

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Real-Time Road Accident Detection and Severity Assessment Using IoU and Deep Learning Models

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Abstract: Road accidents are a significant global issue, claiming lives and cash in hand every year. The system introduces an adaptive model-switching mechanism that selects the most suitable You Only Look Once (YOLO) model (v5, v8, or v11) based on system memory and weather visibility, ensuring optimal detection with minimal computational load—a feature rarely addressed in existing accident detection research. To alleviate this situation, this study envisages a near real-time accident detection and emergency response system, integrating computer vision and geospatial technologies. The developed system tracks vehicle movement and assesses collision by applying advanced object detection models such as YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv11 with dynamic tracking and speed estimation. The system computes spatial overlap using the Intersection over Union (IoU) metric to localize vehicles accurately and recognize potential accidents while minimizing false-positive rates dramatically. Geographic data from OpenStreetMap is used in emergency routing with the help of the Haversine formula to find the shortest and fastest route to the nearest emergency services, allowing rapid notifications to hospitals and enforcement agencies. The developed framework includes a severity analysis module that assesses the degree of accident impact based on vehicular deformation, collision dynamics, and possible injuries to passengers, thus enabling emergency response prioritization based on the incident's urgency. An additional provision is made to incorporate an automatic license plate recognition system that enhances vehicle identification, thereby speeding up the initiation of insurance claims and post-accident administrative processes. The framework has undergone rigorous field trials under varying environmental conditions and remains robust in its operation under such variations. Real-time alerts have an average latency of 2.1 s and cover a comprehensive report of the incident, including location, vehicle IDs, severity, and medical assistance required. The experimental evaluation proved the system's detection accuracy of 94.6% and precision of 92.8%, thus proving its reliability and effectiveness for implementation in real time.

Keywords: real-time accident detection, AI-based system, YOLOv5, YOLOv8, YOLOv11, Intersection over Union (IoU), vehicle identification

1. Introduction

Today's traffic management and emergency service frameworks are increasingly dependent on accident detection and response systems. The incorporation of cutting-edge technologies including deep learning, the Internet of Things (IoT), and machine learning into these systems has enhanced their ability to identify accidents more quickly and precisely resulting in more efficient emergency response measures. Traffic accidents continue to be a major cause of injuries and deaths around the world, prompting interest in intelligent systems that are capable of addressing these problems.

Deep learning is used in a current study to scan real time data from different sensors for accident detection using convolutional neural networks and related algorithms. Deep learning has been utilized for such risk detection and hazard management, for example, in predicting fire incidents on construction sites from input by sensors. By using a dataset relating to road traffic environments, these techniques can potentially be used for accident prediction and prevention [1]. Likewise, vehicular communication systems based on movement are employed to relay emergency messages, thus enhancing the effectiveness of the currently established accident detection systems [2].

Advancements in object detection models, particularly those based on the You Only Look Once (YOLO) framework, have significantly improved the identification of small objects and potential risks in complex surroundings. These models have been successfully applied to the localization of objects within remote sensing imagery and have been extended to real-time detection of obstacles and accident scenarios in road environments [3]. The use of YOLOv5 and Swin Transformer architectures has shown greater accuracy in identifying small objects under real-world conditions, which contributes to reducing reaction times and preventing secondary accidents [4]. Recent progress has also been made in multi-object tracking, where YOLOv8 integrated with improved DeepSORT has been applied to pedestrian tracking with high accuracy and robustness [5]. Such approaches demonstrate the capability of combining strong object detection backbones with advanced tracking algorithms, offering valuable insights for continuous monitoring of traffic participants

picture of traffic conditions, enabling faster detection and response when something goes wrong. For example, deep learning models like YOLO and its upgrades can identify objects accurately even in tricky environments, while IoT devices gather raw data from cars, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, and road sensors in a systematic way. When this data is combined through sensor fusion techniques, it provides a detailed snapshot of what is happening on the roads, so emergency services can be alerted immediately. Besides just spotting accidents faster, these technologies also help improve what happens afterward. For instance, including number plate recognition makes it easier to file insurance claims quickly without wasting time. Plus, adding weather data into the system ensures it still works well even in tough conditions like fog or heavy rain. Looking ahead, if these systems are further developed and integrated into broader smart city plans, we could see smoother traffic flow and fewer accidents, saving people from suffering and reducing costs. Overall, this tech movement points toward safer roads and a more connected, sustainable transportation future.

