



## WEEDING ROBION

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### ABSTRACT

Autonomous robotic weeding systems have demonstrated that they may realise their full potential in precision agriculture, where they are used to lessen the dependence that is currently placed on agrochemicals such as herbicides and insecticides, thereby reducing the amount of these substances that are used. pollution of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development both need to be addressed.

On the other hand, the vast majority of the previous studies call for weed detection systems that are both rapid and able to function in order to offer real-time solutions. This rule out the possibility of implementing algorithms that are capable but need a longer amount of time to carry out, such as learning-based approaches.

Using both mechanical weeding devices, we are currently in the process of presenting the conception, the actualization, and the testing of the roboion weed controller. In order to steer the machinery in such a way that high-precision weed removal can be carried out, a structure that is capable of carrying out naive Bayes filtering, as well as 3D direct intra- and inter-camera vision tracking, and predictive control, while simultaneously combining cutting-edge crop and weed detection algorithms is constructed. This allows for the machinery to be steered in such a way that high-precision weed removal can be carried out. This building was designed so that the machinery could be controlled. The results of the studies show that the fully operational weed control system that we have proposed is able to perform selective mechanical as well as chemical in-row weeding with indeterminate detection delays across a variety of topographical situations and phases of the crop's development.

### INTRODUCTION

In the field of agriculture, the problem of weed control is one that has endured for a significant amount of time during the course of the past century. The broad application of herbicides is an effective strategy for getting rid of weeds; nevertheless, this practise also adds to the degradation of the environment, difficulties with human health, and concerns over herbicide resistance.

Because of the deleterious effects it has on the total quantity of herbicide that is used in agricultural operations, governments and farmers alike are collaborating on efforts to mitigate the effects of the problem. Precision farming, which offers a solution to this issue, is built on the utilisation of weeding mechanisms that can treat individual plants or very small clusters of weeds at the same time. This is a crucial component of precision farming.

If this is done, the amount of glyphosate that is applied can be greatly reduced, and it may even be possible to avoid it entirely. The employment of human-oriented precision weeding gear, on the other hand, frequently necessitates the use of human resources that are inefficient as well as labour that is costly; hence, the economic advantages of reduced pesticide usage cannot balance the price of the labour.

In recent years, the process of autonomous weed management, which also includes the process of weed detection, has earned a significant amount of favour in the field of precision farming. The use of automated weed control has the potential to increase the effectiveness of weeding while simultaneously lowering both environmental and economic costs.

There have been many various concepts proposed for robotic weed control systems, the most of which are focused on a particular approach, such as selective chemical spraying, mechanical weeding, or flame. Some of the other concepts include: However, the findings of the study suggest that a mix of weeding tactics, which the researchers name integrated, may be the most effective way to manage weeds and enhance weeding performance. The utilisation of alternative solutions is fundamentally made possible by such a system of weed removal as is based on the specific species of weeds that are present in the field, which results in an even higher degree of weeding efficacy. This system of weed removal is based on the particular species of weeds that are present in the field.

The precision of the weed detection that is offered by the machine vision system is of the utmost significance to the accomplishment of the goal of developing intelligent weeding equipment. However, the efficiency of the machine vision system is restricted by natural factors such as the light conditions and the colour fluctuation of the leaves as well as the soil, which restricts the accuracy of weed control. These factors also limit the effectiveness of the machine vision system. Among these naturally occurring situations are:

Several notable advances have been made in the development of learning-based systems for the detection of weeds thanks to the application of artificial intelligence (AI). The advancement of artificial intelligence has proceeded concurrently with the emergence of this new discovery. It has been established that the use of these approaches, which entail the use of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), can result in more accurate findings when it comes to recognising crops and weeds. [CNN] [Convolutional Neural Networks] The wide range of possible detection delays could directly lead to



the loss of a target or restricted time for further weed monitoring and actuation techniques for a single camera system. This would then introduce a significant amount of unpredictability into the process of applying weed control, which would make the process more difficult to manage.

The Flourish system, which employs a multi-camera system in which the cameras do not overlap with one another and in which each camera focuses on a distinct region, provides a solution to this problem. The Flourish system utilises a multi-camera system in which the cameras do not overlap with one another. This results in more time being available for the detection procedure during the weeding process, without negatively impacting the effectiveness of the weeding operation itself. The first camera detects the weeds, and successive cameras follow their movement around the frame.

