PROJECT GOOGLE LANDMARK RECOGNITION 2021

EXPLORING LANDMARKS THROUGH MACHINE LEARNING

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Google Landmark Recognition 2021 competition, hosted on Kaggle, is a prestigious challenge in the field of computer vision. Its objective is to develop a machine learning model capable of accurately identifying and classifying landmarks from an extensive and diverse dataset of images. By addressing this challenge, the project contributes to advancing state-of-the-art image recognition and deep learning methodologies.

This competition is significant for its potential applications in tourism, cultural heritage preservation, and automated content tagging. It also provides an opportunity to tackle real-world challenges that often arise in large-scale image recognition tasks.

This project is significant in advancing the field of computer vision, as it addresses challenges such as:

- 1. Class imbalance across landmark categories.
- 2. Variability in image quality, scale, and lighting conditions.
- 3. The computational intensity required for large-scale image processing.

Key Objectives

- 1. Develop a robust Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) tailored for landmark recognition.
- 2. Implement data preprocessing and augmentation techniques to improve model generalization.
- 3. Evaluate model performance using industry-standard metrics and identify optimization opportunities.

2. DATASET

The dataset used for the **Google Landmark Recognition 2021** competition is a large-scale, diverse collection of images designed to challenge even the most advanced computer vision models. It captures the complexity of real-world scenarios, making it a benchmark for landmark recognition tasks. Given the scale and complexity of the dataset, a strategic sampling approach was employed to optimize computational efficiency without compromising the model's performance.

2.1 Original Dataset

1. Scope and Size:

- o The original dataset consists of **1580470** of images labelled with unique landmark identifiers and **81313** unique landmarks
- o Images display variability in resolution, orientation, lighting conditions, and scale, which poses challenges for consistent processing.

2. Class Imbalance:

- o The dataset is highly imbalanced, with a few landmark classes being overrepresented and many having minimal samples.
- This imbalance makes it difficult to train a model that performs equally well across all classes.

3. Challenges:

- Scale: The massive size of the dataset required significant computational resources for storage, processing, and training.
- Variability: High variation in image quality demanded robust preprocessing techniques.

2.2 Sampled Dataset

To manage the computational demands of the project, a representative sample was extracted from the original dataset, focusing on the most frequent landmark classes.

1. Sampling Strategy:

- The top 500 landmark labels were identified based on frequency.
- o For each of these labels, a maximum of **40 images** was selected, creating a balanced subset.

2. Rationale:

- o This approach reduces the dataset size while preserving diversity and addressing the issue of class imbalance.
- o Sampling ensures that the model trains on the most significant landmark classes without being overwhelmed by underrepresented ones.

3. Resulting Sample:

- The sampled dataset is significantly smaller, making it computationally feasible to preprocess and train.
- o The balanced nature of the sample mitigates the effect of overrepresented classes in the original dataset.

Original Dataset:

Sampled Dataset:

RangeIndex: 1580470 entries, 0 to 1580469 Data columns (total 3 columns):			RangeIndex: 20000 entries, 0 to 19999 Data columns (total 3 columns):				
#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype	#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	id	1580470 non-null	object	0	id	20000 non-null	object
1	landmark_id	1580470 non-null	int32	1	landmark id	20000 non-null	int32
2	img_path	1580470 non-null	object	2	img path	20000 non-null	object
dtype	es: int32(1),	object(2)		dtyp	es: int32(1),	object(2)	-

Comparison table:

Dataset	Total Images	Classes
Original	1580470	81313
Sampled	20000	500

2.3 Preprocessing Strategy

To ensure the dataset was suitable for training a deep learning model, the following preprocessing steps were implemented:

1. Image Resizing:

o All images were resized to a standard resolution compatible with the CNN input layer.

2. Normalization:

o Pixel intensity values were scaled to the range [0, 1] for faster convergence and numerical stability.

3. Data Augmentation:

o Techniques such as rotation, flipping, brightness adjustments, and zooming were applied to enhance the diversity of the sampled dataset.

.2.4 Dataset Challenges

1. Class Imbalance:

- The uneven distribution of classes presented significant challenges in ensuring fair training.
- Techniques such as weighted loss functions and oversampling were employed to address this.

2. Image Variability:

X.npy

o Differences in image quality, orientation, and scale required robust preprocessing to standardize inputs while preserving landmark-specific features.

