

HAZY: A CO₂ EMISSION ESTIMATION APPLICATION USING TRAFFIC FOOTAGE

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Abstract

Air pollution is a global problem and the Philippines ranked third among countries with deaths relating to air pollution. Mobile sources are responsible for 65% of the pollutants in the atmosphere and for two decades the country has tried to mitigate these atmospheric issues but shows no improvement. Air quality monitoring is important for mitigating air pollution in the Philippines. However, The country is doing a poor job of maintaining air quality monitoring devices to keep them operational. Moreover, it is expensive to maintain these tools, and access to the data is limited. This project aims to utilize new technologies to develop an alternative air quality monitoring system to help bring a solution to this problem. this project will utilize an object detection algorithm, YOLOv5 to be trained to identify and count the number of vehicles on the road to estimate the amount of CO2 emissions present in an area.

Keywords: Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Object Detection

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Chapter 1

Introduction

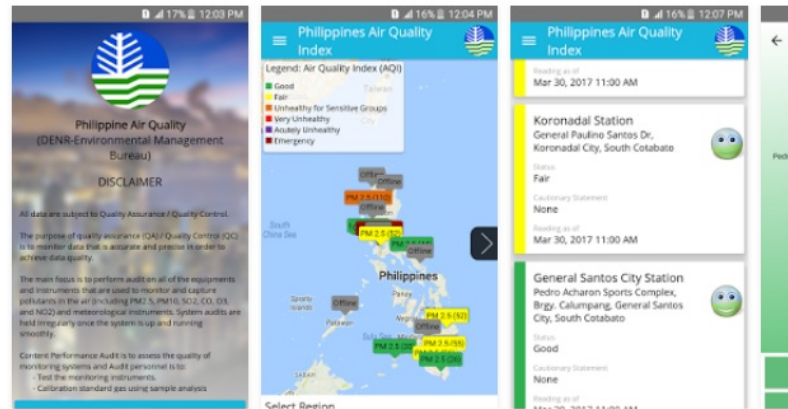
1.1 Overview of the Current State of Technology

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) expressed in their website that monitoring air quality is essential in reducing air pollution and they plan to protect the environment and public health by strengthening their air quality monitoring systems (DENR, 2020).

An example of air quality monitoring system that the DENR uses is the Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS). (DENR, n.d.). DOAS captures light that passes through the atmosphere, to measure different wavelengths that were absorbed by different gasses. This method can accurately measure trace gasses absorption and it is simpler and less expensive to operate. DOAS, however, is greatly affected by turbulence in the atmosphere (Platt & Stutz, 2008). DENR also has particulate matter stations that records PM 2.5 and PM 10. (DENR, n.d.)

DOAS equipment needs frequent maintenance to be able to operate normally. In a news report by (Enano & Subingsubing, 2019) regarding air pollution at EDSA it was stated that the maintenance of these equipments requires “hundreds of thousands of pesos”.

Currently, The way to access the data from the AQMS stations is through the website (<https://air.emb.gov.ph/ambient-air-quality-monitoring/>) and the play store application. Figure 1.1 shows the contents of the application.



Philippines AQI App is the official mobile app of the Environmental Management Bureau – Central Office(EMB-CO) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), that aims to monitor the air quality / air pollution across various air quality monitoring stations in the Philippines (Nationwide).

Figure 1.1: Screen capture of the mobile application of the Philippines Air Quality Index. Photo taken from <https://air.emb.gov.ph/ambient-air-quality-monitoring/>

In the mobile application disclaimer it is stated that the system audits are irregular and all data are subject to quality Assurance and quality control. This means that the end user may not get the accurate data that they expect when using the application. Moreover, monitoring stations are not online 24/7 which makes the data much less available.

1.2 Problem Statement

Air pollution has become a global problem over the years. As stated by (Akimoto, 2004), the availability of the CO₂ concentrations on the Measurement of Air Pollution from Satellite (MAPS) instrument in 1981 shows high concentrations of the greenhouse gas over tropical Asia, Africa, and South America. Not only does this date provide evidence that this has become an international issue, it also shows how fossil fuel combustion can have an impact on air quality.

The Philippines, a country located in tropical Asia, is not devoid of these issues. An article by (Abano, 2019) states that a 2018 study by the World Health Organization reports the Philippines has ranked third among the countries with air pollution related deaths. These deaths are tied to harmful particles entering

a person's lungs, which can lead to multiple different ailments and diseases such as: heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory infections, to name a few.

