Handwritten Math Symbols Classification

by Chao Xu

I: Introduction

This project is amied to classify handwritten math symbols based on the dataset on Kaggle. The contributor of the dataset created a new one similar to MNIST but with higher resolution and also added other math symbols such as +, -, and x, y, z.

Dataset: Handwritten Math Symbols (https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/sagyamthapa/handwritten-math-symbols)

With this dataset, I will use different deep learning techniques to build two different models. The main steps are as follows:

- Split data into different folders and load data using tf.data.Dataset API.
- Analyze and preprocess the data to prepare for the traing.
- Use AlexNet Architecture and Keras Tuner to build a model by tuning learning rate and activation function.
- Use pre-trained model (VGGNet19) to build another model to see which one performs better.
- Use the better model to evaluate the performance with confusion matrix and classification report.
- Save the final model and test it with my own handwritten images.

II: Load, Preprocess, and Analyzing Data

Import libraries for loading, analyzing, and preprosessing data

```
In [1]: #Import libraries for loading, analyzing, and preprosessing data
import numpy as np
import os
import cv2
import tensorflow as tf
from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
```

```
In [2]: #Make sure the GPU is availabe
gpus = tf.config.list_physical_devices('GPU')
print("Num GPUs Available: ", len(gpus))

Num GPUs Available: 1

In [3]: #Limit the GPU memory growth so that the runtime initialization will not allocate all GPU memory on the device.
    for gpu in gpus:
        tf.config.experimental.set_memory_growth(gpu, True)
```

Splitting data into train and test folders

```
In [4]: #Set the path of the data folder
    path = 'Data'

In [5]: #Split the data into train and test
    #!pip install split-folders
    import splitfolders
    splitfolders.ratio(path, output="Splitted_Data", seed=1001, ratio=(0.9, 0, 0.1))

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In [6]: #Create path for the train and test folder
    train_directory = 'Splitted_Data/train'
    test_directory = 'Splitted_Data/test'
```

Generate tf.data.Dataset (Loading data)

- I set the image size to (224, 224) for matching the input shape of cnn model.
- By default, the image_dataset_from_directory function set batch size to 32. I increase the batch size to 64.
- I split the 25% of the data in train folder as validation.
- For the consistency, the shuffle in the test data is set to False.

Analyzing Data

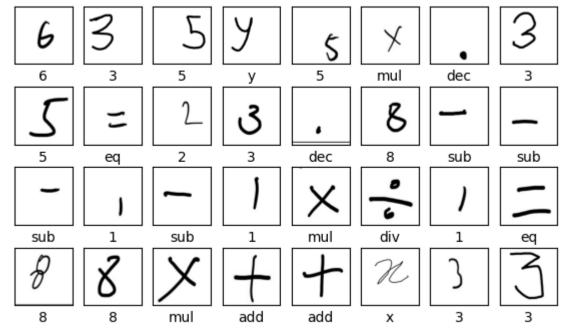
Now it's time to check the images and labels.

- The length of the batch is 2, which means for each element, there is a image and a corresponding label.
- The number 64 represents the batch size.
- The shape of the images (64, 224, 224, 3) represents the batch size, image size, and 3 channel.
- The shape of the labels (64, 19) represents the batch size and 19 categories as labels.
- The sample label data shows that it is a one-hot encoding format.

Put the image labels in a list

```
In [9]: #Put the image labels in a list
labels = [f for f in os.listdir(path) if os.path.isdir(os.path.join(path, f))]
n_classes = len(labels)
```

```
print('There are', n_classes, 'classes in this dataset.')
         print('The classes are:', labels)
         There are 19 classes in this dataset.
         The classes are: ['0', '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '7', '8', '9', 'add', 'dec', 'div', 'eq', 'mul', 'sub', 'x', 'y',
         'z']
         #Show some images with their labels in one train batch
In [10]:
         plt.figure(figsize=(7,4))
         for k in range(32):
             plt.subplot(4,8,k+1)
             ax = plt.gca()
             ax.set_xticks([])
             ax.set_yticks([])
             plt.imshow(batch[0][k].astype(int), cmap=plt.cm.gray)
             #Get the index of the maximum value (1) and change it to the actual label name
             plt.xlabel(labels[batch[1][k].argmax()], fontsize=10)
         plt.show()
```

