

## Identify Faults in Road Structure Zones with Deep Learning

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**Abstract.** One of the most important causes that cause traffic accidents is the deterioration or failures in road structures, which occurs due to the low quality of its components, climate changes, and seismic zones, heavy cargo transport traffic, among others; therefore, the purpose of this research is the detection of faults in the pavement. The set of images used was classified into cracks and gaps, making a total of 420 images. The research was carried out taking into account the following stages: data collection, through a smartphone the images were captured; data preprocessing, which allowed the best images to be selected and redimensioned; model of the network architecture, allowed the selection and improvement of the algorithm; training and verification of the algorithm, to create an optimal model in the detection of cracks and gaps, as a last stage, the deployment, where the system for the test of the model was developed; for which a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) was used as the YOLOv5 algorithm, using the Adam and 120 optimization algorithm, reaching an accuracy of 58%, validating it then with 30 images, having the averages of 85% accuracy, 91.5 sensitivity and 81.5% F1-Score. Concluding that the algorithm with convolutional neural networks helps to properly identify pavement failures, being important for authorities to do proper maintenance.

**Keywords:** Deep Learning, Pavement, Cracks and Gaps

# 1. Introduction

When talking about road structures, they must be in good condition, this because through their main roads they transit trade, the intercommunication of their inhabitants and exchange of different cultures; all this is important for the development and economic growth of a country (Shatnawi, 2018). It is there that the need arises to mitigate the defects that may be generated over time as a result of the weather or heavy cargo transport; therefore, the importance of constant monitoring that maintains the useful life cycle of road structures in good condition, using concrete pavements continuously, in order to mitigate the risks of accidents that may be caused (Shim et al., 2020).

In fact, road defects are caused by different reasons, where car accidents stand out, weakening their components and causing dangerous areas for road traffic (Chun & Ryu, 2019), also known as road structure disease (Zhang et al., 2020); in the same way, aging is another factor that weakens its structural components, therefore its state must be evaluated periodically to identify these failures (cracks or gaps) and thus implement an adequate rehabilitation with quality components (Slami & Yun, 2021), being important that the State or competent authorities intervene in the analysis and corresponding evaluations for the adequate transit of society.

In sum, in many underdeveloped countries, road infrastructure maintenance activities have declined due to the complexity of access to them, bureaucracy or other factors (Silva et al., 2020).

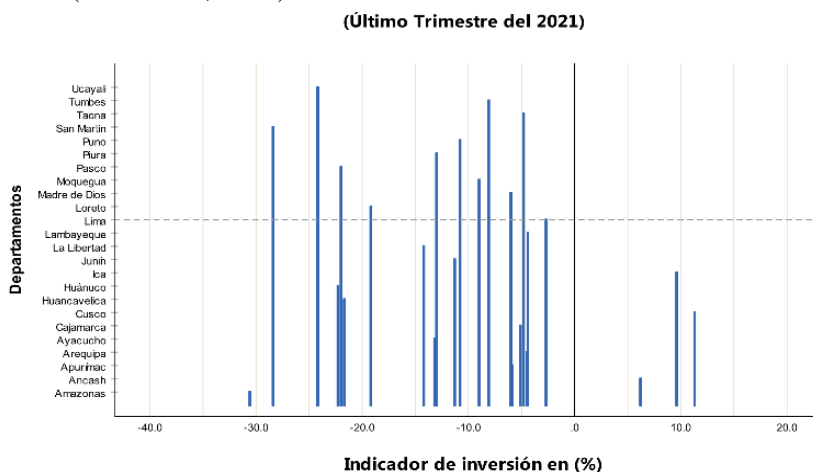


Fig. 1: Registration of the Investment Index Applied in the Construction Sector according to its Geographical Area of Peru (INEI, 2022)

Figure 1 shows the investment in the construction sector according to its geographical area. So much so that, in the last quarter of 2021, investment in structures in Peru was -5.8%, with the indices being the following: In Amazonas it

highlighted indicators of -30.6%, unlike Ancash where it registered positive percentages of 6.2%, also Apurimac was below -5.9% and Arequipa at -4.5%, while in Ayacucho it showed indicators of -13.2% of investment, similarly Cajamarca with -5.1%, however Cusco acquired high percentages such as 11.3% in execution of road investments, on the other hand the department of Huancavelica registered -21.7% unlike Huánuco which was -22.3%, compared to Ica where only 9.6% appeared, while in Junín with 11.3%, La Libertad with -14.2%, Lambayeque -4.4%, while, Lima only executed the investment in construction of -2.7% which is a very low indicator in this sector, while Loreto showed an execution of -19.2%, Madre de Dios with -6.0%, as well as in Moquegua it was observed that it was -9.0%, Pasco with -22%, Piura with a record of -13%, Puno -10.8%, followed by San Martín with -28.4%, Tacna -4.8%, Tumbes with -8.1% and finally, Ucayali with -24.2% (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics [INEI], 2022).

