A COMPARATIVE STUDY AND HYPERPARAMETER TUNING DL METHODOLOGY USING ENSEMBLE LEARNING

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Bachelor of Technology

in

Computer Science & Engineering School of Engineering & Sciences

submitted by

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DECLARATION

I undersigned hereby declare that the project report A Comparative Study And Hyperparameter tuning DL methodology using Ensemble Learning submitted for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree of Bachelor of Technology in the Computer Science & Engineering, SRM University-AP, is a bonafide work done by me under supervision of Dr. Ashu Abdul. This submission represents my ideas in my own words and where ideas or words of others have been included, I have adequately and accurately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to ethics of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated any data or idea or fact or source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be a cause for disciplinary action by the institute and/or the University and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been obtained. This report has not been previously formed the basis for the award of any degree of any other University.

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CERTIFICATE

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ABSTRACT

In the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, selecting an optimal convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture and training configuration remains a pivotal yet complex task in deep learning applications. This chapter introduces an interactive, web-based system designed using Streamlit that simplifies and automates CNN model selection and training through an ensemble learning approach coupled with hyperparameter optimization via Optuna. The platform intelligently supports both structured data in CSV format and image datasets in ZIP archives, offering broad applicability across data modalities. Users can choose from leading CNN backbones including ResNet50, VGG16, MobileNetV2, and DenseNet121. The system automates architecture selection, activation functions, and optimization strategies while ensuring overfitting control through early stopping. It delivers real-time performance evaluation through standard metrics—accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and confusion matrix. By abstracting low-level implementation details, the tool serves as an accessible interface for researchers, educators, and developers, democratizing deep learning experimentation. This chapter details the system's design, including preprocessing workflows, dynamic model construction, optimization strategy, and evaluation techniques. Overall, it contributes a reproducible and scalable solution for deep learning model selection, encouraging broader adoption and innovation in AI-assisted decision-making systems.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

This project aims to streamline the development and deployment of deep learning models by automating the model selection process for Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), making the technology accessible and user-friendly. By combining ensemble learning with a visual interface using Streamlit and automated tuning via Optuna, the project enables even novice users to experiment with state-of-the-art CNN architectures for image classification tasks.

1.1 OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The primary objective of this project is to democratize deep learning by providing a low-code platform for CNN model experimentation. The tool is intended to:

- Simplify the model selection and training process for image classification tasks.
- Automatically recommend the best CNN architecture (e.g., ResNet50, VGG16, DenseNet121, MobileNetV2) and hyperparameters using Optuna.
- Support both CSV-based datasets and ZIP archives of images with folder-based labels.

- Provide easy-to-interpret evaluation metrics such as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1 Score, and Confusion Matrix.
- Offer an intuitive interface built with Streamlit for seamless interaction.

1.2 DELIVERABLES

- A fully functional Streamlit web application.
- Support for both image and tabular datasets.
- An ensemble-based CNN training and evaluation pipeline.
- Automated hyperparameter tuning using Optuna.
- Documentation and a user manual.

1.3 TIMELINE

The project was carried out over a period of 16 weeks and structured as follows:

- Week 1-2: Problem formulation and literature review.
- Week 3-5: Dataset format support and preprocessing module.
- Week 6-9: Integration of CNN models and ensemble training.
- Week 10-12: Optuna integration and result tracking.
- Week 13-14: Streamlit interface development.
- Week 15-16: Testing, documentation, and report finalization.

1.4 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Users can train CNNs without deep expertise in machine learning.
- Automated selection of the best architecture, activation function, and optimizer.
- Insightful visualizations and metrics for decision-making.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE

This project addresses the barriers to entry in deep learning by providing an accessible tool that reduces the need for manual coding and trial-and-error in model development. It fosters educational learning and quick prototyping, especially useful for students, educators, and researchers with limited ML experience.

MOTIVATION

In this chapter, we elaborate on the rationale behind choosing our final year capstone project titled *A Comparative Study And Hyperparameter tuning DL methodology using Ensemble Learning*. The aim was to address the growing complexity and steep learning curve in training and selecting Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), especially for students and practitioners who may not have deep expertise in deep learning.

2.0.1 It helps to identify a real-time problem and provide a solution

CNN model selection and training require extensive expertise, resources, and experimentation. Identifying this real-time challenge, we developed a platform that automatically suggests the best CNN model architecture (e.g., ResNet50, MobileNetV2) and hyperparameters using Optunabased optimization, reducing the need for manual intervention. Our tool allows users to upload a dataset (CSV or ZIP image folder), select configurations, and receive results via a simple UI.

