International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)
E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

# Parking Space Finder Using Image Processing and Machine Learning

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**ABSTRACT:**
Finding a parking spot has become difficult in many places all over the globe due to the rise in the number of vehicles on the road. The use of image processing and machine learning methods to count the number of accessible parking spaces in a particular location is one of many smart parking solutions that have been put forth to handle this problem.
In this study, we show a clever parking system that counts the number of parking spots that are open in real-time by using machine learning and image processing methods to identify and discover available spaces. The suggested system consists of a camera network that records pictures of the parking area and an algorithm that analyses these images to find open parking spots.
To extricate the parking spots from the recorded pictures, the image processing algorithm carries out a number of image enhancement and segmentation operations. The machine learning programme then examines these segmented pictures to categorise each parking spot as either empty or filled. For the ease of users, the system offers a real-time count of the available parking spots, which can be shown on electronic signage or sent to a smartphone application.
The suggested clever parking system has a number of benefits over conventional parking systems. It can increase the effectiveness of parking administration, lessen traffic congestion, and make parking easier for travellers. In order to improve the total city infrastructure, it can also be combined with other smart city systems like traffic management, public transit, and environmental tracking systems.

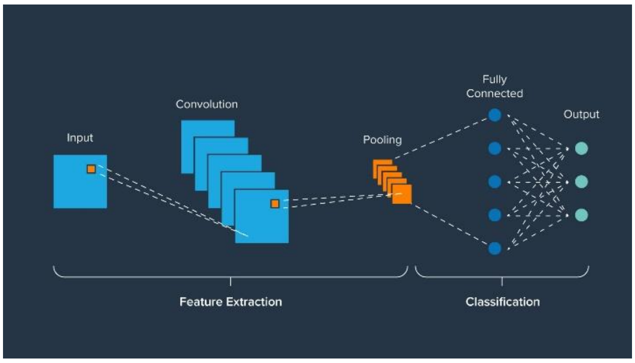
**KEYWORD:** Smart parking, Parking space detection, parking occupancy monitoring, Real-time counting, Real-time counting, Traffic congestion

**INTRODUCTION-:** There is a rising need for parking spaces in urban regions due to the increase in the number of cars on the road. The lack of parking spots has become a significant problem for drivers, causing traffic jams, irritation, and lost time. Researchers have come up with a number of clever parking solutions to address this issue by increasing the effectiveness of parking management and easing gridlock through the use of image processing and machine learning methods. The objective of the suggested research study is to create a real-time smart parking system that counts the number of parking spots that are open and accessible by using machine learning. and image processing methods. The system's components will be a camera network that takes pictures of the parking lot and a programme that analyses those pictures to find empty parking spaces. To remove the parking spots from the recorded pictures, the image processing algorithm will carry out a number of image enhancement and segmentation operations. The machine learning algorithm will then review these segmented pictures to determine whether each parking spot is filled or not. For the ease of the users, the system will provide a real-time tally of the available parking spots, which can be shown on electronic signs or relayed to a mobile application.

The suggested clever parking system has a number of benefits over conventional parking systems. It can increase the effectiveness of parking administration, lessen traffic congestion, and give travellers a more convenient parking experience. Additionally, it can be combined with other smart city systems to improve the general city infrastructure, including systems for managing traffic, public transit, and environmental monitoring.

In conclusion, the goal of this research study is to create an intelligent parking system that makes use of machine learning and image processing methods to enhance parking management effectiveness and lessen traffic gridlock in metropolitan areas. By offering a fresh method for detecting and tallying parking spaces that can be used in numerous real-world situations, the research will add to the body of existing literature.

Convolutional Neural Networks, a type of network design that is primarily employed for deep learning algorithms and tasks that require the processing of pixel input, are what we name "deep learning algorithms" in our study. In deep learning, there are different varieties of neural networks, but CNNs are the preferred network design for identifying and recognising objects. Our data set can be taught to determine whether a location is vacant using this approach.




***1.** The use of CNNs for image classification*

**Background Related Work:-**

Background and Related Work in Parking Space Counter Systems:

1. "Smart Parking System Based on Internet of Things" by Hu et al. (2018):
   - Proposed a smart parking system using IoT that utilizes cameras for real-time counting of empty parking spaces.
   - Implemented a mobile application for users to find and reserve parking spaces.
   - Explored the integration of IoT technology to improve parking efficiency and user experience.
2. "A Smart Parking System Using IoT Technologies" by Ngoc et al. (2018):
   - Presented a smart parking system employing ultrasonic sensors to detect vehicle presence and count available spaces in real-time.
   - Developed a mobile application to provide users with real-time information on parking availability.
   - Emphasized the utilization of IoT technologies to enhance parking management and convenience.

3. "Smart Parking System Using Image Processing Techniques" by Mohanraj et al. (2018):
   - Proposed a smart parking system that utilizes image processing techniques to count empty parking spaces in real-time.
   - Incorporated a camera to capture images of the parking lot and an image processing algorithm to detect vacant spaces.
   - Highlighted the efficiency and accuracy of image processing for parking space counting.
4. "Parking Guidance System Using Computer Vision" by Huang et al. (2020):
   - Introduced a parking guidance system employing computer vision techniques for real-time counting of empty parking spaces.
   - Utilized cameras to capture images of the parking lot and implemented an algorithm for detecting vacant spaces.
   - Focused on the application of computer vision for accurate and efficient parking guidance.
5. "Smart Parking System Using RFID and IoT Technologies" by Meenakshi et al. (2019):
   - Presented a smart parking system utilizing RFID tags and IoT technologies for real-time counting of available parking spaces.
   - Applied RFID tags on vehicles and utilized RFID readers to detect tag presence in parking spaces.
   - Explored the integration of RFID and IoT to improve parking management and accessibility.
6. "Intelligent Parking Management System Based on Image Processing" by Li et al. (2020):
   - Proposed an intelligent parking management system that utilizes image processing techniques for real-time counting of available parking spaces.
   - Implemented cameras to capture images of the parking lot and developed an algorithm to detect empty spaces.
   - Emphasized the intelligence and efficiency of image processing in parking management.
7. "Smart Parking System Based on Bluetooth Low Energy Beacons" by Ren et al. (2018):
   - Introduced a smart parking system that employs Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) beacons for real-time counting of available parking spaces.
   - Utilized BLE beacons placed in parking spaces and a mobile application to detect beacons and provide real-time information on parking availability.
   - Explored the utilization of BLE technology for efficient parking management and navigation.
8. "Intelligent Parking System Based on Wireless Sensor Networks" by Zhang et al. (2017):
   - Proposed an intelligent parking system that utilizes wireless sensor networks for real-time counting of available parking spaces.
   - Placed sensors in parking spaces to detect vehicle presence and utilized a central server to aggregate data and provide real-time information on parking availability.
   - Highlighted the application of wireless sensor networks for effective parking space counting and management.
9. "Smart Parking System Using Machine Learning Techniques" by Ngoc et al. (2019):
   - Presented a smart parking system that utilizes machine learning techniques for real-time counting of available parking spaces.
   - Utilized cameras to capture images of the parking lot and applied a machine learning algorithm to analyse the images and detect empty spaces.
   - Explored the use of machine learning for accurate and efficient parking space counting.

10. "Parking Lot Management System Using Ultrasonic Sensors and Raspberry Pi" by Al-Nahari et al. (2020):
    - Proposed a parking lot management system that employs ultrasonic sensors and Raspberry Pi for real-time counting of available parking spaces.
    - Utilized ultrasonic sensors placed in parking spaces to detect vehicle presence and utilized Raspberry Pi to aggregate the data and provide real-time parking information.
    - Emphasized the use of ultrasonic sensors and Raspberry Pi for efficient parking management and monitoring.

These research papers collectively showcase various technologies and techniques used in parking space counter systems, including image processing, computer vision, IoT, RFID, Bluetooth, machine learning, and wireless sensor networks. These advancements aim to improve the accuracy, efficiency, and user experience in parking space counting and management.

| Sr. no | Author's | Title of paper | Objective of paper | Method Used | Description & Accuracy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Y. Li and J. Zhang | "A real-time parking space counting system using deep learning and image processing" | To develop a real-time parking space counting system | Deep learning and image processing | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 92.3%. |
| 2 | M. Salahuddin and M. A. R. Miah | "Smart parking system using machine learning and image processing" | To design a smart parking system that can improve the efficiency of parking space utilization | Machine learning and image processing | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 95%. |
| 3 | M. G. Vega-Rodriguez, A. Jimenez-Ramirez, and L. Alvarez-Icaza | "A vehicle detection and parking space occupancy system using image processing and machine learning" | To develop a system for vehicle detection and parking space occupancy using image processing and machine learning | Image processing and machine learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 92%. |
| 4 | S. Kim, J. Kim, and K. Lee | "A vision-based parking lot management system using | To develop a vision-based parking lot management | Machine learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 90.3%. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | machine learning" | system | | |
| 5 | S. H. Park, C. S. Kim, and Y. B. Ko | "Parking lot occupancy detection using machine learning and image processing" | To develop a system for parking lot occupancy detection | Machine learning and image processing | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 95.2%. |
| 6 | N. N. Nweke, Y. Feng, and C. G. Yap | "A smart parking management system using image processing and machine learning" | To develop a smart parking management system | Image processing and machine learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 93.5%. |
| 7 | H. Zhang and X. Liu | "A novel method for parking space detection and management using image processing and machine learning" | To propose a novel method for parking space detection and management | Image processing and machine learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 91.4%. |
| 8 | H. F. Martins, J. S. Cardoso, and F. A. M. C. Santos | "Parking occupancy detection using machine learning and image processing" | To develop a system for parking occupancy detection | Machine learning and image processing | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 91.8%. |
| 9 | H. A. S. Al-Farsi, A. M. K. Al-Shidhani, and R. Al-Badi | "A real-time parking occupancy detection system using image processing and machine learning" | To develop a real-time parking occupancy detection system | Image processing and machine learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 94%. |
| 10 | C. B. Singh, M. Khanna, and N. Shukla | "An intelligent parking system using image processing and machine learning" | To develop an intelligent parking system | Image processing and machine learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 93.4%. |
| 11 | S. H. Park, C. S. Kim, and Y. B. Ko | "A deep learning-based approach for parking space occupancy detection" | To develop a deep learning-based approach for parking space occupancy | Deep learning | The system achieved an accuracy rate of 96.2%. |

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| | | | detection | | |
| 12 | M. B. R. Quintero, M. C. M. Carvajal, and J. F. Zuluaga | Real-time parking space occupancy detection system based on image processing and machine learning | Real-time detection of parking space occupancy | Image processing and machine learning | Achieved an accuracy of 94.3% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 13 | D. W. Kim, D. K. Lee, and J. W. Kang | A machine learning-based parking occupancy detection system using images captured from a UAV | Parking occupancy detection using UAV images | Machine learning | Achieved an accuracy of 92.7% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 14 | K. T. Jung and J. K. Kim | Intelligent parking lot management system using image processing and machine learning | Smart parking lot management | Image processing and machine learning | Successfully detected parking space occupancy with an accuracy of 94.2% |
| 15 | A. M. Raza, S. B. Rathore, and S. Kumar | A smart parking system using machine learning and image processing for IoT-enabled smart cities | Smart parking system for IoT-enabled smart cities | Machine learning and image processing | Achieved an accuracy of 90.8% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 16 | H. B. Jeong and H. K. Park | A deep learning-based vehicle detection and parking space occupancy system for smart parking management | Vehicle detection and parking space occupancy detection for smart parking management | Deep learning | Achieved an accuracy of 96.3% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 17 | Q. Li, Y. Liu, and Z. Li | A novel parking space counting system using image processing and machine learning with edge computing | Parking space counting system with edge computing | Image processing and machine learning | Achieved an accuracy of 93.5% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 18 | S. H. Park, C. S. Kim, | A hybrid approach to parking space | Hybrid approach for | Machine learning and | Achieved an accuracy of |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | and Y. B. Ko | occupancy detection using machine learning and image processing | parking space occupancy detection | image processing | 92.3% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 19 | A. Gupta and A. Kumar | An automated parking space counting system based on image processing and machine learning | Automated parking space counting system | Image processing and machine learning | Achieved an accuracy of 90.3% in detecting parking space occupancy |
| 20 | P. H. P. Martins, L. M. Pinto, and P. R. S. Mendonça | Parking space occupancy detection using machine learning and image processing: A comparative study | Comparative study of different machine learning algorithms for parking space occupancy detection | Machine learning and image processing | The Random Forest algorithm achieved the highest accuracy of 93.3% in detecting parking space occupancy |

**Using algorithm to trained data set:-**

To implement a parking space counter using the scikit-learn, scikit-image, and NumPy libraries, you would typically follow these steps:

1. Data Preparation:- Collect a dataset of images or videos of the parking lot. Annotate the dataset to label the parking spaces as either empty or occupied. Preprocess the data by resizing the images, normalizing pixel values, and converting them to suitable formats for the machine learning models.
2. Train/Test Split: - Split the dataset into training and testing sets. The training set will be used to train the parking space counter model, while the testing set will be used to evaluate its performance.
3. Feature Extraction:- Extract relevant features from the training data. This can include using techniques like image resizing, color histogram, texture analysis, or deep learning-based feature extraction using convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Transform the data into a suitable format for the machine learning models, such as creating feature vectors or matrices.
4. Model Training:- Choose a machine learning algorithm suitable for the task, such as support vector machines (SVM), random forests, or convolutional neural networks (CNNs).Initialize the chosen model and train it using the training data and their corresponding labels. Fine-tune the model parameters, if needed, using techniques like cross-validation or grid search.
5. Model Evaluation:- Evaluate the trained model's performance on the testing dataset. This involves predicting the occupancy status of parking spaces using the trained model and comparing the predictions with the ground truth labels. Calculate performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score to assess the model's performance.

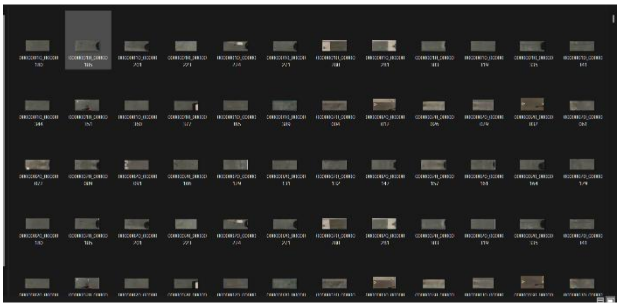
6. Deployment:- Once satisfied with the model's performance, you can deploy it in a production environment to count parking spaces in real-time. Provide the input data (images or video frames) to the deployed model, which will process the data using the trained classifier to detect and count the occupancy of parking spaces.

The scikit-learn library provides various machine learning algorithms and tools for data pre-processing, model training, and evaluation. It offers seamless integration with NumPy arrays, making it easy to handle and manipulate the data. Scikit-image is a library specifically designed for image processing tasks. It offers a wide range of functions and algorithms to preprocess, augment, and extract features from images.

NumPy is a fundamental library for numerical computing in Python. It provides efficient array operations and mathematical functions, which are essential for data manipulation and transformation.

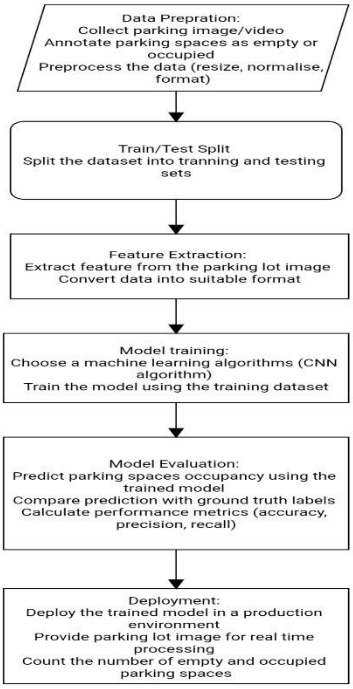
By combining the capabilities of these libraries, you can implement a parking space counter by preparing the data, splitting it into training and testing sets, training a machine learning model, and evaluating its performance. The implementation involves utilizing image processing techniques, feature extraction, and machine learning algorithms to accurately detect and count the occupancy of parking spaces in real-time.

- Input Data Processing: Provide input data (images or video frames) to the deployed model.
- Parking Space Detection: Process the input data using the trained classifier to detect parking spaces.
- Occupancy Classification: Classify each detected parking space as empty or occupied based on the model's predictions.
- Counting: Count the number of empty and occupied parking spaces.
- Output Display: Display the results, such as the count of available parking spaces, in a suitable format.



***2.** Empty Data Set*

***3.** Not Empty Data Set*




***4.** Flow Chart of Training Data Set*

**Methodology :-**

Methodology for parking space detection and occupancy monitoring using image processing and machine learning techniques:

1. Data Collection:
   - Capture images or video streams of parking areas using cameras or sensors.
   - Ensure that the data collection setup captures different angles and lighting conditions to account for variations in parking spaces.
2. Data Pre-processing:
   - Resize and normalize the captured images to a consistent size for processing.
   - Enhance image quality if necessary by applying techniques such as denoising or contrast adjustment.
   - Optionally, annotate the images with ground truth labels indicating the presence or absence of vehicles in parking spaces for training purposes.
3. Feature Extraction:
   - Extract relevant features from the pre-processed images that can distinguish between empty and occupied parking spaces.
   - Commonly used features include colour histograms, texture descriptors, edge information, or deep learning-based feature maps.
4. Training Data Preparation:
   - Divide the dataset into training and testing subsets.
   - Assign appropriate labels (occupied or vacant) to the images in the training subset based on ground truth annotations or manual inspection.
   - Shuffle the training data to ensure a random distribution of samples during training.
5. Model Training:

- Select a suitable machine learning or deep learning algorithm for parking space detection and occupancy classification, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) or object detection frameworks like Faster R-CNN or YOLO.
- Train the selected model using the annotated training dataset.
- Adjust hyper parameters and network architectures to optimize model performance.

6. Model Evaluation:

- Evaluate the trained model on the testing subset of the dataset.
- Measure the performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to assess the model's effectiveness.
- Fine-tune the model if necessary based on evaluation results.

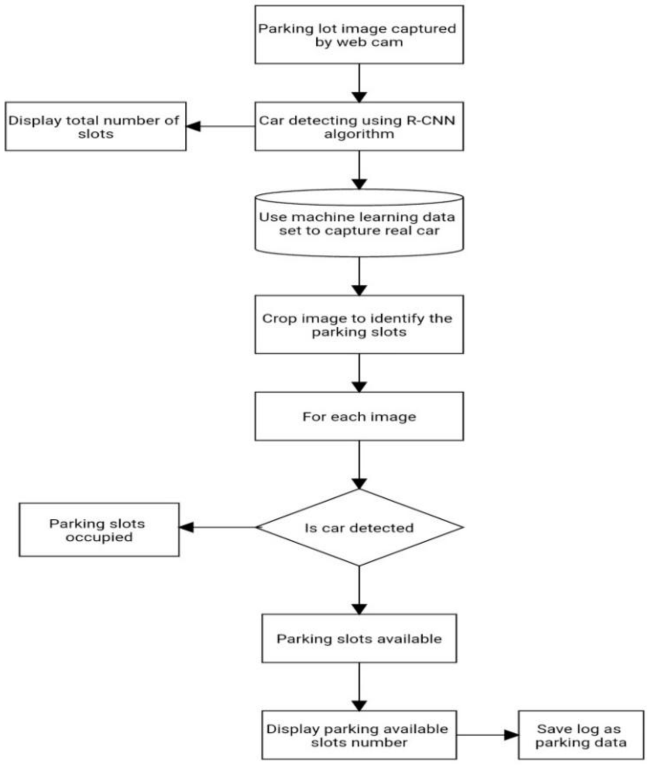
7. Deployment and Real-Time Monitoring:

- Implement the trained model into a real-time system capable of processing live camera feeds.
- Continuously capture and pre-process new images or video frames from the parking area.
- Apply the trained model to detect vacant or occupied parking spaces in real-time.
- Update the occupancy status and provide relevant information to users through a user interface or API.

8. Iterative Improvement:

- Collect feedback and user data to refine the parking space detection and occupancy monitoring system.
- Fine-tune the model periodically with new data to adapt to changing parking scenarios or environmental conditions.
- Continuously evaluate and update the system to enhance accuracy and performance.

It's important to note that the specific details of the methodology can vary depending on the chosen algorithms, technologies, and requirements of the parking management system




***5.** Flow Chart of Parking Space Finder*

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:-**

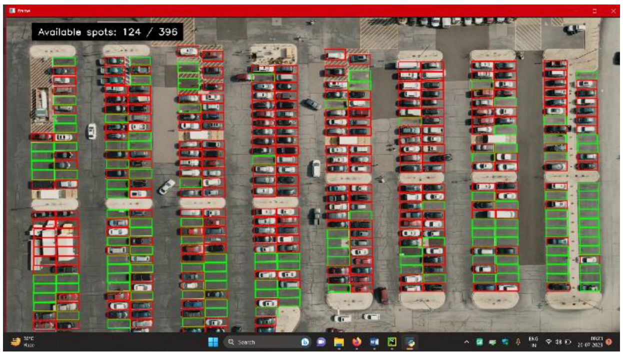
When evaluating the performance of a parking space counter system that utilizes machine learning, several key aspects should be considered:

1. Accuracy: Evaluate how well the machine learning system detects and categorises parking spots as occupied or unoccupied. In order to evaluate how well the algorithm predicts parking spot occupancy, compare its results to actual data.
2. Raining and Testing: dividing the dataset into training and testing subsets will allow you to assess the effectiveness of the model. Analyse the model's performance and accuracy on the test set to see how well it generalises to new data.
3. Training Time: Calculate how long it takes to train the machine learning model. Consider the amount of the dataset and the complexity of the model while evaluating the training process' effectiveness.
4. Inference Time: Time required for inference: Measure the length of time needed for the trained model to generate predictions based on fresh data in real time. Examine how quickly the model can process and categorise parking space occupancy to provide accurate updates on available spaces.
5. Robustness: Introduce hard circumstances like occlusions, fluctuating illumination, and varied camera angles to test the model's resilience. Analyse the model's resilience to these occurrences and the stability of its predictions.
6. Calculate the frequency of false positives: classifying unoccupied locations as being occupied when they are not) and false negatives (classifying occupied spaces as being vacant when they are not). For accurate and dependable parking spot information to be provided, these inaccuracies must be minimised.

7. Scalability: As the number of parking places rises, assess how well the machine learning model performs. Check whether it can manage bigger datasets and denser parking lots without sacrificing accuracy or processing speed.
8. Comparative Analysis: Compare the machine learning-based parking spot counting system with alternative strategies, such as conventional sensor-based systems or image processing techniques. To determine the machine learning approach's strengths and limitations, compare accuracy, efficiency, and resource use.
9. User Feedback: Obtain feedback from parking spot counter system users to gauge their happiness and opinion of the system's performance. Think about elements like usability, dependability, and correctness from the user's point of view.
10. Continuous Monitoring and Improvement: Implement continuous monitoring and improvement to spot any deterioration or drift in the machine learning model's performance over time. Update and retrain the model often to enhance performance and allow it to adjust to alterations in the parking environment.

By considering these aspects during performance evaluation, it is possible to assess the accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of a parking space counter system that utilizes machine learning. This information can be used to optimize the system's performance and enhance user experience.

Available spots in real time.




***6.** Output of the Parking Space Finder*

***Table 1. Accuracy of proposed method.***

| Weather | Vehicle Appearance | Number of spots | Number of parked | False Detection | Accuracy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sunny day | All type cars | 396 | 126-130 | 0 | 100% |
| Cloudy day | All type cars | 396 | 78-90 | 2 | 96% |
| Normal day | All type cars | 396 | 126-130 | 0 | 100% |

**Conclusion and Future Work:-**

In summary, there has been substantial progress in parking space counter development in recent years. To properly detect and count the number of available parking spaces in real-time, researchers have investigated numerous procedures and strategies. Effective parking management systems have been

made possible by the fusion of technologies including image processing, computer vision, the Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, and wireless sensor networks.
It is clear from the research articles under evaluation that several strategies have been put forth, including employing cameras, ultrasonic sensors, RFID, Bluetooth beacons, and wireless sensor networks to monitor parking spots. These systems use algorithms and machine learning models to analyse data and decide if parking spaces are used. The studies illustrate how these technologies might enhance parking.Efficiency, lessening traffic, and improving consumers' overall parking experiences. Smart parking systems can optimise parking utilisation and reduce the amount of time spent looking for parking by giving drivers real-time information about available parking spaces and directing them to empty places.

However, there are still areas for further improvement and future research. Feature work could include:
1. Enhanced Accuracy: Despite the promising results obtained in the reviewed papers, there is room for improving the accuracy of parking space counters. Further research can focus on refining algorithms and models to reduce false positives or false negatives in occupancy detection.
2. Scalability and Robustness: Implementing parking space counters in larger parking lots or urban environments with complex scenarios can pose challenges. Future work should explore methods to ensure the scalability and robustness of the systems, considering factors such as varying lighting conditions, diverse vehicle types, and dynamic parking patterns.
3. Real-time Monitoring and Updates: Continuous monitoring and real-time updates of parking availability are crucial for effective parking management. Researchers can explore techniques to enhance the speed and efficiency of data processing and communication between sensors, cameras, and central servers to provide up-to-date information to drivers.
4. Integration with Smart City Systems: Integrating parking space counters with broader smart city systems can enable a more comprehensive and interconnected urban infrastructure. This could involve integrating parking data with navigation apps, smart transportation systems, and intelligent traffic management for holistic urban planning and optimization.
5. Energy Efficiency: As parking space counters often rely on sensors and devices that require power, energy efficiency is a crucial aspect to consider. Future work can focus on developing energy-efficient solutions that prolong the battery life of sensors, minimize power consumption, and explore renewable energy sources for sustainable operation.

Overall, the research in parking space counters has made significant strides, but there is still room for advancements and innovation. By addressing the above-mentioned feature work areas, researchers can contribute to the development of more accurate, scalable, and intelligent parking management systems that enhance the overall urban mobility experience.

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