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**Fire Detection in Trains Using Image Analysis: A Survey  
and a Novel Approach**

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## **Abstract**

High tech vehicles continue to develop rapidly and bring the need of high safety control and alarm technologies with it. Security in travel is primary concern for everyone and currently fire accidents are most often occurring in railway vehicles. The aim of this work is to make a survey of available video fire detection methods and develop an innovative way to assess the severity of the situation to the passengers and the concerned authorities in the early stages of the fire accident in trains.

Traditional point smoke and fire detectors typically detect the certain particles generated by smoke and fire by ionization or photometry. In the large and complex areas such as train carriers, it may take long time for smoke particles to reach a detector and they cannot be securely operated in such electromechanically complex areas. Especially for the high-speed trains, this time delay may cause large damages. In this work, a smoke detection system based on video cameras is tackled. The advantage of the proposed system is the ability to be suitable for train environments which is not the case in the literature. Thus, eliminating the time between the accident occurs and the alarm, decreases the damage and fatalities. Current fire detection algorithms are mostly based on the detection of the flames. However, smoke detection is vital for fire alarm systems when large and complex areas are monitored, because the source of the fire and flames may not always fall into the camera field of view. On the other hand, smoke of an uncontrolled fire can be observed by a camera even though the flames are not into the field of view. This approach results in early detection of fire before it spreads around.

In this study, the possible methods for video smoke detection are investigated and an innovative method for smoke detection in the trains is proposed. In the proposed setup for the detection system, the security camera monitoring the train compartment is stable and stationary. In addition to this, by using the movement of the smoke, the motion detection for the smoke regions is performed and later, blob detection is applied to identify each moving object in the frame. Following this, smoke color, spreading features and decrease of high frequency energy of the scene is monitored using the extracted blobs for each frame of the video. All these clues are used to train a classifier in order to perform the detection. Following, further solutions are proposed. This work is done within the K4TECH software company and the solution is customized for the Alstom trains.



## Sommario

I veicoli ad alta tecnologia continuano a svilupparsi rapidamente e portano con sé l'esigenza di un elevato controllo di sicurezza e di tecnologie di allarme. La sicurezza nel viaggio è la preoccupazione principale per tutti e attualmente gli incidenti d'incendio si verificano più spesso nei veicoli ferroviari. Lo scopo di questo lavoro è quello di fare un sondaggio su un modo innovativo per valutare la gravità della situazione per i passeggeri e le autorità interessate nelle prime fasi dell'incidente.

I rilevatori tradizionali di fumo e fuoco puntano in genere le particelle determinate dal fumo e dal fuoco mediante ionizzazione o fotometria. Nelle aree grandi e complesse come i convogliatori di treni, potrebbe essere necessario molto tempo prima che le particelle di fumo raggiungano un rivelatore e non possono essere azionate in modo sicuro in tali aree elettromeccanicamente complesse. Soprattutto per i treni ad alta velocità, questo ritardo potrebbe causare gravi danni. In questo lavoro viene affrontato un sistema di rilevamento del fumo basato su videocamere. Il vantaggio del sistema proposto è la capacità di essere adatto agli ambienti dei treni che non è il caso della letteratura. Così, eliminando il tempo tra l'incidente si verifica e l'allarme, diminuisce il danno e gli incidenti mortali. Gli attuali algoritmi di rivelazione incendi si basano principalmente sul rilevamento delle fiamme. Tuttavia, il rilevamento dei fumi è di vitale importanza per i sistemi di allarme antincendio quando vengono monitorate aree grandi e complesse, in quanto la sorgente del fuoco e delle fiamme potrebbero non sempre cadere nel campo visivo della telecamera. D'altra parte, il fumo di un fuoco incontrollato può essere osservato da una telecamera anche se le fiamme non sono nel campo visivo. Questo approccio si traduce in una rapida individuazione del fuoco prima che si diffonda.

In questo studio vengono investigati i possibili metodi per il rilevamento del fumo video e viene proposto un metodo innovativo per il rilevamento del fumo nei treni. Nella configurazione proposta per il sistema di rilevamento, la telecamera di sicurezza che controlla il compartimento del treno è stabile e stazionaria. Oltre a ciò, utilizzando il movimento del fumo, viene eseguito il rilevamento del movimento per le aree di fumo e, successivamente, viene applicato il rilevamento del blob per identificare ciascun oggetto in movimento nel frame. In seguito, il colore del fumo, le caratteristiche di diffusione e la diminuzione dell'energia ad alta frequenza della scena vengono monitorati utilizzando i BLOB estratti per ciascun fotogramma del video. Tutti questi indizi sono utilizzati per addestrare un classificatore al fine di eseguire il rilevamento. Di seguito, vengono proposte ulteriori soluzioni. Questo lavoro viene svolto all'interno della società di software K4TECH e la soluzione è personalizzata per i treni Alstom.



# Chapter 1

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Context

Ensuring a safe journey is the highest priority of the high-speed train manufacturers. Lately, fire accident is most often occurring in trains. When these accidents occur in complex and crowded areas like railway vehicles, the loss or damage being caused are at higher rates. Even more, the damage is heavier due to the incapability of the rescue services to reach at the right time because of erroneous alarms and notifications. All summed up, these deficiencies may cause tremendous damage, resulting in lost lives in most of the cases. Thus, eliminating the time between when an accident occurs and when first responders are dispatched to the area decreases the overall damage.

In this study, a possible solution to reduce the safety risks occurring due to fire accidents in high speed trains is presented. Fire on a high-speed running train is more dangerous than on a stationary or a slow one, since and the stopping distance is highly related with the speed and the fire may be easily spread around by winds. There are several definitions for high-speed rail that are in use worldwide. This study is focused on European lines. Thus, the European Union Directive 96/48/EC, Annex 1 defines high-speed rail in terms of the infrastructure, minimum speed limit and the operating conditions. For the infrastructure, the track must be built specially for high-speed travel or specially upgraded for high-speed travel. In addition to this, the minimum velocity on lines specially built for high speed is of 250 km/h, while the vehicle itself must be able to reach at least 200 km/h to be considered as a “high speed” one. The most important aspect is that the rolling stock must be designed alongside its infrastructure for complete compatibility and safety.

Nowadays, Italy is Europe’s cutting-edge country when it comes to the high-speed trains. The most relevant examples are the state-owned Trenitalia’s Frecciarossa, and the privately-owned Italo. Like many others, Italo’s trains are designed by the global leader Alstom, which is a French multinational company. Therefore, Italo benefits from their years of engineering expertise in the rail industry. Italo trains can reach speeds up to 300 km/h, while Frecciarossa may reach up to 350 km/h speed. An example of an Italo train coach is given in the Figure 1. According to the [1], a train with a top speed of 360 km/h, has approximately 12300 m of breaking distance and therefore, if a safety critical event occurs in a train and the vehicle must stop, a sudden break of the high-speed train has a large stopping distance. Early alarm of the safety critical even such as fire, would

bring a high advantage of decreasing the risk of accidents or collisions. It is important to underline that the latest designs bring an increase in the passenger dedicated areas. For instance, in the highest capacity configuration chosen by the French National Railway Company (SNCF) from Alstom, trains allow to accommodate up to 740 passengers. The increase in the number of passengers, comes with a higher safety risk. Considering the above risks, Alstom is in search of a more intelligent solution. It is the main reason for which the following technical proposal is customized for Alstom.



Figure 1 Italo Train Coach

As it is underlined, security in travel is the primary concern for the high-speed train companies. Therefore, in the newly designed trains, all the areas in the compartment are monitored by CCTV (closed-circuit television) cameras that are constantly monitored by the train managers and staff. CCTV cameras are widely used in transportation security applications. However, it is not possible to assign an employee to track every single camera for unexpected events detection. To quote New Scientist magazine: “There are too many cameras and too few pairs of eyes to keep track of them” [2]. Therefore, it is possible to say that there is a real need of computer-based video analysis for unusual events. For the electromechanical safety of the trains, regulations are clearly defined. In this project, the study of an innovative safety alarm for the train fires is introduced. However, even if is a new area of research, it is already giving promising results in respect to the traditional fire alarm systems. In addition to this, the proposed solution is more economic compared to the traditional ones since is a system based on the CCTV cameras that are already installed in

the trains. It can be surely said that the proposed system also aims to decrease the maintenance costs on the safety alarm systems of the high-speed trains. The advantage of a video fire detection is to detect the fire in its early stages and notify the train responsible to watch the area affected and take the action with minimum delay.

Intelligent video processing techniques for the detection and analysis of fire for railway vehicles are rare. Having an accurate and quick response fire detection system, plays an important part in safety analysis and firefighting, and is essential in calculating the risk of growth. Nevertheless, most of the detectors that are currently in use just ring the bell and are not able to model fire evolution which is rarely available and difficult to measure. The important weakness of traditional conventional sensors is that they are distance limited and fail in complex spaces such as railway vehicles. These sensors require a small proximity to the fire source in order to be able to detect the smoke. The other important limitation of traditional fire alarms is called as transport delay which is the time for the smoke particles to reach the detector.

The research in this field has begun mainly with the flame detection. In the recent articles, it is also possible to see some attempts also for detection of some smoke features. In this work is also focused in the smoke detection and the reason for this may be explained as follows; smoke spreads very quickly and in most of the fire cases, especially in the initial state of the fire in a complex environment, it is not possible to see the flames. Yet, smoke occurs much quicker in the field of view of the cameras and generally it is the first appearing clue of an uncontrolled fire. Therefore, smoke can be observed very easily and provides an early indication of the fire [3].

The most of the state-of-the-art detection techniques focuses on the color and shape characteristics of the smoke and flames and their temporal behavior. But, smoke and flames has quite variable shape, motion and colors so that most of the video-based fire detection algorithms are still weak for the manner of accuracy. The strength of using ordinary video in fire detection is the ability to adapt quicker in railway vehicles which are large, complex and variable areas. Most of the research in the literature are performed for surveillance of open spaces or large indoor areas. The majority of the researchers used following methods; color and moving object detection, flicker energy analysis, spatial difference analysis, dynamic texture and disorder analysis, sub blocking. These methods are followed by some clean up post processing methods and training models such as support vector machine and neural networks. Finally, the detection of flames and smoke takes place. Unfortunately, a specific problem of smoke detection in railway vehicles is not a popularly tackled topic. Therefore, a survey is presented in this work that aims to fins the most promising methods for the trains.

## 1.2. Objectives

In this work, main aspects aimed to be achieved are as follows;

- To review traditional fire and smoke detection methods, with a particular focus on the large literature of video detection systems.
- To implement and test the most promising methods in the literature on video fire detection systems.
- To design an experimental campaign and assess the performance of the existing methods in different scenarios and discuss their suitability in the train environment.
- Propose the most appropriate algorithms for the fire detection in high-speed trains.
- To propose further improvements for fire detection systems based on computer vision techniques.

## 1.3. Problem Definition

In the railways fire accidents are occurred due to electrical short circuits, wood materials, flammable materials, derailments, collision, conflicts. The need of intelligent video analysis to support the train officers for possible safety flaws about fire and early detection to take an action before it spreads around is the main concern of this work. Even though there are significant amount of computer vision applications for real time video analysis, there is a deprivation of fire detection systems in trains. To avoid large scale fire accidents in trains, early and accurate detection is vital. Since the current detection systems rely on point detectors, the proposed system is an innovative and more reliable solution for the manner of safety.

The research in this study focuses on both problems and presents several video analysis techniques that have proven to be useful in fast and accurate detection and localization of smoke. The proposed techniques are viable alternatives or accompaniments to the existing fire detection techniques and have proven useful to answer several problems related to the traditional smoke detection methods. The major reason of the success of video-based fire detection systems is its potential to detect the fire in the cases when the conventional methods fail. Moreover, overcoming the transport delay that the traditional detectors suffer of, brings the ability of detection as soon as smoke occurs in the monitored scene. As a target of video-based fire detection in trains, adapting more accurate detection on smoke and further intelligence on detection algorithms would be an improvement on the existing models in the literature.

## **1.4. Contributions**

An innovative method for smoke detection for trains is presented in this work. Existing smoke detection methods for train are based on traditional methods, does not include an intelligent video analysis. The majority of the existing video fire detection methods analyzes the frames as a whole. The contribution of this work is to have an image analysis on the suspected areas of the video frames. Thus, suggested method is searching for a clue on the moving regions in the frame, by detecting them as a blob and performing the image analysis algorithms on these particular sections. As can be seen following in the report, this aim of the proposed method is promising to give more accurate results.

## **1.5. Summary**

This work is divided to five chapters, firstly giving the introduction in the first chapter, with problem definition and objectives. In Chapter 2, smoke, traditional smoke detectors, literature review given as background information on video fire detection systems and most used methods in the literature are studied. The most promising approaches used for the video fire detection systems are explained deeply in Chapter 3, as formulation and theory and their possible usages in a train environment. Following, the implementation of the available methods on the videos that contains smoke and their outcome are discussed. Some additional algorithms are proposed as may be useful for the video fire detection system for trains as an improvement. Chapter 4 covers the different results from different source videos with smoke or without, with the aim of having an observation of the method outcomes. Finally, in Chapter 5, conclusions are given and the summary of the work with further comments are stated.

# Chapter 2

## 2. Literature Review

In this chapter, the background information on general bases of used technologies and system definitions are introduced. Furthermore, the explanation for the need of such a model is given in this chapter.

### 2.1. Smoke

Smoke is a collection of tiny solid, liquid and gas particles, typically emitted from a burning substance. Although smoke can contain hundreds of different chemicals and fumes, visible smoke is mostly carbon, tar, oils and ash.



Figure 2 Smoke and Fire in the Train

Smoke occurs when there is incomplete combustion (not enough oxygen to burn the fuel completely). On the contrary, in complete combustion, everything is burned, producing just water and carbon dioxide. As stated above, smoke is a collection of these tiny unburned particles. Each particle is too small to see with the naked eye, but when they come together, they can be detected as smoke.

Smoke is the byproduct of the fuels it is burning. The color of the smoke indicates to firefighters the type and density of the fuels involved, all of which gives hints as to which can be the evolution of the fire.

White smoke can often mean material is off-gassing moisture and water vapor, meaning the fire is just starting to consume material. White smoke can also indicate light and flashy fuels such as grass or twigs. Thick, black smoke indicates heavy fuels that are not being fully consumed. Sometimes, black smoke can be an indicator that a manmade material is burning such as tires, vehicles or a structure. Generally, the darker the smoke, the more volatile the fire is. Grey smoke can indicate that the fire is slowing down and running out of materials to burn.

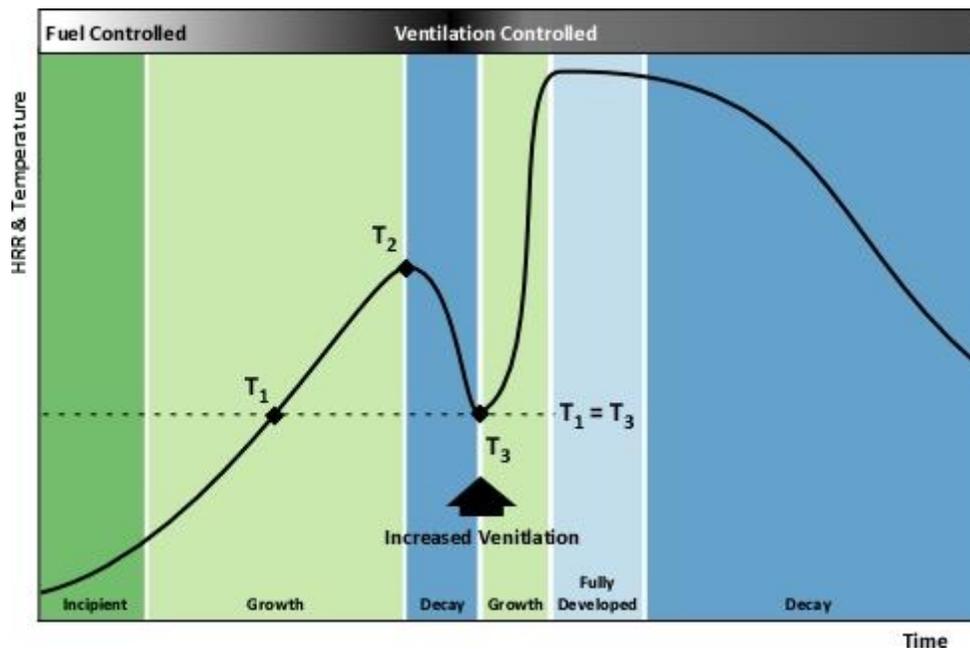


Figure 3 Fire Development Curve (Fuel and Ventilation Controlled Regimes)

In the Figure 3, development of a compartment fire is shown within the stages. Fire development is described as incipient, growth, fully developed and decay. It can be said that this behavior would be suitable to understand the fire behavior in a train, since it is a closed indoor area. Several things happen as a compartment fire develops: Heat release rate increases, smoke production increases, and pressure within the compartment increases proportionally to the absolute temperature. These

conditions result in a number of fire behavior indicators that may be visible from the exterior of the building. As a fire moves from the Incipient to the Growth Stage, an increasing volume of smoke may be visible from the exterior and the velocity of smoke discharge will likely increase.

It is a reasonably logical conclusion that a smaller volume of smoke and lower velocity of smoke discharge will be observed in incipient and early growth stage fires and the volume and velocity of smoke discharge will increase as the fire develops.

## 2.2. Traditional Smoke Detectors

A smoke detector is a device that senses smoke, typically as an indicator of fire. Commercial security devices issue a signal to a fire alarm control panel as part of a fire alarm system, while household smoke detectors, also known as smoke alarms, generally issue a local audible or visual alarm from the detector itself. A smoke detector is a device that senses smoke, typically as an indicator of fire.

