9/5/2023

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Final Year Project

Draft

# Executive Summary

The use of modern Communication devices is integral to our lives. We have more technological devices in our time than the number of humans on earth. These devices are bound to get into a lot of accidental malfunctions. Electronics Repair is a very complex, time consuming and money consuming process. The process also requires special knowledge and experience to execute.

Finding ways to preserve communication is very essential to our modern way of life. Repairing and recycling is crucial in the preservation of that modern means of interaction. In a world with rising numbers of AI and automated technology, it is time for our devices to be fixed automatically.

There are multiple mobile phone companies across the whole world. They all have their own blueprints for their products. Some require original parts for replacement, and some can be done with aftermarket products. Decisions of these repairs are challenging for the common person. As the new age of automation arises, we are bound to meet a turning point where phone repair and solutions are easier to automize than the touch of human error.

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# Introduction

There are several challenges with the phone repairing process that needs to be addressed. In this project we will deal with the process of electronics repair and come to a modern innovative solution that involves automation. This project’s primary goal is to produce a system that can identify hardware faults, analyse, and rectify. There are also software faults that the report will suggest, but will be delegated for future research.

The primary approach includes isolating a thought pattern of identifying damaged and unresponsive parts that will highlight the underlying problems with the device. There must be a prototype that can utilise the machine learning to produce a series of menial tasks that will save time in the long run. The program would suggest different solutions to all kinds of problems, starting from repair to the mother board to recycling and selling of parts. The program and device can search the internet with possible solution to repairs and damage.

The required diagnostics will involve all with the help of repair knowledge integrated with machine learning which can solve most repair problems. For repairs on complicated circuits like motherboard and PCBs it will require thermal imaging to seek damages precisely.

This paper will discuss all possible problems faced by smartphone customers that cannot be solved with a basic smartphone knowledge. Recycling and restoring damaged smartphones in a circular economy would benefit us in the future.

This topic is only the beginning of this discussion, as we discuss future possibilities of expanding these findings.

# Literature Review

## Existing Literature

### Thermal Imagining for PCBs

A phone’s motherboard is essentially a PCB, so a whenever a part of the PCB gives out or is not working, thermal cameras are used on a detect that problem. Engineers have figured to use thermal cameras to detect parts on a PCB that is overheating or not passing any current at all. “An Efficient Fault Detection Method for Induction Motors using Thermal Imaging and Machine Vision” ([Javed et al, 2022](https://www.proquest.com/docview/2700773020?parentSessionId=dnZfsi%2BI4aHhbaJYVM2rC9gYV%2BvVdlT7C0YxtiQGVyU%3D&pq-origsite=primo&accountid=10499&sourcetype=Scholarly%20Journals)) states the use of image thermography to look at induction motors while running. The thermal camera points out different parts of the induction motor and monitors any unusual temperature changes.

### Automatic Diagnostics Device for Cars

An automotive is fitted with multiple sensors everywhere on its body, such as odometer, fuel gauge, engine sensors that monitor parameters like temperature and pressures of the engine, anti-lock braking system, etc. A device like OBD2 scanner is connect to a car by the port to test all the car sensors and run diagnostics ([Rimpas et al, 2019](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352484719308649)).

### The Importance of Repair and Recycle

As we get closer to global warming’s tipping point, we are more concerned about limiting our carbon footprint. Every single new production of increases our carbon footprint little by little that the time for this climate change disaster is irreversible.

Mobile phone parts contain numerous number of metals, some of these metals like cadmium, lead, chromium, mercury, etc are toxic ([Prabhu N et al, 2022](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9925901/#:~:text=Metals%20like%20cadmium%2C%20lead%2C%20chromium,et%20al.%2C%202020).)). Research suggests that e-waste is one of the fastest growing waste stream in the world ([Dhir et al, 2020](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652620343146)). To preserve our planet for future generations it is high time for us to address these issues.