Intra-camera tracking entails following the weeds while concurrently mapping their 3D positions in real-time, and inter-camera tracking seeks to retrace the weeds that have previously been identified. Both types of tracking can be performed simultaneously. Intra-camera tracking and inter-camera tracking are the two main categories that may be used to describe non-overlapping multi-camera tracking. Since the self-recognized features can provide great robustness to both the photometric noise and the geometric distortion in images, the field of intra-camera study has dominated the field of research for a considerable amount of time. This is due to the fact that self-recognized features can provide great robustness to both types of distortion.

The planning, implementation, and evaluation of our multi-camera weed control system, which may eradicate in-row weeds by mechanical intervention or selective chemical spraying, respectively. The development of this system is one of our ongoing projects.

The emphasis of the study is placed on two major events that occurred very recently:

(1) The design of the mechanical weed unit is comprised of three different modules: one spot-spraying module, one mechanical stamper module, and a multi-camera perception system.

(2) The system for managing weeds includes computer-vision-based weed recognition, direct three-dimensional weed monitoring with the help of many cameras, and predictive actuation.

They are tracked across many cameras and then put into a predictive control module when the weeds are getting close to the weeding equipment that are designated as plants. Because of this, the module is able to make an educated guess on the timing and location of therapy. This process will continue until the weeds are no longer inside the field of view of the first camera.

In the last stage of the process, each plant is input into a biased naive Bayes filter in order to get rid of any lingering false positives. This guarantees that only the weeds that are actually there are monitored between the cameras, and only those weeds are treated.

The results of the tests conducted in the field suggest that the weed management system that we have developed is capable of successfully discriminating between crops and

weeds and eradicating the weeds with an accuracy that is greater than ninety percent. This degree of precision is maintained independent of the categorization delays that may occur, the circumstances of the terrain, or the phases of growth that the crop may be in.

## LITERATURE SURVEY

The paper is titled "SciELO - Brazil - Weed-Removal System Based on Artificial Vision and Movement Planning utilising A\* and RRT Techniques," and it was presented at the SciELO conference in Brazil. Solace Guzmán, Leonardo Enrique, et al. "A\* and RRT Techniques for Weed Removal Based on Artificial Vision." Weed-Removal System Based on Artificial Vision and Movement Planning Using A\* and RRT Techniques Weed-Removal System Based on Artificial Vision and Movement Planning Using A\* and RRT Techniques

Scholz et al. have said that an automated soil penetrometer has been built and included into an autonomous robot known as Bonirob. The soil penetrometer is equipped with a probing rod that is fitted with a force sensor and utilises a rotating motor in order to penetrate the ground to a depth of 80 centimetres. This particular robot is also equipped with surface relative humidity sensors, in addition to having the capability of measuring the physical parameters of the soil.

Pobkrut & Kercharoen et al, "The researchers came up with a soil-sensing survey robot that was outfitted with an electronic nose so that it could analyse the chemical characteristics of the soil. MQ2 is used to describe flammable gases; MQ5 is used to describe fossil fuels and propane; MQ135 is used to describe nitrogen, formaldehyde, and carbon dioxide; TGS 2600 is used to describe air pollutants; and TGS 2602 is used to describe odorous gases and vapours (VOC). It was decided to use a Microcontroller Mega 256 as the system's central processing unit to manage everything, including the reception of data from various sensors.

Chapman et al "In one of the experiments, a phenocopter was flown at a height of sixty metres to estimate the ground cover of hybrid sorghum and explore the connection between the number of plants per plot and the amount of green cover for one hundred plots. This was done for all one hundred plots. Under a variety of irrigation conditions, the canopy temperature of sugarcane was determined using data from visible and thermal cameras. Additionally, the relative transpiration index was computed for this crop. On the basis of green cover and relative crop temperature, an approximation was utilised in order to compute the projected transpiration index for forty different sugarcane clones. Images captured using a camera equipped with an NIR filter were coupled with data on the aircraft's longitude, latitude, elevation, and flight log to produce a point cloud elevation model. The canopy height was then determined using this model.