Smoke detectors are housed in plastic enclosures, typically shaped like a disk about 150 millimeters in diameter and 25 millimeters thick, but shape and size vary. Smoke can be detected either optically or by physical process; detectors may use either, or both, methods. Sensitive alarms can be used to detect the smoke in areas where it is banned. Smoke detectors in large commercial, industrial, and residential buildings are usually powered by a central fire alarm system, which is powered by the building power with a battery backup.

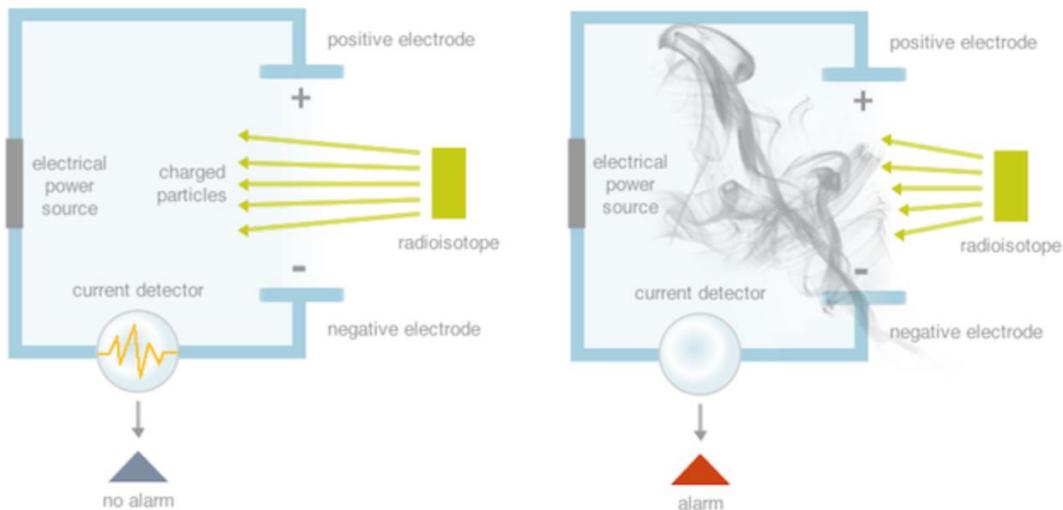


Figure 4 Ionization Smoke Detector

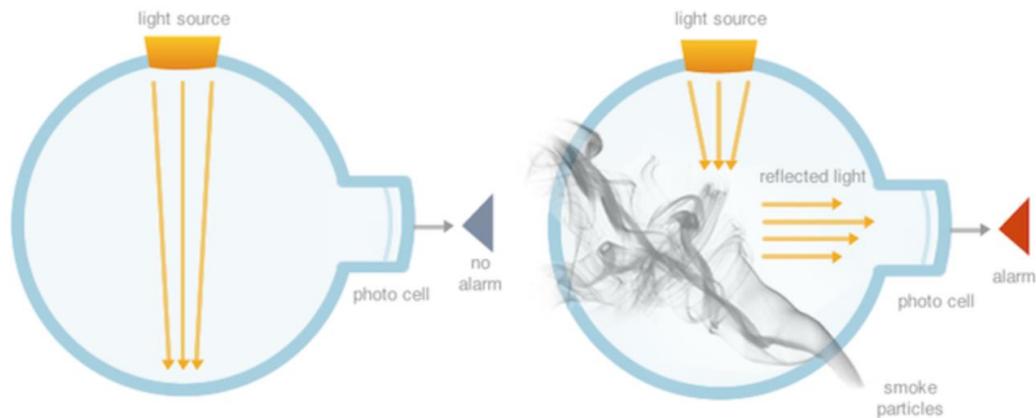


Figure 5 Photoelectric Smoke Detector

The two most commonly recognized smoke detection technologies are ionization smoke detection and photoelectric smoke detection. Some smoke alarms contain the both. Working principles of both are given on the Figure 4 and Figure 5.

Ionization-type smoke alarms are generally more responsive to flaming fires. This type smoke alarms have a small amount of radioactive material between two electrically charged plates, which ionizes the air and causes current to flow between the plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it disrupts the flow of ions, thus reducing the flow of current and activating the alarm.

Photoelectric-type smoke alarms are generally more responsive to fires that begin with a long period of smoldering of the fires. This type alarms aim a light source into a sensing chamber at an angle away from the sensor. Smoke enters the chamber, reflecting light onto the light sensor; triggering the alarm.

### 2.3. Video Fire Detection in Visible/Visual Spectral Range

Fire is one of the leading hazards affecting railway vehicles around the world and video surveillance cameras are widely used in security applications. An intelligent computer vision analysis is needed to support the operators for unwelcome behavior and unusual activity detection before they occur. Obviously, the safety is the most important concern for vehicles, as also discussed in the previous sections, especially for high speed trains. To avoid large scale fire and smoke damage and eventually a big disaster, timely and accurate fire detection is crucial. Even though there are a lot of computer vision research commercial applications for real-time automated computer vision, researches are limited especially for railway applications. This is mainly because it would be very difficult to replicate general human intelligence for such complex systems.

Moreover, general intelligent video processing techniques for the detection and analysis special to smoke is relatively limited. Most of the research are based on fire flames or flames and smoke together. To have the fire detection in an early stage, detection of the initial smoke is a must-have. The reason for this can be found in the fact that smoke spreads faster and in most cases will occur much faster in the field of view of the cameras. So, in most of the fire situations, flames are not visible but there is only smoke on the scene. Thus, it is convenient to say that, with an accurate smoke detection, the chances for early alarming is high, and losses of resources could be minimized. Unfortunately, most of the detectors that are currently in use are “point detectors” and simply issue an alarm as explained in the previous section, Traditional Smoke Detectors. In theory, they wait for the smoke particles to arrive their sensor, thus, it may be said that, they might have bigger delay for issuing an alarm than the proposed solution and they do not provide any information about the fire and smoke circumstances. Therefore, the weak point of the traditional detection systems is the ability of smoke detection when the smoke arrives to the sensors. In a complex environment like high speed trains, it is quote dangerous to take the risk of such a delay.

In this section of the report, a review of video fire and smoke detection research is presented. Let it be known that, recent video fire detection techniques are to be useful to solve several problems related to the traditional sensors. Conventional point-type thermal and smoke detectors are widely used nowadays, but as explained before, they are generally limited to basic indoors and are not applicable in large open spaces with a complex technical infrastructure and safety-critical such as railway vehicles. They require a small proximity to the fire location. So, the main limitations of commercially available fire alarm systems can be named as transport delay which is the time for carbon particles and smoke to reach the “point” detector. Also, on the high-speed trains, the action should be taken as fast as possible since the safety risks are higher, and the damage is heavier due to improper reach of service at the right time due to improper communication. This time delay is causing heavier damage. Thus, eliminating the time between when an accident occurs and when first responders are dispatched to the scene decreases the damage and risks of death.

Most of the video fire/smoke detection researches are in the early 2000s and articles available in the literature are about the absence of Artificial Intelligence framework which was first introduced by Hubert L. Dreyfus in ‘generalized’ Artificial intelligence Dreyfus [4], [5] presents solid philosophical and scientific arguments on why the search for ‘generalized’ Artificial intelligence is needed. Afterwards, the specific smoke detection problem in trains is a unique and individual engineering problem which has its own characteristics like as every other fire and smoke detection problems. It is possible to develop a model for the smoke and fire behavior in video using various video and image processing methods. However, it is important to underline that the current systems are deficient of false alarms because of modeling and training inaccuracies.

Available researches are mainly on the detection and analysis of smoke and flames in consecutive video images. Having said that most fires start at the blazing phase in which smoke usually appears

before flame. And in these cases, smoke is the first visible clue of fire so that it gives an earlier fire alarm. But compared to flame, the visual characteristics of smoke such as color and grads are less ambiguous, so that smoke is harder to be differentiated from its disturbances. So, the extraction of smoke's visual features is more complicated. In early researches, mainly flame detection was investigated. There are studies on the smoke detection problem in the more recent articles. As mentioned before, generally the flames are not visible in the beginning of the fire development but there is only smoke on the scene. In railway applications, depending on the location of the fire source, it may not be even possible to observe flames for a long time. The reason for this, trains have a complex infrastructure. This makes the smoke detection in the trains more crucial.

Over the last years, the number of papers about visual fire detection in the computer vision literature is growing exponentially [6]. As is, this relatively new subject in vision research is in full progress and has already gave promising results. However, like most of the computer vision problems, this subject is not a completely solved problem. Behavior of smoke and flames of an uncontrolled fire differs depending on the environment with distance and illumination. Furthermore, cameras are not perfect color and/or spectral measurement devices. They have different sensors and color and illumination balancing algorithms. They may produce different images and video for the same scene because of their internal settings and algorithms. In this section, a chronological overview of the state-of-the-art, often referenced papers on fire/smoke detection methods, is presented in Table 1. For each of these papers it is investigated the underlying algorithms and checked the appropriate techniques. In the following, the frequently repeated and the most reliable detection techniques and their use in the listed papers are analyzed and their outcomes are given in the following sections of the report.

	Article	Color detection	Moving object detection	Flicker/ energy (wavelet) analysis	Spatial Difference Analysis	Dynamic texture/pattern analysis	Disorder analysis	Sub blocking	Training (models, NN, SVM...)	Clean-up post processing	Localization/ analysis (flow rate)	Flame detection	Smoke detection	
2002-2007	Phillips [7], 2002	RGB		X	X				X	X		X		
	Gomez-Rodriguez [8], 2002		X	X			X						X	
	Gomez-Rodriguez [9], 2003		X	X			X						X	
	Chen [10],2004	RGB	X				X					X	X	
	Liu [11], 2004	HSV		X			X					X		
	Marbach [12], 2006			X			X					X		
	Toreyin [13], 2006	RGB	X	X	X							X		
	Toreyin [14], 2006	YUV	X	X			X							X
	Celik [15], 2007	YCbCr/ RGB										X	X	
	Xu [16], 2007		X	X				X				X	X	

2007 - 2009	Celik [17], 2007	RGB	X				X		X	X		X	
	Xiong [18], 2007		X	X			X						X
	Lee [19], 2007	RGB	X						X	X		X	X
	Calderara [20], 2008	RGB	X	X				X	X				X
	Piccinini [21], 2008	RGB	X	X					X				X
	Yuan [22], 2008	RGB	X					X	X				X
	Borges [23], 2008	RGB						X				X	
	Qi [24], 2009	RGB/HSV		X	X						X		X
	Yasmin [25], 2009	RGB/HIS	X					X	X			X	
Gubbi [26], 2009				X				X	X				X
2010 - 2011	Chen [27], 2010	RGB/HIS	X	X					X			X	
	Gunay [28], 2010	RGB/HIS	X	X	X			X		X		X	
	Kolesov [29], 2010		X			X			X			X	X

	Ko [30], 2010	RGB	X	X					X			X	
	Gonzalez-Gonzalez [31], 2010			X				X					X
	Borges [32], 2010	RGB			X			X		X		X	
	Van Hamme [33], 2010	HSV				X			X	X		X	
	Celik [34], 2010	CIE L*a*b*	X					X		X	X	X	
	Yuan [35], 2011					X				X			X
	Rossi [36], 2011	YUV/ RGB								X	X	X	X
2012-2016	Millan [37], 2012	RGB/ YCbCr	X					X			X		X
	Suchet [38], 2012	YCbCr	X		X			X				X	X
	Bistrovic [39], 2016	RGB/ YCbCr	X					X					X
	Hwang [40], 2016	YUV/ RGB	X		X						X	X	X

Table 1 Literature Review

### 2.3.1. Chromatic Analysis

One of the first and main detection technique used in video fire detection systems is the chromatic analysis so is the color detection and is still used in almost all detection methods. Many of the color-based approaches in fire/smoke detection systems make use of RGB color space and sometimes in combination with HSI/HSV saturation [7], [10], [13], [24], [27], [28]. Since almost all the visible range cameras are having video detection sensors in RGB, spectral content associated with RGB color space are in common.

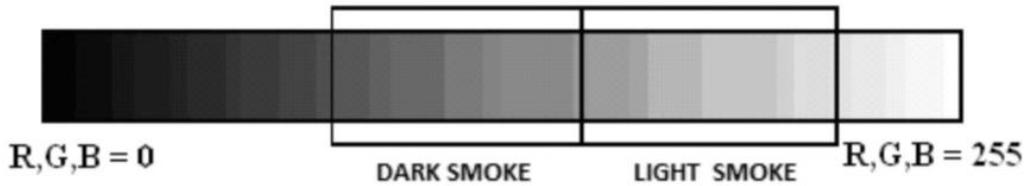


Figure 6 Colors of the RGB Model for Smoke

Various combustible materials will generate different colors and quantities of smokes when burning occurs, which are in form of small particles [41]. In a video frame that contains smoke, RGB values of the smoke pixels are in grayish color range. And this color range can be classified into two gray level regions: light-gray and dark-gray, as represented on the Figure 6. In a fire at a low temperature, light smoke occurs, and the smoke color is white bluish to light gray, while at a high temperature, dark smoke occurs, and the smoke color varies from gray to black. This can be explained with the following formula and brings that the intensity of the gray color may vary between 80 and 220, neither so white nor so black, where 0 represents the black color and 255 the white.

$$80 \leq \frac{R + G + B}{3} \leq 220 \quad (1)$$

This grayish color of smoke brings the intensities of three  $R$ ,  $G$  and  $B$  channel values very close to each other or in other words, approximately the same. Therefore,  $R$ ,  $G$  and  $B$  values are satisfying the following rule:

$$R \pm \alpha = G \pm \alpha = B \pm \alpha \quad (2)$$

In a similar manner,  $RGB$  channel values of flame pixels are in red-yellow color range indicated by the rule:

$$R > G > B \quad (3)$$

If the mentioned rules are satisfied, the pixel is considered as smoke. Explained properties can be seen in the Figure 7.



Figure 7 RGB Values of Smoke and Fire

Among these color models, there is the HIS (hue-intensity-saturation) color model used in the reviewed articles [24], [25], [28]. This color model can be applied in order to avoid lighting changes and it is also suitable for providing a people-oriented way of describing the colors, because the hue and saturation components represent color similarity of how the human eye senses colors [42]. Smoke pixels detection can be carried out by using saturation channel histogram correlation analysis [43], the saturation value of the general smoke to be distributed as  $0 \leq S \leq 40$ .

In YUV and YCbCr color spaces there is a common Y component that determines the brightness of the color (referred to as luminance or luma). Brightness of the scene is a notable feature for smoke and fire detection so that these color spaces are also commonly used in many articles, such as [14], [15], [44]. Smoke motion produces change in the luminance value of a given block in the consecutive frames. Therefore, for smoke detection, very low chrominance values or a decrease in this manner and high luminance value of suspicious regions are important clues [13], [45]. The conditions in YUV color space are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Condition 1: } & Y > TY \\ \text{Condition 2: } & |U - 128| < TU \text{ and } |V - 128| < TV \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Where  $Y$ ,  $U$  and  $V$  are the luminance and chrominance values of a particular pixel, respectively. The luminance component  $Y$  takes values in the range  $[0, 255]$  in an 8-bit quantized image and the mean values of chrominance channels,  $U$  and  $V$  are increased to 128 so that they also take values between 0 and 255. The thresholds  $TY$ ,  $TU$  and  $TV$  are experimentally determined in [36].

More complex systems use rule-based techniques such as Gaussian smoothed color histograms [7], blending functions [21] and statistically generated color models [46]. It should be underlined that color information is not enough to be used by itself to detect fire because of the variability in

color, density, lighting, and background. However, the color information can be used as a part of a more sophisticated system.

### **2.3.2. Motion**

Moving object detection in video frames is a subject of research. There are several methods used in the articles listed in the Table 1 and all these methods try to estimate the background from the temporal sequence of the frames. Along these methods, there are benefits and limitations. For the sake of the benefits, it should be underlined that, moving object detection is very handy for separation of the moving and background areas in a frame. After this separation, the moving areas would be detected, and this detection makes the recognition, classification and various image processing algorithms easy to apply on the focused area.

Since smoke and flames have a motion, various moving object detection algorithms are widely used in smoke and fire detection applications. In the reviewed articles, optical flow analysis [8], [9], [29] and temporal differencing [19] methods are in use. Independently moving object can be detected by using optical flow computation methods. However, these methods have computationally complexity. Besides this, temporal differencing method is very adaptive to the dynamic environments as well. Unfortunately, in a manner of performance, temporal differencing generally does a poor job of extracting all relevant feature pixels. Adaptive background subtraction model [47] may be used for moving object detection as well.

Apart from mentioned methods, the background subtraction methods are commonly in use, such as in [14], [13], [16], [15], [18], [20], [21], [22], [48], [28], [30], [34]. It also provides the most complete feature data. However, it is critical to point out that, this method is highly sensitive to lighting and external circumstances. Additionally, a limitation that affects this method is that it only works for static cameras or in ‘step-and-stare’ mode for pan-tilt cameras. To overcome this limitation, a second extension has been developed by Collins et al. [49], to allow background subtraction from a continuously panning and tilting camera. This Gaussian Mixture Model based approach model was used in many of the smoke detection studies.

In accordance with this project, the adaptive background subtraction technique proposed by T. Kanade and R. Collins [47] might be a suitable solution. However, there is a disadvantage of this adaptive background subtraction method and it may be explained as following [50]. When a stationary object starts to move, the algorithm detects this movement. Afterwards, they leave behind “holes” where the newly exposed background imagery differs from the known background model. While the background model eventually adapts to these “holes”, they generate false alarms for a short period of time. Thus, it can be concluded that the adaptive background subtraction technique [47], has handicaps for stationary objects in the scene that start to move. In this point of the report, it is also convenient to mention about the frame differencing method. Let it be known

that the frame differencing is not subject to mentioned ‘holes’ phenomenon, however, it is generally not an effective method for extracting the entire shape of a moving object.

