

No Longer Getting Lost on the Fork Road: Vehicle Yawing Detection Based on Multi-sensor Fusion

Xuan Xiao, Xinrui Wang, Mengning Wu, Ruipeng Gao, Weiwei Xing, Chi Li, Lei Liu

Abstract—Real-time locating the vehicle accurately is critical for mobile navigation applications. Particularly, the application can re-plan the route in time when the driver deviates from the predetermined path, which makes yawing detection a non-negligible problem. Traditional GPS-based solution suffers from the noisy signal, causing an erratic location error, and can only recognize yawing after driving into the unexpected road. In this paper, we propose an efficient yawing detection framework that combines image, IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit), and GPS (Global Position System) information predict whether the vehicle will yaw. We process the image through a lightweight deep learning model to predict the driving direction and utilize the IMU for event detection to detect the driver's lane change, and GPS for position reference. Finally, the multi-source data is fused through the sequential Monte Carlo framework to obtain the vehicle's accurate position. We implement a prototype and conduct experiments on real-world data. Results demonstrate our system can predict the driving direction before the yawing occurs, with a proportion of 90% in advance and 5m on average.

Index Terms—Yawing detection, MobilenetV3, Particle filter

I. INTRODUCTION

THANK to the development of GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System), mobile navigation provides conveniences for our daily life, such as planning the fastest and shortest route, checking traffic congestion, etc. During navigation, if the vehicle deviates from planned route, we call it yawing (In Fig.1). Yawing will cause vehicles to drive further distance and take more time to reach their destination. When the vehicles yaw, some drivers will be panic and distracted, which can lead to a car accident or even death [1]. In general, navigation application can detect yawing and route again. But sometimes it doesn't work. Due to the increasing number of cars and limited land resources, many large cities such as Beijing, Shanghai have built many elevated roads to ease traffic congestion. If the fork road is close to the main road or covered by the elevated roads, drivers always confused, and the vehicle tends to deviate from the planned route. At the same time, the navigation application cannot effectively and timely detect the yawing, causing the driver to go further on the wrong road. To reduce the waste of time and resources, an effective yawing detection method is urgent.

The most basic and traditional method is map-matching, which locates the vehicle based on GPS signals and road

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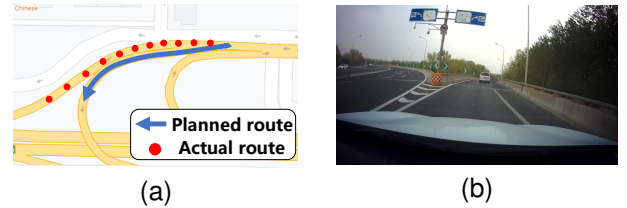


Fig. 1. (a) The red dots shows the actual route of the vehicle and the blue line shows the planned route of the navigation application. (b) A fork road image collected by dashcam.

information. But this method is vulnerable to the quality of GPS signal. [2] and [3] proposed feature-based and barometer-based methods to fetch up the low GPS quality. But these methods still cannot get rid of the influence of the lack of GPS signal. The latest work, ERNet (elevated road net) [4], has leverage deep learning to process the GPS to obtain a more accurate result. However, delay exists in detection.

In this paper, we propose a novel yawing detection framework, which innovatively utilizes image data (shows in Fig. 1 (b)) to identify the driver's driving intention and uses inertial data to detect vehicle turning to obtain the prediction information of vehicle yawing. Further, we provide real-time and robust yawing detection and tracking by combining these predictions with GPS and road information.

Despite its potentials, a robust yawing detection and tracking system is far from straightforward. First, the road conditions are very complex, and it is difficult to judge the driver's driving intention through the images captured by the dashcam; secondly, effectively fusing multi-source data and apply it to yawing detection is worth considering; finally, the computing power of mobile devices is limited, and the balance between accuracy and operation speed is also a challenge.