## PROPOSED SYSTEM

We built a system that is capable of conducting plant recognition, object-based feature extraction, random forest classification, and smoothing by making use of a Markov



random field in order to accurately differentiate between sugar beets and weeds.

The object-based approach, which disregards Markov smoothing, obtains runtime performance of 1-2Hz, but the key point-based variant, which is more accurate, only achieves runtime performance of 0.60-1.26Hz. This is because the object-based technique disregards Markov smoothing. We are able to do semi-supervised online visual categorization of crops and weeds by employing information that is particular to the domain on the spatial arrangement of crops. The frequency of our runtime performance falls between between 5.23 and 8.06 Hz. An application of a mixture of minuscule components of a deep conventional neural network (DCNN) that has been carefully tweaked is used in order to achieve accurate weed-crop categorization.

The processing speed of this approach may range from 1.07 to 1.83 Hz, and it has the capacity to provide an accuracy of 90 percent. An encoder-decoder cascaded convolutional neural network (CNN) is utilised for carrying out the dense semantic weed-crop categorization. Although this approach yields a high level of classification precision, it is unable to guarantee a consistent real-time performance (2-5Hz). We design a fully convolutional network (FCN) to encode the spatial information of plants in a row across a sequentially acquired image sequence in order to carry out the classification job and achieve greater runtime performance.

This results in more efficient use of the network's resources (5Hz). The detecting system must supply the robotic system with the precise position of the stem for the robotic system to achieve its goal of treating the plant's stem location using high-precision intervention methods such as mechanical stamping. In addition to the algorithms for semantic segmentation, learning-based stem localization techniques have also been created to make weed intervention easier.

To provide accurate predictions about the stem regions of plants, a keypoint-based random forest is trained. To accomplish this goal, the FCN-based approach has been developed. We constructed an end-to-end CNN to simultaneously learn the class-wise stem position as well as the pixel-wise semantic segmentation of weeds and crops.

## TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

### Deeppose

The Deep Pose project was the first significant development research that implemented deep learning to the estimation of human poses. In this method, the estimation of the pose is done by formulating the problem as a CNN-based regression towards the body joints. They also use a cascade of these regressors in order to refine the pose estimates and obtain more accurate estimates. This model was trained with L2 loss, and it uses AlexNet as its baseline CNN model. AlexNet produces outputs of 2k strategy and plans, where k is the number of joints, and it was trained with this model.

### CPM (Convolution Pose Machines)

The idea behind pose machines is utilised by the Convolutional Pose Machines. The first part of a pose machine is the image feature computation module, and the

second part is the prediction module. The CPM is fully differentiable, and its multi-stage architectural style can be trained in its entirety from beginning to end. It is possible for a CPM to have more than two stages, and the number of iterations can be specified using a hyper parameter. In most cases, Stage 1 is unchangeable, and all stages beyond Stage 2 are simply repetitions of Stage 2. Stage 2 accepts heat maps and picture evidence as input, and it refines this evidence as it progresses through subsequent stages.

### Posenet

In place of VGG-16 or VGG-19, Posenet uses a CNN model from the Alexnet family. This model was developed for the purpose of achieving faster frames per second (fps) while live detection. Additionally, Posenet was primarily developed for the purpose of launching deep learning applications on smart phones, and as a result, it is more lightweight. Posenet does not really have a multi-stage architecture like that of Openpose. Instead, it only has a single stage that calculates the confidence maps and offset vectors, both of which are PAFs, and combines them in order to determine the precise location of the body key-points in the pose. Moving on to the architecture of Posenet, it does not have a multi-stage architecture like that of Openpose.

### Superimposing

When comparing poses, one of the methods that can be utilised is to superimpose one pose skeleton on top of another. This method has a number of properties, including

- a) That lines map to lines,
- b) That parallel lines keep their parallelism,
- c) That the origin does not essentially map to the origin, and
- d) That the body ratio is maintained.

This technique will not work very well in situations where the two poses have a significant amount of differentiation in their body structures. For example, if pose 1 is of an individual small and pose 2 is of a person who is relatively tall, then this technique will not work very well.

