Driver Drowsiness Detection Using CNN and CNN-LSTM Hybrid Model

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***Abstract*—Drowsiness among drivers is a major contributing factor to injury rates and fatalities in traffic accidents around the world. We offer a clever, real-time sleepiness detection solution that uses deep learning architectures in recognition of this pressing safety issue. To produce more accurate detection results, the suggested technique combines Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) in a hybrid manner. CNN is used to extract spatial characteristics from individual image frames, with a special emphasis on face landmarks such as the areas around the mouth and eyesWhen recognizing early indicators of exhaustion, such as yawning, slow blinking, and prolonged eye closure, these characteristics are essential. LSTM layers that handle sequential picture input are incorporated into the model to improve its comprehension of time-based patterns. This enables the collection of temporal dependencies that single-frame analysis could overlook. The two publicly accessible Kaggle datasets used in this work include over 40,000 tagged photos of sleepy and awake drivers. Overfitting and class imbalance were two issues that the model encountered during testing. Methods such as batch normalization, data augmentation, and dropout regularization were used to get around these problems.The CNN-LSTM hybrid model was developed to overcome the drawbacks of frame-level classification, with the CNN model acting as the baseline. Using criteria including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, both models were trained and assessed. The CNN-LSTM model significantly outperforms the CNN-only model, according to experimental data, with improved generalization and higher accuracy under a variety of situations. In addition to showing how well deep learning works for detecting visual fatigue, this work offers a scalable framework that may be included in smart cars to improve driver safety. In order to prevent fatigue-related accidents and save lives, our system has the potential to be an essential part of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS).**

***Index Terms*—computer vision, deep learning, CNN, LSTM, drowsiness detection, and driving safety.**

I. Introduction

Driving when sleepy continues to be a serious road safety issue, contributing to a large number of incidents globally. Road safety organizations have reported that driver weariness can affect situational awareness, attention span, and reaction times—all of which are essential for safe driving. It is even more dangerous because drivers frequently do not notice when they are getting sleepy. Intelligent technologies that can identify tiredness in real time are more important than ever as the number of vehicles on the road continues to rise worldwide. Conventional sleepiness monitoring systems use behavioral indicators like lane departure and steering wheel movement or physiological indicators like heart rate, electroencephalogram (EEG), or eye-tracking sensors. Although physiological procedures are often correct, their high cost and intrusive nature make them impractical for daily use. Conversely, behavioral approaches can be impacted by outside variables like driving conditions and are frequently unreliable in identifying small indicators of exhaustion. New potential for non-intrusive sleepiness detection systems has been made possible by developments in deep learning and computer vision. Image identification tasks have been transformed by Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), which are especially helpful in assessing face aspects like jaw posture and eye movement, both of which are important markers of exhaustion. The capacity of CNNs to record temporal changes over a series of frames, which are essential for tracking progressive indicators of drowsiness like frequent blinking, yawning, or nodding, is constrained. We suggest a hybrid deep learning model that combines CNN and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks in order to get over this restriction. One kind of recurrent neural network (RNN) that performs very well with sequential data is the LSTM network. More precise assessment of fatigue levels is made possible by their ability to describe temporal patterns, such as how a driver's eye condition changes over time. We use two extensive image datasets from Kaggle in this investigation, which include over 40,000 samples of both sleepy and non-drowsy driver photos. These datasets are perfect for developing a strong detection system since they span a broad spectrum of lighting situations, face orientations, and ethnic variety. We ran into issues during model training, such as overfitting because of the small variance in some classes. We addressed this by putting strategies like batch normalization, dropout layers, and data augmentation into practice, which enhanced generalization performance.

The goal of the suggested system is to offer a dependable, effective, and real-time solution that can be incorporated into advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) and intelligent transportation systems. Our program can successfully notify or intervene before tiredness leads to unsafe driving behavior by continuously observing the driver's facial clues.

