



# E-Waste segregation using AI&ML

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**Abstract:** This review paper focuses on the application of object detection techniques in e-waste management. Electronic waste (e-waste) poses environmental and health risks, necessitating efficient handling and disposal methods. Traditional approaches face challenges, highlighting the need for automated solutions. The paper explores the role of computer vision and object detection algorithms in identifying and categorizing e-waste items. Various techniques of deep learning models, are examined for their effectiveness in e-waste object detection. Advantages, such as increased accuracy and efficiency, are discussed. Additionally, the paper briefly touches upon the potential benefits of integrating object detection with robotic arm systems for enhanced e-waste separation processes. The review provides insight into current research advancements and highlights future prospects for object detection in large-scale e-waste management. These technologies offer promising avenues for automating e-waste identification and improving the overall efficiency of e-waste management systems.

**Keywords:** E-Waste, Object Detection, Robotic arm

## INTRODUCTION

E-waste is a growing global threat, with the electrical and electronics industries experiencing enormous growth in recent decades. The release of toxic emissions mixed with virgin soil and air poses harmful effects on the entire biodiversity, directly or indirectly. The management and recycling of E-waste have become an increasingly important environmental issue. Our idea is to improve the recycling process's quality by automating it with the latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning. Disassembling and recycling electronics by hand is dangerous and time-consuming. However, with AI, ML, and robotics, electronics can be recycled rapidly, and valuable parts can be salvaged for reuse. Automation also ensures safer and cleaner working conditions for laborers. By embracing such technological advancements, we can minimize the risks associated with E-waste and ensure a sustainable future for all.

[1] The main objective of this paper is to understand the e-waste management in the 21st century, they reported a brief comparison of how developing and developed countries deals with e-waste materials. Developed countries export this waste as :

1) Formal recycling

2) Donations to developing countries.

E-waste materials are also dangerous when recycling, due to its toxicity by the release of lead, mercury, cadmium and metallic elements. Further the paper highlights the importance of proper implementation and guidelines to manage e-waste material.

[2] The field of artificial intelligence is built on object detection techniques. A brief summary of the You Only Look Once (YOLO) algorithm and its further sophisticated iterations is provided in this research paper. We arrive at several observations and smart conclusions through the investigation. The findings highlight the variations between YOLO versions and between YOLO and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs). The main realization is that work is still being done on the YOLO algorithm. This article provides literary support for the targeted photo news and feature extraction in the financial and other industries and briefly covers the creation of the YOLO algorithm. It also summarizes the techniques for target detection and feature selection. Additionally, this study makes significant contributions to the YOLO and other object detection literature.

[3] The study explores household E-waste in Malaysia, where an increase in number is expected in the near future. While Malaysia is still lacking in the regulation of household E-waste as a general, the production of E-waste is expected to



increase significantly, concurrent with the movement of the Industrial Revolution, which highly adopts emerging technologies, including IoT devices. [4] The paper discusses various aspects of pick and place robotic arms, including their design, control, sensing, and applications. The paper concludes by discussing current research trends in pick and place robotic arm technology, such as the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence for improved control and sensing, as well as the development of collaborative pick and place robotic arms for human-robot interaction.

[5] The electronics industry uses natural resources and energy, causing environmental and social problems throughout the value chain. This is due to planned obsolescence, low initial cost, and rapid technological development. E-waste is a growing problem worldwide, with at least \$10 billion worth of precious metals dumped every year in the growing mountain of electronic waste that pollutes the planet. The amount of e-waste generated annually is increasing, and it is estimated to exceed 74 million metric tons by 2030, with mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets contributing significantly. The production and disposal of electronics have a significant ecological impact on the planet, contributing to the depletion of natural resources and the generation of harmful waste that pollutes the environment. [6] The recent research works have shown that deep learning techniques, such as CNN, RNN, SVM, and RF, can be used to develop efficient waste segregation systems. These systems can achieve high accuracy in waste classification, which can lead to efficient waste management and recycling. However, further research is required to develop robust and scalable waste segregation systems that can be deployed in real-world scenarios.

