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Transfer Learning based Gender Identification using Arbitrary Celebrity Image Sets

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***Abstract*— Gender Identification is important for security, personalization, and social media analysis, where accurate gender identification enhances the system performance. In this study, we investigated the use of transfer learning for Gender identification from the perspective of minimizing accuracy and efficiency loss. The models, pre-trained on ImageNet weights, were fine-tuned on 300 celebrity images to analyze their performance with varied data constraints. The models were evaluated based on the model architecture and hyperparameters, such as batch size and data split. VGG16 and VGG19 worked impressively with a combined performance level of 98% (97% for female samples and 99% for male samples). However, ResNet50 and ResNet101 showed fluctuating levels of performance, attaining the best accuracy levels of 77.5% and 79.5%, respectively. The results indicate that less complex models, such as VGG16 and VGG19, outperform their more complex versions, such as ResNet50 and ResNet101, on smaller datasets because of their higher efficiency and suitability. More complex models require more sophisticated fine-tuning procedures but tend to have lower performance levels than less complex models. The research identifies that transfer learning significantly eliminates the necessity for longer retraining and customization of models, especially when adapting them to similar tasks. Additionally, considerable performance differences between the male and female categories were identified, highlighting the necessity of balanced datasets and model training to accurately reflect varied gender expressions.**

Keywords*— *Transfer learning, gender identification, CNNs, arbitrary images, celebrity.

I. INTRODUCTION

Soft biometrics, such as Gender identification, are concerned with the analysis of probabilistic and nonintrusive attributes. The application of pre-trained models to large and diverse data has been found to provide considerable benefits, particularly when data availability is poor, or training resources are scarce [1]. This has enabled the development of highly accurate gender-classification systems that can be applied to a wide range of images. However, the deployment of these sophisticated techniques requires a thorough evaluation of their scientific and social implications. Ethical use demands attention to the accuracy and reduction of biases, which can reinforce stereotypes. Enhancements in such Technologies must be guarded by robust technical integrity and ethical fairness to promote fair applications. Recent Computer Vision (CV) and Machine Learning advancements (Machine Learning) have greatly improved gender identification through digital images [2]. Nevertheless, the correct categorization of global attributes such as gender, age, and ethnicity are not easy due to bias in the training data. This study attempts to solve such issues by building a list of 300 celebrities with a wide variety of genders, ethnicities, and ages. It was important to build such a dataset for recognizing the transfer learning diversity and strength models in the classification of gender across demographic categories. During preprocessing, the images were resized to standardized measurements and assigning the pixel values to run Standardized training and evaluation. The data aimed at capturing human diversity in totality, maximizing the aim of the study, and providing insight into anticipated expansions. Females and males were the indicated sex categories, while Asian, black, white, mixed, and others represented the ethnicity categories. The age groups were represented by five categories, which–5-15, 16-30, 31-45, 46-60, and 61+ years.

The motivating factor for this research was to make Gender identification technologies more inclusive, accurate, and ethically responsible. Acknowledging the limitations of previous methods, this study utilized state-of-the-art model-adaptation techniques to optimize both fairness and accuracy. The overall goal is to create artificial intelligence models that are diversity-aware, bias reducing, and equity promoting in digital gender recognition. For this purpose, this study examined the applicability of transfer learning in CV and soft biometrics based on a celebrity dataset to analyze the performance of various pre-trained deep learning models in Gender identification across various ethnic and age groups. This study specifically aimed to apply transfer learning to transfer pre-trained deep learning models to Gender identification based on the Celebrity Image Dataset. This study adds to the literature on gender recognition using deep learning in four primary aspects, one of which is the introduction of a varied dataset comprising celebrity images to augment the diversity in AI-powered Gender identification.

The subsequent sections present the methodology, findings, and implications of Gender identification based on transfer learning. This study begins with a survey of the existing literature on computer vision, soft biometrics, deep learning, and transfer learning in gender identification, highlighting the key gaps that this study seeks to fill. The methodology outlines the formal procedure adopted to obtain the objective of the study, followed by an explanation of data preprocessing, model establishment, and optimization through various parameter values. The results and evaluation outline the results, model performance analysis, and findings that formed the final conclusions. This paper concludes with an overview of the recommendations, challenges encountered, and guidelines for follow-up research studies.

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have become a key technology in supervised deep learning, resulting in phenomenal progress in activities such as computer vision, speech recognition, and image classification [3]. Architectures such as ResNet50 have been very successful in the field of soft biometrics, as demonstrated by Md. Islam et al. [4]. The initial boost in Gender identification was provided by binary classifiers, which reduced the gender identification task to two distinct classes, Male and Female. The approach described was constructed by training image classifiers to identify sex-specific features without manual annotation [5]. Soft biometrics targets perceptually visible attributes, enabling the semantic description of an individual. Gender and overall demographic features, such as age and ethnicity, were analyzed in this study using a descriptive approach to improve recognition accuracy [6]. Categorical, comparative, and hybrid methods have been employed to identify soft biometrics. Unlike the comparative method, which is based on a comparison with a reference database, the categorical method categorizes individuals based on apparent features. Quantitative methodologies overcome the constraints associated with conventional recognition technologies and enhance their accuracy and reliability [7]. Comparative studies on the performance of humans and algorithms confirm that, although humans are better at gender discrimination tasks, algorithms yield better outcomes in age estimation. The fusion of soft biometrics and traditional recognition approaches marginally boosts the performance, reflecting the potential to reduce false matches and becoming increasingly comparable to the performance of humans [8]. In gender recognition, Transfer Learning (TL) plays a vital role in alleviating issues in training complex deep-learning models. TL enables the models to benefit from pre-trained weights and filters, thereby eliminating the need for large amounts of labeled data and computational resources [9]. Pinto et al. [10] formally defined TL in terms of three primary elements: (1) a domain D with a feature space χ and a marginal probability distribution P(X); (2) a task T with a label space Y and a predictive function f, where f learns to estimate probability P(X) in order to forecast new instances, and (3) given a source domain D_S with task T_S and a target domain D_T with task T_T, TL enhances learning in D_T by transferring knowledge from D_S, where D_T ≠ D_S or T_T ≠ T_S. In TL, pre-trained models are tuned to new tasks by modifying some network layers, which enables faster training and improved accuracy [11].

Nguyen et al. [3] point out that TL facilitates the rapid adaptation of already acquired knowledge to new tasks at lower computational expense. Its success is based on the degree of alignment between the source model training and target tasks. Pre-trained models are treated as feature extractors; therefore, no manual feature engineering is required, and the performance of new data is improved [12]. The adaptation of pre-trained models involves either initializing the model with some parameters when there is some sample data present or selectively fine-tuned layers based on the amount of data and model complexity. This improves the adaptability and efficiency of TL for deep learning applications [13].

