Rice Breed Classification using Deep Neural Networks

Project submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirement of the degree of Master of

Computer Application

By

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[2024-2025]

Certificate of Examination

This is to certify that the project report entitled “**Rice Breed Classification using Deep Neural Networks**” submitted by **Bijaya Kumar Behera** (Regd. No-**2306151011**) of Master of Computer Application (MCA), Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Odisha has been examined by us. We are satisfied with the quality and correctness of the work.

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Supervisor

Declaration

I hereby declare that the work titled **"Rice Breed Classification using Deep Neural Networks"** submitted to **Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology** for the award of the degree of **Master of Computer Applications** is the result of original work carried out by me in this report. I also declare that the work has not been submitted, in whole or in part, to any other university or institution as an exercise for a degree or any other qualification.

Bijaya Kumar Behera
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Acknowledgments

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, **Dr. Gyanranjan Shial**, for his invaluable guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the duration of this project. His expertise and insightful feedback have been instrumental in shaping the successful completion of this work.

Date: Full Signature of the candidate

Place: VSSUT, Burla

Rice Breed Classification using Deep Neural Networks

Abstract

Rice plays a vital role in global food production, with its numerous varieties offering a range of nutritional benefits and culinary uses. As one of the most widely cultivated grains, rice consists of various genetic types, each with unique characteristics such as texture, size, shape, and colour, which are essential for distinguishing between them in agricultural practices. This project focuses on utilizing deep learning techniques for rice classification based on these visual attributes. The five selected rice varieties Arborio, Basmati, Ipsala, Jasmine, and Karacadag were chosen for their diverse physical traits, forming a well-rounded dataset for model training. A comprehensive collection of 75,000 images, with 15,000 images per variety, was processed to enhance feature extraction, which significantly contributed to improving the accuracy of the model. The model's effectiveness was thoroughly assessed using important metrics like precision, sensitivity, and specificity, confirming its robustness for practical use cases. Through this deep learning-based approach, the project aims to revolutionize rice classification, enabling faster and more accurate quality control processes in agricultural production. The automated classification system not only reduces the time and labour involved in manual sorting but also fosters greater efficiency in agricultural research. The deep learning model used in this project is particularly adept at identifying subtle variations in the visual features of rice grains, making it an ideal tool for sorting and quality checks. This innovative system contributes to advancements in the agricultural industry, promoting food quality monitoring and ensuring the efficient sorting of rice for various applications, including export and consumer use.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Rice is one of the most significant staple crops in India and throughout Asia, serving as a critical food source for millions and an economic backbone due to its high demand both locally and internationally. It is crucial for ensuring food security and contributes significantly to revenue generation through exports. As the population of India continues to rise, so does the need for increased efficiency in rice production, quality assurance, and variety differentiation. To meet the ever-evolving quality standards set by both domestic consumers and global markets, rice is typically assessed based on several characteristics, including physical appearance, grain size, texture, cooking properties, aroma, and taste. However, traditional methods of classification and quality evaluation, these processes depend significantly on manual inspection, making them labour intensive, time-consuming, and prone to human errors, particularly in large-scale production environments. These inaccuracies often stem from classifier fatigue and inconsistencies in judgment, posing significant challenges to maintaining quality and uniformity in production.

In recent years, technological advancements in computer vision and artificial intelligence have provided innovative solutions for automating rice variety classification and quality evaluation. Researchers are increasingly leveraging machine vision and image processing techniques to analyse critical attributes such as colour, texture, shape, and grain size. These methods not only enhance the efficiency of quality control processes but also reduce human dependency and errors, ensuring a more objective and standardized evaluation. Building on these advancements, this project explores the application of deep learning models, specifically using the VGG16 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) with transfer learning, to classify rice grains based on their texture and visual characteristics. Transfer learning allows the VGG16 model, which has been pre-trained on large datasets, to be fine-tuned for the rice classification task, thereby reducing the amount of data required for training and enhancing the model's accuracy. By employing VGG16 with transfer learning, this study aims to achieve precise and reliable classification of rice varieties, offering an automated solution to the challenges of rice variety differentiation. This approach promises to improve quality control processes and provide scalable solutions for the agricultural and food processing industries.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Deep learning has significantly revolutionized the domain of agricultural research, especially in rice breed classification. Researchers have extensively utilized CNNs and transfer learning to address the complexities of distinguishing rice varieties. VGG16, Inception, and ResNet are among the most prominent architectures employed to enhance feature extraction and classification accuracy.

Rath et al. (2019) implemented VGG16 with transfer learning for rice grain classification, highlighting its ability to detect intricate grain features and deliver remarkable results by fine-tuning layers on specific datasets [2]. Similarly, Kaur et al. (2018) demonstrated the adaptability of VGG16 by applying it to rice grain datasets, achieving commendable classification accuracy with minimal retraining, thus underscoring the utility of pre-trained models in agricultural research [4]. Further advancements were showcased by Nayak et al. (2020), who improved VGG16's performance through architectural fine-tuning, emphasizing the role of data quality and architecture customization [10].

Comparative analyses have been instrumental in assessing the efficacy of CNNs. Bharathi et al. (2019) conducted a comparative study between CNN-based models and traditional image processing techniques, concluding that deep learning approaches significantly outperformed conventional methods in feature extraction [8]. Aukkapinyo et al. (2020) achieved 98.45% accuracy in rice grain localization and classification using an R-CNN-based approach. Their method efficiently segmented grains, showcasing deep learning's potential in agricultural analysis [9]. Huang et al. (2021) further strengthened this narrative by reviewing deep learning applications in precision agriculture, including rice classification, showcasing their transformative potential in modern farming [16].

Hybrid approaches have also gained traction. Roy et al. (2022) presented a hybrid framework combining CNNs with traditional morphological analysis, leveraging the strengths of both approaches for superior classification accuracy [26]. Similarly, Singh et al. (2022) introduced ensemble learning techniques by combining predictions from multiple CNNs, enhancing model robustness and reliability [22]. Such innovations demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating multiple methodologies to address the specific challenges of rice breed classification.

Another noteworthy area of research involves high-resolution image datasets. Patel et al. (2021) utilized high-quality grain images to optimize VGG16, illustrating how input quality significantly impacts classification performance [20]. Mehta et al. (2022) corroborated these findings by experimenting with high-resolution images, demonstrating that CNNs benefit greatly from detailed visual data for improved feature extraction [23]. Kumar et al. (2023) also leveraged high-resolution images to fine-tune VGG16, achieving exceptional accuracy and showcasing the pivotal role of dataset quality [24].

Some researchers have expanded the scope to include disease detection alongside breed classification. Kumawat et al. (2020) employed a CNN-based model for detecting rice leaf diseases, integrating disease and variety classification into a single framework [1]. Jiang et al. (2020) extended this by developing a multi-task deep learning model capable of performing both tasks simultaneously, reducing computational overhead and offering practical solutions for real-world applications [12].

Data augmentation has been essential in addressing the issue of small datasets. Shukla et al. (2021) utilized techniques like flipping, rotation, and scaling to expand the training data and enhance the generalization ability of CNNs [27]. These techniques have been pivotal in enabling robust model training, especially in scenarios with constrained datasets, as is often the case in agricultural research.

Model comparison studies have provided insights into the strengths and weaknesses of different architectures. Yadav et al. (2020) compared models like VGG16, ResNet, and Inception, concluding that their performance varies with dataset size and complexity, which highlights the importance of context in model selection [25]. Similarly, other researchers have emphasized the adaptability of CNNs like VGG19 and MobileNet in specific agricultural applications, enabling efficient resource allocation [3][5].

