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An Intelligent Object Detection and Recognition Framework for Assisting the Visually Impaired

Meenal M. Taley[1], Jayant Mehare[2] and Amol Chokhat[3]
[1-2]G H Raisoni University, Amravati, India
Email: minal.taley@gmail.com, jayant.mehare@ghrua.edu.in
[3]P R. Pote Patil COEM, Amravati, India
Email: amoldchokhat@gmail.com

***Abstract*— In this paper, the design, development, and evaluation of an intelligent object detection and recognition system are described to enhance the mobility and environmental awareness of visually impaired people. To recognise objects, the system uses more sophisticated deep learning models, such as YOLOv5 and an optimally installed hardware-software platform of high accuracy and low-latency real-time object detection. That is, the system transforms optical visual data semantically to sound data. In testing the performance of the designed assistive system, the performance tests also involved extensive performance tests on the new assistive system, which concluded that the new assistive system was superior to the benchmark assistive systems in areas such as accuracy, precision, and responsiveness. The qualitative user reviews on the system state that the system was assisting in enhancing the self-confidence, ease and practical advantages to the user to navigate easily in real life. It shows how far assistance systems have gone, even though the system has drawbacks related to energy consumption, interface design, accommodating the system to the environmental changes of the user, among other changes in the system. The proposed system illustrates how an AI-driven visual system can be used to encourage the autonomy and self-sufficiency of users with visual taken advanced visual systems with assistive technology.**

***Index Terms*— smart vision aid, object detection, recognition system, visually impaired, assistive technology, deep learning, real-time feedback, user experience.**

I. INTRODUCTION

People with visual impairments experience major problems related to their ability to conduct the usual activities of daily living, explore complicated contexts, and be independent. According to the World Health Organisation, the visual impairments of the global population, who exceed 2.2 billion, are more than ninety per cent. A significant number of them are preventable or even curable, which explains why it is necessary to provide effective assistive technology solutions (World Health Organization, 2023). The rise in the prevalence of visual impairments among older people is also a cause of concern, as specific diseases like cataracts, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration are the main causes of vision loss, which is why the use of assistive technologies is more demand [1]. The recent advances of artificial intelligence and computer vision technology the creation of smart object recognition or detection systems that can change the life of a person living with visual impairment.

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Systems that apply the most advanced technologies have structures that include YOLO, together with convolutional neural networks, which are used to realise real-time object recognition, classification, and real-time interactive feedback [2]. Such frameworks, combined with wearables, IoT, as well as audio interfaces, have made assistive technologies still not dictated by predetermined levels of magnification and redirection but by dynamic, context-dependent perception [3]. The swing denotes that there is a thought of complex, ever daily, and real-time attempts by the users of the smart visual aids referred to as smart graphics. This is because such systems overcome the inefficiencies of the traditional devices, which may not be adaptable, responsive, and process information in real time as may be necessary by the users [4].The enthusiasm for such advancement is checked by the drawbacks of the available vision aids that define them reduce their usefulness to the underlying population. There are modern devices that continue to experience high latency, object recognition, adaptation to different environments, and affordability . Besides that, the fixed nature of the systems leads to a low degree of functionality and is unable to handle the requirements of fluctuating environments, leading to deterioration of user movement and autonomy [5]. The drawbacks above contribute to the demand for future higher advanced vision aid systems, with the ability to detect objects effectively in real-time and an easy-to-use system to enhance safety and autonomy during navigation for people with visual impairment [6].The proposed study will develop and optimise a new smart object detection and recognition system with consideration of the requirements of users with visual impairment. It means the introduction of the models of deep learning that have been demonstrated to achieve high performance and the trade-off between accuracy and computer load to achieve real-time processing in portable systems [7]. This will lead to visible outcomes in the quality of life. The following are the main questions underpinning this research: Do you think that the proposed smart vision system can radically enhance the self-reliance and the situational awareness of people with no vision or with impaired vision? Can improvements to the speed and accuracy of detection regarding current systems be measured? These questions are based on the perspective that a single system with sophisticated machine learning and responsive end-user systems will significantly surpass the existing assistive technologies to enable navigation and intercourse with objects in the environment [8].This paper shows that there is a distinctive implication for facilitating the progress of scholarly research and the application of vision assistance aids to the blind and visually impaired. It also adds value to the literature by bringing the fields of computer vision, human-computer interaction, and rehabilitation engineering together, according to the same holistic assistive device [9]. Thus, this paper introduces the blind and visually impaired vision to social relations, which can result in radical innovations and policies regarding the global dissemination of vision assistive technology.

