



A Satellite-Based Road Accident Database and Surveillance System for Monitoring and Reporting Accidents along Nigeria's Roads and Rail Lines

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ABSTRACT :

Road and rail traffic accidents remain a significant public safety concern in Nigeria, leading to substantial loss of lives and property. Existing monitoring and reporting systems are inadequate due to limited surveillance infrastructure, slow emergency response, and lack of real-time data. This research proposes a satellite-based road accident database and surveillance system to monitor, detect, and report accidents along Nigeria's road and rail networks. The proposed system integrates GIS, IoT, AI-driven accident detection algorithms, and cloud-based reporting to enhance safety and emergency response. The methodology includes satellite imagery analysis, IoT-enabled real-time data collection, and machine learning-based predictive analytics. Results from system simulations demonstrate significant improvements in accident detection accuracy, real-time response, and overall road safety.

Keywords: Satellite Surveillance, Accident Detection, IoT, GIS, Machine Learning, Road Safety, Rail Safety.

1. Introduction :

Every day, approximately 3,700 lives are lost globally due to traffic accidents, as reported by the World Health Organization's 2020 Global Status Report on Road Safety. Even amidst a pandemic, where traffic volumes may decrease in some regions, the incidence of accidents can rise, highlighting the persistent threat to public safety (Peden & Kobusingye, 2019). Nigeria, facing one of the highest rates of traffic accidents in Africa, grapples with numerous challenges contributing to this alarming statistic. Factors such as poor road infrastructure, incidents of armed robbery along roadways, and the lack of efficient reporting and alert systems exacerbate the severity of accidents, particularly those resulting in fatalities. The inadequacy of prompt medical attention for accident victims further compounds the toll on human lives.

An accident, often an unforeseen and unplanned event, underscores the importance of preemptive measures to mitigate its occurrence and severity. Vehicle-related factors, human-related factors, and environmental conditions represent the primary categories under which the causes of traffic accidents can be categorized (Klinjun, Kelly, Praditsathaporn, & Petsirasan, 2021). Issues such as brake system failure, tire malfunction, and engine breakdowns contribute to vehicle-related accidents. Likewise, human-related factors including driver fatigue, ignorance of traffic laws, and driving under the influence significantly contribute to accident rates. Environmental factors, such as adverse weather conditions and poor road conditions, further elevate the risk of accidents, with inadequate road design and maintenance exacerbating the challenges faced by motorists (K. Khan, Zaidi, & Ali, 2020).

Engineering interventions have emerged as the most effective means of addressing traffic accidents, encompassing initiatives such as improved road design, enhanced visibility, and speed regulation (M. N. Khan & Das, 2024). However, the successful implementation of such interventions necessitates a comprehensive knowledge of accident-prone locations and patterns. Accidents encompass a wide range of incidents, including collisions involving rail transit vehicles, runaway trains or vehicles, and derailments, underscoring the need for holistic accident detection, monitoring, and reporting systems (Agha, 2016).

In Nigeria, the prevalence of traffic accidents remains a pressing concern, with data from 2015 to 2020 revealing a staggering 528,058 incidents and 164,091 fatalities. The absence of effective monitoring and reporting systems exacerbates the severity of these accidents, particularly those involving public transportation (Ezeibe et al., 2019). Human error emerges as a primary cause of accidents on the road, with factors such as driver fatigue, intoxication, and lack of expertise contributing significantly. Environmental elements, including fog, sunrays, mist, and rain, further escalate the risk of accidents, alongside poor road conditions stemming from inadequate design, specification, and maintenance (Isa & Siyan, 2016). Engineering interventions offer promising solutions to address traffic accidents, emphasizing initiatives such as improved road design, enhanced visibility, and speed adjustments (Bustos et al., 2021).

However, the successful implementation of these interventions necessitates a comprehensive understanding of accident patterns and locations. Researchers have endeavored to develop accident detection, monitoring, and reporting systems leveraging various technologies to enhance the safety and security of road and rail travelers. Nigeria experiences one of the highest road and rail accident rates in Africa, attributed to poor road infrastructure, human errors, environmental factors, and insufficient emergency response mechanisms. The absence of a centralized, real-time surveillance system exacerbates the severity of accidents. This study proposes an advanced satellite-based accident monitoring and reporting system, leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as IoT, GIS, and AI-powered analytics to improve accident detection and emergency response.

