COMP4318/5318 Assignment 2: Image Classification

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Setup and dependencies

Please use this section to list and set up all your required libraries/dependencies and your plotting environment.

```
In [90]: import numpy as np
          import pandas as pd
          import random
          import tensorflow as tf
          import seaborn as sns
          import keras_tuner as kt
          # Import our deep learning libraries
          from tensorflow import keras
          from tensorflow.keras.callbacks import EarlyStopping
          from tensorflow.keras.optimizers import Adam
          from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
          from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
          from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
          from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV
          from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, classification_report, confusion_matrix
          # Make the notebook's output stable across runs
          random.seed(42)
          np.random.seed(42)
          tf.random.set_seed(42)
          keras.utils.set_random_seed(42)
          keras.backend.clear_session()
          %matplotlib inline
          import matplotlib as mpl
          import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
          # Set the font size of axis titles and tick labels to make the chart more beautiful and easy to read.
         mpl.rc('axes', labelsize=14)
mpl.rc('xtick', labelsize=12)
mpl.rc('ytick', labelsize=12)
```

1. Data loading, exploration, and preprocessing

```
In [95]: # Load the dataset training and test sets as numpy arrays

X_train = np.load('Assignment2Data/X_train.npy')
y_train = np.load('Assignment2Data/y_train.npy')
X_test = np.load('Assignment2Data/X_test.npy')
y_test = np.load('Assignment2Data/y_test.npy')
```

Examples of preprocessed data

Check out the shape of the data:

```
In [98]: print(f"Shape of X_train_full: {X_train.shape}")
    print(f"Shape of y_train_full: {y_train.shape}")
    print(f"Shape of X_test: {X_test.shape}")
    print(f"Shape of y_test: {y_test.shape}")

Shape of X_train_full: (32000, 28, 28, 3)
Shape of y_train_full: (32000,)
Shape of X_test: (8000, 28, 28, 3)
Shape of y_test: (8000,)
Check the number of categories to see if they are balanced:
```

```
In [101... # Training set
    labels, counts = np.unique(y_train, return_counts=True)
    for l, c in zip(labels, counts):
        print(f"Class {l}: {c} samples")
```

```
Class 1: 3431 samples
        Class 2: 3505 samples
        Class 3: 3656 samples
        Class 4: 2950 samples
        Class 5: 4290 samples
        Class 6: 2728 samples
        Class 7: 3253 samples
        Class 8: 4697 samples
In [103... # Test set
          labels, counts = np.unique(y_test, return_counts=True)
         for l, c in zip(labels, counts):
             print(f"Class {l}: {c} samples")
        Class 0: 873 samples
        Class 1: 858 samples
        Class 2: 877 samples
        Class 3: 914 samples
        Class 4: 737 samples
        Class 5: 1072 samples
        Class 6: 682 samples
        Class 7: 813 samples
        Class 8: 1174 samples
```

Analysis of Pixel Value Distribution

Class 0: 3490 samples

1. Pixel values are mostly concentrated between 120 and 230

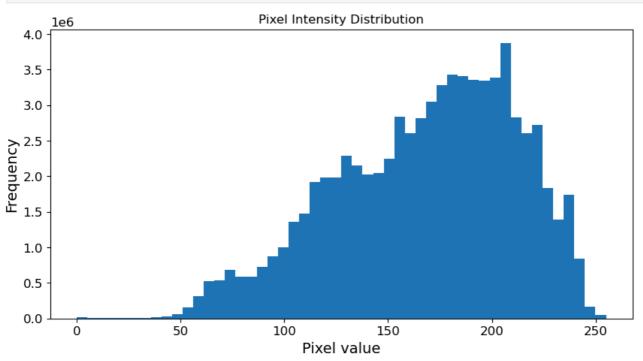
- This indicates that the images are generally bright, with few dark regions (e.g., 0-50, typically representing shadows or background).
- There are very few extreme values at 0 or 255, meaning the dataset does not contain "completely black" or "completely white" images. This suggests good overall image quality.

2. The distribution is right-skewed but smooth

- Most images appear bright backgrounds, which is a common characteristic of histopathology tissue slides.
- The histogram shows a generally increasing trend followed by a gradual decline, without abrupt spikes or bimodal patterns. This suggests consistent background coloration across the dataset.

3. Pixel values are continuous but not yet normalized

• The raw pixel values range from **0 to 255**. Before training a neural network model, **normalization (i.e., dividing by 255) is necessary** to ensure numerical stability during learning.



Grayscale conversion: take the average across the RGB channels to convert color images to grayscale.

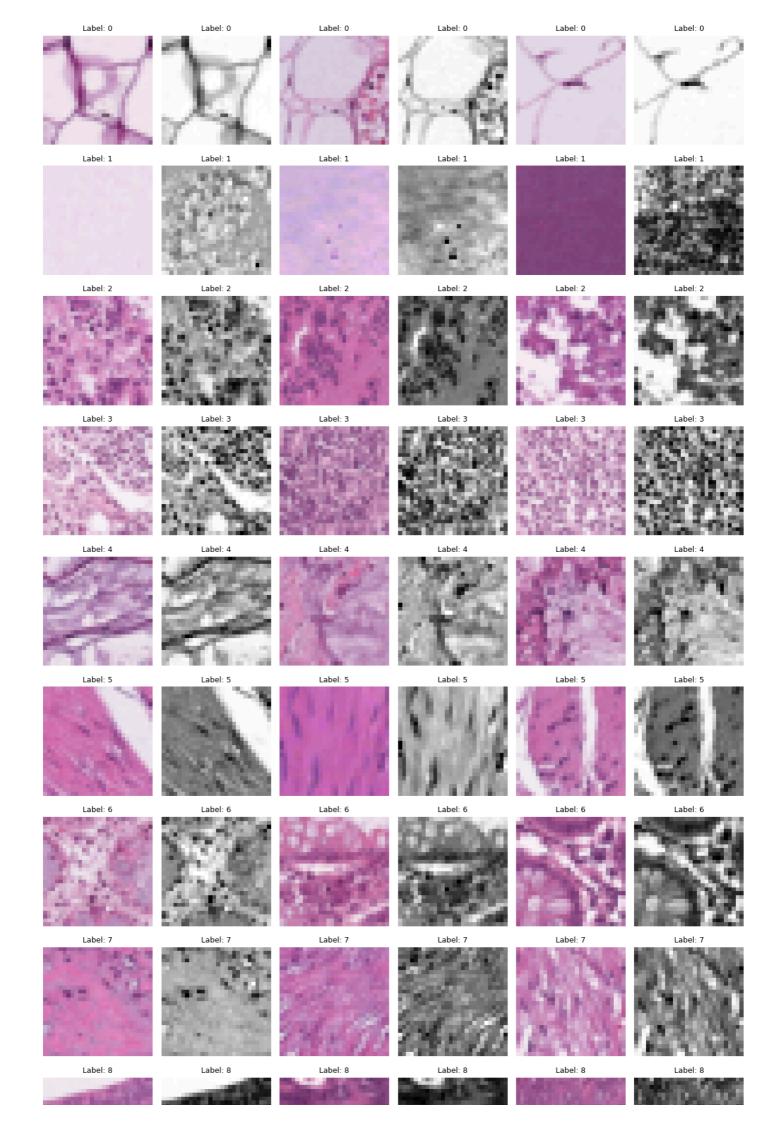
- The original X_train shape is (num_samples, 28, 28, 3), and after conversion it becomes (num_samples, 28, 28, 1).
- We initially attempted to train the model using grayscale images to simplify the input structure and speed up training. However,
 experimental results showed that performance was inferior compared to using color images. Therefore, grayscale images are now only used for visual comparison with the original color images.

```
In [110... X_train_gray = np.mean(X_train, axis=-1, keepdims=True) # shape: (num_samples, 28, 28, 1)
X_test_gray = np.mean(X_test, axis=-1, keepdims=True)
```

Sample image

 Visualize 3 sample images per label in both original color and grayscale format. This helps assess whether the images are clear, centered, and exhibit distinguishable features. The comparison also provides insight into whether grayscale retains sufficient structural information.

```
In [113... # Get all unique class labels
         labels = np.unique(y_train)
         # Number of images to display per class
         samples_per_class = 3
         # Create a subplot grid: one row per class, two columns per sample (color + grayscale)
         fig, axes = plt.subplots(
             len(labels), samples_per_class * 2,
             figsize=(samples_per_class * 4, len(labels) * 2.2)
          for row, label in enumerate(labels):
             # Find all indices in y_train that match the current label
             label_indices = np.where(y_train == label)[0]
             # Select the first N samples
             selected_indices = label_indices[:samples_per_class]
             for i, idx in enumerate(selected_indices):
                 # Left: display color image
                 ax\_color = axes[row, i * 2]
                 ax_color.imshow(X_train[idx]) # Original color image
                 if i == 0:
                     ax_color.set_ylabel(f"Label: {label}", fontsize=11)
                 ax_color.set_title(f"Label: {y_train[idx]}", fontsize=9)
                 ax_color.axis('off')
                 # Right: display corresponding grayscale image
                 ax\_gray = axes[row, i * 2 + 1]
                 ax_gray.imshow(X_train_gray[idx].squeeze(), cmap='gray') # Grayscale image
                 ax_gray.set_title(f"Label: {y_train[idx]}", fontsize=9)
                 ax_gray.axis('off')
         plt.tight_layout()
         plt.show()
```















Data preprocessing

```
In [116... # MLP + CNN
# Scale the data to the range 0-1
X_train_scale = X_train / 255.0
X_test_scale = X_test / 255.0

In [118... # Random Forest cannot handle multidimensional image inputs directly,
# so we reshape each (28, 28, 3) image into a 1D feature vector.

X_train_rf = X_train_scale.reshape((X_train_scale.shape[0], -1))
X_test_rf = X_test_scale.reshape((X_test_scale.shape[0], -1))
```

Creating a validation set

To improve the training efficiency of neural networks, we introduced a third dataset — **the validation set**. Although this may reduce evaluation stability, it is more efficient than using k-fold cross-validation, which involves significantly higher computational cost. **Using a single split for validation is more practical for monitoring training and tuning hyperparameters.**

- During training, we use the validation set to evaluate model performance:
 - To prevent overfitting (e.g., by using early stopping to halt training early),
 - To select the best hyperparameters.
- · Prevent information leakage.
 - The test set must remain completely independent from the entire training process and should only be used for final evaluation. If the test set participates in training, the model may learn from it, leading to overestimated performance and losing its purpose of assessing generalization.