### Electronics Repair using Artificial Intelligence

Using robotic arms and help is not new for the repair world. We use robots to perform multitude of tasks that are repetitive and cost effective to outsource. At the University of Bristol two researchers used a handheld robotic arm to tackle tasks that require maintenance, guidance and diagnostics ([Linder, 2019](https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/robots/a29712497/robot-repair-arm/)). The robot has a remote controlled 5 degree of freedom tooltip that can be used in repair. The are also two cameras, one to observe the tooltip while operating, another to observe the workspace and anything else happening around the robot. The researchers mainly used the robot for midscale maintenance work, where a more expert worker can direct a rookie remotely and help in passing the knowledge.

### PCB Fault detection using thermal imaging and machine learning

### Predictive Maintenance using Machine Learning

### Identification of mobile phones using built in magnetometer.

Magnetometers are used to detect magnetic fields around them, measuring the strength, intensity, and direction. In numerous technological devices they are used for navigation and orientation using the earth’s magnetic field. Different phone models have distinctive shapes and different positions where the magnetometers are placed in them.

### 2.1.8

## Critical Evaluation

## Gap Identification

### Functional Robot Expense and Production Cost

### Gap in Machine Learning

## Study Justification

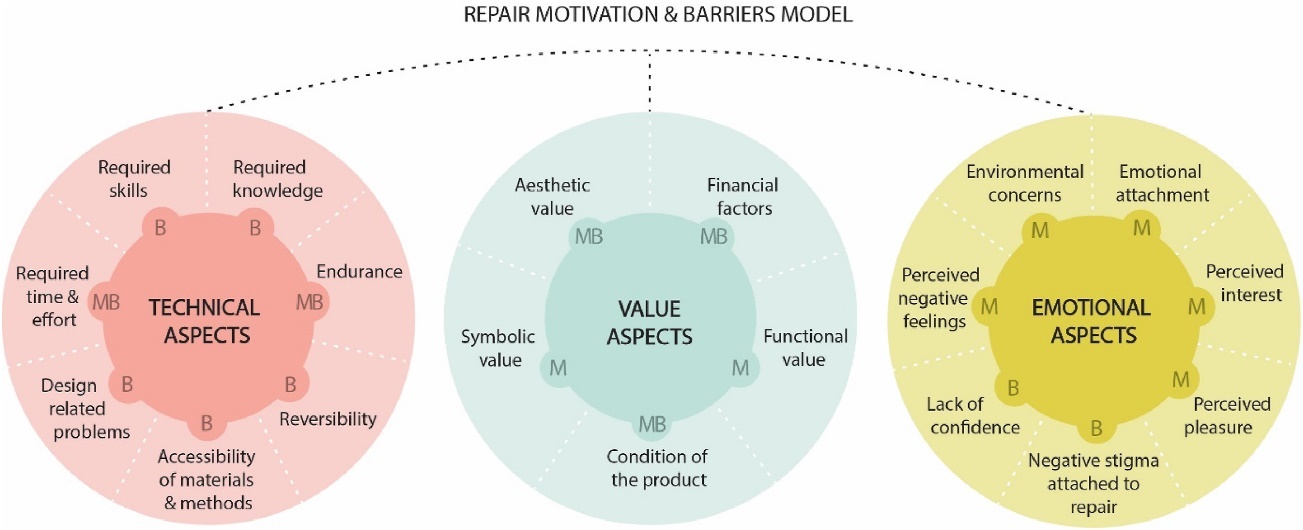


Figure 1: <https://ars-els-cdn-com.ezproxy.newcastle.edu.au/content/image/1-s2.0-S0959652620356900-gr8_lrg.jpg>

By identifying users’ motivations and the barriers related to product repair, this research aimed to understand user perspectives to increase product [circularity](https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.newcastle.edu.au/topics/engineering/circularity).

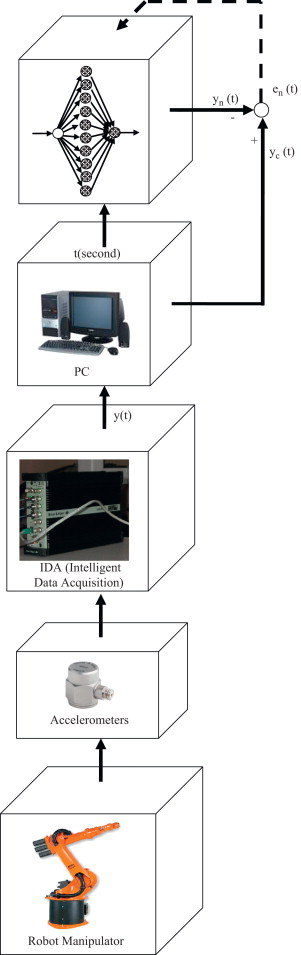


Figure 2: <https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.newcastle.edu.au/science/article/pii/S0736584510000682?via%3Dihub>

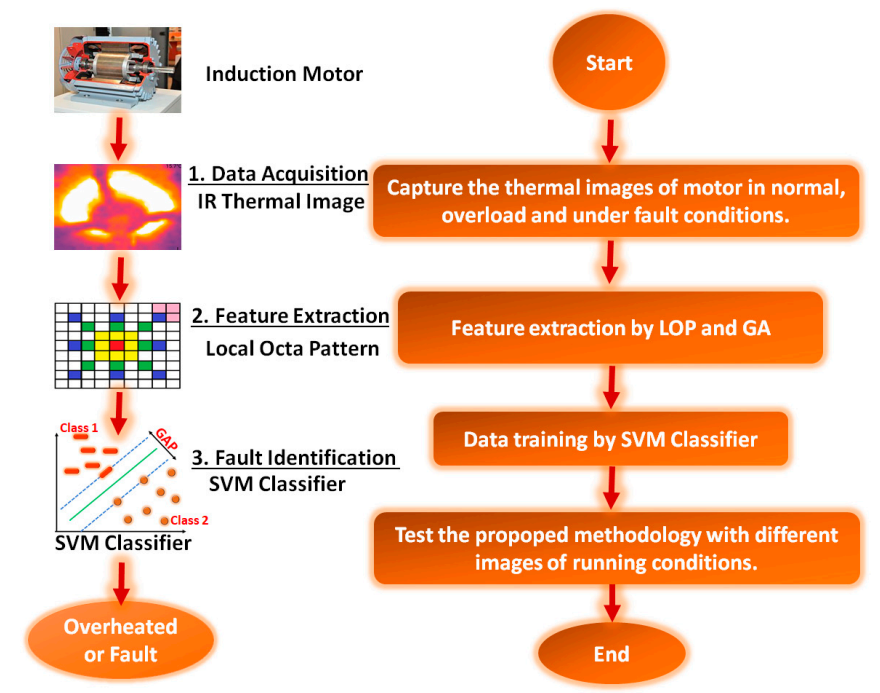


Figure 3: An Efficient Fault Detection Method for Induction Motors

The use of thermal imagining can be used to find small parts in PCBs that are not operational and should be replaced.

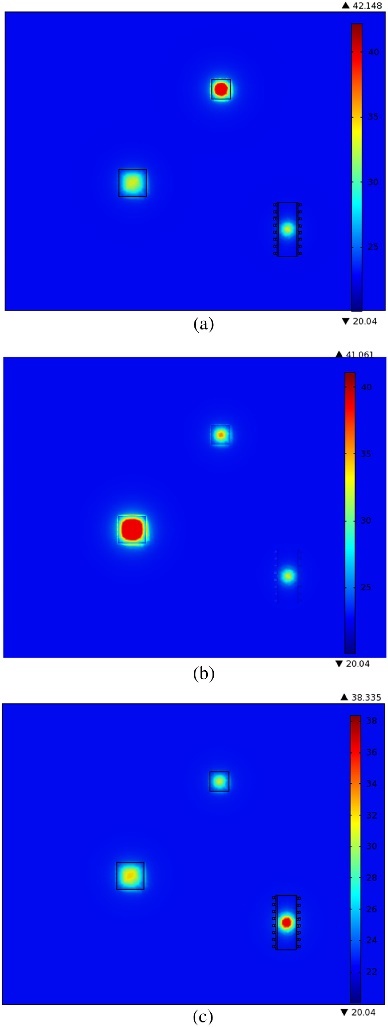


Figure 4: <https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.newcastle.edu.au/science/article/pii/S0026271417300367?via%3Dihub>

# Methodology

## Design

### 3.1.1Fault Detection using Thermal Imaging

A diagram of a process flow

Description automatically generated

Figure 5: <https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.newcastle.edu.au/science/article/pii/S0026271417300367?via%3Dihub>

Repair process algorithm using thermal imagining.

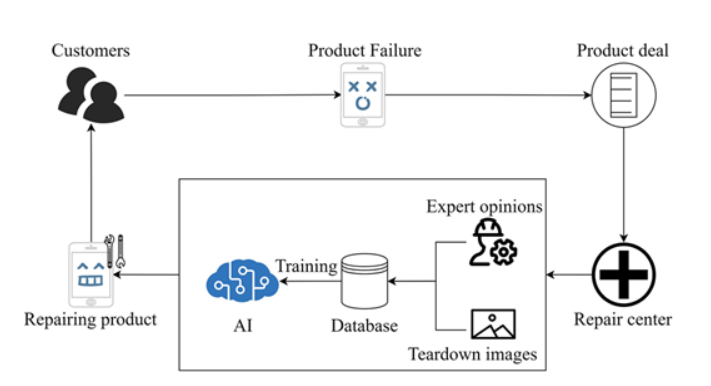


Figure 6: https://asmedigitalcollection-asme-org.ezproxy.newcastle.edu.au/manufacturingscience/article/146/2/020901/1167723/Automated-Evaluation-and-Rating-of-Product

The AI driven process to evaluate product repairability.

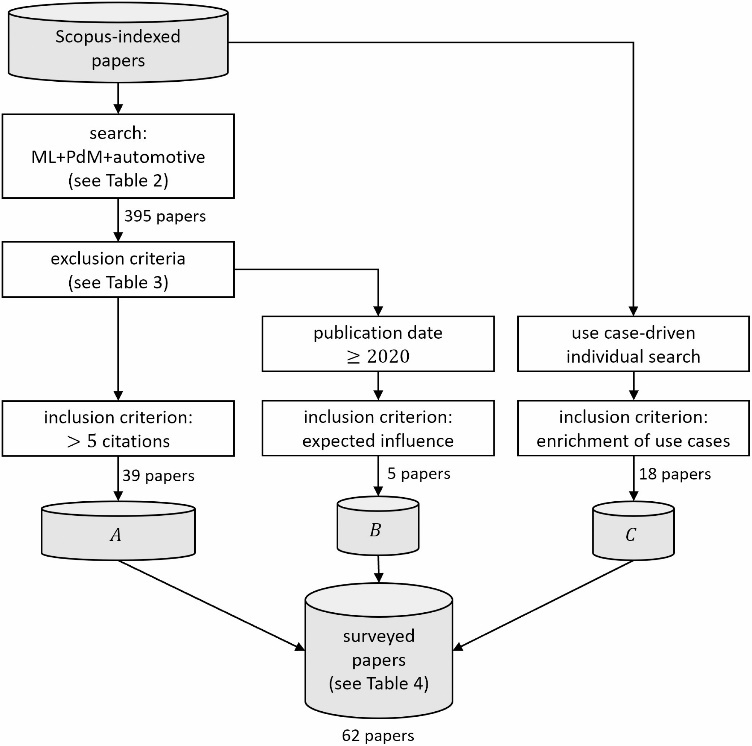
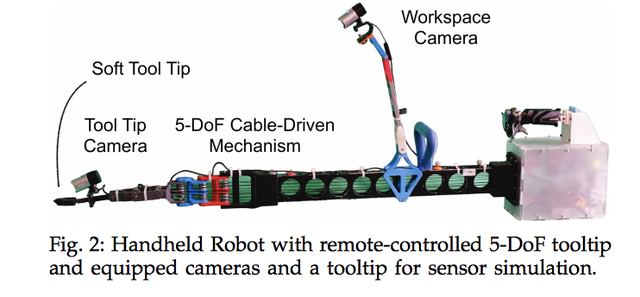


Figure 7: Predictive maintenance enabled by machine learning: Use cases and challenges in the automotive industry.

