

1 DEFECTRA: ROAD DEFECT SEVERITY ASSESSMENT
2 AND CLASSIFICATION

3 A Special Problem Proposal
4 Presented to
5 the Faculty of the Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics
6 College of Arts and Sciences
7 University of the Philippines Visayas
8 Miag-ao, Iloilo

9 In Partial Fulfillment
10 of the Requirements for the Degree of
11 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science by

12 BELEBER, Benz Vrianne
13 CATALAN, Perserose
14 SENCIL, Kristian Lyle

15 Francis DIMZON
16 Adviser
17 Jumar CADONDON
18 Co-Adviser

19 April 28, 2025

Abstract

21 From 150 to 200 words of short, direct and complete sentences, the abstract should
22 be informative enough to serve as a substitute for reading the entire SP document
23 itself. It states the rationale and the objectives of the research. In the final Special
24 Problem document (i.e., the document you'll submit for your final defense), the
25 abstract should also contain a description of your research results, findings, and
26 contribution(s).

27 Suggested keywords based on ACM Computing Classification system can be
28 found at https://dl.acm.org/ccs/ccs_flat.cfm

29 **Keywords:** Keyword 1, keyword 2, keyword 3, keyword 4, etc.

³⁰ **Contents**

³¹ 1 Introduction	¹
³² 1.1 Overview	¹
³³ 1.2 Problem Statement	²
³⁴ 1.3 Research Objectives	³
³⁵ 1.3.1 General Objective	³
³⁶ 1.3.2 Specific Objectives	³
³⁷ 1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research	³
³⁸ 1.5 Significance of the Research	⁴
³⁹ 2 Review of Related Literature	⁵
⁴⁰ 2.1 Frameworks	⁵
⁴¹ 2.1.1 Depth Estimation	⁵
⁴² 2.1.2 Image and Video Processing	⁵
⁴³ 2.1.3 Stereo Vision	⁶
⁴⁴ 2.2 Related Studies	⁶
⁴⁵ 2.2.1 Deep Learning Studies	⁶
⁴⁶ 2.2.2 Machine Learning Studies	⁸
⁴⁷ 2.2.3 Computer Vision Studies	⁹

48	2.3 Chapter Summary	10
49	3 Methodology	11
50	3.1 Research Activities	11
51	3.1.1 Data Collection	11
52	3.1.2 Algorithm Selection	12
53	3.1.3 Design, Testing, and Experimentation	12
54	3.1.4 Challenges and Limitations	18
55	3.2 Calendar of Activities	18
56	4 Preliminary Results/System Prototype	20
57	4.1 Testing Results	20
58	4.2 Final Testing Results	21
59	References	22
60	A Appendix Title	24
61	B Resource Persons	25

⁶² List of Figures

⁶³	3.1 Components used in the prototype development.	13
⁶⁴	3.2 Dual RPi Camera Modules attached to the custom housing.	14
⁶⁵	3.3 LCD Module connected to the StereoPi board.	14
⁶⁶	3.4 The finished prototype.	14
⁶⁷	3.5 Calibration process with a checkerboard to correct fisheye lens distortion.	15
⁶⁹	3.6 Parameter tuning process to achieve cleaner and more accurate disparity maps.	15
⁷¹	3.7 The system tested on a simulated pothole.	16
⁷²	3.8 Inverse Model Fit to Disparity vs. Distance.	17

⁷³ List of Tables

⁷⁴	2.1 Comparison of Related Studies on Road Anomaly Detection using Deep Learning Techniques and Stereo Vision	10
⁷⁵		
⁷⁶	3.1 Timetable of Activities for 2024	18
⁷⁷	3.2 Timetable of Activities for 2025	19
⁷⁸	4.1 Ground Truth and StereoPi Depth Measurements	21

⁷⁹ **Chapter 1**

⁸⁰ **Introduction**

⁸¹ **1.1 Overview**

⁸² According to the National Road Length by Classification, Surface Type, and Con-
⁸³ dition of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as of October
⁸⁴ 2022 approximately 98.97% of roads in the Philippines is paved which is either
⁸⁵ made of concrete or asphalt (DPWH, 2022). Since the DPWH is an institution
⁸⁶ under the government, it is paramount to maintain such roads in order to avoid
⁸⁷ accidents and congested traffic situations especially in heavily urbanized areas
⁸⁸ where there are a lot of vehicles.

⁸⁹ In an interview with the Road Board of DPWH Region 6 it was stated that
⁹⁰ road condition assessments are mostly done manually with heavy reliance on en-
⁹¹ gineering judgment. In addition, manual assessment of roads is also time con-
⁹² suming which leaves maintenance operations to wait for lengthy assessments (J.
⁹³ Chua, Personal Interview. 16 September 2024). In a study conducted by (Ramos,
⁹⁴ Dacanay, & Bronuela-Ambrocio, 2023), it was found that the Philippines' current
⁹⁵ method of manual pavement surveying is considered as a gap since it takes an
⁹⁶ average of 2-3 months to cover a 250 km road as opposed to a 1 day duration
⁹⁷ in the Australian Road Research Board for the same road length. Ramos et al.
⁹⁸ (2022) recommended that to significantly improve efficiency of surveying methods
⁹⁹ and data gathering processes, automated survey tools are to be employed. It was
¹⁰⁰ also added that use of such automated, surveying tools can also guarantee the
¹⁰¹ safety of road surveyors (Ramos et al., 2023).

¹⁰² If the process of assessment on the severity of road defects can be automated
¹⁰³ then the whole process of assessing the quality of roads can be hastened up which

¹⁰⁴ can also enable maintenance operations to commence as soon as possible if nec-
¹⁰⁵essary. If not automated, the delay of assessments will continue and roads that
¹⁰⁶are supposedly needing maintenance may not be properly maintained which can
¹⁰⁷affect the general public that is utilizing public roads daily.