[7] The management of eSustainable development is often hindered by resource and environmental challenges. To effectively detect and analyze these problems, remote sensing image object detection technology has emerged as a powerful tool. However, existing remote sensing image rotation object detection algorithms based on Transformers suffer from low accuracy and slow detection speed. In this paper, we propose a remote sensing image rotation object detection method based on dynamic position information Transformer to address these issues. The proposed method focuses on improving detection accuracy and enhancing the robustness of the network for remote sensing image object detection. Firstly, we enhance the cross-attention operation of the decoder and iteratively update the obtained results with the position information of object queries. These updated results are then used as the initial object queries for the subsequent decoder, leading to improved detection accuracy. Secondly, we design a data processing method using image pyramids to enhance the network's robustness, specifically tailored for remote sensing images. Additionally, we introduce a rotating IoU matching loss function suitable for oriented object detection to enhance the accuracy of matching predicted boxes to true boxes. This further improves the overall performance of the proposed detection algorithm. The effectiveness of the algorithm is verified through experiments conducted on the DOTA and SSDD datasets.

The average detection accuracy achieved on these datasets is 73.70% and 90.3%, respectively. The results demonstrate significant improvements in average detection accuracy for Transformer-based rotating object detection algorithms in aerial remote sensing images, while also exhibiting better real-time detection performance. Keywords: Remote sensing, image object detection, rotation, Transformer, dynamic position information, detection accuracy, real-time performance. Note: Please note that the above abstract is a paraphrased version of your provided text. It is essential to review and refine the abstract to align with the specific details and objectives of your research. -waste in developed countries has taken a further step forward with the release of a waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive (Directive 2002/96/EC) that is expected to reduce the disposal of such waste.

[8] Here it has been provided an overview of the circulation of secondhand EEEs and E-waste scrap in the Asian region with emphasis on Japan, China, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Their overview of E-waste scrap was mainly focused on printed-circuit boards, because their recycling can cause serious pollution. It is also mentioned how secondhand EEEs have been exported from Japan to China and Southeast Asia. These items can be used for ten years if they are repaired repeatedly. Broken parts, especially printed-circuit boards. As a solution to the problem, several countries have banned the import of secondhand items and E-waste scrap. There is also support for the idea that the Basel Convention should be amended so that all exports of scrap, including hazardous materials, from developed to developing countries, even for recycling should be banned.

[9] the environmental and health risks associated with improper e-waste disposal and recycling, including soil and water contamination, air pollution, and health problems such as cancer, neurological disorders, and reproductive issues. [10] The paper suggests a way for locating waste products using vision-based methods and identifying and extracting geometric



elements for robotic manipulation. The strategy attempts to improve robots' capacity to do waste management jobs. The research offers useful methods and insights for enhancing robotic system geometric feature extraction and waste object location. [11] This research provides a thorough analysis of oriented object identification methods designed especially for remote sensing photos. In many fields, including agriculture, urban planning, and environmental monitoring, remote sensing is essential. For effective analysis and decision-making in remote sensing applications, accurate identification and interpretation of oriented objects, such as buildings, roads, and cars, are crucial. Oriented object detection in remote sensing photos is thoroughly covered in this work. It is a useful resource for academics, professionals, and programmers engaged in computer vision and remote sensing research.

[12] This paper proposes a lightweight object identification technique that enhances the YOLOv5 framework and is tailored exclusively for robots. For robots to successfully see and interact with their surroundings, object detection is a key task. Traditional object detection algorithms, on the other hand, can be computationally expensive and may not be appropriate for autonomous systems with limited resources. The authors suggest a modified variation of the YOLOv5 algorithm designed specifically for robotic applications. [13] The study "Disassembly 4.0: A Review on Using Robotics in Disassembly Tasks as a Way of Automation" examines the use of robotics in disassembly procedures for automation. The authors go over the possible advantages of using robots for disassembly operations, including improved accuracy, efficiency, and labor cost savings. The advantages and disadvantages of various robotic systems and techniques utilized in disassembly procedures are highlighted. The study highlights the significance of robotics' integration into the disassembly sector and offers it as a promising strategy for automating disassembly activities.