In summary, we make the following contributions:

- We propose to use images to recognize the driver's driving intention and apply it to the yawing detection scene by adjusting the deep learning model of image recognition to make the yawing detection more robust.
- We use the particle filter method based on Monte Carlo framework to fuse data such as image, GPS, and IMU to improve the real-time and effectiveness of yawing detection.
- We performed experiments to verify the effectiveness of the method. Results demonstrated that our method can detect 90% yawing cases in advance correctly.

The architecture of our system will be depicted in III. In

section IV-A, we will describe the driving intention recognition network. The system of tracking is presented in section IV-C. And section VI introduces our experimental design, results, and analysis of the results in detail.

II. MOTIVATION

A. Detection or Prediction

To detect vehicle yawing effectively, we desire to forecast the driving intention of the vehicle before it enters the fork road. However, GPS cannot give predictions. By observing other sensor data, we discovered that both IMU and image contain predictive information for yawing. In addition, compared to the lane change information from the IMU that does not appear stable, the image can always reveal the road the vehicle is about to enter (e.g. Fig. 2). Therefore, as long as images from ubiquitous dashcams are successfully used, we can achieve the predictive ability of vehicle yawing.

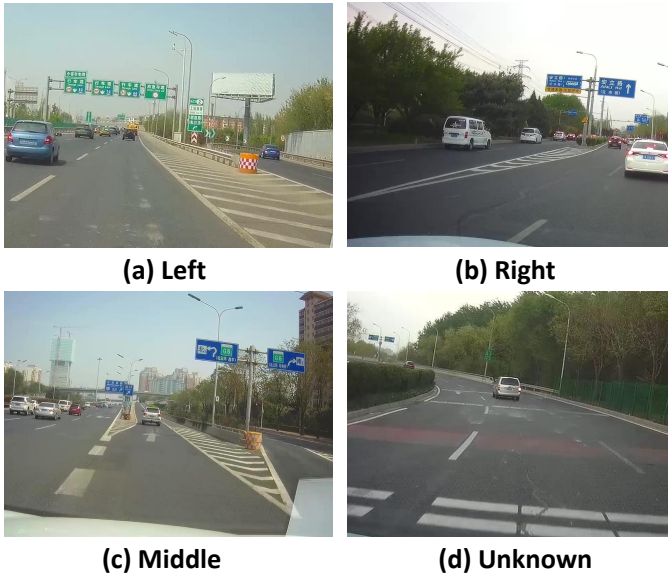


Fig. 2. Four categories of intention.

In fact, Casas et al. [5] have proposed the prediction of vehicle driving intention through neural network back in 2018. But instead of using several data to predict complicated intentions such as vehicle trajectories, we only need to know which road the vehicle is going. Therefore, we divide the intention into four categories:

$$\text{Intentions} : \{\text{left}, \text{right}, \text{middle}, \text{unknown}\}$$

As shown in Fig. 2, *Left* means that the vehicle drives towards left when facing to the fork road, and *right* is opposite. *Middle* only appears when there are three or more alternative roads, and the vehicle drives towards middle. The most special one is *unknown* due to the driving intention cannot be clearly understood in some cases. For instance, the driving direction cannot be distinguished when the fork section has not yet reached, or there is something (e.g. other vehicle, tree, etc) blocking the front.

At this point, we define the intention recognition problem as a classification problem, and we can choose dozens of high-precision image encoders, such as Inception [6], ResNet [7], Vision Transformer [8], MobileNet [9], etc. Nevertheless, our system is oriented toward edge devices, such as mobile phones or onboard computing platforms, so we need to balance the accuracy and model computation loss when designing the model.

B. Running on Mobile Devices

C. Multi-source Fusion

III. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

In this paper, we propose an accurate and real-time yawing detection framework by fusing multi-source data through particle filter. Fig. 3 shows our system architecture.

