

A Project Report on

Intelligent Car Model Recognition Using YOLOv8

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
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by

Shubham Ganesh Bawiskar

3917329

Under the Guidance of

Prof. Esmita Gupta



Department of Information Technology

B. K. Birla College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Kalyan

B. K. Birla College Road, Near RTO, Kalyan(W), 421301

MAHARASHTRA

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

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B. K. BIRLA COLLEGE
(Affiliated to University of Mumbai)
Kalyan(W)-Maharashtra 421301
Department Of Information Technology



CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project entitled “*Intelligent Car Model Recognition Using YOLOv8*” submitted by “*Shubham Ganesh Bawiskar*” (*Seat No: 3917329*) for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for award of a degree *Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence*, to the University of Mumbai, is a bonafide work carried out during academic year 2023-24.

Internal Guide

Coordinator

External Examiner

Place: B. K. Birla College, Kalyan
Date:

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Declaration

I, Shubham Ganesh Bawiskar, hereby declare that the work presented in “Intelligent Car Model Recognition Using YOLOv8” is my original work and has been carried out under the guidance of Prof. Esmita Gupta. This document has not been previously submitted to any other institution or organization for any degree or diploma.

I affirm that the information contained within this is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that any sources used or cited have been appropriately acknowledged.

I understand that any misrepresentation or fraudulent declaration may result in disciplinary action, as well as the revocation of any associated academic or professional qualifications.

Shubham Ganesh Bawiskar

Abstract

In the realm of intelligent transportation systems, the recognition of car models plays a pivotal role in enhancing various applications, including toll collection, traffic management, and security enforcement. This project, titled "Intelligent Car Model Recognition using YOLOv8" aims to develop a robust and efficient system capable of identifying car models present on Indian roads. Leveraging the advancements in computer vision and deep learning, the project employs the state-of-the-art YOLOv8 (You Only Look Once) algorithm to achieve accurate car model recognition.

The primary objective of this project is to create a reliable model recognition system that can operate under diverse environmental conditions and varied vehicle appearances typical of Indian roads. The methodology involves training a YOLOv8 model on a comprehensive dataset of Indian car models, encompassing various makes, models, and production years. The YOLOv8 architecture, known for its balance between speed and accuracy, is particularly suited for this application due to its ability to perform object detection and classification in a single step.

To achieve this, extensive pre-processing techniques were employed to enhance the quality of the dataset, including image augmentation and normalization. The model was trained using a supervised learning approach, with a focus on minimizing detection errors and improving classification accuracy. Post-training, the model was evaluated using a series of rigorous testing protocols to ensure its performance in real-world scenarios.

The results of the project demonstrate a high degree of accuracy in recognizing car models, with the YOLOv8 model exhibiting robust performance metrics across various test cases. The implementation of this system can significantly streamline operations in automated toll collection systems by accurately identifying vehicles, thus reducing manual intervention and enhancing efficiency. Additionally, in the context of security, the system can aid law enforcement agencies in vehicle tracking and monitoring, contributing to improved road safety and crime prevention.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

In today's fast-changing transportation systems, it's crucial to have effective, dependable, and precise ways to identify vehicles. The FASTag system, currently deployed in India, leverages RFID technology to facilitate seamless toll collection, reducing congestion and enhancing the flow of traffic. However, while FASTag is effective, it is not without its limitations. Issues such as tag cloning, misreads, and tag availability pose challenges that necessitate the exploration of supplementary or alternative systems.

This project, titled "Intelligent Car Model Recognition Using YOLOv8," aims to provide a robust backup system to complement the existing FASTag infrastructure. By leveraging advanced computer vision techniques and machine learning models, specifically the YOLOv8 architecture, this project seeks to develop an intelligent system capable of accurately recognizing and classifying car models on Indian roads.

The YOLO (You Only Look Once) family of models, known for their exceptional speed and accuracy in object detection tasks, offers a promising foundation for this application. YOLOv8, the latest iteration, incorporates several enhancements over its predecessors, including improved detection capabilities, higher efficiency, and greater adaptability to diverse datasets. These features make it particularly well-suited for the complex and varied traffic scenarios encountered on Indian roads.

The core objective of this project is to create a system that can identify car models in real-time, providing a reliable alternative to RFID-based vehicle identification. This system would be beneficial not only for toll collection but also for various other applications such as traffic monitoring, law enforcement, and urban planning. By recognizing the model of vehicles, authorities can gain deeper insights into traffic patterns, enforce regulations more effectively, and plan infrastructure developments more efficiently.

Furthermore, the implementation of a vision-based recognition system addresses several limitations of the FASTag system. It eliminates the dependency on physical tags, reducing the risk of fraud and ensuring that all vehicles, irrespective of tag possession, can be identified.

Additionally, the integration of such a system can enhance the overall robustness of the vehicle identification process, ensuring continuity and reliability even when RFID systems face technical issues or disruptions.

1.2 Objectives

The primary objective of this project is to develop an intelligent car model recognition system using YOLOv8, which serves as an alternative or backup to the currently deployed FASTag system in India. This project aims to leverage advanced deep learning and computer vision techniques to accurately identify the make and model of vehicles on Indian roads. By achieving this, the system can provide several significant benefits:

- **Alternative to FASTag System:** The proposed system offers a robust backup to the existing FASTag infrastructure, ensuring seamless operation even when FASTag fails or is unavailable. This redundancy enhances the reliability of toll collection and traffic management systems.
- **Enhanced Security:** By accurately recognizing vehicle models, the system can be integrated with existing security frameworks to improve surveillance capabilities. It can help in identifying stolen or suspicious vehicles, thereby contributing to the safety and security of public spaces.
- **Facilitation of Investigations:** Law enforcement agencies can utilize the car model recognition system to streamline investigations. By quickly identifying the make and model of vehicles involved in criminal activities or traffic violations, the system aids in the efficient and timely resolution of cases.
- **Traffic Management:** The intelligent car model recognition system can assist in better traffic management by providing real-time data on the types of vehicles on the road. This data can be used to optimize traffic flow, manage congestion, and improve overall road safety.
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** The system enables the collection of valuable data regarding vehicle distribution and usage patterns on Indian roads. This data can be analysed to inform infrastructure development, policy-making, and strategic planning for transportation networks.

- **Technological Advancement:** The development and deployment of such a sophisticated recognition system demonstrate the potential of modern AI and computer vision technologies in solving real-world problems. It promotes further research and development in the field of intelligent transportation systems.

1.3 Purpose, Scope and Applicability

- **Purpose**

1. **Enhancing Reliability of Toll Collection:** To provide a dependable alternative to the FASTag system, ensuring uninterrupted toll collection and vehicle tracking. This is particularly crucial in scenarios where FASTag is either not functioning or is unavailable.
2. **Boosting Security Measures:** To increase the overall security of public spaces by enabling accurate and swift identification of vehicle models. This capability is essential for identifying stolen or suspicious vehicles and integrating with security surveillance systems to deter and respond to criminal activities.
3. **Supporting Law Enforcement and Investigations:** To aid law enforcement agencies in their investigative processes by offering a tool that can quickly and accurately recognize car models. This assists in resolving cases related to traffic violations, accidents, and criminal investigations more efficiently and effectively.
4. **Improving Traffic Management:** To enhance the management of traffic flow by providing real-time data on vehicle models present on the roads. Such data can be used to optimize traffic signals, manage congestion, and design better traffic control strategies, leading to safer and more efficient roadways.
5. **Facilitating Data-Driven Decision Making:** To gather and analyse data on vehicle types and their distribution on Indian roads. This information is valuable for transportation planning, infrastructure development, and policy-making, allowing for informed decisions that cater to the evolving needs of the transportation network.
6. **Advancing Technological Development:** To push the boundaries of current technological capabilities in AI and computer vision. The development of this car model recognition system serves as a demonstration of the practical applications of these technologies, fostering further research and innovation in the field of intelligent transportation systems.

