## **Histopathologic Cancer Detection**

# Description of the problem/data

This Jupyter notebook can be found here: https://github.com/jaworXYZ/https://github.com/jaworXYZ/5511-Cancer-Detection-CNN/blob/main/M3-CNN.ipynb, and corresponds to this Kaggle competition: https://www.kaggle.com/competitions/histopathologic-cancer-detection/overview

The dataset provided by the competition consists of small image patches taken from larger pathology scans. An accompanying set of labels confirms each image as either positive for a tumor or negative. Duplicate images have been removed.

Being able to accurately detect the presence of cancer as earlier as possible greatly increases the likelihood of positive outcomes.

Notably, this competition requires detection of cancer within the center region of the samples only. We are provided with training set of roughly 220k 96x96 tiff images and a test set of roughly 57k of similar configuration.

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
        import pandas as pd
        import tensorflow as tf
        import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
        import seaborn
        from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential
        from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense, Activation, Flatten, Dropout, BatchNormalization
        from tensorflow.keras.layers import CenterCrop, Conv2D, MaxPooling2D
        from tensorflow.keras import regularizers, optimizers
        from tifffile import imread
```

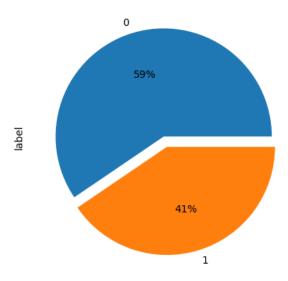
### **Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)**

```
In [2]: df = pd.read_csv(r'D:\\histopathologic-cancer-detection\\train_labels.csv')
In [3]: df.head()
Out[3]:
                                                id label
        f38a6374c348f90b587e046aac6079959adf3835
                                                      0
        1 c18f2d887b7ae4f6742ee445113fa1aef383ed77
         2 755db6279dae599ebb4d39a9123cce439965282d
                                                      0
              bc3f0c64fb968ff4a8bd33af6971ecae77c75e08
                                                      0
         4 068aba587a4950175d04c680d38943fd488d6a9d
In [4]: # check data types
        df.info()
        <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
        RangeIndex: 220025 entries, 0 to 220024
        Data columns (total 2 columns):
         # Column Non-Null Count Dtype
         0
             id
                     220025 non-null object
         1 label 220025 non-null int64
        dtypes: int64(1), object(1)
        memory usage: 3.4+ MB
               The training dataset consists of 220,025 image references (this matches the number of .tif files in the "train" directory within the zip file
```

provided.

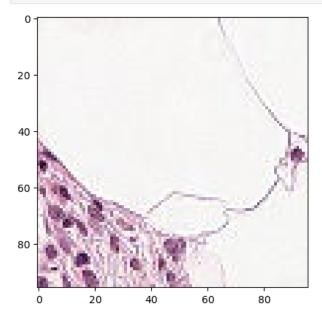
```
In [5]: # check distribution of labels
        print(df.label.value_counts())
        print(f'\n Total of {df.label.value_counts().sum()} labelled values')
             130908
              89117
        Name: label, dtype: int64
         Total of 220025 labelled values
```

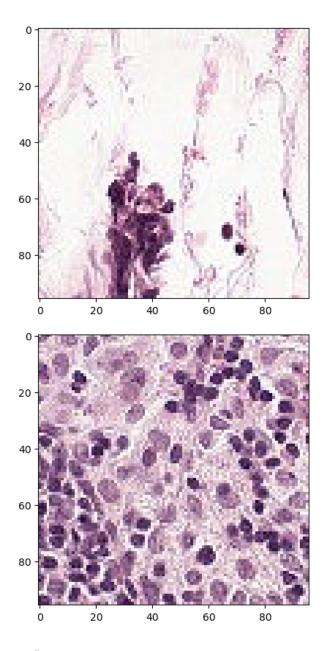
```
In [6]: df.label.value_counts().plot.pie(explode=[0,0.1], autopct='%.0f%%')
plt.show()
```



We can see that the set skews heavier to negative samples.

