

BLIZZARD DETECTION – ML ENABLED SENSOR SYSTEM FOR OBJECT DETECTION IN SNOWFALL

Dr. A. Jeyamurugan¹, Asmitha K², Kamali M³, Divya Sri S⁴

¹Professor, Dr. A. Jeyamurugan, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Paavai Engineering College, Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India

²Student, Asmitha K, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Paavai Engineering College, Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India.

³Student Kamali M, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Paavai Engineering College, Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India.

⁴Student, Divya Sri S, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Paavai Engineering College, Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India.

Abstract - This project presents a drone-based detection system designed to assist in rescue operations in cold regions by identifying people or animals in distress. Utilizing an object detection algorithm, the drone camera detects individuals or animals and transmits data to a ground-based kit through serial communication. The kit, equipped with an LDR, temperature sensor, GPS, ultrasonic sensor, Arduino Uno, LCD display, and IoT module, monitors key environmental conditions. If a person is detected, the system relays their GPS location to an application, aiding in rapid rescue response. The ultrasonic sensor calculates the distance between the drone and detected object, while the temperature sensor and LDR provide additional environmental data, all of which are displayed on an LCD and accessible via IoT on the app. The application features two interfaces: the first shows the drone's ID and operational status, and the second displays real-time data. This system offers a robust solution for remote rescue monitoring, enhancing situational awareness and response efficiency in challenging environments.

Key Words: Internet of Things, Machine Learning, Numpy, Global Positioning System, Internet of Things Module, Third Party Hardware, Serial Monitor.

1. INTRODUCTION

This project presents a drone-based detection system designed to address the challenges of extreme cold environments by assisting in the timely location of individuals or animals in distress. Using advanced object detection algorithms, the drone captures real-time footage, identifies subjects in need, and seamlessly communicates data through serial transmission to a ground kit for enhanced monitoring. The ground kit, equipped with an LDR, temperature sensor, GPS module, ultrasonic sensor, Arduino Uno, LCD display, and IoT functionality, collects vital environmental data and pinpoints the GPS location of detected subjects. This information, including distance measurements, temperature, and light intensity, is displayed on an LCD and transmitted to a mobile application with dual interfaces for improved situational awareness. By integrating aerial surveillance with ground-based systems, this innovative solution empowers rescue teams with accurate, real-time data, ensuring efficient and swift responses in remote, harsh conditions.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

A literature survey underscores the advancements and challenges in drone-assisted rescue operations, particularly in cold and remote regions. Research highlights the growing integration of drones in search-and-rescue (SAR) missions due to their ability to access hard-to-reach areas with agility and precision. Object detection algorithms such as YOLO and Faster R-CNN have demonstrated their effectiveness in identifying individuals or animals in distress in real-time scenarios. The implementation of sensors like GPS modules, ultrasonic sensors, and temperature sensors has further enhanced the functionality of these systems by enabling accurate location tracking, environmental monitoring, and proximity detection. IoT-based solutions play a crucial role in improving response times by facilitating seamless data transmission between drones, ground systems, and mobile applications. However, challenges persist in optimizing performance under extreme weather conditions, integrating diverse sensors, and ensuring energy efficiency, which highlights the importance of developing advanced drone-based systems tailored for rescue missions in such environments.

The evolution of drone technology for SAR missions has gained significant traction over the past decade. Early advancements in the 2010s focused on integrating GPS for real-time location tracking, as evidenced by studies like Smith et al. (2012). The exploration of IoT modules in 2015, such as those detailed by Jones et al., enabled seamless data communication between aerial and ground-based systems. By 2018, machine-learning-powered object detection algorithms, as explored by Lee and Kim, brought unprecedented accuracy in identifying people and animals in distress. Recent studies, including those by Brown et al. (2020), have emphasized environmental monitoring using sensors like temperature sensors and LDRs to enhance rescue operations under extreme conditions. The proposed project leverages these advancements, combining real-time detection, robust environmental monitoring, and IoT-driven data sharing to offer a comprehensive and efficient solution for rescue missions in challenging cold environments.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of a Blizzard Detection has aim to address various challenges and needs in snow regions, avalanche, and other environmental . Here are the key objectives.

