



Dual-Use Technologies for the Development of Autonomous Driving An Review

J S N Sai Suhaas

B. Tech Student, Department of ECE, GMR Institute of Technology, Rajam-532127, Andhra Pradesh, India

Email: 21341A0469@gmrit.edu.in

ABSTRACT

One of the essential systems in autonomous vehicles for ensuring a secure circumstance for drivers and passengers is the Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS). Adaptive Cruise Control, Automatic Braking/Steer Away, Lane-Keeping System, Blind Spot Assist, Lane Departure Warning System, and Lane Detection are examples of ADAS. Lane detection displays information specific to the geometrical features of lane line structures to the vehicle's intelligent system to show the position of lane markings. RGB cameras are one of the most relevant sensors for autonomous driving applications. It is undeniable that failures of vehicle cameras may compromise the autonomous driving task, possibly leading to unsafe behaviors when images that are subsequently processed by the driving system. This scenario has its technological roots in what is called Driver Assistance Systems, such as stability control, control travel speed, emergency braking assist system etc. As the above terms suggest, the corresponding systems now assist the driver (but without operating independently) in some cases, which can be categorized into very unknown, very demanding, or very tedious for him to guide are altered.

Keywords: Autonomous driving, LiDAR sampling, on-road environment, ROI-based sampling, two stage sampling

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of autonomous driving technology has been a nuanced journey, marked by significant milestones and technological advancements. In the 1980s, the collaborative efforts of Mercedes-Benz and Bundeswehr University Munich's Eureka Prometheus Project resulted in the first self-driving car, laying the foundation for subsequent developments. The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) has been instrumental in providing a comprehensive framework for understanding the levels of driving automation, ranging from basic driver assistance to full autonomy.

The distinction between fully autonomous and fully automated vehicles is crucial in understanding the capabilities and potential of these innovative systems. A fully autonomous car, characterized by self-awareness and decision-making capabilities, introduces an intriguing dimension where the vehicle might deviate from explicit user instructions based on its interpretation of the situation. On the other hand, a fully automated car strictly adheres to user commands without engaging in independent decision-making, emphasizing a more rigid adherence to user-defined parameters.

Meanwhile, the concept of self-driving cars occupies an intermediate position, capable of handling specific driving tasks autonomously but still requiring a human passenger to be present and prepared to intervene when necessary. This human-machine collaboration reflects a transitional phase in the progression toward full autonomy, acknowledging the need for human oversight in certain scenarios.

Key to the functionality of autonomous vehicles are advanced sensor technologies. LiDAR, with its use of laser pulses, creates intricate 3D maps of the surroundings, enabling precise navigation and obstacle detection. Radar, operating with millimeter-wave precision, contributes to the vehicle's ability to measure distances and detect objects accurately.

These sensors collectively form the sensory backbone of autonomous driving systems, providing the crucial data required for safe and effective navigation.

As the industry continues to push the boundaries of technological innovation and regulatory frameworks, the ultimate goal is to achieve a seamless integration of autonomous driving technology into everyday life. This integration necessitates addressing not only technological challenges but also societal, ethical, and regulatory considerations to ensure the widespread acceptance and safety of autonomous vehicles. In doing so, the automotive landscape stands on the cusp of a revolutionary transformation, poised to redefine the way we perceive and interact with transportation.

RESEARCH APPROACH

Motion planning is a critical component in the realm of autonomous driving, ensuring that vehicles navigate through their environments safely and efficiently. This process involves generating trajectories that are both collision-free and feasible, all within a short timeframe and while taking into account the current state of the vehicle and the surrounding environment.

However, finding optimal solutions to motion planning problems in urban environments, where real-world driving scenarios unfold, poses a substantial computational challenge. Traditional optimal algorithms often struggle due to their impractical computational complexity. Consequently, researchers have dedicated significant attention to exploring approximate methods or specific solutions to address the broader motion planning problem.

A. Path Planning

Path planning techniques in the literature seldom aim for an exact solution. Instead, they strive to find satisfactory solutions or sequences of feasible solutions that converge towards the optimal solution. Three primary families of approximate methods for path planning emerge:

Variational Methods: These methods project the infinite-dimensional function space of trajectories into a finite-dimensional vector space.

Incremental Search Methods: This category involves methods that incrementally construct a reachability graph, often in the form of a tree, by maintaining a discrete set of reachable configurations. Notable techniques include Rapidly Exploring Random Trees (RRT) and its variants.

Graph-Based Search Methods: These methods discretize the configuration space of the vehicle as a graph, where vertices represent configurations and edges signify transitions between them. Graph-based search methods then find a minimum-cost path based on a defined cost function. Techniques for building such graphs include geometric methods like cell decomposition, visibility graphs, and Voronoi diagrams, as well as sampling-based methods.

