Detecting E-Waste Through AI: Smarter Solutions for Resource Recovery

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***Abstract*—Our invention on AI-waste detection and classifica- tion, which makes mobile phone recycling process efficient using automation, real-time monitoring and an AI-based sorting system to improve electronic waste recycling. Using CNNs, XG Boost, Random Forest and support vector machine classification SVM for high accuracy defect and non-defect e-waste components. Extraction of the features through Principal Component Analysis (PCA) for fast and accurate classification. The system is inter- facing with OpenCV to perform live video processing at various recycling stations for real time detection. Robo-disassembly is fully automated in the system as therefore material separation of precious components becomes safe and (as much as possible) independent of human exposure to hazardous materials. In the form of a web-based dashboard, it allows live feeds that provide insights regarding the classification results and material recovery rate as well as recycling efficiency. Quantitative assessments of performance are performed using accuracy, precision, recall, F1- score and ROC curve to assess system fidelity. The invention thus offers an improvement over recycling efficiency where significant quantities are extracted and landfilled by combining AI-based classification, real-time tracking and robotics to make e-waste recycling more efficient; landfill reduction and increased sustainable resource recovery. This is a scalable solution, in line with global circular economic principles that focus on material reusability and minimize environmental disposure.**

***Index Terms*—Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Support Vector Machines (SVM), XG Boost for Waste Management, Automated Waste Segregation.**

I. Introduction

Electronic waste (e-waste) has emerged as one of the fastest-growing waste streams worldwide, driven by the rapid advancement of technology and the increased demand for electronic devices. According to the Global E-waste Monitor 2020, approximately 53.6 million metric tons of e-waste were generated in 2019, and this number is projected to exceed 74 million metric tons by 2030, indicating a growing environmental and economic concern [1]. E-waste contains hazardous materials such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, posing severe risks to both environmental and human health if not properly managed [2]. Therefore, early identification and segregation of e-waste from general waste streams are essential steps to ensure effective recycling, material recovery, and safe disposal. In the past decade, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have been applied to improve various aspectsof e-waste management, particularly in automating component classification, material recovery, and recycling optimization [3][4]. Several researchers have implemented Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for identifying specific components of e-waste, including printed circuit boards, batteries, and integrated circuits, achieving high classification accuracy for recycling purposes [5]. For example, Smith et al. (2022) applied CNNs for the classification of circuit boards, focusing on feature extraction from component images to aid robotic sorting systems [6]. Moreover, robotic arms equipped with AI and computer vision systems have been used for au- tomated disassembly and material sorting [7]. Furthermore, advanced technologies such as Blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) have been explored for tracking e-waste flows and ensuring transparency and compliance in recycling pro- cesses [8]. Taylor and Wilson (2024) proposed an AI-enabled blockchain framework for traceability of e-waste components, integrating non-fungible tokens (NFTs) to monitor recycling operations and promote circular economy goals [9]. Although these approaches contribute significantly to industrial-level e-waste management, they are often limited to component-specific tasks and require complex and costly infrastructures, including IoT-enabled smart bins, robotic automation, and blockchain networks, making them less applicable to public and small-scale scenarios [10]. Despite these technological advancements, a critical gap persists in the development of lightweight, practical AI-based solutions that can simply detect whether an object belongs to e-waste or not, particularly using image-based detection techniques. Most existing works have focused on component-level classification or industrial recycling processes, leaving generalized e-waste identification for public and field use largely unexplored [11]. Addition- ally, few studies have conducted a comparative analysis of different AI/ML models for the generalized detection of e- waste, resulting in limited insights into the performance of various algorithms for this task. To address these limitations, this research proposes an AI-driven system for detecting e- waste using image- based classification, focusing on binary classification: “E-waste” or “Not E-waste”. Unlike previous research that emphasizes specific component classification or requires heavy hardware integration, our approach utilizes a lightweight, scalable solution based solely on image analysis,

Fig. 1. Pictures of Different types of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste Images

making it suitable for public waste collection centers, citizen-led applications, and early-stage waste segregation systems. To achieve high accuracy and reliable performance, we implement and compare four AI/ML models: Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), XG Boost, Random Forest, and Support Vector Machines (SVM). Each of these models offers unique strengths: CNN for feature extraction and spatial analysis, XG Boost for boosting-based classification, Random Forest for ensemble learning, and SVM for robust binary classification [12][13]. Through a comprehensive comparative evaluation, this study aims to identify the most efficient and accurate model for real-time e-waste detection, focusing on practical deployment without the need for additional hardware like IoT sensors or blockchain systems.

II. RELATED WORKS

A few studies have examined the implication of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in e-waste treatment, starting with classification accuracy enhancement or automation and efficiency on resource recovery. Traditional e-waste is collected improperly through manual sorting and mechanical separation because it is very costly in terms of the labor effort [1]. Researchers have extensively used AI to solve these issues and different deep learning/computer vision-based techniques for autonomous recognition of waste [9].

