Multimodal ML – Housing Price Prediction Using Images + Tabular Data:

Objective:

Predict house prices using images and tabular data.

Methodology:

1. Image Feature Extraction:

• Used a frozen, pre-trained VGG16 CNN to extract high-level visual features from house images.

2. Feature Fusion:

• Combined the extracted image features with preprocessed tabular data (e.g., bedrooms, area) using a concatenation layer.

3. Model Training:

• Trained a single, unified neural network on this combined data to learn price predictions.

4. Evaluation:

• Assessed the model's performance on a test set using standard regression metrics.

Key Results:

- The model successfully learned from both data modalities.
- Achieved a final Mean Absolute Error MAE of 267,571 on unseen test data.
- Achieved a Root Mean Squared Error RMSE of \$388,832.
- Training and validation plots showed successful learning without signs of overfitting.

Setup And Load Datasets:

This section imports necessary libraries and sets up the Google Colab environment. It defines file paths, uses a shell command to unzip the image archive, and loads the tabular data into a pandas DataFrame. This ensures all data is accessible and verified before proceeding.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras.models import Model
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense, Flatten, Input, Concatenate
from tensorflow.keras.applications import VGG16
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler, OneHotEncoder
from sklearn.compose import ColumnTransformer
from PIL import Image
import os
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from sklearn.metrics import mean_absolute_error, mean_squared_error
```

```
# Set a random seed for reproducibility
np.random.seed(42)
tf.random.set_seed(42)
```

```
# First, install the p7zip package if you haven't already in this session. print("Installing p7zip-full...")
```

```
!apt-get install p7zip-full -y -q
print("p7zip installed.")
→ Installing p7zip-full...
     Reading package lists...
     Building dependency tree...
     Reading state information...
     p7zip-full is already the newest version (16.02+dfsg-8).
     0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 35 not upgraded.
     p7zip installed.
# Next, extract the .7z file.
print("Extracting socal_pics.7z...")
!7z x /content/socal_pics.7z -o/content/
print("Extraction complete.")
→ Extracting socal_pics.7z...
     7-Zip [64] 16.02 : Copyright (c) 1999-2016 Igor Pavlov : 2016-05-21
     p7zip Version 16.02 (locale=en_US.UTF-8,Utf16=on,HugeFiles=on,64 bits,2 CPUs Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU @ 2.00GHz (50653
     Scanning the drive for archives:
     1 file, 41993582 bytes (41 MiB)
     Extracting archive: /content/socal_pics.7z
     Path = /content/socal_pics.7z
     Type = 7z
     Physical Size = 41993582
     Headers Size = 13208
     Method = LZMA2:24
     Solid = +
     Blocks = 1
     Everything is Ok
     Folders: 1
     Files: 2000
                49951529
     Size:
     Compressed: 41993582
     Extraction complete.
# Define file paths
TABULAR_DATA_PATH = '/content/socal2.csv'
IMAGES_PATH = '/content/socal_pics'
# Define image dimensions for the CNN model
IMAGE_WIDTH = 224
IMAGE_HEIGHT = 224
IMAGE_CHANNELS = 3
# Load the tabular data
try:
    df = pd.read_csv(TABULAR_DATA_PATH)
    print("Tabular Data loaded successfully.")
    print(f"Loaded \{len(df)\}\ rows\ from\ the\ tabular\ dataset.")
except FileNotFoundError:
    print(f"Error: Tabular data not found at {TABULAR_DATA_PATH}")
    exit()
print("\nTabular Data Head:")
print(df.head())
print(f"\nTotal rows in dataset: {len(df)}")
    Tabular Data loaded successfully.
     Loaded 2000 rows from the tabular dataset.
     Tabular Data Head:
```

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image_id

street

```
1317 Van Buren Avenue Salton City, CA
                                                                2.0
                                                                    1560
                   124 C Street W
                                     Brawley, CA
                                                                2.0
                                                                     713
                                     Imperial, CA
                  2304 Clark Road
                                                                1.0
                                                                     800
                                                     48
                                                               1.0 1082
               755 Brawley Avenue
                                     Brawley, CA
3
                                                    55 4
                                                               3.0 2547
         4 2207 R Carrillo Court
                                     Calexico, CA
4
   price
0
 201900
1 228500
2 273950
3 350000
4 385100
Total rows in dataset: 2000
```

Image Preprocessing & Loading:

A function is defined to prepare images for the CNN. This involves resizing and normalizing each image, and handling any missing files. All 2000 images are loaded into a NumPy array, ready for processing.