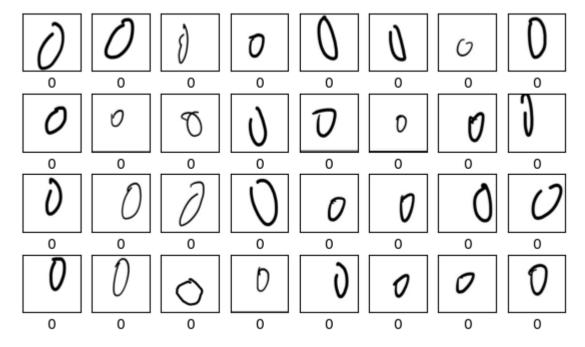


```
In [11]: #Show images with their labels in one test batch
    test_iterator = test.as_numpy_iterator()
    test_batch = test_iterator.next()
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(7,4))

for k in range(32):
    plt.subplot(4,8,k+1)
    ax = plt.gca()
    ax.set_xticks([])
    ax.set_yticks([])
    plt.imshow(test_batch[0][k].astype(int), cmap=plt.cm.gray)
    #Get the index of the maximum value (1) and change it to the actual label name
    plt.xlabel(labels[test_batch[1][k].argmax()], fontsize=10)

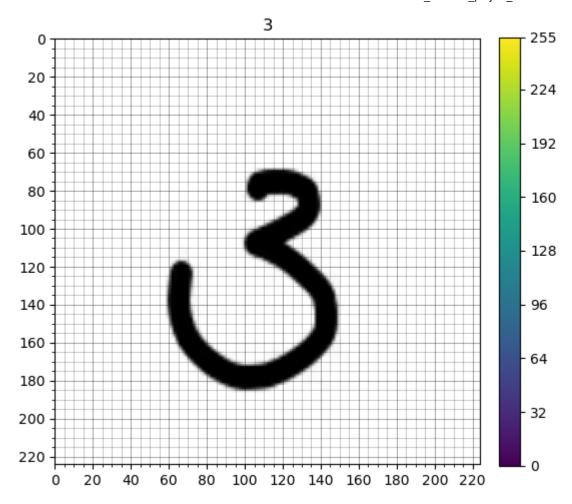
plt.show()
```



We can see besides numbers (0-9), there are other operators such as plus, minus, multipilication, division, decimal point, and equal sign. Both images in train set and test set match with their label correctly. (The images from test show only 0 because the data in the test folder is not shuffled.)

```
In [101... #Plot one sample image from training set
    sample = np.random.randint(0,32)
    plt.figure(figsize = (6,6))
    sample_img = batch[0][sample]
```

```
plt.imshow(sample img.astype("uint8"))
ax = plt.gca()
plt.title(labels[batch[1][sample].argmax()])
# Set major ticks every 5, minor ticks every 1
major ticks = np.arange(0, 225, 20)
minor ticks = np.arange(0, 225, 5)
ax.set_xticks(major_ticks)
ax.set_xticks(minor_ticks, minor=True)
ax.set yticks(major ticks, )
ax.set yticks(minor ticks, minor=True)
#Set view limits of both axes to hide extra lines
ax.set xlim(0, 224)
ax.set_ylim(224, 0)
#Set different alpha for the grids:
ax.grid(which='minor', alpha=0.3, linewidth=0.5, color='black')
ax.grid(which='major', alpha=0.5, linewidth=0.5, color='black')
#Show the color bar
= plt.colorbar(fraction=0.046, pad=0.04, ticks=[0,32,64,96,128,160,192,224,255])
plt.show()
```