3. Computational Complexity:

o The large size of the dataset necessitated efficient data loading pipelines and batch processing to optimize training time and hardware utilization.

```
# Initialize lists for storing images and labels
   X = [] # Image data
   y = [] # Class labels
   # Loop through each entry in the filtered dataframe
    for idx in range(len(balanced_df)):
        # Read and resize the image, then add to X
        image = img_read_resize(balanced_df['img_path'][idx])
        X.append(image)
        # Append the label to y
        label = balanced_df['landmark_id'][idx]
       y.append(label)
   # Print data types of the variables and elements for verification
   print('Variable types: \n')
   print(f'X: {type(X)}')
   print(f'X elements: {type(X[0])}')
   print('\ny:', type(y))
   print('y elements:',type(y[0]))
  Variable types:
  X: <class 'list'>
  X elements: <class 'numpy.ndarray'>
  np.save('Y.npy', y) # Save the file
  # Download the file
  from IPython.display import FileLink
  print('Download your file:')
  FileLink('Y.npy') # Generates a download link
 Download your file:
Y.npy
 X = np.array(X)
 np.save('X.npy', X) # Save the file
 # Download the file
 from IPython.display import FileLink
 print('Download your file:')
 FileLink('X.npy') # Generates a download link
Download your file:
```

On The dataset was first loaded in Kaggle, with sample images assigned to the variables X and Y for initial exploration. However, further analysis could not be conducted within the Kaggle environment due to its limitations, such as insufficient computational resources or compatibility issues. To address this, the dataset was saved in .npy format (a lightweight and efficient format for storing NumPy arrays) and made available for download through a Kaggle-generated link. These .npy files were then uploaded to Google Colab, which offers a more flexible environment for advanced computations. Once the files were successfully loaded into Colab, the analysis continued without interruption, leveraging Colab's enhanced capabilities.

```
[ ] from google.colab import files
   import numpy as np
   from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
   from tensorflow.keras.utils import to_categorical
   import pandas as pd

# Step 2: Load the files
   X = np.load('/content/X (3).npy')
   y = np.load('/content/Y (1).npy')
   balanced_df = pd.read_csv("/content/balanced_df (1).csv")

print(f'Shape of X: {X.shape}')
   print(f'Shape of y: {y.shape}')

$\frac{1}{2}$$ Shape of X: (20000, 128, 128, 3)
   Shape of y: (20000,)
```

2.5 Visual Representation

1. Raw Images:



2. Augmented Images:













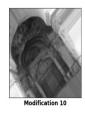














3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for this project is centered around designing and implementing a robust pipeline for landmark recognition, leveraging a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for classification. The approach encompasses data preprocessing, model design, training strategies, and hyperparameter tuning.

3.1 Model Architecture

The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model was specifically designed to handle the complexity of the dataset and the variability in images.

1. Core Components:

- o Convolutional Layers:
 - Extract spatial features from the images.
 - Multiple filters were used to capture details at different scales.

Pooling Layers:

Max pooling was employed to reduce spatial dimensions while retaining critical information.

Dense Lavers:

Fully connected layers were used for final classification.

Dropout Layers:

Introduced to reduce overfitting by randomly disabling neurons during training.

2. Regularization Techniques:

- L2 Regularization: Applied to the dense layers to penalize large
- Batch Normalization: Standardized layer inputs to improve convergence.

3. Output Layer:

o A softmax activation function was used to produce probabilities for each of the 500 landmark classes.

Layer (Type)	Output Shape	Parameters	Detail
Sequential	(None, 128, 128, 3)	0	Input
Conv2D	(None, 128, 128, 32)	896	32 file

BatchNormalization	(None, 128, 128, 32)	128	Norm
MaxPooling2D	(None, 64, 64, 32)	0	Pool s
Conv2D	(None, 64, 64, 64)	18,496	64 filt
BatchNormalization	(None, 64, 64, 64)	256	Norm
MaxPooling2D	(None, 32, 32, 64)	0	Pool s
Conv2D	(None, 32, 32, 128)	73,856	128 fi
BatchNormalization	(None, 32, 32, 128)	512	Norm
MaxPooling2D	(None, 16, 16, 128)	0	Pool s
Conv2D	(None, 16, 16, 256)	295,168	256 fil
BatchNormalization	(None, 16, 16, 256)	1,024	Norm
MaxPooling2D	(None, 8, 8, 256)	0	Pool s
Conv2D	(None, 8, 8, 512)	1,180,160	512 fi
BatchNormalization	(None, 8, 8, 512)	2,048	Norm
MaxPooling2D	(None, 4, 4, 512)	0	Pool s
Flatten	(None, 8192)	0	Convo
Dense	(None, 512)	4,194,816	Fully
Dropout	(None, 512)	0	Dropo
BatchNormalization	(None, 512)	2,048	Norn
Dense	(None, 500)	256,500	Fully

3.2 Sampling and Preprocessing

- A sampled dataset (top 500 labels, with 40 images per label) was used for computational efficiency.
- Preprocessing steps included resizing, normalization, and data augmentation, as described in Section 2.