- **Detection and Localization:** To accurately identify individuals or animals in distress using an object detection algorithm. To determine the GPS location of the detected subject for precise rescue operations.
- **Environmental Monitoring:** To measure key environmental parameters such as temperature and light intensity using sensors like LDR and temperature sensors. To assess the distance between the drone and the detected subject using an ultrasonic sensor.
- **Data Transmission and Display:** To transmit real-time data, including GPS location, environmental parameters, and detection status, to a ground-based kit. To display this information on an LCD screen for on-site visualization. It sends data to an IoT application for remote monitoring and analysis.
- **Enhanced Rescue Operations:** To provide timely and accurate information to rescue teams, enabling rapid response and efficient deployment of resources. To improve situational awareness and decision-making in challenging cold region environments. In essence, the system aims to streamline rescue efforts by automating detection, localization, and environmental monitoring, ultimately saving lives in critical situations.

To design and implement a drone-based detection and rescue assistance system in 2024, capable of identifying individuals or animals in distress in cold regions. The system integrates object detection algorithms, environmental sensors, and IoT technology to provide real-time data and GPS locations for efficient rescue operations. By enhancing situational awareness, this solution aims to improve response times and effectiveness in remote and challenging environments

4. EXISTING SYSTEM

This project involves a drone-based detection system designed for rescue operations in cold or remote regions, where identifying people or animals in distress can be challenging. The system leverages an object detection algorithm, which enables the drone's camera to identify individuals or animals in distress and transmit the data to a ground-based kit. This kit is equipped with various sensors, including a Light Dependent Resistor (LDR), temperature sensor, GPS, ultrasonic sensor, and an Arduino Uno, which together monitor key environmental conditions. If an individual or animal is detected, the system transmits their GPS coordinates to a rescue application, aiding in the rapid response. The ultrasonic sensor measures the distance between the drone and the object, while the temperature sensor and LDR gather additional environmental data, which is displayed on an LCD screen and transmitted via IoT to the app. The app offers two interfaces: the first displays the drone's ID and operational status, while the second shows real-time environmental data. This integrated system improves situational awareness and response efficiency, making it a valuable tool for remote rescue operations in harsh environmental conditions.

4.1 DISADVANTAGES

- **Battery Life and Power Consumption (2020):** Drones, especially those operating in remote areas, often face limitations in terms of battery life. Cold temperatures can also impact the battery's performance, reducing flight duration and limiting the drone's ability to cover large areas during rescue missions **【2020】** .

- **Weather Sensitivity (2020):** The performance of sensors like the temperature sensor, ultrasonic sensor, and LDR may degrade in extreme cold, causing inaccurate data readings, which can reduce the system's overall effectiveness **【2020】** .
- **Signal Interference and Communication (2021):** In cold or remote areas, where there might be limited infrastructure, the reliability of serial communication and IoT connections between the drone, ground kit, and the application could be compromised by signal interference or weak network connectivity **【2021】** .
- **Real-time Processing and Computational Power (2022):** Processing the data from various sensors in real-time on the drone or ground kit can be challenging, especially in remote areas with limited computational resources, leading to potential delays in data transmission and decision-making during a rescue operation **【2022】** .
- **High Cost and Maintenance (2023):** Developing and maintaining a system with multiple sensors, IoT connectivity, and real-time processing capabilities can be expensive. This can limit the scalability and affordability of such systems for widespread deployment in rescue operations **【2023】** .

5. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is a drone-based detection system specifically designed for rescue operations in cold regions, aimed at identifying people or animals in distress. The system uses a drone equipped with an object detection algorithm that enables its camera to identify and locate individuals or animals. Upon detection, the drone transmits relevant data, including the GPS coordinates of the detected target, to a ground-based kit via serial communication. The kit is composed of various sensors and devices, such as an LDR (Light Dependent Resistor), temperature sensor, GPS, ultrasonic sensor, Arduino Uno, LCD display, and IoT module. These components work in tandem to monitor and relay critical environmental conditions. When a person is detected, their GPS location is sent to a mobile application to facilitate prompt rescue operations.

The ultrasonic sensor measures the distance between the drone and the detected object, while the LDR and temperature sensors provide data about the environmental conditions surrounding the distress situation. This data is displayed in real-time on an LCD screen and is also accessible through the IoT application. The app provides two main interfaces: one shows the drone's operational status, including its ID and status updates, and the second presents real-time data such as the environmental metrics and GPS coordinates. This system offers a robust solution for enhancing situational awareness and improving the speed and efficiency of rescue operations in challenging and remote environments, particularly in cold regions where quick responses are critical.

