



NEURAL NAP GUARD: CNN-DRIVEN DROWSINESS DETECTION USING OPENCV AND DEEP LEARNING

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Abstract: Driver drowsiness detection is crucial for road safety, as drowsy driving is a leading cause of accidents. This research presents a machine learning-based approach for detecting driver drowsiness using Opencv and deep learning and Keras frameworks. The system employs a camera to capture real-time video footage of the driver's face. Key features such as eye closure and mouth movements are extracted through preprocessing techniques using Opencv and deep learning. These features are then used to train a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model with a large labeled dataset of video frames depicting both alert and drowsy drivers. Once trained, the CNN model predicts the driver's drowsiness level in real-time, helping to identify signs of fatigue early. In addition to real-time alerts, the system provides a graphical representation of the drowsiness score over time, enabling continuous monitoring of the driver's fatigue levels. This feature allows for proactive intervention, ensuring safer driving conditions. The proposed system utilizes deep learning techniques, particularly CNNs, which have proven effective in recognizing facial features and behaviours associated with drowsiness. The integration of real-time monitoring and visual feedback enhances the system's accuracy and response time. By leveraging such advanced technology, this approach has the potential to significantly reduce traffic accidents caused by drowsy driving, offering a valuable tool for improving road safety and preventing accidents related to driver fatigue.

IndexTerms - Driver drowsiness detection, CNN, Opencv and deep learning, Keras, machine learning, deep learning, driver fatigue, real-time monitoring, traffic safety, video processing, eye closure detection, driver alertness.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Driver drowsiness is a significant factor contributing to road accidents, endangering both the driver and other road users. According to recent studies, fatigue-related crashes are among the leading causes of highway incidents, making drowsiness detection an essential aspect of road safety [1]. To address this issue, various technological advancements have been proposed, leveraging machine learning and deep learning techniques to enhance driver monitoring systems [2].

This study proposes a real-time driver drowsiness detection system utilizing a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model combined with Opencv and deep learning-based preprocessing techniques. The system captures live video footage of the driver's face and processes key features such as eye closure and mouth movements. Using a trained deep-learning model, the system classifies the driver's alertness and provides realtime alerts to prevent potential accidents [3].

The proposed approach significantly enhances drowsiness detection accuracy through deep learning techniques and realtime monitoring. By integrating artificial intelligence into traffic safety measures, this research aims to reduce the number of fatigue-related road accidents and improve overall driving conditions [4].

1.1 Existing system:

Various driver drowsiness detection systems have been developed to improve road safety. Some rely on physiological signals such as EEG, ECG, and EOG to measure brain and heart activity, offering high accuracy but requiring expensive and invasive equipment, making them unsuitable for real-world driving.

Eye-tracking systems use infrared cameras to monitor blinking frequency and eye closure duration. However, these methods are sensitive to lighting conditions, camera placement, and head movements.

Another approach is facial expression recognition, which detects yawning and droopy eyelids using computer vision. While non-intrusive, it performs poorly in low-light conditions and when the driver's face is partially obscured.

Some systems use vehicle-based measures, such as monitoring steering wheel angle and lane deviation, but they fail to detect early stages of drowsiness and may misinterpret road conditions as driver fatigue.

Lastly, wearable or seat-based physiological sensors have been explored, but they are often uncomfortable, require frequent calibration, and are impractical for long-term use.

Limitations of Existing Systems:

- High cost and computational complexity
- Sensitivity to environmental factors like lighting and vibrations
- Difficulty handling head movements and different driver behaviours
- Invasiveness and lack of comfort for drivers
- These limitations highlight the need for a **low-cost, non-intrusive, and reliable camera-based deep learning approach** for real-time drowsiness detection.

1.2 Challenges:

Despite advancements in driver monitoring technologies, several challenges remain in developing an effective drowsiness detection system:

Lighting Variations

• Camera-based detection is highly affected by changing lighting conditions, such as bright sunlight, shadows, or nighttime driving, which reduces facial feature detection accuracy.

Head Movements and Positioning

• Drivers may tilt or turn their heads, partially obscuring the face and making it difficult for vision-based systems to accurately track eye and mouth movements.

