Improving the learning of self-driving vehicles based on real driving behavior using deep neural network techniques

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Abstract
Considering the significant advancements in autonomous vehicle technology, research in this field is of interest to researchers. To drive vehicles autonomously, controlling steer angle, gas hatch, and brakes needs to be learned. The behavioral cloning method is used to imitate humans’ driving behavior. We created a dataset of driving in different routes and conditions, and using the designed model, the output used for controlling the vehicle is obtained. In this paper, the learning of self-driving vehicles based on real driving behavior using deep neural network techniques (LSV-DNN) is proposed. We designed a convolutional network which uses the real driving data obtained through the vehicle’s camera and computer. The response of the driver during driving is recorded in different situations, and by converting the real driver’s driving video to images and transferring the data to an Excel file, obstacle detection is carried out with the best accuracy and speed using the Yolo algorithm version 3. This way, the network learns the response of the driver to obstacles in different locations and the network is trained with the Yolo algorithm version 3 and the output of obstacle detection. Then, it outputs the steer angle and amount of brake, gas, and vehicle acceleration. This study focuses on designing a convolutional network using behavioral cloning and motion planning of autonomous vehicle using a deep learning framework. Neural networks are effective systems for finding relationships between data, modeling, and predict new data or classify data. As a result Neural networks with input real data predict steer angle and speed for autonomous driving. The LSV-DNN is evaluated here via extensive simulations carried out in Python and TensorFlow environment. We evaluated the network error using the loss function. The results confirmed that our scheme is capable of exhibiting high prediction accuracy (exceeding 92.93%). In addition, our proposed scheme has high speed (more than 64.41%), low FPR (less than 6.89%), and low FNR (less than 3.95%), in comparison with the other approaches currently being employed. By comparing other methods which were conducted on the simulator’s data, we obtained good performance results for the designed network on the data from KITTI benchmark, the data collected using a private vehicle, and the data we collected.
Keywords  Autonomous vehicle · Self-driving · Real driving behavior · Deep neural network · LSV-DNN

1 Introduction

A self-driving car, also known as an autonomous car or driverless car, is a vehicle that uses a combination of sensors, cameras, radars, and artificial intelligence (AI), to travel between destinations without the need of any human effort. Research and development in the field of machine learning and more precisely deep learning lead to many discoveries and practical applications in different domains. The domain where machine learning has a huge impact is the automotive industry and the development of fully autonomous vehicles. Machine learning solutions are used in several autonomous vehicle subsystems, as the perception, sensor fusion, simultaneous localization and mapping, and path planning. In parallel with work on full autonomy of commercial vehicles, the development of various automotive platforms is the current trend. For example, delivery vehicles or various different robots and robot-vehicles are used in warehouses [1].

Knowing of autonomous driving vehicles falls into three main categories: self-sensing, localization, and surrounding sensing. Self-sensing measures the current vehicle state, i.e., velocity, acceleration, yaw, and steering angle, etc. with proprioceptive sensors. Proprioceptive sensors include odometers, inertial measurement units (IMUs), gyroscopes, and the CAN bus. Localization, using external sensors such as global positioning system (GPS) or dead reckoning by IMU readings, determines the vehicle’s global and local position. Surrounding sensing uses exteroceptive sensors to perceive road markings, road slope, traffic signs, weather conditions, and obstacles [2]. Capturing sufficient diversity in a dataset is a challenge [3]. Autonomous vehicles will change the world in ways both anticipated and entirely unexpected. New rules should be flexible while ensuring that self-driving cars are safe, broadly accessible, and avoid the worst unintended consequences. Autonomous vehicle technology is not yet mature enough and still needs rigorous exposure to a wide range of traffic, landscape, and natural conditions on which the autonomous vehicles can be trained on to perform as expected in real traffic conditions [3]. When we change the face of transportation in the manner that is being proposed, we will change the nature of society itself [4].

The autonomous driving system can be generally divided into four blocks: sensors, perception subsystem, planning subsystem, and control of the vehicle, shown in Fig. 1.

The main idea of our work was to develop a solution for autonomous driving for a light automotive platform that has limited hardware resources, processor power, and memory size. Having those hardware restrictions in mind, we are aiming to design a light deep neural network (DNN), an end-to-end neural network that will be able to perform the task of autonomous driving on the representative track, while the developed networks’ model used for inference is possible to deploy on a the low-performance hardware platform. This paper comprises two main phases: Phase one is the detection of obstacles around the vehicle. We considered the detection of different
moving and stationary obstacles including pedestrians, benches, parked vehicles, overtaking vehicles, etc., and sometimes we do not have any obstacles and want to detect the roads and turning left and right while moving. In phase two, real driving methods are applied to autonomous vehicles according to the processing carried out in phase one which include obstacle and motorway detection in order to improve the learning in autonomous vehicles. Then, the network is trained and generates steer angle, acceleration, and brake as output.

The paper presented here is organized as the following. Section 2 presents the related works. Section 3 presents the proposed LSV-DNN framework. Moreover, results and discussion of the implementation of LSV-DNN and inference during autonomous driving are given in Sect. 4. Finally, in Sect. 5, the paper is concluded.

2 Related works

In this section, we review existing work on the learning of self-driving vehicles as well as work on visual explanation and justification.

Deep learning is a machine learning paradigm, a part of a broader family of machine learning methods based on learning data representations [5–7]. Representations in one layer of a deep neural network are expressed in terms of other, simpler representations from previous layers of the deep neural network. The core gradient of deep neural networks is convolutional networks. Convolutional neural networks (CNN) are a specialized kind of neural network for processing data that has a known grid-like topology. CNNs combine three architectural ideas: local representative
fields, shared weights, and spatial or temporal sub-sampling, which leads to some degree of shift, scale, and distortion invariance. Convolutional neural networks are designed to process data with multiple arrays (e.g., color image, language, audio spectrogram, and video) and benefit from the properties of such signals: local connections, shared weights, pooling, and the use of many layers. For that reason, CNNs are most commonly applied to analyzing visual imagery [8, 9].

The first successful attempts of the development of autonomous vehicles started in the 1950s. The first fully autonomous vehicles were developed in 1984 [10, 11] and in 1987 [12]. Significant breakthrough in the field of autonomous vehicles is done during the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency’s (DARPA) challenge, Grand Challenge events in 2004 and 2005 [13, 14], and Urban Challenge in 2007 [15], where it was demonstrated that machines could independently perform the complex human task of driving. Azam et al. proposed a controller (N2C) for an autonomous vehicle constituted with an artificial neural network. The proposed controller (N2C) is inspired by behavioral cloning and prospects as a replacement of the classical control module in the autonomous vehicles. The designed neural network predicts throttle, brake, and torque by taking steering angle and speed as inputs. The experimental evaluation of the controller exhibits its usability in lieu of conventional classical controller when experimented with the two path tracking algorithms: pure pursuit and model predictive control-based path follower. The evaluation results show better RMSE and MAE scores for N2C in contrast to the conventional PID controller. The second part presented in their study is focused on the design of an end-to-end ANN that predicts steering angle and speed from images. The experimental results shown the better metric scores of end-to-end ANN in predicting speed and steering angle on the collected and Udacity dataset compared to state-of-the-art methods. Further, as a supplement, the N2C was also tested with an end-to-end steering angle and speed prediction ANN in a unified framework. The simulation results, in terms of better metric scores, show the efficacy that the unified framework provides a competitive replacement for the conventional pipeline of motion planning and control[16]. Oumar et al. provided an overview of the current state-of-the-art deep behavior cloning methods for lane stable driving. They also presented some publicly available datasets and simulators for the development of such models [17]. Codevilla et al. proposed a new benchmark to experimentally investigate the scalability and limitations of behavior cloning. It indicated that behavior cloning on large-scale off policy demonstration datasets can vastly improve over the state of the art in terms of generalization performance, including when comparing to mediated perception approaches with additional supervision. [18].

However, application on real-time embedded platforms with limited computational power and memory spaces seeks for a different approach [19]. Since the execution of DNN depends heavily on the weights, also called model parameters, the solution for deep neural network architecture suitable for applications on embedded platforms is the smaller model that needs to communicate less data. This is challenging to achieve, especially if the application is computer vision and that has, as an input, a high-quality image. The reduction of the neural network depth and number of parameters often leads to accuracy degradation. Hence, by developing deep neural networks for computer vision for embedded platforms we are looking for a
solution that will be good enough for both an acceptable accuracy and the possibility for inference on hardware platforms with limited capabilities. Therefore, our goal is to develop the right deep neural network architecture that can achieve acceptable accuracy, the successful autonomous driving in a representative track, but which operates in real time within power and energy limitations of its target embedded automotive platform. Cunneen et al.’s study interrogates the significant shortcomings in the current framing of the debate, both in terms of safety discussions and in consideration of AI as a moral actor, and offers a number of ways forward. This paper examines how the crucial process of conceptual framing has received [20].

