

SMART SORTING : TRANSFER LEARNING FOR IDENTIFYING ROTTEN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

In the present era, the agricultural and food industries play a vital role in maintaining food quality and ensuring consumer safety. One of the major challenges faced by these industries is the accurate identification and separation of rotten fruits and vegetables during processing, packaging, and distribution stages. Traditionally, this task is carried out through manual inspection by human workers, which is time-consuming, labor-intensive, and prone to errors. The efficiency of manual sorting largely depends on the experience and continuous attention of workers, often resulting in inconsistencies and reduced productivity.

With the increasing global demand for fresh and high-quality produce, there is a growing need for automated and intelligent systems that can efficiently detect and sort rotten fruits and vegetables. Smart Sorting addresses this challenge by integrating artificial intelligence, deep learning, and computer vision technologies. The project employs transfer learning, where pre-trained deep learning models are adapted to identify various fruits and vegetables and classify them as fresh or rotten. This approach eliminates the need to develop complex models from scratch, significantly reduces training time, and delivers high accuracy even with limited datasets.

These intelligent systems can be deployed in real-time industrial environments, enabling automation of the sorting process, minimizing human error, and improving operational efficiency. The system operates by capturing images of fruits and vegetables using cameras installed on conveyor belts or storage units. The captured images are then analyzed by a trained neural network, which classifies each item based on its condition, ensuring reliable and efficient quality control.

1.2 PROBLEM SPECIFICATION AND PURPOSE

The identification of rotten fruits and vegetables is traditionally carried out through manual inspection, which is slow, inconsistent, and prone to human error. As food production and distribution continue to increase, manual inspection becomes inefficient and fails to maintain consistent quality standards. Existing automated systems often rely on basic image processing techniques, which struggle under varying lighting conditions, complex surface textures, and different spoilage patterns.

Therefore, there is a need for a more accurate, intelligent, and adaptable solution to identify rotten produce. The Smart Sorting project aims to address this challenge by using deep learning and image-based analysis to classify fruits and vegetables as fresh or rotten. The goal is to develop a reliable system capable of detecting subtle visual changes such as color variation, texture degradation, and signs of spoilage, ensuring improved quality control and efficiency.