**Literature Review & Thesis Writing**

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**Assignment**

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**Different Types of Vehicle tracking systems**

In their study, Benjamin Coifman, David Beymer, and coworkers have proposed a real time computer vision system for vehicle tracking and traffic surveillance under challenging conditions (Coifman et al., 1998). Their work is based on an algorithm to differentiate vehicles from shadows by Chao and coworkers (Chao et al., 1996). According to the study by Benjamin Coifman, David Beymer, and coworkers, the existing systems for vehicle tracking and traffic surveillance have problems with accurately tracking vehicles under conditions like congestion, occlusion, lighting transitions between night/day and day/night, camera vibration due to wind, and long shadows linking vehicles together. Therefore, in this system, they have proposed to track vehicle features instead of tracking entire vehicles, making the system robust and the system less sensitive to the problem raised in these challenging conditions. In their work, they have developed an algorithm and by tracking in daylight and nighttime conditions, the system itself allowed to choose the most appropriate features for the given conditions. The resulting vehicle trajectories from this system can be used to provide traditional traffic parameters as well as new metrics such as lane changes. This vehicle tracking system is suited both for permanent surveillance installations and for short term traffic studies. However this system has not been tested under all challenging conditions mentioned here due to space constrains. Furthermore they have detected some errors in flow and density primarily due to missed or over segmented vehicles by the system (Coifman et al., 1998).

A similar study has done by D.J. Dailey and his coworkers to extract vehicular speed information from a given sequence of real-time traffic images (Dailey et al., 2000).

Noppadol Chadil and his coworkers, they have proposed an open source GPS tracking system named as Goo-Tracking system, using hardware and open source software [18]. It is a different approach than of system proposed by Benjamin Coifman, David Beymer, and coworkers based on image processing[16]. Their proposed system includes a Global Positioning System (GPS) module to locate vehicle and a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) for message transmission, Multi Media Card (MMC) to temporary store location information, and an 8-bit AVR microcontroller. Their system is claimed to have shown great stability when it was tested, and by using the robust message transfer protocol most of locations were accurately acquired and transmitted to the server in real-time. They have proposed the Goo-tracking system to be used in fleet management in the future, and as a further enhancement, they have proposed it to be used for lost vehicle tracking by integrating with a car alarm system. The sensors are to report vehicle status information to the server, which will be useful for information processing and for intelligent tracking management[18].

By comparing two different approaches on vehicle tracking, the second approach based on GPS/GPRS appears to be simpler and feasible to implement with minimum effort and cost.

The above study shows certain limitations of both approaches on vehicle tracking.

Research Limitation

Real time computer vision system for vehicle tracking (Coifman et al., 1998) One major limitation of this system is the cost related with implementing

GPS tracking system (Goo-Tracking system) (Chadil et al., 2008)

A limitation of this system in practical usage is, it requires a GPS module to be implemented inside the vehicle. Therefore this method will not be suitable in applications like public traffic management.

Dileepa Jayakody, Mananu Gunawardana and coworkers have proposed an intelligent train tracking and management system to be implemented in Sri Lanka for the purpose of improving the existing railway transportation system. According to their study, the proposed system is a combination of technologies like Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM), Geographical Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS) and a custom software. The train location is to be identified using the Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, and for this purpose a GPS module is proposed to be installed inside the train. Furthermore, the obtained train location using the installed GPS module inside the train is proposed to be transferred to a central system using the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) technology. Once the data of train’s current location is received, the data is proposed to be processed using the custom software, and provide a visual positioning of train on maps using Geographical Information System (GIS) technology. In their study, they have mentioned that with the availability of this information, the administrative staff of Railway Department, like train controllers would be able to obtain more accurate details about train location and hence take more accurate decisions. At the same time, due to the availability of accurate, real time information including speeds of trains, the administrative staff is to be able to identify and address safety issues more effectively which occur in railway transportation system in a considerable frequency in Sri Lanka. Their study also shows that the collected data using the proposed system could be used for accurate scheduling considering the train arrival time and departure time at each station(Jayakody et al., 2011).

This system can be considered as a comprehensive solution for the current issues observed in the train transportation system. It is proposed to facilitate the real time train tracking, and to provide collected data to the railway administration to enhance the efficiency and safety of their service. But it mainly focuses on train administrative staff rather than the passengers, and also the cost of implementation and infrastructure cost will be considerably large. Furthermore, this system should be implemented within the railway department itself.

**GPS based tracking system for trains in Sri Lanka**(Gunasekara, 2006)

Gunasekara, N.S has proposed a system named “trianTracker” to function as an auxiliary system inside the control center of Railway Department of Sri Lanka, for the use of internal technical staff. The system is proposed to monitor the train movements electronically using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. In his study, he has pointed out the importance of having the exact location of a train, especially during disastrous situations. In the proposed “trianTracker” system, the locations of trains are to be displayed on a digital map, for the reference of staff inside the train control center in of Railway Department of Sri Lanka. For this purpose, the retrieved location of a train using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, is to be transferred using the Short Message Service (SMS) service of the wireless telecommunications service provider(Gunasekara, 2006).

The main disadvantage of the proposed system here is, it is available for the train control staff only. In this work, the train passengers have not been taken in to consideration. In contrast, the main objective of the CBTLS is to provide train location information to the general public.

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