- **Scope**

1. **Geographical Coverage**

- **National Deployment:** The model is designed for deployment across various regions of India, catering to diverse road conditions and vehicular diversity.
- **Scalability:** The system is scalable to cover metropolitan areas, highways, and rural regions, ensuring comprehensive coverage and utility.

2. **Technical Scope**

- **Advanced Recognition Capabilities:** Utilizing YOLOv8, the model offers high accuracy in recognizing a wide range of car models, accounting for different makes, models, and variations.
- **Real-Time Processing:** The system supports real-time recognition and processing, enabling immediate data collection and action, crucial for toll collection and security applications.

3. **Integration with Existing Systems**

- **Compatibility:** The model is designed to integrate seamlessly with existing FASTag infrastructure, CCTV networks, and traffic management systems.
- **API and Interface Development:** Development of APIs and user interfaces to facilitate easy integration and interaction with other systems and users, ensuring smooth operation and usability.

4. **Operational Scope**

- **Continuous Improvement:** The system is designed for continuous learning and improvement, incorporating new data and advancements in AI to enhance recognition accuracy and expand capabilities.
- **Maintenance and Support:** Provision for ongoing maintenance, support, and updates to ensure the system remains reliable, up-to-date, and effective.

5. **Compliance and Standards**

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensuring the model adheres to local and national regulations regarding data privacy, security, and usage.
- **Industry Standards:** Alignment with industry standards for AI and machine learning applications, ensuring best practices are followed in development and deployment.

- **Applicability**

1. **Toll Collection and Traffic Management**

- **Backup for FASTag System:** The model serves as an alternative to the FASTag system, ensuring continuous toll collection and reducing revenue losses due to system failures.
- **Traffic Flow Optimization:** By providing real-time data on vehicle models, the system helps in optimizing traffic signals and managing congestion, thereby improving overall traffic flow.

2. **Security and Surveillance**

- **Vehicle Tracking:** The system can be used to monitor and track vehicles across various locations, aiding in the identification of stolen or suspicious vehicles.
- **Enhanced Surveillance:** Integration with existing CCTV and security systems enhances the capability to monitor and analyse vehicle movements, improving public safety and security.

3. **Law Enforcement and Investigations**

- **Crime Investigation:** Law enforcement agencies can leverage the model to quickly identify and track vehicles involved in criminal activities or traffic violations, facilitating faster and more effective investigations.
- **Accident Analysis:** The system can aid in analyzing vehicular accidents by identifying the involved vehicles, helping in the reconstruction of incidents and determining liability.

4. **Data Collection and Analysis**

- **Traffic Studies:** The model provides valuable data for traffic studies, including the distribution of vehicle types, peak traffic times, and vehicle usage patterns.
- **Policy Making:** The collected data can inform policy decisions related to infrastructure development, road safety measures, and transportation regulations.

Chapter 2

Survey of Technology

The survey of technology aims to provide an overview of the current state-of-the-art technologies and methodologies used in the field of car model recognition, particularly focusing on the application of YOLOv8 and other relevant AI and computer vision techniques.

Overview of Object Detection Algorithms

Object detection is a critical aspect of computer vision, where the goal is to identify and locate objects within an image. Various algorithms have been developed over the years, each with its strengths and limitations:

- **YOLO (You Only Look Once):** YOLO is one of the most popular object detection algorithms due to its speed and accuracy. It treats object detection as a single regression problem, directly predicting bounding boxes and class probabilities from full images in one evaluation [1]. YOLOv8 is the latest version, offering improvements in detection accuracy and processing speed [3].
- **SSD (Single Shot MultiBox Detector):** SSD performs object detection in a single shot by discretizing the output space of bounding boxes into a set of default boxes over different aspect ratios and scales per feature map location [4].
- **R-CNN (Region-based Convolutional Neural Networks):** R-CNN and its variants (Fast R-CNN, Faster R-CNN) are a series of object detection models that use region proposal networks to first generate bounding boxes and then classify them [7].

Evolution of YOLO Algorithms

- **YOLOv1 to YOLOv4:** The YOLO algorithm has undergone several iterations since its inception. YOLOv1 introduced the concept of treating object detection as a regression problem [1]. YOLOv2 and YOLOv3 improved upon the architecture by incorporating techniques such as batch normalization and multi-scale predictions [8]. YOLOv4 optimized the training process and enhanced the model's ability to generalize across various datasets [2].

- **YOLOv5 to YOLOv8:** YOLOv5 and subsequent versions like YOLOv8 have continued to push the boundaries of object detection. These versions incorporate advancements in network architecture, such as the use of CSPNet (Cross Stage Partial Networks) to reduce computational cost while maintaining high accuracy [3] [9].

Comparison with Existing Systems

The current FASTag system in India relies on RFID technology for automated toll collection. While effective, it has limitations such as tag misplacement or damage. The proposed YOLOv8-based system offers a reliable backup or alternative solution:

- **Advantages Over FASTag:** The AI-based system can identify car models without the need for physical tags, reducing dependency on RFID technology and improving reliability [11].
- **Integration with Existing Infrastructure:** The YOLOv8 system can be integrated with existing toll collection infrastructure, providing an additional layer of verification and reducing the chances of toll evasion [12].

Chapter 3

Requirements and Analysis

3.1 Problem Definition

The primary objective of this project is to develop a system that can accurately recognize and identify the model of cars on Indian roads using YOLOv8 (You Only Look Once, version 8), a state-of-the-art object detection algorithm. This system aims to enhance various applications such as automated toll collection, vehicle tracking, traffic management, and security enforcement.

Indian roads are characterized by a wide variety of vehicles, including numerous car models from different manufacturers. Traditional methods of car model identification rely on manual inspection or less sophisticated image processing techniques, which are often inaccurate and inefficient. This project aims to leverage the advanced capabilities of YOLOv8 to address these challenges by developing an intelligent car model recognition system.

Key aspects of the problem include:

- **Diverse Car Models:** The system must be able to identify a wide range of car models, including both domestic and international brands, from different angles and in various lighting conditions.
- **Real-time Processing:** For applications such as toll collection and security, the system must process images in real-time or near real-time.
- **Accuracy:** High accuracy in identifying car models is crucial to minimize errors in applications like automated toll collection and security checks.
- **Scalability:** The system should be scalable to handle a large volume of traffic and multiple lanes.

3.2 Hardware and Software Requirements

Hardware Requirements:

- **GPU:** High-performance GPUs (e.g., NVIDIA RTX series) are required to run YOLOv8 efficiently, especially for real-time image processing.
- **CPU:** Multi-core processors for handling auxiliary tasks and managing data flow. Intel Core i5 or higher
- **RAM:** 16 GB or more
- **Hard Disk:** 500 GB SSD or larger
- **Input Device:** Keyboard and Mouse
- **Output Device:** Monitor (Full HD).

Software Requirements:

- **Operating System:** Windows, Mac or Linux-based OS (such as Ubuntu) for better support with AI frameworks and tools.
- **Programming Languages:** Python for developing and integrating YOLOv8 with other computer vision techniques. HTML, CSS, JavaScript for the web implementation.
- **Tools:** Jupyter Lab/Notebook, Google Colab, Visual Studio Code, Roboflow.
- **Libraries and Frameworks:**
 - **Ultralytics:** Required to import YOLOv8.
 - **YOLOv8:** The main object detection framework.
 - **OpenCV:** For image processing tasks.
 - **PyTorch:** For training the model and additional custom implementations if required.
 - **NumPy, Pandas:** For data manipulation and preprocessing.
 - **Deployment:** Flask

3.3 Requirement Specification

Functional Requirements:

1. Car Detection:

- **Image Capture:** High-resolution images of vehicles must be captured using strategically placed cameras.
- **Detection Algorithm:** Use YOLOv8 for detecting cars in the captured images.
- **Multiple Angles:** The system must accurately detect cars from various angles (front, side, rear).
- **Lighting Conditions:** The system must work effectively under different lighting conditions (day, night, shadow, glare).

