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Article

An Artificial Intelligence Based Autonomous Road Lane Detection and Navigation System for Vehicles

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Abstract: Lane detection is a foundational technology for autonomous driving systems. It involves identifying the boundaries of lanes on the road and ensuring the vehicle stays within these boundaries. Accurate lane detection is crucial for safety, navigation and traffic management. This paper presents an artificial intelligent based autonomous road lane detection and navigation system for vehicles. The system can detect and analyze road lanes accurately and efficiently in real-time, with frame rates of up to 17 FPS. By utilizing image processing techniques, the system can identify the location and boundaries of road lanes and obstacles on the road and provide accurate and reliable navigation guidance to the driver. The system is integrated with sensors and actuators to provide comprehensive autonomous navigation. The efficiency of the proposed system is demonstrated using accuracy of lane detection on straight and curve lanes covering frames per second and motor of the speed as parameters for assessment. Results show that the proposed system detects lane as entire lane detection, partial lane detection and no detection status on different settings.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Image Processing; IR Sensors; Lane Detection; Navigation; Autonomous Vehicles

1. Introduction

Autonomous road lane detection and navigation systems are the key components in the development of self-driving vehicles. These systems can enhance the safety, efficiency, and reliability of autonomous driving by enabling vehicles to accurately detect and follow road lanes without human intervention. Traditional automobiles have a large negative influence on the environment, our roads are congested, and accidents happen frequently. To solve these problems and build a more sustainable and effective transportation system, creative solutions are required. There is optimism thanks to recent advancements in autonomous car technology. With the help of sophisticated AI algorithms and more sophisticated sensors, cars are becoming increasingly intelligent and capable of negotiating intricate road networks. These developments should lessen their negative effects on the environment, lessen traffic congestion, and reduce accidents. The vision of using artificial intelligence to build self-driving cars is the driving force behind our endeavor. The field of autonomous road lane detection and navigation systems has seen significant advancements in recent years, driven by the integration of various technologies such as computer vision, machine learning, and sensor fusion. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into autonomous road lane detection and navigation systems has revolutionized the field, enhancing the accuracy, reliability, and adaptability of these systems. The literature survey shows significant contributions and advancements in AI-based lane detection and navigation, emphasizing the evolution from traditional methods to contemporary AI-driven techniques.

Machine learning and pattern recognition approaches using Support Vector Machines (SVM) [1] and artificial neural network [2] were used for lane detection. Long, J et al [3] proposed fully



convolutional networks precise lane detection. Deep learning techniques such as convolutional neural networks for real-time lane following [4] and semantic segmentation for lane detection with better accuracy [5,6] are reported. Bewley et al. [7] presented a technique for simple lane detection and tracking for highway driving using image processing. Krauss [8] presented autonomous vehicle platform by combining Raspberry Pi and Arduino microcontrollers for real-time vehicle control and navigation. Jain et al. [9] introduced a self-driving car model based on convolutional neural networks (CNNs) implemented on Raspberry Pi and Arduino platforms. Real time implementation on lane detection using Image processing and raspberry pi is reported in [10,11].

Fast LIDAR-based road detection using fully convolutional neural networks [12] and LiDAR and camera fusion approach for object distance estimation in autonomous vehicles [13] are also reported using LIDAR and camera fusion. Hafeez et al. [14] presented low-cost solutions for autonomous vehicles with affordable technologies and approaches to enable the widespread adoption of autonomous driving technology. Landman et al. [15] investigated user interface design for autonomous vehicles aiming to improve user experience and safety [15]. CNN is combined with RNN to incorporate temporal information from video frames, improving the consistency and stability of lane detection over time. [16].

Deep insights into the latest advancements in deep learning techniques for lane detection, contributing to the development of more accurate and reliable autonomous driving systems are reported in [17,18]. Xu et al. [19] proposed a high-speed lane detection method for autonomous vehicles. This literature on autonomous road lane Detection and navigation systems demonstrates significant advancements driven by deep learning, sensor fusion, and real-time processing capabilities. From foundational work with SVMs and early neural networks to sophisticated deep learning models and multimodal approaches, AI has significantly enhanced the accuracy and reliability of lane detection systems. These is still a scope on improving robustness and efficiency and achieving integration with fully autonomous driving systems. The development of autonomous vehicle prototypes has both challenges and opportunities for the transportation industry. With the rapid advancement of technology, particularly in artificial intelligence and sensor systems, autonomous vehicles have emerged as a promising solution to address various shortcomings and inefficiencies in traditional transportation methods. The major contribution of this papers are

- Accurate and efficient road lane detection at frame rates of up to 17 FPS.
- Integration of image processing techniques with obstacle detection for reliable navigation guidance.
- Low-cost and compact solution for developing autonomous vehicle system.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows, the material and methods employed for autonomous road lane detection and navigation system is discussed in section 2. Results and Discussion in Section 3 and 4 followed by conclusion in section 5.