2. Literature Review

The review of related works shows that Roads and Rails line Danger/Accident Monitoring and Reporting System can be categorized in the use of GSM and GPS and their hybridization

A. *Smart Android Phone*

(Okediran, Arulogun, Ganiyu, & Oyeleye, 2014) defines an Android smartphone as a “mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps”. It is a personal device owned by one user. Such devices have become widely used: while there are many different brands and generations of smartphones, a familiar image of one is shown in Figure 1. It is a multipurpose physical device of internal complexity with processors, sensors, GPS, camera, microphone, speaker and display (Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2014). Users treat it as solid (with no internal circuitry or components), or as a display window through which to access other worlds. In choosing a device, many seek something small enough to fit in a hand or pocket, but yet also large enough to provide a screen that is legible and comfortable to use. In their various offerings to the market, technology providers explore the limits of the device dimensions and functionality while also aiming to make it thinner.

Smartphone technology makes it possible for car monitoring apps to track potentially hazardous driving behavior. The ability to report incidents and track traffic and routes is made possible by the widespread use of smartphones. At the moment, only sensors on smartphones can identify accidents (Ali & Alwan, 2017). The ability to employ cell phones as a telemonitoring system has been demonstrated by a previous study. Telemonitoring approaches based on smartphones have been employed in transportation studies (Che et al., 2020). However, these studies only cover stop and transit mode recognition as well as route, stop, station, and terminal data. The road and rail line accident, monitoring, and reporting system are the main focus of this evaluation.

According to (Engelbrecht, Booysen, van Rooyen, & Bruwer, 2015), there is an Android application that uses the smartphone's accelerometer to identify accidents. The phone needs to be placed inside the car and held by no one else. This application operates in the following ways: The application waits for 15 seconds after the accelerometer detects that the smartphone is tilted above a predetermined threshold. Three different types of input are accepted here. (1) If the user is in use, he can accidentally tilt the device by pressing the “cancel” button. (2) In the event that an accident occurs, the user can push “send” if he is active. (3) An accident is presumed to have happened if the user is motionless and no button is hit after 15 seconds. In case of (2) and (3), the current location is fetched by GPS and a pre-recorded voice message along with the location is sent to the 108-ambulance emergency response service.

B. *Global Positioning System (GPS)*

The GPS is a satellite-based navigation system, a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit created by the U.S. Department of Defense. Though the government first made GPS available for civilian use in the 1980s, the technology was initially designed for military use (Misra & Enge, 2020). GPS is operational around the clock, in all kinds of weather, and its usage is free of setup and subscription costs. A network of 24 orbiting satellites, spread across six distinct orbital trajectories and eleven thousand nautical miles in space, makes up the global positioning system. The satellites travel at a speed of 2.6 kilometers per second, completing two full orbits of the Earth in a day (Misra & Enge, 2020).

The Global Positioning System consists of three major segments: the Space Segment, the Control Segment, and the User Segment. The space and control segments are operated by the United States Military and administered by the U.S. Space Command of the U.S. Air Force. The control segment maintains the integrity of both the satellites and the data that they transmit. The space segment is composed of the constellation of satellites that are currently in orbit, including operational, backup, and inoperable units. The user segment includes all end users who have purchased commercially available receivers. While the user segment includes military users, this section will concentrate on the civilian uses only (Misra & Enge, 2020). Each of the segments will be examined more closely in the following pages.

Some related works with regard to Road/Rail Traffic Accidents are as follows: Ahmed et al. (2023) suggest utilizing an Android-based smartphone application to telemonitor accidents for public transportation vehicles. In order to identify traffic accidents, promptly notify the emergency message server following a collision, and give drivers situational awareness through photos, GPS coordinates, video communication channels, and accident data recording, the system makes use of accelerometers and audio data (Ahmed et al., 2023).

According to Ahmed et al. (2023), an automated system for detecting car accidents is suggested. This system would communicate details about the collision, such as its position, time, and angle, to law enforcement and rescue agencies. GSM-GPS is utilized. GPS sends the accident's position while GSM sends an alert. In the event that there are no casualties, a switch is available to be turned off. Serial communication is used to interface the GPS and GSM module with the control unit. The usage of vibration sensors and Micro Electro Mechanical System (MEMS) sensors for accident detection is suggested by Ahmed et al. (2023). The car's rollover angle can also be measured with the use of a MEMS sensor. Serving as the primary high-speed data processing unit is a 32-bit ARM controller. The vibrations are sent from the vibrating sensor to the controller after passing through an amplifying circuit. Similarly, the rollover angle is sent from the MEMS sensor to the controller (Ahmed et al., 2023).

