(An Attempt in) Predicting Genre of Music with Neural Networks

USING SPOTIFY API DATA

Contents

Abstract	2
Introduction	2
Methodology: Cleaning the Dataset	3
Methodology: Training the Neural Network	7
Results	9
Evaluation	11
Reference	13

Abstract

Spotify created an API that allows developers to access metadata of musical tracks – these data are the "audio features" of a track. This research aims to create a neural network that predicts the genre of a musical track based on these "audio features".

The data is first cleaned by removing irrelevant information and deleting rows containing missing values. Columns of categorical variables are then one-hot encoded into the data set. To train the neural network, the data set is split into two sets of data – the training set and the test set. The training set is used to train the neural network model. After that, the model is used to predict musical genres with training and test data, and they're compared with each other based on classification reports (this is known as cross-validation). This is to ensure no over-fitting has occurred.

The results show that the model can only achieve at most ~54% accuracy. This is not largely due to the fault of the neural network, but the data set itself. The data set fails to account for fusion music – music that contains features from more than one genre, which leads to a great reduction in accuracy. Another source of error may be due to the removal of rows containing unknown values.

<u>Introduction</u>

Spotify is the biggest music streaming provider in the world; it has around 381 million active users across 184 markets¹. In late 2014, Spotify released a Web API that allowed developers to retrieve Spotify metadata, including data of numerous albums and artists². In particular, the main scope of this research is the metadata for individual tracks' audio features.

According to the Spotify Web API documentation, each audio track on Spotify is equipped with data about the audio track itself³. These are referred to as "audio features" of a track; they are computed based on the **elements of music** – dynamics, rhythm, structure, melody, instrumentation, texture and harmony.

The main objective of this research is to utilize a dataset, which contains "audio features" of numerous audio tracks, to train a neural network that effectively predicts the genre of any audio track on Spotify. Unfortunately, I'm only able to train a neural network up to at most 54% accuracy despite using different methods to improve it.

Methodology: Cleaning the Dataset

The table below shows the heading of each column within the given dataset. Descriptions are either found from the original Spotify Web API documentation^{3,4} or the source of the dataset⁵.

Columns	Description	Data Type & Range
instance_id	Unique ID for each track	$int; 20002 \le x \le 91759$
artist_name	Name of the artist who composed the track	string;
track_name	Name of the track	string;
acousticness	A confidence measure of whether the	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
	track is acoustic i.e. recorded with only acoustic instruments (e.g. voice, piano).	1 represents high confidence the track is acoustic.
danceability	Describes how suitable a track is for dancing based on combinations of musical	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
	elements such as tempo, rhythm stability, beat strength and overall regularity.	1 represents the track is very suitable for dancing.
duration_ms	The duration of the track in milliseconds. Outputs -1 if unknown.	int; $0 < x < +\infty$
energy	A perceptual measure of intensity and activity of a track based on combinations	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
	of dynamic range, loudness, timbre, onset rate and general entropy.	1 represents the track is very intense and energetic.
instrumentalness	A confidence measure of whether a	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
	track contains no vocals.	1 represents high confidence that the track contains no vocals.
key	The key of the track using standard Pitch Class notation.	string; $x \in \{C, C\#, D, D\#, E, F, F\#, G, G\#, A, A\#, B\}$
liveness	A confidence measure of whether a	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
	track is performed live (e.g. in a concert).	1 represents high confidence that the track is performed live.
loudness	The overall loudness of a track in decibels (dB).	$float; -\infty < x < \infty$
mode	Modality of a track.	$string; x \in \{Minor, Major\}$
speechiness	The presence of spoken words in a track.	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
tempo	The overall estimated tempo of the track in beats per minute (BPM) Outputs '?' if unknown.	float; $0 < x < \infty$
obtained_date	Date for which the track metadata is scraped from the Spotify Web API.	date;

valence	Describes the musical mood of a track. Higher valence → cheerful, uplifting Lower valence → aggressive, solemn	float; $0 \le x \le 1$
music_genre	The genre of the audio track.	string; x ∈ {Electronic, Jazz, Alternative, Country, Rap, Blues, Rock, Classical, Hip — Hop}

Below are the first five rows of the dataset:

```
instance id
                       artist_name
                                            track_name popularity
      32894.0
                         Röyksopp Röyksopp's Night Out
                                                          27.0
      46652.0 Thievery Corporation The Shining Path
                                                              31.0
1
      30097.0
                   Dillon Francis
                                                             28.0
2
                                             Hurricane
3
      62177.0
                         Dubloadz
                                                 Nitro
                                                             34.0
4
      24907.0
                       What So Not
                                       Divide & Conquer
                                                             32.0
  acousticness danceability duration_ms energy instrumentalness key
0
                                   -1.0
                                         0.941
       0.00468
                      0.652
                                                         0.79200 A#
                               218293.0
                                         0.890
1
       0.01270
                      0.622
                                                         0.95000
                                                                 ח
2
       0.00306
                      0.620
                               215613.0
                                         0.755
                                                         0.01180 G#
       0.02540
                      0.774
                              166875.0
                                        0.700
                                                         0.00253
4
       0.00465
                      0.638
                               222369.0 0.587
                                                        0.90900 F#
  liveness loudness
                     mode speechiness
                                                    tempo obtained_date
     0.115
             -5.201 Minor
                                0.0748
                                                  100.889
              -7.043 Minor
                                0.0300 115.00200000000001
     0.124
                                                                 4-Apr
             -4.617 Major
-4.498 Major
-6.266 Major
2
     0.534
                               0.0345 127.994
                                                                 4-Apr
                               0.2390
3
     0.157
                                                  128.014
                                                                4-Apr
     0.157
                              0.0413
                                                 145.036
                                                                4-Apr
  valence music genre
    0.759 Electronic
    0.531 Electronic
2
    0.333 Electronic
    0.270 Electronic
    0.323 Electronic
```

Before the data can be used for actual training, it first has to be cleaned and reorganized.

Firstly, we remove columns that are irrelevant – i.e. columns whose values do not affect the prediction of the genre of a track. These columns include 'instance_id', 'obtained_date', 'artist_name' and 'track_name'. They are irrelevant because they are not related to the elements of music. The data also contains some blank rows (e.g. from rows 10000 to 10004), so these rows are removed too.

print(df.loc[9995:10005								f.dropna(how df.loc[9995:1)				
9995	popularity acous	sticnes: 0.03010		0.504	uration_ms 302080.0		\									_
9996		0.00045		0.517	258480.0						sticness	dance		duration		١
9997		0.10600		0.527	134787.0			9995	39.0	(.030100		0.504	30208	0.860	
9998	44.0	0.03030	0	0.271	275933.0	0.969		9996	33.0	(.000456		0.517	25848	0.868	
9999	14.0	0.02000)	0.573	226374.0	0.921		9997	21.0	(.106000		0.527	13478	7.0 0.262	
10000	NaN	Nal		NaN	NaN			9998	44.0		.030300		0.271	27593		
10001	NaN	Nal		NaN	NaN			9999								
10002	NaN	Nal		NaN	NaN				14.0		.020000		0.573	22637		
10003	NaN	Nal		NaN	NaN			10005	44.0	(.006210		0.711	28598	7.0 0.621	
10004	NaN	Nal		NaN	NaN											
10005	44.0	0.00621	0	0.711	285987.0	0.621			instrumental	Lness	key li	veness	loudness	mode	speechiness	ŝ
	instrumentalness	key :	liveness	loudness	mode s	peechiness	\	9995	0.00	00038	F#	0.254	-4.059	Major	0.1380)
9995	0.000038	F#	0.254	-4.059		0.1380		9996	0.00	00594	В	0.183	-3.696	Minor	0.0343	3
9996	0.000594	В	0.183	-3.696		0.0343		9997	0.16	57000	F	0.146	-17.812	Major	0.0394	ı
9997	0.167000		0.146	-17.812		0.0394		9998			-	0.301	-2.539		0.0678	
9998	0.000490		0.301	-2.539		0.0678										
9999	0.000004		0.325	-3.841		0.0734		9999		00004	F#	0.325	-3.841		0.0734	
10000		NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN		10005	0.02	29700	G	0.159	-7.429	Major	0.0382	1
10001		NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN								-		
10002 10003		NaN NaN	NaN NaN	NaN NaN	NaN NaN	NaN NaN										
10003		NaN NaN	NaN NaN	NaN NaN	NaN NaN	NaN NaN										
10005	0.029700		0.159	-7.429		0.0382										
10005	01023700		0.133	-/1425	114,01	0.0502										

Furthermore, for unknown values in columns 'tempo' and 'duration_ms', they are computed as '?' and -1 respectively. From our computation, ~9.9% of the tracks in the dataset have an unknown duration, whereas ~10.0% of the tracks have an unknown tempo. To solve this problem, there are two possible options:

- I. Replace the unknown values with the median/mean value (This is known as imputation)
- II. Delete rows containing the unknown values.

During the data cleaning process, option II is chosen; this is because if ~10% of the data is replaced with the mean/median value, it can greatly reduce the variance of the dataset, making predictions more difficult. Also, through computation the data remain **balanced** (i.e. each category has approximately the same amount of data rows) after having removed the unknown rows:

```
In [267]: ## calculate proportion of unknown data
           unknown_duration = df[df['duration_ms']==-1].shape[0]
           unknown_tempo = df[df['tempo']=='?'].shape[0]
print(unknown_duration/(df.shape[0]))
           print(unknown_tempo/(df.shape[0]))
           0.0996
In [268]: ## delete rows containing unknown values
           df = df[df['tempo']!='?']
           df = df[df['duration_ms']!=-1.0]
           df['tempo'] = df['tempo'].astype(float)
print(df['music_genre'].value_counts())
           Rock
                             4099
           Hip-Hop
                             4077
                             4064
           Anime
           Jazz
                             4064
           Alternative
            Country
                             4049
           Blues
                             4046
           Rap
                             4042
           Classical
                             4036
           Electronic
                             4032
            Name: music_genre, dtype: int64
```

Next, we want to convert the column of music_genre into integers, so that it can be used as training data. The dictionary function is therefore utilized to do so. Note that each musical genre is mapped into a distinct integer as follows:

0	Electronic	5	Rap
1	Anime	6	Blues
2	Jazz	7	Rock
3	Alternative	8	Classical
4	Country	9	Нір-Нор

```
In [269]: ## converting 'music_genre' from str to int
          df genre = df['music genre']
          genre = df_genre.to_numpy()
          GenreDict = {
              "Electronic": 0,
              "Anime": 1,
              "Jazz": 2,
              "Alternative": 3,
              "Country": 4,
              "Rap": 5,
              "Blues": 6,
              "Rock": 7,
              "Classical": 8,
              "Hip-Hop": 9,
          def transform_genres(arr):
              genre_list = []
              for x in range(arr.shape[0]):
                 g = GenreDict[arr[x]]
                  genre_list.append(g)
             return genre_list
          df['music_genre'] = transform_genres(genre)
          print(df['music_genre'].head())
          2
               0
          3
               0
               0
          4
          6
               0
          Name: music_genre, dtype: int64
```

Finally, we need to convert columns 'key' and 'mode', both of which are categorical variables, into numerical variables (as training data can only contain float/integer values). The values from 'key' and 'mode' are first combined to create a new column of values called 'scale', which is then one-hot encoded into the data frame using the pandas.getdummies() function.

```
In [270]: ## combine 'key' and 'mode' to 'scale' and then one-hot encode 'scale'
          df_key = df[['key','mode']].fillna("")
          key = df_key.to_numpy()
          KeyDict = {
              "Major": ""
              "Minor": "m",
          def transform_scales(arr):
             scale_list = []
              for x in range(arr.shape[0]):
                  rootnote = arr[x][0]
                  mode = KeyDict[arr[x][1]]
                 if rootnote != "":
                     scale = rootnote + mode
                  scale_list.append(scale)
              return scale_list
          df['scale'] = transform scales(key)
          y = pd.get_dummies(df.scale, prefix='scale')
          del df['key'], df['mode']
          df = df.drop('scale',axis=1)
          df = df.join(y)
          print(df.head())
```

```
popularity acousticness danceability duration_ms energy
1
        31.0
               0.01270
                            0.622
                                            218293.0
                                                     0.890
2
        28.0
                                  0.620
                                                      0.755
                  0.00306
                                            215613.0
        34.0
3
                                  0.774
                                            166875.0
                                                      0.700
                  0.02540
                                  0.638
4
                                            222369.0
        32.0
                  0.00465
                                                      0.587
        46.0
                                  0.572
                                            214408.0
6
                  0.02890
                                                     0.803
  instrumentalness liveness loudness speechiness
                                                                scale_E \
                                                     tempo
                                        0.0300 115.002
          0.950000
1
                     0.124
                              -7.043
                                                                       0
                                           0.0345 127.994
2
          0.011800
                      0.534
                               -4.617
                                                                      0
                                                            . . .
                               -4.498
                                          0.2390 128.014
3
          0.002530
                      0.157
                                                                      0
                                                            . . .
                               -6.266
-4.294
                       0.157
                                           0.0413 145.036
4
          0.909000
                                                                      0
          0.000008
                                           0.3510 149.995
6
                      0.106
  scale_Em scale_F scale_F# scale_F#m scale_Fm scale_G scale_G#
1
                  0
                                     0
                                               0
                                                        0
         0
                           0
2
         0
                  0
                           0
                                      0
                                               0
                                                        0
                                                                  1
3
         0
                  0
                           0
                                     0
                                               0
                                                        0
                                                                  0
                                     0
                                               0
4
         0
                  0
                                                        0
                                                                  0
                           1
                                      0
                                               0
                                                        0
                                                                  0
         0
                  0
                           0
6
  scale G#m scale Gm
1
         0
2
          0
                    0
3
                    0
          0
                    0
4
          0
                    0
6
```

The reason columns 'key' and 'mode' are combined is because, in music, combinations of key and mode form scales, and each scale is harmonically different from one another. For example, B minor is different from C minor, and C major is different from C minor, etc. Hence the two columns must be combined.

Methodology: Training the Neural Network

In Machine Learning, it is common practice to split up the dataset into two sets of data – **Training Set** and **Test Set**. For this research, the dataset is split to the ratio of 8:2, in which the former represents the size of the training set and the latter represents the size of the test set.

```
In [273]: ## Splitting the dataset into TRAINING data and TEST data
import tensorflow as tf
import keras
import pandas as pd
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

X = df.drop(columns=['music_genre'])
Y = df[['music_genre']]
X_train, X_test, Y_train, Y_test = train_test_split(X, Y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
```

Now we have to make sure the training set is **normalized**, in other words, all data values are between 0 and 1. This is not the case for columns 'loudness', 'duration_ms', 'popularity' and 'tempo'.

To ensure all the values of these columns lie between 0 and 1, we apply a function $F: \mathbb{R} \to [0,1]$ to any data value $x_i^{(i)}$ in column $X^{(i)}$:

$$F(x_j^{(i)}) = \frac{x_j^{(i)} - \min(X^{(i)})}{\max(X^{(i)}) - \min(X^{(i)})} \to x_j^{(i)}$$

in which $X^{(i)} = \{x_1^{(i)}, x_2^{(i)} \dots x_n^{(i)}\}$. Moreover, all the $\max(X^{(i)})$ and $\min(X^{(i)})$ are recorded so that we can apply the same mapping to the test set for prediction purposes.

```
In [274]: ## normalising the TRAINING data
         MaxDict = {
             'duration_ms': X_train['duration_ms'].max(),
             'tempo': X_train['tempo'].max(),
              popularity': X_train['popularity'].max(),
             'loudness': X_train['loudness'].max()
         MinDict = {
             'duration_ms': X_train['duration_ms'].min(),
             'tempo': X_train['tempo'].min(),
             'popularity': X train['popularity'].min(),
             'loudness': X_train['loudness'].min()
         def NormalizeTrain(c):
             return (X_train[c]-MinDict[c])/(MaxDict[c]-MinDict[c])
         X_train['loudness'] = NormalizeTrain('loudness')
         X_train['duration_ms'] = NormalizeTrain('duration_ms')
         X_train['popularity'] = NormalizeTrain('popularity')
         X_train['tempo'] = NormalizeTrain('tempo')
         print(X_train.head())
             popularity acousticness danceability duration_ms energy \
                        0.007500
                                                  0.048330
                                     0.796
       49054
               0.595960
                                                              0.357
                                                             0.158
       44947
               0.292929
                           0.760000
                                           0.169
                                                    0.057152
                          0.000355
                                                   0.081022
                                           0.814
       68
               0.272727
                                                              0.877
                                                    0.033191 0.800
       3934
               0.303030
                           0.005330
                                           0.421
       14954
             0.333333
                          0.488000
                                           0.814
                                                   0.045129 0.693
             instrumentalness liveness loudness speechiness
                                                              tempo ... \
                       0.000 0.0966 0.721870 0.3440 0.622238 ...
       49054
       44947
                       0.930
                               0.1040 0.570650
                                                    0.0396 0.422236
                       0.455
                              0.2060 0.820614
                                                   0.0533 0.471449 ...
                                                    0.3030 0.836814 ...
       3934
                       0.332
                               0.3810 0.840820
                             0.1080 0.813695
                                                    0.0360 0.487600 ...
       14954
                       0.190
             scale Gm scale G scale G#m scale G# scale Am scale A scale A#m \
       49054
                0 0
                               0
                                         0
       44947
                   0
                           0
                                      0
                                               0
                                                        0
                                                                0
                                                                          0
       68
                   0
                           0
                                      0
                                               0
                                                        0
                                                                0
                                                                          0
       3934
                          0
       14954
                                     0
             scale_A# scale_Bm scale_B
              0
                      _ 0
0
       49054
                   0
       44947
                          0
                                   0
1
       68
                   0
       3934
                   0
       14954
```

[5 rows x 35 columns]

We then construct the neural network. For this research, a 35-35-10-10 multilayer perceptron is used with activation function Sigmoid. The choice of the optimizer is Adam, as it consumes relatively little computer memory⁷. As the model is used for multiclass classification, the loss function (or cost function) is chosen to be Sparse Categorical Cross-Entropy⁸, and the metric used for deep learning is Sparse Categorical Accuracy.

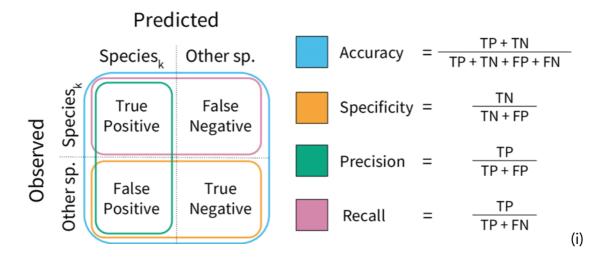
Now we can train the neural network with 15 epochs with the batch size of 16 for computational efficiency:

```
In [289]: ## Constructing the Neural Network
         model = keras.Sequential()
         model.add(keras.layers.Dense(35, input_shape=(35,), activation='sigmoid'))
        model.add(keras.lavers.Dense(10, activation='sigmoid'))
        optimizer = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(learning rate=0.001)
        model.compile(optimizer=optimizer,loss=tf.keras.losses.SparseCategoricalCrossentropy(from_logits=False),
                     metrics=['sparse_categorical_accuracy'])
In [291]: ## Training
        Y_pred_train = model.fit(X_train, Y_train, batch_size=16, epochs=15)
        Epoch 1/15
         2028/2028 [
                            ========] - 8s 4ms/step - loss: 1.4080 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.4913
         Epoch 2/15
         2028/2028 [
                                  =======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.3589 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5012
         Epoch 3/15
         2028/2028 [
                                    =======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.3245 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5129
         Epoch 4/15
         2028/2028 [
                             Epoch 5/15
         2028/2028 [
                                    =======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.2835 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5215
         Epoch 6/15
         2028/2028 [=
                                   =======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.2715 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5239
         Epoch 7/15
         2028/2028 [=
                           Epoch 8/15
         2028/2028 [
                                  =======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.2531 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5296A: 1s -
         loss: 1.248
         Epoch 9/15
                                   =======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.2465 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5307
         2028/2028 [
         Epoch 10/15
         2028/2028 [=
                                      ======] - 7s 3ms/step - loss: 1.2410 - sparse_categorical_accuracy: 0.5338
```

Results

Once we have trained the neural network, we will need to **cross-validate** our model; this is done by computing the **confusion matrix** of the test Data and training Data. A confusion matrix is, in a nutshell, a contingency table between two variables – predictions from the model, and the actual result. In the context of this research, the (i,j)th entry of the matrix represents the number of tracks which the model predicts to be category i, but it's in fact category j.

We can then do a **classification report** using the confusion matrix. In general, a classification report provides different metrics to visualize the efficiency of our model in predicting musical genres. Such metrics include accuracy, precision and recall. The following diagrams demonstrate how these metrics are calculated:



A classification report for the training data and the test data is essential because we can compare them to check for **over-fitting**. If the metrics of the two reports are completely different, then it shows that the model is ineffective in making predictions with new data. Below are the classification reports for the test data and the training data, respectively:

```
In [307]: ## Predictions
          Y_pred_test = model.predict(X_test)
          Y_pred_tra = model.predict(X_train)
In [308]: ## Computing the Confusion Matrix
          from sklearn import metrics
          import random
          predict = []
          predict2 = []
          for k in range(Y_pred_test.shape[0]):
              verdict = Y_pred_test[k].tolist()
              VerdictGenre = verdict.index(max(verdict))
              predict.append(VerdictGenre)
          for k in range(Y pred tra.shape[0]):
              verdict2 = Y_pred_tra[k].tolist()
              VerdictGenre2 = verdict2.index(max(verdict2))
              predict2.append(VerdictGenre2)
          print('Confusion Matrix - Test Dataset')
          print(metrics.confusion_matrix(Y_test, predict))
          print(metrics.classification report(Y test,predict))
          print('Confusion Matrix - Train Dataset')
          print(metrics.confusion_matrix(Y_train, predict2))
          print(metrics.classification_report(Y_train,predict2))
```

Confusion Mat	rix - Test Da	ataset			Co	nfus	ion M	atrix	- Tra	ain Da	ataset	:			
[[469 77 107			7 20]]]	1755	291	416	205	109	69	159	88	23	74]
[53 520 28			92 0]] [160	2145	82	74	106	4	289	11	365	1]
[107 24 404	17 37 1	79 36	48 29]		i	375	100	1712	77	186	19	365	115	244	891
[53 4 66	245 153 39	21 151	1 64]		í	194	23	254	1088	541	170	72	611	5	2961
[30 27 44	73 372 11	81 149	0 17]		i	118	75	196	209	1605	48	373	553	9	591
[805		0 92	0 261]		i	13	2	44	170	55	1571	0	348	0	1057]
[39 153 110	25 82 1		11 1]		i	151	529	476	140	277		1459	158	52	
	100 56 67	0 571	1 13]		í	19	10	106	355	265	239		2215	5	35]
[12 36 52			675 0]		i	74	187	147	67	15	0	65		2644	01
[10 0 12		3 37	0 346]]		1 1	38	0	55	148		1346	4			1411]]
	precision	recall	f1-score	support				-	ecisio		recal		l-sco		support
								F							
0	0.60	0.56	0.58	843				0	0.6	51	0.5	55	0.5	58	3189
1	0.62	0.63	0.62	827				1	0.6		0.6		0.0		3237
2	0.47	0.52	0.49	782				2	0.4		0.5		0.5		3282
3	0.37	0.31	0.34	797				3	0.4		0.3		0.		3254
4	0.47	0.46	0.46	804				1	0.5		0.4		0.5		3245
5	0.43	0.47	0.45	782				5	0.4		0.4		0.4		3260
6	0.53	0.43	0.47	792				5	0.5		0.4		0.4		3254
7	0.52	0.68	0.59	840				7	0.5		0.6		0.5		3259
8	0.81	0.82	0.82	821				8	0.7		0.8		0.1		3215
9	0.46	0.42	0.44	824				9	0.4		0.4		0.4		3253
								,	0.4	.,	0.4		0.	15	3233
accuracy			0.53	8112		200	curac	,					0.5	5.4	32448
macro avg	0.53	0.53	0.53	8112			ro av		0.5	: 4	0.5	: 4	0.5		32448
weighted avg	0.53	0.53	0.53	8112			ed av	•	0.5		0.5		0.5		32448
					we	TAUCE	eu av	9	0.5	74	0.5	74	0.:	J 4	32440

Evidently, the metrics are very similar in both reports, so no over-fitting has likely occurred.

Furthermore, the classification reports show that the model recognizes musical Classical Music (category 8) most effectively, with around 80% precision. However, it is the least effective in recognizing Alternative Music (category 3) and Rap Music (category 5), both of which have merely 40% precision.

Evaluation

Overall, the model is merely \sim 54% accurate – not reliable enough for actual prediction purposes. I believe the major source for this lack of accuracy is the construction of the data set. A flawed assumption is being made by the dataset about music – and that is, musical genres are mutually exclusive.

In music, any music which contains characteristics from more than one genre is called **fusion music**⁹. Below are a few famous examples of fusion music.





In fact, there are many different genres in music which is a combination of elements from our list of musical genres (e.g. Alternative Rock, Jazz Rock, etc.). Hence our model is susceptible to classifying fusion music incorrectly, which greatly reduces the accuracy.

Additionally, another source of error may originate from the removal of the rows containing unknown values, as $\sim 10\%$ of the training data is lost.

Ultimately, I believe a better model can be constructed by reframing the data set. One way to do this is by labelling every audio track with an integer between 0 and 99 inclusive, where the first digit and the second digit represent the main genre and the secondary genre (if any) of the track respectively. The main and secondary genres of a track are classified based on metadata from Spotify API. That way, any fusion musical track can be identified with any two genres on our list of ten genres. However, this method requires much more data as the number of classes increased from 10 to 100.

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