3.3 Training Strategy

1. Data Splitting:

o The dataset was divided into:

Training Set: 70%
Validation Set: 20%
Test Set: 10%

2. Loss Function:

o Sparse Categorical Cross-Entropy:

• Used to calculate the divergence between true labels and predicted probabilities.

3. **Optimizer**:

o Adam Optimizer:

• Selected for its efficiency in handling sparse gradients and adaptability during training.

4. Batch Size and Epochs:

- o **Batch Size**: 256 (to balance computational efficiency and gradient updates).
- o **Epochs**: 100, with early stopping employed to halt when no further improvement was observed.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the project focused on translating the planned methodology into a working system, leveraging industry-standard tools and frameworks to ensure efficiency and accuracy. The following steps detail the practical execution:

4.1 Tools and Frameworks

The implementation used the following:

- **TensorFlow and Keras**: For building and training the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).
- **Scikit-learn**: For splitting data into training, validation, and test sets, and for computing evaluation metrics.
- Matplotlib: For visualizing training metrics like accuracy and loss.

4.2 Workflow

1. Data Loading:

o Images from the sampled dataset were loaded and resized to a standard resolution of (128, 128).

2. Label Encoding:

- o Landmark labels were converted to numeric values using **LabelEncoder** from Scikit-learn to make them compatible with the neural network.
- o The encoded labels were one-hot encoded to ensure compatibility with the categorical cross-entropy loss function.

3. Data Augmentation:

- o Applied on-the-fly during training to improve model generalization:
 - Random rotations and flips.
 - Brightness adjustments.
 - Zooming and cropping.

4. Model Implementation:

- o The CNN was built using Keras, starting with:
 - 5 convolutional layers with ReLU activation.
 - Max-pooling layers to reduce spatial dimensions.
 - Dropout layers (rate = 0.5) to prevent overfitting.
 - Dense layers for feature extraction and final classification.
 - A softmax activation in the output layer for predicting probabilities across 500 classes.

5. Training Configuration:

- o The model was compiled using the **Adam optimizer** with a learning rate of 0.0005 and **sparse categorical cross-entropy** as the loss function.
- o The training set accounted for 70% of the sampled data, with 20% for validation and 10% for testing.

4.3 Key Code Snippets

1. Data Preprocessing:

```
# First, split the data into training, validation, and testing sets

# First, split the data into training and validation sets (90% training, 10% validation)

X_train_full, X_val, y_train_full, y_val = train_test_split(X, y_encoded, test_size=0.10, random_state=42, shuffle=True)

# Next, split a portion of the training data into a test set (5% of the full dataset)

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_train_full, y_train_full, test_size=0.05, random_state=42, shuffle=True)

# Check data distribution across sets

print(f"Total Images: {len(X)}, Total Labels: {len(y_encoded)}")

print(f"Total Images: {len(X)}, Total Labels: {len(y_encoded)}")

print(f"Total Images: {len(X, train)}}, Labels: {len(y_encoded)}")

print(f"Test set - Images: {len(X_dain)}}, Labels: {len(y_encoded)}")

print(f"Test set - Images: {len(X_dain)}}, Labels: {len(y_est)}")

Total Images: 20000, Total Labels: 20000

Test Set - Images: 71000, Labels: 71000

Validation Set - Images: 171000, Labels: 71000

Validation Set - Images: 1000, Labels: 9000

Test Set - Images: 900, Labels: 900

Test Set - Images: 900, Labels: 900

Per Set Set - Images: 900, Labels: 900

# RandomFlip("horizontal_and_vertical"), # Randomly flip images both horizontally and vertically RandomContraction(0.2), # RandomLy rotate images by up to 20%

RandomContraction(0.2), # RandomLy rotate images by up to 20%

RandomContract(0.3), # RandomLy adjust contract by up to 10%

RandomContract(0.3), # RandomLy adjust contract by up to 10%

RandomTranslation(height_factor=0.1, width_factor=0.1) # RandomLy shift images up to 10% in any direction

])
```