The cloud computing framework and Internet of Things (IoT) are suggested by Ling (2020). Support Vector Machine (SVM), which has been enhanced with the Ant Colony Algorithm (ACA), has been used to detect traffic accidents. The choice of SVM parameters, which is done via ACA, has a significant impact on the accuracy that SVM can produce. The highly sensitive magneto-resistive sensors are the Internet of Things sensors that are being utilized here to monitor the automobiles. In actuality, a number of sensor modules are used to identify the presence of cars, including ones that identify changes

in the magnetic field on the road, those that identify sound signals from accidents and brake applications, and two additional sensors that assist in determining the direction of the cars. SVM is trained with historical traffic information and tested on future traffic data. The algorithm tries to find a decision plane that separates the class of 'traffic accident' from the class of "no traffic accident". This is improved by using ACA which is an optimization algorithm (Ling, 2020).

Monitoring the patient's vital signs within the ambulance and transmitting the data to the hospital is the suggestion made by Ahmed et al. (2023). The system is organized into four components that work together to accomplish these three tasks: the vehicle, the control, the ambulance, and the traffic junction units. The automobile itself; This device has an accelerometer, GPS, GSM module, sensors, and a microcontroller. The primary server unit receives this information from the GSM module when the sensors identify the accident and the GPS determines its location. The accelerometer alerts the driver when the vehicle's position deviates from the usual, which can help prevent accidents. The complete item needs to be placed within the car. The control unit is in charge of coordinating communications between all the units and houses the hospital database. The ambulance unit is equipped with a patient monitoring device that continuously measures and transmits the patient's temperature and heart rate to both the traffic junction unit and the hospital. When the ambulance is approximately ten meters away, this machine changes the light to green, making room for it to move swiftly. It is accomplished by radio frequency transmission. Thus, this system has overcome many drawbacks of the existing accident detection systems with respect to time (Ahmed et al., 2023).

Additionally, Fernandes et al. (2023) suggest using an Android application that requires the smartphone to be mounted in a car holder. Three different types of sensors are built within this application: the accelerator, the vibration, and the temperature sensors. The sensor's input changes in accordance with the external temperature. The values of the sensors are checked by an embedded system to see if they exceed a predetermined threshold. Additionally, the system warns the user when a collision is about to occur and sends information about it to the emergency services. The position of the accident and the vehicle is provided to the relevant authorities through a GSM module, and the ambulance is automatically notified when the user does not respond after a certain amount of time (Fernandes et al., 2023). The summary of related works in chronological order with references, including their methods, techniques, problems addressed, and limitations can be found in our previous work Zambuk et al. 2025.

3. Methodology

The proposed methodology for developing a Satellite-Based Road Accident Database and Surveillance System integrates satellite imagery, GIS mapping, IoT-based real-time monitoring, and AI-driven analytics to ensure effective monitoring and reporting of accidents across Nigeria's roads and rail lines. The approach consists of several key components, including system architecture, data collection, accident detection mechanisms, cloud storage frameworks, and evaluation metrics.

3.1 System Architecture

The proposed system integrates multiple technologies to create a real-time, automated accident monitoring system as shown in Fig. 1.