2. Algorithm design and setup

Algorithm of choice from first six weeks of course - Random Forest

Baseline - Random Forest

- The main function of the baseline model is to provide a performance reference point for subsequent model optimization (such as hyperparameter tuning).
- We try to keep the model simple (no parameters are adjusted/parameters are kept as simple as possible)

```
In [70]: # Baseline - RF
# Initialize the model with default hyperparameters (set random_state for reproducibility)
rf = RandomForestClassifier(random_state=42)

# Train
rf.fit(X_train_rf, y_train)

# Predict on the test set
y_pred = rf.predict(X_test_rf)
acc_base_rf = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)

# Print evaluation metrics
print("Classification Report:")
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))
```

```
Classification Report:
                            recall f1-score
              precision
                                                support
                    0.82
                              0.98
                                         0.89
                                                     873
                    0.99
                                                     858
           1
                              0.90
                                         0.94
           2
                    0.58
                              0.32
                                         0.42
                                                    877
           3
                    0.73
                              0.74
                                         0.74
                                                    914
           4
                    0.54
                              0.65
                                         0.59
                                                    737
           5
                    0.62
                              0.73
                                         0.67
                                                    1072
           6
                   0.49
                              0.12
                                         0.19
                                                    682
           7
                    0.49
                              0.46
                                         0.47
                                                    813
           8
                    0.52
                              0.74
                                         0.61
                                                   1174
                                                    8000
                                         0.65
   accuracy
                    0.64
                              0.63
                                                   8000
   macro avg
                                         0.61
weighted avg
                    0.64
                              0.65
                                         0.63
                                                   8000
```

Fully connected neural network

Baseline - MLP

Epoch 8/10 900/900

Epoch 9/10 900/900

Epoch 10/10 900/900

- · Built a simple network using default settings: no learning rate tuning, no Dropout, no EarlyStopping
- 2 Dense layers: 128 → 64
- Fixed architecture and hyperparameters
- Optimizer: Adam (default learning rate)

```
In [126... def build_mlp_baseline():
             model = keras.models.Sequential()
             # Input layer + Flatten: convert (28, 28, 3) image to 1D vector
             model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape=(28, 28, 3)))
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             # First Dense layer -> 128 units + relu
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(128, activation='relu'))
             # Second Dense layer -> 64 units + relu
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(64, activation='relu'))
             # Output layer -> 9 units (number of classes) + softmax (probability output)
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation='softmax'))
             model.compile(
                 optimizer = "Adam",
                 loss = 'sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
                 metrics = ['accuracy']
             return model
In [128... # Train the baseline
         baseline_model_mlp = build_mlp_baseline()
         baseline_model_mlp.fit(
             X_train_nn, y_train_nn,
             epochs = 10,
```

```
validation_data = (X_valid, y_valid)
Epoch 1/10
900/900
                           - 2s 2ms/step – accuracy: 0.2344 – loss: 1.9929 – val_accuracy: 0.3613 – val_loss: 1.6765
Epoch 2/10
900/900
                            - 2s 2ms/step – accuracy: 0.3565 – loss: 1.6838 – val_accuracy: 0.4069 – val_loss: 1.5973
Epoch 3/10
900/900
                            - 1s 2ms/step - accuracy: 0.3956 - loss: 1.5921 - val accuracy: 0.4531 - val loss: 1.4810
Epoch 4/10
900/900
                            - 2s 2ms/step - accuracy: 0.4431 - loss: 1.4865 - val_accuracy: 0.4809 - val_loss: 1.3821
Epoch 5/10
900/900
                           - 1s 2ms/step - accuracy: 0.4715 - loss: 1.4215 - val_accuracy: 0.4984 - val_loss: 1.3595
Epoch 6/10
900/900
                            - 2s 2ms/step – accuracy: 0.4857 – loss: 1.3852 – val_accuracy: 0.5147 – val_loss: 1.3257
Epoch 7/10
900/900
                           - 1s 2ms/step - accuracy: 0.4928 - loss: 1.3663 - val_accuracy: 0.5231 - val_loss: 1.3097
```

- **2s** 2ms/step – accuracy: 0.4995 – loss: 1.3455 – val_accuracy: 0.5309 – val_loss: 1.2821

- 1s 2ms/step - accuracy: 0.5032 - loss: 1.3314 - val_accuracy: 0.5344 - val_loss: 1.2675

- 2s 2ms/step - accuracy: 0.5081 - loss: 1.3149 - val_accuracy: 0.5297 - val_loss: 1.2570

```
Out[128... <keras.src.callbacks.history.History at 0x30e5a8830>
```

250/250	0s 368us/step			
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.74	0.96	0.84	873
1	0.92	0.71	0.80	858
2	0.38	0.31	0.34	877
3	0.52	0.66	0.58	914
4	0.54	0.55	0.54	737
5	0.48	0.56	0.52	1072
6	0.33	0.03	0.06	682
7	0.23	0.14	0.17	813
8	0.43	0.65	0.52	1174
accuracy			0.53	8000
macro avg	0.51	0.51	0.49	8000
weighted avg	0.51	0.53	0.50	8000

• After training for 10 epochs, the model achieved an accuracy of about 50% on the test set.

Algorithm Design - MLP

- Input Layer: Accepts 3-channel color images of shape (28, 28, 3) -> flattened to 1D.
- Two hidden layers:
 - Layer 1: 256–1024 (step=64)
 - Layer 2: 128-512 (step=64)
 - ReLU activation
- Dropout layers are applied after each Dense layer (dropout rate between 0.2 and 0.5) -> prevent overfitting.
 - **Excessive dropout** may harm model capacity, leading to underfitting.
 - Large fluctuations in validation performance may occur if the network becomes too unstable due to frequent dropout.
- Output Layer: 9-unit Dense layer + softmax activation multi-class classification
- Hyperparameter tuning:
 - units, dropout_rate, and learning_rate are all tunable.
 - learning rate [1e-4, 1e-2] + log-scale sampling.

```
In [133... def build_mlp(hp):
             model = keras.models.Sequential()
             # Input layer - accepts images with shape (28, 28, 3)
             model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape=(28, 28, 3)))
             # Flatten the 3D image into a 1D vector (28*28*3 = 2352)
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             # Define dropout rate as a tunable hyperparameter
             dropout_rate = hp.Float('dropout_rate', 0.2, 0.5, step=0.1)
             # First hidden layer - extract low-level features
             model.add(
                 keras.layers.Dense(
                     units=hp.Int('units_1', min_value=256, max_value=1024, step=64),
                     activation='relu'
             # Dropout to prevent overfitting
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(dropout_rate))
             # Second hidden layer - fuse features into higher-level representation
             model.add(
                 keras.layers.Dense(
                     units=hp.Int('units_2', min_value=128, max_value=512, step=64),
                     activation='relu'
             # Dropout to prevent overfitting
```

```
model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(dropout_rate))

# Output layer -> 9 units (number of classes) + softmax (probability output)
model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation='softmax'))

# Instantiate optimiser and compile the model.
model.compile(
    optimizer=keras.optimizers.Adam(
        learning_rate=hp.Float('lr', 1e-4, 1e-2, sampling='log')
    ),
    loss='sparse_categorical_crossentropy', # suitable for integer class labels (not one-hot!)
    metrics=['accuracy']
)

return model
```

Convolutional neural network

Baseline - CNN

- Built a simple CNN model: no learning rate tuning, no Dropout, no EarlyStopping
- · 2 convolutional blocks followed by one dense layer
- fixed architecture and hyperparameters

```
In [136... def build_cnn_baseline():
             model = keras.models.Sequential()
             # Input layer - accepts images with shape (28, 28, 3)
             model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape = (28, 28, 3)))
             # First block
             model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 32, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size = (2, 2)))
             # Second block
             model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 64, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size = (2, 2)))
             # Flatten
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             # Fully connected layer
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(64, activation = 'relu'))
             # Output layer -> 9 units (number of classes) + softmax (probability output)
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation = 'softmax'))
             model.compile(
                 optimizer = "Adam",
                 loss = 'sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
                 metrics = ['accuracy']
             return model
```

```
Epoch 2/10
        900/900
                                    - 5s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.6150 - loss: 1.0454 - val_accuracy: 0.6684 - val_loss: 0.9090
        Enoch 3/10
        900/900
                                    - 5s 5ms/step – accuracy: 0.6680 – loss: 0.9121 – val_accuracy: 0.6953 – val_loss: 0.8379
        Epoch 4/10
        900/900
                                    — 5s 6ms/step — accuracy: 0.7061 — loss: 0.8190 — val_accuracy: 0.7444 — val_loss: 0.7355
        Epoch 5/10
        900/900
                                    - 5s 6ms/step – accuracy: 0.7274 – loss: 0.7643 – val_accuracy: 0.7541 – val_loss: 0.6962
        Epoch 6/10
        900/900 -
                                    - 5s 5ms/step – accuracy: 0.7362 – loss: 0.7329 – val_accuracy: 0.7544 – val_loss: 0.6979
        Epoch 7/10
        900/900
                                    – 5s 5ms/step – accuracy: 0.7460 – loss: 0.7018 – val_accuracy: 0.7584 – val_loss: 0.6869
        Epoch 8/10
        900/900
                                   — 5s 6ms/step – accuracy: 0.7605 – loss: 0.6670 – val_accuracy: 0.7628 – val_loss: 0.6732
        Epoch 9/10
        900/900
                                    – 5s 6ms/step – accuracy: 0.7691 – loss: 0.6373 – val_accuracy: 0.7700 – val_loss: 0.6555
        Epoch 10/10
        900/900
                                    – 6s 6ms/step – accuracy: 0.7755 – loss: 0.6200 – val_accuracy: 0.7788 – val_loss: 0.6232
Out[137... <keras.src.callbacks.history.History at 0x314f68620>
In [138... loss_base_cnn, acc_base_cnn = baseline_model_cnn.evaluate(X_test_scale, y_test)
         print(f"Baseline Test Accuracy: {acc_base_cnn:.4f}")
                                    1s 3ms/step - accuracy: 0.7769 - loss: 0.6142
        Baseline Test Accuracy: 0.7739
In [139... y_pred = baseline_model_cnn.predict(X_test_scale)
         y_pred_labels = np.argmax(y_pred, axis=1)
         print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred_labels))
```

- 5s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.3580 - loss: 1.6963 - val_accuracy: 0.5959 - val_loss: 1.0724

