

Classifying Scrap Metal on the Edge

A large pile of scrap metal pieces, including various shapes of metal sheets, coils, and small fragments, scattered on a dark, textured surface. The pieces are mostly dark and weathered, with some showing lighter, possibly oxidized or painted, areas. The background is slightly blurred, showing more industrial equipment.

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W251 Final Project

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Alumisource



- Based near Pittsburgh, PA.
- Specializes in metal shredding and processing.
- Transforms scrap metal from junkyards into raw materials for metal producers.
- Looking to improve accuracy of metal sorting at mass scale.

Existing Solutions

Tradeoffs

- Cost
- Speed
- Accuracy

Manual/Slow



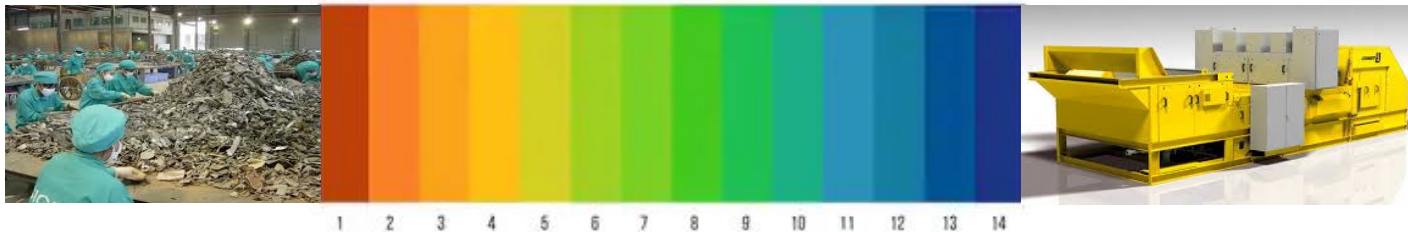
Automated/Expensive



New Solution

Tradeoffs

- Cost
- Speed
- Accuracy



- Lower-cost cameras, compared to costly sensors (e.g., lasers, xray)
- Edge computing, to keep pace with conveyor belt

