



# **HELPING NYC DOB DIGITIZE SURFACE CRACK INSPECTIONS**

**Jae Heon Kim**



# OUTLINE

## **Business Problem**

What is the problem for NYC Department of Buildings?

## **Data**

How can we work with data help build models?

## **Modeling / Evaluation**

How useful and good are these models?

## **Conclusion**

How can we benefit from these models?

# BUSINESS UNDERSTANDING

## Who?

NYC Department of  
Buildings

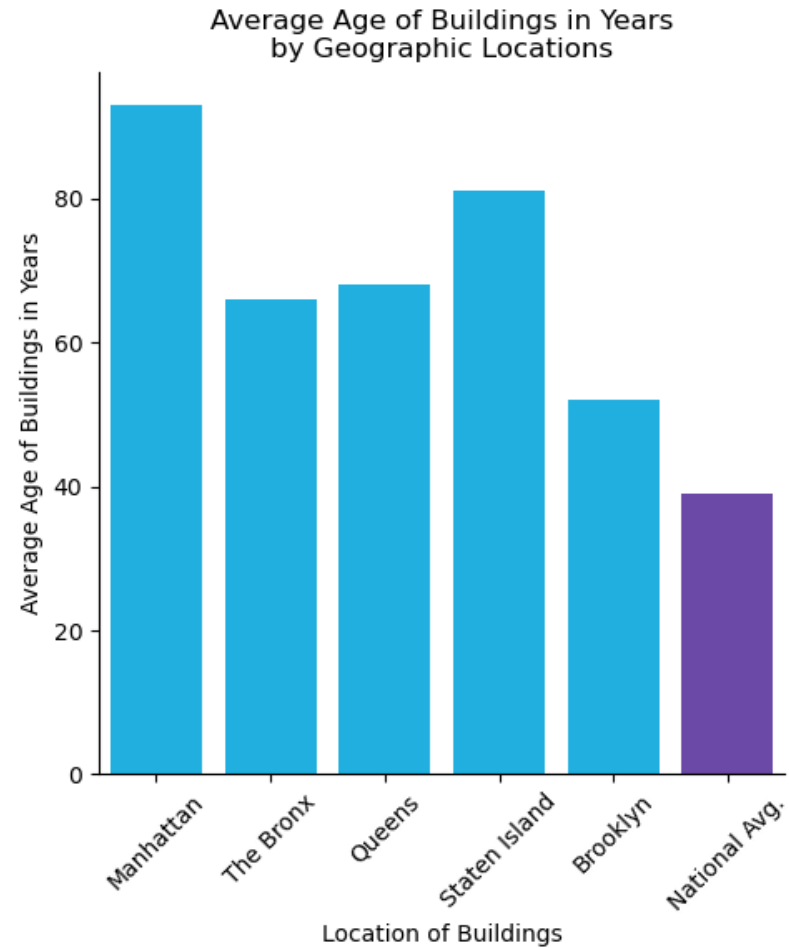
## Problem

1. Buildings in NYC are old.
2. Lots of cracked buildings in NYC.
3. Inspection methods are old.

## Solution

Building a deep learning model that accurately identify cracked walls by image input

# AGE OF NYC BUILDINGS



**THIS BUILDING IS  
125 YEARS OLD:**

**11 BROADWAY**



# CURRENT INSPECTION METHODS

- Relies heavily on human labor **OUTDATED**
- Very infrequently done **OUTDATED**