250/250	1s 2ms/step			
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.86	0.97	0.91	873
1	0.98	0.92	0.95	858
2	0.63	0.65	0.64	877
3	0.97	0.89	0.93	914
4	0.72	0.77	0.74	737
5	0.67	0.83	0.75	1072
6	0.66	0.62	0.64	682
7	0.59	0.50	0.54	813
8	0.85	0.75	0.80	1174
accuracy			0.77	8000
macro avg	0.77	0.77	0.77	8000
weighted avg	0.78	0.77	0.77	8000

Algorithm Design - CNN

Epoch 1/10 900/900 —

- The model includes three convolutional layers, with increasing filters, followed by a fully connected layer and output layer.
 - Input: (28, 28, 3)
 - Conv2D → MaxPooling2D → Dropout
 - Conv2D (filters × 2) → MaxPooling2D → Dropout
 - Conv2D (filters × 2)
 - Flatten
 - Dense (filters × 2) → Dropout
 - Dense(9) with softmax activation
- Key hyperparameters tuned:
 - filters: Controls the number of feature detectors [32, 64, 128]
 - dropout_rate: Controls the regularization strength [0.2 0.5]
 - learning_rate: Tuned on a log scale [1e-4 1e-2]
- The core architecture of the baseline is retained, but the flexibility is enhanced → making it easier to optimize performance in Keras
 Tuner

```
In [169... def build_cnn(hp):
    model = keras.models.Sequential()
    # Input layer - accepts images with shape (28, 28, 3)
    model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape=(28, 28, 3)))

# Hyperparameters to tune - filters and dropout rate
    filters = hp.Choice('filters', values=[32, 64, 128])  # Controls model capacity
    dropout_rate = hp.Float('dropout_rate', 0.2, 0.5, step=0.1) # Prevent overfitting

# First block
    model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters, kernel_size=(3, 3), activation='relu'))
    model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2, 2)))
```

```
model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(dropout_rate)) # Prevent overfitting
# Second block
model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters * 2, kernel_size=(3, 3), activation='relu'))
model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2, 2)))
model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(dropout_rate))
                                                       # Prevent overfitting
# Third block - no pooling
model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters * 2, kernel_size=(3, 3), activation='relu'))
# Flatten
model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
# Fully connected layer
model.add(keras.layers.Dense(filters * 2, activation='relu'))
# Dropout after dense layer — prevents reliance on specific neurons
model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(dropout_rate))
# Output layer -> 9 units (number of classes) + softmax (probability output)
model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation='softmax'))
model.compile(
    optimizer=keras.optimizers.Adam(
        learning_rate=hp.Float('lr', 1e-4, 1e-2, sampling='log')
    loss='sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
    metrics=['accuracy']
return model
```

3. Hyperparameter tuning

Algorithm of choice from first six weeks of course - Random Forest

- **GridSearchCV** already performs cross-validation internally (cv=5):
- It will automatically split the provided X_train_rf, y_train into 5 folds;
- Each fold is internally divided into train/validation sets to evaluate the performance of different parameter combinations.

```
In [104... # Define the parameter grid
param_grid = {
    'n_estimators': [50, 100, 200],
    'max_depth': [10, 20, 30],
    'min_samples_split': [2, 5, 10],
    'max_features': ['sqrt', 'log2']
}

# Grid search
grid_search_rf = GridSearchCV(rf, param_grid, cv=5)
grid_search_rf.fit(X_train_rf, y_train)

# Print the best parameters
best_params_rf = grid_search_rf.best_params_
print("Best hyperparameters:", best_params_rf)
```

Best hyperparameters: {'max_depth': 30, 'max_features': 'sqrt', 'min_samples_split': 5, 'n_estimators': 200}

Visualization

	param_n_estimators	param_max_depth p	param_min_samples_split
41	200	30	5
44	200	30	10
38 23	200	30 20	2 5
26	200 200	20	10
20	200	20	2
40	100	30	5
47	200	30	2
43	100	30	10
53	200	30	10
32	200	20	5
50	200	30	5
35	200	20	10
29	200	20	2
37	100	30	2
22 19	100 100	20 20	5 2
25	100	20	10
52	100	30	10
34	100	20	10
46	100	30	2
31	100	20	5
49	100	30	5
28	100	20	2
42	50	30	10
24 39	50 50	20 30	10 5
21	50	20	5
18	50	20	2
36	50	30	2
51	50	30	10
33	50	20	10
48	50	30	5
30	50	20	5
45	50	30	2
27	50	20	2
5 2	200 200	10 10	5 2
8	200	10	10
4	100	10	5
7	100	10	10
1	100	10	2
3	50	10	5
0	50	10	2
6	50	10	10
14	200	10	5
17 11	200 200	10 10	10
13	100	10	5
10	100	10	2
16	100	10	10
12	50	10	5
15	50	10	10
9	50	10	2
	param_max_features	moon tost score	moon fit time
41	param_max_reacures sqrt	mean_test_score 0.649875	<pre>mean_fit_time 100.701498</pre>
44	sqrt	0.648438	98.852448
38	sqrt	0.648344	102.206669
23	sqrt	0.647969	97.191994
26	sqrt	0.646563	94.642976
20	sqrt	0.645844	98.557626
40	sqrt	0.638281	50.370415
47 43	log2	0.638281 0.638000	26.814444
53	sqrt log2	0.638000 0.637656	49.346964 24.391276
32	log2	0.637406	24.591270
50	log2	0.637312	25.593390
35	log2	0.636656	23.699626
29	log2	0.636500	25.183181
37	sqrt	0.635938	50.404275
22	sqrt	0.635125	48.426561
19	sqrt	0.634844	49.522002
25 52	sqrt	0.634375 0.637500	47.036766 12.406703
52 34	log2 log2	0.627500 0.626125	12.496703 11.847130
46	log2	0.626063	13.893486
31	log2	0.624500	12.348277
49	log2	0.623563	13.800292
28	log2	0.622937	12.593124
42	sqrt	0.620250	25.940749

0.618125

0.616781

0.614469

sqrt sqrt

sqrt

24

39

21

23.637237 25.900678 24.408040

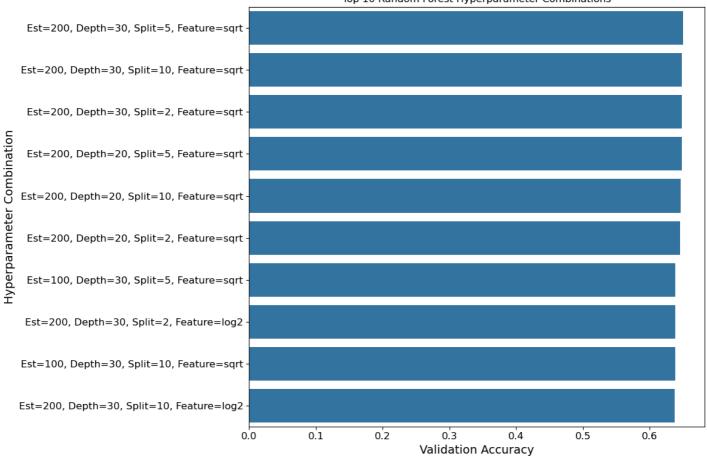
\

```
18
                          sqrt
                                       0.613125
                                                     24.726600
        36
                          sqrt
                                       0.610188
                                                     25.274157
                                                      6.098683
        51
                          log2
                                       0.608750
        33
                          log2
                                       0.608563
                                                      5.918097
                                                      7.089012
        48
                                       0.605312
                          log2
        30
                          log2
                                       0.604344
                                                      6.219662
        45
                          log2
                                       0.601344
                                                      7.064115
        27
                                       0.599969
                                                      6.304334
                          log2
        5
                                       0.598781
                                                     60.620036
                          sqrt
        2
                                       0.597844
                                                     60.488921
                          sqrt
        8
                          sqrt
                                       0.597469
                                                     60.157498
                         sqrt
        4
                                       0.593094
                                                     30.299843
        7
                          sqrt
                                       0.592844
                                                     30.079155
                                       0.590281
                                                     31.041808
        1
                          sqrt
        3
                                       0.582937
                                                     14.953385
                          sqrt
        0
                          sqrt
                                       0.582469
                                                     16.248459
        6
                          sqrt
                                      0.581187
                                                     15.224582
                                                     14.999165
        14
                          log2
                                       0.581094
        17
                          log2
                                       0.580844
                                                     14.800021
                                       0.579719
                                                     15.064560
        11
                          log2
        13
                          log2
                                       0.575937
                                                     7.542744
        10
                                       0.574625
                                                      7.452049
                          log2
        16
                          log2
                                       0.574281
                                                      7.424692
                                       0.568188
                                                      3.824771
        12
                          log2
                                                      3.758625
        15
                                       0.566156
                          log2
        9
                          log2
                                       0.564875
                                                      3.946650
In [106... rf_df = pd.read_csv('rf_gridsearch_results.csv')
         # Create tag
         rf_df['param_combo'] = (
              'Est=' + rf_df['param_n_estimators'].astype(str) +
              ', Depth=' + rf_df['param_max_depth'].astype(str) +
              ', Split=' + rf_df['param_min_samples_split'].astype(str) +
              ', Feature=' + rf_df['param_max_features'].astype(str)
In [106... # Sort by accuracy - DESC
         rf_sorted = rf_df.sort_values(by='mean_test_score', ascending=False)
         plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
          sns.barplot(x='mean_test_score', y='param_combo', data=rf_sorted.head(10))
         plt.xlabel('Validation Accuracy')
         plt.ylabel('Hyperparameter Combination')
```

plt.title('Top 10 Random Forest Hyperparameter Combinations')

plt.tight_layout()

plt.show()