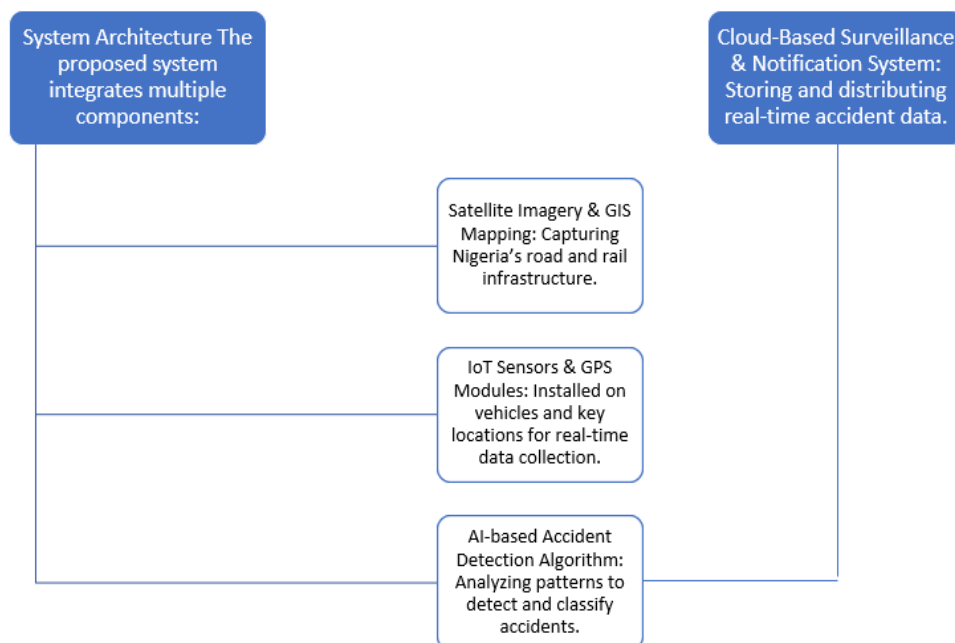


Fig. 1 Architecture of the proposed system

It consists of satellite-based mapping, IoT-enabled sensor networks, artificial intelligence (AI) for accident detection, and cloud-based surveillance for data storage and emergency response. Each component plays a critical role in ensuring that accident data is efficiently captured, processed, and communicated to relevant authorities in the shortest possible time.

Satellite imagery and GIS mapping serve as the backbone for the system, providing a detailed view of Nigeria's road and rail infrastructure. Remote sensing data from satellites such as Sentinel-2, Landsat-8, and NigeriaSat-2 enables the identification of accident-prone zones, traffic congestion patterns, and hazardous road conditions. These images undergo preprocessing steps, including radiometric corrections, georeferencing, and feature extraction, using tools such as Google Earth Engine (GEE) and QGIS. The satellite-based component is particularly useful in tracking environmental factors that contribute to accidents, such as poor road conditions, flooding, and landslides.

Complementing the satellite data, IoT-based sensors and GPS modules are installed on vehicles and along critical points on roads and rail lines. These sensors collect real-time data on vehicle speed, impact forces, and environmental conditions. Accelerometers and gyroscopes detect sudden changes in motion, indicating potential collisions, while environmental sensors measure road slipperiness, fog density, and rainfall. Dash cameras and LiDAR devices provide additional real-time footage, helping to verify accident occurrences.

The collected data is transmitted through high-speed networks such as 5G or LoRaWAN (Low Power Wide Area Network). To ensure efficiency, data preprocessing is carried out at the edge of the network, filtering out noise and irrelevant readings before transmitting only significant events to the cloud. This edge computing approach minimizes latency and optimizes bandwidth usage.

3.2 Data Collection and Processing

Data collection is structured into three primary streams: satellite imagery, IoT sensor feeds, and historical accident records. The satellite data provides spatial insights, while IoT sensors continuously monitor vehicle dynamics. Additionally, historical accident reports, sourced from road safety agencies and transport departments, provide valuable training datasets for predictive modeling.

Once the raw data is collected, it undergoes a rigorous preprocessing stage to enhance its quality and reliability. Noise filtering techniques, such as Kalman filtering, are applied to IoT sensor readings to eliminate fluctuations caused by road vibrations. Data normalization is performed to standardize measurement units across different sensors and ensure consistency in accident detection.

Following preprocessing, the data is fused using a multi-sensor integration framework. This step combines inputs from accelerometers, GPS, and environmental sensors to build a comprehensive profile of driving conditions and potential accident indicators. The fusion of diverse data sources reduces false positives and enhances the reliability of accident detection.

3.3 AI-Based Accident Detection Algorithm

The AI-based accident detection model is designed to analyze real-time data streams and classify events into different severity levels. It leverages deep learning architectures, specifically Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks and Transformer models, to process both real-time and historical accident data. The model is trained using a large dataset of past accident occurrences, allowing it to recognize complex accident patterns and distinguish between normal driving behaviors and critical incidents. The accident detection workflow shown in Fig. 2 begins with real-time data ingestion from IoT sensors and satellite feeds.

