Dhruv Arora  
arora.dhruv26@gmail.com

The code follows a structured approach to train a convolutional neural network (CNN) model for a skin cancer classification task. Here's a breakdown of the approach used:

1. Importing Libraries: The necessary libraries such as NumPy, TensorFlow, PIL, os, random, pandas, and matplotlib are imported.
2. Dataset Setup: The code defines the path and filenames for the dataset. It also reads a CSV file containing metadata about the images.
3. Data Preparation: The unique classes from the dataset are extracted, and a dictionary called **separate\_dict** is created to store image IDs for each class. One-hot encodings are generated for all classes using the **encoder\_template** dictionary.
4. Matching Image Names and Encodings: The code matches the image names with their corresponding one-hot encodings, creating a list of all image paths (**all\_path**) and a list of all encodings (**all\_encodings**).
5. Dataset Splitting: The dataset is split into training, validation, and test sets using the **tf.data.Dataset.from\_tensor\_slices** method. The sizes of each set are determined based on percentages of the total dataset size.
6. Memory Optimization: To optimize memory usage, the code shuffles the datasets and explicitly deletes unnecessary variables using **del**. It also calls **gc.collect()** to trigger garbage collection and free up memory space.
7. Model Building: A CNN model is built using the Keras Sequential API. The model consists of several convolutional layers, batch normalization layers, max pooling layers, and dense layers. The model is compiled with an Adam optimizer, categorical cross-entropy loss, and accuracy metric.
8. Callbacks: Various callbacks are defined, including a model checkpoint callback to save the best model during training, an early stopping callback to stop training if the model's performance doesn't improve, and a learning rate scheduler callback to adjust the learning rate during training.
9. Training: The model is trained on the training dataset using the **fit** method. The training process is monitored using the defined callbacks, and the model's performance is evaluated on the validation dataset.
10. Visualization: Finally, the **plot\_Model\_lossAcc** function is called to plot and visualize the model's loss and accuracy during training.

The approach is well-structured and follows best practices for training a CNN model. It includes steps for data preparation, memory optimization, model building, training, and evaluation. The use of callbacks and visualization further enhances the understanding and monitoring of the training process.

Model description:

1. Input Layer: The model takes input images with dimensions of 90x120 pixels and 3 color channels (RGB).
2. Convolutional Layers: The model begins with a convolutional layer with 30 filters, a filter size of 5x5, and a ReLU activation function. This layer extracts visual features from the input images. It is followed by another convolutional layer with 30 filters, a filter size of 3x3, and ReLU activation.
3. Batch Normalization: A batch normalization layer is applied after the convolutional layers. It normalizes the activations of the previous layer, reducing internal covariate shift and accelerating the training process.
4. Max Pooling: A max pooling layer with a pool size of 2x2 is used to downsample the spatial dimensions of the feature maps. This reduces the computational complexity and helps extract dominant features.
5. Additional Convolutional Layers: The model includes two more convolutional layers, each with 20 and 15 filters, a filter size of 3x3, and ReLU activation. These layers further extract higher-level features from the input.
6. Group Normalization: A group normalization layer with 3 groups is applied after the previous convolutional layer. It normalizes the activations, enhancing model robustness and generalization.
7. Max Pooling: Another max pooling layer with a pool size of 2x2 is employed to downsample the feature maps further.
8. Convolutional Layer: A single convolutional layer with 10 filters, a filter size of 3x3, and ReLU activation is added. This layer performs additional feature extraction.
9. Flattening: The feature maps are flattened into a 1-dimensional vector to prepare for the fully connected layers.
10. Normalization: A normalization layer normalizes the flattened feature vector.
11. Dense Layers: The model includes two dense (fully connected) layers. The first dense layer has 256 units and a ReLU activation function. The second dense layer has 128 units and ReLU activation.
12. Batch Normalization and Dropout: Batch normalization and dropout layers are added after the dense layers to further improve the model's generalization capabilities.
13. Output Layer: The final dense layer has 7 units, corresponding to the 7 classes of skin cancer. It uses a softmax activation function to produce probability distributions over the classes.

The model is trained using the Adam optimizer with the categorical cross-entropy loss function. The training is performed for a specified number of epochs, with a defined batch size. During training, several callbacks are employed, including model checkpointing, early stopping, and memory clearing.

The approach used in the code provides several reasons for its choices and design:

1. Efficient Data Loading: The code utilizes the **tf.data.Dataset** API for data loading and preprocessing. This API allows for efficient streaming of data, reducing memory usage by loading and processing images on-the-fly rather than loading the entire dataset into memory at once. This is crucial for working with large datasets that may not fit entirely in memory.
2. Memory Optimization: The code implements several memory optimization techniques. It explicitly deletes unnecessary variables using **del** and calls **gc.collect()** to trigger garbage collection, ensuring that memory resources are freed up promptly and preventing memory leaks. The custom callback, **MemoryClearCallback**, clears memory at the end of each epoch, preventing memory accumulation over time. These optimizations are important for long-running training processes and prevent memory exhaustion issues.
3. Dataset Splitting: The code splits the dataset into training, validation, and test sets. This separation is essential for model evaluation and prevents overfitting by assessing the model's performance on unseen data. By setting aside a portion of the data for validation and testing, the code ensures a more reliable assessment of the model's generalization capabilities.
4. Model Architecture: The code designs a CNN model using the Keras Sequential API. CNNs are well-suited for image classification tasks due to their ability to capture spatial dependencies in the data. The model consists of convolutional layers, batch normalization layers, max pooling layers, and dense layers. These layers help in extracting relevant features from the images and creating a meaningful representation for classification. The use of activation functions such as ReLU and softmax contributes to non-linearity and probability-based predictions, respectively.
5. Callbacks: The code incorporates various callbacks to enhance the training process. The model checkpoint callback saves the best model based on validation accuracy, allowing the retrieval of the model with the highest performance. The early stopping callback stops training if the model's performance on the validation set does not improve for a specified number of epochs, preventing overfitting and saving computational resources. The learning rate scheduler callback adjusts the learning rate dynamically, improving convergence and fine-tuning the model's weights.
6. Visualization: The code includes a function to plot and visualize the model's loss and accuracy during training. Visualization aids in understanding the training progress, identifying potential issues such as overfitting or underfitting, and making informed decisions for further optimization.

Overall, the chosen approach takes into consideration memory efficiency, model architecture, dataset splitting, and monitoring techniques. It aims to optimize the training process, improve model performance, and provide reliable evaluation metrics for the skin cancer classification task.