

# Empowering Traffic Safety: Helmet Detection and Number Plate Capture with YOLOv5

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**Abstract**—The rider's failure to wear a helmet is one of the major factors in head injuries sustained in bike accidents. Bikes are the most popular form of transportation since they are inexpensive and require little maintenance. The government has mandated that drivers of two-wheeled vehicles wear helmets when operating their vehicles, in accordance with section 129 of the motorbike vehicle legislation. Many people who break traffic laws nevertheless disregard them. Bikers at road intersections are manually inspected by traffic police in the majority of developing nations. Even yet, this approach is ineffective because it doesn't work on roads where speeding is most likely to cause accidents. To protect bikers, it is now required to detect licence plates from vehicles without helmets. This study describes the real-time licence plate detection for riders without helmets utilising the real-time object detector YOLOV5 (You Only Look Once). Using the algorithm, the system locates the riders in the live video. The algorithm is used to determine whether or not the motorist is wearing a helmet. Optical recognition system is then used to extract the characters from the number plate and identify the rider as not wearing a helmet. To remind people to wear a helmet the next time they ride a two-wheeler, the identified number plates will be emailed to their email addresses.

**Index Terms**—Detection, YOLOV5, Optical Character Recognition

## I. INTRODUCTION

Due to their affordability, two-wheelers are currently the most common form of transportation. Careless riding has increased the likelihood of bike accidents as there were more riders than before. The negligence of bikers who do not wear helmets is a serious problem, and it frequently results in the rider suffering a brain injury. As a solution to this issue, most countries have laws regulating helmet use for two-wheeler users. Although the government of some nations has installed a specialised sensor to verify the wearer of a helmet, it would not be financially sound to purchase sensors for each bike. The traffic police will have less work to do as non-helmeted bikers' licence plates are automatically detected. This will also require fewer personnel. As a result, there will be fewer riders who do not wear helmets.

## II. DATASET

Since our Helmet Detection and Number Plate Capturing dataset are taken by a CCTV footage in real time which captures the persons number plate for not wearing helmet. Most of the dataset used here is the daylight traffic in urban areas and highways. These datasets are used for further detection process and extract the text by applying the Optical Character Recognition algorithm

## III. MOTIVATION

Numerous scholars have addressed the issue of automobile number plate recognition in recent years. One of the most important phases in automatic number plate recognition is number plate detection since inaccurate number plate detection impairs the accuracy of the segmentation and identification stages. Similar to this, other researchers have also suggested a method that starts with the identification of bikers and then determines whether or not the rider is wearing a helmet. To extract moving objects for moving object recognition and categorise them by using their features and the local binary pattern, the authors in have proposed a background subtraction method.

YOLO is the name of the newest state-of-the-art real-time object detecting technology. By spatially isolating bounding boxes and applying a single convolutional neural network to assign probabilities to each of the detected images, it is possible to treat the object identification problem as a regression problem rather than a classification task (CNN). The popularity of YOLO is attributed to its speed, detection accuracy, strong generalisation, and open-source nature. There are five YOLO variants available right now (v1, v2, v3, v4 and v5). Better functionality, including four connection layers, four convolution layers, and five CSP layers, was added to YOLOV5. It can hasten feature information transmission and feature fusion. Compared to YOLOV3, YOLOV5 has higher accuracy. Many YOLOv5 models were trained using the MSCOCO dataset.

## IV. EXISTING SYSTEM

Existing system is based on detection of helmet which first starts with moving object segmentation using descriptors. Then detection of helmet tracing the Region of interest which is the head region then classifies between helmet and non-helmet. It uses the circle Hough transform to distinguish between a helmet and a non-helmet, which also causes a misidentification of a head as a helmet because both have a round shape. Costs a lot of computation. Geometric features are not enough to detect the presence of a helmet; many times, the head can be mistaken for the helmet.

## V. LITERATURE REVIEW

In Paper [1] the author is addressing the pressing issue of road traffic accidents, which have emerged as a significant public health concern that necessitates a multifaceted approach for resolution. In countries like India, the alarming increase in fatalities and injuries resulting from road accidents has become a cause for great concern. The frequency of road accidents leading to death or permanent disability has risen, underscoring the urgent need for preventive measures

to be prioritized by relevant organizations involved in public health. However, the current methods employed to implement laws and policies aimed at curbing traffic accidents often lack efficiency and commitment.

In paper [2] the author discusses the prevalence of two-wheelers as a common mode of transportation today. However, the inherent risk associated with riding a two-wheeler without proper protection is significant. To address this, wearing a helmet while riding a bike is highly recommended as a preventive measure. In fact, governments have even made it illegal to ride a bike without a helmet, and have used manual methods to enforce this regulation. To automate the process of identifying helmet usage without relying on manual intervention, the author proposes a system that utilizes video monitoring of the street to automatically determine if a bike rider is wearing a helmet. This system employs machine learning techniques to accurately identify different types of helmets with minimal processing, making it efficient and effective in promoting helmet usage compliance.

In paper [3] the author discusses the importance of license plate location in automated transportation systems for vehicle detection. In this work, a reliable and real-time method for license plate location is presented. The license plate region contains rich edge and texture information, which is utilized in the proposed approach. Initially, image enhancement techniques along with the Sobel operator are employed to extract the vertical edges from the car image. Subsequently, a robust algorithm is applied to eliminate background and noise edges, retaining only the relevant features. Finally, a rectangle window is used to search for the license plate region in the residual edge image, allowing for separation of the license plate from the original car image. The effectiveness and reliability of the proposed method are validated through experimental findings, demonstrating its potential for accurate license plate location in automated transportation systems.

In paper [4] the author discusses the concerning trend of increasing motorbike accidents in many countries over the years. The growing popularity of motorbikes can be attributed to various social and economic factors. However, despite the crucial role of helmets as the primary safety gear for motorcyclists, many riders neglect to wear them. This paper presents and demonstrates an automated approach for classifying motorbikes on public highways, along with a system for automatically identifying riders who are not wearing helmets. The system utilizes camera photos of the traffic to implement the proposed approach.

In Paper [5] the author discusses the application of helmet detection in image processing and presents a new method for helmet detection in their research. The proposed method combines two techniques to increase the likelihood of detecting helmets. The first technique involves utilizing a Haar-like feature for face detection to differentiate between wearing a

not wearing a helmet. The second technique involves using a circle Hough transform to further distinguish between helmeted and unhelmeted individuals. In the initial section of the method, a fast algorithm for helmet detection in colored images is suggested. The novel algorithm used in the proposed method has shown high detection rates and low false positives in image experiments, indicating its effectiveness in detecting helmets accurately.

In paper [6] the author discusses the method proposed in their research for automatic recognition of helmet-less bikeriders in real-time surveillance videos. The suggested method involves multiple steps, starting with backdrop removal and object segmentation to identify bike riders in the surveillance video. A binary classifier and visual cues are then used to determine whether the bike rider is wearing a helmet or not. Additionally, a consolidation method for reporting violation is provided to enhance the validity of the proposed method. The performance of three commonly used feature representations for classification, namely histogram of oriented gradients, scale-invariant feature transform, and local binary patterns, is also compared in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach presented.

In paper [7] the author discusses the challenges in detecting traffic rule offenders for ensuring safety measures, such as occlusion, illumination, poor quality of surveillance video, and fluctuating weather conditions. In this article, a system for automatically identifying motorbike riders who are not wearing protective helmets on security footage is described. The proposed method involves the extraction of moving objects from video frames using adaptive background subtraction. Motorcyclist riders are then selected from the moving objects using convolutional neural networks (CNN). Additionally, CNN is used on the upper one-fourth part of the riders to further detect those who are operating their vehicles without a helmet.

In paper [8] the author discusses how motorcycles have become a popular form of transportation, but the number of motorbike accidents has increased recently. Not wearing a safety helmet is one of the main causes of fatalities in these accidents. Currently, traffic cops manually monitor motorcyclists at intersections or watch CCTV footage to identify those without helmets and fine them, but it requires a lot of effort and action from people. This study proposes an automated method for identifying motorcycle riders without helmets and obtaining their license plates from CCTV data. The head section of a classified motorcyclist is analyzed to determine if they are wearing a helmet or not.

In paper [9] the author discusses how the rapid growth of vehicles and transportation systems has made it impossible for humans to fully manage and monitor them manually. As a result, automatic recognition of license plate numbers has become increasingly important in various applications such as traffic monitoring, tracking stolen vehicles, managing parking tolls, enforcing red-light violations, and border and customs checkpoints. However, the diversity of license plate formats, variations in scales, rotations, and non-uniform illumination conditions during image acquisition pose significant challenges. This

work proposes an Automated Number Plate Recognition System that utilizes edge detection techniques, histogram manipulation, and morphological operations to segment characters and localize license plates. Character classification and recognition are achieved using artificial neural networks.

In paper [10] the author discusses the concept of Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR), which involves extracting license plate data from images or a series of photographs. ALPR has various applications, including electronic payments systems for tolls and parking fees, as well as motorway and arterial monitoring systems for traffic surveillance. ALPR typically uses color, black-and-white, or infrared camera to capture images of license plates. The success of ALPR depends heavily on the quality of the captured photos. As a practical application, ALPR must be able to process license plates quickly and effectively in various settings, including indoor and outdoor environments, during daytime and nighttime. Moreover, ALPR must be able to handle license plates from different countries, provinces, or states, making it necessary to be generalized and adaptable to diverse plate formats.

VI. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In our suggested system, we propose a real-time and accurate automatic deep learning method for motorcyclist helmet recognition, which comprises of two parts. The first step involves detecting motorcycles in the surveillance video using YOLOv5-MD, an improved version of the YOLOv5 method specifically designed for motorcycle detection. The video from the surveillance is processed using the YOLOv5 algorithm to identify motorcycle regions. The second stage, known as helmet detection, takes the motorcycle regions identified in the previous step as input and uses an upgraded version of the YOLOv5 algorithm called YOLOv5-HD to determine whether the motorcycle riders are wearing helmets or not. The network is trained separately for each stage as the tasks of vehicle and helmet detection are quite distinct from each other. The purpose of YOLOv5-HD is to enhance the detection of helmets on the motorcycle riders, thereby improving the accuracy of the overall system. This two-stage approach allows for efficient and precise detection of helmet usage by motorcyclists in real-time, making it a valuable tool for automatic helmet recognition in surveillance footage.

YOLO is the typical object detection technique. That is known for its fast inference speed. It uses a regression-based approach to directly generate the bounding box coordinates and class probabilities in a single pass through the network, which makes it faster compared to two-stage approaches like Faster R-CNN. YOLOv5, in particular, has introduced improvements to the backbone network and adjusted parameters to create four different variants of the model: YOLOv5s, YOLOv5m, YOLOv5l, and YOLOv5x. These variants differ in terms of model size, complexity, and accuracy, allowing for a trade-off between speed and accuracy based on the specific application requirements. The regression-

based approach used in YOLOv5 allows for efficient and real-time object detection, making it well-suited for various applications such as motorbike helmet recognition in surveillance footage, as you mentioned in your previous statement.

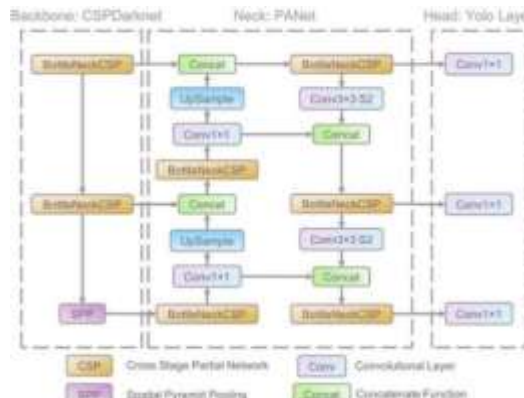


Fig.1. YOLOv5 Architecture

The YOLOv5 model consists of three main components: the backbone, the feature enhancement module, and the head as shown in Figure 1. Each component has a specific function in the overall architecture. The backbone variant of YOLOv5 is responsible for extracting features from the input image. The feature enhancement module in YOLOv5 is designed to enhance the features extracted by the backbone. It uses various techniques such as skip connections, PANet (Path Aggregation Network), and CSPNet (Cross Stage Partial Network) to enhance the feature representation and improve the accuracy of object detection. The head part of YOLOv5 is responsible for generating the final predictions, including the bounding box coordinates and class probabilities.

VII. RESULTS

The objective of this paper is to achieve continuous helmet detection and Number Plate Capture through a video feed as

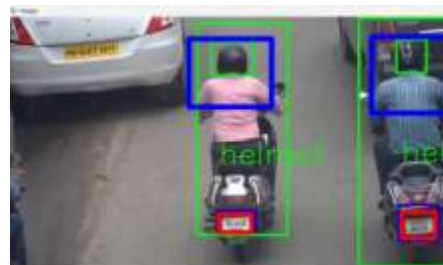


Fig. 2. The above image shows the helmet and the number plate are detected and also show the rider has put on the Helmet



Fig. 3. The above image shows the helmet and the number plate are detected and also shows the person is not wearing the Helmet

shown in Figure 2 and 3. A video camera will be positioned on the road to provide input to the system. The frames from the video will undergo background subtraction to eliminate pedestrians and other entities, retaining only moving objects. These moving objects will then be classified and labeled using a trained model, with the COCO model used for commodity objects and a specialized dataset developed using TensorFlow for persons riding bikes with helmets. Web scraping was utilized to collect diverse images of helmets for training. Initially, a person riding a bike will be detected and a bounding box will be defined around them, restricting the search area. The system will then check for the presence of a helmet within that box, and if detected, the box will be dropped. The remaining boxes will be processed by the number plate checking subsystem, which will utilize OCR to capture the text on the license plate. A new entry will be created, documenting the time and location of the offense, as a snapshot of the bounding box as proof, and the license plate number.

### VIII. CONCLUSION

When the rider fails to wear a helmet it becomes a risk because by chance if the rider faces any accident it may lead to death. A headgear. Many motorbike riders continue to disregard the numerous laws regulating helmet use by two-wheeler drivers. The systems in place are highly inefficient. In this study, we have suggested a real-time, quick, and efficient framework for YOLO-based non-helmeted motorcycle detection from CCTV footage. After identifying the motorcyclists who are riding without a helmet, optical character recognition is used to detect the characters in the license plates and save them in a cloud so that the violators can be held accountable. Motorcycles are the target class for the first stage, the second stage for helmets, non-helmets, and the third stage is for license plates.

### VIII. FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

The proposed method outperforms the current one because the algorithm uses a YOLOv5 model. While many have done two layers of CNN to complete the task, our suggested approach just requires one CNN to achieve the study's goal. The suggested method works better than a number of the established techniques for detecting license plates. Techniques include boundary- and color-based strategies. The input picture should have apparent bounds and is sensitive to undesired borders in the boundary-based techniques.

The proposed method and approaches addressed in related work differ from each other in that we took a different strategy. For automatic license plate localization, we developed a single convolutional neural network and employed YOLOv5 algorithms to complete the task. The authors of and employed boundary-based techniques that are conscious of undesirable edges and depend on high-quality images for algorithm generalization. Since the suggested method does not need to rely on the information from the license plates and many image qualities were added to the training, it is superior to the color-based approach. This aids in generalizing from previously unobserved data.

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