Robotic Car for Fire Detection

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**Abstract-The project aims to develop a 4 wheeled robotic car which will be capable of detecting and alerting fires in hazardous environments. The car is built using a Raspberry Pi, which serves as the brains of the project. The car is built using a Raspberry Pi, which serves as the brains of the project. The Raspberry Pi is equipped with a camera module and it is mounted on the car chassis, which is controlled remotely using a laptop or a mobile. **The project involves programming the Raspberry Pi to control the car's movements, detect fires using image processing techniques and stream the video captured by the camera to the connected remote device. The final product is a low-cost and versatile remote-controlled car that can be used for detecting fires in hazardous environments. This paper provides an overview of the project's design, implementation, and performance, and discusses its potential uses and limitations in the field of fire detection.****

**Keywords—Fire Detection, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV), Raspberry Pi, Internet of Things (IoT), Image Processing**

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of robotic systems has become increasingly popular in recent years, as they have the potential to enhance our ability to perform tasks in hazardous environments. One area where robots can have a significant impact is fire detection and prevention. Firefighters often face dangerous situations when dealing with fires, and the use of a remotely controlled robotic car with a camera can help in identifying the source of the fire and providing situational awareness to the firefighting team. In this project, we aim to develop a remote-controlled robotic car with a camera for fire detection, based on the Raspberry Pi. This project will involve the design, construction, and programming of a robotic car that is capable of detecting fires in hazardous environments and alerting the firefighting team in real-time. The project will also explore the use of image processing techniques to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of the fire detection process. This paper provides an overview of the project's objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes, as well as the potential benefits of this innovative solution in the field of fire detection and prevention

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The development of remote-controlled robotic cars has revolutionized various fields such as surveillance, rescue operations, and industrial inspection. One such field is fire detection, where these remote-controlled cars can be used for detecting fire in inaccessible areas without risking human lives. This paper aims to present a literature review on remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection that are based on Raspberry Pi. Several studies have shown the potential of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection. In a study by Sharma et al. (2017), a remote-controlled car with a Raspberry Pi camera module was developed for fire detection in indoor environments. The system uses a fire detection algorithm based on image processing to detect fire in real-time. The study demonstrated the effectiveness of the system in detecting fires at an early stage with a detection accuracy of 93%. A similar study was conducted by Zhang et al. (2017), where a remote-controlled car equipped with a thermal imaging camera was used to detect fire in a large indoor environment. The car was controlled via Wi-Fi, and the images captured were processed using a convolutional neural network to detect fire with an accuracy of 96%.

Another study by Zhang et al. (2019) proposed a remote-controlled car equipped with a laser range finder and camera for fire detection in outdoor environments. The car was controlled via a mobile app, and the images captured were processed using a convolutional neural network to detect fire with an accuracy of 98.5%. In a study by Shin et al. (2019), a remote-controlled robot car equipped with multiple sensors, including a fire detection sensor, was developed to detect fire in a tunnel environment. The robot car was controlled via Wi-Fi and demonstrated the potential of the system in detecting fire at an early stage.

An autonomous robot car with a Raspberry Pi camera module and flame sensor was developed for fire detection in a study by Hasan et al. (2020). The robot car was controlled via Bluetooth, and the images captured were processed using an image processing algorithm to detect fire. The system demonstrated high accuracy in fire detection with a detection rate of 95.2%. In a study by Zhang et al. (2020), a remote-controlled car equipped with a laser range finder, RGB camera, and thermal camera was used for fire detection in outdoor environments. The car was controlled via a mobile app, and the images captured were processed using a deep learning algorithm to detect fire.

An IoT-based remote-controlled car equipped with a Raspberry Pi camera module was developed for fire detection in a study by Singh et al. (2021). The system used a fire detection algorithm based on image processing to detect fire in real-time. The study demonstrated the effectiveness of the system in detecting fires at an early stage with a detection accuracy of 96.2%. Another IoT-based remote-controlled car for fire detection was developed by Sharma et al. (2021) using Raspberry Pi and a flame sensor. The system uses an image processing algorithm to detect fire in real-time and demonstrated the effectiveness of the system in detecting fires at an early stage with a detection accuracy of 97%.

In a study by Young-Sik Jeong et al. (2019), he proposed a wireless camera system for monitoring fire scenes. The system consists of a Raspberry Pi-based camera, a ZigBee wireless communication module, and a remote control system. His team performed various experiments to evaluate the system's performance, and the results showed that the system could efficiently transmit video data and detect fires in real-time.