An additional motivation for the use of end-to-end systems can be found in related problems [21], an end-to-end neural network based on camera images to fly a drone through a room. They stress that using pretrained networks is a good alternative to learning from scratch for end-to-end networks. It saves training time and requires less data because it is less prone to overfitting. They also stress that training LSTM networks using a limited time window produces better performance than when training it on all previous input samples. Moreover, [21] indicates that there is a clear trend in which LSTM networks outperform standard feedforward networks. [22] also used LSTMs combined with other techniques to tackle end-to-end driving. Another observation is that recovery cases have a big impact on performance. Following the same directions, [23] demonstrates that it is possible for networks trained on simulation data to be generalized to the real world. Taking these works into account, it is plausible to assume that many observations and conclusions drawn from the autonomous drone problem, such as the generalization of simulators and the better performance of LSTM networks, also hold for our problem. Finally, motivation for incorporating inter-frame dependencies is found in language modeling. Just like different words in a sentence are also related in order to convey meaning, the input images are temporally dependent because they are consecutive frames of a video. It is proven that LSTMs can outperform standard feedforward neural networks on such tasks [24, 25].

End-to-end learning for self-driving vehicles has been explored since the late 1980s. The autonomous land vehicle in a neural network (ALVINN) [26] was developed to learn steering angles directly from camera and laser range measurements using a neural network with a single hidden layer. Based on similar ideas, modern self-driving vehicles [27, 28] have recently started to employ a batch IL approach: with DNN control policies, these systems require only expert demonstrations during the training phase and on-board measurements during the testing phase. For example, Nvidia’s PilotNet [28], a convolutional neural network that outputs steering angle given an image, was trained to mimic human drivers’ reactions to visual input with demonstrations collected in real-world road tests.

CNN is a type of feedforward neural network computing system that can be used to learn from input data. Learning is accomplished by determining a set of weights or filter values that allow the network to model the behavior according to the training data. The desired output and the output generated by CNN initialized with random weights will be different. This difference (generated error) is backpropagated through the layers of CNN to adjust the weights of the neurons, which in turn reduces the error and allows us produce output closer to the desired one [29].
A notable approach [30] addressing the problem of understanding classification decisions by pixel-wise decomposition of nonlinear classifiers proposes a methodology called layer-wise relevance propagation, where the prediction is backpropagated without using gradients such that the relevance of each neuron is redistributed to its predecessors through a particular message-passing scheme relying on the conservation principle. The stability of the method and the sensitivity to different settings of the conservation parameters were studied in the context of several deep learning models [31]. Shahverdy et al. present a novel yet efficient deep learning method for analyzing the driver behavior. They have used the driving signals, including acceleration, gravity, throttle, speed, and revolutions per minute (RPM) to recognize five types of driving styles, including normal, aggressive, distracted, drowsy, and drunk driving. To take the advantages of successful deep neural networks on images, they learn a 2D convolutional neural network (CNN) on images constructed from driving signals based on recurrence plot technique [32]. Zhao et al. improved yolov3 by continually updating the cluster center with each new set of width and height values [33].

The layer-wise relevance propagation (LRP) technique was extended to Fisher Vector classifiers [34] and also used to explain predictions of CNNs in NLP applications [35]. There is an extensive comparison of LRP with other techniques, like the deconvolution method and the sensitivity-based approach, which we also discuss next in this section, using an evaluation based on region perturbation. This study reveals that LRP provides better explanation of the CNN classification decisions than considered competitors.

3 The proposed LSV-DNN framework

For automatic driving, we designed a convolutional network, behavioral cloning, and motion planning of autonomous vehicles. We used a deep learning framework (end-to-end neural network for predicting the speed and steering angle). We created a real driving dataset on different routes, and situations, through the vehicle’s camera. Then, by converting the real driving video to images and transferring the data to an Excel file, obstacle detection was carried out with the best accuracy and speed using the Yolo algorithm version 3. So the network learned the response of the driver to obstacles in the different locations, so it trained. Then, the output for controlling is obtained. The proposed behavior cloning CNN is named as LSV-DNN (learning self-driving deep neural network). The LSV-DNN is evaluated here via extensive simulations carried out in Python and TensorFlow environment. We evaluated the network error using the loss function. Our data were real, and we obtained good performance results by comparing other methods conducted on the simulator’s data. And the output of this research was extracted at a lower cost in comparison with other works. In the following section, we design the learning of self-driving vehicles schema by employing deep neural network techniques. The proposed system consists of three Phases; such as an overview of the LSV-DNN model is discussed in Phase 1. The detection of obstacles around the vehicle is discussed in
Phase 2. The next section’s real driving methods are applied to autonomous vehicles is discussed in Phase 3.

3.1 Phase 1: Overview of the LSV-DNN model

We have conducted some research concerning the improvement of learning in autonomous vehicles based on real drivers’ behavior using deep neural networks. The main focus of this project is to present some solutions for the detection of different mobile and stationary obstacles and ultimately, safely guiding the vehicle by taking the feedback obtained from the real driver’s behavior into consideration using the data collected during safe driving. The important challenge on this path is the accuracy and speed of detecting obstacles to improve the learning and guidance of the autonomous vehicle. To improve the learning in the autonomous vehicle, we must consider the behavior of real drivers and know with what parameters the driver’s behavior is evaluated. Evaluation parameters of driver’s behavior are the amount of vehicle acceleration and how the vehicle is speeded up, how it is turned or steered in case there are obstacles, the way it is turned left and turned right, overtaking and similar matters, and braking when approaching an obstacle. Speed reduction method is having the least danger for the vehicle and adjacent vehicle. Acceleration and speeding up method is to apply the least amount of vibrations to the vehicle and the passengers and increase the speed of the vehicle gradually. Therefore, acceleration type and measuring acceleration are some of the most important criteria for the driver’s behavior whether it is, while the vehicle is moving straight, turning left or overtaking another vehicle. The distance to the vehicle in front is another important one of driver’s behavior criteria. Also, the driver should maintain the distance limit to obstacle or vehicles on the road when obstacles are seen. In an aggressive driving, the autonomous vehicle might move closer and farther from the vehicle in front. This kind of driving is hazardous and causes problems for the passengers of this vehicle and the passengers of other vehicles. While in real and pleasant driving, the vehicle adjusts its distance and speed using the speed limit of the road such that it is not hazardous and observes the matter of perception and reaction time in terms of traffic. We describe the problem in seven steps as shown in Fig. 2.

The autonomous driving system is a complex combination of several modules that can be described as systems where perception, decision making, and operation of the automobile are performed by electronics and machinery instead of a human.

![Fig. 2 General seven steps of the study](image-url)
driver, and as introduction of automation into road traffic. This includes handling of the vehicle, destination, as well as awareness of surroundings (IMU, mobile, map, GPS, camera). Figure 3 shows the autonomous driving system in this research.

### 3.2 Phase 2: Detection of obstacles around the vehicle

Phase two is the detection of obstacles around the vehicle. We considered the detection of different moving and stationary obstacles including pedestrians, benches, parked vehicles, overtaking vehicles, etc., and sometimes we do not have any obstacles and want to detect the roads and turning left and right while moving. In phase two, to detect the obstacles and vehicles in front and pedestrians and other obstacles or non-straight and turning roads, deep neural network techniques using suitable sensors which surround their front and surroundings can be used. The second phase consists of three steps.

#### 3.2.1 Step one: gathering data

In step one, we have provided logistics for installing cameras on the vehicle, using the IMU of the vehicle computer while driving absolutely safely, and recording vehicle and camera data during the safe drive we had on the highway. In this step, we have first gathered the data. The intended vehicle was equipped with data gathering devices so that it can save the data required for detecting driver’s behavior according to the proposed architecture. To do this, a device was installed for communicating with the vehicle computer which transfers speed, RPM, amount of pressure on the gas pedal, and vehicle defects wirelessly to the computer or mobile phone. Also, a mobile phone was installed on the steering wheel for measuring acceleration, steering wheel rotation angle, the geographical location of the vehicle, and road tilt. To measure the distance to the front vehicle, a camera was used which records video from front vehicles with a 30 frame per second accuracy. Distance to the front

![Diagram](image)

**Fig. 3** The autonomous driving system in this research
vehicle is determined by detecting its license plate and measuring its area with a below 40-cm error. Measuring distance is carried out using radar in advanced vehicles. However, because we did not have access to this technology, we used image processing instead. The data regarding the surrounding environment including traffic levels, road windings, speed limit, and road type were obtained from Google maps.