2. Materials and Methods

This section describes the complete system employed for autonomous road lane detection and navigation system. Figure 1 shows block diagram representation of the proposed system.

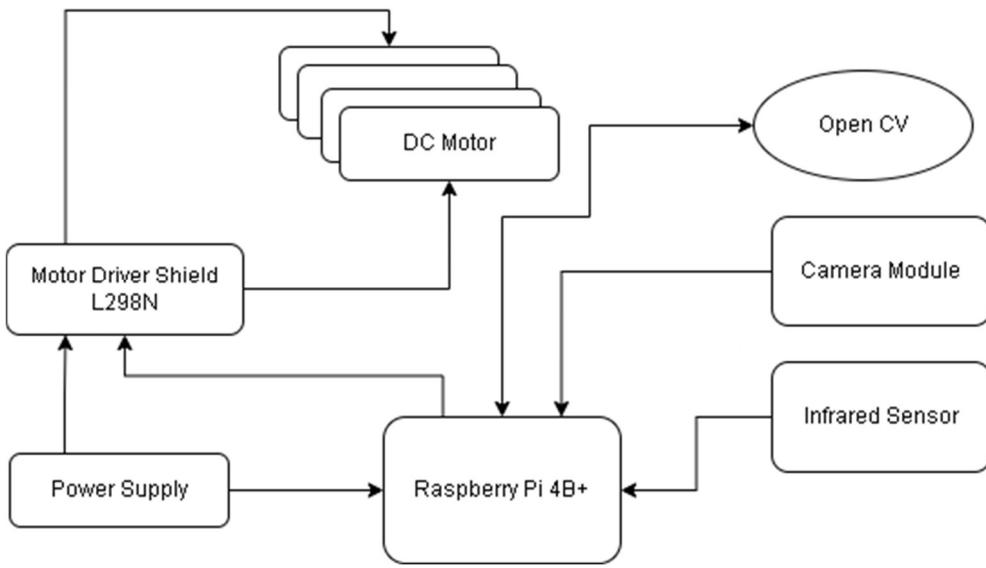


Figure 1. Block Diagram representation of proposed system for autonomous road lane detection and navigation system.

The camera module and infrared (IR) sensors play crucial roles in providing the data needed for the vehicle to navigate safely and effectively. The camera continuously captures frames, providing real-time visual data of the vehicle's surroundings. This data is essential for detecting lane markings and other important features on the road. Using OpenCV, the system processes these frames to identify lane boundaries through edge detection and the Hough Transform. The detected lane lines are then used to calculate the vehicle's deviation from the centerline. Based on the lane detection data, the system adjusts the vehicle's steering to keep it centered in the lane.

The motor driver uses this information to make precise steering corrections, ensuring the vehicle follows the lane accurately. IR sensors measure the distance to nearby objects by emitting infrared light and detecting the reflected light. This allows the system to detect obstacles in the vehicle's path. When an obstacle is detected, the system can adjust the vehicle's speed and direction to avoid collisions. For example, if an obstacle is detected directly ahead, the system might slow down or steer the vehicle to avoid it. While the camera provides detailed visual information about the environment, IR sensors offer quick and reliable distance measurements, especially useful in low-light conditions or for detecting objects that might not be visible to the camera. In the final step of the autonomous vehicle system, the motors execute the commands they receive from the Raspberry Pi. The commands are typically in the form of Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) signals, which control the speed and direction of the motors. The workflow of algorithm for an artificial intelligence-based road lane detection and navigation system for vehicles is shown in Figure 2.