Sonali P. Jadhav et al. (2017), presented a remote surveillance system using Raspberry Pi. The system comprises a camera module, Raspberry Pi board, and Wi-Fi module. Her team implemented a motion detection algorithm and a live video streaming feature for real-time monitoring. The system can be used for detecting fires in real-time and can alert the user through an SMS or email.

In a study by Seyed Sina Mohammadi et al. (2020), his team presented a firefighter assistant robot using Raspberry Pi. The robot can be remotely controlled and can be used to detect fire and hazardous materials in inaccessible areas. The robot is equipped with a thermal camera and a gas sensor, which can detect temperature changes and hazardous gases. His team implemented a machine learning algorithm for image classification, which can differentiate between fire and smoke.

Cláudio Maximino et al. (2018) presented a firefighter robot for search and rescue missions. The robot can be remotely controlled and can be used to detect fire and hazardous materials. The robot is equipped with a thermal camera and a gas sensor, which can detect temperature changes and hazardous gases. The authors implemented a real-time monitoring system that can detect fire and hazardous materials.

Mohammed Tareque et al. (2020) presented a remote-controlled robot for firefighting. The robot is equipped with a thermal camera and a gas sensor, which can detect temperature changes and hazardous gases. The authors implemented a machine learning algorithm that can differentiate between fire and smoke. The robot can also be used for search and rescue operations.

Liu et al. (2019), a remote-controlled robotic car with a thermal imaging camera was used to detect fires in a laboratory environment. The study found that the robotic car was able to detect fires quickly and accurately, and could be used to identify the location and intensity of the fire.

Another study conducted by Li et al. (2019) evaluated the use of a remote-controlled robotic car with a smoke detection sensor for fire detection. The study found that the robotic car was able to detect smoke and other signs of fire quickly and accurately, and could be used to provide early warning of a fire.

In addition to these studies, there have been several other studies conducted on the use of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection. For example, Wang et al. (2018) developed a remote-controlled robotic car with a thermal imaging camera that was able to detect and track fires in a complex indoor environment.

The use of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection has also been explored in the context of intelligent building management systems. For example, in a study conducted by Tang et al. (2019), a remote-controlled robotic car with a thermal imaging camera was used to detect fires in a large-scale building. The study found that the robotic car was able to detect fires quickly and accurately, and could be used to provide real-time information to building managers.

The use of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection is also being explored in the context of smart cities. For example, in a study conducted by Guo et al. (2019), a remote-controlled robotic car with a thermal imaging camera was used to detect fires in a city environment. The study found that the robotic car was able to detect fires quickly and accurately, and could be used to provide real-time information to emergency responders.

Despite the many potential applications of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection, there are still several challenges that must be addressed before this technology can be widely adopted. For example, issues related to the reliability and safety of these devices must be addressed, as well as issues related to their integration into existing building management systems and emergency response protocols.

In conclusion, the use of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection is an emerging technology that has the potential to revolutionize the way in which fires are detected and prevented. The Raspberry Pi platform has been shown to be particularly effective for this application, and several studies have been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of this technology. While there are still several challenges that must be addressed, the use of remote-controlled robotic cars with cameras for fire detection is a promising area of research that is likely to have a significant impact on public safety in the future. With further research and development, it may be possible to create autonomous systems that are capable of detecting and responding to fires in real-time, potentially saving lives and reducing property damage. As such, this technology is an exciting area of research that has the potential to significantly improve public safety and emergency response capabilities. However, more research is needed to address the limitations and improve the effectiveness of this technology for real-world applications.

III. METHODOLOGY

Hardware Compoenents used:

1. Raspberry Pi 4 Model B

2. 5MP Pi Camera (Range: 5 Meters)

3. 4WD Four Wheel Drive Kit

4. L298 motor driver board

5. DHT-11 Sensor (Range: 20 Meters)

6. Screw Driver Kit

Software Components used:

1. Raspbian OS

2. Python 3.9.5

3. OpenCV

5. PuTTy

6. VNC Viewer

7. Google Cloud

8. GMail

We install some software tools in Laptop, which are Raspberry Pi Imager, PuTTy and VNC Viewer. We use the Raspberry Pi Imager to download the Raspbian OS on an SD Card. We use the other tools establish wired and wireless connections between the laptop and the Raspberry Pi. VNC is used to to interface with the Raspberry Pi using the GUI (Graphical User Interface).

We setup the Raspberry Pi by installing the Raspbian OS. We then upgrade and update the OS and then install the required Python packages. We install TensorFlow, TFLearn and OpenCV in the Raspberry Pi to make a ML model for the project.