Unreliable, Time-consuming, Costly

# DATA – INTRODUCTION

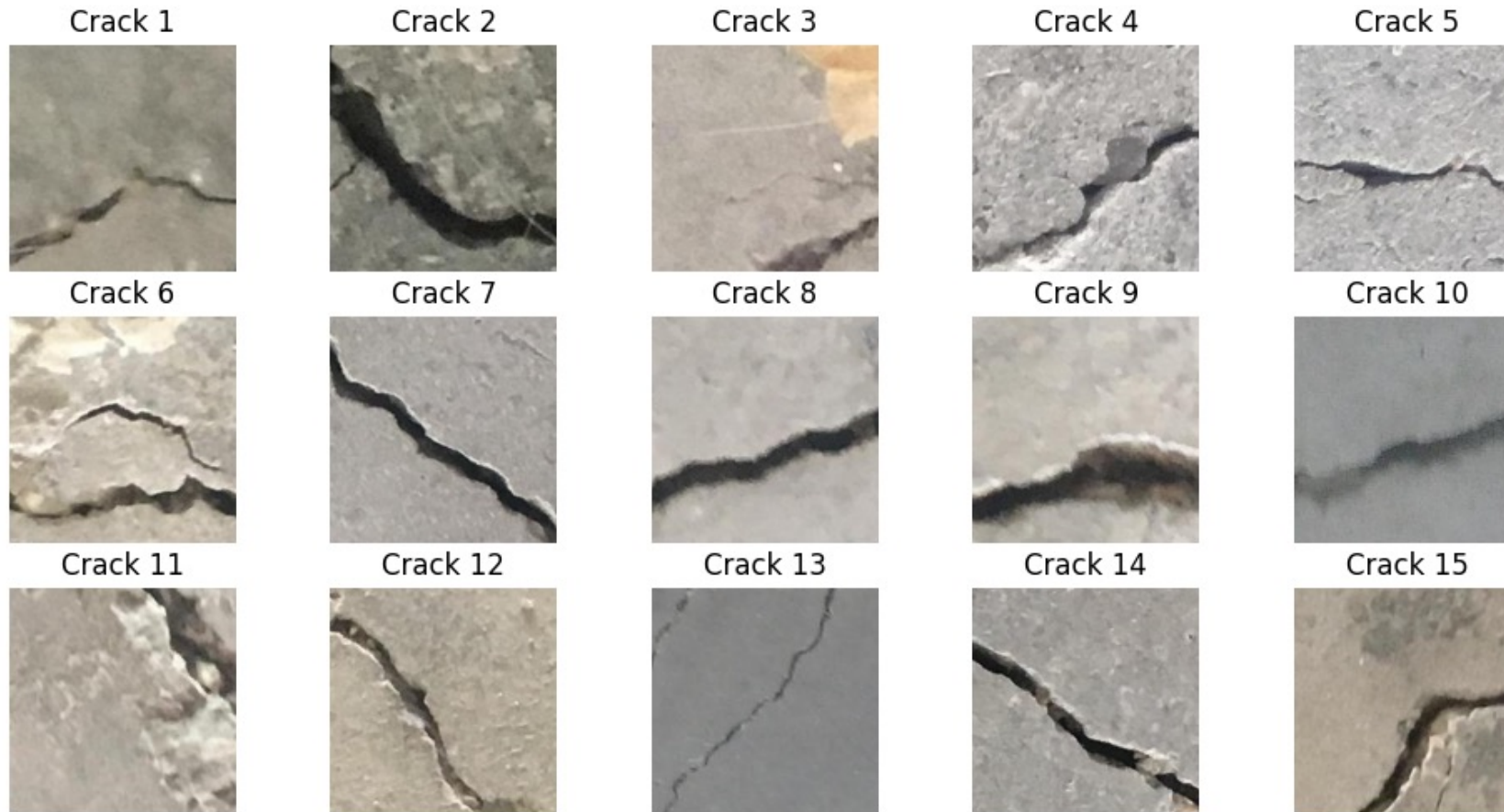
## Description

- 40,000 Wall images
  - 20,000 uncracked wall images
  - 20,000 cracked wall images
- Kaggle Datasets

