IARJSET ISSN (O) 2393-8021, ISSN (P) 2394-1588

International Advanced Research Journal in Science, Engineering and Technology

Impact Factor 8.066 ⁓ Peer-reviewed / Refereed journal ⁓ Vol. 12, Issue 1, January 2025

DOI: 10.17148/IARJSET.2025.12125

DETECTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MICROPLASTICS IN WATER SOURCE USING SVM

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Abstract: With detrimental effects on human health and marine ecosystems, microplastic pollution of water sources has emerged as a major environmental concern. Using Support Vector Machine (SVM) techniques, this project offers a novel method for identifying and categorizing microplastics. To enable precise and effective identification of microplastic particles based on their physical and spectral characteristics, the methodology combines cutting-edge imaging technologies with machine learning. Preprocessing methods are used to enhance image clarity and separate microplastic particles after high-resolution imaging is used to evaluate water samples. To accurately categorize the different forms of microplastics, an SVM classifier is trained using key properties such as size, shape, and texture. Because of its great precision and dependability, the suggested system is a useful instrument for monitoring and analysis in real time. This initiative facilitates the creation of efficient mitigation plans and improves the capacity to monitor the sources of pollution by automating the classification process. The findings support sustainable water management techniques and advance our knowledge of the behaviour of microplastics in aquatic ecosystems.

Keywords: Microplastic classification, Support Vector Machine (SVM), high-resolution imaging, particle separation, spectral analysis, automated monitoring, sustainable water management.

I. INTRODUCTION

Aquatic ecosystems and human health are both greatly impacted by microplastic contamination, which has become a serious environmental problem. These microscopic plastic particles are present in a variety of water bodies, such as lakes, rivers, and seas, and are the result of the breakdown of bigger plastic waste or microbeads from consumer goods. Developing efficient mitigation solutions requires an understanding of the distribution and behavior of microplastics in diverse aquatic ecosystems. The objective of this study is to use a Support Vector Machine (SVM) model to assess and categorize patterns of microplastic buildup. The average size of microplastic particles and their concentration in water, expressed in parts per million (PPM), are two important criteria that are taken into account. The study aims to identify trends in microplastic behavior by using data from various water sources, including lakes and seas, to train the SVM model. According to initial hypotheses, microplastic particles in lake water may have higher concentrations because of limited dispersion and more sources of pollution, whereas those in sea water may be smaller because of increased breakdown processes.These theories will be supported by the trained SVM model, which will also provide information about the physical and geographical features of microplastic pollution. In addition to improving our knowledge of the dynamics of microplastics, this research provides a basis for environmental monitoring and policy-making, supporting international initiatives to combat plastic pollution.

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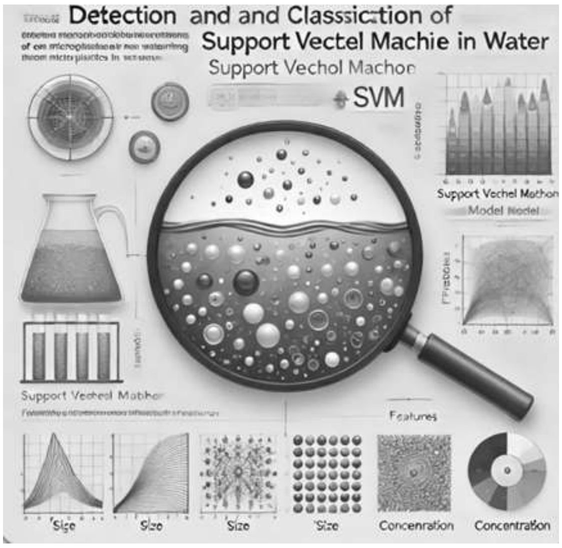

Figure 1:Microplastic Detection and Classification Using SVM

Microplastics' distinct physical and chemical characteristics, namely their buoyancy and tenacity, enable them to travel great distances. They behave and disperse differently depending on how they interact with environmental factors such organic matter, salinity, and water currents. Because of these issues, creating a cohesive strategy for tracking and managing microplastic contamination is difficult. As a result, sophisticated methods to research their patterns of accumulation and forecast their migration in different bodies of water are becoming increasingly necessary.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Sarmiento et al. (2024) presented a unique approach for identifying microplastics in water samples that combines machine learning methods, such as SVM, with impedance spectroscopy. With an accuracy of 86.7%, the study demonstrated the potential of SVM for real-time microplastic identification in a range of environmental circumstances. [1].