Air pollution can come from different sources, whether it be from stationary constructs like factories or mobile sources such as cars. (Environmental Management Bureau, 2015) An air quality status report by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (2015) shows that 65% of the air pollutants come from these mobile sources. This worsened as the EMB's official site (Environmental Management Bureau, 2018) states that based on the Emissions Inventory of 2018, the pollutant contribution of mobile sources has increased to 74%. In places where traffic is congested could be a huge contributing factor to vehicular emissions. (Vergel & Yai, 2000) states that the congestion in the roads of Metro Manila contributes to the worsening air quality, especially in the vicinity of the road environment.

In the country's attempt to mitigate the atmospheric issues, the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 (Republic Act No. 8749) was passed. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, n.d.) It entails the resolution of creating a national program of air pollution management, mainly focusing on pollution prevention. Two decades later and the country still sees increasing pollutants in the air and does not show signs of the improvement that was planned.

In addition to creating air pollution management programs, the Philippine Clean Air Act also aimed to utilize mass media communication in order to create awareness and active participation in air quality planning and monitoring. With the aforementioned said, a system that could satisfy that goal can be created with the newer technologies that were not present in the decades prior. Thus creating Hazy, a system that can gather information from one of the biggest contributors of air pollution and provide an estimate to emissions produced, can provide solutions to these problems.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to develop an application that calculates the location's average amount of Carbon dioxide emission through the use of a vehicle detection system. This system will identify the vehicles from a live camera feed, along with their makes and models. The system will integrate the database of CO₂ emissions the vehicles, which then the average will be calculated to be

displayed on the application for the user to see.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

This study specifically aims to:

1. To study YOLOv5 and its components to develop the application
2. To implement real-time vehicle detection and counting that can be used on a live camera feed
3. To integrate a database of vehicular CO₂ emissions so the application can calculate the overall emission of an area based on the vehicles' average emission.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

This application mainly focuses on the air pollution caused by traffic in the Philippines, where the researchers reside as of writing the paper. Thus, it will only be set up and used on the vehicles that travel within the country. The researchers will be limited to the amount of vehicles that are present within the database that will be used for the application. Any other information that is not present in the database will not be included in the application. Among the components of air pollutants, this study is limited to using CO₂ as the emission to be identified from the vehicles. Furthermore, This study will be utilizing the YOLOv5 object identification framework and is thus limited to the features of that version. Any other features and upgrades that are present in future versions of the framework will not be included in the study.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The main objective of this study is to create an application that helps its users identify the pollution level of a traffic congested area through a live video feed over the road. Furthermore, this benefits users such as those who travel frequently by the road whether it be: commuters, joggers, or workers, in which they have the opportunity to check said road's emission levels. In such a case where levels are

higher than expected, users can take premeditated measures to avoid the intake of greenhouse gasses. Moreover, this study will be of significance to individuals to immuno-compromised individuals that should steer clear of areas that can cause a negative impact on their health.

For the environment sector, this study can help contribute to the air pollution awareness in the country, in which such data can be utilized when creating future plans and protocols to combat the rising concern for the country's air quality.

Lastly, as interest in the computer vision field of vehicle identification and recognition systems increases, this study can contribute to future research on said field. The study can be of help to future researchers on the topics of: computer vision and tracking vehicular greenhouse gasses emissions.

Chapter 2

Review of Related Literature

This chapter discusses the features, capabilities, and limitations of existing research, algorithms, or software that are related/similar to Hazy. Hazy, as an application, identifies the vehicles passing across the camera feed and calculates their CO2 emission average

2.1 Air Quality Monitoring Systems

Air quality monitoring systems are systems that collect data to record and or analyze atmospheric emission levels. There are various systems for air quality monitoring. (Zoogman et al., 2017) showcased in a journal the use of satellite imagery for large-scale air quality monitoring. They call this instrument TEMPO (Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution). It is an instrument that collects data on tropospheric emissions such as NO₂, SO₂, H₂CO, Methane, etc from a satellite in a geostationary orbit. This system is wide-range and precise, however, access to the equipment is limited. A more accessible air monitoring system was made by (Zheng et al., 2016) using several sensors. This system makes use of low-power wide-area network (LPWAN) to give it a wider coverage compared to the IoT (Internet-of-Things) and the air quality data can be accessed through a mobile application. These systems make use of dedicated sensors to collect emission data whereas this project will make use of computer vision and machine learning.