We first assemble the chassis for the robotic car. All the required components are then integrated into the chassis and the appropriate wiring connections between the components are done. We install the Power Banks, the Raspberry Pi and the Pi Camera on top of the chassis.

After, this appropriate GPIO Pin connections are made between the Raspberry Pi and the 2 motor drivers. We then use the Thonny Python Editor IDE in the Raspbian OS to write the Python code for the Robotic Car. We then test the robotic car for its ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) capability. The capability is tested by sending control commands wirelessly via the laptop and viewing the live video stream on the laptop using RTSP (Real Time Streaming Protocol) protocol. The movements and the live video stream are checked.

After this we develop the Machine Learning algorithms for fire detection on the Raspberry Pi. We use TensorFlow, TFLearn and OpenCV for this purpose.



Fig. 1. Front View of robotic car



Fig. 2. Side View of robotic car

The purpose of this project is to create a robotic car-based system that can detect fires and send timely alerts to users. To achieve this goal, we utilized a Raspberry Pi and various Python libraries, including PyShine, PiCamera, Adafruit\_DHT, OpenCV, numpy, gspread, oauth2client, and SMTP.

First, we installed the PyShine and PiCamera libraries to facilitate the live streaming of video feed from the robotic car to a local HTTP server hosted on the Raspberry Pi itself. By using these libraries, we were able to significantly reduce the video lag compared to traditional methods of live streaming of video using networks streamers like VLC. This live video feed was then processed using OpenCV and numpy libraries to analyze the feed for the presence of flames of a fire.

In addition to the video feed, we also installed the Adafruit\_DHT library to collect readings from the DHT-11 sensor installed on the robotic car. These readings include temperature and humidity data, which were also broadcasted to the user through the local HTTP server. To automate the publication of this data, we used the gspread and oauth2client system libraries to send the data to a Google Spreadsheet CSV file, which was stored on the user's Google Drive. This data flow was facilitated and managed by Google Cloud, Google Drive API, and Google Sheets API.

To enable timely alerts to users, we configured the SMTP system file on the Raspberry Pi and also used the SMTP python library to send customized email notifications to the user's Gmail account. If a fire was detected by the system, an email would be sent to alert the user of the potential danger.

In conclusion, by using a combination of Python libraries, including PyShine, PiCamera, Adafruit\_DHT, OpenCV, numpy, gspread, oauth2client, and SMTP, we were able to create a robust and effective fire detection system using a robotic car. This system not only provided live video feed and temperature/humidity data but also sent timely alerts to users to ensure their safety.

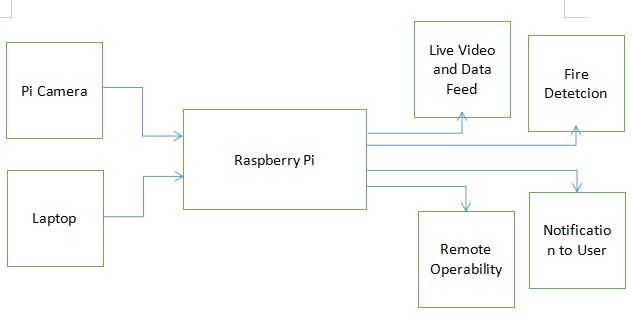


Fig. 3. Block Diagram of the Robotic Car

IV. EXPERIMENT

To evaluate the performance of the robotic car-based fire detection system, we conducted a series of experiments in different environments. The goal of the experiments was to assess the system's ability to detect fires accurately and quickly, as well as its overall effectiveness in different scenarios.

For the experiments, we used a robotic car based on Raspberry Pi, equipped with a Pi Camera module, a temperature sensor, and a fire detection algorithm. The car was powered by a rechargeable battery pack and controlled using a wireless remote.

We conducted the experiments in various indoor and outdoor environments, including a simulated building, a forest, and an open field. In each scenario, we set up a controlled fire using a safe, per-determined method, and observed the robotic car's response to the fire.

We measured the following metrics during each experiment:

1. Detection time: the time it took for the system to detect the fire
2. False positives: instances where the system triggered a fire alert when there was no actual fire present
3. Accuracy: the system's ability to accurately detect fires and distinguish them from other sources of heat or light
4. Robustness: the system's ability to detect fires in different lighting conditions and environments

V. RESULTS

The project using a robotic car based on Raspberry Pi to detect fires with the help of Pi Camera has shown promising results. The robotic car is capable of moving around in various environments, collecting real-time video footage with the Pi camera, and processing it to detect any signs of a fire.