Data Collection



500 Samples (100 each)

- Aluminum
- Brass
- Copper
- Stainless Steel
- Zinc

Photography

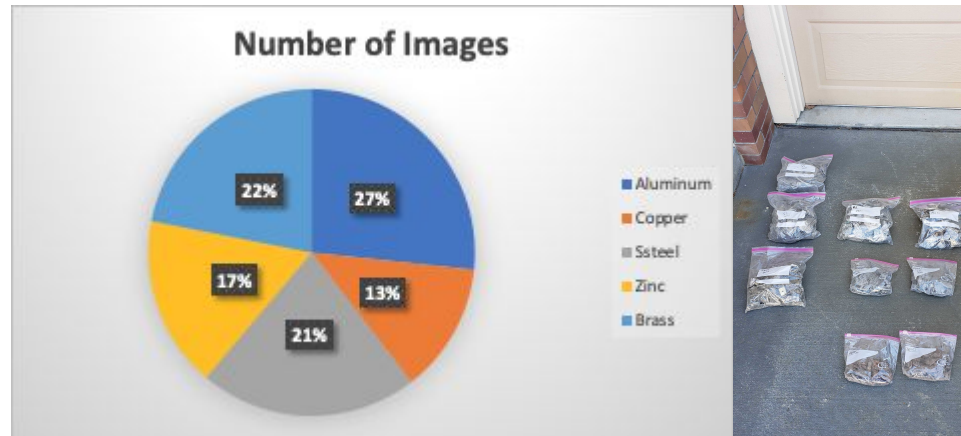
- Light Box
- Smartphone Camera

1383 Pictures

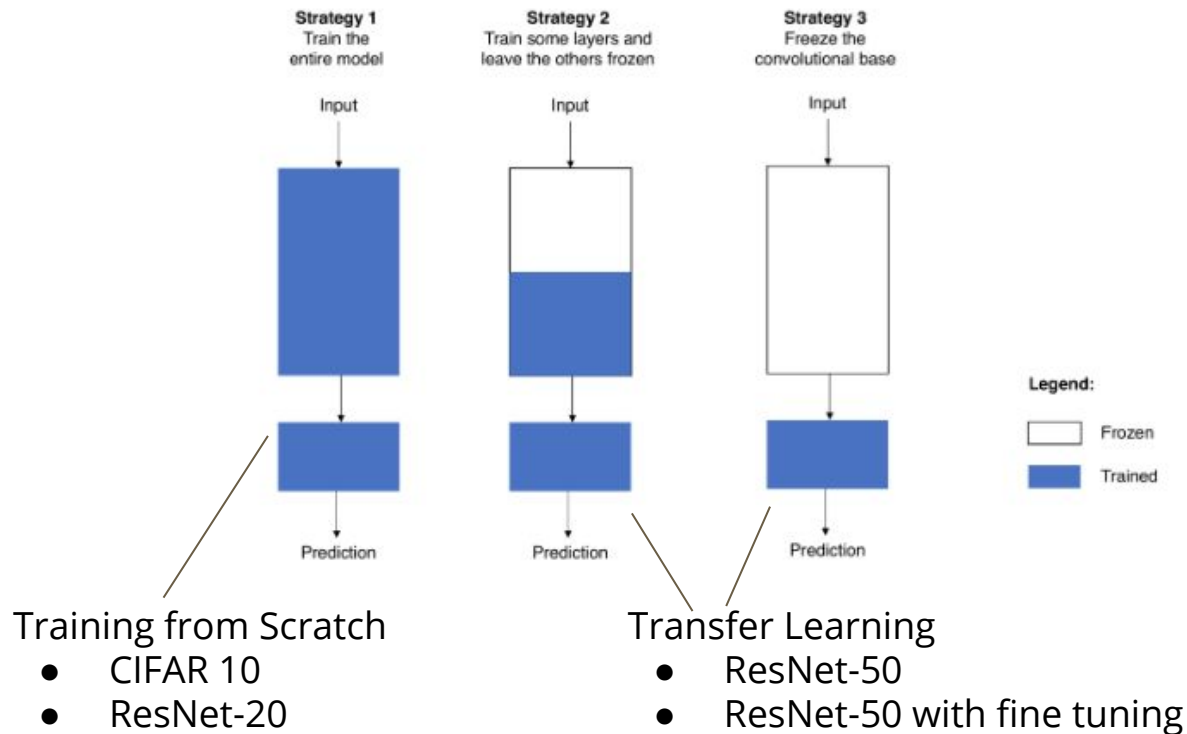
- Multiple angles taken per object

Models - Data Split

Metal	Number of Images	Training	Validation	Test
Aluminum	369	221	74	74
Copper	178	106	36	36
Stainless Steel	299	178	60	61
Zinc	234	140	47	47
Brass	303	181	61	61
Total Images		826	278	279



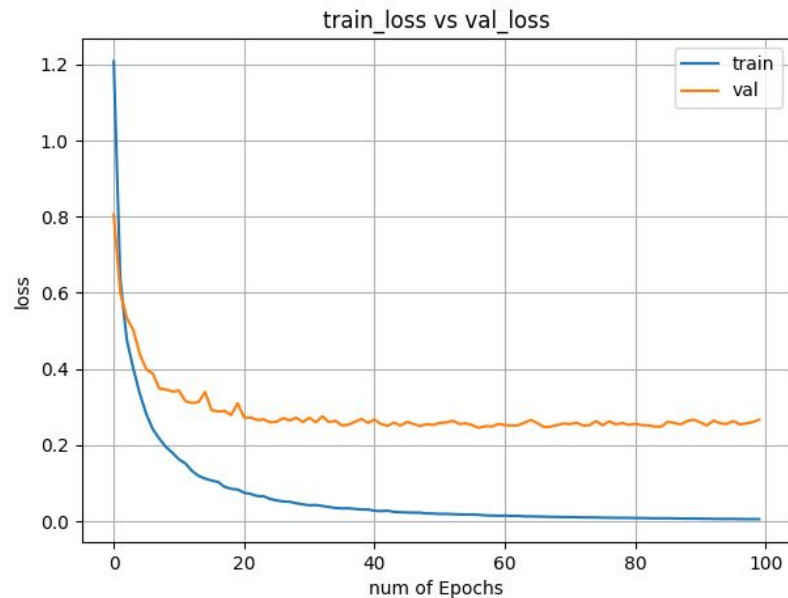
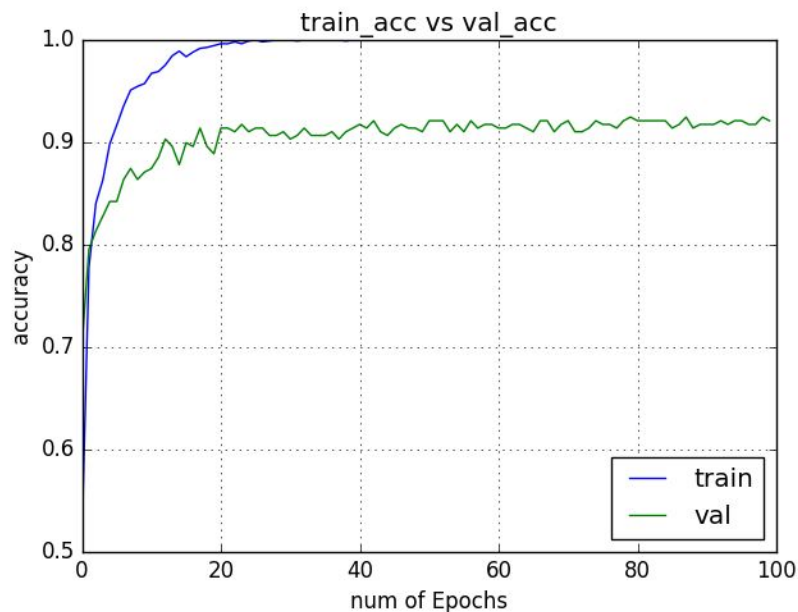
Models - Strategy