¹⁰⁸ Existing studies involving road defects such as potholes mainly focus on the
¹⁰⁹detection of potholes using deep learning models and almost not considering the
¹¹⁰severity of detected potholes or did not incorporate any depth information from
¹¹¹potholes (Ha, Kim, & Kim, 2022; Kumar, 2024; Bibi et al., 2021). In addition,
¹¹²for studies that include severity assessment on potholes, the main goal of the
¹¹³study is not directed towards road maintenance automation but other factors such
¹¹⁴as improvement of ride quality for the vehicle. Another issue found in existing
¹¹⁵solutions is the lack of incorporation to the context of Philippine roads. With
¹¹⁶these issues in mind, the study aims to utilize stereo vision from StereoPi V2
¹¹⁷in order to obtain multi-perspective views of detected potholes to be used in
¹¹⁸severity assessment by focusing on estimating the depth of individual potholes
¹¹⁹for automated road condition monitoring.

¹²⁰ 1.2 Problem Statement

¹²¹ Roads support almost every aspect of daily life, from providing a way to transport
¹²²goods and services to allowing people to stay connected with their communities.
¹²³ However, road defects such as cracks and potholes damage roads over time, and
¹²⁴they can increase accident risks and affect the overall transportation. The current
¹²⁵way of inspecting the roads for maintenance is often slow as it is done manually,
¹²⁶which makes it harder to detect and fix defects early. The delay in addressing these
¹²⁷problems can lead to even worse road conditions (J. Chua, Personal Interview. 16
¹²⁸September 2024). There are several research studies into automated road defect
¹²⁹classification that have advanced in recent years but most of them focus on iden-
¹³⁰tifying the types of defects rather than assessing their severity or characteristics
¹³¹like depth. Without reliable data on the depth of the defect, road maintenance
¹³²authorities may underestimate the severity of certain defects. To address these
¹³³challenges, advancements are needed across various areas. An effective solution
¹³⁴should not only detect and classify road defects but also measure their severity
¹³⁵to better prioritize repairs. Failing to address this problem will require more ex-
¹³⁶tensive repairs for damaged roads, which raises the cost and strains the budget.
¹³⁷ Additionally, road maintenance would still be slow and cause disruptions in daily
¹³⁸activities. Using an automated system that accurately assess the severity of road
¹³⁹defects by incorporating depth is necessary to efficiently monitor road quality.

¹⁴⁰ 1.3 Research Objectives

¹⁴¹ 1.3.1 General Objective

¹⁴² This special problem aims to develop a system that accurately estimates the depth
¹⁴³ of potholes on road surfaces by using image analysis, depth measurement tech-
¹⁴⁴ nologies, and computer vision techniques. The system will focus specifically on
¹⁴⁵ measuring the depth of potholes to assess their severity, enabling faster and more
¹⁴⁶ accurate road maintenance decisions, and there are no current practices in the
¹⁴⁷ Philippines involving depth information of potholes in assessing their severity. In
¹⁴⁸ accordance with the Department of Public Works and Highways Region 6's man-
¹⁴⁹ ual for road maintenance, the study will classify potholes into different severity
¹⁵⁰ levels such as low, medium, and high, which will be primarily based on their
¹⁵¹ depth. In order to measure the system's accuracy, non-linear regression in order
¹⁵² to represent the difference between the depth calculated from the disparity and
¹⁵³ the actual depth of the pothole from ground truth data.

¹⁵⁴ 1.3.2 Specific Objectives

¹⁵⁵ Specifically, this special problem aims:

- ¹⁵⁶ 1. To collect high-quality images of road surfaces that capture potholes includ-
¹⁵⁷ ing their depth in various lighting, camera distance and orientation.
- ¹⁵⁸ 2. To measure the accuracy of the system by comparing the depth measure-
¹⁵⁹ ments against ground truth data collected from actual road inspections and
¹⁶⁰ to utilize non-linear regression as a metric for evaluation.
- ¹⁶¹ 3. To develop a prototype system that can detect and measure road potholes
¹⁶² from image input, analyze their depth, and assess their severity.

¹⁶³ 1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

¹⁶⁴ This system focuses solely on detecting and assessing the severity of potholes
¹⁶⁵ through image analysis and depth measurement technologies. The scope includes
¹⁶⁶ the collection of pothole images using cameras and depth-sensing tools under a
¹⁶⁷ favorable weather condition.

168 Depth-sensing tools, such as stereo cameras, will be used to record the depth
169 of potholes specifically. The system will not address other road defects like cracks
170 or other surface deformations; therefore, it will detect and analyze only potholes.
171 Additionally, only accessible potholes will be measured, meaning those that are
172 filled with water or obscured by debris may not be accurately assessed.

173 The system developed focuses exclusively on detecting potholes and assessing
174 their severity through depth measurement. The accuracy of the system's depth
175 measurements is evaluated by comparing them against data collected from actual
176 field inspections. However, this comparison is limited to selected sample sites,
177 as collecting field data over a large area can be time-consuming and resource-
178 intensive.

179 Environmental factors such as lighting, road surface texture, and weather con-
180 ditions may impact the system's performance. The accuracy and reliability of
181 the system will depend on the quality of camera calibration and disparity map
182 finetuning. Its ability to measure the depth of pothole images needs careful vali-
183 dation.

184 1.5 Significance of the Research

185 This special problem aims to be significant to the following:

186 *Computer Science Community.* This system can contribute to advancements
187 in computer vision and machine learning by using both visual and depth data to
188 assess the severity of road defects. It introduces a more comprehensive approach
189 compared to the usual image-only or manual inspection methods. This combina-
190 tion can be applied to other fields that need both visual and depth analysis like
191 medical imaging.

192 *Concerned Government Agencies.* This system offers a valuable tool for road
193 safety and maintenance. Not only can this detect and classify anomalies, it can
194 also assess the defect's severity which allows them to prioritize repairs, optimal
195 project expenditures, and better overall road safety and quality.

196 *Field Engineers.* In the scorching heat, field engineers are no longer required
197 to be on foot unless it requires its engineering judgement when surveying a road
198 segment. It can hasten the overall assessment process.

199 *Future Researchers.* The special problem can serve as a baseline and guide of
200 researchers with the aim to pursue special problems similar or related to this.