Fully connected neural network

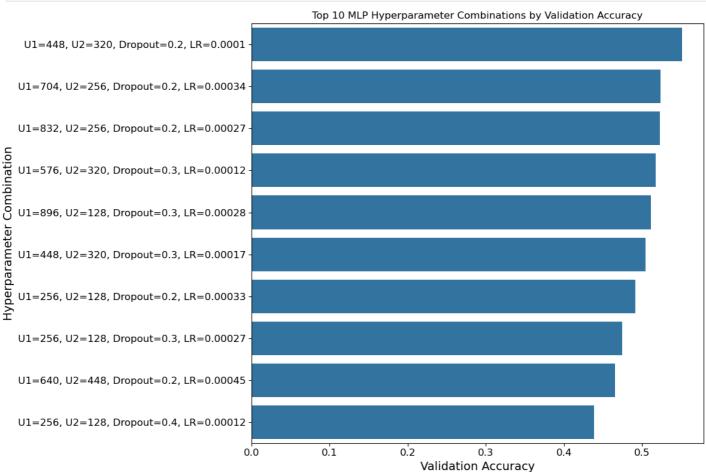
```
In [824... # Use Random Search
         tuner_mlp = kt.RandomSearch(
             hypermodel = build_mlp,
             objective = 'val_accuracy',
             max_trials = 30,
                                                 # Search 30 different hyperparameter combinations
             executions_per_trial = 1,
                                                 # Run each combination once
                                                 # Overwrite previous results
             overwrite = True,
             directory = 'keras_tuning_results', # Results folder
             project_name = 'mlp'
         # Stop if no improvement for 5 consecutive epochs - reduce the computing time
         early_stopping = EarlyStopping(
             monitor = 'val_accuracy'
             patience = 5,
             restore_best_weights = True
         # Print a summary of the search
         tuner_mlp.search_space_summary()
         # Hyperparameter search
         tuner_mlp.search(
             X_train_nn, y_train_nn,
             epochs = 30,
             validation_data = (X_valid, y_valid),
             callbacks=[early_stopping]
        Trial 30 Complete [00h 00m 39s]
        val_accuracy: 0.1471875011920929
        Best val_accuracy So Far: 0.5512499809265137
        Total elapsed time: 00h 22m 46s
```

Visualization

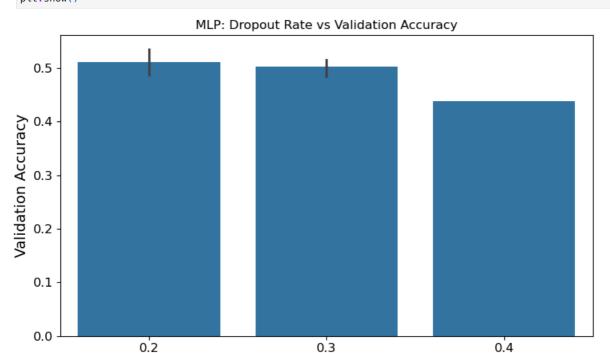
```
In [825... # Retrieve the top 10 best performing trials from the MLP tuner
mlp_trials = tuner_mlp.oracle.get_best_trials(num_trials=10)

# Format the results
mlp_records = []
for trial in mlp_trials:
```

```
record = trial.hyperparameters.values.copy()
             record['score'] = trial.score
                                                            # this is the final val_accuracy
             best_epoch = trial.metrics.get_best_step('val_accuracy') # epoch with best performance
             record['best_epoch'] = best_epoch + 1
                                                            # +1 to make epoch indexing start from 1
             mlp_records.append(record)
         # Convert the records into a DataFrame
         mlp_df = pd.DataFrame(mlp_records)
         print(mlp_df)
         # Save the results
         mlp_df.to_csv('mlp_tuner_results.csv', index=False)
           dropout_rate units_1 units_2
                                                  lr
                                                         score best_epoch
        0
                    0.2
                             448
                                      320 0.000104 0.551250
                                                                        28
        1
                    0.2
                             704
                                      256 0.000338 0.523438
                                                                         9
        2
                    0.2
                             832
                                      256
                                           0.000267
                                                     0.522500
                                                                        14
        3
                    0.3
                             576
                                      320
                                           0.000122
                                                     0.517812
                                                                        22
                    0.3
                             896
                                      128
                                           0.000277
                                                     0.511250
        4
                                                                        17
        5
                    0.3
                             448
                                      320
                                           0.000171
                                                     0.504375
                                                                        12
        6
                    0.2
                             256
                                      128
                                           0.000335
                                                     0.491250
                                                                        10
        7
                    0.3
                             256
                                      128
                                           0.000275
                                                     0.474687
                                                                        10
        8
                             640
                                      448 0.000454 0.465000
                    0.2
                                                                         3
        9
                    0.4
                             256
                                      128
                                           0.000122
                                                     0.438750
                                                                        12
In [834... mlp_df = pd.read_csv('mlp_tuner_results.csv')
         # Create tag
         mlp_df['param_combo'] = (
              'U1=' + mlp_df['units_1'].astype(str) +
              ', U2=' + mlp_df['units_2'].astype(str) +
             ', Dropout=' + mlp_df['dropout_rate'].astype(str) +
             ', LR=' + mlp_df['lr'].round(5).astype(str)
         # Sort by accuracy - DESC
         mlp_df_sorted = mlp_df.sort_values('score', ascending=False)
         # barplot (top 10 hyperparameter combinations)
         plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
         sns.barplot(x='score', y='param_combo', data=mlp_df_sorted.head(10))
         plt.xlabel('Validation Accuracy')
         plt.ylabel('Hyperparameter Combination')
         plt.title('Top 10 MLP Hyperparameter Combinations by Validation Accuracy')
         plt.tight_layout()
         plt.show()
                                                             Top 10 MLP Hyperparameter Combinations by Validation Accuracy
```

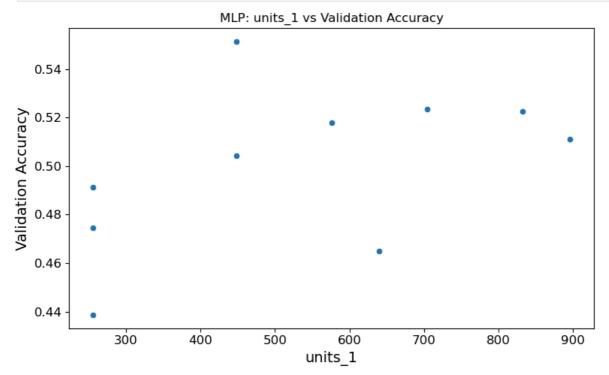


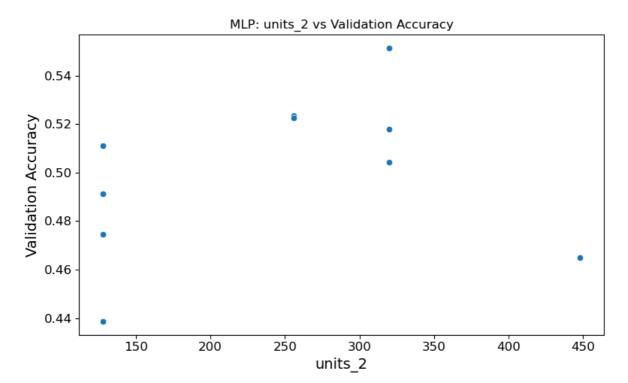
```
In [836... # Dropout Rate vs Validation Accuracy (bar)
   plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
   sns.barplot(x='dropout_rate', y='score', data=mlp_df)
   plt.title('MLP: Dropout Rate vs Validation Accuracy')
   plt.xlabel('Dropout Rate')
   plt.ylabel('Validation Accuracy')
   plt.tight_layout()
   plt.show()
```



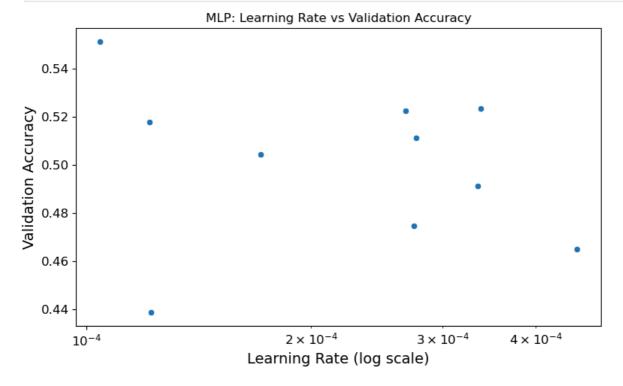
```
In [838... # Dense Layer Units vs Accuracy (scatter)
for units in ['units_1', 'units_2']:
    plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
    sns.scatterplot(x=units, y='score', data=mlp_df)
    plt.title(f'MLP: {units} vs Validation Accuracy')
    plt.xlabel(units)
    plt.ylabel('Validation Accuracy')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```

Dropout Rate





```
In [840... # Learning Rate vs Accuracy (log scale)
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
    sns.scatterplot(x='lr', y='score', data=mlp_df)
    plt.xscale('log')
    plt.title('MLP: Learning Rate vs Validation Accuracy')
    plt.xlabel('Learning Rate (log scale)')
    plt.ylabel('Validation Accuracy')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```



Validation Model with Best Hyperparameters

To evaluate the training dynamics of the MLP model under the best-performing hyperparameter combination, we manually rebuild the model using:

- units_1 = 448
- units_2 = 320
- dropout_rate = 0.2
- learning_rate = 0.000104

We train the model for a fixed number of 28 epochs, and **plot the accuracy and loss curves** on both the training and validation sets. This helps us:

Visualize the learning process

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)

plt.xlabel('Epoch') plt.ylabel('Accuracy')

plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)

plt.xlabel('Epoch') plt.ylabel('Loss') plt.legend() plt.tight_layout() plt.show()

plt.legend()

Loss

- Detect overfitting by comparing the gap between training and validation performance
- Decide whether to adjust the number of training epochs