[14] G. Foo's study "Challenges of Robotic Disassembly in Practice" outlines the challenges experienced in robotic disassembly for recycling electronic waste. The author emphasizes how difficult it is to successfully recover valuable materials from electronic products using conventional recycling techniques. Manual disassembly is frequently required for dangerous components, resulting in significant labor costs and safety problems. The report emphasizes robotics' role in enhancing disassembly operations by increasing efficiency and lowering labor requirements. However, it also addresses the practical implementation problems, such as the need for flexibility in dealing with various electronic trash and the development of specialized recycling technologies.

[15] The article "Object detection using YOLO: challenges, architectural successors, datasets, and applications" by T. Diwan, G. Anirudh, and J. V. Tembhrne examines the difficulties, technological developments, datasets, and applications of object identification using the YOLO (You Only Look Once) method. The authors highlight the advantages of YOLO in terms of speed and accuracy while discussing the drawbacks of conventional object recognition techniques. Additionally, they provide YOLOv2 and YOLOv3 as architectural successors, which improve upon the original algorithm's drawbacks. The paper discusses numerous datasets that have been used to successfully implement YOLO-based object detection across a wide range of applications, including training and testing object detection models. [16] The study on utilizing an optimized YOLO (You Only Look Once) model for automated solid waste identification in riverine management is presented in the publication titled "An automated solid waste detection using the optimized YOLO model for riverine management" by N. A. Zailan et al. In order to detect and identify waste objects, the authors address the problem of solid waste pollution in rivers and suggest a computer vision-based method. They develop the YOLO model to increase its effectiveness in precisely identifying trash goods. The study emphasizes how this automated system could monitor and control solid waste in waterways, helping to manage the environment and reduce pollution. [17] The construction of a smart waste segregation system that integrates machine learning and IoT (Internet of Things) technology is covered in the study titled "Smart Waste Segregation Using Machine Learning and IoT Techniques" by Rahul Shivaji Dattawade et al. The authors suggest a method that makes use of sensors and IoT devices to gather information on waste types and levels, which is then processed using machine learning algorithms for automatic waste sorting. By effectively classifying and segregating various forms of waste, the method seeks to improve waste management practices. The report shows the potential advantages of this technology in lowering environmental pollution, improving waste collection procedures, and promoting sustainable waste management practices.

[18] In this research, they offer an approach for identifying mechanical fixation/fastening components utilized in various sectors that is based on deep learning and image processing. To categorise the components based on their head and lateral shapes, they recommend the YOLO-v5 method. To estimate the spatial dimensions of the assembly line components, including thread pitch, also offered an image processing technique. Additionally, this study includes the creation of an



image acquisition platform with two cameras installed and an appropriate lighting system to take high-quality pictures.[19]This study examines the function of robotic process automation (RPA) as a driving force behind industry 4.0, emphasising the use of human talent and the abolition of the idea of the "eighth waste" in production procedures. The term "industry 4.0" refers to the automation and integration of cutting-edge technologies into industrial processes to increase productivity and efficiency.

The authors examine the role that RPA, which entails using software robots to automate repetitive operations, can play in reducing waste and maximising the use of human resources.

Overall, this research highlights RPA's potential to be a game-changing tool in Industry 4.0. It emphasises the significance of utilising human talent and eradicating the ninth waste through the automation of repetitive work using RPA. For companies considering adoption, the study offers useful insights.[20]Robotic picking that is computer vision-based improves object picking and grading efficiency while consuming less time and labor. In this study, an all-in-one prototype robotic picking cum grading system is built that combines robotic picking and object quality identification based grading operations. There, object detection is accomplished using computer vision algorithms, which are then followed by picking and placement using a remotely operated robotic arm. and the entire technique takes 0.0125 seconds to execute. In general, the created method required an average of 15 s per grading cycle for items of poor quality. In this instance, nothing happens as the object moves straight from the conveyor to the storage bin. However, a considerable amount of time.