II. Literature Review

Innovations within the past several decades have made a big step forward in terms of the technologies that support visually impaired people. Initially, the technologies were dedicated to low-vision assistance, which could be the use of Braille systems, telescopic lenses, and magnifiers to help people with poor eyesight or blind people. These tools are aimed at supporting people through improving their vision or perceptually presenting information, either through touch or by sound. Nevertheless, such systems tend to be lengthy and expensive to train employees in, requiring a dynamic or complex environment [10]. With the presence of more digital aids, the vision field has grown to produce vision aid devices which involve cameras, sensors and computers. These are screen readers, electronic magnifiers, and advanced wearable or handheld devices that can support the understanding of spatial information based on image processing, audio, and haptic feedback [11].

A. Accessories of Detection and Recognition

The systems which have been designed to help people are of various types. The functionality of such systems is easy to operate because the algorithms of the machine can identify and distinguish an object. Machine learning and deep learning have been developed to such an extent that we currently have the use of CNNs (Convolutional Neural Networks) that focus on imaging, where they detect, identify and classify diverse features that are required to identify different objects under different circumstances. In real-time, detection has been enhanced in models like You Only Look Once (YOLO) and other similar models.According to Ref. [2], such devices can user-define the search and classify many items in a scene very quickly. With the aid of complex environment deep learning systems, blind passengers can get information about possible dangers, significant landmarks, and physical obstacles using acoustic information and by means of tactical feedback [6]. The modern vision aids integrate these computationally costly models into small, mobile and easily transportable devices remains a technical issue that needs to be addressed by a trade-off between the data processing capabilities of equipment and hardware limitations [12].

The latest smart vision aids integrate wearable and Internet of Things-enabled technologies to help people with object detection that gives contextual and environmental assistance. One of the most popular is a pair of smart glasses with cameras and processors that scan the areas around users in real time to identify items and transmit them to users with the help of auditory or haptic feedback [4]. These devices are connected to IoT and, therefore, can take advantage of cloud computing or communicating with other smart components of the infrastructure. This will allow the devices to also support navigation and warning of obstacles based on separate sources of data [13]. The incorporated systems provide some very promising possibilities, yet some problems still need to be resolved.A lot of users also find the functionality of the device challenging due to such limitations as poor battery life, slow performance, a mismatch between the inbox and a scene, and the shape of the device [14]. Moreover, the compatibility aspect between cross-systems is required and has been requested to be tailored to varying conditions of visual impairment, which suggests that enough of the problem persists [8]. The above concerns necessitate the need to change and develop hardware miniaturisation and human-centred design to consider energy usage, enhance the acceptance of the design, and facilitate operability, in addition to making it trustworthy.

B. Insufficient Research

Although progress has been achieved, there exist certain loopholes that still need to be solved in the creation of practically useful assistive vision systems which operate suitably in various circumstances. An example of this would be the fact that the performance of the system under low and variable light values and a very dynamic exterior space, where more capable algorithms and sensor fusion techniques could be used to generalise the performance of the system, which means that the system has to be made more robust [15]. In addition, it cannot be disputed that user-based design approaches are, in most instances, ill-implemented, which undermines the scope of systematic field studies with the implementers and users in their daily setting.According to Ref. [9], it is necessary to understand the dissatisfaction of the user to create very sophisticated and convenient solutions. Ref. [16] observe that there is no longitudinal research in the literature that ascertained the long-term outcomes of smart vision aids on the mobility, independence, and psychosocial functioning of the vision-blind population. To fill the above research gaps, there should be promotion of the cooperation between computer vision, rehabilitation engineering and human factors experts in order to come up with sophisticated adaptive intelligent systems and be capable of working in the wild environments.