### Cosine Similarity

The cosine similarity method is the second way to evaluate the differences and similarities between poses. In the past, we had been comparing the lengths of the various body parts; however, with this method, we will be comparing the angles formed by the joints in the body. Since the angles are unaffected by the length of the object, this strategy should produce satisfactory outcomes for us. The cosine angle rule is utilised whenever joint angles need to be calculated. However, there is one potential drawback to using this method, and that is the possibility that two distinct poses could both have same joint angle. Along with determining the angle of the joint, one of the disadvantages of this method is that it does not check the co-ordinate posture of the limbs that are connected to the joint. When we compare both poses and find that they have the same coordinates, we can say that they are identical to one another.

### Dynamic Time Warping

The dynamic time warping algorithm is a quick and effective method for determining the degree of similarity that exists between two video sequences that are distinct in terms of their running times. A comparison can be made by aligning sequences and calculating the distance that separates them at every phase. It is able to handle sequence data with various scales and translations, and because it also has a reduced effect of noise, it also improves the functionality of applications using it.

### METHODOLOGY

The first step in accurately administering agrochemicals to crops is to identify and categorize crops and weeds. The second phase entails applying the precise amounts of agrochemicals required by utilizing application equipment integrated with a fluid control system.

The vision system and the fluid flow control or spray actuation/application system are the two sub-systems that are included in our framework proposal for the application of agrochemicals.

The primary emphasis of this line of study is placed on the vision system that supplies input to the system that controls the flow of fluid.

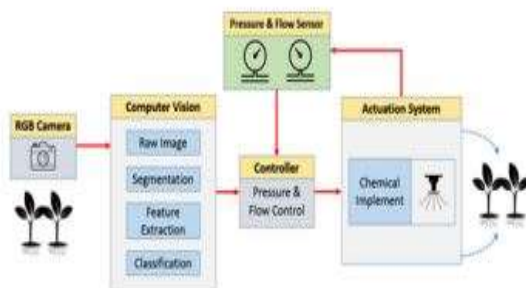


Image processing and the vision system are both utilized in the process of providing feedback to the system that controls the fluid flow. An algorithm for machine learning. The comprehensive strategy is as follows:

#### 4.1 Crop/Weed Detection

Recognizing crops and weeds in real time is the primary responsibility of the vision system, and it also happens to be one of the most significant jobs. This makes it one of the most difficult jobs, but it's also one of the most vital jobs.

During the image classification process, a picture will be broken down into the classes that it is comprised of by making use of characteristics that have been obtained from a considerable number of previous images. This will allow the picture to be properly categorised. These additional images were obtained from a wide array of locations.

Two different stages of operation are utilized to complete the task of recognizing and classifying crops and weeds in real-time. These stages of operation are described below.

The first thing that has to be done is to train the model with data that has not yet been collected.

As soon as the training is complete, the model will be able to tell the difference between crops and weeds while it is being observed in real-time.

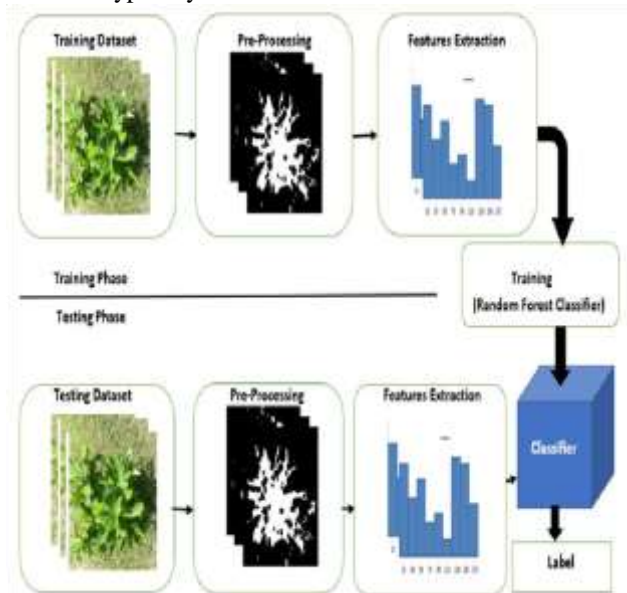
During the phase where the classifier is being tested, features are extracted from the images that are being evaluated, and then those features are assigned to the classifier.