False Positives and False Negatives

• Brief blinks or natural facial gestures can be misinterpreted as drowsiness, while subtle fatigue symptoms may go undetected, leading to unreliable alerts.

Environmental Interference

• Road vibrations, bumpy surfaces, or sudden vehicle movements can disrupt the system's stability and cause inaccurate predictions.

Hardware and Computational Limitations

• Deep learning models require high processing power, which may not be feasible for low-cost embedded systems or mobile devices used in vehicles.

Dataset Generalization

• Many publicly available datasets simulate drowsiness in controlled environments, making it difficult to generalize models to real-world driving conditions with varying lighting and backgrounds.

Individual Variability

• Different drivers have unique facial structures, blinking patterns, and fatigue responses, making it challenging to design a universal detection model.

System Integration and User Acceptance

• Integrating detection systems with existing car dashboards while ensuring ease of use and driver comfort remains a major challenge.

1.3 Proposed system:

Drowsiness while driving is a major cause of road accidents, making it crucial to develop an intelligent system that can effectively detect and alert drowsy drivers before a mishap occurs. The proposed system, Neural Nap Guard, is a realtime, computer vision-based driver drowsiness detection framework that utilizes Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Opencv and deep learning for accurate and efficient detection. By analyzing facial expressions and eye movement patterns, the system aims to provide a robust solution for preventing fatigue-related accidents.

Neural Nap Guard functions by continuously capturing video frames using a webcam positioned to monitor the driver's face. Opencv and deep learning is employed to detect facial features, specifically focusing on eye state (open or closed), head position, and yawning frequency. The system utilizes Haar cascade classifiers or Dlib's facial landmark detection to track key points around the eyes and mouth. The Eye Aspect Ratio (EAR) is calculated to determine whether the driver's eyes are open or closed. If the EAR value consistently falls below a predefined threshold, the system classifies the driver as drowsy.

To enhance accuracy, a CNN-based classification model is trained on a dataset containing images of awake and drowsy drivers. This deep learning model improves upon traditional rule-based methods by learning complex patterns in facial behaviour associated with fatigue. When the system detects prolonged eye closure or frequent yawning, it triggers an alarm system, which includes an on-screen warning and an audible alert, ensuring the driver is promptly notified. Additionally, a drowsiness score graph is generated to visualize drowsiness levels over time, as seen in the provided reference images.

The proposed system is designed to be lightweight and efficient, making it suitable for real-time deployment on embedded systems or in-vehicle monitoring setups. By integrating deep learning with Opencv and deep learning, Neural Nap Guard offers an intelligent, non-intrusive, and cost-effective approach to enhancing road safety, reducing driver fatigue related accidents, and promoting responsible driving behaviour.

1.4 LITERATURE REVIEW:

Driver drowsiness detection has been a critical area of research due to its direct impact on road safety. Various studies have explored different approaches, including traditional machine learning, deep learning, and computer vision techniques, to improve the accuracy and efficiency of detecting driver fatigue. This section reviews key contributions in the field.

Ahmed et al. [1] proposed a deep-learning approach using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to detect driver drowsiness based on facial features. Their model classified driver alertness based on eye conditions and achieved an accuracy of 97%, outperforming traditional machine learning models. Bakheet and Al-Hamadi [2] developed a drowsiness detection framework using improved Histogram of Oriented Gradient (HOG) features and Naïve Bayesian classification. Their approach demonstrated significant performance improvements in feature extraction and classification.

Zhao et al. [3] introduced a system using facial dynamic fusion information combined with a Deep Belief Network (DBN). Their method incorporated temporal facial expressions for improved classification accuracy. Similarly, Jose et al. [4] utilized image

processing techniques for real-time drowsiness detection and achieved notable results using CNN models. Their approach provided an efficient solution for real-time driver monitoring.

Phan et al. [5] explored an alternative deep-learning model incorporating MobileNet-V2 and ResNet-50V2 architectures for fatigue classification. Their approach was effective in distinguishing between drowsy and alert states in drivers, demonstrating the advantages of transfer learning. Salman et al. [6] further improved CNN-based models by implementing an ensemble learning approach, enhancing the accuracy and robustness of driver drowsiness detection.