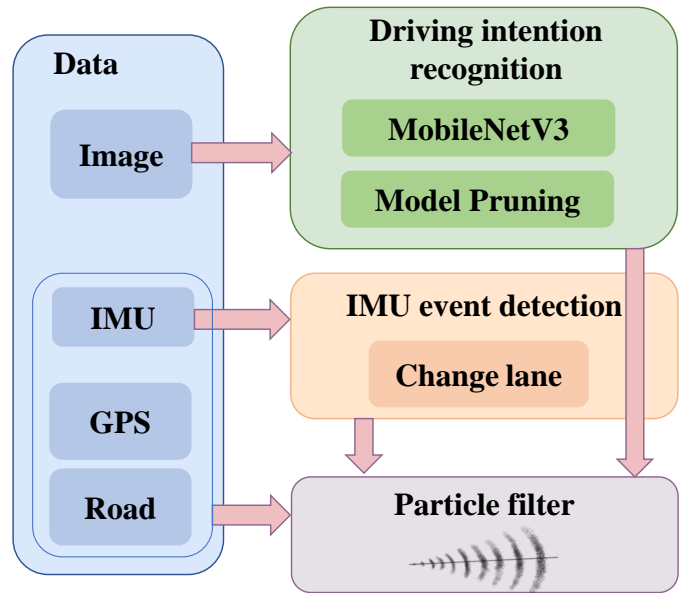


Fig. 3. System Overview

First, when the vehicle is driving on a normal road, the map-matching method is used to locate the vehicle through GPS and road information. When meeting a fork road, our system will input continuous single image captured by the dashcam into the deep learning model to predict the driver's driving intention. At the same time, we will use IMU event detection to determine whether the vehicle drives onto a slope, changed lanes, etc. Finally, the particle filter fuses the IMU event detection results and driving intention results with GPS and road information to track the vehicle and predict whether it is yawing.

IV. FORK TRACKER

A. Driving Intention Recognition

We utilize a deep learning model to predict the driver's driving intention via the picture collected from the dashcam. In this section, we first introduce our motivation for driving intention recognition, and then design a model that can learn the driver's driving intention from a single image.

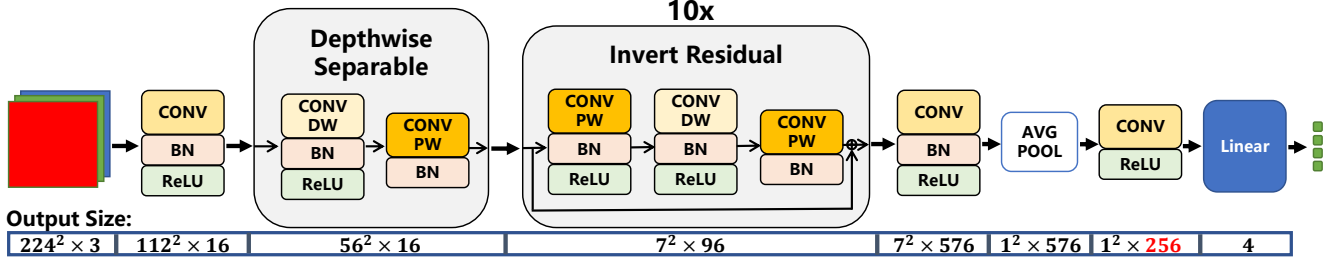


Fig. 4. Model architecture. Input data is a single RGB image. The data dimension is increased by the first layer of convolution to avoid the problem of information loss due to ReLU and low dimension as [10] proposed. Then the *Depthwise Separable convolution* [11] block encode the features, which effectively reduces the parameters but maintains high accuracy. And *Invert Residual* [10] blocks increase the expressiveness of nonlinear per-channel transformations by connecting the input and output. Note that only if input and output have the same number of channels can they be connected. Finally, features are processed into the four outputs by an efficient encoder [9].

Our network is designed based on MobileNetV3 [9], which has been proven to be a very effective image classification network. In addition, [9] defines the net of two scales: large and small. The small one is targeted at lower resource. Based on MobileNetV3-Small, we carried out adaptive parameter optimization and compression. On the premise of ensuring the accuracy, we reduced the number of parameters of the model to improve the computational efficiency. The model structure is shown in the Fig. 4.