In this project, the moving pixels and regions in the video are determined by using a background estimation method developed by Collins et.al. [49]. The method developed by Collins, is a combination of an adaptive background subtraction technique [47] with a three-frame differencing algorithm. The method is named hybrid algorithm for detecting moving objects and considers a video stream from a stationary or stabilized camera. In a train environment, safety cameras are in stable position, usually placed in the ceiling of the compartment in order to have the maximum surveillance. An example of camera positioning in the train can be seen on the Figure 8. Therefore, it is convenient to say that this method is suitable particularly for the train environment.



Figure 8 Train Compartment

Considering the stable video camera, let  $I_n(x)$  represent the intensity value at pixel position  $x$ , at time  $t = n$ . The three-frame differencing rule suggests that a pixel is legitimately moving if its intensity has changed significantly between both the current image and the last frame, and the current image and the next-to-last frame. That is, a pixel  $x$  is moving if it satisfies the following equation ( 5 ).

$$\left(|I_n(x) - I_{n-1}(x)| > T_n(x)\right) \text{ and } \left(|I_n(x) - I_{n-2}(x)| > T_n(x)\right) \quad (5)$$

Where the  $T_n(x)$  is a threshold describing a statistically significant intensity change at pixel position  $x$ . The main problem with frame differencing is the pixels belonging to an interior of an object with uniform intensity are not considered as the moving pixels. However, after clustering the moving pixels into a connected region, interior pixels can be filled in by applying adaptive background subtraction to extract all the “moving” pixels within the region’s bounding box  $R$ .

$B_{n(x)}$  represents the current background intensity values for pixel  $x$ . Thus, the blob  $b_n$  can be filled out by taking all the pixels in the region’s bounding box  $R$ , that differs from the background model  $B_n$ .  $T_n(x)$  considered as the difference threshold. These statistical properties of the pixel intensities observed from the sequence of images  $\{I_k(x)\}$  for  $k < n$  and that is as in the equation ( 6 ).

$$b_n = \{x : |I_n(x) - B_n(x)| > T_n(x), x \in R\} \quad (6)$$

Finally, in this method, a background image  $B_{n+1}$  at time instant  $n + 1$  is recursively estimated from the image frame  $I_n$  and the background image  $B_n$  of the video.  $B_0(x)$  is initially set to the first image, as  $B_0(x) = I_0(x)$  and the  $B(x)$  is updated over time as in the equation ( 7 ).

$$B_{n+1}(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha B_n(x) + (1 - \alpha)I_n(x), & x \text{ is stationary} \\ B_n(x), & x \text{ is moving} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a time constant parameter that specifies how fast new information replaces previous observations and it varies between 0 and 1. Having an  $\alpha$  relatively small results as a more accurate background subtraction. Implementation of this method and experimental results can be found in the following section.

For the last word, some of the early articles simply classify the moving objects as fire but this approach leads to many false alarms, because the moving objects may not be fire or smoke always. Moving object detection algorithms may be used as a part of the detection system. However, to determine if the motion is due to smoke or an ordinary moving object, further analysis of moving regions in video is necessary.

### **2.3.3. Motion and Flicker Analysis in Fourier Domain**

Especially when there is too little or too much airflow around the flame, flickering occurs. This behavior is basically caused by the disturbed air around the fire. Flames heat the air around them by turning oxygen to carbon dioxide. Both can cause a flame to flicker even when there is no discernible breeze. Particularly for an uncontrolled fire, flickering occurs persistently. In the articles listed in Table 1, using the frequency analysis to distinguish the flames from the other moving objects is proposed. Therefore, the temporal behavior of the flames and smoke can be analyzed by the flicker detection [51], [18], [12], [14], [48], [28], [30] in video and wavelet domain signal energy analysis [21], [13], [20], [26], [31], [52]. By the help of these methods, it is possible to distinguish ordinary objects from fire. It is important to underline that, flame colored pixels appear and disappear at edges of turbulent flames. The research in [16] and [18] shows experimentally that the flicker frequency of turbulent flames is not highly affected by the burning material and the burner and its value is around 10 Hz. According to the article [53], an increase in Fourier domain energy in 5 to 10 Hz may be accepted an indicator of flames.

However, smoke flicker detection does not seem to be a very reliable technique because of the following reasons explained. In the early stages of an uncontrolled fire, the combustion process has great nonlinear instabilities. Therefore, an uncontrolled fire in its early stages exhibits a transition to chaos [54], [55]. Moreover, it is not possible to observe a single flickering frequency in an uncontrolled fire for the turbulent flames due to the reason that they can be characterized as a chaotic wide band frequency activity. This phenomenon was observed by independent researchers working on video fire detection and methods were proposed accordingly [14], [48], [56]. Similarly, for the main scope of this project, for smoke, is not possible to mention about a specific flicker frequency. However, it is possible to observe a clear time-varying meandering behavior in uncontrolled fires. Therefore, it can be concluded as follows: smoke flicker detection is not a very reliable technique, but like the color detection, it can be used as part of a multi-feature algorithm fusing various vision clues for smoke detection. Temporal Fourier analysis can still be used to detect flickering flames, but we believe that there is no need to detect specifically 10 Hz. An increase in Fourier domain energy in 5 to 10 Hz is an indicator of flames. As a result, smoke boundaries also oscillate with a lower frequency at the early stages of fire [57].

### **2.3.4. Color Variations**

Flame color depends on several factors, the most important typically being black-body radiation and spectral band emission. There is also a relation between the flame colors and temperature. Therefore, Flames have varying colors even within a small area. Spatial color difference analysis focuses on this characteristic. Using the spatial wavelet analysis [14], [28], range filters [24] and variance/histogram analysis [32], the spatial color variations in pixel values are analyzed to

separate ordinary fire-colored objects from flames. Histogram based approach focuses in the standard deviation of the various color bands. However, green pixel values vary more than red and blue values. If the standard deviation of the green color band exceeds  $t\sigma = 50$  ( $\sim$  Borges [32]) in a typical color video the region is labeled as a candidate region for a flame.

On the other hand, smoke does not show great spatial color variations as flame regions. Therefore, mentioned methods are not always applicable for smoke regions detection. In general, smoke in an uncontrolled fire is gray and it reduces the color variation in the background. Therefore, in YUV color space or YCbCr we expect to have reduction in the dynamic range of chrominance color components when the smoke occurs in a video frame. In addition, grayish colored moving object may cause false detections since they have the similar characteristics with smoke.

### 2.3.5. Wavelet Transforms

A wavelet is a mathematical function useful in digital signal and image processing since wavelets allow both time and frequency analysis simultaneously. The use of wavelets for these proposed is a recent development, although the theory is not new. The principles are similar to those of Fourier analysis, which was first developed in the early part of the 19th century.

The Fourier transforms time-based signals to frequency-based signals so is a useful tool to analyze the frequency components of the signal. However, in Fourier, the temporal information is lost. Wavelet transforms are based on small wavelets with limited duration, so it is able to capture both frequency and location information in time.

The aim of wavelet transform is to change the data from time-space domain to time-frequency domain. Having in mind that wavelet functions defined over a finite interval, the base idea lying under wavelet transform is to represent an arbitrary function  $f(x)$  as a linear combination of a set of such wavelets or basis functions. Mentioned basis functions are obtained from a single prototype wavelet by dilations and translations. The procedure starts with adopting a wavelet prototype function named as analyzing of mother wavelet. Afterwards, temporal and frequency analysis are performed. Temporal analysis is on the high frequency version of the prototype wavelet and the frequency analysis is performed with a low frequency version of the same wavelet.

In this point, it is convenient to introduce some important terminologies used in the wavelet transform. Firstly, the windows used in the transform process are scaled and/or shifted versions of mother wavelet. The mother wavelet is a prototype for generating the window function. It is translated, scaled and correlated with the signal to get the transform. The scale is the degree of dilatation of the mother wavelet. Basically, scaling a wavelet means stretching or compressing it. High scale stands for low details and low scale is for high details. To sum up,  $S > 1$  means dilatation of the signal, while  $S < 1$  is for compression. It is important to underline that the scaling

functions play a crucial role in the wavelet transformations. The concept of scaling functions is most easily understood using Haar wavelets. The Haar functions are the simplest compactly supported scaling functions and wavelets. Finally, the translation and shift terms refer to the scaled wavelet. Principally, shifting a wavelet means introducing a delay.

After giving a brief introduction to the wavelets, it is appropriate to introduce the place and importance of wavelet transform in smoke detection. Smoke obstructs the texture and edges in the background of an image. Since the edges and texture contribute to the high frequency information of the image, energies of wavelet sub images drop due to smoke in an image sequence. Based on this information proposed by Toreyin et al. [14], it is worthwhile to perform this analysis on the source video. Following in the report, the decrease in local wavelet energy is under researched.

To begin with the wavelet analysis, introducing equation ( 8 ) represents a composite image containing high frequency information at a given scale. Performed analysis is fed by a *YCbCr* source image. Thus, the wavelet sub images are computed by using the luminance image *Y* as suggested in the [57]. Letting  $(K_1, K_2)$  to represent the block size and  $e(l_1, l_2)$  to represent the energy, for each block, the energy is computed as given in the equation ( 9 ). In addition to this, in the wavelet sub image,  $R_i$  represents a block with the size  $(K_1, K_2)$ .

$$w_n(x, y) = |LH_n(x, y)|^2 + |HL_n(x, y)|^2 + |HH_n(x, y)|^2 \quad (8)$$

$$e(l_1, l_2) = \sum_{(x,y) \in R_i} w_n(x + l_1 K_1, y + l_2 K_2) \quad (9)$$

Wavelet sub images contains the edge information of the original image and they are horizontal, vertical and diagonal edges of the original image, respectively, *LH*, *HL* and *HH*. Edges produce local extrema in the wavelet sub images. Therefore, is smoke occurs on the monitored scene, the edges become invisible decreasingly and after some time the edges disappear from the frame.

The wavelet domain analysis can be used to analyze the temporal behavior of smoke, as proposed by Toreyin et al. [14]. This method gives promising results for the smoke detection. When smoke occurs, the edges in the image are softened gradually. According to the [14], the energy variation between background and current image can be used as a clue for the smoke detection. Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) is used to detect this energy decrease in the edges of the image. Red channel values of the pixels are used for DWT. The two-channel sub band decomposition filter bank is composed of half-band high-pass and low-pass as shown in the Figure 9 and HPF and LPF represent half-band high-pass and low-pass filters, used for wavelet analysis.

Mentioned filter bank produces four wavelet sub images, called as low–low version of the original image  $C_t$  and the horizontal, vertical and diagonal high frequency band images  $H_t$ ,  $V_t$  and  $D_t$ . The high band energy from sub images  $H_t$ ,  $V_t$  and  $D_t$  is evaluated by dividing the image  $I_t$  in blocks  $b_k$  of arbitrary size and evaluation is based on the formula given on the following equation ( 10 ).

$$E(I_t, b_k) = \sum_{i,j \in b_k} H_t^2(i,j) + V_t^2(i,j) + D_t^2(i,j) \quad (10)$$

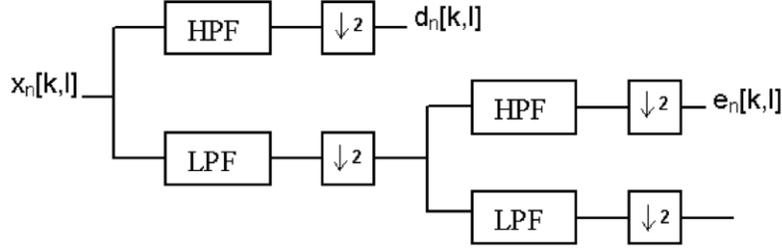


Figure 9 a Two-Stage Filter Bank

High-band wavelet images are influenced by the edges of the image rather than the flat areas. Therefore, smoke detection may be performed by analyzing the decrease in the  $E(I_t, b_k)$ . In DWT based video smoke detection, when there is smoke, the ratio between the input frame wavelet energy and the background wavelet energy decreases and shows a high degree of disorder. Thus, temporal analysis of the ratio between the current input frame wavelet energy and the background image wavelet energy is used for performing the smoke detection.

### 2.3.6. Classification

Classification is a broad range of decision approaches for the identification of images or parts. Classification approaches contains a database that consist of predefined patterns that are compared with detected object to classify in to proper category. Image classification refers to the labelling of images into one of a number of predefined categories, either performed by an analyst (as in supervised classification) or automatically clustered (i.e. as in unsupervised classification) into sets of prototype classes, where the analyst merely specifies the number of desired categories.

Image classification is an important and challenging task in smoke detection, since it provides more promising results for the ambiguous features of smoke. Many classification techniques have been used for smoke and fire detection. A popular approach for the classification for smoke or flame blob is the SVM classification, typically with Radial Basis Function kernels. In order to decrease the number of false alarms, large number of frames of smoke and non-smoke video sequences need to be used for training SVM classifiers.

The other classification methods listed in the Table 1 are AdaBoost method [22], neural networks [29], [35], Bayesian classifiers [30], [32], Markov models [28], [33] and rule-based classification [58].

Last but not least, like in all the image processing applications, morphological operations, sub-blocking and clean-up post processing such as median-filtering are used as the part of the fire smoke detection systems; [20], [21], [22], [25], [26], [33], [36], [59].

### **2.3.7. Neural Networks**

Machine learning is the practice of using algorithms to analyze and learn from datasets in order to make an estimation or prediction about new piece of unknown data by learning certain rules from given data. Using large datasets, machine learning algorithms develop ability to understand how to perform a task without being explicitly told how to do so. Conventional approaches, on the contrary, have their focus on manually writing code with a specific set of instructions to accomplish a particular task, in this case, smoke detection. Neural networks (NN), incorporate algorithms to analyze data, learn from data, and then make an estimation or prediction about new data. It is important to remind that the latest advancements in MathWorks' Neural Network toolbox allow for simple, easy, and fast prototyping of NN based machine learning methods in MATLAB.

Like all neural networks, convolutional neural networks (CNNs) are made of neurons and connections that have learnable weights and biases. The only difference between ordinary neural networks and CNNs is that convolutional network architectures make the explicit assumption that the inputs are images, which allows us to encode certain properties into the architecture. This encoding is done through integrating hidden layers that do special transformations on their inputs. CNN's also involve other types of hidden layers like Max Pooling, Average Pooling, Batch Normalization, etc.

The architecture of the network is chosen by the engineer who initially designed the network. But the layers themselves come with many unknown weights and biases in their connections. The optimal values of these parameters are determined in the process of training the CNN. Training a network can be said as solving an optimization problem, which is focused on the weights and biases in the model. At the beginning, each connection between neurons has an arbitrary weight assigned to it. During training these weights are constantly updated with the aim of reaching their optimal values. How the optimization is done depends on the optimization algorithm or optimizer that the developer chooses to use for the model. The most known optimizer that attempts to set the model's weights is called stochastic gradient descent (SGD) and as also proposed in this work, stochastic gradient descent with momentum (SGDM). Here, the objective is to minimize a given loss function. The model learns by repeatedly sending the same data into the model, calculating the loss function, and then update the weights of the model accordingly. A representation of this logic is given in the Figure 10. A single pass of the data through the model is called an epoch.

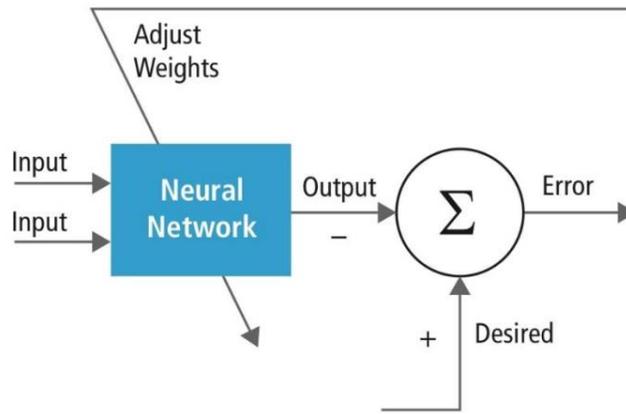


Figure 10 Training Neural Networks

As indicated before, if we want to use the neural networks, we need to feed the network by images. As the contribution of this work, the network is not fed by the full-size images. It is proposed to analyze the images and extract the suspicious regions. Therefore, the detected regions are used to train the network. Extracted areas are saved in a file as individual images, however, they should be resized to be in the correct size for the neural network. In addition to this, it is convenient to introduce here, the term of data augmentation, which is a way of creating new ‘data’ with different orientations. There are two main benefits of this step, the first being the ability to generate ‘more data’ from limited data and secondly it prevents over fitting.

Following, a basic NN is designed as a reference to be used for smoke detection. In this step, the data fed to the network is already preprocessed by the steps explained previously in the report, like background subtraction and blob detection. Therefore, it is foreseen that a simple neural network, as given in the following, would be satisfying for this job. In addition to this, labelling can be done more accurate, not only smoke and nonsmoke indicators but more detailed such as human, luggage and so on. Following in the report, a NN design is proposed for smoke detection.

```

%Conv Layer 1
conv1FilterSize = [5,5];
conv1FilterNum = 10;
conv1 = convolution2dLayer(conv1FilterSize,conv1FilterNum);

%Conv Layer 2
conv2FilterSize = [5,5];
conv2FilterNum = 20;
conv2 = convolution2dLayer(conv2FilterSize,conv2FilterNum);

%Conv Layer 3
conv3FilterSize = [5,5];
conv3FilterNum = 30;
conv3 = convolution2dLayer(conv3FilterSize,conv3FilterNum);

%Relu Layer
ReLU = reluLayer();

%Max Pooling Layer
maxpool = maxPooling2dLayer(2,'Stride',2);

Arch2 = [imageInputLayer([48 64 3]);
        conv1;
        ReLU;
        maxpool;
        conv2;
        ReLU;
        maxpool;
        conv3;
        ReLU;
        maxpool;
        fullyConnectedLayer(2);
        softmaxLayer();
        classificationLayer(2)];

options = trainingOptions('sgdm',...
    'LearnRateSchedule','piecewise',...
    'LearnRateDropFactor',0.2,...
    'LearnRateDropPeriod',10,...
    'MaxEpochs',25);

```

### 2.3.8. Evaluation of Visible Range Video Fire Detection Methods

In the review paper [53], an evaluation of different visible range fire and smoke detection methods is presented. Methods are performed on different video clips that contain different fire flames and smoke from different sources. There are also clips without fire and smoke. Snapshots from test sequences with and without fire are presented on the Figure 11.

