



CHARLOTTE

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Final Project Presentation

Incremental Deep Learning for Fire, Smoke and Haze Detection

Sravani Kuncham & Farah Naz

04/29/2025

Problem Statement and Solution

Problem Statement:

- In real-world environmental monitoring (e.g., forest fires), **new threats** like haze may emerge **after** a model has already been trained.
- Retraining on all original + new data is often **impractical** due to:
 - Lack of access to old data
 - High compute requirements

Solution:

- The goal is to add new classes (like **Haze**) without **forgetting what the model already knows** (Fire, Smoke, NoFire, SmokeFire).

Key Challenges:

Problem	What happened	impact
Catastrophic Forgetting	When we added the Haze class, the model forgot some old classes like Fire and Smokefire	Recall dropped: Fire (0.72), Smokefire (0.32),
Visual Overlap Between Classes	Smoke, Smokefire, and Fire images looked similar, confusing the model,	Smokefire F1 score was very low (~0.32–0.41),
Class Imbalance and Variability	Haze and Nofire were easy and clear to detect, but Smokefire images were fewer/mixed.,	High Haze F1 (0.99), poor Smokefire learning,
Performance Trade-off (LwF vs Full Retraining)	LwF saved old knowledge but slightly reduced overall performance compared to full retraining.,	LwF Accuracy (73%) vs No-LwF (78%)

Motivation:

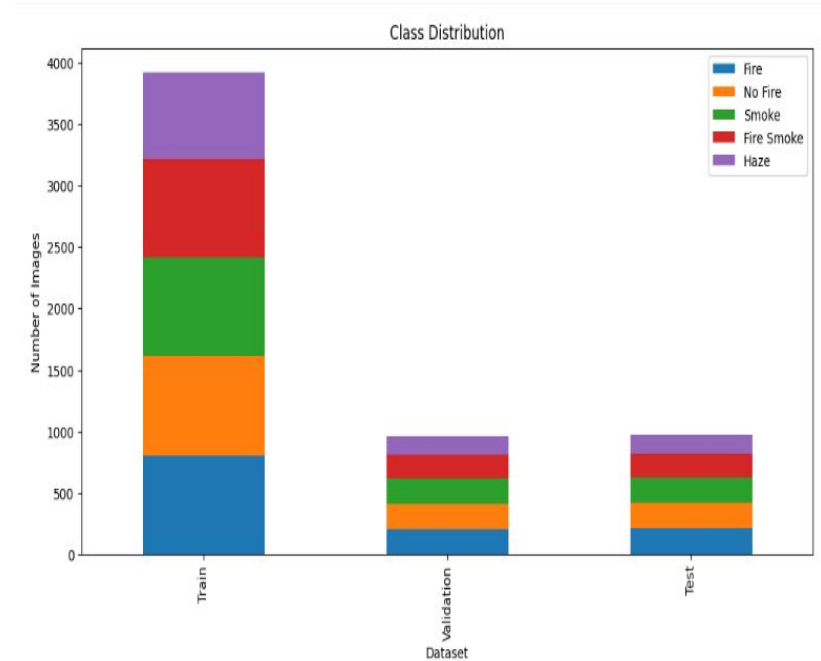
- Forest fires are dangerous — detecting them early can save lives and nature.
- New problems like haze also need to be recognized by the system.
- But real-world AI systems can't be retrained every time something new appears — it's too slow and expensive.
- You may not always have access to old training data (due to privacy, size, or loss).
- That's why Learning without Forgetting (LwF) is important — it helps the model learn new classes like Haze while still remembering what it already knows.

Related Works

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
<p><i>An improved forest fire detection method using Detectron2</i></p> <p>Approach: Uses Detectron2 + Deep Learning for accurate segmentation</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">High fire detection accuracySuitable for real-time monitoring <p>Limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Requires large labeled datasetsComputationally expensive	<p><i>Forest Fire Detection using CNN and Transfer Learning</i></p> <p>Approach: Combines CNNs with transfer learning</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Can be trained on smaller datasetsReduces training time using pre-trained models <p>Limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Needs careful hyperparameter tuningSensitive to dataset quality	<p><i>A Deep Learning Approach for Real-Time Wildfire Detection</i></p> <p>Approach: Deep learning model with real-time image processing</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enables early fire detectionImproves situational awareness <p>Limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Needs high-performance computingLimited by real-time data availability

Dataset Summary:

- **Total Classes: 5**
['fire', 'nofire', 'smoke', 'smokefire', 'haze']
- **Dataset Structure:**
 - **Train set:** ~70% of total images
 - **Validation set:** ~15%
 - **Test set:** ~15%
- **Class Balance:**
 - Most classes have ~800 images
 - Slightly fewer for **haze** (~702), but still balanced overall



Dataset Summary:

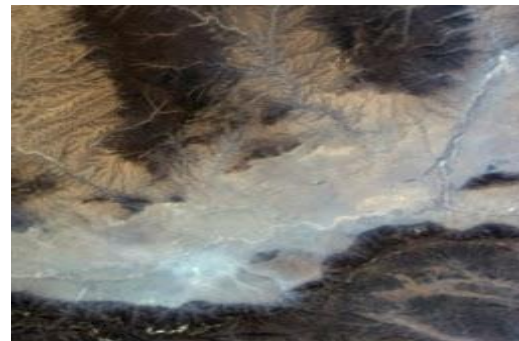
	Fire	No Fire	Smoke	Fire smoke	Haze	Total
Train	800	810	800	810	702	3922
Validation	207	200	203	200	115	960
Test	210	210	200	200	151	971



Fire



Smoke



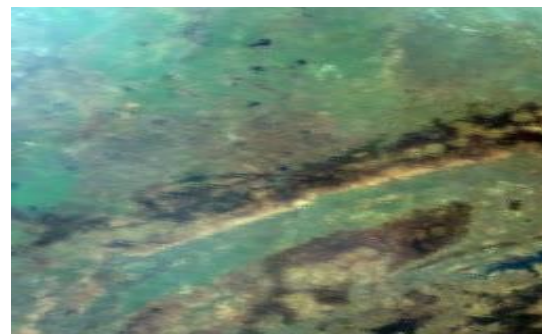
Haze



Smoke Fire

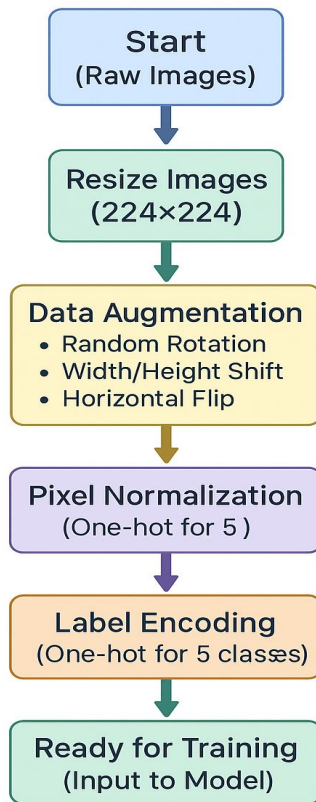


No Fire



Haze

Preprocessing



Preprocessing Images
Input to Model

Methodology

Two Experiments Conducted:

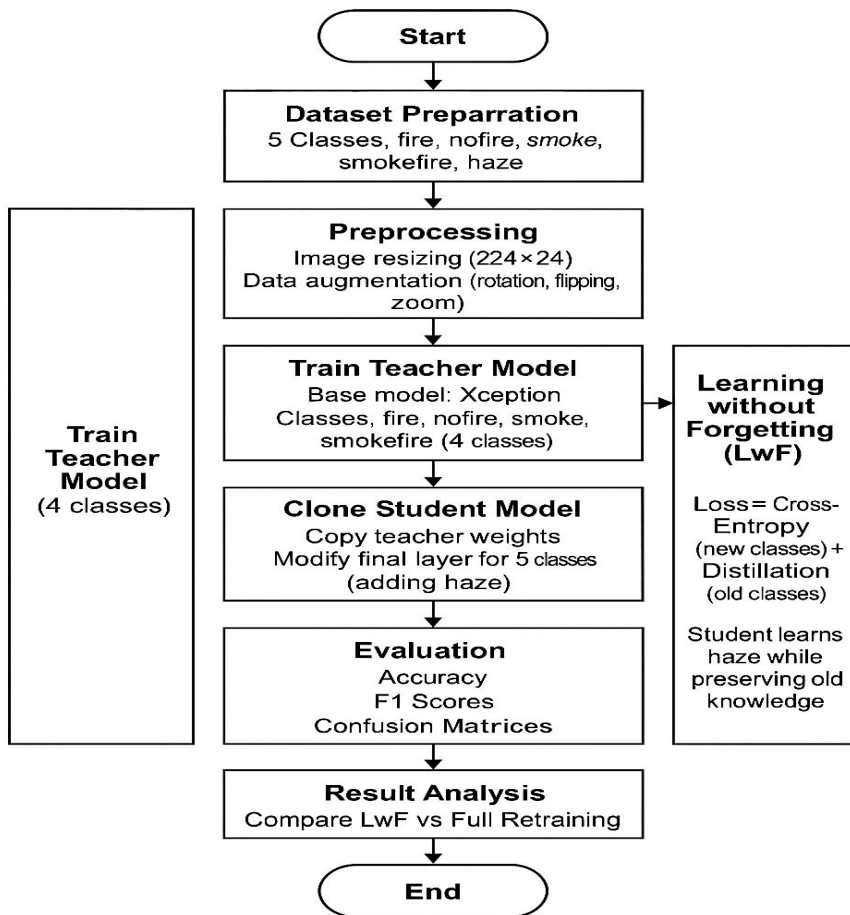
◆ Standard Training (Without LwF)

- Trained directly on **all 5 classes**
- Used full dataset (fire, nofire, smoke, smokefire, haze)