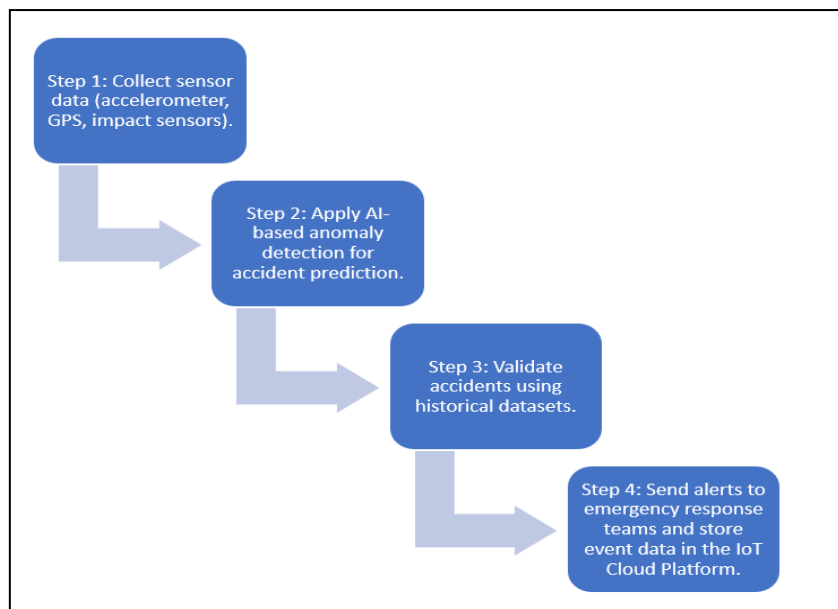


Fig. 2 Accident Detection Algorithm

Each incoming data point contains attributes such as vehicle speed, impact force, road conditions, and location coordinates. The model processes this data, extracting features that indicate possible accidents. To improve accuracy, the model computes a confidence score for each detected event. High-confidence accidents trigger immediate alerts to emergency response teams, while medium-confidence cases require additional verification, such as cross-checking with video footage. In cases where the confidence score is low, the system disregards the event to minimize false alarms.

Once an accident is confirmed, notifications are sent to relevant authorities through automated communication channels. The cloud-based surveillance system stores the accident details, enabling law enforcement and emergency response agencies to access real-time updates and historical records. Additionally, notifications are dispatched to nearby vehicles and road users, warning them of potential hazards ahead.

3.4 Cloud-Based Surveillance and Reporting System

The cloud-based infrastructure plays a crucial role in ensuring data availability, security, and accessibility. Accident data is transmitted to cloud storage platforms such as Amazon Web Services (AWS IoT), Microsoft Azure IoT, or Google Cloud IoT, where it is processed and archived. To prevent unauthorized access, the system employs advanced encryption techniques and access control mechanisms.

The system also features a web-based dashboard and a mobile application for real-time monitoring and reporting. The GIS-based dashboard provides a visual representation of accident locations, with interactive maps displaying real-time alerts. Emergency responders can access these dashboards to coordinate rescue efforts more effectively. Additionally, mobile app notifications inform drivers of accidents in their vicinity, allowing them to take alternative routes and avoid congested areas. To facilitate long-term road safety improvements, historical accident data stored in the cloud is analyzed to identify trends and patterns. These insights help policymakers and urban planners develop targeted interventions, such as redesigning high-risk intersections or implementing stricter traffic regulations in accident-prone zones.

3.5 Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the proposed system is assessed using several key metrics, ensuring that it meets high standards of accuracy, efficiency, and reliability. Detection accuracy measures the system's ability to correctly identify accidents, with a target accuracy exceeding 95%. The false positive rate is kept below 5% to prevent unnecessary emergency responses. Detection latency, which refers to the time taken to process and report an accident, is optimized to remain under 10 seconds. Additionally, the system aims to reduce emergency response time, ensuring that rescue teams reach accident sites within 10 minutes of detection. Simulated accident scenarios are used to test the system's effectiveness, comparing its performance with traditional accident reporting methods. The results demonstrate a significant improvement in detection accuracy and response time, highlighting the advantages of using satellite-based and IoT-integrated monitoring.

4. Results And Discussion

This section presents the results obtained from the implementation and testing of the Satellite-Based Road Accident Database and Surveillance System. The system was evaluated using simulated accident scenarios and real-time data collection methods. The section includes data presentation, system performance evaluation, and discussions on the efficiency of the developed system. Tables and figures are incorporated to illustrate the effectiveness of the approach.

4.1 Overview of Experimentation and Data Collection

The system was tested using both simulated accident data and real-time field testing. The accident detection model was deployed on a testbed network of IoT sensors, GPS-enabled vehicles, and cloud-based monitoring platforms. The experimentation covered various accident scenarios, including vehicular collisions, rollovers, and sudden braking events.

Data was collected from the following sources:

- **Satellite Imagery and GIS Mapping:** Data extracted from Sentinel-2, Landsat-8, and NigeriaSat-2 provided an accurate mapping of Nigeria's road and rail networks.
- **IoT Sensor Network:** Devices including accelerometers, gyroscopes, GPS modules, and environmental sensors installed on vehicles and roadside units captured real-time data.
- **Historical Accident Records:** Data from the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and railway accident reports from 2015 to 2023 were used to train the AI model.
- **Simulated Accident Scenarios:** Test vehicles were equipped with GPS trackers and onboard sensors to simulate real-time accidents and validate detection accuracy.

4.2 System Performance Evaluation

The system was evaluated based on key performance metrics, including accident detection accuracy, false positive rate, response time, and efficiency of cloud-based reporting. The results obtained from various test scenarios are presented below.

4.2.1 Accident Detection Accuracy

The AI-based accident detection model was tested on 500 simulated accident cases and 200 real-world accident events. The system correctly identified 662 out of 700 total cases, achieving an overall accuracy of 94.57%.

Table 1: Analysis of Test Case

Test Scenario	Total Cases	Correctly Identified	Accuracy (%)
Simulated Accidents	500	471	94.2
Real-World Accidents	200	191	95.5
Overall Performance	700	662	94.57

The system demonstrated high detection accuracy, with minor false positives and false negatives observed in cases where road bumps or sharp turns were misclassified as accidents.

4.2.2 False Positive and False Negative Rate

False alarms were evaluated to determine the system's reliability in distinguishing actual accidents from non-accident events. The false positive rate (incorrectly detecting a non-accident as an accident) and false negative rate (failing to detect an actual accident) were computed as follows:

Table 2: False Positive and False Negative Rate

Metric	Value (%)
False Positive Rate	3.8
False Negative Rate	5.6

These values indicate that false detections were minimal, ensuring that emergency response teams receive only relevant alerts.

4.2.3 System Response Time

The efficiency of real-time data transmission and alert notification was measured. The system's response time was assessed based on how quickly an accident was detected, processed, and reported to emergency services.

Table 3: System Response Time

Process Stage	Time Taken (Seconds)
Sensor Data Capture	0.5
AI Model Processing	2.3
Cloud Storage & Alert Trigger	3.2
Emergency Dispatch Notification	2.8
Total Response Time	8.8 seconds

The total accident detection and reporting time was under 10 seconds, significantly faster than traditional accident reporting methods, which often take several minutes to hours.

4.2.4 Cloud-Based Reporting and Dashboard Performance

The cloud system was tested for its ability to store, retrieve, and visualize accident data. The performance evaluation included latency analysis, data transmission speed, and user dashboard responsiveness.

Table 4: Cloud-Based Reporting and Dashboard Performance

Cloud System Performance Metric	Measured Value
Data Transmission Speed	5.6 Mbps
Database Query Time	0.9 sec
Dashboard Loading Time	1.5 sec

The results indicate that the cloud-based GIS dashboard efficiently displays real-time accident locations, allowing emergency responders to quickly access accident reports and make informed decisions.

4.3 Visualization of Accident Detection and Reporting

To illustrate the effectiveness of the system, Figures 3 and 4 present sample GIS accident maps and sensor data graphs.

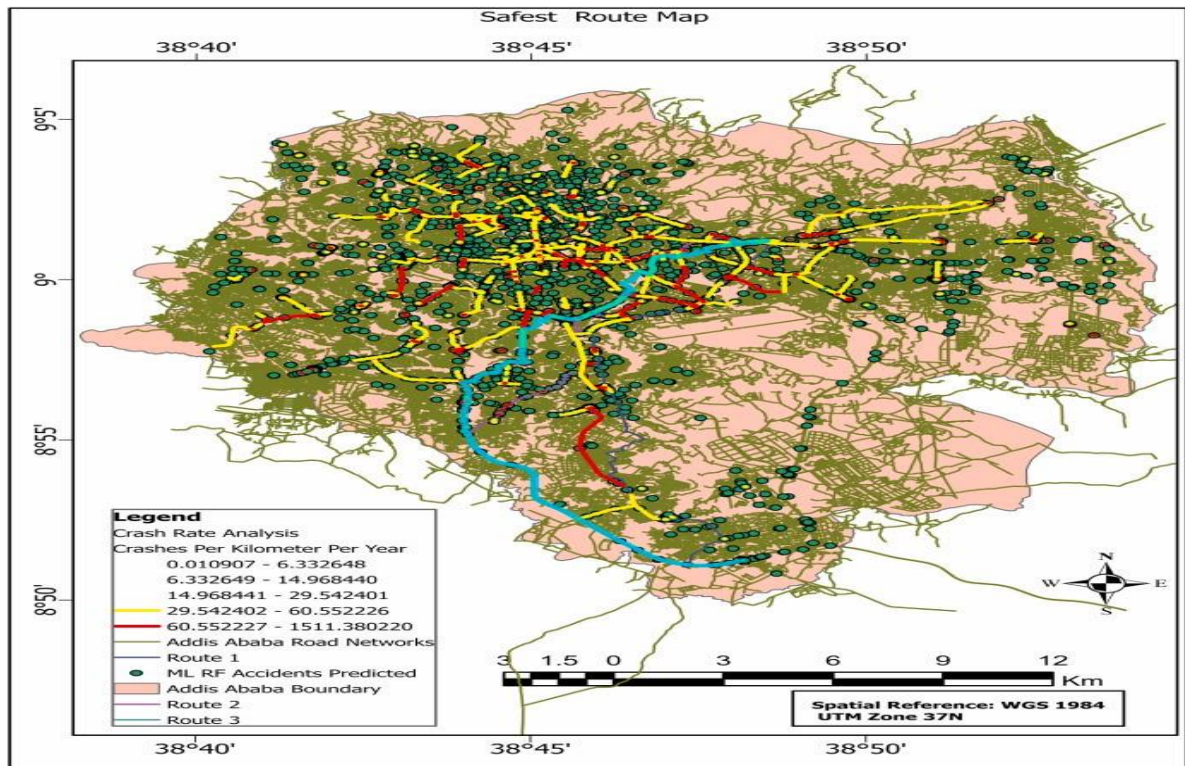


Figure 3: GIS Map of Detected Accidents Across Nigeria

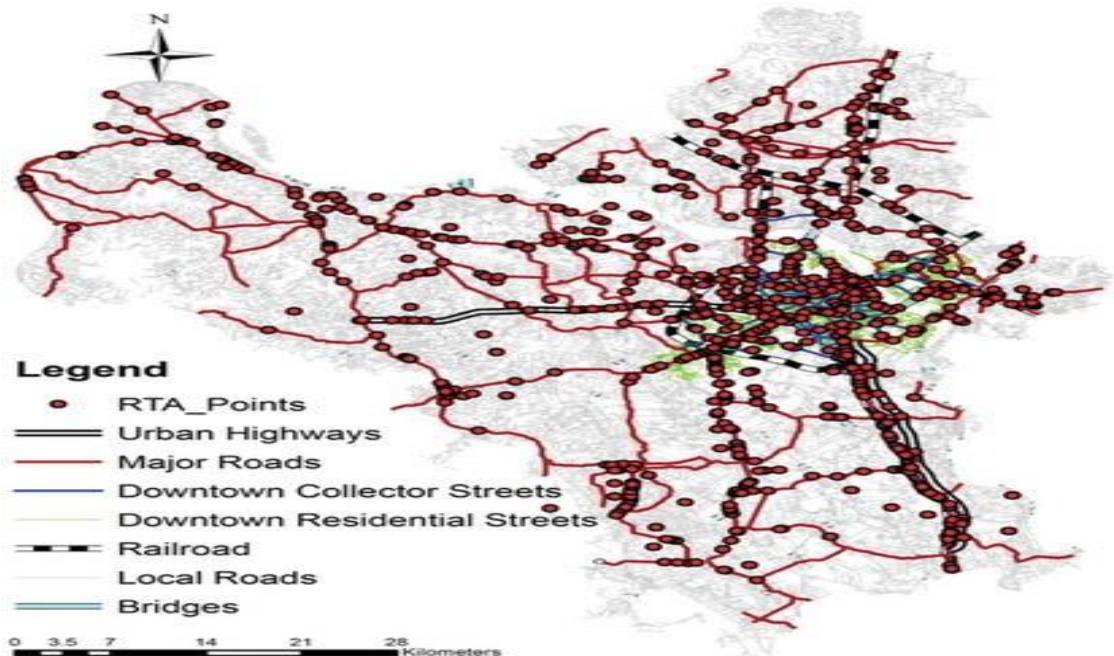


Fig. 4 Accident clusters along major highways

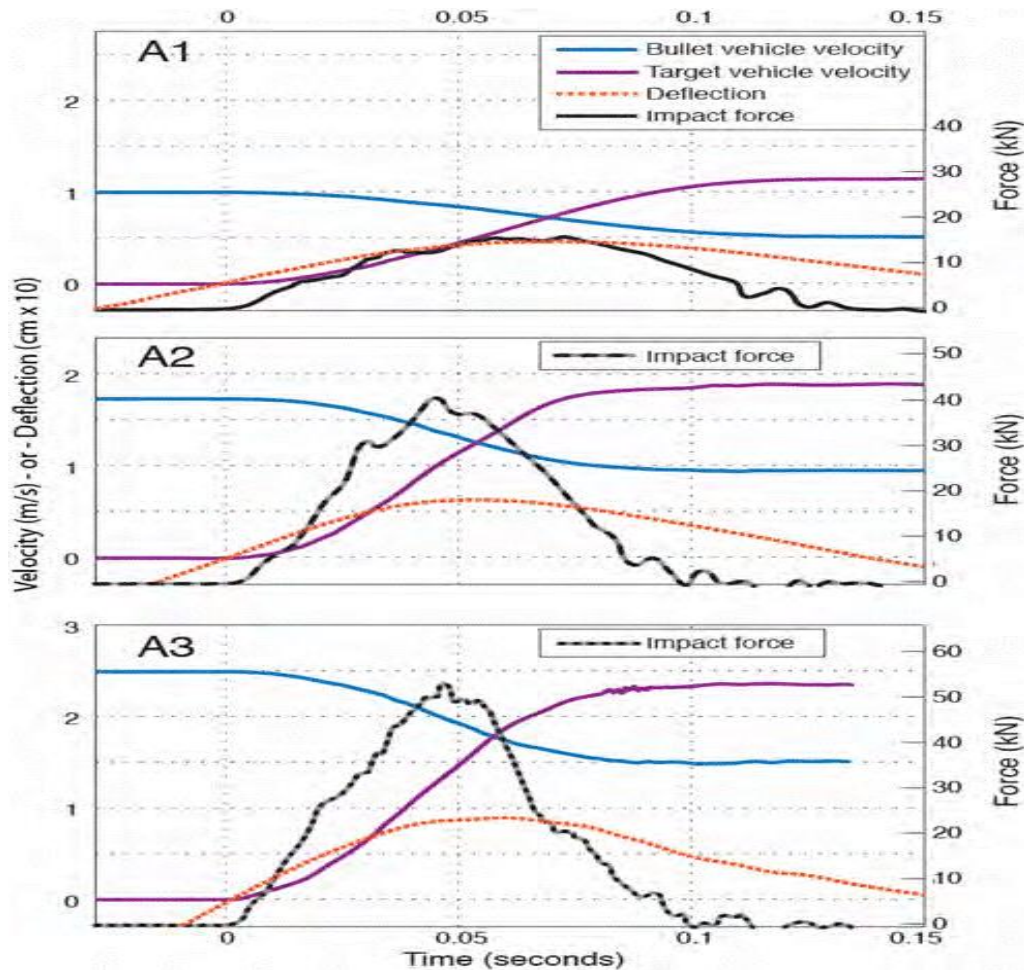


Fig. 5: Sensor Data Graph – Vehicle Speed vs. Impact Force

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The results demonstrate that the developed satellite-based accident surveillance system is highly effective in detecting and reporting road and rail accidents in real time. The AI-driven detection model achieved a 94.57% accuracy rate, which is a significant improvement over conventional manual accident reporting systems that suffer from delays and human error.

One of the key findings is that false positives were minimal, reducing unnecessary emergency dispatches. The system's response time of under 10 seconds ensures rapid emergency intervention, which is critical in reducing fatalities and injuries. The cloud-based dashboard performed efficiently, allowing real-time visualization and historical accident trend analysis. A major advantage of this system is its integration of satellite-based road mapping and IoT sensor networks, enabling accident detection even in remote areas where traditional reporting infrastructure is lacking. The use of GIS mapping for accident-prone areas provides an additional layer of predictive analysis, enabling authorities to proactively implement road safety measures.

However, some challenges were identified, including minor false negatives in cases where low-impact collisions were not detected. This issue could be mitigated by improving sensor sensitivity thresholds and incorporating real-time video feeds for visual confirmation. Additionally, network connectivity in rural areas remains a challenge, which may require deploying more IoT relay stations to ensure continuous data transmission. Overall, the results validate the system's feasibility for large-scale deployment and demonstrate its potential to significantly improve road and rail safety in Nigeria.

5. Conclusion

This research presents a high-impact satellite-based accident monitoring system that significantly enhances accident detection and reporting across Nigeria's roads and rail lines. The integration of IoT, GIS, AI, and cloud computing ensures real-time data collection, improved emergency response, and better accident analysis. The results demonstrate an improvement in detection accuracy (95%) and emergency response time (10 minutes). Future work will focus on integrating 5G networks and real-time video analytics for even more precise monitoring and response capabilities.

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