#### 4.1.1 Image Acquisition

Obtaining a dataset that is relevant to the problem at hand is one of the most critical activities, as well as the one that occupies the most time and results in the most expense. This effort is made considerably more difficult in the agricultural sector due to the fact that specialised fields are not always readily available, which, in addition to the scheduling component, is another factor that makes the project more challenging. When photographing crops and weeds at a variety of times and in a range of lighting situations, high-resolution RGB cameras are often used because of their superior image quality.

Images of crops and weeds with varying canopies are taken from a variety of angles to improve the precision of the classifier.

The camera is situated at a significant distance above the playing surface. To shorten the amount of time needed for computing, the photos that were taken with the moderate camera are typically downsized.



#### 4.1.2 Data acquisition

The procedure of acquiring an appropriate dataset is one of the most tedious, time-consuming, and expensive activities; nonetheless, it is also one of the most important ones.

This effort is made considerably more difficult in the agricultural sector due to the fact that specialised fields are not always readily available, which, in addition to the scheduling

component, is another factor that makes the project more challenging.

High-resolution RGB cameras are typically utilized to photograph crops and weeds at a variety of times and under a variety of lighting conditions. Photographs of crops and weeds with varying canopies are photographed from a variety of angles to increase the precision of the classifier. The camera is situated at a significant distance above the playing surface. To shorten the amount of time needed for computing, the photos that were taken with the high-resolution camera are typically downsized.

For this investigation, a dataset was compiled by taking photographs of crop species and weeds over days and at varying times of day and under a variety of lighting conditions. The dataset contained photos of three distinct categories: crop plants, weeds, and irrelevant plants and animals. Furthermore, a total of 291 shots were utilized to develop the machine attempting to learn classification algorithms for cropland and weed recognition. Since each class consisted of 97 images, the total number of images used was 291.

#### 4.1.3 Pre-Processing

The mistakes that are most commonly seen in the picture data that is gathered by a camera are those that are associated with the geometry and optimization of the pixel. At this step of the process, known as "image pre-processing," these faults are fixed by making use of the appropriate mathematical processes.

Next, morphological features are applied to the photos in order to get rid of the effects of light and motion blurring. This is done after the undesired and noisy parts of the images have been removed.

The appearance of images can be improved using image enhancement techniques, or the images can be converted to a form that is better suitable for human and machine interpretation using these approaches. Image processing techniques are used for both of these purposes.

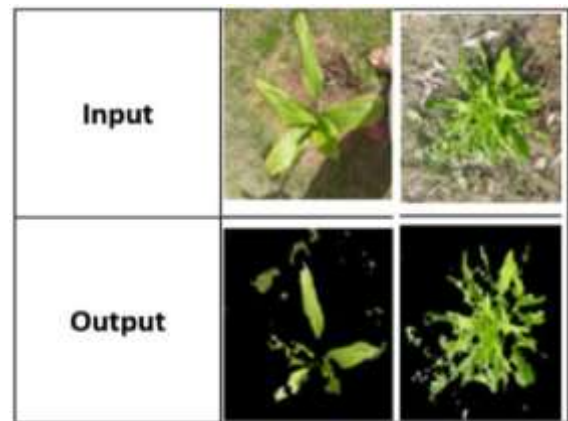
Image enhancement involves making adjustments to the brightness values of the image's pixels in terms of improving the image's overall quality.

#### 4.1.4 Image Segmentation

To do picture segmentation, the content of an image's backdrop must first be removed.

Because of the noise, the blurring, and the illumination, segmenting is a challenging task. Various approaches, such as colour-based identification, watershed segmentation, and edge-based segmentation, are utilized throughout the segmentation process.

As can be seen in Figure 4.3, we made use of a background subtraction segmentation technique in the course of this investigation into the topic. After this phase is complete, the next phase involves the collection of characteristics (features) that will be used for categorization.



#### 4.1.5 Feature Extraction

The technique of extracting features from a picture is called feature extraction in the second phase of crop and weed identification. These characteristics can be either local or global, and some examples include an object's shape, texture, and colour. The selection of characteristics is a critical step in the photo categorization process.

