



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

**IMAGE CLASSIFICATION WITH DEEP- LEARNING/TENSORFLOW-HUB USING  
A MANUALLY COLLECTED/ANNOTATED DATASET**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Image classification is a fundamental task in computer vision that involves categorizing images into predefined classes based on their visual content. The primary goal is to automatically assign labels to images using learned patterns and features. This process has become increasingly important with applications spanning autonomous vehicles, medical diagnosis, industrial quality control, and retail automation.

Deep learning, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), has revolutionized image classification by automatically learning hierarchical feature representations from raw pixel data. This eliminates the need for manual feature engineering and has led to unprecedented accuracy in visual recognition tasks.

## 1.2 Introduction

This project focuses on implementing image classification for Jaguar car models using deep learning and transfer learning techniques. Transfer learning leverages pre-trained models that have been trained on large-scale datasets (like ImageNet) and adapts them to specific tasks with smaller datasets. This approach significantly reduces training time and computational requirements while achieving high accuracy.

We implement and compare two state-of-the-art CNN architectures: MobileNetV2 and InceptionV3. Both models are pre-trained on ImageNet and fine-tuned for the Jaguar classification task. This report documents the complete pipeline from data collection and preprocessing to model training, evaluation, and comparison.

## 1.3 Problem Statement

Classifying different Jaguar car models from images presents a unique challenge in fine-grained visual recognition. Unlike general object classification, distinguishing between similar car models requires the model to learn subtle visual differences in design elements such as grille patterns, headlight shapes, body contours, and overall proportions.

Traditional image classification methods relying on manual feature extraction are inadequate for this task due to the similarity between models and variations in viewing angles, lighting conditions, and backgrounds. This project investigates the application of transfer learning using pre-trained CNNs to achieve accurate classification of five distinct Jaguar models, demonstrating the effectiveness of deep learning for automotive visual recognition tasks.

## 1.4 Dataset Overview

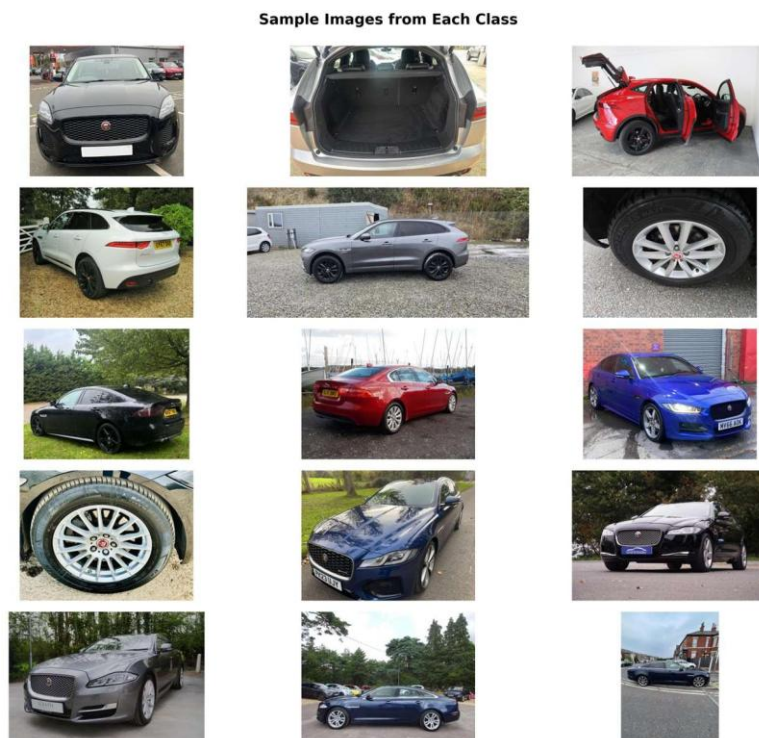
The dataset consists of five different Jaguar car models, carefully curated to represent popular models in the Jaguar lineup:

1. E-PACE - Compact luxury SUV
2. F-PACE - Mid-size luxury crossover SUV
3. Jaguar XE - Compact executive sedan
4. Jaguar XF - Mid-size luxury sedan
5. Jaguar XJ - Full-size luxury sedan

### Dataset Statistics:

- Total Images: 2,089
- Number of Classes: 5
- Image Formats: JPEG, PNG
- Train/Validation/Test Split: 70%/15%/15%
- Training Samples: 1,462
- Validation Samples: 313
- Test Samples: 314
- Input Size (MobileNetV2): 224×224
- Input Size (InceptionV3): 299×299

The dataset exhibits class imbalance, with some models having more samples than others. To address this, we implement stratified splitting and class weights during training to ensure the model learns equally from all classes.



## 1.5 Pipeline for Image Classification

The process of image classification begins with the collection of a dataset, which must be refined and pre-processed prior to its use in classification. A thorough exploratory analysis of the dataset is crucial to ascertain its integrity and quality. Following this, features are extracted from the processed data, which are then utilized to train the classification model. Once the model has been adequately trained, it undergoes evaluation to determine its effectiveness. If it meets the desired criteria, it is subsequently deployed for the purpose of classification.