Chand and Karthikeyan [7] integrated CNN with emotion analysis to assess driver fatigue more accurately. Their study demonstrated that combining facial expression recognition with drowsiness detection enhanced system reliability. Wang et al. [8] focused on optimizing driver fatigue identification

using Genetic Algorithms and General Regression Neural Networks (GA-GRNN), achieving significant accuracy improvements in real-time environments.

Singh [9] proposed an eye-aspect-ratio (EAR)-based real-time drowsiness detection system using computer vision. Their study highlighted the effectiveness of monitoring blink patterns in detecting early signs of fatigue. Mehta et al. [10] developed a non-intrusive approach using eye closure ratio

(ECR) and EAR, providing a practical implementation for real-time driver monitoring systems.

1.5 Advantages:

- **Non-intrusive** – Uses a simple camera, no need for uncomfortable sensors.
- **Cost-effective** – Avoids expensive EEG/ECG equipment.
- **Real-time monitoring** – Continuously analyzes driver alertness frame by frame.
- **High accuracy** – CNN-based deep learning improves detection of drowsiness signs.
- **Early warning system** – Triggers alerts before critical fatigue sets in.
- **Easy integration** – Can work with webcams or existing car dashboards.
- **User-friendly** – Minimal setup and no physical contact required.

2.1. ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAM

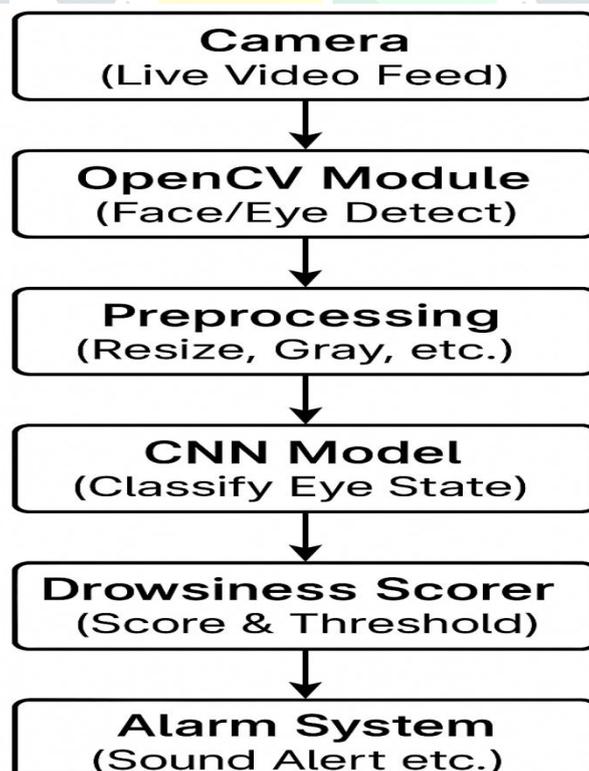


Figure Captions

The architecture diagram illustrates the workflow of a CNN driven drowsiness detection system, integrating Streamlit, OpenCV and deep learning, and a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). The process begins with the user, who interacts with the system through a camera that continuously captures real-time video. The Streamlit UI serves as an interface where users can start or stop the detection process while also displaying the video feed and drowsiness score. The captured frames are then processed using OpenCV and deep learning and Haarcascade classifiers, which detect facial features, specifically focusing on the left and right eyes. These extracted eye images are fed into a CNN model, which classifies whether the eyes are open or closed. The drowsiness detection module evaluates the CNN predictions and calculates a drowsiness score. If the score crosses a predefined threshold (indicating drowsiness), the system triggers an alarm to alert the driver. Otherwise, the system continues normal monitoring. This structured pipeline ensures efficient and real-time detection of driver drowsiness, enhancing road safety.