Dr. Çağlar Fırat Özgenel 🙏



# DATA – CRACKED WALL IMAGES





# DATA – UNCRACKED WALL IMAGES



# DATA PROCESSING

## Splitting

80% Train  
10% Validation  
10% Test

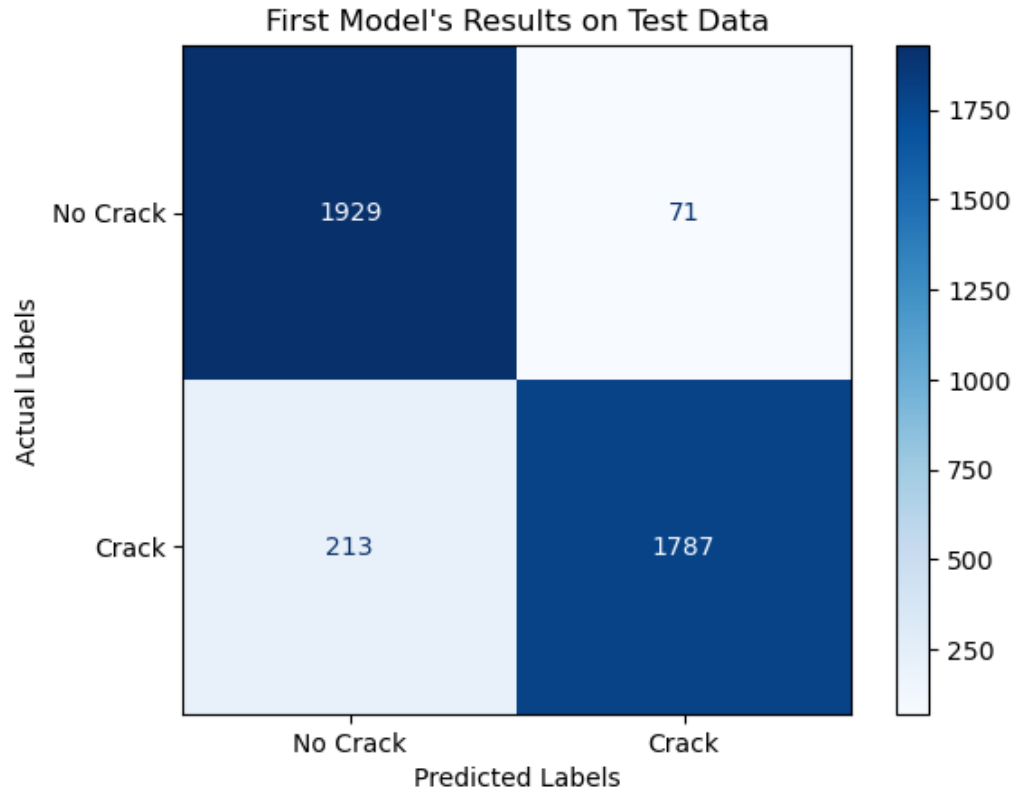
## Normalizing Pixel Values

For faster and more  
effective learning

## Data Augmentation

Zooming, Flipping,  
Gray-Scaling, Rotating,  
etc..