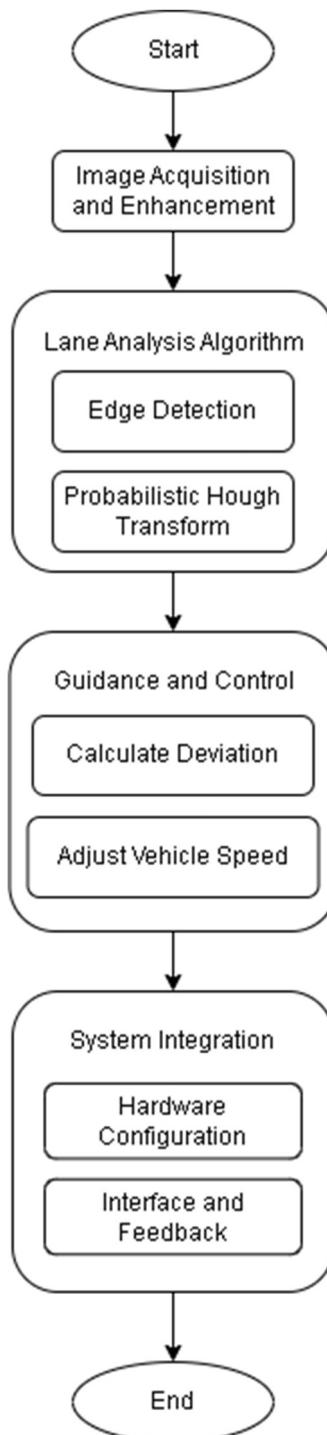


Figure 2. Workflow of Algorithm for An Artificial Intelligence Based Road Lane Detection and Navigation System for Vehicles.

2.1. Image Acquisition and Enhancement

Camera module captures high-resolution images of the road scene. Real time image enhancement is applied to improve the image quality. Real-time contrast enhancement and noise reduction algorithm ensure clear lane visibility. The contrast adjustment is done by

$$g(x,y) = \alpha \times f(x,y) + \beta \quad (1)$$

where, $f(x,y)$ is the original image, $g(x,y)$ is the enhanced image, α is the gain (contrast), and β is the bias (brightness).

2.2. Lane Analysis Algorithm

Lane analysis algorithm follows edge detection, boundaries detection followed by segmentation of lane boundaries. Steps performed for lane detection are described below.

Canny edge detection algorithm is applied to identify edges corresponding to lane markings. Firstly the noise in the image is removed by smoothing the image using a Gaussian filter given by

$$G(x,y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

where σ is the standard deviation of the Gaussian distribution. The smoothed image $g(x,y)$ is obtained by $g(x,y) = f(x,y) * G(x,y)$. Next step is to compute the gradient of smoothed image in horizontal $f_x(x,y)$ and vertical $f_y(x,y)$ direction using Sobel edge detectors given by

$$G_x = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad G_y = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The magnitude $M(x,y)$ and direction $\theta(x,y)$ of the gradient is then calculated by using

$$\begin{aligned} M(x,y) &= \sqrt{f_x(x,y)^2 + f_y(x,y)^2} \\ \theta(x,y) &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{f_y(x,y)}{f_x(x,y)}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Non-maximum suppression is applied to thin out the edges by keeping only local maxima in the gradient direction. For each pixel, the gradient magnitude is checked in the direction of the gradient and the pixel not having maximum value with its neighbor is suppressed.

If θ is closest to 0° and 90° , then pixel is compared with its horizontal neighbors and vertical neighbors respectively. If θ is closest to 45° and 135° , then pixel is compared with its diagonal neighbors. Double thresholding is used to classify pixels as strong, weak, or non-relevant edges using high T_H and low T_L thresholds as.

$$\text{pixel} = \begin{cases} \text{Strong Edge} & \text{if } M(x,y) \geq T_H \\ \text{Weak Edge} & \text{if } M(x,y) < T_H \\ \text{Non-relevant Edge} & \text{if } M(x,y) < T_L \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Once edges representing lane markings are detected, the system applies the probabilistic Hough Transform to segment these edges into distinct line features. This technique identifies the parameters of lines that best fit the edge points, representing the detected lanes. By segmenting the detected edges into individual line segments, the system can accurately represent the lane boundaries, enabling precise lane detection and navigation.

In the Hough Transform for lines, each pixel in the image space (x,y) is mapped to a sinusoidal curve in the Hough parameter space (ρ, θ) , where ρ is the perpendicular distance from the origin to the line and θ is the angle of the line normal. The parametric equation of a line in polar coordinates is $\rho = x \cos(\theta) + y \sin(\theta)$.

where: ρ is the distance from the origin to the closest point on the line and θ is the angle between the x-axis and the line perpendicular to the line. A 2D array (accumulator) is defined to represent the parameter space (ρ, θ) . The dimensions of the accumulator array depend on the ranges of (ρ, θ) . Typically, $-90^\circ \leq \theta \leq 90^\circ$ and $-D \leq \rho \leq D$. Here $D = \sqrt{M^2 + N^2}$ is the diagonal length of the image of dimension $M \times N$. For each edge pixel (x_i, y_i) , calculate the possible (ρ, θ) values using the line equation and increment the corresponding cell in the

accumulator. Identify peaks in the accumulator array. These peaks represent the parameters (ρ, θ) of the most prominent lines in the image.