2.2 Air Pollution from Vehicles

The Philippines currently has a problem with air pollution. According to (Tantengco & Guinto, 2022), the Philippines' PM_{2.5} concentrations in urban areas exceed the WHO guideline value. They further state that the Philippines' PM_{2.5} levels reaches 58.4 ug/m³ in traffic sites of Metro Manila during the dry season. Though there could be different sources of air pollution, 65 percent of the air pollutants come from mobile sources such as: cars, motorcycles, trucks, and buses (Environmental Management Bureau, 2015).

Furthermore, CO₂, a component of greenhouse gasses, totaled to “30 million tons and 56 thousand tons of particulate matter” (Fabian & Gota, 2009) in the Philippines and the transport sector contributed to 38 percent of fuel combustion back in 2000. The authors have noted that the motorized vehicle count would double by 2020. The increase of motorized vehicles also means an increase in its air pollution contribution.

A study by (Lu, 2022) analyzes the emissions of vehicles due to its impact on air pollution and road-environmental safety. The results show that in 2018 to 2019, two hundred eighty-two vehicle emission standard violations were recorded by the Land Transportation Organization (LTO) office. All of these violations were due to smoke-belching from vehicles. Another result to note was that all the violations were during work hours (6:00 AM to 5:00 PM). The vehicles caught for dangerous emissions were more than 10 years old, with one-third between 10 to 19 years old. The paper concluded that not only ensuring safe vehicle emissions can play an important role in reducing air pollution, there is a need for implementation and monitoring of said vehicle emissions to be within a safer threshold. The researcher notes that the Philippines still needs improvement in addressing the concerns of vehicles contributing to air pollution.

2.3 Vehicle Detection and Tracking

Vehicle detection is a method of identifying a vehicle via a camera. Research on this method started being conducted during the late 1970s (Nath & Deb, 2012) and as more vehicles enter our roads, there has also been more interest in the topic. (Meng, Bao, & Ma, 2020) defines vehicle detection based computer vision as aiming at identifying and locating vehicles by digital images or videos. They further simplify the idea by stating that vehicle detection detects “blocks”, which reflects the vehicle's position from the images and videos.

A paper by (Yang et al., 2020) proposed an “object tracker–detector combined with an object tracking algorithm” for tracking vehicles in traffic. They created the tracker by combining strategies for the You Only Look Once (YOLO) model (which will be talked about in 2.4) with a correlation filter (CF) tracker. To elaborate on the object detection, a detection box merge strategy was used for YOLO. This is to prevent the algorithm from partially detecting an object or detecting it more than once. For the tracker, a “deep feature-based CF tracker” was designed. Lastly, to combine both into a tracker-detection program, a tracker was “first used to predict location of an object in the subsequent frame.”

Another process to detect and track the vehicle would be through background subtraction. Background subtraction, according to Huang B.J. et al. (2017), is used to extract the moving objects and then filter the unwanted images through image processing tools.

A recent study by Li et al. (2022) studies another method of vehicle detection and recognition – via Infrared Image and Feature Extraction. The paper states that due to infrared images having shortcomings such as poor contrast or blurred edges, they mainly studied the color space preprocessing of the image with the use of threshold segmentation method and infrared image enhancement to separate the vehicle and the background. Techniques such as the Median filter and the Improved Histogram Equalization are then used to remove the noise from the infrared image and to enhance the contrast of the image, respectively. Vertical Sobel operator is then selected to enhance the vertical edge of the image. Vertical Sobel operator is used to enhance the vertical edge of the image. Lastly, vertical edge symmetry, aspect ratio, and gray-scale symmetry are utilized for the vehicle detection and recognition.

2.4 A case for YOLOv5

Yolov5 is a pretrained algorithm that uses a system of grids to detects objects from images or videos (<https://docs.ultralytics.com/>). This tool will be used for the vehicle detection in this project.

2.4.1 Application of YOLOv5

One application of this algorithm was done by Yan et al. (2021) for an apply picking robot. YOLOv5 was used to identify apples, however the algorithm cannot detect apples that are safe to pick and those that are not. This may cause the

picking arm of the robot to break if it tries to grasp an apple that is occluded by a solid object. They solved this problem by improving on the modules used for the algorithm. This is not a problem for this project as it only counts the number of vehicles without interacting with them.

