

Real Time Drowsiness Detection in Cases of *Occlusion*

Built for light-weight, low compute power devices.



PROBLEM



17.6% Of all fatal car crashes

between 2017 and 2021 involved a
drowsy driver ([AAA Foundation](https://aaafoundation.org/drowsy-driving-in-fatal-crashes-united-states-2017-2021/))

\$109 billion annually

is the cost of fatigue-related collisions.
([NHTSA](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drowsy-driving))



<https://aaafoundation.org/drowsy-driving-in-fatal-crashes-united-states-2017-2021/>

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drowsy-driving>

Problem Statement:

We want to detect driver drowsiness
even in *occlusion conditions*.

Real Time Drowsiness
Detection in Cases of



What attempts have been made?

and how we're aiming for something new



AS OF
2023...

MAJEED ET AL. (2023)

Majeed F, Shafique U, Safran M, Alfarhood S, Ashraf I. Detection of Drowsiness among Drivers Using Novel Deep Convolutional Neural Network Model. Sensors. 2023; 23(21):8741. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s23218741>

THE
FIELD
SO FAR

Ref.	Base Parameters	Model	Accuracy (Test)	Dataset (s)
[27]	Facial Regions	Fusion System (Analysis of Mixed Datasets)	93.38%, 96.68%	YawDD, DEAP, MiraclHB
[28]	Facial Regions	SVM+LSTM	89%	UTA-RLDD
[19]	Eyes and Mouth	Multi-physical Feature Fusion Detection Method Detection Method based on Deep Learning SSD+VGG16	95.7%, 91.4% (Custom), 91.88%	(Public) Homemade Dataset, NTHU-DDD
[38]	Facial Regions	Weibull-based MobileNetV2 Weibull-based ResNext101 MTCNN+Weibull Pooling+ResNext101	93.8%, 90.5%, 84.21%	Custom Dataset (Total 50, 30 male, 20 female) NTHU-DDD
[29]	Facial Regions	2-stream spatial-temporal graph convolutional network (2s-STGCN)	93.4%, 92.7%	YawDD, NTHU-DDD
[35]	Facial Regions	3D Deep CNN CNN (LeNet)	96.80%	UTA-RLDD Custom Dataset (10 Subjects)
[30]	Facial Regions	Linear Support Vector Machine (SVM) as classifier + Dlib	92.5%	YawDD
[40]	Facial Regions	SVM + Dlib facial feature predictor	94.55%	IMM face Dataset + Other Mixed Samples
[31]	Facial Regions	TFBI LSTM, CNN-LSTM	79.9% Temporal, 97.5% Spatial	UTA-RLDD
[34]	Mouth and Eyes	MTCNN+DLIB+LSTM NN	88%, 90%	YawDD Self-Built Dataset
[32]	Eyes and Mouth	SVM and Adaboost + Multitask ConNN	98.81%	YawDD and NthuDDD
[36]	Facial Regions	YOLOv3-tiny CNN + Face Feature, Triangle (FFT) + Face Feature Vector (FFV)	94.32%	YawDD
[37]	Facial Regions	Conv2D-raw + SMOTE	64%	Real-Time Generated Dataset
[33]	Facial Regions	3DcGAN+TLABiLSTM+Refinement, 3DcGAN+TLABiLSTM, 3DcGAN	91.20%, 87.1%, 82.8%	NthuDDD
[39]	Eyes	HM-LSTM network, LSTM network	65.2%, 61.4%	Custom Dataset

R. Tamanani, R. Muresan and A. Al-Dweik, "Estimation of Driver Vigilance Status Using Real-Time Facial Expression and Deep Learning," in IEEE Sensors Letters, vol. 5, no. 5, pp. 1-4, May 2021, Art no. 6000904, doi: 10.1109/LSENS.2021.3070419.

THEY DID BUILD
SOMETHING
LIGHT,
BUT THERE'S
SCOPE FOR
IMPROVEMENT.

91% ACCURACY

[35]	Facial Regions	3D Deep CNN CNN (LeNet)	96.80%	UTA-RLDD Custom Dataset (10 Subjects)
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IEEE
Sensors Letters

VOL. 5, NO. 5, MAY 2021

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Sensors Council

Sensor applications

Estimation of Driver Vigilance Status Using Real-Time Facial Expression and Deep Learning

