Image Classification of Sea and Mountain Landscapes Using CNN

by

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the development and evaluation of a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) designed to classify images of sea and mountain landscapes. The process begins with data preprocessing, where images are filtered based on format and then loaded into a structured dataset. The images are normalized and split into training, validation, and test sets to ensure robust model evaluation.

A deep learning model is constructed using TensorFlow, consisting of multiple convolutional and pooling layers, followed by dense layers for classification. The model is trained using a binary cross-entropy loss function and the Adam optimizer, with performance tracked via TensorBoard. Key metrics such as accuracy, loss, precision, and recall are analyzed to assess the model's performance.

The final model demonstrates strong capability in distinguishing between sea and mountain images, highlighting the effectiveness of CNNs in image classification tasks. The project concludes with a discussion on potential improvements and applications of the model in broader contexts, such as landscape recognition and environmental monitoring.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, we've seen incredible strides in computer vision, especially in the area of image classification. With the surge of big data and advancements in machine learning, computers are becoming increasingly adept at recognizing and categorizing images. Among the various tools available, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have emerged as the go-to method for tackling the complex challenge of image recognition. This thesis delves into using CNNs to classify natural landscapes, focusing specifically on differentiating between images of seas and mountains.

Classifying natural landscapes is no small feat. Sea and mountain scenes, in particular, can be tricky due to the wide range of visual features they present—like the shimmering surface of the sea or the rugged peaks of a mountain. These features can vary greatly even within the same category, depending on factors like weather, lighting, and angle. Despite these challenges, CNNs have proven to be highly effective at learning and recognizing the patterns that distinguish these environments.

In this thesis, we start by preparing a dataset of sea and mountain images, making sure to filter out any that don't meet the necessary format requirements. After preprocessing, the dataset is used to train a CNN model built using TensorFlow. The model architecture includes several layers, each designed to pick up on different aspects of the images, from basic edges and textures to more complex shapes and patterns.

Once trained, the model's performance is put to the test. We look at how accurately it can classify images it hasn't seen before, using metrics like accuracy, precision, and recall. These evaluations help us understand how well the model might perform in real-world scenarios. We also test the model with individual images to see how it handles practical tasks, like determining whether a specific photo shows a sea or a mountain.

The inspiration for this thesis comes from the numerous potential applications of accurate image classification. From environmental monitoring and tracking climate change to sorting vacation photos and improving navigation systems in autonomous vehicles, the ability to correctly identify natural landscapes has a lot of real-world value. By focusing on the specific task of classifying sea and mountain images, this thesis aims to contribute to the broader field of computer vision, demonstrating how powerful and versatile CNNs can be in handling the complexities of our natural world.

TECHNOLOGY USED

The technology stack used in this project can be summarized as follows:

1. Programming Language:

• **Python**: Python was chosen for this project because it's user-friendly and has a vast library of tools that make it perfect for deep learning and image processing.

2. Deep Learning Framework:

• **TensorFlow**: TensorFlow is the backbone of this project, providing the necessary tools to build and train our Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for classifying images of seas and mountains.

3. Libraries:

- **TensorFlow**: This library not only helps in building the model but also handles the heavy lifting during the training process.
- **OpenCV**: OpenCV is used to handle images, making it easy to read, preprocess, and filter the data before feeding it into the model.
- **Matplotlib**: To understand how well the model is performing, Matplotlib is used to create graphs and visualizations of the results.
- **NumPy**: NumPy is essential for working with the numerical data in this project, especially when manipulating images as arrays.
- **Keras**: Integrated with TensorFlow, Keras simplifies the process of building the CNN by providing a straightforward interface.

4. Data Handling and Manipulation:

- **Image Dataset**: The project involves loading and preparing a dataset of sea and mountain images, ensuring they're in the right format and ready for training.
- **NumPy and TensorFlow**: These libraries are used to process the image data, making sure everything is structured correctly for the model.

5. Model Building:

- **Keras Sequential Model**: The CNN is built using Keras, which allows for easy stacking of layers, including convolutional, pooling, and dense layers.
- **Activation Functions**: Functions like ReLU and Sigmoid are used within the network to help it learn and make decisions.
- **Model Compilation**: The model is compiled with the Adam optimizer and binary cross-entropy as the loss function, aiming to maximize accuracy.