## II.SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Our basic design consists of a camera programmed with the help of tensorflow model which would identify the materials based on the segregation requirement. The objective of our project is to identify different materials. This can be achieved using image processing and computer vision techniques. Algorithms that analyze the images captured by the camera and identify the materials based on their visual characteristics. This could involve color analysis, shape recognition, texture analysis, or other image processing techniques

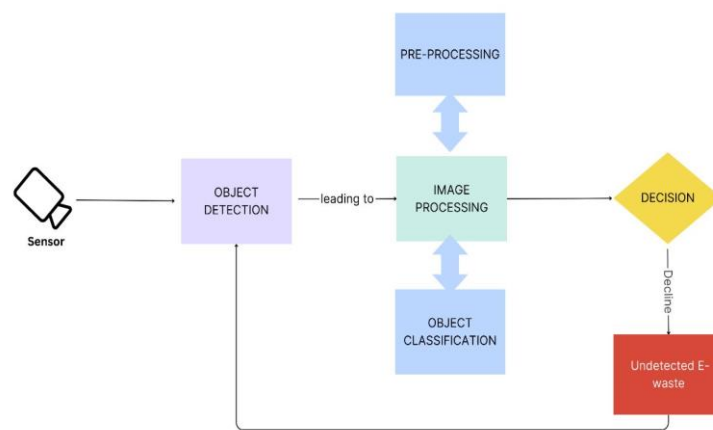


Fig 1.

We are taking the collected e-waste and segregating the waste through image processing where each of the different components will be identified and segregated for more precision along with image processing.

Image processing involves analyzing and manipulating digital images to extract meaningful information from them. In the context of e-waste segregation, image processing techniques are employed to identify various components of electronic devices.

Here's an overview of the process involved in using image processing for e-waste segregation:

1. **Image Acquisition:** The first step is to capture high-resolution images of the e-waste items using digital cameras or other imaging devices.



2. **Preprocessing:** Once the images are acquired, preprocessing techniques are applied to enhance their quality and eliminate any noise or unwanted artifacts. This may involve operations such as noise reduction, image filtering, and image enhancement which will be provided by the Tensorflow model.
3. **Component Detection:** In this step, machine learning techniques such as Tensor flow zoo model are utilized to detect and locate different components within the e-waste images. These algorithms are trained using large datasets of labeled images to learn the visual characteristics and features of different components.
4. **Segmentation:** After component detection, the next step is to separate the detected components from the background and each other. Segmentation techniques, such as thresholding, edge detection, or region growing, are applied to achieve precise separation.
5. **Classification:** Once the components are segmented, they are categorized into different groups based on their types.

#### IV.SOFTWARE ASPECTS0

**Python** is frequently used in the object detection industry because of its adaptability, sizable library, and user-friendliness. Python has a number of well-liked libraries and frameworks that offer effective solutions for jobs involving object detection. Let's look at a few of them.

**OpenCV** is the huge open-source library for computer vision, machine learning, and image processing and now it plays a major role in real-time operation which is very important in today's systems. By using it, one can process images and videos to identify objects, faces, or even the handwriting of a human. OpenCV is written in C++ but also provides interfaces for various programming languages, including Python and Java. OpenCV With a wide variety of algorithms, cross-platform interoperability, considerable community support, and the ability to connect with other tools, OpenCV is a strong and adaptable library for object detection. This article focuses on detecting objects.