This step ensures the chosen architecture and parameters generalize well

plt.plot(history_mlp.history['accuracy'], label='Train Accuracy') plt.plot(history_mlp.history['val_accuracy'], label='Val Accuracy')

plt.title('MLP - Training & Validation Accuracy')

plt.title('MLP - Training & Validation Loss')

plt.plot(history_mlp.history['loss'], label='Train Loss') plt.plot(history_mlp.history['val_loss'], label='Val Loss')

```
In [103... def valid_mlp():
             model = keras.models.Sequential()
             model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape = (28, 28, 3)))
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             # Fixed parameters
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(448, activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.2))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(320, activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.2))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation = 'softmax'))
                 optimizer = keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate = 0.000104),
                 loss = 'sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
                 metrics = ['accuracy']
             return model
In [103...] # Fixed epoch = 28
         valid = valid_mlp()
         history_mlp = valid.fit(
             X_train_nn, y_train_nn,
             epochs = 28,
             validation_data = (X_valid, y_valid)
         # Accuracy
         plt.figure(figsize=(12, 4))
```

```
Epoch 1/28
900/900
                             • 5s 5ms/step – accuracy: 0.2102 – loss: 2.0610 – val_accuracy: 0.3319 – val_loss: 1.7335
Epoch 2/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.3328 - loss: 1.7473 - val_accuracy: 0.4244 - val_loss: 1.6226
Epoch 3/28
900/900
                              4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.3655 - loss: 1.6722 - val_accuracy: 0.4363 - val_loss: 1.5599
Epoch 4/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.3922 - loss: 1.6142 - val_accuracy: 0.4525 - val_loss: 1.5138
Epoch 5/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4119 - loss: 1.5735 - val_accuracy: 0.4672 - val_loss: 1.4783
Epoch 6/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4300 - loss: 1.5354 - val_accuracy: 0.4809 - val_loss: 1.4324
Epoch 7/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4442 - loss: 1.5056 - val_accuracy: 0.4794 - val_loss: 1.4145
Epoch 8/28
900/900
                              4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4529 - loss: 1.4777 - val_accuracy: 0.4831 - val_loss: 1.3857
Epoch 9/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4617 - loss: 1.4631 - val_accuracy: 0.4888 - val_loss: 1.3839
Epoch 10/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4605 - loss: 1.4474 - val_accuracy: 0.4941 - val_loss: 1.3726
Epoch 11/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4662 - loss: 1.4349 - val_accuracy: 0.4884 - val_loss: 1.3691
Epoch 12/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4701 - loss: 1.4228 - val_accuracy: 0.4916 - val_loss: 1.3525
Epoch 13/28
900/900
                             5s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.4791 - loss: 1.4091 - val_accuracy: 0.4847 - val_loss: 1.3617
Epoch 14/28
900/900
                              4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4770 - loss: 1.4035 - val_accuracy: 0.5028 - val_loss: 1.3362
Epoch 15/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4816 - loss: 1.3957 - val_accuracy: 0.5003 - val_loss: 1.3280
Epoch 16/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4855 - loss: 1.3877 - val_accuracy: 0.5072 - val_loss: 1.3100
Epoch 17/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4914 - loss: 1.3748 - val_accuracy: 0.5147 - val_loss: 1.3110
Epoch 18/28
900/900
                             4s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.4905 - loss: 1.3719 - val_accuracy: 0.4994 - val_loss: 1.3405
Epoch 19/28
900/900
                              4s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.4948 - loss: 1.3606 - val_accuracy: 0.5125 - val_loss: 1.2860
Epoch 20/28
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.4968 - loss: 1.3550 - val_accuracy: 0.5134 - val_loss: 1.2849
900/900
Epoch 21/28
900/900
                             4s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.5023 - loss: 1.3446 - val_accuracy: 0.5181 - val_loss: 1.2828
Epoch 22/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.5007 - loss: 1.3436 - val_accuracy: 0.5213 - val_loss: 1.2745
Epoch 23/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.5032 - loss: 1.3289 - val_accuracy: 0.5319 - val_loss: 1.2754
Epoch 24/28
900/900
                              4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.5054 - loss: 1.3291 - val_accuracy: 0.5253 - val_loss: 1.2633
Epoch 25/28
900/900
                              4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.5082 - loss: 1.3197 - val_accuracy: 0.5378 - val_loss: 1.2467
Epoch 26/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.5049 - loss: 1.3186 - val_accuracy: 0.5319 - val_loss: 1.2515
Epoch 27/28
900/900
                             4s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.5128 - loss: 1.3020 - val_accuracy: 0.5337 - val_loss: 1.2382
Epoch 28/28
900/900
                             4s 4ms/step - accuracy: 0.5162 - loss: 1.3009 - val accuracy: 0.5406 - val loss: 1.2297
                  MLP - Training & Validation Accuracy
                                                                                 MLP - Training & Validation Loss
  0.55
            Train Accuracy
                                                                                                                  Train Loss
                                                                 1.9
            Val Accuracy
                                                                                                                  Val Loss
  0.50
                                                                 1.8
  0.45
                                                                 1.7
Accuracy
0.40
0.35
                                                                 1.6
                                                                 1.5
                                                                 1.4
  0.30
                                                                 1.3
  0.25
                                                                 1.2
         ó
                  5
                           10
                                   15
                                             20
                                                      25
                                                                       Ó
                                                                                5
                                                                                        10
                                                                                                 15
                                                                                                          20
                                                                                                                   25
                               Epoch
                                                                                            Epoch
```

Convolutional neural network

```
In [919... # Use Random Search
tuner_cnn = kt.RandomSearch(
    hypermodel = build_cnn,
    objective = 'val_accuracy',
    max_trials = 10,  # Search 10 different hyperparameter combinations
    executions_per_trial = 1,  # Run each combination once
```

Trial 10 Complete [00h 01m 34s] val_accuracy: 0.7799999713897705 Best val_accuracy So Far: 0.8853124976158142 Total elapsed time: 01h 13m 59s Results summary Results in keras_tuning_results/cnn Showing 10 best trials Objective(name="val_accuracy", direction="max") Trial 04 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 128 dropout_rate: 0.30000000000000004 lr: 0.00013612460334701279 Score: 0.8853124976158142 Trial 05 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 64 dropout_rate: 0.30000000000000004 lr: 0.0002458321717641159 Score: 0.8678125143051147 Trial 02 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 128 dropout_rate: 0.30000000000000004 lr: 0.00011641658137192351 Score: 0.8668749928474426 Trial 01 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 128 dropout_rate: 0.30000000000000004 lr: 0.0006529927317508998 Score: 0.8615624904632568 Trial 07 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 64 dropout_rate: 0.2 lr: 0.00018974491572285046 Score: 0.8578125238418579 Trial 06 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 128 dropout rate: 0.4 lr: 0.0007506269481542165 Score: 0.8518750071525574 Trial 09 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 32 dropout rate: 0.300000000000000004 lr: 0.0013960407115272237 Score: 0.7799999713897705 Trial 00 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 32 dropout_rate: 0.4 lr: 0.0012158303534721207

Score: 0.7584375143051147

Trial 03 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 64 dropout_rate: 0.2

lr: 0.006172427728586157 Score: 0.4568749964237213

Trial 08 summary Hyperparameters: filters: 64 dropout_rate: 0.2 lr: 0.008779360094579483 Score: 0.14687499403953552

Visualization

```
# Format the results
          cnn_records = []
          for trial in cnn_trials:
             record = trial.hyperparameters.values.copy()
              record['score'] = trial.score
                                                                         # this is the final val accuracy
              \verb|record['best_epoch']| = trial.metrics.get_best_step('val_accuracy') + 1 \# epoch \textit{ with best performance}| \\
              cnn_records.append(record)
                                                                        # +l to make epoch indexing start from 1
          # Convert the records into a DataFrame
          cnn_df = pd.DataFrame(cnn_records)
          print(cnn_df)
          # Save the results
          cnn_df.to_csv('cnn_tuner_results.csv', index=False)
                                       lr
            filters dropout_rate
                                                  score best_epoch
                        0.3 0.000136 0.885312
         0
                128
                                                                   30
                64
                              0.3 0.000246 0.867813
                                                                   29
        1
                          0.3 0.000246 0.867813

0.3 0.000116 0.866875

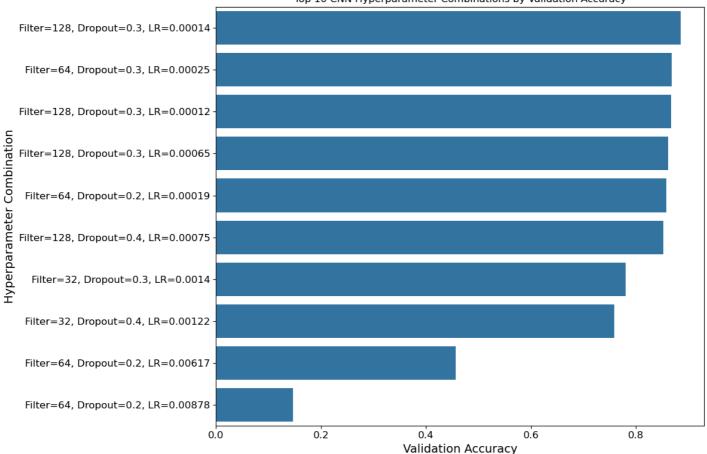
0.3 0.000653 0.861562

0.2 0.000190 0.857813

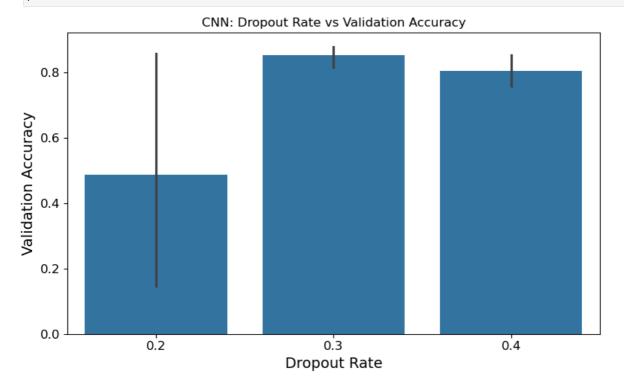
0.4 0.000751 0.851875

0.3 0.001396 0.780000

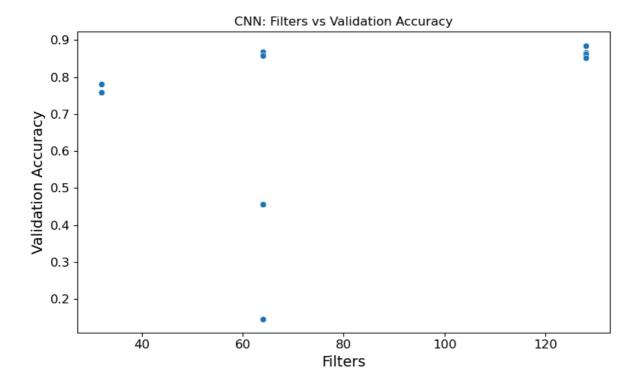
0.4 0.001216 0.758438
              128
128
64
         2
                                                                   29
         3
                                                                   25
              128
32
        5
                                                                   30
         6
                                                                   13
                32
         7
                                                                  25
                             0.2 0.006172 0.456875
         8
               64
                                                                  12
                              0.2 0.008779 0.146875
                64
                                                                    1
In [932... cnn_df = pd.read_csv('cnn_tuner_results.csv')
          # Create tag
          cnn_df['param_combo'] = (
               'Filter=' + cnn_df['filters'].astype(str) +
              ', Dropout=' + cnn_df['dropout_rate'].astype(str) +
              ', LR=' + cnn_df['lr'].round(5).astype(str)
In [934... # Sort by accuracy - DESC
          cnn_df_sorted = cnn_df.sort_values('score', ascending=False)
          # barplot (top 10 hyperparameter combinations)
          plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
          sns.barplot(x='score', y='param_combo', data=cnn_df_sorted.head(10))
          plt.xlabel('Validation Accuracy')
          plt.ylabel('Hyperparameter Combination')
          plt.title('Top 10 CNN Hyperparameter Combinations by Validation Accuracy')
          plt.tight_layout()
          plt.show()
```