As for the budget in the construction sector, it is composed of investments in road structures and their rehabilitation, so it is essential to intervene in technological tools that allow standardizing the identification and analysis of the failures generated in these structures. Therefore, the benefits of technology in this area, specifically artificial intelligence, have been involved in the personal, work and economic activities of man (Backman & Chung, 2021; Opara et al., 2021); highlighting image recognition through deep learning, achieving important developments for society, such as the detection of objects with a high degree of accuracy (Qiao et al., 2021); where neural networks, algorithm architectures, techniques and effective tools that have the ability to learn and recognize patterns to make decisions are used (Sarmiento, 2020; Coluccia, 2021; Morales & Kayacan, 2020).

It is worth mentioning that tests have been carried out with pavement images, achieving positive results in the accuracy for the detection of failures in road structures (He & Liu, 2020; Enzo, 2021), using algorithms such as Depth separable convolution, Atrociuous Convolution, Xception-65, Atrous Spatial Pyramid Polling (Sun et al., 2021), algorithm proposed with SegNet (Ramalingamm et al., 2021), ResNet (Fan et al., 2022), proposed algorithm (Maeda et al., 2018), where to date the present study has been carried out, no investigations were found using the Yolo algorithm.

This article is aimed at detecting damage to road structures such as holes and cracks, caused by various reasons, such as the intervention of the human factor, climate changes, seismic zones, transit of heavy cargo transport, which leads to an imminent danger to the population in transport. Likewise, to identify and analyze these failures it was necessary to perform a series of activities such as capturing images through a smartphone that allows us autonomy in data collection, choosing algorithms, training the intelligent model and measuring the results (Morales & Kayacan, 2020; Janani et al., 2022). In this context, the research work is related to

identifying failures in road structures in which image processing techniques are applied through convolutional neural networks (CNN) (Kumar et al., 2021; Zhang, 2021). For this, it is required to perform a series of structured steps where algorithms are incorporated that provide data for classification and take this information from the fault or defect.

The document is organized into six sections. Section 2, the review of the works related to the research is carried out. Section 3 contains the methodology. Section 4 shows the results obtained. Section 5 describes the discussion. Finally, section 6 contains the findings of the investigation.

## **2. Literature Review**

The works developed to identify cracks, as well as gaps through Deep Learning consist of authors who obtained highly qualified results with CNN, applied in different studies in order to automatically identify failures of road pavements based on intelligent architectures through image segmentation; this must include a series of algorithms that served as gears to obtain good accuracy (Fan et al. 2022).

However, it should be noted that, in the real field, the inspection of the roads is carried out with topographic equipment, which must be clear for their adequate treatment by specialized agencies, but for image recognition investigations there is no standardization of data that are available, some studies took the method of image collection through smartphones as mentioned (Maeda et al. 2018), while in other research the collection of information was supported by a drone (Kumar et al., 2021).

The various ways of grouping information for image segmentation are essential in the application of CNNs through architectures such as YOLO-v3, among the most widely used (Park et al., 2018). This algorithm was used for crack detection in pavements in three phases that included image processing, machine learning and deep learning. More detail on the algorithms and methods used is provided below.

## **3. Materials and methods**

For the development of this study, it was carried out in four phases: In the first phase, data collection is carried out; The second phase describes the pre-processing of information; as in the third phase, the operation of the YOLO v5 algorithm is explained; continuing with phase four, where the training and verification of the algorithm for the pavement is carried out; and, finally, phase 5 shows the implementation of the system for the validation of the algorithm.

### 3.1. Data Collection

For the collection of images was carried out following the sequence detailed below:

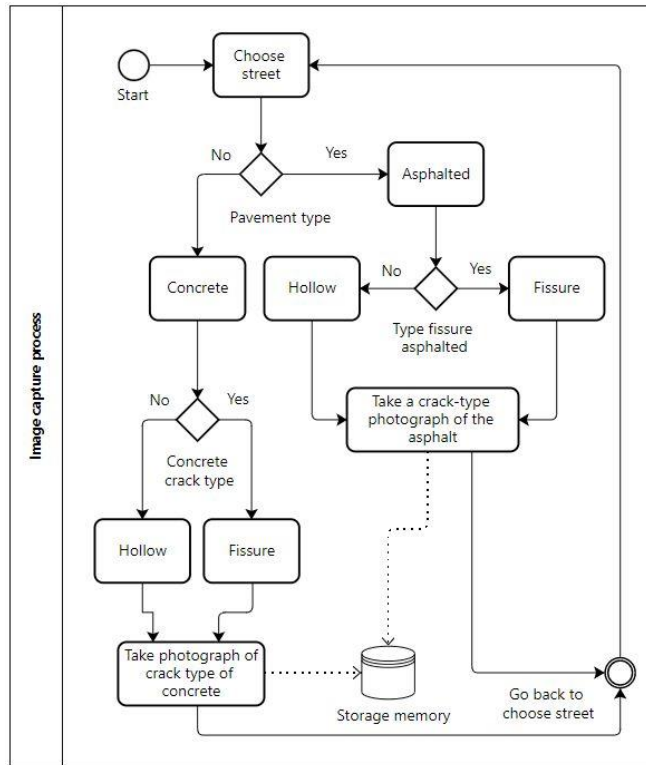


Fig. 2: Image Collection

Figure 2 shows the process of capturing the images, which begins with the selection of the avenue, then the type of pavement (concrete or asphalt) is verified, according to the first two characteristics we proceed with the image capture, where the type of class (crack or hole) is displayed, Finally, the information is stored in the smartphone's memory and the process is restarted in order to capture another image successively in the process.

