



# **MALWARE DETECTION USING CNN**

Neural Networks and Deep Learning - 19CSE456

# INTRODUCTION

Email remains a key attack vector for malware delivery, with traditional antivirus solutions struggling against zero-day threats. This project proposes a CNN-based approach for malware detection by converting binary executables into grayscale images for classification. An Email Honeytrap captures suspicious attachments, processes them into images, and uses a trained CNN model for real-time threat detection and quarantine. Leveraging Python, TensorFlow, and cloud services, this system enhances malware detection accuracy and response speed, demonstrating the effectiveness of deep learning in cybersecurity



**Email Honeytrap -  
Malware Classification  
Architecture**

```
graph TD; 1[1. Email Inbox] --> 2[2. Honeytrap System]; 2 --> 3[3. Download & Analyze]; 3 --> 4[4. Convert to Image]; 4 --> 5[5. CNN Classifier]; 5 --> 6[6. Threat Response]; 6 --> 1;
```

**1. Email Inbox**

**2. Honeytrap  
System**

**3. Download &  
Analyze**

**4. Convert to  
Image**

**5. CNN  
Classifier**

**6. Threat  
Response**

# DATASET OVERVIEW

- Training Set: 7,455 images across 25 classes.
- Validation Set: 922 images.
- Test Set: 955 images.
- Preprocessing:
  - Image augmentation (rotation, zoom, flip) for training.
  - Rescaling ( $1.0/255.0$ ) for validation and test sets.
- Class Distribution: Analyzed using bar plots for train and test sets

# COMPARISON BETWEEN TWO MODELS

Aspect	Baseline Model	Improved Model
Batch Normalization	Not present	Added after Conv2D and Dense layers
Activation Layers	Implicit (within Conv2D/Dense)	Explicit Activation layers (e.g., ReLU)
Total Parameters	443,389 (1.69 MB)	444,677 (1.70 MB)
Non-trainable Params	0	644 (2.52 KB) due to BatchNormalization
Training Stability	Noisy accuracy/loss curves	Smoother accuracy/loss curves
Convergence	Reaches ~0.95 accuracy, ~0.2 loss (30 epochs)	Reaches ~0.95 accuracy, ~0 loss (50 epochs)
Training Epochs	30	50

# BASELINE MODEL

Model: "sequential"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
conv2d (Conv2D)	(None, 254, 254, 64)	1,792
max_pooling2d (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 127, 127, 64)	0
conv2d_1 (Conv2D)	(None, 125, 125, 32)	18,464
max_pooling2d_1 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 62, 62, 32)	0
conv2d_2 (Conv2D)	(None, 60, 60, 32)	9,248
max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 30, 30, 32)	0
conv2d_3 (Conv2D)	(None, 28, 28, 16)	4,624
max_pooling2d_3 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 14, 14, 16)	0
dropout (Dropout)	(None, 14, 14, 16)	0
flatten (Flatten)	(None, 3136)	0
dense (Dense)	(None, 128)	401,536
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 128)	0
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 50)	6,450
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 50)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 25)	1,275

Total params: 443,389 (1.69 MB)  
Trainable params: 443,389 (1.69 MB)  
Non-trainable params: 0 (0.00 B)



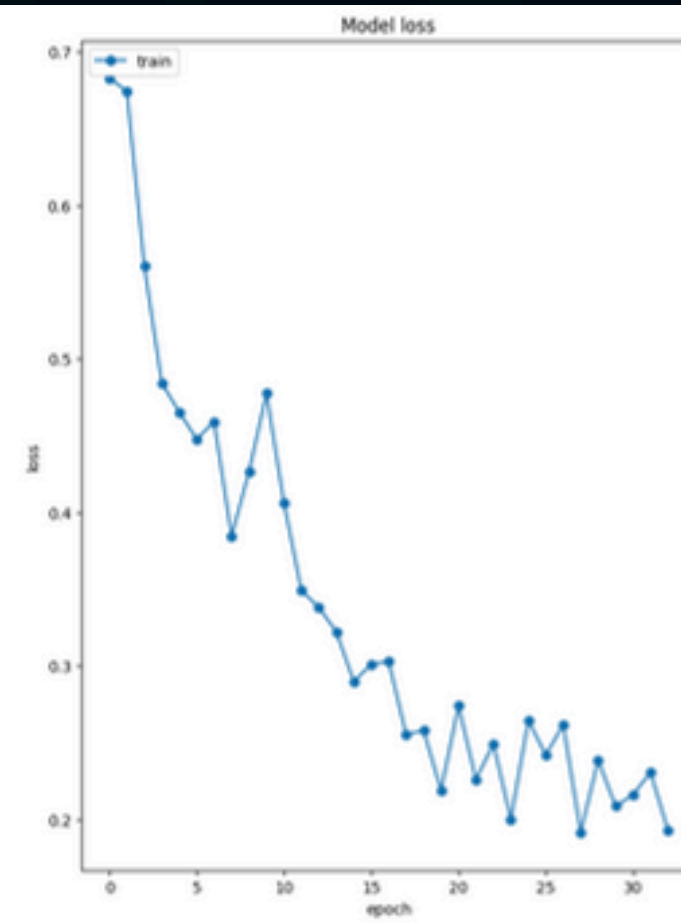
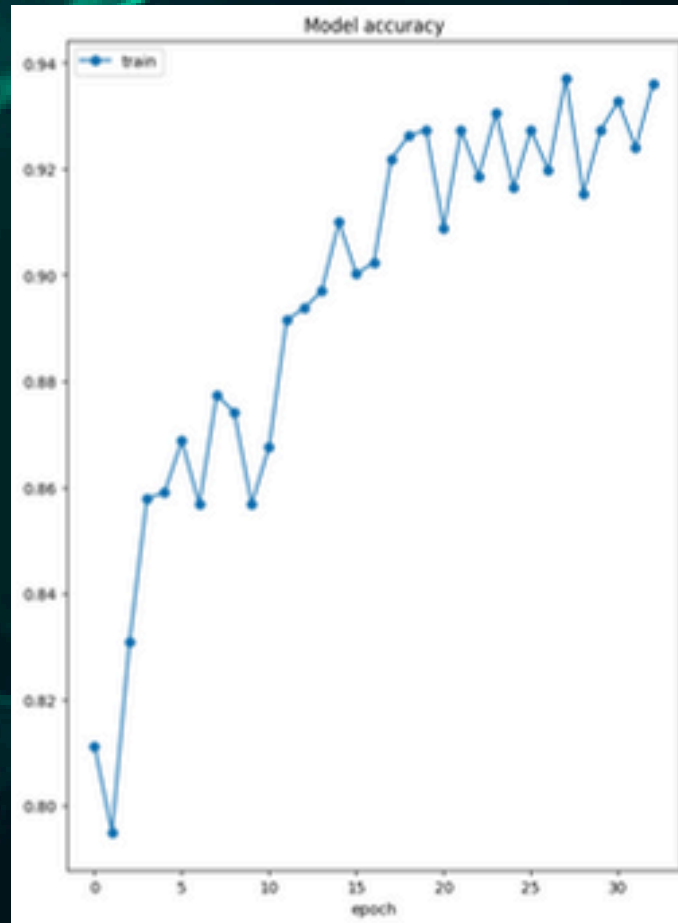
# IMPROVED MODEL

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
conv2d_1 (Conv2D)	(None, 254, 254, 64)	1,792
batch_normalization_1 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 254, 254, 64)	256
activation (Activation)	(None, 254, 254, 64)	0
max_pooling2d (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 127, 127, 64)	0
conv2d_2 (Conv2D)	(None, 125, 125, 32)	18,464
batch_normalization_2 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 125, 125, 32)	128
activation_1 (Activation)	(None, 125, 125, 32)	0
max_pooling2d_1 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 62, 62, 32)	0
conv2d_3 (Conv2D)	(None, 60, 60, 32)	9,248
batch_normalization_3 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 60, 60, 32)	128
activation_2 (Activation)	(None, 60, 60, 32)	0
max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 30, 30, 32)	0
conv2d_4 (Conv2D)	(None, 28, 28, 16)	4,624
batch_normalization_4 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 28, 28, 16)	64

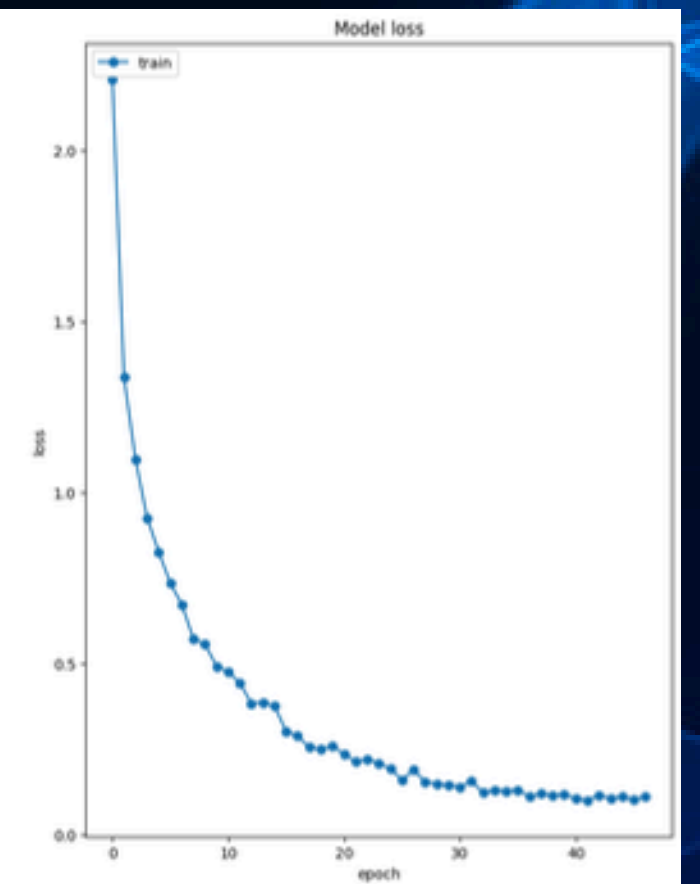
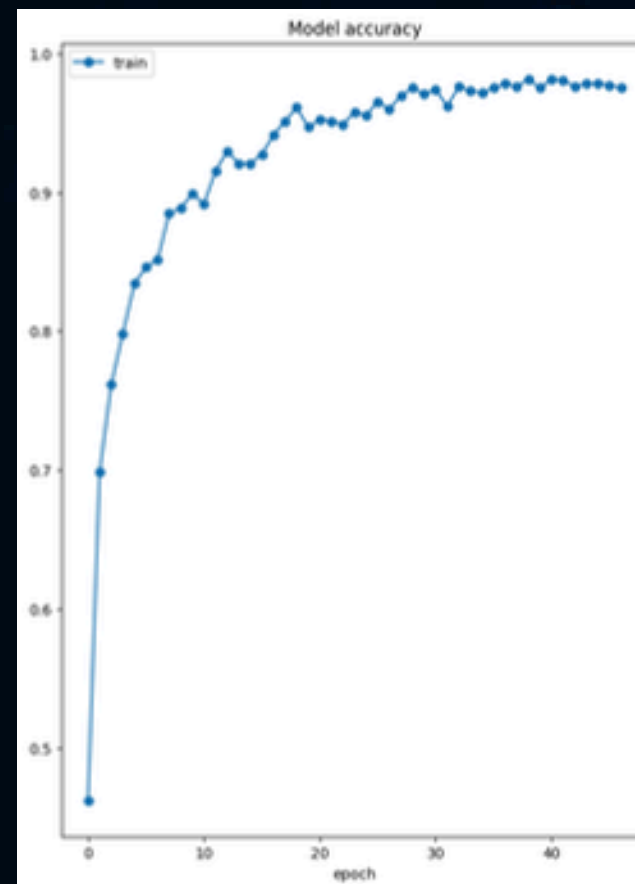
activation_3 (Activation)	(None, 28, 28, 16)	0
max_pooling2d_3 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 14, 14, 16)	0
dropout (Dropout)	(None, 14, 14, 16)	0
flatten (Flatten)	(None, 3136)	0
dense (Dense)	(None, 128)	401,536
batch_normalization_5 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 128)	512
activation_4 (Activation)	(None, 128)	0
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 128)	0
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 50)	6,450
batch_normalization_6 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 50)	200
activation_5 (Activation)	(None, 50)	0
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 50)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 25)	1,275

Total params: 444,677 (1.70 MB)  
Trainable params: 444,033 (1.69 MB)  
Non-trainable params: 644 (2.52 KB)

# BASELINE MODEL



# IMPROVED MODEL







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