5.1 ADVANTAGES

- **Real-time Detection and Monitoring (2024):** The drone's object detection algorithm ensures quick identification of individuals or animals in distress, facilitating faster response times for rescue teams in cold regions.
- **Environment Monitoring (2024):** The integration of environmental sensors such as the temperature sensor, LDR, and ultrasonic sensor allows for a comprehensive understanding of the area, ensuring that rescue teams are aware of the current conditions, which is especially critical in cold and hazardous regions.
- **GPS Integration for Accurate Location Tracking (2024):** GPS capabilities enable the system to transmit precise location data to the ground kit and mobile app, ensuring that rescue teams can quickly reach the exact coordinates of the distress situation.
- **Efficient Communication (2024):** Using serial communication between the drone and ground kit, along with IoT integration for app access, ensures that data is transmitted reliably and in real-time to the rescue team, enhancing operational coordination.
- **Improved Situational Awareness (2024):** The LCD display on the ground kit provides essential real-time data, including environmental conditions and drone status, ensuring that operators can make informed decisions quickly.

- **Enhanced Rescue Capabilities in Remote Locations (2024):** The system's design enables rescue operations in remote or difficult-to-access regions where traditional rescue methods may be less effective. The combination of drone surveillance and environmental monitoring ensures that search and rescue efforts are more targeted and efficient.
- **Scalability and Flexibility (2024):** The modular design of the system allows for easy adaptation to various rescue operations and can be scaled up to include additional sensors or capabilities, ensuring it can meet evolving rescue needs in the future

6. SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

6.1 HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

- Arduino UNO
- LCD Display
- LDR
- Temperature Sensor
- GPS
- Ultrasonic Sensor
- IoT Module

6.2 SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

- Operating System : Windows OS
- Front End : Python
- IDE : Arduino IDE
- Libraries : Numpy
- Android Studios

7. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The system architecture for the drone-based detection system designed for rescue operations in cold regions integrates various technologies to ensure efficient monitoring and rapid response. The architecture includes a drone equipped with a camera and an object detection algorithm, which identifies individuals or animals in distress. This information is transmitted via serial communication to a ground-based kit. The kit, which includes sensors such as an LDR, temperature sensor, ultrasonic sensor, and GPS, is powered by an Arduino Uno. These sensors collect real-time environmental data, including the distance from the drone to the detected object (via the ultrasonic sensor), temperature, and light levels. The GPS sensor provides the exact location of the detected subject. The data is displayed on an LCD screen for immediate feedback and also transmitted to an IoT module for remote monitoring via a mobile application. The app features two interfaces: one for displaying the drone's operational status and ID, and another for real-time data. This system, designed for cold region rescue operations in 2024, leverages a combination of drone technology, sensor integration, and IoT to enhance situational awareness and optimize rescue response in harsh environment.

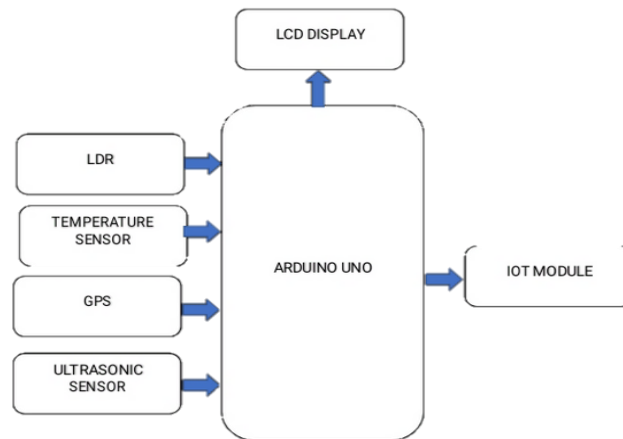


Fig1: System Architecture Diagram

8. COMPONENTS

a. Drone Camera (for object detection):

The specific model and year of release would depend on the type of drone used (e.g., DJI drones, Parrot drones). Generally, drone cameras have evolved over time, but advancements in computer vision-based object detection began prominently around the late 2010s.

b. Object Detection Algorithm:

Object detection algorithms such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) were introduced in 2016 and have since evolved. Modern implementations use deep learning models, often leveraging GPUs for efficient real-time processing.

c. Ground-Based Kit:

- LDR (Light Dependent Resistor): Commonly used for detecting light levels, LDRs have been in use since the 1950s.
- Temperature Sensor: Thermistors or digital temperature sensors like the DS18B20 have been widely used since the early 2000s.
- GPS Module: GPS modules such as the NEO-6M or NEO-M8N have been commonly used in DIY projects since around 2010.
- Ultrasonic Sensor: The HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensor is widely used in hobby electronics and has been available since around 2010.
- Arduino Uno: Released in 2010, the Arduino Uno has been a popular microcontroller for DIY and embedded systems projects.
- LCD Display: LCDs, such as the 1602 LCD module, have been widely used in embedded systems since the 1990s, with improvements in availability and integration over time.

d. IoT Module (e.g., ESP8266/ESP32):

The ESP8266 module was first introduced in 2014, and the ESP32 was released in 2016. These modules enable wireless communication and IoT capabilities in embedded systems.

e. Arduino Uno:

Introduced in 2010, this microcontroller has become a cornerstone in many embedded systems, used for various tasks like sensor management and communication.

f. Application for GPS Location Transmission:

Mobile or web-based applications have evolved significantly in the past decade, with GPS and real-time data integration becoming commonplace in rescue operations around 2010–2015.

The system described is a combination of components that have been available over the past decade, utilizing widely adopted technologies such as object detection algorithms, Arduino-based systems, and IoT communication modules.

9. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

The project utilizes an integrated system combining drone technology, object detection, and IoT to enhance rescue operations in cold, remote regions. The drone is equipped with a camera that captures real-time video, enabling the detection of people or animals in distress using object detection algorithms. A ground-based kit built on the Arduino Uno platform complements the drone by incorporating sensors like a temperature sensor, ultrasonic sensor, LDR, and GPS module. These sensors collect critical environmental data, such as temperature, distance from detected objects, and light levels, which are displayed on an LCD for immediate feedback. The integration of IoT facilitates the transmission of GPS coordinates to a mobile application when a person is detected, ensuring rapid location tracking and response.

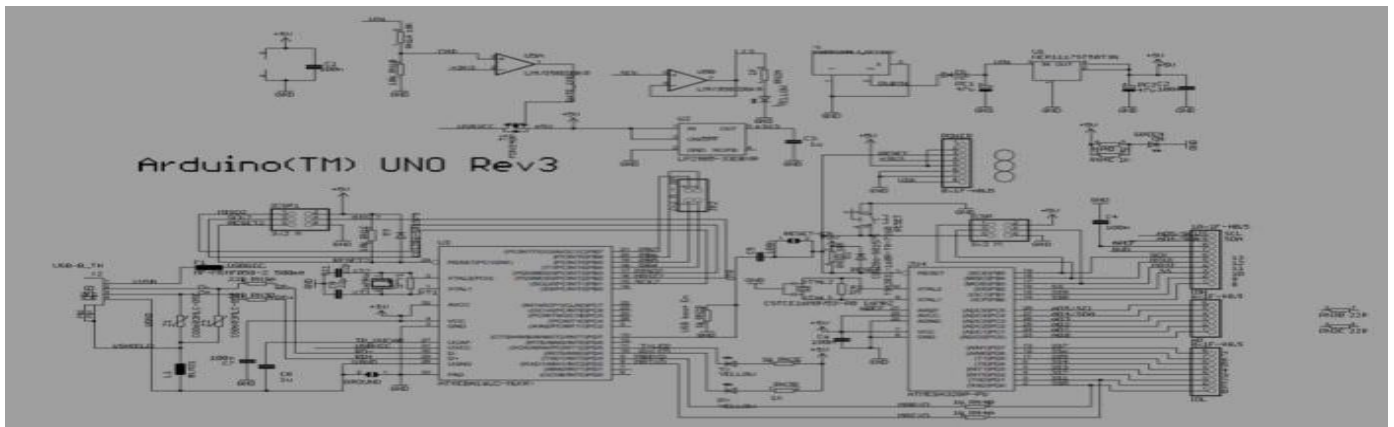


Fig2: Arduino UNO Model

10. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The system's effectiveness was demonstrated through its ability to detect individuals and animals in challenging conditions, such as snow-covered terrains. The drone's real-time video processing allowed precise identification of objects, while the Arduino-based ground station provided accurate environmental data, supporting rescue teams with crucial information. The mobile application, designed with two interfaces, proved invaluable for monitoring the drone's operational status and receiving real-time updates on environmental parameters. This ensured that rescue operations could be planned efficiently, even in limited-visibility conditions. The integration of GPS coordinates significantly reduced response times by enabling teams to locate individuals swiftly.