II. Literature Survey

Due to its substantial role in traffic accidents, the issue of driver fatigue has been the subject of much research during the last 20 years. In order to identify changes in brain activity and eye movement suggestive of exhaustion, early research in the field mostly relied on intrusive physiological measurements like EEG, ECG, and EOG signals. Despite their accuracy, these methods were not feasible for practical application because they required the driver to wear sensors. Researchers used computer vision and behavioral analysis to provide non-intrusive options. Ji and Yang (2002) suggested a visual-based technique for detecting tiredness by examining the length of eye closure and blink frequency. Despite their potential, these methods were frequently susceptible to environmental influences like camera angle and lighting. By adding head posture and face landmarks, Abtahi et al. (2011) expanded on this; however, their use of manually created characteristics limited universality. As deep learning and convolutional neural networks (CNNs) in particular gained popularity, researchers started creating models that automatically extract pertinent features from data. CNNs were employed by Park et al. (2016) to accurately identify micro-sleep episodes and categorize eye states. Their research demonstrated that deep models perform noticeably better than conventional handmade methods. CNNs do not, however, record the series of behaviors that show a progression of tiredness, such as repeated yawns or prolonged blinking over time, because they process each picture independently. Hybrid models that integrate CNNs with recurrent neural networks (RNNs), particularly long short-term memory (LSTM) networks, were proposed in order to overcome the temporal constraint. A CNN-LSTM model that tracks visual cues across video frames was presented by Li et al. (2020), improving accuracy in trials involving tiredness detection. In a similar vein, Kaur et al. (2021) successfully modeled shifts between alert and drowsy states by applying a time-distributed CNN followed by LSTM layers. These models make use of LSTMs' capacity to learn temporal dependencies and CNNs' prowess in spatial feature extraction. In conclusion, the field has advanced from invasive and inflexible technologies to more adaptable, deep learning-powered, vision-based methods. Still, there is potential for improvement in managing a variety of real-world situations. By training on two different Kaggle datasets, using regularization approaches to avoid overfitting, and assessing performance under various sleepy and non-drowsy scenarios, our study expands on the CNN-LSTM architecture.

III. Dataset

We used two comprehensive image datasets from Kaggle to efficiently train and assess our deep learning models for driver sleepiness detection. Together, the two datasets—which include annotated facial photos of drivers in a range of attention levels—consist of about 50,000 samples. For our CNN and CNN-LSTM models to be robust and capable of generalization, the number, quality, and diversity of data were essential.

A. Dataset 1: Driver Drowsiness Dataset (DDD)

The Real-Life Drowsiness Dataset served as the basis for the first dataset, which was named *Driver Drowsiness Dataset (DDD)*. The Viola-Jones face identification method was used in this dataset to extract facial areas from video footage after frames were retrieved using VLC Media Player. The dataset has been cited in scholarly works and is intended especially for deep learning-based sleepiness detection.

- Source: Kaggle (selected from Real-Life Drowsiness Dataset)
- Total images: Over 41,790
- Classes: Drowsy and Non-Drowsy
- Image format: RGB
- Image size: 227x227 pixels
- File size: 2.32 GB
- Preprocessing: Data Augmentation,Cropped facial regions, resized, and normalized
- Reference: *Detection and Prediction of Driver Drowsiness Using Deep Neural Networks Techniques* [**?**]

B. Dataset 2: Driver Drowsiness Detection System Dataset

The second dataset, called the *Driver Drowsiness Detection System Dataset*, adds a greater variety of facial features and subject-level categorization to the previous dataset. More than 9,000 facial photos are included in this collection, which is divided into several categories for alert and tired drivers.

- Source: Kaggle
- Total images: 9,120
- Main folders: *Active Subjects*, *Fatigue Subjects*
- File size: 2.39 GB
- Diversity: Covers various facial angles, features and lighting conditions

C. Data Preparation

Significant preprocessing was done on both datasets:

- Images were uniformly resized to 227x227 pixels in order to comply with model input specifications.
- To standardize pixel values, normalization was used.
- To counteract overfitting and boost data variability, data augmentation techniques like rotation, horizontal flipping, and brightness tweaks were applied.

We made sure our models were exposed to a wide range of driving actions and facial clues by merging these two excellent datasets. This enhanced our models' learning capabilities and promoted greater accuracy, generalization, and robustness in real-world applications.