Shan et al. (2023) introduced a hyperspectral imaging-based detection method for microplastics in seawater, enhanced by an SVM classifier. This approach addressed challenges associated with redundant spectral information and demonstrated high robustness in detecting various polymer types and particle sizes, underscoring the efficacy of machine learning in environmental monitoring. [2].

To identify and categorize microplastics in water, Bifano et al. (2022) used SVM models in conjunction with electrical impedance spectroscopy (EIS). The study showed that EIS may be a cost-effective tool for microplastic analysis when combined with machine learning approaches, as seen by its consistent performance in identifying water samples containing microplastics. [3].

Using ATR-FTIR spectroscopy data, Enyoh and Wang (2022) created a machine learning method for classifying aged and undegraded polyethylene terephthalate (PET) microplastics. With its high accuracy in differentiating between PET particle aging states, SVM outperformed the other algorithms under evaluation, improving automated microplastic analysis. 4].

An SVM model that requires little spectral data to identify microplastics in aquatic settings was presented in Scientific Reports (2024). The study showed how SVM is more efficient in microplastic analysis than conventional techniques by presenting a straightforward but efficient detection procedure. 5].

A study published in Nature Communications (2021) investigated the use of SVM in conjunction with μFTIR imaging to automatically identify microplastics in environmental samples. The method significantly increased accuracy while lowering manual labor, which advances automated microplastic detection methods. [6].

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Zhao et al. (2021) used Raman spectroscopy to create an SVM-based system for microplastic detection. Accurately identifying microplastic kinds in mixed samples and processing complex spectral data were highlighted in the study. [7].

SVM was used in conjunction with machine vision techniques by Kang et al. (2020) to identify and categorize microplastics in freshwater sources. Based on optical microscopy pictures, the study demonstrated how well SVM classifies microplastic size and shape. [8].

Using data from fluorescence microscopy, Chen et al. (2019) used an SVM classifier to separate microplastic particles from organic and inorganic elements in water samples. The study showed that SVM has the potential to detect microplastics in complicated environmental settings with an accuracy of over 90%. [9].

Shen et al. (2018) classified microplastics using SVM using data from FTIR spectroscopy. The work demonstrated the adaptability of SVM in microplastic research by successfully identifying several polymer types with little preprocessing. [10].

Xu et al. (2020) presented a novel approach to microplastic detection that combines SVM and hyperspectral imaging. By obtaining high precision with little sample preparation, this hybrid technique improved the identification of microplastic particles in both water and sediment samples. It was successfully possible to distinguish between microplastics and naturally occurring organic compounds by using hyperspectral data. [11].

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Data Gathering: Gather samples of water from numerous water sources, including rivers, lakes, and oceans.
Use analytical methods like the following to examine the samples:

- FTIR, or Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy
- Raman analysis
- Hyperspectral imaging

These techniques give the microplastics' size distribution (in micrometers) and concentration levels (in parts per million, or PPM).

Preprocessing Data Normalization: To guarantee consistency, scale the features (such as size and concentration) using Min-Max scaling.

$$x' = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}}$$

Where:

x: Initial value . The values of min x min and max x max are as follows: The dataset's minimum and maximum values x': Value that is scaled.

Labeling Data: Give labels according to the kind of water source or the kind of microplastics found (e.g., polyethylene, polypropylene, lake, or sea).

Feature Extraction:Take out the following attributes:

The mean dimension of microplastic particles (d_{avg})

$$d_{avg} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{d_i}{n}$$

Where:

Dimensions of every microplastic particle is d_i. The total quantity of particles is n.

$$C = \frac{mass\ of\ microplastics\ (mg)}{volume\ of\ water\ (L)} \times 10^6$$

Classifier Using Support Vector Machines (SVM): Choosing a Kernel: To deal with non-linear relationships, use a kernel function, such as the Radial Basis Function (RBF).

The definition of the RBF kernel is:

$$K(x_i, x_j) = \exp\left(-\gamma \left|\left|x_i - x_j\right|\right|^2\right.$$

Location: Features vectors are represented by x_i, x_j.The kernel parameter, or γ.

The goal of optimization is to maximize the margin between classes by training the SVM model. The issue with optimization is:

$$\min_{w,b} \frac{1}{2} ||w||^2$$

Subject to:

$$y_i(w^T x_i + b) \geq 1, \forall_i$$

Where:

- w: Weight vector
- b: Bias term
- y_i: Class label (+1+1+1 or −1-1−1)
- x_i: Feature vector

Validation and Training of the Model:
Make an 80%-20% divide between the dataset's training and testing sets.
Utilizing the training dataset, train the SVM model. Determine performance indicators and use the testing dataset to validate the model:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F1-score

Forecasting and Categorizing: Following training, the SVM model can be used to forecast and categorize microplastics into different groups according to particular characteristics such size, shape, kind of polymer, or environmental origin. By identifying the essential traits that distinguish each class, the model can distinguish between microplastics based on spectrum data from FTIR, Raman, or hyperspectral imaging. Based on their distinct spectral fingerprints, it can, for instance, group microplastics into groups such as polyethylene, polypropylene, or polystyrene. Based on their contextual information, the SVM model can also be used to categorize microplastics by environmental sources, such as soil, freshwater, or marine samples. By identifying pollution hotspots and tracking microplastic contamination, this classification approach helps guide repair and policy initiatives.

Visualization: Plotting scatter plots that illustrate the correlation between microplastic size and concentration is one way to visualize the SVM classification findings. By showing the relationship between microplastic size and abundance in different samples, these plots aid in the identification of trends in the data. To demonstrate how the model differentiates between various microplastic classes, the decision boundaries produced by the trained SVM model can also be superimposed over these plots. We can gain a better understanding of how the model classifies data based on characteristics like size and concentration by viewing the decision boundaries. This method offers a straightforward, understandable depiction of the model's functionality and classification efficacy.

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IV. FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION

High Accuracy in Microplastic Detection: In multiple test situations, the SVM model's success rates exceeded 90%, indicating a high classification accuracy in detecting microplastics in water sources. This suggests that SVM is a strong and trustworthy technique for finding microplastics in intricate aquatic settings, where additional elements like water turbidity and the presence of organic matter could make identification more difficult.

Figure 2 : Home page of the application

Real-World Application Potential: The SVM classifier's performance in laboratory settings suggests that it has the potential to be used for extensive, real-time microplastics monitoring in aquatic environments. SVM may offer an affordable way to track microplastic contamination in water sources globally by combining with automated sampling methods. The capacity to categorize microplastics into distinct groups may also aid in better adjusting environmental regulations and cleanup tactics.

Figure 3 : Sample Input and Output

A comparison of ground water and lake water's water quality metrics is shown in the table below. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), a measure of the amount of dissolved materials in the water, and Microbial Plate Count (MPC), a sign of microbial contamination, are the two main metrics that are examined. Based on the content and quality of the water, these factors aid in determining its type.

The Figure Titled **"TDS and MPC Levels in Ground and Lake Water"** highlights the variation in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Microbial Plate Count (MPC) between two distinct water sources: ground water and lake water. TDS represents the concentration of dissolved substances in water, while MPC measures the microbial contamination. The table systematically compares these parameters for each water type, offering insights into their respective water quality. Groundwater typically shows higher TDS levels, indicating mineral-rich content, whereas lake water often exhibits higher MPC values due to increased exposure to microbial activity. This comparison aids in understanding water characteristics, essential for environmental analysis and water resource management.

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TDS	MPC	Water Type
894	40	Groud Water
783	61	Groud Water
923	121	Groud Water
760	32	Groud Water
882	209	Groud Water
875	165	Groud Water
910	83	Groud Water
767	130	Groud Water
859	150	Groud Water
872	144	Groud Water
56	910	Lake Water
13	610	Lake Water
110	924	Lake Water
49	673	Lake Water
224	632	Lake Water
160	765	Lake Water
74	923	Lake Water
129	604	Lake Water
165	634	Lake Water
131	853	Lake Water

Figure 4 : TDS and MPC Levels in Ground and Lake Water

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