1. Eye Aspect Ratio (EAR) Calculation

The Eye Aspect Ratio (EAR) is used to determine whether an eye is open or closed. It is computed using the distances between key eye landmarks:

$$EAR = \frac{\|P_2 - P_6\| + \|P_3 - P_5\|}{2\|P_1 - P_4\|}$$

where:

- $P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5, P_6$ are the landmark points around the eye detected using OpenCV's Dlib library.
- A lower EAR value indicates a closed eye, while a higher value represents an open eye.

2. Drowsiness Score Calculation

The drowsiness score accumulates over time based on consecutive frames where both eyes are detected as closed.

$$S_t = S_{t-1} + \Delta S, \quad \text{if both eyes closed for } T > 2s$$

$$S_t = S_{t-1} - \Delta S, \quad \text{if eyes open}$$

where

- ΔS is the increment/decrement factor.
- S_t is the drowsiness score at time t .

3. CNN Eye Classification Model

A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is used to classify eyes as open (1) or closed (0). Given an input image X , the CNN performs classification as:

$$Y = f(W \cdot X + B)$$

Where

- X is the input image (grayscale, resized to 100x100 pixels).
- W and B are the CNN's learned weights and biases.
- f is the activation function (Softmax or ReLU).
- Y is the predicted class (0 = closed, 1 = open).

4. Alarm Trigger Condition

The system triggers an alarm if the drowsiness score exceeds a predefined threshold

$$S_{\text{threshold}}$$

$$\text{if } S > S_{\text{threshold}} \quad \text{then Alarm} = 1$$

$$\text{else, Alarm} = 0$$

where

- $S_{\text{threshold}}$ is usually set to 10.
- When $\text{Alarm} = 1$, the system plays a warning sound.

2.2 Algorithm:

The document uses a **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)** as the main algorithm for drowsiness detection.

- **CNN Model** is trained on labeled images of open and closed eyes.
 - During real-time monitoring, the **camera captures frames**, and the **eye region is extracted using OpenCV**.
 - The CNN predicts whether the eyes are **open (alert)** or **closed (drowsy)**.
 - A **drowsiness score** is calculated based on how long the eyes remain closed, and if it exceeds a threshold, an **alarm is triggered**.
- So, the core algorithm is a **deep learning-based CNN for image classification**, supported by **Haar Cascade Classifiers** for face and eye detection in preprocessing.

2.3 Techniques:

The document mainly uses a Computer Vision + Deep Learning technique for drowsiness detection.

- **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)** → for **classifying eye states** (open or closed).
- **Frame-by-frame analysis** → to calculate **drowsiness score** based on eye closure duration.
- **Haar Cascade Classifiers (Opencv and deep learning)** → for **face and eye detection** in real-time video frames.
- **Threshold-based alert mechanism** → triggers an **alarm** if the drowsiness score exceeds a set limit.

So, the technique is a **camera-based, non-intrusive drowsiness detection approach using CNN with Opencv and deep learning preprocessing**.

2.4 Tools:

The project uses Python as the primary programming language along with several libraries and frameworks. Opencv and deep learning is used for real-time video capture and face/eye detection using Haar Cascade Classifiers. Keras with TensorFlow backend is employed to build and train the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for classifying eye states. NumPy is used for numerical operations, while Pygame mixer handles the alarm sound. The system runs on a Windows 11 environment with VS Code as the development tool, and it requires hardware like an Intel i5 processor with an NVIDIA GPU for efficient processing.

2.5 Methods:

The document uses a camera-based, non-intrusive method for driver drowsiness detection. It captures real-time video frames of the driver, then applies Haar Cascade Classifiers via Opencv and deep learning to detect the face and eyes. The extracted eye regions are fed into a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), which classifies whether the eyes are open or closed. A drowsiness score method is used, where the system tracks how long the eyes remain closed; if the duration exceeds a predefined threshold, it triggers an alarm alert mechanism. This frame-by-frame analysis combined with deep learning ensures accurate detection of prolonged eye closure, minimizing false alarms and improving reliability.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Input:

The input to the system in the document is real-time video frames captured from a camera/webcam focused on the driver's face.

From these frames:

- The **face and eyes are detected** using Opencv and deep learning's Haar Cascade Classifiers.
- The **eye regions** are extracted and preprocessed (resized, converted to grayscale).
- These processed eye images are then fed into the **CNN model** to classify whether the eyes are open or closed.

