# Performance Analysis of an Embedded System for Target Detection in Smart Crosswalks using Machine Learning

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Abstract: Embedded systems with low computing resources for artificial intelligence are being a key piece for the deployment of the Internet of Things in different areas as energy efficiency, agriculture or water monitoring, amid others. This paper carries out a study of the computational performance of a smart road detection and signalling system. To this end, the implementation methodology from Matlab<sup>®</sup> to C++ of a one-class SVM classifier with two pattern analysis strategies based on RADAR signals and RAW data is described. As a result, we found a balance between AUC, RAM consumption, processing time and power consumption for a Teensy 4.1 microcontroller with STFT and the fitcsvm2 algorithm versus other hardware options such as an I7-3770K processor, Raspberry Pi Zero and Teensy 3.6.

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, there has been a boom of the Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which are embedded systems that incorporate specific software to work in different fields of application (Zanella, 2014). These areas include energy efficiency (Alowaidi, 2022), agriculture (Rahman, 2022) or water treatment monitoring (Sugamar, 2021) among others.

The increasing improvement of IoT devices has made it possible to include machine learning (ML) algorithms in control units with scarce computational resources, such as microcontrollers (Gopinath, 2019). As an example, a comparison of machine learning techniques was carried out to minimize water loss during irrigation operations (Amassmir, 2022). In this work, Raspberry Pi 3 is used as a control unit in which an artificial neural network (ANN) was the technique that offered the best performance. Another work includes the use of support vector machines (SVM) to detect cardiac anomalies in patients through characteristics extracted from a fast Fourier transform

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(FFT). In this case, a 32-bit microcontroller system was used to implement the machine learning technique, achieving an accuracy of up to 95.68% (Raj, 2020). There are also cases in the field of road safety where a solution for accident detection and classification alerts emergency systems based on the severity of the accident (Balfaqih, 2022). For this, the techniques named Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM) and Classification and Regression Trees (CART) were integrated into an Arduino Mega. Other work proposed the use of ML techniques to detect anomalies in traffic data to dynamically regulate road signs. This solution was implemented on Raspberry Pi 3 (Sankaranarayanan, 2019).

This paper describes an improvement of a road detection and signalling system aimed at distinguishing road targets through sensory fusion and fuzzy logic (Lozano Domínguez, 2018). Specifically, when a pedestrian is detected on a crosswalk, the system generates visual cues that alert drivers to stop their vehicle safely. With this purpose, another approach for target detection using RADAR

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sensors and signal analysis applying Short Time Fourier Transform (STFT) on a PC was investigated (Domínguez, 2020). Furthermore, a vehicle detection system based on ML techniques was tested for a smart pedestrian crosswalk (Lozano Domínguez, 2021). The current work aims to combine the previous works on STFT analysis and vehicle detection to apply them to an embedded system focused on discerning pedestrians by detecting signal patterns through ML techniques. The goal here is to validate a generic methodology —without a domain-specific language as in (Gopinath, 2019)— to implement ML algorithms in a constrained microcontroller while performing more costly pre-processing tasks (i.e., STFT) than the classification task itself. To do this, the paper presents the implementation of several ML techniques in an embedded system with a greater limitation of RAM memory, CPU speed and power consumption than other state-of-the-art solutions based on Raspberry Pi or FPGA.

This manuscript has been structured as follows: Section 2 describes the hardware and software of the embedded system implemented to classify pedestrians. Section 3 presents the ML algorithm used, the implementation into a microcontroller and the experimentation carried out. Finally, Section 4 highlights the conclusions and future work.

# **2** SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

This section describes the main hardware components, the AI techniques applied to detect different targets and, finally, the methodology followed to extract a ML model and translate it into C++ code to be interpreted by a microcontroller unit.

#### 2.1 Hardware Components

The road signalling system is made up of a set of intelligent nodes ubicated in the limits of a crosswalk, each one covering an area (Fig. 1). The nodes integrate sensors facing the inner and outer faces of the crosswalk to detect nearby objects. A trafficoriented illumination is activated when pedestrians are detected in the zebra crossing. Then, the detector node handles the communication with the rest of the network to synchronize the flashing lights and thus improve road safety.

Each node integrates a microcontroller, wireless communication, sensors, signalling and power unit. We selected a Teensy 4.1 device to analyse data sensor periodically collected, identify the target type and activate the signalling unit when necessary. The latter is composed by four high brightness white LEDs oriented to oncoming drivers (Lumileds L128-5070HA) and one amber LED oriented to pedestrians (Lumileds L128-PCA12500000). The sequence and brightness of the LEDs is controlled with a blinking pattern through pulse width modulation (PWM). The communication unit is implemented with a Microchip ATSAMR21B18 device compliant with the IEEE 802.15.4 standard in an effort to save energy. The detection unit combines Doppler RADARs and a magnetic sensor. To this end, we selected two RFbeam Microwave GmbH K-LD7 devices in the 24GHz band, one oriented to detect bicycles and cars, and the other oriented to detect pedestrians. Moreover, a STMicroelectronics LIS3MDL magnetic sensor is used to complementarily detect the presence of vehicles. Finally, the power unit supplies energy to the system through а Texas Instruments BQ25895RTWR charger connected to a set of solar panels and Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries.



Figure 1: Overall diagram of the smart crosswalk.

## 2.2 Software Description

To detect and distinguish between vehicles and pedestrians on a crosswalk, the developed software follows the data flow described in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Software system structure.

The RADARs provide an I/Q signal containing the speed and pattern information of the targets in relation to their Doppler frequency. The control unit processes this signal through the STFT, which allows performing a spectral analysis of the signal. The signal pattern is used to feed the characteristics of the ML algorithm and identify different targets such a walking person or a vehicle (Domínguez, 2020). To this end, the system merges data generated in the different sensors in a sensory fusion process. On the one hand, the one-class support vector machine (SVM) has been implemented to process data from the RADARs, separately. On the other hand, a fuzzy logic process has been developed to analyse the magnetic sensor data. This estimates the presence of vehicles depending on detected perturbations and can be auto calibrated to detect even stopped vehicles. In this way, when the one-class SVM determines the presence of a pedestrian on the crosswalk and the diffuse vehicle detector does not detect the presence of vehicles, the system takes a decision through a hierarchical classifier based on traditional logic. In this way, the entire system activates the signalling units in the presence of pedestrians in the vicinity of the crosswalk. In this section, the details related to the AI techniques used in the system will be exposed.

#### 2.2.1 Implementation of Fuzzy Logic to Detect Vehicles

The block called "Fuzzy vehicle detector" is used to determine the presence or absence of vehicles around a crosswalk by changes in the magnetic field. These perturbations are produced due to the presence of ferromagnetic elements in vehicles, whose values are measured on the X, Y, and Z axes. The vehicle detector block is a Mamdani-type fuzzy rule-based controller with classification norms such as "If  $X_1$  is  $A_1$  and ... Xn is Xn, then Y is B" (Mamdani, 1977). Both, the predictor and output variables have been established by an expert system. To this end, we used trapezoidal functions to establish the membership of a fuzzy set since the adequacy to the data model is correct and computationally simple. In addition, the conjunction and implication operators used the minimum T-norm (Aliev, 2013). The defuzzification process uses the FITA method (i.e., First Inter, Then Aggregate) in contrast to the less consistent FATI method (Ibrahim, 2004). The process also used the MVP weighting method (Buckley, 1994).

The vehicle detector has three inputs (i.e., one per axis) with three tags named Changea, NoChangea and ChangeNa, where  $\alpha$  means the corresponding axis. NoChangea stands for the value of the magnetic field during the idle state of the sensor, while Changea and ChangeNa mean a magnetic field variation below and above the idle state, respectively. The output of the magnetic controller ranges between 0-1 to indicate absence or presence of vehicles close to a crosswalk (i.e., No and Yes). The rules base and tags of the magnetic controller were experimentally stablished by the expert system as shown in Table 1. Accordingly, it was established that a variation of the idle state of the magnetic sensor in at least 2/3 of its axes indicates the presence of vehicles circulating on the crosswalk. In another case, this means that the vehicles do not exist.

In addition to the fuzzy rule base, a logic that takes the last five results of the magnetic controller is considered. If one of these five values exceeds the threshold of belonging to the vehicle set called "Yes" above 0.5, the presence of a vehicle is determined. Said logic also considers that, if after a minute in which the values of the vehicle presence are detected continuously, the diffuse labels of the magnetic sensor are recalibrated because this may be caused by a vehicle parked near the crosswalk. This approach has been implemented directly in C++ through classes and interfaces.

Table 1: Rule base for the magnetic fuzzy controller.

| Label x-axis | Label y-axis | Label z-axis | Vehicle |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| NoChangeX    | NoChangeY    | NoChangeZ    | No      |
| NoChangeX    | NoChange     | ChangeNZ     | No      |
| NoChangeX    | NoChangeY    | NoChangeZ    | No      |
| NoChangeX    | ChangeNY     | NoChangeZ    | No      |
| NoChangeX    | ChangeNY     | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| NoChangeX    | ChangeNY     | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| NoChangeX    | ChangeY      | NoChangeZ    | No      |
| NoChangeX    | ChangeY      | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| NoChangeX    | ChangeY      | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | NoChangeY    | NoChangeZ    | No      |
| ChangeNX     | NoChange     | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | NoChangeY    | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | ChangeNY     | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | ChangeNY     | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | ChangeNY     | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | ChangeY      | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | ChangeY      | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| ChangeNX     | ChangeY      | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | NoChangeY    | NoChangeZ    | No      |
| ChangeX      | NoChange     | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | NoChangeY    | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | ChangeNY     | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | ChangeNY     | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | ChangeNY     | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | ChangeY      | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | ChangeY      | ChangeNZ     | Yes     |
| ChangeX      | ChangeY      | NoChangeZ    | Yes     |

#### 2.2.2 Implementation of One-class to Detect Pedestrians

One-class SVM is an unsupervised ML technique that has been implemented in Matlab® with the "fitcsvm" library. This technique allows detecting outliers or anomalies in the analyzed data, as well as training with only one target class that, in our case, it would be pedestrians. In this way, pedestrians are the targets of the main class while vehicles and the idle state are considered outliers. This approach has been preferred because the only targets that should generate a light alert are pedestrians, whilst any target that does not have the characteristics of a pedestrian will not cause an activation. The main advantage of this ML technique over others is that only the "pedestrian" class needs to be known to be trained. Furthermore, it offers good handling of unbalanced classes and is very sensitive to outliers. On the contrary, it requires a good selection of hyperparameters and kernels by the expert system (Singla, 2020).

#### 2.3 Conversion from Matlab to C++

This section describes the steps followed to export the ML model generated after training the algorithm from Matlab<sup>®</sup> to C++ code. The process is summarized in Figure 3. The C++ language has been selected because it is the one used in the integrated development environment (IDE) to generate the binary code of the control unit used (i.e., Teensy 4.1). The procedure followed has been: *i*) generate a Matlab<sup>®</sup> script with the necessary functions for the execution of the program; *ii*) configure the Matlab Coder tool to generate the code optimally; and *iii*) perform an optimization of both the variables and the code autogenerated by Matlab<sup>®</sup>.



Figure 3: Code conversion procedure.

Firstly, the script to be created in Matlab<sup>®</sup> must contain the same number of inputs as those used by the ML model, as well as specify the processing of these inputs, if any. On the one hand, it is necessary to specify that the model must be loaded through the "loadLearnerForCoder" function, which allows generating the automatic learning models in C/C++ code. On the other hand, the "predict" function must be used to obtain the classifier's prediction based on the inputs (i.e., features obtained from the normalized STFT). Finally, the output generated by the model must also be added (i.e., pedestrian presence). The script used can be seen in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: Function to generate the ML model.

function output= classifyRadarSVM(inputs)
 Mdl = loadLearnerForCoder('Model Name');
 output= predict(Mdl,X);
end

Second, the Matlab Coder tool is required to generate the C/C++ code from the previously described script. This tool allows selecting whether the source code to be generated will be C or C++, define the name of the interfaces and select the hardware on which the code is going to be executed to optimize it. In the present case, none has been selected in "Hardware Board" and then it has been indicated that the microcontroller belongs to the ARM Cortex-M family (Figure 4). Furthermore, it has been indicated in the tool configuration that the OpenMP library cannot be used, since our microcontroller only has one processing thread.

| Build type:       |           | Source Code                   | •           |  |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Output file name: |           | classifyRadarSVM              |             |  |
| Language          |           | OC                            |             |  |
| Interface style   |           | O Functions   Methods         |             |  |
| C++ interface cla | ss name   | interface_classifyRadarSVM    |             |  |
| Hardware Board    | None - 1  | Select device below           | •           |  |
| Device            | ARM Co    | ompatible   ARM Cortex-M      |             |  |
|                   |           | Device vendor                 | Device type |  |
| Toolchain Autor   | natically | locate an installed toolchain | ~           |  |
|                   |           |                               |             |  |
| More Settin       | ngs       |                               | 🛗 Generate  |  |

Figure 4: Matlab Coder configuration.

Finally, an optimization of the libraries generated by this tool was performed to adapt them to the hardware used and reduce the space occupied in memory. For this, the code has been analyzed in search of possible duplications of temporary variables in memory. Furthermore, it has been sought that those variables initialized in their declaration remain resident in memory to avoid copy operations during periodic execution. The variables most frequently accessed have been allocated in the fastest memory areas. The optimized code is included in the project as part of a functional module, which is called periodically to classify the RADAR signal.

## **3 EXPERIMENTATION**

The K-LD7 sensor provides two types of signals. On the one hand, PDAT provides an array of RAW data with the speed, angle, distance and magnitude of the targets detected. On the other hand, the RADAR provides the I/Q signal to be later processed to obtain identifying characteristics of the targets. Accordingly, this section will detail the steps followed to process the I/Q signal as the main method to obtain additional features to those provided by the PDAT signal.

### 3.1 Data Pre-processing

The process begins by acquiring the A1 signal from the K-LD7 sensor, which refers to the signal reflected by frequency A of the RADAR received at antenna 1. Signal A1 is a composite I/Q signal (i.e., "in phase" and "in quadrature"), thus standing for the real and imaginary values conforming the signal. These signals are obtained in sets of 256 values taken with a sampling frequency of 1100 Hz. To do this, the RADAR query period was set to 240ms so that it was the minimum time needed to store and communicate a 256-value sample (see actual CPU usage in Tables 5 and 6). Once the signals are obtained, they are normalized separately using the Min-Max method since it is a suitable method to be the training base for ML algorithms (Al Shalabi, 2006). This process is depicted in Figure 5.



Figure 5: I/Q signal acquisition process.

To obtain the data to train and test the classifiers, an outdoor setup where the RADAR captured several scenes involving vehicles and pedestrians was established. These included vehicles approaching, moving away, stopping and starting, as well as individuals, groups of people, pedestrians with pets, cyclists and scooter users. Figure 6 details the steps followed to process each of the scenes. Each one is made up of 25 consecutive RADAR acquisitions, giving us a total of 6400 samples per scene. Subsequently, the real and imaginary parts of the signal were processed by means of the STFT. Specifically, we applied a sample rate of 1100 Hz, a Kaiser-type window, an overlap length of 200 values and an FFT size of 512 points. Then, it was divided into chunks made up of the same number of points. Each one of these pieces are the minimum units to be classified. That is, the labels of the classification process will be assigned to these pieces and not to each one of the samples that form them.

Preliminary tests were carried out to obtain the minimum cut-off size that optimizes the classification results in relation to the space used to store the signal. Amid different sizes (i.e., from 256 to 8192 values), it was found that the best results were achieved with 512 values, whilst sizes greater than 2048 were discarded due to hardware restrictions. In addition, and in order not to lose the temporal evolution of the signal, it was decided to chop the signal with an offset of 128 values. Therefore, each of the scenes is divided into 50 pieces.



Figure 6: Overview of a scene processing.

The next step was to characterize each of the pieces obtained. For each one, 20 features were obtained based on simple statistical calculations such as the mean value, variance, difference between the maximum and minimum value, median or the kurtosis value. Finally, the feature values were normalized by the Euclidean norm (i.e., 2-norm). Table 2 shows the whole list of features.

Once the scenes were characterized, the next step was their labelling by a group of experts. As said before, each piece is labelled independently. The strategy followed by the experts was to assign the target label –represented by 1– when the crosswalk must light up the LEDs and the outlier label – represented by 0– in other cases. For the experiments performed in this paper, a total of 81 scenes were defined resulting in a total of 4050 labelled chunks.

Table 2: Features applied to extract the STFT pattern.

| Features #1-10          | Features #11-20             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| mean(sliceVec);         | median(sliceVec)            |
| mean(sliceVec.^2)       | mean(std(slice,0,1)         |
| mean(sliceVec.^3)       | std(mean(slice,1))          |
| mean(sliceVec.^4)       | std(std(slice))             |
| std(sliceVec);          | std(std(slice,0,1))         |
| skewness(sliceVec);     | mean(std(slice,0,2)         |
| kurtosis(sliceVec);     | std(mean(slice,2))          |
| quantile(sliceVec,0.25) | std(std(slice))             |
| quantile(sliceVec,0.50) | std(std(slice,0,2))         |
| quantile(sliceVec,0.75) | max(sliceVec)-min(sliceVec) |

### 3.2 Parameter Settings and Learning Outcomes

Two different datasets were used to study the behaviour of the one-class SVM classifier. The first one was formed by the data obtained from the PDAT signal and the second one by the data obtained after processing the I/Q signals (see Section 3.1). The one-class SVM classifier used in this paper applies the radial basis kernel, find a scale value for the kernel function and standardize the predictors. These values were not tuned because, apart from being far from the goals of this paper, very promising results were obtained. In addition to the one-class SVM classifier, we tested other one-class classifiers provided by the ddtools library as well as bi-class classifiers such as TreeBagger or Random Forest (RF). As mentioned before, the default parameters were used in all cases.

The cross-validation method was used to evaluate the classifier process. Table 3 summarises the results obtained with I/Q signals for which the AUC reached quite high scores. Note that this table does not contain the results obtained with the PDAT signal as they were quite poor. The classifier was not able to distinguish whether the object passing in front of the RADAR was vehicle or pedestrian. Therefore, the classifier suffered from over-fitting which caused continuous false positives.

We found that the two one-class SVM versions can achieve higher AUC than the two-class classifiers without using outliers in the training process. The difference between fitcsvm1 and fitcsvm2 is that the latter assumes that 5% of the observations are outliers. Moreover, the values they achieved are much better than the rest of the one-class classifiers. It should be highlighted that these results are penalised too much as we have not considered the delays in the prediction. That is, the experts labelled each of the 6,400 samples per scene indicating the exact moment at which the LEDs should light up. Instead, the classifier works on chunks of 512 samples labelled as a whole. Besides, the criteria followed by the experts were not the same due to human interpretation. Therefore, the exact moment in which the LEDs had to be turned on could be different depending on the expert who labelled the samples. As a result, the AUC values tend to 1 as the presence of a pedestrian becomes more evident after successive time intervals (i.e., 512-value samples shifted 256 values).

Table 3: One-class classifier results.

| Algorithm  | ACC   | Recall | Specif. | AUC   |
|------------|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| fitcsvm1   | 0.951 | 0.961  | 0.886   | 0.924 |
| fitcsvm2   | 0.912 | 0.914  | 0.96    | 0.937 |
| kcenter    | 0.117 | 0.655  | 0.105   | 0.38  |
| kmeans     | 0.117 | 0.656  | 0.105   | 0.38  |
| TreeBagger | 0.965 | 0.978  | 0.86    | 0.919 |
| RF         | 0.948 | 0.956  | 0.850   | 0.903 |

### 3.3 Results and Discussion

Teensy 4.1 was the microcontroller selected to comply with the system requirements (i.e., acceptable consumption, enough memory RAM to run code and high processing speed to provide real-time responses). In addition to the algorithms explained, Teensy 4.1 executes a main code to handle data collection, wireless synchronization, and lighting control. All modules are subject to significant time restrictions. On the one hand, the main control code and the Fuzzy algorithm takes +100KB of RAM. On the other hand, the one-class SVM algorithm is the most memory demanding with +400KB of RAM. The whole code is allocated in the RAM1 bank, which is accessed as tightly coupled memory for maximum performance. The RAM2 bank -or PSRAM- could be used to extend the main memory requirements. Accordingly, the memory regions of Teensy 4.1 for STFT are shown in Table 4. In contrast, the one-class SVM classifier developed for the PDAT signal has greater memory footprint. After a code optimization process, the memory footprint was reduced by 40%.

Moreover, the system must respond in a short time. Hence, the processing of incoming data from the RADAR through STFT and the one-class SVM classifier is crucial for the system latency. In our solution, the choice of Teensy 4.1 has been the key to speed up this process compared to other microcontroller options. Table 5 shows the processing time for the RADAR I/Q signals with different hardware approaches.

| Usage for STFT | Usage for PDAT                           |
|----------------|--|
| 500/512 KB     | 504/512 KB                               |
| Free/512 KB    | 185/512 KB                               |
| 263/8192 KB    | 561/8192 KB                              |
| Free/16384 KB  | Free/16384 KB                            |
|                | 500/512 KB<br>Free/512 KB<br>263/8192 KB |

Table 4: Usage of memory regions in Teensy 4.1.

Both the STFT and the one-class SVM classifier use double precision (64 bit), so that the 32-bit floating point math unit of the Teensy 3.6 does not achieve an adequate performance. In contrast, the 64/32-bit floating point math unit of Teensy 4.1 can process these algorithms much faster. Furthermore, Teensy 3.6 cannot allocate all variables in RAM, so it must use slower memories. Nevertheless, Teensy 4.1 can easily work with its tightly coupled memory (i.e., ITCM and DTCM). For this reason, we support choosing the Teensy 4.1 device for our system over other hardware options.

