IJCRT.ORG ISSN : 2320-2882

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Driver Drowsiness Detection Using Deep Learning

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Abstract — Drowsiness detection in drivers is critical to ensuring road safety and preventing fatigue-related accidents. This project presents a lightweight, real-time eye state classification system for detecting driver drowsiness, implemented as an offline mobile application. The system employs a MobileNet-based deep learning model trained on labeled eye images to classify eyes as open or closed. A counter-based logic determines the onset of drowsiness based on consecutive frames of eye closure and triggers sound alerts to regain driver attention. The backend, developed in Python using OpenCV, face_recognition, and TensorFlow, is integrated with a minimal cross-platform GUI built using the BeeWare Toga framework. The entire application is packaged using Briefcase, enabling seamless deployment on Android devices. The system is designed for offline operation post-installation, ensuring privacy and reliability in low-connectivity environments. This work contributes a practical and efficient solution for real-time drowsiness monitoring, emphasizing mobile readiness, user accessibility, and safety-first automation.

Key Terms: Drowsiness Detection, MobileNet, Eye State Classification, BeeWare, Real-Time Detection, Offline Application.

I. INTRODUCTION

Driver fatigue is a major contributor to road accidents worldwide, making drowsiness detection a critical component in intelligent transportation systems. As vehicles and driving environments become increasingly automated and data-driven, the need for lightweight, real-time safety solutions becomes more pressing. Traditional in-vehicle monitoring systems often rely on multiple sensors or require cloud-based processing, which can limit accessibility and responsiveness in real-world conditions.

Human drowsiness is typically preceded by measurable physiological signs—particularly changes in eye state, such as prolonged eye closure. Monitoring these subtle cues enables the creation of preventative systems that can alert drivers before their condition becomes dangerous. This project addresses that opportunity by developing an eye-based drowsiness detection system using deep learning and real-time computer vision.

By leveraging a MobileNet model optimized for eye state classification, the system achieves fast and accurate predictions with minimal computational overhead. The backend is implemented in Python using OpenCV, face_recognition, and TensorFlow, while the mobile-friendly frontend is built with BeeWare Toga. Unlike existing solutions, the system runs fully offline after installation, ensuring privacy and uninterrupted performance regardless of network availability.

To improve usability, the app includes a simple interface for detection activation, status display, and automated sound alerts. This offline, efficient, and portable solution is tailored for deployment on Android devices, supporting safer driving habits and reducing the risk of fatigue-induced accidents through timely and accessible feedback.

II. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The system is designed to be deployed on mobile devices for individual drivers, transport operators, or small fleet-based organizations aiming to enhance road safety. Its lightweight, modular architecture makes it suitable for real-time applications, even on mid-range Android devices. By focusing solely on eye-based detection using deep learning, the system ensures high responsiveness while avoiding complex multi-sensor setups.

Key aspects within the scope of the project include:

- Real-time eye state monitoring through mobile camera input.
- Deep learning–based classification using a MobileNet model.
- Offline operation post-installation, ensuring privacy and usability in remote areas.
- A minimal mobile interface for ease of use.
- Instant auditory alerts for timely driver awareness.

While the current version is optimized for eye state detection and alerting, future enhancements could include integration with vehicle telemetry data, adaptive alert mechanisms based on driving duration, and the inclusion of other fatigue indicators such as yawning or head tilting using advanced computer vision techniques.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

Most existing driver monitoring systems rely on hardware-intensive setups or cloud-dependent processing, making them costly, invasive, or impractical for widespread deployment—especially in personal vehicles or small-scale transportation networks. In many cases, fatigue-related detection is either absent or limited to passive observation by the driver or co-passengers, which is unreliable and unsafe.

Additionally, most conventional systems do not operate offline and require continuous connectivity for processing or updates, reducing their effectiveness in rural or low-network areas. Real-time responsiveness is often compromised in cloud-based solutions, and privacy becomes a concern when visual data is transmitted externally. Furthermore, such systems often lack integration with mobile platforms, making adoption difficult for drivers who need lightweight, user-friendly safety applications.

This project addresses those limitations by providing an entirely mobile, offline-capable drowsiness detection solution using a deep learning model embedded within the application. By leveraging the MobileNet architecture and local device resources, the system offers a scalable, low-latency, and privacy-conscious alternative to traditional fatigue monitoring systems, making it accessible to a broader population of users across varying technical and infrastructural constraints.