2. Model Identification:

- **Classification:** After detecting a car, the system must classify the car into its specific model.
- **Database Matching:** Cross-reference detected car models with a pre-existing database to verify accuracy.
- **Continuous Learning:** Implement mechanisms for continuous learning and model updates to accommodate new car models.

Non-Functional Requirements:

1. Performance:

- **Throughput:** The system should handle high traffic volumes, processing hundreds of images per second.
- **Low Latency:** Ensure the end-to-end processing time (from image capture to model identification) is minimal.

2. Accuracy:

- **Detection Accuracy:** Achieve over 95% accuracy in car detection.
- **Identification Accuracy:** Achieve over 90% accuracy in car model identification.

3. Scalability:

- **Horizontal Scaling:** Support horizontal scaling to add more processing units as traffic volume increases.
- **Distributed Architecture:** Design a distributed architecture to balance the load and improve reliability.

4. Reliability:

- **Uptime:** Ensure system uptime of 99.9% with minimal downtime for maintenance.
- **Fault Tolerance:** Implement fault-tolerant mechanisms to handle hardware/software failures gracefully.

5. Security:

- **Data Encryption:** Use encryption for data at rest and in transit to protect sensitive information.
- **Access Control:** Implement role-based access control (RBAC) to restrict access to authorized personnel.
- **Audit Logs:** Maintain audit logs for all access and modification activities.

Detailed Software Specifications:

1. Programming Languages:

- **Python:**

- Primary language for developing the detection and classification algorithms, as well as integrating various components.
- Python is developed to be an easy-to-use programming language. It uses English keywords rather than punctuation and has fewer syntactic constructions than other languages. It is a highly developed, interpreted, interactive, and object-oriented scripting language.
- Python Interpreted: Python processes at runtime by the interpreter, which means there is no need to compile the program before execution. This is akin to languages such as PERL and PHP.
- Python Interactive: You can directly interact with the interpreter to write your programs.
- Python Object-Oriented: Supports Object-Oriented programming for creating reusable code and applications.
- Beginner-Friendly: Python is considered an excellent language for beginners due to its simple syntax and readability.
- Python Features
 - Easy to Learn: Python has a minimalistic syntax with fewer keywords.
 - Readable Code: Python code is clearly defined and visually uncluttered.
 - Easy Maintenance: Python's source code is easy to maintain.
 - Extensive Standard Library: Python comes with a comprehensive standard library.
 - Interactive Mode: Supports an interactive mode for testing and debugging.
 - Portability: Python can run on different operating systems and platforms.
 - Extensible: Allows adding low-level modules to the interpreter.
 - GUI Programming: Supports multiple GUI libraries such as Tkinter, WxPython, and more.
 - Scalable: Suitable for both simple scripts and complex applications.
- Advantages of Python
 - Third-Party Modules: Python Package Index (PyPI) contains numerous modules.
 - Extensive Support Libraries: Python provides a wide array of libraries for various tasks.
 - Open Source: Developed under an OSI-approved open source license.
 - Ease of Learning and Support: Clear syntax and large community support.
 - User-Friendly Data Structures: Built-in support for lists, dictionaries, etc.

2. Libraries and Frameworks:

- **YOLOv8:**

- **Purpose:** Main object detection algorithm.
- **Features:** Pre-trained weights, support for custom training, high accuracy, and real-time performance.

- **TensorFlow Framework:**

- TensorFlow is an open-source software library for dataflow and differentiable programming across a range of tasks. Originally developed by the Google Brain team, it is used for both research and production.
- Open Source: Free to use and distribute.
- Multi-Platform: Runs on various platforms including Windows, Linux, macOS, Android, and iOS.
- Scalable: Can run on multiple CPUs and GPUs.
- Symbolic Math Library: Used for machine learning and neural networks.
- Flexible Architecture: Allows deployment across different platforms.

- **OpenCV:**

- Image OpenCV is an open-source computer vision and machine learning software library.
- Cross-Platform: Supports multiple programming languages and platforms.
- Real-Time Applications: Used for real-time image processing and video capture.
- Extensive Algorithms: Contains over 2500 optimized algorithms for computer vision tasks.

- **PyTorch:**

- PyTorch is an open-source machine learning library developed by Facebook's AI Research lab.
- Dynamic Graphs: Utilizes dynamic computation graphs.
- GPU Support: Accelerates computations with GPU support.

3. Database Management:

- **Google Drive:**

- Google Drive is a cloud-based storage service by Google, allowing users to store files online and access them from any device with internet connectivity. Key features include:
- **Cloud Storage:** Store and back up files securely online.
- **Collaboration:** Share files and collaborate in real-time with others.
- **Accessibility:** Access files from any device with an internet connection.
- **Integration:** Seamlessly integrates with other Google services like Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides.

- **Roboflow:**

- **Roboflow** is a platform designed for managing and preprocessing image data for computer vision projects. It provides tools for:
- **Dataset Management:** Organize and manage large sets of images and their annotations.
- **Preprocessing:** Enhance and augment images to improve model performance.
- **Annotation:** Tools for annotating images, including bounding boxes, polygons, and segmentation masks.
- **Integration:** Easily integrate with machine learning frameworks like TensorFlow and PyTorch for training models.

- **Local Drive:**

- **Local Drive** refers to the storage devices physically attached to a computer, such as hard drives, SSDs, and external USB drives. Key aspects include:
- **Data Storage:** Store files locally on the physical device.
- **Speed:** Faster access and retrieval compared to cloud storage, as it doesn't depend on internet speed.
- **Security:** Data is stored locally, reducing risks associated with online storage.
- **Accessibility:** Files can be accessed without an internet connection.

Chapter 4

System Design

4.1 Methodologies

1. Data Collection

Data collection is the foundation of any machine learning project. For this project, images of various car models were sourced from multiple platforms, including Google, CarWale, CarDekho, and OLX Autos. This diverse collection ensured that the dataset was comprehensive, covering a wide range of car models commonly found on Indian roads.

- **Google:** Images were collected using search queries specific to different car models and brands.
- **CarWale and CarDekho:** These websites provided high-quality images with accurate car model labels.
- **OLX Autos:** As a second-hand car marketplace, OLX Autos provided images that included various car conditions and environments, adding diversity to the dataset.

2. Data Annotation

Annotation is a critical step in supervised learning, where the images are labelled with the corresponding car models. For this project, Roboflow was utilized for data annotation due to its user-friendly interface and integration capabilities with YOLOv8.

- **Bounding Boxes:** Each car in the images was annotated with bounding boxes, specifying the location and extent of the car within the image.
- **Labelling:** Each bounding box was labelled with the specific car model, ensuring that the dataset was accurately tagged for training.

3. Data Augmentation

To enhance the robustness of the model, data augmentation techniques were applied. Augmentation helps in generating variations of the existing dataset, which can improve the model's ability to generalize.

- **Roboflow Augmentation:** Techniques such as rotation, flipping, and colour adjustments were applied to the images using Roboflow's built-in augmentation tools.
- **YOLOv8 Augmentation:** YOLOv8 also supports data augmentation during training. This included random scaling, cropping, and translations, which further increased the variability in the dataset.

4. Dataset Splitting

A crucial aspect of machine learning is splitting the dataset into training, validation, and test sets. This ensures that the model can be evaluated on unseen data, providing a true measure of its performance.

- **Training Set:** Used to train the model, comprising 70% of the total dataset.
- **Validation Set:** Used to tune the model hyperparameters and prevent overfitting, comprising 20% of the dataset.
- **Test Set:** Used to evaluate the final model performance, comprising 10% of the dataset.

The dataset splitting was conducted using Roboflow, which provided a seamless way to divide the dataset while maintaining class balance across the splits.

5. Model Training

YOLOv8, a state-of-the-art object detection model, was selected for this project due to its high accuracy and real-time performance capabilities. The model was trained using the annotated and augmented dataset, leveraging the following techniques:

- **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Various hyperparameters such as batch size and number of epochs were tuned to optimize model performance.