²⁰¹ **Chapter 2**

²⁰² **Review of Related Literature**

²⁰³ **2.1 Frameworks**

²⁰⁴ This section of the chapter presents related literature that is considered essential
²⁰⁵ for the development of this special problem.

²⁰⁶ **2.1.1 Depth Estimation**

²⁰⁷ Depth estimation as defined by Sanz, Mezcua, and Pena (2012) as a set of processes
²⁰⁸ that aims to extract a representation of a certain scene's spatial composition.
²⁰⁹ Stereo vision is stated to be among the depth estimation strategies (Sanz et al.,
²¹⁰ 2012).

²¹¹ **2.1.2 Image and Video Processing**

²¹² Kumar (2024) defines image processing as a process of turning an image into its
²¹³ digital form and extracting data from it through certain functions and operations.
²¹⁴ Usual processes are considered to treat images as 2D signals wherein different
²¹⁵ processing methods utilize these signals. Like image processing, Resources (2020)
²¹⁶ defines video processing as being able to extract information and data from video
²¹⁷ footage through signal processing methods. However, in video processing due to
²¹⁸ the diversity of video formats, compression and decompression methods are often
²¹⁹ expected to be performed on videos before processing methods to either increase
²²⁰ or decrease bitrate.

2.1.3 Stereo Vision

MathWorks (n.d.) defines stereo vision as a process of utilizing multiple 2D perspectives in order to extract information in 3D. In addition, most uses of stereo vision involve estimating an objects distance from an observer or camera. The 3D information is stated to be extracted with stereo pairs or pair of images through estimation of relative depth of points in a scene which are then represented through a stereo map that is made through the matching of the pair's corresponding points.

2.2 Related Studies

This section of the chapter presents related studies conducted by other researchers wherein the methodology and technologies used may serve as basis in the development of this special problem.

2.2.1 Deep Learning Studies

2.2.1.1 Automated Detection and Classification of Road Anomalies in VANET Using Deep Learning

In the study of Bibi et al. (2021) it was noted that identification of active road defects are critical in maintaining smooth and safe flow of traffic. Detection and subsequent repair of such defects in roads are crucial in keeping vehicles using such roads away from mechanical failures. The study also emphasized the growth in use of autonomous vehicles in research data gathering which is what the researchers utilized in data gathering procedures. With the presence of autonomous vehicles, this allowed the researchers to use a combination of sensors and deep neural networks in deploying artificial intelligence. The study aimed to allow autonomous vehicles to avoid critical road defects that can possibly lead to dangerous situations. Researchers used Resnet-18 and VGG-11 in automatic detection and classification of road defects. Researchers concluded that the trained model was able to perform better than other techniques for road defect detection (Bibi et al., 2021). The study is able to provide the effectiveness of using deep learning models in training artificial intelligence for road defect detection and classification. However, the study lacks findings regarding the severity of detected defects which is crucial in automating manual procedures of road surveying in the Philippines.

251 **2.2.1.2 Road Anomaly Detection through Deep Learning Approaches**

252 The study of Luo, Lu, and Guo (2020) aimed to utilize deep learning models in
253 classifying road anomalies. The researchers used three deep learning approaches
254 namely Convolutional Neural Network, Deep Feedforward Network, and Recurrent
255 Neural Network from data collected through the sensors in the vehicle's suspension
256 system. In comparing the performance of the three deep learning approaches, the
257 researchers fixed some hyperparameters. Results revealed that the RNN model
258 was the most stable among the three and in the case of the CNN and DFN
259 models, the researchers suggested the use of wheel speed signals to ensure accuracy.
260 And lastly, the researchers concluded that the RNN model was best due to high
261 prediction performance with small set parameters (Luo et al., 2020).

262 **2.2.1.3 Assessing Severity of Road Cracks Using Deep Learning-Based
263 Segmentation and Detection**

264 In the study of Ha et al. (2022), it was argued that the detection, classification,
265 and severity assessment of road cracks should be automated due to the bottleneck
266 it causes during the entire process of surveying. For the study, the researchers
267 utilized SqueezeNet, U-Net, and MobileNet-SSD models for crack classification and
268 severity assessment. Furthermore, the researchers also employed separate U-nets
269 for linear and area cracking cases. For crack detection, the researchers followed
270 the process of pre-processing, detection, classification. During preprocessing im-
271 ages were smoothed out using image processing techniques. The researchers also
272 utilized YOLOv5 object detection models for classification of pavement cracking
273 wherein the YOLOv51 model recorded the highest accuracy. The researchers how-
274 ever stated images used for the study are only 2D images which may have allowed
275 higher accuracy rates. Furthermore, the researchers suggest incorporating depth
276 information in the models to further enhance results.

277 **2.2.1.4 Roadway pavement anomaly classification utilizing smartphones
278 and artificial intelligence**

279 The study of Kyriakou, Christodoulou, and Dimitriou (2016) presented what is
280 considered as a low-cost technology which was the use of Artificial Neural Net-
281 works in training a model for road anomaly detection from data gathered by
282 smartphone sensors. The researchers were able to collect case study data us-
283 ing two-dimensional indicators of the smartphone's roll and pitch values. In the
284 study's discussion, the data collected displayed some complexity due to accelera-

285 tion and vehicle speed which lead to detected anomalies being not as conclusive as
286 planned. The researchers also added that the plots are unable to show parameters
287 that could verify the data's correctness and accuracy. Despite the setbacks, the
288 researchers still fed the data into the Artificial Neural Network that was expected
289 to produce two outputs which were “no defect” and “defect.” The method still
290 yielded above 90% accuracy but due to the limited number of possible outcomes
291 in the data processing the researchers still needed to test the methodology with
292 larger data sets and roads with higher volumes of anomalies.