The important contributions and novelty of this paper are:

1) Adaptive multi-model accident detection

A context-aware framework capable of dynamically switching between YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv11 depending on environmental visibility, low-light conditions, and computational resources, thereby ensuring reliable performance under diverse operating scenarios.

2) Severity estimation using geometric deformation

A novel method that employs bounding box overlap and deformation ratios based on Intersection over Union (IoU) to quantify collision severity, enabling prioritization of emergency response according to impact intensity.

3) Integration with geospatial and emergency services

Real-time accident localization through Global Positioning System (GPS) and OpenStreetMap data combined with automated alert generation to nearby hospitals, police stations, and emergency responders, significantly reducing notification latency.

4) Automation of post-accident processes

Incorporation of license plate recognition for rapid vehicle identification, automated initiation of insurance claims, and provision for organ and blood donation procedures in critical cases, thereby extending impact beyond immediate detection.

5) Demonstrated robustness across environments

Comprehensive evaluation under adverse weather, low-light, and limited visibility conditions (including low light) confirming high detection accuracy, reduced false positives, and suitability for deployment within intelligent transportation systems.

Road accident detection remains a demanding research problem because existing approaches often rely on static deep learning frameworks that fail to adapt under diverse environmental conditions such as fog, heavy rain, or low illumination. These limitations lead to inconsistent performance and increased false detections in real-world deployments. Another unresolved challenge lies in severity estimation: most prior studies focus on accident occurrence but lack accurate quantification of impact intensity, which is essential for prioritizing emergency response. Moreover, current systems are generally confined to accident recognition alone, without incorporating automated integration with emergency routing, medical response, and insurance processing pipelines.

The motivation for this investigation stems from the need to establish an accident detection system that is both adaptive and context-aware. The proposed framework addresses the challenge of varying visibility and computational constraints by dynamically switching between different object detection models. In addition, it introduces a severity estimation strategy based on bounding box deformation and

IoU, enabling a more reliable differentiation between minor and severe collisions. By uniting detection, severity assessment, and real-time alert generation within a single architecture, the study attempts to bridge the gap between laboratory-level detection accuracy and large-scale practical deployment in intelligent transportation systems.

2. Literature Review

Advancements in object detection technology have significantly shaped the way we approach vehicle accident detection. A lot of research has gone into making these systems more accurate and quicker to respond—both super important for making them work better. One hot area right now is figuring out how to detect multiple objects in busy, complicated road scenes. Researchers are using deep learning tools like YOLO to get real-time detection down pat. Specifically, a big focus has been on helping models better spot small objects like cars and pedestrians especially in tricky conditions [7]. Some recent studies have even introduced new loss functions, like Corner-Point and Fore

Zhang et al. [13] presents an exploration into learning other metrics apart from IoU to advance bounding box regression to improve mean Average Precision (mAP) performance against classic non-maximum suppression. These advancements enhance real-time tracking accuracy while suppressing false alarms, thereby calling attention only to incidents that really demand attention. There is further advancement in underwater imaging and restoration research literature [14]. While these are not for vehicular accident detection, methods such as CycleGAN image restoration for this field can be leveraged for better accident detection in challenging lighting conditions. Such methods improve the noise-robustness of detection methods; they would be especially useful in adverse visibility situations like fog and rain. In sonar-based object detection, the work of Rathour [15] presents advanced sonar target recognition frameworks that adapt boundary frame loss for better target recognition. This framework will be beneficial particularly for real-time object detection in case of obscured road traffic environments, where objects may be partially hidden and occluded.

Emerging research areas have suggested using advanced models that include YOLOv8 and YOLOv11 for multi-view object detection enhancement [16, 17]. Increased efficiency has also been exhibited in identifying road blemishes and flexible randomness with conventional methods' shortcomings. The evolution of the YOLO framework shall continue generating improvements in the detection algorithm necessary to be incorporated in all fields, such as road safety and environmental awareness. In line with these advancements, other studies such as Shepley et al. [18] explore advanced tracking algorithms that will be composed of detection algorithms combined with multi-object tracking algorithms such as DeepSORT. Accident detection systems may be improved by enabling the tracking of several vehicles simultaneously. The work by Kim et al. [19] deals with lightweight recognition models meant to run in smart city infrastructure or in rural areas of limited computing resources.