- **Transfer Learning:** Pre-trained weights were used to initialize the model, which was then fine-tuned on the specific car model dataset. This approach leverages the features learned from large-scale datasets and adapts them to the car model recognition task.

- **Training Arguments:**
 - **model:** Specifies the model file for training. Accepts a path to either a .pt pretrained model or a .yaml configuration file. Essential for defining the model structure or initializing weights.
 - **data:** Path to the dataset configuration file (e.g., coco8.yaml). This file contains dataset-specific parameters, including paths to training and validation data, class names, and number of classes.
 - **epochs:** Total number of training epochs. Each epoch represents a full pass over the entire dataset. Adjusting this value can affect training duration and model performance.
 - **patience:** Number of epochs to wait without improvement in validation metrics before early stopping the training. Helps prevent overfitting by stopping training when performance plateaus.
 - **batch:** Batch size, with three modes: set as an integer (e.g., batch=16), auto mode for 60% GPU memory utilization (batch=-1), or auto mode with specified utilization fraction (batch=0.70).
 - **imgsz:** Target image size for training. All images are resized to this dimension before being fed into the model. Affects model accuracy and computational complexity.
 - **save:** Enables saving of training checkpoints and final model weights. Useful for resuming training or model deployment.
 - **resume:** Resumes training from the last saved checkpoint. Automatically loads model weights, optimizer state, and epoch count, continuing training seamlessly.
 - **pretrained:** Resumes training from the last saved checkpoint. Automatically loads model weights, optimizer state, and epoch count, continuing training seamlessly.
 - **project:** Name of the project directory where training outputs are saved. Allows for organized storage of different experiments.
 - **name:** Name of the training run. Used for creating a subdirectory within the project folder, where training logs and outputs are stored.

6. Model Evaluation

The performance of the trained YOLOv8 model was evaluated using several metrics:

- **Mean Average Precision (mAP):** Measures the accuracy of the model across different Intersection over Union (IoU) thresholds.
- **Precision and Recall:** Evaluate the model's ability to correctly identify car models without producing too many false positives or false negatives.
- **F1-Score:** Harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a single metric that balances both aspects.
- **Inference Time:** Measures the time taken by the model to make predictions on new images, critical for real-time applications.
- **Loss Metrics:** Including box loss (localization error) and DFL (distribution focal loss), which help in diagnosing the model training process.

7. Deployment

For real-world application, the model needs to be deployed in an accessible and efficient manner. A Flask web application is developed to serve the model, allowing users to upload images and receive car model predictions.

- **Backend:** Flask was used to create the server-side application, handling model inference and managing requests.
- **Frontend:** HTML, CSS, and JavaScript were used to develop a user-friendly interface where users can interact with the system.
- **Integration:** The model was integrated into the Flask app, providing a seamless pipeline from image upload to car model identification.

4.2 Detection Approach

The detection approach for the Intelligent Car Model Recognition system involves several critical steps, leveraging advanced computer vision techniques and deep learning algorithms. This section delves into the specifics of the detection pipeline, detailing how images are

processed, how the YOLOv8 model is utilized, and the intricacies of model training and optimization.

Image Preprocessing

Before feeding the images into the detection model, several preprocessing steps are performed to ensure the data is in the optimal format for training and inference. This involves:

- **Resizing:** Images are resized to a consistent dimension (e.g., 640x640 pixels) to match the input requirements of YOLOv8. Resizing helps in standardizing the data and reducing computational load.
- **Normalization:** Pixel values are normalized to a range of [0, 1] by dividing by 255. This step helps in speeding up the training process and improving model convergence.
- **Augmentation:** As previously discussed, data augmentation techniques like random cropping, flipping, rotation, and color adjustments are applied. This increases the variability in the dataset, aiding the model in generalizing better to unseen data.

YOLOv8 Model

YOLOv8 (You Only Look Once version 8) is an advanced object detection model known for its speed and accuracy. It operates by dividing the input image into a grid and predicting bounding boxes and class probabilities for each grid cell. The key components of the YOLOv8 model used in this project include:

- **Backbone:** A convolutional neural network (CNN) that extracts features from the input image. YOLOv8 uses a custom backbone architecture optimized for object detection.
- **Neck:** A series of layers that combine and refine features from different scales. This multi-scale feature fusion helps in detecting objects of various sizes.
- **Head:** The final layers that predict bounding boxes, objectness scores, and class probabilities. The head outputs predictions at multiple scales, enhancing the model's ability to detect small and large objects.

Training Procedure

Training the YOLOv8 model involves several steps and considerations to ensure optimal performance. The following outlines the training procedure:

- **Dataset Preparation:** The annotated dataset is split into training, validation, and test sets. Each set is prepared with appropriate preprocessing and augmentation techniques.
- **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Hyperparameters such as learning rate, batch size, and the number of epochs are crucial for training. A learning rate schedule is used, starting with a higher learning rate and gradually decreasing it to fine-tune the model. Grid search or random search techniques can be used to find the optimal hyperparameters.
- **Loss Function:** YOLOv8 uses a composite loss function that includes:
 - **Box Loss:** Measures the error in predicted bounding box coordinates.
 - **Objectness Loss:** Evaluates the confidence of object presence in each grid cell.
 - **Class Loss:** Calculates the error in class predictions.
 - **DFL (Distribution Focal Loss):** Enhances the precision of bounding box coordinates by focusing on difficult-to-detect objects.
- **Training Loop:** The model is trained using a loop that iterates over the training dataset multiple times (epochs). In each iteration, the model parameters are updated to minimize the loss function. The validation set is used to monitor the model's performance and prevent overfitting.

Post-Processing

After the model predicts bounding boxes and class probabilities, several post-processing steps are applied to refine the results:

- **Non-Maximum Suppression (NMS):** This technique is used to eliminate redundant bounding boxes. NMS keeps the bounding box with the highest confidence score and removes others that have a high IoU (Intersection over Union) with it. This step ensures that each detected car is represented by a single bounding box.
- **Confidence Thresholding:** Predictions with confidence scores below a certain threshold are discarded. This helps in reducing false positives and retaining only the most confident detections.

Model Evaluation

Evaluating the YOLOv8 model involves measuring its performance using various metrics on the validation and test sets:

- **Mean Average Precision (mAP):** The primary metric for object detection, mAP is calculated by averaging the precision scores at various recall levels. It provides a comprehensive measure of the model's accuracy across different IoU thresholds.
- **Precision and Recall:** Precision measures the proportion of true positive detections among all positive detections, while recall measures the proportion of true positive detections among all actual positives. These metrics help in understanding the trade-off between false positives and false negatives.
- **F1-Score:** The harmonic mean of precision and recall, the F1-score provides a single metric that balances both aspects. It is particularly useful when the dataset is imbalanced.
- **Inference Time:** The time taken by the model to process an image and produce predictions. Low inference time is crucial for real-time applications such as toll collection and security surveillance.
- **Loss Metrics:** Tracking the box loss, objectness loss, and class loss during training helps in diagnosing issues and ensuring the model is learning effectively.

Deployment Strategy

Deploying the trained model involves setting up an environment where the model can process new images and return predictions efficiently. The deployment strategy includes:

- **Flask Application:** A lightweight web framework, Flask is used to build a web server that hosts the model. Flask handles incoming requests, processes images, and returns predictions.
- **API Endpoints:** Specific endpoints are created for uploading images and retrieving predictions. These endpoints facilitate easy integration with other systems or user interfaces.
- **Frontend Interface:** HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are used to create a user-friendly interface where users can upload images and view results. The interface is designed to be intuitive and responsive.