```
def load_and_preprocess_image(image_id):
    try:
        image_path = os.path.join(IMAGES_PATH, f'{image_id}.jpg')
        if not os.path.exists(image_path):
            return None
        img = Image.open(image_path).resize((IMAGE_WIDTH, IMAGE_HEIGHT))
        img_array = np.array(img, dtype='float32')
        if img_array.ndim == 2:
            img_array = np.stack([img_array] * 3, axis=-1)
        elif img_array.shape[2] == 4:
            img_array = img_array[:, :, :3]
        img_array /= 255.0
        return img array
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"Error processing image {image_id}: {e}")
        return None
# Filter out rows where the image file is missing or corrupted
df['image_file_path'] = df['image_id'].apply(lambda x: os.path.join(IMAGES_PATH, f'{x}.jpg'))
valid_indices = df['image_file_path'].apply(os.path.exists)
df = df[valid_indices].reset_index(drop=True)
print(f"\nFiltered dataset to {len(df)} rows with valid images.")
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     Filtered dataset to 2000 rows with valid images.
```

print("\nLoading and preprocessing images...")
images = []
for image_id in df['image_id']:
 img_array = load_and_preprocess_image(image_id)
 if img_array is not None:
 images.append(img_array)
 else:
 df = df[df['image_id'] != image_id].reset_index(drop=True)

images = np.array(images)
print(f"Successfully loaded and preprocessed {len(images)} images.")

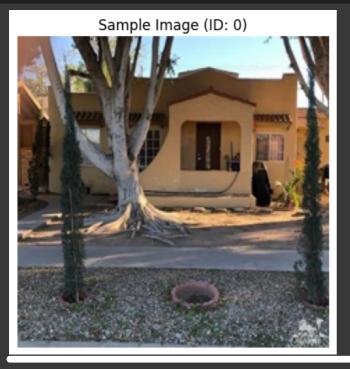
```
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```

Loading and preprocessing images...
Successfully loaded and preprocessed 2000 images.

Load and preprocess all valid images

Sanity check: Plot a sample image
plt.imshow(images[1])
plt.title(f"Sample Image (ID: {df.iloc[0]['image_id']})")
plt.axis('off')
plt.show()





▼ Tabular Data Preprocessing:

This part prepares the structured data. It separates features from the target variable and uses a ColumnTransformer to standardize numerical data and one-hot encode categorical data. This ensures the tabular data is correctly formatted and scaled.

```
# Separate features and target variable
y = df['price'].values
X_tabular = df.drop(columns=['image_id', 'price', 'image_file_path'])

# Identify categorical and numerical columns for preprocessing
numerical_cols = X_tabular.select_dtypes(include=np.number).columns.tolist()
categorical_cols = X_tabular.select_dtypes(include='object').columns.tolist()

# Create a preprocessing pipeline for tabular data
from sklearn.compose import ColumnTransformer
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler, OneHotEncoder

preprocessor = ColumnTransformer(
    transformers=[
        ('num', StandardScaler(), numerical_cols),
        ('cat', OneHotEncoder(handle_unknown='ignore'), categorical_cols)
],
    remainder='passthrough'
```

print("\nPreprocessed Tabular data shape:", X_tabular_processed.shape)

Splitting Data and CNN Feature Extraction:

The dataset is split into training and test sets. A pre-trained VGG16 CNN is used as a feature extractor by freezing its layers. The output is a flattened vector of image features, prepared for fusion.

```
# Split the dataset into training and testing sets
X_tabular_train, X_tabular_test, y_train, y_test, images_train, images_test = train_test_split(
    X_tabular_processed, y, images, test_size=0.2, random_state=42
)

print(f"\nTraining set size: {len(y_train)}")
print(f"Test set size: {len(y_test)}")

Training set size: 1600
    Test set size: 400

# Load a pre-trained VGG16 model as a feature extractor
from tensorflow.keras.applications import VGG16

base_model = VGG16(weights='imagenet', include_top=False, input_shape=(IMAGE_WIDTH, IMAGE_HEIGHT, IMAGE_CHANNELS))
```