As an alternative approach to improve the system latency, we applied the RAW data from PDAT to feed the one-class SVM classifier. Table 5 shows the processing time for this approach where it can be compared how the processing times of the PDAT signal are lower than for the STFT.

Table 5: Comparison of total processing times for the implemented approaches.

| Proc. unit                   | STFT Proc. | PDAT Proc. |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| I7-3770K @3.9MHz             | 6.2 ms     | 2 ms       |
| Raspberry Pi Zero<br>2W@1GHz | 48 ms      | 4.6 ms     |
| Teensy 4.1 @600Mhz           | 31 ms      | 4 ms       |
| Teensy 4.1 @396Mhz           | 47 ms      | 6 ms       |
| Teensy 4.1 @150Mhz           | 124 ms     | 16 ms      |
| Teensy 3.6 @180Mhz           | 580 ms     | 100 ms     |

We selected the one-class SVM algorithm to treat the signal signature from the STFT vs the PDAT strategy since the AUC and memory usage weighed more in the decision. We further tested different versions of the one-class SVM algorithm to validate the system (see Table 6). Although an OS-based computer implementation could presumably be faster, it was shown to have no significant improvement in processing time over code executed directly on microcontrollers.

| Proc. unit                   | Proc.<br>time (1) | Proc.<br>time (2) | Proc.<br>time (3) |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 17-3770K<br>@3.9MHz          | 4.6 ms            | 5.8 ms            | 6.2 ms            |
| Raspberry Pi Zero<br>2W@1GHz | 34.7 ms           | 45 ms             | 48 ms             |
| Teensy 4.1<br>@600Mhz        | 13 ms             | 15 ms             | 31 ms             |
| Teensy 4.1<br>@396Mhz        | 20 ms             | 23 ms             | 47 ms             |
| Teensy 4.1<br>@150Mhz        | 51 ms             | 59 ms             | 124 ms            |
| Teensy 3.6<br>@180Mhz        | 233 ms            | 270 ms            | 580 ms            |

(1) STFT with preliminary data collected; (2) STFT with new data collected and manual labelling process; (3) STFT with data collected in other orientations and manual labelling process

Finally, the strategy to be chosen had to satisfy an energy consumption limit for the autonomous road signalling system. To do this, the consumption was analysed in a fully operational node, powering all its elements. The RADAR was set to detect targets moving up to 50 km/h and Teensy 4.1 was tested with different working frequencies. Table 7 shows the power consumption of the described device. To put the consumption in context, Raspberry Pi Zero reaches 1.4W running the one-class SVM algorithm for the STFT, while the I7-3770K processor can typically reach 80W only in idle.

Table 7: Consumption for one-class SVM with STFT.

| Running frequency  | Current at 3.85V |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Teensy 4.1 @600Mhz | 220mA            |
| Teensy 4.1 @396Mhz | 170mA            |
| Teensy 4.1 @150Mhz | 140mA            |

## **4** CONCLUSIONS

Smart sensors commonly require embedded systems with low computational resources to efficiently run artificial intelligence in areas such as e.g., energy efficiency, agriculture or water monitoring. With this purpose, this paper studies the performance of a set of smart autonomous nodes in the field of road safety. The goal of this system is to discern pedestrians from vehicles on a crosswalk by using machine learning techniques to detect behaviour patterns. To this end, this paper described the methodology followed to deploy a computational model for a microcontroller from Matlab<sup>®</sup> to C++. The experimentation was carried out considering a one-class SVM classifier with two pattern analysis strategies based on I/Q signals and RAW data from a RADAR sensor. The tests over 81 scenes and 4050 chunks of data labelled achieved an AUC of 0.937 with an acceptable RAM consumption of 500 KB, processing time of 31-124 milliseconds, and power consumption of 534-847 mW for a Teensy 4.1 microcontroller. To this end, the experimentation compared the results considering an 17-3770K processor, Raspberry Pi Zero and a Teensy 3.6 microcontroller.

Regarding future works, the efforts are aimed at improving the AUC of the PDAT strategy compared to the STFT (i.e., fix the overfitting with more scenes) due to the advantage of the lower processing time obtained with RAW data. We also consider applying automatic learning techniques to optimize/reduce the number of features of the targets utilized currently to classify. In addition, we plan the use of open-source tools (e.g., EmbML) as an alternative to Matlab<sup>®</sup> to develop different machine learning classifiers for resource-constrained hardware.

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