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Real-time Pothole Reporting System : OptiPave Monitor

Ms. Anusha S [1], Mr. Babar Hashmi [2], Mr. Harsh Shettighar [3], Mr. Pavan R [4],Ms. Srishti Karanth [5]

[1]Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE, MVJ College of Engineering, Karnataka, India

[2-5]Students, Dept. of AI&ML, MVJ College of Engineering, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT:

Potholes pose a pervasive and persistent challenge to road infrastructure worldwide, contributing to safety hazards, vehicle damage, and economic burdens. Over the years, advancements in technology have spurred the development of automated pothole detection systems, offering promising solutions to mitigate the impact of potholes on road networks. This research paper provides a comprehensive review of existing pothole detection systems, spanning various methodologies such as image processing, machine learning, and sensor-based approaches and aims to introduce an improvised solution to the prevailing problem. Through a critical analysis of the strengths and limitations of each technique, this paper evaluates the efficacy of current systems in accurately identifying and characterizing potholes. By synthesizing insights from existing literature and proposing innovative directions for research and development, this paper aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on pothole detection technology. This comprehensive approach, incorporating cutting-edge technologies and well-established algorithms, is engineered to offer municipalities and road maintenance authorities more accurate and actionable insights into pothole detection.

Keywords: Pothole detection, machine learning , YOLO , Geo spatial tagging, Cloud infrastructure, Streamlit

Introduction:

Potholes, the ubiquitous scourge of road infrastructure, represent a multifaceted phenomenon with far-reaching implications for transportation systems worldwide. Defined as localized pavement distress characterized by irregular depressions or cavities, potholes manifest as insidious obstacles to vehicular mobility and public safety. The findings disseminated by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2021 unveil a dis concerting narrative surrounding road safety within Bengaluru, the IT hub of India. An unsettling toll of 30 recorded incidents, resulting in 31 fatalities, is starkly attributed to the purported negligence of civic bodies. These distressing statistics not only underscore the gravity of the situation within Bengaluru but also project a grim shadow over the broader landscape of its state, Karnataka. The identification and reporting of potholes represent formidable challenges for government officials, characterized by the laborious and time-consuming nature of conventional methodologies. Manual inspections often entail extensive resource allocation, necessitating the deployment of personnel for on-site assessments across vast road networks. Moreover, the subjective interpretation of pothole severity and location introduces inconsistencies and delays in response efforts. This unsettling performance signals an urgent call to action, prompting a rigorous examination of existing road safety protocols and necessitating strategic interventions to mitigate risks and safeguard the well-being of the populace.

This paper delves into the burgeoning field of pothole detection and management, elucidating existing methodologies employed to address this pervasive road infrastructure challenge. While previous research endeavours have made notable strides in this domain, leveraging various techniques ranging from image processing to machine learning algorithms, this paper introduces a novel approach centred around the utilization of YOLOv8. This advanced deep learning algorithm offers distinct advantages over traditional methods, boasting enhanced accuracy and efficiency in pothole detection. Furthermore, the integration of geospatial mapping technology is emphasized as an essential component of this research, recognizing the significance of not only detecting potholes but also accurately mapping their locations in real time. Additionally, the paper underscores the importance of scalability and public participation in augmenting cloud-based geotagging systems, advocating for a user-friendly interface capable of managing complex data and abstracting technical intricacies. By embracing these principles, this research seeks to pave the way for a comprehensive and accessible solution to the challenges posed by pothole detection and management.

Literature Survey:

"A Novel and Robust Transfer Learning Framework for Autonomous Pothole Detection in Roads" [1] is a paper that presents a pothole detection system to address pressing road safety concerns exacerbated by pandemic-induced disruptions in road maintenance. Employing deep learning and image processing techniques, including a novel transfer learning approach with the VGG16 model and a custom Siamese network, the system demonstrates promising results in detecting diverse potholes. The VGG16 model, known for its effectiveness in image classification, serves as a powerful feature extractor to identify potholes across various road surfaces. Complementing this, the Siamese network compares pairs of input images to discern similarities, facilitating accurate pothole detection amidst environmental variations. However, it is crucial to acknowledge potential issues associated with algorithmic approaches, such as limitations in generalization to varying road conditions and challenges in real-world implementation, including computational complexity and resource requirements. Despite these potential drawbacks, this research underscores the critical role of technology in advancing road safety initiatives and emphasizes the ongoing need for refinement and optimization to maximize the system's effectiveness in mitigating pothole-related risks.