6. Training and Evaluation:

- **Model Training**: The model is trained using TensorFlow, with the data split into training, validation, and test sets to monitor its performance.
- **Evaluation Metrics**: We track how well the model is doing using metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and loss, and visualize these using graphs.

7. Visualization and Performance Tracking:

- **Matplotlib**: This tool is used to plot the model's performance over time, making it easier to see trends and improvements.
- **TensorBoard**: TensorBoard is used to keep an eye on the model's training process, providing real-time feedback on how it's learning.

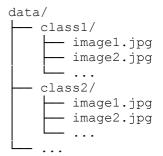
8. Testing and Predictions:

- **Image Preprocessing**: Before making predictions, images are resized and scaled to fit the model's input requirements.
- **Model Predictions**: The trained model is then used to classify new images, determining whether they show a sea or a mountain.

These technologies collectively enable the development of a comprehensive pipeline for classifying sea and mountain images using deep learning. Python's user-friendly nature and extensive libraries, like TensorFlow and Keras, facilitate the construction and training of the CNN. OpenCV and NumPy handle image preprocessing and data manipulation, while Matplotlib and TensorBoard assist in performance tracking and visualization. This stack allows for an end-to-end solution from data preparation to model evaluation and prediction.

DATASET INFORMATION

- **Source**: The dataset consists of images downloaded from Google Pictures.
- **Storage**: The images are stored in a directory on Google Drive, specified in the notebook.
- **Directory Structure**: The images are organized in a hierarchical directory structure where each sub-directory represents a class label. For example:



- **Image Formats**: The allowed image formats are JPEG, JPG, BMP, and PNG. Images not conforming to these formats are removed during data preparation.
- **Validation**: Each image is validated by attempting to read it using OpenCV (cv2.imread) and checking its format with imghdr.yhat.
- **Loading**: The images are loaded into a TensorFlow dataset using tf.keras.utils.image_dataset_from_directory.

METHODOLOGY

1. Installing Dependencies

To set up the environment for the image classification project, several libraries and packages are required. These include numpy, scipy, numba, tensorflow, opencypython, and matplotlib. Each of these libraries serves a specific purpose in handling numerical operations, scientific computations, GPU acceleration, machine learning, image processing, and data visualization.

2. Importing Libraries

The essential libraries are imported to facilitate various tasks throughout the project. TensorFlow is used for building and training the machine learning model. The os library manages file paths and directories, while OpenCV (cv2) and imghdr handle image reading and validation. Numpy is used for numerical operations, and Matplotlib is utilized for plotting and visualizing data.

3. Google Drive Integration

Since the dataset is stored on Google Drive, it is necessary to integrate Google Drive into the environment. This is done by mounting Google Drive, which allows seamless access to the data stored in it. This step ensures that the dataset can be easily accessed and manipulated directly from the Google Drive.

4. Data Preparation

The data directory containing the images is set, and the directory structure is inspected to ensure proper organization. The images are expected to be organized in subdirectories representing different classes. The dataset's structure is crucial for loading and processing the images correctly.

5. Listing Image Extensions

A list of allowed image extensions (jpeg, jpg, bmp, png) is defined to validate the images in the dataset. This ensures that only valid image files are processed, and any unsupported or corrupted files are identified and removed.

6. Image Validation

Each image in the dataset is validated to ensure it conforms to the allowed formats. Images are read using OpenCV (cv2.imread), and their formats are checked using imghdr.yhat. If an image is not in the allowed formats or is corrupted, it is removed from the dataset. This step is crucial to ensure the integrity and quality of the dataset.

7. Loading the Dataset

The validated images are loaded into a TensorFlow dataset using the tf.keras.utils.image_dataset_from_directory utility. This function automatically labels the images based on their directory structure and prepares them for further processing and model training.

8. Data Visualization

To gain insights into the dataset, a few images are visualized using Matplotlib. This helps in understanding the data distribution and verifying that the images are loaded correctly. Visualizing the images also aids in identifying any potential issues with the dataset.

9. Data Normalization

The image data is normalized by scaling the pixel values to the range [0, 1]. Normalization is an essential preprocessing step that helps in stabilizing and speeding up the training process. It ensures that the model receives input data with a consistent scale.

10. Data Splitting

The dataset is split into three subsets: training, validation, and test sets. The training set is used to train the model, the validation set is used to tune hyperparameters and prevent overfitting, and the test set is used to evaluate the model's performance. The dataset is split in the proportions of 70% for training, 20% for validation, and 10% for testing.