293 **2.2.2 Machine Learning Studies**

294 **2.2.2.1 Smartphones as Sensors for Road Surface Monitoring**

295 In their study, Sattar, Li, and Chapman (2018) noted the rise of sensing capabilities
296 of smartphones which they utilized in monitoring road surface to detect and
297 identify anomalies. The researchers considered different approaches in detecting
298 road surface anomalies using smartphone sensors. One of which are threshold-
299 based approaches which was determined to be quite difficult due to several factors
300 that are affecting the process of determining the interval length of a window
301 function in spectral analysis (Sattar et al., 2018). The researchers also utilized
302 a machine learning approach adapted from another study. It was stated that k-
303 means was used in classifying sensor data and in training the SVM algorithm. Due
304 to the requirement of training a supervised algorithm using a labeled sample data
305 was required before classifying data from sensors, the approach was considered to
306 be impractical for real-time situations (Sattar et al., 2018). In addition, Sattar
307 et al. (2018) also noted various challenges when utilizing smartphones as sensors
308 for data gathering such as sensors being dependent on the device's placement and
309 orientation, smoothness of captured data, and the speed of the vehicle it is being
310 mounted on. Lastly, it was also concluded that the accuracy and performance of
311 using smartphone sensors is challenging to compare due to the limited data sets
312 and reported algorithms.

313 **2.2.2.2 Road Surface Quality Monitoring Using Machine Learning Al-** 314 **gorithms**

315 The study of Singh, Bansal, Kamal, and Kumar (2021) aimed to utilize machine
316 learning algorithms in classifying road defects as well as predict their locations.
317 Another implication of the study was to provide useful information to commuters
318 and maintenance data for authorities regarding road conditions. The researchers

319 gathered data using various methods such as smartphone GPS, gyroscopes, and
320 accelerometers. (Singh et al., 2021) also argued that early existing road monitoring
321 models are unable to predict locations of road defects and are dependent on fixed
322 roads and static vehicle speed. Neural and deep neural networks were utilized in
323 the classification of anomalies which was concluded by the researchers to yield
324 accurate results and are applicable on a larger scale of data (Singh et al., 2021).
325 The study of Singh et al. (2021) can be considered as an effective method in
326 gathering data about road conditions. However, it was stated in the study that
327 relevant authorities will be provided with maintenance operation and there is no
328 presence of any severity assessment in the study. This may cause confusion due
329 to a lack of assessment on what is the road condition that will require extensive
330 maintenance or repair.

331 **2.2.3 Computer Vision Studies**

332 **2.2.3.1 Stereo Vision Based Pothole Detection System for Improved 333 Ride Quality**

334 In the study of Ramaiah and Kundu (2021) it was stated that stereo vision has
335 been earning attention due to its reliable obstacle detection and recognition. Fur-
336 thermore, the study also discussed that such technology would be useful in improv-
337 ing ride quality in automated vehicles by integrating it in a predictive suspension
338 control system. The proposed study was to develop a novel stereo vision based
339 pothole detection system which also calculates the depth accurately. However,
340 the study focused on improving ride quality by using the 3D information from
341 detected potholes in controlling the damping coefficient of the suspension system.
342 Overall, the pothole detection system was able to achieve 84% accuracy and is
343 able to detect potholes that are deeper than 5 cm. The researchers concluded
344 that such system can be utilized in commercial applications. However, it is also
345 worth noting that despite the system being able to detect potholes and measure
346 its depth, the overall severity of the pothole and road condition was not addressed.

³⁴⁷ 2.3 Chapter Summary

- ³⁴⁸ The reviewed literature involved various techniques and approaches in road anomaly detection and classification. These approaches are discussed and summarized below along with their limitations and research gaps.

Study	Technology/ Techniques Used	Key Findings	Limitations
Automated Detection and Classification of Road Anomalies in VANET Using Deep Learning	Resnet-18 and VGG-11	Trained model is able to provide the effectiveness of using deep learning models in training artificial intelligence for road defect detection and classification.	Lacks findings regarding the severity of detected defects.
Smartphones as sensors for Road surface monitoring	Machine Learning, Smartphones	Approach was considered impractical for real-life applications.	Sensors are dependent on device's placement and orientation, smoothness of data, and speed of vehicle it is mounted on. Accuracy of results is difficult to compare.
Road Anomaly Detection through Deep Learning Approaches	Convolutional Neural Network, Deep Feedforward Network, and Recurrent Neural Network	Identified that RNN was the best deep learning approach due to high prediction performance.	Data collection is considered too difficult and complicated to execute due to sensors being mounted on an integral part of the vehicle.
Assessing Severity of Road Cracks Using Deep Learning-Based Segmentation and Detection	SqueezeNet, U-Net, YOLOv5, and MobileNet-SSD models	YOLOv5 model recorded the highest accuracy.	Only 2D images are used for the study which may have allowed higher accuracy rates, and the study also lacked depth information.
Stereo Vision Based Pothole Detection System for Improved Ride Quality	Pair of stereo images captured by a stereo camera	System was able to achieve 84% accuracy and is able to detect potholes that are deeper than 5 cm.	Overall severity of the pothole and road condition was not addressed.

Table 2.1: Comparison of Related Studies on Road Anomaly Detection using Deep Learning Techniques and Stereo Vision

³⁵¹ **Chapter 3**

³⁵² **Methodology**

³⁵³ This chapter outlines the systematic approach that were taken to address the
³⁵⁴ problem of pothole depth estimation using StereoPi V2. The methodology is
³⁵⁵ divided into key phases: data collection, algorithm selection, design, testing and
³⁵⁶ experimentation, and challenges and limitations. Each phase will play a crucial
³⁵⁷ role in accurately classifying and assessing road defects. Each phase is essential
³⁵⁸ for accurately estimating the depth of potholes using StereoPi V2.

