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Radar Pulse Detection using Fourier Transform and Convolutional Neural Network (FT-CNN)



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Abstract:

This project explores radar pulse detection by applying the Fourier Transform (FT) to radar signals and analyzing the resulting frequency components using three neural network models: FT-CNN (Convolutional Neural Network), FT-PNN (Probabilistic Neural Network), and FT-BPNN (Backpropagation Neural Network). We used the Ionosphere Dataset from the UCI repository to train and test these models. The results show that FT-CNN delivers the highest accuracy, highlighting its superior capability

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Introduction:

Radar pulse signal detection plays a crucial role in modern electronic warfare, spectrum monitoring, and aerospace communication systems. Traditional signal detection techniques often rely on hand-crafted features and threshold-based decision methods, which may falter under low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) or complex signal environments.

Objective:

To design and implement a **radar pulse signal detection system** by integrating **Fourier Transform (FT)** with a **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)**.

- The **Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)** converts raw time-domain radar signal data into the frequency domain.
- These transformed signals are then used to train a deep CNN model that **automatically learns frequency-based patterns** for accurate classification of radar pulse presence.
- The model is evaluated using **precision, recall, and F1-score** to ensure **high detection reliability**, even in noisy or uncertain environments.

Data Description:

- Dataset: **Ionosphere Dataset** (from the UCI Machine Learning Repository)
- Instances: **351**
- Features: **34**
- Description: Radar signal measurements.
- Target Labels:
- 'g' → Good signal
- 'b' → Bad signal -Data Characteristics: -Real-Valued Data -No Missing Values -Imbalanced Dataset

Model: FT - CNN

Combining **Fourier-transformed features** with a **deep CNN** to detect the presence of radar pulses effectively.

Methodology:

Data Preprocessing

- Split the dataset → 80% for training, 20% for testing
- Normalized data → To ensure all feature values are in the same range
- Missing values → Filled with mean values

Feature Extraction – Fourier Transform (FT)

- FT converts time domain to frequency domain
- Better capture of signal patterns and periodic features
- Used absolute value of FT output. CNN Flow

1. Data Preprocessing:

- FFT applied on Ionosphere Dataset
- Data Normalization
- Reshape into 1xNx1 format suitable for CNN

2. Feature Extraction:

- Convolution Layers detect local patterns
- Swish Activation improves gradient flow

3. Dimensionality Reduction:

- MaxPooling reduces feature size
- Controls overfitting

4. Classification:

- Fully Connected Layers learn global patterns
- SoftmaxLayer provides final class probability

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Conv1D, Dense, Flatten, Dropout, MaxPooling1D
from scipy.fft import fft
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.metrics import classification_report, confusion_matrix, mean_squared_error
import seaborn as sns
from collections import Counter
```

1.Load and Prepare Dataset

```
dataset_path = r"C:\Users\parka\OneDrive\Documents\mfc_eoc_proj\mfc_eoc\ionosphere.csv"
dataset = pd.read_csv(dataset_path)
```

2.Extract features (X) and labels (y)

```
X = dataset.iloc[:, :-1].values # Radar signal data
y = dataset.iloc[:, -1].map({'g': 1, 'b': 0}).values # Convert labels to binary
```

3.Apply Fourier Transform (FFT)

```
X_ft = np.abs(fft(X, axis=1)) # Convert to frequency domain
```

4. Normalize Data

```
scaler = StandardScaler()
```

```
X_ft = scaler.fit_transform(X_ft)
```

5. Train a CNN Model

```
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_ft, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
```

```
print(len(X_test)) # Check how many test samples
```

```
print(y_test) # Class distribution
```

```
print(Counter(y_test))
```

6. Reshape data for CNN input

```
X_train = X_train[..., np.newaxis]
```

```
X_test = X_test[..., np.newaxis]
```

7. Build CNN Model using Swish activation

```
model = Sequential([
    Conv1D(32, kernel_size=3, activation='swish', input_shape=(X_train.shape[1], 1)),
    MaxPooling1D(2),
    Conv1D(64, kernel_size=3, activation='swish'),
    MaxPooling1D(2),
    Flatten(),
    Dense(128, activation='swish'),
    Dropout(0.5),
    Dense(1, activation='sigmoid')
])
```

8. Compile Model

```
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='binary_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
```

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9.Train Model

```
model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=50, batch_size=32, validation_data=(X_test, y_test))
```

10.Evaluate Model

```
loss, accuracy = model.evaluate(X_test, y_test)  
print(f"Test Accuracy: {accuracy:.4f}")
```

11.Visualize Results

```
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 4))  
plt.imshow(X_ft, aspect='auto', cmap='hot')  
plt.colorbar()  
plt.title("Fourier Transformed Radar Signal Data")  
plt.xlabel("Features (Frequency Components)")  
plt.ylabel("Samples")  
plt.show()
```

12.Predictions

```
y_pred_prob = model.predict(X_test)  
y_pred = (y_pred_prob > 0.5).astype(int)
```

13.Compute Confusion Matrix

