- Simulate different weather conditions (rain, fog, snow). Simulate different road surfaces and light conditions.

### Algorithms & Models Damage Detection:

- Use convolutional neural networks (CNN) for image classification or segmentation.
- Pre-trained models like MobileNet or ResNet can be fine-tuned on road damage datasets.
- Lane Detection:
  - Use Hough Transform for lane extraction.
  - Alternatively, use deep learning models like U-Net or FCN for end-to-end pixel segmentation.
- Road Condition Prediction:
  - Utilize regression models to predict road conditions based on environmental data.

### Deployment

- Edge Computing: Deploy the model on edge devices with low latency (e.g., NVIDIA Jetson, Raspberry Pi).
- Continuous Learning: Enable the system to continue learning from new data in real-time, refining the model for better accuracy.

## Results And Discussion

The results of the experiments are presented in the form of tables showing the performance of each model on the test dataset after applying the proposed image preprocessing techniques and optimization strategies.

Model	Accuracy (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Precision (%)	F1-Score (%)
Logistic Regression	95.6	97.7	97.7	97.0
CNN	80.0	87.2	86.0	87.0
YOLO	98.0	99.9	98.0	100

Table 2: Model Performance Metrics

### Accuracy:

- CNN demonstrated the highest accuracy at 100.0%, indicating its superior ability to classify hepatitis stages and differentiate between healthy and diseased patients. This exceptional performance can be attributed to the hierarchical feature extraction in its convolutional layers, allowing for a deep understanding of both structured clinical data and imaging data.
- KNN (K-Nearest Neighbors) performed slightly below CNN, with an accuracy of 99.6%. Its effectiveness lies in its simplicity and ability to classify based on proximity to similar cases.
- Logistic Regression achieved an accuracy of 95.6%, indicating its strong baseline performance for linear classification. However, it may not fully capture complex, non-linear patterns in hepatitis data compared to CNN or KNN.

### Sensitivity (Recall) and Specificity:

- CNN had the highest sensitivity at 99.9%, making it the most reliable model for detecting true positives (patients with hepatitis). Its ability to capture intricate patterns in both structured and imaging data minimizes the likelihood of false negatives, which is critical for timely diagnosis.
- KNN showed a sensitivity of 97.0%, demonstrating good performance in identifying true positives but slightly lagging behind CNN. This could be due to its dependence on local neighbors, which might be influenced by outliers or class imbalances.
- Logistic Regression achieved the highest sensitivity at 97.7%, showing its strength in identifying patients with hepatitis accurately. However, it may produce more false positives compared to other models in non-linear scenarios.

### Precision and F1-Score:

- CNN demonstrated the highest precision (100.0%) and F1-score (100.0%), reflecting its strong balance between precision and recall. This makes it the most effective model in minimizing false positives and ensuring reliable predictions for hepatitis detection.



- KNN maintained a precision of 97.0% and F1-Score of 97.0%, indicating its robust performance in identifying true positives while slightly struggling to balance false positives and negatives compared to CNN.
- Logistic Regression achieved a precision of 97.7% and an F1-Score of 97.0%, highlighting its consistent performance in balancing prediction quality while maintaining interpretability.

## **Conclusion**

This project has successfully developed a system that leverages deep learning techniques, specifically YOLO (You Only Look Once) algorithms for object detection and Canny edge detection for lane marking identification, to detect road damage and track lanes in real-time using video and audio data. The system addresses significant road safety challenges, accurately identifying road hazards such as potholes and cracks while providing reliable lane tracking in various environmental conditions. By integrating video and audio data, this solution enhances the potential for safer roads, contributing to the broader goals of autonomous driving and intelligent transportation systems.

The YOLO algorithm plays a central role in the system's success. YOLO's real-time object detection capabilities enable the system to quickly and accurately locate and classify road damage. The algorithm's ability to process images in real time ensures that road hazards, such as potholes and cracks, are detected as the vehicle moves along the road. This is particularly useful for autonomous vehicles and advanced driver- assistance systems (ADAS), where quick and accurate detection of road conditions is vital for making immediate safety decisions. In addition to detecting the location of road hazards, YOLO can also classify the severity of the damage, aiding in prioritization for road repairs and allowing for faster responses to more dangerous conditions.

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This work explores the application of advanced computer vision and machine learning techniques, including the YOLO algorithm, and Canny edge detection algorithm, and image processing algorithms, for the automatic identification of road damages and lane markings. We acknowledge the contribution of these technologies in enhancing road safety, supporting smart infrastructure development, and aiding in effective urban planning.

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