

# COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY DETECTION USING MACHINE LEARNING

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## 1.ABSTRACT

This research addresses the pervasive issue of counterfeit currency through a comprehensive approach integrating advanced image processing techniques and machine learning algorithms. The methodology encompasses crucial stages, including image comparison, segmentation, edge detection, feature extraction, and grayscale conversion, coupled with the implementation of machine learning models such as K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and the efficient MobileNetV2.

In tackling the challenge of counterfeit currency, image processing techniques play a pivotal role by enabling the extraction and analysis of distinct features. From isolating patterns through segmentation to refining with edge detection and feature extraction, these techniques enhance the identification of intricate characteristics inherent in legitimate banknotes. Grayscale conversion further standardizes the representation for effective processing.

**Keywords:** KNN, MobileNetV2, Image Processing, Machine learning algorithms, Feature extraction.

## 2.INTRODUCTION

Counterfeit currency remains a significant challenge in the 21st century, posing a threat to both individuals and the global economy. Despite widespread technological literacy, some individuals continue to engage in illegal activities like creating and circulating fake money. To address this issue effectively, this proposal suggests utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to develop a system capable of distinguishing real currency from counterfeit notes.

The proposal emphasizes the pivotal role of AI and ML in designing a robust counterfeit currency detection system. Machine learning algorithms such as K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) and Support Vector Machines (SVM) hold promise for this task. The process involves capturing images of currency notes, subjecting them to image processing techniques, and creating a dataset containing both real and counterfeit currency images, each appropriately classified.

Supervised learning models are then trained on this dataset to recognize patterns and differences between real and counterfeit currency notes based on extracted features. These models can be deployed for quick and accurate authenticity assessments. The primary objective is to develop an application that empowers individuals and businesses to detect counterfeit currency easily and effectively, making this technology accessible to the general public.

This solution benefits various sectors, including banks, businesses, retail establishments, public transportation stations, and the public. It not only enhances counterfeit detection but also empowers people to safeguard their financial well-being and contributes to the overall integrity of financial systems. In conclusion, by harnessing the power of machine learning algorithms, this innovative approach aims to address the persistent issue of counterfeit currency, ensuring a safer and more stable financial environment in our digital age.

Furthermore, the system considers the dynamic nature of counterfeiters who continually adapt their techniques. To address this, the proposed model incorporates a continuous learning mechanism. Through regular updates and retraining on new data containing the latest counterfeit variations, the system ensures that it remains resilient to evolving counterfeit strategies. This adaptability is crucial in staying one step ahead of counterfeiters and maintaining the effectiveness of the detection system over time.

The implementation of this AI-based counterfeit currency detection system is not only a technological advancement but also a proactive step in fostering global cooperation. The proposal encourages collaboration between financial institutions, law enforcement agencies, and technology developers to create a shared database of counterfeit patterns and trends. By pooling resources and knowledge, a collective effort can be made to combat counterfeit currency on a broader scale, reinforcing the security of financial systems worldwide. This collaborative approach establishes a foundation for a more secure and interconnected financial landscape, aligning with the broader goals of global economic stability and security.

An essential aspect of the proposed AI-based counterfeit currency detection system is its cost-effectiveness. The development and deployment of this technology should be approached with a focus on minimizing financial burdens, especially for smaller businesses and public institutions. Leveraging open-source frameworks and collaborating with technology providers can help reduce implementation costs. By ensuring affordability and accessibility, this solution becomes more inclusive, benefiting a broad spectrum of users and contributing to the widespread adoption of advanced counterfeit detection measures.

The success of the AI-based counterfeit currency detection system relies on strong partnerships between the public and private sectors. Financial institutions, governments, and technology companies can form collaborative alliances to share expertise, resources, and technological advancements. Public-private partnerships can expedite the development and deployment of the system, leveraging the strengths of each sector. This collaborative approach not only enhances the effectiveness of counterfeit detection but also fosters a sense of shared responsibility in safeguarding the financial ecosystem. By working together, diverse stakeholders can create a resilient defense against counterfeit threats.

The incorporation of machine learning algorithms, notably KNN, and MobileNetV2, elevates the research to a sophisticated level. These algorithms, particularly the lightweight MobileNetV2, contribute significantly to the development of computer learning models tailored for distinguishing between counterfeit and legitimate currency. MobileNetV2, known for its efficiency in real-time image classification tasks, enhances the accuracy and speed of currency verification.