### 3.2.2 Step two: data preprocessing

This step includes creating the Excel file containing the data gathered while driving, including rotation angle while driving safely, brake, gas, condition, and location of the vehicle obtained from vehicle’s computer system, and converting the video to image frames. In this step, preprocessing and image normalization was carried out. Also, the values obtained from the aforementioned equipped vehicle in different traffic and road conditions were tested and data were collected with a 100-ms frequency.

Fields of initial harvested data without preprocessing are presented in Fig. 4.

Normal driving contains the driver’s normal behavior including safe and allowed speed, avoiding too accelerating or decelerating speed, paying attention to the road, observing the distance to vehicles in front and on the side, driving between the lanes, etc. The driver being examined in this test must observe these items. We will gather the collected dataset in a Excel file and use as input for the designed network and study the results afterward. To this end, a file comprises acceleration measurements, steering wheel turning angle, the geographical location of the vehicle, road tilt on the wheel, distance to the front vehicle, speed data, RPM, pressure on the gas pedal, and vehicle problems columns.

![Diagram](image.png)

**Fig. 4** The autonomous driving system in this research

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Then, we saved the recorded videos as frames and matched each frame to the information we have in the Excel file. After collecting data and loading data into the network, we need data processing steps. In the next step, we preprocess the data. These data along with the images taken using the camera, which were saved as frames, are the network input. At this step, we analyze the data and preprocess useless parts of the images like obstacles in the lane facing the vehicle or obstacles on the roadside which are considered to be noise. One data distribution method is distribution histogram. Histogram graph is a variable which abides by the normal distribution and its normality has been proven. In fact, if after drawing the graph we observe that histogram shape is symmetrical and a bell-like shape, its normality can be accepted. In this project, we need catalogs which are as follows. A file containing the images and reports which will be used for training the model which we save under the name ‘model’ in the clone. After collecting data, it is essential we know what distribution they follow.

3.2.3 Step three: obstacle detection

Although deep learning techniques have presented very good results with high accuracy for obstacle detection, they face a high computational complexity problem. In this research, we implement the detection of obstacles around the vehicle using the YOLO algorithm. YOLO stands for You Only Look Once meaning that you look at the image only once. In fact, this phrase refers to humans’ visual system capabilities which detects objects with one look. Another category of approaches like R-CNN is based on the region proposal. In these methods, a large collection of proposals or boxes are created for each image first. Then, each proposal is resized to a specified size and is provided to CNN networks for feature extraction. Finally, a classifier is used for classifying these boxes. YOLO has made some changes to object detection systems and looks at the object detection problem as a regression problem which gets directly from image pixels to box coordinates and class probabilities. YOLO is very simple. It has just one convolutional network which gets the resized input image and predicts the boxes along with class probabilities. It is trained on complete images and directly improves the detection performance. Therefore, object detection methods before YOLO detected objects using classifiers. This complex path is slow and its optimization is difficult because each one of these components needs to be trained separately. It also trains important features accurately and entire object information globally. The framework for obstacle detection using the YOLO algorithm version 3 is seen in the Flowchart 5. The main objective of this step is to detect and identify all (small) objects with high speed is shown in Fig. 5.

We carry out obstacle detection on the images extracted from the video recorded while driving using the YOLOv3 algorithm. In this algorithm, fully connected layers are removed from the end of the layers and feature extraction is done using several extraction boxes. This helps speed up the process. The YOLOv3 is shown in Fig. 6.

In the YOLOv3, the authors present a novel and deeper architecture for feature extraction called Darknet-53. As it is clear from its name, it contains 53 annular layers. Each layer is followed by a batch normalization layer and Leaky ReLU activation function. Sampling is done from below using dense layers with
Choosing the training sample from the dataset

Framing the received videos

Preprocessing the images in the dataset

Applying YOLO version 3, gridding images with 7*7 size

Choosing 5 reference filters proportionate to the size of bicycle riders, cars, pedestrians, trucks, vans

5-class labeling (bicycle rider, car, pedestrian, truck van)

Classifying obtained labels and classes for learning

Implementation and processing settings

Training the network using training data and detecting objects around the car

Transferring the obtained information along with car information to the designed network for training

**Fig. 5** Detecting obstacles around the autonomous vehicle

**Fig. 6** YOLOv3
The second version of YOLO was called YOLO9000. The detection algorithm uses a proposed regional network to detect objects in input images and a single tracker SSD Multi-box Detector. The next version is YOLO version 3. The accuracy and speed advantages of YOLO version 3 have led to its superiority. In this version, a specific score will be predicted for each box using logistic regression. Multi-class classification is possible in the classifier. For instance, we will have the probability of each class between being human and man. YOLO version 3 extracts features using Darknet-53 which is deeper than Darknet-19 uses by the second version of YOLO. The Darknet-53 is shown in Fig. 7.

The YOLO algorithm divides each input image to an $S$-by-$S$ grid network system. Each grid on the input image is responsible for the detection of one object. Each cell in the network predicts the number of boundary boxes for an object. The input image is given to the YOLO network. The output of the network will be a matrix of size $S \times S$. Each element of the output $S \times S$ matrix corresponds to a cell in the input $S \times S$ network. The output contains the box coordinates and probabilities. If we are in the training process, the output is given to the loss function along with the real boxes (ground truth). The structure of the YOLO system is shown in Fig. 8.

Each boundary box has 5 elements ($x$, $y$, $w$, $h$, confidence score). $X$ and $Y$ are the coordinates of the object in the input image. $W$ and $H$ represent the width and height of the object, respectively. Confidence score is the probability of the box having an object and its accuracy. The boxes border is shown in Fig. 9.

The YOLO algorithm is based on regression where object detection, positioning, and classification for an input image are carried out with a single action. These algorithms are usually used for object detection in real time. The disadvantage of YOLO version one is that it does not detect small objects. The YOLO architecture is shown in Fig. 10.

Score, abjectness score, or confidence means how probable it is for the bounding box (bbox) to contain an object.
Fig. 8  Overall structure of the YOLO system along with the input and the output

Fig. 9  Boxes border

Fig. 10  Boxes, input, and output of the YOLO architecture
In object detection, we specify the location of the objects and classify them. When there is more than one object in an image, we find the location of each object using a bounding box. This can be carried out using a simple convolutional network. This network carries out classification, and 4 numbers are specified for the bounding box location. The coordinates, including X and Y, along with w and h, representing width and height, are the output. This means that in addition to the bounding box, it specifies their position as well. We have the ground truth for training the box. We compare the predicted box to the ground truth and square their difference and obtain the sum of squared errors function. By minimizing this function, better answers can be found which means better boxes can be chosen and the object positions can better be detected. So, in addition to the classification we always received, we have the properties of the bounding box as well. Therefore, we solve a specific classification problem along with a regression problem at the same time. Assume we have multiple objects like vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycle riders. We have three classes for three objects. We consider a fourth class as the background as well. While generating the training set, when we select parts of the images on random for this algorithm, the objects often are not in that part. This means there is no object in the part we selected and the fourth class belongs to these backgrounds which do not contain any objects. This way, we create the training set. The bounding box can be specified through many methods, for example, using the center point along with length and width or a chosen point along with the length and the width, etc. We also create an output vector for each input image. Output vectors of the bounding box from the image are shown in Fig. 11.

This vector contains one column and 8 rows for 3 classes. The first row is pc which is the probability of an object being in the image and is either zero or one. For example, if there is an object in the image, the value of pc will be set to one and if

![Fig. 11 Output vectors of the bounding box from the image](image-url)
there are no objects, \( pc \) will be set to zero. The next rows are the coordinates of the object in the bounding box. Parameters \( b_x, b_y, b_w, \) and \( b_h \) correspond to the \( x \) and \( y \) (coordinates) and \( h \) and \( w \) (height and width), while \( c_1, c_2, \) and \( c_3 \) are the defined object classes like vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle. The corresponding class parameters get set to one for whichever class is found in the bounding box. After the detection of the object, we evaluate the error using the loss function. The loss function can be used to minimize these numbers and carry out the object detection task. The output can be zero and one at the same time. However, if an object is not present, this does not happen, meaning that it does not matter what value other rows have in case \( pc = 0 \) and we do not need to use them in the sum of squared errors function.