The gender recognition pipeline comprises data collection, preprocessing, and adaptation of the CNN model. The dataset was labeled carefully for correct classification. Preprocessing involves normalizing the image sizes, orientations, and color profiles to ensure consistency with the CNN architecture [14]. Pre-trained models such as DenseNet and ResNet, which are trained on large datasets such as ImageNet, have the advantage of utilizing the learned features for Gender identification [15]. CNNs leverage convolutional layers for visual feature extraction and fully connected layers for final classification. Transfer learning optimizes such models by maintaining convolutional layers and fine-tuning fully connected layers to recognize sex-specific features. Thus, the model can maintain generic visual representations while specializing in gender-classification tasks. Fine-tuning also optimizes the performance with guaranteed feature extraction and classification efficacy [16].

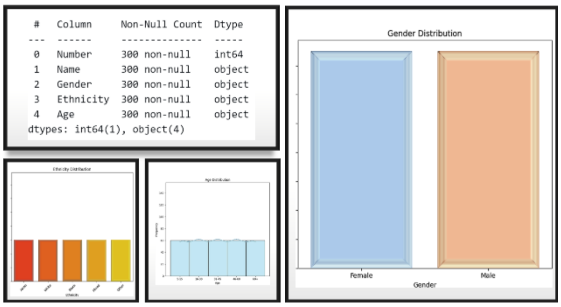
Gender identification systems are integral to security, marketing, healthcare, and social-science applications. Such applications have enabled video surveillance, targeted marketing, medical diagnoses, and policymaking. Some issues related to biased training datasets, variations between cultures, lack of model interpretability, and ethical concerns related to privacy and data abuse must be resolved [17]. This study examines how TL enhances Gender identification by leveraging pre-trained models to enhance classification performance while transcending dataset limitations. Soft biometrics plays a critical role in the development of Gender identification by incorporating contextual features. By leveraging TL, Gender recognition models become more flexible, efficient, and ethically responsible, thereby ensuring fairness across different applications [18]. This study underscores the effectiveness of TL for sex classification and its broader ramifications in AI-powered biometric technology.

II. Dataset

The data for this study was 300 celebrity photos collected from open media sources and celebrity photo archives, thus providing total compliance with legal usage criteria. To have an equal number of global attributes to prevent a predisposition towards certain demographic groups, the photos were meticulously picked [6][19]. This balance not only minimizes bias but also contributes to a more equitable model. Further, the utilization of celebrity faces offered a dataset that included famous individuals with a lot of variation in their appearance, setting, and style, hence contributing to the generalizability of the model.

Nevertheless, for consistency and reliability in further analyses, preprocessing was essential for tidying up the dataset [20]. Because the cleanliness of the dataset has direct implications for the efficiency and accuracy of the model, consistency in the formats of image files must be observed. Different formats require different processing techniques, which can complicate data management during training [21]. For simplicity, the project employed only a single JPEG format, as shown in Fig. 1. After standardization, JPEG alone was used in file format, as shown in Fig. 2a.

In addition to standardizing file formats, image size analysis and standardization were also required to bring about consistency in dimensions for model input. This uniformity improves the learning efficiency, resulting in improved model performance. The inconsistency in image sizes before standardization is shown in Fig. 2b, while Fig. 3a shows the resizing process, where all images were altered to a size of 224×224 pixels to meet the input requirements of the model. Fig. 3b provides a visual comparison of the images before and after resizing, highlighting the importance of this process. Finally, dataset splitting is a crucial step in the development of robust models that can learn effectively and generalize new data. To achieve the best performance and testing, the dataset was split strategically based on the defined split ratios, as presented in Table 1.



```
 #   Column     Non-Null Count  Dtype
---  ------     --------------  -----
 0   Number     300 non-null    int64
 1   Name       300 non-null    object
 2   Gender     300 non-null    object
 3   Ethnicity  300 non-null    object
 4   Age        300 non-null    object
dtypes: int64(1), object(4)
```

Fig. 1. Data distribution for the primary dataset.

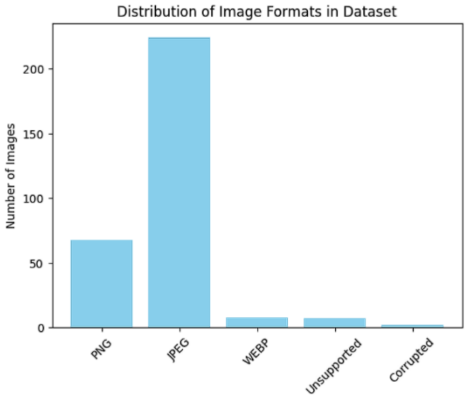


Fig. 2a. Image format distribution.

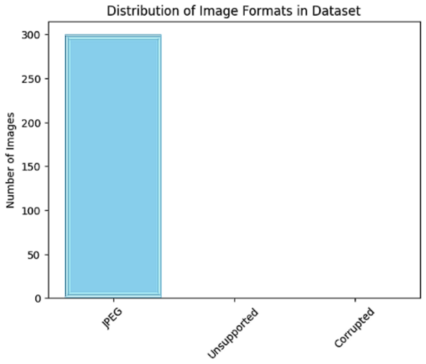


Fig. 2b. Standardized image format distribution.

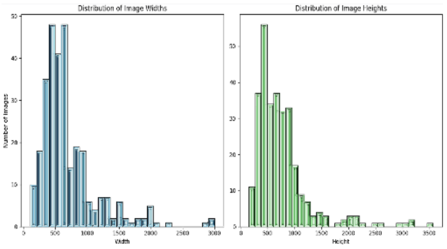


Fig. 3a. Image size distribution.

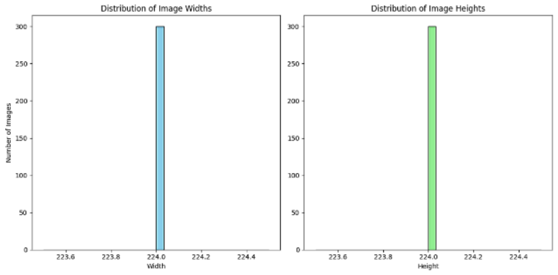


Fig. 3b. Standardized image size distribution.

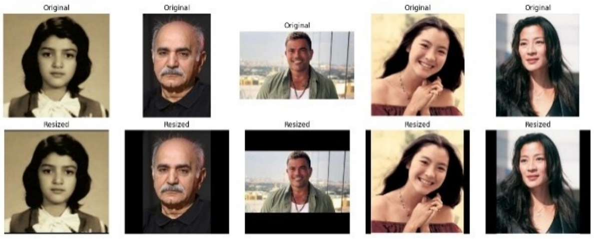
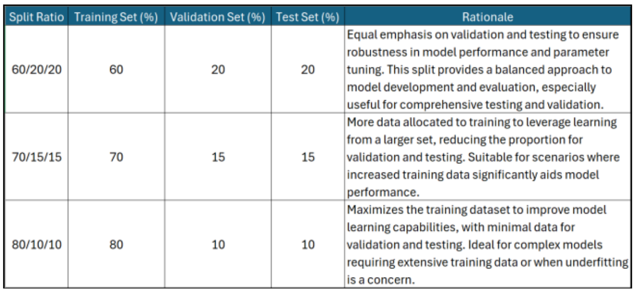


Fig. 4. Original vs. resized images.