For the study, 420 images were collected in RGB format through a smartphone, on the pavement of the district of Villa María del Triunfo, for which the camera was positioned at an angle of  $15^{\circ}$  to  $45^{\circ}$  due to the unevenness of the pavements, to capture images of cracks and holes with different characteristics, the same ones that were stored in a memory of 32Gb with the original size of 2160 x 3120 pixels.

Table 1: Collection and recording of image capture features

Class	Fault	Pavement type	Number of images	Total per class
Crack	Transverse crack	Cement	121	292
		Asphalted	12	
	Longitudinal crack	Cement	84	
		Asphalted	8	
	Cocodrile crack	Cement	33	
Hollow	Manhole cover	Asphalted	34	128
		Cement	50	
		Asphalted	78	

Table 1 shows the number of images per class (crack and gap), according to their type of defect and pavement (cement or asphalt), deducing that the largest number of images correspond to the class, with transverse defect and type of cement pavement. Likewise, the least amount of images corresponds to the crack class, with longitudinal defect type of asphalted pavement.

### 3.2. Data Pre-processing

In the image pre-processing was performed following the sequence as shown below:

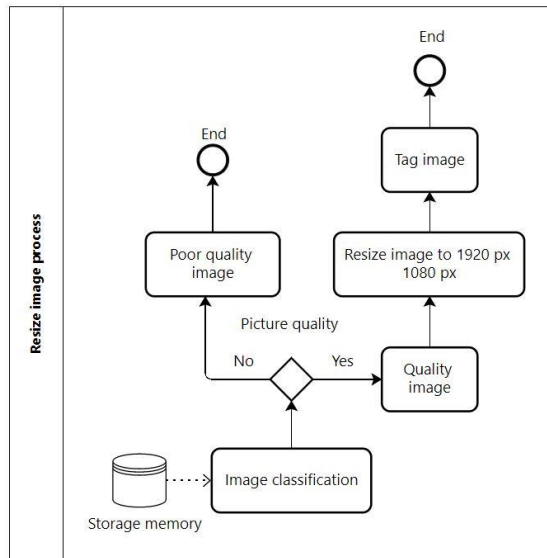


Fig. 3: Image Preprocessing Diagram

In figure 3, the pre-processing began with the classification of the captured images (gap and crack), selecting those with good pixel resolution, then proceeded with the resizing of 1920 pixels by 1080 pixels to maintain the quality of sharpness, using Adobe Inc. software, which improved the mathematical calculations of the

Adam algorithm, as well as max pooling, managing to group the parameters of height, width, type and length of the RGB format, this event being important to improve the performance of each era of the algorithm.

Table 2: Collection of images in different states of cracks and gaps













	Original (4160x3120 px)	Resized image (1920x1080 px)
Crack, on concrete with paint		
Crack on concrete		
Crack on asphalt with shade		
Crack on asphalt including moisture		
Hollow on asphalt, including moisture		
Hole on asphalt		

Table 2 shows some characteristics of the cracks and gaps at the time of data collection; The most outstanding characteristics are the type of material (concrete or asphalt) and conditions (paint, shade or moisture). Likewise, the dimension of the images collected with the smartphone was 4160x3120 pixels, but then it was resized to 1920x1080 pixels.

Then the labeling was carried out as shown in figure 4, where you can see the location of the hole and crack within the image, using the Adobe Cloud tool – MakeAlphaSense.





### 3.3. Network Architecture Model

Before the improvement and optimization of the model, the YOLO v5x model was selected due to the high degree of precision in the mean, compared to other versions of the same algorithm, being the most appropriate for processing large batches and complex matrix calculations, the algorithm proposed by Le et al. (2022) was taken, which is a variant of the algorithm.

Thus, an improvement in the development of the semantic segmentation architecture and the modules of the CNNs was proposed, using best practices (Ramalingam et al. 2021; Sun et al. 2021) for the data collection process, which served to train the algorithm. The training consisted of 120 epochs and using the Adam optimization algorithm, with images of 1920 x 1080. In addition, masks of recurrent convolutional neural networks were added to optimize the process, that is, the obtainments of the characteristics of the lower layer were acquired through the semantic segmentation that adopts the characteristics of the cracks or gaps, as can be seen in figure 6.