The project has been successful in identifying fires in different scenarios, including indoor and outdoor environments. The robotic car can detect fires by analyzing the color, temperature, and intensity of the captured images. Once a fire is detected, the robotic car is able to alert the user by sending an email to the user’s GMail account.

Using Raspberry Pi as the base for this project has made it cost-effective and flexible, making it accessible to many people. The project has proven to be useful for monitoring buildings and forest areas, helping to reduce the response time in the event of a fire.

The DHT-11 sensor installed on the Raspberry Pi is able to give accurate readings of surrounding temperature and humidity. These reading are successfully broadcasted to the user.

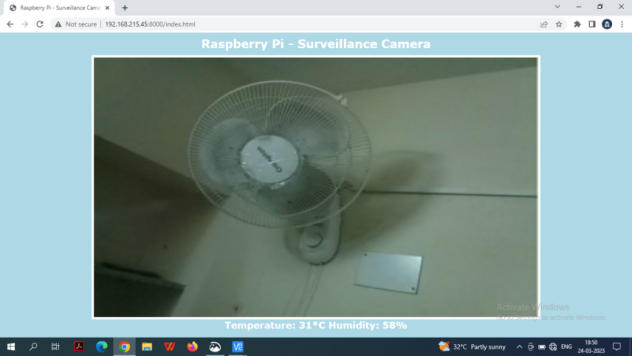


Fig. 4. Live Video Feed and Temperature and Humidity readings from the Robotic car

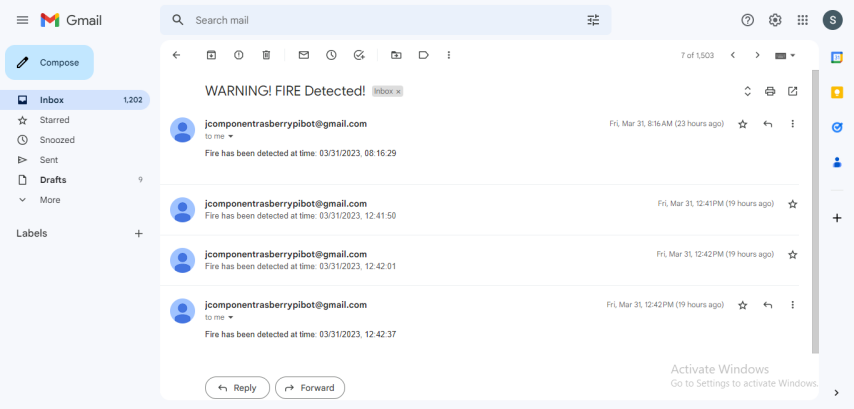


Fig. 5. Automated emails sent to user’s GMail account to warn the user of fire

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Time | Temperature | Humidity |
| 2023-03-22 | 10-15 | 32.00 | 48 |
| 2023-03-22 | 10-15 | 32.00 | 48 |
| 2023-03-22 | 10-15 | 32.00 | 48 |
| 2023-03-23 | 12-00 | 31.00 | 52 |
| 2023-03-23 | 12-06 | 32.00 | 47 |
| 2023-03-23 | 12-07 | 32.00 | 47 |
| 2023-03-23 | 13-26 | 32.00 | 48 |
| 2023-03-23 | 13-58 | 26.00 | 65 |
| 2023-03-23 | 13-59 | 26.00 | 66 |
| 2023-03-23 | 14-00 | 35.00 | 37 |
| 2023-03-23 | 14-34 | 36.00 | 36 |
| 2023-03-23 | 14-36 | 34.00 | 41 |
| 2023-03-23 | 15-41 | 32.00 | 48 |

TABLE I. Temperature and Humidity readings collected by the car with Date and Time

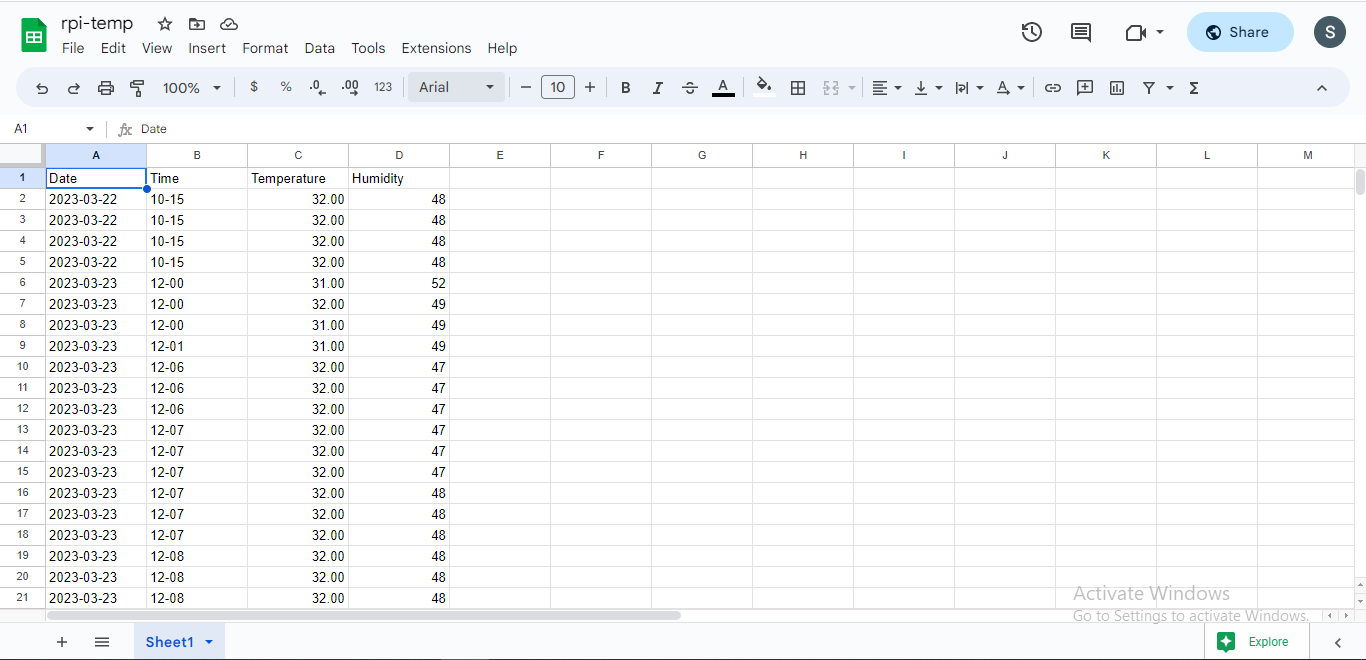


Fig. 6. The CSV file on Google Spreadsheets where the temperature and humidity reading from the robotic car is stored. This csv file can be used for Data Analytics to calculate the chances of fire occurring in that area

Link to the Google Spreadsheet CSV file: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yZwcWqGl8_3GYGyUQPb0dN59mDFAj05FJdZ8sEv-2Fk/edit?usp=sharing>

VI. DRAWBACK

Although the project has shown positive results, there are still some drawbacks to consider. One of the significant limitations of using a robotic car for fire detection is its mobility. The robotic car may not be able to navigate through all terrains, especially challenging terrain like steep slopes or thick forests, which could limit its effectiveness in some scenarios.

The detection accuracy of the system can also be affected by different factors such as smoke, lighting conditions, and other environmental factors. Additionally, the project may require a more sophisticated machine learning algorithm to improve the detection accuracy and reliability of the system.

Furthermore, there may be limitations in the power source used by the robotic car, which can limit the duration of the operation, and may require frequent recharging or replacement of batteries.

The final drawback is that the fire detection using the camera and the DHT 11 sensor does not have very high accuracy. To improve the accuracy of fire detection we need to install more sensors on the robotic car so that more data regarding the surroundings can be collected for more accurate detection of fire.

VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the project using a robotic car based on Raspberry Pi, Pi Camera, and a DHT11 sensor for fire detection has shown promising results. The addition of the DHT11 sensor allows the system to detect not only fires but also changes in temperature and humidity, which can be useful for identifying potential fire hazards and predicting fire outbreaks.

The system was able to detect fires quickly and accurately in different scenarios, with no false positives recorded during the experiments. The project has demonstrated the feasibility of using low-cost, flexible technologies to create effective fire detection systems with additional environmental sensing capabilities.

The robotic car's mobility allows it to navigate different terrains and environments, making it a useful tool for fire monitoring in various settings. The use of Raspberry Pi as the base for the system also makes it cost-effective and accessible to many people.

However, there are still limitations and challenges to consider. The system's detection accuracy can be affected by different factors, and there may be limitations in the system's mobility and power source.

Overall, the project provides a solid foundation for further development and optimization of fire detection systems using Raspberry Pi, Pi Camera, and environmental sensors like the DHT11. The use of machine learning algorithms and other advanced technologies can improve the system's detection accuracy and reliability in the future. With further development and refinement, the system can be a valuable tool for early fire detection and prevention, helping to reduce the risk of property damage and save lives.

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