TABLE 1 DATASET SPLIT STRATEGY



Split Ratio	Training Set (%)	Validation Set (%)	Test Set (%)	Rationale
60/20/20	60	20	20	Equal emphasis on validation and testing to ensure robustness in model performance and parameter tuning. This split provides a balanced approach to model development and evaluation, especially useful for comprehensive testing and validation.
70/15/15	70	15	15	More data allocated to training to leverage learning from a larger set, reducing the proportion for validation and testing. Suitable for scenarios where increased training data significantly aids model performance.
80/10/10	80	10	10	Maximizes the training dataset to improve model learning capabilities, with minimal data for validation and testing. Ideal for complex models requiring extensive training data or when underfitting is a concern.

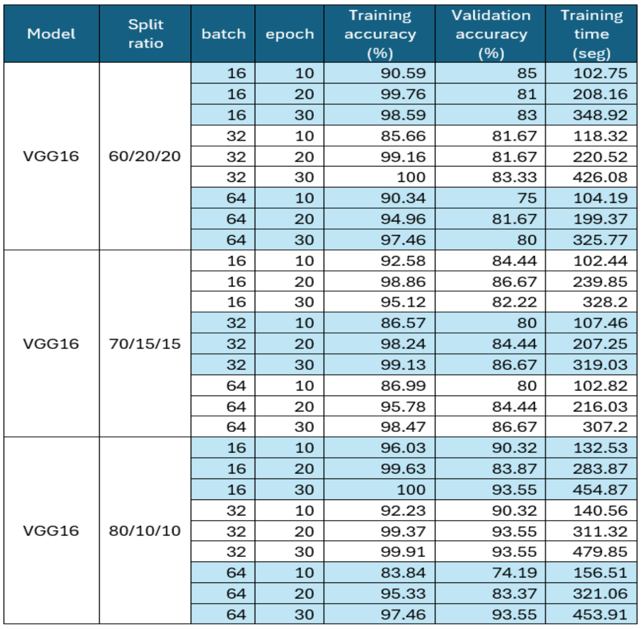
III. Methodology

In the present study, we employed four transfer learning methods VGG16, VGG19, ResNet50, and ResNet101 chosen because of their performance, architectural variety, and applicability to our research interest [23]. These models are examples of varying depths and design philosophies within convolutional neural networks, enabling us to make an educated comparison regarding their relative performance. The motivation for choosing these methods is the need to fill identified gaps in the existing literature, specifically the absence of direct comparisons between these architectures under comparable environments. By a comprehensive analysis of each respective strength and weakness, this research aims to determine the optimal approach, know the condition under which each model operates best, and provide insight that can be utilized in making informed decisions when selecting and optimizing models. Such comparison adds to theoretical knowledge as well as actual advancement in the area of transfer learning applications.

A. *VGG16 with ImageNet*

This section explores the application of the VGG16 model pre-trained on ImageNet weights for gender identification tasks. The process began with the configuration of computational resources, ensuring that GPU allocation was optimized for training. Following the configuration, we loaded the pre-trained weights from the ImageNet dataset for the VGG16 model. These pre-trained weights enabled us to leverage the network's learned features for robust gender classification. To prevent the model from updating the pre-trained layers during the initial training phase, we applied the transfer learning technique by freezing these layers. Additionally, we added two dense layers for gender classification (male and female). The training process for VGG16 involved setting an 80/10/10 data split, adjusting batch sizes (16 and 32), and experimenting with epochs (20 and 30). The results were evaluated using metrics such as training accuracy, validation accuracy, and training time. The number of images in each training and validation split with 80% for training and 20% for testing. After training the model, Table 2 was created, which represents the performance of the training and validation of the model.

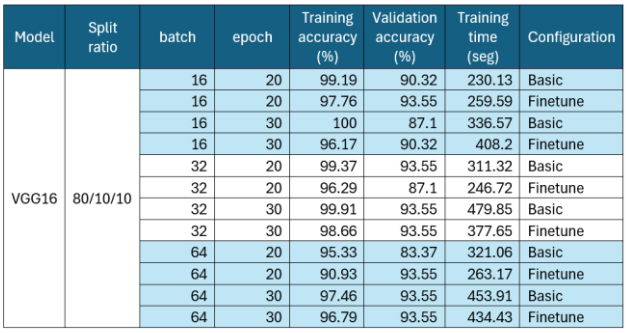
TABLE 2 TRAINING AND VALIDATION PERFORMANCES FOR VGG16



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Training accuracy (%)	Validation accuracy (%)	Training time (seg)
VGG16	60/20/20	16	10	90.59	85	102.75
		16	20	99.76	81	208.16
		16	30	98.59	83	348.92
		32	10	85.66	81.67	118.32
		32	20	99.16	81.67	220.52
		32	30	100	83.33	426.08
		64	10	90.34	75	104.19
		64	20	94.96	81.67	199.37
		64	30	97.46	80	325.77
VGG16	70/15/15	16	10	92.58	84.44	102.44
		16	20	98.86	86.67	239.85
		16	30	95.12	82.22	328.2
		32	10	86.57	80	107.46
		32	20	98.24	84.44	207.25
		32	30	99.13	86.67	319.03
		64	10	86.99	80	102.82
		64	20	95.78	84.44	216.03
		64	30	98.47	86.67	307.2
VGG16	80/10/10	16	10	96.03	90.32	132.53
		16	20	99.63	83.87	283.87
		16	30	100	93.55	454.87
		32	10	92.23	90.32	140.56
		32	20	99.37	93.55	311.32
		32	30	99.91	93.55	479.85
		64	10	83.84	74.19	156.51
		64	20	95.33	83.37	321.06
		64	30	97.46	93.55	453.91

Fine-tuning was conducted based on the results obtained from different model configurations, as presented in Table 2, with optimal parameters including an 80/10/10 data split, batch sizes of 16 and 32, and epochs set to 20 and 30. A reduced learning rate was implemented to enhance the performance and mitigate overfitting. Additionally, data augmentation techniques using "ImageDataGenerator" were applied to improve generalization by incorporating rescaling, geometric transformations, and brightness adjustments. Early termination was introduced to prevent unnecessary training cycles. Despite these optimizations, no significant improvements were observed in model performance, as indicated by the results in Table 3.