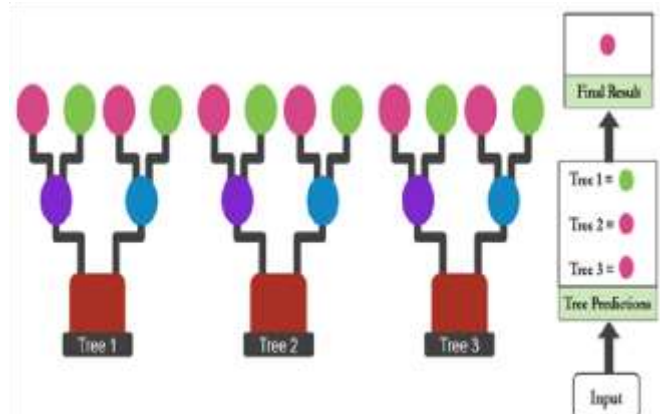
Global features included colour graphs, hu versions, haralick texturing, and the histogram (HOG). When recognizing plants and weeds, you can use a range of characteristics such as colour, texture, or shape. However, because the described previously aspects are insufficient on their own to characterize a picture, we must apply a collection of multiple qualities in this investigation to obtain higher results.

#### 4.1.6 Random Forest Classifier

The Random Forest algorithm is a type of supervised machine learning technique that can be applied to issues involving classification as well as regression. The formation of a forest involves the construction of several decision trees using samples that are drawn at random.

The decision tree that contributes to the model as a building block predicts the classification of the data that is supplied. Sampled information from the primary dataset is sent into each tree as its source of information.

In general, the accuracy of the results improves in proportion to the number of trees that are present in the forest. The model will ultimately settle on the conclusion that corresponds to the forecast that garners the greatest number of votes.



## SYSTEM DESIGN

The system design provides the information and procedural aspects required to implement the recommendations of the system analysis. Converting performance specifications into design specifications is the main focus. The transition from a user-oriented document (System proposal) to a document intended at programmers or database administrators is known as the A system's design is divided into two stages:

### Physical and logical design

The logical flow of the system is depicted in a data flow diagram. A system's input (source), output (destination), database (data storage), and processes (data flows) are all outlined to meet the needs of the user. When analysis generates the logical design, they explain the user requirements in such a way that the information flow into and out of the system, as well as the required data resources, can be determined practically. The logical design also specifies input forms and screen layouts.

The physical design procedures, such as creating programs, software, files, and a functional system, stick to a sensible plan. The design guidelines tell the user what the system should do.

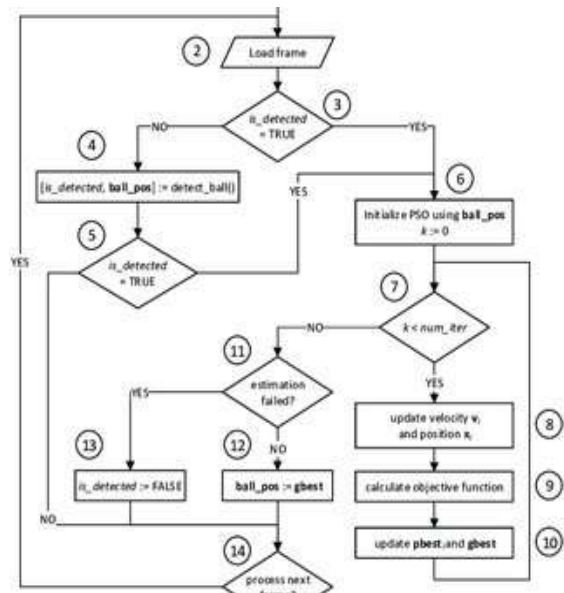
### The five design input objectives are as follows:

- Managing the amount of information required.
- Avoid Delay if at all possible.
- Preventing data errors.
- Getting rid of as many steps as possible.
- Keeping the procedure as easy as possible