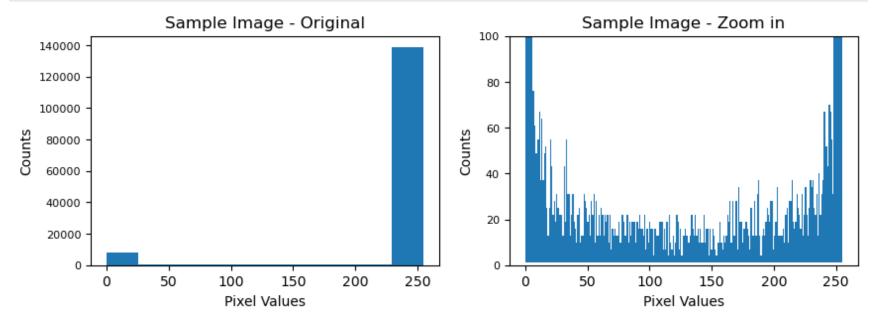


```
In [102... #Also plot the histogram of this image.
    fig, axes = plt.subplots(ncols=2, figsize=(10,3))

axes[0].hist(sample_img.ravel())
    axes[0].set_title('Sample Image - Original')
    axes[0].set_xlabel('Pixel Values')
    axes[0].set_ylabel('Counts')

axes[1].hist(sample_img.ravel(), bins=256, bottom=1)
    axes[1].set_ylim([0, 100])
    axes[1].set_xlabel('Pixel Values')
    axes[1].set_ylabel('Counts')
    axes[1].set_title('Sample Image - Zoom in')
```

```
axes[0].yaxis.set_tick_params(labelsize=8)
axes[1].yaxis.set_tick_params(labelsize=8)
plt.show()
```



Since the image is a handwritten symbol with white background, most of the color is white (255), and some of the color is black (0). There is not too much other color in between.

Preprocess data

Convert pixel numbers to 0-1 instead of 0-255.

```
In [14]: train = train.map(lambda X, y: (X/255, y))
    val = val.map(lambda X, y: (X/255, y))
    test = test.map(lambda X, y: (X/255, y))

In [15]: #Check the data to see if the data is transformed correctly.

scaled_train_batch = train.as_numpy_iterator().next()
    print('The maximum pixel value of images in the train set is:', scaled_train_batch[0].max())
    scaled_val_batch = val.as_numpy_iterator().next()
    print('The maximum pixel value of images in the validation set is:', scaled_val_batch[0].max())
```

```
scaled_test_batch = test.as_numpy_iterator().next()
print('The maximum pixel value of images in the test set is:', scaled_test_batch[0].max())

The maximum pixel value of images in the train set is: 1.0
The maximum pixel value of images in the validation set is: 1.0
The maximum pixel value of images in the test set is: 1.0
```

The dataset is transformed correctly.

III: Build a model using AlexNet Architecture and Keras Tuner

For this section, I want to use AlexNet Architecture and Keras Tuner to find the best activation function for dense layers, the best learning rate for the optmizer Adam, and train the model using more epochs with early stopping.

```
In [16]: #Import Libraries for creating cnn model and hyperparameter tuning import keras import keras_tuner as kt from keras.models import Sequential from keras.layers import Dense, Dropout, Conv2D, MaxPooling2D, Flatten, BatchNormalization

In [17]: #Delete any logs from a previous run import shutil

# shutil module is part of the Python standard Library and provides a # collection of utility functions for working with files and directories.
```

```
# shutil module is part of the Python standard library and provides a
# collection of utility functions for working with files and directories.

folder_path = "my_dir/math_symbols/"

# Check if the folder exists before attempting to delete it
if os.path.exists(folder_path):
    # Remove the folder and its contents recursively
    shutil.rmtree(folder_path)
    print(f"The folder '{folder_path}' has been deleted.")
else:
    print(f"The folder '{folder_path}' does not exist.")
```

The folder 'my_dir/math_symbols/' does not exist.

Define the model

```
In [18]: #Define the model
def model_builder(hp):
```

```
model = Sequential()
model.add(Conv2D(96, kernel_size=(11, 11), strides=(4, 4),
                 activation='relu', input shape=(224, 224, 3)))
model.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(3, 3), strides=(2, 2)))
model.add(BatchNormalization())
# second conv-pool block
model.add(Conv2D(256, kernel size=(5, 5), activation='relu'))
model.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(3, 3), strides=(2, 2)))
model.add(BatchNormalization())
# third conv-pool block
model.add(Conv2D(256, kernel size=(3, 3), activation='relu'))
model.add(Conv2D(384, kernel size=(3, 3), activation='relu'))
model.add(Conv2D(384, kernel_size=(3, 3), activation='relu'))
model.add(MaxPooling2D(pool size=(3, 3), strides=(2, 2)))
model.add(BatchNormalization())
# dense Layers
model.add(Flatten())
#Tune the activation function for dense layers
actfun = hp.Choice('activation', values=['relu', 'tanh'])
model.add(Dense(4096, activation=actfun))
model.add(Dropout(0.5))
model.add(Dense(4096, activation=actfun))
model.add(Dropout(0.5))
# output layer
model.add(Dense(19, activation='softmax'))
#Tune the learning rate for the optimizer
hp learning rate = hp.Choice('learning rate', values=[1e-2, 1e-3, 1e-4, 1e-5])
model.compile(loss='categorical crossentropy',
              optimizer=keras.optimizers.Adam(learning rate=hp learning rate),
              metrics=['accuracy'])
return model
```