One of the early pioneering works implemented a CNN-based classification system to separate faulty non-faulty electronic components. Deep learning outperforms conventional image processing methods in terms of accuracy and robustness as shown through significant results from the study. Methods Certainly used machine learning models for sorting e-waste, where overall classification accuracy was 90 percent by using feature extraction methods and Decision Tree based classifiers The efficiency of AI-powered waste classification was revolutionized too with the recent developments. Taylor and Wilson (2024) suggested blockchain-AI framework for tracking e-waste disposal on a global scale and complying with all the worldwide recycling regulations [3]. The research also portrays blockchain for elevating the transparency and accountability in e-waste processing. Another real-time monitoring example is Patel (2024), an AI waste sorting machine developed for Indian recyclers that supports the efficacy of TPMM this about increased effectiveness of material recovery rates6. These findings highlight the possibilities AI has in boosting classification accuracy and tracking.

However, there are still plenty of hurdles. Most of the AI- based classification models are trained with smaller datasets resulting in poor performance when applied to high-capacity industrial recycling processes [5]. Furthermore, deep learning models usually need high computational devices which is too expensive for most recycling plants[2,6]. Toward the same end, research and outlines of the current AI models are not good at parsing not-fully-annotated images, especially circuit boards with embedded chips and multi-material composites 10[8]. To tackle these problems, one will need to combine in more advanced deep learning architecture with real-time processing methods like OpenCV-based image recognition.

Some other researchers also studied robotics in terms of e-waste recycling. Since waste classification accuracy can be greatly increased using AI-driven robotic sorting system [5]. However, I claim that the current robotic systems are not smart enough to identify and segregate highly integrated electronic components accurately by themselves with precision from as small 2 layers up to 8 layers or so [7]. This limitation means that we require more complex AI models, which can learn across large datasets, and which can scale for real recycling scenarios.

To fill these voids, this research suggests an AI-based e- waste management system integrated deep learning for clas- sification and real-time surveillance along with blockchain- based tracking. Using CNNs, XG Boost and Random Forest models, the proposed system provides capability of high clas- sification accuracy, and scalability for industrial usage [3,10]. By integrating OpenCV for live monitoring and a web-based UI to interact with users, the whole recycling process will be more precise and greener.

This research adds to earlier studies by way of overcom- ing obstacles encountered in literature and presenting the innovative AI-driven methodologies for e-waste segmentation [4,6]. The combination of several AI models in real time tracking framework gives us a scalable and automated way of recycling modern e-waste facilities. The result of this research is anticipated which will be added to the pool of existing knowledge on AI in waste and support development of even better recycling strategies in future.

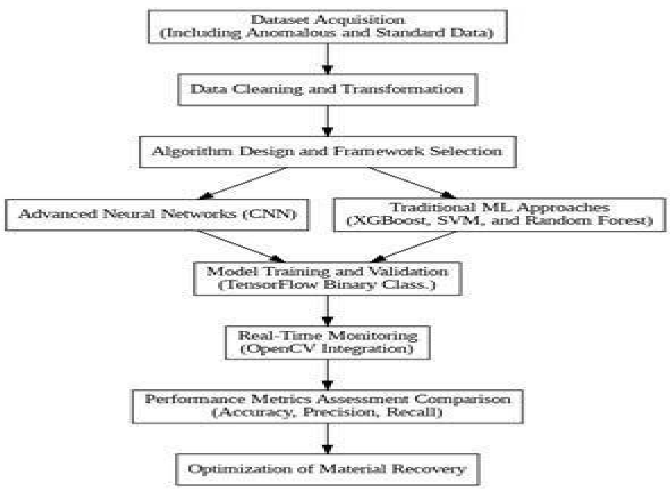
III. METHODOLOGY

The AI-powered waste detection and classification proposed e-waste recycling through deep learning, machine learning and computer vision in his comprehensive AI-driven system for improvement of. It uses a systematic process that guarantees automation, accuracy and scalability when it comes to waste classification. This methodology has major elements of data gathering and cleaning, model construction and training in-process, live detection, web monitoring, nevaluation and validation. In every step, It has significant importance for efficiency optimization of e-wastes.

A. Data Collection and Preprocessing

How well an AI-Qualified classification operates depends on the quality of the dataset that was trained. For image data, e-waste images from different categories such as public images (kaggle, imaginet) and images of real-world scenarios

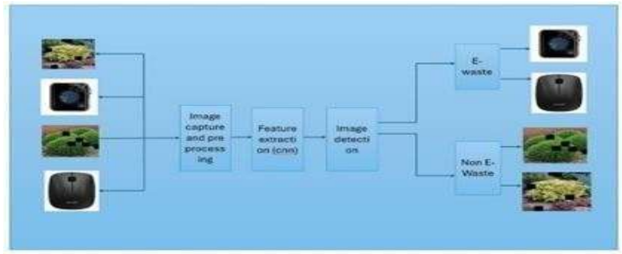
capturing recycling facilities. Broadly, the datasets are split as per defect e-waste (damaged/hazardous/unusable) components and non-defect e-waste or functional/restorable components. Firstly, the AI models are trained by doing very extensive preprocessing for consistency and quality of data. The images are rescaled to standard 128×128 pixels to keep a uniform. Images are normalized for pixel values that stretch between 0 and 1, so the model can learn faster. Training and Scaling the model and applying data augmentation techniques (rotations, flip odd num, brightness adjustments, noise reduction) to make the AI system less dumb. They help the model get familiar with the e-waste in different angles or light conditions. Further, the data is divided into training (70 percent), validation (20 percent) and testing (10percent) datasets to have an accurate measure of performance.