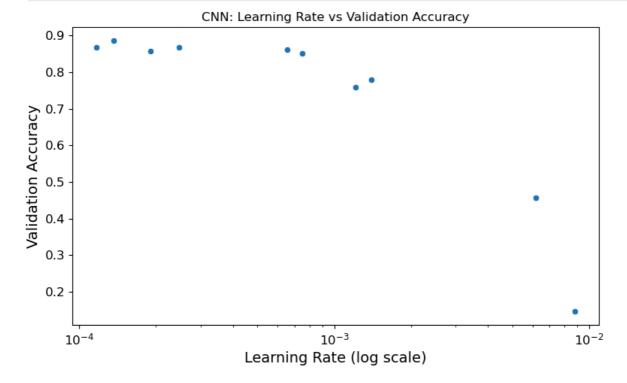
```
In [936... # Dropout Rate vs Validation Accuracy (bar)
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
sns.barplot(x='dropout_rate', y='score', data=cnn_df)
plt.title('CNN: Dropout Rate vs Validation Accuracy')
plt.xlabel('Dropout Rate')
plt.ylabel('Validation Accuracy')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



```
In [942... # Dense Units vs Validation Accuracy (scatter)
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
sns.scatterplot(x='filters', y='score', data=cnn_df)
plt.title('CNN: Filters vs Validation Accuracy')
plt.xlabel('Filters')
plt.ylabel('Validation Accuracy')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



```
In [944... # Learning Rate vs Validation Accuracy (log scale)
    plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
    sns.scatterplot(x='lr', y='score', data=cnn_df)
    plt.xscale('log')
    plt.title('CNN: Learning Rate vs Validation Accuracy')
    plt.xlabel('Learning Rate (log scale)')
    plt.ylabel('Validation Accuracy')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```



Validation Model with Best Hyperparameters

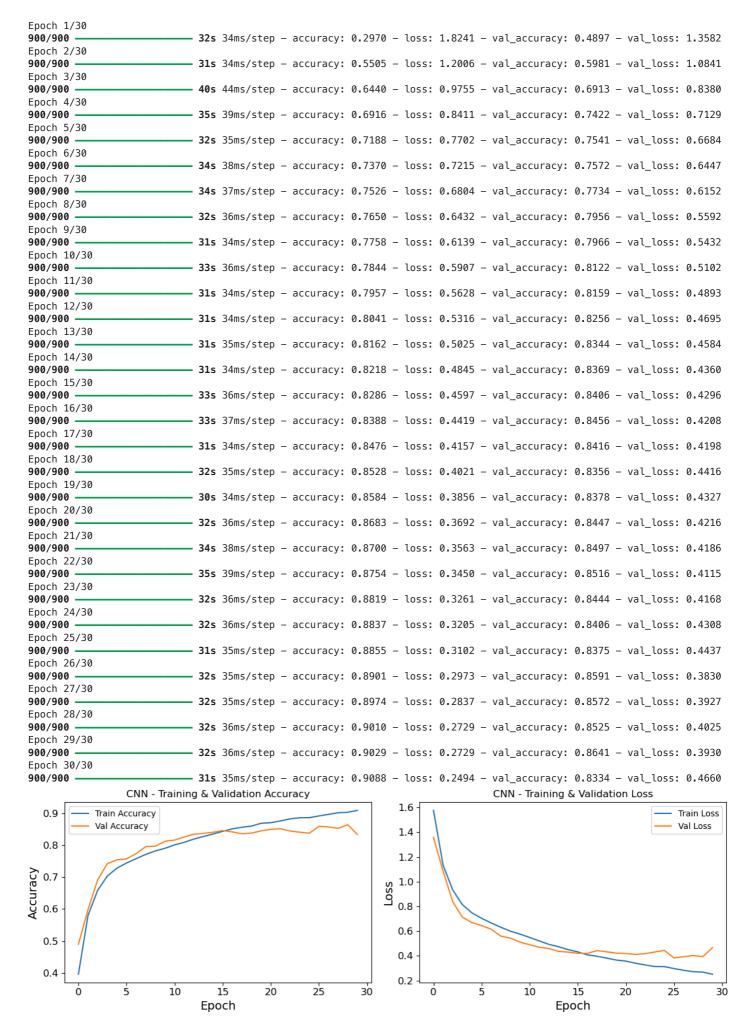
To evaluate the training dynamics of the CNN model using the best-performing hyperparameter configuration, we manually rebuild the model using:

- filters = 128dropout_rate = 0.3learning_rate = 0.000136
- The model includes three convolutional layers with increasing depth, each followed by pooling and dropout layers (except the last conv layer). A fully connected layer is added before the final classification layer.

We train the model for a fixed number of epochs = 30, and plot the accuracy and loss curves on both training and validation sets.

```
In [102... def valid_cnn():
             model = keras.models.Sequential()
             model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape = (28, 28, 3)))
             # Fixed parameters
             # Block 1
             model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 128, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size = (2, 2)))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.3))
             # Block 2
             \verb|model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 128 * 2, kernel\_size = (3, 3), activation = \verb|'relu'|)|
             model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size = (2, 2)))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.3))
             # Block 3
             model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 128 * 2, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(128 * 2, activation='relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.3))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation = 'softmax'))
             model.compile(
                  optimizer = keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate = 0.000136),
                  loss = 'sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
                  metrics = ['accuracy']
             return model
```

```
In [102... # Fixed epoch =28
         valid = valid_cnn()
         history_cnn = valid.fit(
             X_train_nn, y_train_nn,
             epochs = 30,
             validation_data = (X_valid, y_valid)
         plt.figure(figsize=(12, 4))
         # Accuracy
         plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
         plt.plot(history_cnn.history['accuracy'], label='Train Accuracy')
         plt.plot(history_cnn.history['val_accuracy'], label='Val Accuracy')
         plt.title('CNN - Training & Validation Accuracy')
         plt.xlabel('Epoch')
         plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
         plt.legend()
         # Loss
         plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
         plt.plot(history_cnn.history['loss'], label='Train Loss')
         plt.plot(history_cnn.history['val_loss'], label='Val Loss')
         plt.title('CNN - Training & Validation Loss')
         plt.xlabel('Epoch')
         plt.ylabel('Loss')
         plt.legend()
         plt.tight_layout()
         plt.show()
```



We did not choose the best epoch = 30 returned by the parameter search. Instead, we selected epoch = 18 for the final model training, for the following reasons:

- Validation loss (val_loss) reached its lowest point around epoch 15
 - val_loss reached a minimum at around epoch 18, then started to slightly increase, which may indicate early signs of overfitting.

- Validation accuracy (val_accuracy) also became stable or slightly decreased after epoch 18
 - As shown in the left plot, val_accuracy peaked around epoch 15, then fluctuated without further improvement;
 - Meanwhile, train_accuracy kept increasing, showing that the model was still fitting the training set and possibly starting to overfit.

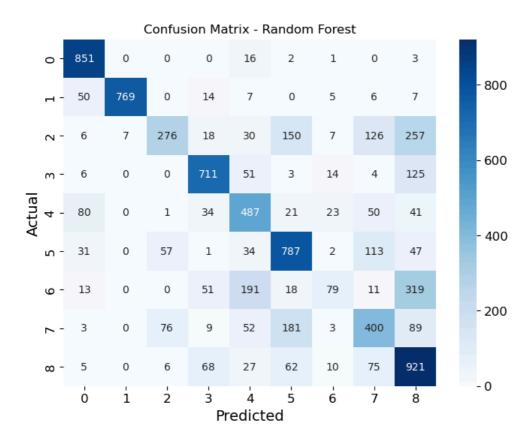
Therefore, based on the plots above, we consider **epoch = 18** to be a good balance between generalization and training performance, and we use it as the final training setting.

4. Final models

In this section, we train each model with its **best hyperparmater combination independently of the hyperparameter tuning cells**, don't rely on the hyperparameter tuning cells having been run.

Algorithm of choice from first six weeks of course - Random Forest

```
In [226... # Rebuild a new RF based on the optimal parameters
          final_rf = RandomForestClassifier(
             n_{estimators} = 200,
             max_depth = 30,
             min_samples_split = 5,
             max_features = 'sqrt',
             random_state=42
         # Retrain on the training set
         final_rf.fit(X_train_rf, y_train)
Out[226...
                                     RandomForestClassifier
         RandomForestClassifier(max_depth=30, min_samples_split=5, n_estimators=200,
                                  random_state=42)
In [149... # Evaluate on the test set
         y_pred_test_rf = final_rf.predict(X_test_rf)
         report_rf = classification_report(y_test, y_pred_test_rf, output_dict=True)
         acc_rf = report_rf['accuracy']
         macro_rf = report_rf['macro avg']['f1-score']
         print("Final RF - Test Set Classification Report:")
         print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred_test_rf))
        Final RF - Test Set Classification Report:
                      precision
                                   recall f1-score
                                                       support
                   0
                            0.81
                                      0.97
                                                0.89
                                                           873
                   1
                            0.99
                                     0.90
                                                0.94
                                                           858
                   2
                           0.66
                                      0.31
                                                0.43
                                                           877
                                                0.78
                   3
                           0.78
                                      0.78
                                                           914
                   4
                           0.54
                                      0.66
                                                0.60
                                                           737
                   5
                                                          1072
                           0.64
                                     0.73
                                                0.69
                   6
                           0.55
                                     0.12
                                                0.19
                                                           682
                   7
                           0.51
                                     0.49
                                                0.50
                                                           813
                   8
                           0.51
                                      0.78
                                                0.62
                                                          1174
                                                          8000
            accuracy
                                                0.66
                            0.67
                                      0.64
                                                0.63
                                                          8000
           macro avg
                                      0.66
                                                          8000
        weighted avg
                           0.67
                                                0.64
In [150... # Print the confusion matrix
         cm = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred_test_rf)
         plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
         sns.heatmap(cm, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues')
         plt.xlabel("Predicted")
         plt.ylabel("Actual")
         plt.title("Confusion Matrix - Random Forest")
         plt.show()
```



Fully connected neural network