Instantiate the tuner and perform hypertuning

Start tuning using tuner.search()

```
#Create a variable stop early for callbacks with EarlyStopping
In [20]:
         stop early = tf.keras.callbacks.EarlyStopping(monitor='val loss', patience=5)
In [21]: tuner.search(train, epochs=50, batch size=64, validation data=val, callbacks=[stop early])
         # Get the optimal hyperparameters
         best hps=tuner.get best hyperparameters(num trials=1)[0]
         print(f"""
         The hyperparameter search is complete. The optimal activation function is '{best hps.get('activation')}'.
         The optimal optimizer learning rate is {best hps.get('learning rate')}.
         Trial 8 Complete [00h 00m 09s]
         val accuracy: 0.05523641034960747
         Best val accuracy So Far: 0.4158197045326233
         Total elapsed time: 00h 01m 16s
         INFO:tensorflow:Oracle triggered exit
         The hyperparameter search is complete. The optimal activation function is 'relu'.
         The optimal optimizer learning rate is 0.001.
```

Retrain the model using newly found optimal hperparameters and train it for 100 epochs with early stopping

```
In [30]: # Build the model with the optimal hyperparameters and train it on the data for 100 epochs

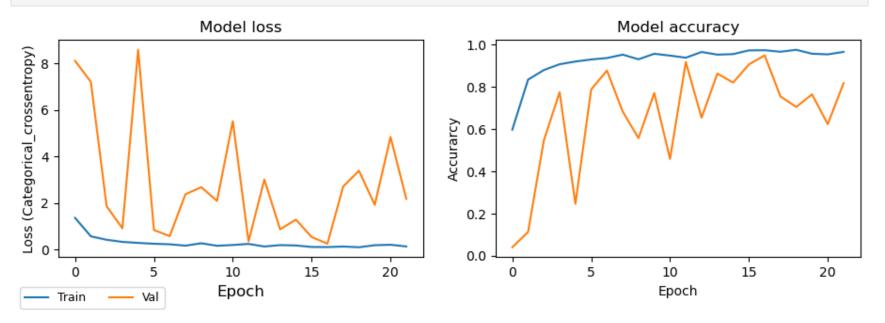
stop_early = tf.keras.callbacks.EarlyStopping(monitor='val_loss', patience=5)
hypermodel = tuner.hypermodel.build(best_hps)
history = hypermodel.fit
hypermodel.fit(train, epochs=100, validation_data=val, callbacks=[stop_early])
```

```
Epoch 1/100
racy: 0.0407
Epoch 2/100
racy: 0.1131
Epoch 3/100
racy: 0.5462
Epoch 4/100
racy: 0.7742
Epoch 5/100
racy: 0.2461
Epoch 6/100
racy: 0.7870
Epoch 7/100
racy: 0.8767
Epoch 8/100
racy: 0.6823
Epoch 9/100
racv: 0.5568
Epoch 10/100
racv: 0.7707
Epoch 11/100
racy: 0.4587
Epoch 12/100
racy: 0.9169
Epoch 13/100
racy: 0.6536
Epoch 14/100
racy: 0.8621
Epoch 15/100
racy: 0.8197
```

```
Epoch 16/100
  racy: 0.9054
  Epoch 17/100
  racy: 0.9483
  Epoch 18/100
  racy: 0.7539
  Epoch 19/100
  racy: 0.7044
  Epoch 20/100
  racy: 0.7640
  Epoch 21/100
  racy: 0.6231
  Epoch 22/100
  racy: 0.8166
  <keras.callbacks.History at 0x20c3a46b130>
Out[30]:
```

Plot the model loss and model accuracy

plt.show()



From the graphs above, we can see the validation loss is fluctuating. I'm not sure the actual reason for the problem, but there are some possibilities:

- The model is overfitting.
- The batch size is not optimal.
- The AlexNet architecture is not perform well on this problem.
- There are 19 classes, and some of the symbols are very similar, which makes the data less representative.