2.3. Guidance and Control

Calculating the vehicle's deviation from the centerline is crucial for making steering adjustments. This keeps the vehicle aligned with the center of the lane, promoting safe driving and preventing lane departure. It basically determine the vehicle's deviation from the lane centerline. Calculating the centerline as the average of the left and right lane boundaries provides a reference point for the vehicle's desired position on the road. The centerline of the lane is calculated using

$$x_{center} = \frac{x_{left} + x_{right}}{2}, \text{ Where } x_{left} \text{ and } x_{right} \text{ are the x-coordinates of the detected left and right lane}$$

boundaries at a particular y-coordinate. Knowing the vehicle's position relative to the image frame allows for an accurate calculation of the deviation. The center of the image typically corresponds to the center of the vehicle. If the vehicle's camera is centered, the vehicle's x-position is the center of

$$\text{the image } x_{vehicle} = \frac{W}{2}, \text{ W is the image width. The deviation } \Delta x \text{ is the primary metric used for}$$

steering corrections. Positive or negative deviations indicate which direction the vehicle needs to move to stay centered in the lane.

$$\Delta x = x_{vehicle} - x_{center} \quad (4)$$

The sign of Δx indicates whether the vehicle is left or right of the lane centerline. Dynamically adjusting the vehicle's speed based on lane curvature ensures that the vehicle navigates turns safely and comfortably. Sharper turns require slower speeds to maintain control and stability. Aim of this step is to adjust the vehicle's speed based on lane curvature and environmental factors. The radius of curvature R quantifies how sharp a turn is. A smaller radius indicates a sharper turn, which requires slower speeds to navigate safely. Conversely, a larger radius indicates a gentler turn, allowing for higher speeds. Using the polynomial fit of the lane lines, calculate the radius of curvature R at a specific point.

$$R = \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right)^2 \right]^{3/2}}{\left| \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right|} \quad (5)$$

Adjusting speed proportional to the curvature helps maintain vehicle stability and passenger comfort. On sharp turns, reducing speed prevents the vehicle from skidding or losing control, while on gentle curves, higher speeds can be maintained without compromising safety. Dynamically adjust speed v based on curvature R as $v \propto R$. For example, a smaller R (sharper curve) requires a lower speed.

2.4. Integration of Sensing and Actuation

The Raspberry Pi generates PWM signals based on the control algorithms, particularly the output from the PID controller. These signals are sent to motor drivers, which act as intermediaries between the Raspberry Pi and the motors. The motor drivers amplify the PWM signals to levels suitable for driving the motors. The PWM signals determine the motors' speed and direction. By adjusting the duty cycle of the PWM signal (i.e., the percentage of time the signal is "on" versus "off"), the system can control how fast the motors spin. The direction is controlled by varying the polarity of the signal. The motors translate these electrical signals into mechanical motion, propelling the vehicle forward, backward, or steering it left or right. The precise control of speed and direction allows the vehicle to follow the detected lane accurately, making necessary adjustments to stay centered and navigate curves or turns smoothly.

The information from both the camera and IR sensors is fused to create a comprehensive understanding of the vehicle's environment. The camera's detailed visual data combined with the IR sensor's distance measurements ensure that the vehicle can navigate accurately and safely. The Raspberry Pi processes the data from both sensors in real time, using image processing techniques and sensor fusion algorithms to make immediate decisions about steering and speed adjustments. The system operates in a continuous feedback loop where sensor data is constantly updated, processed, and used to adjust the vehicle's movement. This ensures that the vehicle responds dynamically to changes in the environment, such as new obstacles or changes in lane direction.

3. Results

The system's output can be viewed on the virtual machine instance on the PC that is connected to our Raspberry Pi 4B+. We are using a VNC server and VNC viewer to remotely access the Raspberry Pi's desktop and control it using the local system's mouse and keyboard. The output is demonstrated into 6 different intermediate outputs to facilitate better understanding and calibration of the camera with the track.