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```
graph LR; Input[Input] --> Grayscale[Grayscale]; Grayscale --> HaarCascade[Haar Cascade]; HaarCascade --> Face[Face]; Face --> Resize[Resize]; Resize --> CONV1[CONV1]; CONV1 --> POOL1[POOL1]; POOL1 --> CONV2[CONV2]; CONV2 --> POOL2[POOL2]; POOL2 --> FC1[FC1]; FC1 --> FC2[FC2]; FC2 --> DrowsinessScore[Drowsiness Score];
```

on UTA-RLDD showed that the model achieved high values of average accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, which are 0.918, 0.928, 0.920, and 0.920, respectively. Moreover, comparison results showed that the proposed system outperforms other methods with the same

Gao, Z. (2023). Multi-Attention Fusion Drowsy Driving Detection Model. arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.17052. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.17052>

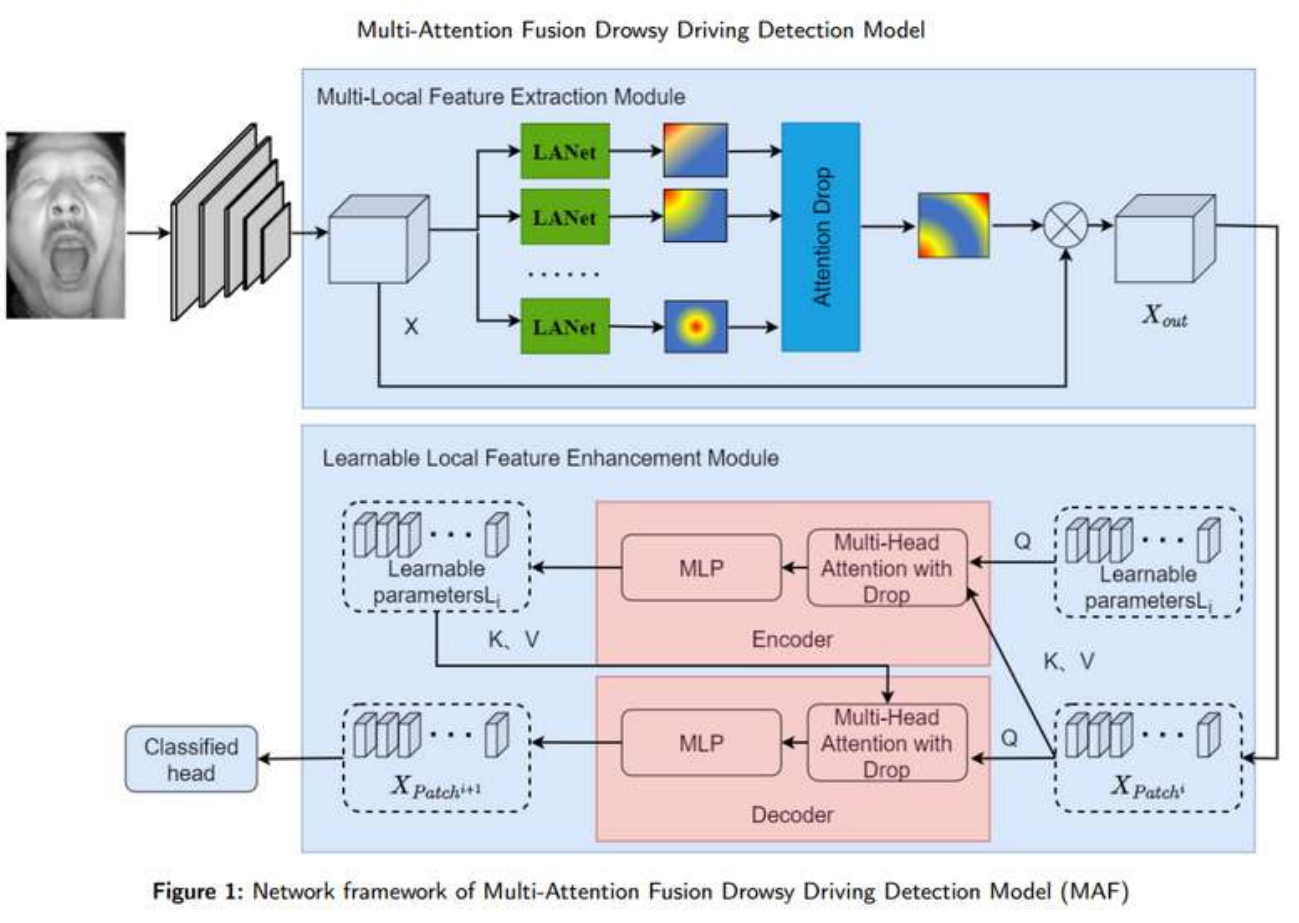


Figure 1: Network framework of Multi-Attention Fusion Drowsy Driving Detection Model (MAF)

Multi-Attention Fusion Drowsy Driving Detection Model

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ARTICLE INFO

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Drowsiness detection