TABLE 3 TRAINING AND VALIDATION PERFORMANCE AFTER FINE TUNING FOR VGG16

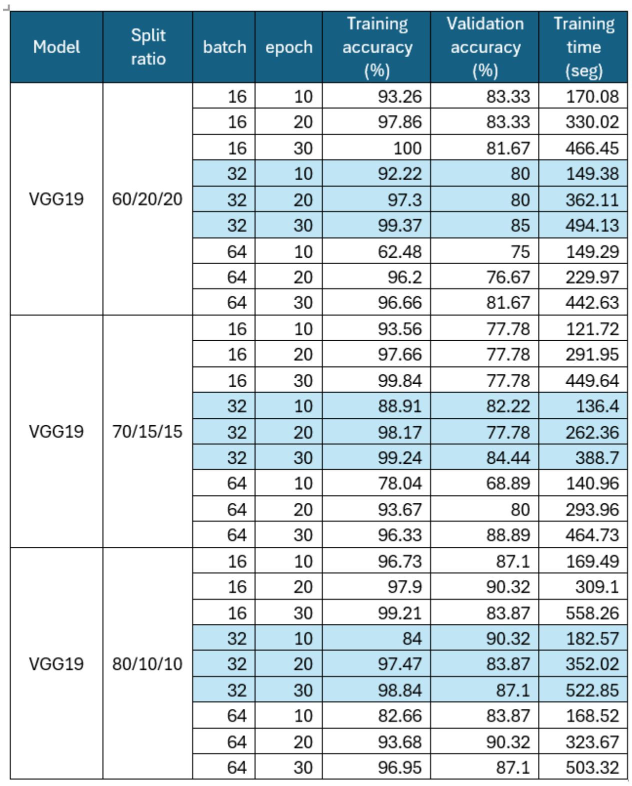


Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Training accuracy (%)	Validation accuracy (%)	Training time (seg)	Configuration
VGG16	80/10/10	16	20	99.19	90.32	230.13	Basic
		16	20	97.76	93.55	259.59	Finetune
		16	30	100	87.1	336.57	Basic
		16	30	96.17	90.32	408.2	Finetune
		32	20	99.37	93.55	311.32	Basic
		32	20	96.29	87.1	246.72	Finetune
		32	30	99.91	93.55	479.85	Basic
		32	30	98.66	93.55	377.65	Finetune
		64	20	95.33	83.37	321.06	Basic
		64	20	90.93	93.55	263.17	Finetune
		64	30	97.46	93.55	453.91	Basic
		64	30	96.79	93.55	434.43	Finetune

B. *VGG19 with ImageNet*

In this section, we describe the application of the VGG19 architecture pre-trained on ImageNet weights. The objective is to fit this model via transfer learning mechanisms to classify genders. The minimal setup of the VGG19 model with pre-trained ImageNet weights enables the use of a network that has already learned from a rich variety of images. We froze the pre-trained layers to preserve the learned features and prevent them from being updated during the initial phase of training. The addition of two dense layers for Gender identification in this case, male and female. Training was conducted by experimenting with different data-splitting ratios, batch sizes, and epochs, and results were evaluated based on training accuracy, validation accuracy, and training time. Table 4 presents the training and validation performance for VGG19.

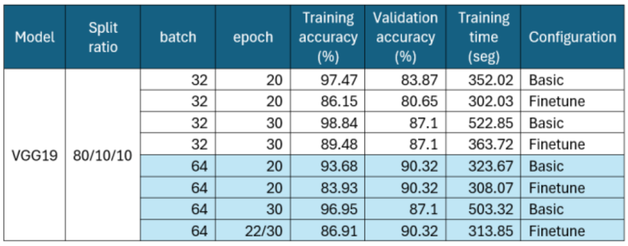
TABLE 4 TRAINING AND VALIDATION PERFORMANCE FOR VGG19



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Training accuracy (%)	Validation accuracy (%)	Training time (seg)
VGG19	60/20/20	16	10	93.26	83.33	170.08
		16	20	97.86	83.33	330.02
		16	30	100	81.67	466.45
		32	10	92.22	80	149.38
		32	20	97.3	80	362.11
		32	30	99.37	85	494.13
		64	10	62.48	75	149.29
		64	20	96.2	76.67	229.97
		64	30	96.66	81.67	442.63
VGG19	70/15/15	16	10	93.56	77.78	121.72
		16	20	97.66	77.78	291.95
		16	30	99.84	77.78	449.64
		32	10	88.91	82.22	136.4
		32	20	98.17	77.78	262.36
		32	30	99.24	84.44	388.7
		64	10	78.04	68.89	140.96
		64	20	93.67	80	293.96
		64	30	96.33	88.89	464.73
VGG19	80/10/10	16	10	96.73	87.1	169.49
		16	20	97.9	90.32	309.1
		16	30	99.21	83.87	558.26
		32	10	84	90.32	182.57
		32	20	97.47	83.87	352.02
		32	30	98.84	87.1	522.85
		64	10	82.66	83.87	168.52
		64	20	93.68	90.32	323.67
		64	30	96.95	87.1	503.32

Fine-tuning was selectively applied to the models that demonstrated the best performance, ensuring optimization only when significant improvements were achieved. For VGG19, the optimal parameters identified included a splitting ratio of 80/10/10, batch sizes of 32 and 64, and 20 and 30 epochs. A similar configuration was implemented to fine-tune and refine the model and enhance its learning capabilities. The impact of this fine-tuning on VGG19's performance is detailed in Table 5, which presents the post-optimization training and validation results.

TABLE 5 TRAINING AND VALIDATION PERFORMANCE AFTER FINE-TUNING VGG19

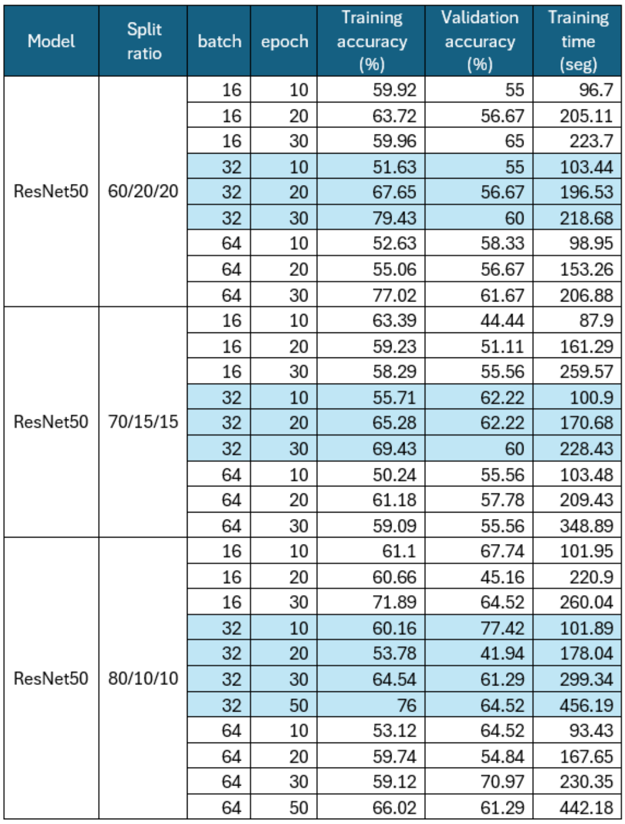


Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Training accuracy (%)	Validation accuracy (%)	Training time (seg)	Configuration
VGG19	80/10/10	32	20	97.47	83.87	352.02	Basic
		32	20	86.15	80.65	302.03	Finetune
		32	30	98.84	87.1	522.85	Basic
		32	30	89.48	87.1	363.72	Finetune
		64	20	93.68	90.32	323.67	Basic
		64	20	83.93	90.32	308.07	Finetune
		64	30	96.95	87.1	503.32	Basic
		64	22/30	86.91	90.32	313.85	Finetune