These datasets collectively contain close to 50,000 tagged photos. To ensure consistency between the training and testing workflows, all photos were scaled and normalized during preprocessing. To lessen overfitting and increase model robustness, data augmentation methods like rotation, brightness adjustment, and horizontal flipping were used. We made sure our model had enough variability in training samples to accommodate real-world variation in facial sleepiness cues by combining these two disparate datasets. Our CNN-LSTM hybrid model successfully learned both spatial and temporal patterns suggestive of driver weariness thanks to this extensive dataset design.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Two different deep learning architectures—a CNN and a CNN-LSTM hybrid model—were used to implement the suggested driver drowsiness detection system. A thorough rundown of the models, data flow, and training techniques used is provided in this section.

A CNN and a CNN-LSTM hybrid model are two different deep learning architectures that were used to implement the suggested driver drowsiness detection system. Both models, the data pipeline, and the training techniques used are thoroughly described in this section.

A. *Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)*

The CNN model is utilized for extraction of spatial features from separate frames of video data. CNNs are used extensively for image classification problems because they are capable of capturing hierarchical structures. In this instance, the model is trained to recognize indicators of drowsiness including eyelid closure, yawning, and head orientation.

1) Data Preprocessing: Individual picture frames taken from videos make up the CNN model's input. Among the preprocessing actions are :

- **Image Resizing**: Each image frame is resized to 128 x 128 pixels.
- **Normalization**: Pixel values are normalized to [0, 1] to ensure improved convergence in training
- **Augmentation**: To prevent overfitting, data augmentation methods such as rotation, flipping, and zooming were used to artificially expand the dataset size.

2) Model Architecture: Each image frame's spatial characteristics are captured by the CNN model's architecture. The essential elements are :

- **Input Layer**: The input consists of RGB images resized to 128 x 128 x 3.
- **Convolutional Layers**: The model has three convolutional layers with 32, 64, and 128 filters of size 3x3, respectively, each followed by a ReLU activation function.
- **Pooling Layers**: MaxPooling layers with a 2x2 window are used after each convolutional layer to reduce the spatial dimensions.
- **Flatten Layer**: The output from the last pooling layer is flattened into a 1D vector.
- **Dropout Layer**: A dropout rate of 0.5 is applied to prevent overfitting.
- **Dense Layer**: A fully connected layer with 128 neurons and ReLU activation.
- **Output Layer**: The output layer uses a sigmoid activation function for binary classification (drowsy or not).

3) Training Configuration: The following setup is used to train the CNN model:

- **Optimizer**: The Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.0001 is used for efficient training.
- **Loss Function**: Binary cross-entropy loss is employed as it is a binary classification task.
- **Early Stopping**: To prevent overfitting, early stopping with a patience of 3 epochs is applied.
- **Evaluation Metrics**: The model's performance is evaluated using accuracy and loss on both the training and validation sets.

The CNN model performed well in identifying drowsiness from static image frames, as seen by its validation accuracy of 99.78 and flawless test accuracy of 100.

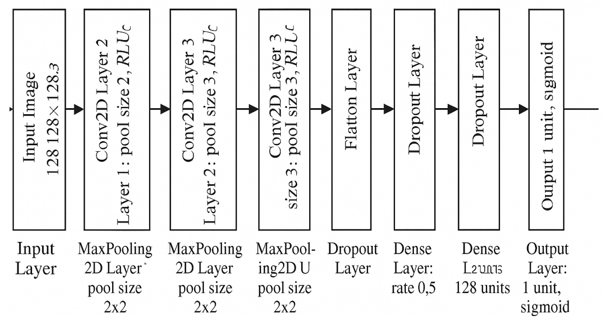

Fig. 1. CNN Model Architecture for Driver Drowsiness Detection

B. *CNN-LSTM Hybrid Model*

Drowsiness detection is a temporal job that necessitates examining a series of frames over time, even if the CNN model is good at extracting spatial characteristics from individual frames. In order to capture both the spatial and temporal aspects of video data, a hybrid model that combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks was created. In order to identify tiny signs of tiredness, including delayed blinking or microsleeps that may develop over time, this CNN-LSTM hybrid model analyzes brief clips of five consecutive frames.