Figure 3 shows the raw image captured by the camera, which is unprocessed. The raw image is processed to determine the region of interest for the track as shown in Figure 4. This ensures that for the subsequent steps, the image is confined to the ROI.



Figure 3. Camera Captured Image.

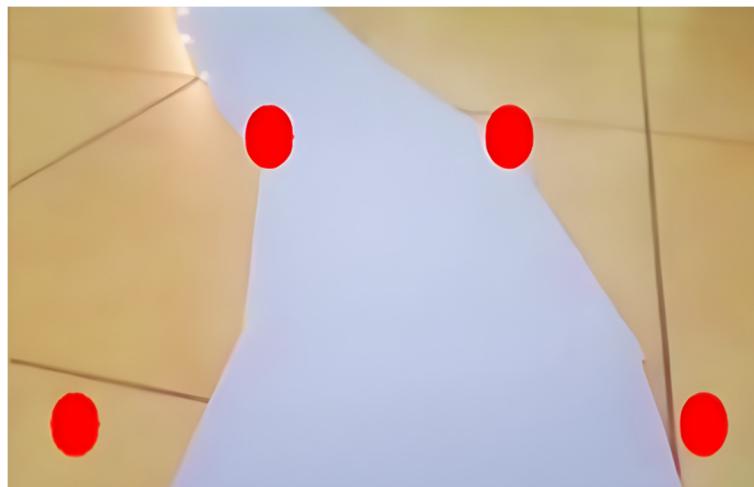


Figure 4. ROI Calibration Region.

To enhance user-friendliness, trackbars have been added to allow real-time adjustments to the ROI as shown in Figure 5. The panel allows you to adjust the width (top and bottom) and height (top and bottom) of the ROI. These settings define the exact area of the road that the lane detection algorithm will analyze, enabling customization based on different road conditions and camera angles. By adjusting these parameters, you can ensure that the lane detection system effectively detects and tracks lane markings with optimal performance and accuracy.

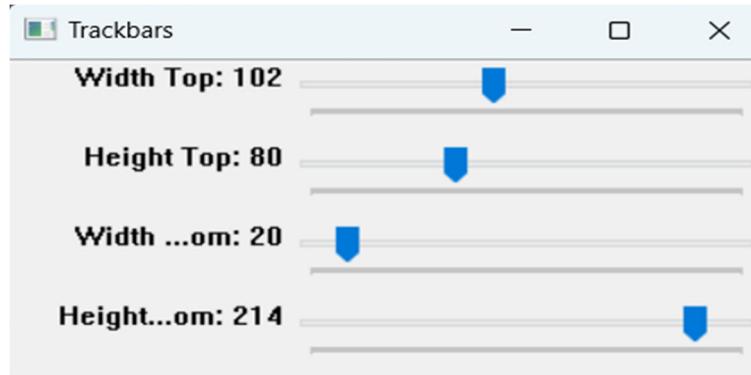


Figure 5. Trackbars for ROI Adjustment.

In the next step, calculation of the midpoint of the lane is calibrated by ROI in order to keep the vehicle in the center of the lane as shown in Figure 6.

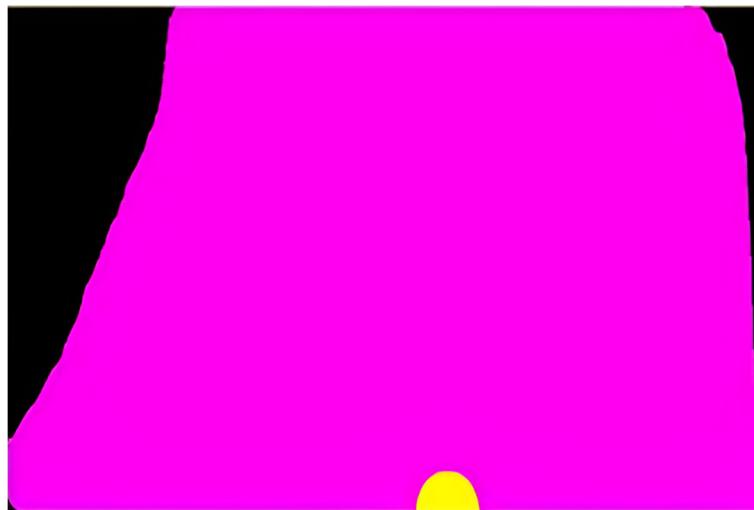


Figure 6. Identifying the Central Point of the Pathway.

Next, the final lane is created to guide the vehicle along the curve, which is indicated by an integer and calculated using the ROI as a boundary and the midpoint of the lane. This is shown in Figure 7.