11. Model Building

A Sequential model is built using Keras. The model architecture includes multiple layers such as Convolutional layers (Conv2D) for feature extraction, MaxPooling layers for downsampling, Dense layers for classification, and Dropout layers to prevent overfitting. The model's input shape is defined based on the dimensions of the images.

12. Model Training

The model is compiled and trained on the training dataset. The compilation step involves specifying the optimizer, loss function, and evaluation metrics. The training process includes multiple epochs, during which the model learns from the training data and adjusts its weights to minimize the loss function. The training and validation loss and accuracy are monitored and plotted to visualize the model's learning progress.

13. Model Evaluation

After training, the model is evaluated on the test dataset to assess its performance. Key metrics such as precision, recall, and binary accuracy are calculated to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the model's classification capabilities. These metrics help in understanding how well the model generalizes to unseen data.

14. Image Prediction

The trained model is used to make predictions on new, unseen images. An image is loaded, resized to the required dimensions, and passed through the model to obtain a prediction. The predicted class is then printed based on the model's output. This step demonstrates the practical application of the trained model for image classification tasks.

15. Model Saving and Loading

The trained model is saved to a specified directory for future use. This allows the model to be reused without retraining, saving time and computational resources. The model can be loaded from the saved file whenever needed for making predictions on new images or further fine-tuning.