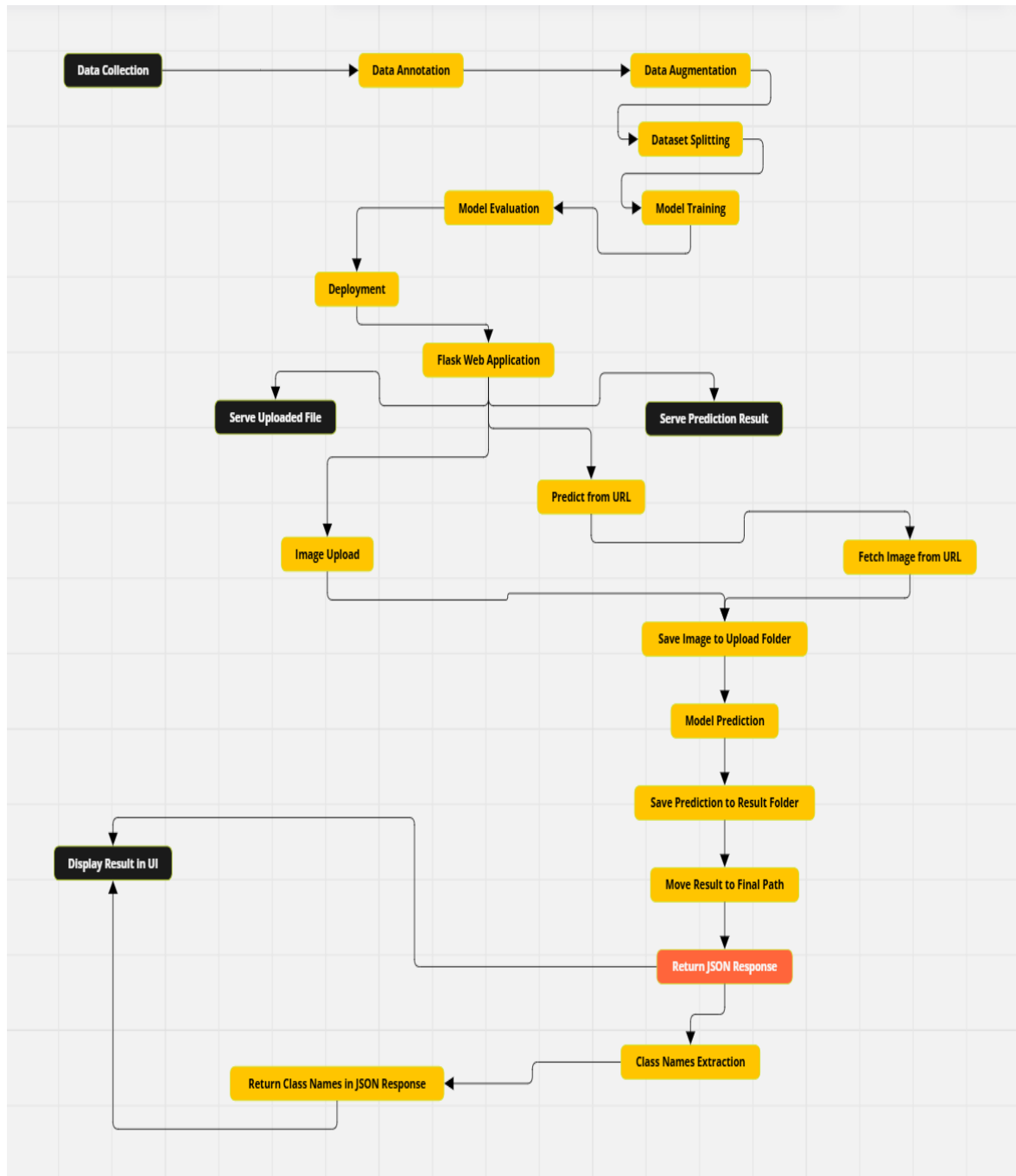
- **Model Serving:** The model is loaded into memory at the server startup, ensuring quick inference times for each request. Techniques like model quantization and optimization are employed to reduce latency and improve efficiency.

Real-Time Considerations

For applications requiring real-time detection, several additional considerations are taken into account:

- **Optimized Inference Engine:** Using libraries like TensorRT or OpenVINO can accelerate the inference process.
- **Edge Deployment:** Deploying the model on edge devices such as NVIDIA Jetson or Google Coral can reduce latency and bandwidth usage by processing data locally.
- **Load Balancing:** For high-traffic applications, load balancing techniques are employed to distribute the processing load across multiple servers, ensuring scalability and reliability.

4.3 Flow Chart



Chapter 5

Testing

Testing is a crucial phase in the development of the Intelligent Car Model Recognition system, ensuring that the model performs accurately and reliably under various conditions. This section outlines the testing strategies and methodologies employed to evaluate the system's performance, robustness, and efficiency.

Test Dataset Preparation

A carefully curated test dataset is essential for evaluating the model. The test dataset should be representative of real-world conditions and include a diverse set of images.

- **Diversity:** The test dataset includes images of different car models, varying lighting conditions, different angles, occlusions, and backgrounds to ensure comprehensive evaluation.
- **Sources:** Images are sourced from the same platform used for training (Google) to maintain consistency, but the specific images are distinct from those used in the training and validation sets.

Testing Metrics

To comprehensively evaluate the model, several performance metrics are used:

- **Mean Average Precision (mAP):** mAP is the primary metric for object detection, measuring the precision and recall at various IoU thresholds. It provides a balanced evaluation of the model's accuracy.
- **Precision:** Precision is calculated as the number of true positive detections divided by the sum of true positive and false positive detections. High precision indicates fewer false positives.
- **Recall:** Recall is calculated as the number of true positive detections divided by the sum of true positive and false negative detections. High recall indicates fewer missed detections.
- **F1-Score:** The harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a single metric that balances both.

- **Inference Time:** Measures the time taken to process an image and produce predictions. Lower inference times are crucial for real-time applications.
- **Confusion Matrix:** A confusion matrix is used to visualize the performance of the model in terms of true positives, false positives, false negatives, and true negatives across different car models.

Testing Procedures

The testing process involves several steps to ensure thorough evaluation:

- **Unit Testing:** Individual components of the detection pipeline, such as image preprocessing, model loading, and prediction generation, are tested to ensure they function correctly.
- **Integration Testing:** The complete pipeline, from image input to prediction output, is tested to verify that all components work together seamlessly.
- **Performance Testing:** The model's performance is evaluated on the test dataset using the metrics mentioned above. This involves running the model on the entire test dataset and calculating the metrics.

Test Results Analysis

After testing, the results are analysed to identify strengths and weaknesses of the model:

- **Metric Evaluation:** The calculated metrics are compared against predefined benchmarks or baseline models to assess the model's performance.
- **Error Analysis:** False positives and false negatives are analysed to understand common failure modes. This helps in identifying areas for improvement, such as specific car models or conditions where the model underperforms.
- **Visual Inspection:** Predicted bounding boxes and class labels are visually inspected on a subset of test images to qualitatively assess the model's performance.

Model Optimization and Re-Testing

Based on the analysis, the model may undergo further optimization:

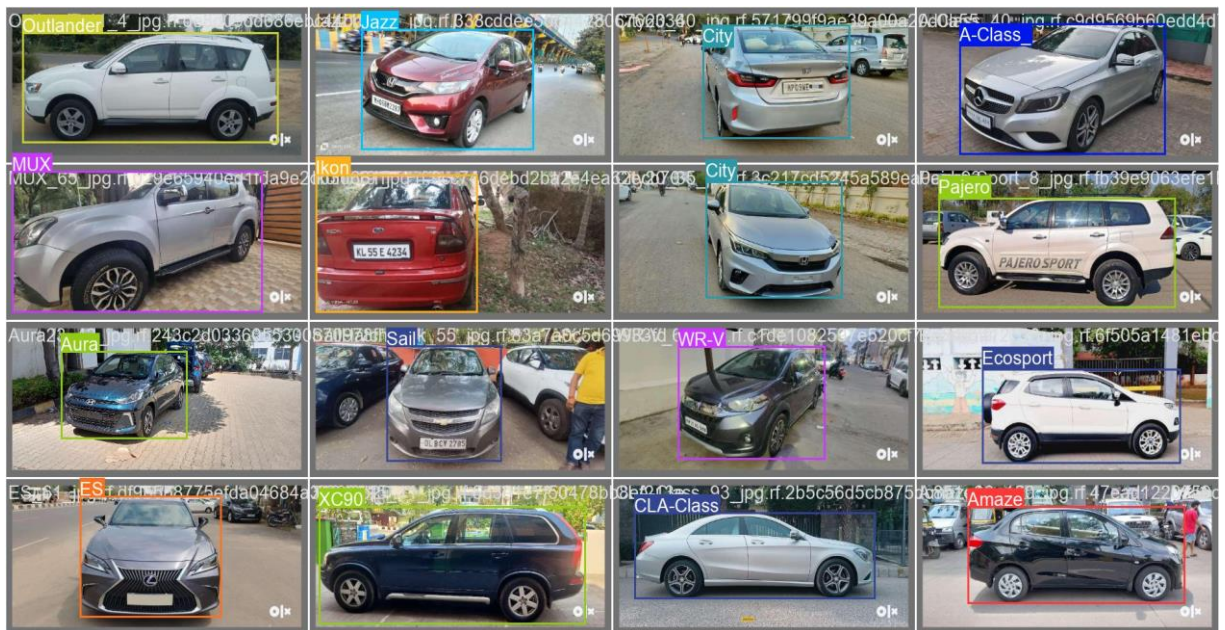
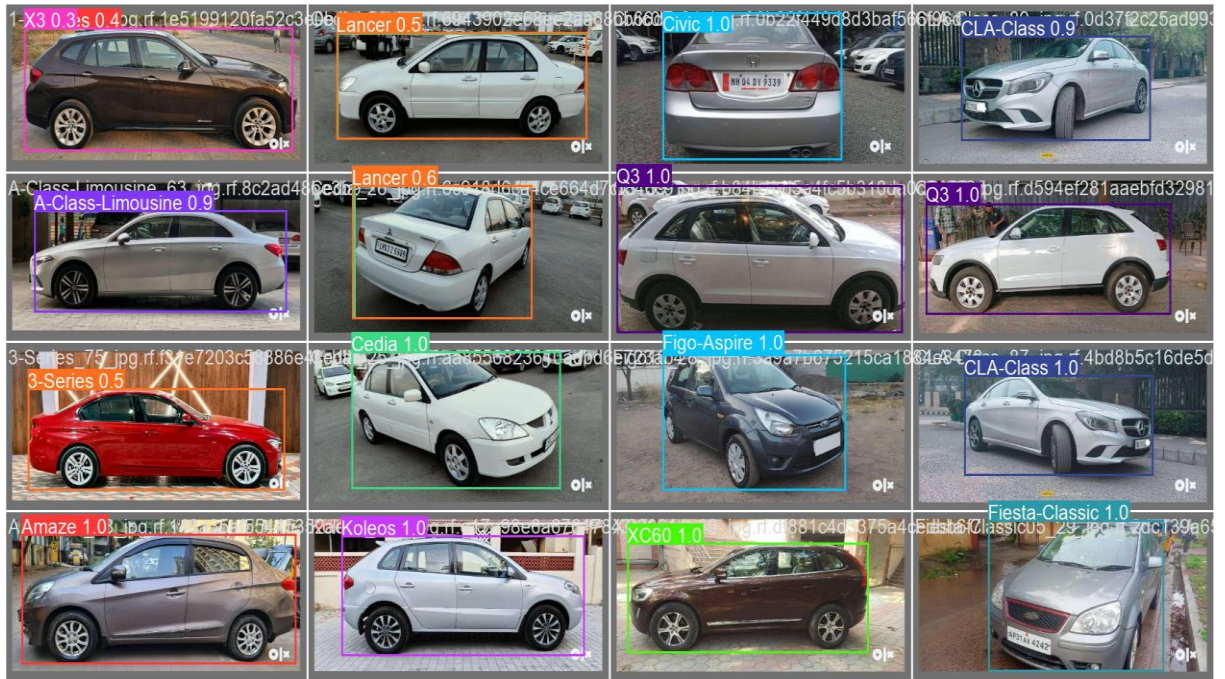
- **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Adjusting hyperparameters such as batch size and number of epochs to improve performance.
- **Data Augmentation:** Applying additional or different augmentation techniques to increase the robustness of the model.
- **Model Architecture:** Making changes to the model architecture, such as adding more layers or adjusting existing ones, to enhance detection capabilities.

After optimization, the model is re-trained and re-tested to evaluate the improvements.

Deployment Testing

Before final deployment, the system is tested in the deployment environment:

- **Flask Application Testing:** The web application is tested to ensure it correctly handles image uploads, processes them, and returns accurate predictions.
- **End-to-End Testing:** The entire workflow, from image capture to prediction output, is tested to ensure a smooth user experience.
- **Real-World Testing:** The system is tested in real-world conditions to evaluate its performance in live scenarios, such as toll booths or security checkpoints.



Chapter 6

Codes

- **Recognition Model**

- **Training**

```
import os
os.environ['KMP_DUPLICATE_LIB_OK']='True'
import ultralytics
ultralytics.checks()

from ultralytics import YOLO

# Load a pretrained YOLO model
model = YOLO("yolov8n.pt")

# Train the model using the yaml file
Results =
model.train(data=r"C:\Users\shubh\Jupyterlab\Merged_Data\Merged_Data.yaml",
epochs=10)

# Evaluate the model's performance on the validation set
results = model.val()

# Export the model to ONNX format
success = model.export(format="onnx")

# If the training process is interrupted, the following code offers a #solution by
utilizing the necessary arguments.

# Load a pretrained model last.pt
model = YOLO(r"C:\Users\shubh\Jupyterlab\runs\detect\train2\weights\last.pt")
```

```
# Train the model using the yaml file
results =
model.train(data=r"C:\Users\shubh\Jupyterlab\Merged_Data\Merged_Data.yaml",
epochs=100, resume=True)

# Evaluate the model's performance on the validation set
results = model.val()

# Export the model to ONNX format
success = model.export(format="onnx")
```

- **Validation/Testing**

```
from ultralytics import YOLO
```

```
# Load a pretrained best.pt model
```

```
model = YOLO(r"C:\Users\shubh\Jupyterlab\runs\detect\train2\weights\best.pt")
```

```
# Define path to video file
```

```
source = r"C:\Users\shubh\OneDrive\Pictures\Screenshots\Screenshot 2024-06-18
120817.png"
```

- **Deployment**

- **app.py**

```
from flask import Flask, request, render_template, send_from_directory, jsonify
import os
import shutil
import requests
from io import BytesIO
from PIL import Image
from ultralytics import YOLO

app = Flask(__name__)
UPLOAD_FOLDER = 'uploads'
```

```

RESULT_FOLDER = 'predict'

# Ensure the upload and result directories exist
os.makedirs(UPLOAD_FOLDER, exist_ok=True)
os.makedirs(RESULT_FOLDER, exist_ok=True)

# Load the pretrained YOLOv8n model
model = YOLO("best.pt")

@app.route('/')
def index():
    return render_template('index.html')

@app.route('/upload', methods=['POST'])
def upload_file():
    if 'file' not in request.files:
        return 'No file part'
    file = request.files['file']
    if file.filename == "":
        return 'No selected file'
    if file:
        filename = file.filename
        filepath = os.path.join(UPLOAD_FOLDER, filename)
        file.save(filepath)

        results = model.predict(filepath, save=True, project=RESULT_FOLDER,
name='AB')

        latest_result_folder = max(
            [os.path.join(RESULT_FOLDER, d) for d in os.listdir(RESULT_FOLDER) if
os.path.isdir(os.path.join(RESULT_FOLDER, d))],
            key=os.path.getmtime
        )