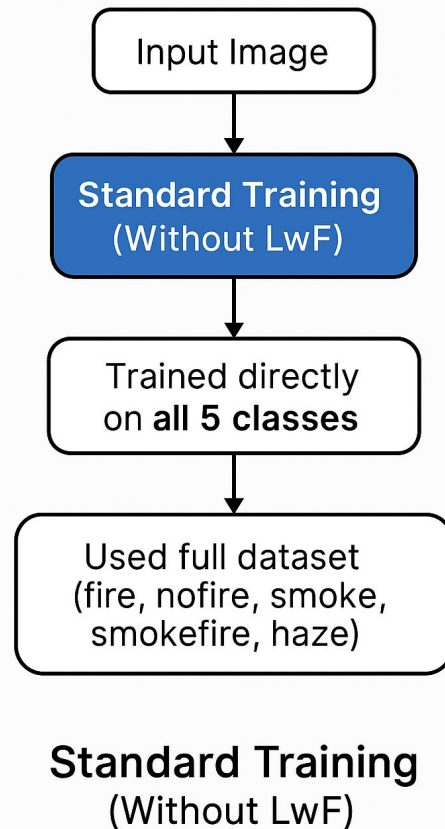
◆ LwF Training

- **Teacher model:** trained only on **4 classes** (fire, nofire, smoke, smokefire)
- **Student model:** trained on new class (haze) + knowledge distilled from teacher
- Combined two losses:
 - **Distillation loss** (match teacher's old predictions)
 - **Classification loss** (for haze)

Methodology



Methodology



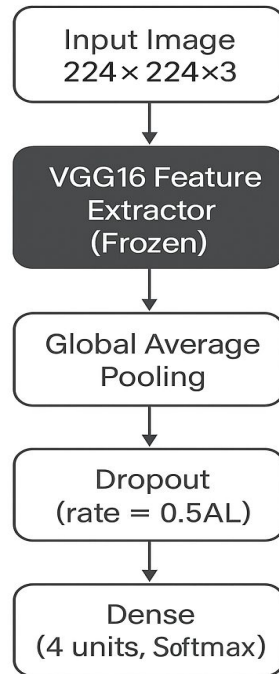
Model Architecture:

- Started with **pre-trained CNN models**:
 - **Xception** (main model)
 - **VGG16** (also tested)
- Modified the final layers to fit **5 classes**
- Added **Dropout layer** and Dense softmax output

VGG16 (Baseline Model)

Method:

- Used VGG16 model pretrained on ImageNet.
- Feature Extraction: All convolutional layers frozen(trainable = False).



Training Settings

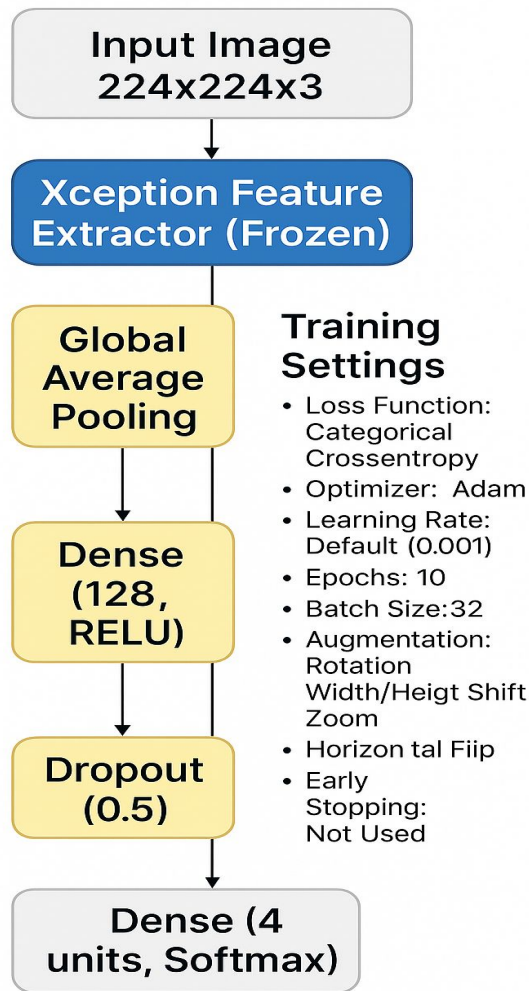
- Loss Function: Categorical Crossetenropy
- Optimizer: Adam
- Learning Rate: Default (0.001)
- Epochs: 10
- Batch Size: 32
- Data Augmentation: Rotation, Width/Height ifts, Zoom, Horizontal Fiip

Standard Training (Without LwF)

Xception (Baseline model)

Method:

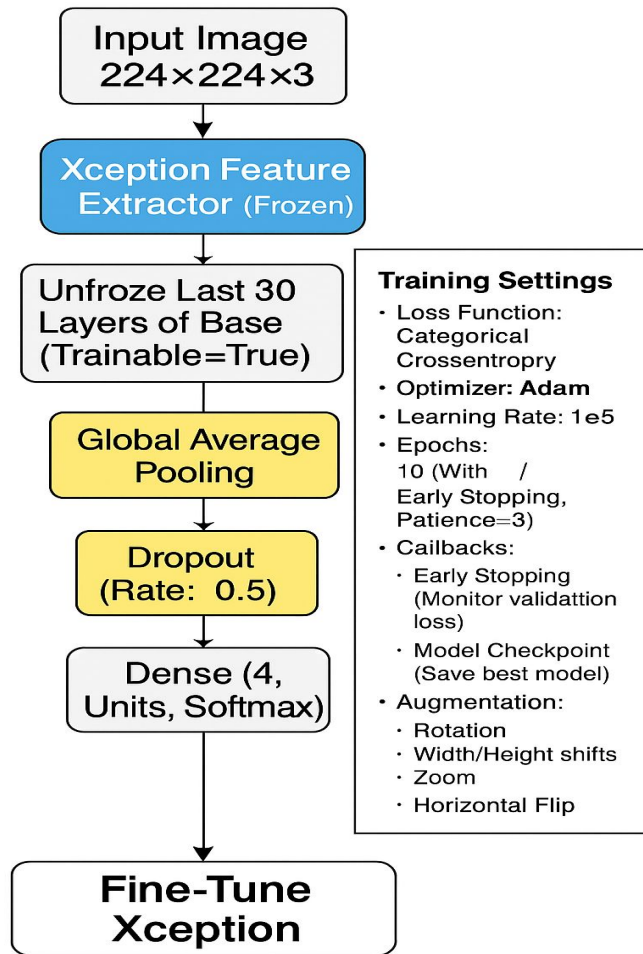
- Used Xception model pretrained on ImageNet.
- Feature Extraction mode: Convolutional layers frozen(trainable = False).



Fine Tuned Xception

Method:

- Fine Tuned the Xception model after initial feature extraction.
- Unfroze the last 30 layers of the Xception base (trainable=True)
- Continued trainable to adapt better to fire /smoke/smokefire variations.