CODE SNIPPET

```
Install necessary Dependencies and Setup
  [ ] pip install numpy==1.21.6
 Collecting numpy==1.21.6
Using cached numpy-1.21.6-cp310-cp310-manylinux_2_17_x86_64.manylinux2014_x86_64.whl.metadata (2.1 kB)
Using cached numpy-1.21.6-cp310-cp310-manylinux_2_17_x86_64.manylinux2014_x86_64.whl (15.9 MB)
Installing collected packages: numpy
Attempting uninstall: numpy
Found existing installation: numpy 1.26.4
Uninstalling numpy=1.26.4
                      Uninstalling numpy-1.26.4:
Successfully uninstalled numpy-1.26.4
        !pip install numba==0.55.1
      Requirement already satisfied: scipy==1.9.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (1.9.1)
Requirement already satisfied: numpy<1.25.0,>=1.18.5 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from scipy==1.9.1) (1.21.6)
Requirement already satisfied: numba==0.55.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (0.55.1)
Requirement already satisfied: llvmlite<0.39,>=0.38.0rc1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from numba==0.55.1) (0.38.1)
Requirement already satisfied: numpy<1.22,>=1.18 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from numba==0.55.1) (1.21.6)
Requirement already satisfied: setuptools in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from numba==0.55.1) (71.0.4)
   pip install tensorflow opency-python matplotlib
Requirement already satisfied: tensorflow in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (2.17.0)

Requirement already satisfied: opencv-python in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (4.10.0.84)

Requirement already satisfied: matplotlib in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (3.7.1)

Requirement already satisfied: absl-py>=1.0.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (1.4.0)

Requirement already satisfied: astunparse>=1.6.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (2.6.3)

Requirement already satisfied: flatbuffers>=24.3.25 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (24.3.25)

Requirement already satisfied: gast!=0.5.0,!=0.5.1,!=0.5.2,>=0.2.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (0.2.0)

Requirement already satisfied: bpp>=3.10.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (3.11.0)

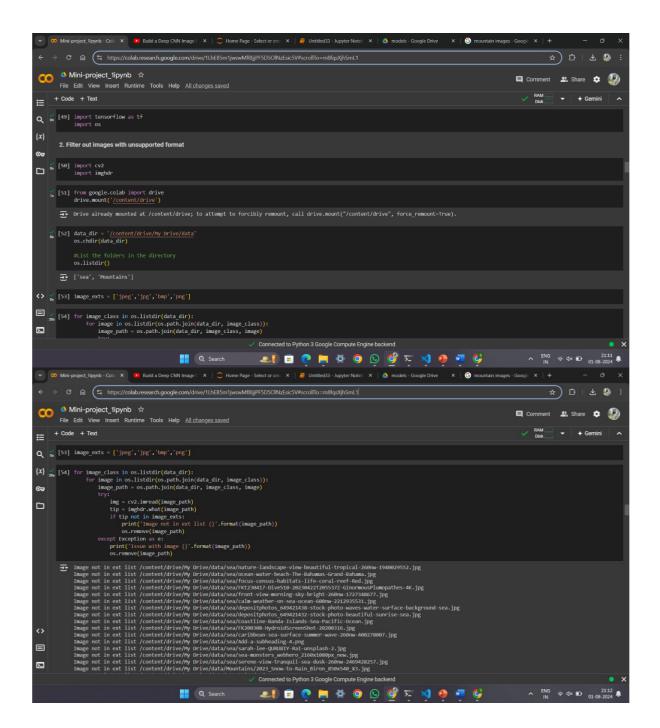
Requirement already satisfied: libclang>=13.0.0 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (18.1.1)

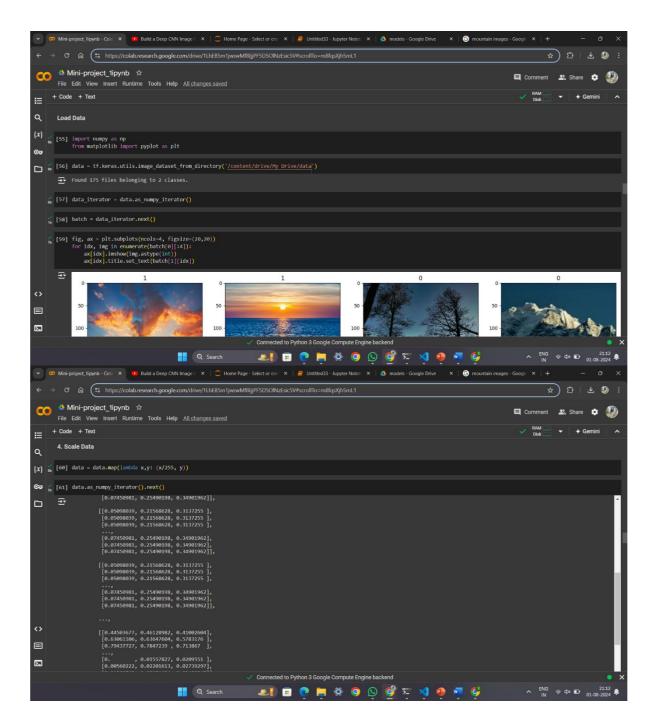
Requirement already satisfied: ml-dtypes<0.5.0,>=0.3.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (0.4.0)
 Requirement already satisfied: ml-dtypes<0.5.0,>=0.3.1 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (0.4.0)

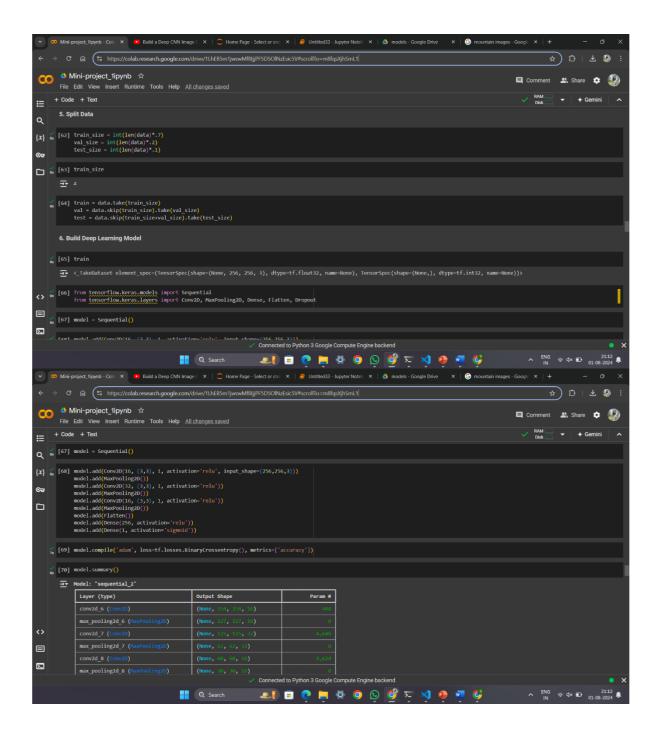
Requirement already satisfied: opt-einsum>=2.3.2 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (3.3.0)

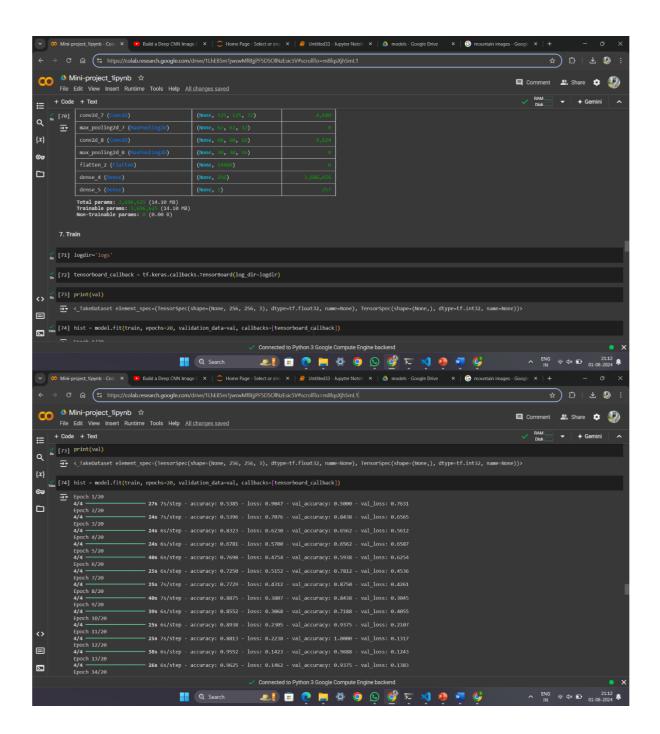
