

Smart Roads: Early Crack Detection Using AI

Prepared by: Zeinab Rabab & Alice Mohsen

1. Introduction

Road infrastructure is a critical component of modern cities. Small cracks in road surfaces often go unnoticed until they develop into severe damage. Traditional inspection methods rely on manual observation, which is time-consuming, costly, and inconsistent.

2. Problem Statement

Road authorities face delayed detection of early cracks, high maintenance costs, manual inspection errors, and safety risks. Early cracks, if not treated promptly, expand into advanced deterioration requiring expensive repairs.

3. Project Objectives

- Detect early-stage road cracks automatically.
- Improve inspection speed and accuracy.
- Reduce maintenance costs through early intervention.
- Enable real-time crack monitoring.
- Support smart city infrastructure initiatives.

4. Proposed Solution

This project proposes an AI-powered crack detection system using computer vision. The system analyzes road surface images to identify early-stage crack patterns and is designed for efficient deployment on edge devices such as drones or vehicle-mounted cameras.

5. Methodology (General Pipeline)

5.1 Data Collection

Road surface images are collected from real-world environments, focusing on early-stage crack types and various lighting and pavement conditions.

5.2 Data Preparation

Data is cleaned, organized, and enhanced to simulate realistic environmental variations while ensuring balanced representation of crack categories.

5.3 Model Training

An intelligent detection system is trained to recognize crack patterns with optimized accuracy and speed for real-time applications.

5.4 Deployment & Implementation

The system integrates with drones or vehicle-mounted cameras. Video streams are converted into frames and analyzed automatically to detect cracks in real time.

6. Expected Outcomes

- Automated early crack detection system.
- Faster and more reliable inspection process.
- Reduced road maintenance costs.
- Scalable solution for smart infrastructure.

7. Impact and Significance

The project contributes to safer roads, efficient infrastructure management, reduced public spending, and the transition toward intelligent and automated city systems.

8. Conclusion

The Smart Roads project presents a practical and scalable AI-based solution for early crack detection. By enabling proactive maintenance, it reduces long-term costs and enhances public safety.