The image classification pipeline consists of several key stages:

**Data Collection:** Gathering and organizing images into class-specific directories

**Exploratory Data Analysis:** Analyzing class distribution and dataset characteristics

**Data Preprocessing:** Cleaning, resizing, and normalizing images

**Data Augmentation:** Applying transformations to increase dataset diversity

**Model Selection:** Choosing appropriate pre-trained architectures

**Transfer Learning:** Adapting pre-trained models to our specific task

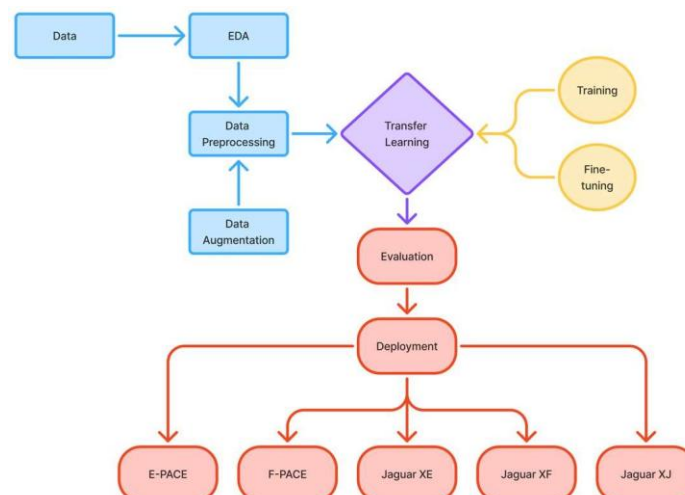
**Training (Stage 1):** Training custom classification head with frozen base

**Fine-tuning (Stage 2):** Unfreezing and training deeper layers

**Evaluation:** Assessing model performance on validation and test sets

**Comparison:** Comparing different models and approaches

**Deployment:** Saving and preparing models for production use



2 DATA PRE-PROCESSING

Data preprocessing is a critical phase that ensures the quality and consistency of input data for model training. Proper preprocessing can significantly impact model performance and training stability. This section details all preprocessing steps applied to the Jaguar dataset.

2.1 Dataset Directory Structure

The dataset is organized in a hierarchical directory structure with each class in a separate folder:

Jaguar/  
├── E-PACE/ (439 images)  
├── F-PACE/ (401 images)  
├── Jaguar XE/ (425 images)  
├── Jaguar XF/ (409 images)  
└── Jaguar XJ/ (415 images)

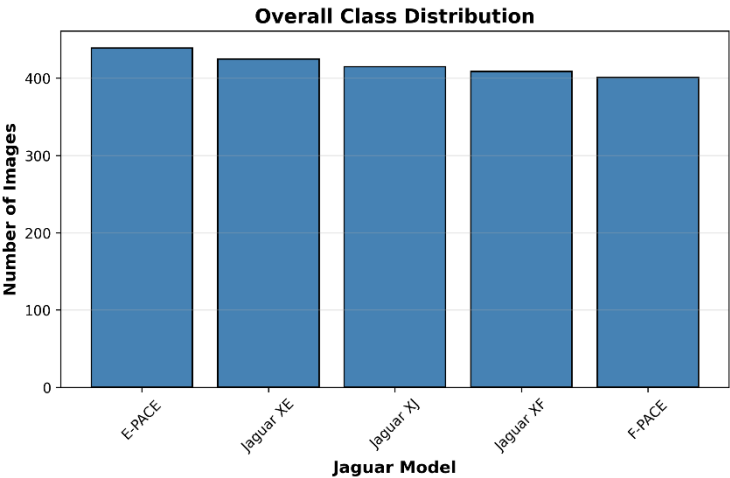
This structure allows for easy automated loading using TensorFlow/Keras `image_dataset_from_directory()` function, which automatically infers class labels from folder names.

2.2 Class Distribution Analysis

Understanding class distribution is essential for identifying potential biases and implementing appropriate mitigation strategies. The dataset shows moderate class imbalance:

Class Name	Image Count	Percentage
Jaguar XJ	415	19.9%
F-PACE	401	19.2%
E-PACE	439	21.0%
Jaguar XE	425	20.4%
Jaguar XF	409	19.9%

- The class imbalance is addressed through:
- Stratified train/validation/test splitting to maintain proportions
  - Computing and applying class weights during training
  - Using evaluation metrics (weighted precision, recall, F1-score)

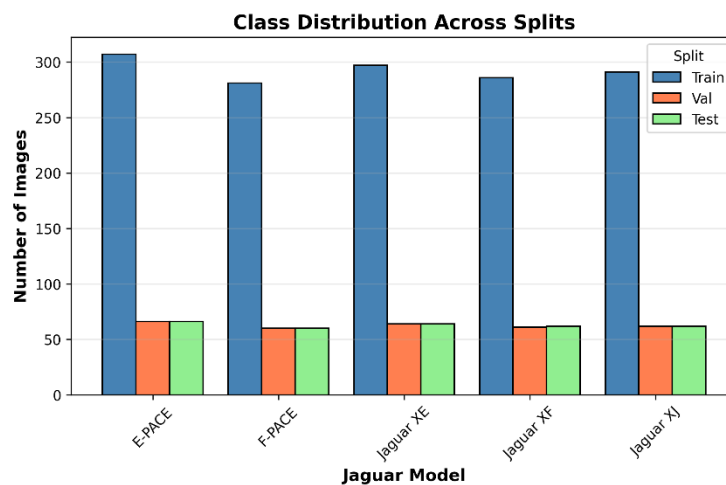


## 2.3 Train/Validation/Test Split

The dataset is split into three subsets using stratified sampling to maintain class distribution across all sets:

Split	Samples	Percentage	Purpose
Training	1462	70%	Model learning
Validation	313	15%	Hyperparameter tuning
Test	314	15%	Final evaluation

Stratified splitting ensures that each subset contains approximately the same proportion of samples from each class, preventing bias in model evaluation.



## 2.4 Data Augmentation

Data augmentation is applied to the training set to increase dataset diversity and improve model generalization. The following transformations are applied:

- Rotation: Random rotation up to  $\pm 30$  degrees
- Width Shift: Random horizontal shift up to 25% of image width
- Height Shift: Random vertical shift up to 25% of image height
- Shear: Shear transformation with range of 0.2
- Zoom: Random zoom between  $0.75\times$  and  $1.25\times$
- Horizontal Flip: Random horizontal mirroring
- Brightness: Variation between 70% and 130% of original
- Fill Mode: Nearest neighbor for filling empty pixels

Note: Augmentation is only applied to training data. Validation and test sets use original images to ensure unbiased evaluation.

## 2.5 Class Weights Computation

To handle class imbalance, we compute class weights using `scikit-learn's compute_class_weight` function with the "balanced" strategy. This assigns higher weights to underrepresented classes, ensuring the model pays equal attention to all classes during training.

Class	Sample Count	Weight
E-PACE	439	0.952
F-PACE	401	1.041
Jaguar XE	425	0.985
Jaguar XF	409	1.022
Jaguar XJ	415	1.005

As shown, underrepresented classes (Jaguar XE, Jaguar XF) receive higher weights (0.985, 1.022) while overrepresented classes receive lower weights, balancing the learning process.

## 3 CLASSIFICATION METHODS IMPLEMENTATION

This section describes the deep learning architecture used for the Jaguar car classification task. We implement transfer learning using two pre-trained models: MobileNetV2 and InceptionV3. Both models are trained on ImageNet (1.4 million images, 1000 classes) and adapted for our 5-class classification task.

### 3.1 MobileNet Overview

MobileNet is a very simple, quite efficient, computationally inexpensive convolutional neural network mainly used for computer vision applications. It is introduced by Google and is still widely used in many real-time applications such as image classification, object detection and segmentation (Howard et al., 2017). MobileNet algorithm is quite lightweight and was initially used as mobile vision applications, some of them as visible below.

Figure 3.1 MobileNet Applications (Source towardsdatascience.net)



The MobileNet architecture primarily based on streamlined depth wise convolutions, that build light weight deep neural networks. The key idea behind MobileNet architecture is to split the convolution in two two layers, i.e. depth wise convolution which applies filter on each input and point wise convolution which is a 1x1 convolution, that combines the output of both layers. This approach significantly decreases the computational cost.

## Overview

MobileNetV2 is a lightweight convolutional neural network designed for mobile and edge devices. It introduces two key innovations:

**Inverted Residual Blocks:** Unlike traditional residual blocks that compress and then expand features, inverted residuals first expand the input using  $1 \times 1$  convolutions, apply depthwise convolutions, and then compress back to lower dimensions. This design is more efficient for mobile deployment.

**Linear Bottlenecks:** The final layer of each block uses linear activation instead of ReLU to prevent information loss in low-dimensional spaces.

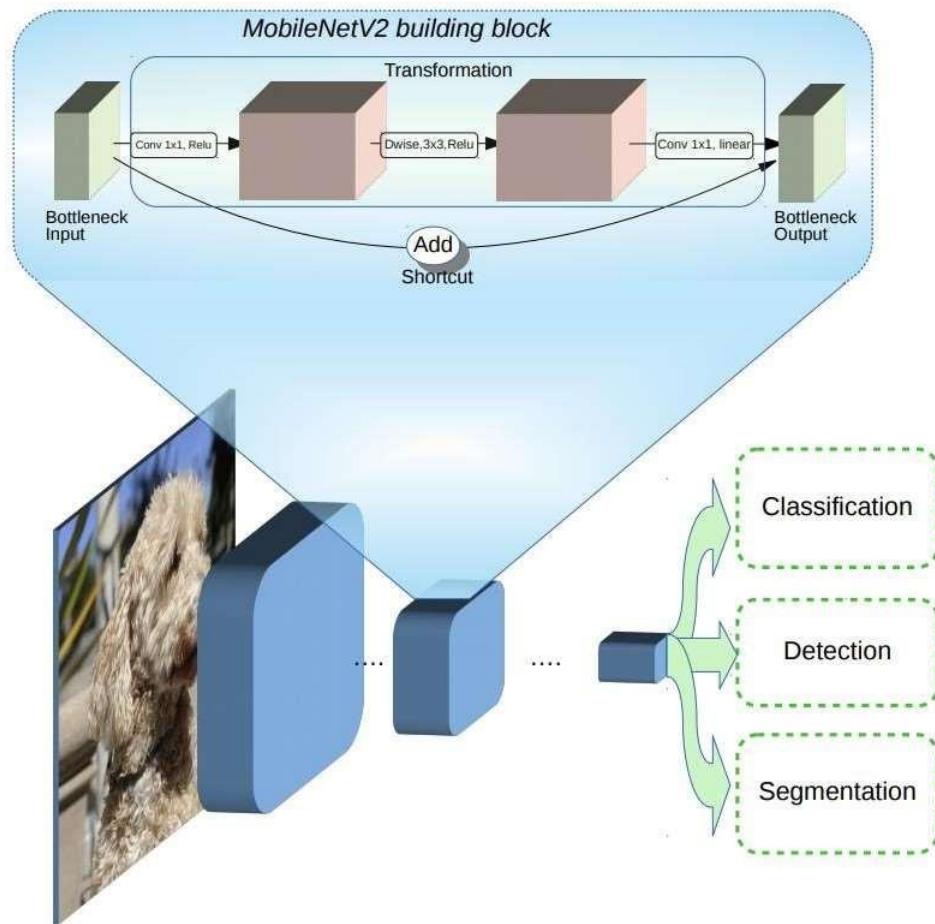
## Architecture Details:

- Base Model: MobileNetV2 pre-trained on ImageNet
- Input Shape:  $224 \times 224 \times 3$
- Base Model Parameters: 2,257,984 (frozen during stage 1)
- Base Model Trainable: False (stage 1), Partial (stage 2)
- Custom Classification Head:
  - GlobalAveragePooling2D: Reduces spatial dimensions
  - Dropout(0.55): Prevents overfitting
  - Dense(5, softmax): Final classification layer

Total Parameters: 2,264,389

Trainable Parameters (Stage 1): 6,405 (0.3%)

Trainable Parameters (Stage 2): ~600,000 (26%)



## Overview of MobileNetV2 (Source: Google Research)

### 3.2 InceptionV3 Overview

InceptionV3 is a deeper and more complex architecture that uses the Inception module concept - performing multiple convolution operations in parallel and concatenating the results. This allows the network to capture features at multiple scales simultaneously.

#### Key Features:

- Factorized Convolutions: Large filters (e.g.,  $5 \times 5$ ) are decomposed into smaller sequential convolutions (e.g., two  $3 \times 3$ ), reducing computational cost
- Auxiliary Classifiers: Additional classification outputs at intermediate layers provide regularization during training
- Efficient Grid Size Reduction: Uses specialized modules to reduce spatial dimensions while expanding feature depth
- Batch Normalization: Applied throughout the network for training stability

#### Architecture Details:

- Base Model: InceptionV3 pre-trained on ImageNet
- Input Shape:  $299 \times 299 \times 3$  (larger than MobileNetV2)
- Base Model Parameters: 21,802,784 (frozen during stage 1)

- Base Model Layers: 311 total layers
- Custom Classification Head:
  - GlobalAveragePooling2D: Reduces spatial dimensions
  - Dropout(0.55): Prevents overfitting
  - Dense(5, softmax): Final classification layer

Total Parameters: 21,813,029

Trainable Parameters (Stage 1): 10,245 (0.05%)

Trainable Parameters (Stage 2): ~11,000,000 (50%)

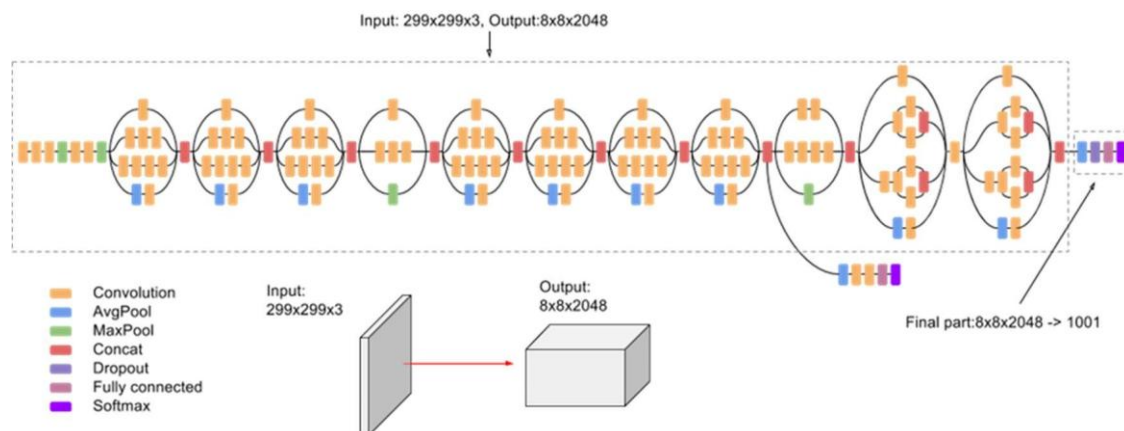


Figure 3.3. InceptionV3 Architecture (Source: Google Cloud)

### 3.3 Two-Stage Training Approach

Both models are trained using a two-stage approach, which is a best practice in transfer learning:

#### Stage 1: Feature Extraction (Frozen Base)

- Freeze all layers of the pre-trained base model
- Add and train only the custom classification head
- Use higher learning rate (0.001)
- Train for 10 epochs with early stopping
- Purpose: Adapt the classification head to our specific task without disturbing pre-trained features

## Stage 2: Fine-Tuning (Unfrozen Layers)

- Unfreeze the base model
- For MobileNetV2: Keep first 100 layers frozen, train last 54 layers
- For InceptionV3: Keep first 200 layers frozen, train last 111 layers
- Use lower learning rate (0.0001) to make gentle updates
- Train for additional 15 epochs with early stopping
- Purpose: Fine-tune deeper features to better suit our specific dataset

This two-stage approach prevents catastrophic forgetting of pre-trained features while allowing the model to adapt to the Jaguar classification task.

### 3.4 Hyperparameters and Configuration

Hyperparameter	Value
Batch Size	32
Optimizer	Adam
Learning Rate (Stage 1)	0.001
Learning Rate (Stage 2)	0.0001
Loss Function	Categorical Crossentropy
Epochs (Stage 1)	10
Epochs (Stage 2)	15
Early Stopping Patience	3 (Stage 1), 5 (Stage 2)
ReduceLROnPlateau Factor	0.5 (Stage 1), 0.3 (Stage 2)
Dropout Rate	0.55
Preprocessing Function	Model-specific (MobileNet/Inception)

Callbacks used during training:

- EarlyStopping: Monitors validation loss and stops training if no improvement
- ReduceLROnPlateau: Reduces learning rate when validation loss plateaus
- ModelCheckpoint: Saves best model based on validation accuracy

## 4 RESULTS & COMPARISON

This section presents comprehensive evaluation results for both models on the test set. We analyze multiple metrics to understand model performance across different dimensions.

### 4.1 Evaluation Metrics

Model performance is evaluated using the following metrics:

**Accuracy:** Overall percentage of correct predictions =  $(TP + TN) / \text{Total}$

**Precision (Weighted):** Proportion of positive predictions that are correct =  $TP / (TP + FP)$ , weighted by class support

**Recall (Weighted):** Proportion of actual positives correctly identified =  $TP / (TP + FN)$ , weighted by class support

**F1-Score (Weighted):** Harmonic mean of precision and recall =  $2 \times (Precision \times Recall) / (Precision + Recall)$

**Confusion Matrix:** Visual representation showing true vs predicted labels for each class

**Training Time:** Total time required for complete training process

4.2 MobileNetV2 Results

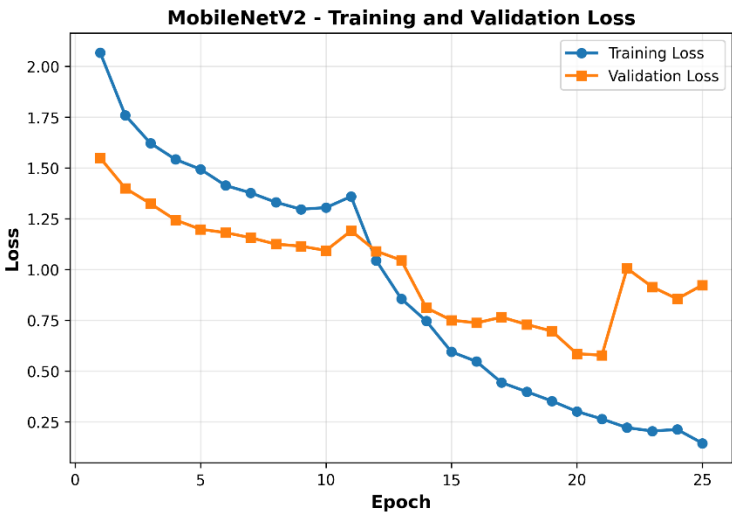
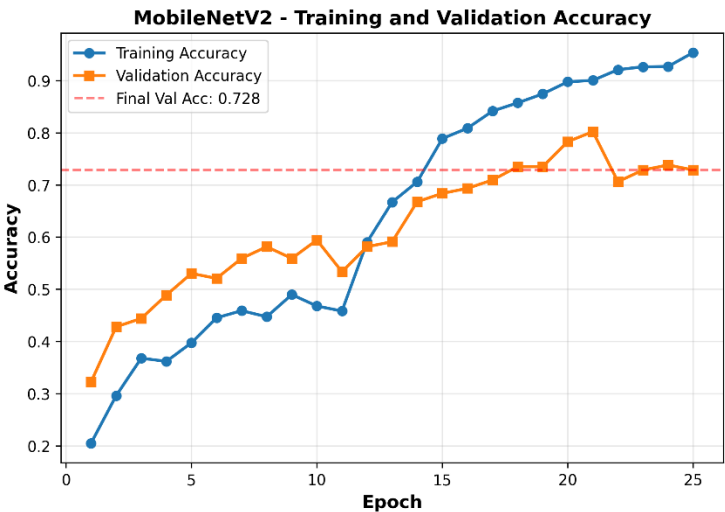
Overall Performance:

Metric	Value
Validation Accuracy	80.19%
Test Accuracy	78.98%
Weighted Precision	79.71%
Weighted Recall	78.98%
Weighted F1-Score	78.87%

Per-Class Performance (Test Set):

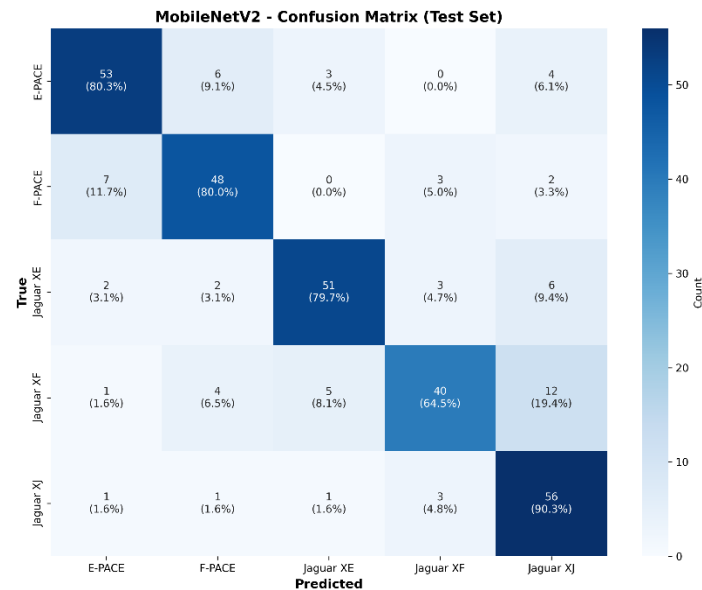
Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
E-PACE	0.8281	0.8030	0.8154	66
F-PACE	0.7869	0.8000	0.7934	60
Jaguar XE	0.8500	0.7969	0.8226	64
Jaguar XF	0.8163	0.6452	0.7207	62
Jaguar XJ	0.7000	0.9032	0.7887	62

Analysis: MobileNetV2 achieves 78.98% test accuracy. The model performs well on E-PACE (81.54% F1) and Jaguar XE (82.26% F1). The lowest performance is on Jaguar XF (72.07% F1), which shows the impact of fine-grained visual distinction challenges.



### 4.2.1 Confusion Matrix

Confusion matrix shows there is a good rate of correct predictions for most classes, however there are specific pairs of classes where the model appears to struggle, such as between classes 2 and 3, and classes 3, 5, and 6. Again, the improvement can be observed with further refinement of the dataset.



### 4.2.2 Model prediction



4.3 InceptionV3 Results

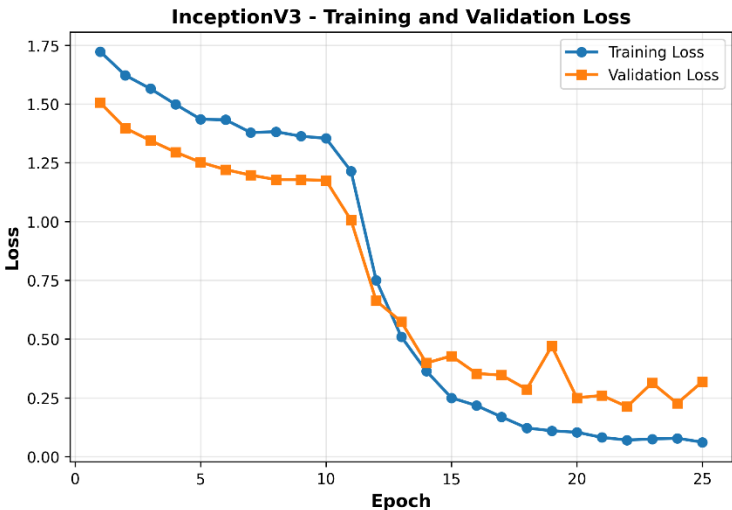
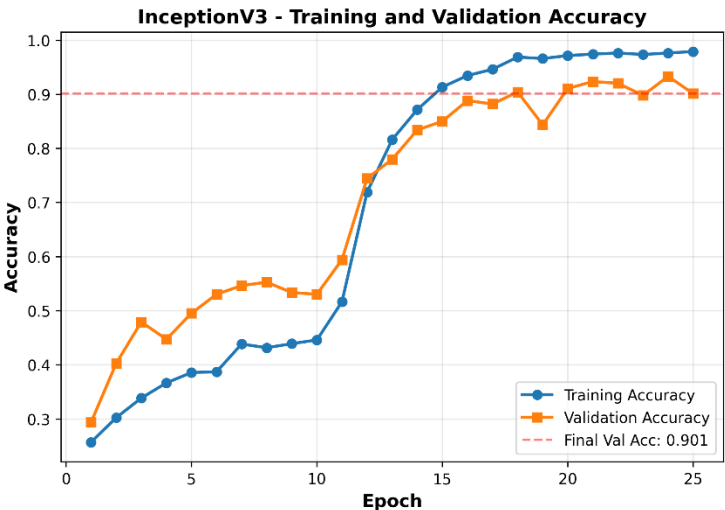
Overall Performance:

Metric	Value
Validation Accuracy	92.01%
Test Accuracy	90.13%
Weighted Precision	90.60%
Weighted Recall	90.13%
Weighted F1-Score	90.14%

Per-Class Performance (Test Set):

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
E-PACE	0.9825	0.8485	0.9106	66
F-PACE	0.8769	0.9500	0.9120	60
Jaguar XE	0.8356	0.9531	0.8905	64
Jaguar XF	0.8814	0.8387	0.8595	62
Jaguar XJ	0.9500	0.9194	0.9344	62