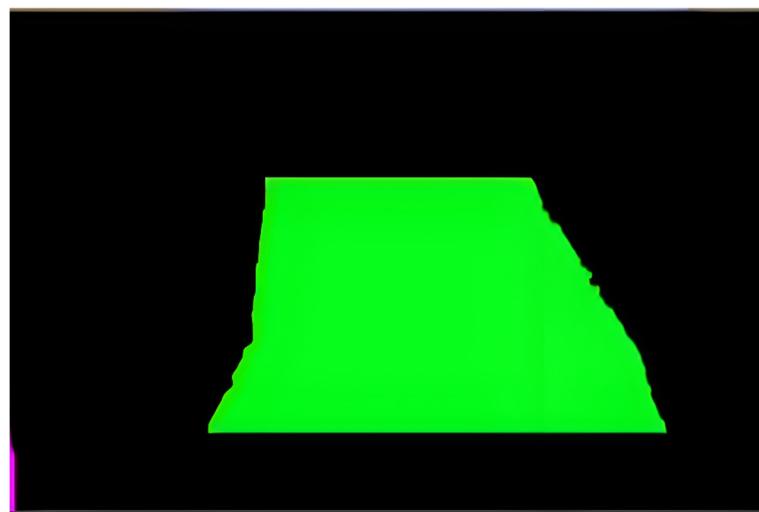


Figure 7. Lane Detection.

Figure 7 displays the result after the final lane has been calculated, allowing the user to easily review and make necessary adjustments to the system according to their needs.

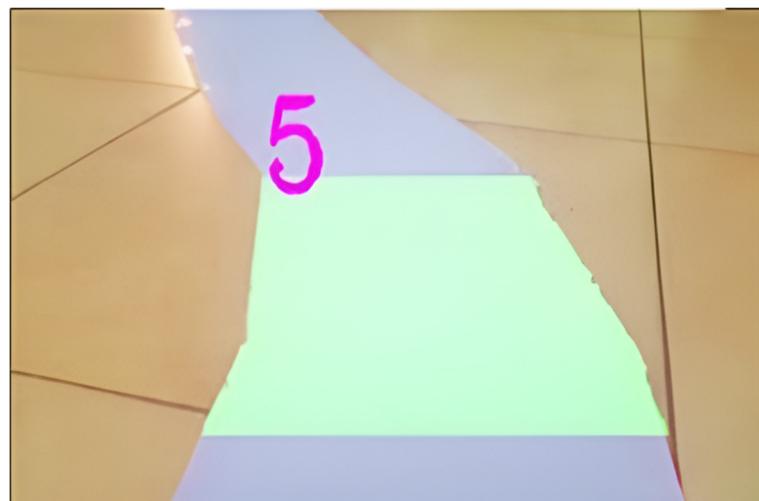


Figure 8. Overlapping Final Lane and Raw Image.

These steps are used to generate a number that moves a vehicle either in a straight line or along a curved path. The motors use PWM to adjust their speed and navigate the vehicle along the curve based on its degree. Additionally, an infrared sensor is employed to halt the vehicle when an obstacle is detected in its path. The number which is displayed on the output shows that on which direction and how much the vehicle should move. If the number is positive it will move in left direction and for the negative number it will move the right direction as shown in Figure 9.