1) Data Representation: Every input video is separated into five-frame-long chunks. To guarantee that the model receives consistent input data, these frames are scaled and normalized. Each temporal sequence input has the following shape: (5, 128, 128, 3), where 5 is the number of frames in the clip and 128 x 128 x 3 is the size of each frame.

2) Model Architecture: The CNN layers are used in the CNN-LSTM hybrid model to first extract spatial characteristics from each frame. An LSTM layer then records the temporal dependencies between the frames in the sequence. The following is the architecture:

- **TimeDistributed Conv2D Layers**: By applying the TimeDistributed layer to the convolutional layers, the model is able to process each frame of the sequence on its own. Three blocks with 8, 16, and 32 filters each make up the convolutional layers. After every convolution, MaxPooling2D layers are performed to minimize the spatial dimensions, followed by batch normalization.
- **Global Average Pooling**: Global Average Pooling is used to compress each frame's feature mappings to a single vector following the CNN layers. By concentrating on

global aspects, this process aids in reducing the number of parameters.

- **LSTM Layer**:The temporal associations between the frames in the video clip are learned using a single-layer LSTM with 16 units. The LSTM records drowsiness-indicative patterns over time, such as head movements and blinking patterns.
- **Dropout Layer**: In order to improve generalization and lessen overfitting, a dropout rate of 0.3 is implemented after the LSTM layer.
- **Dense Layer**: The LSTM output is mapped to the final classification layer via a fully linked layer consisting of 8 units and ReLU activation.
- **Output Layer**: For binary classification (drowsy or not), a single neuron with a sigmoid activation function is employed.

3) Training Configuration: The following setup was used to train the CNN-LSTM hybrid model:

- **Optimizer**:To guarantee effective and consistent training, the Adam optimizer, which has a learning rate of 10 - 4, is employed
- **Loss Function**: Given that this is a binary classification problem (drowsy or not), binary cross-entropy loss is employed.
- **Batch Size**:Because of memory limitations, a batch size of four is utilized, which enables the model to process the temporal sequences efficiently.
- **Early Stopping**: When the validation loss does not improve for three consecutive epochs, training is stopped early with a patience of three to avoid overfitting.
- **Evaluation Metrics**: The accuracy and loss metrics, which are recorded on both the training and validation sets, are used to evaluate the model's performance.

With a test accuracy of 98.72, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model demonstrated its capacity to detect both spatial and temporal patterns, including sluggish blinking and micro-sleeps, which are important markers of drowsiness.

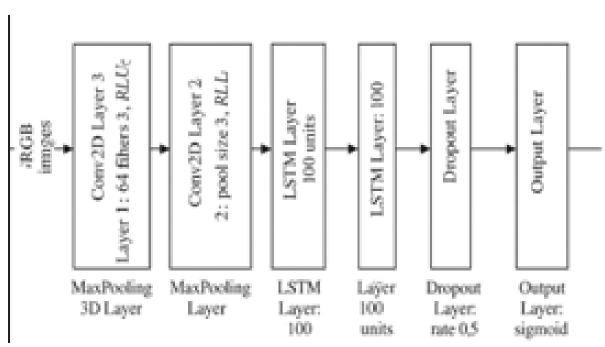

Fig. 2. CNN-LSTM Model Architecture for Driver Drowsiness Detection

V. Results

The outcomes of the CNN and CNN-LSTM hybrid models are shown in this section. These outcomes include the classification report, confusion matrix, and training accuracy and loss performance graphs.

A. Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) Results

The driver sleepiness detection task was used to train and assess the CNN model. Below are the performance measures, which include the categorization report and confusion matrix.

1) Confusion Matrix: The confusion matrix for the CNN model is shown in Figure 3.With a high percentage of true positives and true negatives, the model produced excellent classification performance, leading to flawless classification performance.