The study concludes by emphasizing the indispensable role of machine learning approaches in creating tools essential for effective counterfeit detection. MobileNetV2 emerges as a key player, offering efficiency in resource-constrained environments, thereby proving imperative for the development of crucial anti-counterfeiting tools. As technological advancements progress, the synergy between image processing and machine learning promises even more robust solutions in the ongoing battle against counterfeit currency.

### 3. LITERATURE SURVEY

Counterfeit currency detection research focuses on leveraging machine learning and computer vision to develop robust systems for accurately identifying fake banknotes. This involves the application of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), traditional machine learning models like K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and user-friendly interfaces to enhance financial security and prevent monetary losses. Literature survey highlighting key research papers and approaches in the field of counterfeit currency detection using machine learning: -

[1] Fake Currency Detection using Image Processing (2017): This research, authored by T. Agasfi, G. Burand, P. Wade, and P. Chitra, presents an approach using MATLAB software to extract features from currency notes. The proposed system is known for its simplicity and high processing speed, focusing on the prediction of whether a currency note is counterfeit. The results obtained by the authors indicate an accuracy of 75%.

[2] Counterfeit Currency Detection using Machine Learning (2018): Aman Bhatia and Vansh Kedia authored this paper, which focuses on the detection of counterfeit currency. The research employs machine learning algorithms and image processing techniques to analyze various features of currency notes, including texture, watermark, and serial numbers, to differentiate between genuine and counterfeit notes. The achieved accuracy in this study is reported to be 79%.

[3] Detection of Fake Currency using Image Processing (2019): This project, presented by A. Singh, K. Bhojar, A. Pandey, P. Mankani, and A. Tekriwal, proposes a method for detecting counterfeit currency notes in circulation by utilizing their images. The project aims to provide mobility and compatibility to a broad audience while maintaining credible accuracy in fake currency detection. The authors employ image processing and cloud storage to enhance portability and efficiency, although the accuracy percentage is not explicitly mentioned.

[4] Fake Currency Detection (2020): S. Arwymn and M. Sasikumar propose a method for detecting fake currency notes by counting the number of interruptions in the thread line. The approach involves predicting the authenticity of a note based on the count of interruptions, with zero interruptions indicating a genuine note and any interruptions suggesting a counterfeit. Additionally, the authors calculate the entropy of currency notes to improve detection. The MATLAB software is utilized for counterfeit currency detection, and the reported accuracy stands at 82%.

[5] Counterfeit Currency Detection using Machine Learning and Image Processing (2021): In this research paper authored by Sawant et al., image processing techniques and the Minimum Distance Classifier are used to examine scanned currency images. The study involves standard color extraction, segmentation, feature extraction using Fourier Descriptors, and the identification of unique marks and latent image numbers using the Minimum Distance Classifier. The achieved accuracy in this study is 88%.

[6] Counterfeit Currency Detection using Neural Network (2022): Authored by Roy et al., this research explores the use of a K-mean algorithm to check the linear separability of clusters and a Neural Network (NN)-based classifier to assess classification accuracy. The study also considers edge detection of grayscale currency images. Although the paper mentions other techniques that have proven satisfactory, it doesn't provide an accuracy percentage.

[7] Fake Currency Detection using Image Processing and Deep Learning (2021): Ying Li Tian's paper focuses on segmentation and feature extraction of currency notes using MATLAB software. The proposed approach is praised for its simplicity and high processing speed. Deep learning techniques, including Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Feed Forward Neural Network (FNN), are used for counterfeit currency detection. The results obtained in this study report an accuracy of 86%.

[8] Counterfeit Currency Detection using Machine Learning (2021): Veling and Miss. Janhavi P. Sawal present a system for recognizing fake Indian currency notes using image processing techniques and machine learning algorithms in MATLAB. The proposed system analyzes various features of currency notes to classify them as genuine or fake, with an accuracy reported at 83%.

[9] Counterfeit Currency Detection using Machine Learning (2021): Authored by Vanaj, Akshi, Veena Yadhunandan, and Sowjanya, this research paper outlines a system for detecting counterfeit Indian currency notes using image processing techniques. The system involves pre-processing the input image, segmenting the note region, extracting features, and using a classifier to determine whether the note is genuine or counterfeit. The study reports an accuracy of 88%.