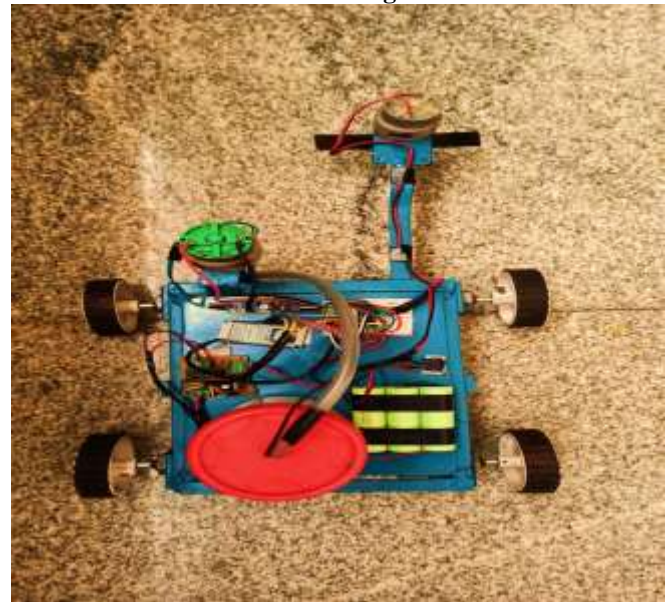
### 5.2 Data Flow Diagram

The "flow" of data through an information system is graphically depicted in a data flow diagram (DFD). Data processing can also be visualized using a data flow diagram (structured design). The normal method for a designer is to start by creating a context-level DFD, which describes the system's interactions with external entities' show how data enters the system from external sources, how it moves from one operation to the next, and where it is stored logically.

There are just four symbols used: External entities, which are the sources and destinations of information entering and exiting the system, are represented by squares. 'Activities' are the names given to rounded rectangles that represent processes in other techniques, 'Actions,' 'Procedures,' 'Subsystems,' and so on are some of the terms used. They take data in, process it, and then output it. Arrows symbolize the movement of data, which could be electronic data or physical goods. External entities are not allowed direct access to data stores, and data cannot be transferred between data stores without the usage of a process.



**Dataflow Diagram**



## TESTING AND RESULTS

### a. Dataset

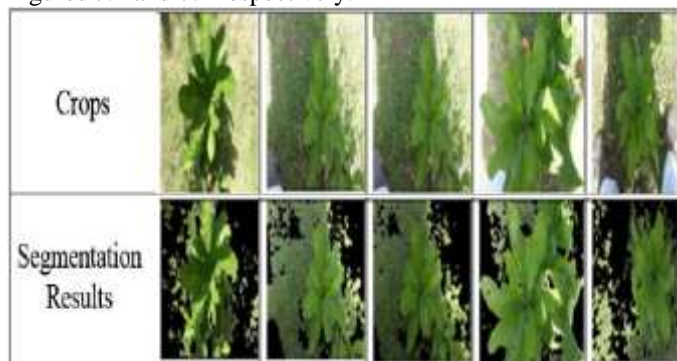
The total number of photos that were gathered for the dataset on crops and weeds was 396. The photos of the plants included in the dataset included 99 training images and 33 test shots. Additionally, there were 99 training photos and 33 test images included in the dataset for the weeds. In addition to these two datasets, we employed a third dataset that consisted of non-plant items that were neither weeds nor plants. In addition, this dataset included 99 photos for training purposes and 33 images for evaluation purposes. All of the photographs were captured at different times of the day and in a variety of lighting situations so that the accuracy of the classifier could be improved.

### b. Segmentation Phase

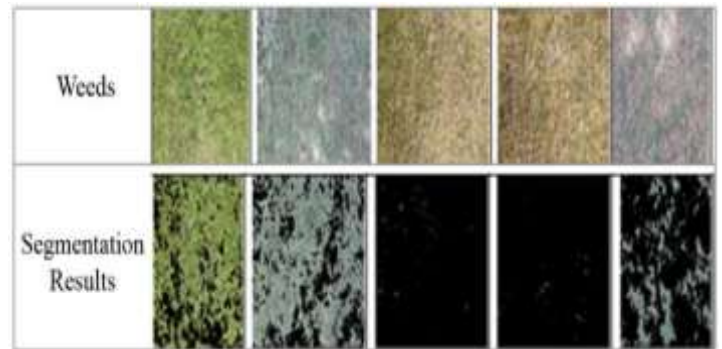
The process of segmentation is extremely difficult since it is so easily impacted by factors like as light and blurring brought on by motion. During the image segmentation process, the background and the weeds that were brown in colour were removed from the input image. This segmentation procedure is the most important step of the overall image processing work since it determines which features will be extracted and which classes will be assigned. The subsequent subsections will provide further information on the segmentation process.