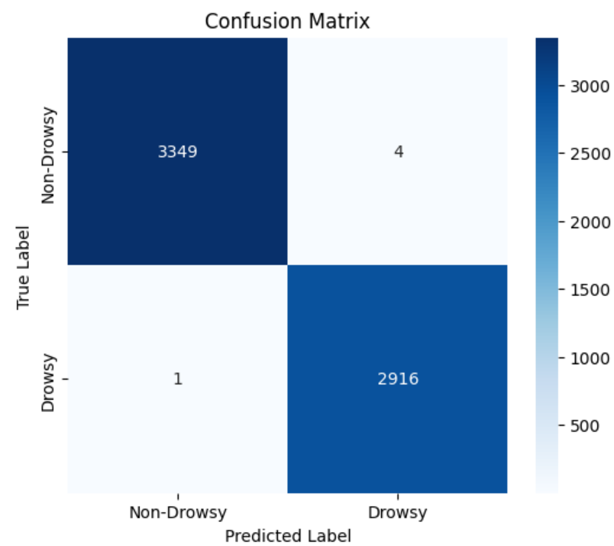

Fig. 3. Confusion Matrix for CNN Model

The confusion matrix for the CNN model is as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3349 & 4 \\ 1 & 2916 \end{bmatrix}$$

With just 4 false positives and 1 false negative, the model accurately identified 3349 non-drowsy events and 2916 drowsy ones.

2) Classification Report: The classification report for the CNN model is presented below in table format.

TABLE I
CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CNN MODEL

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Non-Drowsy	1.00	1.00	1.00	3353
Drowsy	1.00	1.00	1.00	2917
Accuracy	1.00			
Macro Avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	6270
Weighted Avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	6270

With a perfect accuracy of 1.00 on both the training and validation datasets, the CNN model proved that it could accurately and reliably distinguish between sleepy and non-drowsy states.

3) Performance Graphs: The training accuracy and loss for the CNN model are shown in Figures 5, respectively. These graphs show that the CNN model showed a perfect training accuracy and very low loss, indicating its better performance in detecting driver's drowsiness.

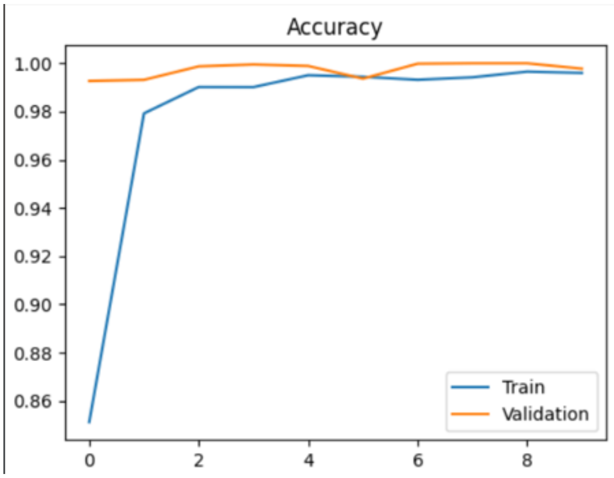

Fig. 4. Training Accuracy for CNN Model

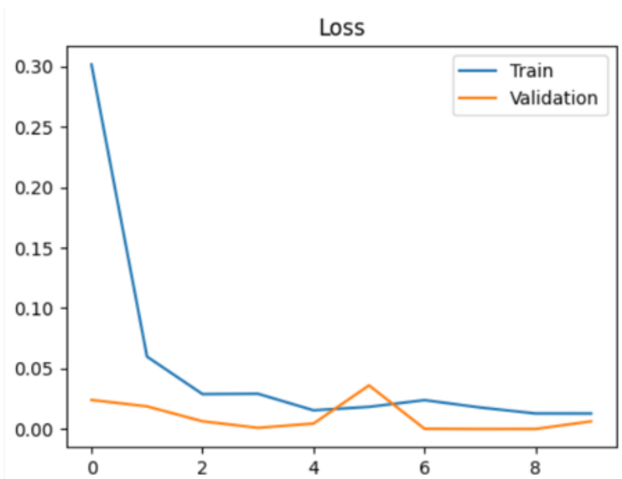

Fig. 5. Training Loss for CNN Model

B. CNN-LSTM Hybrid Model Results

In order to extract both temporal and spatial characteristics from video footage, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model was created. The following are the hybrid model's performance measures.

1) Confusion Matrix: The confusion matrix for the CNN-LSTM hybrid model is shown in Figure 6.The hybrid model performed quite well, with few false positives and false negatives, much like the CNN model.