C. *ResNet50 with ImageNet*

We also explored the ResNet50 model, which has a more complex architecture compared to the VGG models. The general configuration for deploying ResNet50 with ImageNet weight. The training strategy for ResNet50 replicates the proven methodologies used in previous models with adjustments for its distinct architecture. The strategy then uses different configuration parameters such as the splitting ratio, batch size, and epochs, as shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6 RESNET50 PERFORMANCE FOR TRAINING AND VALIDATION



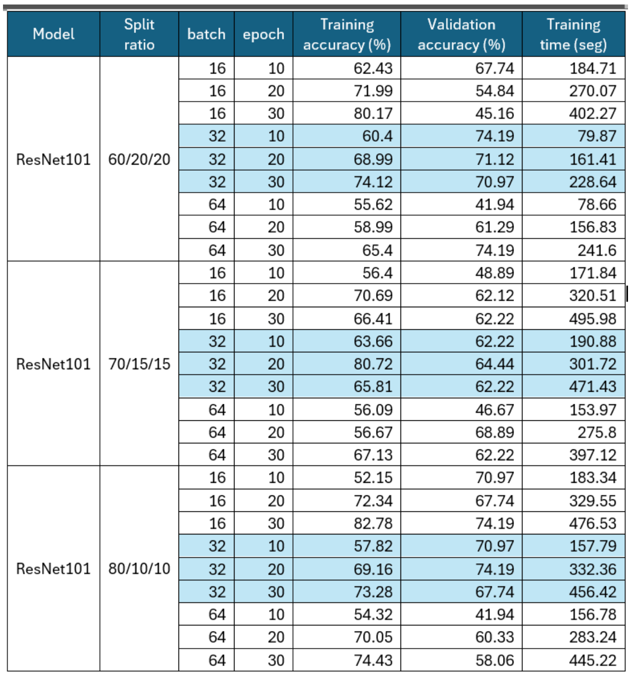
Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Training accuracy (%)	Validation accuracy (%)	Training time (seg)
ResNet50	60/20/20	16	10	59.92	55	96.7
		16	20	63.72	56.67	205.11
		16	30	59.96	65	223.7
		32	10	51.63	55	103.44
		32	20	67.65	56.67	196.53
		32	30	79.43	60	218.68
		64	10	52.63	58.33	98.95
		64	20	55.06	56.67	153.26
		64	30	77.02	61.67	206.88
ResNet50	70/15/15	16	10	63.39	44.44	87.9
		16	20	59.23	51.11	161.29
		16	30	58.29	55.56	259.57
		32	10	55.71	62.22	100.9
		32	20	65.28	62.22	170.68
		32	30	69.43	60	228.43
		64	10	50.24	55.56	103.48
		64	20	61.18	57.78	209.43
		64	30	59.09	55.56	348.89
ResNet50	80/10/10	16	10	61.1	67.74	101.95
		16	20	60.66	45.16	220.9
		16	30	71.89	64.52	260.04
		32	10	60.16	77.42	101.89
		32	20	53.78	41.94	178.04
		32	30	64.54	61.29	299.34
		32	50	76	64.52	456.19
		64	10	53.12	64.52	93.43
		64	20	59.74	54.84	167.65
		64	30	59.12	70.97	230.35
		64	50	66.02	61.29	442.18

The ResNet50 model, which is noted for being complex and deep in architecture, was tested based on how it performed with three varying dataset partition ratios of 60/20/20, 70/15/15, and 80/10/10. The test was intended to expose the weaknesses and strengths of the model in gender recognition activities under differing training conditions with its core configuration. The findings from this test are presented in Table 7.

D. ResNet101 with ImageNet

We took the ResNet50 model and then moved to ResNet101. This model has a deeper and more complex structure. In this chapter, we explain how ResNet101 is set up and assessed with pre-trained ImageNet weights, specifically for Gender identification tasks [20]. This phase presents a plan to improve the performance of ResNet101 for gender recognition. This plan is developed based on the improved training process from the earlier models. Our custom training parameters and how we adjusted our schemes to apply this improved model in its default configuration are presented in Table 7.

TABLE 7 RESNET101 PERFORMANCE FOR TRAINING AND VALIDATION

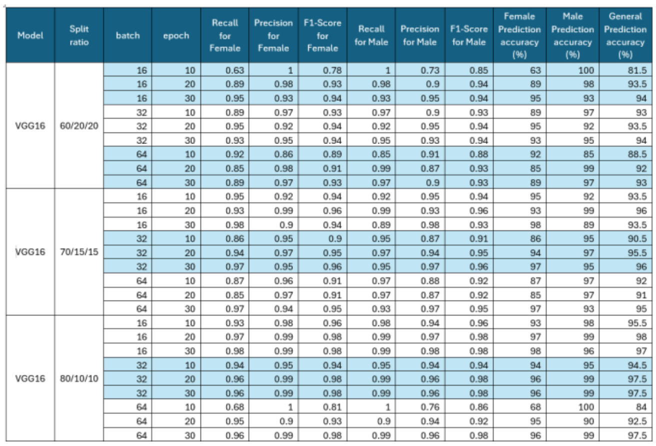


Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Training accuracy (%)	Validation accuracy (%)	Training time (seg)
ResNet101	60/20/20	16	10	62.43	67.74	184.71
		16	20	71.99	54.84	270.07
		16	30	80.17	45.16	402.27
		32	10	60.4	74.19	79.87
		32	20	68.99	71.12	161.41
		32	30	74.12	70.97	228.64
		64	10	55.62	41.94	78.66
		64	20	58.99	61.29	156.83
		64	30	65.4	74.19	241.6
ResNet101	70/15/15	16	10	56.4	48.89	171.84
		16	20	70.69	62.12	320.51
		16	30	66.41	62.22	495.98
		32	10	63.66	62.22	190.88
		32	20	80.72	64.44	301.72
		32	30	65.81	62.22	471.43
		64	10	56.09	46.67	153.97
		64	20	56.67	68.89	275.8
		64	30	67.13	62.22	397.12
ResNet101	80/10/10	16	10	52.15	70.97	183.34
		16	20	72.34	67.74	329.55
		16	30	82.78	74.19	476.53
		32	10	57.82	70.97	157.79
		32	20	69.16	74.19	332.36
		32	30	73.28	67.74	456.42
		64	10	54.32	41.94	156.78
		64	20	70.05	60.33	283.24
		64	30	74.43	58.06	445.22

IV. RESULT EVALUATION

The evaluation of the VGG16 model showed that the optimal configuration was achieved with an 80/10/10 data split, batch size of 16, and 20 epochs, resulting in 98% accuracy [21]. Increasing the batch size to 32 achieved 97.5% accuracy and reducing the training data led to poorer performance (88.5% for a 60/20/20 split). These findings indicate the importance of data distribution, with insufficient training samples deterring the learning. Additionally, longer training times improved accuracy but led to increased computational resource demands, underscoring the need to balance training duration and resource efficiency. Further, male/female identification potential disparities must be analyzed to determine bias and ensure equivalent, uniform performance in all groups; the optimal VGG16 model performed best with 80/10/10 split, as presented in Table 8.

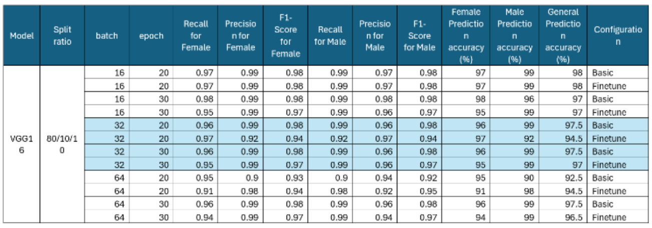
TABLE 8 VGG16 PERFORMANCE FOR TRAINING AND VALIDATION



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Recall for Female	Precision for Female	F1-Score for Female	Recall for Male	Precision for Male	F1-Score for Male	Female Prediction accuracy (%)	Male Prediction accuracy (%)	General Prediction accuracy (%)
VGG16	60/20/20	16	10	0.63	1	0.78	1	0.73	0.85	63	100	81.5
		16	20	0.89	0.98	0.93	0.98	0.9	0.94	89	98	93.5
		16	30	0.95	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.95	0.94	95	93	94
		32	10	0.89	0.97	0.93	0.97	0.9	0.93	89	97	93
		32	20	0.95	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.95	0.94	95	92	93.5
		32	30	0.93	0.95	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.94	93	95	94
		64	10	0.92	0.86	0.89	0.85	0.91	0.88	92	85	88.5
		64	20	0.85	0.98	0.91	0.99	0.87	0.93	85	99	92
		64	30	0.89	0.97	0.93	0.97	0.9	0.93	89	97	93
VGG16	70/15/15	16	10	0.95	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.95	0.94	95	92	93.5
		16	20	0.93	0.99	0.96	0.99	0.93	0.96	93	99	96
		16	30	0.98	0.9	0.94	0.89	0.98	0.93	98	89	93.5
		32	10	0.86	0.95	0.9	0.95	0.87	0.91	86	95	90.5
		32	20	0.94	0.97	0.95	0.97	0.94	0.95	94	97	95.5
		32	30	0.97	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.97	0.96	97	95	96
		64	10	0.87	0.96	0.91	0.97	0.88	0.92	87	97	92
		64	20	0.85	0.97	0.91	0.97	0.87	0.92	85	97	91
		64	30	0.97	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.97	0.95	97	93	95
VGG16	80/10/10	16	10	0.93	0.98	0.96	0.98	0.94	0.96	93	98	95.5
		16	20	0.97	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	97	99	98
		16	30	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	98	96	97
		32	10	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	94	95	94.5
		32	20	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	96	99	97.5
		32	30	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	96	99	97.5
		64	10	0.68	1	0.81	1	0.76	0.86	68	100	84
		64	20	0.95	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.94	0.92	95	90	92.5
		64	30	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	96	99	97.5

As previously discussed, the model with the optimal configuration utilized a splitting ratio of 80/10/10. *Table 9* lists the data obtained using the proposed model.

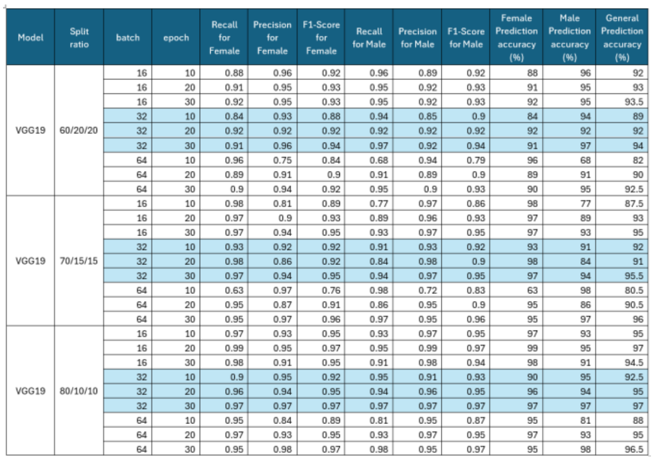
TABLE 9 METRICS AFTER FINE-TUNING OF VGG16.



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Recall for Female	Precisio n for Female	F1-Score for Female	Recall for Male	Precisio n for Male	F1-Score for Male	Female Predictio n accuracy (%)	Male Predictio n accuracy (%)	General Predictio n accuracy (%)	Configuratio n
VGG16	80/10/10	16	20	0.97	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	97	99	98	Basic
		16	20	0.97	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	97	99	98	Finetune
		16	30	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	98	96	97	Basic
		16	30	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.99	0.96	0.97	95	99	97	Finetune
		32	20	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	96	99	97.5	Basic
		32	20	0.97	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.97	0.94	97	92	94.5	Finetune
		32	30	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	96	99	97.5	Basic
		32	30	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.99	0.96	0.97	95	99	97	Finetune
		64	20	0.95	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.94	0.92	95	90	92.5	Basic
		64	20	0.91	0.98	0.94	0.98	0.92	0.95	91	98	94.5	Finetune
		64	30	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	96	99	97.5	Basic
		64	30	0.94	0.99	0.97	0.99	0.94	0.97	94	99	96.5	Finetune

The VGG19 model demonstrated similar performance trends as VGG16, with an optimal configuration of an 80/10/10 split, batch size of 32 and 64, and 20 and 30 epochs. Table 10 presents the performance metrics for the basic configuration of VGG19.

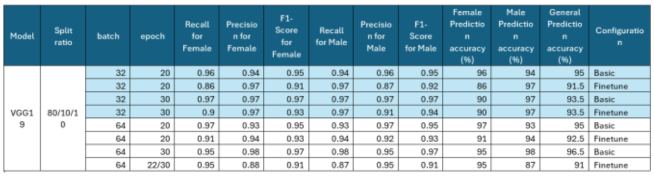
TABLE 10 PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR VGG19



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Recall for Female	Precision for Female	F1-Score for Female	Recall for Male	Precision for Male	F1-Score for Male	Female Prediction accuracy (%)	Male Prediction accuracy (%)	General Prediction accuracy (%)
VGG19	60/20/20	16	10	0.88	0.96	0.92	0.96	0.89	0.92	88	96	92
		16	20	0.91	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.93	91	95	93
		16	30	0.92	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.93	92	95	93.5
		32	10	0.84	0.93	0.88	0.94	0.85	0.9	84	94	89
		32	20	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	92	92	92
		32	30	0.91	0.96	0.94	0.97	0.92	0.94	91	97	94
		64	10	0.96	0.75	0.84	0.68	0.94	0.79	96	68	82
		64	20	0.89	0.91	0.9	0.91	0.89	0.9	89	91	90
		64	30	0.9	0.94	0.92	0.95	0.9	0.93	90	95	92.5
VGG19	70/15/15	16	10	0.98	0.81	0.89	0.77	0.97	0.86	98	77	87.5
		16	20	0.97	0.9	0.93	0.89	0.96	0.93	97	89	93
		16	30	0.97	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.97	0.95	97	93	95
		32	10	0.93	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.93	0.92	93	91	92
		32	20	0.98	0.86	0.92	0.84	0.98	0.9	98	84	91
		32	30	0.97	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.97	0.95	97	94	95.5
		64	10	0.63	0.97	0.76	0.98	0.72	0.83	63	98	80.5
		64	20	0.95	0.87	0.91	0.86	0.95	0.9	95	86	90.5
		64	30	0.95	0.97	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.96	95	97	96
VGG19	80/10/10	16	10	0.97	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.97	0.95	97	93	95
		16	20	0.99	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.99	0.97	99	95	97
		16	30	0.98	0.91	0.95	0.91	0.98	0.94	98	91	94.5
		32	10	0.9	0.95	0.92	0.95	0.91	0.93	90	95	92.5
		32	20	0.96	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.96	0.95	96	94	95
		32	30	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	97	97	97
		64	10	0.95	0.84	0.89	0.81	0.95	0.87	95	81	88
		64	20	0.97	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.97	0.95	97	93	95
		64	30	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.95	0.97	95	98	96.5

The fine-tuned section is incorporated based on the performance of the optimal model, as indicated in Table 11.

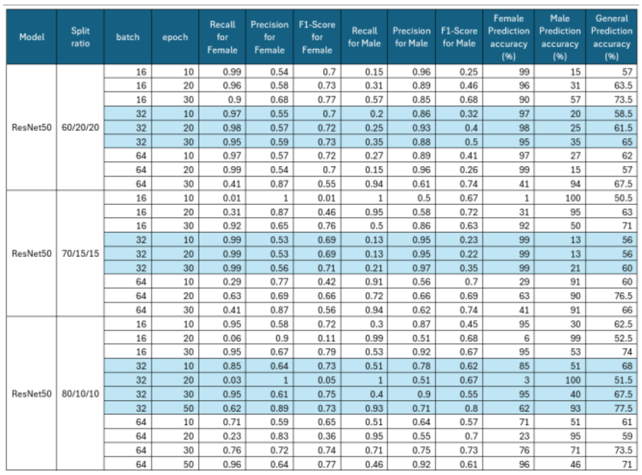
TABLE 11 PERFORMANCE METRICS AFTER FINE-TUNING VGG19



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Recall for Female	Precisio n for Female	F1-Score for Female	Recall for Male	Precisio n for Male	F1-Score for Male	Female Predictio n accuracy (%)	Male Predictio n accuracy (%)	General Predictio n accuracy (%)	Configuratio n
VGG19	80/10/10	32	20	0.96	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.96	0.95	96	94	95	Basic
		32	20	0.86	0.97	0.91	0.97	0.87	0.92	86	97	91.5	Finetune
		32	30	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	90	97	93.5	Basic
		32	30	0.9	0.97	0.93	0.97	0.91	0.94	90	97	93.5	Finetune
		64	20	0.97	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.97	0.95	97	93	95	Basic
		64	20	0.91	0.94	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.93	91	94	92.5	Finetune
		64	30	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.95	0.97	95	98	96.5	Basic
		64	22/30	0.95	0.88	0.91	0.87	0.95	0.91	95	87	91	Finetune

As in the preceding models, a table was constructed based on the model output, as presented in *Table 12*.

TABLE 12 PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR RESNET50

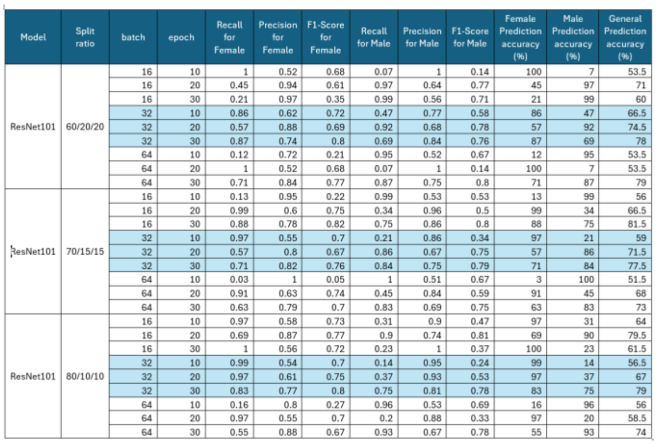


Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Recall for Female	Precision for Female	F1-Score for Female	Recall for Male	Precision for Male	F1-Score for Male	Female Prediction accuracy (%)	Male Prediction accuracy (%)	General Prediction accuracy (%)
ResNet50	60/20/20	16	10	0.99	0.54	0.7	0.15	0.96	0.25	99	15	57
		16	20	0.96	0.58	0.73	0.31	0.89	0.46	96	31	63.5
		16	30	0.9	0.68	0.77	0.57	0.85	0.68	90	57	73.5
		32	10	0.97	0.55	0.7	0.2	0.86	0.32	97	20	58.5
		32	20	0.98	0.57	0.72	0.25	0.93	0.4	98	25	61.5
		32	30	0.95	0.59	0.73	0.35	0.88	0.5	95	35	65
		64	10	0.97	0.57	0.72	0.27	0.89	0.41	97	27	62
		64	20	0.99	0.54	0.7	0.15	0.96	0.26	99	15	57
		64	30	0.41	0.87	0.55	0.94	0.61	0.74	41	94	67.5
ResNet50	70/15/15	16	10	0.01	1	0.01	1	0.5	0.67	1	100	50.5
		16	20	0.31	0.87	0.46	0.95	0.58	0.72	31	95	63
		16	30	0.92	0.65	0.76	0.5	0.86	0.63	92	50	71
		32	10	0.99	0.53	0.69	0.13	0.95	0.23	99	13	56
		32	20	0.99	0.53	0.69	0.13	0.95	0.22	99	13	56
		32	30	0.99	0.56	0.71	0.21	0.97	0.35	99	21	60
		64	10	0.29	0.77	0.42	0.91	0.56	0.7	29	91	60
		64	20	0.63	0.69	0.66	0.72	0.66	0.69	63	90	76.5
		64	30	0.41	0.87	0.56	0.94	0.62	0.74	41	91	66
ResNet50	80/10/10	16	10	0.95	0.58	0.72	0.3	0.87	0.45	95	30	62.5
		16	20	0.06	0.9	0.11	0.99	0.51	0.68	6	99	52.5
		16	30	0.95	0.67	0.79	0.53	0.92	0.67	95	53	74
		32	10	0.85	0.64	0.73	0.51	0.78	0.62	85	51	68
		32	20	0.03	1	0.05	1	0.51	0.67	3	100	51.5
		32	30	0.95	0.61	0.75	0.4	0.9	0.55	95	40	67.5
		32	50	0.62	0.89	0.73	0.93	0.71	0.8	62	93	77.5
		64	10	0.71	0.59	0.65	0.51	0.64	0.57	71	51	61
		64	20	0.23	0.83	0.36	0.95	0.55	0.7	23	95	59
		64	30	0.76	0.72	0.74	0.71	0.75	0.73	76	71	73.5
		64	50	0.96	0.64	0.77	0.46	0.92	0.61	96	46	71

This model represents an expanded version of ResNet101, demonstrating that larger models exhibit suboptimal performance on small datasets even when employing transfer learning techniques

[22]. This observation was substantiated by the data presented in Table 13.

TABLE 13 PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR RESNET101



Model	Split ratio	batch	epoch	Recall for Female	Precision for Female	F1-Score for Female	Recall for Male	Precision for Male	F1-Score for Male	Female Prediction accuracy (%)	Male Prediction accuracy (%)	General Prediction accuracy (%)
ResNet101	60/20/20	16	10	1	0.52	0.68	0.07	1	0.14	100	7	53.5
		16	20	0.45	0.94	0.61	0.97	0.64	0.77	45	97	71
		16	30	0.21	0.97	0.35	0.99	0.56	0.71	21	99	60
		32	10	0.86	0.62	0.72	0.47	0.77	0.58	86	47	66.5
		32	20	0.57	0.88	0.69	0.92	0.68	0.78	57	92	74.5
		32	30	0.87	0.74	0.8	0.69	0.84	0.76	87	69	78
		64	10	0.12	0.72	0.21	0.95	0.52	0.67	12	95	53.5
		64	20	1	0.52	0.68	0.07	1	0.14	100	7	53.5
		64	30	0.71	0.84	0.77	0.87	0.75	0.8	71	87	79
ResNet101	70/15/15	16	10	0.13	0.95	0.22	0.99	0.53	0.53	13	99	56
		16	20	0.99	0.6	0.75	0.34	0.96	0.5	99	34	66.5
		16	30	0.88	0.78	0.82	0.75	0.86	0.8	88	75	81.5
		32	10	0.97	0.55	0.7	0.21	0.86	0.34	97	21	59
		32	20	0.57	0.8	0.67	0.86	0.67	0.75	57	86	71.5
		32	30	0.71	0.82	0.76	0.84	0.75	0.79	71	84	77.5
		64	10	0.03	1	0.05	1	0.51	0.67	3	100	51.5
		64	20	0.91	0.63	0.74	0.45	0.84	0.59	91	45	68
		64	30	0.63	0.79	0.7	0.83	0.69	0.75	63	83	73
ResNet101	80/10/10	16	10	0.97	0.58	0.73	0.31	0.9	0.47	97	31	64
		16	20	0.69	0.87	0.77	0.9	0.74	0.81	69	90	79.5
		16	30	1	0.56	0.72	0.23	1	0.37	100	23	61.5
		32	10	0.99	0.54	0.7	0.14	0.95	0.24	99	14	56.5
		32	20	0.97	0.61	0.75	0.37	0.93	0.53	97	37	67
		32	30	0.83	0.77	0.8	0.75	0.81	0.78	83	75	79
		64	10	0.16	0.8	0.27	0.96	0.53	0.69	16	96	56
		64	20	0.97	0.55	0.7	0.2	0.88	0.33	97	20	58.5
		64	30	0.55	0.88	0.67	0.93	0.67	0.78	55	93	74

This research evaluated the performance of several models with varying architectures and capacities, i.e., VGG and ResNet, on gender classification on a dataset containing 300 celebrity images. The performance of these models demonstrated the flexibility and effectiveness of the models in operating under limited data constraints with varying setups, and the relationship between model complexity and the size of the dataset. The findings indicated that smaller architectures, as embodied by VGG16 and VGG19, tended to have higher accuracy and reliability under the test environments compared to their more complex versions. The simpler structural architecture was effective, particularly in conditions of limited data, with little overfitting and an ability to successfully extract pertinent information. On the other hand, the bigger models, ResNet50 and ResNet101, overfitted despite meticulous parameter tuning and additional computational power, leading to poor performance.

V. Conclusion & Recommendation

In conclusion, the model's performance depends heavily on data quality and preprocessing. Effective data handling and preparation guarantee consistency and reliability, influencing significantly the performance of models in practical applications. Model choice should be informed by the size of the dataset; small models typically fit small datasets, and large models require plenty of fine-tuning before they can showcase their optimal performance [23]. This study shows the benefit of transfer learning by proving that pre-trained models can be fine-tuned for gender-classification tasks to enhance the overall performance. Shallower models, i.e., VGG16 and VGG19, have worked well with smaller datasets, achieving up to 98% accuracy rates, while deeper models, i.e., ResNet50 and ResNet101, need more fine-tuning. Learning rate adjustment is important when fine-tuning small datasets, and rates that are too low can result in under-fitting. Ultimately, although male predictions performed better, the challenges experienced in female predictions highlight the necessity of balanced data and model tuning for fairness and enhanced accuracy for both genders.

To enhance the performance of the gender recognition model, targeted improvements should focus on addressing data set limitations and model optimization specific to Gender identification, while additional advanced data augmentation techniques, including facial occlusion, lighting variations, and aging transformations, will enhance the robustness of the model, especially in low-represented gender classes [24]. Data diversity enrichment with well-balanced male, female, and non-binary samples will assist in reducing bias and generalization. A dynamic dataset-complexity-based architecture selection approach can offer optimum architecture with a growing data size. Layer freezing and selective fine-tuning of transfer learning must be attempted to maintain salient gender-distinguishing features, while reducing overfitting. Exploring domain-specific pretraining, that is, models pre-trained on facial recognition or human attribute datasets, can yield better Gender identification performance [25]. Periodic bias tests such as gender misclassification for various age ranges and ethnicities can promote fairness. Supplementing with global features, such as facial structure and expression variations, will enable the systems to be robust. Supplementing datasets with balanced demographic representations from datasets, such as UTKFace or FairFace, will make the models fairer. Finally, utilizing high-performance computing facilities, such as cloud-based GPUs or TPUs, will enable training on large Gender identification datasets effectively.

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