# BASELINE MODEL



## Architecture & Performance

- Single flatten hidden layer
- Accuracy: 92.9%
- Recall: 89.4%

# SUBSEQUENT MODELS

## Second

- Gray-scaling
- Dense layers with batch normalization

## Third

- Data Augmentation
- Dense layers with batch normalization

## Fourth

- VGG16
- Data Augmentation
- L2

## Fifth

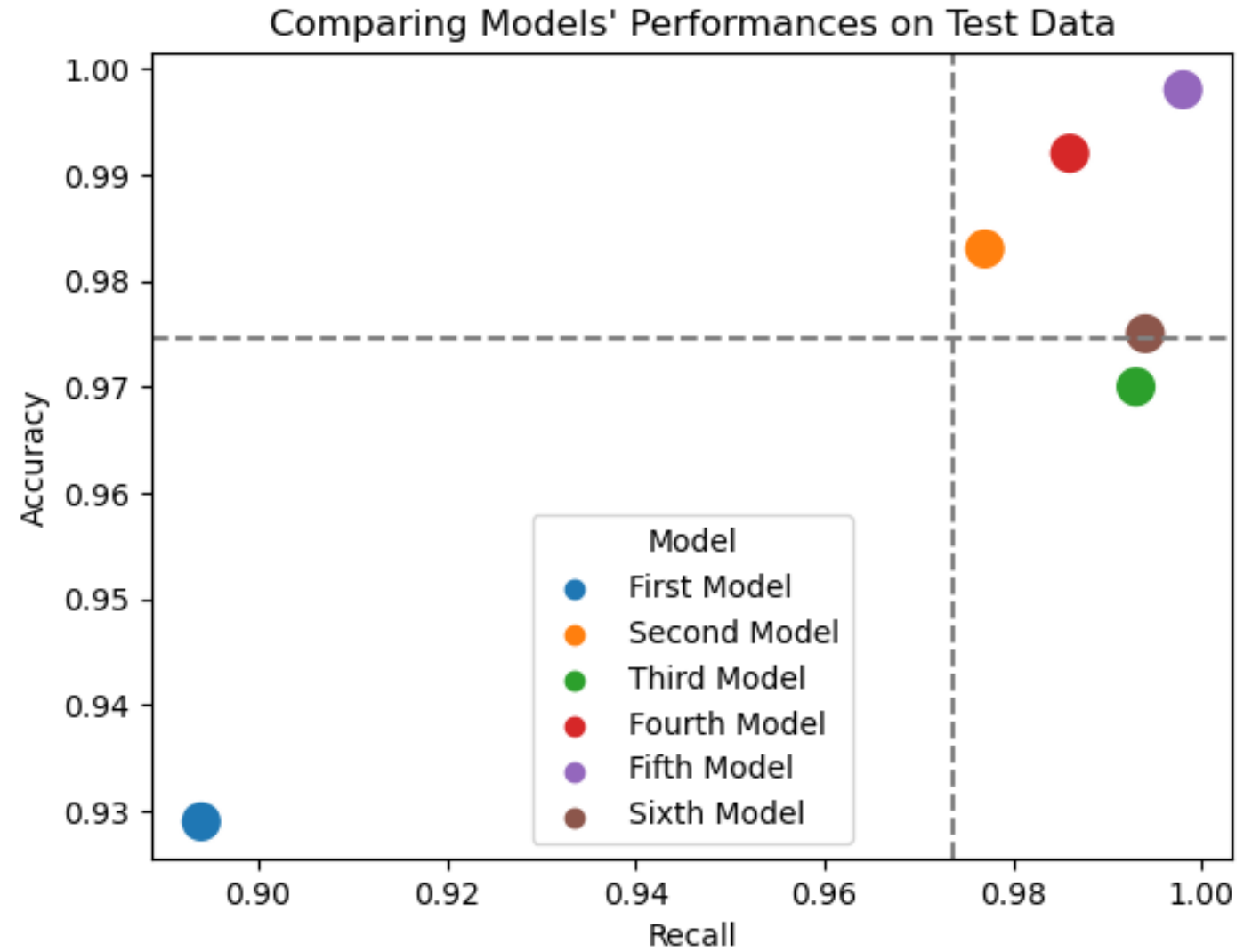
- VGG16
- Data Augmentation
- L2
- Dense layers with batch normalization

## Sixth

- Resnet50
- Data Augmentation
- L2
- Dense layers with batch normalization

# COMPARING MODELS

- Fifth model is the best performer
- Dotted lines are average values of accuracy and recall for all models