For automated driving scenarios, where road structures provide strong heuristics, sampling-based planning methods are often sufficient to generate feasible solutions. An evolution of these methods incorporates spatial-temporal constraints, formulating the problem as a trajectory ranking and search problem.

However, challenges persist in these approaches. Variational methods may converge to local minima, and graph-search methods might provide suboptimal solutions due to fixed graph discretization. Incremental search strategies, while feasible, may be computationally intensive, necessitating a trade-off between completeness and real-time processing. To address these challenges, recent approaches propose double-stage planning strategies. This involves an initial spatial stage based on road geometry and a subsequent traffic-based planning stage to consider other traffic and obstacles, resulting in a final trajectory that accommodates the most appropriate maneuver.

METHODOLOGY:

Detailed Description working of a LiDAR system

LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) sensor system. LIDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected light. This image shows a simplified block diagram of a LIDAR system. The system consists of a laser diode, a photodiode, a timer, an analog-to-digital converter (ADC), a CPU, and a transmitter and receiver.

The laser diode generates a pulsed laser beam that is transmitted to the target. The target reflects a portion of the laser light back to the receiver. The photodiode detects the reflected laser light and produces an analog voltage signal. The timer measures the time it takes for the laser light to travel to the target and back. The ADC converts the analog voltage signal to a digital signal. The CPU processes the digital signal to determine the distance to the target.

LIDAR systems are used in a variety of applications, including autonomous vehicles, robotics, and surveying. They are also used in applications where precise distance.

Laser diode: The laser diode generates a pulsed laser beam that is transmitted to the target. The laser beam needs to be pulsed to ensure that the receiver does not pick up reflected light from previous pulses.

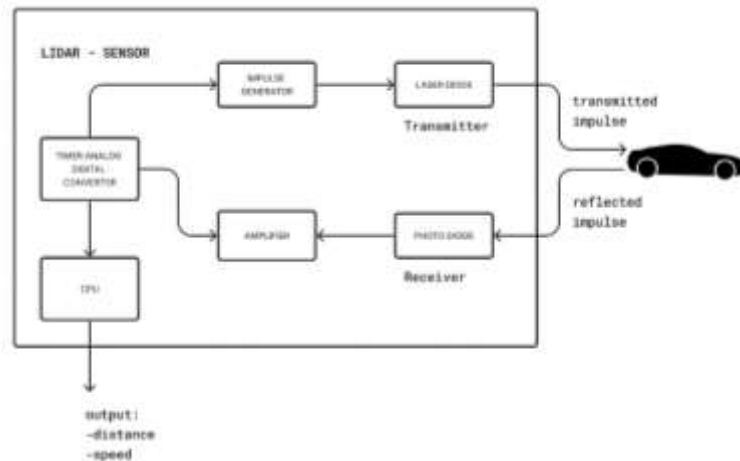


Fig 1: Working of the LiDAR system

Image of Laser diode for LIDAR sensor system Opens in a new window

Photodiode: The photodiode detects the reflected laser light and produces an analog voltage signal. The photodiode is typically a phototransistor or a PIN photodiode. Image of Photodiode for LIDAR sensor system Opens in a new window.

Timer: The timer measures the time it takes for the laser light to travel to the target and back. The timer is typically a microcontroller or an electronic counter.

Analog-to-digital converter (ADC): The ADC converts the analog voltage signal from the photodiode to a digital signal. The ADC is typically a microcontroller or an external ADC chip.

CPU: The CPU processes the digital signal from the ADC to determine the distance to the target. The CPU also controls the other components of the LIDAR system, such as the laser diode and the timer.

Transmitter: The transmitter sends the laser beam to the target. The transmitter is typically an RF or optical transmitter.

Receiver: The receiver detects the reflected laser light from the target. The receiver is typically an RF or optical receiver.

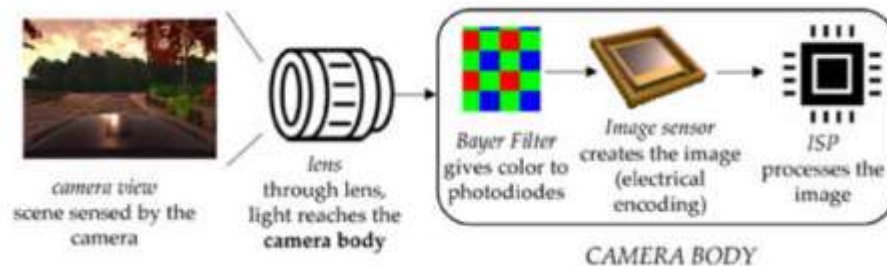


Fig 2 : RGB Camera

One significant aspect of RGB camera functionality is lane detection. By analyzing the captured images, the system identifies and interprets lane markings, ensuring the vehicle stays within the designated lanes on the road. This is essential for proper lane-keeping and contributes to the overall safety of autonomous driving. RGB cameras also contribute to traffic sign recognition, allowing the vehicle to understand and respond to road signage, including speed limits and other important directives.