Use of this process is to get correct surveyed data from sources.



A black claw with a white background

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

As PCBs work on their function, depending on the power they consume, components on the PCB dissipates heat. Whenever a component on a PCB is not working, it is difficult to identify the damaged on unresponsive component by inspection. A thermal camera can identify components that gives off heat on the PCB.

### 3.1.2 Camera for Workspace Observation

Arranging a camera to watch over the workspace is important. Multiple cameras can observe repair process keeping an update on the work. The cameras can keep track of hazards and in most cases prepare for them ahead of time.

### 3.1.3 Automated Drill with Interchangeable Tips

A drill with an electromagnetic Endo factor, will allow the robot repair arm to be versatile. Since the process of phone repair requires multiple tools, being able to pick up and drop off different tool is essential. A motor that is equipped with an electromagnetic tip can pick up all different type of screwheads that is needed for a repair can be the answer. Being a robot that has to change screwheads by itself, the robot can magnetize the motor tip with the screwhead needed and demagnetize when the specific repair step for a specific screwhead is finished.

### 3.1.4 Claw Phone holder with 6 Degrees of Freedom

Phones come in different widths, some also have curved or flap sides. A claw hand that can squeeze in three degrees of freedom can be a good design choice. The first degree of freedom can allow the claw to close in the East direction.

### 3.1.5 MATLAB Machine Learning toolbox for Fault Detection on Images

### 3.1.6 Automating Fault Detection Decision Making with State Machines

## Data Collection

### Repair Flowchart

#### Isolating Possible Automatization Tasks

#### Possibly Unfixable Tasks

### 3.2.2 Machine Learning Algorithm to Seek out Cracks on Phone Screen

## Analysis

## Limitations

### Cost

### Trust in Technology

### Commercialization

# Problem Statement

# Knowledge Gap

### 4.1.1 Vision Based Machine Learning

# Discussion

| **Research through design repair methods** | |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | 3D printing product parts |
| **2** | 3D printed patches |
| **3** | 3D printing pen |
| **4** | kintsugi (Traditional Japanese repair method employed to mend broken ceramics with gold and silver.) |
| **5** | kintsugi for textiles |
| **6** | Kintsugi-Sugru |
| **7** | darning |
| **8** | Darning-Sugru |
| **9** | Boro (A special way of repairing Japanese traditional clothes) |
| **10** | patching |
| **11** | Sugru patching |
| **12** | basket weaving |

# Recommendation

## Further Investigation

## Method Improvement Suggestion

## Longitudinal Studies

## Practical Implications

### A Refurbished Phone or Laptop Selling Business

### Regular Low Budget Maintenance Company for Phones and Laptops

## Future Research Path Recommendations

### 6.5.1 Privacy matters with broken phones.

### 6.5.2 AI powered Phone Repair.

### 6.5.3 Phone Data extraction with biometrics security access.

### 6.5.4Phone Factory Reset Software/App for forgotten password.

### 6.5.5 Research for prediction about technology habits of generation Z when they are pensioners.

# Conclusion

There are multiple organisations and departments working on this topic of automated repair using machine learning.

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Mining consumer experiences of repairing electronics: Product design insights and business lessons learned.

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Selling 'Used' Cell Phones

<https://www.bankmycell.com/sell-broken-phones#:~:text=If%20your%20device%20has%20got,of%20the%20brand%20new%20value>

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iPhone: The missing manual

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This Robotic arm can lend a helping hand with repairs.

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Premium Mechanical Arm Claw with Servo for Robot Hand, Black Metal Robot Gripper Kit, RC Fingers Paw DIY Robotic Part Manipulator Clamp for Arduino, School Science Project, Experiment, STEAM

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# Appendix