So, **the main input is live video footage (image frames) of the driver's face and eyes.**

3.2 Method of Process:

The **method of process** in the document follows these main steps:

- **Video Capture** – A webcam continuously records real-time frames of the driver's face.
- **Preprocessing** – Opencv and deep learning converts frames to grayscale and uses **Haar Cascade Classifiers** to detect the face and eyes.
- **Feature Extraction** – The eye region is cropped and resized for model input.
- **CNN Prediction** – A **Convolutional Neural Network** classifies the eyes as **open or closed**.
- **Drowsiness Scoring** – The system calculates how long the eyes remain closed and assigns a **drowsiness score**.
- **Alert Mechanism** – If the score exceeds a set threshold, an **alarm sound and visual warning** are triggered.
- **Continuous Monitoring** – The process repeats frame by frame for real-time detection.

3.3 Output:

- Real-time driver status displayed on the screen as "Open" (alert) or "Drowsy" (fatigued) based on CNN predictions.
- A drowsiness score that increases when the driver's eyes remain closed beyond a threshold.
- Visual alerts, such as a red "Drowsy" warning on the video feed when fatigue is detected.
- Auditory alert (alarm sound) triggered when the drowsiness score exceeds the limit, warning the driver.
- Additionally, the system can display graphs of drowsiness score and model accuracy over time for analysis.

IV. RESULTS:



Figure 1: Drowsiness Detected with Alarm

Figure Captions

The system detects a driver as drowsy, displaying an "ALARM!" message in red at the top. A red "Drowsy" label is displayed at the bottom, indicating that the system has detected closed eyes or fatigue.

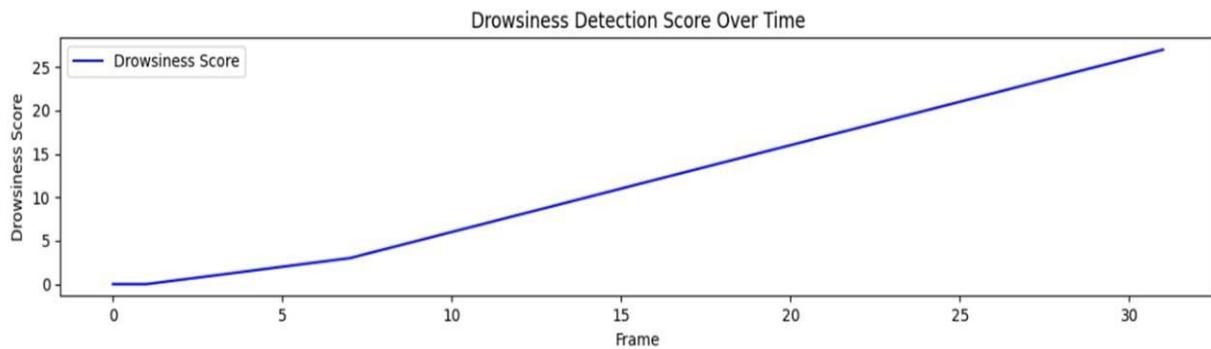


Figure 2: Drowsiness Score Over Time (Increasing Trend)

Figure Captions

This graph shows how the drowsiness score increases over time, indicating that the system continuously monitors facial features. As the driver remains drowsy, the score rises, suggesting a risk of fatigue.



Figure 3: Alert State Detection

Figure Captions

Here, the system recognizes that the driver's eyes are open and labels the state as "Open" in black at the bottom left. There is no alarm, meaning the driver is considered awake and alert.