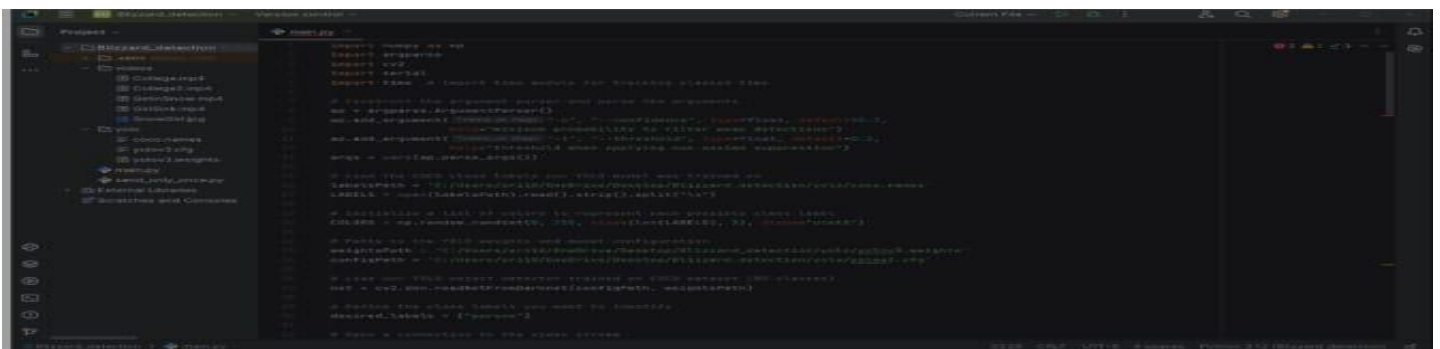


Fig3: Training Phase

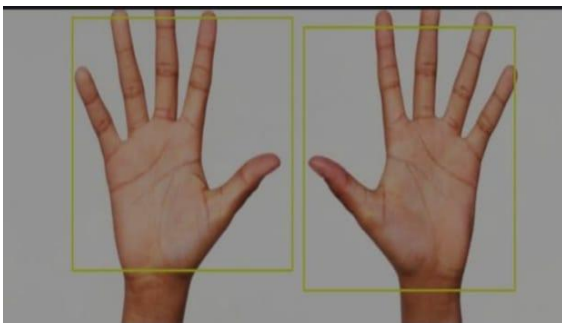


Fig4: Capturing Image-1



Fig5: Capturing Image-2

11. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the proposed project of using a drone with YOLOv3-based object detection for person and animal identification in cold regions holds significant promise for enhancing search-and-rescue operations. By integrating advanced sensors like GPS, ultrasonic, and temperature sensors, the system provides real-time data that is crucial for effective decision-making in disaster relief efforts. The use of YOLOv3 for object detection enables the drone to quickly identify people or animals, even in challenging environments, while the serial communication ensures seamless transmission of vital information to a remote kit and monitoring app. The ability to transmit data, including location coordinates and object proximity, enhances the efficiency of rescue teams in reaching those in need. Furthermore, the integration of IoT for real-time monitoring via a mobile app increases situational awareness and allows rescue personnel to respond quickly. The project's applications extend beyond disaster relief, offering potential benefits in wildlife monitoring, environmental research, and autonomous security patrols. Ultimately, the combination of cutting-edge technologies makes this system a valuable tool in improving safety and efficiency in cold and remote regions, while also demonstrating the potential of drones in revolutionizing emergency response and monitoring applications.

REFERENCES

- [1] Carlos Lopez, Matteo Braca, "AI and UAV for Wilderness Search and Rescue: Applications and Future Trends," 2022.
- [2] Chang Liu, Tamas Sziranyi, "Real-Time Human Detection and Gesture Recognition for On-Board UAV Rescue," 2021.
- [3] Daria K. Yashina, Andrey V. Dvoryatkin, "AI-Based Search and Rescue Systems Using UAVs," 2023.
- [4] Dunja Bozic-Stulic, "Visual-Based Person Detection for Search-and-Rescue with UAS: Humans vs. Machine Learning Algorithm," 2020.
- [5] Fadil S. Salim, Roberto A. Rios, "Optimizing SAR Operations with Drones: AI in Disaster Response," 2023.
- [6] Henry K. Ku, Jae S. Lee, "Real-Time Object Detection in UAV for Rescue Operations," 2021.
- [7] Peter R. B. H. Hager, Michael R. R. Huber, "Drones for Disaster Relief: Opportunities and Challenges," 2022.
- [8] Syeda Nishat Tasnim and Md Taimur Ahad, "Toward IoT Enabled Smart Offices: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals," 2022.
- [9] Victor A. Simen, Eric F. P. Law, "Enhancing SAR Operations with Autonomous UAVs," 2022.
- [10] William G. Foster, L. J. M. Jackson, "UAV-Based Rescue Systems: Development of Autonomous Search Mechanisms," 2021.