Further, studies involving remote sensing and environmental monitoring, such as the work of Longin et al. [20], adopt methodologies that can also be translated into detection of vehicular accidents. These were more often than not used for environment-related applications like landslide detection. All these techniques rely heavily on image analysis similar to what is employed in accident detection under limited visibility conditions. Recent trends in traffic management include those in intelligent transport systems, which act towards better response times, as stated in the work of Balios et al. [21]. Such technology allows for improved access to area emergency vehicles while speeding up responses to accidents using AI-based preemptions and other automated means between signals. Other studies showed how traffic accidents relate to the amount of fatalities during accidents. Researchers analyzed prior crash records and field data to pinpoint reasons that would cause accidents and fatalities in the work of Rosayyan et al. [22]. These models are practical in accident detection systems that can work toward preemptive safety measures. Another approach to accident prevention per [23] is the identification of signs of driver fatigue and human error. It is possible to incorporate computer-vision-based systems within accident detection frameworks to increase their ability to detect and prevent accidents that result from human factors, such as drowsy driving.

The incorporation of machine learning into the topic area of secure IoT-based traffic management and accident detection is a continuing field of study within recent research [24, 25]. In addition to that, it holds promise for real-time communication, which subsequently fosters better informed decision-making and emergency response during traffic accidents. For instance, studies on emergency response systems [26] analyzed the efficiency of AI-powered medical imaging techniques in injury assessment post-accidents. Automated identification and segmentation of orbital fractures, as explored in the work of Kumar et al. [27], represent altogether enlightening material

for treating medical practitioners of road accident victims. Another, the work of Bao et al. [28], stresses that there is a need to analyze national emergency response times as it deals with practical concerns in accident response cooperation. Here, these findings come with answers on better application of technology in the detection of traffic accidents as well as emergencies. In providing such outputs, an exhaustive range of actualities about artificial intelligent applications in self-driving technology can be noted as well [29]. The costs of contributing to a smart road system can be measured about accident detection, driver notification, and dynamic alteration of traffic flow to prevent chain reactions. Real-time accident detection fused with autonomous vehicles will make roads safer increasingly.

At last, the real-time vehicle accident detection system using deep neural networks was a monumental discovery in AI-based road safety applications, as evidenced in Mohan et al. [30] as well as Gayathri and Gomathy [31]. Such decentralized models can detect accidents using motion data over time with a high degree of correctness, which opens the doors to many future innovations regarding accident detection and prevention systems [32, 33]. This literature review thus details the tremendous progress made in deep learning, object detection, multiple-object tracking, and intelligent transportation systems, all of which further fine-tune accident detection, thereby increasing accuracy, decreasing response times, and improving real-time situational awareness in dynamic traffic environments.

The new achievements in the remote-sensing implementation of multimodal features and segmentation models contained promising perspectives of the upstream of frames of accidents detection. Specifically, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) have been shown to have great potential when it comes to data fusion of multimodal data with the goal of enhancing the classification capabilities of the data source

as scalable architectures such as UrbanSAM, also offer the ability to give additional precision in the post-collision analysis without significant manual prompting. The combination of these methods, as discussed in Table 1, provides a sound basis to develop intelligent and context-aware accident detection systems which have the potential of responding to the situation in real-time and under a variety of operational conditions. The current paper follows these ideas and proposes an elastic design that can adapt to hardware limitations, environmental fluctuation, and numerous object interactions, all of which are contributing to safer and more responsive smart transportation environments.