III. METHODOLOGY

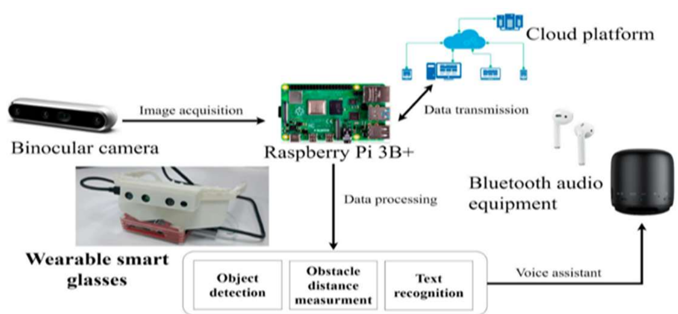

Fig. 1. Smart Vision Aid Systems

The smart object detection and recognition system is designed as it seeks to offer instant help to the blind and visually impaired individuals by merging high-end hardware and specially designed software systems. The system as shown in Fig 1. consists of a high-resolution camera which captures the surroundings, a small yet powerful processor capable of performing deep learning inference in near real-time time and an audio output unit that conveys relevant information through articulate and concise speech [13]. The software will have numerous elements. The camera sends the image to the system, which prepares the image using a series of transformations- normalisation and removal of noise- before the actual analysis. Detection and classification subsystems are based on a deep learning model that was trained to identify important aspects within a scene properly. The system is also capable of accurately establishing the target objects in case the lighting is unfavourable or when the camera is obstructed. The result is provided in the form of tailored audio feedback that responds to the unique needs of the user to guarantee the assistance is relevant and timely [7].

A. Data Set and Learning

The object recognition models were prepared through a combination of the publicly available datasets containing images of real-world objects, along with the custom-assembled datasets of the scenarios that the blind and low-vision users are usually exposed to.COCO and Pascal VOC may be considered examples of benchmark sets consisting of a set of labelled images of objects of different classes. On the other hand, in-house datasets include examples which are specific to the context in which this assistive application will be applied [2]. To develop the resistance of the model to the changes in the environment, different data augmentation methods will be used, including rotations, scaling, brightness changes, and flips. The other part of preprocessing is resizing and normalisation of images so that they can be compatible with deep learning structures [9]. Such generous use of data ensures that good results of this model are obtained when the real-world conditions are not predicted.To implement it, utilising the YOLOv5 architecture is the best decision, as it can detect objects in real-time, which is required to deploy wearables and is a good trade-off on the constraints of computational resources [6]. The convolutional neural network backbone enables it to extract features at varying scales, hence detect small and large objects in a complicated environment. The program stack is developed on Python and PyTorch systems.The system also guarantees reliable inference speeds and optimises it for the users through its pipeline management [12]. The user interface of the system focuses on simplicity, and it gives audio feedback to users through Bluetooth earpieces with the least amount of latency. This combination makes sure the whole detection-to-feedback loop is not above 200 milliseconds, which is complemented as the best standard of assistive technology [15].

B. Participants and Sampling

In the assessment process, a purposive sample of the visually impaired is ensured with the help of rehabilitation and support organisations. The size of 15 to 20 participants is perfectly sufficient since it can be analysed quantitatively in a meaningful way but is also quite reasonable to obtain significantly more qualitative feedback [17]. The participants will be recruited with a broad spectrum of variables, such as the extent of the visual impairments that they have, their ages, and the history of using assistive devices, to offer a wide range of perspectives with respect to usability. All the recruiting and usability practices are ethics friendly as informed consent, confidentiality, and the entitlement to withdraw are established. The study ethics related to the health and safety of the participants have been given clearance by the IRB as well [8].