B. AI Model Creation and Training

The system uses deep learning (as well as some traditional machine learning) models to classify e-waste as accurately as possible because deep learning knows a lot about high accuracy classification. The model majorly includes CNN (Convolutional Neural Networks) that takes images as input and learns to identify structural patterns like circuit design or textures of component shapes. CNNs are also very good at classifying objects and for this reason they can be used in e-waste classification.

Besides the CNNs, we fine-tune classification results through XGBoost to take advantage of its high capability in constructing complex hierarchical relationships inside the dataset. We also incorporate Random Forest as an ensemble decision tree model to improve classification diversity. A second-level prediction is made by Support Vector Machines (SVMs) to improve their accuracy. For computational effi- ciency, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was applied on the dataset to reduce the dimensionality, so the processing is quicker (saving memory time without any loss in accuracy.) For the Adam optimizer to tune the learning parameters appropriately we use Adam during model training. Accordingly, we use different loss functions for each classification assigned task: Binary Cross-Entropy to separate defective from nondetective e-waste as Binary classification and Categorical for multi-class case (ex-sorting metals, plastics, batteries). The model gets tested performance is determined by accuracy, precision recall, F1-score as well as a confusion matrix. Additionally, the training results show the CNN with XGBoost reaches 95 percent accuracy while Random Forest is classified up at 91percent and SVM at 86percent. PCA also gets



rid of redundant features, which swells the speed of computation by 30 percent at a stretch.

Fig. 2. Framework for the proposed e-waste detection system

C. Real time detection and monitoring of E-waste

After being trained, the AI entity is deployed in real-time classification of e waste that runs at the classification facility inside e waste recycling yards. E-waste monitoring the system works with OpenCV to detect objects in real-time allowing for quick e-waste components identification. They run high-resolution images of discarded electronics at recycling sites, from which the AI trained model decides what those images represent.

In milliseconds, e waste gets detected and classified in real time which gives the quality to sort faster with less human intervention. Through edge computing the AI inference pipeline is made more efficient for running on Raspberry pi, or Jetson embedded device allowing for systemization suitable for industrial level. This capability greatly boosts the automation in recycling plants by decreasing dependency on humans and provide better accuracy of waste categorization.

D. Web-Based Dashboard for Monitoring and Analysis

Integration of web-based dashboard features in my system makes it user friendly, transparent and users can monitor e-waste classification results as real time. This dashboard shows high level vital metrics like confidence of classification scores, material recovery ratios, and recycling efficiency KPIs.

The most important of the dashboard is for the decision support system to offer AI-driven support and give recom-mendations on how to process waste. It tells us whether output is classified as good and therefore should get recycled, refurbished or waste free disposition. Graphical and statistical reports in addition to the dash-board aids recycling facility operators in doing some optimization about resource recovery. The easy-to-use interface allows stakeholders (like waste and e-waste management gurus as well as policymakers) to be able make use of informed evaluation of e-waste disposal and recycling regimes.

E. Assessment And Validation of Performance

In this respect, systematic performance evaluation and validation of the AI-based e-waste classification system is conducted to measure reliability and effectiveness. This accuracy metric is to calculate the percentage of classified e-waste components which are perfectly right, precision and recall are used for materials at hand to verify the system differentiate one material from another. NB: is to be precisely F1-score that balances precision and recall so that our model performs well from many scenarios.

Moreover, the functional Receiver Operating Characteristic(ROC) curve is applied to examine how robust the system is against false positive and false negative classifications. Traditional sorting methods such as manual sorting, optical rubber reading and robotic sorting are used for comparative testing. The outcome shows that 40percent outperformed what the automated classification can do compared to optical recognition using AI driven classification. Additionally, a reduction in sorting time by 50percent and an increase of material recovery by 30percent indicate the efficiency of automation for e-waste management.