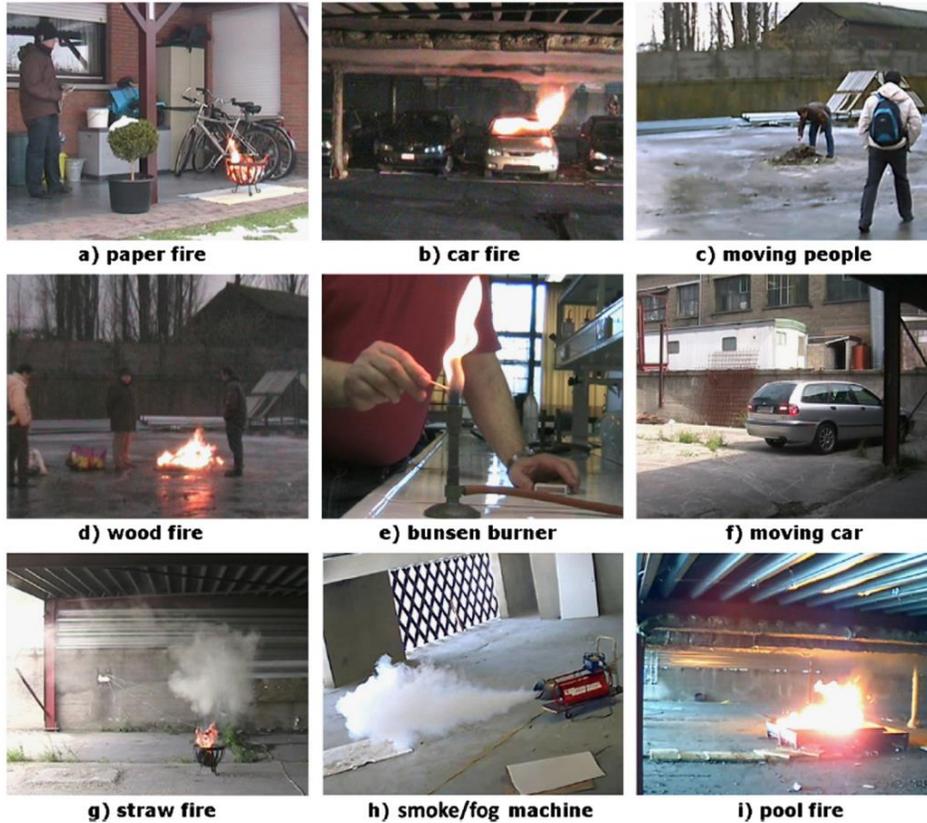


Figure 11 Snapshots from Test Sequences with and without Fire, data from [53]

In the review, among various algorithms, following ones are deeply investigated and performed, [14], [18], [23], [45], [54]. On an introductory basis, it can be said that, the flame detection methods by Celik and Borges and the smoke detection methods by Toreyin and Xiong are commonly referenced methods in the literature and the method of Verstockt is a relatively recent one. Following Table 2, presents the comparison of the smoke and flame detection methods. The method proposed by Verstockt [45], named as ‘Method 1’ in the Table 2. Following, a combined method based on the flame detector by Celik et al. [60] and the smoke detector described in Toreyin et al. [14], named as ‘Method 2’ in the

Table 2. Finally, the ‘Method 3’ is the combination of the feature-based flame detection method by Borges et al. [23] and the smoke detection method by Xiong et al. [18].

Video sequence	# of frames	# Fire frames	# Detected fire frames			# False positive frames			Detection rate			
			ground truth	Method			Method			Method		
				1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
<b>Paper fire</b>	1550	956	897	922	874	9	17	22	0.93	0.95	0.89	
<b>Car fire</b>	2043	1415	1293	1224	1037	3	8	13	0.91	0.86	0.73	
<b>Moving people</b>	886	0	5	0	28	5	0	28	-	-	-	
<b>Wood fire</b>	592	522	510	489	504	17	9	16	0.94	0.92	0.93	
<b>Bunsen burner</b>	115	98	59	53	32	0	0	0	0.6	0.54	0.34	
<b>Moving car</b>	332	0	0	13	11	0	13	11	-	-	-	
<b>Straw fire</b>	938	721	679	698	673	16	21	12	0.92	0.93	0.92	
<b>Smoke/fog machine</b>	1733	923	834	654	789	9	34	52	0.89	0.67	0.8	
<b>Pool fire</b>	2260	1844	1665	1634	1618	0	0	0	0.9	0.89	0.88	

Table 2 Comparison of the Smoke and Flame Detection Methods, data from [53]

For performance evaluation, test sequences are captured in different environments under different conditions as shown in the Table 2 and Figure 11. With the aim of having a fair and objective evaluation of the different detection methods, the ‘detection rate’ metric [45], [61] is used. The detection rate is calculated by the ratio of the number of correctly detected frames as fire and the number of frames with fire in the manually created ground truth frames. It is important to highlight that, this evaluation method is comparable to the methods used by Toreyin et al. [14] and Celik et al. [60]. Looking at the detections rates in the Table 2, it is convenient to say that the performances of various methods are comparable with each other.

# Chapter 3

## 3. Proposed Detection Approach

The principal idea is to characterize smoke using efficient features such as motion, color, etc. Afterwards the detection techniques are discussed for the same. Basically, every single frame in the video is checked for the presence or absence of smoke. Each step of the proposed algorithm is explained in detail.

In this section of report, firstly the frame-based fire detection algorithms are implemented in MATLAB. In this approach, the proposed algorithms are applied in the whole image and outcomes are observed. Following in the report, contribution of this work to the existing algorithms is explained. Most of the fire detection algorithms are based on the whole frame analysis. However, in the proposed approach, region-based detection method is designed.

### 3.1. Frame-Based Detection Algorithms

The frame-based fire detection algorithms performed in MATLAB and based of several titles: (i) wavelet analysis is performed to determine high-frequency activity within these moving regions. After that, image histogram (ii) and entropy (iii) definitions investigated deeply for smoke frames. After these, an alternative view to the thresholding is proposed, (iv).

#### 3.1.1. Wavelet Transform and Analysis

In the Wavelet Transforms section of the Literature Review title, a brief introductive information is given to the importance and the usage of the wavelet analysis in the smoke detection problem. Following that, it is convenient to continue as following. Wavelet analysis has sub-headings such as continuous wavelet transforms, discrete wavelet transforms, fast wavelet transform. In this part of the project, discrete wavelet transform is in use, which is a multi-resolution signal decomposition method obtained by convolving the intensity image with filter banks. Following the equations ( 8 ) and ( 9 ), suggested methods are implemented on MATLAB. In the Figure 12, given screenshots are from a video captured in a room when smoke occurs.



Figure 12 Smoke in the Room

Considering the edges in the original image correspond to the extremes of the wavelet transformation of the background image, slow fading of these extremes may be observed when the scene is subjected to smoke. As can be seen in the Figure 12, smoke brings also less visibility in the monitored area. Thus, this circumstance may be due to the existence of smoke. It is important to highlight that in this context; only slow variations are valuable. An instantaneous variance on the extrema values are not considered because of smoke. These fast changes may be due to an ordinary moving object that creates a sudden coverage of the edges. Thus, such changes are ignored.

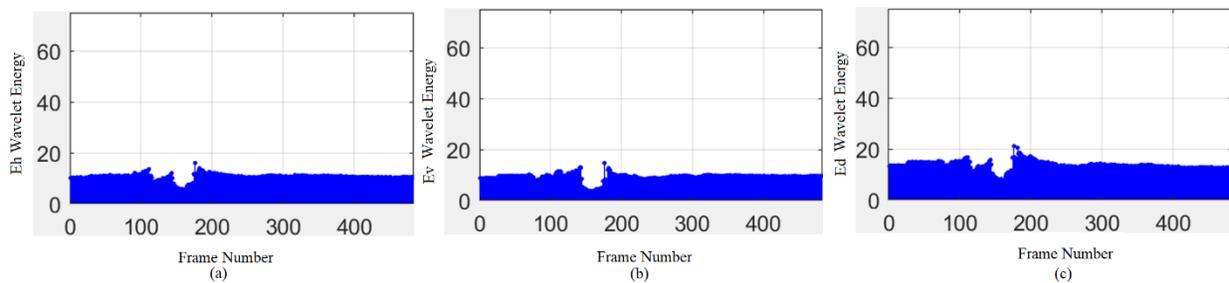


Figure 13 Wavelet Energies

In the Figure 13, performed wavelet energy analysis is given for the video shown on the Figure 12. The analysis is performed for the all video frames and in the section (a) horizontal, section (b) vertical and the section (c) the diagonal component is shown. As can be seen on the Figure 13, it is possible to observe a slow fading of the energies from the moment the smoke comes into scene.

Let it be known that, the energy does not drop down to zero but only has a decrease. With the aim of visibility detection, it is conceivable to set thresholding such as  $1 > T_2 > T_1 > 0$ . By having  $T_1 > 0$  and not  $T_1 \geq 0$ , it is guaranteed to have edges semitransparent and not totally vanished due to the nature of initial smoke.

To summarize, in general, it is possible to say that if there is a decrease in value of certain  $e(l_1, l_2)$ , this means that the texture or edges of the video frame do not have the sharp features as used to be. Thus, this loss of the high frequency components may be the sign of the smoke in the image region corresponding to the  $(l_1, l_2)^{th}$  block. Under certain conditions, it is possible to set threshold values for comparison and following an alarm may be given if the energy value  $e(l_1, l_2)$  goes below the defined threshold value.

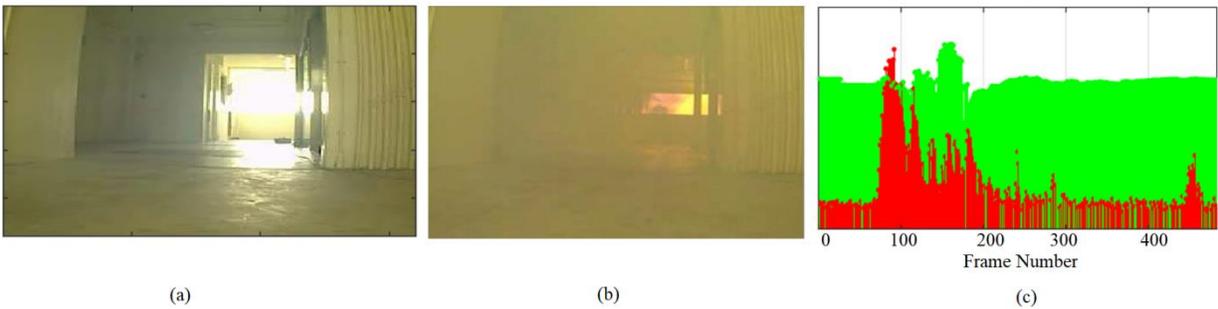


Figure 14 Current - Background Image Wavelet Ratio

Therefore, the contribution of the edges and details is more significant in high band wavelet images compared to the plain areas of the image and so it is possible to detect the smoke using the decrease in the wavelet energy. Since the energy value of a specific block with the size of  $(K_1, K_2)$ , varies importantly over time in the presence of smoke, the temporal analysis of the ratio between the current input frame wavelet energy and the background image wavelet energy may be used for the smoke detection.

The wavelet transforms of the background image, as given on the Figure 14, section (a) is used to compute the energy values. These values stand for the details in the background image. After this, the local energy values are computed for the current image that is given on the Figure 14, section (b) by using its wavelet transform. Having a comparison between these energy values and tracking this ratio variation, it is possible to obtain a strong hint about smoke detection. The ratio of the background and the current image wavelet energies is given on the Figure 14, section (c). As can be seen on the section (c), on the frame numbers between 80 and 200, smoke comes in sight, the ratio between the input frame wavelet energy and the background wavelet energy decreases and shows a high degree of disorder. In the rest of the scale, the energy values show a more stable behavior.

This analysis yields good results; however, this approach has two drawbacks. Firstly, in this algorithm, a stationary camera is in use, but this point is not important for the train environment as said before, in the trains, the cameras being in fixed position and stable. The second one is that the algorithm has highly computational complexity despite working in real-time. This point would be vital for the choosing the adequate hardware.

### 3.1.2. Image Histogram

Histogram is a graphical representation of a digital image that shows the number of pixels in an image at each different intensity value found for each color channel. By looking at this graph, it is possible to investigate the entire tonal distribution. The working principle is very simple. The image is scanned, and the number of pixels found at each intensity value is used to create the histogram graph. In a fire situation, as mentioned also in the previous sections, smoke comes in sight firstly and occupies most of the pixels in the video frame. Thus, it can be said that, the digital image consists mostly the grayish colored pixels. The average of the RGB values of the pixels should be in between 80 and 220 as given in the equation ( 1 ). Grayish color range and their RGB values are given in the Table 3.

	RGB (80,80,80)		RGB (152,152,152)
	RGB (88,88,88)		RGB (160,160,160)
	RGB (96,96,96)		RGB (168,168,168)
	RGB (104,104,104)		RGB (176,176,176)
	RGB (112,112,112)		RGB (184,184,184)
	RGB (120,120,120)		RGB (190,190,190)
	RGB (128,128,128)		RGB (200,200,200)
	RGB (136,136,136)		RGB (208,208,208)
	RGB (144,144,144)		RGB (211,211,211)

Table 3 Gray Color RGB Values

Therefore, the histogram of the frame with smoke will show higher number of grayish pixels with respect to the frames without smoke. According to this theory, the following experiment is carried out. In an environment, smoke is generated by a fog machine. The video used to capture two images, one contains smoke and the other does not. Afterwards, the histogram analysis is carried out with the aim of determine the smoke colored pixels behavior.

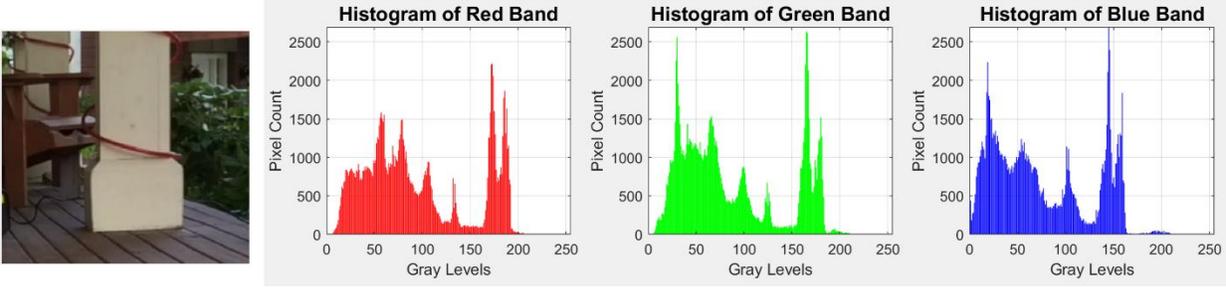


Figure 15 Histogram of a Frame without Smoke

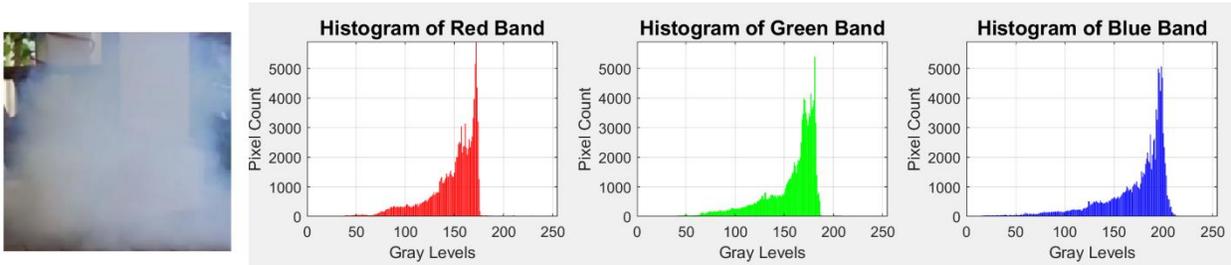


Figure 16 Histogram of a Frame with Smoke

In the Figure 15, the frame does not contain any smoke and this image is used to observe the normal histogram behavior of the scene. As can be seen on the given graphs, for all color bands, histograms have large range variations. In the Figure 16, the observation is done in the same scene, when the smoke starts by the fog machine. It is possible to observe a reduction in the color variations in all color channels and accumulation on the grayish color range on the graphs given in in the Figure 16.

In a train environment, this method would give promising results as well since in the background scene there are a lot of details and different colored objects. However, this algorithm is also essentially color based, and does not exploit other statistical characteristics of potential fire regions. In addition, temporal variation in image pixel color does not capture the temporal property of fire and smoke which is more complex and benefits from a region level representation.

### 3.1.3. Image Entropy

Entropy of the image specifies the uncertainty in the image values. It is used to characterize the texture of the digital image and it gives the statistical measure of randomness. The entropy  $H$  of an image is defined as in the equation ( 11 ).

$$H = - \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} p_k \log_2(p_k) \quad (11)$$

where  $M$  is the number of gray levels and  $p_k$  is the probability associated with gray level  $k$ . In case of a uniform, probability distribution, maximum entropy may be reached. If  $M = 2^n$ , then  $p_k$  is constant and it is given by  $p_k = \frac{1}{M} = 2^{-n}$ . Then the maximum entropy can be expressed by the equation ( 12 ).

$$H_{max} = - \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \left(\frac{1}{M}\right) \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{M}\right) = -\log(2^{-n}) = n \quad (12)$$

In a video frame that is captured in a scene without smoke, the entropy value generally remains constant and some small variations may occur in case of a moving object. However, in a frame that contains smoke, the entropy value changes dramatically. When smoke occurs, most of the pixels in the image would have the close gray levels. The details in the image would be lost and the image itself becomes almost constant. This may be explained by the help of the minimum entropy as following. The minimum entropy may be achieved when the image itself is constant, meaning that all the pixels in the image have the same gray level. Considering the gray level as  $k$ ,  $p_k = 1$  and  $H = -\log(1) = 0$ .

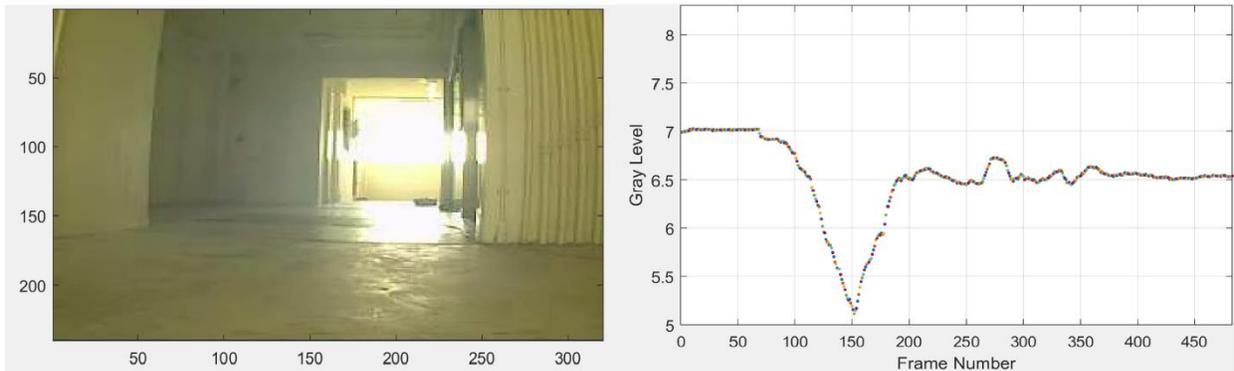


Figure 17 Entropy Analysis

In the Figure 17, the entropy values are calculated for each frame given on the right graph, on the video shown on the left side of the figure. It is important to specify that processed video is the same as given in the Figure 12. The graph in the Figure 17, shows the entropy values of the video, frame by frame. It is clearly seen that, when smoke occurs, the entropy values drop down expeditiously. This is because the image loses its randomness and becomes more and more constant when the smoke spreads.

### 3.1.4. Moving Variance

Variance is a measurement of the spread between numbers in a data set. It measures how far each number in the set is from the mean. In the section of Wavelet Transform and Analysis, it is proposed to define a threshold by Toreyin et al. [14], to detect the energy variations due to the smoke in the scene. Variance has many usages in image processing but in this context, it is proposed to introduce a different perspective than thresholding, regardless the computational load. It is worthily to introduce this method because thresholding is quite attached to the setups and spatial variations. Moreover, in real time and practical applications, thresholding would result in wrong alarms, so that having more reliable methods especially for vehicles like high speed trains is safety-critical. This method may be seen more adaptive way to detect the wavelet energy changes.

Proposed wavelet energy variation detection process works with the real-time acquisition of the energy values and calculating the moving variance over the data series by using an adequate sliding window. In this point, introducing a MATLAB function  $movvar(A, [k_b, k_f])$  which returns an array and computes the variance with a window of length  $k_b + k_f + 1$ . In the given window length,  $k_b$  elements backward, and  $k_f$  elements forward on the wavelet energy values, as defined in  $A$ . By placing all the variance values obtained from the wavelet analysis into a vector, the function  $movvar(A, [k_b, k_f])$  will operate along the length of the vector.

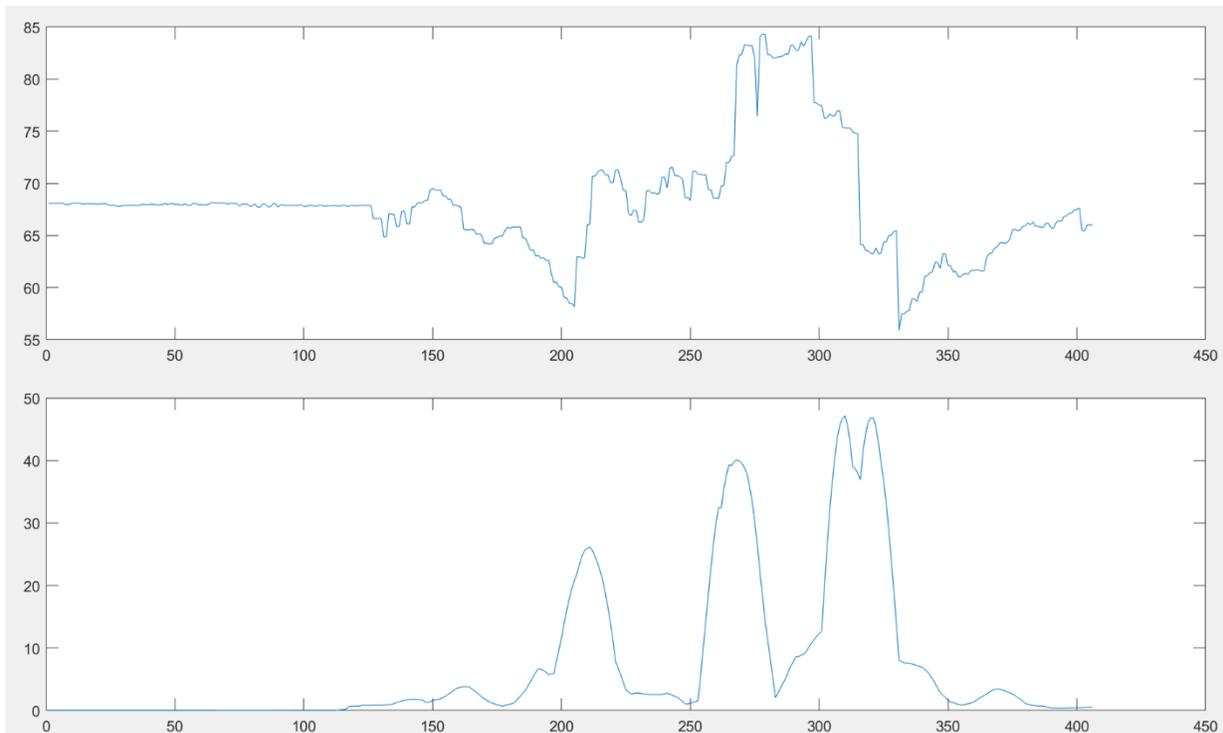


Figure 18 Moving Variance Results

Therefore, the mentioned approach is performed on the video shown in the Figure 12, and the results can be observed on the Figure 18. In the input video, smoke starts to appear in the scene after the 120<sup>th</sup> frame. On the Figure 18, the upper graph shows the energy values obtained by the help of the wavelet analysis and the graph below, shows the moving variance results of the energy values. As can be observed on the upper graph and it is also mentioned in the section Wavelet Transform and Analysis, smoke causes high degree of disorder in the energy wavelet energy. Therefore, this disorder is detected by the moving variance function as can be seen in the graph in the Figure 18.

### 3.2. Region-Based Approach

In this section, the most promising and innovative part of this work is presented. Firstly, suspected areas are detected in the video frames, after that, smoke clues are searched on these regions. By computing the most promising smoke clues for each suspicious region, it is possible to train a classifier by using the parameters obtained from these suspicious regions. The algorithm is given as following; (i) moving pixels or regions in the current frame of a video are determined, (ii) image enhancement and filtering methods are performed on the detected moving areas, then blob detection is performed in the foreground image (iii), feature analysis is carried out on the blobs, Later, support vector machine (viii) is introduced. The step by step illustration of the implemented algorithms is given in the report. In the following Figure 19, a representation of the proposed detection algorithm is shown.

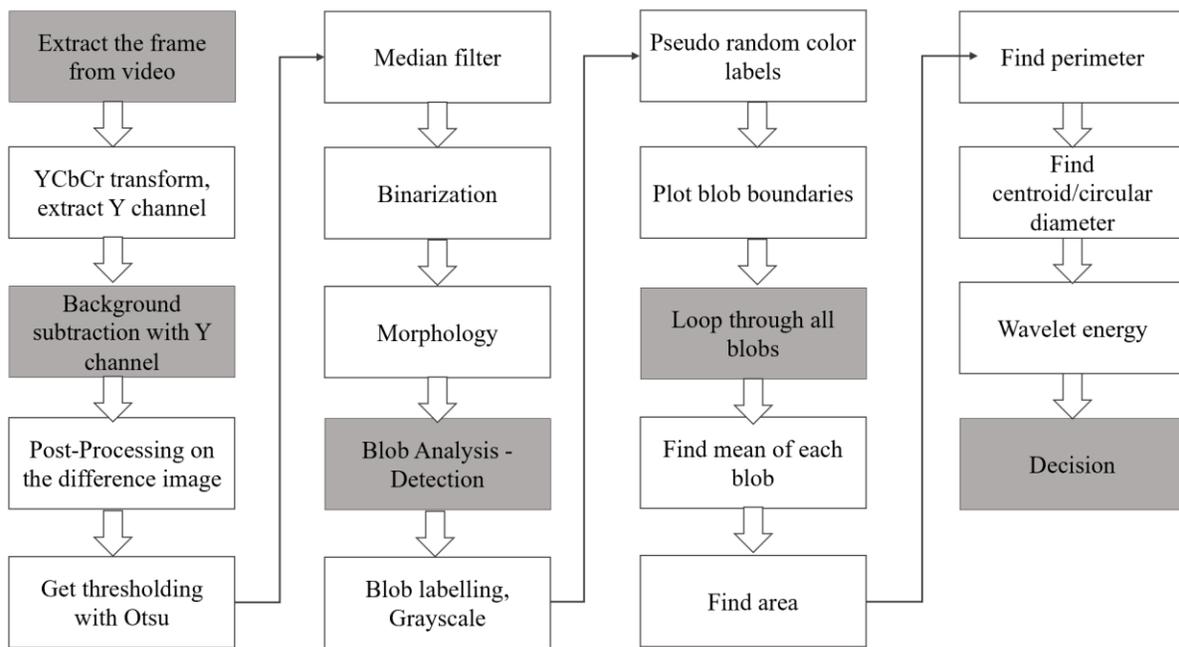


Figure 19 Detection Algorithm

### 3.2.1. Background Subtraction

Motion is one of the most important features of smoke. Therefore, detection of the moving areas on the image, brings an effective way to distinguish smoke pixels from the background. In this section of the project, the moving pixels and regions in the video are determined by using a background estimation method developed by Collins et.al. [49]. As shown in the equation ( 7 ), the background image is estimated from the current frame and  $\alpha$  is a time constant parameter that specifies how fast new information replaces previous observations and it varies between 0 and 1. Particularly for this project,  $\alpha$  is defined as 0.05. Having  $\alpha$  smaller, shows that the contribution of the recent frames is more while the past frames are becoming more negligible. Thereafter, moving pixels are determined by subtracting the current image from the background image and thresholding. MATLAB implementation for this part of algorithm is as following;

```
alpha = 0.05;
    if frame == 1
        Background = thisFrame;
    else
        Background = (1-alpha)*ThisFrame + alpha*Background;
    end

differenceImage = ThisFrame - Background
```

Following Figure 20, shows screenshots of this detection algorithm and the explanation is given below.

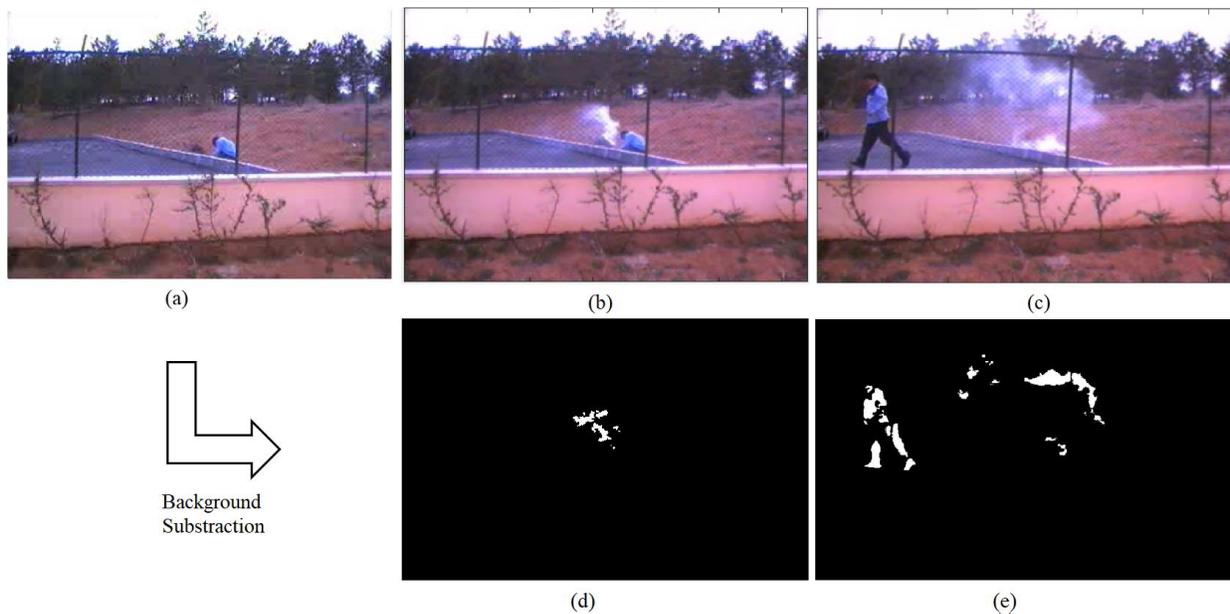


Figure 20 Result of the Detection Algorithm

Performing the detection algorithm on a video that contains fire, smoke and a moving person, the results shown on the Figure 20. In the section (a), original background is shown when there is no movement on the video frames. Section (b) shows a frame when the smoke occurs, so does the smoke movement. In the section (c), a frame that contains a moving object (human) and smoke is shown. After applying the background substraction method given in this chapter, results are shown on the sections (d) and (e). Section (d) shows the detected smoke motion, while the section (e) showing the detected moving regions of smoke and the moving object.

After this step, it is necessary to analyze these moving regions further to determine if the motion is due to smoke or an ordinary moving object. The further discussion about this problem is given on the following chapters.

### **3.2.2. Image Filtering and Enhancement**

After the having the moving object detection by Background Subtraction, it is convenient to introduce some reference-standard algorithms for image enhancement and filtering. These methods are used to obtain better results before passing to the next steps. Thus, following methods are crucial for performing various image processing, analysis such as image enhancement and noise reduction, visualization, and algorithm development.

- Otsu's algorithm

Otsu's algorithm is used to perform clustering-based image thresholding or, the reduction of a gray level image to a binary image. This algorithm calculates the optimum threshold level that is used to convert the intensity image to a binary image. In MATLAB, the 'graytresh' function uses Otsu's method. In this project work this function is used to create the moving object mask for detection of smoke.

- Median filter

The median filter is a nonlinear digital filtering technique and often used to remove noise from an image or signal. It is widely used as it is very effective at removing noise while preserving edges. Such noise reduction is a typical pre-processing step to improve the results of later processing. In this project, 2D median filter is used in order to remove the salt and pepper noise on the image obtained after binarizing the detected moving objects in the video frames.

In the median filter, each pixel is considered in the image and the filter looks at the pixel's neighbors to decide whether it is representative of its surroundings or not. Filter uses the median value of the neighbor pixel values to renew the pixel value. In MATLAB, 'medfilt2' function performs median filtering of the image A in two dimensions.

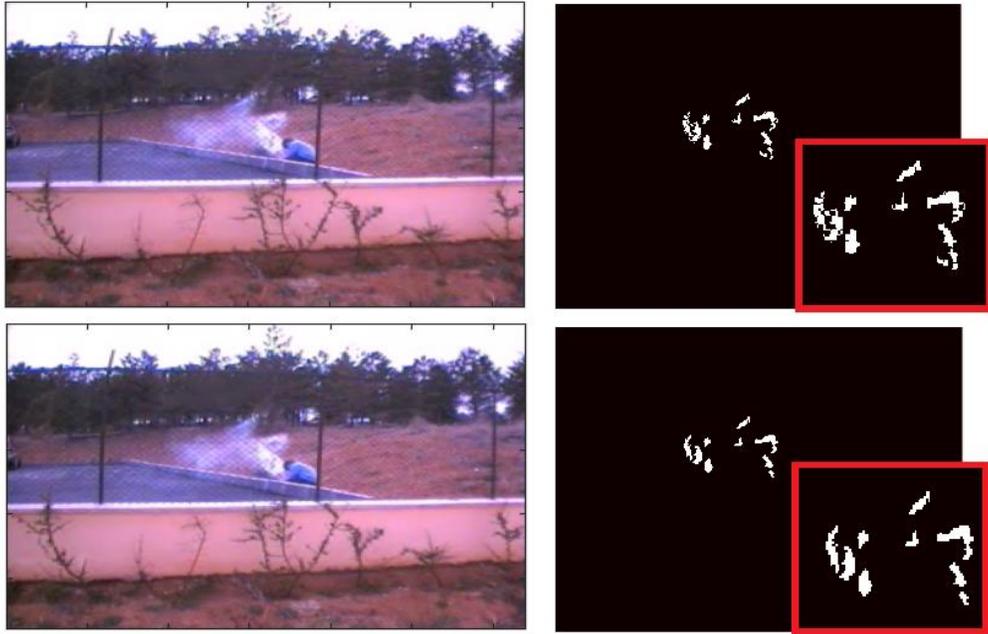


Figure 21 Median Filter

On the video frame shown on the Figure 21, same methods applied for except for the median filter. In the upper part of the figure, a detection without median filter can be observed while the lower part of the figure is a snapshot with a 2D median filter applied. As can be seen on the figures, median filter improves the results.

- Morphology

Morphological image processing is a collection of non-linear operations related to the shape or morphology of features in an image and its goal is removing imperfections by accounting for the form and structure of the image. In this project, closing operation is used to fill up the detected moving object regions.

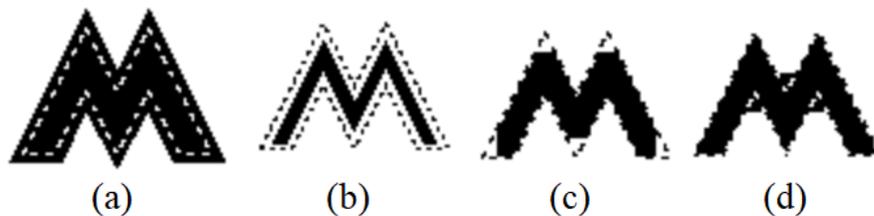


Figure 22 Morphological Operations

Some examples of the morphological operations in the image processing given on the Figure 22. Dilation is shown on the section (a) and it lets to grow the image regions. Afterwards on the section (b) the erosion operation is given, and this is to shrink the image regions. Opening and closing operations given on the (c) and (d). Respectively, opening is the structured removal of image region boundary pixels and closing is the structured filling in of image region boundary pixels.

### 3.2.3. Blob Detection and Analysis

As also indicated in the previous sections, most of the existing fire detection algorithms perform analysis on the whole image. This approach may cause the heavy computational load by bringing the information into calculation that have no use. In this work, region-based detection algorithm is proposed and by having moving regions detected, first step of extracting the suspicious regions from the whole image is realized. After obtaining the moving regions in the video frames, the first thing to investigate is how to distinguish whether a moving object is smoke or not. To do so, firstly the different objects in the image should be separated and the evaluation is necessary. In accordance with this purpose, as also the contribution to the existing methods, performing blob extraction and analysis is proposed.

In this former process, BLOB stands for Binary Large Object and refers to a group of connected pixels in an image that share some common property. The term “Large” indicates that only objects of a certain size are of interest and that “small” objects are usually considered as noise. As a result, the large objects are being inspected are clearly distinguished from the background. Thus, it can be clearly said that, the goal of blob detection is to identify and mark the interested ‘smoke’ regions.

Main advantage of this technique is having the possibility of individual analysis of the interested regions. Most common limitation of this method is: clear background-foreground relation requirement. Fortunately, this limitation is overcome by providing a clear input image by means of the steps previously taken.

To clarify deeply how does this section of the proposed algorithm works, all the methods used explained step by step in the following. Thanks to MATLAB, computer vision system toolbox, the `BlobAnalysis` object computes statistics for connected regions in a binary image. Since the background subtraction and following enhancement methods are performed, in this point, detected blobs will be the moving regions in the video frames. By means of blob analysis, every single moving region will be detected and marked individually. This will allow to make analysis for each individual blob, to discriminate of the region is smoke or another moving object.

Following function of MATLAB,  $H = \text{vision.BlobAnalysis}(\text{Name}, \text{Value})$ , returns a blob analysis object,  $H$ , with each specified property set to the specified value. In the function, minimum and maximum blob areas can be chosen, and this adjustment changes the sensitivity of the blob detection. In case of choosing smaller minimum area, the detection will be more sensitive for the smaller connected regions. After detection, each blob is labeled for the aim of individual analysis. Each labeled area is a gray scale valued image where all pixels in the blobs have values of 0-255. In the Figure 23, section (a) shows the original frame of the video, section (b) is the result of the background subtraction, so the moving areas in the frame. Finally, the section (c) shows the gray scale labeled blobs.

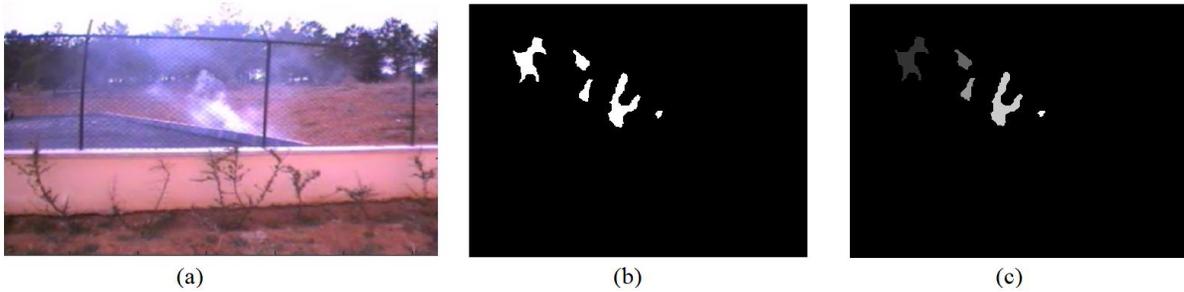


Figure 23 Grayscale Labeled Blobs

In addition to gray scaled labeling, it is also possible to assign a different color to each blob for distinction of the blobs more visual. In order to do so, *HSV* color space is used to pseudo random color the labels. It is also possible to apply the colormap. In the Figure 24, section (a) is the gray scale labeled blobs, besides this, (b) shows the pseudo colored labelling result. It is important to underline that the blobs are numbered from top to bottom, then from left to right.

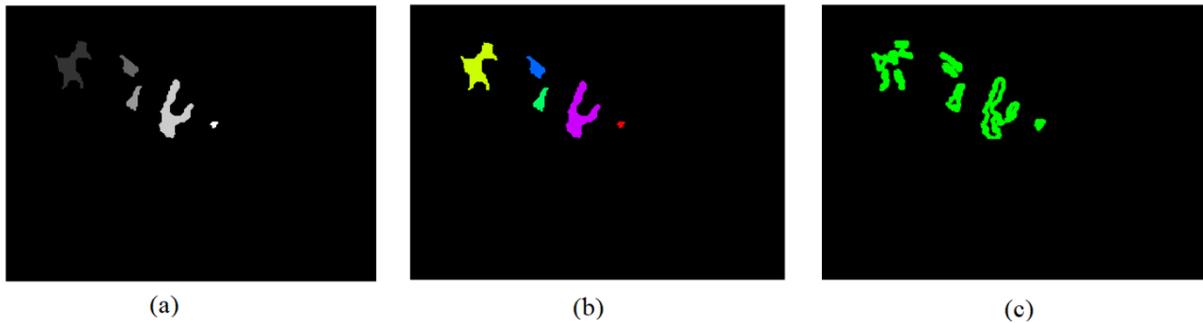


Figure 24 Pseudo Colored Labels & Outlines

Furthermore, *bwboundaries()* function in MATLAB returns a cell array, where each cell contains the row/column coordinates for an object in the image. Afterwards, it is possible to plot the borders of all the blobs using the coordinates returned by *bwboundaries* function. Performing this operation, obtained result can be observed on the Figure 24, section (c).

Subsequently, having all these said done, it is essential to perform blob analysis to have a picture of the smoke features and how they vary over time. In the proposed algorithm, a loop is taken through all blobs and analysis are performed to capture if a blob contains the features of smoke that are introduced under the title of Literature Review in this report. According to the researches

published in the literature, if a blob belongs to a smoke region, it should be continuous and growing over time. This is because if a moving region belongs to an object or a person, it is assumed to stop sometime. Such as the people in the train, if they stand up and start to walk, they must stop and sit down eventually. Thus, a blob that contains smoke shows an increasing trend in the blob area. The color distance from gray should decrease over time because of the grayish color of the smoke. Therefore, following properties are obtained for each blob detected in the video.

---

*thisBlobsPixels = blobMeasurements(k).PixelIdxList; % Get list of pixels in current blob.*

*meanGL = blobMeasurements(k).MeanIntensity; % Find the mean of each blob.*

*blobArea = blobMeasurements(k).Area; %Get area.*

*blobPerimeter = blobMeasurements(k).Perimeter; %Get perimeter.*

*blobECD(k) = sqrt(4 \* blobArea/pi); % Compute Equivalent Circular Diameter.*

---

In addition to these features, a highly promising feature of smoke, wavelet energy, is also computed for each detected blob and results of this computation are used in the training phase as well as the other features. Wavelet energy analysis is proposed by Toreyin et al. [14] and it has been cited by many researches. Therefore, the computation of this feature is not given here, it is worthwhile to investigate on further thought. Thus, detailed explanations about the wavelet transform is given on the chapter Wavelet Transform and Analysis.

In the given Table 4, a small portion of the blob analysis results is given. The result is obtained by analyzing each frame and extracting the moving regions with labelled blobs. Therefore, for each frame there are one, several or none blobs depending on the events occurring in the scene. It may be said that observed features are highly depending on the technical and spatial parameters such as camera, setups, lighting and so on. Thus, it may not be easy to obtain a clear pattern where the human being can observe quickly and develop an uncomplicated detection method. To summarize, obtaining an effective feedback from these features requires a detailed analysis on the different input videos with the same setup. By removing the external effects on the video could result in a noticeable pattern in the parameter variations. However, this is not realizable when we consider the dynamic scenes, like train compartments. To conclude, it can be said that these methods can be used as a part of the system or in case of obtaining a clear pattern. Since this cannot be realized serenely. For these reasons, obtained feature matrix is proposed to be used to train a classifier accordingly.

Frame #	Blob #	Mean Intensity	Area	Perimeter	Diameter	Wavelet
frame 1,	blob 1	9.0	267329.0	2237.2	583.4	91.4
frame 2,	blob 1	0.7	241159.0	2353.5	554.1	91.7
frame 4,	blob 1	0.7	173.0	58.4	14.8	90.7
frame 6,	blob 1	1.0	141.0	42.5	13.4	99.6
frame 8,	blob 1	1.0	87.0	34.5	10.5	94.6
frame 8,	blob 2	0.6	304.0	77.4	19.7	84.6
frame10,	blob 1	0.9	196.0	57.8	15.8	79.4
frame14,	blob 1	0.7	405.0	86.9	22.7	85.9
frame16,	blob 1	0.8	465.0	87.6	24.3	89.3
frame20,	blob 1	0.6	529.0	96.2	26.0	83.1
frame22,	blob 1	0.7	647.0	105.9	28.7	86.8
frame26,	blob 1	0.7	632.0	106.5	28.4	89.2
frame28,	blob 1	0.7	564.0	102.9	26.8	85.9
frame32,	blob 1	0.7	629.0	106.5	28.3	87.7
frame34,	blob 1	0.7	475.0	93.7	24.6	87.9
frame38,	blob 1	0.6	624.0	106.2	28.2	87.4
frame38,	blob 2	1.3	123.0	43.5	12.5	94.0
frame40,	blob 1	0.7	465.0	97.3	24.3	85.7
frame40,	blob 2	0.9	226.0	77.4	17.0	87.9
frame44,	blob 1	0.6	1403.0	203.4	42.3	89.8
frame46,	blob 1	0.7	1253.0	215.1	39.9	89.4
frame48,	blob 1	0.7	134.0	53.0	13.1	82.7
frame48,	blob 2	0.7	113.0	39.9	12.0	89.7
frame50,	blob 1	0.7	1144.0	253.1	38.2	85.9
frame52,	blob 1	0.8	735.0	131.9	30.6	89.1
frame52,	blob 2	1.0	207.0	70.3	16.2	84.9
frame52,	blob 3	1.0	137.0	45.2	13.2	81.0
frame56,	blob 1	0.7	907.0	167.2	34.0	87.3
frame56,	blob 2	0.9	294.0	97.3	19.3	85.8
frame56,	blob 3	0.8	159.0	52.1	14.2	86.9
frame58,	blob 1	0.6	1492.0	251.6	43.6	96.6
frame58,	blob 2	0.8	136.0	45.9	13.2	77.1

Table 4 Blob Analysis Results

### 3.2.4. Classification and Training

Classification in image processing includes a broad range of decision approaches for the identification of the images or regions. Basically, all the classification algorithms assume that the focused image represents one or more features and that each of these features belongs to several different classes. These classes may be supervised or unsupervised. In machine learning, support vector machines (SVMs) are an example of supervised learning models. In this context, given a set of training examples, each marked as belonging to one or other categories, the SVM training algorithm builds a model that assigns new examples to one of the categories, making it a non-probabilistic binary linear classifier.

The principal idea is to characterize smoke using the features obtained after the blob extraction. And the detection of the same using a suitable classifier, in this case SVMs. An SVM performs classification by constructing an N-dimensional hyperplane that optimally separates the data into two categories. SVM models are closely related to neural networks. On the purpose of preparing the input, motion detection is performed for any single frame of a video stream and small blobs are obtained for each moving region. Then, every blob should be checked for presence or absence of smoke. The algorithm should continue with testing phase.

To give a start to the mentioned process, a number of blobs are obtained for each frame. On the Figure 25, some examples of extracted blobs are given. For the sake of clarity, for example, frame number one has blob number one and frame number two has blob number one and number two. For each frame in the video, all the blobs are detected and extracted as explained, saved in a different folder to be used later. Each blob is considered as samples and again for each of them there are the parameters obtained in the previous steps, as explained in the section Blob Detection and Analysis. In the equation ( 13 ),  $X_{kl}$  represents the parameters obtained in blob analysis, as shown in the Table 4. Thus, these parameters are our features that are to be used to train the classifier. Considering the number of frames that the video has expressed as  $f_n$ , in here  $f$  represents the frame and subscript  $n$  represents the frame number. Following,  $b_m$ , where the  $b$  stands for blob and subscript  $m$  represents the blob number, associated with that specific frame. In this project following features are extracted for each blob and used as parameters in the classification input matrix; mean intensity, blob area, blob perimeter, blob centroid, diameter and wavelet energy of the blob. As shown in the equation ( 13 ), basically we have a matrix with the size  $k \times l$ ,  $l$  used to describe the number of blobs obtained along the whole video, and this matrix is used as the input.

$$l \left\{ \begin{array}{c} f_1 b_1 \\ f_2 b_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_n b_m \end{array} \right. \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} X_{11} & \cdots & X_{k1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_{1l} & \cdots & X_{kl} \end{array} \right]_{k \times l} \quad (13)$$

*input*

After obtaining this input matrix, labelling should be done for the all blobs extracted from the video. The blobs that contains smoke labeled as 'smoke' and the ones does not contain smoke 'nonsmoke' is used. This step is performed by using the image labeler application available on MATLAB. This could be done by just using the whole frame and choosing a ROI area and label them. However, for classification, small size of images that are captured by blob detection are used to create the label matrix. Therefore, we can use all the parameters that are calculated for each blob. Afterwards, obtained .mat file is converted to be 1 and -1, 1 represents smoke blobs and -1 is for nonsmoke ones. Moreover, this dataset and labels could be used also in neural networks. So, the aim of this step is to have the discrimination between the ordinary moving object and smoke.

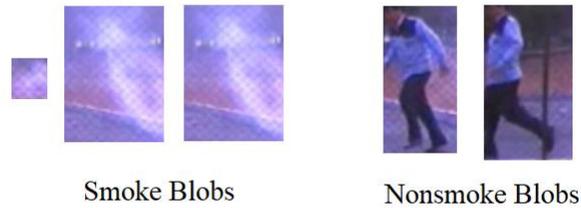


Figure 25 Extracted Blobs

After having the labels as the output vector, this input and output are given into MATLAB, so that it fits a linear and gives a model. Following code line performs the mentioned process;

$$SVMModel = fitcsvm(Input, Output).$$

At this point, the SVM model is obtained. After this step, testing is necessary to be done. The aim of classification is to have an automatic detection system. Therefore, detection of a smoke or nonsmoke blob is done automatically. 10 percent of the input data may be used to build the test input matrix. Plus, it is needed to introduce the model obtained. The model decides about the vector of the label, meaning the output, as given in the following MATLAB code part, named as  $labels_{test}$ .

$$labels_{test} = predict(SVMModel, Input_{test});$$

As explained before, labels are given as  $[1, -1]$ . The reason for choosing these numbers is to be able to calculate the performance easily as shown in the following MATLAB code.

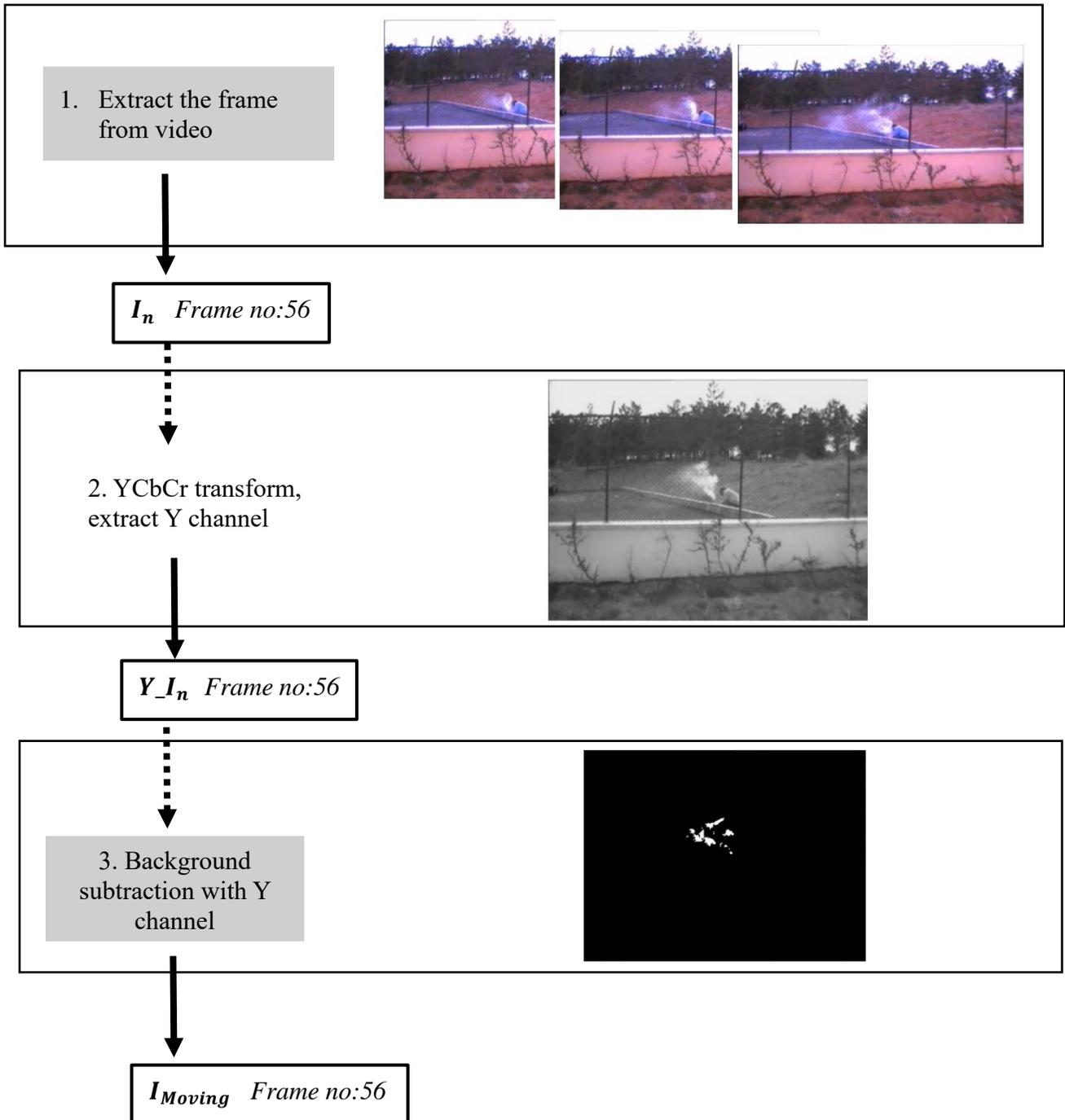
$$prod = labels_{test} .* (Output');$$

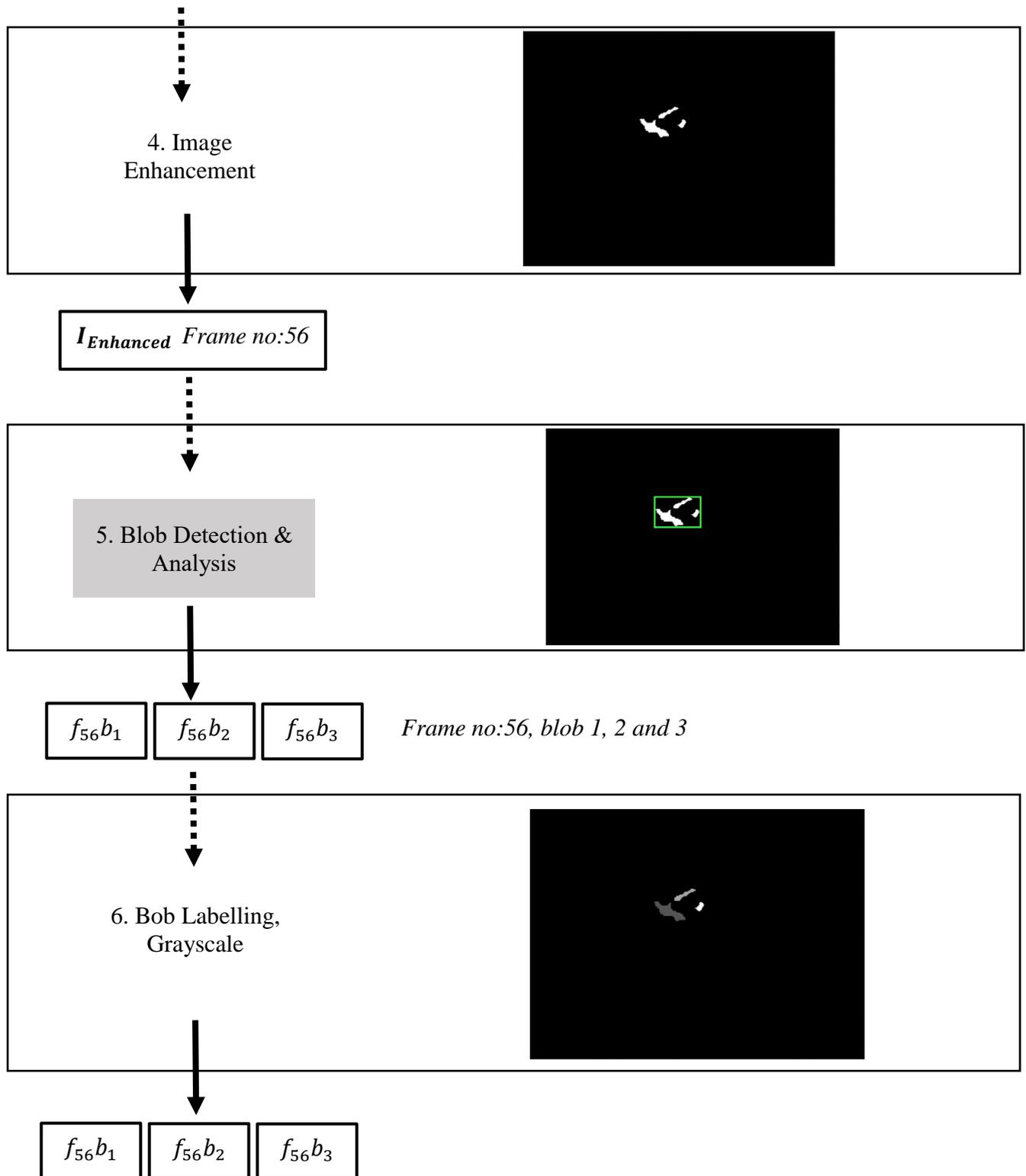
$$errNum = size(find(prod < 0));$$

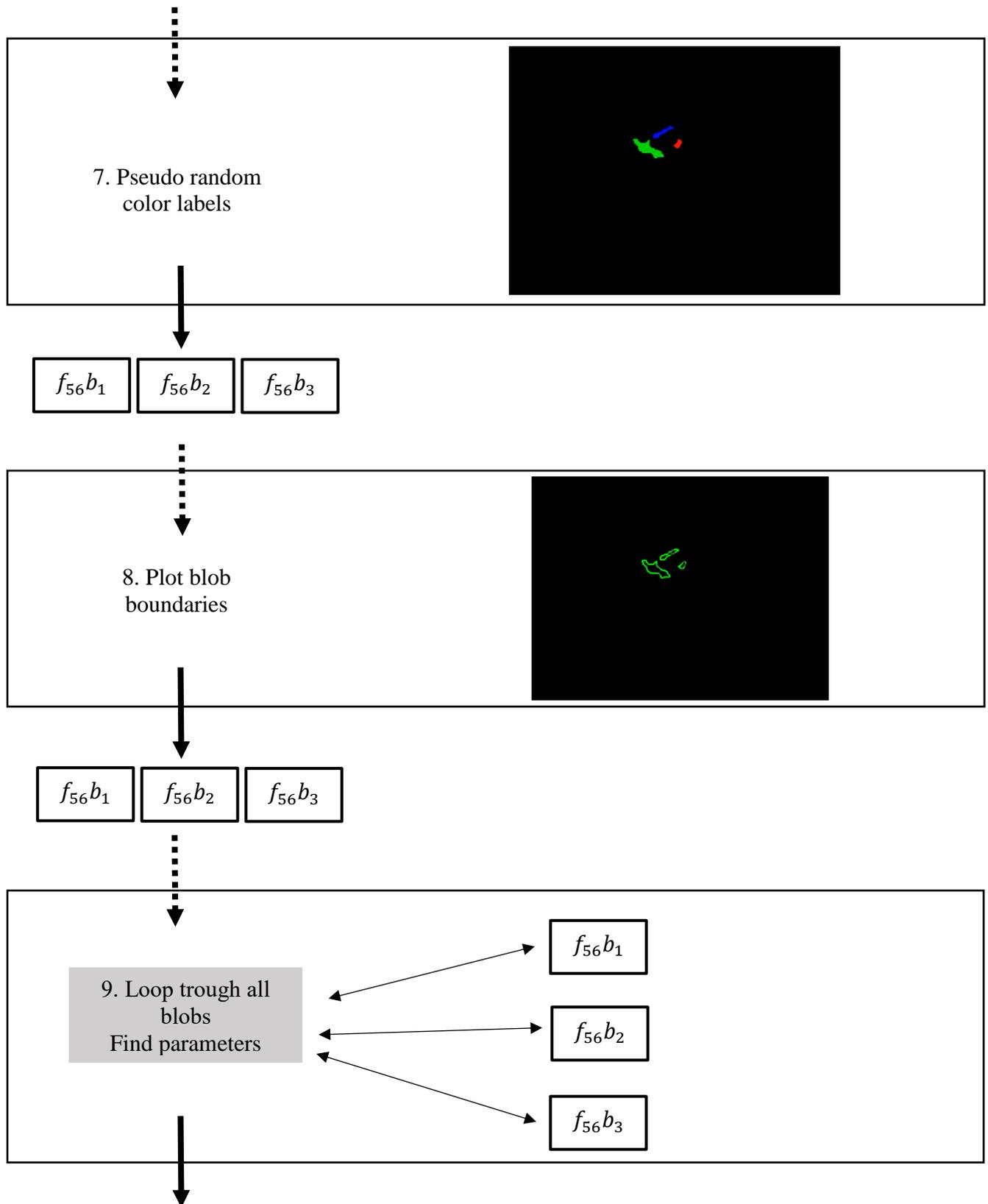
All the blobs examined with the proposed method can give right alarm for most of the time. However, there exist some false alarm. This may be because of the dependence of the selected statistical values for training. In case of having non-appropriate values for training, the resulting accuracy may not be very promising. This issue can be overcome by doing more work on the training data, using larger input variables for the classification or increasing the number of labels to have more advanced results.

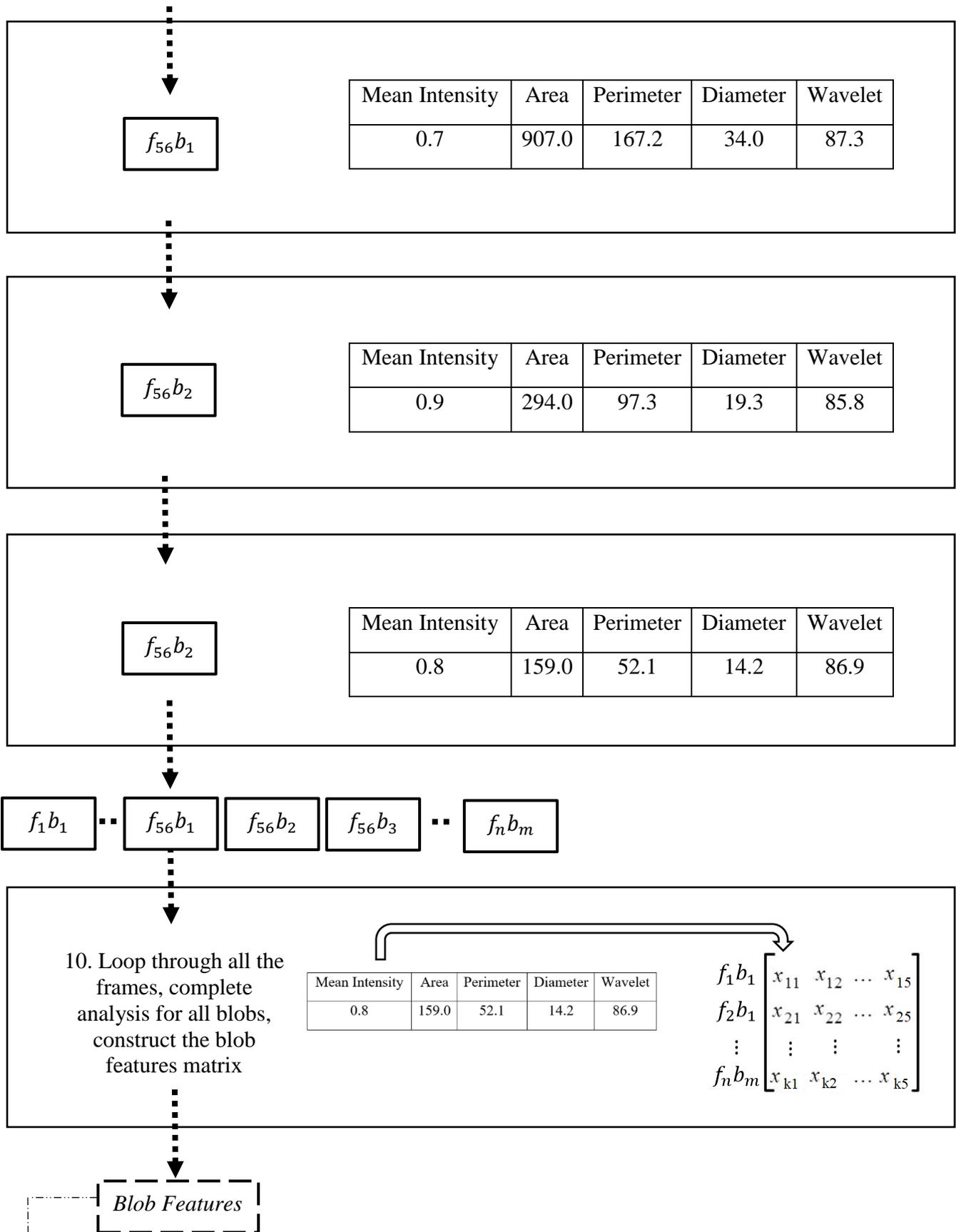
### 3.2.5. Illustration of the Region Based Algorithm

In this chapter of the report, the code sequence and the outcomes of the mentioned methods in the Region-Based Approach section are given following the sequence of Figure 19. Methods and approaches are performed on an ordinary video that includes smoke and the results are shown step by step.

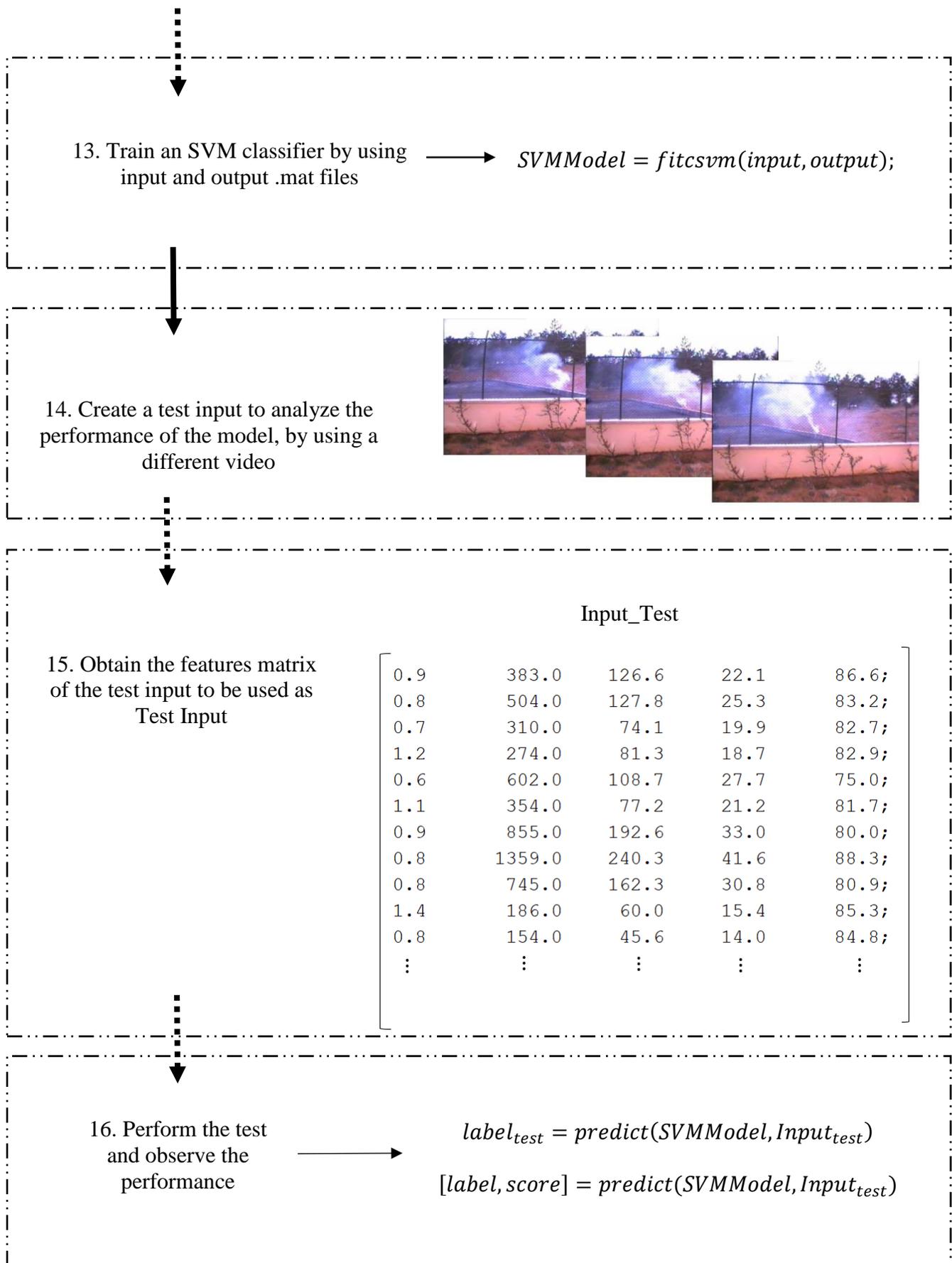












# Chapter 5

## 4. Experimental Results

In the previous chapters, the proposed method is explained deeply, and an illustration of the region-based detection algorithm is given. The sequence is shown on a video, that includes smoke and a moving person. Therefore, training is done on the blobs that includes smoke and for non-smoke ones. The screenshots of the training video are given on the Figure 26. It is important to mention that, training video has 300 frames, and, in these frames, 478 blobs are detected as suspicious, with or without smoke. By analyzing the important smoke clues within detected blobs, a features matrix is created. This matrix is used to train an SVM classifier in order to detect the smoke areas automatically. By using the extracted blob images and MATLAB Image Labelling tool, a label matrix is created to be used as the output for the SVM training. In this section of the report, preliminary analysis and the performance of the suggested methods are discussed.



Figure 26 Training Data

### 4.1. Testing Datasets

In the previous section of the report, the code sequence and the outcomes are shown step by step. In the step 13, and SVM classifier is introduced and trained. Training is done by using the features obtained for each blob detected in each frame. In this title, used test datasets are explained. Testing data is chosen to be 10% of the training data. Since the training data has 478 blobs extracted, first testing dataset (A) is chosen to produce 47 blobs.

Due to the unavailability of the video from a train environment, following steps are taken to test the algorithm. 4 different video sequences are used for testing. The first testing video is in the same

scene and same setup of training video, but different conditions. For the train coach's environment, the algorithm should be trained in different conditions in a train coach. Following this, since the algorithm supposed to work in the same scene, it is appropriate to test it in the same setup. Accordingly, since developed algorithm is focused on trains, using the same setup for training and testing is appropriate. Some screenshots of the testing video are given on the Figure 27 and the dataset is named after A. Dataset A has 251 frames and in these 251 frames, 47 blobs detected as suspicious. Smoke clue parameters are extracted from 47 blobs to be fed to SVM model in order to predict weather they are smoke or not. Let it be known that all the labels from dataset A are belonging to only one class, smoke.



Figure 27 Test Dataset A

Second dataset is shown in the Figure 28, named after dataset B. Dataset B is from a completely different scene with respect to the training dataset, includes only smoke, no other moving objects. It is performed in an empty room. In this case, it is convenient to use more testing data. Thus, this dataset is also used to extract 97 blobs to be used in testing. Even though the proposed algorithm is focused on certain smoke types and designed especially for train environment, dataset B is used to analyze how the proposed algorithm works in general settings.



Figure 28 Test Dataset B

The third dataset is named after C and some screenshots of the video is given on the Figure 29. The video is done in an open space area and includes moving smoke areas. The setup of the video and the scenes are totally different from the training video. Again, as in the dataset B, given dataset C is used to test how does the proposed method works in general settings. In this dataset, 140 blobs are extracted to be used in testing.



Figure 29 Test Dataset C

The fourth dataset is introduced as dataset D and the video is done with a fixed camera in a totally different scene with respect to the training video, includes only 2 cars as moving object. Colorful objects are in use to analyze how the algorithm reacts to different scenes. Dataset does not include any smoke; therefore, all the detected blobs are labelled as nonsmoke. Screenshots of the dataset D is given in the Figure 30. Again, this dataset is used to analyze the performance of the proposed algorithm in general settings. 97 blobs are detected to be used in testing.



Figure 30 Test Dataset D

## 4.2. Performance

Dataset A is in the same setup the training video and has only one labels, smoke. As indicated also before, this test dataset is used to understand how the proposed algorithm works when its trained and tested for the same environmental conditions. Therefore, this test could give us the idea about when the algorithm is trained and tested in the train coach scenes. The test by using the dataset A, gives very promising results. 47 out of 47 blobs are classified correctly.

Dataset B is a video from a completely different scene with respect to the training dataset and includes only smoke as a moving object. This video is used to test how does the proposed method works in general settings. Even though the algorithm is not expected to show high performance in general settings, test results are quite satisfying. 89 blobs out of 97 are detected truly as smoke. Therefore, the blob-based accuracy for this dataset can be calculated as %91.8. Some of the misclassified blobs are shown in the following Figure 31.



Figure 31 Dataset B - Misclassified Blobs

It is important to underline that the frames that misclassified blobs belong to, has other blobs which are classified as smoke. Therefore, it is appropriate to say that, even though some blobs are misclassified in a frame, there are other blobs which detected as smoke within the same frame. This results in a better detection performance in the frame-based detection ratio.

Dataset C includes only smoke blobs and it is again a different scene with respect to the training video. This dataset is used to understand how the trained model works in general settings and how many false negative classifications are done. Dataset C has 140 blobs detected. The features of the blobs are analyzed to be used in testing. In the results it is seen that 109 blobs out of 140 are classified as smoke. The misclassified blobs can be seen on the Figure 32.



Figure 32 Dataset C - Misclassified Blobs

It is important to underline that in many of the frames there are several numbers of blobs are detected. Accordingly, in this dataset, the frames which have false negative misclassified blobs, have also other blobs are correctly classified. Therefore, it is convenient to say that blob-based detection ratio is around %77.9 while if the frame-based detection ratio results in higher accuracies.

Dataset D does not include any smoke therefore it is used to analyze how many false positive classifications may occur in general settings. According to the test results 31 blobs are misclassified as false positive out of 97 blobs. This results in %68.1 detection accuracy. Some of the misclassified blobs are given in the Figure 33.



Figure 33 Dataset D - Misclassified Blobs

However, even though the blob-based classification produces false positives, it is important to underline that, in all the frames where there are misclassified blobs, there are also other blobs are classified correctly. Hence, it is possible to say that the proposed algorithm gives promising results in the general settings, for the discrimination of the smoke and non-smoke blobs.

As can be seen from the results, dataset A has very high accuracy where the testing is done in the same scene with the training. Every smoke detection problem has particular properties depending on the scene conditions. For the specific problem handled in this work, the algorithm is designed to be trained in the train coach environment and test in the same environment. Due to the unavailability of the video from train coaches, the algorithm trained and tested in a video that has

the similar conditions with a train coach. On the other hand, due to the absence of the video sources, testing is performed also with different video scenes. The aim of performing these tests is to have an idea about how the suggested algorithm works in general settings. The datasets B, C, D has lower accuracies for blob-based detection, this an expected outcome since their video settings are different than the video that is used to train the classifier. Hence, it is appropriate to say that this is due to the lack of training data. Increasing the training set and introducing images from non-smoke sequences can improve the performance. Nevertheless, blob-based detection has lower accuracies, frame-based results are very promising. The large part of the frames has correctly detected blobs besides the false detections.

Unfortunately, a source video from train is not used since it is not available and the video sources with smoke is quite limited. The whole system can be improved by using more training data and that more training data are also needed to assess the performance. However, proposed method is promising to give good results for smoke detection. Once various training and testing videos from the train setting is available, designed algorithm may be performed for these videos and convincing results would be obtained.

# Chapter 6

## 5. Conclusions and Further Works

### 5.1. Conclusions

In this study, a survey on the video fire detection systems and a novel method for fire detection in trains are presented. As explained also in the report, in many of the fire accidents, flames may not be visible in the scene, but smoke becomes visible first in the monitored area. Thus, smoke detection is crucial for early fire detection systems, due to the fact that smoke spreads much faster than flames. The greatest disadvantage of the traditional sensor's is that to give an alarm, they must wait until the smoke particles reach their sensor. The method proposed in this work does not have the transport delay that the traditional "point" sensors suffer from. As soon as smoke occurs in one of the camera views, the proposed system can detect fire immediately. It is convenient to say that image and video processing methods may be applied when the conventional methods are inadequate or unreliable. It is important to underline that every fire detection problem has its own properties. Based on this, the suggested video-based smoke detection method is focused on the train environment and it has a great potential for fire detection in train coaches. In addition to that, this novel method is more economic and requires minimum maintenance with respect to the available fire detection systems in railway vehicles.

Uncontrolled fire can be easily detected by human beings by their eyes and the help of vision systems. However, as it is very well known, it is not very easy to replicate human intelligence. As proposed in the last chapter of the report, the SVM classification method can give a right alarm most of the time. However, there might exist some false alarms. This is simply because the results depend on the selected training data.

Yet, with today's technology, it is not possible to have a completely reliable video fire detection system for railway vehicles. However, the given survey and presented method are helpful tools for train officers. Even if the goal of this project work is to investigate a fire detection system to be operated on CCTV equipment without extra apparatus, for the time being, it could also be possible to use the combination of video fire detection system and point detectors.

## 5.2. Future Works

In the exposed approach, a novel method is presented. As reported in the present work, to train a classifier with the obtained information solely from the suspicious areas, brings promising results. In order to represent a real situation and find the most suitable parameters and the learning model, a video from the train environment is highly needed. However, the absence of this video has prevented to train the SVM classifier accordingly. Therefore, for future works, it is recommended to use train and testing videos that are performed in a train coach, with possible scenes that occur in the train coaches, with and without smoke.

Training data should represent all the possible situations that might occur during monitoring process. Further research on training will improve the detection performance of the video fire detection systems while obtaining higher accuracies.

In addition to these, labelling may be done more detailed. With this aim, different moving objects may be subjected to labelling, such as humans, bags, luggage and so on. After all these points have been accomplished, the present work method would give more promising and precise results.

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# Appendix

## Final MATLAB Implementation

```
close all; % Close all figures (except those of imtool.)
imtool close all; % Close all imtool figures.
clear; % Erase all existing variables.
workspace; % Make sure the workspace panel is showing.

% Check that user has the Image Processing Toolbox installed.
versionInfo = ver; % Capture their toolboxes in the variable.
hasIPT = false;
for k = 1:length(versionInfo)
    if strcmpi(versionInfo(k).Name, 'Image Processing Toolbox') > 0
        hasIPT = true;
    end
end
if ~hasIPT
    % User does not have the toolbox installed.
    message = sprintf('Sorry, but you do not seem to have the Image
Processing Toolbox.\nDo you want to try to continue anyway?');
    reply = questdlg(message, 'Toolbox missing', 'Yes', 'No', 'Yes');
    if strcmpi(reply, 'No')
        % User said No, so exit.
        return;
    end
end

% Initial settings for visualization
fontSize = 14;
fontSize1 = 9;

frameno=1;
se = strel('disk',10);
Data = zeros (1,5);
% File adress for saving the extracted blobs
blobsFolder = 'C:\Users\dilar\Desktop/blob_dilara\';

% This code part allows the users to choose the input video file from their
PC

strErrorMessage = sprintf('Choose a file :\nYou can choose a file, or
cancel');
response = questdlg(strErrorMessage, 'Choose a file', 'OK - choose a new
movie.', 'Cancel', 'OK - choose a new movie.');
```

```
if strcmpi(response, 'OK - choose a new movie.')
    [baseFileName, folderName, FilterIndex] = uigetfile('*.avi');
    if ~isequal(baseFileName, 0)
        movieFullFileName = fullfile(folderName, baseFileName);
    else
        return;
    end
end
```

```

else
    return;
end

try
    videoObject = VideoReader(movieFullFileName)

    % Determine how many frames there are.
    numberOfFrames = videoObject.NumberOfFrames;
    vidHeight = videoObject.Height;
    vidWidth = videoObject.Width;

    % Print header line in the command window, to show the blob measurements
    fprintf(1, 'Blob #      Mean Intensity Area   Perimeter   Centroid
Diameter   Wavelet\n');

    % Enlarge figure to full screen.
    figure;
    set(gcf, 'units','normalized','outerposition',[0 0 1 1]);

    % Loop over all the frames extracted from the video.
    for frame = 1 : numberOfFrames

        % Extract the frame from the movie structure.
        thisFrame = read(videoObject, frame);
        % Display the frame, show the number of the frame.
        hImage = subplot(2,3,1);
        image(thisFrame);
        caption = sprintf('Frame %4d of %d.', frame, numberOfFrames);
        title(caption, 'FontSize', fontSize);
        drawnow; % Force it to refresh the window.

        %We need to convert the image to YCbCr and use only the Y channel.
        %As suggested in the reviewed articles

        % YCbCr converting..
        YCBCR = rgb2ycbcr(thisFrame);
        % Isolate Y.
        Y_ThisFrame = YCBCR(:, :, 1);

        % *BACKGROUND SUBSTRACTION*

        % The differencing
        alpha = 0.05;
        if frame == 1
            % in the first frame background is set to current image
            Background = thisFrame ;
        else
            % Change background slightly at each frame
            Background = (1-alpha)* Y_ThisFrame + alpha * Background;
        end
        % Calculate a difference between this frame and the background.
        differenceImage = Y_ThisFrame - Background;

        % Convert to gray level for Otsu
        grayImage = rgb2gray(differenceImage);
        % Get threshold with Otsu method

```

```

thresholdLevel = graythresh(grayImage);

%Median filter for salt pepper noises.
K = medfilt2(grayImage, [3,3]);

% The binarization
binaryImage = imbinarize(K, thresholdLevel);
% Morphology
binaryImage = bwareaopen(binaryImage, 80);

binaryImage = imfill(binaryImage, 'holes');
closeBW = imclose(binaryImage,se);

% *BLOB ANALYSIS*

% min and max blob area can be adjusted for the sensitivity
BlobAnalysis =
vision.BlobAnalysis('MinimumBlobArea',100,'MaximumBlobArea',50000);

% Perform the blob analysis on the image named "closeBW"
[area,centroid,bbox] = step(BlobAnalysis,closeBW);

% Insert green boxes around the moving blobs
Ishape = insertShape(thisFrame,'rectangle',bbox,'Color',
'green','Linewidth',6);

% Plot green boxes on the detected blobs, over the original frame.
subplot(2,3,3);
imshow(Ishape);
title('Detection');

% Label each blob so we can make measurements of it
labeledImage = bwlabel(closeBW, 8);
% labeledImage is an integer-valued image

% Show the gray scale image.
subplot(2,3,4);
imshow(labeledImage, []);
title('Labeled Image - bwlabel', 'FontSize', fontSize);

% assign each blob a different color to visually show the user the
% distinct blobs.
% pseudo random color labels
coloredLabels = label2rgb(labeledImage, 'hsv', 'k', 'shuffle');
% coloredLabels is an RGB image.
% We could have applied a colormap instead (but only with R2014b and
later)

subplot(2,3,5);
imshow(coloredLabels);
% Make sure image is not artificially stretched because of screen's
aspect ratio.
axis image;
caption = sprintf('Pseudo colored labels - label2rgb\nBlobs are
numbered from top to bottom, then from left to right.');
```

```

% Get all the blob properties.
blobMeasurements = regionprops(labeledImage, grayImage, 'all');
numberOfBlobs = size(blobMeasurements, 1);

% bwboundaries() returns a cell array, where each cell contains the
%row/column coordinates for an object in the image.
% Plot the borders of all the blobs on the original grayscale image
%using the coordinates returned by bwboundaries.
subplot(2,3,6);
imshow(grayImage);
title('Outlines, from bwboundaries()', 'FontSize', fontSize);
% Make sure image is not artificially stretched because of screen's
aspect ratio.
axis image;
hold on;
boundaries = bwboundaries(binaryImage);
numberOfBoundaries = size(boundaries, 1);
for k = 1 : numberOfBoundaries
    thisBoundary = boundaries{k};
    plot(thisBoundary(:,2), thisBoundary(:,1), 'g', 'LineWidth', 1);
end
hold off;

% Used to control size of "blob number" labels put atop the image.
textFontSize = 14;
% Used to align the labels in the centers of the coins.
labelShiftX = -7;
blobECD = zeros(1, numberOfBlobs);

% Loop through all blobs.
for k = 1 : numberOfBlobs
    % Get list of pixels in current blob.
    thisBlobsPixels = blobMeasurements(k).PixelIdxList;
    % Find mean intensity (in original image)
    meanGL = mean(grayImage(thisBlobsPixels));
    % Mean again, but only for version >= R2008a
    meanGL2008a = blobMeasurements(k).MeanIntensity;
    % Get area.
    blobArea = blobMeasurements(k).Area;
    % Get perimeter.
    blobPerimeter = blobMeasurements(k).Perimeter;
    % Get centroid one at a time
    blobCentroid = blobMeasurements(k).Centroid;
    % Compute ECD - Equivalent Circular Diameter.
    blobECD(k) = sqrt(4 * blobArea / pi);

    % Wavelet Analysis
    thisblob=thisFrame(thisBlobsPixels);
    thisblob3d= cat(3, thisblob, thisblob, thisblob);
    Wavelet = rgb2ind(thisblob3d,2);
    [c,s]=wavedec2(Wavelet,2,'haar');
    [H1,V1,D1] = detcoef2('all',c,s,1);
    A1 = appcoef2(c,s,'haar',1);

    [Ea,EDetails] = wenergy2(c,s);

```

```

% Show the values on the Command Window
fprintf(1,'frame%2d, blob%2d %17.1f %11.1f %8.1f %8.1f %8.1f %
8.1f %8.1f\n', frame, k, meanGL, blobArea, blobPerimeter,
blobCentroid, blobECD(k), Ea);
text(blobCentroid(1) + labelShiftX, blobCentroid(2), num2str(k),
'FontSize', textFontSize, 'FontWeight', 'Bold');

% Save the extracted features of blobs for future
% classification uses

save('blobfeatures.mat','frame','k','meanGL','blobArea','blobPeri
meter','Ea');

% Save the extracted blobs for labelling
if ~isempty(bbox)

    temp = [meanGL, blobArea, blobPerimeter, blobECD(k), Ea];
    Data = [Data; temp];

    b_rows = bbox(1,2):bbox(1,2)+bbox(1,4)-1;
    b_cols = bbox(1,1):bbox(1,1)+bbox(1,3)-1;
    blob = thisFrame(b_rows,b_cols,:);

    imwrite(blob, strcat(blobsFolder, 'f', num2str(frame), 'b', num2str(k)
, '.png'));
end

end

end

catch ME

% for errors
message = sprintf('Error in the code():\n%s', ME.message);
uiwait(warndlg(message));

end

```