“Real-time machine learning-based approach for pothole detection” [2] is a paper that conducts a comparative analysis of machine learning models for pothole detection utilizing data from mobile devices. The study endeavours to tackle the pervasive issue of potholes, indicative of inadequately maintained roads and posing substantial risks of vehicle damage. However, notable limitations are identified, including the binary classification of datasets, necessitating manual data collection upon encountering potholes. Moreover, the presence of false negatives and positives is observed across approaches, except for Random Forest (RF) and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) algorithms.

“Road Damage Evaluation via Stereo Camera and Deep Learning Neural Network” [3] is a paper that introduces an innovative road evaluation system that employs a stereo camera and laser diode to detect and assess potholes. Through the utilization of neural network technology, the system is capable of accurately identifying potholes, projecting laser marks, measuring distances, and estimating pothole volumes. This integrated approach represents a significant advancement in road maintenance and safety initiatives, offering comprehensive insights into road conditions. However, notable challenges emerge, particularly concerning deployment issues related to the installation and calibration of the camera and diode components. Additionally, difficulties may arise in scaling the system and integrating it with existing infrastructure due to compatibility issues and technological constraints. These considerations underscore the importance of further research and development efforts to address deployment challenges and enhance the scalability and interoperability of the proposed road evaluation system.

The paper **“Real-Time Pothole Detection Using Deep Learning” [4]** presents a novel approach to developing a real-time pothole detection system utilizing deep learning techniques, specifically Single Shot Multibox Detector (SSD) and You Only Look Once (YOLO). The study aims to tackle the critical challenge of accurately detecting potholes from significant distances, thereby enhancing road safety measures. However, the research identifies several limitations that warrant consideration. Firstly, device restrictions such as a large focal ratio pose challenges in achieving optimal detection performance. Additionally, the system faces constraints in integrating with geolocation services, limiting its ability to provide precise pothole location data. Furthermore, extensive training requirements exceeding 20 hours recursively are observed, highlighting the resource-intensive nature of model development and optimization. These drawbacks underscore the necessity for further research efforts to address technical constraints and optimize the proposed pothole detection system for real-world deployment.

“Review of Recent Automated Pothole-Detection Methods” [5] is a paper that offers an extensive examination of contemporary automated pothole detection methodologies, categorizing them into three distinct types: vision-based, vibration-based, and 3D reconstruction-based methods. Through a meticulous analysis, it evaluates the strengths, weaknesses, and technical intricacies of each approach. However, certain limitations are identified, including susceptibility to lighting and shadow conditions, which may hinder detection accuracy. Additionally, challenges arise in accurately measuring pothole depth and volume, further compounded by dependency on image quality and resolution. Moreover, accurately identifying pothole shapes poses a notable challenge, underscoring the need for innovative solutions to overcome these obstacles and advance the field of automated pothole detection.

The paper **“A Modern Pothole Detection Technique Using Deep Learning” [6]** delves into a contemporary approach to pothole detection leveraging deep learning technology. The primary objective is to devise a system capable of real-time detection of potholes in images or videos, thereby mitigating the risk of road accidents associated with potholes. However, certain challenges are encountered, including the occurrence of false alarms, which may affect detection accuracy. Additionally, concerns regarding scalability and integration with existing infrastructure emerge, necessitating further exploration and refinement of the proposed technique to address these limitations effectively.

