

Texting while driving? There's an algorithm to stop you doing it



Tec researchers, together with undergraduate, PhD, and postdoctoral **students**, are working on an **algorithm** capable of **detecting** when people are writing messages on their cellphones while driving and deactivating them.

*“Many people text while driving, causing a great many **car accidents**. We want to **improve peoples’ quality of life**.*

*“Smart devices can detect when you make **typing** mistakes, but do they realize you made those **mistakes** because you’re **driving**?”*, asked Dr. Pedro Ponce, project leader.

Researchers from the **School of Engineering and Sciences** are using **artificial neural networks** in order to detect when people use cellphones while driving and deactivate the application being used.

The **algorithm** works on the same **seismological principles** that trigger the appearance and spread of seismic waves in an **earthquake**. It was developed after the **September 19** earthquake in Mexico City.



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Researchers **Pedro Ponce** and **Arturo Molina**, who are in charge of this project, work every day on **developing technologies and creating new products**.

*“We do the inventive part of **setting new trends** that gradually come onto the market.*

*“All universities should **create products** and involve students, but **we’re among the few universities in Mexico that do so,**” said researcher Ponce.*

This algorithm has been patented in the **United States** and is currently **for sale** to be used in developing applications for **smartphones**.

The **Tec researchers** have **written books** such as [Intelligent Control Systems with LabVIEW™](#), [Power System Fundamentals](#), and many more, so that anyone wanting to create an app with this algorithm could learn to use it.

No one would have thought that **cellphones** could **cause accidents**, but now that they do, these **experts** are looking for **alternatives to correct this** and protect the community.

You can go [here](#) to obtain the artificial intelligence tools used to create the algorithm.

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