Compared to MobileNetV3 [9], we abandon the *Squeeze-and-Excite* [12] block and *h-swish* nonlinearity activation function since they introduce computation but few improvements in our problem. Moreover, we modify the channels from 1024 to 256 in the last convolution layer which can significantly reduce the number of parameters but with only a slight loss of accuracy in our system. Detailed evaluation will be shown in the experiments section.

B. Model Compression

C. Tracking

Beside the intention recognition from images, another core of our system is fusing multi-source data [13] to obtain a more accurate vehicle trajectory. We first briefly describe the Monte Carlo framework we apply, then demonstrate the input to the system, and finally introduce the yawing detection and tracking system we designed in detail.

1) *Probabilistic Tracking Framework*: We use probabilistic estimation method to estimate the location distribution of the vehicle. Because the measurement errors and noises of different sensors are complex and do not necessarily obey the Gaussian distribution, linear filtering is difficult to solve the problem. Therefore, we adopt a trajectory inference method based on sequential Monte Carlo (i.e., particle filtering). It uses N particles that contains multi-dimensional vectors to represent the state probability distribution of the car at the current time t , and iterate continuously through the following three steps [14]:

State update. The particle state estimation $\hat{S}_t^{(N)}$ at time t is obtained from the set of particle states $\hat{S}_{t-1}^{(N)}$ at the previous time and the movement at the current time. It includes obtaining the position at time t by v_{t-1} and obtaining the velocity v_t at time t by a_t and other state estimations.

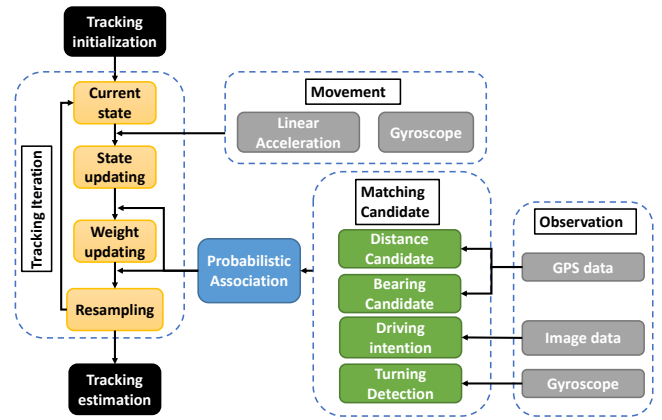


Fig. 5. An overview of Tracking system.

Weight update. The likelihood probability $p(z_{1:m,t}|\hat{s}_t)$ obtains from the measurement value $z_{1:m,t}$. Then the system adjusts the weight of each particle to provide a larger weight for those who has a higher likelihood $p(z_{1:m,t}|\hat{s}_t)$. Finally, the weights ω_t^n are normalized to the same scale, and particles \hat{S}_t at time t is formed.

Resampling. To prevent weights from gradually concentrating on a small number of particles (particle degradation), the particle set S_t^N is resampled after each iteration. We will get a new particle set S_t^N by random sampling and set all particle weights to be the same $\omega_t^n = \frac{1}{N}$.

D. Input

1) *Inertial sensors*: Our method mainly uses the data of gravity sensor, acceleration sensor and gyroscope sensor inside the mobile phone to estimate the driving trajectory of the vehicle. We transform the mobile phone coordinate system to the car coordinate system [15], [16], and the vehicle trajectory can be obtained by $\vec{x}(t) = \iint \vec{a}(t)dt$. We use the sliding window to detect the vehicle turning events. The window will obtain the change of the z-axis of the gyroscope in a period of time, and then we calculate the difference between the maximum and minimum points in the window. When the midpoint of the window is at the extreme point and the extreme

point difference is greater than the threshold, the action of the vehicle is identified as a turn and will be marked. Turning detection is mainly used for yawing recognition in fork road scenes.

2) *GPS and road information*: When people drive the car, the smartphone will continuously collect GPS data such as longitude and latitude, and the collected GPS data will form the trajectory of the vehicle. The system will project the GPS points to the best matching road in sequence (As shown in Fig. 6) and combine GPS data with road information. When the system detects that the distance between the GPS point position and the starting point of the elevated or fork road is less than a certain value, the yawing detection is triggered.

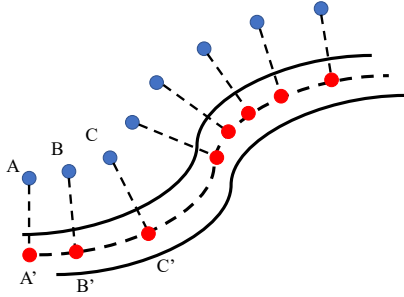


Fig. 6. The blue point is the GPS point, and the red point is the projection point.

3) *Image prediction result*: We improve the confidence of image prediction results (described in IV-A) by reducing recall instead of directly using them. In a tracking process, only a few images are needed to have a key impact on the tracking results. But the whole tracking process often obtains several image prediction results. Therefore, we filter each prediction result by setting a threshold. If for an image, the model's prediction probabilities for all classes are lower than the threshold, then we consider the model's output to be invalid. Doing so reduces the recall of the model output, but increases the confidence of the predictions.

E. Tracking Algorithms

1) *Initialization and update*: First, we will initialize the particle state based on the prior knowledge of the trigger point. Each particle has a state $(lat_t, lon_t, v_t, \beta_t, rid_t, p_{r,t}, p_{l,t})$. The latitude and longitude of the particle lat, lon , the initial speed v , the heading angle β and the maximum possible road information rid will be directly given by the GPS information of the trigger point, and the right turn and the left turn probability will be initialized to $\frac{1}{2}$.

The particle state $(lat_{t-1}, lon_{t-1}, v_{t-1}, a_{t-1}, rid_{t-1}, p_{r,t-1}, p_{l,t-1})$ at time $t-1$ will update according to the state equation and the IMU state $m_t = (a_y, \omega_z)$. $(\hat{lat}_t, \hat{lon}_t)$ is updated through:

$$\Delta d = v_{t-1} \Delta t + \epsilon_v \quad (1)$$

$$(\hat{lat}_t, \hat{lon}_t) = (lat_t, lon_t) + f(\Delta d) \quad (2)$$

where $f(*)$ refers to the longitude and latitude change that is converted from moving distance.

Road information rid_t is updated through:

$$rid_t = h(\hat{lat}_t, \hat{lon}_t) \quad (3)$$

where $h(*)$ refers to a map-matching algorithm combines the road information acquisition with a driving probability.

Velocity \hat{v}_t is updated through:

$$\hat{v}_t = v_{t-1} + a_y \Delta t + \epsilon_v \quad (4)$$

Heading direction $\hat{\beta}_t$ is updated through:

$$\hat{\beta}_t = \beta_{t-1} + \omega \Delta t + \epsilon_\beta \quad (5)$$

The probabilities of left and right turn $(\hat{p}_{l,t}, \hat{p}_{r,t})$ is updated through:

$$\hat{p}_{l,t} = \gamma \hat{p}_{l,t-1} + \epsilon_p \quad (6)$$

$$\hat{p}_{r,t} = \gamma \hat{p}_{r,t-1} + \epsilon_p \quad (7)$$

where γ depends on the characteristic of ω .

Note that, all the ϵ are the Gaussian noise in these estimation processes.

2) *Weight update*: The weight of particles will be affected by GPS information, IMU event detection, image observation information and heading angle constraints. The main principle is to reduce the weight of particles that violate the above constraints [16]. The final weight of the particle is:

$$\omega_t = \prod_{i=0}^k \omega_{i,t} \quad (8)$$

Each kind of observation information will be obtained randomly, and k is the number of observations obtained at the current time t . Among them, the equation of $\omega_{i,t}$ can be described as:

- **Heading angle constraint**: According to the limit value of the heading angle change of the car at the current update frequency, we define $\omega_0 = \cos^2(\beta_t - \beta_{t-1})$ to punish the particles whose heading angle mutates.
- **GPS information constraint**: When the GPS information is obtained, according to the distance between the particle and the GPS point, $1/D(lat_t, lon_t, lat_g, lon_g)$ is used to punish the distance Particles with farther GPS points and give awards to others, where $D(lat_t, lon_t, lat_g, lon_g)$ is the distance between two longitudes and latitudes.
- **IMU and image constraint**: The image will give the prediction information that the current position is towards left, middle or right road, and the IMU event detection will judge the current state of turning left, right and going straight. Therefore, when the image or event information is obtained, we will punish the corresponding particle according to the image information combined with the state of p_l, p_r in the particle. Penalize particles whose driving probability p is opposite to the information given by the image in the manner of $\omega_k = \alpha(1-p)$, ($k = 2, 3$), where α is the scale of the punishment.

Finally, the normalization formula of all particles are as follow,

$$\omega = \frac{\omega - \omega_{min}}{\omega_{max} - \omega_{min}} \quad (9)$$

We implemented particle filter based method to fuse multi-source data to track vehicles accurately and detect yawing. First, we will initialize the particle states. Next, we update them based on image, GPS, and IMU data, and finally re-sampling. The experimental results show that the method can achieve accurate vehicle tracking.

V. IMPLEMENTATION ON MOBILE DEVICE

VI. EXPERIMENTS

A. Dataset

Our dataset consists of two parts: image data for training the deep learning model and multi-source data for testing our whole system.

1) *Image data*: Our sufficient image data is collected by the DiDi platform. Dashcams deployed in vehicles occasionally upload captured images, and the large number of ride-hailing vehicles ensure a large data source. But we still have to label these quantities of data to train the neural network, so we implement a semi-auto label workflow. The workflow can be divided into two steps: reversely deduce the label based on the completed trajectory, and manual verification. We extract the image near the fork road and label it according to the road information and the trajectory. Then verify these images manually. Note that it is necessary to manually pick out pictures that cannot distinguish the direction which should be labeled as unknown. Ultimately, we construct a dataset of 21,089 images, of which 7,335 are left, 3,342 are right, 10,000 are unknown, and 412 are middle.

2) *Multi-source data*: These data are used to evaluate the system and we collect them by driving vehicles ourself. As discussed in Sec. IV-C, these data must include both GPS, IMU, and imagery, and they must also be able to be time-stamped aligned. We collected more than 20 hours of data, including the driving data of three vehicles. Each sequence includes 1 Hz GPS and 50 Hz IMU data collected by the smartphone while driving, as well as 2 Hz dashcam image data. And we finally manually log the yawing result for each sequence.

B. Driving intention recognition

We evaluate our driving intention recognition model separately. We will first introduce the training details, and then compare and evaluate our model with other models in terms of accuracy and parameter quantity.

1) *Training details*: In implementation, we use PyTorch to train our model on the machine learning platform with one GeForce GTX 2080 Ti GPU, an Intel i7 CPU and 40G RAM. The ratio for training/validation/test split is 7:1:2. We set the batch size of 64 and train the model for 200 epochs using Adam optimizer with initial learning rate of $2e-3$ and learning rate decay rate of 0.1 every 30 epochs. All our models train based on the pretrained model of Imagenet. In addition, we implement EMA (Exponential Moving Average) to improve the final performance of our model.

2) *Performance*: Table I shows the performance of different network on our image dataset. Normally, we count the total number of MACs (Multiply-Accumulate Operations) and parameters. From Table I we can find our models have significant drop in the number of parameters and storage, while sacrificing only a little accuracy compared to other models. The difference between *Ours-128* and *Ours-256* is the output channels of last convolutional layer, set to 128 and 256 respectively. Relative to the slight reduction in MACs and Params, there is a 0.9% drop in accuracy, which we think is not worth it, thus we choose *Ours-256* as our final model.

TABLE I
PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT NETWORK

Model	Top1-Acc	Params	MACs	RAM
AlexNet	75.2	57M	710.3M	217MB
InceptionV3	80.2	21M	2.86G	83MB
MobileNetV3-large	83.5	4.2M	224.2M	16MB
MobileNetV3-small	81.4	1.5M	62.6M	5.8MB
Ours-256	80.8	0.57M	57.9M	2.2MB
Ours-128	79.9	0.5M	57.8M	1.9MB

However, results in Table I only show the Top1-Acc in a traditional way. In our tracking system, we try to reduce the recall to enhance the accuracy of the intention recognition. Since the output of the model is the probability of each class (right, left, middle, unknown), the traditional measurement method is to take the class with the highest probability, such as Top1-Acc or Top5-Acc. In our system, we set a threshold to improve the validity of results. We consider the output with the maximum probability less than the threshold as invalid. But this comes at the expense of recall, so we conduct an experiment to explore the changing relationship between accuracy and recall in our system.

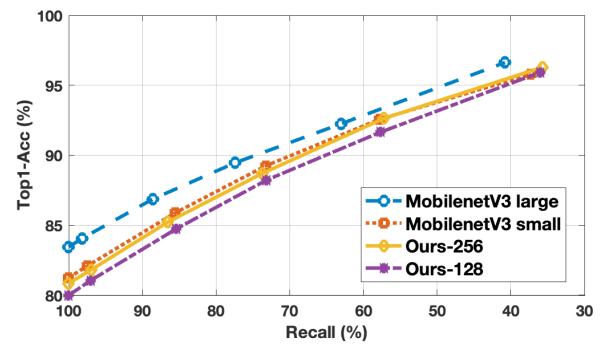


Fig. 7. The variation of recall versus accuracy. The thresholds are set as $[0, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9]$ successively.

In Fig. 7, we explore the variation of accuracy versus changing of recall. We can find that as the recall decreases, the accuracy shows a linear increase approximately. When we use a threshold of 0.9, the final accuracy can exceed 95%, but this reduces recall by a large margin. Since our tracking system does not rely solely on image information, and there will be multiple image results during a tracking session, we choose to balance 70% recall to achieve 90% accuracy. In addition,

we can also find that under the same threshold, *ours-256* and *MobilenetV3 small* perform closely, except that *MobilenetV3 large* performs better.

C. System evaluation

To validate the effectiveness of the proposed method, we conduct 1) a experiment focusing on advance detection distance and 2) an ablation experiment to show the impact of each component on the detection system.

1) *Metrics*: To show the result intuitively, we introduce several metrics and provide the following statistics. The number of correct and advance detections is n_{ac} , and the number of total correct detections is n_c . n describes the number of all detections. For metrics, we utilize p_a to describe the percentage of advance and correct detections, which calculates through $\frac{n_{ca}}{n}$. The total detection precision p_t designed based on ERNet [4], which calculates as $\frac{n_c}{n}$. And the average distance detected in advance $dist_{avg}$, which positive means the correct detection happened in advance while negative means it delayed. In addition, we use the precision of detection distance in several thresholds k to show the performance.

2) *real-world detection experiment*: We conduct this experiment to verify the overall system performance by providing the statistics of the distance from the correct detecting location to the intersection.

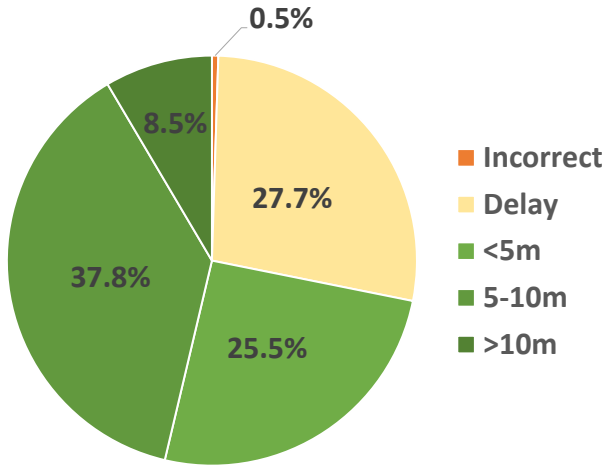


Fig. 8. Distance distribution from detection point to roads intersection point. k is set as 5m and 10m.

As shown in Figure 8, the correct yawing detection achieves 99.5% and about 72% of the correct detection happens in advance. Among them, the largest proportion appears in 5-10m, accounting for 37% of the total, and about 8% cases achieve more than 10 meters in advance. We can see there are still some detections delaying, since the image results and IMU event results are accidental which cannot be ensured always exist and work.

3) *Ablation experiment*: This experiment shows the contribution of our two core components to the overall system by separating them and changing the combination with the basic map-matching method.

Table II shows the result as expected, the baseline method with only GPS data is unable to detect yawing in advance and

TABLE II
ABLATION EXPERIMENT

GPS	Driving intention	IMU event	p_a	p_t	$dist_{avg}$
✓			-	93.8%	-4.04m
✓	✓		80.5%	100%	3.81m
✓		✓	65.9%	97.9%	2.42m
✓	✓	✓	89.6%	100%	5.11m

have the worst performance, while adding image recognition data shows a remarkable improvement. Besides, the IMU event data helps to limit the impact of ambiguous data on the detection of pure GPS or image recognition, thus the proposed method gains the best result.

VII. RELATED WORK

When meeting a fork road, drivers are always confused about the planned route. Therefore, the detection of elevated and fork roads has become a hot topic in yawing detection research.

Existing detection methods are mostly based on map-matching, barometer, feature and modeling GPS. Lan Li [17] proposed a map-matching method, which snaps a series of GPS points onto the map to estimate the trajectory of vehicles, and combine the GPS points with the azimuth of the vehicle to track the vehicle more precisely and detect whether it is yawing. Y. Gong et al. (2015) [2] proposed a feature-based method, which is based on the following four features: 1. Velocity variance; 2. Average number of tracked satellites; 3. Minimum Z-axis gravity component; 4. Z-axis linear acceleration variance. When people drive on the elevated road, the Z-axis gravity component of sensors will fluctuate, and the average number of tracking satellites will also change with the increase of altitude. So driving on the elevated road can be detected. The above two methods are affected by the GPS accuracy. M. Won et al. (2017) [3] proposed a barometer-based method, which combines GPS data and smartphone barometer data. The air pressure on elevated road and surface road is different, so we can judge whether the vehicle is on an elevated. But air pressure is susceptible to speed. As the speed increases, the air pressure decreases. In addition, not every device equips with barometer. Xiaobing Zhang et al. (2020) [4] proposed a neural network ERNet (Elevated Road Network) to identify whether a vehicle is driving on an elevated or not. This method inputs 4 high-level features into the neural network: 1. SPP; 2. group ID; 3. elevated road distance; 4. sequential speed to identify the road type through the output of the neural network. SPP refers to the distribution of satellite signals, which are very different between a vehicle on a surface road and on an elevated road. And the method divides roads into multiple groups for analysis. However, when GNSS data is missing, it will adversely affect feature 1, which in turn affects the output. The delay of the above four methods is relatively high, so that the yawing cannot be detected in time. Moreover, [18] proposed a method to distinguish the side road from main road through image. It converts the images captured by the vehicle single camera into IPM images through the inverse

perspective transformation method, and the road texture is used to determine whether there is a side road ahead. But it cannot detect whether the vehicle is yawing.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In this paper we introduced a novel framework to tracking vehicle on the fork road through image, IMU and GPS data. We designed a lightweight deep learning model to recognize the driver's intention when facing the fork. And we constructed a tracking system based on particle filter which combined IMU event detection, image recognition and road information. Experiments in real-world datasets from our prototype have demonstrated the effectiveness.

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This should be a simple paragraph before the References to thank those individuals and institutions who have supported your work on this article.

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IX. BIOGRAPHY SECTION

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