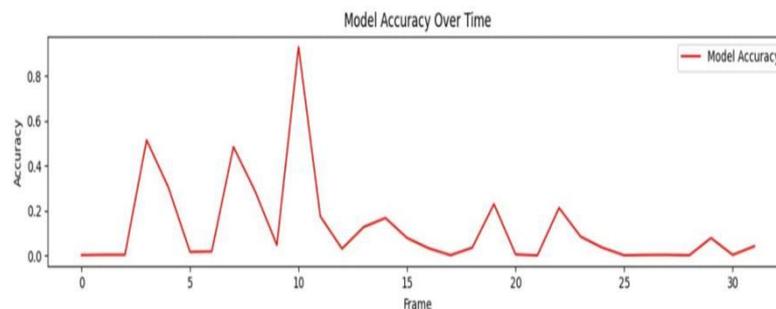


Figure 4: Drowsiness Score Over Time (Fluctuating Trend)

Figure Captions

This graph shows fluctuating drowsiness scores, suggesting that the driver alternates between being alert and drowsy. Peaks in the graph represent detected moments of drowsiness, while valleys indicate alert phases.

V. DISCUSSIONS:

The proposed driver drowsiness detection system effectively combines **computer vision and deep learning** for real-time monitoring of driver alertness. By using a **webcam and Opencv and deep learning**, it provides a **non-intrusive and cost-effective** solution compared to EEG or ECG-based systems, which are expensive and uncomfortable. The **CNN model** improves detection accuracy by learning eye state patterns, while the **drowsiness scoring mechanism** reduces false alarms caused by normal blinks. However, the system still faces **challenges** like lighting variations, head movements, and environmental vibrations that can affect detection accuracy. Despite these limitations, the approach shows **promising results for practical implementation** in vehicles, as it can be integrated with existing dashboards or mobile devices without requiring specialized hardware.

VI. CONCLUSION:

The Driver Drowsiness Detection System is a crucial technology designed to enhance road safety by continuously monitoring a driver's alertness. The system effectively tracks the driver's eye state in real time, analyzing whether the eyes are open or closed. When signs of drowsiness are detected, the system triggers an alarm, alerting the driver to take necessary action.

The provided images illustrate the system's ability to differentiate between an alert and a drowsy state. In cases where the driver appears drowsy, a visual warning (ALARM!) is displayed on the screen, along with a rising drowsiness score plotted over time. The increasing score pattern indicates prolonged drowsiness, whereas a fluctuating score suggests intermittent sleepiness. These visualizations confirm the system's accuracy in tracking fatigue levels.

This technology serves as a preventative safety measure, significantly reducing the risk of accidents caused by driver fatigue. By issuing timely warnings, the system ensures that drivers remain alert and take breaks when necessary. As a result, implementing such a system in vehicles can contribute to reducing road accidents and saving lives.

VII. FUTURE SCOPE:

The Driver Drowsiness Detection System is designed to enhance road safety by monitoring driver fatigue in real time using computer vision and deep learning techniques. The system employs Haar cascade classifiers to detect facial features and identify eye states, ensuring robust performance under varying lighting conditions. A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is used to classify whether the driver's eyes are open or closed, utilizing a pre-trained model for accurate prediction. To assess drowsiness levels, a cumulative drowsiness score is computed based on the duration of eye closure, increasing when the eyes remain closed for a critical threshold and decreasing when they are open. If the drowsiness score exceeds a predefined limit, an alarm system is activated to alert the driver and prevent potential accidents. The system also incorporates a real-time graphical representation of drowsiness trends to provide a visual analysis of the driver's alertness. Designed for real-time implementation, this system ensures continuous monitoring and rapid response, making it an essential tool for improving road safety and preventing fatigue-related crashes.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Muppala Naga Keerthi working as an Assistant Professor in Master of Computer Applications in Sanketika Vidya Parishad Engineering College, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, accredited with A grade by NAAC, affiliated by Andhra University and approved by AICTE with 14 years of experience in computer science, and member in IAENG. Her areas of interests in C, Java, Data Structures, DBMS, Web Technologies, Software Engineering and Data Science.



Komara Neelakantam is pursuing his final semester MCA in Sanketika Vidya Parishad Engineering College, accredited with A grade by NAAC, affiliated by Andhra University and approved by AICTE With interest in Machine learning K Neelakantam has taken up his PG project on Neural Nap Guard: CNN-Driven Drowsiness Detection Using Opencv and deep learning and published the paper in connection to the project under the guidance of M Naga Keerthi, Assistant Professor, Master of Computer Applications. SVPEFC

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