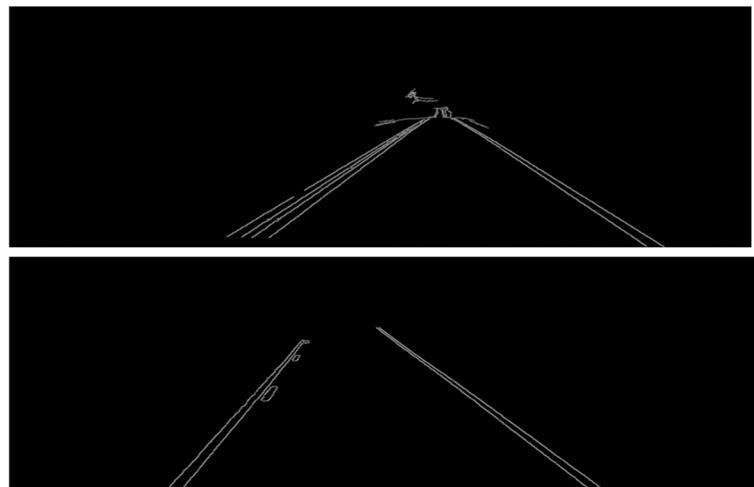
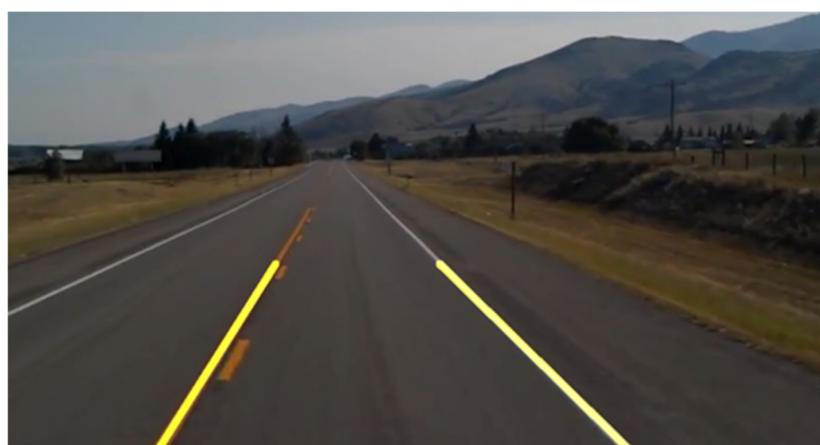


Figure 9. Lane Detection for movement.

4. Discussion

4.1. Navigation

After analyzing sensor data, such as camera images and proximity sensor readings, the next step is to determine the vehicle's position, orientation, and surroundings. Lane detection algorithms process camera images to identify lane markings and determine the vehicle's position within the lane. Object detection algorithms analyze camera images to detect obstacles or road signs that may affect the vehicle's path. Proximity sensors detect nearby objects and trigger collision avoidance mechanisms, such as applying brakes or steering away from obstacles. Control algorithms calculate motor commands based on sensor inputs and predefined navigation algorithms to steer the vehicle along the desired path while maintaining a safe distance from obstacles. These decisions are executed in real-time, enabling the autonomous vehicle to navigate through its environment safely and efficiently. Figure 10 shows the output window displays the overlapping of detected lanes on the actual road. This visualization is essential as it provides real-time feedback on the performance of the lane detection algorithm. By overlaying the detected lane markings onto the live feed of the road, we can assess the accuracy and reliability of the detection process. This visual feedback allows us to validate the effectiveness of the algorithm in correctly identifying lane boundaries and tracking their position relative to the vehicle's trajectory. Additionally, by comparing the detected lanes with the actual road markings, we can identify any discrepancies or errors, enabling us to refine and optimize the algorithm for improved accuracy and robustness. Ultimately, visualizing the detected lanes overlaid on the actual road facilitates comprehensive evaluation and validation of the lane detection system's performance in real-world conditions.



(a)



(b)

Figure 10. Overlapping of detected lanes on live video (a) Navigation in left direction (b) Navigation in right direction.

The prototype of the proposed system is shown in Figure 11. The key component of the components for the autonomous vehicle system are proximity IR sensors for obstacle detection, a Raspberry Pi microcontroller for processing data and controlling movement, a power bank for continuous operation, motors for propulsion and steering, a motor driver for power regulation, and a front-facing camera for capturing real-time visual data. These components collectively enable the vehicle to perceive its environment and navigate autonomously.

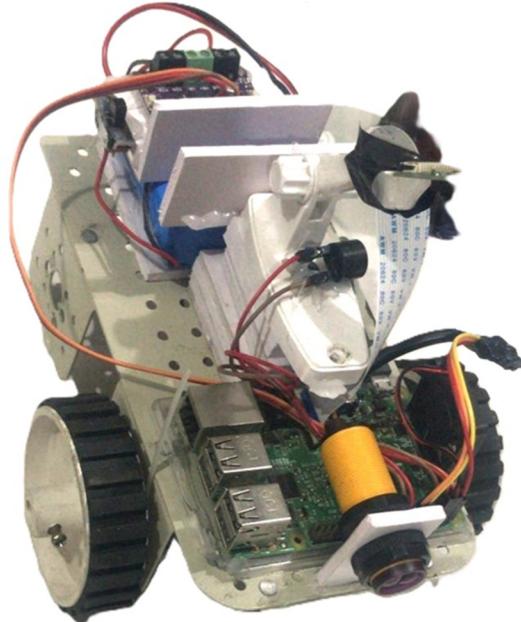


Figure 11. Prototype of proposed system for artificial intelligence based autonomous lane detection and navigation system for vehicle.