3. Dataset

To increase and validate the efficacy of the accident detection system, the datasets must be visually heterogeneous and extensive. Common Objects in Context (COCO) is one of the leading datasets that encompass a fair share of variations of objects in highly complex contexts. As opposed to datasets focused on static targets, COCO provides a lot of object categories that work well when training object detection models for dynamic road environments as shown in Figure 1. As indicated before, COCO encompasses vehicle classes like cars, buses, and trucks, as well as pedestrians, and traffic signals—all are important for accident detection. Therefore, the COCO dataset firmly laid down the foundation for initializing the accident detection system to detect objects in traffic scenes. In addition, accident video datasets were incorporated in the real-time scene simulation of usual traffic patterns and accident occurrences. These videos were chosen based on weather conditions ranging from rain and fog to other conditions where visibility may be compromised, thus making evaluation of the detection system's robustness under such challenging scenarios possible (Table 1). One key benefit of using real accident footage is: for the system to be tested against the dynamic and ever-changing conditions, it can also further deductively evaluate its performance based on visual occlusions and temporal changes.

4. Methodology

The proposed system uses artificial intelligence to provide real-time accident detection and automated emergency response. It integrates within the architecture object detection models with environmental and situational analysis, all to improve the accuracy and efficiency in responding. The framework receives video streams, recognizes pre-collision events, estimates the severity of an accident, and immediately raises alarms to authorities and stakeholders. It is ensured that the usage of multitude deep learning models guarantees the adaptive selection based on the available computational resource and environmental

Figure 1
Displaying sample video frames captured from real-time accident



This flexibility enables the framework to function effectively in both city and highway environments. It equips the system to choose between different YOLO versions on the basis of its hardware and surrounding conditions, ensuring computational efficiency without sacrificing detection performance. This system will scale with future changes in smart city infrastructure and will form an integral part of the intelligent transport system, as well as enhanced road safety management, as shown in Figure 2.

1) Data collection and preprocessing

For the accident detection task, the dataset consists of real-life traffic videos, dash cam footage, and openly available accident datasets. Videos come from various sources, e.g., highway cameras, city intersections, and autonomous vehicle datasets. In terms of diversity, the dataset encompasses different lighting conditions, weather variations, and traffic densities. This pre-processing pipeline involves numerous steps aimed at improving data quality and making it suitable for deep learning models. First, at a predefined frame rate, video frame extraction is done, followed by resolution standardization to make all samples consistent. The image is filtered through Gaussian noise filters to further enhance clarity. Data augmentations like rotation, scaling, and changes in brightness are done so as to increase model robustness and limit overfitting. The annotation tools are used to correct object detection labels so that bounding boxes for vehicles and pedestrians are truly well placed. IoU measures are performed to check labelling consistency and improve object detection results. Also, normalization of features and scaling of pixel intensity are carried out to match the input format for deep learning model requirements. Hence this preprocessing pipeline guarantees that the dataset is well balanced, representative, and good enough to train accident detection models with high performance.

2) Dynamic model selection for real-time processing

The selection of an appropriate deep learning model for real-time accident detection depends on several factors, including hardware resources and environmental conditions. The proposed system employs a dynamic model selection approach to optimize performance under varying constraints. Three versions of YOLO (YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv11) are used, each tailored for specific scenarios based on resource availability and environmental conditions. This strategy not only ensures efficient utilization of computational resources but also maintains detection reliability across diverse operational scenarios.

3) Hardware resource-based selection

Selection of a right deep-learning model for real-time accident detection may depend on various hardware and environmental considerations. This system proposes a dynamic modelling approach to tune performance amid varying constraints. Three YOLO versions are available (YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv11), thereby providing different configurations for various situations, given the resources and environmental conditions. Primarily, model selection would depend

on the hardware random access memory (RAM), central processing unit (CPU), and graphics processing unit (GPU). The system should dynamically choose according to those constraints to allow efficient processing. In case of low-resource environments, with RAM and computational power at a premium, the YOLOv5n model is selected for lightweight architecture and even lower computational requirements, thus enabling fastest inference time. On the contrary, when high-performance systems with more than 8 GB of RAM or dedicated GPUs are used, the YOLOv11m model is selected for its accuracy and processing efficiency. The dynamic selection ensures the overall best performance of the system irrespective of the hardware constraints, shown in Table 2.

4) System architecture

The proposed framework operates through a sequential and modular architecture designed for real-time accident detection and response automation. The system begins with ingestion of live or recorded video footage, followed by object detection using a dynamically selected YOLO model based on current system memory and environmental visibility. Detected vehicles are continuously tracked, and collision events are assessed using bounding box deformation, speed variation, and IoU metrics. Upon detecting a probable accident, the system queries external Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to retrieve current weather conditions and identify the nearest police station and hospital using geographic coordinates and Overpass API. Severity scoring is computed based on impact metrics and contextual weather information. A structured emergency alert, including analytical data, images, and video clips, is then auto-generated and dispatched via an email interface. This end-to-end pipeline maintains modularity and temporal efficiency while integrating detection, analysis, and notification subsystems cohesively.