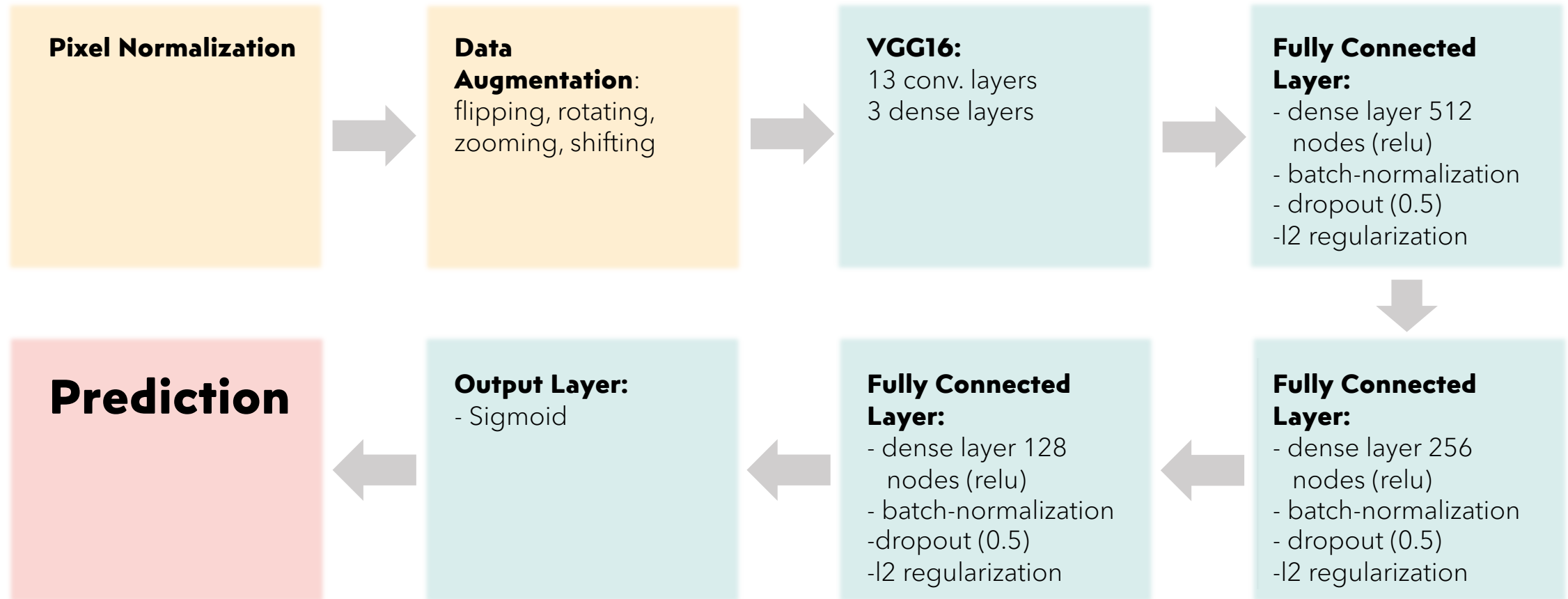


# FINAL MODEL'S TRAINING HISTORY

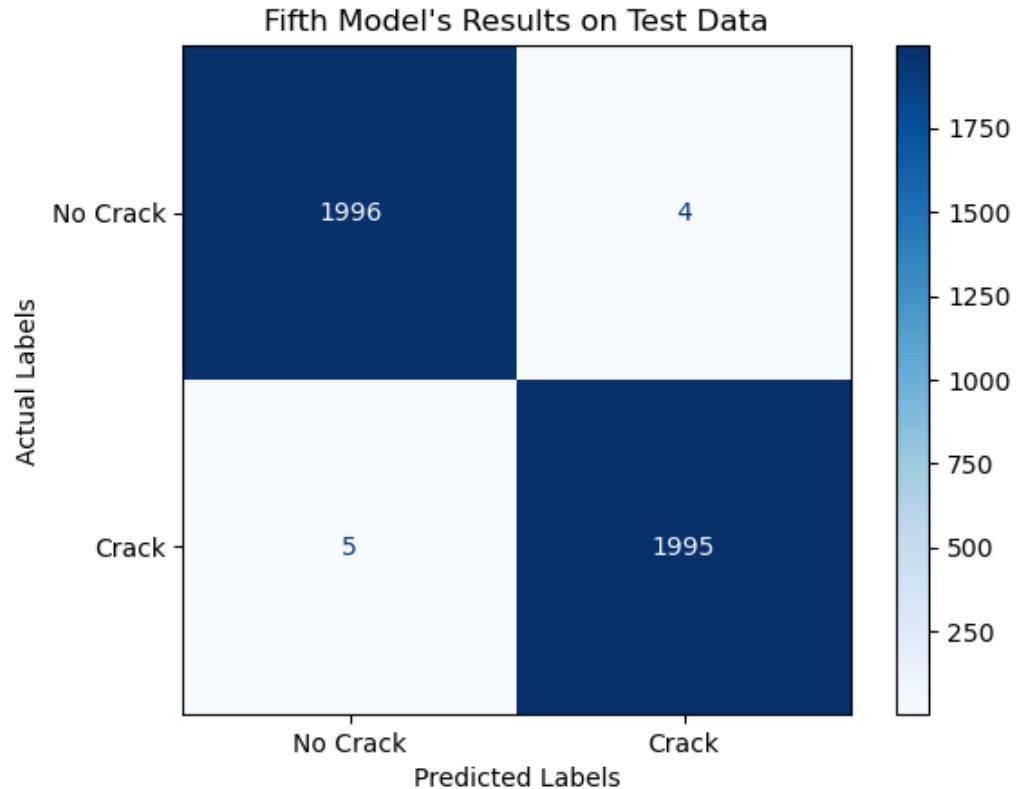
Training History: Fifth Model



# FINAL MODEL'S ARCHITECTURE



# FINAL MODEL'S PERFORMANCE



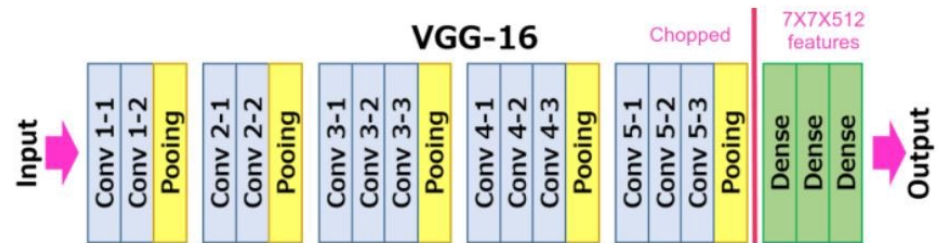
## On Test Data:

- Accuracy: 99.8%
  - Up 6.9% from baseline
- Recall: 99.8%
  - Up 10.4% from baseline
- Significant improvement



# LITTLE MORE ABOUT VGG16

## Architecture



## Blog post on VGG16



Jae Heon Kim

Apr 10 · 4 min read · [Listen](#)



### [Concept] VGG16: Power of Transfer Learning on Image Classification

This blog post is to briefly discuss VGG16, which is a pre-trained deep convolutional neural network architecture that is widely used for image recognition and classification tasks, and can be used for transfer learning by reusing its pre-trained weights on a different dataset. I have been working on two different image classification projects and this brought a game-changing result to my study so I thought this technique was worth posting under its own name as title.