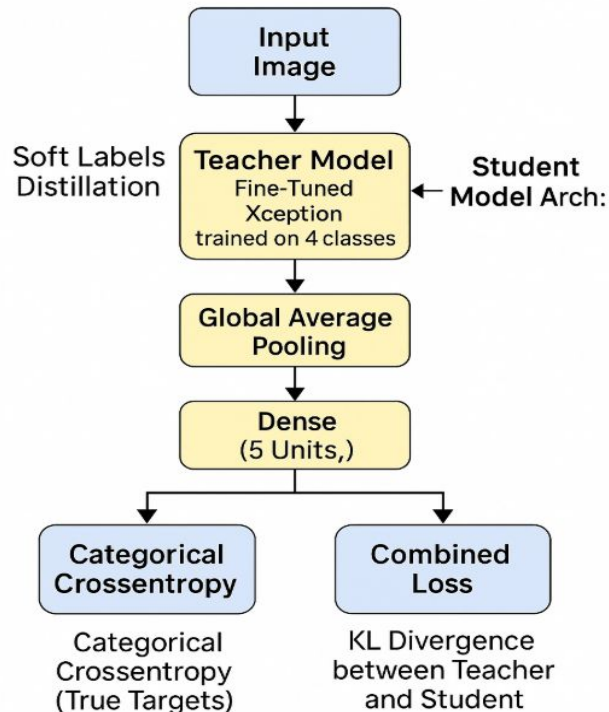


Learning without Forgetting (LWF) - Final model

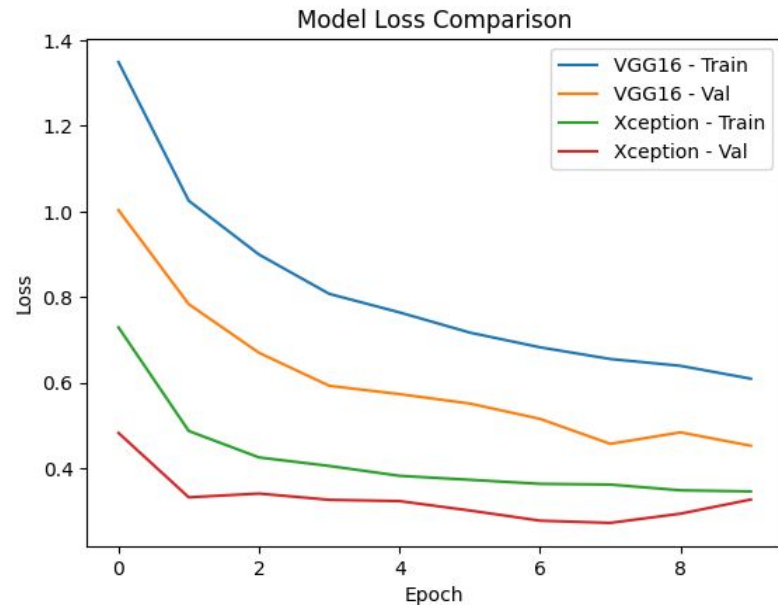
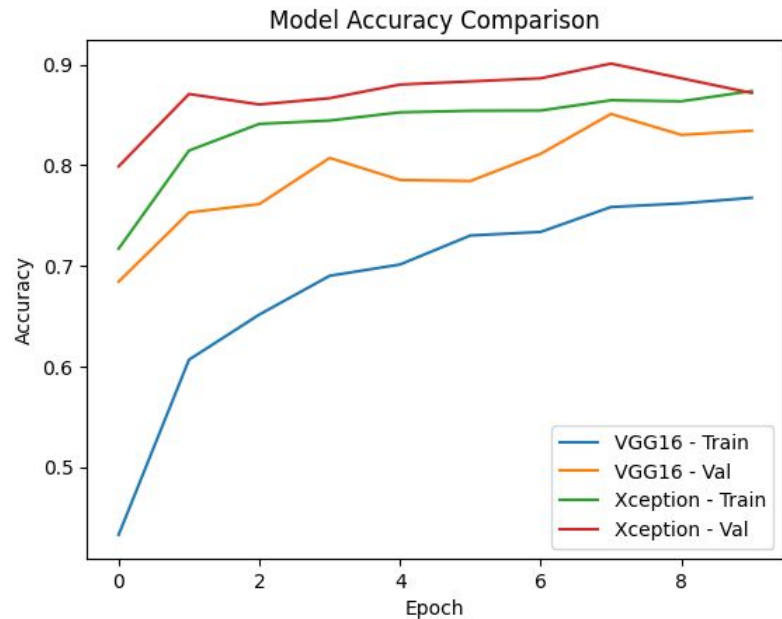
Method:

- Added Haze class to the dataset(making it 5 classes: fire, nofire, smoke, smokefire,haze)
- Used Learning without forgetting (LWF):
 - Teacher model : Fine tuned Xception trained on 4 classes.
 - Student model: new model trained on 5 classes using both:
 - Hard Labels(true class labels)
 - Soft labels (Teacher's knowledge via KL-divergence distillation)
- Student model Architecture:
 - Xception backbone (pretrained on ImageNet)
 - Global Average pooling
 - Dense(128, ReLU)
 - Dropout(0.5)
 - Dense(5, Softmax)
- Loss Function:
 - Combined Loss:
 - Categorical crossentropy (True targets)
 - KL Divergence between softened teacher and student predictions.
 - Alpha:0.5 (balance between hard loss and soft loss)
 - Temperature : 2.0 (to soften logits)
- Training Details:
 - Optimizer: Adam
 - Learning Rate : 1e-5
 - Epochs :10 , Batch Size:32
 - Call backs : Early Stopping, Model Checkpoint
 - Augmentation : Rotation, width/height shifts, zoom, horizontal flip

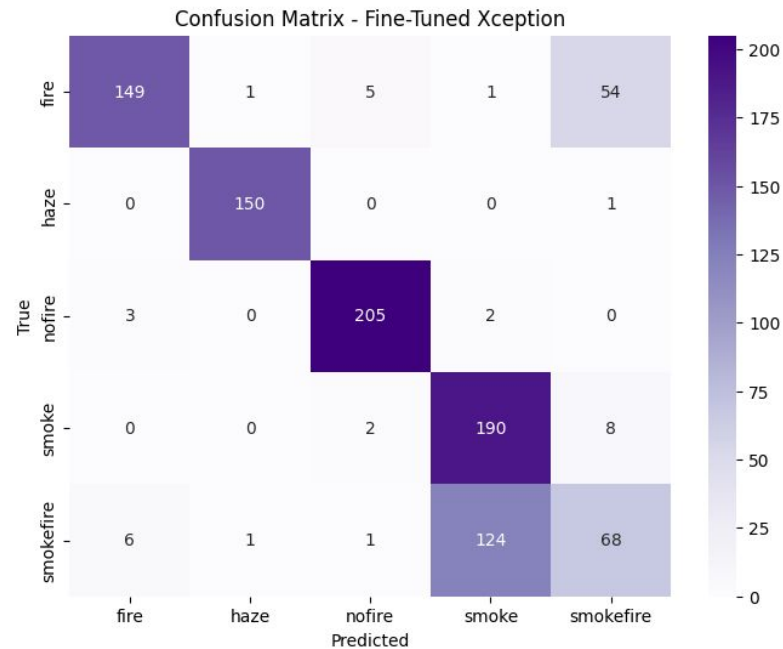
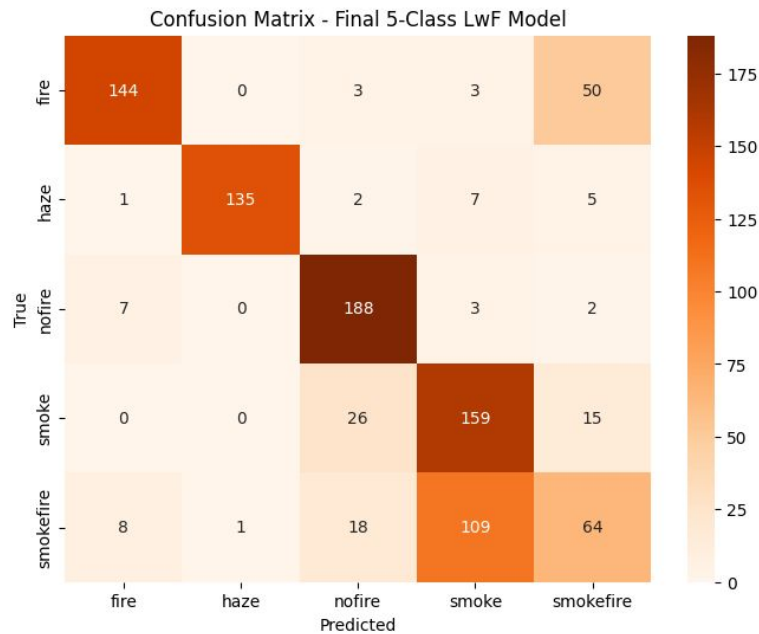
Learning without Forgetting (LwF) – Final Model