In a study done by Zhou et al. (2021), they applied YOLOv5 algorithm to detect safety helmets on workers. The algorithm had an average detection speed of 110 fps in real-time. With a 94.7% effectiveness (The model was trained and tested using 6045 data sets) the algorithm proved to be viable for real-time detection.

2.4.2 Advantages of YOLOv5

YOLOv5 is one of the commonly used algorithm for object detection. It is faster than other object detection algorithms like Region-based Convolutional Neural Networks (RCNN), Fast RCNN, and Faster RCNN. Gandhi (2018) wrote in an article the comparison between the RCNN algorithms and YOLOv5. He said that the major drawbacks of RCNN is that it classifies 2000 regions per image everytime it runs, it cannot run in realtime and it is a fixed algorithm. Fast RCNN employs a similar algorithm to RCNN but instead of classifying regions everytime, it uses CNN to generate a convolutional feature map where the bounding regions are derived. Faster RCNN improves upon this by using a different network for predicting the regions of proposal. In his comparison he found that Fast RCNN improves on the speed of RCNN significantly. He also mentioned that Faster RCNN, the fastest of the RCNN algorithms, is viable for realtime object detection.

2.5 Vehicle Recognition/Identification Applications

In this study, Vehicle Recognition or Identification Applications would be considered as applications that either use any form of video-based software in locating the vehicle on the display feed, or software where static images can be used in identification. Chintalacheruvu and Muthukumar (2012) state that video based vehicle detection technology has features such as: “non-intrusiveness and comprehensive vehicle behavior data collection capabilities”, that it has become an integral part of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)

V-App Vehicle Detection is a real-time vehicle detection system that utilizes the visual analytics provided by Meraki Smart Cameras and a License Plate Recog-

dition function to ‘overcome the limitations of common sensors’. It also has features such as: vehicle distribution, which detects transit vehicles in an area by grouping them into categories; vehicle count and directions, which gets info on the total amount of vehicles transited and their direction details; and average busiest hours, which shows the higher transit and occupancy peaks in a graph. (V-App - Vehicle Detection, n.d.)

BitRefine Heads is a computer vision platform that “utilizes deep learning algorithms to perform high-level visual analysis” . It is a platform that detects everyday objects from any angle and also has a vehicle detection system. The recognition module is pre-trained and can detect vehicles as well as recognize the car’s model based on the visual features. It gets its video source from an Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) stream from an IP-camera. The video then goes to a neural classifier that locates the vehicle in the frame and identifies its class using their own vehicle recognition module’s database. The tracking module then takes the results and builds the vehicle’s movement track. Then it passes additional images of said vehicle to the neural module to check whether the class is correct. (BitRefine Heads, n.d.)

2.6 Vehicle Emission Calculator Applications

In this study, a vehicle emission calculator application would be regarded as applications that provide the total emission count or estimate of a vehicle after given inputs such as: a car’s make and model, car type, fuel type, and the like.

The Myclimate Car calculator is an online web browser application that determines the CO₂ emissions of a car during its travel. The application asks for the distance traveled, along with the fuel type and fuel consumption. Users also have the option to enter the car type (compact, mid-range, luxury/SUV/Van) to add to the calculation of the CO₂ amount. The basis of this calculation is through the utilization of the ecoinvent database (Version 3.6), using the IPCC 2013 (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) evaluation method. The emissions are calculated per vehicle kilometer (vkm). The application creators further note that there is an uncertainty margin of 5% added to the emissions due to statistical values used in the calculations. (myclimate Foundation, n.d.)

The Next Greencar Make/Model Search Tool is an online car make and model search tool by Nextgreencar.com, a website established in 2007 in the purpose of helping car buyers transition from “fossil cars” to electric cars. This search tool takes the input of a car’s manufacturer and/or a specific model to provide

results of : tail-pipe CO₂, NO_x, particulate emissions and the NGC Rating. NGC Rating or Next Green Car Rating is a rating developed by the company to assess the environmental impact. (Lilly, n.d.) The site then lists all the cars that satisfy the query, allowing users to compare them between their emissions.

The CO₂ emission functionality of the mentioned applications would resemble that of the one in Hazy. The difference with Hazy and the related applications is that instead of relying on user input to get the vehicle's CO₂ emission, it relies on the information of the averages of vehicle emissions to assign it to a vehicle type and then calculate a general area's emission output instead of a single specific car.