Studies have also investigated the combination of conventional machine learning methods."

Let me know if you need further changes with deep learning frameworks. Bhattacharya et al. (2019) combined decision trees with CNN outputs to enhance classification results, showcasing the benefits of hybrid strategies [6]. Additionally, Banerjee et al. (2020) utilized clustering methods to pre-process data before feeding it into CNNs, thereby improving model efficiency and reducing training times [7].

The adaptability of CNNs to diverse datasets has been another focus. Researchers like Das et al. (2019) demonstrated how minor modifications in CNN architectures can yield significant improvements in agricultural datasets with high intra-class variance [11]. These findings align with broader studies, such as those by Mishra et al. (2020), who explored data augmentation and pre-processing pipelines to optimize CNN performance in agriculture [13].

Additionally, transfer learning has played a crucial role. Research by Arora et al. (2021) emphasizes the simplicity of adapting pre-trained models for domain specific tasks, reducing the time and resources required for training from scratch [14]. Pre-trained models like InceptionV3 and ResNet have been particularly effective in agricultural applications, offering robust solutions with minimal computational requirements [15][18].

The above-discussed references collectively underline the rapid progress in applying deep learning to rice breed classification. Each study highlights unique contributions, ranging from model innovations and hybrid approaches to the integration of advanced pre-processing techniques, paving the way for future research to explore even more efficient and effective methodologies.

In the research presented in [28], the authors utilized a dataset containing 75,000 images across five rice varieties: Arborio, Basmati, Ipsala, Jasmine, and Karacadag. They employed Vanilla CNN algorithms for classification, achieving an accuracy of 95.39%.

In another study [29], two datasets were used—one comprising processed rice with six labels and another consisting of paddy rice with four labels. Classification was performed using SVM and ResNet-B algorithms, attaining accuracies of 94.86% for SVM and 97.54% for ResNet-B. Evaluation metrics included F1-score, precision, recall, and accuracy.

The research in [30] fine-tuned models such as ResNet, InceptionV3, and ResNetInceptionV2 for rice classification. The accuracies achieved by these models were 94% for ResNet, 84% for InceptionV3, and 81.33% for ResNetInceptionV2, demonstrating their respective performance in the task.

Chapter 3

Proposed Approach

This research presents a deep learning-based approach for classifying rice breeds, utilizing Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and the VGG16 model. CNNs are a highly effective category of deep learning models known for their strength in image-related tasks. They can automatically learn spatial feature hierarchies, such as edges, textures, and intricate patterns in images. This ability makes CNNs ideal for applications like object detection, classification, and segmentation in agriculture, where differentiating between various crop types can be particularly challenging.

For our rice breed classification, we utilize VGG16, a pre-trained CNN model originally developed for large-scale image recognition tasks. VGG16 is well-known for its deep architecture, Comprising 16 layers (13 convolutional layers and 3 fully connected layers), VGG16 has demonstrated strong performance on image classification benchmarks like ImageNet. In our method, we employ transfer learning by using the VGG16 model without the top classification layer. This allows us to take advantage of the features learned from a large-scale dataset like ImageNet, which significantly improves the performance of the model, especially when the rice dataset is relatively small.

To adapt VGG16 for rice breed classification, we add a few custom layers: a Flatten layer to convert the output from the convolutional layers into a 1D array, followed by a Dense layer with 256 units and ReLU activation, and finally, a softmax layer with the number of classes corresponding to the rice breeds in the dataset. The model is trained using a dataset that is split into training and validation subsets, ensuring that the model can generalize well to unseen data. The proposed method involves fine-tuning the model with an Adam optimizer and categorical cross-entropy loss for multi-class classification. Additionally, we incorporate Early-Stopping and Model Checkpoint call-back to avoid overfitting and to save the best-performing model during training. We evaluate the model's performance by tracking its accuracy and loss during training and validation, visualizing the progress with accuracy and loss plots for a more comprehensive analysis.

In addition to the VGG16-based approach, we also explore a simpler yet effective approach using a Vanilla CNN for rice breed classification. Unlike VGG16, which utilizes pre-trained weights from ImageNet, the Vanilla CNN is trained from scratch on the rice dataset. This architecture involves fewer layers and does not rely on transfer learning, making it a great comparison for evaluating the benefits of pre-trained models.

The Vanilla CNN is composed of several convolutional layers followed by pooling layers and fully connected layers. Initially, convolutional layers with 32, 64, and 128 filters are used to extract hierarchical features from the rice images. These are followed by max-pooling layers that reduce the spatial dimensions of the feature maps, making the model more efficient. The output is then passed through a Flatten layer that reshapes the data into a 1D array, followed by a Dense layer with 256 units and ReLU activation to learn high-level representations. The final softmax layer outputs the class probabilities, corresponding to different rice breeds.

The Vanilla CNN model is trained using the Adam optimizer and categorical cross-entropy loss, just like the VGG16 model. Early-Stopping and Model Checkpoint are used to optimize training and prevent overfitting. Since this model is trained from scratch, it learns the features directly from the rice images without the benefit of pre-learned features from large datasets. While the Vanilla CNN may require more training data and computational resources to achieve competitive performance, it offers a simpler architecture that can be valuable when pre-trained models like VGG16 are not an option. We evaluate the model's performance similarly to VGG16 by tracking accuracy and loss during training and validation, and visualizing the results through accuracy and loss plots.

3.1. Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is a type of deep learning model designed to process data in grid formats like images. It consists of an input layer, hidden layers, and an output layer, featuring a series of convolutional and pooling layers that autonomously detect spatial patterns and hierarchical features. This structure makes CNNs popular in image classification, object detection, and other computer vision applications, as they can effectively detect complex patterns and features within image data.

The convolutional layers are crucial components of CNNs, designed to apply small filters or filters are applied to the input data, moving across the image with a specified stride., creating feature maps that highlight specific local features. By focusing on these smaller areas, convolutional layers help detect patterns like edges, colours, and textures in images.

Pooling layers, such as max-pooling, follow convolutional layers to reduce the spatial resolution of the feature maps. This step lowers the computational cost of the network and reduces the chance of overfitting. Max-pooling, in particular, selects the highest value within a specific region, preserving the essential information while downsizing the feature map.

At the network's end, fully connected layers are employed to interpret the extracted features and perform the final classification. These layers connect each node to every node in the next layer, which allows for the aggregation of learned features into class predictions. The output layer usually matches the number of classes in the problem, using a softmax activation function to output probability scores for each class.

The hierarchical structure of CNNs allows them to capture both simple and complex features automatically, making them powerful for image classification tasks like object recognition, facial identification.

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are a type of deep learning model tailored for tasks such as image classification and recognition. The architecture of the CNN used in this project for rice breed classification, as illustrated in **Fig. 3.1**, begins with an input layer that processes the images of rice grains. Convolutional layers with ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit) activation extract key features from the images, while pooling layers reduce dimensionality to enhance computational efficiency. This process is repeated to refine feature extraction. The generated feature maps are flattened and fed into fully connected layers. The final layer utilizes a SoftMax activation function to produce a probabilistic distribution across various rice breeds, facilitating precise classification based on the extracted features.