RESULT

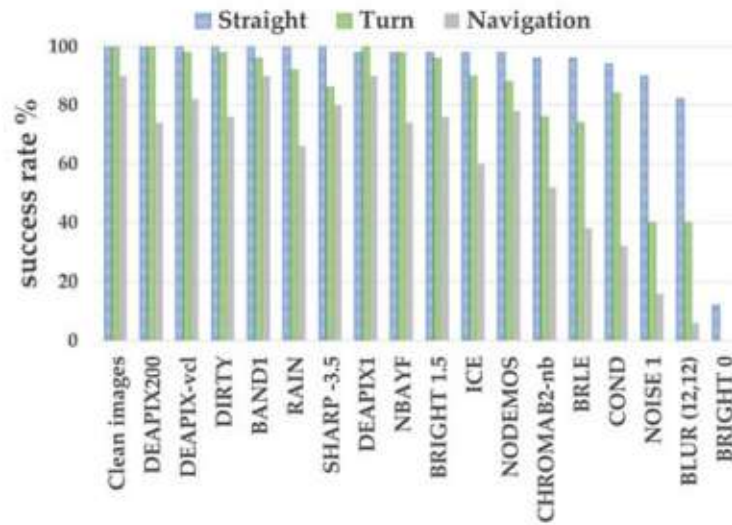


Fig 3: Percentage of Successful runs

This paper delves into the critical issue of RGB camera failures, especially in safety-sensitive applications like autonomous driving. While it's widely acknowledged that cameras can fail and produce distorted images, there's a notable gap in a comprehensive understanding of these failure modes and how to replicate them. This research aims to fill that gap, providing a detailed exploration of various failure modes in vehicle cameras and their impact on output images. The goal is to equip software and system engineers with a valuable reference model for building resilient architectures and assessing the robustness of intelligent systems, particularly in safety-critical domains like autonomous driving.

The study not only identifies these failure modes but also proposes potential mitigations and offers a software library for replicating these failures on image sets. In practical terms, the research reproduces these failures in image-based AI/ML applications designed for autonomous driving, showcasing the significant impact on different object detectors and trained agents.

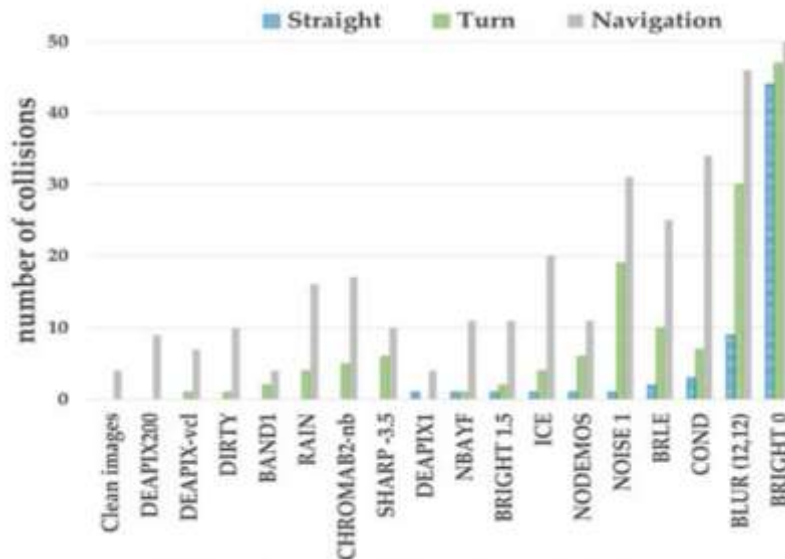


Fig 4: Number of collisions

This figure presents a novel approach to enhance the efficiency of LiDAR systems in advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS). The key idea involves leveraging results obtained from object and road detection to intelligently guide the sampling process in the LiDAR system, specifically by increasing the sampling rate in regions of interest (ROI). By strategically allocating the LiDAR's sampling budget across road and object areas through ROI detection, the proposed algorithm is finely tuned for typical ADAS scenarios.

