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An Intelligent Analysis System for Wildfire Management Using AI

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Expert Areas: Artificial intelligence, Industry Intelligence, AI in Emergency Management, Emergency Security, Intelligent Computing, AI in Remoting Sensing

- National AI Strategy & Promoting AI Industry Development
- *Leader of Artificial Intelligence Research Project*, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.
- *Took charge of several important research topics about Artificial Intelligence*, such as “Artificial Intelligence Industry and Application
- *Took charge of* Application of 5G, AI and other emerging technologies in various industries

Background

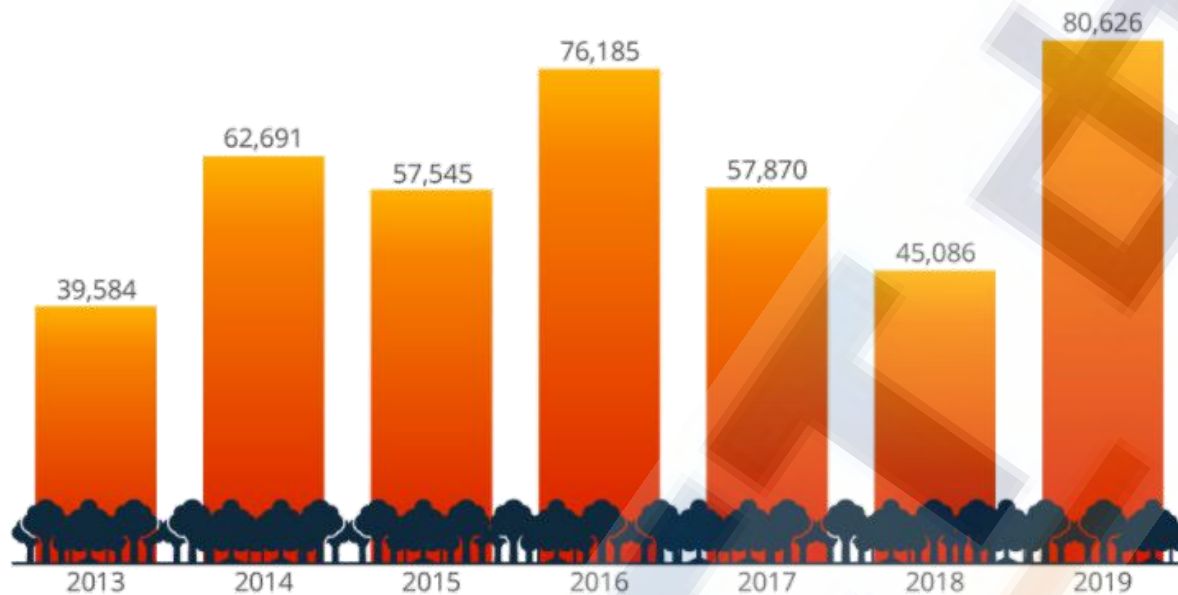
Our Project

Future Work

Status: Stern situation of wildfire safety

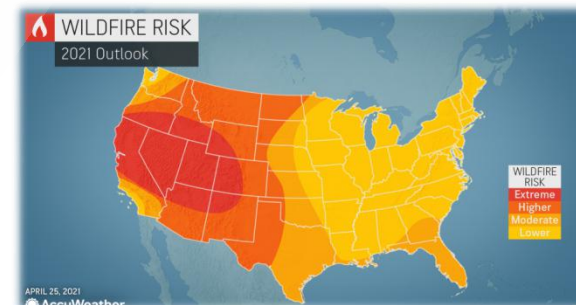
Owing to climate change and human interference, the wildfire, especially forest fires, have been increasing steadily. Many countries are reeling under wildfire, for instance, Amazon Rainforests in 2019 has experienced double the number of forest fires compared to those in 2013.

Record Number Of Wildfires Burning In The Amazon



2021's wildfire season is predicted to be another severe one

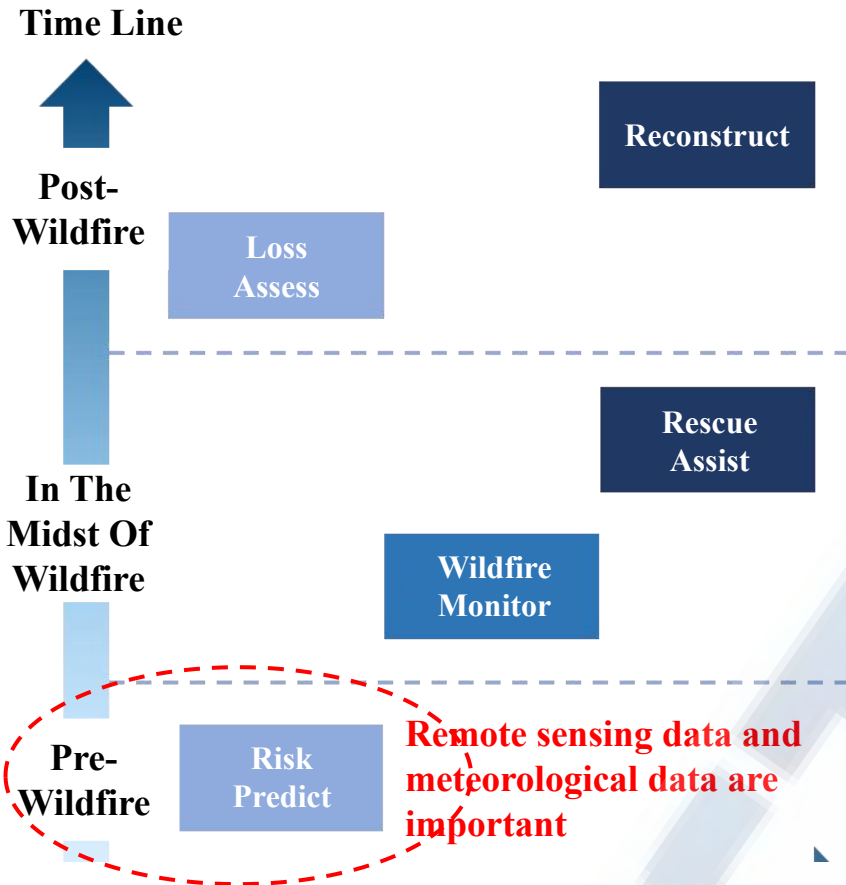
- From January 1 to June 17, 2021 there were about 28,200 wildfires, compared with 21,737 in the same period 2020, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.
- About 1.03 million acres were burned, compared with 936,861 in 2020.



AI has been used in wildfire risk prediction

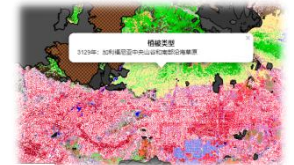
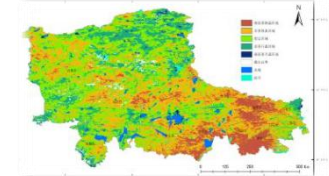
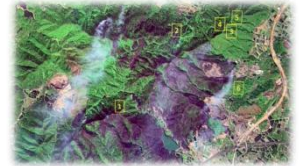
- In the pre-wildfire stage, combined with remote sensing data, observatories data and so on, AI can generate forest distribution map, which includes topography, tree species, density and oil composition, to predict risk of wildfire.

AI + Wildfire Application Map



AI In Wildfire Risk Prediction

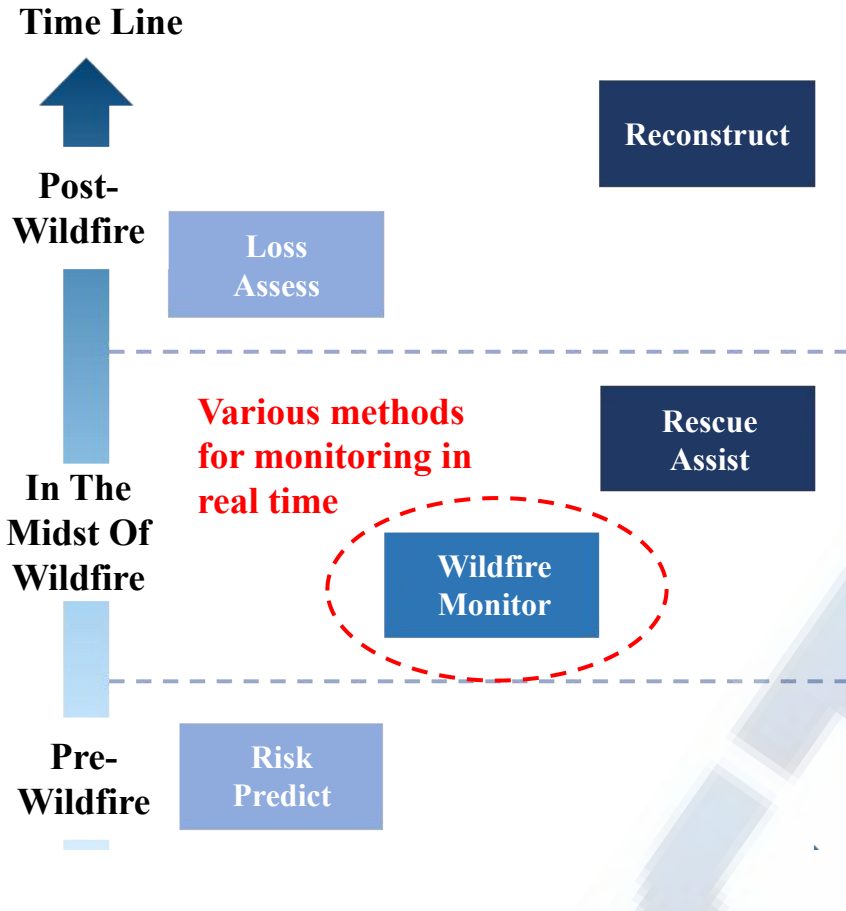
- ① Collect data from satellites and monitors, then develop AI models to identify **forest species and distribution, but not dryness, plant oil position, leaf density and leaf thickness** and so on.
- ② Combined with data of **temperature, wind, precipitation and historical wildfires**.
- ③ **Explore wildfire risk map.** Use various colors to mark different levels of risk, such as high risk areas and precautionary zones.



Combination of AI and satellites and webcams drives the development of intelligent wildfire monitoring

➤ In the midst of wildfire, AI empowers **traditional satellites and webcams**. **Image segmentation and target recognition** can locate wildfire quickly. Compared with webcams, **the cost of remote sensing image recognition is lower, but accuracy is worse**.

AI + Wildfire Application Map

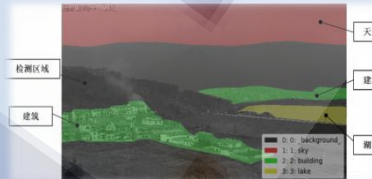


AI + Remote Sensing Images



- Compared with UAV, satellites have high cost performance
- Collecting satellite thermal infrared images, AI can detect wildfire, but not from long distance and covering large areas.

AI + Security Surveillance Images



- China has advantages of economies of scale in wildfire monitoring, but still with low accuracy
- According to cameras, by applying technologies of thermal imaging temperature measurement, fire and smoke intelligent detection and 3D GIS, AI can detect and locate wildfire in real time.
- AI will also automatically distinguish and filter interference factors such as cloud shadow, fog, water droplets.

Recognition from long distance and covering large areas and multi-dimensional analysis need to be realized

A. Among the system components, one AI model will provide early accurate identification (detection) of wildfires

- To ensure the generalizability of this model, we are exploring **the use of AI for detecting fire in images taken from a long distance and in images covering a large area.**
- In terms of detection in images taken from a long distance, the existing single detection model (infrared ultraviolet detection, smoke detection, and image flame detection technology) **does not meet the requirements.**
- Therefore, a new model is needed using AI to achieve the above requirements.

B. Another AI model is the AI risk assessment model which can generate forest fire risk map and mark high risk areas and precautionary zones

- Depending on monitors and communications to predict wildfire risk by humans can not satisfy the need of early warning.
- Now we are exploring **wildfire risk map generation model to visualize possibility of fire in different regions.**
- AI model will **identify forest species, density, distribution, dryness and predict forest growth in the future.** Combined with temperature and wind data from observatories, risk prediction model can forecast wildfire risk precisely.

Background

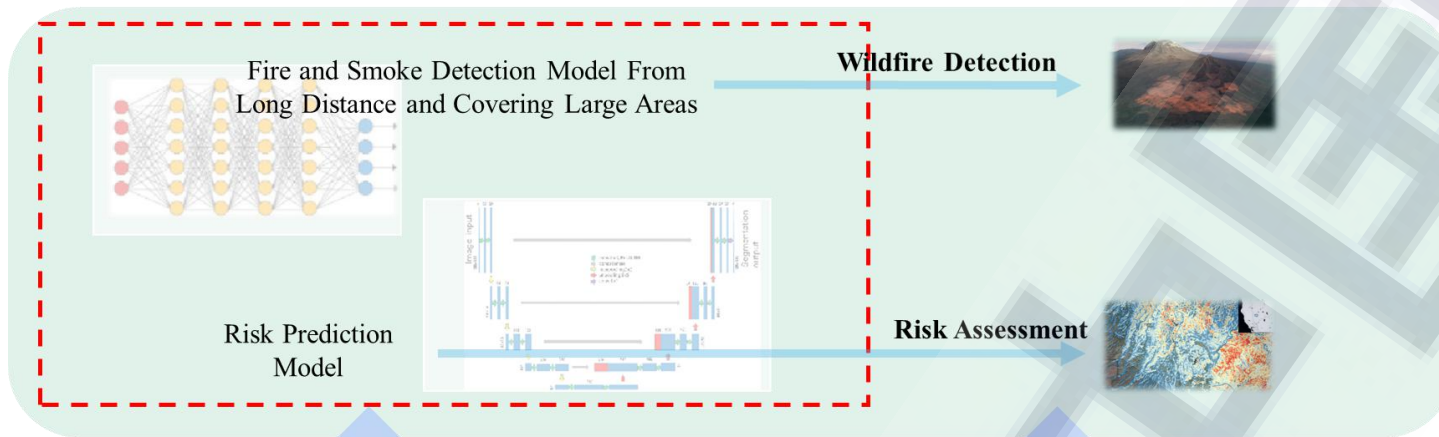
Our Project

Future Work

Project plan

The case study that we present focuses on the Jiangxi province and the northeast China such as Jilin. Science and Technology Department of Jiangxi Province funded the platform from 2019 to 2021.

AI Model & Application Layer



how can AI be used to detect wildfires in real time and ensure generalizability in images from long distance and covering large areas?

Data Layer



how can methods such as AI-based risk maps help us to communicate the threat of wildfires?

Perception Layer



Project plan-AI Wildfires Detection Model

① In the development period of large-area fire

temperature rises rapidly
in the early stage

thermal imaging
temperature
detection

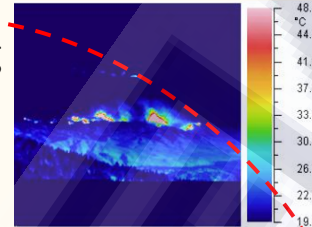
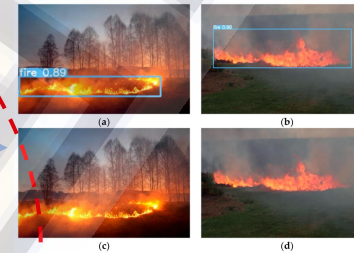
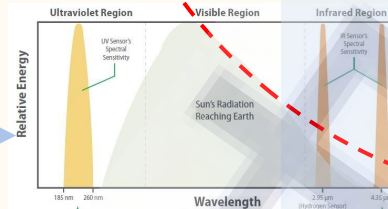


image depth analysis



The test platform of large area **multi parameter fusion detection system** is built to realize the early accurate identification of large area fire.

invisible light can sense
the temperature change in
advance



infrared ultraviolet
spectrum detection

② To achieve accurate detection in complex environment

build image recognition template library

study the characteristics
of each scene and image
features



build and
deploy model



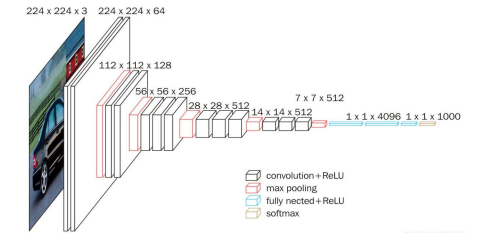
With the enrichment of data,
we can gradually improve the
ability of early accurate fire
recognition.

Project plan-Risk Prediction Model

Collect remote sensing images and monitor pictures



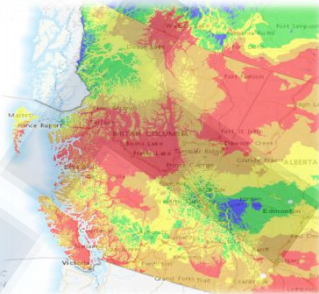
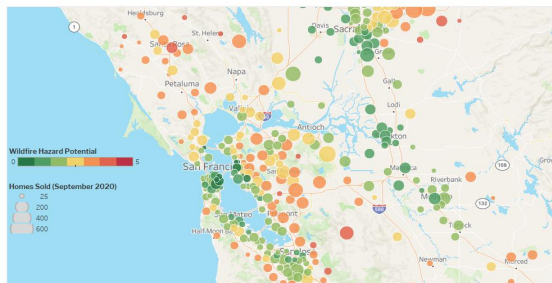
Train and deploy plant identification model



Identify forest species, density, distribution, dryness, forest growth, plant oil composition, and leaf thickness

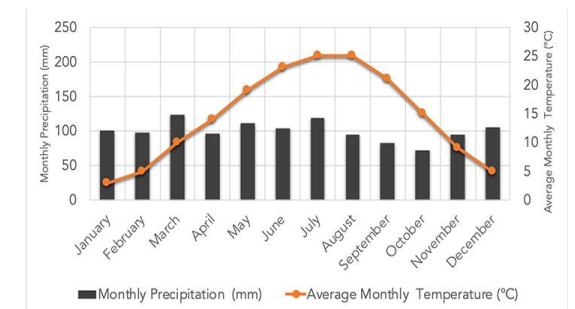
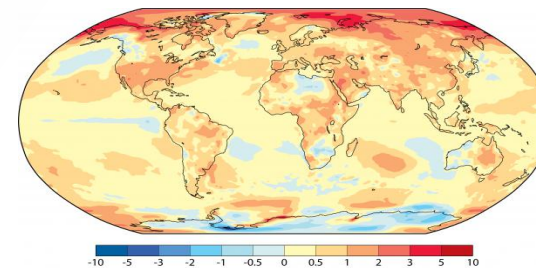


Generate forest fire risk map
Mark high risk areas and precautionary zones



Risk Prediction

Combined data of temperature, wind, and precipitation trends in several days



Data Use and Model Evaluation

➤ Training and testing data mainly come from public and private datasets

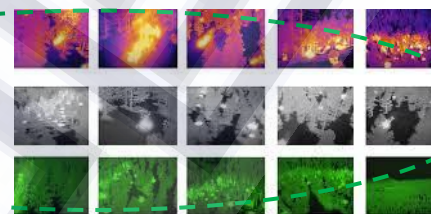
❑ Pre-trained models

- Popular image datasets like ImageNet, COCO
- Data collected from remote sensing satellites, monitoring devices and social media, like fire reflectance, radiance and plant species

Proved be Efficient for Wildfire Models



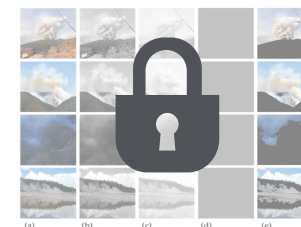
FLAME: Drone image dataset of forest wildfire



❑ Models Optimization

Private Data
(Labeled, Unlabeled)

PRIVATE
AI



➤ Evaluation of model identification accuracy and response time

- For risk assessment system, identification accuracy represents the performance of risk prediction model in wildfire activity.
- For detection system, response time indicates the speed of AI reaction, and identification accuracy means detection and location accuracy of wildfire.
- **For the early accurate identification of wildfire based on AI**, the composite image fire detection model for reliable detection distance $\geq 1000\text{m}$, image flame response time $\leq 20\text{s}$, image smoke response time $\leq 50\text{s}$.

CONTENT

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Expected results: Through continuous experiments and AI model development, it can be concluded that neural networks are offered as techniques for the wildfire detection system and risk mapping.

Milestones: Intelligent models, like risk prediction model, wildfire detection model, will be built in multiple wildfire management scenarios. It is expected to become useful in forest regions in China. In the future, the intelligent system for wildfire will be deployed in many places, which can accurately and real-time monitor the wildfire risk.

Future Impact:

Wildfire AI system has profound impacts on economy, environment and society.

- **For economics**, it can reduce labor costs in daily supervision, avoid wildfire damage loss in advance, reduce firefighting costs when wildfire breaks out and save reconstruction expenses after wildfire.
- **For environment**, by preventing wildfire from happening and spreading, wildfire AI system can help reduce carbon emissions and prevent global warming. For society, it can reduce casualties, then minimize the negative effect and ensure social stability.

Based on the experience of AI system for wildfire management, we hope to **summarize a system architecture** to provide reference for AI application and research in natural disaster in the future, including innovative core applications, data requirement, standard AI method.

Thank you!