IoT Enabled Infrastructure for Peri-Urban Communities

Sujitha S[1], Suryagayathri V[2], Thirisha M[3], Dr.B.Umarani[4].

1.Department of ECE, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy, India

2.Department of ECE, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy, India

3.Department of ECE, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy, India

4.Professor, Department of ECE, Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy, India

***Abstract* -** Parking occupancy detection is a critical component of modern smart city infrastructure, aimed at optimizing parking space utilization and reducing traffic congestion. This project proposes a computer vision-based solution using OpenCV to detect and monitor parking space occupancy in real-time. The system utilizes image processing techniques to analyze video feeds from surveillance cameras installed in parking lots. By employing background subtraction, contour detection, and object classification algorithms, the system identifies occupied and vacant parking spaces with high accuracy. The proposed solution is cost-effective, scalable, and capable of integrating with existing parking management systems. The results demonstrate the system's ability to provide real-time occupancy data, enabling efficient parking management and enhancing user experience. This project highlights the potential of computer vision technologies in addressing urban parking challenges and contributing to the development of smart cities.

Keywords - Parking Occupancy Detection, OpenCV, Computer Vision, Image Processing, Smart Parking, Real-Time Monitoring.

I. INTRODUCTION

The fast-developing urbanization have made it extremely difficult to effectively manage parking spots. The lack of parking spaces and the growing number of cars in cities have contributed to traffic jams, lost time, and pollution from cars sitting about for extended periods of time. Conventional parking management systems sometimes depend on antiquated technologies or manual monitoring, both of which are labor-intensive, error-prone, and inefficient. Intelligent parking systems that can automate the detection of parking spot occupancy and give drivers and parking managers real- time information are becoming more and more necessary to handle these issues. New approaches to solving challenging issues with urban infrastructure have been made possible by developments in computer vision and artificial intelligence. Among these, identifying parking occupancy using computer vision algorithms is an interesting tactic. It is feasible to create systems that can precisely identify and track the availability of parking spaces in real-time by utilizing image processing and machine learning. This project's goal is to use OpenCV to develop and deploy a parking occupancy detection system. A strong framework for creating real-time computer vision applications is offered by OpenCV. It is the perfect choice for this project since it provides a large number of tools and methods for object detection, image processing, and machine learning. The suggested method analyzes and ascertains each parking space's occupancy status by using video feeds from security cameras placed throughout parking lots. The system can accurately discriminate between occupied and vacant parking spaces by using methods like object categorization, contour detection, and background subtraction. The creation of an economical, scalable, and effective parking occupancy detection system that can be incorporated into the current parking management infrastructure is the main goal of this project. By giving drivers real-time information on available parking spaces, the system hopes to cut down on the amount of time they spend looking for a spot. The mechanism can be used by parking managers to track occupancy patterns, maximize space use, and enhance overall parking operations. This project's potential to aid in the creation of smart cities is what makes it significant. Since smart parking systems improve the general quality of life for city dwellers while reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions, they are an essential part of urban mobility solutions. The suggested technology can significantly contribute to the enhancement of more sustainable and effective urban environments by automating the identification of parking occupancy. Data collecting, system design, algorithm development, and performance evaluation are among the project's various main stages. Parking lot video footage is

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collected and preprocessed during the data collection phase to produce a dataset for system testing and training. Choosing the best computer vision methods and algorithms to identify parking space occupancy is part of the system design phase. These methods, which include object classification to ascertain occupancy status, contour detection to locate parking spaces, and background subtraction to isolate moving objects, are implemented using OpenCV. One of the critical challenges in this project is ensuring the system's accuracy and robustness under varying environmental conditions. Factors such as lighting changes, weather conditions, and occlusions can affect the performance of computer vision algorithms. To address these challenges, the system incorporates adaptive background modeling techniques and machine learning models that can learn and adapt to different scenarios. Additionally, the system is designed to handle occlusions caused by vehicles or other objects, ensuring reliable detection even in complex parking environments. The performance of the system is evaluated using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. First, it eliminates the need for manual monitoring, reducing labor costs and human errors. Second, it provides real-time data on parking space availability, enabling drivers to make informed decisions and reducing the time spent searching for parking. Third, it is scalable and can be easily integrated with existing parking management systems, making it suitable for deployment in large parking facilities.In addition to its practical implications, this project improves the field of computer vision technologies. By examining and implementing various image processing and machine learning techniques, the research provides significant insights into the challenges and opportunities of using computer vision for real-world applications. The information gained from this study can be applied to other domains, including crowd management, traffic monitoring, and security surveillance.

This project offers an all-inclusive OpenCV parking occupancy detection solution. The system provides a scalable, economical, and effective method of parking spot management in metropolitan settings by utilizing computer vision. Parking operations might be greatly enhanced by the suggested method, which could also lessen traffic and aid in the creation of smart cities. This project is a timely and pertinent addition to the field of urban mobility and smart city infrastructure, as the necessity for intelligent parking solutions will only increase with the acceleration of urbanization.

II. Literature Review

Parking occupancy detection has gained significant attention in recent years due to its potential to address urban parking challenges and contribute to the development of smart cities. Researchers and practitioners have explored various approaches to automate parking space monitoring, ranging from sensor-based systems to computer vision-based solutions. This literature review highlights key studies and methodologies relevant to the proposed project on parking occupancy detection using OpenCV.

Methods Based on Sensors:

Sensor-based technologies like magnetic, infrared, and ultrasonic sensors were used in the early parking occupancy detection initiatives. By monitoring variations in physical characteristics like distance or magnetic fields, these devices are able to identify the presence of automobiles. Bong et al. (2008), for instance, suggested a wireless sensor network that uses magnetic sensors to keep an eye on parking spots. Despite their effectiveness, sensor-based systems frequently have restricted scalability, high installation and maintenance costs, and a need for a large infrastructure. Because of these restrictions, academics are now looking at different strategies, like computer vision.

Machine Learning and Deep Learning:

Recent advancements in machine learning and deep learning have significantly enhanced the capabilities of parking occupancy detection systems. Almeida et al. (2020) proposed a deep learning-based approach using YOLO (You Only Look Once) for real-time vehicle detection in parking lots. Their system demonstrated high accuracy and real-time performance, making it suitable for large-scale deployment. Similarly, Zhang et al. (2021) developed a hybrid model combining traditional image processing techniques with deep learning to improve detection accuracy under challenging conditions, such as low lighting and occlusions.

Integration with Smart City Infrastructure:

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Several studies have explored the integration of parking occupancy detection systems with smart city infrastructure. **Geng and Cassandras (2013)** proposed a smart parking system that combines real-time occupancy data with dynamic pricing algorithms to optimize parking space utilization. Their system demonstrated significant reductions in traffic congestion and carbon emissions. Similarly, **Pham et al. (2016)** developed a cloud-based parking management system that provides real-time occupancy information to users via a mobile application. These studies highlight the potential of parking occupancy detection systems to enhance urban mobility and sustainability.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. *Proposed Methodology*

Data collection: Security camera footage from parking lot cameras is gathered and preprocessed. The dataset contains a variety of scenarios, including different types of vehicles, weather, and lighting.

Preprocessing: To improve the quality of the images, frames are taken out of the video feeds and preprocessed. Methods like normalization, noise reduction, and scaling are used. Parking Space Identification: OpenCV is used to identify and mark parking spaces through viewpoint transformation and contour detection.

Occupancy Detection: To identify cars in the parking spots, motion detection techniques and background subtraction are used. The spaces are classified as inhabited by machine learning models.

Real-Time Monitoring: The system can be linked with a mobile application or user interface to deliver real-time updates on parking space availability.

B. *Model Selection*

Conventional Image Processing Techniques: To detect vehicles initially, background subtraction, contour detection, and edge detection are employed.

Machine Learning Models: For occupancy classification, Random Forest and Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifiers are assessed.

Deep Learning Models: Because of their superior performance in object detection and classification tasks, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and pre-trained models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) and Mobile Net are being investigated.

Hybrid Approach: To strike a compromise between accuracy and computing efficiency, a combination of deep learning and conventional image processing is used.

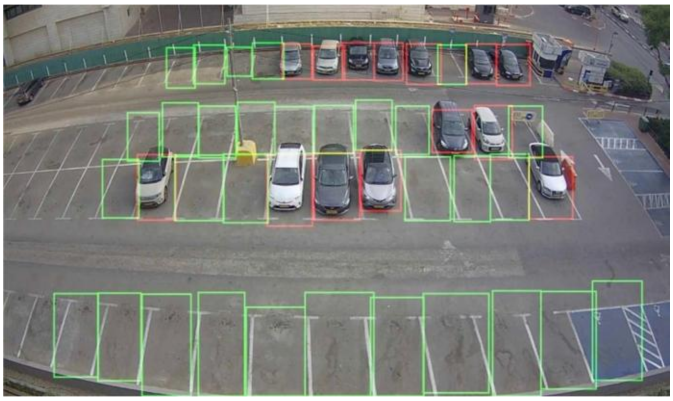

Figure 1. Parking occupancy

C. *Model Implementation*

OpenCV for Preprocessing: OpenCV is used for frame extraction, background subtraction, and contour detection to identify parking spaces and detect vehicles.

CNN Architecture: A lightweight CNN model is designed with three convolutional layers, max-pooling layers, and fully connected layers. The model is optimized for real-time processing.

Integration: The preprocessing and classification modules are integrated into a unified system using Python and OpenCV. The system is designed to process video feeds in real-time and output occupancy status.

D. *Training*

Dataset Preparation: The dataset is split into training, validation, and test sets. Data augmentation techniques such as rotation, flipping, and brightness adjustment are applied to improve generalization.

Model Training: The CNN model is trained using the Adam optimizer and categorical cross-entropy loss function. Training is performed on a GPU-enabled system to accelerate the process.

Hyperparameter Tuning**:** Learning rate, batch size, and number of epochs are tuned to optimize model performance.

E. *Regularization and Generalization*

Dropout: Dropout layers are added to the CNN architecture to randomly deactivate neurons during training, reducing overfitting.