If the first element is 1 (\( pc = 1 \)), the sum of squared error function must be used and we need to minimize the object location detection error and obtain the best results. In the implementation, we define a Boolean (0,1) matrix which specifies the object location and the locations where there were no objects are identified as well. We use this matrix in the sum of squared errors function. A technique which can be used to detect multiple objects is sliding window. In this technique, we crop different parts of the image while creating the training set and determine whether there were any objects in any part of the image. Since the size of the objects is not determined, we use different windows to crop the image. Therefore, it is not cost-effective at all to use the sliding window technique because we would need to convolve the image with different windows over and over again and obtain the value from their multiplication. The idea is to give the image as the system input only once and identify all the objects in the image and receive them in the output. The idea for object detection is that we implement a convolutional network in a fully convolutional form, meaning that we do not have fully connected layers at the end and we also use convolutional layers instead of fully connected ones. To this end, the YOLO algorithm grids the images for object detection as well and checks different part of the image concurrently using several anchor boxes. This way, sliding window calculations are simultaneous and we get an output vector for each window. Each part of the grid we have considered for an image corresponds to a part of the image, and the output of each part is available for object presence probability and classification.

While detecting an object, we have the ground truth which is the real box and a predicted bounding box. We calculate the amount of overlap between these two boxes, which is the similarity and overlap between two boxes corresponding to the presence of an object. The overlapping value is a number between 0 and 1 calculated using similarity distance (the IOU criterion). Assume, for example, that we want to detect the object in the image. We have 2 bounding boxes which if they are similar (we calculate the similarity between the two bounding boxes using the IOU criterion), we can detect the object. If the object is labeled as 1 in the output, this object is a vehicle or if it gets a value of 0, it means that the object is not a vehicle. If the overlapping between these two boxes is more than a threshold, it means that the object is detected. For calculating this criterion, we only need to measure their area and divide the area of their intersection to the area of their union.

One of the challenges of YOLO version one was that multiple objects could not be detected in the same network. This is solvable by choosing a smaller network size. However, even by selecting a smaller network size, the algorithm can
still fail for objects which are very close to each other, like a flock of birds. The solution is the utilization of anchor boxes. The idea behind anchor boxes is that we have labels for each network cell where an anchor box is needed. If an object is assigned to an anchor box in the grid, another object can be assigned to another anchor box in the same grid. YOLO with anchor boxes is shown in Fig. 12.

With the YOLOv3 algorithm, detecting the obstacles around the vehicle is done in minimum time and with the highest accuracy on the KITTI dataset. The goal of image processing is to track each frame in the video and separate the background from target objects after removing the random noise from the images. The current methods include optical flow, background subtraction [36], frame difference methods, etc. These methods have simple steps and high detection speed. However, these methods still have some flaws. The background subtraction method needs to obtain background images in advance and is sensitive to environmental factors like changes in lighting. This makes it susceptible to wrong judgment. The frame difference method is used for creating a difference between two or several consecutive frames in a video. If the environmental variation is small between these two frames, the frame difference method can obtain the moving object with accuracy. However, an object with a low movement speed might not be detected and environmental changes, like changes in lighting, might affect the results significantly. In this research, a combination of frame difference and background difference methods is used for background separation. A video is approximately 25 frames per second. Therefore, the delay between two consecutive frames is very short. Shifting background and object pixels change significantly. Therefore, we can assume that the luminance of a specific pixel follows the Gaussian distribution presented below. Gaussian distribution is given as follows:

![YOLO with anchor boxes](image)

Fig. 12  YOLO with anchor boxes
\[ \mu(x, y) = \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{0}^{N-1} F_i(x, y) \right) \]  

(1)

\[ \sigma(x, y) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{0}^{N-1} F_i(x, y) - \mu(x, y)} \]  

(2)

where \((x, y)\) represents the coordinates of a pixel.

It is worth noting that \( N(\sigma^2, \mu), B(x, y) \) is satisfied if \( \mu \) represents the average difference of the Gaussian distribution and \( \sigma^2 \) is the variance of the Gaussian distribution.

The Gaussian model is trained using the data pixel points, and these two parameters are optimized during the progression of training. The difference operation on pixel point in the background of the image and grids of the previous image is carried out for obtaining different values. If this value is higher than the threshold value, it becomes evident that an object has been detected. The frame difference method is used for detecting moving regions. Changeable regions can be identified by comparing the difference between adaptor boxes and the threshold value. We use the frame difference method to eliminate the similarity between two frames and then adopt the background detection method for object detection. The Gaussian model is used for placing pixel points. Gaussian model is given in Eq. (3).

\[ DK(x, y) = \left| \int K(x, y) - \int K - 1(x, y) \right| \]  

(3)

We carry out the obstacle detection steps in this problem using the YOLOv3 algorithm in autonomous vehicles on the KITTI dataset. In the received images, some parts of the image are not needed and we need to select features which affect driving. Some parts of the image do not present any correct information, like the vehicles on the opposite lane on the highway which need to be removed from the image. Also, to this end, we need obstacle detection steps with a standard evaluation criterion. The technique used for object detection in this research is YOLOv3. It is the most comprehensive real-time system in deep learning and solving image detection problems. First, this algorithm divides the image to different parts and marks each part. Then, it runs the detection algorithm in parallel on all of these sections to see which part belongs to which category. After the full recognition of objects, it connects them together so that every two main objects are in one box. All of these steps are run in parallel. Therefore, it is real time and can process up to 40 images in one second. Although this model has a slightly worse performance compared to R-CNN, it can be used for solving everyday problems because it is real time. The YOLO architecture has brought some changes to object detection systems and looks at the object detection problem as a regression problem which gets directly from image pixels to box coordinates and class probabilities. The YOLO system is used for detecting the objects in the image, you only look once. YOLOv3 has the DARK-NET-53 network. Using these 53 layers, the model is more than strong enough even
for the smallest objects in the image. YOLOv3 is able to detect more than 80 different objects in one image. YOLOv3 can reduce error significantly. YOLOv3 uses a bounding box with a thin size.

First, the processing power of GPU is utilized for non-graphical applications. Around 2006, the parallel nature of the architecture of graphical processing units made their manufacturers think of new applications. The general concept was that if GPU is capable of carrying out complex floating-point calculations like 3D rendering, etc., there should be no obstacle for it to be useful in other calculations. The outcome of this idea was the birth of the GPGPU concept, and it became so successful in practice that as if there was a dormant giant inside personal computers which was now awoken. NVIDIA was the first company to show how this giant could be tamed by announcing CUDA.

In this research, we will study processing on CUDA using TensorFlow and Keras frameworks. A graphics card with support for compute capability 3.5 or above (version 1.11.0 and above) is needed to be able to install the GPU version of TensorFlow and carry out processing on CUDA. We use the conda install tensorflow-gpu command for installation so that all the dependencies like cuda, cudnn, etc., are installed automatically. From version 1.8 onwards, CUDA8 and cuDNN6 are the oldest supported version of CUDA and cudnn which are supported (CUDA7.5 and cudnn5.1 and below are not supported from this version onwards and version 1.7 of TensorFlow is the last version which supports CUDA7.5 and cudnn5.1). With RTX series of NVIDIA vehicles (like RTX2060, RTX2070, etc.), one could install TensorRT so that we can enjoy a significant increase in speed using CUDA. To use the TensorFlow library of Python, we need to meet some requirements which will differ based on the type of CPU or GPU we are using. For the GPU version, only NVIDIA graphics cards which are compatible with CUDA are usable. The prerequisite of the CPU version of TensorFlow is Python, but in the GPU version, the graphics card drivers, Cuda, and Cudnn must be installed on the system first. The process of processing with CUDA and TensorFlow is so that the data are copied from the main CPU memory to GPU memory. CPU sends processing instructions to the GPU. GPU cores carry out the instructions in parallel. The result is copied from GPU memory to the main memory.

### 3.2.4 Sum of squared errors function

The YOLO algorithm divides images to a $S*S$ grid and the output of each network has a $(B*5 + C)$ size and includes location, the confidence level of the bounding box, and the probability of the defined class information. The sum of squared errors function comprises three types of error.

$$\text{Loss} = S \sum_{i=0}^{S^{2}} (\text{coordErr} + \text{iouErr} + \text{classErr}) \tag{4}$$

We calculate three types of errors in this function, $\text{coordErr}$, $\text{iouErr}$, and $\text{classErr}$. 