```
In [171... # Rebuild a new MLP based on the optimal parameters
         def build_final_mlp():
             model = keras.models.Sequential()
             model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape = (28, 28, 3)))
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             # Fixed parameter
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(448, activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.2))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(320, activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.2))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation = 'softmax'))
             model.compile(
                 optimizer = keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate = 0.000104),
                 loss = 'sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
                 metrics = ['accuracy']
             return model
```

Previously, we used train_test_split() to allocate 90% of the training data for hyperparameter tuning and 10% of the training data for validation.

• Now that the optimal hyperparameters have been selected, we will train the final model using the **full training set**, without using X_valid, since it has already been involved in the tuning process.

Epoch 1/28						
	45	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.2210 - l	0SS:	2.0389
Epoch 2/28 1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	10	Ams/sten -	accuracy	0.3268 - l	0001	1 7/00
Epoch 3/28	73	41113/3CEP -	accuracy.	0.3200 - C	033.	1:/430
·	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracv:	0.3718 - l	.055:	1.6659
Epoch 4/28			,			
1000/1000 ———————	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.3947 - l	0SS:	1.6083
Epoch 5/28						
1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4162 - l	055:	1.5564
Epoch 6/28 1000/1000	. 1c	/ms/sten =	accuracy:	0.4364 - l	0661	1 5225
Epoch 7/28	73	чшэ, эсср	accuracy:	014504 6	033.	113223
·	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4452 - l	.055:	1.4877
Epoch 8/28						
	4s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4645 - l	055:	1.4568
Epoch 9/28	4.0	Ams /ston	200112011	0 4626 1	0001	1 4424
1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	45	41115/Step -	accuracy:	0.4626 - l	0551	1.4424
1000/1000	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracv:	0.4732 - l	.055:	1.4234
Epoch 11/28		.,	,			
	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4728 - l	055:	1.4115
Epoch 12/28				0 4007 1		1 1000
1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	45	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4827 - l	055:	1.4009
·	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracv:	0.4860 - l	.055:	1.3812
Epoch 14/28			,			
1000/1000 ————————	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4890 - l	055:	1.3751
Epoch 15/28				0 4070 1		1 2602
1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	45	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4972 - l	.0SS:	1.3003
·	4s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.4970 - l	055:	1.3534
Epoch 17/28						
1000/1000 —————	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5011 - l	055:	1.3430
Epoch 18/28						
1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	45	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5002 - l	0SS:	1.3346
•	45	4ms/sten -	accuracy:	0.5042 - l	055:	1.3276
Epoch 20/28		5, 5 2 6 6	uccu. ucy :	0.00.2		1102/0
1000/1000 —————	- 5s	5ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5052 - l	055:	1.3166
Epoch 21/28	_					4 0450
	· 5s	5ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5059 - l	0SS:	1.3153
Epoch 22/28 1000/1000	45	4ms/sten -	· accuracy:	0.5138 - l	055!	1.2986
Epoch 23/28		ттэ, эсср	accuracy:	0.5150	0331	112300
1000/1000 ———————	4s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5163 - l	055:	1.2926
Epoch 24/28						
	4s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5223 - l	055:	1.2889
Epoch 25/28 1000/1000 ——————————————————————————————	. Ac	/ms/sten =	accuracy:	0.5224 - l	0661	1 2785
Epoch 26/28	-73	3/3 ccp =	accuracy.	013227 (112/03
·	4 s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5201 - l	.055:	1.2750
Epoch 27/28						
	4s	4ms/step -	accuracy:	0.5247 - l	055:	1.2614
Epoch 28/28 1000/1000	E c	5mc/c+on	2001122011	0 5260 1	056	1 2570
1000/1000	28	Jiis/step -	accuracy:	0.5268 - l	055:	1.23/8

In [175... final_mlp.summary()

Model: "sequential_3"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
flatten_3 (Flatten)	(None, 2352)	0
dense_8 (Dense)	(None, 448)	1,054,144
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 448)	0
dense_9 (Dense)	(None, 320)	143,680
dropout_3 (Dropout)	(None, 320)	0
dense_10 (Dense)	(None, 9)	2,889

Total params: 3,602,141 (13.74 MB)

Trainable params: 1,200,713 (4.58 MB)

Non-trainable params: 0 (0.00 B)

Optimizer params: 2,401,428 (9.16 MB)

final_mlp.evaluate(X_test_scale, y_test)

• It calculates the **overall accuracy** of the model.

```
In [177... # Evaluate on the test set
          loss_mlp, acc_mlp = final_mlp.evaluate(X_test_scale, y_test)
          print(f"Accuracy on test data: {acc_mlp:.4f}")
                                     - 1s 1ms/step - accuracy: 0.5415 - loss: 1.1903
        Accuracy on test data: 0.5490
In [178... y_pred_mlp = np.argmax(final_mlp.predict(X_test_scale), axis=1)
          report_mlp = classification_report(y_test, y_pred_mlp, output_dict=True)
          macro_mlp = report_mlp['macro avg']['f1-score']
          print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred_mlp))
        250/250 -
                                      0s 889us/step
                       precision
                                     recall f1-score
                                                         support
                    0
                            0.76
                                       0.96
                                                 0.85
                                                             873
                            0.93
                                       0.71
                                                 0.80
                                                             858
                    1
                    2
                            0.38
                                       0.36
                                                 0.37
                                                             877
                    3
                            0.58
                                       0.70
                                                             914
                                                 0.63
                    4
                            0.59
                                                 0.56
                                                             737
                                       0.52
                    5
                            0.53
                                       0.50
                                                 0.51
                                                            1072
                    6
                            0.33
                                       0.12
                                                 0.17
                                                             682
                    7
                            0.34
                                       0.37
                                                 0.35
                                                             813
                    8
                            0.45
                                       0.59
                                                 0.51
                                                            1174
            accuracy
                                                 0.55
                                                            8000
                            0.54
                                                            8000
           macro avg
                                       0.54
                                                 0.53
        weighted avg
                            0.55
                                       0.55
                                                 0.54
                                                            8000
In [179... # Print the confusion matrix
          cm = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred_mlp)
          plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
          sns.heatmap(cm, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues')
          plt.xlabel("Predicted")
          plt.ylabel("Actual")
          plt.title("Confusion Matrix - Fully connected neural network")
          plt.show()
                    Confusion Matrix - Fully connected neural network
                                                                                          - 800
                                                               2
                                                                       0
                                                                              0
                 838
                          1
                                 0
                                         0
                                                18
                                                       14
                                                                                           700
                 146
                         609
                                 0
                                        24
                                               58
                                                       12
                                                               3
                                                                       1
                                                                              5
                  8
                         13
                                320
                                        15
                                               29
                                                      213
                                                              15
                                                                     124
                                                                             140
                                                                                           600
                  5
                          0
                                 3
                                        641
                                               36
                                                        9
                                                              20
                                                                      42
                                                                             158
            m
                                                                                          - 500
        Actual
                  77
                          11
                                 1
                                        102
                                               386
                                                       26
                                                               44
                                                                      35
                                                                             55
                                                                                           400
                  23
                          11
                                180
                                        20
                                               26
                                                               25
                                                                     168
                                                                             88
                                                                                           300
                          0
                                 14
                                       109
                                                       35
                                                               80
                                                                      63
                                                                             298
                  6
                                                77
```

Convolutional neural network

Predicted

```
In [186... # Rebuild a new CNN based on the optimal parameters
def build_final_cnn():
    model = keras.models.Sequential()
    model.add(keras.layers.Input(shape = (28, 28, 3)))

# Block 1
    model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 128, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
    model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size = (2, 2)))
    model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.3))
```

- 100

- 0

```
# Block 2
             model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 128 * 2, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size = (2, 2)))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.3))
             model.add(keras.layers.Conv2D(filters = 128 * 2, kernel_size = (3, 3), activation = 'relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Flatten())
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(128 * 2, activation='relu'))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dropout(0.3))
             model.add(keras.layers.Dense(9, activation = 'softmax'))
             model.compile(
                 optimizer = keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate = 0.000136),
                 loss = 'sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
                 metrics = ['accuracy']
             return model
In [188... # epoch = 18 (not 30 -> reduce computing time and the performance is not much different)
         final_cnn = build_final_cnn()
         # Retrain on the overall training set
         history_cnn = final_cnn.fit(
             X_train_scale, y_train,
             epochs = 18
        Epoch 1/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 30s 29ms/step - accuracy: 0.2993 - loss: 1.8284
        Epoch 2/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 32s 32ms/step - accuracy: 0.5642 - loss: 1.1567
        Epoch 3/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 32s 32ms/step - accuracy: 0.6474 - loss: 0.9617
        Epoch 4/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 33s 33ms/step - accuracy: 0.6934 - loss: 0.8410
        Epoch 5/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 35s 35ms/step - accuracy: 0.7240 - loss: 0.7568
        Epoch 6/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 34s 34ms/step - accuracy: 0.7448 - loss: 0.6991
        Epoch 7/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 33s 33ms/step - accuracy: 0.7631 - loss: 0.6540
        Epoch 8/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 34s 34ms/step - accuracy: 0.7736 - loss: 0.6283
        Epoch 9/18
        1000/1000
                                      35s 35ms/step - accuracy: 0.7846 - loss: 0.5981
        Epoch 10/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 34s 34ms/step - accuracy: 0.7966 - loss: 0.5674
        Epoch 11/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 33s 33ms/step - accuracy: 0.8024 - loss: 0.5500
        Epoch 12/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 31s 31ms/step - accuracy: 0.8151 - loss: 0.5107
        Epoch 13/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 29s 29ms/step - accuracy: 0.8208 - loss: 0.4980
        Epoch 14/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 29s 29ms/step - accuracy: 0.8312 - loss: 0.4668
        Epoch 15/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 29s 29ms/step - accuracy: 0.8325 - loss: 0.4536
        Epoch 16/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 29s 29ms/step - accuracy: 0.8445 - loss: 0.4279
        Epoch 17/18
                                      - 30s 30ms/step - accuracy: 0.8484 - loss: 0.4121
        1000/1000
        Epoch 18/18
        1000/1000
                                      - 29s 29ms/step - accuracy: 0.8545 - loss: 0.4039
```

Model: "sequential_4"

In [189... final_cnn.summary()

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
conv2d_2 (Conv2D)	(None, 26, 26, 128)	3,584
max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 13, 13, 128)	0
dropout_4 (Dropout)	(None, 13, 13, 128)	0
conv2d_3 (Conv2D)	(None, 11, 11, 256)	295,168
max_pooling2d_3 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 5, 5, 256)	0
dropout_5 (Dropout)	(None, 5, 5, 256)	0
conv2d_4 (Conv2D)	(None, 3, 3, 256)	590,080
flatten_4 (Flatten)	(None, 2304)	0
dense_11 (Dense)	(None, 256)	590,080
dropout_6 (Dropout)	(None, 256)	0
dense_12 (Dense)	(None, 9)	2,313

Total params: 4,443,677 (16.95 MB)

Trainable params: 1,481,225 (5.65 MB)

Non-trainable params: 0 (0.00 B)

Optimizer params: 2,962,452 (11.30 MB)