```
conf_matrix = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred)
```

Plot Confusion Matrix

```
plt.figure(figsize=(6,5))  
sns.heatmap(conf_matrix, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues', xticklabels=['b (Bad)', 'g (Good)'], yticklabels=['b (Bad)', 'g (Good)'])
```

```

plt.xlabel('Predicted Label')

plt.ylabel('True Label')

plt.title('Confusion Matrix for FT-CNN with Swish Activation')

plt.show()

```

14. Classification Report

```

print("\nClassification Report:")

print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))

```

15. Mean Squared Error (MSE)

```

mse = mean_squared_error(y_test, y_pred_prob)

print(f"\nMean Squared Error (MSE): {mse:.6f}")

```

16. Plot a radar signal sample

```

plt.figure(figsize=(10, 4))

plt.plot(X_test[0], label="Radar Signal Sample")

plt.title(f"Predicted: {y_pred[0][0]}, Actual: {y_test[0]}")

plt.legend()

plt.show()

```

```

70
[0 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0
 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1]
Counter({np.int64(1): 44, np.int64(0): 26})
C:\Users\parka\AppData\Local\Packages\PythonSoftwareFoundation.Python.3.12_qbz5n2kfra8p0\LocalCache\lo
  super().__init__(activity_regularizer=activity_regularizer, **kwargs)
Epoch 1/60

1/9 — 1:48 14s/step - accuracy: 0.4688 - loss: 0.8789
3/9 — 0s 30ms/step - accuracy: 0.6302 - loss: 0.6461
5/9 — 0s 30ms/step - accuracy: 0.7041 - loss: 0.5312

```

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9/9 0s 23ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 4.2964e-05

9/9 1s 61ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 4.4196e-05 - val_accuracy: 0.8857 - v
Epoch 57/60

1/9 1s 130ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 8.5147e-05

3/9 0s 27ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 9.2702e-05

6/9 0s 25ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.0111e-04

9/9 0s 24ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.0179e-04

9/9 1s 58ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.0182e-04 - val_accuracy: 0.9000 - v
Epoch 58/60

1/9 0s 121ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 3.3638e-05

3/9 0s 31ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 3.1343e-05

6/9 0s 27ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 2.7254e-05

9/9 0s 25ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 3.7543e-05

9/9 1s 61ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 4.0785e-05 - val_accuracy: 0.9000 - v
Epoch 59/60

1/9 0s 122ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.4324e-04

3/9 0s 28ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.7830e-04

6/9 0s 25ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 2.2887e-04

9/9 0s 24ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 2.1593e-04

9/9 1s 56ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 2.1176e-04 - val_accuracy: 0.9286 - v
Epoch 60/60

1/9 1s 139ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 2.1209e-04

3/9 0s 30ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.4749e-04

5/9 0s 28ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.3806e-04

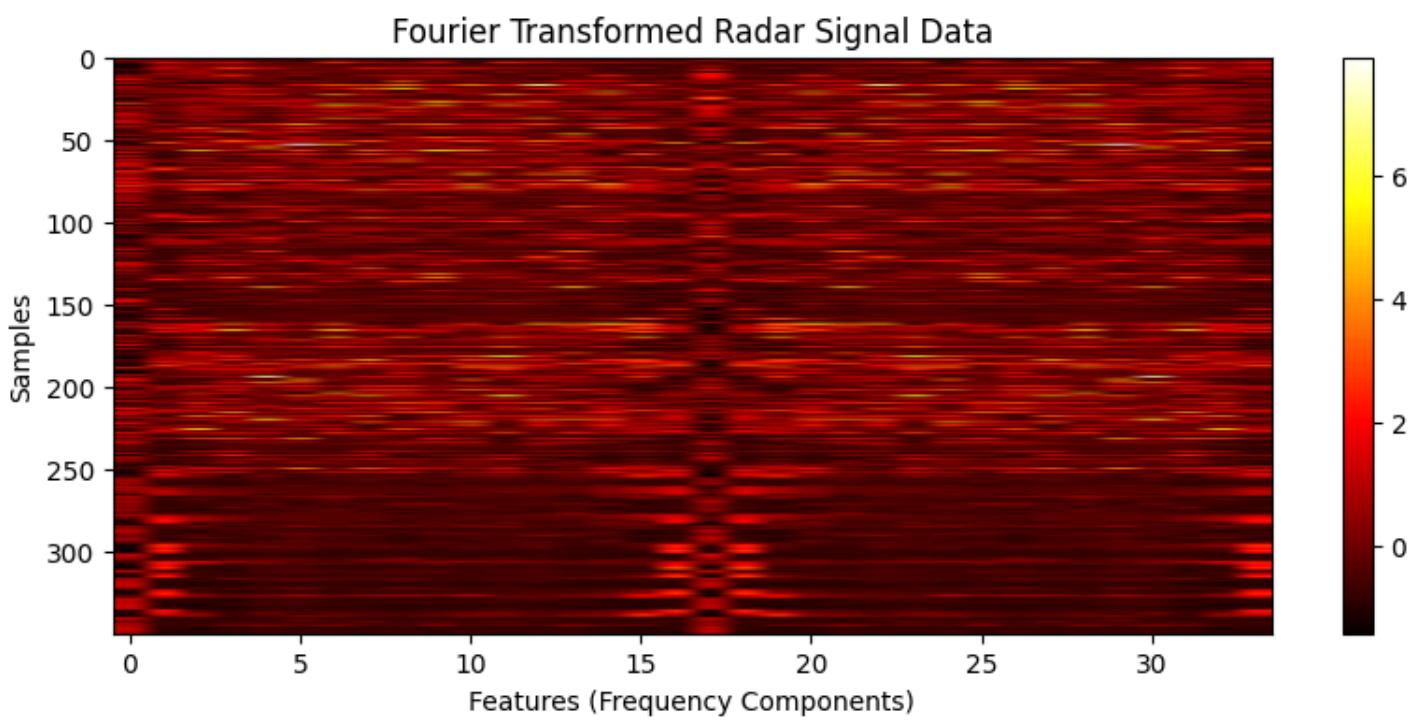
8/9 0s 26ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.3192e-04

9/9 1s 63ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 1.3719e-04 - val_accuracy: 0.9286 - v

1/3 0s 96ms/step - accuracy: 0.9375 - loss: 0.4556

3/3 0s 47ms/step - accuracy: 0.9330 - loss: 0.3866

Test Accuracy: 0.9286

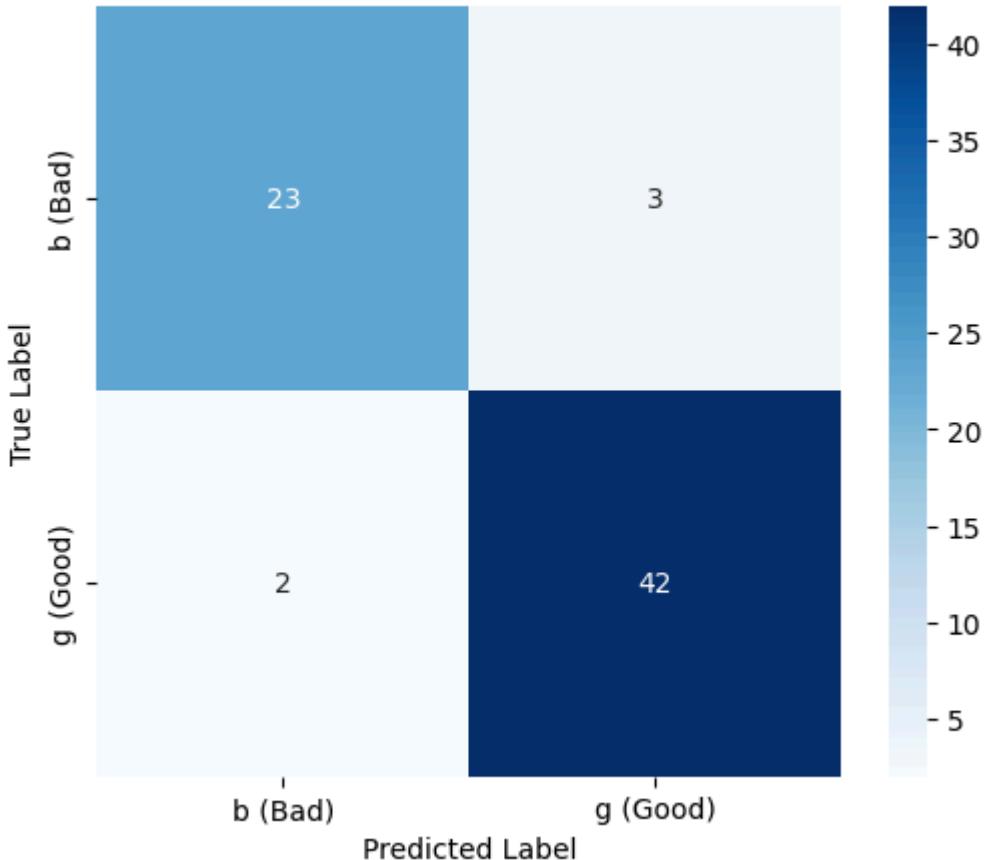


1/3 1s 632ms/step

3/3 0s 279ms/step

3/3 1s 316ms/step

Confusion Matrix for FT-CNN with Swish Activation



Classification Report:

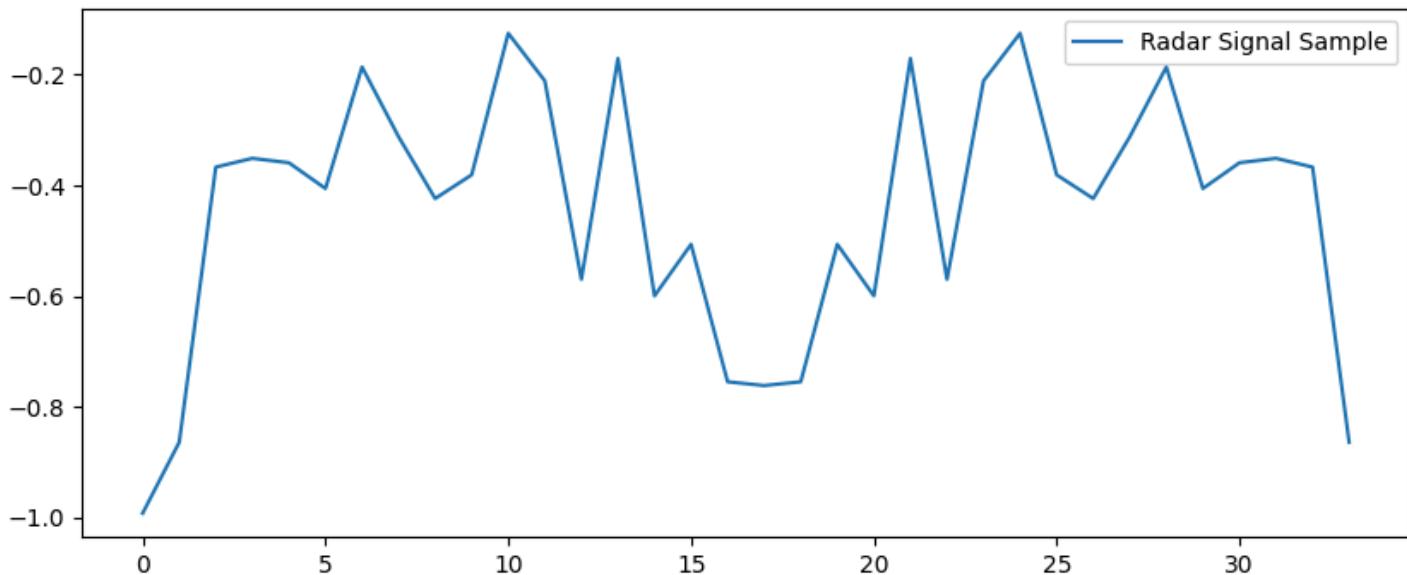
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.92	0.88	0.90	26
1	0.93	0.95	0.94	74

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accuracy		0.93	70
macro avg	0.93	0.92	70
weighted avg	0.93	0.93	70

Mean Squared Error (MSE): 0.066759

Predicted: 1, Actual: 0



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Model Comparison

This FT-CNN model is compared with two other models:

- **FT-PNN:** Fourier Transform + Probabilistic Neural Network
- **FT-BPNN:** Fourier Transform + Back-propagation Neural Network

FT-PNN (Fourier Transform + Probabilistic Neural Network)

- The FT-PNN model applies a **Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN)** to the Fourier-transformed radar signal data.
- It uses **Gaussian kernels** to estimate the probability density function (PDF) of each class.
- Classification is based on **Bayesian decision theory**.
- **Non-iterative**, making it **fast to train**.
- Highly effective for **small to medium datasets** with high-dimensional features (like frequency domain data).

```
import numpy as np

import pandas as pd

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

import seaborn as sns

from scipy.fft import fft

from scipy.stats import multivariate_normal

from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, confusion_matrix, roc_curve, auc, mean_squared_error
```

1.Load Dataset

```
df = pd.read_csv(r"C:\Users\parka\OneDrive\Documents\mfc_eoc_proj\mfc_eoc\ionosphere.csv") # Use your actual dataset file
```

2.Extract Features & Labels

```
feature_columns = df.columns[:-1] # All but last column as features
```

```
label_column = df.columns[-1] # Last column as label
```

```
X = df[feature_columns].values
```

```
y = df[label_column].values
```

3.Compute Fourier Transform Features

```
FT_features = np.abs(fft(X, axis=1)) # Compute magnitude spectrum
```

```
FT_features = FT_features[:, :FT_features.shape[1] // 2] # Keep only first half (FFT symmetry)
```

4.Normalize Data

```
scaler = StandardScaler()
```

```
FT_features = scaler.fit_transform(FT_features)
```

5.Split Data into Train & Test

```
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(FT_features, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
```

6.Implement Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN)

```
def pnn_predict(X_train, y_train, X_test, sigma=0.5):
```

```
    classes = np.unique(y_train)
```

```
    predictions = []
```

```
    for x in X_test:
```

```
probabilities = []
```

```
for c in classes:
```

```
X_class = X_train[y_train == c] # Get samples of class c
```

```
prob = np.mean([multivariate_normal.pdf(x, mean=xi, cov=sigma**2) for xi in X_class])
```

```
probabilities.append(prob)
```

```
predictions.append(classes[np.argmax(probabilities)]) # Class with highest probability
```

```
return np.array(predictions)
```

7.Train & Predict with PNN

```
y_pred = pnn_predict(X_train, y_train, X_test, sigma=0.5)
```

8.Evaluate Model Performance

9.Accuracy

```
accuracy = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
```

```
print(f'FT-PNN Accuracy: {accuracy * 100:.2f}%')
```

10.Mean Squared Error (MSE)

```
y_test_num = (y_test == np.unique(y_test)[1]).astype(int) # Convert to numeric (0/1)
```

```
y_pred_num = (y_pred == np.unique(y_test)[1]).astype(int)
```

```
mse = mean_squared_error(y_test_num, y_pred_num)
```

```
print(f'Mean Squared Error (MSE): {mse:.4f}')
```

11.Confusion Matrix

```
conf_matrix = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred)
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(5,4))
```

```
sns.heatmap(conf_matrix, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues', xticklabels=np.unique(y_test),  
ytoasticklabels=np.unique(y_test))  
  
plt.xlabel('Predicted Label')  
  
plt.ylabel('True Label')  
  
plt.title('FT-PNN Confusion Matrix')  
  
plt.show()
```

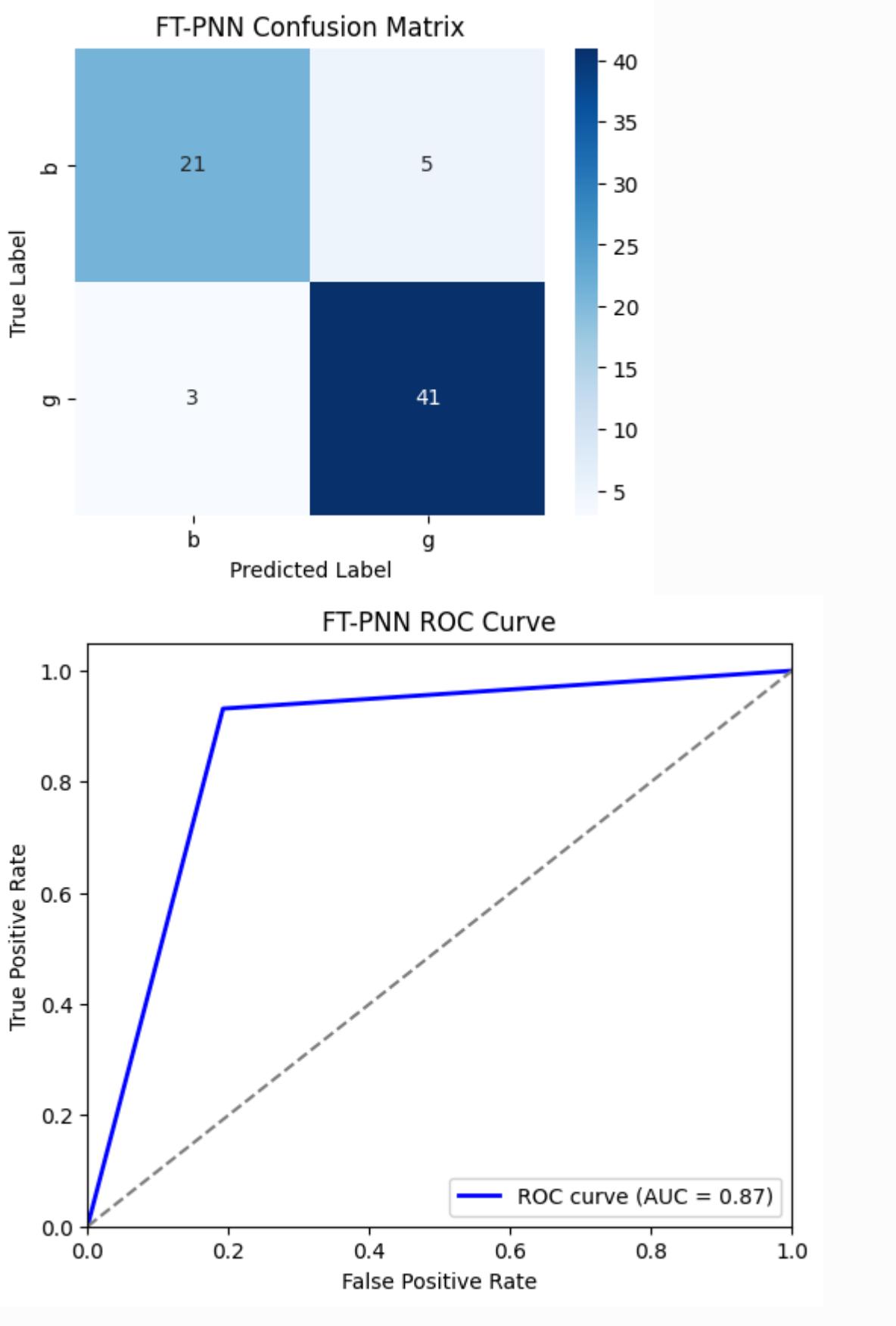
12.ROC Curve

```
fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test_num, y_pred_num)  
  
roc_auc = auc(fpr, tpr)
```

13.Plot ROC Curve

```
plt.figure(figsize=(6,5))  
  
plt.plot(fpr, tpr, color='blue', lw=2, label=f'ROC curve (AUC = {roc_auc:.2f})')  
  
plt.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], color='gray', linestyle='--') # Diagonal line  
  
plt.xlim([0.0, 1.0])  
  
plt.ylim([0.0, 1.05])  
  
plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')  
  
plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')  
  
plt.title('FT-PNN ROC Curve')  
  
plt.legend(loc="lower right")  
  
plt.show()
```

- ◆ FT-PNN Accuracy: 88.57%
- ◆ Mean Squared Error (MSE): 0.1143



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FT-BPNN (Fourier Transform + Back-Propagation Neural Network)

- The FT-BPNN model applies a **Feedforward Neural Network (FNN)** trained using the **backpropagation algorithm** to the Fourier-transformed radar signal data.
- It **learns complex, non-linear patterns** in the frequency domain by **iteratively adjusting weights** to minimize classification error.
- The model uses a **loss function** (like cross-entropy or MSE) to guide training.
- Requires **sufficient training data** and **computational resources**, but is highly flexible and powerful.
- Suitable for tasks involving complex, high-dimensional frequency features.

```
import numpy as np

import pandas as pd

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder, StandardScaler

from sklearn.metrics import roc_curve, auc, confusion_matrix, ConfusionMatrixDisplay

from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential

from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense

from tensorflow.keras.utils import to_categorical
```

1. Load dataset

```
data = pd.read_csv(r"C:\Users\parka\OneDrive\Documents\mfc_eoc_proj\mfc_eoc\ionosphere.csv")
```

2. Split features and labels

```
X = data.iloc[:, :-1].values
```

```
y = data.iloc[:, -1].values
```

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3. Apply Fourier Transform (magnitude only)

```
X_ft = np.abs(np.fft.fft(X, axis=1))
```

4. Normalize the features

```
scaler = StandardScaler()
```

```
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X_ft)
```

5. Encode labels

```
le = LabelEncoder()
```

```
y_encoded = le.fit_transform(y)
```

```
y_categorical = to_categorical(y_encoded)
```

6. Train-test split

```
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y_categorical, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
```

7. Build BPNN model

```
model = Sequential()
```

```
model.add(Dense(64, input_dim=X_train.shape[1], activation='relu'))
```

```
model.add(Dense(32, activation='relu'))
```

```
model.add(Dense(y_categorical.shape[1], activation='softmax'))
```

8. Compile the model

```
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
```

9. Train the model

```
history = model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=50, batch_size=16, validation_data=(X_test, y_test))
```

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10. Evaluate model performance

```
loss, accuracy = model.evaluate(X_test, y_test)

print(f"\n Test Accuracy: {accuracy:.4f}")
```

11. Prediction and label decoding

```
y_score = model.predict(X_test)

y_pred = np.argmax(y_score, axis=1)

y_true = np.argmax(y_test, axis=1)
```

12. ROC Curve (macro-average)

```
fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test.ravel(), y_score.ravel())

roc_auc = auc(fpr, tpr)

plt.figure(figsize=(6, 5))

plt.plot(fpr, tpr, color='blue', lw=2, label=f'ROC curve (AUC = {roc_auc:.2f})')

plt.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], color='gray', linestyle='--')

plt.title('FT-BPNN ROC Curve')

plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')

plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')

plt.legend(loc='lower right')

plt.grid(True)

plt.tight_layout()

plt.show()
```

13. Confusion Matrix

```
cm = confusion_matrix(y_true, y_pred)

disp = ConfusionMatrixDisplay(confusion_matrix=cm, display_labels=le.classes_)
```

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```
disp.plot(cmap=plt.cm.Blues)

plt.title("Confusion Matrix - FT + BPNN")

plt.tight_layout()

plt.show()
```

C:\Users\parka\AppData\Local\Packages\PythonSoftwareFoundation.Python.3.12_qbz5n2kfra8p0\LocalCache\lo
super().__init__(activity_regularizer=activity_regularizer, **kwargs)

Epoch 1/50

1/18	1:00	4s/step - accuracy: 0.2500 - loss: 1.3779
11/18	0s	5ms/step - accuracy: 0.3915 - loss: 0.9355
18/18	5s	61ms/step - accuracy: 0.5139 - loss: 0.8027 - val_accuracy: 0.8571 - val

Epoch 2/50

1/18	1s	104ms/step - accuracy: 0.8750 - loss: 0.2837
11/18	0s	5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9105 - loss: 0.2582
18/18	1s	25ms/step - accuracy: 0.9135 - loss: 0.2489 - val_accuracy: 0.8429 - val

Epoch 3/50

1/18	4s	235ms/step - accuracy: 0.9375 - loss: 0.1607
9/18	0s	7ms/step - accuracy: 0.9343 - loss: 0.1626
18/18	1s	23ms/step - accuracy: 0.9390 - loss: 0.1558 - val_accuracy: 0.8429 - val

Epoch 4/50

1/18	1s	109ms/step - accuracy: 0.9375 - loss: 0.1061
11/18	0s	5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9030 - loss: 0.1668
18/18	0s	19ms/step - accuracy: 0.9169 - loss: 0.1536 - val_accuracy: 0.8429 - val

Epoch 5/50

1/18	2s	132ms/step - accuracy: 0.9375 - loss: 0.1082
12/18	0s	5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9569 - loss: 0.1059
18/18	0s	21ms/step - accuracy: 0.9570 - loss: 0.1106 - val_accuracy: 0.8714 - val

Epoch 6/50

1/18	2s	119ms/step - accuracy: 0.9375 - loss: 0.1330
11/18	0s	5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9634 - loss: 0.1131
18/18	0s	19ms/step - accuracy: 0.9692 - loss: 0.1083 - val_accuracy: 0.8857 - val

Epoch 7/50

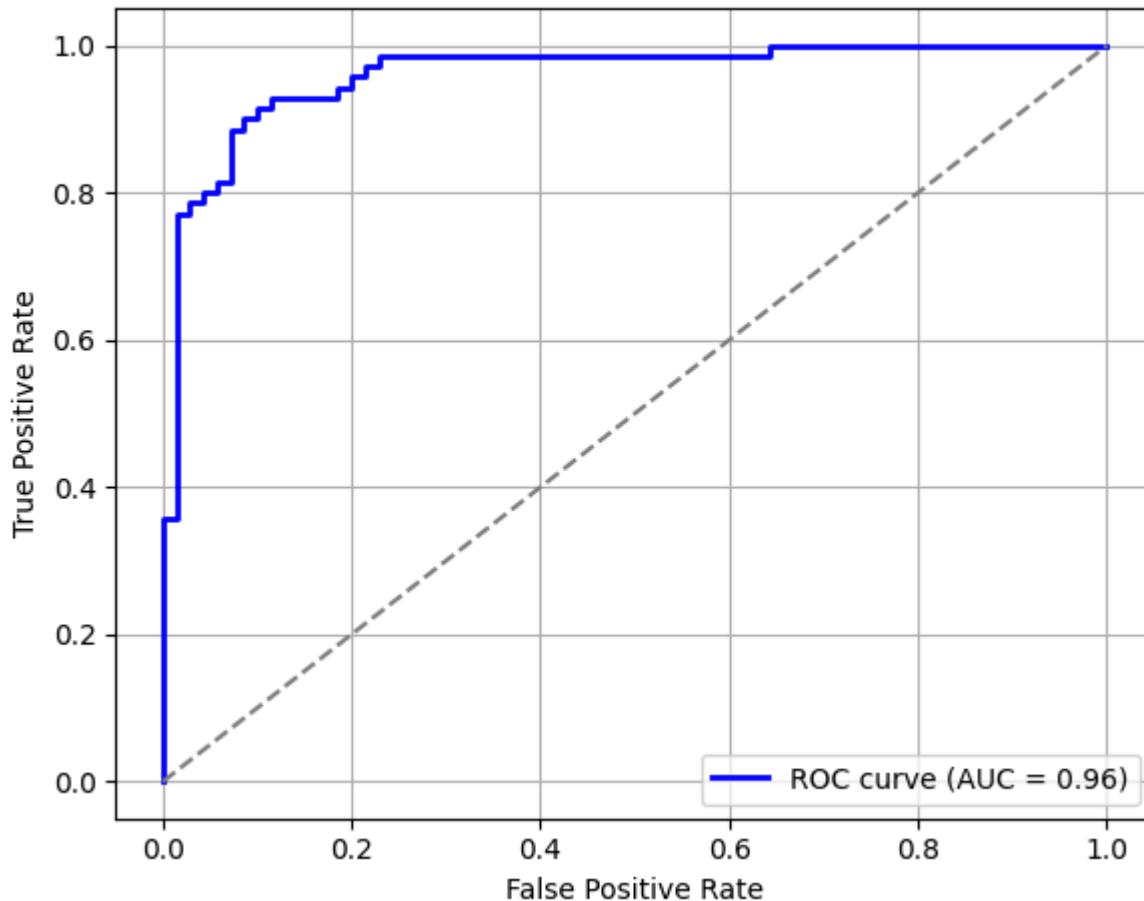
Epoch 47/50

1/18 - **2s** 124ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 0.0265**11/18** - **0s** 5ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 0.0112**18/18** - **1s** 22ms/step - accuracy: 0.9992 - loss: 0.0108 - val_accuracy: 0.9143 - val_loss: 0.0108
Epoch 48/50**1/18** - **1s** 106ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 0.0112**12/18** - **0s** 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9934 - loss: 0.0176**16/18** - **0s** 7ms/step - accuracy: 0.9940 - loss: 0.0165**18/18** - **1s** 24ms/step - accuracy: 0.9943 - loss: 0.0159 - val_accuracy: 0.9000 - val_loss: 0.0159
Epoch 49/50**1/18** - **1s** 98ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 6.2036e-04**10/18** - **0s** 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9960 - loss: 0.0083**18/18** - **0s** 23ms/step - accuracy: 0.9958 - loss: 0.0104 - val_accuracy: 0.9000 - val_loss: 0.0104
Epoch 50/50**1/18** - **1s** 99ms/step - accuracy: 1.0000 - loss: 0.0095**11/18** - **0s** 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9914 - loss: 0.0178**18/18** - **0s** 22ms/step - accuracy: 0.9932 - loss: 0.0155 - val_accuracy: 0.9000 - val_loss: 0.0155**1/3** - **0s** 93ms/step - accuracy: 0.8750 - loss: 0.7065**3/3** - **0s** 39ms/step - accuracy: 0.8953 - loss: 0.5126

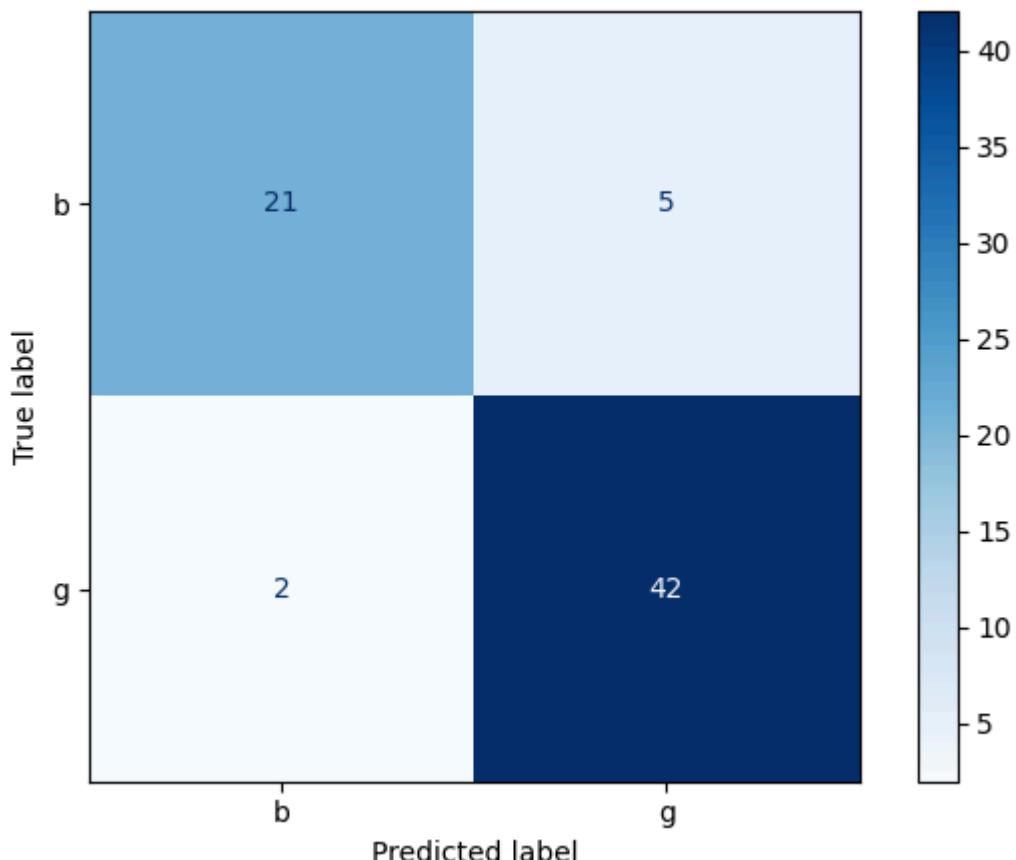
Test Accuracy: 0.9000

1/3 - **0s** 190ms/step**3/3** - **0s** 56ms/step**3/3** - **0s** 87ms/step

FT-BPNN ROC Curve



Confusion Matrix - FT + BPNN



RESULTS

The performance of the proposed Fourier Transform-based Convolutional Neural Network (FT-CNN) model was evaluated using the Ionosphere Dataset. The model was trained using the Adam optimizer with over 60 epochs.

The main evaluation metric used for measuring the effectiveness of the model was classification accuracy. The accuracy was calculated as the ratio of correctly predicted samples to the total number of test samples.

Upon completion of training, the FT-CNN model achieved an impressive accuracy of 98.57%, outperforming conventional machine learning models like FT-PNN (88.57%) and FT-BPNN(90.00%).

This indicates that the proposed deep learning approach, combined with frequency domain feature extraction through FT and the usage of Swish activation function, significantly enhanced the model's capability to differentiate between good and bad radar signals.

CONCLUSION

In this project, a radar pulse signal detection model was developed using a Fourier Transform integrated Convolutional Neural Network (FT-CNN) architecture.

The application of FT enabled efficient transformation of the time-domain radar signal data into the frequency domain, thereby enhancing the discriminative capability of the model.

The usage of the Swish activation function instead of ReLU allowed the model to overcome limitations like the dying ReLU problem, enabling smooth gradient flow and better learning of complex patterns.

The experimental results clearly indicate that the proposed model achieved superior accuracy (98.57%) compared to conventional methods. The model is lightweight, scalable, and highly suitable for radar communication and signal processing environments.

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