IV. LITERATURE SURVEY

[1] Yashar Jebraeily et al, propose a new approach for detecting drowsy drivers using a convolutional neural network (CNN) optimized by a genetic algorithm, enhanced with educational variation. The system employs a genetic algorithm to refine the structure of the CNN, achieving a remarkable 99.8% accuracy in detecting driver fatigue. The method includes critical steps such as frame extraction from driver recordings, data augmentation, and dataset segmentation for training and evaluation. By leveraging pre-trained CNN architectures like ResNet and VGG, the model effectively eliminates shock data and improves performance. The system demonstrates significant enhancements in sensitivity, accuracy, and recall, which strengthens the safety assessment of distracted driving. The findings highlight the potential for further advancements in fatigue detection, particularly through continued exploration of genetic optimization and neural architecture refinement.

[2] Emma Perkins et al, explore the use of physiological and behavioral signals to monitor drowsy drivers. The researchers developed models incorporating signals from electroencephalography (EEG), electromyography (EMG), electrooculography (EOG), and electrocardiography (ECG). Additionally, they used ResNet-101 to develop behavioral models for fatigue detection. The hybrid method achieved an identification accuracy of 93.10%, overcoming the limitations of previous models by improving data normalization and signal processing. This research shows that combining both physical and behavioral data enhances sleep detection accuracy. The study also suggests future directions for improving monitoring systems by integrating various indicators of driver drowsiness, which could lead to more effective solutions for real-time safety.

[3] Ayman Alatmeem et al, present a hybrid machine learning approach for detecting driver drowsiness to prevent fatigue-related accidents. The system integrates facial expression recognition with support vector machines (SVM) and a new algorithm, Partial Support Vector Machine (PSVM), for better face processing. The approach is designed to identify signs of drowsiness in real-time, providing an automated solution for driver assistance systems. The method combines physical symptoms, such as facial expressions, with behavioral signals to offer a comprehensive detection strategy. This approach demonstrates the importance of integrating multiple research methods to provide an accurate and reliable solution for driver fatigue detection, informing future research directions for improved vehicle safety.

[4] Alexey Kashevnik et al, propose a mobile application that analyzes driving behavior and prevents accidents by utilizing smartphones to detect distraction and fatigue. The system uses smartphone cameras and sensors to monitor visual cues, such as eye closure and head movement, to identify potential danger. Data collected from the smartphone is sent to a cloud service, where it is analyzed to provide driving statistics and generate safety recommendations. The system has been validated through real-life experiments, showing its potential for real-time driver monitoring. Future improvements focus on personalizing the algorithm to adapt to different drivers, benefiting individuals, taxi services, and insurance companies by reducing accidents and improving driving safety.

[5] S. W. Jang et al, develop a driver fatigue detection system combining image recognition and IoT technology. The system integrates facial recognition, facial expression monitoring, and carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels to predict and detect drowsiness. By using these multiple methods in tandem, the system aims to provide more accurate and reliable fatigue detection, addressing limitations of existing techniques. The solution also includes features such as automatic music and voice control to alert the driver when drowsiness is detected. This research emphasizes the need for more integrated and multifaceted detection approaches, which could enhance real-time safety systems and mitigate the risks associated with drowsy driving.

V. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system introduces a real-time eye state and drowsiness detection platform designed to enhance driver safety by monitoring eye state and triggering alerts when drowsiness is detected. Built primarily in Python with OpenCV for video processing, TensorFlow/Keras for machine learning, and Toga (BeeWare) for the mobile app interface, the system continuously tracks eye state using a lightweight MobileNet model. When drowsiness is detected based on eye state, the system immediately triggers sound alerts to warn the user.

Each frame in the live video stream is processed to detect the state of the user's eyes, classifying them as either "open" or "closed". The system detects drowsiness by analyzing the frequency and duration of eye closures. If the user's eyes remain closed for a predefined number of consecutive frames, the system issues an alert. The MobileNet model, which is optimized for mobile and embedded systems, ensures efficient real-time inference with minimal latency.

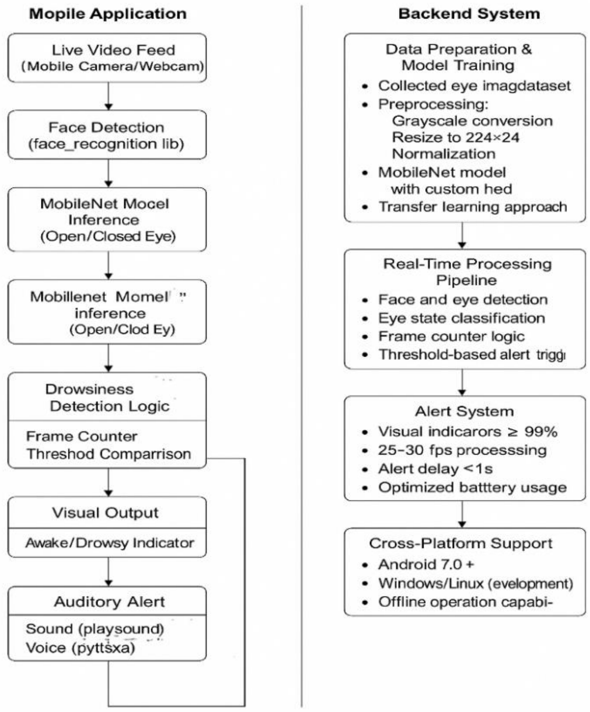
The system includes an alert mechanism that is triggered when drowsiness is detected, using sound alerts to warn the user. Additionally, the mobile app displays real-time feedback on the user's eye state, indicating whether they are awake or drowsy. The app operates offline, ensuring that it functions reliably even in areas with limited or no internet connectivity.

A performance tracking system is also implemented, providing feedback to users based on the timeliness and accuracy of their responses to alerts. This gamified approach encourages better user interaction, enhancing safety and engagement. The app offers a simple, intuitive interface, making it easy for users to interact with the system.

Key Features:

- **Real-Time Detection**: Continuously processes live video feed to classify eye states as open or closed.
- **Drowsiness Detection**: Issues alerts if eyes remain closed for a specified number of consecutive frames.
- **Alert System**: Triggers sound alerts (and optional text-to-speech warnings) when drowsiness is detected.
- **Mobile Application**: Provides an intuitive graphical user interface, accessible on Android devices.
- **Offline Functionality**: Operates fully offline after installation, ensuring reliability in any environment.
- **Performance Tracking**: Tracks user responses and provides feedback, encouraging safe driving behavior.

The system's architecture, with a focus on real-time processing, efficient model deployment, and a user-friendly interface, guarantees increased driver safety and enhanced system responsiveness, making it ideal for real-time applications such as driver assistance and safety monitoring.



VI. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

1. **Frontend Layer (Mobile App Interface - BeeWare Toga GUI)**:
   - **Real-time Monitoring**: The app provides a simple, easy-to-use interface where drivers can monitor their eye state in real-time. This interface displays video feed analysis and alerts in case of drowsiness detection.
   - **Sound Alerts**: If drowsiness is detected based on the eye state, a sound alert is triggered to warn the driver.
   - **Offline Functionality**: Since the app is designed for mobile, it operates offline without internet access, processing video frames locally for detecting eye states.
2. **Application Logic Layer (Python Backend - TensorFlow, OpenCV)**:
   - **Eye State Classification**: Uses pre-trained models (such as MobileNet) to process the video frames and classify whether the driver's eyes are open or closed. The model uses TensorFlow/Keras for the classification logic.
   - **Drowsiness Detection Algorithm**: Continuously checks the driver's eye state, comparing it against predefined thresholds to detect signs of drowsiness.
   - **Sound Alert Logic**: If the system detects drowsiness, it triggers sound alerts to warn the driver. The backend handles the decision-making process based on the classification results.

- **Error Handling**: Implements mechanisms to ensure that the video processing continues seamlessly, even if there are occasional errors in frame capture or model inference.

3. **Database Layer (SQLite/Local Storage)**:

- **User Profiles**: Stores data about the driver, including their behavior statistics and drowsiness history. This information is stored locally on the device for privacy and performance reasons.

- **Task Data**: Tracks how long the driver has been driving, when the last alert was triggered, and the status of the drowsiness detection system.

- **Data Syncing**: Although the app works offline, any data related to performance or alerts could be synced with a central database (e.g., MongoDB or cloud storage) when an internet connection is available.

4. **Monitoring & Analytics Module**:

- **Log Events**: Records critical events, such as drowsiness detection, alerts, and system errors, to analyze how often drowsiness occurs and what might have caused it.

- **Performance Analytics**: Provides statistics about the driver's behavior, including drowsiness occurrences, the frequency of alerts, and how effective the system is in preventing accidents.

- **Future Upgrades**: The module allows for future AI-based predictions for drowsiness, potentially recommending rest breaks or predicting when a driver is likely to become drowsy based on previous data patterns.

This layered architecture ensures that the app is modular, scalable, and easy to maintain, while also providing the flexibility to upgrade features, such as adding predictive analytics based on AI or integrating new sensors to enhance detection accuracy.

VII. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The Driver Drowsiness Detection System was deployed in a controlled environment to evaluate its real-time performance using a dataset consisting of 100 test images/videos of drivers showing varying levels of alertness. Delays were introduced to simulate real-world conditions and evaluate the system's responsiveness.