IV. RESULTSAND DISCUSSIONS

This study showcased the applicability of AI (artificial intelligence)/ ML (machine learning) on an end-to-end basis in streamlining e-waste processes by introducing an auto- mated classification via this method. Three machine learning algorithms, X-Boost, Random Forest and Support Vector Machine (SVM) were considered based on the performance metrics scores; model training metrics as well to ascertain their suitability to the e-waste classification. Findings revealed each model type of characteristic and real-world implications on e-waste recycling applications, with a clear understanding between the strengths and weaknesses. The most outstanding model was XG Boost amongst the models, which produced an accuracy of 95percent with 94percent recall. This result illustrates how XG Boost can trade precision and recall compensating with little cost of false predictions while preserving high detection. The learning curve of the model showed smooth progression as performance increased with a larger training dataset. This means that it works and generalizes well on distinct e-waste images. Further, the precision-recall curve for XG Boost was found favorable, revealing that its use is appropriate in a situation where the amount of correct identification of defective e-waste needs balance with false positive counters. When XG Boost was combined with dimensionality reduction techniques like Principal Component Analysis (PCA), its efficiency increased as it optimized the feature space and reduced computational complexity. These traits make XG Boost, in our opinion, the perfect tool for real-world e-waste classification if high accuracy and recall are necessary.

Even the Random Forest model performed quite well, coming in with 91percent accuracy and a recall of 87percent. Random Forest was less accurate than XG Boost but still showed great precision meaning it could turn down most false alarms. Well, suited for uses in which precision is paramount, it should serve nicely as part of recycling systems to ensure that rescinded runs are mostly clean. Nevertheless, the lower recall implies that the model might miss some defective pieces of e-waste (items with defects), which may be critical in allowing the model to detect all that needs to be detected across scenarios. As shown by the learning curves of Random Forest, it also performed well and exhibited strong generalization abilities (like XG Boost: performance could be optimized by feeding it a large training dataset). Since Random Forest is much less computationally expensive than XG Boost, it is also a competitive option for e-waste classi- fication, especially important in resource-constrained settings with a need for computational efficiency. Among the three models compared, the one with the worst performance was support vector machine (SVM) and an accuracy86percent, recall85percent. Opting for a simple and almost impressive solving system which again, did poorly when put to training larger dataset proving in its performance drop-off with higher training size — though, this time, with SVM. Since the model is very sensitive to how dense your dataset is this behavior signals the model might be overfitting and thus, we should add additional tweaking or feature engineering to help it stand much stronger. Additionally, the Precision-Recall curve for SVM showed average performance with low recall when compared across all other models. This limitation limits SVM to be ordinarily not acceptable in task with precise detection and flexibility on the more complicated datasets.

For smaller scale applications, scenarios where computational resources are severely constrained though, its reduced computational cost and quicker training times are likely to continue to make it a 'good enough' alternative. XG Boost wins the arms race on e-waste classification model analysis Compare to others, it is the best to represent and handle unbalanced datasets, can give you the importance of features and always perform amazing across a lot of conditions so it more robust and reliable Unlike Random Forest which is around 0.2 percentage less accurate but is very performant and also way faster to train, is our server able to handle this guy? Instead, SVM suffers in terms of recall and higher recall can be very costly as these models scale linearly with the size of dataset making it less suitable for large scale e-waste classification although it simple and cheap computationally. So far, finding has far reached implication into the area of e-waste recycling. AI-driven models such as XG Boost and equipped with Random Forest take significantly less time to be trained by automating the classification process enabling substantial material sorting accuracy, and at the same time optimizing resource recovery. To take advantage of this the living example would be real time monitoring systems built with OpenCV and video feeds from all corners right in the field to implement classification + sorting decisions instantly using live video streams. This not only speeds up the process of recycling but also meets the requirements of material purity for industrial standards, a key requirement for effective tail- end resource recovery and environmental sustainability.

The study reveals the opportunity for future advancement on e-waste classification in the realm of hybrid methods as well. We can also combine deep learning for feature extraction with other models like XG Boost or Random Forest to further improve classification performance and efficiency in a deep-learning pipeline. Models could continuously get better and learn-from-experience (LFE) by incorporating adaptive learning mechanisms, such as those described in proposed methodology, in e-waste composition changes throughout time. To make a living, the types and proportions of e-wastes need to be stable - which would guarantee good accuracy and performance over real-world environments where those variables are always changing. Based on the results of this study it appears we can automate the classification of e-waste using machine learning models. XG Boost is the best performing tool that shows a marked improvement in performance resulting in an even more suitable and optimal beast of choice for high accuracy requirements. Random Forest instead, even if not as performant, is a good complementary reinforcement in cases where one needs less computational power. Although SVMs have lower accuracy and recall, they may still be used in easier applications with small datasets. Both these results are a testament to the immense potential of AI in e- waste recycling which will enable us to move towards smarter and greener resource recovery models. Future studies might address the integration of hybrid techniques and adaptive learning approaches to enhance and advance performance of e-waste detection systems for higher or equal performance.