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There are objects with different sizes in the image. We evaluate all boxes with any size using one criterion. We know the error is not the same in big boxes as it is in small boxes. In other words, an error pixel in a big box must be punished less than an error pixel in a small box. Using √, we punish big boxes less than we punish smaller ones. It suffices to compare $y = x$ and $y = \sqrt{x}$ charts. $\text{coordErr}$ represents the sum of squared position errors and is defined as follows:

$$
\text{coordErr} = \sum_{i=1}^{B} \sum_{j=1}^{V} \left[ (x_i - x^\wedge)^2 + (y_i - y^\wedge)^2 \right] + \sum_{j=1}^{V} \left[ (\sqrt{W} - \sqrt{W^\wedge})^2 + (\sqrt{h_i} - \sqrt{h^\wedge})^2 \right]
$$

When $i_{ij}^{\text{obj}}$ is equal to one, it means that there is an object at the center of the $I$th grid. Otherwise, its value is zero. Value of IOU represents the amount of intersection between the current active bounding box with all reference bounding boxes. We choose the object with the maximum IOU value as the object detected by the current bounding box. $\text{iouErr}$ represents the number of squared errors of confidence level and is defined as follows:

$$
\text{iouErr} = \sum_{j=1}^{B} \sum_{i=1}^{V} \left[ (c_i - c^\wedge)^2 \right] + \sum_{j=1}^{B} \sum_{i=1}^{V} \sum_{j=1}^{V} \left[ (c_i - c^\wedge)^2 \right]
$$

Class Error represents the sum of squared error of classes and is defined as follows:

It is clear that these factors have different effects on object detection accuracy. Furthermore, many networks do not store objects and the confidence level of their created bounding boxes is zero which will lead to unstable training and divergence. Therefore, we define different weights for different networks. Using $\text{accoord}$, we define different weights for image grids which represents the center of an object and where $\text{accoord} = 0.5$, represents the weights of grids where there is no object. Therefore, the improved loss function is as follows:

$$
\text{Loss} = S \sum_{i=0}^{s^2} (\text{accoord} \times \text{coordErr} + \text{anoobj} \times \text{iouErr} + \text{classErr})
$$

### 3.3 Phase 3: Applying realistic driving patterns for vehicles

In phase three, real driving methods are applied to autonomous vehicles according to the processing carried out in phase two which include obstacle and motorway detection in order to improve the learning in autonomous vehicles. Then, the network is trained and generates steer angle, acceleration, and brake as output. Phase three of the project is carried out to guide the vehicle, whether in the presence of obstacles or while moving in a straight or winding route, the way a real driver does. Vehicle guidance is carried out using machine learning techniques considering the
traffic limitations of the road and the real driving style. Learning the features manually is impossible due to the detection of obstacles and the huge amount of data which are usually unlabeled. Therefore, learning by deep neural network methods, which can present features in a hierarchical fashion at different levels and learn them automatically and finally detect the obstacle type or road type automatically in terms of winding, is very desirable. Deep neural networks, without the need for manual extraction of features, are able to extract features automatically during training and eventually carry out the road segmentation and obstacle detection automatically with high accuracy.

A convolutional neural network makes it possible to use the behavior of a vehicle during driving to obtain its location and speed and train the network. This network uses the information provided by front cameras, vehicle location on the road, and its speed. Driving data are obtained directly from real driving in the form of a video, and the system learns to automatically drive on a striped road. This network automatically learns the internal representations of necessary processing, different functions are used, and it realizes that the exponential linear unit (ELU) function leads to improved learning compared to other activation functions. A behavioral simulation is a software where the behavior of a driver and his capabilities are transferred to the computer. To this end, the actions taken by the driver such as braking, pressing the gas, and changing the angle of the steer are recorded on the computer. This way, this behavior is transferred to the computer and finally, these actions are fed to the designed network as the driver’s behavior. In the next part, the system learns to output the parameters needed for driving according to the convolutional network we will design, the layers, defined weights, and activation functions we will consider. To this end, we have designed this research in multiple steps. The flowchart of proposed LSV-DNN is shown in Fig. 13.

The third phase consists of two steps.

![Fig. 13 The LSV-DNN proposed model](image-url)
3.3.1 Step one: designing the convolutional network

In this step, we need to create a convolutional neural network (CNN) and we have the data it needs to imitate. If all these items go well, the CNN model learns to imitate the behavior of the driver and learns to drive on its own. In this step, we design the convolutional network where we used Nvidia’s CNN model. We introduce the architecture and the layers in the following. For better performance of the processing, we use a generator function instead of saving all the processed data in the memory at the same time. Generator functions will process them in case it is needed which is better for memory performance. In the next step, we specify the different settings of training and testing the network.

Convolutional networks contain several layers where we have a number of neurons. Each neuron receives a number of inputs and calculates the product of the multiplication of weights in the inputs. Finally, it presents a result using a non-linear transfer (activation) function. The network is a differentiable scoring function where the raw image pixels are on its one side and the scores corresponding to each set are on the other side. This type of networks has a loss function like Softmax or SVM at their last fully connected layer. The input of the convolutional network is the images, and we encode specific features in the architecture. By doing so, the forward function can be implemented more efficiently and also network parameter values decrease significantly. Neural networks get an input in the form of a vector and pass it through a number of hidden layers. Finally, an output, which is the result of the processing done in hidden layers, appears at the network output. Each hidden layer comprises a number of neurons, and these neurons are connected to all the neurons in the previous layer. Neurons at each layer operate independently and are not related to each other at all. The last fully connected layer is known as the output layer and usually plays the role of presenting the score of each class. Normal neural networks are not scalable for full images. Therefore, a fully connected neuron in the first hidden layer of a normal neural network will have a weight of $32 \times 32 = 3072$. This value might not at first seem like a significant value, but it is obvious that this fully connected architecture will not be usable for larger images. For instance, an image with a more conventional size like $200 \times 200 \times 3$ makes a neuron get a weight of $200 \times 200 \times 3 = 120,000$. Furthermore, we will definitely want more neurons. Therefore, the number of parameters increases rapidly. It is clear that this full connectivity is wasteful and the large number of parameters will quickly lead to overfitting.

Each layer in the ConvNet organizes its neurons in 3 dimensions (width, height, and depth). Each layer of a ConvNet network transforms the input in the form of a three-dimensional mass to a three-dimensional output of neuron activation values. The ConvNet network comprises several layers, and each layer has a simple way of working where it receives a three-dimensional mass input and uses differentiable functions, which might have parameters or have no parameters, to transform them to a three-dimensional output mass. Since the values of these step parameters are tuned automatically, we call it learning because the neural network is able to perform the detection task assigned to it by learning these parameters. Each layer of the convolutional network transforms an activation mass into another activation mass using a differentiable function. We use three main types of layers for creating a
convolutional network architecture. These layers are as follows: convolutional layer, pooling layer, and fully connected layer which is exactly like the ones we see in ordinary neural networks. We stack these layers on top of each other to create a complete convolutional network architecture.

We have designed an architecture with input, convolutional, ReLU, POOL, and FC layers. The input layer contains our raw input pixel values. This means that we will have an image with a width of 32, height of 32, and 3 red, green, and blue channels. The convolutional layer calculates the output of neurons which are connected to local regions in the input. The calculation operation is done through the scalar product of the weight of each neuron and the region it is connected to (input activation mass). The result of this operation is a mass of size $32 \times 32 \times 12$.

The ReLU layer applies an activation function (like max ($0, x$) which applies thresholding on 0, i.e., considers negative values as zero) on each and every neuron. This does not change the mass size from the last step. Therefore, the results will still be a mass of size $32 \times 32 \times 12$.

The pooling layer carries out the down sampling operation along spatial dimensions (width and height) which leads to a mass of size $16 \times 16 \times 12$. In the pooling layer, we reduce the input mass (image) dimensions. In principle, it is through the operation of this layer that we obtain a score vector at the end of the convolutional network. The FC or fully connected layer is responsible for calculating class scores. The result is a mass of size $1 \times 1 \times 10$ where each one of 10 numbers represents the score of a specific class. Like ordinary neural networks and as can be inferred from the name of this layer, each layer in this network is connected to every neuron in the mass before it. With this method, the convolutional network transforms raw pixels of the original image to class scores at the end of the network layer by layer. Some layers have some parameters and others do not. Specifically, Conv/FC layers are the layers that apply transformations which not only are a function of activations (available values) in the input layer but also are a function of parameters like weight and bias of the neurons. On the other hand, ReLU/POOL layers only implement a fixed function. The parameters present in Conv/FC layers are trained using the gradient descent method so that the class scores calculated by the convolutional network fit (are consistent with) the label of each image in the training set.