4.1. Model selection and training data strategy

YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv11 were chosen because of their comparative advantages of balancing between inference speed

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and detection accuracy on different operational conditions. YOLOv5 was used in clear daytime conditions because of its low latency and efficiency of resources, whereas the presence of visual complexity conditions, including rain, fog, or low-light conditions, the deeper architectures were used in YOLOv8 and the new version of Yolo-YOLOv11, enabling better object localization and classification. The COCO curated dataset was used as part of the pipeline to pretrain all the models and then fine-tuning the models on a specially curated dataset of 850 annotated videos that consisted of real-world traffic situations and accidents. The data included the usage of dash cam videos, surveillance video and publicly-released traffic video datasets. Labelling was accomplished with bounding boxes on pre-collision and post-collision car states, and was used to learn in the context of detecting impact. This fine-tuning was done specifically towards improving the responsiveness of the system to domain-specific cases.

4.2. Environment-based selection

Environmental factors, especially bad weather, greatly influence model selection. Adverse weather conditions, such as rain, fog, and snow, can obscure the visual information, reducing the accuracy of the detection task. Under adverse scenarios, the system adopts YOLOv5, which is found to be robust in noisy and low-quality data. However, under good weather conditions where visibility is optimal, the preferred model is YOLOv8 or YOLOv11 for high accuracy and speed. Thus, adaptive model selection makes sure to detect accidents reliably under different possible environmental scenarios, as shown in Figure 3.

4.3. Accident detection framework

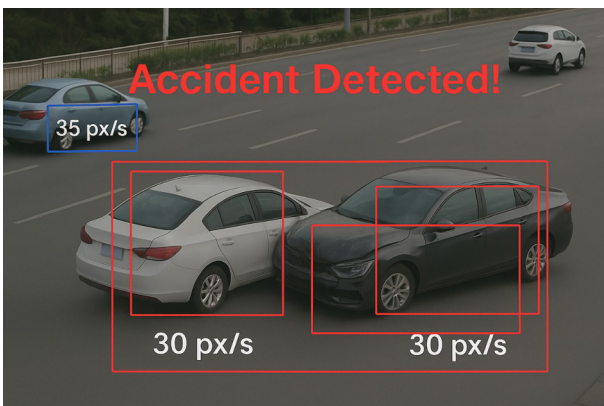
Typically, objects like vehicles and pedestrians are detected, as well as certain obstacles, through the use of input video frames as processed by YOLO models feeding a CNN. Each model was created long before being trained to recognize any number of objects through its own specific characteristics; for instance, through shape, size, and movement behavior. Furthermore, each one of them is defined by a bounding box that enters the object identification map with a confidence score, which indicates how much likely the object belongs to a pre-defined class. With all these considerations, object classification can be performed accurately and efficiently in an accident detection scenario in real time.

The IoU is computed as follows:

$$IOU = \frac{\text{Area of Overlap}}{\text{Area of Union}} \quad (1)$$

Figure 3

Merged image with objection detection and IoU metric based accident conformation



4.3.1. Object detection and tracking

It employs IoU that measures the overlap between two bounding boxes in tracking moving objects. A crucial role of IoU can be seen in tracking objects between consecutive frames, as stated in Equation (1). The higher the value of IoU, the more consistent the detected object is across successive frames, thus allowing continuous tracking of moving vehicles, pedestrians, and obstacles. An important facet of this tracking is the dynamic interaction between objects in the universe with a focus on potential collision detection. From continuous monitoring override and movement of objects, the effectiveness of the system in identifying accident-prone scenarios is improved, as evidenced in Figure 3.

