

DEVELOPING A SYSTEM FOR CRACK CLASSIFICATION IN TRAIN TRACKS USING MACHINE LEARNING

Dr. Madhubala P¹, Uma G², Sasitha P³, Udhayaraga S⁴, Muthulakshmi M⁵

¹Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering & Bharathiyar Institute of Engineering For Women (Autonomous), Salem, Tamil Nadu, India

^{2,3,4,5}UG Student, Computer Science and Engineering & Bharathiyar Institute of Engineering For Women (Autonomous), Salem, Tamil Nadu, India

system analyzes images of railway tracks to identify cracks and defects automatically.

ABSTRACT

Railway transportation is one of the most important modes of transport. Safety of railway tracks is very important to avoid accidents and ensure smooth train operations. Traditional railway track inspection methods are mostly manual and require a lot of time and human effort. These methods may also fail to detect small cracks.

This project proposes a machine learning based system to detect and classify cracks in railway tracks automatically.

Images of railway tracks are collected using cameras or sensors. These images are processed using image processing techniques and analyzed using a trained machine learning model

The proposed system improves accuracy, reduces inspection time, and helps in early detection of track damage. This can significantly improve railway safety and reduce maintenance costs.

Traditionally, railway track inspection is carried out manually by maintenance workers or through periodic inspection using specialized vehicles. These traditional inspection methods are time-consuming.

This project presents a system for crack classification in train tracks using machine learning and image processing techniques. The

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1. INTRODUCTION

Railway transportation is one of the most important and widely used modes of transportation in many countries. It plays a crucial role in transporting passengers and goods efficiently over long distances. Because of the heavy load and continuous usage of railway tracks, the tracks may develop cracks or other structural defects over time. If these cracks are not detected early, they may lead to serious railway accidents and safety risks.

Traditionally, railway track inspection is performed manually by railway maintenance workers or by using special inspection vehicles. In manual inspection, workers physically examine the railway tracks to identify visible defects such as cracks, corrosion, or damage.

However, this process is time-consuming, requires a large workforce, and may not always detect small cracks accurately. Human errors and environmental conditions can also affect the reliability of manual inspection.

With the advancement of technology, machine learning and image processing techniques have provided new solutions for automated inspection systems. Machine learning enables computers to learn patterns from data and make predictions. Railway transportation is one of the most widely used modes of transportation for passengers and goods across the world.

2.LITERATURE SURVEY

Railway track safety is one of the most important aspects of railway transportation systems. Cracks and structural defects in

However, manual inspection methods are time-consuming, labor-intensive, and may not always detect small cracks accurately. With the advancement of computer vision, image processing, and machine learning technologies, researchers have proposed automated systems to detect cracks in railway tracks and other infrastructure components.

Several research studies have focused on using image processing techniques for crack detection.

In early research, traditional image processing methods such as edge detection, thresholding, and filtering were used to identify cracks in surfaces. These techniques analyze pixel intensity changes to detect irregular patterns that indicate cracks. For example, edge detection algorithms such as Sobel, Canny, and Prewitt filters were commonly used to detect boundaries and crack lines in images. Although these techniques were useful, they often struggled to detect cracks accurately under complex conditions such as varying lighting, shadows, and noisy backgrounds.

To overcome these limitations, researchers began applying machine learning techniques for crack detection. Machine learning models can learn patterns from large datasets and classify images based on learned features. Methods such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees, and Random Forest algorithms have been used to classify images containing cracks and non-cracks. These models require manual feature extraction, where important features such as edges, textures, and shapes are extracted from images before training the model.

While these methods improved detection accuracy compared to traditional image processing techniques, their performance still depended heavily on the quality of manually extracted features.

3.PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed methodology focuses on developing an automated system for detecting and classifying cracks in railway tracks using machine learning and image processing techniques. The system follows a series of steps that process railway track images and identify crack patterns accurately.

3.1.Data Collection

The first step in the methodology is collecting railway track images. These images can be obtained from cameras installed on inspection vehicles, drones, or from publicly available datasets. The dataset should include both cracked and non-cracked railway track images so that the machine learning model can learn the difference between normal and damaged tracks.

The collected images should represent different environmental conditions such as sunlight, shadows, dust, and different track angles. This helps the machine learning model to perform well in real-world situations. A balanced dataset is also important, meaning that both cracked and non-cracked images should be present in a sufficient amount.