```

```

        result_image = [f for f in os.listdir(latest_result_folder) if f.endswith((''.jpg', '.png',
        '.jpeg', '.webp'))][0]
        result_saved_path = os.path.join(latest_result_folder, result_image)
        result_filename = os.path.basename(result_saved_path)

        final_result_path = os.path.join(RESULT_FOLDER, result_filename)
        shutil.move(result_saved_path, final_result_path)

        shutil.rmtree(latest_result_folder)

        class_names = [model.names[int(box.cls)] for box in results[0].boxes]

        return jsonify({
            'uploaded_image_path': f'/{UPLOAD_FOLDER}/{filename}',
            'result_image_path': f'/{RESULT_FOLDER}/{result_filename}',
            'class_names': class_names
        })

@app.route('/predict_from_url', methods=['POST'])
def predict_from_url():
    image_url = request.form['url']
    response = requests.get(image_url)
    image = Image.open(BytesIO(response.content))

    filename = os.path.basename(image_url)
    local_filepath = os.path.join(UPLOAD_FOLDER, filename)
    image.save(local_filepath)

    results = model.predict(local_filepath, save=True, project=RESULT_FOLDER,
name='AB')

    latest_result_folder = max(
        [os.path.join(RESULT_FOLDER, d) for d in os.listdir(RESULT_FOLDER) if
os.path.isdir(os.path.join(RESULT_FOLDER, d))],

```

```

        key=os.path.getmtime
    )

    result_image = [f for f in os.listdir(latest_result_folder) if f.endswith(('jpg', 'png',
'.jpeg', '.webp'))][0]
    result_saved_path = os.path.join(latest_result_folder, result_image)
    result_filename = os.path.basename(result_saved_path)

    final_result_path = os.path.join(RESULT_FOLDER, result_filename)
    shutil.move(result_saved_path, final_result_path)

    shutil.rmtree(latest_result_folder)

    class_names = [model.names[int(box.cls)] for box in results[0].boxes]

    return jsonify({
        'input_image_url': image_url,
        'result_image_path': f'/{RESULT_FOLDER}/{result_filename}',
        'class_names': class_names
    })

@app.route('/uploads/<filename>')
def uploaded_file(filename):
    return send_from_directory(UPLOAD_FOLDER, filename)

@app.route('/predict/<filename>')
def result_file(filename):
    return send_from_directory(RESULT_FOLDER, filename)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    app.run(debug=True)

```


Training Process

The training of the YOLOv8 model was a computationally intensive process, requiring approximately 26 hours to complete. This duration included multiple epochs of training, during which the model learned to accurately identify and classify different car models from the manually gathered dataset.

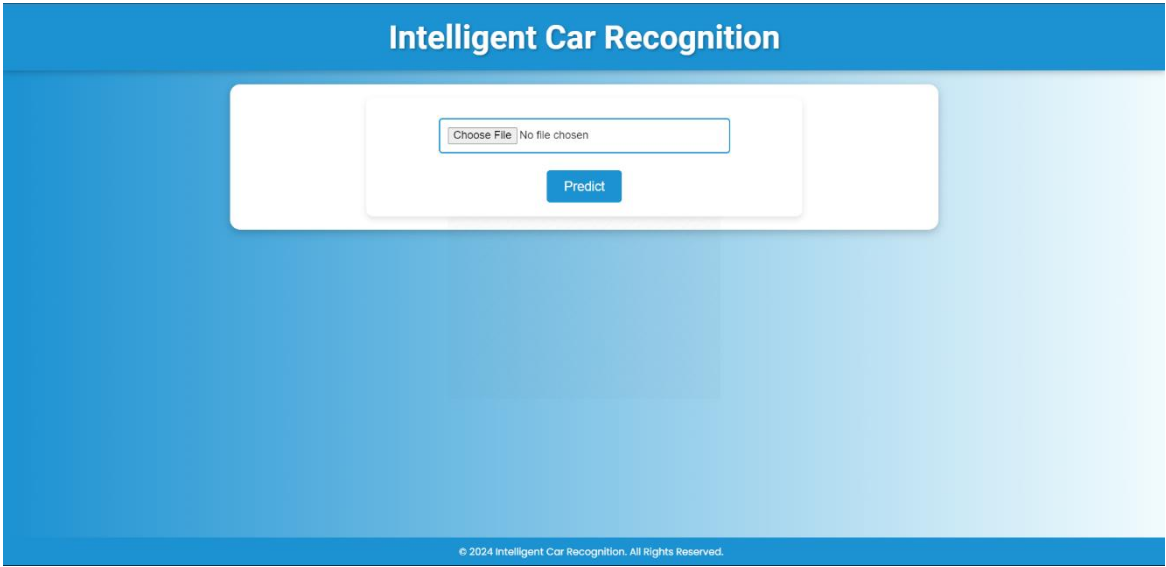
- **Dataset:** The training dataset consisted of images of various car models commonly found on Indian roads, annotated with the respective car model labels.

Deployment

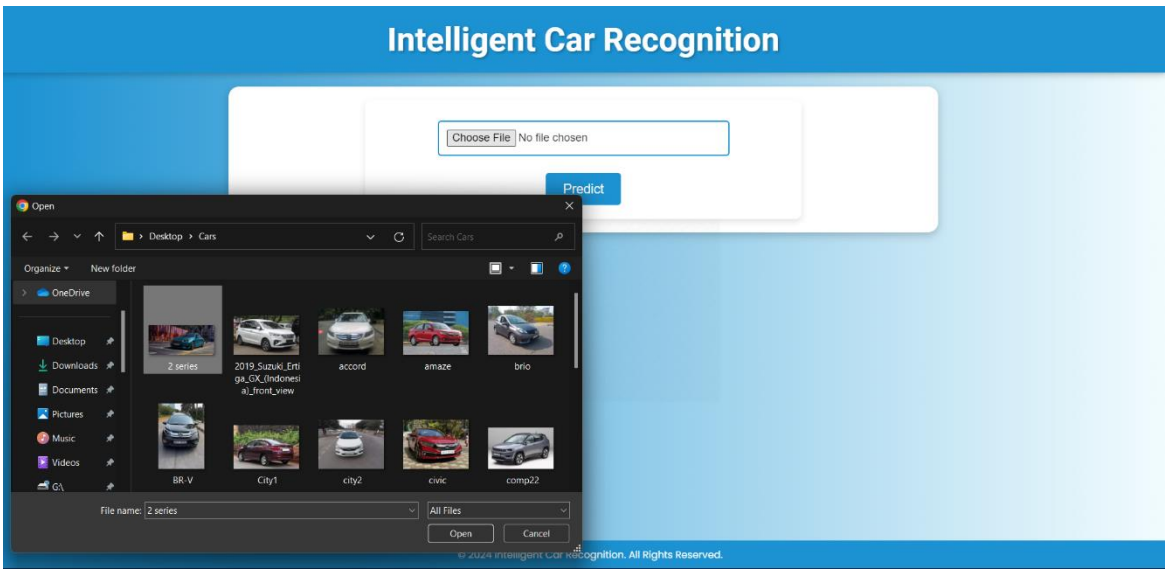
The trained model was deployed on a web-based application using Flask, a lightweight web framework for Python. The deployment process involved integrating the YOLOv8 model into a user-friendly interface that allows users to upload images of cars and receive predictions.

- **User Interface:** The web application provides a simple interface where users can upload an image of a car. Upon pressing the "Predict" button, the application processes the image and returns the predicted car model along with a bounding box around the detected car.
- **Backend Processing:** The backend is responsible for handling image uploads, running the YOLOv8 model on the uploaded images, and returning the results to the user. This involves converting the image to the required format, passing it through the model, and drawing bounding boxes on the output image.
- **Prediction Output:** The output includes the predicted class of the car model and an image with the bounding box drawn around the detected car. This provides users with a clear visual confirmation of the model's prediction.