2.7 Summary

As the usage of vehicles in the Philippines rapidly increases through the years, it also starts becoming the main contributor to the air pollution in the country – a problem which the Philippines is still trying to mitigate. The studies mentioned above mention that in an attempt to solve this concern, emissions such as Carbon Dioxide from vehicles are collected and analyzed through making applications that can keep track of the emissions.

A type of vehicle can be identified through the use of a database and this can be utilized to create a system to identify cars via either still images and video. This chapter presented studies from different researchers that produced vehicle identification and recognition systems through machine learning and computer vision. Some of the applications used as an example can identify objects from a live video feed and produce results that show the type of vehicle on screen. Most of the related applications for vehicle tracking all use an in-house system that are not publicly available to use without having to pay for them. The researchers instead found YOLOv5, an open source pre-trained algorithm that uses a system of grids to detect objects from images or videos to be used in the study.

The recent studies make note of the interest in vehicle tracking systems and its benefits in managing traffic. This information, combined with the goal of reducing the emissions from vehicles that contribute to pollution, can be used to support the researchers' purposes of the study.

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

This chapter lists and discusses the specific steps and activities that will be performed to accomplish the project. The discussion covers the activities from pre-proposal to Final SP Writing.

3.1 Technologies Used

The technologies that will be utilized for this project are the following in the following subsections

3.1.1 Roboflow

Roboflow offers a suite of browser applications to preprocess and preparation of the data for computer vision and machine learning. Roboflow annotation will be used to manually set bounding boxes for model training and image augmentation for the manipulation of images. (*Overview - Roboflow*, n.d.)

3.1.2 Jupyter Notebook using Google Colab and Python

Jupyter Notebook and Python will be used for training and fitting the data. Jupyter notebook, using google colab, offers free GPU with CUDA for processing, and Python, the programming language, offers essential libraries for machine learning. (*Google Colaboratory*, n.d.)

3.1.3 YOLOv5

YOLOV5 is an object detection algorithm which simplifies the workflow of training the dataset. It will serve as the object detection algorithm that will be used for training the dataset and counting vehicles in a video or live footage in this project.

3.2 Research Activities

To explore YOLOv5 two models will be used. One model is a pre-trained model that comes with YOLOv5 and a custom model trained with a dataset taken from Kaggle. YOLOv5 has options to download and use pre-trained models on the YOLOv5 GitHub page (*Revolutionizing the world of Vision Ai*, n.d.). This model will serve as a basis to benchmark the performance of the custom data.

3.2.1 Data Gathering

This study plans to identify an area's pollution level through calculating average of the emissions coming from the cars on the road. In doing so, data of the vehicles, its identification, and its emission rates are needed for the study. Through the use of a camera, a live feed of the vehicles in traffic can be recorded to gather the data of cars in traffic. Image samples of the vehicles (Cars, Motorcycles, and Trucks) will be taken from the Kaggle dataset, Traffic Images Of Vehicles (Shihavuddin & Rashid, 2020). This can be utilized in training and testing for the software to recognize the vehicles on the video feed. The vehicle emissions will be taken from an average CO2 emissions of vehicles (four-wheelers and motorcycles) from a dataset provided by Gov.Uk (2020).

3.2.2 Preprocessing

Preprocessing the data includes defining the bounding box of the vehicles in the training data and augmenting the images to make the model perform better. Roboflow has an annotation tool that can be used for annotating bounding boxes that will be then used for training. Augmentation of the images will be done by the YOLOv5 algorithm automatically given that the Albumentation library is installed. Augmentation can be used for transforming the images allowing the model to diversify its training data set making it perform better.(Dilmegani, 2021)

3.2.3 Training and Performance Testing

The training data will be separated into classes cars, motorcycles, and trucks. These classes will be the bases of classification for the training. For performance testing, there are visualization tools available to visualize the performance of the model. In this project, Tensorboard will be used since it is already available in python and can be rendered using Jupyter notebook. The training time will be based on the performance parameters (Precision and Recall being the most important). If little to no improvement is being done by subsequent iterations on the performance parameters the training will be interrupted. To benchmark the performance of the custom data it will be compared against the pre-trained weights available for YOLOv5.

3.3 Model Applictation

The program detect.py will be run to detect objects from an external device or video file using the trained model. When detect.py is run it will start to list the objects it detects. An average emission of each vehicle type will be used.