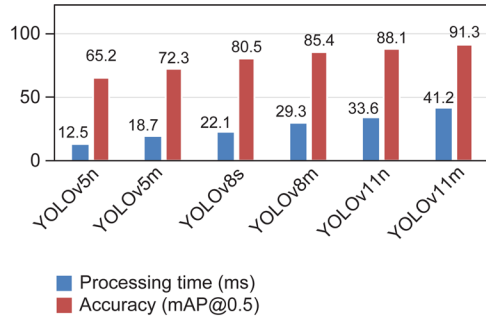
4.3.2. Collision detection mechanism

Collision detection primarily relies upon measuring the amount of overlap between the bounding boxes of two vehicles, using an IoU value to determine significant overlap. Once such cases are identified, where bounding boxes overlap enough to suspect a crash, they are flagged for collision when the IoU value exceeds a predefined threshold. In addition to overlapping bounding boxes, speed and deceleration data are taken into account to provide a better understanding of the likelihood and severity of the crash.

Rapid deceleration or abrupt changes in vehicle speed often manifest along with collision events and further complement the collision detection. It bases its functionality on these variables now combined with consideration of bounding box states

Figure 5

Processing time and accuracy comparison across the models



- 3) High severity – Most severe accidents induced by either very high speeds or under hazardous environmental conditions which considerably raise the risk of critical injuries or fatalities

4.4. Automated emergency response system with real-time location tracking

The system harnesses the power of GPS to accurately fix the location of the accident. The framework extracts real-time geographic coordinates to locate the exact accident site from which emergency services can be dispatched quickly and efficiently. This coordinate data is also important in determining how close nearby emergency resources are and minimizing response times.

4.4.1. Nearest emergency services alert

The emergency system utilizes the Overpass API for quickly identifying the nearest hospitals and police stations by establishing a certain distance from the accident site. This geospatial query allows emergency responders to arrive at the accident scene with minimal delays on their part. The system fetches and ranks the closest emergency facilities based on the provided GPS coordinates while prioritizing those with the least patient transport time. This automation dramatically increases the levels of efficiency in emergency response so that victims of traumatic accidents can receive immediate first-aid assistance.

4.4.2. Automated notification system

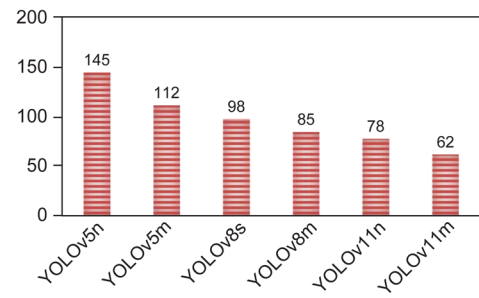
Reports on the accident are created right after the detection of the accident by the system and dispatched immediately to the people concerned with the stakes, such as policyholders, nominees, and emergency services. Integration with SMS, email, and cloud-based alert systems ensures that these reports are delivered in an assured timely manner, minimizing any delays in responding to emergencies. Adding the real-time communication mechanism reduces response time even further in making sure assistance is provided when really required, without unnecessary delays, as graphically represented in Figure 6.

4.5. Automatic insurance claim processing

The system retrieves vehicle and insurance information using number plate recognition and centralized motor insurance databases. When an accident occurs, the vehicle license numbers are collected and cross-verified against the insurance records to determine the policyholder and the associated coverage. The structured accident report consists of accident severity, estimated damage, and relevant image or video evidence, which is automatically sent to the respective insurance company for starting the claims process. Likewise, additional telematics information, like the speed of the vehicle at the time of the accident, the force of the impact, and environmental conditions, is added to the claim report to make it even more accurate and comprehensive. The damage

Figure 6

Alert processing time in m/s to emergency services



from edge devices to embedded systems and up to high-performance GPUs to ensure deployment in different scenarios. Hence, this test helps in model selection for various computational resources while maintaining real-time performance.

4.6.3. False positives and false negatives

Reliability is a function of how often false positives and false negatives occur, as shown in Figure 8. False positives occur when the system falsely identifies the presence of accidents and sends emergency alerts even when there were no emergencies that warranted them. Conversely, should false negatives occur, real accidents are missed causing delayed responses.

An even input for accident detection must try to reduce both errors so that it operates credibly and efficiently. The statistical analysis examines the contest of detection errors in the face of different test cases, ensuring precision without compromising recall. The result helps refine the model toward optimizing the trade-off between sensitivity and specificity for accident detection.