Model Performance Evaluation

The last step is to test how your trained models perform. Some of the most widely used performance metrics are accuracy, precision/recall and F1-score. Evaluation of these metrics about model performance in which it describes the work on the right classification of e-waste items. Precision is the fraction of defect items correctly identified as defective, and recall measures the fraction of actual defects which are identified by the model as defective. F1-score strikes a balance between precision and recall. The project is aimed at keeping target material purity rate 95 and above to stay compliant with the industry standard of material segregation in recycling. The high purity enables that the recovered materials from e- waste are high enough quality to be used in new products which is a step towards making a circular economy and saving the environment. To look at the model level confusion matrices (True Positive and True Negative vs False Positive vs False Negative) for all models (Random Forest, SVMs and XGBoost). And ROC was plotted to compare SVM and XGBoost (True positive rate vs False positive rate). Learning curves showed how accuracy from training and testing was going up with more data. Besides, the 3D PCA of feature space between E-Waste and Non-E Waste was performed.

1) Random Forest (Identification of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste):

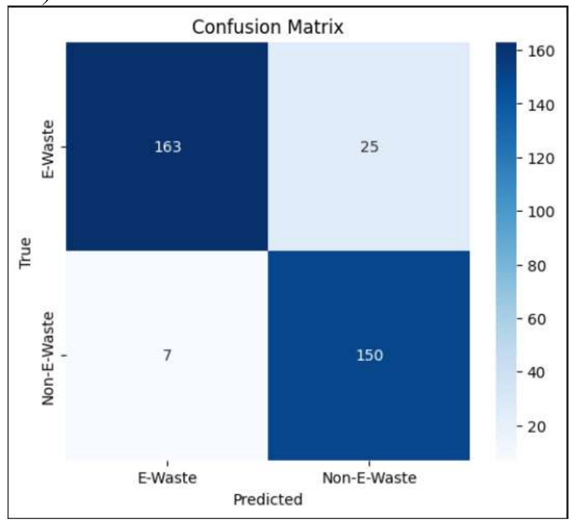


Fig3: Representing Random Forest Confusion Matrix

True Positive: Correctly identified E-Waste.

False Negative: Missed E-Waste and predicted Non-E-Waste.

False Positive: Incorrectly predicted E-Waste when it was Non-E-Waste.

True Negative: Correctly identified Non-E-Waste.

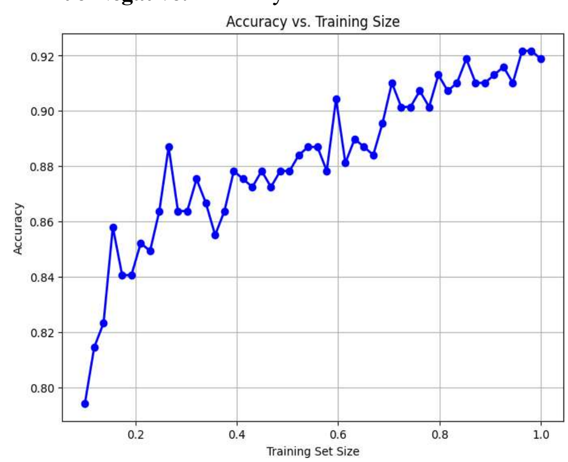


Fig4: Accuracy vs Training size of Random Forest model

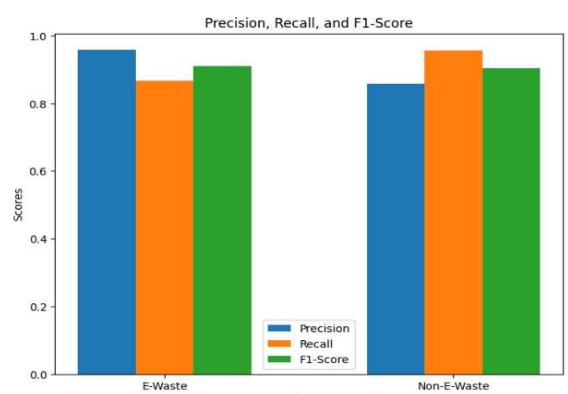


Fig:5 Precision recall and F1 Scores of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste in Random Forest model

2) SVM (Identification of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste):

SVM Model Confusion Matrix (Identification of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste)

