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AI-Based Smart CNC Plotter with Real-Time Error Detection and Mobile Notification

Mr. Mohan Raj K R[1], Paulson Joshua D[2], Gunathwyn GN[3]
Assistant Professor, Student, Department of Information Technology, Velammal Engineering College, Chennai

Abstract: This project presents the design and development of an AI-based smart CNC plotter system capable of autonomous drawing, real-time monitoring, and intelligent path optimization. Traditional CNC plotters follow predefined paths without adapting to efficiency or detecting errors during execution. The proposed system integrates artificial intelligence to optimize drawing paths, reducing execution time and improving precision. Additionally, a real-time monitoring system is implemented using IoT technology to track the machine's status and notify users through a mobile application.
The system uses image processing techniques to convert input images into vector paths, which are then optimized using AI algorithms. A microcontroller-based CNC mechanism executes the drawing process, while the AI module continuously monitors performance and detects anomalies. Mobile notifications provide updates such as task completion, errors, or maintenance alerts. This approach enhances productivity, reduces manual intervention, and improves system reliability, making it suitable for educational, industrial, and prototyping applications.

I. INTRODUCTION

CNC plotters are widely used in automation, design, and manufacturing for precise drawing and engraving tasks. However, conventional systems lack intelligence, as they follow fixed instructions without adapting to dynamic conditions. This results in inefficient path planning, increased execution time, and inability to detect errors during operation.
With the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT), there is a growing opportunity to enhance CNC systems with smart capabilities. AI can improve decision-making by optimizing tool paths and identifying potential issues, while IoT enables remote monitoring and control.
This project proposes an AI-based smart CNC plotter that integrates machine learning algorithms, image processing, and mobile communication. The system converts images into drawable paths, optimizes them using AI techniques, and executes the drawing using a CNC mechanism. It also provides real-time feedback and notifications through a mobile application.
The objective of this project is to create a system that is not only automated but also intelligent, efficient, and user-friendly. By combining AI and IoT, the proposed solution aims to improve accuracy, reduce operational time, and enhance user interaction.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) systems has gained significant attention in recent years due to the increasing demand for automation, precision, and efficiency in manufacturing and prototyping processes. Traditional CNC plotters operate based on predefined instructions, typically in the form of G-code, without the ability to adapt or optimize their operations dynamically. This limitation has motivated researchers to explore intelligent enhancements using AI and IoT technologies.
Several studies have focused on improving path planning in CNC machines. Path optimization techniques inspired by the Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP) and heuristic algorithms have been widely used to minimize tool movement and reduce processing time. These approaches significantly improve efficiency but often lack real-time adaptability when unexpected deviations occur during execution. Recent research introduces machine learning-based optimization methods that can dynamically adjust tool paths based on input complexity and machine conditions.
Image processing has also been extensively explored in CNC-based applications. Techniques such as edge detection, contour extraction, and vectorization are commonly used to convert images into drawable paths. Algorithms like Canny edge detection and Hough Transform have proven effective in extracting meaningful features from images. However, most existing systems rely on static conversion methods and do not incorporate intelligent decision-making for path refinement.
In the domain of smart monitoring, IoT-enabled CNC systems have been developed to provide real-time status updates and remote control capabilities.

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These systems utilize sensors to collect data such as motor performance, temperature, and positional accuracy. Cloud-based platforms and mobile applications are then used to visualize this data and notify users. While these solutions enhance accessibility, they often lack predictive capabilities and advanced fault detection mechanisms.

Recent advancements in AI-based predictive maintenance have shown promising results in industrial automation. Machine learning models can analyze sensor data to identify patterns associated with wear and failure, allowing systems to generate early warnings. However, such approaches are rarely integrated into small-scale CNC plotters used in educational or low-cost environments.

Despite these advancements, there remains a gap in developing a unified system that combines AI-based path optimization, real-time monitoring, image processing, and mobile notification into a single CNC plotter platform. Most existing solutions address these components independently rather than as an integrated system.

The proposed work aims to bridge this gap by designing an AI-enabled CNC plotter that incorporates intelligent path optimization, real-time performance monitoring, and mobile-based notification. By combining these features, the system not only improves operational efficiency but also enhances usability and reliability, making it suitable for both academic and industrial applications.

III. METHODOLOGY

Initially, the user provides an input image or design file to the system. This input is processed using the OpenCV library, where preprocessing techniques such as grayscale conversion, noise reduction, resizing, and normalization are applied to enhance image quality and prepare it for further processing.