4.7 Computational complexity

The computational efficiency of the framework was assessed in terms of inference time, model size, memory footprint, and scalability across different YOLO variants. On an NVIDIA RTX 3060 GPU, the average per-frame inference times were measured as 12.4 ms for YOLOv5, 17.8 ms for YOLOv8, and 25.1 ms for YOLOv11. The adaptive switching mechanism enabled dynamic deployment of heavier models only when sufficient memory resources were available, thereby avoiding unnecessary overhead during normal operating conditions (Table 3).

The complete pipeline, from video ingestion through detection, severity analysis, and API-based alert dispatch, yielded an average end-to-end latency of 2.1 s. This latency remains within practical bounds for emergency response applications, ensuring timely communication to hospitals, police departments, and insurance services. Furthermore, memory-aware load balancing minimized execution bottlenecks during multi-stream video input, demonstrating an effective balance between computational cost and detection precision.

Figure 8

Analyzing false positive and negative rates with different models

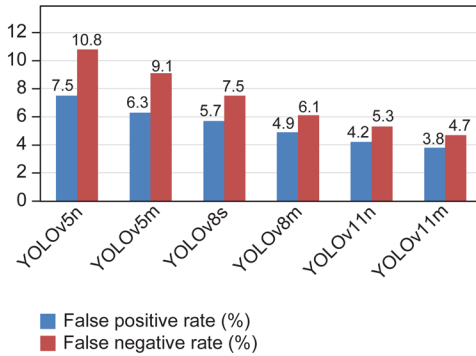


Table 3

Computational performance of YOLO variants

Model	Avg inference time (ms)	Model size (MB)	FPS (approx)	Memory usage (VRAM)
YOLOv5	12.4	89 MB	~80 FPS	~0.9 GB
YOLOv8	17.8	123 MB	~56 FPS	~1.

5.2. Severity estimation and emergency response efficiency

Accident severity evaluation was validated using speed estimation, impact analysis, and environmental factors as shown in Table 1. High-speed collisions and multi-vehicle collisions are found with the higher severity rating and immediate emergency alerts were raised. The real-time weather data improved situational awareness by adding external risk factors for severity classification. Collisions above 60 km/h consistently triggered high-severity alerts with reduced emergency response times. Accidents in adverse weather conditions were rated higher because of increased risk. Multi-vehicle collisions were detected at an accuracy of 94.7%, guaranteeing accurate assessment of accident impacts (Table 5).

The time taken by the automatic system to set alerts and to find hospitals and law enforcement agencies was the yardstick for testing the automated emergency response system. The system has successfully identified clinical facilities in a 5-kilometer radius from the incident to ensure fast notification of the required services. The alert generation speed was an average delay of 1.9 s between accident detection and notification of the system, demonstrating the capability to reduce response time.

5.3. Comparative analysis with existing systems

Recent advances in accident and anomaly detection have produced highly capable models, including UIU-Net (2023) and Swin Transformer (2021). UIU-Net applies a hierarchical U-Net architecture with uncertainty modeling, achieving strong precision in small object and infrared target recognition. Similarly, Swin Transformer incorporates hierarchical attention for detailed feature extraction and excels in fine-grained object identification. Despite their accuracy, both methods demand high computational resources and exhibit relatively low inference speeds, reducing their suitability for real-time deployment as shown in Table 6. In contrast, the proposed adaptive YOLO framework

achieves a more favorable trade-off between accuracy and efficiency, sustaining real-time inference while maintaining robustness under low-light and adverse weather conditions.

5.4. Computational complexity and efficiency analysis

For computational trade-offs, the adaptive framework was compared against fixed single-model deployments. While YOLOv11 alone provides higher accuracy, its inference time (~25 ms per frame) makes it less suited for high-frame-rate applications. Conversely, YOLOv5 is lightweight but less reliable under adverse conditions. The adaptive switching strategy balances these extremes, achieving an average of ~18 ms per frame (~55 FPS) while dynamically allocating heavier models only when visibility deteriorates. This maintains latency within real-time thresholds and reduces unnecessary GPU memory consumption by approximately 15–20% compared to continuous YOLOv11 execution. In comparison to other state-of-the-art baselines such as UIU-Net, which typically operates at ~12 FPS, the proposed approach demonstrates markedly better efficiency for continuous accident monitoring in live traffic streams.