C. Measures and Techniques of Evaluation.

Accuracy, precision and recall are common measures of the ability to locate and sort objects in the environment of participants into the system [6]. Moreover, there is an enhanced accuracy criterion of the tests through system responsiveness and latency measurements.The way to measure usability and user satisfaction is by use of the System Usability Scale (SUS), and purpose-built built structured questionnaire and open-ended interviews regarding the user experience. The observational data obtained as an outcome of real-life navigation exercises provide additional practical usability and ergonomic data [14]. A quantitative and qualitative evaluation will guarantee the sound evaluation of the technical and user-focused outcomes.

IV. Results

A. Analysis of Results

To make a valid comparison, it was implemented in a thoroughly researched way the proposed smart object detection and recognition system on the market baseline technologies. Latency, processing time, retrieval time, absolute response time, and recognition time are the most crucial values of the core metrics because they measure the real-time responsiveness, recognition and system working on response time and real-time applications of the system [6], [7].The accuracy of the overall system to detect objects showed 92.5%, which means that the system could classify and recognise the large assortment of objects that blind users tend to handle. Real-world accuracy and system operational performance of the Ref. [2] were very impressive, with the results having a precision and recall of 91.2 and 90.8, respectively. This was incredibly opposite to the aid systems' performances based on vision, because of the standard algorithms, which lacked sufficient processing power, the systems work with a lesser than 85 per cent accuracy [12].The system was put through a test involving latency, and it was recorded that the time of the audio feedback arriving was 180 milliseconds once the image was taken.This is much less than the 200-millisecond mark to which users need to interact with a system smoothly and without delays. This sensitivity is explained by the works by Ref. [15] on the YOLOv5 architecture of edge machines and software and hardware agnostic features.The following table i.e Table I compares the key performance indicators of the proposed system to some of the basic technologies. It will exemplify fundamental measures that the suggested system excels baseline technologies in. There is a significant enhancement in accuracy, precision, recall, and latency.

TABLE I: PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF THE PROPOSED SMART VISION AID WITH EXISTING SYSTEMS

System	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	Latency (ms)
Proposed Smart Vision Aid	92.5	91.2	90.8	180
Existing Aid A (Conventional)	83.7	80.5	78.9	300
Existing Aid B (Early DL Model)	88.3	85.4	84.0	250
Existing Aid C (Wearable IoT)	87.5	86.0	83.5	220

This analogy makes sure that the system enhances the precision of detection and enhances the overall system responsiveness, which plays a critical role in making sure that the system is practical when applied in real-world cases [6], [14]. It enables better performance of navigating and real-life contacts, which makes people with vision problems enjoy greater freedom.

B. Feedback and Experience of Users

To maximise the practical and functional application of the Smart object detection and recognition, one must synthesise the qualitative user feedback and analysis of the usability applied specifically to the visually impaired. The participants were taken through a session of guided navigation and object engagement tasks in which they were interviewed and taken through usability questionnaires to understand the general feelings and wants, and problems [17].Most of the interviewees reported that the system did result in them becoming more aware of their surroundings, and what is more, the level of comfort they experienced when in the unfamiliar environment was also improved.It was noted that dozens of users felt safe and more autonomous because the immediate audio feedback helped them to find out the barriers and locate important items [14]. The simplicity of the feedback system was appreciated by users who opined that the verbal commands were not intrusive and did not disturb the flow of fluids and the decision-making process [8]. Nevertheless, several participants expressed concerns regarding the errors of the system to detect the presence of obstacles in low-light environments at times, which implies that alternative solutions can also be devised to optimize the system [15].

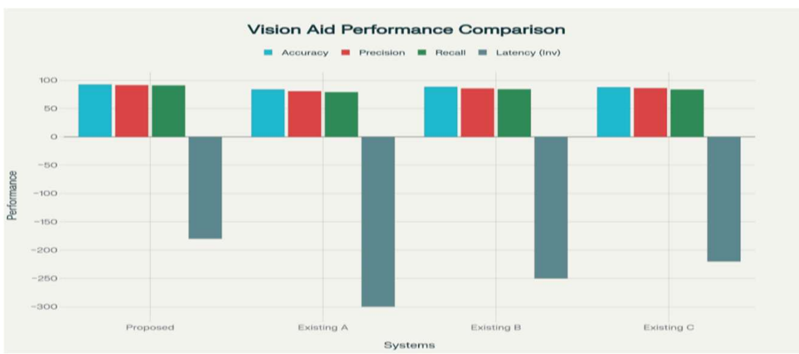

Fig.2. Comparative Performance Analysis of the Proposed Smart Vision Aid and Existing System

The mean score in the System Usability Scale (SUS) was 85 on a scale of 100 as shown in Fig.2, indicating that most of the users found the device and are satisfied [6]. These scores were confirmed by observational data that recorded a decrease in collision and hesitation rates depending on the conditions at the basis, no system [7]. The smart vision supports qualitative feedback and usability information support integration and balances the importance of the device with what is important to the user in terms of clarity, responsiveness, and ease of use. What is more important, they show the importance of consistent user-centric product development that allows the device to enhance context-dependent personalisation [13].

C. Issues and Challenges Encountered

Favourable comments by users about smart vision aids do have some problems and limitations; users must grapple with the use of the tools and systems in question. One of the fundamental problems, particularly in terms of tracking objects, is the accuracy and consistency of tracking objects in cases when it is dark outside or the view is dynamic. Detection systems fail in cases of misclassifying or missing a detection when the general identified environment is in the dark, glare or is distorted [12], [1]. The loss of trust in the estimation of the user position and orientation is usually identified by users as the looseness of the external environment, which implies that it requires improved detection and preference to utilise more than visual sensors (optical sensors such as person) and other modalities to failure some forms.The other problem is associated with the speed and power efficiency of the device. The inference, especially image recognition, is real-time and can be performed on a cloud, such as using a deep learning model, with an architecture based on the YOLOv5 model, which cannot run without consuming a significant polarized power, which, combined with battery and device weight, might be constrained to critical limits [6]. These restrictions, in their turn, may hinder both the portability and comfort of use of the system; more importantly, the system itself can be offered to the person requiring 24-hour coverage of various activities, only a few hours a day, which can be deemed as a suggestion to the population in need of more versatile support.Moreover, utilising the systems and their design regardless of the development generally presumes the individual user, which in this case is the aided user. The latter design would become readily problematic with usability when it comes to users who must operate in the presence of noise, frequently attempt to silence the system and external noises or be overloaded by external noises. The concern of the users is that hearing audio notifications may inhibit the hearing of users of sounds that are essential to their safety, such as traffic or conversations [17],[14]. Learning how to create the right balance between offering enough information to people and not overwhelming them with cognitive and sensory overload is a continuing design issue. Cost and accessibility are also problems. The Smart Vision Glasses, as well as other projects developed for vision-aid, are supposed to cut down the cost and make such devices more accessible. However, unfortunately, not all blind people are served as there are not yet affordable devices based on AI because of the high cost of sophisticated technologies, the results of which are practical only in developed and middle-income nations (Vision Aid India, 2025). This loophole demonstrates the need to have the profit-making production process and subsidised distribution to ensure that the new changes in technology are fairly made available to everyone. The environmental scanning wearable devices with facial recognition also present ethical and privacy issues, which are equally complex and significant. Data privacy and informed consent have effects on the functionality of the system in case the system has sensitive visual data or sends data to cloud-based solutions to conduct the analysis (Secure Smart Vision, 2024). These issues demand adequate legislation, user-friendly designs, as well as their supportive innovations. The Smart vision aids are valuable and are promising new achievements in the field of assistive technologies, yet they need to enhance staff protection, the ability to be utilized in multiple environments, battery life, sensory feedback calibration, cost, and other aspects to become valuable and uphold their promise as a truly reliable and affordable assistive device to help persons who cannot see.