Fatigue detection
CNN
Attention Fusion

ABSTRACT

Drowsy driving represents a major contributor to traffic accidents, and the implementation of driver drowsy driving detection systems has been proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of such accidents. Despite the development of numerous drowsy driving detection algorithms, many of them impose specific prerequisites such as the availability of complete facial images, optimal lighting conditions, and the use of RGB images. In our study, we introduce a novel approach called the Multi-Attention Fusion Drowsy Driving Detection Model (MAF). MAF is aimed at significantly enhancing

IMPRESSIVE ACCURACY,
BUT HIGH COST, HIGH
PARAMETER COUNTS

ATTENTION BASED ARCHITECTURE,
WITH RESNET50 BACKBONE

Parameter Count

ResNet-50 is trained on over a million images from the ImageNet dataset, which consists of more than 14 million images across 1000 classes. The total number of parameters in ResNet-50 is approximately 25.6 million. This relatively low parameter count, combined with its depth, allows ResNet-50 to achieve high accuracy in various computer vision tasks while maintaining

The Dataset

UTA-Real Life Drowsiness Detection (RLDD)

Real Time Drowsiness
Detection in Cases of
Occlusion



DATASET AND FEATURES PREPROCESSING



(UTA-RLDD) was created for the task of multi-stage drowsiness detection, targeting not only extreme and easily visible cases, but also subtle cases when subtle micro-expressions are the discriminative factors.

Each participant provided one video per class: alert, low vigilance, and drowsy.

- **Dataset**: UTA-RLDD for real-life drowsiness detection
- **Nature**: 180 videos, 60 participants, diverse demographics.
- **Why**: Includes partial occlusion cases, realistic scenarios, early detection focus
- **Data Collection**: Self-recorded videos in various environments.
- **Ethical Concerns**: Anonymity ensured, voluntary participation + Extra credit
- **Features & Datapoints**: Facial expressions, eye and mouth movements, 10 minutes at a time
- **Occlusion**: Glasses or considerable facial hair in 50% of the dataset.
- **Total Features & Datapoints**: 180 (10 minute long) videos with multiple facial features