³⁵⁹ **3.1 Research Activities**

³⁶⁰ **3.1.1 Data Collection**

³⁶¹ The researchers conducted initial inquiries to understand the problem domain and
³⁶² existing road maintenance practices. This phase included consulting the engineers
³⁶³ under the Road Maintenance Department of the government agency Department
³⁶⁴ of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). An interview with Engr. Jane Chua pro-
³⁶⁵ vided a comprehensive overview of the DPWH's road maintenance manual, which
³⁶⁶ was crucial in aligning this project with existing standards. This collaboration
³⁶⁷ with DPWH provided insights into road pothole classification standards, ensuring
³⁶⁸ that the collected data will align with industry standards. The DPWH manual
³⁶⁹ primarily focuses on the volume of detected potholes within a road segment as
³⁷⁰ a measure of severity. However, since depth is not explicitly measured in their
³⁷¹ current procedures, the study will supplement this by referencing international
³⁷² standards such as the Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) classification
³⁷³ used in the United States. The LTPP categorizes potholes based on depth thresh-

olds, which will be integrated with DPWH's volume-based assessment to provide a more comprehensive severity classification framework. The data collection involved capturing around 130 images of potholes from various locations within the UP Visayas Campus. Ground truth data of pothole depth were collected by the researchers by measuring the depth of different points in an individual pothole and then solving for its average depth. The aforementioned process was validated by Engr. Benjamin Javellana, Assistant Director of DPWH Region 6. In order to individually locate or determine each pothole where the ground truth data is collected, images taken were labeled with their corresponding coordinates, street names, and nearby landmarks.

3.1.1.1 Data Collection (Ground Truth Data)

The researchers collected depth information from 130 potholes around the University of the Philippines Visayas Miagao Campus. During data collection, the researchers are equipped with safety vests and an early warning device to give caution to incoming vehicles. To measure the depth of each pothole, the researchers recorded four depth points within the pothole and calculated their average.

3.1.2 Algorithm Selection

Potential solutions, algorithms, and system architectures were discussed by the researchers and the special problem adviser in this phase. These sessions, conducted in class and virtually via Zoom, helped narrow down the overview of the system, leading to the selection of the main architecture Epipolar Spatio-Temporal Networks (ESTN) for depth estimation.

3.1.3 Design, Testing, and Experimentation

This section outlines both the design and testing of the system, as well as the experimentation process to validate the selected methodologies.

399 **3.1.3.1 Materials and Equipment**

400

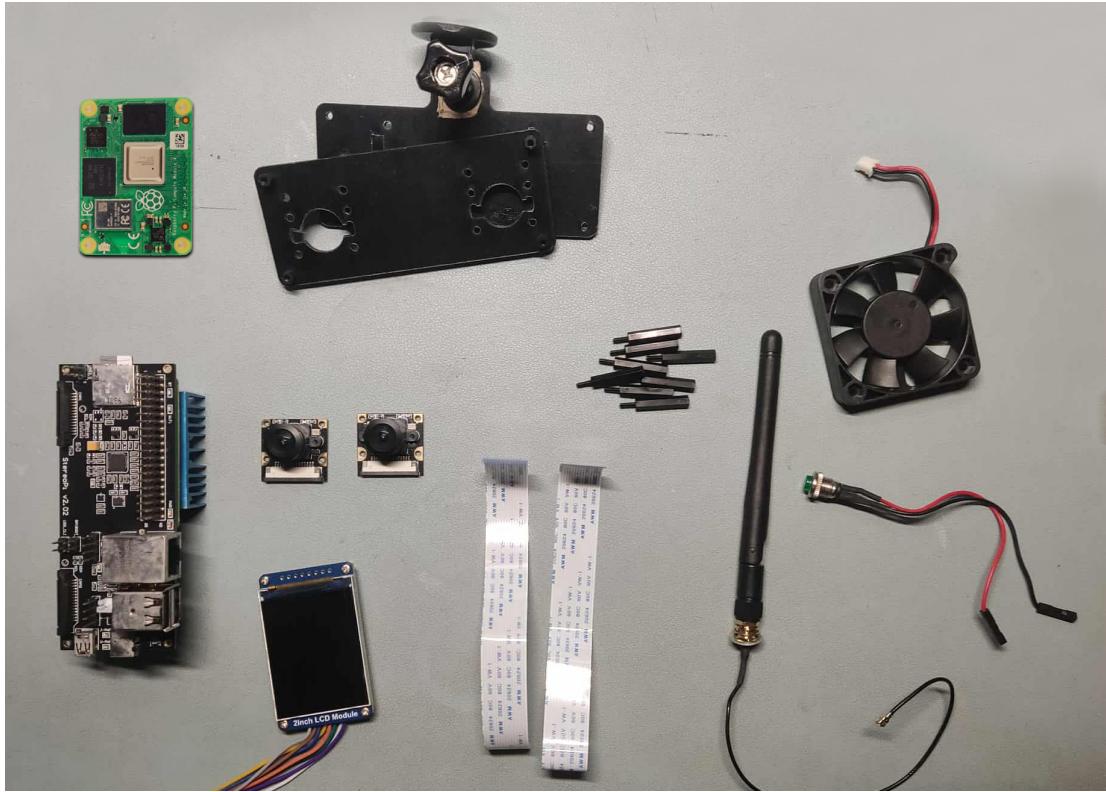


Figure 3.1: Components used in the prototype development.

401 The prototype system was constructed using the following materials and com-
402 ponents:

- 403 • StereoPi V2 Board
404 • Raspberry Pi Compute Module 4 (CM4)
405 • Dual RaspberryPi Camera Modules with Fisheye Lens
406 • 3D Printed Custom Housing
407 • 2-inch LCD Module
408 • Micro SD Card
409 • Antenna
410 • Momentary Push Button

411 **3.1.3.2 Prototype Building**

412 The prototype involved the StereoPi V2 Kit which was acquired through an official
413 international distributor. After assembling the camera, it was further modified to
414 address its heating by incorporating a heat sink and a small computer fan to
415 make it suitable for outdoor use.

416

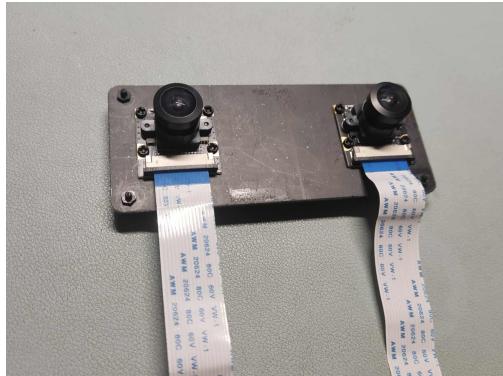


Figure 3.2: Dual RPi Camera Modules attached to the custom housing.