CONCLUSION

The field of autonomous driving has undergone significant advancements, propelled by the integration of cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning and artificial intelligence. Notable progress has been achieved in enhancing the sensing, perception, and decision-making capabilities of autonomous vehicles. These improvements contribute to the vehicles' ability to navigate complex and dynamic environments, marking a substantial step toward achieving widespread deployment.

One of the key challenges in autonomous driving is the handling of edge cases—unusual or unexpected scenarios that may pose difficulties for the vehicle's automated systems. Engineers and researchers are actively working to develop robust algorithms that can effectively handle these edge cases, ensuring the safety and reliability of autonomous vehicles in diverse real-world situations.

Prototype testing plays a pivotal role in advancing autonomous driving technology. This testing occurs in both simulated environments and real-world scenarios, allowing developers to refine algorithms and validate performance under various conditions. While significant progress has been made, widespread deployment is still in its early stages, with ongoing efforts to fine-tune and optimize autonomous systems.

REFERENCES

1. N. J. Zakaria, M. I. Shapiai, R. A. Ghani, M. N. M. Yassin, M. Z. Ibrahim and N. Wahid, "Lane Detection in Autonomous Vehicles: A Systematic Review," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 11, pp. 3729-3765, 2023.
2. A. Ceccarelli and F. Secci, "RGB Cameras Failures and Their Effects in Autonomous Driving Applications," in *IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 2731-2745, 1 July-Aug. 2023.
3. X. T. Nguyen, K. -T. Nguyen, H. -J. Lee and H. Kim, "ROI-Based LiDAR Sampling Algorithm in on-Road Environment for Autonomous Driving," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 7, pp. 90243-90253, 2019.
4. A. Artuñedo, J. Villagra and J. Godoy, "Real-Time Motion Planning Approach for Automated Driving in Urban Environments," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 7, pp. 180039-180053, 2019.
5. Y. Cai, S. Yang, H. Wang, C. Teng and L. Chen, "A Decision Control Method for Autonomous Driving Based on Multi-Task Reinforcement Learning," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 154553-154562, 2021, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3126796.
6. S. Jain et al., "Blockchain and Autonomous Vehicles: Recent Advances and Future Directions," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 130264-130328, 2021.
7. H. Xuan, H. Liu, J. Yuan and Q. Li, "Robust Lane-Mark Extraction for Autonomous Driving Under Complex Real Conditions," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 6, pp. 5749-5765, 2018, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2017.2731804.
8. S. Jain et al., "Blockchain and Autonomous Vehicles: Recent Advances and Future Directions," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 130264-130328, 2021, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3113649.
9. J. Guo, U. Kurup and M. Shah, "Is it Safe to Drive? An Overview of Factors, Metrics, and Datasets for Driveability Assessment in Autonomous Driving," in *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, vol. 21, no. 8, pp. 3135-3151, Aug. 2020, doi: 10.1109/TITS.2019.2926042.
10. N. E. Neef, K. Kastner, M. Schmidt and S. Schmidt, "On Optimizing Driving Patterns of Autonomous Cargo Bikes as a Function of Distance and Speed—A Psychological Study," in *IEEE Open Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems*, vol. 3, pp. 592-601, 2022, doi: 10.1109/OJITS.2022.3198120.
11. J. Wang et al., "Data Fusion in Infrastructure-Augmented Autonomous Driving System: Why? Where? and how?" in *IEEE Internet of Things Journal*, vol. 10, no. 18, pp. 15857-15871, 15 Sept.15, 2023, doi: 10.1109/JIOT.2023.3266247.
12. J. Jeong, H. Song, J. Park, P. Resende, B. Bradař and K. Jo, "Fast and Lite Point Cloud Semantic Segmentation for Autonomous Driving Utilizing LiDAR Synthetic Training Data," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 10, pp. 78899-78909, 2022, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2022.3184803.
13. S. Choi, S. Park, K. -M. Kang and S. Ahn, "Analysis of Spectrum Requirements for Autonomous Driving Using SINR Probability Distributions," in *IEEE Communications Letters*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 202-206, Jan. 2020, doi: 10.1109/LCOMM.2019.2952109.
14. L. Claussmann, M. Revilloud, D. Gruyer and S. Glaser, "A Review of Motion Planning for Highway Autonomous Driving," in *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, vol. 21, no. 5, pp. 1826-1848, May 2020, doi: 10.1109/TITS.2019.2913998..
15. Y. Chen et al., "Efficient Speed Planning for Autonomous Driving in Dynamic Environment With Interaction Point Model," in *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 11839-11846, Oct. 2022, doi: 10.1109/LRA.2022.3207555.