# FINAL MODEL'S FALSE NEGATIVES

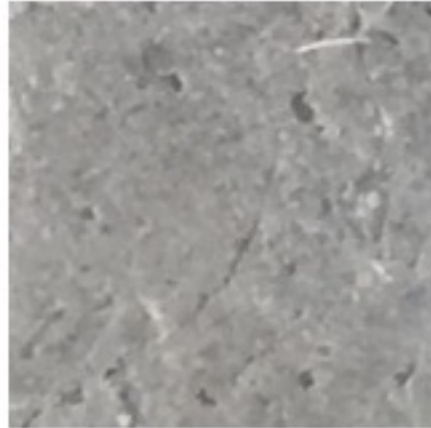
False Negative 1



False Negative 2



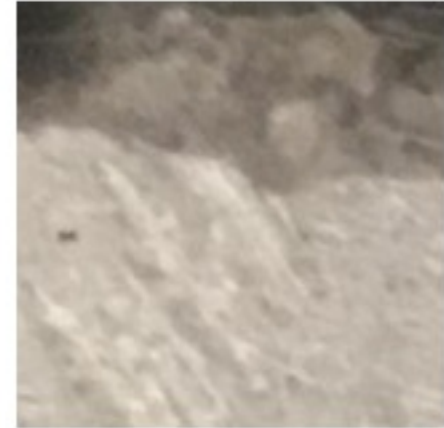
False Negative 3



False Negative 4



False Negative 5



# FINAL MODEL'S FALSE POSITIVES

False Positive 1



False Positive 2



False Positive 3



False Positive 4



# DEPLOYMENT

## Image Classification App by Jae

Identifying Cracks in Wall Images

Upload an image and get a prediction of whether the wall has a crack or not

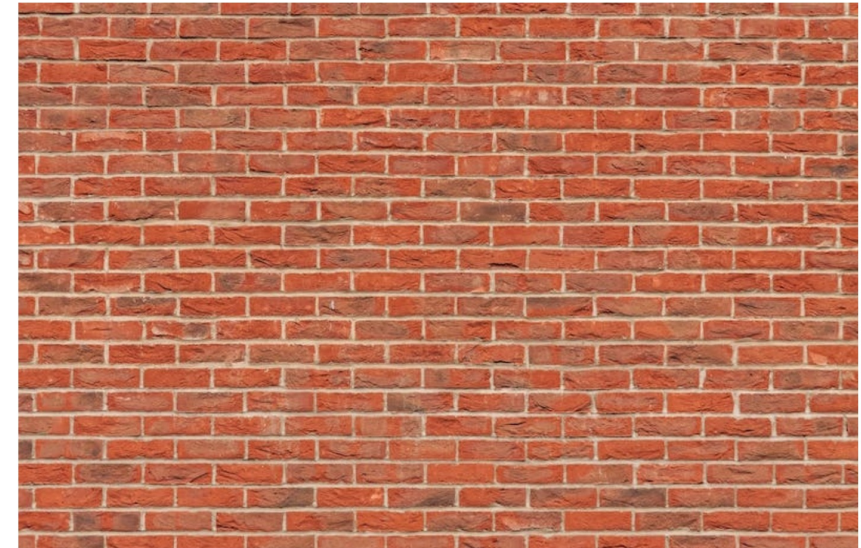
Upload an image



Drag and drop file here

Limit 200MB per file • JPG, JPEG, PNG

Browse files



Uploaded a wall image

Prediction: NO CRACK

# BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Avoid deploying overqualified, costly personnel for simple inspection tasks

Leverage NYC Department of Buildings' power to gather more building data for future applications

Develop more models using time-series data

# NEXT STEPS

## Collect more data

Collect data with more obstacles or from more distances so that model can be further trained.

## Train to inspect other things

Apart from surface cracks, there is more information to be obtained through image-processing.

## Train model to classify wall

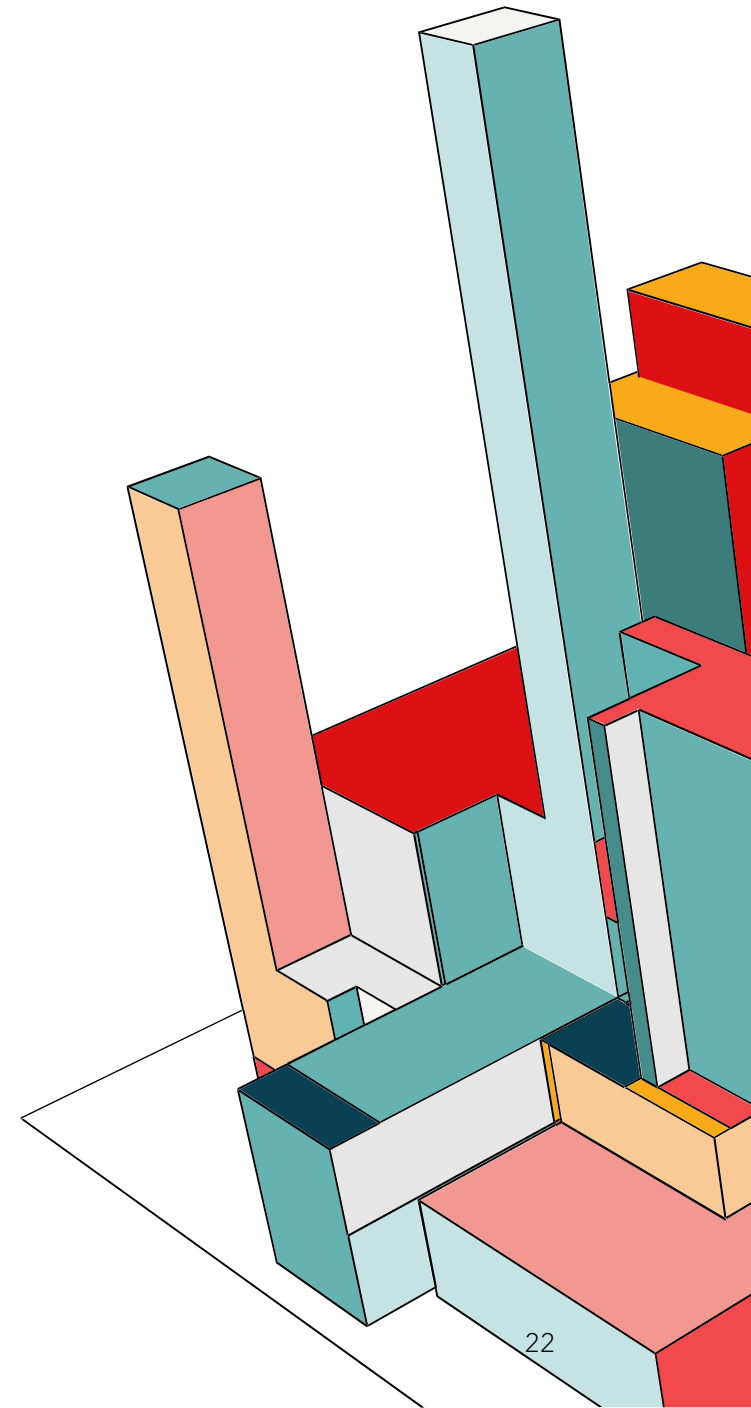
The current model takes wall images as input but being able to take any image and then classifying whether it's a wall image can help model's usefulness.

## Develop 3D model

3D model is more useful in deployment. Instead of taking image inputs, taking video inputs can bring greater application.

## Create an ensemble model

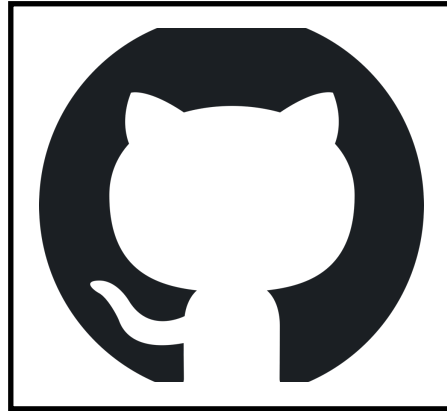
Create ensemble models such as voting classifier using some of my best models for better performance.



# THANK YOU!



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interesting projects



My blog is the best  
way to see how I think



Write to me about any  
questions you have