Evaluate the model using test dataset

The accuracy is 81.93%. It is a fair model considering there are 19 classes to classify. However, I still want to see if there is another model to perform better.

IV: Build a model using VGGNet19

In this section, I want to try a pre-trained model (VGGNet19) to see if it performs better than the previous model (AlexNet).

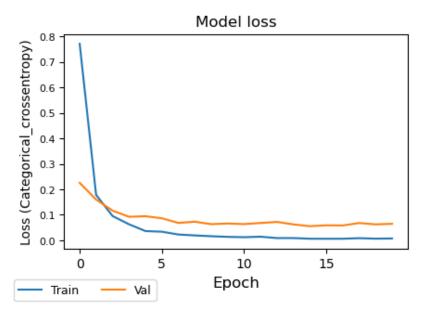
```
from keras.applications.vgg19 import VGG19
In [33]:
In [34]: vgg19 = VGG19(include_top=False,
                        weights='imagenet',
                       input_shape=(224,224,3),
                        pooling=None)
         for layer in vgg19.layers:
In [35]:
             layer.trainable = False
In [67]:
         # Instantiate the sequential model and add the VGG19 model:
         model = Sequential()
         model.add(vgg19)
         # Add the custom layers atop the VGG19 model:
         model.add(Flatten(name='flattened'))
         model.add(Dropout(0.5, name='dropout'))
         model.add(Dense(19, activation='softmax', name='predictions'))
         model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
In [68]:
         stop early = tf.keras.callbacks.EarlyStopping(monitor='val loss', patience=2)
In [69]:
         history = model.fit
         model.fit(train, epochs=20, verbose=1, validation data=val)
```

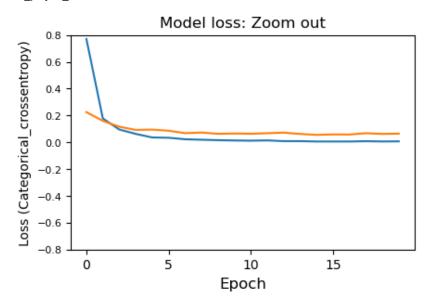
```
Epoch 1/20
curacy: 0.9479
Epoch 2/20
curacy: 0.9536
Epoch 3/20
curacy: 0.9708
Epoch 4/20
curacy: 0.9788
Epoch 5/20
curacy: 0.9748
Epoch 6/20
curacy: 0.9757
Epoch 7/20
curacy: 0.9806
Epoch 8/20
curacy: 0.9806
Epoch 9/20
curacy: 0.9832
Epoch 10/20
curacy: 0.9797
Epoch 11/20
curacy: 0.9788
Epoch 12/20
curacy: 0.9823
Epoch 13/20
curacy: 0.9783
Epoch 14/20
curacy: 0.9819
Epoch 15/20
curacy: 0.9832
```

```
Epoch 16/20
  curacy: 0.9801
  Epoch 17/20
  curacy: 0.9837
  Epoch 18/20
  curacy: 0.9806
  Epoch 19/20
  curacy: 0.9797
  Epoch 20/20
  curacy: 0.9806
  <keras.callbacks.History at 0x20c63c66550>
Out[69]:
```