Model Architecture Comparison: VGG16 vs. Xception

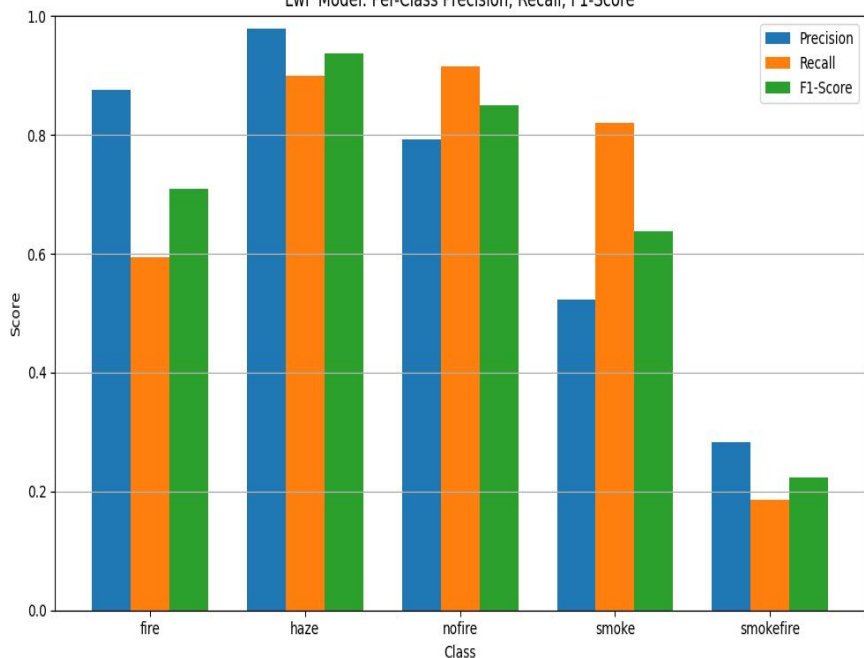


Confusion Matrix Comparison: LwF Model vs Base Model

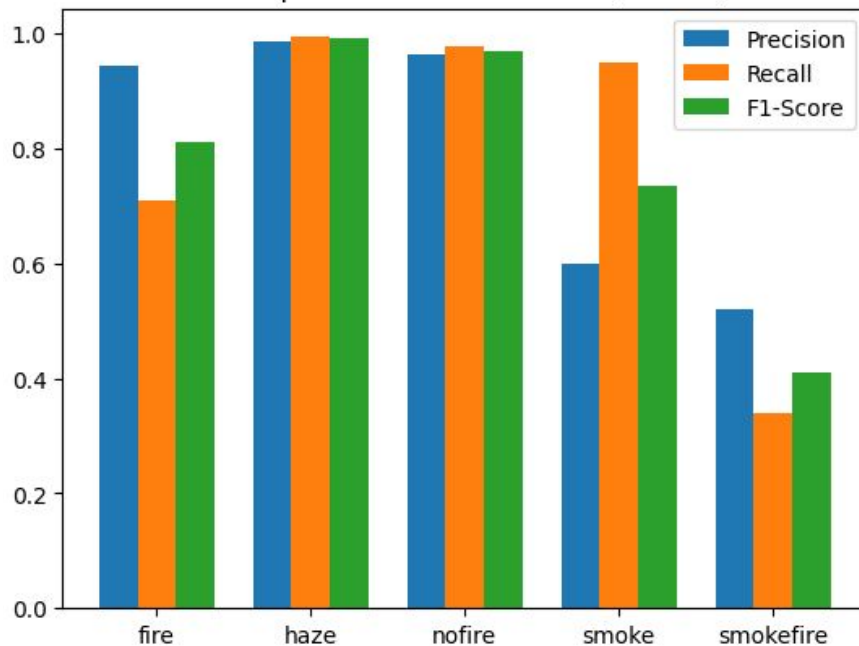


Comparison of LwF Model vs Fine-Tuned Xception: Per-Class Precision, Recall, and F1-Score