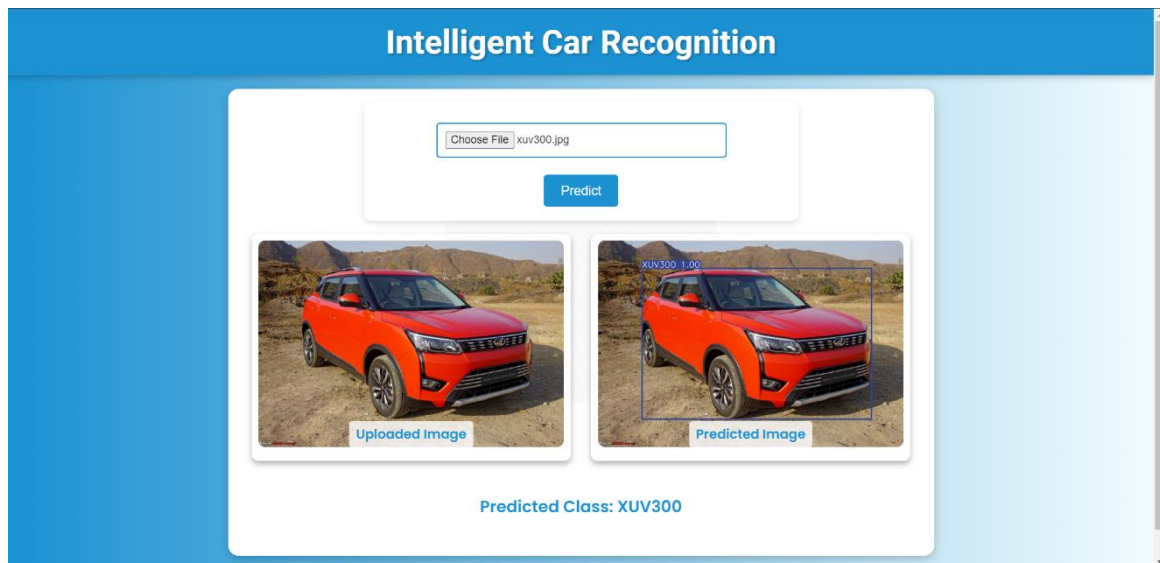
Home page –



Choose File –



Predict and Output –



The successful deployment of the model on a web platform demonstrates its practical applicability and ease of use. Users can effortlessly obtain predictions by uploading car images, making the system a valuable tool for various applications such as automated toll collection, security monitoring, and vehicle investigation.

Chapter 8

Conclusion

The "Intelligent Car Model Recognition using YOLOv8" project demonstrates the effective application of advanced AI and computer vision techniques in the field of intelligent transportation systems. By leveraging the powerful capabilities of YOLOv8, the project successfully addresses the challenge of accurately identifying car models from images, particularly focusing on the diverse and dynamic conditions of Indian roads.

Key Achievements

- **High Accuracy and Precision:** The YOLOv8 model achieved impressive performance metrics, including a precision of 0.948, a recall of 0.916, an mAP50 of 0.97, and an mAP50-95 of 0.962. These results underscore the model's robustness and reliability in identifying car models with high accuracy.
- **Efficient Training:** The training process, completed in approximately 26 hours, effectively utilized a manually gathered dataset of car images. Data augmentation techniques further enhanced the model's ability to generalize across different scenarios, contributing to its high performance.
- **Practical Deployment:** The successful deployment of the model on a web-based platform using Flask demonstrates its practical applicability. Users can easily upload car images and receive accurate predictions, showcasing the model's usability in real-world applications.

Applications and Impact

- **Automated Toll Collection:** After further optimizations, the project can provide a viable alternative or backup to the existing FASTag system, ensuring continuity and reliability in automated toll collection. By accurately identifying car models without relying on physical tags, the system can reduce the risk of errors and enhance operational efficiency.

- **Security and Investigation:** The model's ability to identify car models can be leveraged for security monitoring and vehicle investigation purposes. It can aid in tracking and monitoring vehicles, thereby enhancing security measures and facilitating investigations.
- **Future Research and Development:** The project's success opens avenues for further research and development in AI-driven car model recognition. Enhancements in model training, data collection, and integration with other intelligent transportation systems can further improve the capabilities and applications of the system.

Ethical and Regulatory Considerations

The integration of AI in transportation systems necessitates careful consideration of ethical and regulatory issues. Ensuring data privacy, addressing algorithmic biases, and promoting equitable access to technology are critical for responsible AI deployment. The project underscores the importance of developing robust regulatory frameworks that balance innovation with ethical standards, safeguarding public trust and safety.

Future Directions

- **Enhanced Dataset Collection:** Expanding the dataset to include more car models and variations can improve the model's accuracy and generalizability.
- **Real-Time Processing Optimization:** Further optimizing the model for real-time processing on edge devices can enhance its deployment in various settings, including on-road cameras and mobile devices.
- **Integration with Other Systems:** Integrating the car model recognition system with other intelligent transportation systems, such as traffic management and incident detection, can provide comprehensive solutions for smart city initiatives.

In conclusion, the "Intelligent Car Model Recognition using YOLOv8" project represents a significant step forward in leveraging AI for intelligent transportation. Its high accuracy, practical deployment, and potential applications underscore the transformative impact of AI in enhancing transportation systems, ensuring security, and improving operational efficiency. Continued research and development, coupled with ethical and regulatory considerations, will further advance the field, paving the way for smarter and more reliable transportation solutions.

Chapter 9

Future Enhancements

The "Intelligent Car Model Recognition using YOLOv8" project has demonstrated significant potential in accurately identifying car models on Indian roads. However, there are several areas for future enhancement that can further improve the system's performance, scalability, and applicability. These enhancements will help in addressing current limitations and expanding the system's capabilities.

Enhanced Dataset Collection and Annotation

- **Expanding the Dataset:** One of the primary enhancements involves expanding the dataset to include a wider variety of car models, including newer models and those less commonly seen on Indian roads. This will improve the model's generalizability and accuracy.
- **Automated Data Annotation:** Implementing automated data annotation tools can significantly speed up the process of labelling new data, ensuring consistency and reducing manual effort.

Model Optimization and Scalability

- **Real-Time Processing:** Optimizing the model for real-time processing is crucial for applications that require instantaneous results, such as toll collection and security surveillance. Techniques like model pruning, quantization, and deployment on edge devices can help achieve this.
- **Scalability:** Enhancing the system's scalability to handle large volumes of data and multiple simultaneous requests is essential for widespread deployment. This can be achieved through cloud-based solutions and distributed computing.

Integration with Other Intelligent Systems

- **Smart Traffic Management:** Integrating the car model recognition system with smart traffic management systems can provide real-time data on vehicle flow, helping in congestion management and incident detection.

- **Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring:** Enhancing the system to support continuous tracking and monitoring of vehicles can improve security and surveillance applications. This could involve integrating with existing CCTV networks and traffic cameras.

Improved User Interface and Experience

- **User Feedback Mechanism:** Implementing a feedback mechanism where users can provide corrections or confirm the model's predictions can help in continuously improving the system's accuracy.
- **Mobile Application:** Developing a mobile application version of the system can increase accessibility, allowing users to get real-time predictions on-the-go.

Advanced AI Techniques

- **Transfer Learning:** Utilizing transfer learning can leverage pre-trained models on large datasets, reducing the need for extensive data collection and speeding up the training process.
- **Semi-Supervised and Unsupervised Learning:** Exploring semi-supervised and unsupervised learning methods can help in making use of unlabeled data, thereby enhancing the model's learning capability and robustness.

Ethical and Regulatory Enhancements

- **Bias Mitigation:** Ensuring that the model does not exhibit biases towards certain car models or brands is crucial. Techniques to detect and mitigate bias should be integrated into the development process.
- **Privacy Protection:** Implementing stringent data privacy measures to protect user data and comply with regulatory standards is essential for maintaining public trust and ensuring ethical AI deployment.

Research and Development

- **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly updating the model with new data and incorporating the latest advancements in AI and computer vision can help maintain the system's cutting-edge performance.

- **Collaborative Research:** Engaging in collaborative research with academic institutions, industry partners, and government bodies can foster innovation and address broader challenges in intelligent transportation systems.

By focusing on these future enhancements, the "Intelligent Car Model Recognition using YOLOv8" project can continue to evolve, providing more accurate, reliable, and versatile solutions for intelligent transportation. These enhancements will not only improve the system's performance but also expand its applicability, contributing to safer, more efficient, and smarter transportation infrastructure

Chapter 10

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