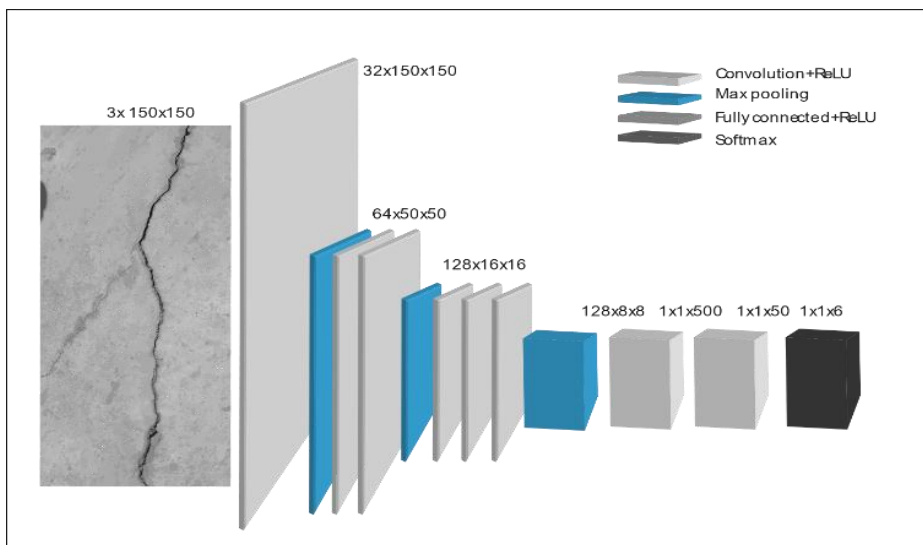


Fig. 6: Adaptación del modelo estructurado de red neuronal convolucional multicapas (Ramalingam et al. 2021; Sun et al. 2021)

Figure 6 presents an adaptation of the YOLO model used for this article, in the first stage the image of the crack or hole was entered, then convolutional operations were performed with the ReLu activation function to eliminate the negatives and proceed to apply the max pooling algorithm for the grouping of the values and achieve an optimal analysis. Finally, segmentation was done through multiple custom layers and the Softmax binary function, which allowed a reduction in the process to mitigate complexity.

### 3.4. Algorithm Training and Verification

To start with the training process, CNN models were applied for regression and classification, for which 80% of 420 images were used for training, stored in the dataset called dataset\_clasificadorGH and in a file the coordinates, to then be entered into the YOLO v5 algorithm, measuring the results using evaluation metrics such as precision (1), of recall (2), accuracy and F1-Score (3), calculating the function of the true positives called in its abbreviation (TP), true negatives (TN), false positives (FP) and false negatives (FN), as follows structurally.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (1)$$

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (2)$$

$$F1 = \frac{2 \times Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall} \quad (3)$$

Training results obtained from precision (Opara et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2021; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2021; He & Liu, 2020), are seen in Figure 7.

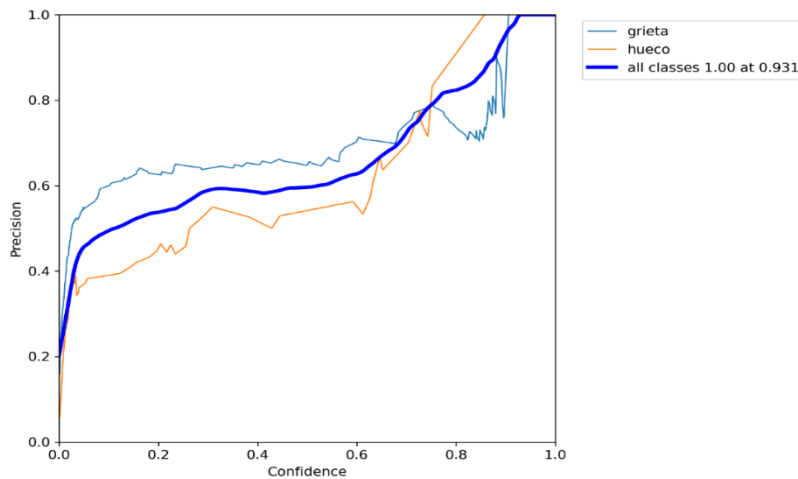


Fig. 7: Precision and Confidence

As shown in Figure 7, the mean accuracy of the crack and hollow classes reached higher values of 0.75, which indicates an optimal behavior of the results for the crack or hollow classes, which can be mentioned that the greater the reliability the accuracy is also higher.

The training results obtained for the Recall (Opara et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2021; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2021; He & Liu, 2020), are seen in Figure 8.

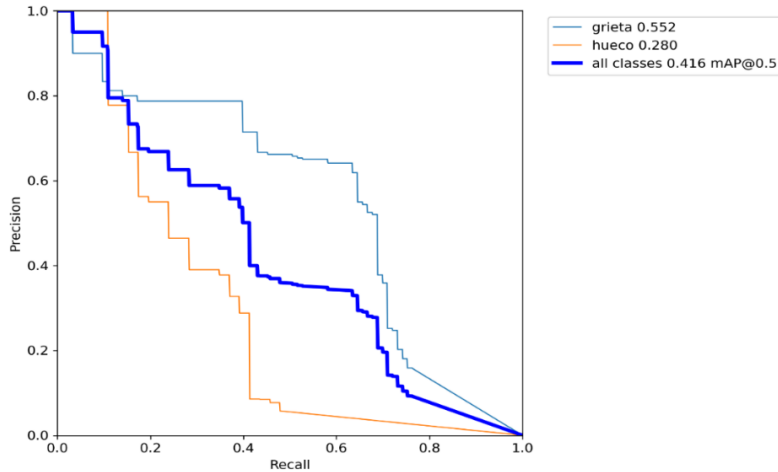


Fig. 8: Recall and Precision

In figure 8, the results obtained from the recall are observed, for cracks and gaps of 0.552 and 0.280 respectively.