After collecting the images, they are stored and organized properly for further processing. Each image is labeled based on whether it contains a crack or not. Proper labeling helps the machine learning model understand patterns during the training process.

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learning model understand patterns during the training process. Images of railway tracks with and without cracks were collected using high-resolution cameras and publicly available railway track datasets.



Fig .1 DATA COLLECTION

3.2. Image Preprocessing

After collecting the images, preprocessing techniques are applied to improve the image quality. In this step, operations such as noise removal, resizing, grayscale conversion, and filtering are performed. Image preprocessing helps remove unnecessary information and enhances the important features required for crack detection.

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The first step in image preprocessing is image resizing. Railway track images may come in different sizes and resolutions. To make the processing easier for the machine learning model, all images are resized to a fixed dimension.

□ The collected railway track images are first resized to a fixed resolution to ensure uniform input for the machine learning model.

Therefore, image preprocessing is performed to improve image quality and make the crack features clearer for further analysis.



IMAGE PREPROCESSING FLOW CHART

3.3. Feature Extraction

In this stage, the system extracts important features from the images. Features such as edges, textures, shapes, and crack patterns are identified. These features help the system understand the structure of the railway track surface and detect irregularities that indicate cracks.

Feature extraction is an important stage in the proposed system for crack classification in railway tracks. After the images are preprocessed and improved, the next step is to identify and extract the important features from the railway track images. These features help the machine learning model understand

Feature extraction is the process of identifying important information from the railway track images. In this step, features like edges, crack shapes, and patterns are extracted from the images. Feature extraction is an important step in the railway track crack classification system.

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Fig .3.FEATURE EXTRACTION

3.4. Model Training

The extracted features are used to train a machine learning model. Deep learning models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) are commonly used because they are effective in image classification tasks. During training, the model

learns patterns from both cracked and non-cracked images in the dataset.

Model training is an important stage in the proposed system for crack classification in railway tracks using machine learning. In this stage, the machine learning model learns how to identify cracks in railway track images based on the features extracted from the images.

The goal of model training is to create a model that can accurately distinguish between cracked and non-cracked railway track images.

The training dataset is used to train the machine learning model, while the testing dataset is used to evaluate how well the model performs on new images.

After feature extraction, the dataset is divided into training and testing sets to evaluate the performance of the machine learning model

3.5. Crack Detection and Classification

Once the model is trained, it can analyze new railway track images. The system processes the input image and predicts whether the railway track contains a crack or not. If a crack is detected, the system classifies the image as a damaged track.

Crack detection and classification is the main stage in the proposed system for railway track monitoring. After the model training process is completed, the trained machine learning model is used to analyze railway track images and identify cracks automatically. The purpose of this stage is to detect whether a railway track contains cracks and classify the condition of the track.

3.6. Result Generation

In the final step, the system displays the output results. The output indicates whether the railway track image contains a crack or not. The detected cracks can also be highlighted in the image to help maintenance teams identify the damaged area. Crack detection and classification is the main stage in the proposed system for railway track monitoring. After the model training process is

completed, the trained machine learning model is used to analyze railway track images and identify cracks automatically.

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The proposed system for crack classification in railway tracks using machine learning was tested using a dataset of railway track images containing both cracked and non-cracked tracks. The system processes the images through several stages such as image preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, and crack classification.

During the preprocessing stage, the quality of the images was improved by removing noise, resizing the images, and converting them to grayscale. This helped the system focus on important details such as edges and crack patterns. After preprocessing, feature extraction techniques were applied to identify relevant patterns that indicate cracks on the railway track surface.

The proposed system for railway track crack classification was implemented using machine learning and image processing techniques. After the training process, the model was tested using new images that were not part of the training dataset.

The experimental results showed that the proposed system can successfully identify cracks in railway track images with good accuracy.

6.CONCLUSION

The proposed system “Developing a System for Crack Classification in Train Tracks using Machine Learning” focuses on improving railway safety by automatically detecting cracks in railway tracks. Railway tracks are continuously exposed to heavy loads, weather conditions, and constant train movement, which may cause cracks or structural damage over time. If these cracks are not detected at an early stage, they may lead to serious railway accidents and safety issues.

In this project, machine learning and image processing techniques are used to analyze railway track images and detect cracks effectively. The system collects railway track images, preprocesses

them to improve image quality, and extracts important features such as crack patterns and edges. These features are then used to train a machine learning model such as a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).

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