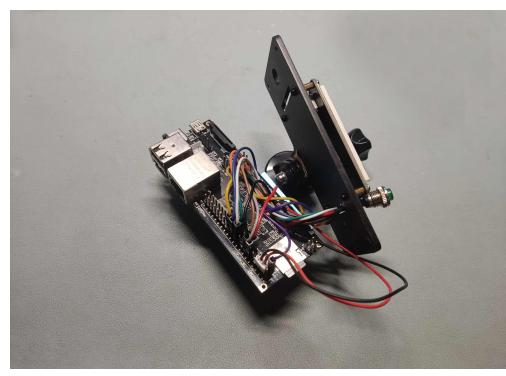


Figure 3.3: LCD Module connected to the StereoPi board.

417

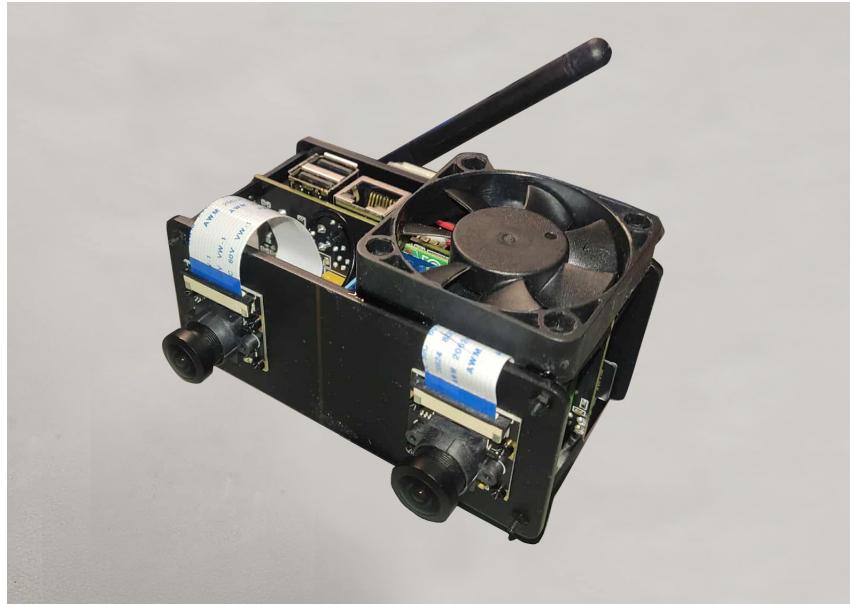


Figure 3.4: The finished prototype.

418 **3.1.3.3 Camera Calibration (Fisheye Distortion)**

419 The StereoPi V2 is first calibrated using a 9 by 6 checkerboard, with a checker
420 size of 55mm, from different angles through calibration scripts that came with the
421 package. This process ensured that the camera is working properly in capturing
422 stereo imagery. This removed distortion from captured images allowing depth
423 estimation with more accuracy.

424

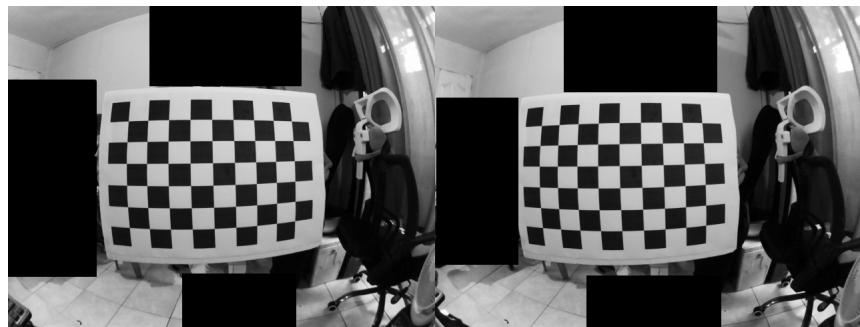


Figure 3.5: Calibration process with a checkerboard to correct fisheye lens distortion.

425 **3.1.3.4 Camera Calibration (Disparity Map Fine-tuning)**

426 The stereo image pairs captured by the system were first rectified to ensure proper
427 alignment of corresponding features. Block matching parameters were then fine-
428 tuned to produce clearer and more accurate disparity maps. It was observed
429 that the effective operational range of the stereo camera system extends from
430 approximately 30 to 80 cm. At distances closer than 30 cm, the disparity maps
431 exhibited significant noise, while at distances beyond 80 cm, disparity information
432 became sparse or blank.

433

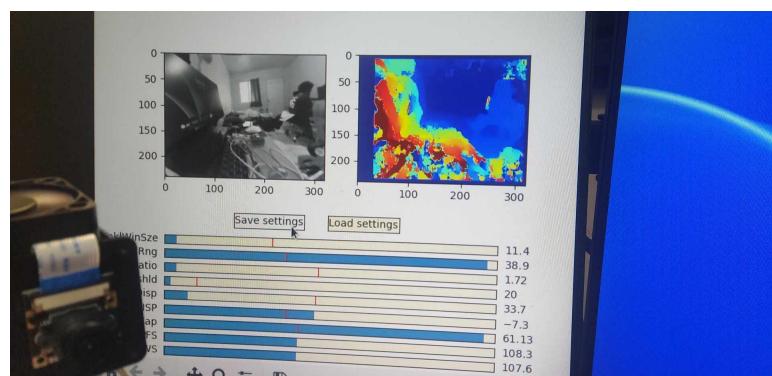


Figure 3.6: Parameter tuning process to achieve cleaner and more accurate disparity maps.

434 **3.1.3.5 Initial Testing**

435 Initial testing was conducted to verify the functionality and basic accuracy of the
436 stereoscopic camera system in a controlled environment. Artificial potholes with
437 known depths were created to simulate varying real-world scenarios. The system
438 captured disparity maps, and estimated depths were computed using the standard
439 stereo camera depth formula.