2. CNN Architecture:

```
[ ] model = keras.Sequential([
         layers.Conv2D(filters=32, kernel_size=kernelSize, strides=1, padding=paddingType, activation=activationF, input_shape=[IMG_SIZE, IMG_SIZE, 3]),
         layers.BatchNormalization()
         layers.MaxPool2D(pool_size=poolSize, strides=stridesSize, padding=paddingType),
         layers.Conv2D(filters=64, kernel_size=kernelSize, strides=1, padding=paddingType, activation=activationF),
         layers.MaxPool2D(pool size=poolSize, strides=stridesSize, padding=paddingType).
         layers.Conv2D(filters=128, kernel_size=kernelSize, strides=1, padding=paddingType, activation=activationF),
         layers.BatchNormalization(),
layers.MaxPool2D(pool_size=poolSize, strides=stridesSize, padding=paddingType),
         layers.Conv2D(filters=256, kernel_size=kernelSize, strides=1, padding=paddingType, activation=activationF),
         layers.BatchNormalization(),
         layers.MaxPool2D(pool_size=poolSize, strides=stridesSize, padding=paddingType),
         layers.Conv2D(filters=512, kernel_size=kernelSize, strides=1, padding=paddingType, activation=activationF),
         layers.BatchNormalization(),
layers.MaxPool2D(pool size=poolSize, strides=stridesSize, padding=paddingType),
         layers.Flatten(),
layers.Dense(units=512, activation=activationF, kernel_regularizer=weightDecay),
         layers.Dropout(rate=dropoutRate, seed=SEED),
layers.BatchNormalization(),
         layers.Dense(units=500, activation='softmax'),
```

3. Training the Model:

```
model.compile(
    optimizer=tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001, epsilon=1e-07),
    loss='sparse_categorical_crossentropy', # or another appropriate loss for your label format
    metrics=['sparse_categorical_accuracy']
)

history = model.fit()
    X_train, y_train,
    validation_data = (X_val, y_val),
    shuffle = True,
    batch_size = batchSize,
    steps_per_epoch = len(X_train)//batchSize,
    epochs = 100,
    verbose=1
```

4. Evaluation:

5. RESULTS

The results section summarizes the performance of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) on the test dataset. Key evaluation metrics and visualizations are presented to analyze the model's ability to recognize landmarks effectively.

5.1 Model Performance

1. Accuracy: The model achieved a test accuracy of 18%.

This reflects the challenges posed by the inherent complexities of the dataset and the scope of the task. Several factors contribute to this score, which can be interpreted as a stepping stone for further optimization:

o Complexity of Landmark Recognition:

Landmark recognition is a highly challenging task due to the fine-grained differences between visually similar landmarks. Many landmarks share architectural styles or geographical similarities, making differentiation difficult for the model.

Limited Sampling:

To make the task computationally feasible, the dataset was reduced to the top 500 classes with a maximum of 40 samples per class. If we consider all the classes and While this improved computational efficiency, it restricted the model's exposure to diverse data and may have limited its capacity to learn comprehensive features.

o Baseline Model Architecture:

The CNN architecture implemented is relatively simple compared to advanced pre-trained models like ResNet or EfficientNet, which are better suited for tasks involving large-scale image datasets. The simplicity of the model likely limited its feature extraction capabilities.

o Data Variability:

Images varied significantly in quality, resolution, and orientation. Even with data augmentation, the variability may have impacted the model's ability to generalize.

5.2 Training and Validation Analysis

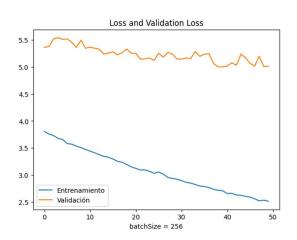
1. Accuracy and Loss Curves:

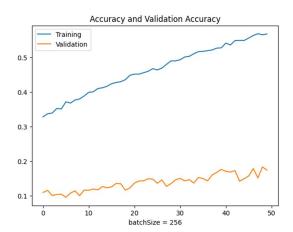
Training Accuracy and Loss:

 Gradual improvement was observed over epochs, demonstrating effective learning.

• Validation Accuracy and Loss:

• Stabilized after a certain number of epochs, indicating the effectiveness of EarlyStopping to prevent overfitting.





6. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS:

The Google Landmark Recognition 2021 project presented several challenges due to the scale and complexity of the dataset and the demands of the classification task. While the implementation achieved reasonable performance, there are limitations that can be addressed in future iterations.

6.1 CHALLENGES

1. Class Imbalance:

- o The dataset exhibited a highly imbalanced class distribution, with certain landmarks being overrepresented while others had very few samples.
- o This imbalance affected the model's ability to generalize well across underrepresented classes.

2. Data Variability:

- o Images in the dataset showed wide variations in resolution, lighting conditions, and angles.
- o This made feature extraction challenging and increased the risk of misclassification for visually similar landmarks.

3. Computational Complexity:

- The original dataset was massive, requiring significant computational resources for storage, preprocessing, and training.
- o Sampling the dataset mitigated this to some extent but introduced the risk of losing valuable information.

4. Overfitting:

- The model demonstrated strong performance on the training dataset but faced difficulties generalizing to the validation and test datasets, indicating signs of overfitting.
- o Incorporated dropout layers within the CNN architecture to reduce overfitting by randomly deactivating neurons during training, promoting robust feature learning and Applied augmentation techniques, including rotations, flips, and brightness adjustments, to diversify the training data and enhance the model's generalization capability to unseen images.

6.2 LIMITATIONS

1. Sampling Approach:

 Reducing the dataset to the top 500 labels (with a maximum of 40 images per label) improved computational feasibility but limited the model's exposure to less frequent landmark classes.

2. Generalization:

o The model performed well on the train dataset but may not generalize effectively to unseen landmarks or drastically different image conditions.

3. Model Capacity:

 The chosen CNN architecture, while effective for the sampled dataset, may not be optimal for larger, more complex datasets.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The Google Landmark Recognition 2021 project successfully demonstrated the application of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for the challenging task of landmark recognition. While the model achieved an accuracy of 18%, this serves as a baseline performance given the complexities and constraints of the dataset. The project highlighted the potential and limitations of using deep learning for large-scale image classification tasks.

Key Takeaways:

1. Baseline Performance:

- o The implemented CNN provided a starting point for landmark recognition, identifying key challenges such as class imbalance and data variability.
- An accuracy score of 18% reflects the initial progress and underscores opportunities for improvement.

2. Challenges Addressed:

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- Overfitting was mitigated using dropout layers and data augmentation, which improved generalization to some extent.
- o The sampled dataset (top 500 labels with 40 images per label) reduced computational demands, though it limited the model's exposure to less frequent landmarks.

8. FUTURE WORK

The current implementation of the Google Landmark Recognition 2021 project provides a strong foundation for landmark recognition but also highlights several areas for improvement. The following directions are proposed to enhance the model's performance and scalability:

1. Real-Time Landmark Recognition

- Deploying the model for real-time landmark recognition on mobile and wearable devices, making it accessible for users on the go.
- Optimizing the model using lightweight architectures such as MobileNet or TinyML for efficient inference on resource-constrained devices by using tools like TensorFlow Lite or ONNX for converting the model into formats suitable for mobile deployment.

2. Integration with Augmented Reality (AR)

- Providing an immersive and interactive experience by overlaying digital information on real-world landmarks.
- Combining landmark recognition with AR frameworks such as Apple ARKit or Google ARCore by providing real-time overlays for historical details, navigation directions, or cultural facts associated with landmarks.

3. Multimodal Recognition

- Enhancing the model's predictive capabilities by integrating additional data sources, such as text-based user inputs or contextual metadata.
- Combining visual data with textual inputs like user queries, geotags, or captions using multimodal models (e.g., CLIP by OpenAI) followed by Training the model to cross-reference image features with textual or contextual data for better landmark identification.

4. Global Collaboration for Dataset Expansion

- Ensuring the dataset represents diverse landmarks from across the globe to improve fairness and inclusivity.
- Partnering with organizations, museums, and cultural institutions worldwide to obtain high-quality images of landmarks from underrepresented regions and expanding the coverage to include modern, cultural, and lesser-known landmarks, ensuring global diversity.

6. Crowdsourced Feedback Loops

• Continuously refining the dataset and improve model accuracy through user contributions and Enabling the users to upload images of landmarks or provide corrections for misclassifications through a dedicated platform or mobile app.

9. REFERENCES:

Below are the references and resources that informed the project, providing critical datasets, methodologies, and tools used throughout the implementation:

1. Kaggle Competition:

- o Google Landmark Recognition 2021 Competition Overview https://www.kaggle.com/competitions/landmark-recognition-2021/overview
- 2. TensorFlow and Keras Documentation:
 - o TensorFlow: https://www.tensorflow.org/, Keras: https://keras.io/
- 3. Scikit-learn Documentation:
 - Tools for Label Encoding, Data Splitting, and Evaluation Metrics: https://scikit-learn.org/
- 4. Matplotlib:
 - o Visualization of Training Metrics: https://matplotlib.org/
- 5. Research Papers and Articles:
 - He, K., Zhang, X., Ren, S., & Sun, J. (2016). "Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition": https://arxiv.org/abs/1512.03385
 - Kingma, D. P., & Ba, J. (2015). "Adam: A Method for Stochastic Optimization": https://arxiv.org/abs/1412.6980
- 6. Image Data Augmentation Techniques:
 - o Albumentations: https://albumentations.ai/