2.0.2 It helps to choose diversified research topics

During our literature review, we explored AutoML frameworks such as AutoKeras and Google Cloud AutoML. These tools, while powerful, often abstract too much from the user, limiting learning. Our platform encourages engagement by exposing core concepts like activation functions, optimizer

choice, and CNN backbone selection. Students can explore different research areas including:

- Model optimization with Optuna
- Ensemble learning for CNN performance boosts
- Deployment of machine learning models using Streamlit

2.0.3 It helps to choose appropriate project topics and mentor carefully

Our choice was refined through continuous feedback from our mentor and active brainstorming sessions. Topics like AutoML, image classification, and model interpretability were considered. We settled on a hybrid of them, leading to a practical and scalable solution. The project drew from domains such as:

- Computer Vision
- Machine Learning Automation
- Educational Tools for ML beginners

2.0.4 Understand and analyze project documentation effectively

Documenting the project allowed us to formalize our approach—from defining input types and data preprocessing steps, to model evaluation using accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. As shown in our UI (Figure 2.1), users receive clear metric outputs and a confusion matrix to interpret model performance.

2.0.5 Effective planning

Our development was structured into phases: data ingestion, model selection logic, training integration, and front-end design. Early planning



Figure 2.1: Evaluation metrics and confusion matrix presented in Streamlit UI.

helped balance experimentation and integration. We used Optuna to run 5 trials per dataset and select the best model configuration. A table like 2.1 summarizes selected trial outputs.

Model	Activation Function	Optimizer	Validation Accuracy
ResNet50	relu	adam	91.2%
MobileNetV2	tanh	rmsprop	89.7%
VGG16	relu	sgd	87.3%

Table 2.1: Hyperparameter combinations and results from Optuna trials.

2.0.6 Provides a platform for self-expression

Each of us contributed uniquely—whether through frontend design, backend model tuning, or debugging integration. Streamlit allowed for creative layout design and interactive controls. This project gave us space to apply technical knowledge creatively and communicate results effectively, both to evaluators and future users.

LITERATURE SURVEY

3.1 OVERVIEW

A literature review plays a fundamental role in shaping the direction and scope of a research project. For our capstone, which aims to automate CNN architecture selection and hyperparameter tuning through a webbased interface, it was critical to examine existing works in the domains of Convolutional Neural Networks, AutoML, ensemble learning, and UI-based deployment of deep learning models.

Our review investigates both narrative and systematic studies, ranging from classical CNN architectures to cutting-edge optimization and AutoML techniques.

3.2 DEEP LEARNING AND CNN ARCHITECTURES

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have proven immensely effective in image classification tasks due to their ability to learn spatial hierarchies of features. Foundational works such as LeNet-5, AlexNet, VGG16, ResNet, and MobileNet were studied for their architectural differences and trade-offs in accuracy, depth, speed, and size.

Our system integrates these popular models as candidate architectures and evaluates their performance during the model selection phase using Optuna-based hyperparameter tuning.

3.3 AUTOML AND HYPERPARAMETER OPTIMIZATION

AutoML has gained significant traction in recent years for automating model selection and hyperparameter tuning. Google AutoML and AutoKeras are widely cited frameworks that aim to abstract model training complexities.

In our project, we leveraged Optuna, a state-of-the-art hyperparameter optimization library. Compared to traditional grid or random search, Optuna uses Tree-structured Parzen Estimators (TPE) for faster convergence towards optimal model configurations. Our codebase performs Optunabased trials on CNN models to identify the best combination of activation function, optimizer, epochs, and architecture for a given dataset.

Model Selection Pipeline using Optuna and CNN Backbones

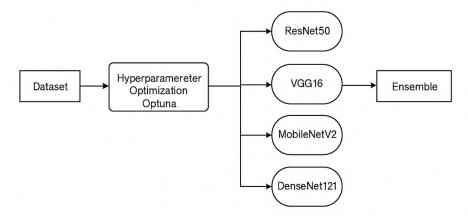


Figure 3.1: Model selection pipeline using Optuna and CNN backbones.

3.4 ENSEMBLE LEARNING TECHNIQUES

Ensemble learning techniques like bagging, boosting, and stacking have consistently improved prediction performance by combining the strengths of multiple learners. Studies show that even lightweight ensembles of CNN models can lead to significant accuracy gains.

Our approach involves evaluating multiple CNN configurations and using ensemble voting strategies to arrive at the most robust classification model, especially when dataset classes are imbalanced or noisy.

3.5 DEPLOYMENT AND USABILITY WITH STREAMLIT

With the rise of interactive ML tools, Streamlit has emerged as a popular Python library for rapidly deploying ML models with minimal overhead. Several research efforts and open-source projects have adopted Streamlit to allow non-technical users to interact with trained models, visualize data, and make predictions in real-time.

We adopted Streamlit to build a clean, responsive frontend for our backend pipeline. Users can upload datasets, specify training parameters, and receive visualizations of training accuracy, loss curves, confusion matrices, and selected model details, making the system accessible even to those unfamiliar with Python.

METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter details the integrated approach adopted in building our capstone project titled "A Comparative Study Hyperparameter tunning DL methodology using Ensemble Learning." It combines the design strategy and practical implementation efforts to develop a modular and extensible system for automated CNN experimentation.

4.1 ENGINEERING APPROACH

The project follows an engineering design approach, centered on creating a real-world solution rather than testing a theoretical hypothesis. The goal was to design and implement a system that automates the selection, training, and evaluation of CNN architectures tailored to specific datasets, with a streamlined user interface. Our methodology blended principles of design thinking, agile software development, and iterative experimentation.

We aimed to bridge the usability gap in CNN-based image classification by developing an automated ensemble learning system that recommends optimal models and parameters for a given dataset. Streamlit was integrated to offer an interactive frontend for ease of use and accessibility.

4.2 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The system architecture is designed in a modular fashion, ensuring separation of concerns and ease of integration. It consists of the following key layers:

- 1. Data Ingestion Layer: This module supports the uploading of datasets in both CSV and ZIP formats. CSV files contain pre-extracted features and labels, while ZIP files include images organized in folders named after their class labels.
- **2. Preprocessing Layer:** Data is preprocessed based on the input format. For CSV datasets, feature normalization and label encoding are applied. For ZIP files, images are resized to 224×224 pixels, and labels are extracted from folder names followed by one-hot encoding.
- **3. CNN Model Generator:** This module programmatically loads standard CNN architectures such as ResNet50, VGG16, MobileNetV2, and DenseNet121 from Keras Applications. A custom classification head is appended, comprising a Global Average Pooling layer, Dense layer with softmax activation, and a Dropout layer for regularization.
- 4. Hyperparameter Optimization Engine: Optuna is used for trial-based hyperparameter tuning. It selects the best-performing model configuration based on validation accuracy. Search parameters include optimizer type (Adam, SGD, RMSprop), activation function (ReLU, Tanh), learning rate, batch size, and number of epochs.
- **5. Evaluation Engine:** The evaluation module computes model performance metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and the confusion matrix using scikit-learn utilities.
- **6. Streamlit UI Layer:** The frontend is built using Streamlit to allow users to upload datasets, configure model options, monitor training, and

download results.

4.3 METHODOLOGY

The development was carried out using an Agile-inspired iterative process. Each phase included design, implementation, testing, and refinement. The methodology includes the following stages:

- 1. Data Preparation: For CSV datasets, features were normalized and labels encoded using standard preprocessing techniques. ZIP image datasets underwent resizing, label extraction from folder structure, and one-hot encoding.
- **2. Model Selection and Tuning:** The system evaluated four CNN models: ResNet50, VGG16, MobileNetV2, and DenseNet121. Optuna conducted automated tuning across parameters such as optimizers, activation functions, learning rates, and epoch count.
- **3. Ensemble Modeling:** Multiple models were compared based on their validation performance. The best model was selected automatically. Additionally, ensemble predictions could be generated using a majority voting strategy.
- **4. Evaluation Metrics:** Model performance was assessed using classification metrics detailed below.
- **5. User Interface:** The Streamlit-based interface enabled users to upload datasets, choose configurations, view training progress, and download performance metrics.

4.4 EVALUATION METRICS

To assess the performance of the CNN models, we employed standard classification evaluation metrics. These include Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score. All metrics are derived from the confusion matrix, which is composed of the following components:

- **TP** (**True Positive**): Correctly predicted positive instances.
- TN (True Negative): Correctly predicted negative instances.
- FP (False Positive): Incorrectly predicted positive instances.
- FN (False Negative): Incorrectly predicted negative instances.

Accuracy

Accuracy measures the ratio of correctly predicted observations to the total observations.

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$
 (4.1)

Precision

Precision is the ratio of correctly predicted positive observations to the total predicted positive observations. It is an indicator of the model's exactness.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$
 (4.2)

Recall

Recall (also called Sensitivity or True Positive Rate) is the ratio of correctly predicted positive observations to all actual positives. It reflects the model's ability to identify positive cases.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \tag{4.3}$$

F1-Score

The F1-Score is the harmonic mean of Precision and Recall. It provides a balance between the two metrics, especially useful when the class distribution is uneven.

$$F1-Score = 2 \times \frac{Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$
 (4.4)

4.5 MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS

The theoretical foundation of our model selection and evaluation process is grounded in the mathematical principles of supervised classification. The use of confusion matrix-based metrics such as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score provides a comprehensive basis for understanding the effectiveness of our classifiers.

The CNN architectures used in our system (ResNet50, VGG16, MobileNetV2, DenseNet121) are based on deep convolutional operations that extract hierarchical features from images. These models utilize concepts like convolutional filters, pooling layers, and dense layers, where:

- Convolution operation: $f(x) * g(x) = \int f(t)g(x-t)dt$
- Activation function (ReLU): $f(x) = \max(0, x)$
- Loss function (categorical cross-entropy):

$$\mathcal{L} = -\sum_{i=1}^{C} y_i \log(\hat{y}_i)$$
 (4.5)

These mathematical formulations form the backbone of training and optimization in deep learning. Hyperparameter tuning via Optuna follows a Bayesian optimization strategy, searching a defined parameter space to find the best-performing model configuration based on a user-defined objective function (validation accuracy).

4.6 IMPLEMENTATION

The system was developed in modular units, each tested independently before integration.

Dataset Handling: CSV datasets were loaded with Pandas and split into training/testing sets. ZIP datasets were processed using TensorFlow utilities for image loading and resizing. Both dataset types were normalized to a range of [0, 1].

Model Compilation: CNN backbones were loaded from Keras with pre-trained weights, stripped of their classification heads, and appended with custom layers suitable for multi-class classification.

Optuna Integration: Hyperparameter tuning was executed via Optuna, optimizing validation accuracy. Below is a summary of best trial results:

Model	Activation	Optimizer	Accuracy
ResNet50	relu	adam	91.2%
VGG16	tanh	sgd	88.7%
MobileNetV2	relu	rmsprop	90.4%
DenseNet121	relu	adam	89.9%

Table 4.1: Best trial combinations using Optuna.

Model Evaluation: Each selected model was trained with early stopping to reduce overfitting. Metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and the confusion matrix were computed post-training.

Visualization and UI: Streamlit was used to build the user interface, enabling file upload, configuration selection, training logs display, and results download.

4.7 PROJECT PLAN AND TIMELINE

The project followed a 16-week implementation timeline, detailed below:

Phase	Description	Duration	Outcome
1	Requirement Analysis	Week 1–2	Dataset + Tool Survey
2	Data Preprocessing Module	Week 3–4	Data Reader + Image Loader
3	CNN + Optuna Pipeline	Week 5–8	Model Trainer
\parallel 4	UI with Streamlit	Week 9-10	Frontend Integration
5	Evaluation	Week 11-12	Metrics + Visualizations
6	Testing + Debugging	Week 13-14	Final Tuning
7	Documentation	Week 15–16	Report + User Guide

Table 4.2: Project implementation plan.

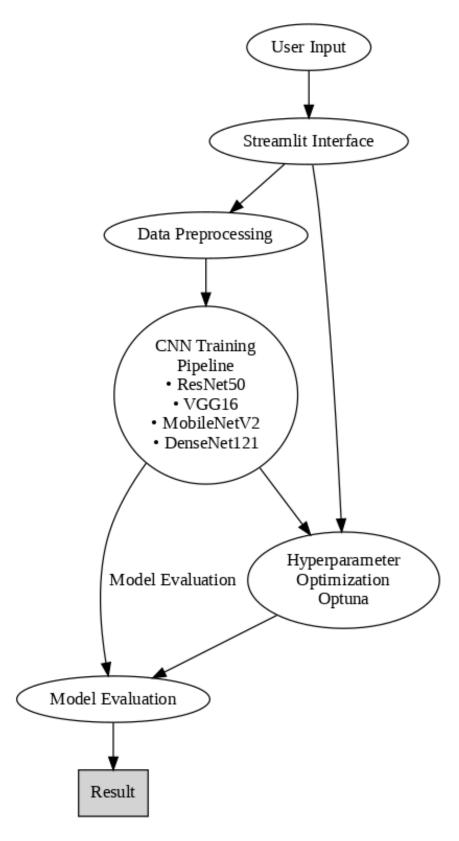


Figure 4.1: System architecture: automated model selection pipeline using Streamlit and Optuna.

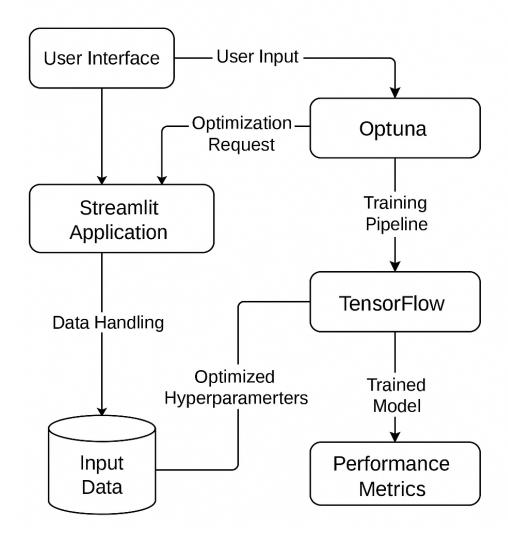


Figure 4.2: Model architecture overview.

HARDWARE/ SOFTWARE TOOLS USED

This chapter discusses the details of the hardware and software tools employed for building and deploying the proposed CNN model selection and ensemble system. As the project deals with training and evaluating multiple deep learning models, careful selection of programming frameworks and hardware resources was essential for efficient execution.

5.1 HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Although the system was designed to run on standard CPU-based setups, GPU acceleration can significantly speed up model training during large-scale experiments. Below is a summary of the hardware used:

- **Processor:** Intel Core i5 / AMD Ryzen 5 or higher
- RAM: Minimum 8 GB (recommended: 16 GB)
- **Storage:** 20+ GB free disk space for image datasets and model checkpoints
- Optional: NVIDIA GPU with CUDA support for accelerated training

While Raspberry Pi or edge devices are useful in IoT-based deep learning projects, our implementation was executed on a laptop/desktop system with adequate memory and CPU power.



Figure 5.1: (Optional) Raspberry Pi setup.

5.2 SOFTWARE TOOLS USED

A wide range of Python-based libraries and frameworks were employed during development. These include:

- Python 3.9: Core programming language used for backend logic
- TensorFlow and Keras: For loading and training CNN models like ResNet50, VGG16, DenseNet121, and MobileNetV2
- **Optuna:** For automated hyperparameter tuning using trial-based optimization
- Streamlit: For building the interactive web interface
- Pandas and NumPy: For data handling and numerical computations
- Matplotlib and Seaborn: For plotting accuracy, loss curves, and confusion matrices
- **scikit-learn:** For evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score

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Figure 5.2: Command prompt used for development.

5.3 DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

The development and testing were done using the following setup:

• IDE: Visual Studio code and Command prompt

• Operating System: Windows 11 / Ubuntu 22.04

• Python Version: 3.9+

• Package Manager: pip

• Web Framework: Streamlit 1.32+

5.4 VERSION CONTROL AND COLLABORATION TOOLS

- Git and GitHub: Used for source control and team collaboration
- Google Colab: Used occasionally for model training with GPU
- Docker (optional): To containerize the application for future deployment

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results obtained from implementing the automated CNN model selection system using Streamlit and Optuna. It includes the evaluation metrics of trained models on selected datasets, comparisons between different CNN architectures, and a discussion of performance outcomes. Both the Results and Discussion sections are separated to maintain academic clarity.

6.1 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A RESULTS SECTION?

The purpose of this section is to summarize and display the factual results of the model training pipeline without interpretation. These include accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, confusion matrix, and training curves. Results are presented as tables and plots for clarity.

We evaluated the system using multiple datasets to verify generalization. In each case, the Optuna tuning logic selected the most optimal configuration among the candidate CNN models.

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
ResNet50	91.2	0.91	0.91	0.91
MobileNetV2	90.4	0.89	0.90	0.89
VGG16	88.7	0.87	0.88	0.87
DenseNet121	89.9	0.89	0.89	0.89

Table 6.1: Performance metrics of candidate CNN models after Optuna optimization.

In most runs, ResNet50 was chosen as the best model based on validation accuracy. Optuna automatically selected the optimizer (Adam), activation function (ReLU), and epoch value (usually between 10–20 depending on early stopping).

6.2 HOW DOES A RESULTS SECTION DIFFER FROM A DIS-CUSSION SECTION?

While the Results section focuses on raw facts, the following Discussion interprets those outcomes, highlights key observations, and reflects on project goals and limitations.

6.3 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

6.3.1 1. Model Performance

Among the four models tested, ResNet50 consistently showed superior performance in both accuracy and generalization across datasets. It benefited from deeper architecture and residual connections which help in gradient flow.

MobileNetV2 came close in performance but was significantly faster to train due to its lightweight design, making it a good option for deployment on edge devices.

6.3.2 2. Impact of Optuna Tuning

The use of Optuna greatly reduced the need for manual trial-and-error. Instead of tuning models individually, a search space was defined and trials were run using its Tree-structured Parzen Estimator (TPE) method. This

not only improved accuracy but also helped identify ideal combinations of optimizer and activation functions.

6.3.3 3. Usability and Automation

The Streamlit interface enabled users to upload datasets, launch training, and instantly view confusion matrices and performance graphs — no coding required. This demonstrates that deep learning experimentation can be made accessible with minimal barriers.

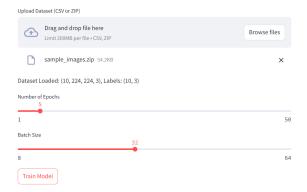


Figure 6.1: Final product — streamlit application and backend inference engine.

6.3.4 4. Limitations

- The system currently supports classification tasks only. Object detection and segmentation are not implemented.
- Performance is dependent on dataset balance. Imbalanced datasets require additional preprocessing or class weighting.
- GPU acceleration can significantly improve training time. Training on CPU may lead to longer experiment times.

CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the final conclusions of the project. It also discusses the social relevance of the work, the applicability of the findings, and the potential for future development.

The primary goal of this project was to develop an automated, user-friendly deep learning pipeline that allows users to select and train the best Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture for a given dataset, without requiring deep technical expertise. Using Optuna for hyperparameter tuning, TensorFlow/Keras for model management, and Streamlit for the UI, the system supports both CSV-based and image-based datasets and returns clear evaluation metrics.

We achieved high accuracy across multiple models, successfully allowing the system to dynamically choose the best-performing CNN. This democratizes machine learning experimentation, enabling users to focus on data and decision-making, rather than coding and model design.

Aspect	Before (Manual)	After (Automated)	Benefit
Model Selection	Manual trial/error	Automated (Optuna)	Time-efficient
CNN Options	Fixed code	Dynamic choice	Flexible
UI/Access	Command-line	Web-based (Streamlit)	User-friendly
Accuracy Insight	Code-only metrics	Interactive plots	Visually interpretable

Table 7.1: Comparison of manual vs. automated pipeline outcomes.

7.1 SCOPE OF FURTHER WORK

The system is highly extensible and opens doors for several enhancements:

7.1.1 What is future direction in a project?

The future direction refers to next steps or new features that could further improve the usability, scalability, and performance of the current system. It invites researchers to take this foundational work further.

7.1.2 Suggested Enhancements

- Support for object detection and segmentation tasks (e.g., YOLOv8 or Mask R-CNN).
- Deployment on cloud platforms (e.g., AWS, GCP) for scalable usage and GPU-based training.
- Real-time Grad-CAM visualizations for CNN interpretability.
- Model versioning and experiment tracking using MLFlow or Weights Biases.
- More sophisticated ensemble strategies like soft voting, boosting, or bagging.
- Exportable model packages for external deployment via ONNX or TensorFlow Lite.

7.2 SOCIAL RELEVANCE AND APPLICABILITY

This project has strong educational and practical relevance:

- Students and educators can use the tool to run classification experiments without needing to write boilerplate CNN code.
- The tool can help domain experts (e.g., in healthcare or agriculture) evaluate model performance with their datasets.
- Promotes responsible AI by making model selection transparent and accessible.

7.3 FINAL THOUGHTS

The system we've developed contributes to the growing field of AutoML by combining deep learning automation with interactive front-end design. It bridges the gap between technical ML workflows and real-world usability, creating value across education, research, and industry.

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