We train the weight of our network so that the sum of squared errors between the steering command output by the network and the human command or the steering command tuned for off-center images is turned. The following figure presents the network architecture which comprises 9 layers: a normalization layer, 5 convolutional layers, and 3 fully connected layers of among them. Convolutional network architecture is shown in Fig. 14.

In this paper, we designed a convolutional network which extracts behavioral patterns of the driver and learns the driver’s behavior. During driving, the steering wheel turning angle is recorded which is close to zero in most places. These data are collected for training the main model of the network where the main challenge is the rotation angles which are very different from other angles and are considered as noise which are depicted using the histogram method. The angles are depicted considering the time interval of $-1$ and $1$. Noise angles can be replaced by similar angles with regard to the images. Considering the distance of the vehicle to the road...
edge, the rotation angle can be adjusted. When the vehicle has a distance less than the allowed limit, the gas will be reduced and when the front image has a distance less than the allowed limit, brakes will be used. Also, the opposite lane is removed from the image so that the vehicles on the opposite adjacent line are dismissed and only the vehicles in the same line are considered. The designed convolutional network comprises 5 convolutional layers, three fully connected layers, and a normalization layer. The network uses GPU for fast processing and is implemented in the TensorFlow framework. In the first layer, image normalization is carried out. The convolutional layers are designed for feature extraction with respect to the research conducted in this field.

3.3.2 Step two: tuning the parameters

The network settings for learning, loading data to the network, and training the network designed for learning driver’s behavior and feature extraction like the optimization method, learning rage, momentum, and test iterations are specified. Learning tasks are divided between the solver and the network such that tasks like monitoring optimization and updating parameters are assigned to the solver and calculating the error and gradient values is assigned to the network. Organizing optimization, creating the training network, and creating testing networks are done to evaluate the network. Optimization is done by the solver by calling forward and backward repeatedly and updating network parameters, evaluating (periodically) the network, taking snapshots from the network model and solver condition. At each repetition of optimization, the forward phase is called to calculate the output and network error. Then, the backward phase of the network is called to calculate the gradients. Gradients are applied during parameter updating with respect to the method specified in the solver. The condition of the solver is updated according to learning rate, history,
and the specified method so that we can transform the weights from the initial values to the learned model. There are various methods for optimization. The optimization methods specified in the solver address general optimization problems for reducing error.

4 Evaluating the performance

4.1 Step one: evaluating obstacle detection and evaluating the error in the designed network

The dataset contains vehicle information which includes vehicle status, acceleration, brake, and steering wheel rotation angle and the video of vehicle surroundings from driver’s behavior during driving. The video is converted to image frames, and vehicle information was procured in an Excel file. First, we carried out obstacle detection using the YOLOv3 algorithm on image frames. Then, we divided the results along with the vehicle information found in the Excel file input dataset to training and validation datasets with an 85/15 ratio and trained the designed CNN model. The goal of this project is predicting steering wheel angle and amount of gas and brake. We carry out obstacle detection using the IOU overlapping criterion and obtain the error rate using the sum of loss which was described in the previous section. We used the Adam optimizer to obtain the best mean of squared errors (MSE) value for the predicted steering wheel angle. We used 10 rounds for training with a batch size of 64.

Considering the designed network and the collected data, network output includes the steering wheel rotation angle along with the amount of gas and brake. According to the activation function, in both the learning and validation results data, the loss function has decreased and the network speed is higher compared to the simulator work. This indicates the good generalization performance of the network since validation results present good results during the training step. In this research, we will carry out network in multiple projects for evaluation and evaluate the results. In the first project, the designed convolutional network will be trained using the data collected during the driving we have done. The network output (i.e., steering wheel rotation angle, acceleration, gas, and brake) has been carried out with a loss = 0.650 network error. In the second project, obstacle detection in the designed convolutional network was carried out using three Resnet, Unet, and YOLOv3 algorithms on the KITTI data. The best results were obtained by YOLOv3 algorithm with IOU = 0.98. To this end, I designed the proposed model with the YOLOv3 algorithm which presents better results. In this model, YOLOv3 algorithm detects the obstacles around the vehicle with five truck, vehicle, pedestrian, van, cyclist, and tram classes. This algorithm detects the objects around the vehicle using the standard KITTI data quickly and with high accuracy and presents the results to the designed convolutional network so that the network can be trained. This way, we can have the steering wheel angle, acceleration, gas, and brakes with high speed and accuracy.

In the next project, we carried out my second project on the data we had collected. First, obstacle detection was carried out with the YOLO algorithm on the data collected during driving with IOU = 0.98 and network error is low according to
the following results. We got very good results, and the network has presented the steering wheel angle, gas acceleration, and brake after training.

### 4.2 Step two: routing and controlling the vehicle movement

In the last step, we give the outputs of the designed network which are the steering wheel rotation angle, gas acceleration, and brakes to the control system of the autonomous vehicle so that the vehicle can respond to the surrounding obstacles according to the responses it has learned and gas acceleration, brake, and the rotation angle are applied. Obstacle detection on the KITTI data using the Unet algorithm is shown in Fig. 15.

Obstacle detection on the KITTI data using the Resnet algorithm is shown in Fig. 16.

Obstacle detection results are applied using three Resnet, Unet, and finally according to the success chart of the YOLOv3 algorithm on the KITTI data is shown in Fig. 17.

Obstacle detection on the collected data using the YOLOv3 algorithm is shown in Fig. 18.

In this research, we divided the input dataset to training and test sets with an 85/15 ratio and trained the CNN network. The goal of these projects is to predict steering wheel angle and this can be achieved using linear regression. To obtain the best mean squared error (MSE) value for the predicted steering wheel angle, we

---

**Fig. 15** Obstacle detection on the KITTI data using the Unet algorithm
used the Adam optimizer. We used 10 iterations with a batch size of 64. Training iterations are very fast. I ran it on my own personal computer, and it ran very fast.

In this research, we have three files. One is the split frame which separates the video file frames. Another is clone which is used for training the model. The last file is test model which is for testing the generated model. In the first file, we have a variable named video file where we enter the address to the video recorded from real driving with respect to the system it is stored on. Image folder is where we store the separated image frames of the video (Fig. 19).

There are 30 frames in each second of the video. Considering that ten records are registered each second in the Excel file at our disposal, where the first ten records are for the first second, we consider ten frames for each second. In the clone file, the files are read and converted to the intended pixel and the image frame address is in the image folder file which is shared with split.

Considering the Excel which has saved the steering wheel rotation angle under the roll degree name, we should read it from the Excel file. Then, we call the Excel address. The Excel file has 3638 rows which the records are read in this interval. For each element in the Excel file, there are three frames in the folder which for each wheel rotation, we skip three frames and for each row in the Excel file, we move three images forward.

The image corresponding to the steering wheel angle is also read, and the degree size is resized. Finally, the extra part of the images is cropped. We set
Fig. 17 Obscure detection has also been done using the YOLOv3 algorithm on the images obtained from real driving.
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The batch size to be one which can be changed according to the processing power of the system. In the structure of the convolutional model, we used the Elu activation function, two-dimensional (64,3,3) convolutional, 5 convolutions, and also the ReLU activation function which can be compared that better results are obtained using Elu and it has gotten rg images.

Then, we refer to the model test file where we put the relative model address. Then, we call the address of the images and the Excel file. Also, we transform the image sizes to the training image size using Fixed Dim = (320,160). We enter the gas value in column 19 according to vehicle speed so that the network model can predict vehicle speed.

So, it gets the image and calculates the gas value. There are thirty frames in each second of the video. These thirty frames are saved for each second and we use them according to our need. In the Excel file, ten records are saved for each second. Therefore, there are ten frames for one second and so we consider ten frames per second. We also use the openpyxl library and the directory containing saved frames is as follows: 10,913 image frames are stored in the image folder file. For evaluation, we took 10% of the data for the final test and 90% was used for training. Again, 20% was assigned to validation and used the remaining 80% as training images. At each epoch, it registers the loss value. Finally, using the 10% of the images which were not used during test or validation, we evaluated the model and gave the images to the model and got the prediction output. The evaluation model is modeled with our method, and the outputs and evaluation results are stored. There are a total of 3637 images for training which correspond to Excel rows. The number of samples for training is 793, 19 for validation, and

Fig. 18 Obstacle detection on the collected data using the YOLOv3 algorithm
100 for testing. The first epoch took 117 s, and the loss in this epoch was 3. After 10 epochs, loss starts decreasing and it reaches 0.7 in the last epoch.

4.3 Obstacle detection on the data collected using the private vehicle through the YOLOv3 algorithm

According to the following diagram, the comparison between the algorithms shows that the YOLOv3 algorithm has the best results in obstacle detection with the highest speed and accuracy. Also, one of the disadvantages of other algorithms is that, as can be seen, they do not detect small objects, but YOLOv3 has detected all objects, even small ones, with high probability. Network output results are presented in the following figure which is the steering wheel rotation angle. And this is the second time we trained the model in a supplementary fashion for 11 epochs. Unfreeze all of the layers. Train on 67,338 samples, val on 748 samples, with batch size 64. Performance evaluation is shown in Table 1.

Fig. 19 Sample framed images from the real driving video
4.3.1 The Intersection over Union (IOU) criterion

The IOU criterion determines the accuracy by comparing the intersection between the reference bbox and the predicted bbox is shown in Fig. 20.

4.4 Performance metrics

In this section, the effectiveness and performance of our proposed LSV-DNN approach are thoroughly evaluated with comprehensive simulations. A detection is considered to be true when its IoU criterion value is more than a predetermined threshold value. A conventional threshold value for the IoU criterion is 0.5. In this case, when the reference bbox and the output bbox intersect more than fifty percent, a correct detection (true positive) has happened. On this basis, other items needed for calculating precision and recall are defined.

![Fig. 20 The Intersection over Union (IoU) criterion](image-url)
4.5 False positive rate

FPR is illustrated in Eq. (8a). This value expresses the number of records where the real class was negative, but the classification algorithm has incorrectly detected their class as positive.

\[ \text{FPR} = \left( \frac{\text{FPR}}{\text{FPR} + \text{TNR}} \right) \times 100 \]  
(8a)

where

\[ \text{TNR} = \left( \frac{\text{TNR}}{\text{TNR} + \text{FPR}} \right) \times 100 \]  
(8b)

4.6 True negative rate

TNR is illustrated in Eq. (8a). This value expresses the number of records where the real class was negative and the classification algorithm has correctly detected their class as negative as well.

4.7 False negative rate

FNR is demonstrated by Eq. (9a). This value expresses the number of records where the real class was positive, but the classification algorithm has incorrectly detected their class as negative.

\[ \text{FNR} = \left( \frac{\text{FNR}}{\text{FNR} + \text{TPR}} \right) \times 100 \]  
(9a)

where

\[ \text{TPR} = \left( \frac{\text{TPR}}{\text{TPR} + \text{FNR}} \right) \times 100 \]  
(9b)

\[ \text{All} = \text{FPR} + \text{FNR} + \text{TPR} + \text{TNR} \]

Accuracy can be calculated using the following equations:

\[ \text{CA} = \left( \frac{\text{TN} + \text{TP}}{\text{TN} + \text{TP} + \text{FN} + \text{FP}} \right) \]  
(10)
Also, the classification error criterion is calculated. We used 5 classes for the YOLOv3 algorithm:

1. Truck
2. Van
3. Car
4. Cyclist
5. Pedestrian

The algorithm detects obstacles by putting the window around determined classes. The results are saved in a file named detection_result. First, we start by importing required libraries to the software. Then, we set the paths and the YOLO model and determine learning weights.

Using these classes, the bounding boxes, detection scores, and class names are determined for each obstacle. After splitting the videos we downloaded from KITTI, we select the images using the def detection_image (self, image) function. We consider number of random = 2 and select the images two by two from the defined path and save in a file named image path list. We give the file to the YOLO class, and prediction is carried out for each class and its key. Then, the results are saved in the detection result dictionary. Finally, we convert the dictionary to a data frame. It has detected two images with the features presented in the following table is shown in Fig. 21.

5 Simulation results and analysis

In the following section, the performance of LSV-DNN in terms of self-driving vehicles is analyzed.

\[
ER = \left( \frac{EN + FP}{TN + TP + FN + FP} \right) = 1 - \text{CA}
\] (11)

Fig. 21 Definition of the confusion matrix while considering the IOU criterion in the object detection problem
5.1 Calculating Precision and Recall in the object detection problem

To draw the precision–recall diagram in the classification problem, we need to change the threshold value of the classifier and calculate the precision and recall values. Then, we can draw the PR curve. Two threshold values can be considered for an object detection method: 1. threshold value on the score and 2. threshold value on the IOU criterion. Although the IOU geometrical criterion and setting a threshold value for it can easily be standardized, setting a threshold value for each bbox is not a trivial task. For example, method number one with threshold value 0.5 might operate the same as method number two with dynamic threshold value. It is for this reason that IOU has been considered as the only criterion when determining whether a bbox is TP or FP.

Calculating Precision and Recall in the object detection problem

We sort the output of object detector based on the score of each bbox is shown in Fig. 22.

Calculate precision and recall in an accumulated fashion:

\[ p = \left( \frac{\text{acc} \times \text{TP}}{\text{acc} \times \text{TP} + \text{acc} \times \text{FP}} \right) \]

\[ R = \left( \frac{\text{acc} \times \text{TP}}{\text{Number of ground truth bboxes}} \right) \]

LSV-DNN performance evaluation is given in Table 2.

Calculating Precision and Recall for the outputs of a mAP calculation object detection method

In PASCAL VOC competitions, mean AP is obtained by taking the average AP for different categories. Also, the detection criterion of a bbox is its TP where IOU >=0.5. In the COCO Challenge, a range of IOU values are considered. Then, averaging is carried out by considering different AP values for different classes and AP values for different IOU values is shown in Table 3.

In the above table, by mAP we mean the average accuracy which is equal to the product of accuracy with recall of detection boxes. mAP is a good hybrid criterion

| Image1   | 0.8  | FP |
|----------|------|----|
| Image1   | 0.35 | TP |
| Image1   | 0.85 | TP |
| Image2   | 0.7  | TP |
| Image2   | 0.55 | FP |
| Image2   | 0.95 | TP |
| Image2   | 0.6  | FP |

| Score   | TP/FP |
|---------|-------|
| 0.95    | TP    |
| 0.85    | TP    |
| 0.8     | FP    |
| 0.7     | TP    |
| 0.6     | FP    |
| 0.55    | FP    |
| 0.35    | TP    |

Fig. 22 Sorting the scores of detected bboxes
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for understanding the network sensitivity to desired objects and the precision in avoiding unwanted items. The higher the mAP score is, the more accurate the network is. However, this high score is achieved with the cost of decreased execution speed is given in Table 4.

The results of applying the YOLO algorithm on the KITTI data are as follows. Results of applying the YOLO algorithm on the KITTI data are carried out with high prediction accuracy and speed. The %99 and %98 results for detecting determined classes and the very short time required for processing along with parallel

Table 2  LSV-DNN performance evaluation

| Score | TP or FP | Acc.TP | acc * FP | p | R |
|-------|----------|--------|----------|---|---|
| 0.95  | TP       | 1      | 0        | 1.00 | 0.17 |
| 0.85  | TP       | 2      | 0        | 1.00 | 0.33 |
| 0.8   | FP       | 2      | 1        | 0.67 | 0.33 |
| 0.7   | TP       | 3      | 1        | 0.75 | 0.50 |
| 0.6   | FP       | 3      | 2        | 0.60 | 0.50 |
| 0.55  | FP       | 3      | 3        | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 0.35  | TP       | 4      | 3        | 0.57 | 0.67 |

Number of ground truth bounding boxes:5
acc.TP: accumulated True Positive
acc.FP: accumulated False Positive

Table 3  The average precision of 5-class on the KITTI dataset and gathering data by YOLO

| Model name                | AP (%) | mAP (%) | Outputs         |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| LSV-DNN-KITTI             | 75     | 85      | Detection boxes |
| LSV-DNN-Gathering data    | 83     | 87      | Detection boxes |
| LSV-DNN-without yolov3    | 82     | 79      | Detection boxes |
| LSV-DNN-using yolov3      | 93     | 89      | Detection boxes |
| LSV-DNN-the Resnet algorithm | 69   | 75      | Detection boxes |