3.4 Calendar of Activities

Table 3.1 shows a Gantt chart of the activities for the development of Hazy. Each bullet represents approximately one week worth of activity.

Table 3.1: Timetable of Activities

Activities	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Fab	Mar
Finding and Choosing Final Topic	••						
Review of Related Literature		••••	••••				
Identifying Problem Statement	••	•					
Formation of Possible Solution		••	•				
Constructing the Methodology			••	•••			
Testing				•••			
Interpretation of Results				•••			
Documentation	••	••••	••••	•			

Chapter 4

Preliminary Results/System Prototype

4.1 Training the Data Set

Since the Vehicle Traffic data set was already preprocessed, it only needs to be trained. This is done by running the following code in Google Colab:

```
!git clone https://github.com/ultralytics/yolov5
%cd yolov5
!pip install -qr requirements.txt

import torch
import utils
display = utils.notebook_init()
```

This prototype training will only train for 100 epochs.

```
!python train.py --batch 16 --epochs 100 --data
/content/drive/MyDrive/College/SP/data/data.yaml --weights
yolov5s.pt --cache
```

4.2 Results

Figure 4.1 shows the statistics of how the data set performed during training. Notice that as the training progress the loss values drops. This is the desired behavior as it shows that the training is making less mistakes as training continues.

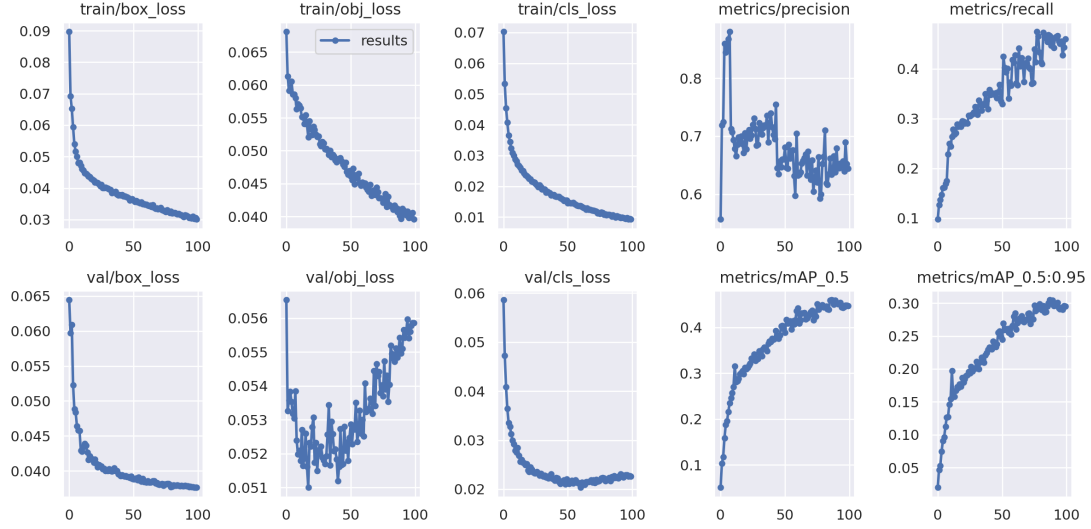


Figure 4.1: Statistics of the prototype training

The precision is expected to increase however in the results displayed the opposite. This is not desirable as it means that the model is getting less precise as training goes on. Although, the model that will be used is the best performing one.

4.3 Object Detection

The trained weights obtained by training was used in prerecorded videos to determine if the weights are trained successfully.

Figure 4.2 and 4.3 are screenshots of a video recording taken at Diversion Road, Madurriao, Iloilo City, Iloilo, Philippines. The files were used as inputs for Detect.py that comes with the YOLOv5 download and is used for inference having different input options and in this case are video files.

The trained model correctly identifies several vehicles on the road as shown enclosed in bounding boxes with the class name and confidence score above them.