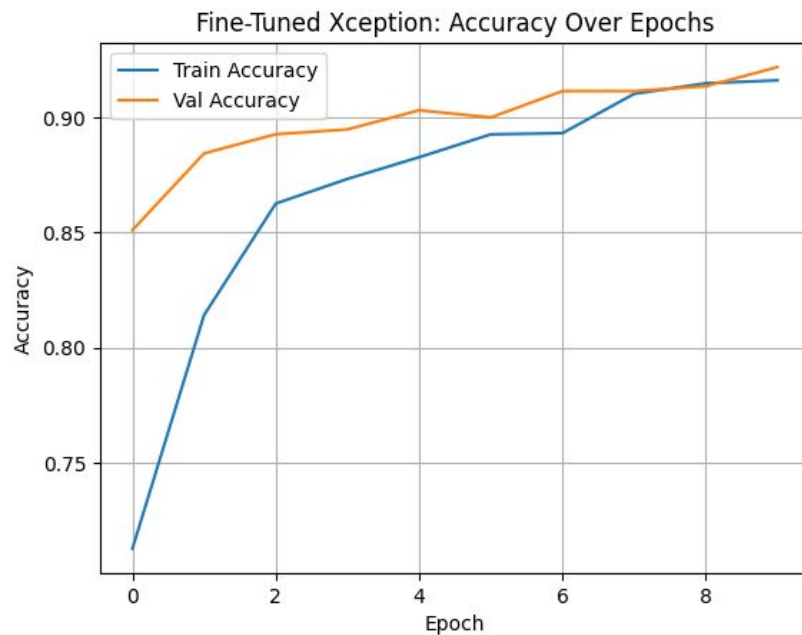
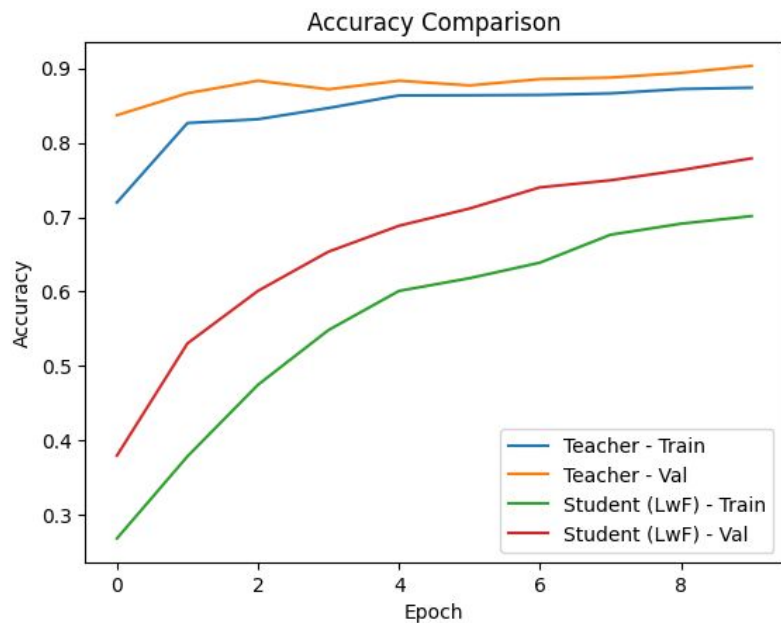
LwF Model: Per-Class Precision, Recall, F1-Score



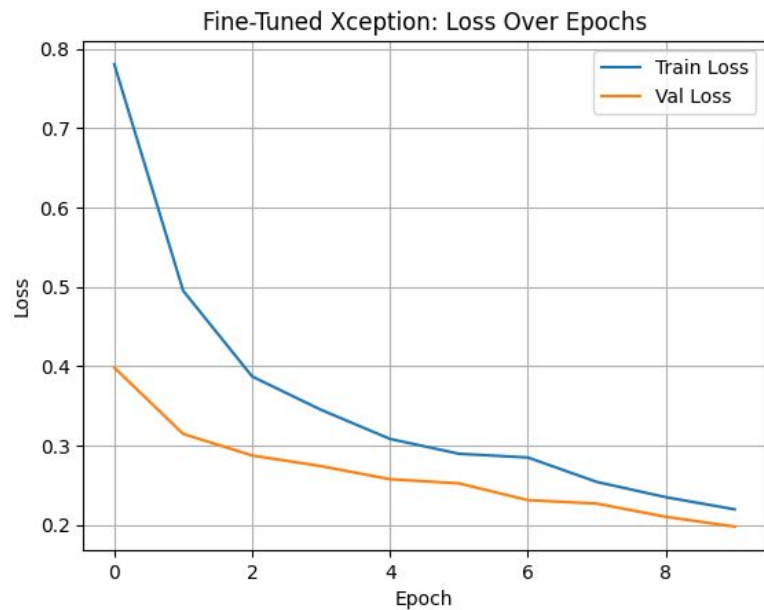
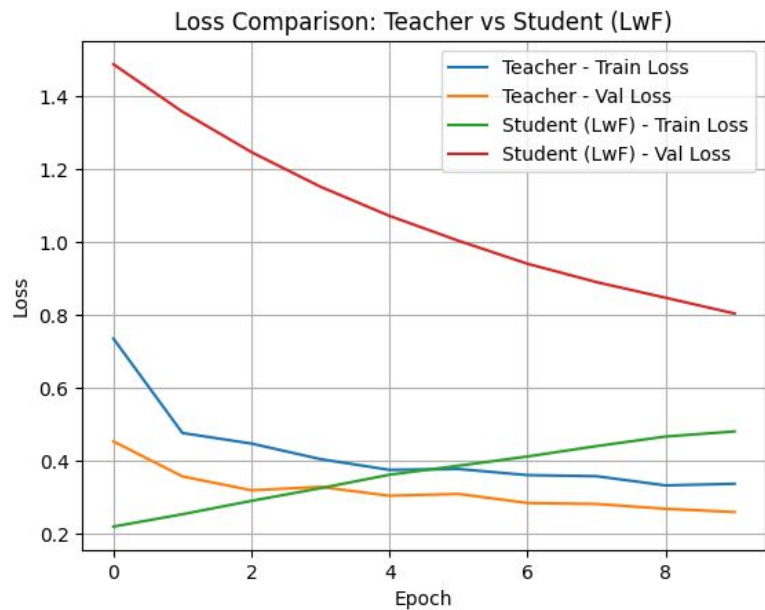
Fine-Tuned Xception: Per-Class Precision, Recall, F1-Score