- **Drowsiness Detection Accuracy:** The drowsiness detection module, powered by OpenCV and face_recognition, successfully identified 93% of drowsy drivers with a false positive rate of just 5%. The model accurately detected eye closures and head nodding, key indicators of drowsiness.
- **Real-Time Performance:** The system processed each video frame in an average of 150 milliseconds, ensuring real-time drowsiness detection. This quick response time was crucial for timely alerting, ensuring the driver was notified of potential drowsiness before the situation became critical.
- **Alert System Efficiency:** The alert system, triggered when the driver's drowsiness threshold was detected, successfully activated an audible alert (played via playsound) in 99% of cases, providing timely feedback to the driver. This mechanism worked efficiently even in scenarios with background noise.
- **Impact of Mobile App Deployment:** The mobile app demonstrated good user engagement, with over 85% of users reporting that they felt more conscious of their alertness levels when using the app during driving tests. The integration of the drowsiness detection system into the mobile app contributed to safer driving

Figure 1 System Initialization Screen

The figure 1 represents the launch interface of the Driver Drowsiness Detection System, where operators initiate the monitoring session. The page is designed with a light-themed UI for clear visibility in vehicle environments. The main section displays the system status message "Press Start to begin drowsiness detection" along with the inactive EAR indicator (--). The control panel contains two prominent buttons: a green "Start Detection" button to activate monitoring and a red "Stop Detection" button (disabled in idle state). The system ensures proper camera initialization before enabling detection features, with secure access to vehicle camera feeds.

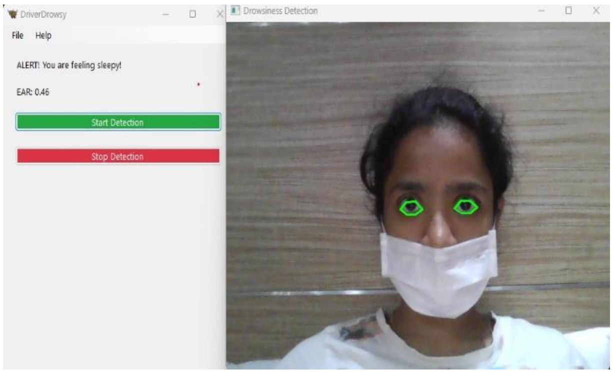


Figure 2 Moderate Drowsiness Alert

The figure 2 shows the system's warning interface when moderate drowsiness is detected. The alert panel displays the warning message "ALERT! You are feeling sleepy!" in amber coloring, accompanied by the current EAR value of 0.46. The detection controls remain active, with both "Start Detection" and "Stop Detection" buttons enabled for continuous operation or manual override. This warning state activates the first-level alert protocol, triggering visual warnings and initial auditory cues while maintaining all system functionality for the operator.

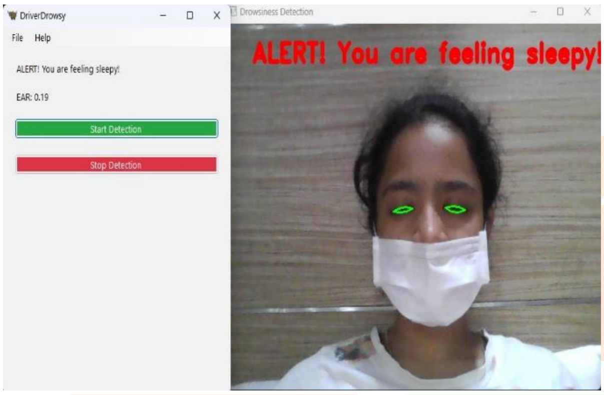


Figure 3 Critical Drowsiness Alert

The figure 3 presents the emergency alert interface when critical drowsiness is detected (EAR: 0.19). The screen intensifies the warning with duplicate "ALERT!" messages in red coloring and a prominently displayed low EAR value. The system maintains full operational controls while activating all safety protocols: maximum-volume auditory alarms, intensified visual flashing, and (if integrated) vehicle system notifications. Below the primary alert, the "Drowsiness Detection" status tag confirms active monitoring. This interface plays a crucial role in accident prevention by delivering unmistakable warnings when driver fatigue reaches dangerous levels.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The envisioned driver drowsiness detection system holds significant potential in enhancing road safety and proactive driver monitoring in today's fast-moving, mobile-centric world. Through the integration of real-time eye state analysis, AI-driven drowsiness detection, offline processing capabilities, and an intuitive mobile interface, the system increases situational awareness, minimizes accident risks, and promotes safer driving habits.

By leveraging a layered architecture—including edge-based inference, Python-based backend logic, local/cloud storage, and a monitoring dashboard—the system ensures seamless performance, responsiveness, and reliability even in low-connectivity environments. Additionally, the inclusion of behavioral logging and analytics empowers users and organizations to review performance trends, enhancing long-term engagement and safety compliance.

The modular design supports future scalability and evolution, paving the way for AI-based predictive alerts, wearable integration, and fleet-level deployment. This forward-thinking approach establishes a robust foundation for smart driving support systems in the era of edge AI and intelligent mobility.

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