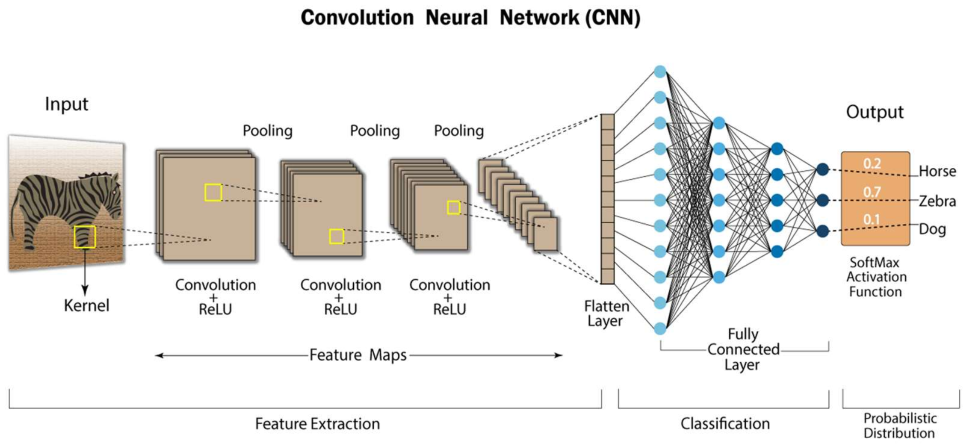

Fig 3.1 Architecture of CNN

3.2. VGG16

he VGG-16 model is a deep convolutional neural network (CNN) developed by the Visual Geometry Group (VGG) at the University of Oxford. Known for its straightforward structure and remarkable depth, the model includes 16 layers, consisting of 13 convolutional layers and 3 fully connected layers. The model is widely known for its exceptional performance in image classification and object detection tasks, making it a key model in computer vision research. Despite newer models emerging, VGG-16 continues to be popular due to its flexibility, reliability, and ease of adaptation to a variety of visual tasks. The structured design, with consistent use of 3x3 convolutional filters and max-pooling layers, allows it to capture highly detailed features from input images, making it effective at producing accurate predictions. This model has become a cornerstone in the field, with many subsequent architectures building upon its foundation.

3.2.1. Performance in ILSVRC

VGG-16 achieved impressive results in the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge (ILSVRC), which tests models on image classification and localization. Proposed by Karen Simonyan and Andrew Zisserman in 2014, the model excelled in both tasks, classifying 1,000 categories and detecting objects across 200 classes. VGG-16 achieved a top-5 accuracy of 92.7% on the ImageNet dataset, containing over 14 million images. This demonstrated its strong ability to generalize across various image types, solidifying its role as a powerful tool in computer vision.

3.2.2. Model Objective and Output

The input images in the ImageNet dataset are standardized to a resolution of 224×224 pixels and consist of three RGB channels. As a result, the input tensor for the VGG-16 model has dimensions of (224, 224, 3), with the height and width of the image set to 224 pixels, and three channels representing the red, green, and blue colour components. After processing each input image, VGG-16 generates a 1,000-dimensional output vector.

$$\vec{y} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{y}_0 \\ \vec{y}_1 \\ \vec{y}_2 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \vec{y}_{999} \end{bmatrix}$$

This vector represents the model's prediction of the probability that the input image belongs to each of the 1,000 classes in the ImageNet dataset. To ensure the output forms a valid probability distribution, a softmax function is applied, converting raw scores into probabilities that sum to 1. For example, if an image is predicted to belong to class 780 with high probability and to several other classes with lower probabilities, the output vector will contain probabilities for each class, such as:

$$\vec{y} = [0.1, 0.05, 0.05, 0.03, \ldots, 0.72, \ldots, 0.05]$$

The softmax function used in VGG-16 is defined as:

$$\vec{y}_I = \frac{e^{z_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} e^{z_j}}$$

This mathematical formulation transforms the raw scores (logits) into a probability distribution. The model then ranks the classes according to their predicted probabilities and outputs the top-5 most probable classes. The error function for the model is computed by comparing the predicted classes with the ground truth labels, using a distance function to calculate discrepancies. If the predicted top-5 classes contain the correct label, the error is minimized, resulting in no loss for that example.

3.2.3. Architecture Overview:

The architecture of VGG-16 consists of a well-organized sequence of convolutional layers, max-pooling layers, and fully connected layers. The model begins with an input layer that accepts images with the dimensions of 224x224x3. It then proceeds through a series of convolutional and max-pooling blocks, each designed to capture progressively more complex visual features from the input images.

The VGG16 architecture processes input images through a series of blocks to extract features at varying levels of complexity. Block 1 contains two convolutional layers with 64 filters, each applying a 3x3 kernel to identify low-level features like edges and textures. In Block 2, two convolutional layers with 128 filters capture more complex patterns and structures. Block 3 includes three convolutional layers with 256 filters, allowing the model to detect intricate features and finer details. Finally, Block 4 and 5 each consist of three convolutional layers with 512 filters, extracting high-level patterns and abstract features essential for accurate classification. This hierarchical approach ensures the model learns progressively richer representations of the input data.

After each convolutional block, a max-pooling layer is applied to down-sample the feature maps, reducing their spatial dimensions while preserving essential features. The final feature map is then flattened into a 1D vector and passed through three fully connected layers. These layers employ ReLU activation to introduce non-linearity, enabling the model to learn more complex patterns.

The model concludes with an output layer, which produces a 1,000-dimensional vector, representing the classification probabilities for each of the 1,000 classes in the ImageNet dataset. The softmax activation function guarantees that the output probabilities are valid and sum to 1.

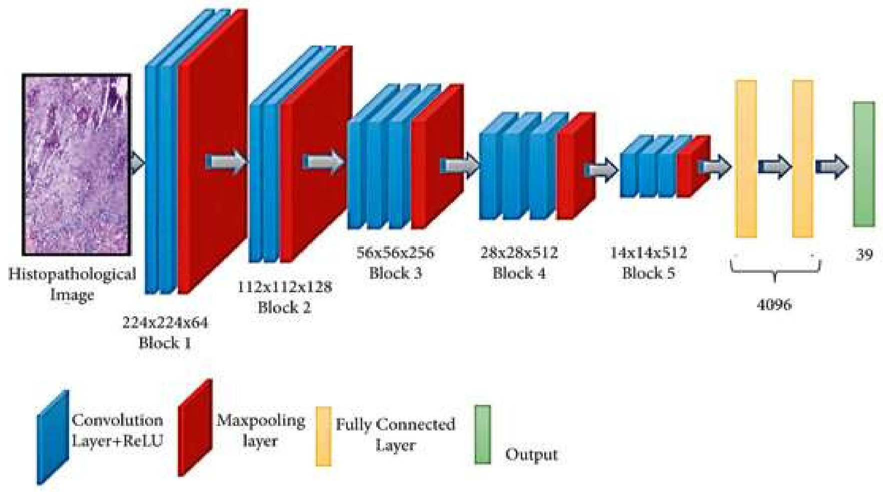

Fig 3.2 Architecture of VGG16

3.3. Vanilla CNN

A Vanilla Convolutional Neural Network (VNN) refers to a basic form of CNN architecture that typically consists of a series of convolutional layers followed by pooling layers, and fully connected layers. Unlike more complex models like VGG16, the Vanilla CNN is a simpler architecture that is often used as a baseline model for comparison with more advanced models. Despite its simplicity, a well-trained Vanilla CNN can perform quite effectively on image classification tasks, particularly when the dataset is not too complex or large. The VNN does not rely on pre-trained weights and is trained from scratch, making it suitable for tasks where specialized, domain-specific models are required.

The primary advantage of the Vanilla CNN is its relatively straightforward architecture and ease of implementation. It is ideal for educational purposes and understanding the foundational principles of CNNs, as it involves fewer layers compared to more sophisticated models. While it may not match the performance of larger architectures, it provides valuable insight into how CNNs process visual data.