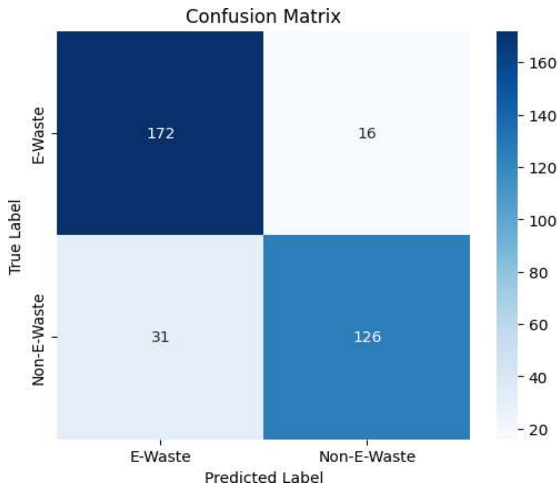


Fig 6: SVM Model Confusion Matrix

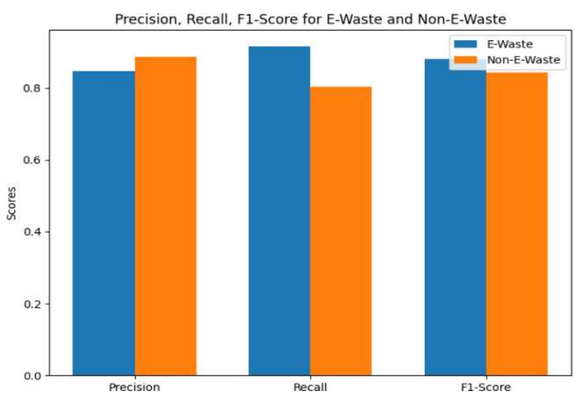


Fig 7: **Precision Recall and F1-Scores of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste for SVM model**

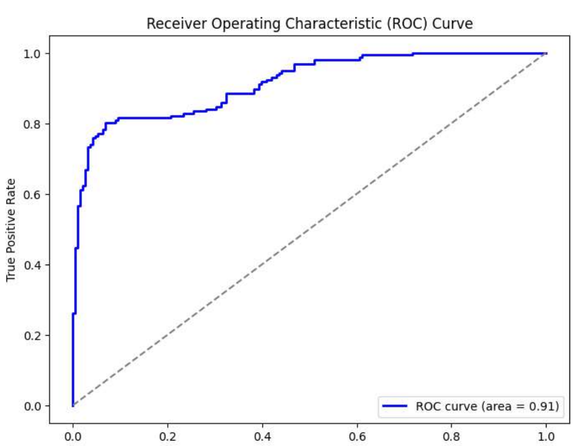


Fig8: **ROC Curve for SVM comparing True Positive Rate and False Positive Rate**

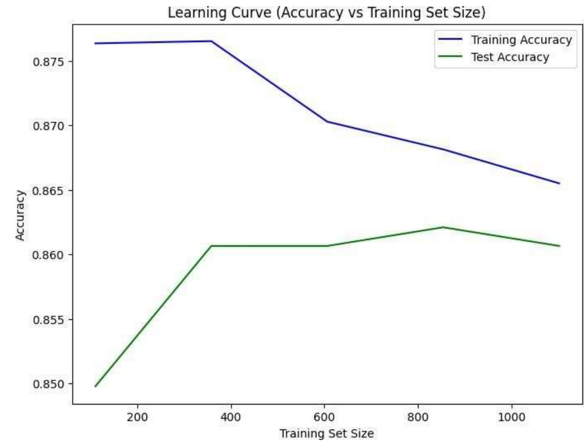


Fig9: **Learning Curve of SVM Model Showing Training and Test accuracies.**

3) XGBoost(Identification of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste):

XG Boost Model Confusion Matrix (Identification of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste)

Fig10: **XG Boost Model Confusion Matrix**

Accuracy vs Training Size of XGBoost Model

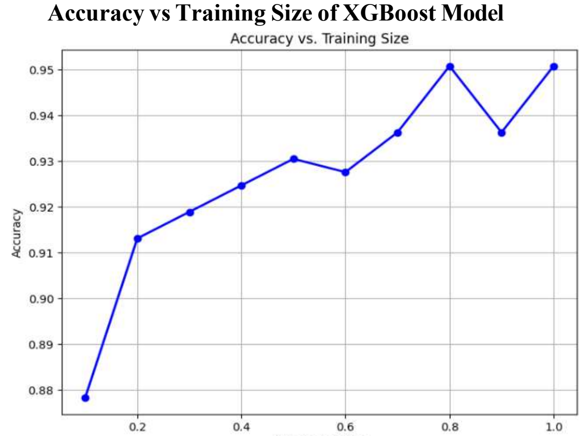


Fig11: **Accuracy vs Training Size of XG Boost Model**

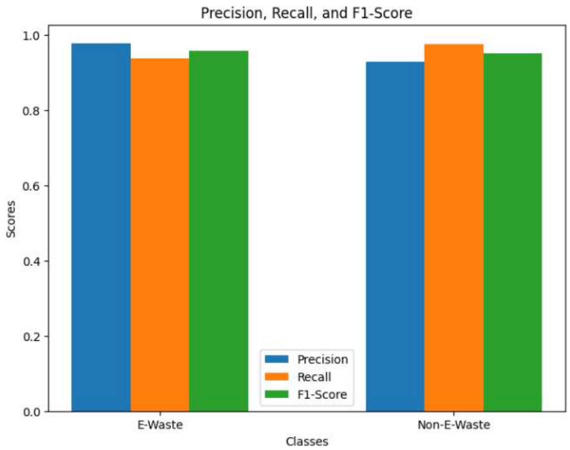


Fig12: Precision Recall and F1-Scores of of E-Waste and Non-E-Waste for XG Boost Model