440

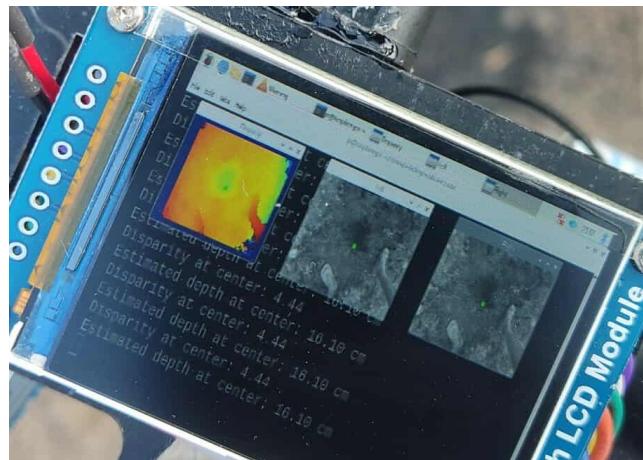


Figure 3.7: The system tested on a simulated pothole.

441 However, the results revealed a non-linear relationship between the computed
442 disparity values and the actual distances. This discrepancy indicated that the
443 traditional depth estimation method was insufficient for the setup. To address
444 this, the researchers collected multiple data points correlating known distances to
445 their respective disparity readings and fitted an inverse model to better represent
446 the system's behavior (see Figure 3.8). This updated disparity-to-depth model
447 was subsequently used in the final testing phase.

448

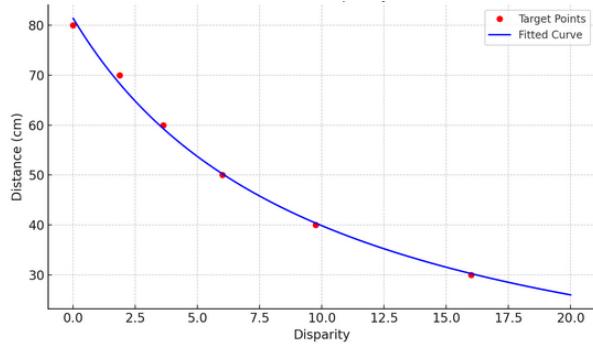


Figure 3.8: Inverse Model Fit to Disparity vs. Distance.

449 **3.1.3.6 Performance Metrics**

450 The accuracy of the pothole depth estimated by StereoPi V2 was analyzed using
451 Non-linear Regression in order to model the difference between the disparity and
452 distance. The lower the disparity indicates that the pothole is deeper.

453 **3.1.3.7 Final Testing and Validation**

454 The testing process began with a detailed testing plan that includes both simu-
455 lated and real-world testing scenarios. Initially, the model is tested in controlled
456 environments to ensure it can estimate pothole depth effectively. Following this,
457 real-world testing was conducted using the StereoPi kit on previously located
458 pot holes, specifically at the University of the Philippines Visayas Miagao Cam-
459 pus. The system's performance was validated by comparing its predictions with
460 ground-truth data collected from manual inspections.

461 **3.1.3.8 Documentation**

462 Throughout the research activities, thorough documentation was maintained.
463 This documentation captured all methods, results, challenges, and adjustments
464 made during the experimentation phases. It ensured the reproducibility of the
465 work and provided transparency for future research endeavors.

⁴⁶⁶ **3.1.4 Challenges and Limitations**

⁴⁶⁷ **3.1.4.1 Camera Limitations**

⁴⁶⁸ During the data collection process, the researchers were faced with various issues
⁴⁶⁹ involving the StereoPi V2 kit. Issues like inaccuracies in the rectified image pair
⁴⁷⁰ and generated disparity map were very apparent in the early stages of data collec-
⁴⁷¹ tion due to limited related studies and literature involving the camera. In addition,
⁴⁷² the camera also yielded some inaccurate depth estimation and over reliance on
⁴⁷³ controlled environments which prompted the researchers to further improve its
⁴⁷⁴ tuning and calibration.

⁴⁷⁵ **3.2 Calendar of Activities**

⁴⁷⁶ Table 1 shows a Gantt chart of the activities. Each bullet represents approximately
⁴⁷⁷ one week's worth of activity.

Table 3.1: Timetable of Activities for 2024

Activities (2024)	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pre-proposal Preparation	W4				
Literature Review	W3	W1			
Data Collection	W2	W2			
Algorithm Selection		W2			
System Design		W1	W2	W2	
Preliminary Testing				W2	W1
Documentation and SP Writing	W4	W4	W4	W4	W2

Table 3.2: Timetable of Activities for 2025

Activities (2025)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Data Collection	W4					
System Design	W3	W2	W2			
Model testing	W3	W4	W4			
Results Analysis			W2	W4		
Conclusion Formulation				W2	W3	
Documentation and SP Writing	W4	W4	W4	W4	W4	W2

⁴⁷⁸ **Chapter 4**

⁴⁷⁹ **Preliminary Results/System
Prototype**

⁴⁸¹ This chapter presents the results on estimating the depth of potholes using the
⁴⁸² StereoPi system. It contains the measurements taken during the initial testing
⁴⁸³ and final testing phases, comparing the the ground truth depths with the depths
⁴⁸⁴ estimated by the camera. This chapter also includes tables showing the collected
⁴⁸⁵ data, images of the outputs, and discussion on the analysis of results.

⁴⁸⁶ **4.1 Testing Results**

⁴⁸⁷ In the testing, actual potholes located around the University of the Philippines
⁴⁸⁸ Visayas (UPV) campus were tested. The ground truth depths of the potholes
⁴⁸⁹ were measured manually and compared with the depths estimated by the camera.
⁴⁹⁰ Based on the results, the StereoPi camera was able to estimate the depths fairly
⁴⁹¹ close to the ground truth values. The smallest difference was seen in Pothole 5,
⁴⁹² where the estimated depth was only 0.24 cm away from the ground truth. The
⁴⁹³ largest difference was found in Pothole 1, where the error was 3.45 cm. For the
⁴⁹⁴ other potholes, the differences were 0.67 cm for Pothole 2, 2.07 cm for Pothole
⁴⁹⁵ 3, and 2.66 cm for Pothole 4. Most of the time, the camera's estimated depths
⁴⁹⁶ were only off by about one to three centimeters. Table 4.1 shows the comparison
⁴⁹⁷ between the manually measured ground truth depths and the depths estimated
⁴⁹⁸ by the StereoPi camera for each simulated pothole.