R. Ghoddoosian, M. Galib and V. Athitsos, "A Realistic Dataset and Baseline Temporal Model for Early Drowsiness Detection," 2019 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshops (CVPRW), Long Beach, CA, USA, 2019, pp. 178-187, doi: 10.1109/CVPRW.2019.00027.

PREPROCESSING: EAR, MAR, TILT VIA MEDIAPIPE



EAR: 0.29
MAR: 0.01
Tilt: -3.23

PREPROCESSING: CROPPING, SHADOWS, SYNTHETIC OCCLUSIONS

Displaying variant: equalized



equalized features - EAR: 0.31, MAR: 0.00, Tilt: -2.28

Displaying variant: dark



dark features - EAR: 0.29, MAR: 0.01, Tilt: -1.96

Displaying variant: occluded



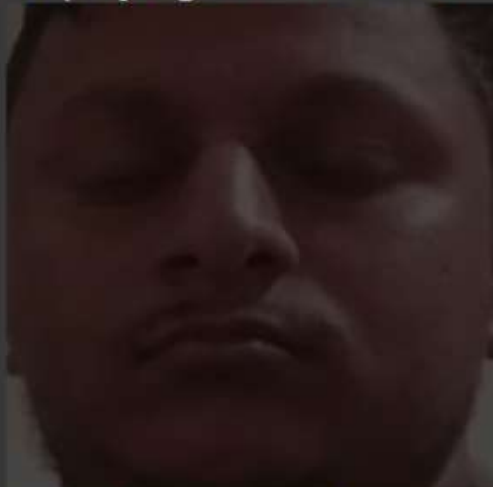
occluded features - EAR: 0.31

Displaying variant: equalized

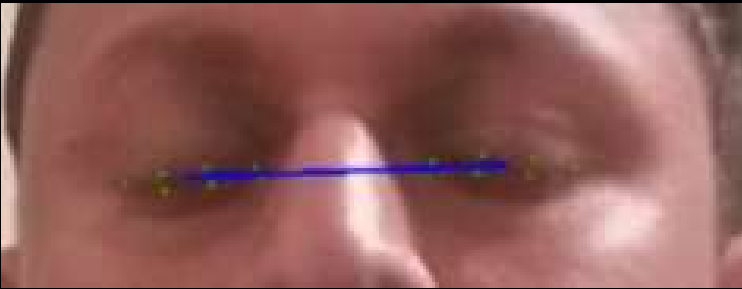


equalized features - EAR: 0.15, MAR: 0.00, Tilt: -1.00

Displaying variant: dark

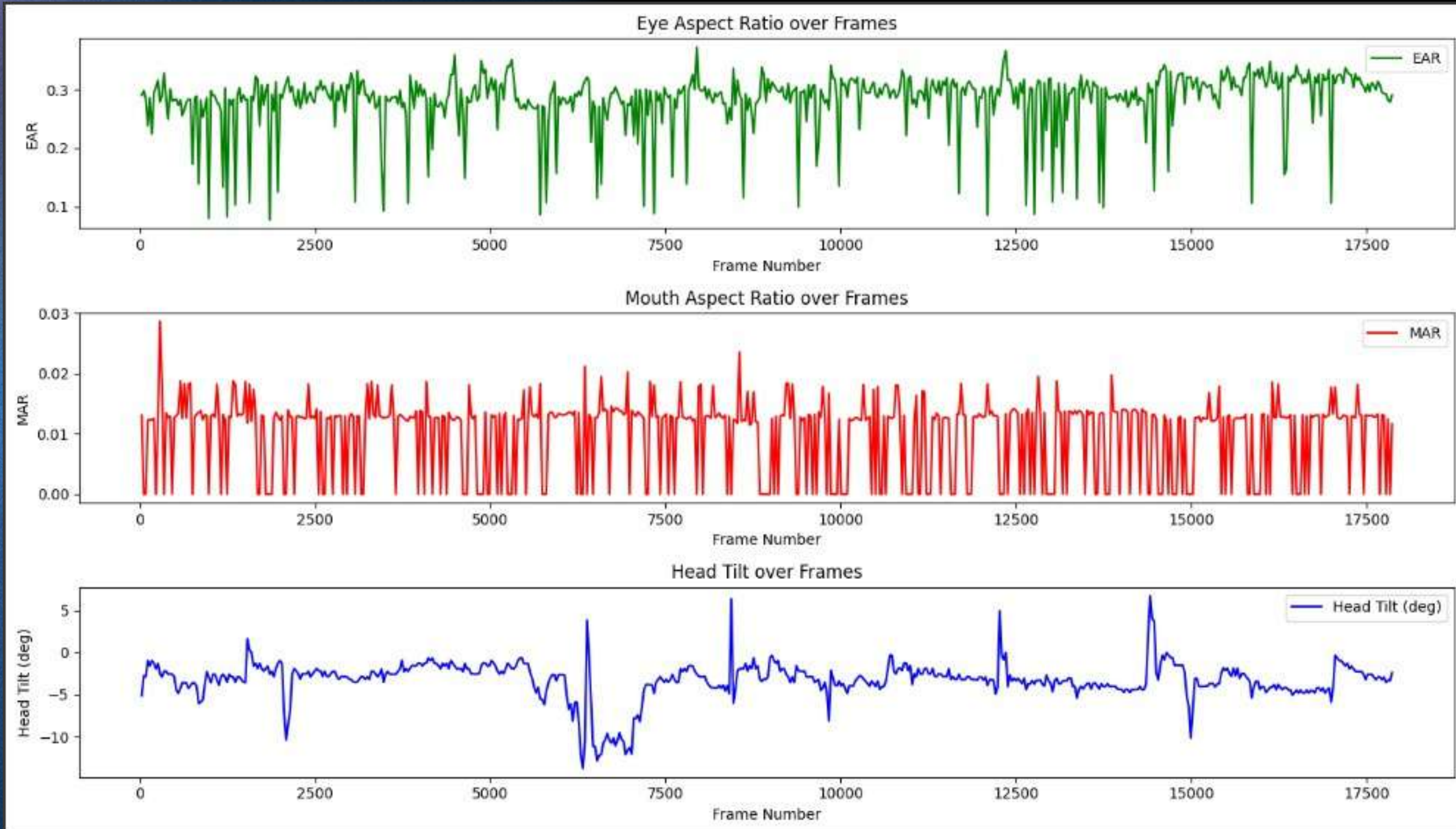


dark features - EAR: 0.17, MAR: 0.02, Tilt: -2.29

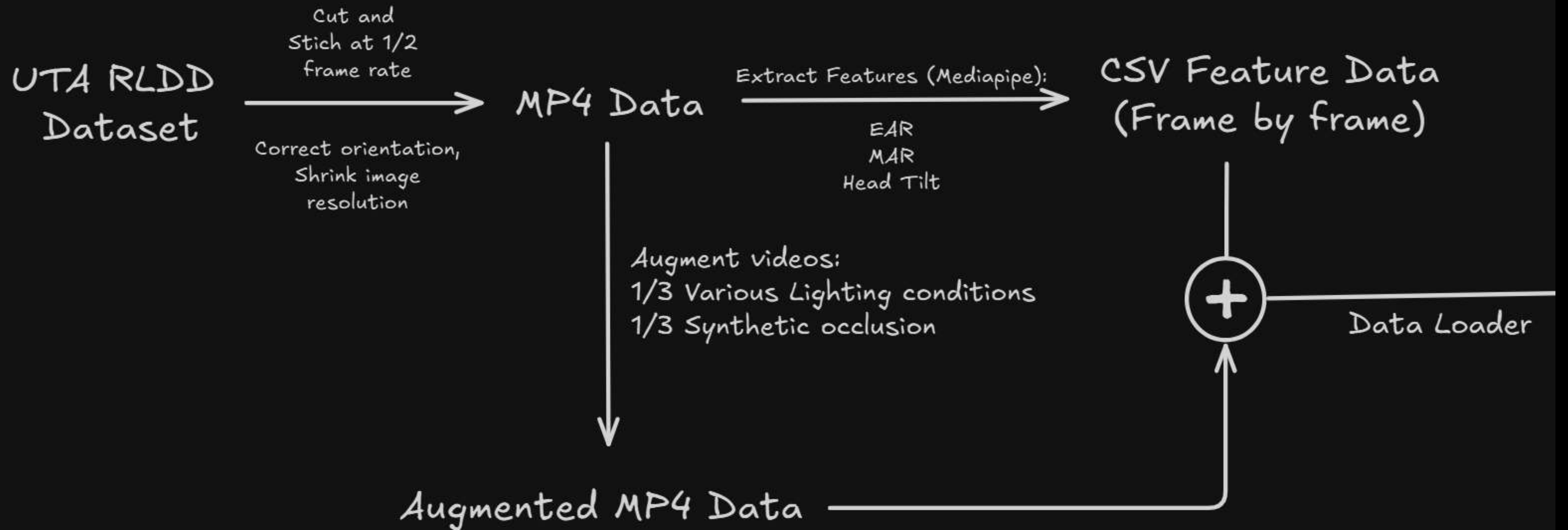


EAR: 0.14
MAR: 0.01
Tilt: -2.26

FULL VIDEO GRAPH



AN OVERVIEW OF THE PREPROCESSING

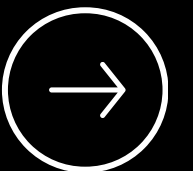


WHAT WE USED

ML Methodology

WE TRIED:

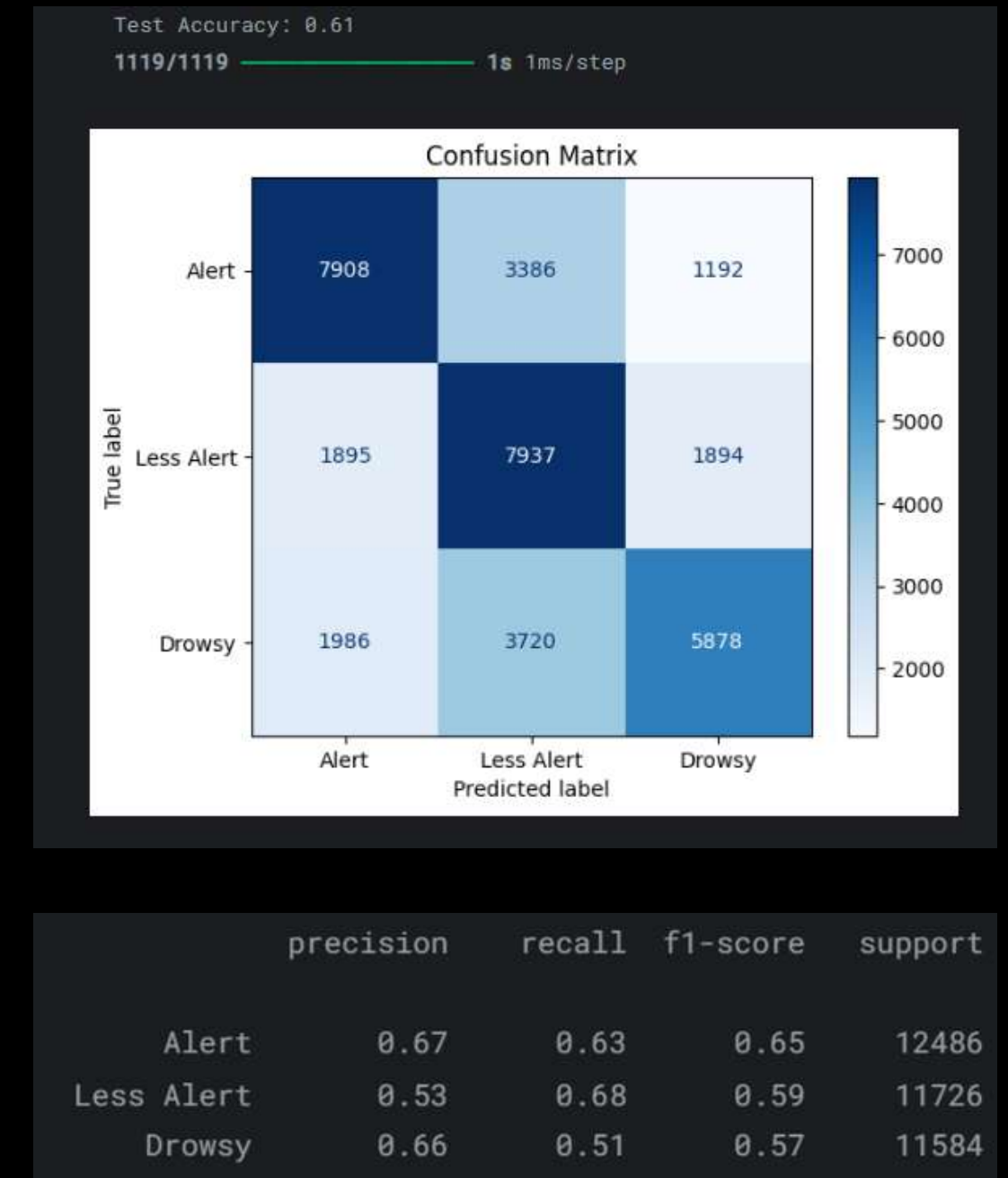
1. DENSE NEURAL NETWORK (ON EXTRACTED DATA)
2. STANDARD CNN WITH FULLY PREPROCESSED DATA
3. LSTM (ON EXTRACTED DATA)