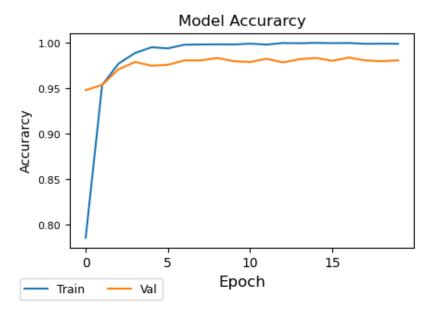
Plot the model loss and model accuracy

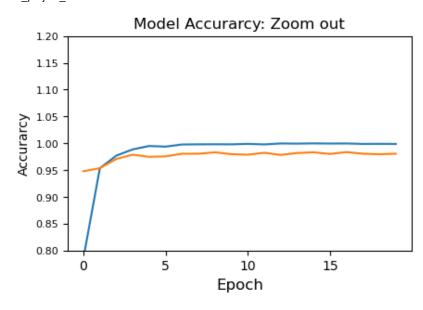
```
In [70]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(ncols=2, figsize=(11,3))
         for i in range(2):
             axes[i].plot(model.history.history['loss'][:])
             axes[i].plot(model.history.history['val loss'][:])
             axes[i].set xlabel('Epoch', fontsize=12)
             axes[i].set ylabel('Loss (Categorical crossentropy)')
         axes[0].set title('Model loss')
         axes[1].set title('Model loss: Zoom out')
         axes[1].set ylim([-0.8, 0.8])
         axes[0].yaxis.set tick params(labelsize=8)
          axes[1].yaxis.set tick params(labelsize=8)
         fig.legend(labels=['Train', 'Val'], loc='upper left', ncol=2, fontsize=9,
                     bbox transform=fig.transFigure, bbox to anchor=(0.070, 0.02))
          #plt.tight layout()
         fig.subplots adjust(wspace=0.3)
         plt.show()
```





```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(ncols=2, figsize=(11,3))
for i in range(2):
    axes[i].plot(model.history.history['accuracy'][:])
    axes[i].plot(model.history.history['val accuracy'][:])
    axes[i].set xlabel('Epoch', fontsize=12)
    axes[i].set ylabel('Accurarcy')
axes[0].set title('Model Accurarcy')
axes[1].set title('Model Accurarcy: Zoom out')
axes[1].set ylim([0.8, 1.2])
axes[0].yaxis.set tick params(labelsize=8)
axes[1].yaxis.set tick params(labelsize=8)
fig.legend(labels=['Train', 'Val'], loc='upper left', ncol=2, fontsize=9,
           bbox_transform=fig.transFigure, bbox_to_anchor=(0.070, 0.02))
#plt.tight layout()
fig.subplots_adjust(wspace=0.3)
plt.show()
```





I am impressed by the model. It shows high accurarcy and low loss even from the beginning. Because of the complexity of VGGNet19 architecture, maybe there is no need to run many epochs to improve the model.

V: Evaluate the Model Using Test Dataset

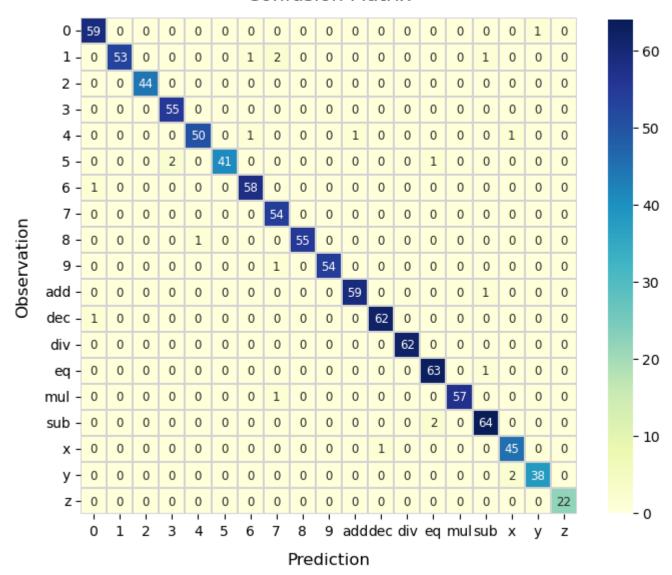
The accuracy of this model is 97.74%, which is way better than the previous hypermodel (81.93%). VGGNet19 architecture is truly amazing.

Plot a Confusion Matrix

There are 1018 elements in y pred classes.

```
#Seperate y from test dataset
In [75]:
         y test = test.map(lambda x,y: y)
         #Create a list to store the data
         y true = []
         for element in y test.as numpy iterator():
             y true.extend(np.argmax(element, axis=1))
         y true classes = [labels[e] for e in y true]
         print('There are', len(y true classes), 'elements in y true classes.')
         There are 1018 elements in y true classes.
In [76]: #Create a confusion matrix using y_pred classes and y-true classes
         from sklearn.metrics import confusion matrix, classification report
         cf_mtx = confusion_matrix(y_true_classes, y_pred_classes)
In [78]: # plot the confusion matrix
         import seaborn as sns
         plt.figure(figsize=(8,8))
          cm = cf mtx
          classes = labels
         sns.heatmap(cm, annot=True, linewidth=0.1, linecolor='lightgray',
                         annot_kws={"size":8.5,'fontstretch':'ultra-condensed', 'weight':'ultralight'}, fmt='',
                          cmap='YlGnBu', square=True,
                         xticklabels=classes, yticklabels=classes, cbar_kws={'shrink':0.8})
         plt.title('Confusion Matrix', fontsize=14, y=1.02)
         plt.xticks(fontsize=10)
         plt.yticks(fontsize=10, rotation=0)
         plt.ylabel('Observation', fontsize=12, labelpad=10)
         plt.xlabel('Prediction', fontsize=12, labelpad=10)
         plt.show()
```

Confusion Matrix



From the confusion matrix above we can see that there are only few misclassifications in the test dataset, most of the images are classified perfectly.

Classification Report

```
In [79]: #Show the classification report summary
print(classification_report(y_true_classes, y_pred_classes))
```

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.97	0.98	0.98	60
1	1.00	0.93	0.96	57
2	1.00	1.00	1.00	44
3	0.96	1.00	0.98	55
4	0.98	0.94	0.96	53
5	1.00	0.93	0.96	44
6	0.97	0.98	0.97	59
7	0.93	1.00	0.96	54
8	1.00	0.98	0.99	56
9	1.00	0.98	0.99	55
add	0.98	0.98	0.98	60
dec	0.98	0.98	0.98	63
div	1.00	1.00	1.00	62
eq	0.95	0.98	0.97	64
mul	1.00	0.98	0.99	58
sub	0.96	0.97	0.96	66
Х	0.94	0.98	0.96	46
у	0.97	0.95	0.96	40
Z	1.00	1.00	1.00	22
accuracy			0.98	1018
macro avg	0.98	0.98	0.98	1018
weighted avg	0.98	0.98	0.98	1018

The calssification report shows a very balanced result, with 98% accurarcy. I am satisfied with this model.

VI: Save the Final Model and Test with My Own Handwriting

Save the Model

```
In [80]: from tensorflow.keras.models import load_model
    model.save(os.path.join('models','math_symbols_classifier.h5'))
```

Load the Model

```
In [81]: #Load the model
my_model = load_model(os.path.join('models','math_symbols_classifier.h5'))
```

Try the Model Using My Own Handwritten Images

Since the dataset only have black and white, I want to see if the model can handle my handwritting with other colors as well. So I created some images randomly to see the results.

```
In [83]:
        def load images(folder):
                                              # Path of folder (dataset)
             images=[]
                                               # list contatining all images
             print('Loading images...')
            for filename in os.listdir(folder):
                 print(filename)
                img = cv2.imread(folder+'/'+filename) # reading image (Folder path and image name )
                 img = cv2.resize(img, (224,224)) #Resize the image to input shape of the model
                 \#img = np.array(img)
                 #img=img.flatten()
                                                 # Flatten image
                                    # Appending all images in 'images' list
                images.append(img)
             return(images)
In [96]: | images = load images('test images')
        Loading images...
        01.jpg
        02.jpg
        03.png
        04.png
        05.jpg
        06.png
        07.png
        08.png
        #Save the predited results into a list
In [97]:
         pred results=[]
         predict_array = my_model.predict(np.asarray(images)/255)
         predict num = np.argmax(predict array, axis=1)
         predict label = [labels[e] for e in predict num]
         pred results.extend(predict label)
        1/1 [======= ] - 0s 34ms/step
```

Plot the result

As the label shows, all my handwritten images are classified correctly with different colors. It is a successful model not only performs well with its own dataset samples, but can handle other images as well.

VII: Conclusion

For this project, I created two cnn models and evaluate the model with test data and my own handwriting.

- The first model I used **AlexNet** and **Keras Tuner**.
 - The best activation function is 'relu' for dense layers
 - The best learning rate is 0.001 for the optmizer Adam
 - I also trained the model using more epochs with early stopping (end with 22 epochs).
 - This model shows 81.93% accuracy with the test dataset. Although the the accuracy is not bad, the validation loss is fluctuating during training.
- The second model I used VGGNet19.
 - This model performs better by showing 97.74% accuracy with its test dataset.
 - The confusion matrix shows only few misclassifications.
 - The classification report shows 98% for all the performance metrics including precision, recall, f1-score, and accuracy.
 - It also classified my 8 handwritten images perfectly.

In []: