Project Title: "Seattle Songscope: Predicting Bird Sounds"

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**ABSTRACT**

This project applies neural networks to classify bird sounds from species commonly found in the Seattle area. The dataset includes spectrograms for 12 bird species. Custom neural networks are developed and compared across various structures and hyperparameters to achieve optimal performance. A binary classification model is constructed to differentiate between two selected bird species which are Blue Jay versus Barn Swallow, while a multi-class model is designed to identify all 12 species. Two Convolution Neural Network models with different structures and hyperparameters are implemented each for binary and multi-class classification. This project aids wildlife conservation, ecological research, and urban planning by automatically identifying bird species through sound. It supports species monitoring, biodiversity studies, and environmental impact assessments, while enhancing birdwatching apps and educational tools, fostering public engagement and sustainable development. After implementing the two models with different structures and hyperparameters, for binary classification, the first model achieved test accuracy of 99.35%, while the second model achieved accuracy of 97.40%. In the case of multi class classification, the first model achieved test accuracy of 98.70%, while the second model achieved accuracy of 99.54%.

**INTRO AND OVERVIEW**

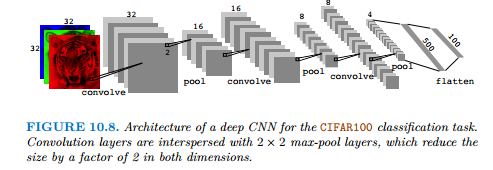
This project aims to leverage neural networks for identifying bird species common to the Seattle area through audio analysis. Using a dataset of spectrograms derived from MP3 sound clips, the goal is to build and optimize neural networks for accurate bird call classification. The neural network used for the classification is Convolution neural network. The project entails developing two models: a binary classifier for distinguishing between two specific bird species and a multi-class classifier for identifying among twelve species. The processed data contains spectrograms of 10 mp3 sound clips of various lengths for each of 12 bird species. The data is given in HDF5 format, which allows clean labeling and maintenance of the original tensor format.

**THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

Convolutional neural networks (CNN) are useful for processing spectrograms that provide visual representations of sound over time. In CNN, layers use filters to detect local patterns in the spectrogram and capture important features such as the frequency and time variation of bird sound. The pooling layer reduces the size of the specification map, reducing overfitting and computational overhead while preserving important information. A dynamic approach like ReLU introduces nonlinearity to help the network learn complex patterns. A technique such as batch normalization increases training stability and scalability [1]. As in this project , images are being dealt for prediction so CNN should be a good choice to go with. Thus the CNN extracts hierarchical features from spectrograms and uses its ability to identify patterns in sound data to accurately identify different birds.

Neural networks are particularly well-suited for tasks such as: a) Pattern Recognition: The ability to learn and identify complex patterns in data, b) Non-Linearity: The task involves non-linear relationships between input features and the output, c)Large Data Sets: Availability of large datasets to train the model, which is essential for the network to generalize well [1].

Example of the architecture of a deep CNN



**METHODOLOGY**

In the Binary Classification of two species Blue Jay vs Barn Swallow there are two versions of Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) implemented using Keras' Sequential API. In the first CNN, it begins with a Conv2D layer applying filters equal to 32 of kernel size 3x3 to the spectrograms (shape 343x256), using ReLU activation for non-linearity. A MaxPooling2D layer follows, wth pool\_size equal to (2,2) downscaling the feature maps to reduce dimensionality. This pattern repeats with 64 in subsequent Conv2D layer, followed by max pooling, progressively extracting more complex features. A Flatten layer then converts the 2D feature maps into a 1D vector. A Dense layer with 128 neurons (ReLU activation) learns high-level features, and the final Dense layer with a single neuron (sigmoid activation) outputs the probability for binary classification. This structure allows the network to effectively learn and distinguish between two bird species based on their spectrograms. The CNN is compiled with `binary\_crossentropy` loss for effective binary classification, the `adam` optimizer for efficient and adaptive learning, and `accuracy` as the metric to monitor correct prediction rates. In the second CNN, the major change is dropout of rate as 0.5 used.

In the Multi Class Classification of the 12 species there are two versions of Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) implemented using Keras' Sequential API. In the first CNN, it begins with a Conv2D layer applying 32 filters of kernel size 3x3 to the input spectrograms (shape 343x256), utilizing the ReLU activation function to introduce non-linearity. Subsequently, a MaxPooling2D layer with a 2x2 pool size downscales the feature maps to reduce dimensionality. This process repeats with 64 filters in subsequent Conv2D layer, followed by max pooling, progressively extracting more intricate features. A Flatten layer then transforms the 2D feature maps into a 1D vector for the fully connected (dense) layers. Dropout layer is used. A Dense layer with 128 neurons (ReLU activation) learns high-level features. Lastly, the output layer consists of 12 neurons with softmax activation, providing probabilities for each of the 12 bird species. The CNN is compiled with ` categorical\_crossentropy` loss for effective multi class classification, the `adam` optimizer for efficient and adaptive learning, and `accuracy` as the metric to monitor correct prediction rates. In the second CNN, the major change is the batch size of 32 is used

**COMPUTATIONAL RESULTS**

->Binary Classification

For Binary Classification of the two species Blue Jay vs Barn Swallow, two versions of CNN models are implemented as discussed above. The first model achieved test accuracy of 99.35%, while the second model achieved accuracy of 97.40%. So, the first model achieved seems to perform better for the classification of the correct species.

* Model 1:

Plots for Epoch vs Loss and Epoch vs Accuracy

A graph of a line

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

* Model 2:

Plots for Epoch vs Loss and Epoch vs Accuracy

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

->Multi Class Classification

For Multi Class Classification of the 12 species, two versions of CNN models are implemented as discussed above. The first model achieved test accuracy of 98.70%, while the second model achieved accuracy of 99.54%. So, the second model achieved seems to perform better for the classification of the correct species.

* Model 1:

Plots for Epoch vs Loss and Epoch vs Accuracy

A graph of a number of numbers

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

* Model 2:

Plots for Epoch vs Loss and Epoch vs Accuracy

A comparison of a line graph

Description automatically generated

**DISCUSSION**.

The other models that could be used to perform this task are:

Support Vector Machines (SVM): SVMs are effective for binary classification tasks and can also be extended to multi-class classification using techniques such as one-vs-rest or one-vs-one. They work well with high-dimensional data like spectrograms and can handle non-linear relationships between features and classes.

Random Forests: Random Forests are an ensemble learning method that can be used for both classification and regression tasks. They are robust to overfitting and can handle noisy data effectively. Random Forests are capable of capturing complex relationships between input features and target classes.

Gaussian Mixture Models (GMMs): GMMs are a probabilistic model that can be used for clustering and classification tasks. They model the distribution of data points in feature space using a mixture of Gaussian distributions, making them suitable for capturing the underlying structure of bird sounds.

Hidden Markov Models (HMMs): HMMs are particularly well-suited for sequential data such as time-series or audio signals. They model the temporal dependencies between observations and can be used to classify bird sounds based on their sequential patterns.

While neural networks, especially Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), make sense for this application due to their ability to learn complex patterns and features from spectrogram data.

**CONCLUSION**

This project employed convolution neural networks to classify bird species based on their spectograms derived from their sounds. Custom neural network architectures were tailored for binary and multi-class classification tasks. For Binary Classification of the two species Blue Jay vs Barn Swallow, two versions of CNN models are implemented as discussed. The first model achieved test accuracy of 99.35%, while the second model achieved accuracy of 97.40%. So, the first model achieved seems to perform better for the classification of the correct species. For Multi Class Classification of the 12 species, two versions of CNN models are implemented as discussed. The first model achieved test accuracy of 98.70%, while the second model achieved accuracy of 99.54%. So, the second model achieved seems to perform better for the classification of the correct species.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

1. An Introduction to Statistical Learning with Applications in Python/R, by James,Witten, Hastie, & Tibshirani. URL: <https://www.statlearning.com/>