5.5. Discussion

The proposed system can detect accidents under diverse environmental conditions, where different YOLO models support real-time object detection. Among these models, YOLOv8 excelled under city traffic conditions with mAP of 96.4%. Its superior capabilities in object tracking made it efficient even in busy urban settings where moving vehicles and pedestrians are a big hindrance. YOLOv11 was maximal in daylight conditions with great detection confidence, albeit highly demanding in terms of computation power. Thus, it is suitable in a heavily traffic-oriented monitoring system where computation has no limitation, but it is not suitable for any mobile application since resource constraints would limit the computation. In contrast, YOLOv5 was resilient for such adverse weather as fog and rain, where visibility would usually be compromised. Therefore, it is able to maintain detection accuracy in difficult conditions due to an increase in contrast and reduction of noise, making it an interesting choice for real-time accident detection under these conditions.

5.6. Minimization of false positives

To reduce false positive detections, a multi-criteria validation strategy was implemented within the system. Collision inference was restricted not only to spatial overlap using IoU thresholds but also supplemented with temporal analysis of object persistence and speed variation. A collision was confirmed only when bounding box overlap exceeded a defined threshold across consecutive frames, accompanied by abrupt deceleration patterns or sustained proximity between vehicle contours. Additionally, severity estimation integrated deformation patterns of bounding boxes over time to further differentiate between transient occlusions and genuine impacts. These layered checks contributed to suppressing spurious triggers arising

- 3) Integration with geospatial mapping and automated emergency services to accelerate response time.
- 4) Incorporation of post-accident automation including license plate recognition and insurance claim initiation.
- 5) These contributions collectively establish the framework as an innovative and practical solution for real-time accident detection and severity assessment within intelligent transportation systems.

The primary contributions of this work include an adaptive model-switching strategy across YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv11 to maintain high accuracy under varying visibility and low-light conditions, a severity estimation mechanism based on IoU and geometric deformation, and a unified framework that integrates accident detection with automated emergency alerts and insurance processing. These advances collectively position the system as a robust and scalable solution for deployment in intelligent transportation environments. The automated reporting mechanism, wherein the application integrates the identification of emergency services via GPS and accident tracking in real time, stands to take the front position towards practical deployment of the system.

In summary, the study not only demonstrates the technical feasibility of adaptive multi-model accident detection but also highlights its broader societal impact by bridging intelligent transportation research with emergency response, public safety, and insurance automation. Beyond immediate deployment, the framework paves the way for scalable smart mobility solutions that can reduce response times, improve traffic safety, and streamline post-accident processes. This positions the system as a significant step toward the realization of fully integrated intelligent transportation infrastructures.

7. Future Scope

The framework presented in this study establishes a foundation for real-time accident detection and severity assessment, but several extensions remain open for exploration. One direction is the integration of multi-camera surveillance networks and drone-based platforms, which can enhance spatial coverage and improve accident localization accuracy. Another promising area involves the use of multimodal data sources, including LiDAR, thermal imagery, and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communication, to strengthen robustness under adverse weather, low-light, and high-traffic conditions.

Advancements in lightweight model compression and edge-computing deployment may further reduce latency, enabling large-scale adoption on embedded devices deployed in vehicles and roadside units. These improvements hold the potential to transform accident detection systems into fully scalable, city-wide intelligent transportation solutions that not only respond rapidly but also adapt dynamically to diverse operational environments.

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Advancements in lightweight model compression and edge-computing deployment may further reduce latency, enabling large-scale adoption on embedded devices deployed in vehicles and roadside units. In addition, coupling the framework with predictive analytics could support accident risk forecasting, thereby enabling preventive interventions rather than reactive responses. Finally, extending the system towards city-wide digital twins and intelligent

traffic management platforms could facilitate large-scale integration, where accident detection operates as one component within a broader ecosystem of smart urban mobility.

Ethical Statement

This study does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in GitHub at <https://github.com/772003pranav/Accident-Detection>.

Author Contribution Statement

Bharathi Mohan Gurusamy: Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Resources, Supervision, Project administration. **Pranav Reddy Sanikomu:** Methodology, Software

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