4. CNN + LSTM WITH FULLY PREPROCESSED DATA



ML Methodology

TRIALS & FAILURES

- DENSE NEURAL NETWORK (ON EXTRACTED DATA)
ACCURACY : 61%
MODEL NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH
- STANDARD CNN WITH FULLY PREPROCESSED DATA
ACCURACY : 68%
NO MANUAL FEATURES, NO TEMPORAL CAPTURE



WHAT WE USED

- **CNN + LSTM + MEDIAPIPE FEATURES**

ACCURACY : 83%

LSTM UNABLE TO TAKE LONG CONTEXT LENGTHS, LEADING TO INSUFFICIENT RUNTIME ON KAGGLE

Compact Design:

1. Multi-Modal Paths

- Visual: MobileNet-style CNN → LSTM (128 units)
- Physiological: Processes 4 key features (EAR, MAR, Head Tilt, Nods)

2. Efficient Image Pipeline

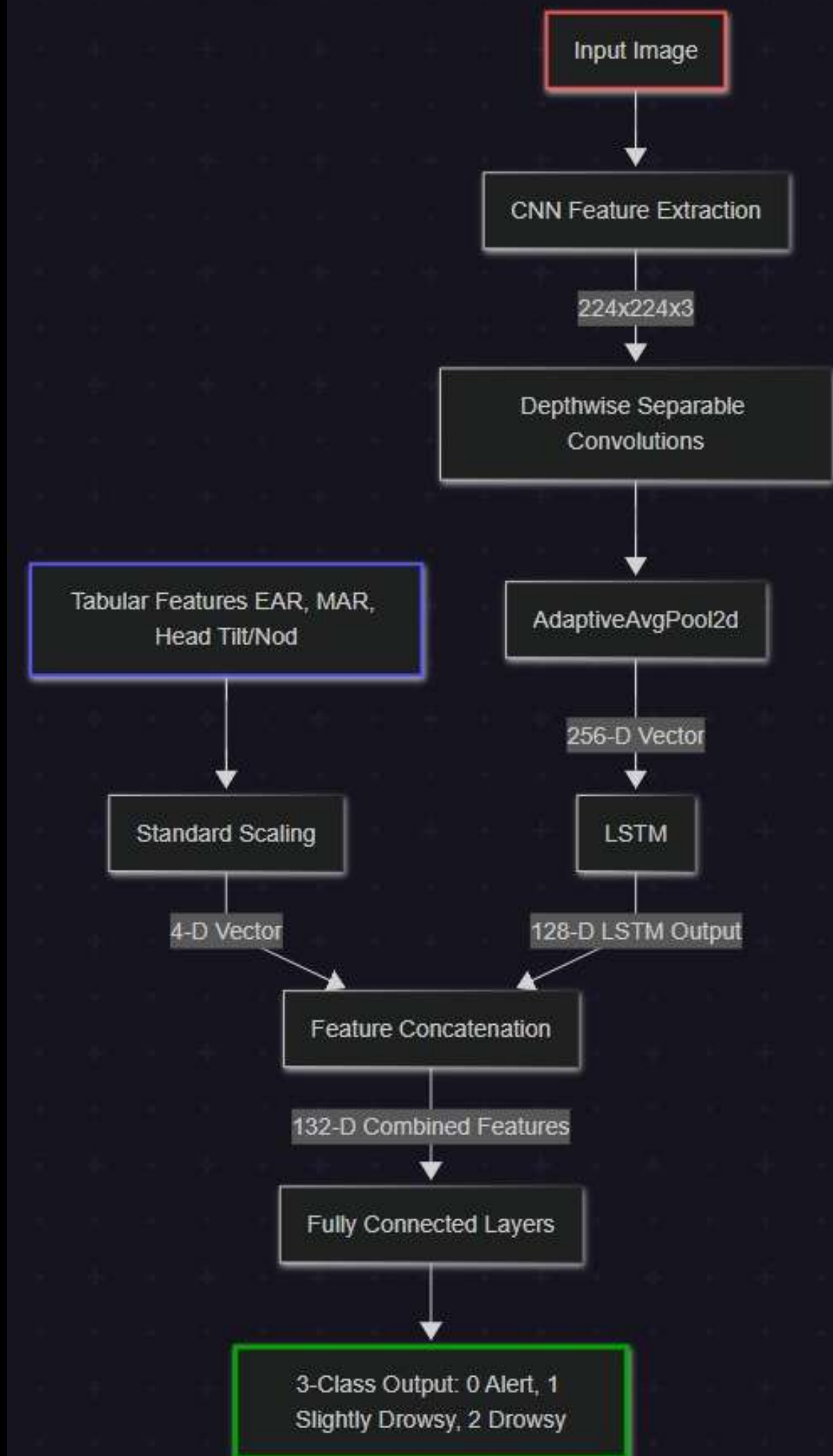
- Depthwise separable convolutions
- Progressive downsampling (strided convs + adaptive pooling)

3. Fusion & Classification

- Late fusion: LSTM (128-D) + tabular (4-D)
- FC layers (ReLU → Dropout 30% → 3-class output)

Key Features:

✓ Facial + physiological cues ✓ Lightweight ✓ Real-time video-ready



WHAT WE USED

- CNN + LSTM + MEDIAPIPE FEATURES (EFFICIENTNET BACKBONE)

VALIDATION ACCURACY : 85%

HIGHER INFERENCE LATENCY AND MEMORY USAGE

HYBRID MODEL ARCHITECTURE