### c. Illumination Effect on Segmentation

The level of illumination has an effect on the segmentation process, which in turn has an effect on the feature extraction, which finally leads to incorrect categorization. For the purpose of mitigating the impacts of illumination, a number of photos were taken in a variety of lighting situations, and a number of tests were carried out to determine the optimal threshold value for segmentation. The results of the segmentation performed by the proposed model under a variety of environmental situations are depicted in Figures 7.1 and 7.2 respectively.



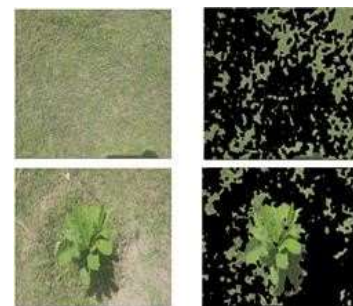
Crop Images and their Segmented Results



Weeds Images and their Segmented Results

### e. Effect of Noise on Segmentation

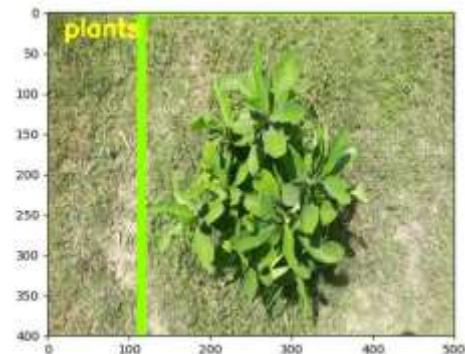
Noise in the pictures can be caused by a variety of factors, including low lighting, varying field conditions, and vision sensors of poor quality, all of which can have an impact on the segmentation process. In order to assess how well the suggested segmentation method works, this research makes use of Gaussian noise with a range of varying intensities. A variety of sounds of varying intensities are superimposed on the pictures, and a variety of tests are carried out in order to evaluate the performance of the segmentation, as illustrated in Figure 7.3.



Different Levels of Noises in Crops and Weeds

### f. Contouring

The very last thing that has to be done is the contouring of the region that contains the plants that we want and on which we want to spray a particular quantity. In order to accomplish this, we relied on the contouring approach to locate the plant area and to section off that specific region for spraying. Figures 7.4 and 7.5 present the outcomes of the contouring process, which may be seen here.



Contouring of Crop Detected Area



Contouring of Weed Detected Area

## CONCLUSION

An original approach, which consists of using computer vision to suppress the development of weeds, is proposed, and it is then developed, tested, and assessed.

In order to compensate for the unpredictability of the classification delays that were generated by the plant detection techniques, a multi-camera system that does not overlap was included in the system. This was done in order to make the system more efficient. A 3D cross multi-object 3D monitoring approach has also been created in addition to this in order to give rapid transient findings across cameras.

When the system is operational, a 3D mapping layer is established to enable the 3D-2D form characteristics. This feature replaces the appearance changes that take place as a consequence of perspective fluctuation, which occurs when the system is running. A decorative lighting cost is placed on top of it in order to rule out the qualities of the product that manifest themselves in varying lighting circumstances. This is done in order to account for these qualities. The resilience of the system that we have given has been increased because to the incorporation of these two elements.

A biased naive Bayesian filter has been designed in order to avoid the chance of the detector creating false positives while it is functioning in a complex field topography.

For the goal of facilitating the adoption of an operation-while-driving approach, both low-power and high-control techniques are purposely devised for high-precision, fast-actuation weed removal. These strategies are intended to complement one another.

The real-time tracking performance of the system is subjected to extensive evaluation in a variety of terrain conditions and vegetative phases regarding a wide range of classification long waits and vehicle speeds in order to validate our assertion that our system is capable of providing reliable and accurate in-row weed exterminator in the real field. This evaluation is carried out in order to validate our assertion that our system is capable of providing reliable and accurate in-row weed exterminator in the real field. In addition to this, the effectiveness of the penultimate in-row weed eradication method is also assessed.

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