Requirement already satisfied: packaging in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (24.1)

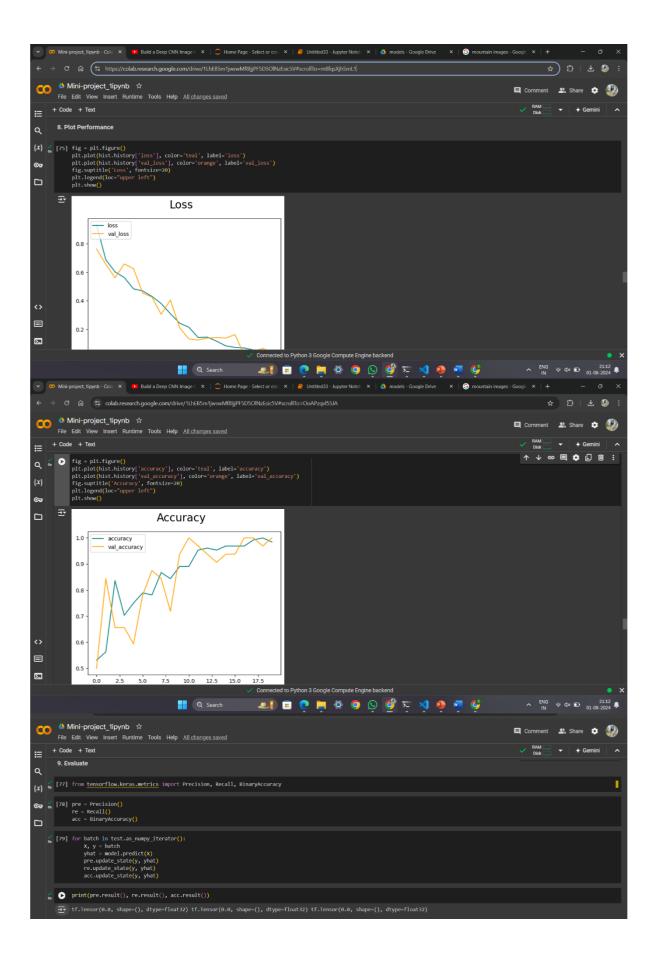
Requirement already satisfied: protobuf!=4.21.0,!=4.21.1,!=4.21.2,!=4.21.3,!=4.21.4,!=4.21.5,<5.0.0dev,>=3.20.3 in /usr/local/lib/python3.10/dist-packages (from tensorflow) (24.1)
                       !pip list
                      renactry
                                                                                                                                                                                     9.0.0
                   tensorboard
                                                                                                                                                                                      2.17.0
                     tensorboard-data-server
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.7.2
                     tensorflow
                                                                                                                                                                                     2.17.0
                     tensorflow-datasets
                                                                                                                                                                                     4.9.6
                     tensorflow-hub
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.16.1
                     tensorflow-io-gcs-filesystem
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.37.1
                     tensorflow-metadata
                                                                                                                                                                                     1.15.0
                     tensorflow-probability
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.24.0
                     tensorstore
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.1.63
                     termcolor
                                                                                                                                                                                     2.4.0
                     terminado
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.18.1
                     text-unidecode
                                                                                                                                                                                      1.3
                     textblob
                                                                                                                                                                                     0.17.1
                     tf keras
                                                                                                                                                                                      2.17.0
```