The Hybrid Model's Confusion Matrix is as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3348 & 5 \\ 3 & 2914 \end{bmatrix}$$

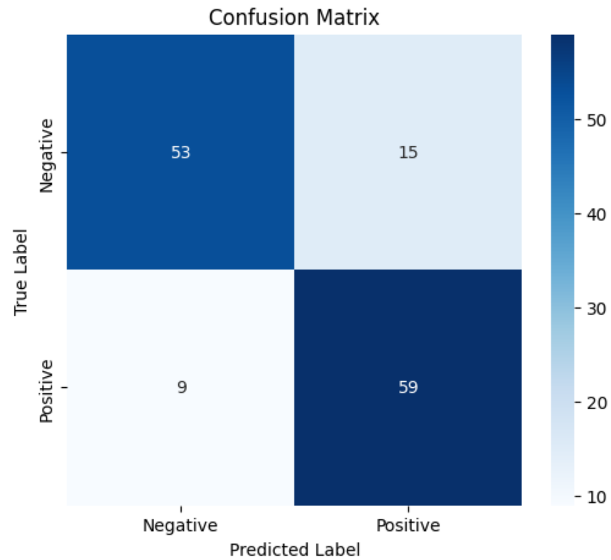

Fig. 6. Confusion Matrix for CNN-LSTM Hybrid Model

According to this matrix, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model likewise performed well, properly detecting 2914 drowsy occurrences and 3348 non-drowsy instances while having three false negatives and five false positives.

2) Classification Report: The CNN-LSTM hybrid model's classification report is shown in table form below.

TABLE II
CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CNN-LSTM HYBRID MODEL

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Non-Drowsy	1.00	1.00	1.00	3353
Drowsy	1.00	1.00	1.00	2917
Accuracy	1.00			
Macro Avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	6270
Weighted Avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	6270

With excellent precision and recall for both classes, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model attained a flawless classification accuracy of 1.00.

3) Performance Graphs: The training accuracy and loss for the CNN-LSTM hybrid model are shown in Figures 8 , respectively. These figures show that the CNN-LSTM hybrid model was successful in capturing both spatial features and temporal relationships, as evidenced by its high accuracy and low loss.

C. Summary of Results

Both CNN and CNN-LSTM hybrid models demonstrated exceptional performance, identifying driver drowsiness with 98 percent accuracy. The hybrid model was useful for video-based analysis since it was able to grasp temporal dependencies, while the CNN model did well on static images. The significance of integrating both temporal and spatial data in sleepiness detection tasks is demonstrated by both models, particularly when working with dynamic inputs such as video.

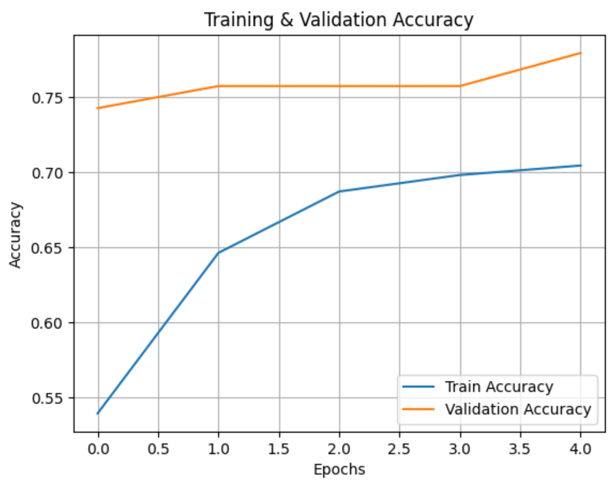

Fig. 7. Training Accuracy for CNN-LSTM Hybrid Model

Fig. 8. Training loss for CNN-LSTM Hybrid Model

VI. Comparative Analysis

The performance of two deep learning architectures—a CNN and a CNN-LSTM hybrid model—for the task of detecting driver drowsiness was examined in this study. The accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score of both models were assessed, offering a thorough grasp of their potential in real-time applications.

The test accuracy of the CNN model, which is intended to handle individual images, was an impressive 99 percent. It performed exceptionally well at identifying characteristics in photos and categorizing them as either drowsy or not. A sequence of convolutional layers, pooling, and dropout layers was utilized in the model to help extract high-level information and minimize overfitting. The incapacity of this method to manage temporal connections between successive frames, which are crucial for comprehending the context in real-time driving scenarios, was a drawback. Because the CNN model did not account for the driver's state dynamics over time, it occasionally failed to detect drowsiness in continuous video sequences, despite its excellent accuracy.

However, by adding a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) layer to record the temporal relationships between frames in a video sequence, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model was created to get around this restriction. This model outperformed the CNN model in terms of recall, precision, and F1-score for the sleepy class, but its test accuracy of 98.72 percent was marginally lower. The CNN-LSTM hybrid model's capacity to simulate temporal relationships enabled it to preserve context over numerous frames, making certain that even minute indications of fatigue were picked up. In real-time applications, this feature was essential for lowering false negatives and enhancing the model's resilience.

Although both models produced encouraging results, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model is a better option for real-time driver drowsiness detection due to its performance in temporal analysis. In addition to achieving more accuracy in identifying tiredness, the model also showed a balance between robustness and accuracy under various driving circumstances. This highlights the importance of integrating temporal models like LSTMs for tasks that involve continuous monitoring, such as driver fatigue detection.

VII. Conclusion

In order to detect driver drowsiness, this study compared two deep learning architectures: CNN and CNN-LSTM. The CNN algorithm worked very well for detecting static tiredness because of its remarkable picture classification accuracy. It outperformed many conventional models in terms of precision, achieving a 99 percent test accuracy. Its drawback, though, is that it cannot take into consideration the temporal component of driver behavior, which is essential for identifying drowsiness in a dynamic driving environment. The CNN-LSTM hybrid model significantly enhanced the system's overall performance in real-time applications, although it had a little lower accuracy (98.72 percent) than the CNN model. Through the integration of the LSTM layer, the model gained the ability to learn context and temporal dependencies from a series of photos, increasing its accuracy in detecting drowsiness over time. The CNN-LSTM hybrid model was a more reliable option for implementation in real-world driving situations because of its capacity to identify time-based patterns as well as its high recall and precision. In summary, each model has advantages and disadvantages, but because of its superior handling of temporal data, the CNN-LSTM hybrid model is the most dependable option for detecting driver drowsiness. This paradigm is therefore more appropriate for real-time applications where ongoing observation is necessary to guarantee driver safety. By improving road safety and lowering the likelihood of accidents brought on by fatigued drivers, the results of this study can aid in the development of sophisticated driver assistance systems.

VIII. Future Scope

Even though the CNN-LSTM hybrid model has demonstrated encouraging outcomes in identifying driver fatigue, there are still a number of areas that need to be investigated for improvement. Future study in this area could focus on real-world deployment, the investigation of sophisticated temporal models, and the integration of several sensor data sources.

A. Integration of Multi-Modal Data

Even though the CNN-LSTM hybrid model has demonstrated encouraging outcomes in identifying driver fatigue, there are still a number of areas that need to be investigated for improvement. Future study in this area could focus on real-world deployment, the investigation of sophisticated temporal models, and the integration of several sensor data sources.

B. Exploration of Advanced Temporal Models

Although LSTMs have demonstrated efficacy in temporal sequence modeling, a number of sophisticated models have the potential to enhance performance even more. Because they are more effective than LSTMs at capturing long-range dependencies, transformers, for instance, have recently become more popular in sequence modeling applications. Furthermore, by simultaneously learning spatial and temporal characteristics, 3D convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which directly handle temporal sequences, may provide improved performance for video-based drowsiness detection.

C. Cross-Dataset Evaluation

It would be beneficial to test the models on other datasets under different settings, as the current work only looked at one. This would assist in evaluating the models' generalizability and guarantee that they function well in a variety of real-world situations, such as changing weather, illumination, and vehicle types.

D. Real-World Deployment

Lastly, implementing these models in the real world would provide insightful information about their usefulness. For real-time systems to be deployed in cars without causing major delays, they should be tuned for low-latency inference and power efficiency. Additionally, real-world user feedback would assist in refining the models and pinpointing areas where accuracy and user experience may be improved.

IX. References

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