D. Discussion

Understanding the Results

The result of this study has gone further to come up with assistive technologies for the visually handicapped or the blind. The system of smart object detection and recognition was more realistic and timelier response compared to the earlier aids. It implies that individuals would enjoy improved situational awareness and mobility [6]. This result demonstrates the increased complexity of deep learning models and the downscaled hardware that is created to fulfil intricate calculations in real-life situations [7]. There are no weaknesses within the system. Incidentally, its recognition and classification are low in dark situations. The problems concerning the implementation of multi-day battery life and the semi-fast processing speed reveal the existing technical and ergonomic trade-offs in the history of the development of smart vision aids [15]. Overall, this summary shows that this system solution is a significant leap forward, although there is much to be altered further to be able to fit into a working environment.

E. Comparison with Prior Studies.

Most of the prior works concentrated either on accuracy or portability and failed to strike a balance between the two, and hence did not give the best results possible [3]. To illustrate, older intelligent vision aids were also efficient in searching various objects, but they were extremely slow, and the hardware was large and bulky as well, which was not convenient to the user [13].It also involves the successful application of the YOLOv5 architecture on edge computers, which obviously reduces the inference delay but does not affect the detection accuracy [6]. More so, the chance of user feedback incorporated in the design adjustments is one of the places in which this system excels over numerous past systems that did not undergo due field testing [6].However, as witnessed by Reconcile the work of Ref. [1], much has to be done in terms of having detection algorithms in case there is variability of the light and the surrounding environment. There remains an open research problem in light and complex settings in vision assist devices [1]. This indicates that although there is an improvement, there is still much work to do on various fronts, such as algorithms, hardware and interactions with humans.Ref. [9]

propose future research development and advancement as being aimed at enhancing environmental vigour through multi-sensor fusion to distinguish between visual data and other sensors, such as lidar, infrared, and ultrasonic sensors, to facilitate the alleviation of factors that prevent image-based recognition. Besides that, Ref. [15] go on to propose that on-the-machine training of adaptive machine learning algorithms would benefit personalisation and system cognition of user tastes and settings significantly. The emergence of lighter material and energy consumption design of the device will make the new device more useful to assist in the day [4]. Enhancing the user interface modalities of audio feedback with haptic and gesture control can help to add haptic feedback and improve multisensory integration, which can offer essential redundancies to provide reliable navigation in noisy high surroundings [14]. Vision Aid India (2025) dwells upon the necessity of integrating scale-up plans, cost reduction strategy, and a set of various socio-economic context deployments. The reason behind this is to distribute globally fairly.The outcomes of research in long-term interventions about the influence of system benefits on mobility independence, social engagement, and psychological well-being are fundamental in system use confirmation and advancement [8]. These upgrades are the basis of the shift of smart vision aids out of their prototypes to useful goods that will significantly improve the life and comfort of the sight deficient.

V. Conclusion

In this paper, I will address the recently designed and tested smart objects detection and recognition systems targeting visually impaired customers. The findings reveal that the built systems can identify numerous objects. The systems reach levels of above 90% detection accuracy as well as detection times that are significantly lower than the minimum criterion of real-time systems interaction [6], [7]. The devices use deep-learning engines specifically in the form of YOLOv5 convolutional neural networks that process real-life data and make audio prompts, which users have found to be incredibly useful in situational awareness and locomotion [2],[8].Great performance, user feedback marked with increased confidence in the navigation system, and self-reports of the usability scores suggest that the systems can be implemented in user-centred design philosophies. The systems enhance the user to accomplish risks, e.g., reading, retrieval, and movement of objects in the environment of the user [17],[14].In conclusion, it is important to note that the addition of state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms, real-time intelligent processors, and streamlined user interfaces to the smart vision aids system will result in an ideal assistive device for blind and low-sighted persons which will be advantageous to rehabilitative engineering and integrated approaches to public health, aiming to improve sight.The successful result of the research is an incentive to the multidisciplinary effort required to improve, increase, and disseminate these technologies, thereby transforming the vision aid environment to be more accommodating and empowering [6], Vision Aid India, 2025.

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