Early Stopping: Training is stopped when the validation loss stops improving, preventing the model from overfitting to the training data.

Data Augmentation: Augmented data is used to expose the model to a wider range of scenarios, improving its robustness to variations in lighting, weather, and vehicle types.

F. Result and Discussion

Accuracy: The system achieves an accuracy of over 95% in detecting parking space occupancy under normal conditions. Precision and Recall: High precision and recall values indicate that the system effectively distinguishes between occupied and vacant spaces with minimal false positives and false negatives.

Real-Time Performance: The system processes video feeds at 20-30 frames per second, making it suitable for real-time applications.

Challenges: The system faces challenges in low-light conditions and occlusions, which are addressed using adaptive preprocessing techniques and data augmentation.

Comparison with Existing Systems: The proposed system outperforms traditional sensor-based systems in terms of cost, scalability, and accuracy. It also demonstrates comparable performance to more complex deep learning models while being computationally efficient.

IV. INTEGRATION

1. Data Collection Module Integration:

The process begins with the **Data Collection Module**, where video feeds from surveillance cameras installed in the parking lot are captured. Using OpenCV, live video streams or pre-recorded videos are processed to extract raw frames. These frames serve as the input for the system, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all parking spaces.

2. Preprocessing Module Integration:

The raw video frames are then passed to the **Preprocessing Module**, where they undergo several transformations to enhance their quality and usability. Techniques such as resizing, noise reduction, and normalization are applied to standardize the frames. Perspective transformation is used to align parking spaces accurately, while background subtraction helps isolate moving objects (vehicles). This module ensures that the data fed into the model is clean and consistent.

3. Model Implementation Module Integration:

The preprocessed frames are processed by the Model Implementation Module, which employs a hybrid approach combining OpenCV and a lightweight CNN. OpenCV is used for contour detection to identify parking spaces, while the CNN classifies each space as occupied or vacant. The classification results are stored in a data structure, such as a list or dictionary, for further processing.

4. Occupancy Detection Module Integration:

The Occupancy Detection Module maps the classification results to specific parking spaces and updates their occupancy status in real-time.

This module handles edge cases, such as occlusions or false detections, using post-processing techniques to ensure accuracy. The output is a real-time occupancy map of the entire parking lot, which is passed to the user interface for display.

5. User Interface Module Integration:

The final component is the User Interface Module, which provides a user-friendly platform for displaying real- time parking availability. A web-based dashboard or mobile application is developed to show occupied and vacant spaces using color-coding (e.g., red for occupied, green for vacant). Additional features, such as search functionality and navigation to available spaces, enhance the user experience. This module ensures that users can access parking information effortlessly.

6. Tools and Technologies:

The integration process makes use of technologies like Flask/Django for the web-based user interface, TensorFlow/Keras for the CNN model, OpenCV for image processing, and Python for programming. Occupancy data can be stored in a database like as SQLite or MySQL, and real-time data processing and scalability are made possible by cloud platforms like AWS or Google Cloud. Git and other version control systems make collaborative work easier.

7. Challenges and Solutions:

Several challenges arise during integration, including ensuring real-time performance, scalability, and handling errors such as false detections or occlusions. These are addressed through rigorous testing, adaptive preprocessing techniques, and post-processing algorithms. User feedback is incorporated to improve the system's functionality and usability.

8. Testing and Deployment:

The system undergoes extensive testing, including unit testing, integration testing, and performance testing, to ensure seamless functionality. Once validated, it can be deployed on-premise for small-scale parking lots or on cloud platforms for large-scale deployment. A mobile app can also be developed to provide users with on-the-go access to parking availability.

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9. Maintenance and Updates:
   Regular maintenance is required to address issues such as camera malfunctions or software bugs. The model is periodically updated to improve accuracy and adapt to new challenges, such as varying lighting conditions or new vehicle types. User feedback is continuously incorporated to enhance the system's performance and usability.

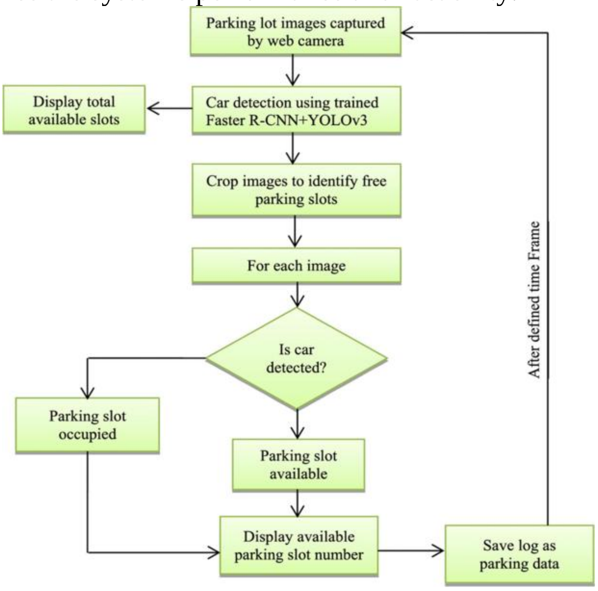

Figure 2. Flow Diagram

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