**TensorFlow** is an open-source software library developed by Google for numerical computation and machine learning. TensorFlow is used in object detection to develop and deploy machine learning models that can identify and locate objects within images or videos. It provides pre-trained models and tools specifically designed for object detection tasks, making it easier to build and customize models. TensorFlow is a highly flexible and versatile framework that offers extensive tooling and integration with deep learning techniques, making it an excellent choice for object detection tasks. Its rich ecosystem provides a wide range of pre-built models, enabling developers to quickly get started and achieve state-of-the-art results. TensorFlow's comprehensive set of APIs and libraries simplify the development process by providing high-level abstractions and intuitive interfaces. Additionally, TensorFlow offers performance optimizations such as GPU acceleration and distributed computing, allowing for efficient training and inference on large-scale datasets. Furthermore, TensorFlow's ability to deploy models across different platforms, including mobile devices and the cloud, makes it a powerful and accessible solution for deploying object detection models in real-world applications.

**Jupyter Notebook** is an open-source web application that allows you to create and share documents containing live code, equations, visualizations, and narrative text. It supports multiple programming languages, including Python, which makes Jupyter a popular choice for working on object detection tasks. Its integration of code, visualization, and documentation allows for seamless exploration and experimentation. With Jupyter notebooks, developers can easily manipulate and visualize data, test different object detection algorithms, and document their process in a comprehensive and interactive manner. Jupyter enhances productivity and facilitates a more efficient and interactive object detection workflow.

**Roboflow** is an end-to-end computer vision platform that simplifies and streamlines the process of training and deploying computer vision models. It provides a wide range of features for managing and working with image datasets. Its capabilities include dataset management, efficient data annotation, flexible data preprocessing, seamless model training, and convenient model deployment. Roboflow simplifies the entire computer vision workflow, making it easier for developers and researchers to create, train, and deploy custom computer vision models. With its scalability, collaboration features, and compatibility with popular deep learning frameworks, Roboflow empowers users to tackle complex computer vision tasks with ease, ultimately accelerating the development and deployment of computer vision applications.



**Google Colaboratory** An online programming environment offered by Google is called Google Colaboratory. Without the requirement for any setup or installation on the user's local machine, it enables users to develop, run, and share Python code in a browser-based interface. It offers accessibility to potent computational resources including CPU, GPU, and TPU (Tensor Processing Unit). Google Colab may be used to train and deploy object detection models, which can be useful for computationally intensive applications like object detection. The benefit of GPU acceleration offered by Google Colab can considerably speed up the training of object identification models, especially for large datasets. The ability to save and load trained models is another feature of Colab that enables you to reuse them for inference or additional fine-tuning.

**Yolo v5** is a version of the YOLO (You Only Look Once) object detection method that improves upon earlier iterations. Released in May 2020, it was created by Ultralytics. YOLO is renowned for its high-accuracy object identification capabilities and real-time object recognition capabilities in an image or video stream. Yolo v5 makes a number of advancements over its forerunners. It employs a reduced model size and a more effective design while preserving or enhancing detection performance. In order to increase detection accuracy, the algorithm also includes a novel technique dubbed "Self-Training" that combines labeled and unlabeled data.

## V.CONCLUSION

This paper has presented an AI-based segregation of e-waste that can benefit society as a whole by reducing the health and environmental risks associated with improper disposal and increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the recycling process. By automating the segregation process using AI, the efficiency of recycling operations is significantly improved. AI can accurately identify and sort different e-waste components, reducing manual labor requirements and increasing the speed and precision of the recycling process. This leads to higher recycling rates, reduces waste sent to landfills, and promotes the circular economy. **Object detection in e-waste management offers several benefits.** It enhances the accuracy and speed of waste identification, allowing for faster processing and sorting. It enables the extraction of valuable components from electronic waste, promoting circular economy practices. Moreover, object detection helps identify hazardous materials, ensuring proper handling and disposal, which is crucial for mitigating environmental and health risks.

Through the use of object detection in e-waste, we can develop intelligent systems that automate waste sorting, optimize recycling processes, and minimize the reliance on manual labor. This technology has the potential to revolutionize e-waste management, making it more sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly. Collaborative efforts between researchers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers can drive advancements in this field and foster the adoption of object detection technology to address the growing challenges of e-waste management worldwide.

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