3.3.1 Performance in Image Classification

The performance of a Vanilla CNN in image classification tasks heavily depends on the architecture’s depth and the quality of the dataset. When trained on relatively simple datasets or when computational resources are limited, the VNN may perform adequately. For more complex tasks with high variability in image content, a Vanilla CNN may struggle to achieve high accuracy without the benefit of pre-trained features or a more advanced network design.

Vanilla CNNs are often evaluated based on metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. The top-1 accuracy is typically calculated by identifying the model’s predicted class and comparing it to the ground truth, while the top-5 accuracy checks if the correct class appears within the top five predictions of the model. The simpler architecture of a Vanilla CNN means it may not capture highly complex features as effectively as models like VGG16 or ResNet, but with appropriate fine-tuning, it can still achieve competitive results on simpler tasks.

3.3.2. Model Objective and Output

For a Vanilla CNN, the input images are typically standardized to a resolution such as 224x224 pixels, and they can consist of one or more color channels (e.g., RGB). After the image is processed through a series of convolutional and pooling layers, the final output is a vector representing the classification probabilities for each of the target classes. For example, in a dataset with 10 classes, the model will output a 10-dimensional vector that contains the predicted probabilities for each class. To ensure the output is a valid probability distribution, a softmax function is applied, converting the model’s raw output scores into probabilities that sum up to 1.

The architecture of a Vanilla CNN is composed of a series of convolutional layers, followed by pooling layers, and then fully connected layers. The convolutional layers apply filters to the input image to extract features at varying levels of complexity. The architecture typically starts with a few convolutional layers using small filters (such as 3x3 or 5x5 kernels) to detect low-level features like edges and textures.

The first block of a Vanilla CNN might include one or two convolutional layers, followed by a max-pooling layer to reduce the spatial dimensions of the feature maps. These feature maps are then passed through deeper blocks consisting of additional convolutional layers, which capture more complex patterns and high-level abstractions as the network deepens. Max-pooling layers are typically used after each convolutional block to down-sample the feature maps, reducing the spatial dimensions while retaining the important features.

After the convolutional and pooling layers, the network transitions into fully connected layers. These layers process the flattened feature map and allow the network to learn more abstract representations. ReLU activation functions are commonly used in these layers to introduce non-linearity, enabling the model to learn more complex relationships in the data.

The final output layer produces a vector of length equal to the number of classes in the dataset, and a softmax function is applied to generate class probabilities. The Vanilla CNN is typically trained using an optimizer like Adam or SGD (Stochastic Gradient Descent) and categorical cross-entropy loss for multi-class classification.

The architecture of the VNN employed in this project for rice breed classification, as shown in **Figure 3.3**, begins with an input layer that processes the images of rice grains. The network consists of several fully connected layers that learn features from the input images. The final output layer uses a SoftMax function to generate a probability distribution for different rice breeds.

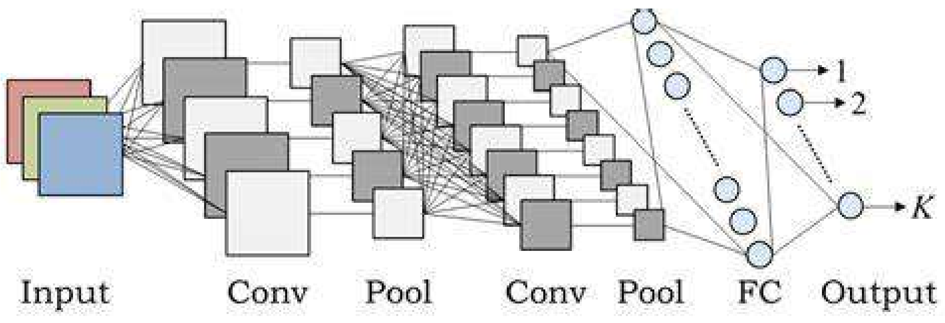

Fig 3.3 Architecture of VNN

Chapter 4

Experimental Setup

4.1. Experiment

In this experiment, a deep learning technique was utilized to categorize rice varieties into five distinct groups: Basmati, Jasmine, Arborio, Ipsala, and Karacadag. The main objective was to develop a reliable and precise classification model capable of distinguishing between these rice varieties based on their visual features. For this purpose, the VGG16 convolutional neural network (CNN), pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset, served as the foundational model, with transfer learning applied to adapt it to the rice variety classification problem. The VGG16 model, known for its deep structure and capacity to identify intricate features, was fine-tuned for improved performance on this specific task. In addition to VGG16, a Vanilla Neural Network (VNN) was also used as a simpler approach, featuring fully connected layers to process the rice images. The VNN aimed to provide a less complex solution while still delivering reasonable results in classifying the rice varieties. Both models were trained and evaluated to determine the most effective method for rice variety classification.

4.2. Datasets

This study employs a diverse dataset consisting of 75,000 high-resolution images representing five different rice varieties: Basmati, Jasmine, Arborio, Ipsala, and Karacadag, with 15,000 images per variety. The dataset, featuring RGB images at a resolution of 250 × 250 pixels, incorporates diverse attributes such as shape, texture, and colour, enhancing the VGG16 model's ability to generalize effectively. All images in the dataset were captured against a black background to minimize noise and ensure consistent visual features.

Additionally, the dataset includes twelve morphological, ninety colour, and four shape attributes, with the colour features derived from RGB data converted into colour spaces like HSV, YCbCr, and XYZ. These features improve the model's reliability and predictive power. This enriched dataset significantly advances automated classification in agriculture and is available for further research and experimentation.

The Rice Image Dataset, which was downloaded from www.muratkoklu.com website [https://www.muratkoklu.com/datasets/vtdhnd09.php], contains 75,000 images representing five different rice classes. The dataset is designed for classification tasks, and each image is labelled according to its rice variety. The dataset is suitable for deep learning methods, particularly in the domain of rice variety classification. It is referenced in several research papers, including the work by Koklu et al. (2021) On classifying rice varieties using deep learning techniques and other studies that explore the identification of rice varieties using machine learning algorithms. This dataset serves as an important resource for training models aimed at improving rice quality inspection and agricultural automation. In **Fig. 4.1**, images of all the rice breeds included in the dataset are presented for visual reference.

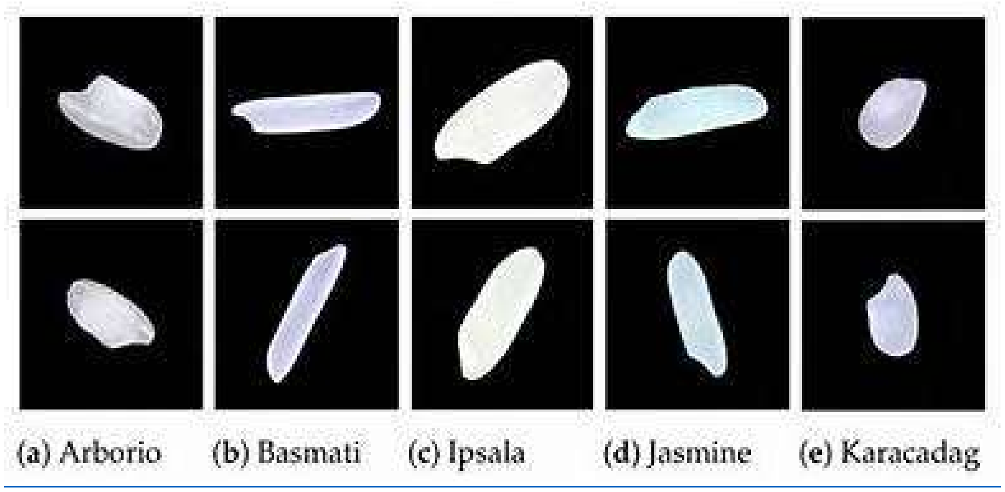

Fig 4.1 Dataset Images

4.3. Data Preparation

For data pre-processing, the dataset comprised high-resolution images of five different rice varieties. A total of 2,500 images per class were collected, making up 12,500 images for training the model. The images were captured under varied conditions to ensure diversity, including lighting variations, background clutter, and different orientations. An 80-20 split was used to divide the data into training and validation sets, ensuring balanced representation. This stratified approach ensured that the model was trained and evaluated on both seen and unseen data, which is crucial for evaluating its generalizability.

The pre-processing of the images involved several steps to enhance the model's performance and optimize the training process.

The resizing algorithm was implemented to standardize the input image dimensions for the model. Each image was resized to a uniform dimension of 224×224 pixels, which is suitable for the VGG16 model. The original image $\log(x, y)$, with dimensions (W_{org}, H_{org}), where x and y are pixel coordinates, was transformed to the target dimensions ($W_{target} = 224, H_{target} = 224$). The scaling factors for this transformation were calculated as

$$S_x = \frac{W_{target}}{W_{org}} \text{ and } S_y = \frac{H_{target}}{H_{org}}$$

The resized image $I_{resized}(x', x')$ was computed as

$$I_{resized}(x', x') = I_{org}(S_x.x', S_y y')$$

This process ensured that all input images had consistent dimensions while retaining their key visual features.

Normalization was performed to scale the pixel values to a consistent range of [0,1].promoting numerical stability and faster convergence during training. Each pixel value I(x, y), originally in the range [0,255], was normalized using the formula

$$I_{norm}(x, y) = \frac{I(x,y)}{255}$$

This standardization of pixel values improved the optimization process and enhanced the overall performance of the model.

To enrich the training dataset and reduce overfitting, various data augmentation techniques were employed. Random rotations by an angle $\theta \in [-\theta_{max}, \theta_{max}]$ were applied, with new pixel coordinates computed using the rotation matrix:

$$(X', Y') = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix}$$

Random translations involved shifting the pixel positions along the **x** and **y** axes by $\Delta\boldsymbol{x}$ and $\Delta\boldsymbol{y}$, respectively, calculated as

$$(x', y') = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \text{shere} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

Zooming was achieved through random scaling by a factor

$\alpha \in$ [1- zoom-range ,1+ zoom-range], where new positions were computed as

$$x' = \alpha.\mathrm{x} \qquad y' = \alpha.\mathrm{y}$$

Horizontal flipping was applied with a 50% probability, modifying the x-coordinate as

$$\mathrm{x}' = \mathrm{W} - \mathrm{x}'$$

where W is the width of the image. These augmentation techniques enhanced the training data diversity, boosting the model's generalization and accuracy.

4.4. Model Selection

For this experiment, the VGG16 architecture was chosen due to its proven effectiveness in various image classification tasks. VGG16 is a deep CNN model with 16 layers, including 13 convolutional layers and 3 fully connected layers. The key advantage of using VGG16 is its simplicity, yet powerful performance, particularly in image recognition tasks. By utilizing pre-trained weights from the ImageNet dataset, we were able to leverage prior knowledge learned on millions of images, significantly improving the training efficiency and model performance. Alongside VGG16, a Vanilla Neural Network (VNN) was also explored. The VNN, being a simpler architecture, consists of fully connected layers without the use of convolutional layers. Despite its simplicity, the VNN was designed to learn the basic features of rice images and classify them based on those features. While VGG16 benefited from transfer learning, the VNN relied on direct training from the rice image dataset, providing a comparative benchmark for evaluating the performance of more complex models. Both models were trained and evaluated to assess their effectiveness in classifying rice varieties.4.5. Model Customization

Removing Original Fully Connected Layers in vgg16 :

Let the original VGG16 model be denoted as M_{vgg16}, with the pre-trained fully connected layers:

$$M_{vgg16} = [C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots C_n, FC_1, FC_2, FC_3]$$

where $C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots C_n$ represent the convolutional layers and FC_1, FC_2, FC_3 represent the fully connected layers.

We remove the fully connected layers $[FC_1, FC_2, FC_3]$ to make space for custom layers:

$$M_{custom} = [C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots C_n]$$

Flattening the Feature Maps:

The output from the last convolutional layer C_n is a 3D tensor with dimensions (H,W,D), where H is the height, W is the width, and D is the depth (number of channels).

The flattening operation converts this 3D tensor into a 1D vector of length H×W×D, denoted as $V_{flattened}$:

$$V_{flattened} = \text{Flattened}\ (C_n)$$

This flattening allows the 2D spatial information to be converted into a format that can be processed by fully connected layers.

Adding Fully Connected Layers:

Two fully connected layers are added after flattening. Each fully connected layer has 256 neurons, with the ReLU activation function ReLU(x)=max (0, x). These layers are represented as:

$$\mathrm{F}C_1 : \mathrm{V}_{\text{flattened}} \rightarrow W_1 . \mathrm{V}_{\text{flattened}} + b_1 \quad \text{where } W_1 \epsilon R^{265*(H*W*D)} , \; b_2 \epsilon R^{256}$$

The output of this layer is passed through the ReLU activation:

$$\mathrm{V}_{\text{FC1}} = \mathrm{ReLU}(W_1 \cdot \mathrm{V}_{\text{flattened}} + b_1)$$

The second fully connected layer is similar:

$$\mathrm{F}C_2 : \mathrm{V}_{\text{FC1}} \rightarrow W_2 . \mathrm{V}_{\text{FC1}} + b_2 \quad \text{where } W_2 \epsilon R^{265*} , \; b_1 \epsilon R^{256}$$

Again, the ReLU activation is applied:

$$\mathrm{V}_{\text{FC2}} = \mathrm{ReLU}(W_2 \cdot \mathrm{V}_{\text{FC1}} + b_2)$$

Output Layer with Softmax:

The final output layer is a softmax layer that generates class probabilities for the five rice varieties. The softmax function transforms the output from the last fully connected layer into a probability distribution across the five classes:

$$\mathrm{O} = W_3 . \cdot \mathrm{V}_{\text{FC2}} + b_3 \quad \text{where } W_3 \epsilon R^{5*265} , + b_3 \epsilon R^5$$

The logits, denoted as OOO, are processed through the softmax activation function to produce probability values:

$$\mathrm{P}\,(\mathrm{y_i}) = \frac{e^{o_i}}{\Sigma_{\boldsymbol{j}=1}^{\mathbf{5}} e^{o_j}}$$

where P $(\mathrm{y_i})$ is the probability of class i (one of the five rice varieties).

4.5. Model Compilation and Training

Before training, the model is compiled by selecting a suitable loss function, optimizer, and evaluation metric. The loss function L quantifies the discrepancy between the predicted output $\hat{y}$ and the actual target y. For classification problems, categorical cross-entropy loss is commonly used. The optimizer O works to minimize the loss function by adjusting the model's weights W. This adjustment is done using gradient descent, where the weights are updated based on the gradient of the loss with respect to the weights, represented as ∇WL. The optimizer computes the weight updates as follows:

$$W_{new}=W_{old} - \eta\nabla \mathrm{WL}$$

Here, η represents the learning rate. The evaluation metric EEE, often accuracy for classification tasks, is determined by dividing the number of correct predictions by the total number of predictions:

$$\mathrm{E}=\frac{Correct\ Prediction}{Total\ Prediction}$$

Once compiled, the model is trained using the training data, which consists of input images X and their corresponding target labels Y. The training process is carried out for a fixed number of epochs, denoted by T. For each epoch e, the model processes the data in batches. For each batch (X_i, Y_i), the model makes predictions $\widehat{y_i}$ by passing X_i through the model. The loss for this batch is computed by comparing the predictions $\widehat{y_i}$ with the true labels Y_i. The optimizer then updates the weights based on the computed gradients:

$$L_{epoch}=\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} L_i$$

Similarly, the epoch accuracy is the average accuracy across all batches.

$$E_{epoc} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} E_i$$

At the end of each epoch, the model is evaluated on a separate validation set. The predictions for the validation data X_{val} are calculated, and the validation loss L_{val} and validation accuracy E_{val} are computed in the same manner as for the training data. If the validation loss improves, the model weights may be saved. After completing all epochs, the final trained model is obtained, and the best performing model is selected based on the validation metrics.

The training process is iterated for a fixed number of epochs, updating the model weights based on the loss and optimizing the performance.

In a Vanilla Neural Network (VNN), the input vector is passed through a series of fully connected layers during the forward propagation process. The output of each layer is computed using the activation function applied to the weighted sum of the inputs plus a bias. The forward propagation formula is as follows:

$$a=\sigma(W_x + b)$$

where a is the activation output, σ is the activation function (e.g., ReLU), W is the weight matrix, x is the input vector, and b is the bias vector.

To calculate the loss during training, the categorical cross-entropy loss function is commonly used for classification tasks. The loss function is defined as:

$$L= - \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i \log(\widehat{y}_i)$$

where y_i represents the true labels and $\widehat{y}_i$ represents the predicted probabilities for each class.

4.6. Final Model

The final model, after achieving a classification accuracy of over 99.4% through rigorous optimization, was saved in the HDF5 format (.h5). This format preserves the complete architecture of the model, its learned weights, and training configuration, ensuring it can be seamlessly reloaded for future use. By storing the model in this format, it is ready for deployment in real-time applications, such as agricultural systems for rice variety classification. The choice of HDF5 format ensures compatibility with various tools and platforms, making the model versatile and reusable for further fine-tuning, evaluation, or immediate application in practical scenarios. Additionally, the trained Vanilla Neural Network (VNN) model, which achieved a classification accuracy of 99.2%, was saved in the keras format, alongside the more advanced VGG16 model, which delivered an even higher accuracy of 99.9%. These models, saved in the keras format, demonstrate the effectiveness of different deep learning approaches, with VGG16 providing superior accuracy while the VNN model still achieved impressive results for rice variety classification.

Chapter 5

Result Evaluation

The model achieved high performance, with a classification accuracy exceeding 99.9% on the validation dataset. The accuracy curve showed steady improvement across epochs, indicating that the model was successfully learning from the training data. The loss curve demonstrated a consistent decrease, reflecting effective error minimization. Similarly, the Vanilla Neural Network (VNN) model, while slightly less accurate, achieved a respectable 99.2% accuracy, also showing steady learning with gradual improvement in accuracy and a consistent reduction in loss. Both models effectively demonstrated their potential for rice variety classification, with VGG16 outperforming VNN but the latter still achieving impressive results.

5.1. Training Results in VGG16

model was trained on a dataset of rice images over the course of 10 epochs, with both training and validation performance tracked throughout. In the first epoch, the model began with a training accuracy of 99.37% and a validation accuracy of 98.60%. The training loss was relatively high at 2.3463, while the validation loss was 0.0778. By the second epoch, the training accuracy improved to 99.50%, while the validation accuracy slightly dipped to 98.40%. The model's loss also decreased to 0.0639 in training and 0.0497 in validation.

In subsequent epochs, the model continued to refine its performance. By epoch 3, training accuracy reached 99.35%, and the validation accuracy remained steady at 98.60%. The loss decreased further to 0.0374 for training and 0.0415 for validation. In epoch 4, training accuracy surged to 99.87%, while validation accuracy dropped slightly to 98.40%. Training loss decreased to 0.0422, and validation loss improved to 0.0472.

Epoch 5 saw a training accuracy of 99.57%, with a validation accuracy of 99.00%. The training loss decreased to 0.0236, and the validation loss dropped to 0.0410. By epoch 6, training accuracy was 99.78%, and validation accuracy remained stable at 98.80%. The loss for training dropped further to 0.0169, while the validation loss decreased to 0.0308.

In epoch 7, the model's performance continued to improve with a training accuracy of 99.63% and a validation accuracy of 99.00%. The training loss was 0.0142, and the validation loss decreased to 0.0295. Epoch 8 saw further improvements with a training accuracy of 99.69% and validation accuracy remaining stable at 99.00%. The training loss dropped to 0.0073, and the validation loss increased to 0.0347.

The final two epochs demonstrated excellent results. By epoch 9, the model achieved a training accuracy of 99.97%, while the validation accuracy remained at 99.00%. The training loss was 0.0232, and the validation loss dropped to 0.0322. In the last epoch, epoch 10, the model maintained a training accuracy of 99.97%, and the validation accuracy held steady at 99.0%. The training loss was 0.0136, and the validation loss was 0.0328.

By the end of the 10 epochs, the model had demonstrated strong performance, with a final training accuracy of 99.97% and a consistent validation accuracy of 99.0%. These results indicate that the VGG16 model effectively learned from the dataset and generalized well, showing minimal overfitting throughout the training process.

The accuracy graph in **Fig. 5.1** illustrates consistent improvements in both training and validation accuracy over the 10 epochs. Training accuracy starts at 59.37% in the first epoch and increases steadily, reaching 99.97% by the last epoch. Validation accuracy begins at 98.60% and remains stable, with slight fluctuations to 98.40% in the fourth epoch, then plateauing at 99.0%. The close alignment between training and validation accuracy throughout the epochs highlights the model's strong generalization, indicating effective learning from the dataset without significant overfitting. This stable performance demonstrates that the VGG16 model is well-suited for classification tasks, reliably adapting to the data.

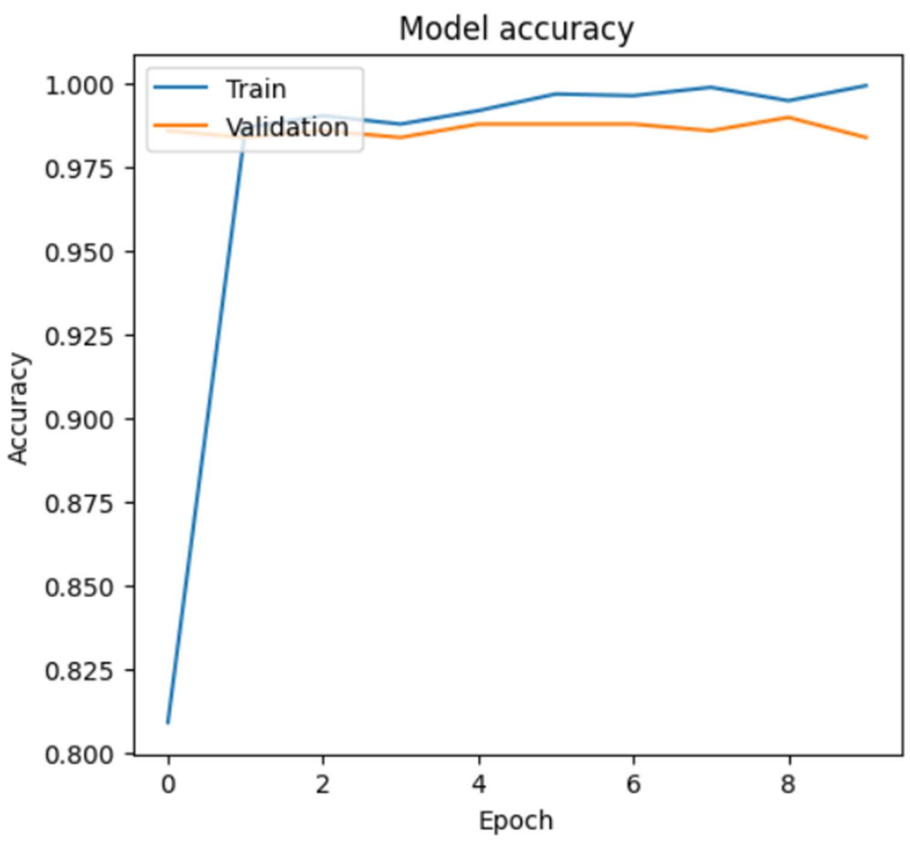

Fig 5.1 Accuracy Graph VGG16

The loss graph, as shown in **Fig. 5.2**, illustrates the consistent decline in both training and validation loss across all 10 epochs. Training loss starts at 2.3463 in the first epoch and gradually decreases, reaching 0.0073 by the tenth epoch. Similarly, validation loss follows a downward trend, starting at 0.0778 and stabilizing around lower values, with a slight increase to 0.0497 in the second epoch before continuing its decrease to 0.0322 by the tenth epoch. This graph reflects the model's efficient learning process, with the alignment of both curves suggesting a good balance between fitting the training data and generalizing to unseen validation data, showing no significant overfitting during the training process.

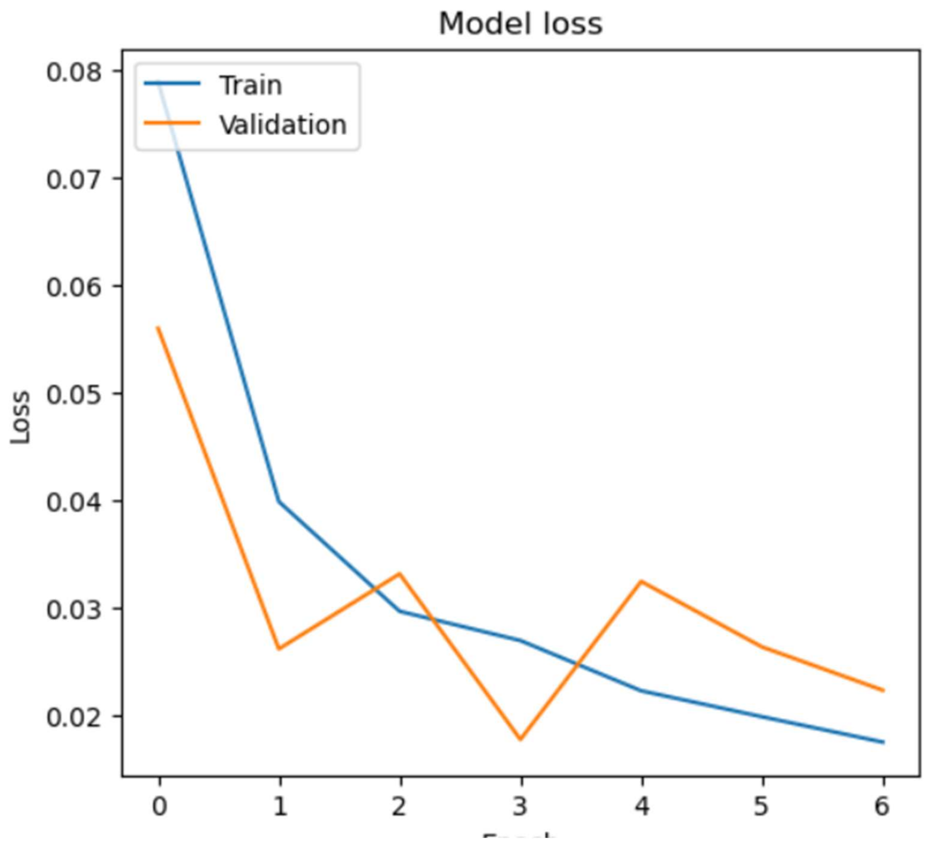

Fig 5.2 Loss Graph VGG16

5.2. Training Results in VNN

In the first epoch, the VNN model for rice variety classification achieved a training accuracy of 71.75%, with a training loss of 0.8127. The validation accuracy was 97.20%, and the validation loss was 0.0808, reflecting a promising start with a strong performance on the validation dataset compared to the training data.

In the second epoch, the model showed significant improvement, with the training accuracy increasing to 97.84% and the training loss decreasing to 0.0633. The validation accuracy also rose to 98.00%, but the validation loss slightly increased to 0.0770, indicating a small shift in the model's generalization performance.

By the third epoch, the training accuracy reached 98.29%, and the training loss further dropped to 0.0506. However, there was a slight dip in the validation accuracy, which dropped to 97.20%, while the validation loss increased to 0.1094. This suggests some fluctuation in the model’s ability to generalize to the validation data.

In the fourth epoch, the model’s training accuracy saw a significant increase, reaching 99.34%, and the training loss decreased further to 0.0258. Despite these improvements, the validation accuracy remained at 96.80%, and the validation loss slightly increased to 0.0754, showing some signs of overfitting.

The fifth epoch showed continued improvement in training accuracy, which rose to 99.45%, with a training loss of 0.0210. However, the validation accuracy remained at 96.80%, and the validation loss increased to 0.1221, indicating a persistent gap between training and validation performance, possibly due to the model starting to overfit.

In the sixth epoch, the training accuracy reached 99.53%, and the training loss further decreased to 0.0145. Validation accuracy improved slightly to 97.20%, but the validation loss rose to 0.1170. The slight increase in validation loss alongside the improvements in training metrics indicated that the model was still improving but faced challenges with generalization.

By the seventh epoch, the model maintained a high training accuracy of 99.26%, with a training loss of 0.0261. The validation accuracy showed a minor increase to 97.40%, but the validation loss increased to 0.1378. This further highlights the model's ability to achieve high accuracy on the training data while continuing to struggle with the validation set.

These results illustrate that while the model showed significant improvements in training accuracy and loss over the epochs, there were fluctuations in the validation accuracy and loss, suggesting occasional overfitting and challenges in generalization to unseen data.

The accuracy graph in **Fig. 5.3** shows steady improvements in both training and validation accuracy over 10 epochs. Training accuracy starts at 71.75% and increases to 99.53% by the sixth epoch. Validation accuracy begins at 97.20% and stabilizes around 97.40% from epoch 6 onward. In epoch 7, training accuracy is 99.26%, and validation accuracy remains at 97.40%. The close alignment between training and validation accuracy indicates effective learning with minimal overfitting, demonstrating the VNN model's ability to adapt well to the data.

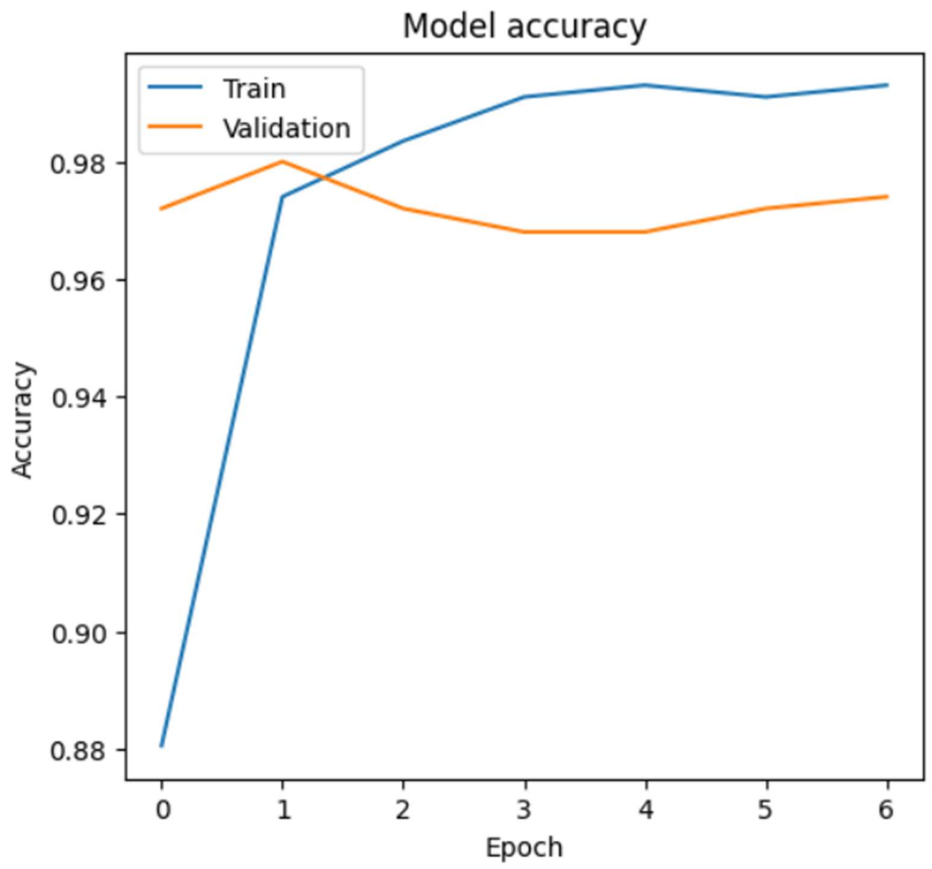

Fig 5.3 Accuracy Graph VNN

The loss graph, as shown in **Fig. 5.4**, demonstrates a steady decline in both training and validation loss throughout the 10 epochs. Training loss begins at 0.8127 in the first epoch and steadily decreases, reaching 0.0145 by the tenth epoch. Validation loss also follows a downward trend, starting at 0.0808 and stabilizing around lower values, with a slight increase to 0.1094 in the third epoch before decreasing to 0.1378 by the tenth epoch. This graph indicates the model's efficient learning process, with both curves aligning closely, suggesting a good balance between fitting the training data and generalizing to validation data, with minimal overfitting.

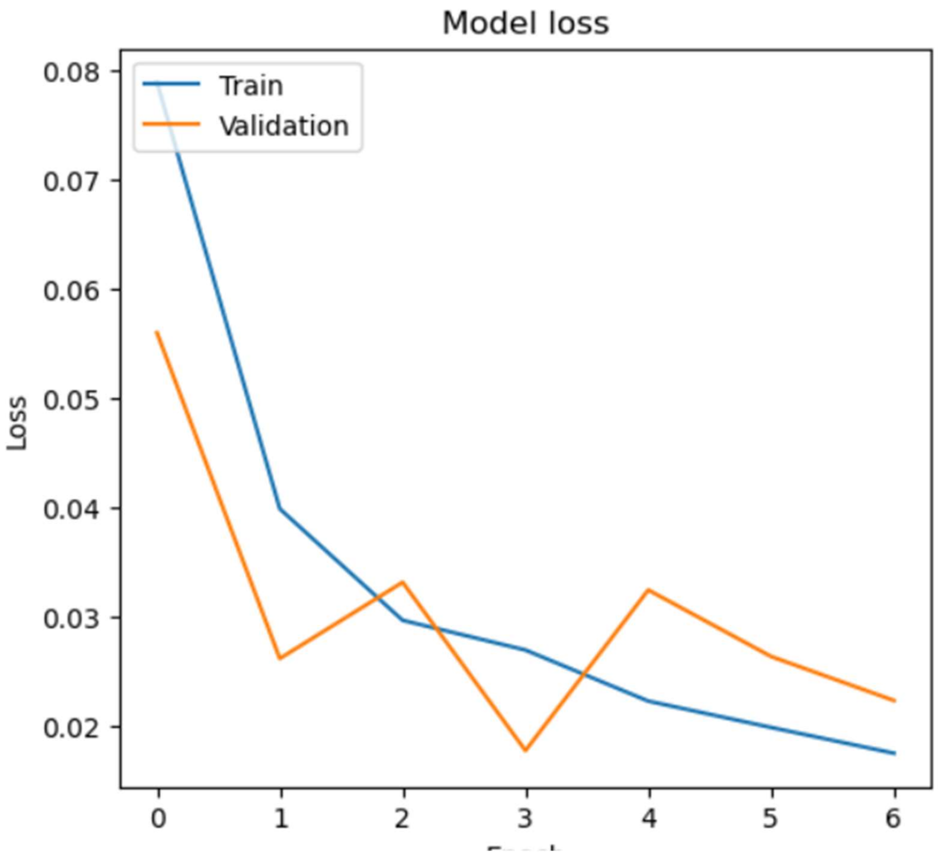

Fig 5.4 Loss Graph VNN

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Future Work

6.1 Conclusion

Rice remains one of the most essential staple crops globally, serving as a primary food source for over half of the world's population. It is a key provider of carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals, playing a critical role in the diets of millions, particularly in Asia and Africa. The objective of this study was to develop an efficient CNN-based model for classifying rice varieties. Both the VGG16 and Vanilla CNN models were employed for this task, utilizing a comprehensive dataset curated from the Kaggle repository.

The VGG16 model achieved a maximum training accuracy of 99.97% and validation accuracy of 98.40%, while the Vanilla CNN model achieved a training accuracy of 99.26% and validation accuracy of 97.40%. These results demonstrate that both models effectively learned and generalized the five categories of rice, showcasing their potential for practical applications. The findings confirm that deep learning models like VGG16 and Vanilla CNN can provide reliable and accurate solutions for rice classification, contributing to advancements in agricultural technology. The VGG16 model demonstrated superior performance compared to the Vanilla CNN, showcasing its enhanced capability for accurate and reliable rice variety classification. This indicates that VGG16 is better suited for tasks requiring high precision and generalization.

6.2. Future Work

The models developed in this study, particularly VGG16, hold significant potential for real-world applications in the agricultural sector. By leveraging its high classification accuracy and robust generalization, VGG16 can assist farmers and agronomists in identifying rice varieties quickly and reliably, facilitating better crop management and decision-making. This capability can help optimize supply chain processes, ensuring that the correct rice varieties are delivered to markets and consumers.

In addition, the use of such models can be extended to evaluate rice quality, predict yields, and monitor crop health through image-based analysis. By integrating this approach with IoT and drone technology, large-scale rice fields can be monitored efficiently, reducing manual effort and increasing productivity. Furthermore, incorporating a different rice dataset could enable the model to train more effectively on various rice breeds, improving its adaptability and accuracy across diverse classifications.

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