```
In [7]: # check to see what images look like
# (according to df.head, secong image is positive for example)
for i in range(3):
    img_file = "D:\\histopathologic-cancer-detection\\train\\"+str(df.iloc[i,0])+".tif"
    plt.imshow(imread(img_file))
    plt.show()
```





This competition only looks at the middle 32x32 section of each image, so the full images above haven't been considered for labelling. We can observe that the images are in color and the model will take that into account.

### **Data Preparation**

There isn't a need for much cleaning beyond setting up the data to work with Keras. A few tasks need to be done: convert the labels to string; add the .tif file extension to the image ids; and rescale the rgb data from the image files

```
        0ut[7]:
        id
        label

        0
        f38a6374c348f90b587e046aac6079959adf3835.tif
        0

        1
        c18f2d887b7ae4f6742ee445113fa1aef383ed77.tif
        1

        2
        755db6279dae599ebb4d39a9123cce439965282d.tif
        0

        3
        bc3f0c64fb968ff4a8bd33af6971ecae77c75e08.tif
        0

        4
        068aba587a4950175d04c680d38943fd488d6a9d.tif
        0
```

file extension is missing from the id and will need to be added later (at least to run on with my system configurations)

Found 154018 validated image filenames belonging to 2 classes.

Found 66007 validated image filenames belonging to 2 classes.

```
In [10]: STEP_SIZE_TRAIN=train_generator.n//train_generator.batch_size
STEP_SIZE_VALID=valid_generator.n//valid_generator.batch_size
```

## **Analysis: Model Building & Training**

cy: 0.7733 - val\_auc: 0.8385

Using Keras and splitting out a validation set from the training. We will start with a very simple model and add to it to see what changes positively impact the performance of the model.

This first model will only have one convolutional layer. And will only be trained on a single epoch.

```
In [11]: # basic model with single convolutional layer
       model_simple = Sequential()
       model_simple.add(CenterCrop(32,32)) # only checking 32x32 center region
       model_simple.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same'))
       model_simple.add(Activation('relu'))
       model_simple.add(Flatten())
       model_simple.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
       model_simple.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
       model_simple.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                         loss="binary_crossentropy",
                         metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [12]: fit_simple = model_simple.fit(
           train generator
           steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
           validation_data=valid_generator,
           validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
```

As AUC is the metric chosen for the competition that will be the primary focus for comparing our models. Here we've reached **0.8385** for validation AUC, which seems like a good start.

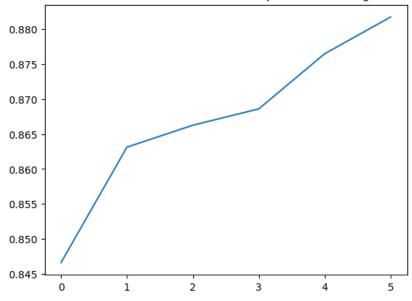
```
In [13]: # check effect of adding a second convolutional layer
        mod2 = Sequential()
         mod2.add(CenterCrop(32,32))
         mod2.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same'))
         mod2.add(Activation('relu'))
         mod2.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same')) # adding identical second convolutional layer
         mod2.add(Activation('relu'))
         mod2.add(Flatten())
         mod2.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
         mod2.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
         mod2.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                     loss="binary_crossentropy",
                     metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [14]: fit2 = mod2.fit(
            train generator,
            steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
            validation_data=valid_generator,
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
            epochs=1)
        ccuracy: 0.7727 - val_auc_1: 0.8395
               A slight improvement to the validation AUC (0.8395 vs 0.8385). On its own, this isn't a conclusive improvement but most of the other metrics
               improved as well
In [15]: # check effect of a more complicated model with pooling and third convolutional layer
         mod3 = Sequential()
         mod3.add(CenterCrop(32,32))
         mod3.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same'))
         mod3.add(Activation('relu'))
         mod3.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same'))
         mod3.add(Activation('relu'))
         mod3.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2))) # adding pooling Layer to simplify
         mod3.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same')) #adding 3rd conv Layer
         mod3.add(Flatten())
         mod3.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
         mod3.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
         mod3.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                     loss="binary_crossentropy",
                     metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [16]: fit3 = mod3.fit(
            train generator,
             steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
            validation_data=valid_generator,
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
        racy: 0.7736 - val_auc_2: 0.8489
              Introducing a third pooling layer and a MaxPooling layer yieded a notable improvement with validation AUC now at 0.8489.
In [17]: # check effect of a dropout layer on validation performance
         mod4 = Sequential()
         mod4.add(CenterCrop(32,32))
         mod4.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same'))
         mod4.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod4.add(Conv2D(16, (3, 3), padding='same'))
mod4.add(Activation('relu'))
         mod4.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
         mod4.add(Dropout(0.1)) # add dropout layer to regularize
         mod4.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
         mod4.add(Flatten())
         mod4.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
         mod4.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
         mod4.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                     loss="binary_crossentropy"
                     metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [18]: fit4 = mod4.fit(
            train generator.
            steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
             validation_data=valid_generator,
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
             epochs=1)
```

This implementation of a dropout layer wasn't successful. Only the validation loss improved. Regularization (if any) came at the expense of overall performance.

However, we've only trained on a single epoch so overtraining is less likely than it would have with a more appropriate training length. Regularization seems like an important inclusion.

```
In [19]: #try training over several additional epochs to see effect of further training
    fit4x = mod4.fit(
      train_generator,
      steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
      validation_data=valid_generator,
      validation steps=STEP SIZE VALID,
      epochs=5)
    Epoch 1/5
    racy: 0.7952 - val_auc_3: 0.8631
    Epoch 2/5
    racy: 0.7939 - val_auc_3: 0.8663
    Fnoch 3/5
    racy: 0.7996 - val_auc_3: 0.8686
    Epoch 4/5
    racy: 0.8059 - val_auc_3: 0.8765
    Epoch 5/5
    racy: 0.8123 - val_auc_3: 0.8817
    plt.plot(fit4.history['val_auc_3']+fit4x.history['val_auc_3'])
In [21]:
    plt.title("Validation AUC vs Additional Epochs of Training")
    plt.show()
```





An additional five epochs of training bring our validation AUC to **0.8817**. The trend hasn't slowed, suggesting the further training could yield significant improvements. However, at about 1hr per epoch, I won't pursue this for the moment.

Before investigating a further training or adding additional convolutional layers, it seems worthwhile to experiment with kernel size. Next will will explore using a 5x5 kernel in place of the previous 3x3 in the first convolutional layer.

```
In [25]: # check effect of a larger kernel size
mod5 = Sequential()
mod5.add(CenterCrop(32,32))
mod5.add(Conv2D(16, (5, 5), padding='same')) # 5x5 instead of 3x3
mod5.add(Activation('relu'))
mod5.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
mod5.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
mod4.add(Activation('relu'))
mod5.add(BatchNormalization()) # adding a batch normalization layer as model is
mod5.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
mod5.add(Dropout(0.1))
```

```
mod5.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod5.add(Flatten())
        mod5.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
        mod5.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
        mod5.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                    loss="binary_crossentropy",
                    metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [26]: fit5 = mod5.fit(
            train_generator,
            steps per epoch=STEP SIZE TRAIN,
            validation_data=valid_generator
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
        racy: 0.7885 - val auc 4: 0.8595
            Our validation AUC of 0.8595t suggests that larger scale patterns may have been overlooked in the earlier models.
In [27]: # check effect of an EVEN larger kernel size
        mod6 = Sequential()
        mod6.add(CenterCrop(32,32))
        mod6.add(Conv2D(16, (7, 7), padding='same')) # 7x7 instead of 5x5
mod6.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod6.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod6.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod6.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod6.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod6.add(BatchNormalization())
        mod6.add(Dropout(0.1))
        mod6.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod6.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod6.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod6.add(Dropout(0.1))
        mod6.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod6.add(Flatten())
        mod6.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
        mod6.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
        mod6.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                    loss="binary_crossentropy",
                    metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [29]: fit6 = mod6.fit(
            train_generator,
            steps per epoch=STEP SIZE TRAIN,
            validation_data=valid_generator,
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
            epochs=1)
        racy: 0.7844 - val_auc_5: 0.8503
              Here the validation metrics are worse, but the training metrics have improved.
        The next few models will explore different filter sizes and play with padding options to incorporate real data around the analysis region.
In [36]: # check effect of a larger kernel size with strides
```

```
m [36]: # check effect of a larger kernel size with strides
mod7 = Sequential()
mod7.add(ConterCrop(32,32))

mod7.add(Conv2D(16, (8, 8), padding='same', strides=(2,2))) # 8x8 with stride of 2
mod7.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
mod7.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
mod7.add(Activation('relu'))
mod7.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))

mod7.add(BatchNormalization())
mod7.add(Dropout(0.1))

mod7.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
mod7.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))

mod7.add(Dropout(0.1))
mod7.add(Dropout(0.1))
mod7.add(Dropout(0.1))
mod7.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
```

```
mod7.add(Flatten())
        mod7.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
        mod7.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
        mod7.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                    loss="binary_crossentropy",
                    metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [37]: fit7 = mod7.fit(
            train_generator,
            steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
            validation data=valid generator,
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
            epochs=1)
        racy: 0.7965 - val_auc_9: 0.8599
In [34]: # check effect of a larger kernel size & eliminating zero-padding
        mod8 = Sequential()
        mod8.add(CenterCrop(38,38)) # 32x32 +3 per side to accomodate stride of 2
        mod8.add(Conv2D(16, (8, 8), padding='valid', strides=(2,2)))
        mod8.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod8.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod8.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod8.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod8.add(BatchNormalization())
        mod8.add(Dropout(0.1))
        mod8.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod8.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod8.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod8.add(Dropout(0.1))
        mod8.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod8.add(Flatten())
        mod8.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
        mod8.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
        mod8.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning rate=0.0001),
                    loss="binary_crossentropy",
                    metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [35]: fit8 = mod8.fit(
            train_generator,
            steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
            validation_data=valid_generator,
            validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
            epochs=1)
        racy: 0.7461 - val_auc_8: 0.8022
In [38]: # check effect of an even larger kernel size
        mod9 = Sequential()
        mod9.add(CenterCrop(38,38)) # 32x32 + 3 per side for padding
        mod9.add(Conv2D(16, (7, 7), padding='valid')) # 7x7 instead of 5x5
        mod9.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod9.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod9.add(Conv2D(32, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod9.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod9.add(MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2)))
        mod9.add(BatchNormalization())
        mod9.add(Dropout(0.1))
        mod9.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod9.add(Activation('relu'))
        mod9.add(MaxPooling2D(pool size=(2,2)))
        mod9.add(Dropout(0.1))
        mod9.add(Conv2D(64, (3, 3), padding='same'))
        mod9.add(Flatten())
        mod9.add(Dense(256, activation='relu'))
        mod9.add(Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
        mod9.compile(optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.0001),
                    loss="binary_crossentropy",
                    metrics=["accuracy",tf.keras.metrics.AUC()])
In [39]: fit9 = mod9.fit(
            train_generator,
```

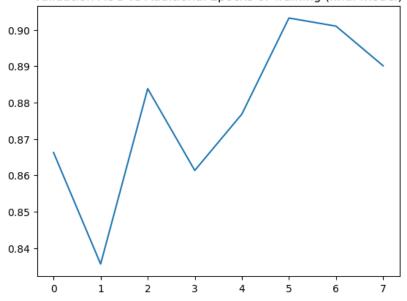
steps\_per\_epoch=STEP\_SIZE\_TRAIN,

This is the most successful of the models. Here padding is provided by image data surrounded the target region. The first convolutional layer is 7x7 and regularization is incorporated.

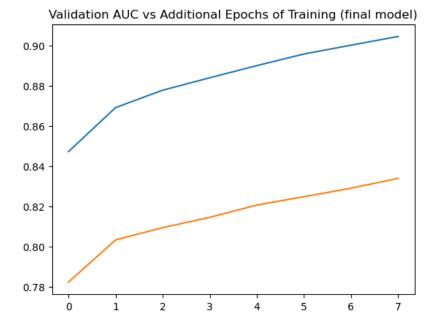
```
In [45]: fit9x = mod9.fit(
     train generator,
     steps_per_epoch=STEP_SIZE_TRAIN,
     validation_data=valid_generator,
     validation_steps=STEP_SIZE_VALID,
     epochs=7)
   Epoch 1/7
   uracy: 0.7685 - val_auc_10: 0.8356
   Epoch 2/7
   uracy: 0.8134 - val_auc_10: 0.8838
   Epoch 3/7
   uracy: 0.7512 - val_auc_10: 0.8613
   Epoch 4/7
   uracy: 0.7996 - val_auc_10: 0.8768
   Epoch 5/7
   uracy: 0.8280 - val_auc_10: 0.9032
   Epoch 6/7
   uracy: 0.8238 - val_auc_10: 0.9010
   Epoch 7/7
   uracy: 0.8164 - val_auc_10: 0.8901
   plt.plot(fit9_history['val_auc_10']+fit9x_history['val_auc_10'])
In [24]:
   plt.title("Validation AUC vs Additional Epochs of Training (final model)")
   plt.show()
```

#### Validation AUC vs Additional Epochs of Training (final model)

uracy: 0.7564 - val\_auc\_10: 0.8662



```
In [25]: plt.plot(fit9_history['auc_10']+fit9x_history['auc_10'])
    plt.plot(fit9_history['accuracy']+fit9x_history['accuracy'])
    plt.title("Validation AUC vs Additional Epochs of Training (final model)")
    plt.show()
```



Performance on the training set improved with each epoch of training. Unfortunately the Validation AUC fluctuated.

#### Result

Next, we will apply our models to the test imageset and submit the results to Kaggle for scoring.

```
In [51]: # Prepare test generator
         test_df = pd.read_csv(r'D:\\histopathologic-cancer-detection\\sample_submission.csv')
         test_df['label'] = test_df['label'].astype(str)
         test_df['id'] = test_df['id'].apply(append_ext)
         test_df.head(1)
         test_datagen=tf.keras.preprocessing.image.ImageDataGenerator(rescale=1./255)
         test_generator=test_datagen.flow_from_dataframe(
             directory = r'D:\\histopathologic-cancer-detection\\test',
             dataframe=test_df,
             x_col="id"
             y_col="label",
             seed=13,
             shuffle=False, # Don't shuffle
             class_mode=None,
             target_size=(96,96),
             batch_size=64)
         STEP_SIZE_TEST=test_generator.n//test_generator.batch_size
```

Found 57458 validated image filenames.

Submit results from Model 4 (highest performing 3x3 model):

0.7536



Recalling that it's the AUC that is being evaluated, we should *not* be converting our output to binary predictions and should instead be submitting the raw predictions (probabilities):

In [53]: pred9xdf.label = pred9x.flatten()
pred9xdf.to\_csv('submission9x-noround.csv', index=False)



0.8209

A notable improvement

### Discussion/conclusion

Other than additional training epochs, the biggest improvement to the model came from increasing the kernel size (presumably allowing the model to account for larger-scale patterns).

Surprisingly, we weren't able to observe provable improvements on validation performance when using dropout as a regularization technique (nor was it *clear* that it was worse).

If I were to start again, I would begin with a smaller training set as each epoch took an hour to run and thus slowed progress and reduced the number of models that could be attempted.