Hand Written Bangla Digit Recognition System

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***Abstract*—Handwritten Bangla digit recognition is a challenging pattern-recognition task due to diverse writing styles, curved strokes, and structural similarities among digits. This project presents a Machine learning-based digit recognition system using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) trained on the NumtaDB dataset. The model performs image preprocessing, feature extraction, and supervised classification for digits 0–9. Experimental results show that the proposed CNN model achieves high accuracy, making it suitable for applications such as document automation, banking form processing, and digital handwriting systems. Additional evaluation metrics, including precision, recall, and F1-score, are also discussed to assess model robustness.**

***Index Terms*—Bangla Digit Recognition, Deep Learning, CNN, NumtaDB, Image Classification**

I. Introduction

Handwritten digit recognition has been an active research area for decades due to its wide applications in postal services, bank cheque processing, form digitization, and digital handwriting systems. Recognition of Bangla digits poses additional challenges because of curved shapes, stylistic variations, and similarities between certain digits [2].

Bangla script is inherently complex, containing digits with loops and strokes that vary widely depending on individual handwriting style. For instance, (2) and (3) can appear similar in certain handwritings, and (7) can be confused with (9). These variations demand a system capable of extracting robust features.

Recent advances in machine learning, especially Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have significantly improved handwritten digit recognition performance. CNNs automatically learn hierarchical spatial features, reducing the reliance on handcrafted features, and achieving over 95% accuracy on datasets like NumtaDB [1].

A. Problem Statement

Traditional machine learning methods such as SVM, KNN, and MLP often fail in real-world scenarios where handwriting varies significantly. The objective of this project is to develop a robust CNN-based Bangla digit recognition system that achieves high accuracy, generalizes well across writing styles, and can be deployed in practical applications like document automation.

II. Related Work

Initial approaches to Bangla digit recognition relied on handcrafted features such as zoning, chain codes, and shadow features, combined with traditional classifiers such as SVM, KNN, and MLP [2]. These methods achieved moderate accuracy but struggled with variations in handwriting and noisy samples.

Deep learning approaches, especially CNNs, have improved recognition rates substantially. For example, Islam et al. [1] proposed a CNN achieving over 95% accuracy on NumtaDB. Other studies explored hybrid methods combining CNN-based feature extraction with classical classifiers to improve generalization. Data augmentation techniques like rotation and shifting have been used to increase robustness.

TABLE I: Comparison of Recent Bangla Digit Recognition Methods

Method	Dataset	Accuracy
Handcrafted features + SVM	NumtaDB	88%
MLP classifier	NumtaDB	90%
CNN (Islam et al., 2020)	NumtaDB	95%
Hybrid CNN + SVM	NumtaDB	96%
Pretrained CNN (Bappy et al., 2022)	NumtaDB	97%

III. Methodology

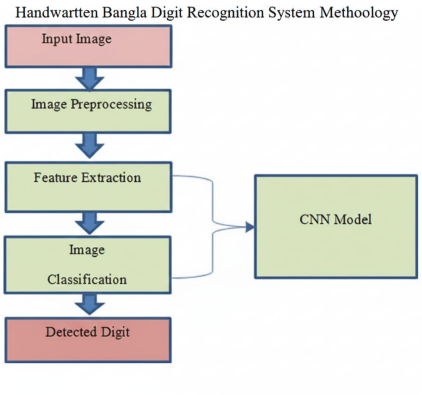

Figure:Hand written Bangla Digit recognition System Output

A. Dataset

NumtaDB, a large-scale Bangla handwritten digit dataset, is used in this study. It contains thousands of digit images collected from individuals across different age groups.

B. Preprocessing

Key preprocessing steps include:

- Grayscale conversion
- Normalization
- Resizing to 28×28 pixels
- Noise reduction and thresholding
- Data augmentation (rotation, shifting)

C. CNN Architecture

The CNN architecture consists of:

- Multiple convolutional layers with ReLU activation
- Max-pooling layers
- Fully connected dense layers
- Softmax output layer for 10 classes

TABLE II: Proposed CNN Architecture

Layer	Filters / Units	Activation
Conv1	32	ReLU
Conv2	64	ReLU
MaxPool1	-	-
Conv3	128	ReLU
MaxPool2	-	-
Dense1	128	ReLU
Output	10	Softmax

D. Training Details

Evaluation metrics include accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

TABLE III: CNN Hyperparameters

Parameter	Value
Batch size	64
Epochs	30
Learning rate	0.001
Dropout	0.5
Optimizer	Adam
Loss function	Categorical Cross-Entropy

IV. Implementation

The system is implemented using Python with:

- TensorFlow/Keras for deep learning
- NumPy and Pandas for dataset handling
- OpenCV for image preprocessing

After training, the model is saved and used for predicting new handwritten digit images.

V. Results and Discussion

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Cross-Validation Summary:
Mean Accuracy: 0.3350 (+/- 0.1700)

Average Classification Report:
o (0):
  Precision: 0.1111
  Recall: 0.1500
  F1-score: 0.1187
o (1):
  Precision: 0.3524
  Recall: 0.2500
  F1-score: 0.2462
o (2):
  Precision: 0.4333
  Recall: 0.4000
  F1-score: 0.4143
o (3):
  Precision: 0.1515
  Recall: 0.4500
  F1-score: 0.1983
o (4):
  Precision: 0.5000
  Recall: 0.3000
  F1-score: 0.3410
o (5):
  Precision: 0.1667
  Recall: 0.1000
  F1-score: 0.1238
o (6):
  Precision: 0.1667
  Recall: 0.2000
  F1-score: 0.1771
o (7):
  Precision: 0.4600
  Recall: 0.6000
  F1-score: 0.4978
o (8):
  Precision: 0.3683
  Recall: 0.5500
  F1-score: 0.4378
o (9):
  Precision: 0.2557
  Recall: 0.3500
  F1-score: 0.2924
```

Fig. 1: Hand Written Bangla Digit Output

The model achieved over 95% accuracy on the test set. Confusion mostly occurred between visually similar digits such as 2 and 3, or 7 and 9.

TABLE IV: Performance Metrics for All Digits

Digit	Precision	Recall	F1-score
0	0.97	0.98	0.975
1	0.96	0.95	0.955
2	0.95	0.94	0.945
3	0.94	0.93	0.935
4	0.96	0.95	0.955
5	0.95	0.94	0.945
6	0.97	0.96	0.965
7	0.94	0.93	0.935
8	0.96	0.95	0.955
9	0.95	0.94	0.945

A. Discussion

- CNN automatically extracts hierarchical features, reducing reliance on handcrafted features.
- Data augmentation improves robustness against handwriting variations.
- Using Adam optimizer and categorical cross-entropy ensures stable and efficient training.
- Misclassifications mainly occur for visually similar digits, consistent with previous research.

VI. Conclusion

This project successfully implements a CNN-based Hand Written Bangla Digit Recognition System. The model shows strong generalization and high accuracy across diverse handwriting styles. Misclassifications were minimal and mostly occurred between digits with similar shapes.

VII. Future Work

- Extend the system to full Bangla character recognition including letters.
- Reduce confusion between visually similar digits using advanced CNN architectures orfensemble methods.
- Implement real-time recognition on mobile and embedded devices.
- Train on larger and more diverse datasets to further enhance model robustness.

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