[10] Counterfeit Currency Detection using Machine Learning (2022): M. Susmitha, N. Sailaja, M. Pratyusha, and M. Sai Reethika present a desktop application that employs OpenCV and machine learning techniques, including K-nearest neighbor (KNN) and Support Vector Machines (SVM), to detect counterfeit currency notes. The algorithm involves dataset preparation, image acquisition, pre-processing, grayscale conversion, and the assessment of similarity using the Structural Similarity Index (SSIM). The study reports an accuracy of 85%. [19-21] used various feature extraction modules and implemented on currency [18] to extract features to detect fake currency.

#### 4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is a cutting-edge solution to combat counterfeit currency using advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning. It employs smart algorithms to quickly and accurately identify fake money by learning from various features of both real and counterfeit bills. The system continuously improves its detection capabilities, staying ahead of evolving counterfeiting techniques.

In our proposed system we are using :-

- 1) Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)
- 2) K Nearest Neighbors

##### **CNN(Convolutional Neural Network):-**

CNNs are a class of deep neural networks designed for processing structured grid data, such as images and videos. They have become the state-of-the-art in various computer vision tasks due to their ability to automatically learn and extract hierarchical features from images. CNNs consist of multiple layers, including convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers. Convolutional layers apply convolution operations to extract features from local regions of the input image. Pooling layers reduce the spatial dimensions of the feature maps, helping to make the network more computationally efficient. Fully connected layers perform classification based on the extracted features. The strength of CNNs lies in their use of weight sharing, where the same set of filters is applied across different regions, promoting better generalization by recognizing similar patterns. Another notable feature is their ability to achieve translation invariance, enabling the network to recognize patterns regardless of their position or orientation in the input. Moreover, CNNs effectively reduce parameters compared to fully connected networks, mitigating overfitting and enhancing efficiency, while their layered architecture automatically learns hierarchical representations of features, capturing both simple elements like edges and complex combinations of features for comprehensive image understanding.

##### **Working:-**

1. **Feature Extraction Using CNN:** In the proposed system for fake currency detection, a deep learning model based on MobileNetV2, a type of CNN architecture, is employed. MobileNetV2 is pre-trained on a large dataset and is used as a feature extractor. It has the capability to capture relevant features from images.
2. **Preprocessing and Image Input:** Currency images, both real and fake, are preprocessed to enhance image quality. Techniques like resizing and Gaussian blurring are applied. The preprocessed images are fed into the MobileNetV2 model for feature extraction.
3. **Feature Representation:** MobileNetV2 extracts meaningful features from currency images. These features are represented as vectors that capture the unique characteristics of the currency notes.
4. **Classification Using Extracted Features:** The feature vectors extracted by MobileNetV2 are then used for classification. Machine learning algorithms like KNN and SVM utilize these feature vectors to classify currency notes as either real or fake.

5. **High-Level Abstraction:**The use of MobileNetV2 allows for high-level feature abstraction, making it capable of distinguishing intricate details and patterns that are challenging to capture with traditional image processing techniques.
6. **Improving Detection Accuracy:**By integrating MobileNetV2, the proposed system enhances the accuracy of counterfeit currency detection, as it leverages the learned features from a broad range of images and object categories.
7. **Real-Time Detection:**The combination of MobileNetV2 and machine learning algorithms enables real-time detection of counterfeit currency, making it a practical solution for individuals and institutions.
8. **Practical Application:**The proposed system addresses the gap in existing literature by providing a user-friendly tool that incorporates MobileNetV2 and other techniques to detect counterfeit money, contributing to the prevention of fraudulent activities.