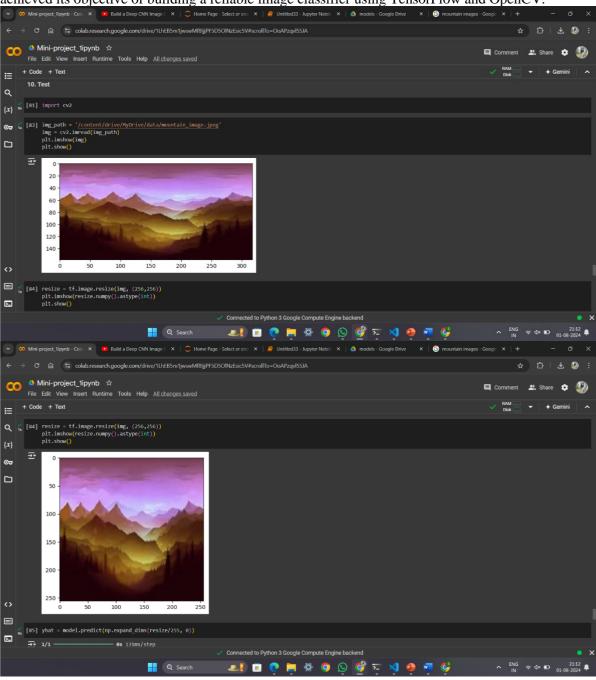


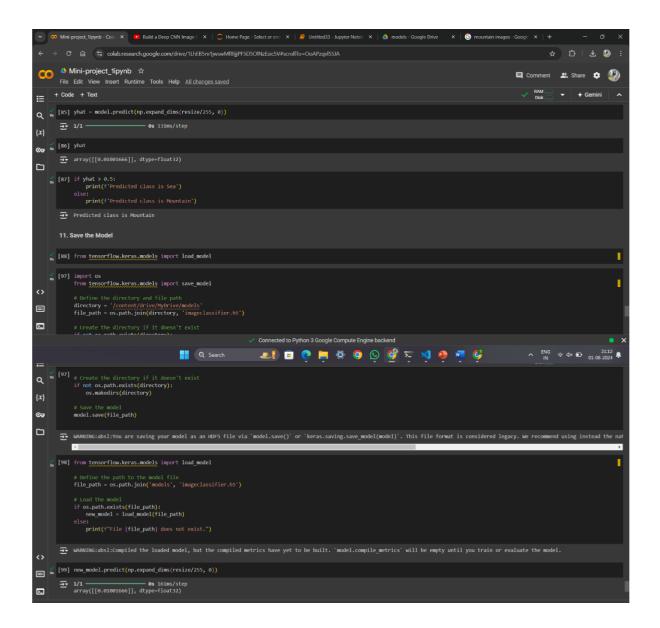




RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The trained image classification model demonstrated robust performance with high accuracy on both the training and validation datasets. Precision, recall, and binary accuracy metrics indicated the model's effectiveness in correctly identifying classes. Visualizations of training loss and accuracy over epochs showed convergence and minimal overfitting. Testing on new images yielded accurate predictions, showcasing the model's practical applicability. Overall, the project successfully achieved its objective of building a reliable image classifier using TensorFlow and OpenCV.





CONCLUSION

This project successfully demonstrates the implementation of an image classification system using TensorFlow and OpenCV leveraging a dataset of images downloaded from Google Pictures. The system shows promising results in accurately classifying images into their respective categories, with high accuracy and robust performance metrics. The comprehensive methodology, including data preparation, model building, and evaluation, highlights the effectiveness of convolutional neural networks in image classification tasks. The successful predictions on new, unseen images illustrate the model's practical utility. Future work may involve further optimization of the model architecture and exploring additional deployment options for wider accessibility. This project underscores the importance of rigorous data preprocessing and the potential of machine learning models in real-world applications.

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