The training results obtained for the F1 - score (Opara et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2021; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2021; He & Liu, 2020), are seen in Figure 9.

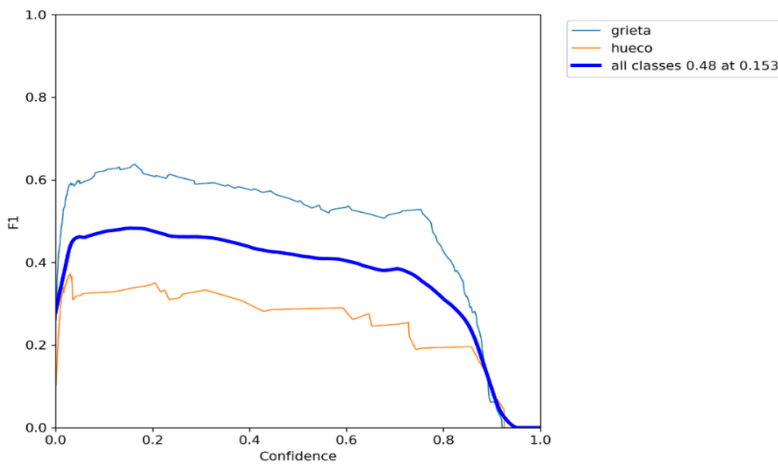


Fig. 9: Score Curve (F1)

In figure 9, the F1-Score of the crack and gap classes is shown, obtaining the results of the precision and the recall, where the F1-score metric for crack has a higher average of 0.5 and the hollow class a higher average of 0.3, which can be said that the higher the reliability, the lower the F1-score.

The results of the training obtained are represented in the confusion matrix, shown in Figure 10.

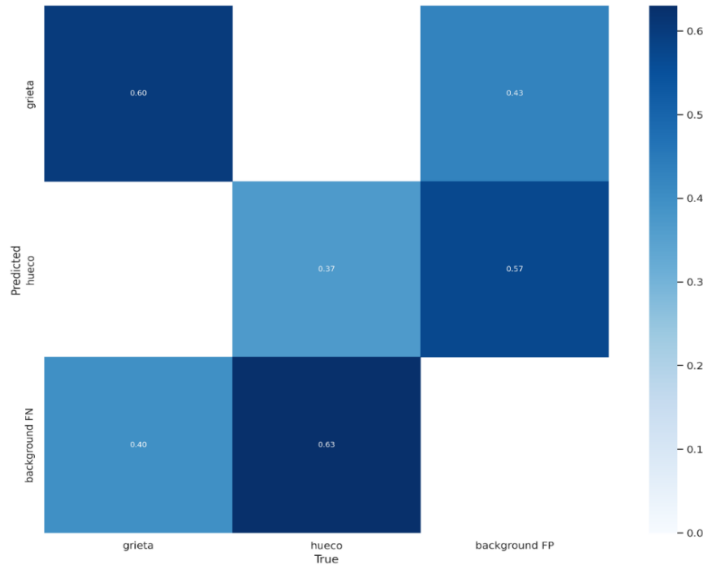


Fig. 10: Confusion matrix

Figure 10, shows the confusion matrix, where it is observed with respect to the crack class for training, obtaining a 0.6 of success and a 0.4 of erroneous prediction, likewise, with respect to the hollow class, a 0.37 of success was obtained in the prediction and a 0.63 of the images that could not be predicted correctly, But they belonged to the hollow class. Thus, the images that do not belong to any class, the 0.57 of the images had an erroneous prediction as hollow class and 0.43 as a crack class.

Then we proceeded to the validation of the model using 20% of the 420 images and 120 epochs, managing to obtain the accuracy and recall metrics, shown in figure 11.

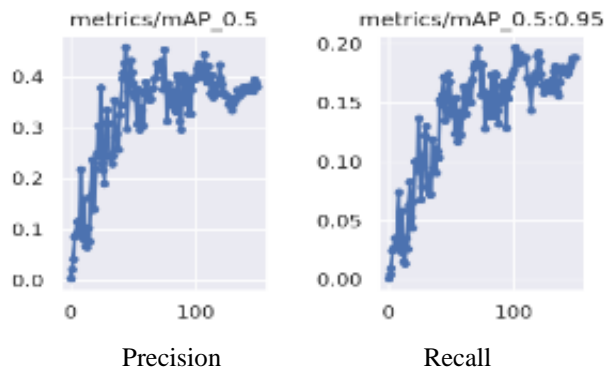


Fig. 11: Result of Validation

Figure 11 shows the validation of the model, which obtained an average

accuracy greater than 0.37 and the recall greater than 0.17.