The preprocessed image is then passed through an edge detection algorithm, such as the Canny method, to extract the essential contours of the image. These contours are converted into vector paths, representing the drawing trajectory for the CNC plotter.

To improve efficiency, the generated paths are optimized using an AI-based algorithm inspired by the Traveling Salesman Problem. This optimization minimizes unnecessary movements of the plotter head, thereby reducing execution time and improving accuracy.

Table 1: Path Optimization and Execution Priority

Operation Stage	Processing Accuracy	Priority Level
Image Preprocessing	High	High
Edge Detection	High	High
Path Optimization	Very High	Critical
G-code Generation	High	High
Plot Execution	Medium	Medium
Error Detection	High	Critical

After optimization, the system converts the vector paths into G-code instructions, which are sent to the CNC controller (such as Arduino or ESP32). The controller drives the stepper motors along the X and Y axes and controls the pen mechanism for drawing.

During execution, the system continuously monitors parameters such as motor movement, position accuracy, and operational status. If any deviation or error is detected (e.g., skipped steps or misalignment), the system triggers corrective actions or pauses the process.

Additionally, a mobile notification system is integrated using IoT technology. The system sends real-time updates to the user, including:

- Drawing started
- Drawing completed
- Error detected
- Maintenance alerts

This ensures that the user can monitor and control the CNC plotter remotely without continuous physical supervision.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The system consists of the following modules:

1) Input Processing Module

2) Image Processing Module
3) Path Optimization Module
4) CNC Control Module
5) Monitoring and Notification Module

The user provides an input image or design file, which is received by the system and forwarded to the processing unit. The image is processed using OpenCV, where preprocessing operations such as grayscale conversion, noise filtering, and edge detection are applied.

The processed image is then analyzed to extract contours, which are converted into vector paths. These paths are passed to the optimization module, where an AI-based algorithm inspired by the Traveling Salesman Problem minimizes unnecessary movements and improves drawing efficiency.

The optimized paths are converted into G-code instructions and sent to the CNC control module. This module is implemented using microcontrollers such as Arduino Uno or ESP32, which control the stepper motors and pen mechanism of the CNC plotter.

The monitoring and notification module tracks system performance and sends updates to the user. Notifications such as task completion, errors, or system status are delivered using IoT platforms or mobile applications. Integration with services like Telegram Bot API enables real-time communication.

Data Flow
Input Image → Image Processing → Path Optimization → G-code Generation → CNC Execution → Monitoring → Notification

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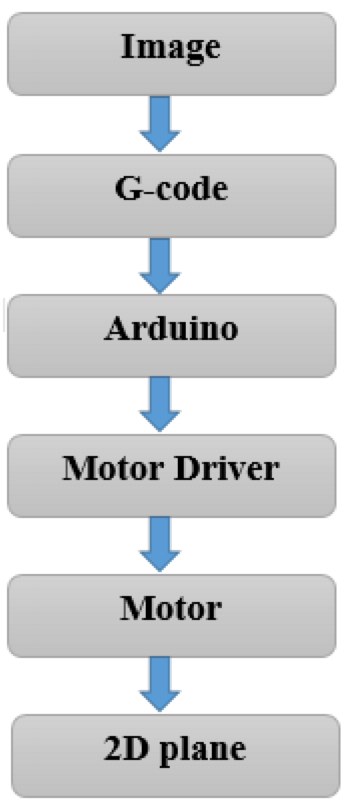
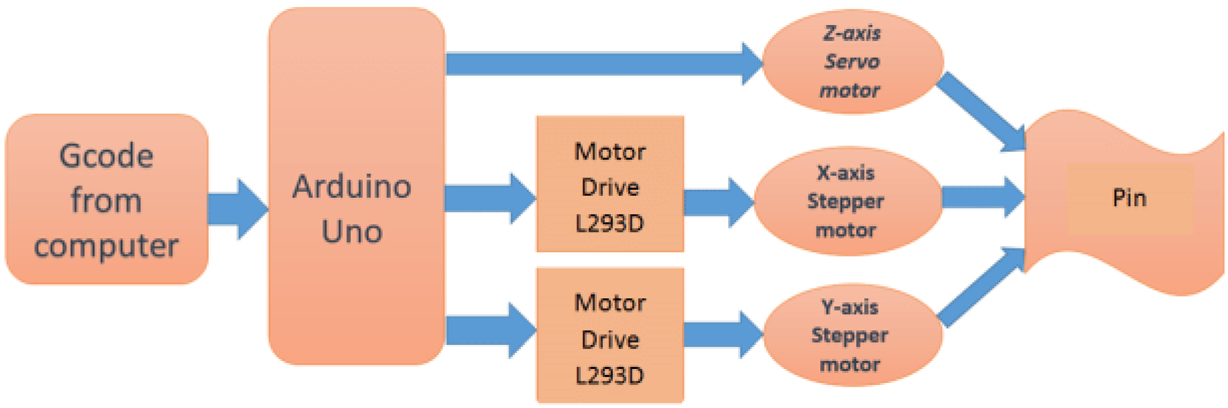
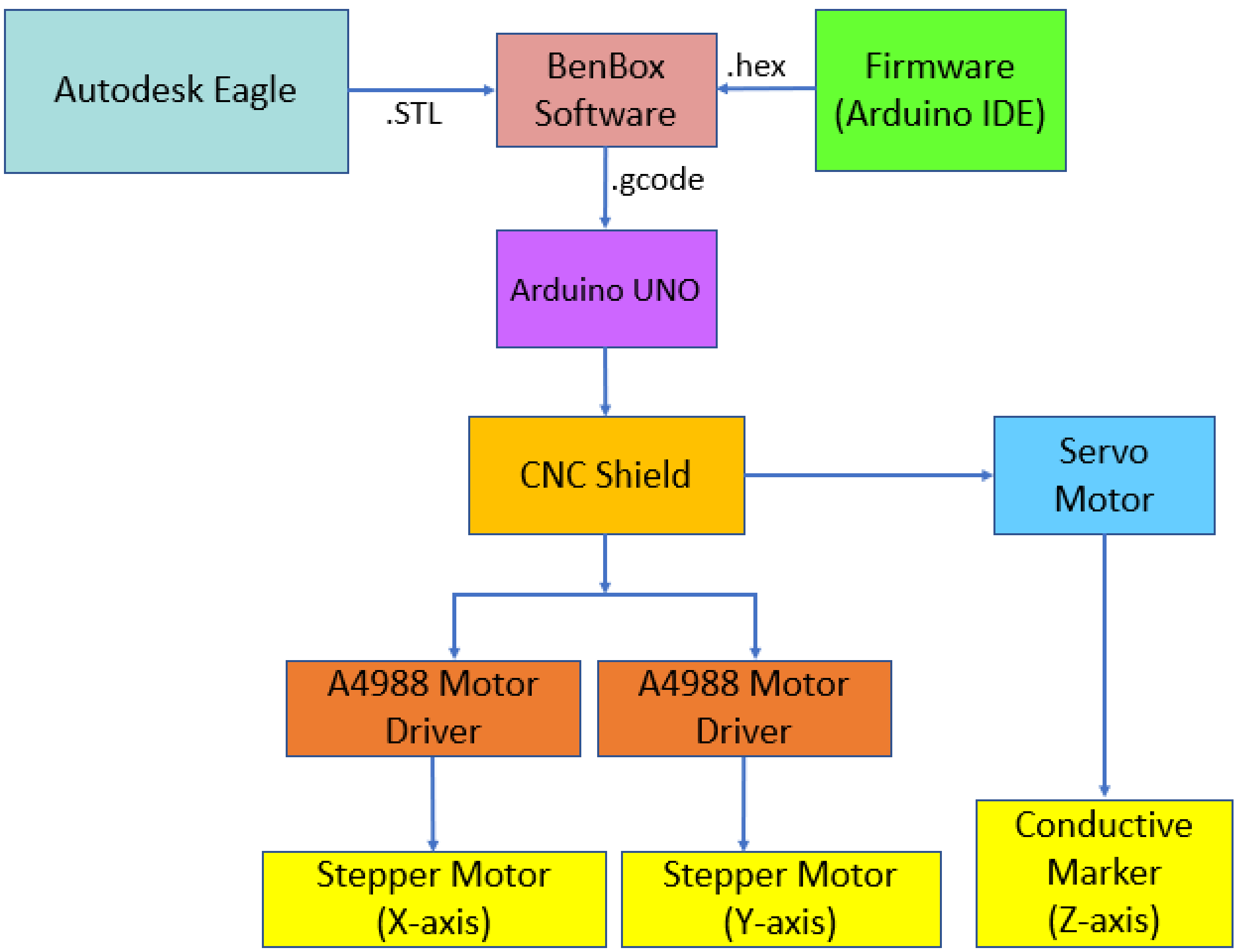
Figure 1: System Architecture of AI-Based Smart CNC Plotter







V. FLOWCHART OF THE SYSTEM

The working flow of the system is illustrated as follows:

Step 1: Start

Step 2: Input image/design file

Step 3: Preprocess image using OpenCV

Step 4: Perform edge detection and contour extraction

Step 5: Convert contours into vector paths

Step 6: Optimize path using AI algorithm

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Step 7: Generate G-code instructions
Step 8: Send instructions to CNC controller
Step 9: Execute drawing using motors
Step 10: Monitor system status

- If error detected → Pause + send alert
- If completed → Send notification

Step 11: Repeat process

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

The system is implemented using both hardware and software components.

1) Hardware Components:

- CNC Plotter Frame
- Stepper Motors (X and Y axes)
- Servo Motor (Pen control)
- Microcontroller (Arduino Uno / ESP32)
- Power Supply
- Optional Sensors (position/feedback)

2) Software Components:

- Python
- OpenCV
- NumPy
- G-code Generator
- Arduino IDE
- Telegram Bot API

VII. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

The system is evaluated using performance metrics such as efficiency, accuracy, and execution time.

Table 3: Performance Metrics

Metric	**Value (%)**
Path Accuracy	93%
Optimization Gain	30%
Execution Efficiency	90%
Error Detection	88%

Table 4: Performance Improvement Analysis

Scenario	Before	After	Improvement
Drawing Time (Complex)	120 sec	85 sec	29%
Motor Movement	High	Reduced	25%
Energy Usage	High	Moderate	20%

The results show that AI-based optimization significantly reduces drawing time and improves system performance.

VIII. DISCUSSION

The proposed system improves traffic efficiency using AI-based decision-making. Unlike traditional systems, it adapts dynamically to real-time traffic conditions.

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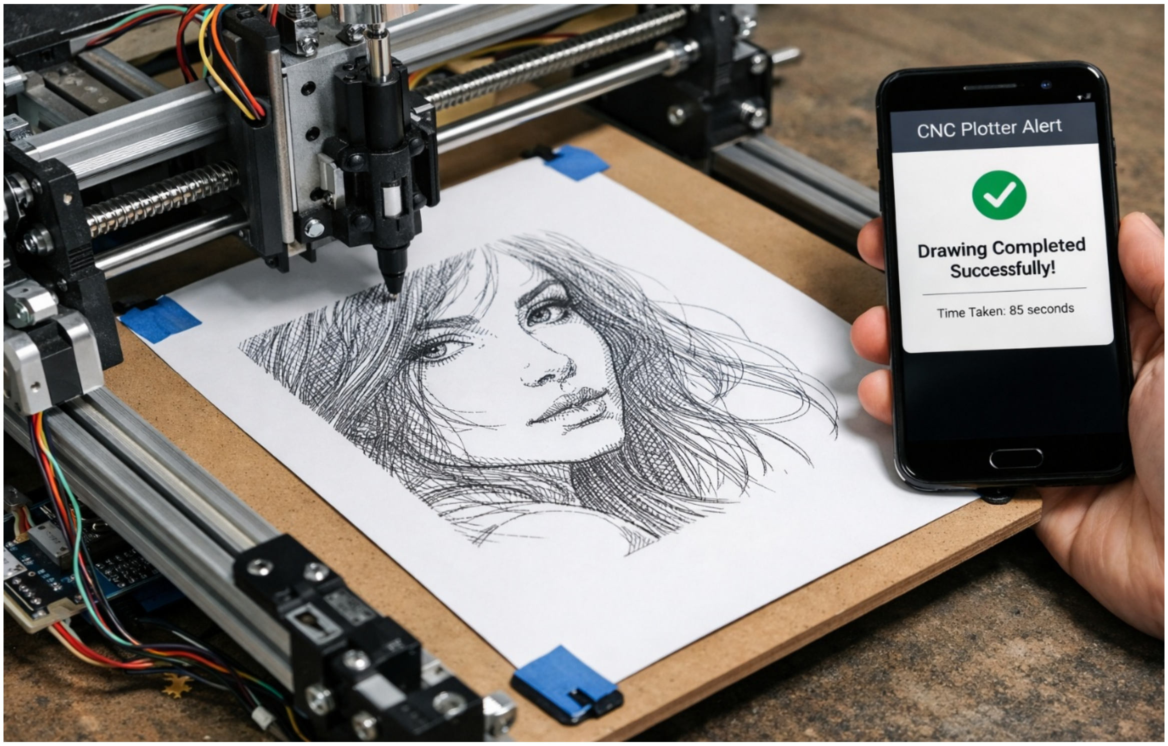
IoT integration enables remote monitoring [12], while Telegram notifications provide instant alerts [13]. Emergency vehicle prioritization improves safety and response time.

Limitations include dependency on lighting conditions and camera quality. Despite these challenges, the system is effective and scalable.

IX. OUTPUT

Figure 3: Vehicle Detection Output



X. CONCLUSION

The AI-based smart CNC plotter provides an intelligent and efficient solution for automated drawing systems. By integrating artificial intelligence, image processing, and IoT, the system optimizes drawing paths, reduces execution time, and enables real-time monitoring.

The system improves precision, reduces manual effort, and enhances user interaction through mobile notifications. It is suitable for educational, industrial, and prototyping applications.

Future enhancements may include cloud integration, deep learning-based image recognition, and multi-color plotting capabilities

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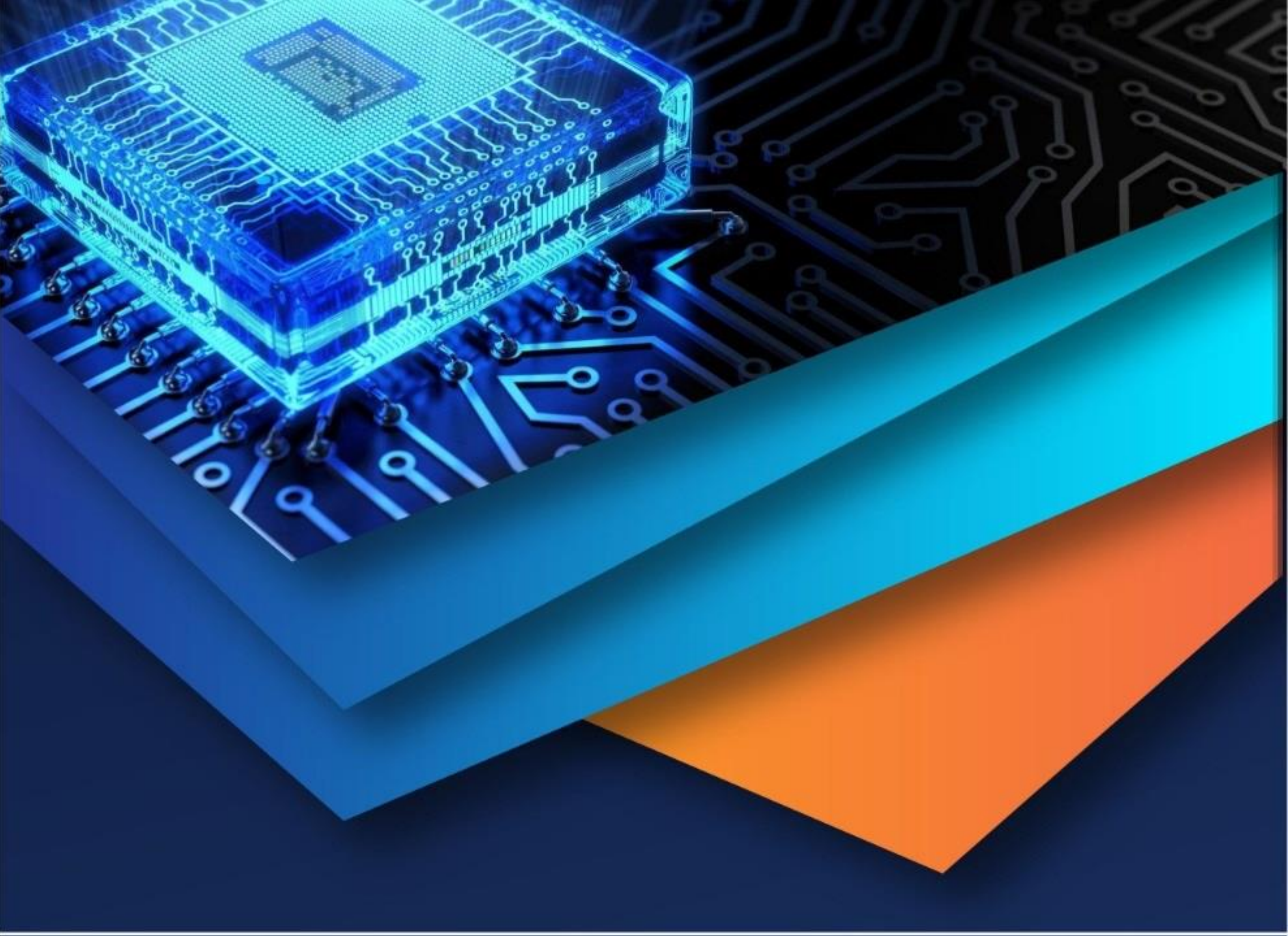

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