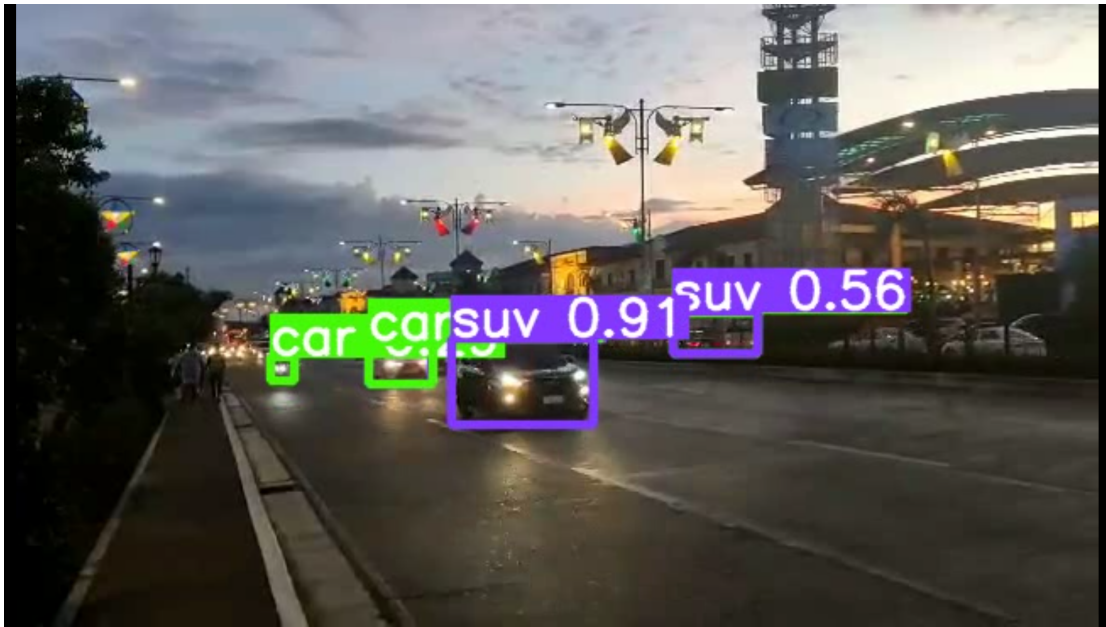


Figure 4.2: Object Detection Prototype used for Traffic recorded in street view

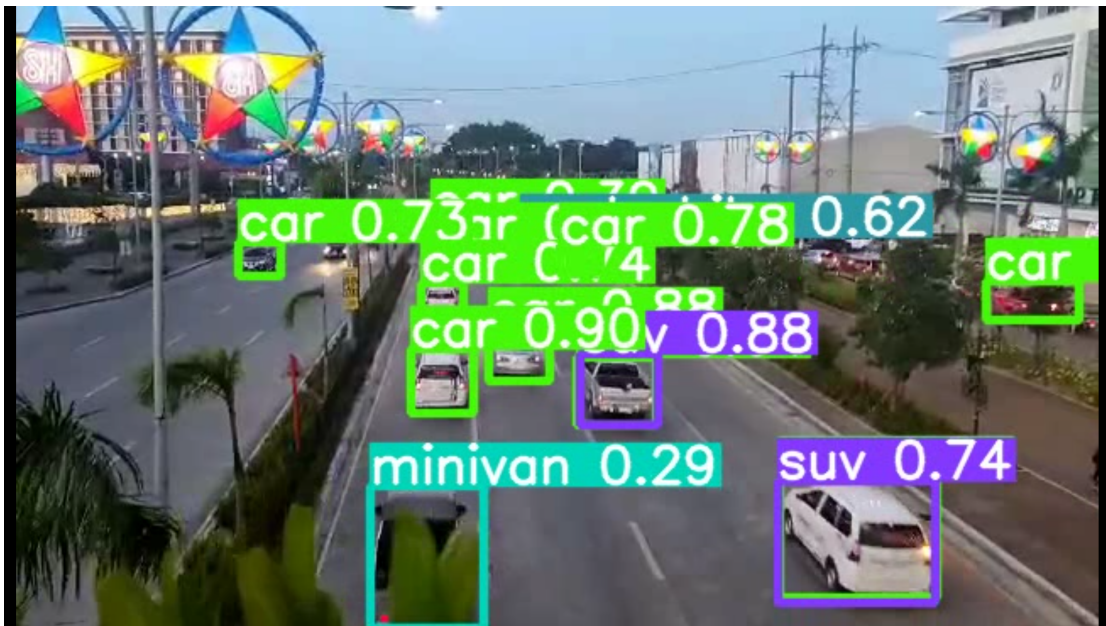


Figure 4.3: Object Detection Prototype used for Traffic recorded in bird's eye view

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