“Pothole Detection Using Deep Learning: A Real-Time and AI-on-the-Edge Perspective” [7] is a research that introduces a deep learning framework for pothole detection, with a focus on real-time processing and edge computing capabilities. It investigates the feasibility of deploying sophisticated deep learning models on edge devices such as the Raspberry Pi to enable efficient pothole detection. However, several challenges are identified, including issues related to real-time processing, model specificity, and the need for generalization and adaptability across diverse road conditions. Addressing these challenges is crucial for optimizing the performance and applicability of the proposed approach in real-world scenarios.

The paper **“PotSpot: Participatory Sensing Based Monitoring System for Pothole Detection Using Deep Learning” [8]** presents PotSpot, an innovative participatory sensing system for pothole detection leveraging deep learning techniques. PotSpot aims to enhance road safety by facilitating real-time detection, monitoring, and spatial mapping of potholes throughout a city, employing a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. However, the system encounters challenges related to user participation dependency, necessitating strategies to encourage and sustain user engagement. Additionally, there is a need to balance real-time processing requirements with accuracy considerations, while also addressing scalability and data management issues for effective system deployment and operation. Overcoming these challenges is imperative to realize the full potential of PotSpot in improving road safety and infrastructure management.

The paper **“Smart Pothole Detection Using Deep Learning Based on Dilated Convolution” [9]** is a study that introduces a novel method for smart pothole detection utilizing deep learning, with a specific emphasis on dilated convolution techniques. The research endeavors to devise efficient and effective approaches for pothole detection to enhance road safety. However, several challenges are identified, including concerns regarding model complexity, the ability to generalize across different road conditions, and the practical implementation of the proposed method. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensure the reliability and applicability of the approach in real-world scenarios.

“Potholes Detection Using Deep Learning and Area Estimation Using Image Processing” [10] is a paper that introduces a methodology for pothole detection employing deep learning and area estimation via image processing techniques. The approach aims to make substantial contributions to transportation safety by offering an accurate and real-time solution for pothole detection. However, several challenges are encountered, including ensuring accuracy under varying environmental conditions, limitations in accurately estimating pothole area, and the need for a diverse dataset to enhance model performance. Addressing these challenges is essential to enhance the reliability and effectiveness of the proposed method in improving road safety.

“A Real-time Pothole Detection Based on Deep Learning Approach” [11] is a paper that presents a pioneering method for real-time pothole detection utilizing the YOLOv3 deep learning algorithm. The system is designed to enhance road safety by enabling the real-time detection of potholes, thereby reducing accidents and vehicle damage. However, the approach faces challenges related to real-time processing, model specificity, and the need for generalization and adaptability across diverse road conditions. Addressing these challenges is vital to optimize the performance and applicability of the system in real-world scenarios.

Proposed Methodology:

The proposed system introduces an innovative approach to pothole detection and mapping, emphasizing the utilization of advanced deep learning techniques. A central aspect of the system entails the deployment of the YOLOv8 algorithm, renowned for its superior capabilities in object detection tasks. This algorithm serves as the foundation for real-time identification of potholes from live video streams and uploaded videos. Notably, the system offers users the flexibility to adjust confidence levels, enabling precise control over detection sensitivity to cater to specific needs.

Furthermore, the system seamlessly integrates with device cameras and provides extended support for video uploads, ensuring versatility in detection methodologies. Detected potholes are categorized based on severity levels, facilitating efficient prioritization of maintenance activities. Leveraging the robustness of the YOLOv8 model, which has been meticulously trained on diverse datasets encompassing various road conditions, ensures consistent and reliable performance across different environmental contexts.

In addition to real-time detection capabilities, the system incorporates geo-tagging functionality to automatically plot detected potholes on interactive geo-maps. Users also have the option to manually input pothole locations, thereby enhancing the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the dataset. The geo-map interface offers intuitive visualizations of pothole distribution, empowering stakeholders in decision-making processes related to road maintenance and urban planning endeavours.