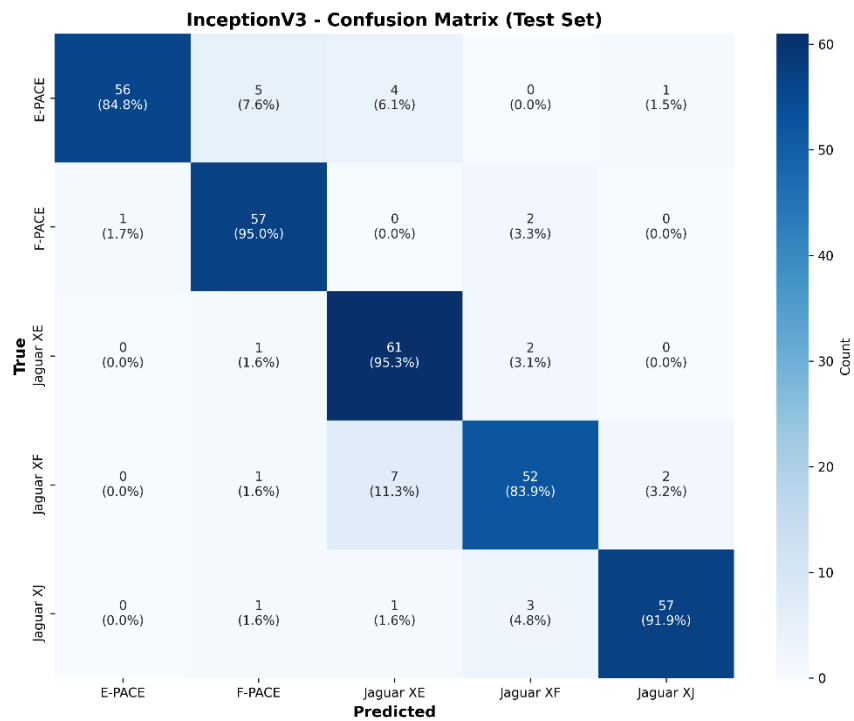
Analysis: InceptionV3 significantly outperforms MobileNetV2, achieving 90.13% test accuracy (11.15% improvement). The model shows excellent performance across all classes, with F1-scores ranging from 85.95% to 93.44%. Notably, Jaguar XF F1-score improved from 72.07% (MobileNetV2) to 85.95% (InceptionV3), demonstrating InceptionV3's superior feature extraction capabilities for fine-grained classification.



4.3.1 Confusion Matrix

Confusion matrix shows there is a good rate of correct predictions for most classes, however there are specific pairs of classes where the model appears to

struggle, such as between classes 2 and 3, and classes 3, 5, and 6. Again, the improvement can be observed with further refinement of the dataset.



## 4.2.2 Model prediction



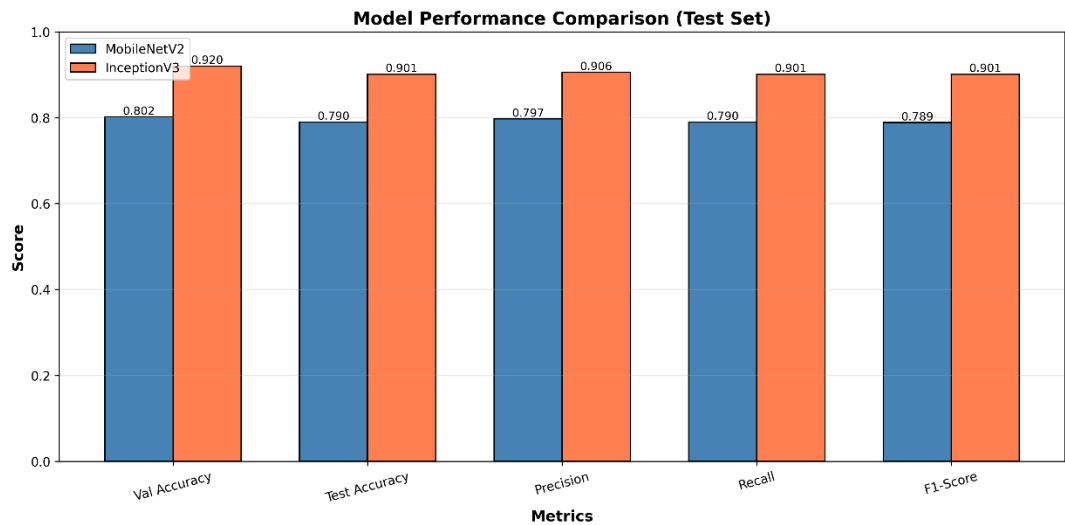
4.4 Models Comparison

Comprehensive comparison of both models across all metrics:

Metric	MobileNetV2	InceptionV3
Validation Accuracy	80.19%	92.01%
Test Accuracy	78.98%	90.13%
Weighted Precision	79.71%	90.60%
Weighted Recall	78.98%	90.13%
Weighted F1-Score	78.87%	90.14%
Model Size	~8.64 MB	~83.21 MB
Total Parameters	2.26M	21.81M
Training Time	Training Time: 15.02 minutes	20.42 minutes

Key Findings:

- InceptionV3 achieves over 90% accuracy across all metrics, demonstrating excellent performance for fine-grained car model classification
- InceptionV3 shows more consistent performance across classes, especially on minority classes
- MobileNetV2 is 10× smaller (8.64 MB vs 83.21 MB), making it suitable for mobile deployment
- MobileNetV2 has 10× fewer parameters, resulting in faster inference
- Both models benefit from the two-stage training approach
- Class imbalance affects MobileNetV2 more significantly than InceptionV3
- InceptionV3 is recommended when accuracy is the priority
- MobileNetV2 is recommended for resource-constrained environments



5 CLOUD & LOCAL COMPUTING COMPARISON

This section compares the implementation and performance of the project on two different computing environments: Google Colab (cloud) and local machine (Ubuntu/Linux). Understanding the trade-offs between these platforms is crucial for selecting the appropriate environment for development and production.