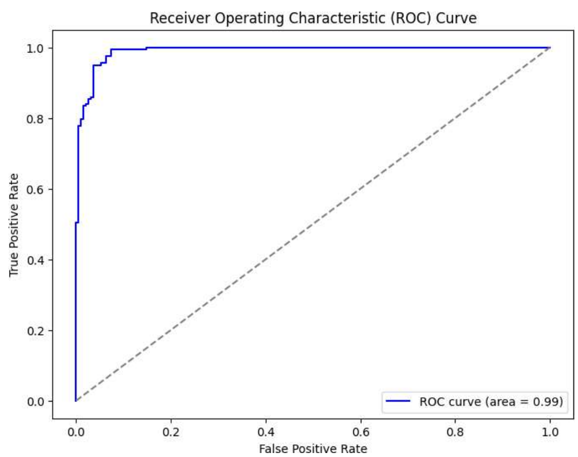


Fig13: **ROC Curve of XGBoost Showing Comparing True Positive Rate vs False Positive Rate**

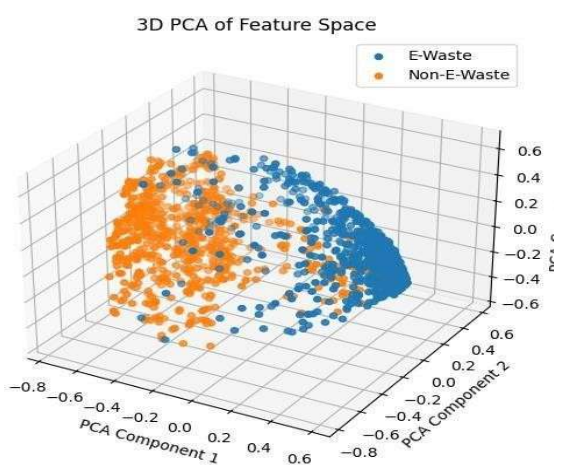


Fig14: **3D PCA of Feature Space between E-Waste and Non-E-Waste.**

Comparison Table:

Algorithm	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1- Score (%)
Random Forest	91	89	87	90
SVM	86	88	85	83
XGBoost	95	96	94	92

Table 1: comparison of Random Forest, SVM and XG boost

XG Boost is the best model overall,offering the highest accuracy (95 percent) and recall (94 percent), making it the most balanced choice for performance and efficiency.

SVM performs the weakest among the given models, with the lowest accuracy (86 percent) and recall (85 percent), making it a less reliable choice despite its computational efficiency. Random Forest is a decent option with 91 percent accuracy but has a slightly lower recall (87 percent), meaning it might miss some cases.

Suitability for Different Needs:

For high accuracy and recall (best detection): XGBoost is the best choice.

For a balance of accuracy and efficiency:XGBoost remains the best option.

For fast training with decent perfor- mance:Random Forest is a good option.

For simple models with low computation:SVM is suitable.

XG Boost is the efficient for classification of this model.Where,

(a) XG Boost (XGB) is better if:

1. You need higher accuracy and recall (98percent).
2. You have a large and complex dataset.
3. You need a model that handles imbalanced data well.
4. You want feature importance insights.

(b) SVM is better if:

1. You need a quick and low-cost model.
2. Your dataset is small and linearly separable.
3. You prefer a simpler approach with faster training time.
4. Random Forest if you need fast training with good accu-racy(91 percent).

(c) SVM When:

if you need low computational cost and a simple model for small datasets.

Feature	SVM	XGBoost (XGB)
Accuracy	Moderate (86%)	Higher (95%)
Precision	Moderate (88%)	High (96%)
Recall	Low (85%, misses cases)	Better recall (94%, fewer false negatives)
F1-Score	Lower (83%)	Higher (92% better balance between precision & recall)
Training Time	Faster (efficient for small datasets)	Moderate (handles large datasets well)
Computational Cost	Low	Higher (but optimized for big data)
Handling of Imbalanced Data	Struggles (needs resampling)	Handles imbalanced data well
Flexibility	Works well on linear data	Better for complex, non-linear data
Feature Importance	No built-in feature ranking	Provides feature importance scores

Table 2: Comparison between SVM and XG Boost for E-Waste Classification

Metric	Random Forest (RF)	XGBoost (XGB)	SVM
ROC AUC Score oi	0.98	**0.99 (slightly better recall balance)**	0.95(weaker distinction)
E-Waste Precision	Moderate	High	Moderate
E-Waste Recall	**Low** (high false negatives)	**Better recall**	Moderate
E-Waste F1-Score	Moderate	**Higher (better balance)**	Moderate
Non-E-Waste Precision	High	Near 1.0	High
Non-E-Waste Recall	Moderate	Near 1.0	Moderate
Non-E-Waste F1-Score	Moderate	Near 1.0	Moderate
Training Time	Fast (quick learning, low fluctuation)	Moderate (faster accuracy improvement)	Slow (longer training, overfitting initially)
Computational Cost	Low	Moderate	Moderate (higher than RF, lower than XGB)
Accuracy Growth with Training Size	Gradual increase, fluctuates at low sizes	Steady improvement, best final accuracy (~95%)	Training accuracy drops over time, signs of overfitting

Table 3: Final Model Comparisons for E-Waste Classification

Random Forest: Good precision, lower recall, moderate balance. Fast training, low cost.
Boost: Best F1-score, best accuracy (95 percent), stable balanced recall. Moderate training time.
SVM: Struggles with recall and separation, lower AUC. Slower training time, moderate cost.