In Figure 12, the accuracy of some images is visualized, where the hollow class (1) was 36.67%, while for the crack class (0) 63.33%.

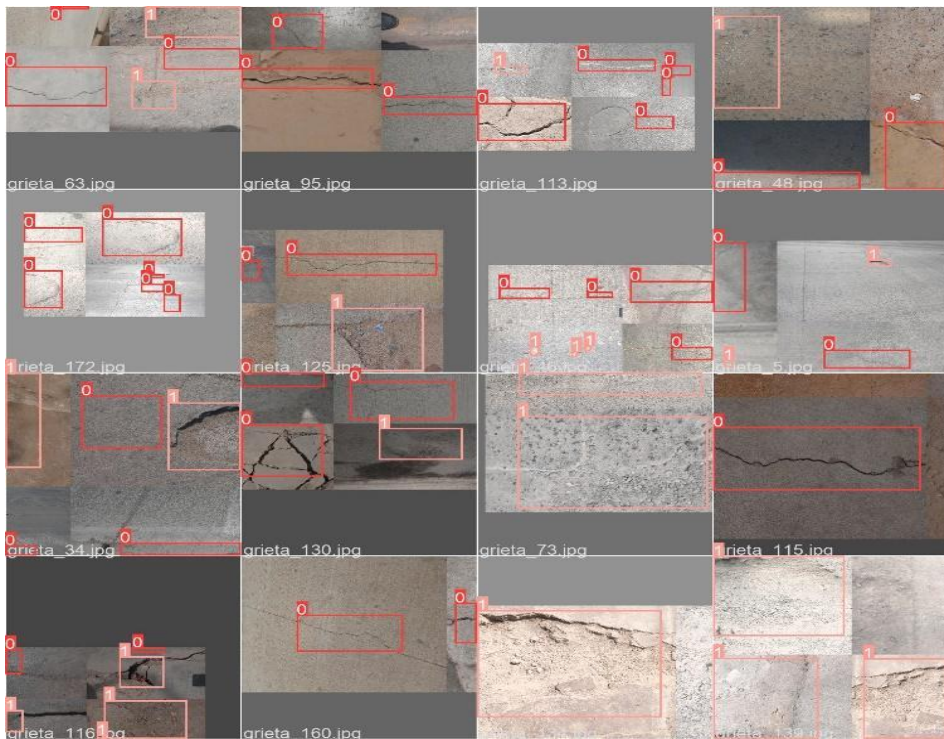


Fig. 12: Validation by Class

### 3.5. Despliegue

For the test of the model, a system was developed using free libraries such as PyTorch, Python, Cv2, pandas and yaml, which were executed in Google Colab, and for testing on a CPU (Central Processing Unit) Intel(R) Core (TM) i7-10700 (2.90GHz) RAM 16GB with Windows 10 operating system (based on 64 bits).

To develop the system interface, technological tools such as PyCharm Community Edition in its version 2022.1.2, Spyder in its version 4, Anaconda were used. Classified the technological tools, we proceeded with the writing of the code under the Python programming language and the incorporation of the trained model.

Thus, the system started with the user and password entry as shown in Figure 13.

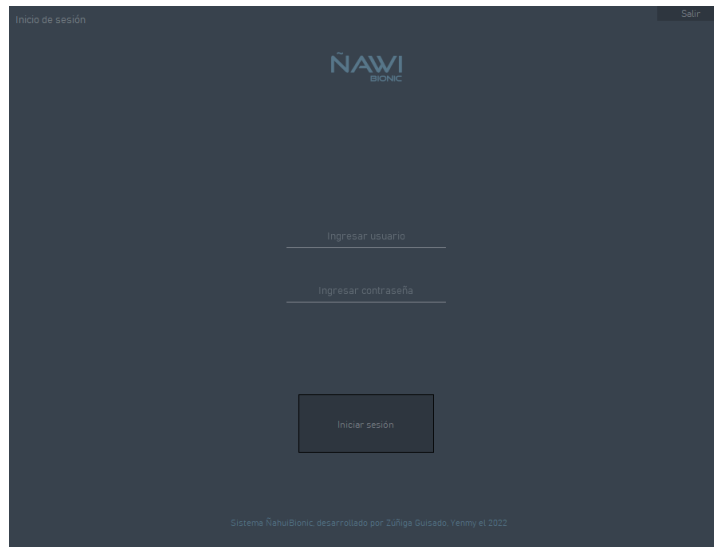


Fig. 13: User Login Interface

En la figura 13, se visualiza una ventana donde permitió validar el registro del usuario y contraseña para el inicio de sesión, desarrollada bajo el lenguaje Python.

Once the system allows access, the interface is shown as in Figure 14, which served to process the images and send them to the trained model.