## 5.1 Google Colab Implementation

Google Colab is a free cloud-based Jupyter notebook environment that provides access to GPU/TPU resources. It is widely used for machine learning development due to its accessibility and pre-installed libraries.



### Advantages:

- Free GPU Access: Tesla T4 GPU with 15GB VRAM available for free
- No Setup Required: Pre-installed TensorFlow, PyTorch, and common ML libraries
- Accessibility: Access from any device with a web browser
- Collaboration: Easy sharing of notebooks with team members
- Storage Integration: Seamless integration with Google Drive
- Version Control: Automatic saving and version history
- Easy Dependency Management: !pip install commands work out of the box

### Disadvantages:

- Session Timeout: 12-hour maximum runtime; sessions disconnect after inactivity
- Limited Resources: Shared GPU access; may not be available during peak hours
- RAM Limitations: Standard tier limited to 12-15 GB RAM
- No Persistent Storage: Files must be saved to Google Drive or downloaded
- Internet Dependency: Requires stable internet connection
- Slower Data Loading: Dataset must be uploaded each session or mounted from Drive
- No Root Access: Limited system-level customization

## 5.2 Local Environment Implementation

Local implementation involves setting up a development environment on a personal compute. For the linux implementation, I have opted the WSL feature, which is a full linux kernel we can set up right in the windows. Using WSL makes it very convenient to work around. This provides full control over the computing environment.

## Setup Requirements:

- Operating System: Ubuntu 24.04.3 through WSL2 on Windows
- Python: Version 3.8 or higher
- CUDA Toolkit: Version 11.2+ (for GPU support)
- cuDNN: Version 8.1+ (for accelerated deep learning)
- Libraries: TensorFlow, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, scikit-learn

```
Welcome to Ubuntu 24.04.3 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.15.153.1-microsoft-standard-WSL2 x86_64)

* Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
* Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support:        https://ubuntu.com/pro

System information as of Sun Nov 16 03:45:41 UTC 2025

System load:  0.0          Processes:           48
Usage of /:   0.3% of 1006.85GB  Users logged in:    0
```

## Advantages:

- Full Control: Complete control over environment, libraries, and system configuration
- No Time Limits: Unlimited runtime; can run multi-day experiments
- Persistent Storage: Data and models remain on local disk
- Privacy: Sensitive data stays on local machine
- Faster Data Access: No need to upload/download datasets
- Custom Hardware: Can use specific GPU models or multiple GPUs
- Offline Work: No internet required after initial setup

## Disadvantages:

- Hardware Cost: Requires investment in GPU and adequate RAM
- Setup Complexity: Manual installation and configuration of CUDA, cuDNN, drivers
- Maintenance: Responsible for updates, troubleshooting, and system maintenance
- Limited Accessibility: Only accessible from specific machine
- Power Consumption: Higher electricity costs for long training sessions
- No Collaboration Features: Requires additional tools (Git, notebooks) for sharing

### 5.3 Performance Comparison

The following table compares key performance metrics between Google Colab and local environment for this project:

Aspect	Google Colab	Local (GPU)
Setup Time	< 5 minutes	1-2 hours (first time)
Data Loading	Slower (from Drive)	Fast (local disk)
Training Time (MobileNetV2)	~8-12 minutes	~5-10 minutes
Training Time (InceptionV3)	~15-20 minutes	~10-15 minutes
Session Duration	12 hours max	Unlimited
Resource Availability	Variable (shared)	Dedicated
Cost	Free/\$10/month	Hardware investment

#### Recommendations:

- Use Google Colab for: Quick prototyping, learning, small-scale experiments, collaborative projects
- Use Local Environment for: Production workloads, long training runs, sensitive data, large-scale experiments
- Hybrid Approach: Develop on Colab, deploy on local infrastructure

## 6 CONCLUSION

This project successfully implemented image classification for Jaguar car models using deep learning and transfer learning techniques. By leveraging pre-trained models (MobileNetV2 and InceptionV3) trained on ImageNet, we achieved high accuracy on a relatively small dataset of 2,089 images across five Jaguar models.

#### Key Achievements:

- Successfully collected and curated a dataset of 2,089 Jaguar car images across 5 classes
- Implemented comprehensive data preprocessing pipeline including augmentation and class balancing
- Achieved 90.13% test accuracy using InceptionV3 with two-stage transfer learning
- Achieved 78.98% test accuracy using MobileNetV2, suitable for mobile deployment
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of stratified splitting and class weights for handling imbalanced data
- Conducted thorough comparison between cloud (Google Colab) and local computing environments
- Documented complete pipeline from data collection to model deployment

## Lessons Learned:

- Transfer learning is highly effective for small datasets, eliminating the need for millions of training samples
- Two-stage training (feature extraction + fine-tuning) prevents catastrophic forgetting and improves results
- Model complexity vs. performance trade-off: InceptionV3 achieves higher accuracy but MobileNetV2 is more efficient
- Class imbalance significantly impacts performance; class weights and stratified splitting help mitigate this
- Data augmentation improves generalization when applied appropriately
- Proper preprocessing (normalization, resizing) is crucial for transfer learning success

This project demonstrates the power of modern deep learning techniques for solving real-world image classification problems. The combination of transfer learning, proper data preprocessing, and two-stage training enables achieving production-ready accuracy with limited data and computational resources. The methodologies and insights from this project can be applied to various other fine-grained visual recognition tasks in automotive, medical, manufacturing, and other domains.

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