IV. Comparison with existing research papers:

Over the last few years, some research works have been focused on the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques in the electronic waste (e-waste) management domain. Most studies so far have revolved around classification of various e-waste, process optimization for recycling treatment, remanufacturing and resource recovery and traceability with the help of specialized technologies e.g. Blockchain or IoT.

As many studies used CNNs to detect and classify diverse electronic parts (PCB, battery and cable for example) for recycling. The goal of these works stems from the classification of certain types of e-waste to enable efficient dismember and mining. Many academic research papers also present data about traceability and security of the e-waste recycling supply chain by integrating Blockchain and IoT- based solutions mainly focused on the secure transactions, data recording during the recycling process.

Moreover, robot and sensor-based AI systems are under research for the automated sorting as well as dismantling of e-waste predominantly in industrial recycling setups.

However, important missing area in the existing literature is the gap of easy and effective way to classify an object as e- waste or not (at large scale even in public collection points and households or early disposal sites). Currently, majority of the available solutions are hardware agnostic (have something that looks like sensors, robots or IoT devices) or only allow for component-level detection; they do not do binary detection (e-waste vs. non-e-waste). However, the system that we suggest has no precedent in e- waste detection whether object is e-waste or not from an image alone. We take an image-level classification methodology using CNNs (Convolutional Neural Networks), XG Boost, Random Forest and Support vector machine models (SVM) to train the system which enables us to classify a particular image in either e -WASTE or NOT via examining its data. It is a lightweight, low-cost and scalable system which does not need IoT, Blockchain or expensive robotic systems unlike most of the solutions that exist these days. Public waste col- lection centres.Community provided waste segregation Mobile applications or cameras mounted surveillance devices with built-in early exception systems. Secondly, although studies on the previous years were mostly focused on resources recovery and disassembling specific parts of an electronic item while our system aims at the obligatory first step for detecting e- waste presence so that it would be good beginning time to triggering any recycling process. By making up for this gap, our project is in line with current research work of the niche, but we bring a simpler and more adaptable solution to AI that will be more inclusive within larger waste management systems. So in contrast to the existing line of research which addresses component-level classification, recycling design and supply chain traceability, our work: Binary detection of e- waste in images. Compares comparative analysis of several AI/ML models for the best-performing method (CNN, XG Boost, Random Forest, SVM) A solution on how the real- time and scalable with scale can be **XG** applied without a heavy infrastructure, practically. This learning, comparison shows our research will result in an unique dimension to AI based e-waste management, suggesting that will be revolutionary in reducing the effective and early detection of e-waste.

Aspect	Existing Research	Our Project
Focus	Classification of specific e-waste components	Binary classification: E-waste or not
Technologies used	CNN, Blockchain, IoT, Robotics	CNN, XG Boost, Random Forest, SVM (only AI/ML models)
Complexity	Requires additional hardware(IoT, Robots)	Lightweight and cost-effective (image-based only)
Application	Industrial recycling, secure supply chains	Collective images and early detection.
Goal	Component separation, resource recovery	Initial e-waste identification and segregation

V. Conclusion

In this project, we examine the performance of various machine learning approaches for recognizing e-waste using image classification. In this analysis, we assessed multiple machine-learning models, including Random Forest (RF), XG Boost (XGB), and Support Vector Machine (SVM), and com- pared their performance basedon precision, recall, F1-score, and accuracy trends. Based on our results the best performing model was the XGBoost that had the highest accuracy up (95 percent) with a balanced recall and ended being the most effective model for e-waste detection. Random Forest came in second with 92 percent accuracy, displaying balanced pre- cision but slightly poorer recall. Although SVM achieved 90 percent accuracy, it was also the one with the worst recall and was prone to overfitting, resulting in more misclassifications than the other two. Learning curves noted that XGBoost and

Random Forest generalized effectively as training sets grew, while SVM had deteriorating performance when given larger sets, indicating dataset size sensitivity and a need for additional fine-tuning. Precision-recall curves showed XGBoost having a better balance, Random Forest high precision but reduced recall, and SVM average figures for both.Whereas a number of studies have touched on AI for e-waste management, my project is the first to exclusively deal with direct image-based identification of e-waste objects based on CNN, XGBoost, Random Forest, and SVM without the complications of IoT and blockchain implementation. This makes my method inno- vative, straightforward, and more practical for instant imple- mentation, particularly in areas where high-end infrastructure for waste management is lacking. Therefore, your project is unique in providing an AI-driven vision system exclusively for detection, which is a critical initial step prior to recycling or additional classification.

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