To address the challenges associated with managing large volumes of data generated by continuous pothole detection activities, the system leverages cloud-based storage solutions. This infrastructure guarantees the security, accessibility, and scalability of collected data, facilitating seamless integration with other analytical tools and platforms. By harnessing the capabilities of cloud computing, the system is equipped to handle extensive datasets efficiently, ensuring scalability and future expansion.

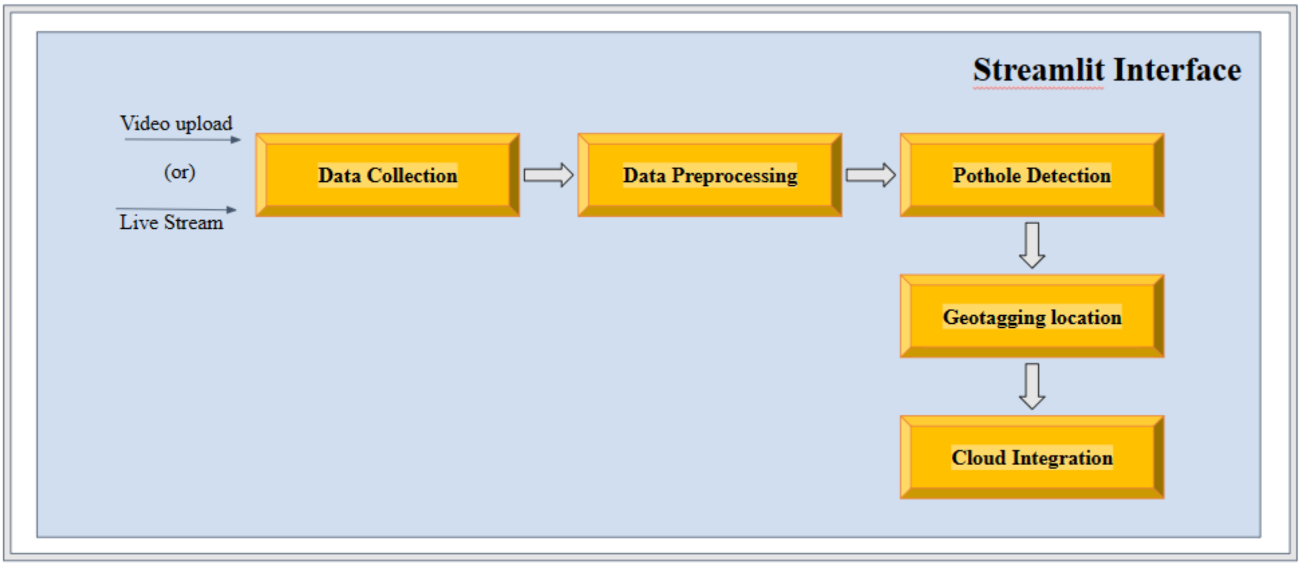

Fig 1 System workflow

Conclusion:

In conclusion, pothole detection systems offer a viable solution to road infrastructure challenges. Leveraging image processing and machine learning techniques, these systems provide precise insights into pothole detection. The proposed system, capable of real-time detection or manual uploads, integrates advanced technologies for effective road maintenance. Combining the strengths of image processing and machine learning, the system ensures accuracy and accessibility for road maintenance authorities. Moving forward, collaborative efforts are essential to refine and optimize these systems, fostering safer and more resilient road networks.

REFERENCES:

Hardware requirements for developers:

- Computer: A modern computer with a decent processor and at least 8GB of RAM would be ideal for smooth development.
- Display: A monitor with a resolution of 1920*1080 or higher would provide a better development experience.
- Camera module: A working webcam or any additional camera module support is mandatory.
- Internet Connection: A stable internet connection is essential for downloading software, accessing data sources, live streaming and uploading videos.

Software requirements for developers:

- • Python IDE
- • Cloud service access like GCP, AWS
- • Streamlit application account
- . • Libraries: opencv, pip, streamlit, streamlit-folium, streamlit-lottie, torchvision, ultralytics, urllib3, watchdog, mdurl, yolo, pandas etc.

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