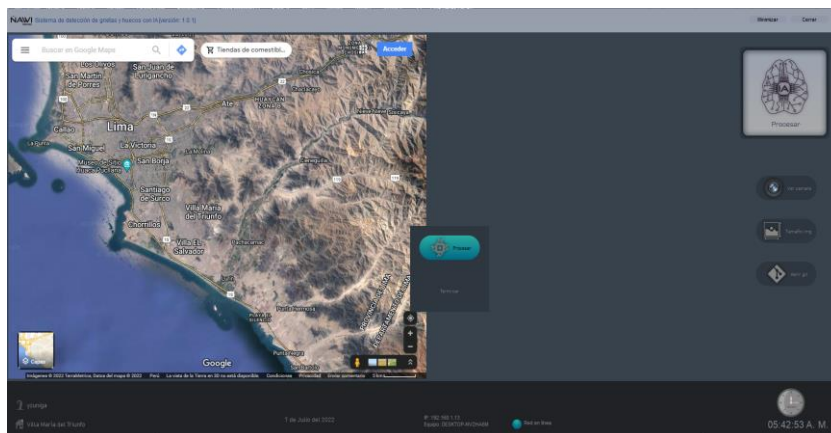


Fig. 14: Main screen to start the model.

In figure 14, the main module is presented, which allowed to capture the image of the pavement, for this the Google Maps API was used that helped to geographically locate the study areas to capture the image of the pavement, as shown in figure 15, whose captured image was sent to the algorithm trained to detect cracks and gaps, for which file routing through Git software was implemented.

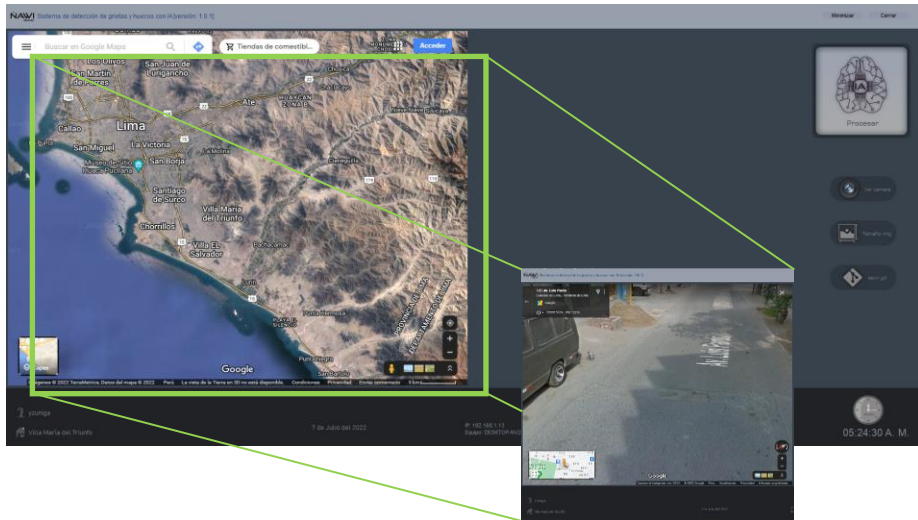


Fig. 15: Image Capture of the Pavement

In figure 15, the operation of the system is visualized to locate a specific area and be able to take an image of the pavement, where later the image was sent to the algorithm for the detection of gaps and cracks in the pavement.

## 4. Test Results

For the algorithm test, 30 images were used in order to evaluate performance through the metrics: Precision, sensitivity and F1 – score, visualized in Table 3.

Table 3: Resumen de indicadores Test.

Metrics	Failure Type	Result
Precision	Crack	0.93
	Hollow	0.77
Sensitivity	Crack	0.92
	Hollow	0.91
F1-Score	Crack	0.86
	Hollow	0.77

Table 3 shows the result of the metrics, for the crack class there was 0.93 precision, 0.92 sensitivity and 0.86 F1-Score, also in the hollow class it was 0.77 precision, 0.91 sensitivity and 0.77 F1 – score.

Also, the results of the ROC curve by class were analyzed in Figure 16 and 17.

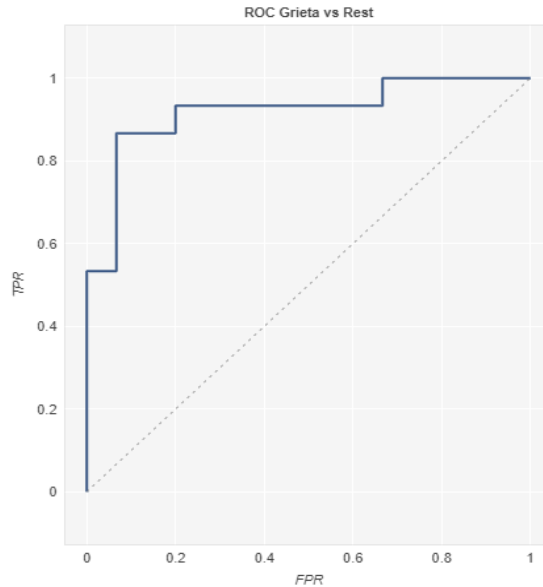


Fig. 16: ROC Crack Curve

In Figure 16, the ROC curve of the crack class is displayed, with an area under the curve greater than 0.5, which allows an optimal result to be deduced.

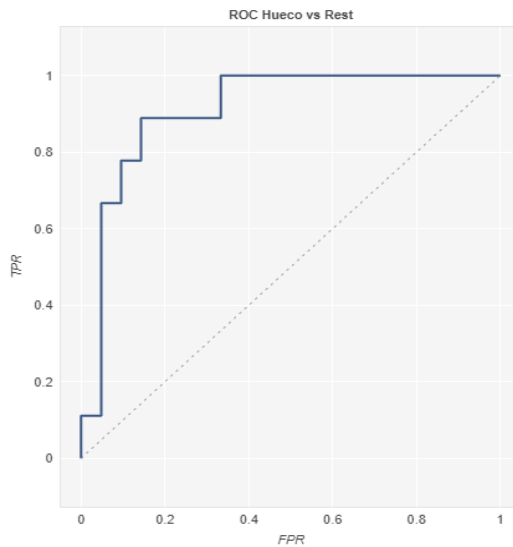


Fig. 17: Hollow ROC Curve

In Figure 17, the ROC curve of the hollow class is displayed, with an area under the curve greater than 0.5, which allows an optimal result to be deduced.

As a last result, the confusion matrix that allowed the analysis of the confusion by classes that the model had, as can be seen in Figure 18.



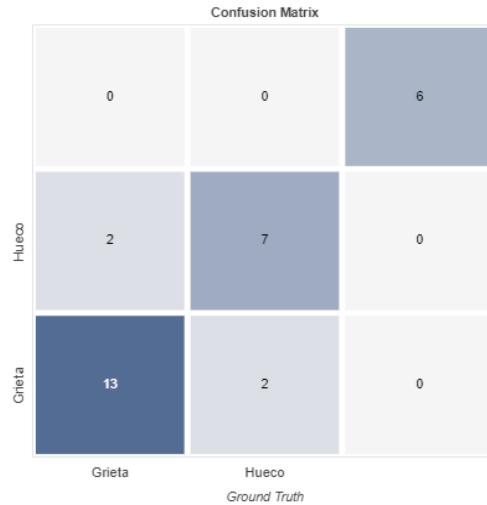


Fig. 18: Confusion Matrix

Figure 18 shows the confusion matrix, where it can be seen that, out of a total of 15 cracks, 13 and 2 incorrect cracks have been correctly detected; In relation to the gaps of a total of 9, 7 were detected correctly and 2 incorrectly; Likewise, it can be seen that 6 characteristics were detected that do not correspond to hollow or crack.

## 5. Discussion

The results obtained are optimal in the detection of cracks and gaps in the pavement of road structures such as asphalt or concrete for the study area (mainly damaged areas), so a series of processes are carried out applying deep learning techniques and technical tools. As can be seen, some methods tend to study crack detection by capturing static images. Thus, in the results obtained by Fan et al. (2020), the precision reached between 0.19 and 0.92, for the Recall from 0.67 to 0.93, and in F1 it reaches 0.28 to 0.92 in images with resolutions of 768x512, 991x462 and 311x462 pixels. While the metrics obtained in the work were found within the reliability range of metrics between 0.32 and 0.85 in images with a resolution of 1920x1080 pixels.

In the work presented by Fan et al. (2020), a dataset preparation technique was used, involving the cleaning of images that had characteristics of cracks and gaps, as well as other types of failures that can occur on the surface of the road structures to which the technique is applied. Through consolation operations based on the processing of pixel information in an image, crucial for deep learning, it worked similarly to the techniques used to detect cracks and holes in road structures (Opara et al. 2020), being the techniques applied in the development of this work.

The detection of cracks and holes was determined by deep learning and the use of smartphones for image taking, which follows the applied line of this research and

that of Maeda et al., (2018), obtaining the objectives raised favorably.

## 6. Conclusions

From the works applied with artificial intelligence methodologies through deep learning, the present study had positive results, applied through the dataset\_clasificadorGH model in the intelligent application, allowing the detection of cracks and gaps, which appear on road traffic surfaces, such as asphalt or concrete structure pavements in different textures or states. Likewise, the model is an alternative solution to the problems that society is going through, detecting dangerous areas for traffic and that can subsequently generate statistical reports, for an adequate analysis by the competent authorities and based on that execute an investment for the rehabilitation of these structures.

It is suggested to use different intelligent models that can be developed with technologies of convolutional neural network structures and sophisticated algorithms such as YOLOv5x. In addition, in the present study indicators were obtained that exceed 50% in the accuracy of detection of cracks and gaps reaching indicators of 86%. On the other hand, during the training, indicators of up to 93% accuracy were obtained, which guarantees the reliability of the model for its implementation in the detection of cracks and gaps, since the studies evaluated and implemented in other countries include records with indicators similar to those obtained.

As limitations of the study were the lack of a suitable device to collect the images, since only a smartphone was available; In addition to the materials that allowed better lighting when capturing the images with the smartphone.

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