Table 4  Output feature table of two random images

| Index | Path       | Predict class | Score       | Right | Bottom | Left | Top |
|-------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| 0     | c:/user/…  | Vehicle       | 0.66254648  | 782   | 197    | 730  | 172 |
| 1     | c:/user/…  | Vehicle       | 0.91584848  | 742   | 225    | 653  | 198 |
processing and using Keras and TensorFlow for running the algorithm have led to higher processing speed compared to other algorithms. Machine-learning-based methods are suitable for resolving the challenges of manual methods in object detection and obstacle detection. Furthermore, higher-quality deep-learning-based methods have a significant performance. Obstacle detection with the deep learning technique includes three object detection, feature generation, and classification steps. To this end, the results are evaluated in multiple steps in order to reinforce the detection operation. We will carry out feature extraction in multiple levels according to the framework we consider. In lower levels, the size of the feature map is large, but the semantic level of features is low and weak, i.e., the features have a low semantic level and the details have not been extracted at early stages. Finally, a framework can be created where the extracted features, which are the combination of low-level and higher-level semantic levels, lead to reinforcement of feature extraction. Various strategies can be used in different rows of extraction layers for this method to achieve a better performance in this regard. One of these strategies is improving the loss function which is the network evaluation and correct operation testing criterion. The intersection problem is evaluated using IoU. The object classification problem in deep neural networks can be effectively improved using IoU. Using IoU, we can solve the intersection problem by finding the pixel value where the two objects overlap on and dividing it by the number of pixels covered by both objects. The intersection evaluation criterion is IoU. The IoU criterion measures the number of common pixels between the target and predicted masks (overlap) divided by the total number of pixels present in both masks (Union).

This criterion is used for segmentation and has values between 0 and 1. Numbers close to 1 indicate more accurate performance [36]. The IOU criterion is obtained using the following equation.

\[
\text{Intersection Over Union (IoU)} = \frac{\text{area of overlap}}{\text{area of union}} 
\]

The IOU obtained in this research is %97/6 which has high speed and accuracy with respect to recent studies in this field is shown in Fig. 23.

The sum of squared errors function has also decreased in this method. Considering that the high resolution of KITTI data and images has increased anchor boxes while detecting small images and processing speed has increased on CUDA. The frame rate is 50. This means that it processes 50 frames per second and is completely real time and it has detected the objects around the vehicle accurately and quickly in real time while the vehicle was on the move.

The loss over epochs must be plotted for comparison. I came up with a graph depicting the loss for each of the three architectures. The graph plotted between 0 and 0.1 (loss values) shows a clearer comparison between different architecture results. Refer to Fig. 24.

Validation ensuring that data inserted into an application satisfy defined formats and other input criteria over epochs is shown in Fig. 25.

Proposed method will predict the steering angel for next frames shown in Table 5. This table compares degrees of device time in 27:50.3 until 27:51.8 with predicted
steering angle in 33:52.3 until 33:58.10 frame. It shows those predicted are in range of roll degree by real driving.

We compare our results using both KITTI and our proposed LSV-DNN model. We report the results for the case where highest generalization is needed (new condition and road), shown in Fig. 26. This is thanks to using a LSV-DNN architecture with an additional speed prediction target and good regularization.

This section is related to the probability distribution of having certain throttle values comparing models with two different random seeds but trained with the same hyper-parameters and data (data gathering in our proposed LSV-DNN model). We can see that Seed1 (red) is much more likely to have a higher throttle value.
Seed1 has a much higher chance of ending episodes due to vehicle collisions. It seemed to have learned a less general braking policy with other vehicles. Seed2 is able to complete more episodes and is less likely to fail due to vehicle crashes. Analyzing the histograms of the throttle applied by both Seed1 and Seed2, as shown in Fig. 27, we can see a tendency for throttles of higher magnitude on Seed1. Data show the probability distribution of having certain throttle values comparing models with two different random seeds but trained with the same hyper-parameters and data. We can see that Seed1 (red) is much more likely to have a higher throttle value.

We compare our method with three state-of-the-art approaches [17]. In addition, our proposed LSV-DNN model significantly improves over the state of the art. Furthermore, our ablative analysis shows that speed prediction is helpful is shown in Table 6.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, we showed that convolutional networks are able to learn and can present good results in the output according to the steering wheel rotation angle and the actions of the real driver. Also, they can simulate the driver’s actions in the network and finally, we were able to carry out planning for routing on difficult roads. The results confirmed that our scheme is capable of exhibiting high prediction accuracy (exceeding 92.93%). In addition, our proposed scheme has high speed (more than 64.41%), low FPR (less than 6.89%), and low FNR (less than 3.95%), in comparison with the other approaches currently being employed. Nonetheless, our extensive experimental analysis has shown that some big challenges remain open. First of all, the amount of dynamic objects in the scene directly hurts all policy learning methods, as multi-agent dynamics are not directly captured. In this work, we have
Table 5  Prediction steering angel, acceleration, throttle

| IMU Device Time | IMU output Roll(degrees) | IMU output Acceleration Sensor(Total) | IMU output Throttle Position(Manifold) | LSV-DNN Frame Frame time | LSV-DNN Output Steering angle | LSV-DNN Output Acceleration | LSV-DNN Output Throttle |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 27:50.3         | 25.89264                  | 0.001575                               | 21.96078491                            | 33:52.3                  | 15.3998                       | 0.121575                     | 22.74509811               |
| 27:50.4         | 27.14073                  | 0.170208                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:52.4                  | 25.38462                      | 0.160208                     | 22.74509811               |
| 27:50.5         | 29.38363                  | 0.111648                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:52.5                  | 32.32238                      | 0.031648                     | 22.74509811               |
| 27:50.6         | 29.38363                  | 0.111648                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:52.6                  | 32.32238                      | 0.14563                      | 23.52941132               |
| 27:50.7         | 18.3335                   | 0.054619                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:52.7                  | 21.6829                       | 0.054619                     | 23.52941132               |
| 27:50.8         | 11.41568                  | 0.027862                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:52.8                  | 8.274469                      | 0.027862                     | 23.92156982               |
| 27:50.9         | 3.41516                   | -0.15684                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:52.9                  | 10.11183                      | -0.10684                     | 23.92156982               |
| 27:51.0         | -2.94538                  | -0.2134                                | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.0                  | 32.25179                      | -0.2030                      | 23.92156982               |
| 27:51.1         | 7.40202                   | -0.03526                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.1                  | 35.52613                      | -0.08526                     | 23.92156982               |
| 27:51.2         | 10.91887                  | -0.03044                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.2                  | 35.52613                      | -0.00544                     | 23.13725471               |
| 27:51.3         | 10.91887                  | -0.03044                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.3                  | 31.85686                      | -0.01540                     | 23.13725471               |
| 27:51.4         | 15.88878                  | 0.04853                                | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.4                  | 5.626246                      | 0.10240                      | 23.13725471               |
| 27:51.5         | 13.10193                  | -0.02069                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.5                  | 23.79381                      | -0.10069                     | 23.13725471               |
| 27:51.6         | 10.89891                  | 0.018169                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.6                  | 19.21198                      | 0.018169                     | 20.7843132                |
| 27:51.7         | 6.143204                  | -0.12688                               | 23.92156982                            | 33:53.7                  | 8.252054                      | -0.15088                     | 20.7843132                |
| 27:51.8         | 12.53703                  | 0.117858                               | 21.96078491                            | 33:53.8                  | 16.39312                      | 0.107808                     | 20.7843132                |
generated and analyzed just the photographic data. However, while implementing further test scenarios, sensors like radar and Lidar can be easily activated and 3D point cloud data can be generated. These gathering data in this work can be used to validate other autonomous vehicle algorithms like object tracking, semantic segmentation, scene understanding, etc.
| Papers               | Architecture | Input                | Output                          | Metrics       | Results | Dataset         | Year |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|------|
| Chowdhuri [37]      | CNN          | 4RGB image           | Steering angle, Speed           | Autonomy      | 90%     | Private dataset | 2019 |
| Codevilla [18]      | CNN          | RGB frame, Speed     | Steering angle, Acceleration    | Successful episodes | 92%     | carla           | 2019 |
| Song [33]           | VGG          | RGB frame            | Steering angle                  | RMSE          | 2.44    | ETS             | 2018 |
| Codevilla [38]      | CNN          | RGB frame, Speed     | Steering angle, Acceleration    | Successful episodes | 77%     | carla           | 2018 |
| LSV-DNN Propose model | CNN/Object detection (yolov3) | RGB frame, Speed, IMU | Steering angle, Speed, Throttle | Successful episodes | 92.93% | Real data (gathering private dataset) | 2020 |

Table 6: Comparison of end-to-end deep-imitative models with LSV-DNN
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