4.2. Lane Detection Status

In our analysis, we aim to specify the configuration of coordinates crucial for determining the Region of Interest (ROI) along the vehicle's path. These coordinates, including top width, top height, bottom width, and bottom height, play a significant role in accurately detecting lanes on the road. Furthermore, we assess the efficiency of the lane detection algorithm concerning Frames Per Second (FPS) and the speed of motors. Our findings provide insights into how varying FPS and motor speeds affect the accuracy of lane detection, particularly on straight and curve lanes. The coordinate

configuration used to identify the Region of Interest (ROI) for the vehicle's journey and lane detection status is depicted in Table 1.

Table 1. Configuration of ROI and lane detection status.

Top Width	Top Height	Bottom Width	Bottom Height	Lane Detection Status
0	0	0	0	No Detection
102	80	20	214	Entire lane detected
73	186	89	143	Partial detection of lane
92	151	51	198	Lane is not detected on the curve
255	255	255	255	Area apart from lane is detected

A precise zone on the road is defined by each set of coordinates, which is essential for lane detection. The efficacy of the detection algorithm is revealed by the "Lane Detection Status" column, which classifies the detected regions according to whether the full lane, a portion of the lane, or no lane is detected.

Table 2 evaluates the efficiency of the detection algorithm concerning Frames Per Second (FPS) and the speed of motors. The results indicate that higher FPS and medium motor speed contribute to better detection accuracy, particularly evident in 17 fps scenarios. However, low FPS and high motor speed adversely impact detection performance, highlighting the importance of optimizing these parameters for optimal results in autonomous vehicle systems. Our research efforts finally resulted in the creation of an enhanced lane detecting system for self-driving cars, which makes use of a blend of machine learning algorithms and image processing techniques. Real-time visual data processing has been accomplished through the smooth integration of OpenCV and Python, demonstrating the system's capacity to precisely detect lane markers under a variety of driving scenarios. The technology is feasible for deployment in automotive environments thanks in large part to the Raspberry Pi platform's low cost for on-board processing. Its user-friendly interface, which offers clear navigation instructions, is expected to greatly improve vehicle safety and driver assistance.

Table 2. Efficiency of the Detection Algorithm with FPS and Speed of Motor.

Frames Per Second	Speed of Motors	Accuracy on Straight Lane	Accuracy on Curve Lane	Efficiency according to FPS
8	Low	Detects	Detects	Good for each
17	Low	Detects	Detects	Frame Rate
30	Low	Detects	Detects	
8	Medium	Partially Detects	Not Detects	Good for 30 and
17	Medium	Detects	Partially Detects	Satisfactory with 17 fps
30	Medium	Detects	Detects	
8	High	Not Detects	Not Detects	Works only
17	High	Partially Detects	Not Detects	for 30 fps
30	High	Detects	Detects	

5. Conclusions

The proposed artificial intelligence-based autonomous road lane detection and navigation system demonstrates significant advancements in the field of autonomous driving. By accurately detecting and analyzing road lanes in real-time, the system enhances safety, navigation, and traffic management for vehicles. The integration of image processing techniques with sensors and actuators ensures comprehensive and reliable autonomous navigation. The system's performance, as evidenced by its ability to maintain frame rates of up to 17 FPS, underscores its efficiency and practicality for real-world applications. Furthermore, the evaluation of lane detection accuracy on

both straight and curved lanes highlights the robustness of the system under various conditions. The results, showing full lane detection, partial lane detection, and no detection statuses, validate the effectiveness of the proposed approach. This research contributes to the ongoing development of autonomous driving technologies, providing a solid foundation for future enhancements and implementations. Clear navigation instructions are ensured by the system's user-friendly interface, improving road safety and driver support. High lane detection accuracy and lane tracking confidence is demonstrated through evaluation, providing a solid basis for real-world implementation in autonomous car navigation systems. Future work may concentrate on improving the system's capacity to adjust to intricate driving situations, incorporating more sensor modalities, and increasing computational efficiency for wider scalability.

6. Patents

Patent titled AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BASED ROAD LANE DETECTION AND NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR VEHICLE by the applicants CHITRIV, Yogita U., TARTE, Yashraj M., TALATULE, Nikhil A., SABLE, Bhargav R., TAYWADE, Chetan S. is published on 15 December 2023 and under examination for grant by Intellectual Property Rights Office, India. Application Number: 202321048690

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