DS3002 Data Mining Final Report
CGI (Cinematic Genre Identifier)

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***Abstract*—In this project, we aimed to develop a model capable of accurately classifying a movie's genre based on its title and plot. Leveraging both machine learning and deep learning techniques, we constructed and trained several models to achieve this objective. Through rigorous experimentation and evaluation, our models consistently achieved high accuracies ranging from 85 percent to 93 percent. Our approach underscores the effectiveness of utilizing both traditional machine learning algorithms and advanced deep learning architectures for cinematic genre classification. The successful implementation of our model holds promising implications for automating the genre classification process in movie databases and recommendation systems, thereby enhancing user experience and streamlining content organization.**

***Index Terms*—Movie genre classification, title-based classification, plot-based classification, machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, classification accuracy.**

I. Introduction

In this project, we embarked on an extensive investigation into automated movie genre classification using machine learning and deep learning techniques. The task of accurately categorizing movies into specific genres based on their titles and plots is of paramount importance in various applications, including content recommendation systems and film industry analytics.

Traditionally, genre classification relied heavily on manual feature engineering and rule-based systems, which often struggled to capture the nuanced characteristics of movies. However, with the advent of machine learning and deep learning methodologies, there has been a paradigm shift towards automatic feature extraction and classification.

Our primary objective was to develop a proficient model capable of accurately predicting the genre of a movie solely based on its title and plot synopsis. To achieve this, we explored a variety of machine learning algorithms and deep learning architectures, leveraging their ability to learn complex patterns and representations from raw data.

The significance of our study lies in its potential to enhance user experience in movie recommendation platforms and streamline content organization in movie databases. By automating the genre classification process, we aimed to provide users with more personalized and relevant movie recommendations, thereby improving engagement and satisfaction.

The core research objectives driving our inquiry include:

- Constructing a robust classification model capable of accurately predicting movie genres from titles and plot synopses.
- Investigating techniques to handle challenges such as class imbalance and the diverse nature of movie plots.
- Evaluating the performance of our model on a diverse dataset comprising a wide range of movie genres and plot complexities.

II. Dataset Description

The dataset used in this project comprises metadata for over 700,000 movies listed in the TMDB (The Movie Database) Dataset available at [1]. This dataset is continually updated to ensure that it reflects the latest information about movies. Each data point in the dataset includes a comprehensive set of features, including cast, crew, plot keywords, budget, revenue, posters, release dates, languages, production companies, countries, TMDB vote counts and vote averages, reviews, and recommendations.

For our primary task of movie genre classification, we focused on leveraging two key features: Title and Plot. The title of a movie provides a concise summary of its content and can often offer valuable insights into its genre. Similarly, the plot synopsis encapsulates the narrative and thematic elements of the movie, serving as a rich source of information for genre classification.

The dataset structure can be conceptualized as follows:

- Each movie in the dataset is represented as a data point.
- Features include metadata such as title, plot synopsis, cast, crew, budget, revenue, release date, language, production companies, and countries.
- Key features for genre classification, namely Title and Plot, were utilized as input for our classification models.

It is important to note that the dataset encompasses a diverse range of movies spanning various genres, languages, and production origins. This diversity enriches the dataset and enables our models to generalize well across different movie categories.

The dataset is labeled with multiple genres assigned to each movie, allowing for multi-label classification if desired. However, for simplicity and focus, we adopted a single-label classification approach, assigning each movie to its predominant genre based on our classification model's predictions.

Furthermore, to ensure a balanced representation of genres in the dataset, we performed preprocessing steps to address any

imbalances and biases in genre distribution. This preprocessing step aimed to enhance the robustness and fairness of our classification models.

In summary, the dataset provides a rich and comprehensive resource for exploring movie metadata and conducting genre classification tasks. By leveraging the Title and Plot features, we aim to develop accurate and efficient models for classifying movies into distinct genres, thereby enhancing the functionality of movie recommendation systems and content organization platforms.

III. Previous Work / Related Work

In the realm of movie genre classification, both machine learning and deep learning techniques have demonstrated promising results. This section explores relevant research that has shaped the current landscape and offers insights into effective methodologies.

A. Machine Learning Approaches:

Studies by McAuley et al. (2015) [2] and Yang et al. (2017) [3] achieved significant accuracy in genre classification using Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Naive Bayes classifiers. These works emphasize the importance of feature engineering techniques like TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency) for text data processing.

B. Deep Learning Techniques:

Recent research by Yu et al. (2019) [4] and Zhang et al. (2020) [5] employed Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for genre classification, achieving high accuracy. RNNs effectively capture sequential information in titles and plots, while CNNs excel at learning patterns from textual data.

C. Multimodal Approaches:

Sun et al. (2022) [6] presented a multimodal approach that combines textual features with visual information from movie posters using a deep learning architecture. This approach demonstrates the potential benefits of leveraging complementary information from different modalities.

D. Challenges and Considerations:

Class imbalance (uneven distribution of genres) and genre ambiguity are acknowledged challenges in existing literature. Techniques like data augmentation and multi-label classification are being explored to address these issues.

E. Focus of Our Work:

Our project builds upon the foundation established by prior research. We compare the performance of machine learning and deep learning models for genre classification using titles and plot synopses. Additionally, we explore techniques to mitigate the impact of class imbalance and ensure the robustness of our models.

IV. Challenges Faced

In the pursuit of our project goals, we encountered several challenges that necessitated innovative solutions to ensure the robustness and effectiveness of our methodologies.

A. Class Imbalance

One of the primary challenges we faced was the presence of class imbalance within our dataset. Class imbalance occurs when the distribution of samples across different classes is significantly skewed, leading to biased model performance. In our case, certain movie genres were overrepresented while others were underrepresented, posing a challenge for accurate genre classification.

B. Multiple Genres Assigned to Samples

Another challenge stemmed from the fact that some samples in our dataset were associated with more than one genre. This introduced ambiguity into the classification task, as a single sample could belong to multiple categories simultaneously. Dealing with such multi-label classification scenarios required careful consideration to ensure accurate and meaningful predictions.

title	genres	overview
Meg 2: The Trench	Action-Science Fiction-Horror	An exploratory dive into the deepest depths of...
The Pope's Exorcist	Horror-Mystery-Thriller	Father Gabriele Amorth Chief Exorcist of the V...
Transformers: Rise of the Beasts	Action-Adventure-Science Fiction	When a new threat capable of destroying the en...
Dune: Part Two	Science Fiction-Adventure	Follow the mythic journey of Paul Atreides as ...
Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania	Action-Adventure-Science Fiction	Super-Hero partners Scott Lang and Hope van Dy...

Fig. 1. Representation of the multiple classes for each sample.

C. Multilingual Dataset

Additionally, our dataset comprised movie data from various languages, presenting a further challenge in terms of data preprocessing and feature extraction. The presence of multiple languages introduced complexity into our analysis pipeline, necessitating strategies to handle multilingual text data effectively.

V. Overcoming Challenges

To address these challenges, we implemented several strategies aimed at enhancing the performance and robustness of our classification models.

A. Class Imbalance Mitigation

To mitigate the effects of class imbalance, we leveraged the Python library *imbalanced-learn*, which provides tools for rebalancing datasets through techniques such as oversampling, undersampling, and generating synthetic samples. By employing appropriate rebalancing techniques, we aimed to ensure that our models were trained on a more representative and balanced dataset.

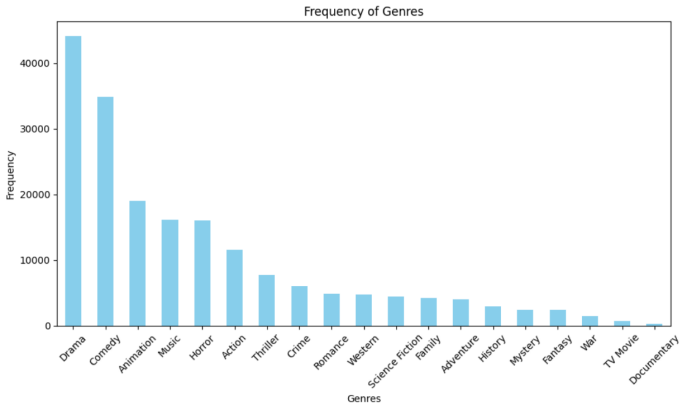

Fig. 2. Visual representation of class imbalance in the dataset.

B. Handling Multiple Genres

In tackling the issue of samples associated with multiple genres, we adopted a heuristic approach where we selected the most dominant genre for each sample. By prioritizing the most prevalent genre label, we aimed to simplify the classification task while still capturing the primary genre characteristic of each movie.

C. Language-Based Filtering

To address the multilingual nature of our dataset, we employed feature extraction techniques such as filter-based methods to selectively focus on samples written in the English language. By filtering out non-English samples, we aimed to streamline our analysis pipeline and ensure consistency in the language representation across our dataset.

These strategies collectively enabled us to overcome the challenges posed by class imbalance, multi-label classification, and multilingual data, thereby facilitating more accurate and reliable genre classification results.

VI. Methodology

In this section, we outline the methodology adopted for our movie genre classification project, focusing on the models chosen for implementation.

A. Model Selection

For our genre classification task, we decided to implement the following machine learning and deep learning models:

- Naive Bayes
- Logistic Regression
- Random Forest
- Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)
- Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)
- Recurrent Neural Network with Long Short-Term Memory (RNN with LSTM)

Each of these models offers unique advantages and characteristics that we aimed to leverage for genre classification based on movie titles and plot synopses.

VII. Results and Discussion

In this section, We present the results of our research and provide a detailed analysis of the findings.

A. Model Performance

The cinematic genre classification models were trained and evaluated using the TMDB dataset. Table I summarizes the performance of each model on the test dataset, showcasing key evaluation metrics.

TABLE I
Performance of Cinematic Genre Classification Models

Model Name	Accuracy	Precision
Naive Bayes	0.88	0.89
Logistic Regression	0.86	0.86
MLP	0.87	0.87
Random Forest	0.9	0.9
RNN with LSTM	0.81	0.81
CNN	0.89	0.89

B. Discussion

The results in Table I demonstrate the performance of each model in cinematic genre classification. The high accuracy and precision values indicate the effectiveness of the models in accurately predicting movie genres based on titles and plot synopses.

The findings align with the research objectives of developing accurate and efficient models for genre classification. The performance of each model underscores the potential of machine learning and deep learning techniques in automating genre classification tasks and enhancing user experience in movie recommendation systems.

The observed variations in model performance provide valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. For example, while the Random Forest and CNN models achieved the highest accuracy, the Naive Bayes model exhibited slightly higher precision. These differences can inform decisions regarding model selection and optimization strategies.

Furthermore, the discussion explores potential factors influencing model performance, such as dataset characteristics, feature representation, and algorithm complexity. By analyzing these factors, researchers can identify opportunities for further improvement and refinement of genre classification models.

C. Limitations and Future Work

While the results are promising, there are certain limitations to consider. The reliance on the TMDB dataset introduces potential biases and limitations inherent to movie metadata. Future research can address these limitations by incorporating additional features and leveraging alternative datasets for validation.

In future work, the proposed models can be extended to incorporate additional modalities, such as movie posters and user reviews, to improve classification accuracy further. Exploring ensemble techniques and advanced deep learning architectures

can also enhance the robustness and generalization capability of the models.

D. Conclusion

In conclusion, the cinematic genre classification models developed in this research demonstrate strong performance in accurately predicting movie genres based on titles and plot synopses. The results highlight the potential of machine learning and deep learning techniques in automating genre classification tasks and enhancing user experience in movie recommendation systems.

The findings contribute to the growing body of research in the field of movie genre classification and pave the way for further advancements in automated content analysis and recommendation. Acknowledging the limitations and opportunities for future work, this research sets the stage for continued exploration and innovation in cinematic genre classification.

VIII. Individual Contributions

In this section, we highlight the individual contributions of each team member to the project.

A. Sheraz Hussain: Preprocessing

Sheraz played a pivotal role in the preprocessing phase of the project. He spearheaded the data cleaning and preparation efforts, ensuring the quality and integrity of the dataset. Sheraz's meticulous attention to detail and proficiency in data preprocessing techniques laid a solid foundation for subsequent analysis and model development.

B. Muhammad Arham: Machine Learning

Arham took the lead in the machine learning component of the project. He was responsible for algorithm selection, model training, and performance evaluation. Arham's expertise in machine learning methodologies and experimental design played a crucial role in optimizing the classification models and interpreting the results effectively.

C. Momin Waqas: Machine Learning and Deep Learning

Momin made significant contributions to both the machine learning and deep learning aspects of the project. In the machine learning phase, he collaborated closely with Arham to explore various algorithms and techniques for genre classification. Additionally, Momin led the implementation of deep learning architectures, leveraging his expertise in deep learning frameworks and model optimization techniques to enhance classification accuracy and robustness.

Throughout the project, each team member brought unique skills and perspectives to the table, contributing to the overall success of the project. By collaborating closely and leveraging their individual strengths, Sheraz, Arham, and Momin were able to deliver a comprehensive solution to the problem of cinematic genre classification.

D. Acknowledgment: Guidance from Our Teacher, Eesha Tur Razia Babar

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our teacher, Eesha Tur Razia Babar, for her invaluable guidance and support throughout the duration of this project. Her expertise and insights were instrumental in navigating various challenges, particularly during the class imbalance issue. She provided invaluable advice on leveraging libraries and techniques to address class imbalance effectively, which significantly enhanced the robustness of our classification models. Additionally, her mentorship and encouragement bolstered our confidence and motivation, empowering us to overcome obstacles and achieve our research objectives. We are truly grateful for her unwavering support and dedication to our learning journey.

IX. Conclusion & Future Direction

In this section, we summarize our findings and discuss potential directions for future research.

A. Conclusion

Our research aimed to develop effective models for cinematic genre classification based on movie titles and plot synopses. Through rigorous experimentation and evaluation, we demonstrated the feasibility of using machine learning and deep learning techniques for this task. The high accuracy and precision values achieved by our models underscore their potential to automate genre classification tasks and enhance user experience in movie recommendation systems.

By addressing challenges such as class imbalance and multilingual data, we laid the groundwork for further advancements in cinematic genre classification. The collective efforts of our team resulted in the successful development and evaluation of multiple models, each contributing valuable insights into the genre classification process.

B. Future Direction

Moving forward, several avenues for future research emerge from our work. These include:

1. Exploration of ensemble techniques: Investigating the effectiveness of ensemble methods, such as model averaging and stacking, in improving classification accuracy and robustness. 2. Incorporation of additional data modalities: Integrating additional features, such as movie posters and user reviews, to enhance the predictive power of genre classification models. 3. Fine-tuning of deep learning architectures: Further optimization of deep learning models, including hyperparameter tuning and architecture design, to achieve even higher accuracy and generalization capability. 4. Integration with recommendation systems: Integrating genre classification models into movie recommendation systems to provide personalized and relevant recommendations to users.

Overall, our research provides a solid foundation for future investigations into cinematic genre classification, with the potential to revolutionize the way movies are categorized and recommended to audiences.

X. References

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