- VISUAL PATH: **EFFICIENTNETB1** (CNN BACKBONE) → BiLSTM (128 UNITS)
- PHYSIOLOGICAL PATH: STANDARDIZED TABULAR FEATURES (EAR, MAR, HEAD TILT, NOD)

OPTIMIZED TRAINING

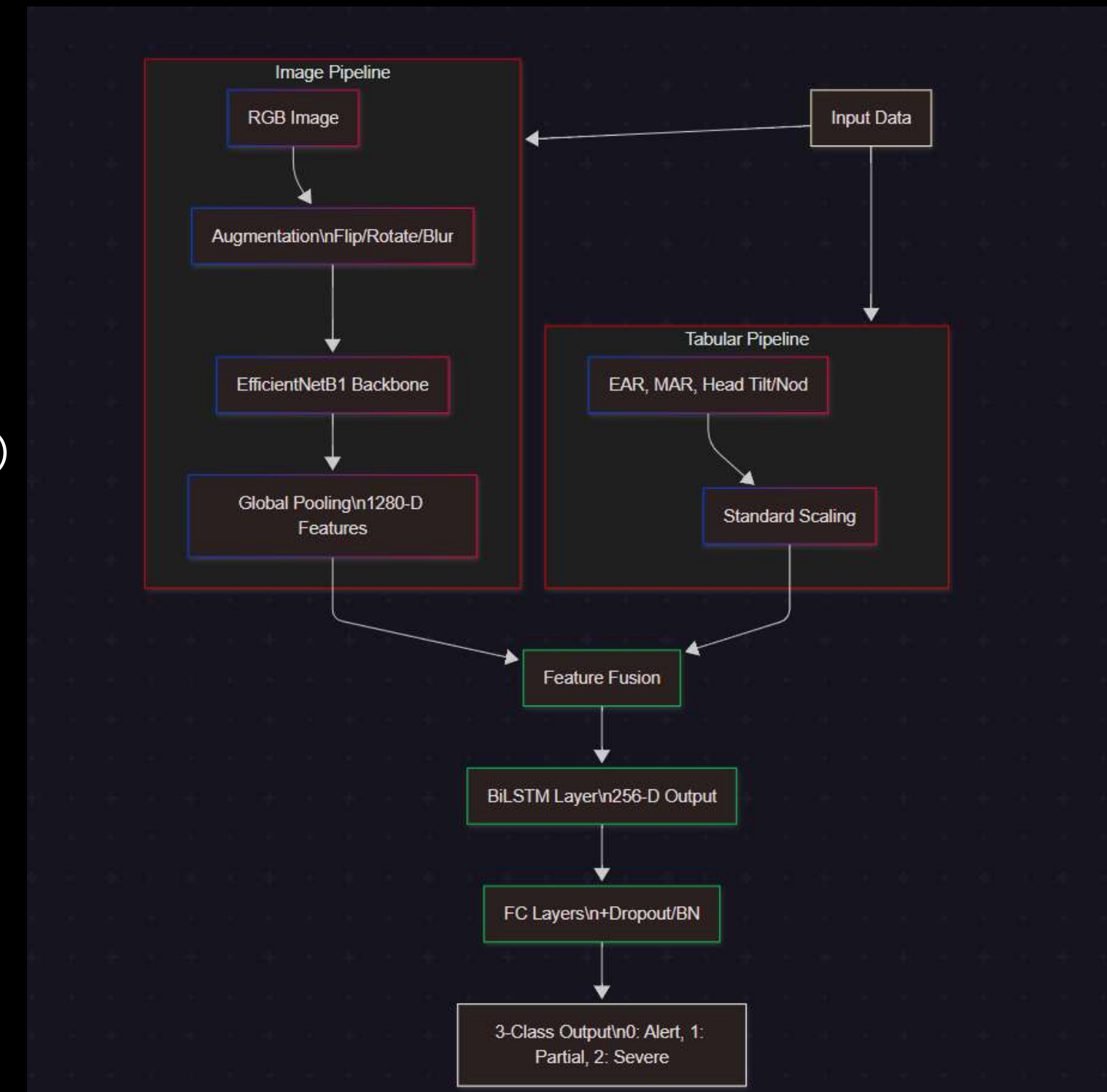
- DATA AUGMENTATION: HORIZONTAL FLIPS, BLUR, COLOR JITTER
- REGULARIZATION: LABEL SMOOTHING (0.1), DROPOUT (40%), BATCH NORM

FUSION & DECISION

- FEATURE CONCATENATION: CNN (1280-D) + TABULAR (4-D) → BiLSTM (256-D)
- CLASSIFICATION: FC LAYERS (RELU → DROPOUT → 3-CLASS OUTPUT)

KEY ADVANTAGES

- ✓ MULTIMODAL (IMAGE + SENSOR FUSION)
- ✓ ROBUST (AUGMENTATION + BIDIRECTIONAL LSTM)
- ✓ DEPLOYABLE (GPU-OPTIMIZED, SAVED BEST WEIGHTS)

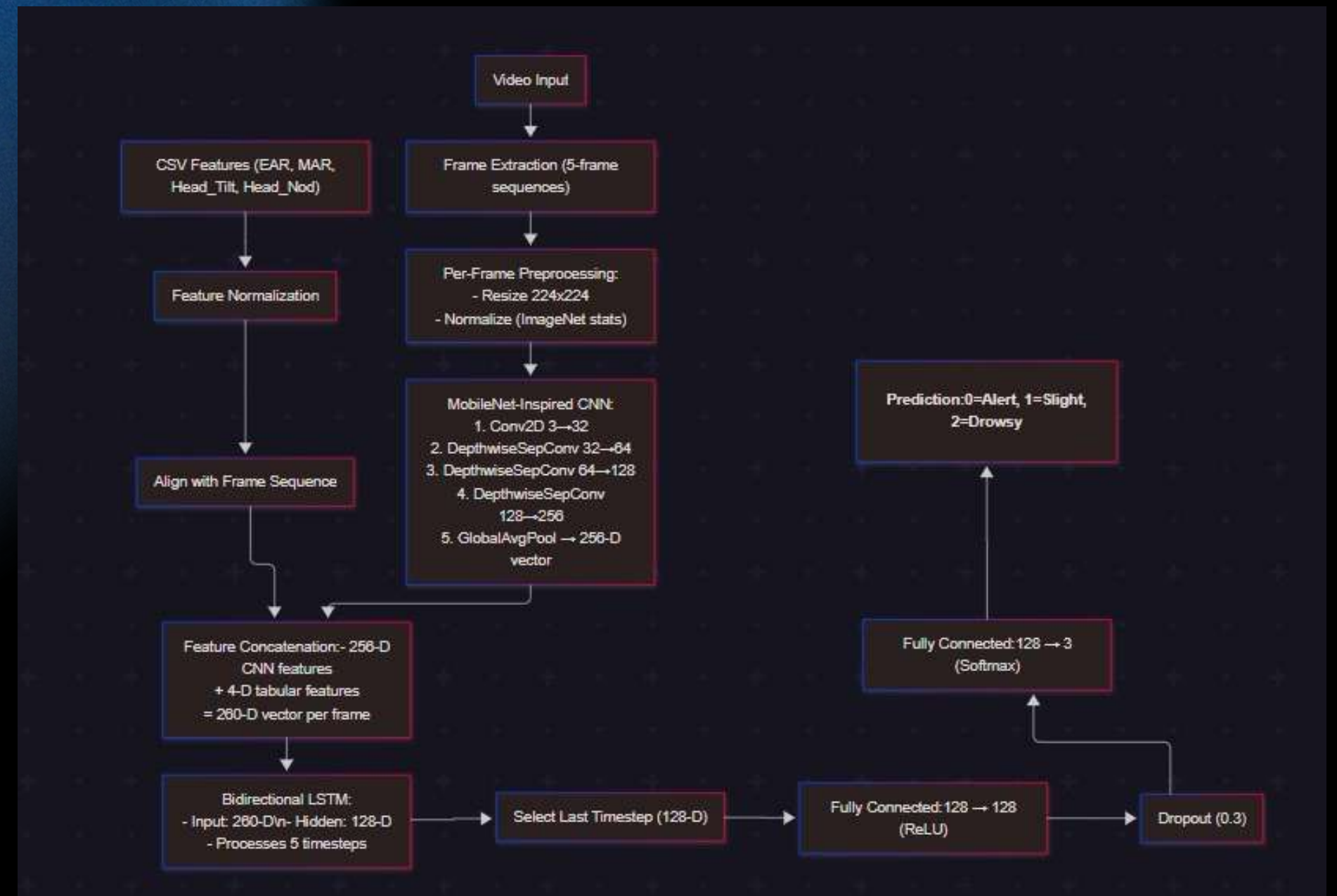


WHAT WE USED

- CNN + LSTM + MEDIAPIPE FEATURES

VALIDATION ACCURACY : ~90%+ (IN 3 EPOCHS)

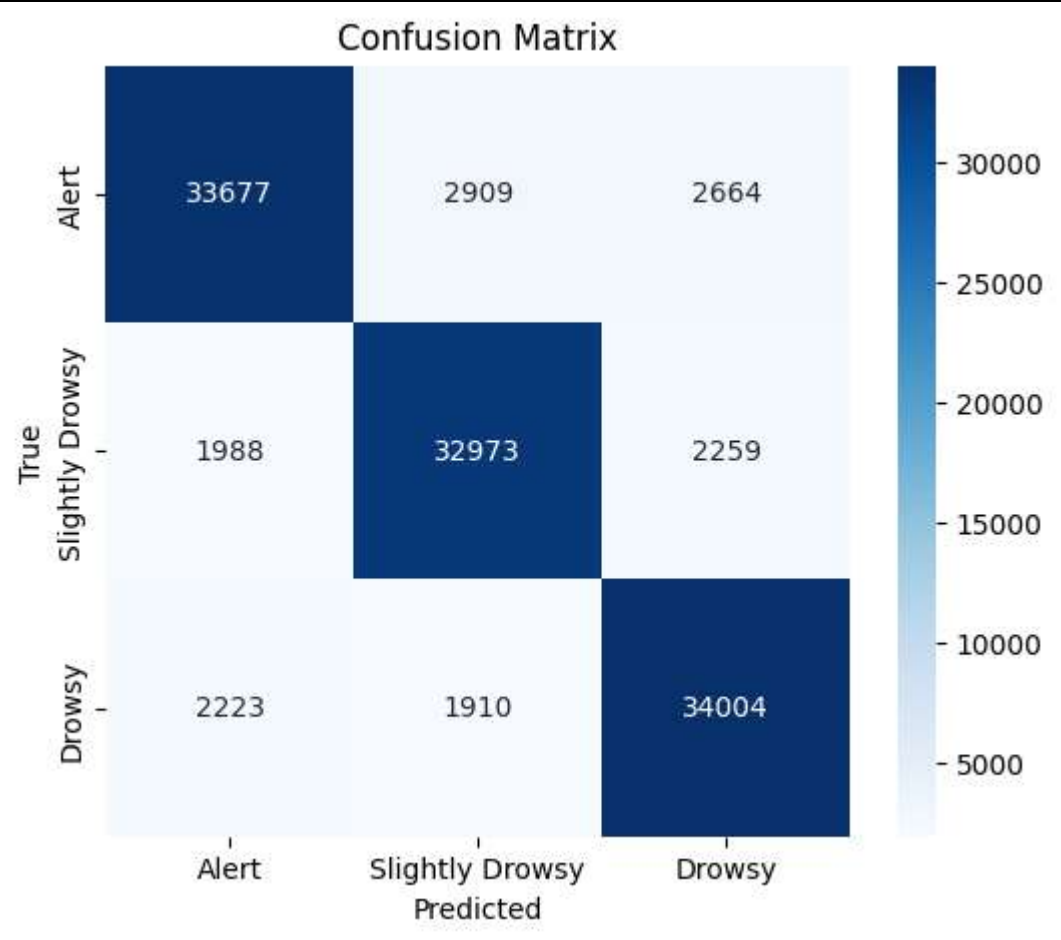
AN LSTM WITH A SEQUENCE LENGTH OF 5 SHOWED
INCREASED PROMISE BUT WE RAN OUT OF COMPUTE
ON KAGGLE EVERY TIME WE TRIED IT



| PERFORMANCE METRICS

Model Size (MB) → 1.7MB

--- Test Set Performance ---				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Alert	0.89	0.86	0.87	39250
Slightly Drowsy	0.87	0.89	0.88	37220
Drowsy	0.87	0.89	0.88	38137
accuracy			0.88	114607
macro avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	114607
weighted avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	114607
✅ Test Accuracy: 87.83%				



Conclusion

In this project, we aimed to build an efficient and accurate drowsiness detection model that performs well even under occlusion and low-light conditions, while being lightweight enough to run on low-computational devices.

- We began with a baseline DNN, achieving 61% accuracy.
- Integrating MobileNetV2 + LSTM (1 timestep) improved accuracy significantly to 83%, balancing performance and efficiency.
- Using EfficientNet-B1 + LSTM achieved similar accuracy (~85%) but with higher memory and computational cost, making it less suitable for edge deployment.
- Finally, by using MobileNetV2 + LSTM with 5 past frames, we pushed validation accuracy to ~90%, with potential to reach 92%+ given more training epochs.

Our final approach demonstrates that with careful design, combining lightweight CNNs and temporal modeling, it's possible to build a robust, real-time drowsiness detection system that is both accurate and efficient for deployment on resource-constrained devices.