Training vs Validation Accuracy: Teacher vs Student (LwF) and Base Model



Loss Comparison: LwF vs Full Retraining



Results

Class	Precision(B)	Recall(B)	F1(B)	Precision(Lwf)	Recall(Lwf)	F1(Lwf)
Fire	0.94	0.71	0.81	0.88	0.72	0.79
Haze	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99
No fire	0.96	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.97
Smoke	0.60	0.95	0.74	0.62	0.96	0.76
Smokefire	0.52	0.34	0.41	0.54	0.38	0.45

Note: B shows base model(model without Lwf)

Results

Metric	Baseline Model	Lwf Model
Test Accuracy	78%	75%
Validation Accuracy	90.3%	85.1%
Validation loss	0.2588	0.4574

Key Observations:

Aspect	Observation
Easy classes	Haze and Nofire easily detected
Challenging Class	Smokefire confused with fire/smoke(~45%)
Benefit of Lwf	Prevented forgetting old classes
Accuracy Trade-off	Lwf (75%) vs Full retraining (78%)
Fine-Tuning Impact	Fine tuning+early stoping improved result

Conclusion:

Key point	Observation
Effectiveness of Lwf	Helped add new class without retraining classes.
Knowledge Preservation	The student model was able to learn Haze while preserving the old classes (Fire, Smoke, Nofire, Smokefire).
Baseline vs Lwf	Baseline model had slightly better raw accuracy, but LwF provides better flexibility when old data is missing.
SmokeFire challenges	Smokefire remains a challenging class, needing more advanced feature extraction or additional data.

Future Work:

Future Direction	Description
Improve Smokefire Detection	Use better augmentation or attention mechanisms to help the model focus on mixed features.
Progressive LwF	Keep updating the model as new classes are added over time (real-world adaptability).
Real-Time Monitoring	Extend this work to real-time video fire and haze detection using lightweight CNNs.
Self-Learning System	Explore semi-supervised or self-supervised learning to reduce the need for labeled data.

Team Contributions:

- Prepared the **5-class dataset** (Fire, Nofire, Smoke, Smokefire, Haze)
 - Organized, cleaned, and split into train, validation, and test sets.
- Fine-tuned **Xception** and **VGG16** models for classification.
- Implemented a **custom Learning without Forgetting (LwF)** model in **Keras**, using:
 - Custom `train_step()` for dual loss (classification + distillation).
- Performed **experiments** and **evaluations**:
 - Trained models with and without LwF.
 - Compared their accuracy, precision, recall, F1-scores.
- Analyzed the results and created full **discussion and observations**.
- Created all **plots, graphs**, and **classification reports** used in presentation.

Sources Used:

- **Pre-trained Models:**
 - Xception and VGG16 from tensorflow.keras.applications
- **Learning without Forgetting (LwF):**
Li & Hoiem, ECCV 2016 : <https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.09282>
- **Related Work Papers:**
"An improved forest fire detection with Detectron2"
 - "Forest fire detection using CNN and Transfer Learning"
 - "Real-time wildfire detection using deep learning"
- **Libraries Used:**
 - TensorFlow, Keras, OpenCV, Pandas, Matplotlib

References:

Paper 1:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/367539352_An_Improved_Forest_Fire_Detection_Method_Based_on_the_Detector2_Model_and_a_Deep_Learning_Approach

Paper 2:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844023103355>

Paper 3:

<https://www.techscience.com/csse/v44n2/48251/html>