```
In [190... # Evaluate on the test set
loss_cnn, acc_cnn = final_cnn.evaluate(X_test_scale, y_test)
print(f"Accuracy on test data: {acc_cnn:.4f}")

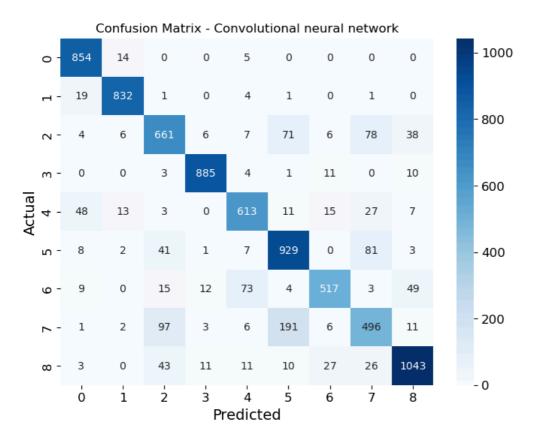
250/250 _________ 2s 10ms/step - accuracy: 0.8557 - loss: 0.3834
Accuracy on test data: 0.8537

In [197... y_pred_cnn = np.argmax(final_cnn.predict(X_test_scale), axis=1)
report_cnn = classification_report(y_test, y_pred_cnn, output_dict=True)
macro_cnn = report_cnn['macro avg']['f1-score']
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred_cnn))

250/250 _________ 2s 9ms/step
```

```
recall f1-score
              precision
                                             support
           0
                   0.90
                             0.98
                                      0.94
                                                 873
                  0.96
                            0.97
                                      0.96
                                                 858
           1
                                      0.76
           2
                  0.77
                            0.75
                                                 877
           3
                  0.96
                             0.97
                                      0.97
                                                 914
           4
                  0.84
                            0.83
                                      0.84
                                                 737
           5
                   0.76
                             0.87
                                      0.81
                                                 1072
           6
                  0.89
                            0.76
                                      0.82
                                                 682
           7
                  0.70
                            0.61
                                      0.65
                                                 813
                  0.90
                            0.89
                                      0.89
                                                 1174
   accuracy
                                      0.85
                                                 8000
                  0.85
                             0.85
                                      0.85
                                                 8000
   macro avg
weighted avg
                   0.85
                             0.85
                                      0.85
                                                 8000
```

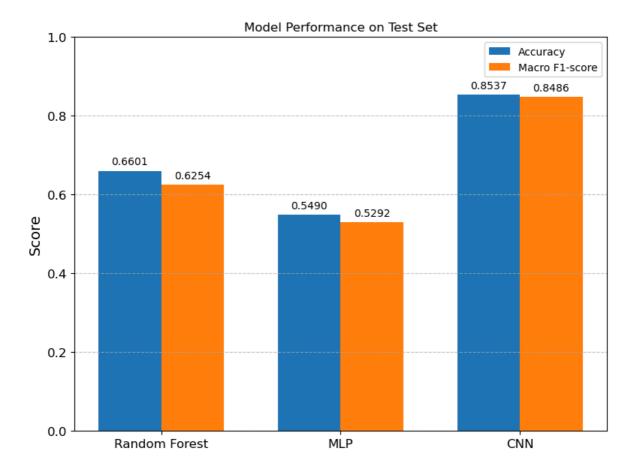
```
In [199... # confusion matrix
    cm = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred_cnn)
    plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
    sns.heatmap(cm, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues')
    plt.xlabel("Predicted")
    plt.ylabel("Actual")
    plt.title("Confusion Matrix - Convolutional neural network")
    plt.show()
```



Model comparison

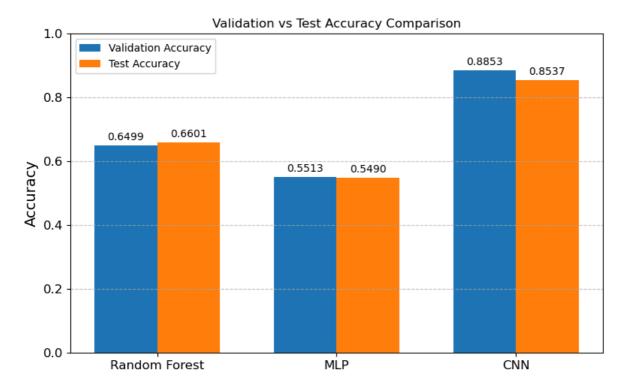
- Accuracy is sensitive to class imbalance and may mask poor performance on minority classes.
- Macro F1 averages the F1 scores across all classes without considering class weights. It is less affected by class distribution and better reflects overall fairness.

```
In [234... models = ['Random Forest', 'MLP', 'CNN']
         accuracies = [acc_rf, acc_mlp, acc_cnn]
         f1_scores = [macro_rf, macro_mlp, macro_cnn]
         x = np.arange(len(models))
         width = 0.35
         # Model Performance on Test Set
         plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
         bars1 = plt.bar(x - width/2, accuracies, width, label='Accuracy')
         bars2 = plt.bar(x + width/2, f1_scores, width, label='Macro F1-score')
         plt.xticks(x, models)
         plt.ylim(0, 1)
plt.ylabel('Score')
         plt.title('Model Performance on Test Set')
         plt.legend()
         plt.grid(True, axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7)
         # Display the value on each bar
         for bar in bars1 + bars2:
              height = bar.get_height()
              plt.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2,
                       height + 0.01,
                       f'{height:.4f}',
                       ha='center', va='bottom')
         plt.tight_layout()
         plt.show()
```



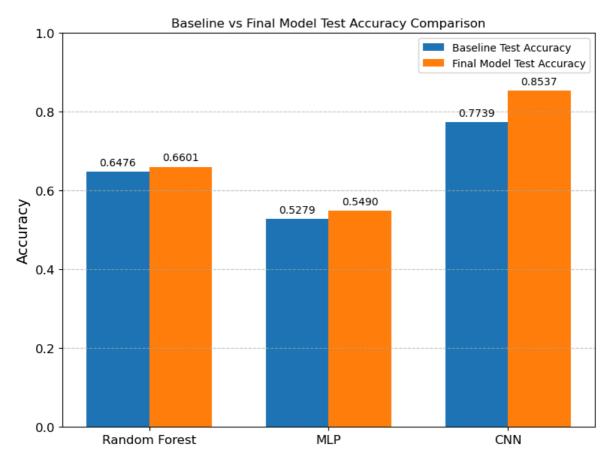
Model performance on the validation set: Since we do not repeat hyperparameter tuning, the final testing phase uses the full training and test sets. Therefore, the validation scores shown here refer to the best validation performance recorded during the tuning process under the optimal hyperparameter combination.

```
In [221... # Validation vs Test Accuracy Comparison
          val_scores = [0.649875, 0.551250, 0.885312]
          plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
          bars3 = plt.bar(x - width/2, val_scores, width, label='Validation Accuracy')
          bars4 = plt.bar(x + width/2, accuracies, width, label='Test Accuracy')
          plt.xticks(x, models)
          plt.ylim(0, 1)
          plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
plt.title('Validation vs Test Accuracy Comparison')
          plt.legend()
          plt.grid(True, axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7)
          # Display the value on each bar
          for bar in bars3 + bars4:
              height = bar.get_height()
              plt.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2,
                        height + 0.01,
                        f'{height:.4f}',
ha='center', va='bottom')
          plt.tight_layout()
          plt.show()
```



Baseline model vs Final model: The figure compares the accuracy performance of the three models on the test set after baseline and hyperparameter tuning.

```
In [224... # Baseline vs Final Model Test Accuracy Comparison
          base_scores = [acc_base_rf, acc_base_mlp, acc_base_cnn]
          plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
          bars5 = plt.bar(x - width/2, base_scores, width, label='Baseline Test Accuracy')
bars6 = plt.bar(x + width/2, accuracies, width, label='Final Model Test Accuracy')
          plt.xticks(x, models)
          plt.ylim(0, 1)
plt.ylabel('Accuracy')
          plt.title('Baseline vs Final Model Test Accuracy Comparison')
          plt.legend()
          plt.grid(True, axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7)
          # Display the value on each bar
          for bar in bars5 + bars6:
              height = bar.get_height()
              f'{height:.4f}',
                        ha='center', va='bottom')
          plt.tight_layout()
          plt.show()
```



```
In [266... # Hyperparameter tuning time (Unit: minutes)
tuning_times = [100, 22, 73]

plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6.5))

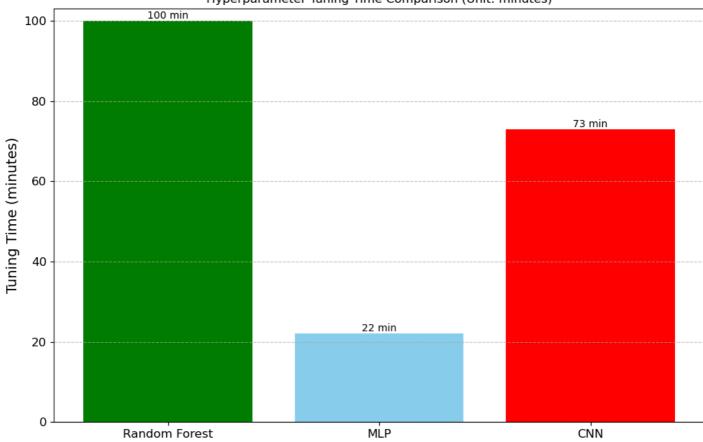
bars = plt.bar(models, tuning_times, color=['green', 'skyblue', 'red'])

for bar in bars:
    height = bar.get_height()
    plt.text(
        bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2,
        height + 0.01,
        f'{height} min',
        ha='center',va='bottom')

plt.title('Hyperparameter Tuning Time Comparison (Unit: minutes)')
plt.ylabel('Tuning Time (minutes)')
plt.ylim(0, max(tuning_times) + 3)
plt.grid(axis='y', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Hyperparameter Tuning Time Comparison (Unit: minutes)



In []: