A

ENHANCING CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY USING DETECTION MODELS REPORT

A report submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the

MACHINE LEARNING PROJECT

Submitted by

Shubhankar Jakate	Chandrakant Thakare	Pratiksha Deshmukh	Kaustubh Warme
Second Year Btech CSE (AI)	Second Year Btech CSE (AI)	Second Year Btech CSE (AI)	Second Year Btech CSE (AI)
PRN No. : 22310371	PRN No. : 22310303	PRN No. : 22310371	PRN No. : 22310371

Under Supervision Of

Dr. Anuradha Yenkikar
Department of CSE (AI)

Department of Computer Science & Engineering (AI)

Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology,Pune,

Maharashtra 4111044, IN

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Importance of Enhancing Construction Site Safety

Construction sites are inherently hazardous, with a wide range of activities that expose workers to risks. Ensuring compliance with safety regulations, such as wearing helmets, masks, and safety vests, is vital to preventing injuries and fatalities. However, manual monitoring methods face several limitations, including inefficiency, subjectivity, and the potential for oversight. The integration of AI-driven solutions into safety monitoring offers several advantages.

Safety on construction sites is a critical concern due to their dynamic nature and high-risk environment. Ensuring compliance with safety protocols, such as wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) like helmets, masks, and safety vests, is essential to minimizing accidents and protecting workers.

The integration of AI-driven solutions into safety monitoring offers several advantages:

- Real-Time Detection: AI systems like YOLOv8 can detect and flag non-compliance instantly, allowing for immediate corrective action.
- Scalability: Automated systems are well-suited for large-scale projects where traditional monitoring becomes impractical.
- Consistency: Unlike manual inspections, AI systems are not prone to fatigue or bias, ensuring uniform application of safety standards.
- Worker Confidence: A robust safety system fosters trust among workers, enhancing their productivity and morale.

By automating safety compliance checks, this project highlights the transformative potential of AI in addressing critical issues faced by the construction industry.

1.2 Problem

Despite advancements in safety regulations, construction sites continue to report high numbers of accidents annually.

The root causes include:

- **Manual Inspections**: Cannot guarantee 24/7 surveillance.
- **Dynamic Environments**: Construction sites constantly change, making consistent monitoring challenging.
- **Resource Constraints**: Limited manpower and time often lead to compromises in safety checks.
- **Human Error**: Inspectors may overlook violations due to fatigue, distractions.

These challenges underscore the need for an automated system that ensures constant and reliable monitoring. The proposed YOLOv8-based solution addresses these issues by providing a scalable, accurate, and efficient alternative to manual inspections.

1.3 Aim

The primary objective of this project is to develop an AI-based system that enhances safety compliance on construction sites. By utilizing YOLOv8, a object detection model, the project seeks to:

1. Automate the detection of safety violations, such as the absence of helmets, mask, or safety vests.
2. Provide real-time monitoring to reduce accidents and promote safety awareness.
3. Improve efficiency and reliability compared to traditional manual inspection methods.

1.4 Hypothesis

YOLOv8 can accurately identify PPE and potential hazards in complex and dynamic construction site environments. The model's object detection capabilities will allow for immediate flagging of non-compliance, thereby reducing risks and improving safety outcomes. The system will outperform manual inspection processes in terms of speed, consistency, and scalability.

METHODOLOGY

2.1 Risk Assessment

Before implementing the solution, potential risks were identified and mitigated:

1. **Data Challenges**: Ensuring the dataset had diverse images to represent real-world conditions.
2. **Model Performance**: Addressing issues like false positives/negatives through iterative training and validation.
3. **Deployment Risks**: Ensuring the trained model performs reliably in live construction site environments.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
False Positives/Negatives	Lead to reduced system reliability	Fine-tuned the YOLOv8 model with multiple iterations.
Overfitting During Training	The model may perform poorly on unseen data.	Reserved validation and test datasets and monitored accuracy across all datasets to avoid overfitting.
Computational Limitations	Real-time predictions may be delayed.	Used the lightweight YOLOv8n variant.
Model Deployment	Challenges in saving and deploying the best performing model.	Ensured compatibility with deployment tools like Google Collab.
Prediction Visualization	Misinterpretation of results.	Integrated bounding box plotting and confidence score display.

2.2 Methods

A. Data Collection

- **Dataset**: The project utilized a labeled dataset comprising images of construction workers and equipment. The dataset included three subsets: training (majority), validation, and testing.
- **Classes**: Ten categories were identified, including "Hardhat," "Mask," "Safety Vest," and "Machinery."
- **Source**: Data was sourced from Kaggle’s "Construction Site Safety Image Dataset" on Roboflow annotated construction site images and split across the three subsets to ensure balanced training and evaluation.

B. Data Preprocessing

- **Data cleaning** - If any required class labels are missing in the annotation files, the script accounts for them to maintain uniformity in data structure.
- **Normalization** - Counts are normalized by the size of the respective dataset subset and visualized as bar plots to identify imbalances.
- **Conversion** - Labels and annotations were converted into the YOLO format, which includes bounding boxes for object localization.

- **Class Distribution Analysis** - Class distributions were analyzed to ensure balanced representation, visualized using bar plots for the train, validation, and test sets.

C. Model Implementation

1. YOLOv8
   Why used: *Construction site safety monitoring demands real-time identification of safety gear violations to mitigate risks immediately. YOLOv8 is optimized for speed, enabling real-time detection of objects like helmets, masks, and machinery while maintaining high accuracy. The YOLOv8 model was chosen for this project due to its strengths in object detection and its alignment with the project's requirements.*

   Steps:
   1. **Data Preparation:** Organized the dataset into training, validation, and testing subsets. Defined 10 object classes (e.g., "Hardhat," "Mask," "Safety Vest," "Machinery").
   2. **Training:** YOLOv8 was fine-tuned using:
      - Input image size: 640 × 640 pixels.
      - Batch size: 32.
      - Epochs: 10.
      - Training mode: "detect."
   3. **Evaluation:** After training, the model was tested on the reserved test dataset, with results indicating bounding box confidence scores for detected objects.
   4. **Deployment:** The best-performing model weights were saved for real-world testing and future use.

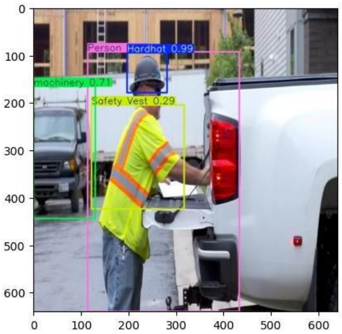
RESULT

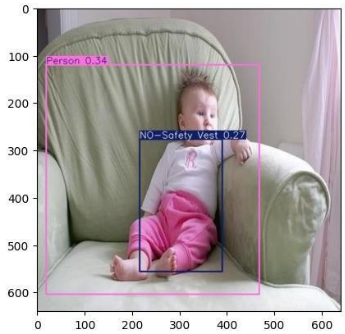
3.1 Result

The YOLOv8-based object detection model demonstrated promising performance in enhancing construction site safety by identifying critical objects and compliance measures. The key outcomes include:

1. **Detection Accuracy**:

    - The model accurately identified safety equipment, such as helmets, masks, and vests, with varying levels of confidence.





    - Confidence scores for frequently occurring classes (e.g., "Hardhat") ranged from 0.85 to 0.96, highlighting its reliability.
    - Less frequent or occluded classes (e.g., "Machinery") showed moderate detection accuracy, with confidence scores ranging from 0.48 to 0.75.

2. **Visualization of Predictions**:

    - Detected objects were outlined with bounding boxes, labelled with their respective categories and confidence scores.
    - Sample test images showed successful identification of multiple safety features simultaneously, even in crowded environments.

3. **Class Distribution Analysis**:

    - The training and validation datasets had a balanced representation of key categories, contributing to robust model performance.

4. **Deployment Feasibility**:

    - Predictions on test images were saved and analysed for consistency, demonstrating the system's readiness for real-world deployment.

3.2 Discussion

The results highlight the potential of YOLOv8 in automating construction site safety monitoring. However, there are notable strengths, limitations, and observations:

YOLOv8

Strengths:

- Effective detection of critical safety measures, ensuring compliance and reducing risk.
- Rapid processing and prediction capabilities enable immediate feedback on non-compliance.

Limitations:

- Categories like "Machinery" and "Vehicle" require further data augmentation to improve detection.
- Variations in environmental conditions impacted detection confidence.
- Deployment at scale may necessitate specialized hardware for optimal performance.

Key Observations

Training on diverse and balanced datasets significantly enhances model reliability. The system effectively integrates safety checks into operational workflows, minimizing disruptions.

Challenges Faced:

- **Data Annotation**: Preparing a high-quality, annotated dataset required significant effort.
- **Model Tuning**: Iterative adjustments were necessary to optimize detection performance.

3.3 Conclusion

This project demonstrated the potential of YOLOv8 as a reliable tool for automating safety compliance monitoring on construction sites. By leveraging AI-driven object detection, the system successfully identified critical safety measures such as helmets, masks, and vests, providing immediate feedback to reduce the risk of workplace accidents.

The project achieved:

1. Real-time monitoring with high detection accuracy for common safety equipment.
2. Scalable and consistent safety inspections, overcoming limitations of manual methods.
3. Enhanced worker safety through proactive identification of non-compliance.

While challenges such as sensitivity to environmental conditions and computational demands remain, the results underscore the transformative role AI can play in fostering safer and more efficient construction practices.

FUTURE SCOPE

4. Future Works

To further enhance the system's efficiency and applicability, the following improvements and expansions will be done:

1. **Model Refinement**:
   - Incorporate additional datasets to improve detection accuracy for rare or complex categories such as machinery and vehicles.
2. **Environmental Adaptation**:
   - Train the model on datasets with diverse lighting & weather scenarios to improve robustness in real-world conditions.
3. **Integration with IoT**:
   - Combine the system with IoT devices like wearable sensors for safety monitoring.
4. **Real-World Deployment**:
   - Pilot the system on active construction sites to evaluate and refine its operational performance.
5. **Expansion to Other Domains**:
   - Adapt the model for use in other high-risk environments such as factories or mines, enhancing overall workplace safety.

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