Models - Training

- Full training from scratch (CIFAR10 and ResNet-20)
 - Limited Inline Augmentation (No zoom/rotation/shear/vertical_flip)
 - 92% validation accuracy
 - Inline Augmentation
 - 83% validation accuracy on best model with resnet20
 - 76% test accuracy, model size of 4MB
- Transfer learning ([vgg-16 and ResNet-50](#))
 - No Augmentation
 - 89% accuracy with [ResNet-50](#)
 - 92% accuracy with [fine tuned ResNet-50](#)
 - Inline Augmentation
 - 81.36% validation accuracy on best model with vanilla ResNet-50
 - 83.5% validation accuracy on best model with fine tuned ResNet-50
 - 71-74% test accuracy, model size of 99MB

Models - Metrics (Transfer Learning)



Transfer Learning - No Augmentation

Models - Confusion Matrix

Confusion Matrix

```
[[56  0  0 10  1]
 [ 2 21  0 17  0]
 [ 5  0 29  2  0]
 [17  0  0 65  0]
 [ 0  9  0  5 39]]
```

Classification Report

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Zinc	0.70	0.84	0.76	67
Steel	0.70	0.53	0.60	40
Copper	1.00	0.81	0.89	36
Brass	0.66	0.79	0.72	82
Aluminum	0.97	0.74	0.84	53
accuracy			0.76	278
macro avg	0.81	0.74	0.76	278
weighted avg	0.78	0.76	0.76	278

Training from Scratch
(with inline Augmentation)

Confusion Matrix

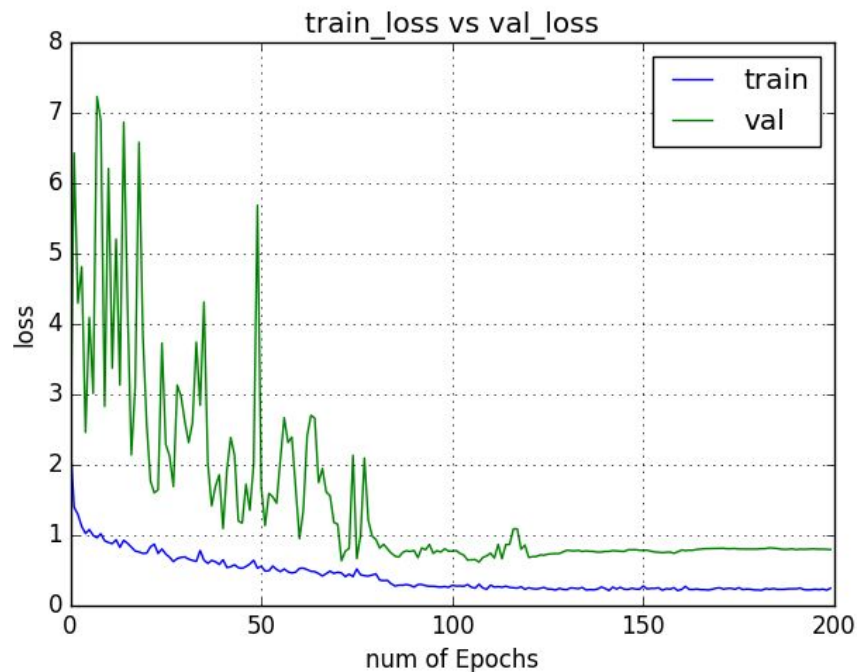
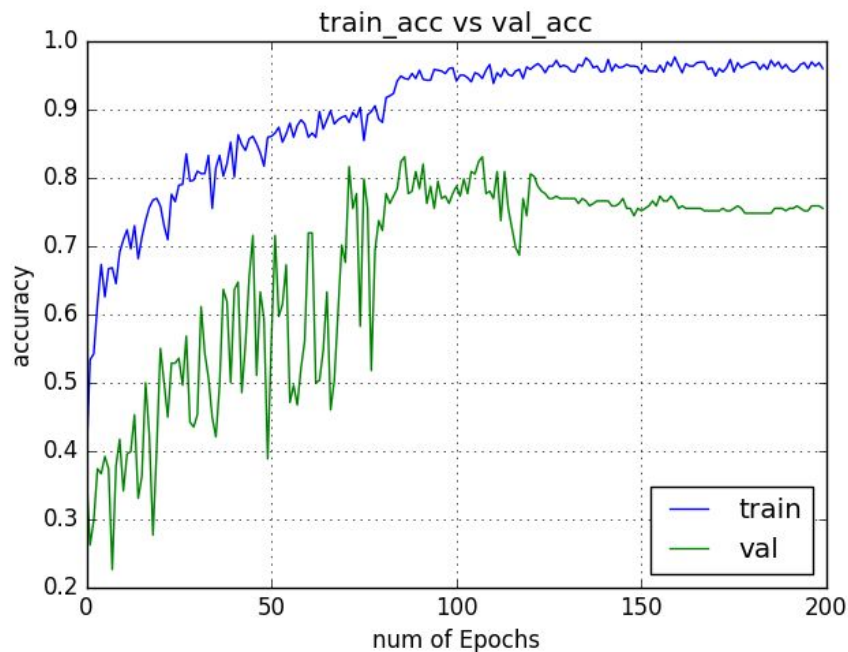
```
[[38  0  0  0  9]
 [ 3 17  0  1 39]
 [ 1  0 31  3  1]
 [ 1  1  1 39 19]
 [ 0  2  0  0 73]]
```

Classification Report

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Zinc	0.88	0.81	0.84	47
Steel	0.85	0.28	0.42	60
Copper	0.97	0.86	0.91	36
Brass	0.91	0.64	0.75	61
Aluminum	0.52	0.97	0.68	75
accuracy			0.71	279
macro avg	0.83	0.71	0.72	279
weighted avg	0.79	0.71	0.70	279

Transfer Learning
(with inline Augmentation)

Models - Metrics (Training from Scratch)



Train from Scratch with resnet20- With Inline Augmentation

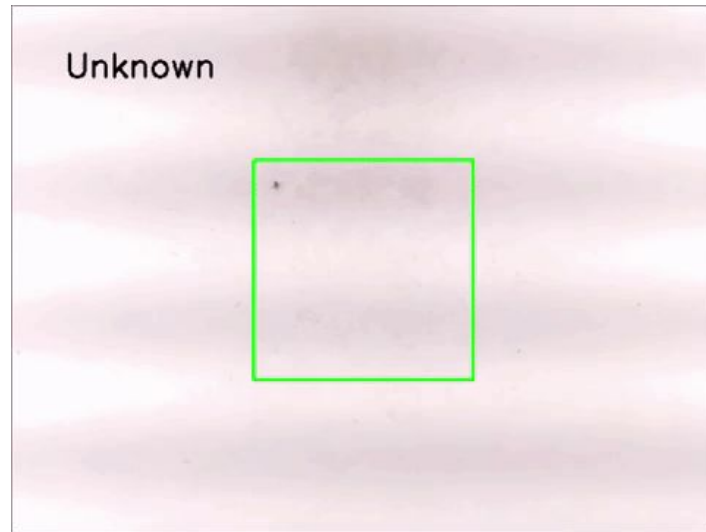
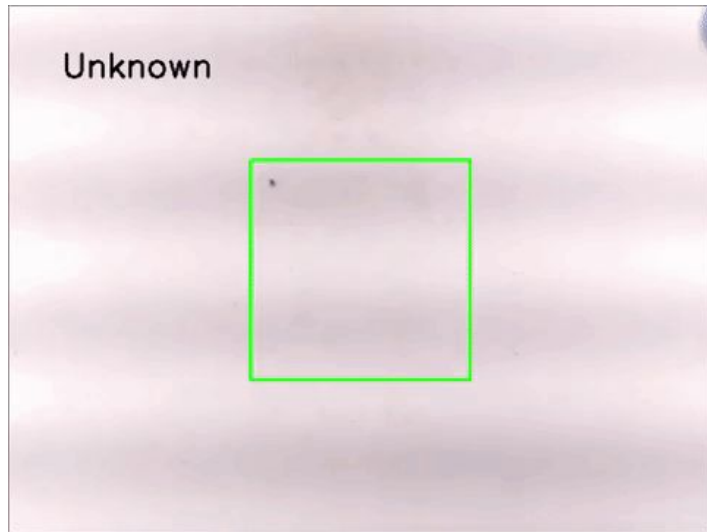
Webcam Testing



- Video Settings
 - Webcam (Logitech C920)
 - Auto/default settings
 - Exposure -8.0 (bright/white background)
 - Lights
 - 2 x LED, 100 watt, 1600 lumens
 - Classifier Input
 - Center crop (reduce banding influence)
 - Green "Centering" Box
 - Not a bounding box; video shot framing aide
 - "Unknown"
 - No negative samples
 - Heuristic: if prediction far too precise, display "Unknown"

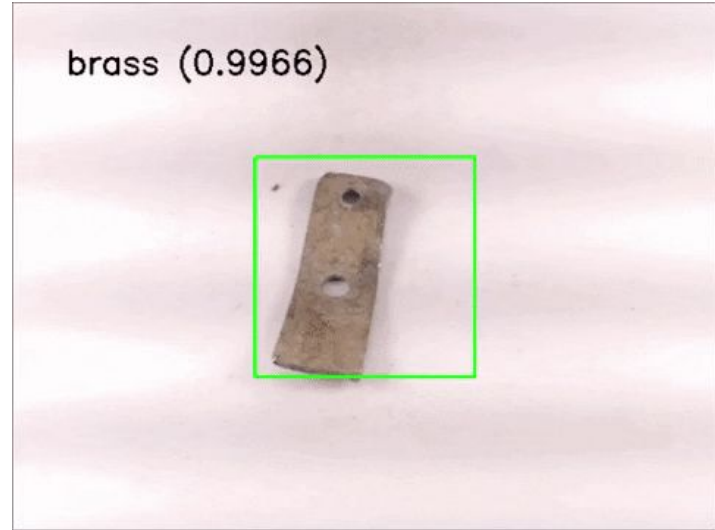
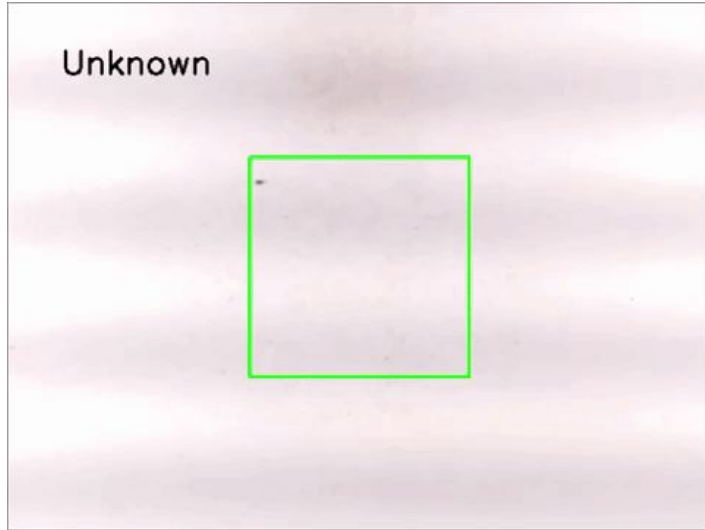
Note: predictions are rounded to 4 places in videos

Webcam Testing



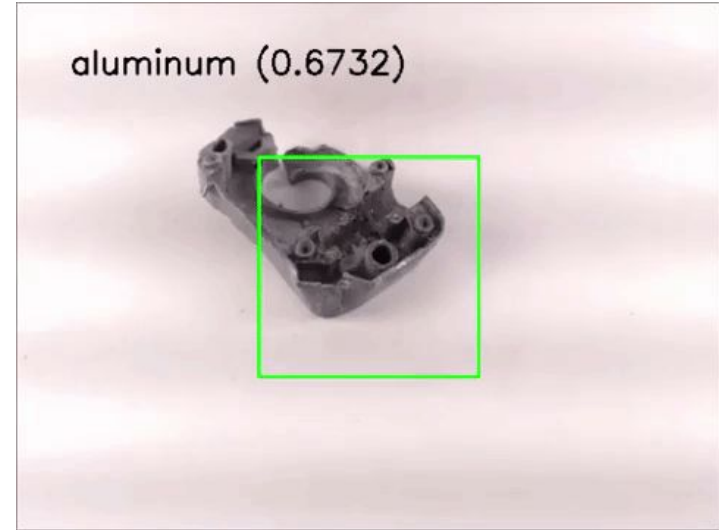
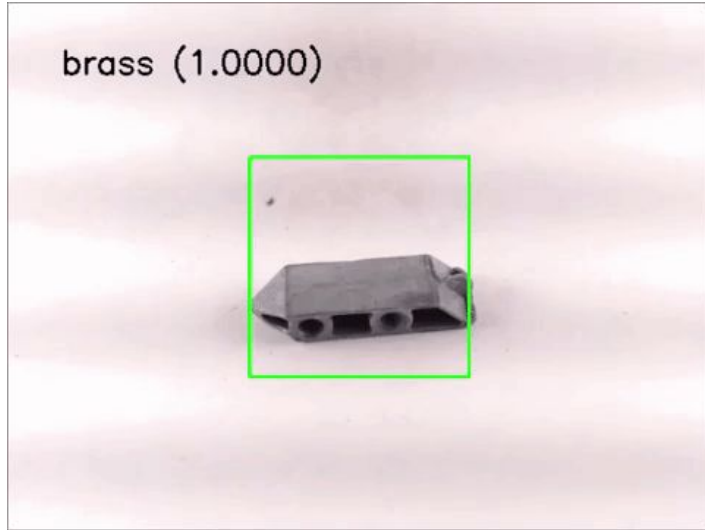
True Class: Aluminum

Webcam Testing



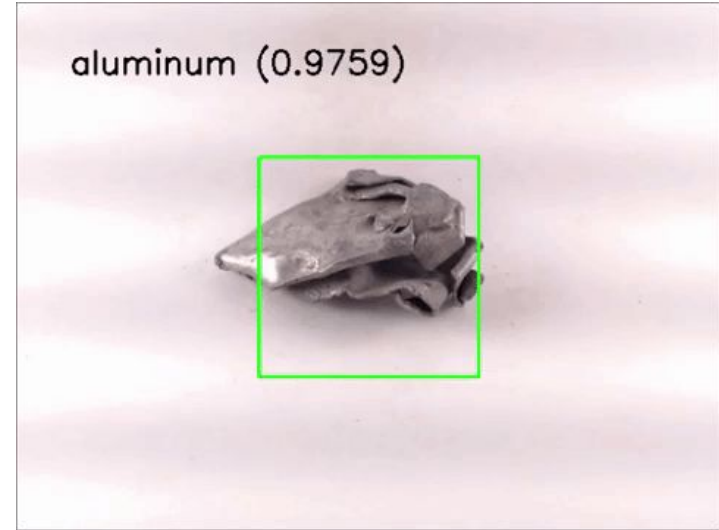
True Class: Brass

Models - Webcam Testing



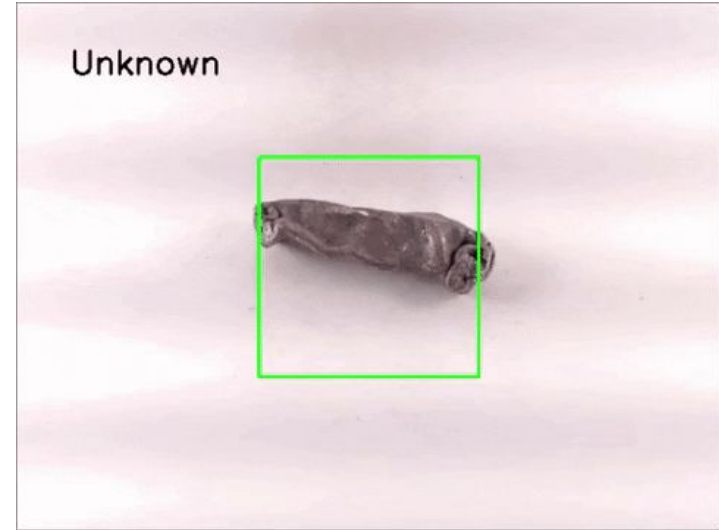
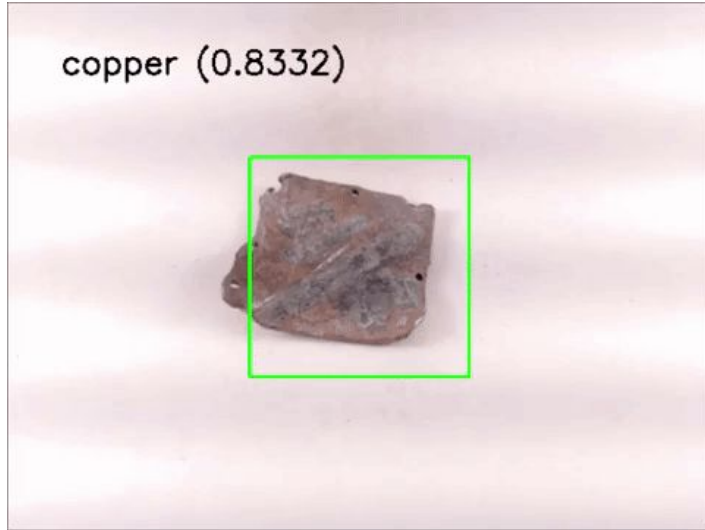
True Class: Zinc

Models - Webcam Testing



True Class: Stainless Steel

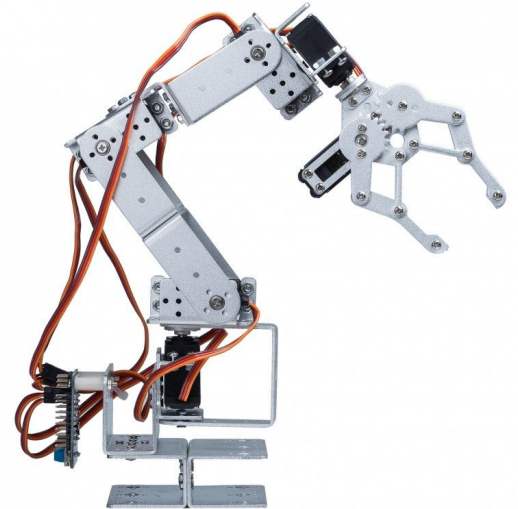
Models - Webcam Testing



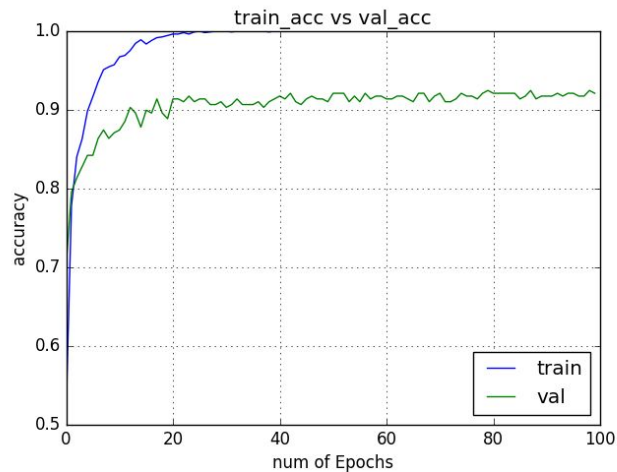
True Class: Copper

Future Work

- Enable object detection, to function for actual working conditions.
- Link object detection to robotic arm for “hand-picking” scrap metal.



Conclusion

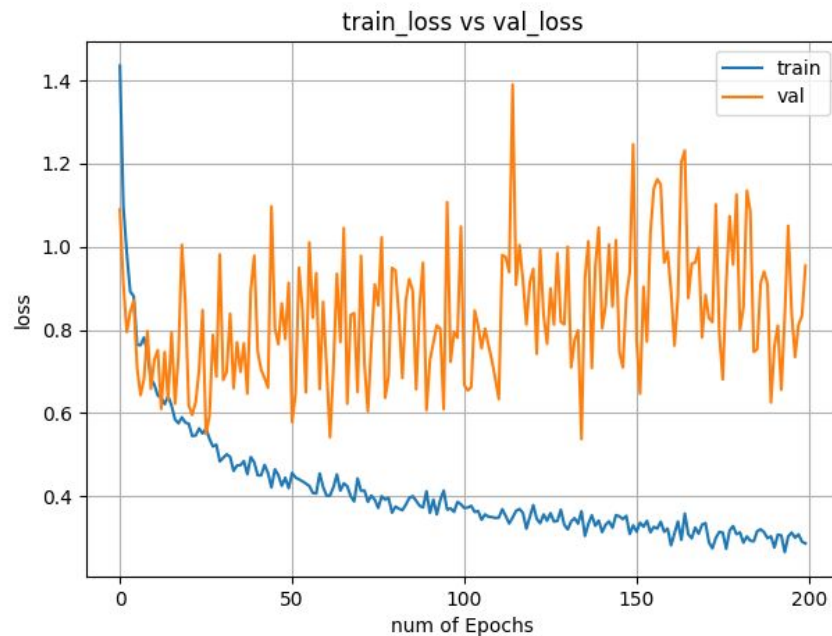
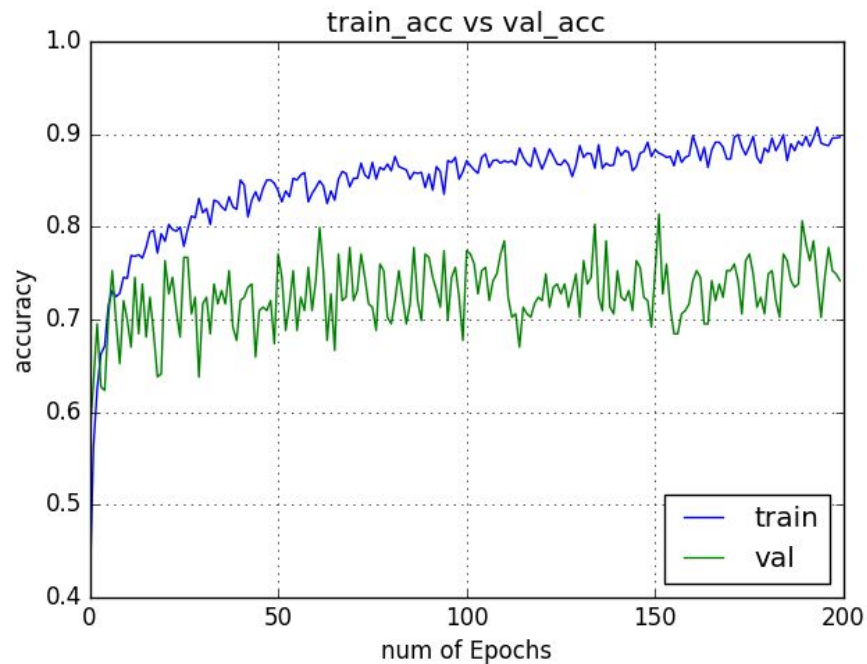


Backup

Outline

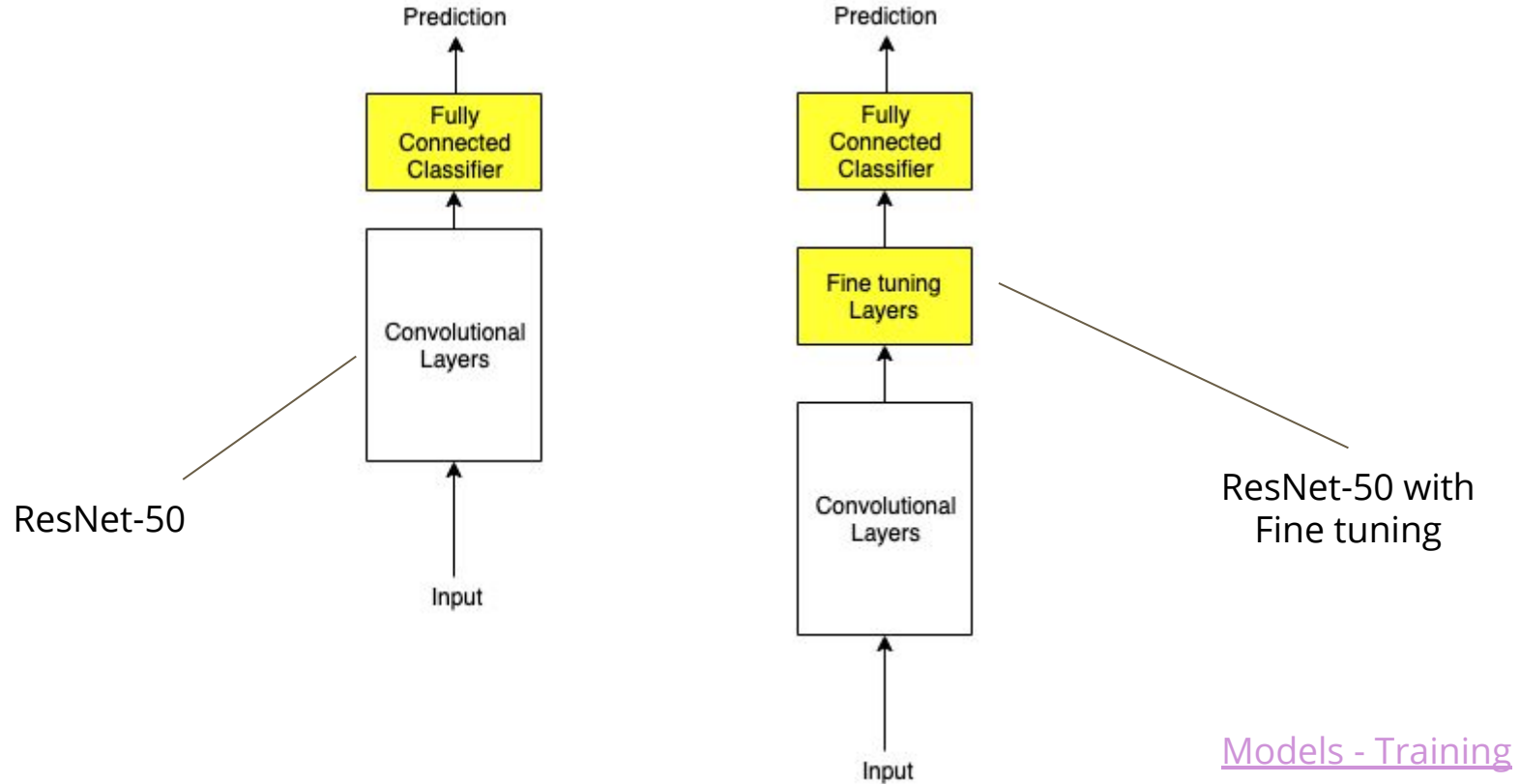
1. Alumisource
2. Existing Solutions
3. New Solution
4. Data Collection
5. Models
6. Future Work
7. Conclusion

Models - Metrics



Transfer Learning - With Inline Augmentation

Transfer Learning - Strategies



Model Performance

Model	ResNet50	ResNet50 Fine Tuned	ResNet20
Best Val Accuracy	0.81	0.84	0.83
Test Accuracy	0.74	0.71	0.76
Loss	0.95	1.51	0.85
Model Size (MB)	90	99	4

Pre-Trained Model	VGG-16	ResNet-50
Val Accuracy	0.68	0.89
Loss	1.1	0.39
Model Size	300MB	92MB