# Experiment 6: Optimizer & Learning Rate Tuning

Based off the initial key observations made from the initial first run, it is noted that from epoch 10 onwards, validation accuracy begins to fluctuate while training accuracy continues to rise. This is suggestive of the model possibly beginning to overfit to the training data.

Additionally, despite having balanced the data, the ‘mixed’ class shows a low precision (0.57) and a modest F1-score (0.67). This is indicative of the model struggling to learn generalisable patterns for visually diverse samples for the ‘mixed’ class.

As such, to address the observed overfitting and to further improve class-level performance, particularly for the ‘mixed’ class, it is essential to investigate how the optimizer type and learning rate configuration affect the model’s learning dynamics.

Therefore, this experiment aims to examine whether modifying the optimizer or tuning the learning rate can reduce signs of overfitting while enhancing the model’s ability to generalise across all classes.

A slower learning rate may help the model take smaller, more precise steps during weight updates, which could be beneficial for learning the subtle and varied features of complex classes like ‘mixed’. Similarly, alternative optimizers such as RMSprop or SGD may yield different learning dynamics that favour improved generalisation.

By experimenting with different combinations of optimizers and learning rates, the goal is to identify a configuration that not only stabilises validation performance across epochs but also improves the precision and F1-score of underperforming classes without compromising overall accuracy.

### Experiment Log – Optimizer & Learning Rate Tuning

**Dataset**: 800 images (4 classes, 200 each)  
**Model**: FruitCNN (3 conv layers, 1 FC layer)  
**Input size**: 100×100  
**Training device**: [MPS / CPU / GPU]

### Experiment Parameters

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Optimizer** | **Learning Rate** | **Batch Size** | **Scheduler Used** | **Epochs** |
| Adam | 0.001 | 32 | None | 15 |
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### Metrics

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Optimizer** | **Learning Rate** | **Final Train Accuracy** | **Final Validation Accuracy** | **Notes** |
| Adam | 0.001 |  |  | Current Baseline |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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### Observations & Insights

### Final Recommendations for Optimizer & Learning Rate Tuning