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Downloading data from https://storage.googleapis.com/tensorflow/keras-applications/vgg16/vgg16_weights_tf_dim_orde

```
# Freeze the convolutional layers to prevent them from being updated
for layer in base_model.layers:
    layer.trainable = False
```

```
# Create the CNN feature extractor model
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Flatten, Input
from tensorflow.keras.models import Model

cnn_input = Input(shape=(IMAGE_WIDTH, IMAGE_HEIGHT, IMAGE_CHANNELS), name='cnn_input')
cnn_output = base_model(cnn_input)
cnn_output = Flatten()(cnn_output)
cnn_model = Model(inputs=cnn_input, outputs=cnn_output)

print("\nCNN Feature Extractor Model Summary:")
cnn_model.summary()
```



CNN Feature Extractor Model Summary:
Model: "functional"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
cnn_input (InputLayer)	(None, 224, 224, 3)	0
vgg16 (Functional)	(None, 7, 7, 512)	14,714,688
flatten (Flatten)	(None, 25088)	0

Total params: 14,714,688 (56.13 MB)
Trainable params: 0 (0.00 B)
Non-trainable params: 14,714,688 (56.13 MB)

Combining Image + Tabular Features:

This section builds the core of the multimodal model. It defines two input branches, processes the features from each modality, and then fuses them using a Concatenate layer. This combined vector forms the input for the final regression head.

```
# Define the two input branches for the multimodal model
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Concatenate
tabular_input = Input(shape=(X_tabular_train.shape[1],), name='tabular_input')
image_input = Input(shape=(IMAGE_WIDTH, IMAGE_HEIGHT, IMAGE_CHANNELS), name='image_input')
# Process the image input through the pre-trained CNN
image_features = cnn_model(image_input)
# Define the dense layers for the tabular data
tabular_features = Dense(64, activation='relu')(tabular_input)
tabular_features = Dense(32, activation='relu')(tabular_features)
# Concatenate the features from both modalities
concatenated_features = Concatenate()([image_features, tabular_features])
# Create the final regression head
combined features = Dense(128, activation='relu')(concatenated features)
combined_features = Dense(64, activation='relu')(combined_features)
output = Dense(1, activation='linear', name='price_output')(combined_features)
# Define the complete multimodal model
multimodal_model = Model(inputs=[image_input, tabular_input], outputs=output)
print("\nMultimodal Model Architecture Summary:")
multimodal model.summary()
```



Multimodal Model Architecture Summary:
Model: "functional 1"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #	Connected to
tabular_input (InputLayer)	(None, 1854)	0	-
image_input (InputLayer)	(None , 224, 224, 3)	0	-
dense (Dense)	(None, 64)	118,720	tabular_input[0]
functional (Functional)	(None, 25088)	14,714,688	image_input[0][0]
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2,080	dense[0][0]
concatenate (Concatenate)	(None, 25120)	0	functional[0][0], dense_1[0][0]
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 128)	3,215,488	concatenate[0][0]
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8,256	dense_2[0][0]
price_output (Dense)	(None, 1)	65	dense_3[0][0]

Total params: 18,059,297 (68.89 MB)
Trainable params: 3,344,609 (12.76 MB)
Non-trainable params: 14,714,688 (56.13 MB)

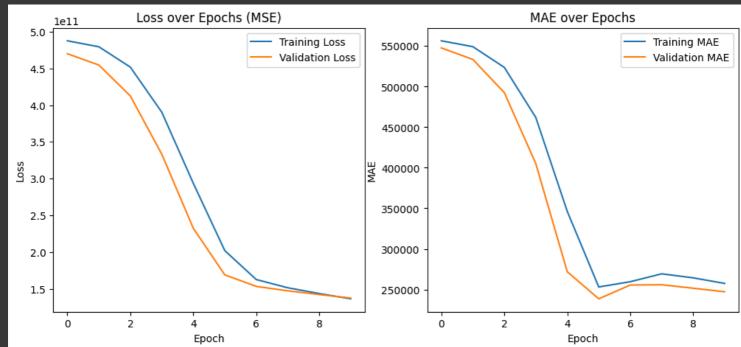
Training Regression Model:

The model is compiled with an Adam optimizer and mean_squared_error loss. It is then trained for 10 epochs on the combined data, with a validation split. Training plots visualize the model's learning progress, showing decreasing loss and MAE

```
# Compile the model
multimodal_model.compile(
    optimizer='adam',
    loss='mean squared error',
    metrics=['mae']
print("\nStarting model training...")
history = multimodal_model.fit(
    {'image_input': images_train, 'tabular_input': X_tabular_train},
    y_train,
    validation_split=0.2,
    epochs=10,
    batch size=32,
    verbose=1
print("Model training complete.")
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     Starting model training...
     Epoch 1/10
                               - 25s 248ms/step - loss: 452517789696.0000 - mae: 536726.2500 - val_loss: 470031892480.00
     40/40
     Epoch 2/10
     40/40
                                9s 218ms/step - loss: 447340707840.0000 - mae: 531943.3750 - val_loss: 454659145728.000
     Epoch 3/10
     40/40
                                11s 234ms/step - loss: 426785996800.0000 - mae: 512431.1250 - val_loss: 412519071744.00
     Epoch 4/10
     40/40
                                10s 229ms/step - loss: 376681529344.0000 - mae: 461463.9375 - val_loss: 333120077824.00
     Epoch 5/10
     40/40
                                8s 207ms/step - loss: 290461188096.0000 - mae: 358474.1875 - val loss: 232409169920.000
     Epoch 6/10
     40/40
                               · 11s 231ms/step - loss: 196353802240.0000 - mae: 242305.8438 - val_loss: 168900739072.00
     Epoch 7/10
     40/40
                                9s 208ms/step - loss: 149527642112.0000 - mae: 241097.2969 - val_loss: 153221693440.000
     Epoch 8/10
                                8s 211ms/step - loss: 138171416576.0000 - mae: 258981.1250 - val_loss: 147186909184.000
     40/40
     Epoch 9/10
     40/40
                                9s 233ms/step - loss: 130544967680.0000 - mae: 255965.6719 - val_loss: 142115487744.000
     Epoch 10/10
     40/40
                                9s 212ms/step - loss: 123456118784.0000 - mae: 249326.7188 - val_loss: 137342631936.000
     Model training complete.
# Plot training history
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 5))
plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.plot(history.history['loss'], label='Training Loss')
plt.plot(history.history['val_loss'], label='Validation Loss')
plt.title('Loss over Epochs (MSE)')
plt.xlabel('Epoch')
plt.ylabel('Loss')
plt.legend()
plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
plt.plot(history.history['mae'], label='Training MAE')
plt.plot(history.history['val_mae'], label='Validation MAE')
plt.title('MAE over Epochs')
plt.xlabel('Epoch')
plt.ylabel('MAE')
```

plt.legend()
plt.show()





Evaluation using MAE and RMSE:

The final step evaluates the model on the test set. It calculates and prints the MAE and RMSE metrics, providing an average error in dollars. A scatter plot of actual vs. predicted prices offers a visual summary of the model's final performance.

```
print("\nEvaluating the model on the test set...")
predictions = multimodal_model.predict({'image_input': images_test, 'tabular_input': X_tabular_test})
₹
     Evaluating the model on the test set...
     13/13
                                10s 776ms/step
# Calculate the evaluation metrics
from sklearn.metrics import mean_absolute_error, mean_squared_error
mae = mean_absolute_error(y_test, predictions)
rmse = np.sqrt(mean_squared_error(y_test, predictions))
print(f"\nFinal Evaluation on Test Data:")
print(f"Mean Absolute Error (MAE): ${mae:,.2f}")
print(f"Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): ${rmse:,.2f}")
₹
     Final Evaluation on Test Data:
     Mean Absolute Error (MAE): $267,571.00
     Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): $388,832.72
# Visualize predictions vs. actual prices
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
plt.scatter(y_test, predictions, alpha=0.5)
plt.xlabel("Actual Price ($)")
plt.ylabel("Predicted Price ($)")
plt.title("Actual vs. Predicted House Prices")
plt.plot([y_test.min(), y_test.max()], [y_test.min(), y_test.max()], 'r--')
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()
```