Table 4.1: Ground Truth and StereoPi Depth Measurements

Pothole	Ground Truth 1 (cm)	Ground Truth 2 (cm)	Ground Truth Avg (cm)	Est Depth 1(cm)	Est Depth 2 (cm)	Est Depth Avg(cm)	Diff(cm)
1	14.6	14.4	14.5	11.16	10.94	11.05	3.45
2	12.0	12.1	12.05	12.36	10.4	11.38	0.67
3	6.4	6.5	6.45	4.76	4.0	4.38	2.07
4	9.8	9.3	9.55	6.16	7.62	6.89	2.66
5	13.9	14.3	14.1	13.04	14.68	13.86	0.24

4.2 Final Testing Results

In the final testing, actual potholes located around the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) campus were tested. The ground truth depths of the potholes were measured manually and compared with the depths estimated by the camera.

503 References

- 504 Bibi, R., Saeed, Y., Zeb, A., Ghazal, T. M., Rahman, T., Said, R. A., ... Khan,
505 M. A. (2021). Edge ai-based automated detection and classification of road
506 anomalies in vanet using deep learning. *Computational Intelligence and*
507 *Neuroscience*, 2021(1). doi: 10.1155/2021/6262194
- 508 Ha, J., Kim, D., & Kim, M. (2022). Assessing severity of road cracks using deep
509 learning-based segmentation and detection. *The Journal of Supercomputing*,
510 78(16), 17721–17735. doi: 10.1007/s11227-022-04560-x
- 511 Kumar, A. (2024, October). What is image processing: Overview, applications,
512 benefits, and more. *AI and Machine Learning*. Retrieved from <https://www.simplilearn.com/image-processing-article> (Accessed: January
513 1, 2025)
- 514 Kyriakou, C., Christodoulou, S. E., & Dimitriou, L. (2016, April). Roadway
515 pavement anomaly classification utilizing smartphones and artificial intel-
516 ligence. In *Proceedings of the ieee conference*. Retrieved from <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/7495459>
- 517 Luo, D., Lu, J., & Guo, G. (2020, June). Road anomaly detec-
518 tion through deep learning approaches. *IEEE Journals and Magazine*.
(<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9123753/>)
- 519 Ramaiah, N. K. B., & Kundu, S. (2021). Stereo vision based pothole detection
520 system for improved ride quality. *SAE International Journal of Advances*
521 *and Current Practices in Mobility*, 3(5), 2603–2610. doi: 10.4271/2021-01
522 -0085
- 523 Ramos, J. A., Dacanay, J. P., & Bronuela-Ambrocio, L. (2023). *A re-*
524 *view of the current practices in the pavement surface monitoring in the*
525 *philippines* (Doctoral dissertation, University of the Philippines Diliman).
526 Retrieved from https://ncts.upd.edu.ph/tssp/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/TSSP2022_09.pdf
- 527 Resources, R. (2020). Video processing. *Riches Project EU*. Re-
528 tried from <https://resources.riches-project.eu/glossary/video-processing/> (Accessed: January 1, 2025)
- 529 Sanz, P., Mezcua, B., & Pena, J. (2012). Depth estimation: An introduction.

- 535 *Current Advancements in Stereo Vision*. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/45904> doi: 10.5772/45904
- 536 Sattar, S., Li, S., & Chapman, M. (2018). Road surface monitoring using smartphone sensors: A review. *Sensors*, 18(11), 3845–3845. doi: 10.3390/s18113845
- 537 Sattar, S., Li, S., & Chapman, M. (2018). Road surface monitoring using smartphone sensors: A review. *Sensors*, 18(11), 3845–3845. doi: 10.3390/s18113845
- 538 Singh, P., Bansal, A., Kamal, A. E., & Kumar, S. (2021). Road surface quality monitoring using machine learning algorithm. In *Smart innovation, systems and technologies* (pp. 423–432). doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-6482-3_42
- 539 Singh, P., Bansal, A., Kamal, A. E., & Kumar, S. (2021). Road surface quality monitoring using machine learning algorithm. In *Smart innovation, systems and technologies* (pp. 423–432). doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-6482-3_42
- 540 Singh, P., Bansal, A., Kamal, A. E., & Kumar, S. (2021). Road surface quality monitoring using machine learning algorithm. In *Smart innovation, systems and technologies* (pp. 423–432). doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-6482-3_42
- 541 Singh, P., Bansal, A., Kamal, A. E., & Kumar, S. (2021). Road surface quality monitoring using machine learning algorithm. In *Smart innovation, systems and technologies* (pp. 423–432). doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-6482-3_42
- 542 Singh, P., Bansal, A., Kamal, A. E., & Kumar, S. (2021). Road surface quality monitoring using machine learning algorithm. In *Smart innovation, systems and technologies* (pp. 423–432). doi: 10.1007/978-981-16-6482-3_42

⁵⁴³ **Appendix A**

⁵⁴⁴ **Appendix Title**

⁵⁴⁵ **Appendix B**

⁵⁴⁶ **Resource Persons**

⁵⁴⁷ **Prof. Jumar Cadondon**

⁵⁴⁸ Assistant Professor

⁵⁴⁹ Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics

⁵⁵⁰ University of the Philippines Visayas

⁵⁵¹ jgcadondon@up.edu.ph

⁵⁵² **Engr. Jane Chua**

⁵⁵³ Engineer

⁵⁵⁴ DPWH Region 6

⁵⁵⁵ chua.jane@dpwh.gov.ph

⁵⁵⁶

⁵⁵⁷ **Engr. Marilou Zamora**

⁵⁵⁸ Chief

⁵⁵⁹ Planning and Design

⁵⁶⁰ DPWHRegion6

⁵⁶¹ zamora.marilou@dpwh.gov.ph