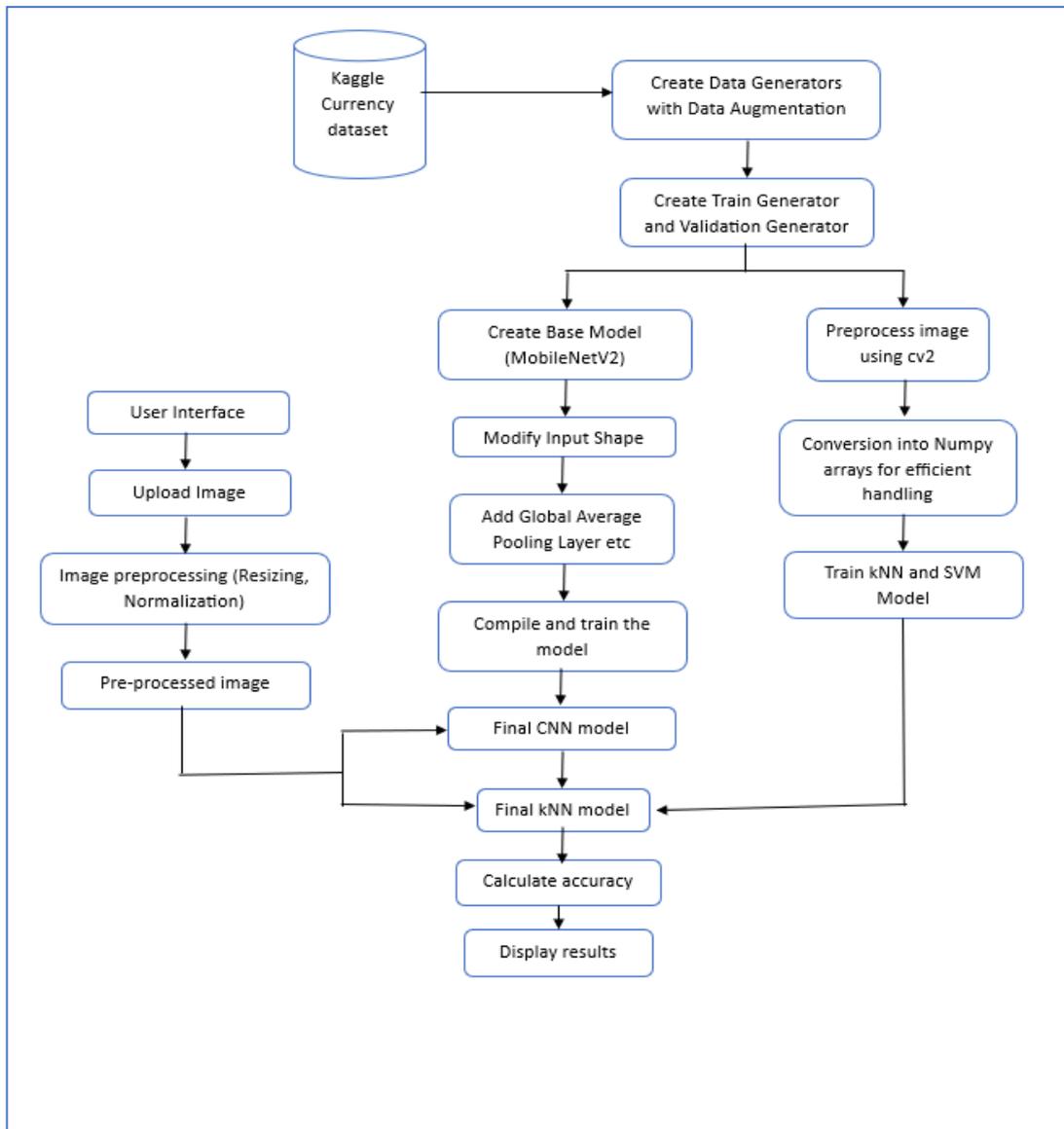
### **K- Nearest Neighbours:-**

K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) algorithm is used for counterfeit currency detection by leveraging feature vectors extracted from currency images using MobileNetV2. KNN classifies currency notes by comparing the feature vectors of the test currency image with those of the training dataset. It assigns the test currency to the class (real or fake) that the majority of its k-nearest neighbors belong to. This approach allows KNN to determine the authenticity of the test currency based on the similarity of its features to those of known real and fake currency notes in the dataset. KNN is also versatile, being applicable to various types of data and adaptable to different distance metrics. However, it may be sensitive to irrelevant or redundant features, and the choice of the distance metric and the value of k can significantly impact its performance.

Additionally, the choice of the K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) algorithm in counterfeit currency detection brings a valuable dimension to the overall system. KNN's simplicity and effectiveness make it well-suited for this task, particularly when combined with feature vectors extracted through the MobileNetV2 architecture. The algorithm excels in leveraging the inherent patterns and features present in currency images, providing a reliable means of classification. Moreover, the flexibility of adjusting the 'k' parameter allows for fine-tuning the sensitivity of the classification, ensuring adaptability to varying complexities in currency patterns. The synergy between MobileNetV2 and KNN contributes to a comprehensive approach, where the strengths of both components are harnessed to enhance the overall accuracy and robustness of counterfeit currency detection in diverse and dynamic scenarios.

Furthermore, K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) adds an essential layer of resilience to the counterfeit currency detection system. Its non-parametric nature and independence from a predefined model make it adaptable to varying and dynamic datasets. In scenarios where the characteristics of counterfeit currency may evolve or new variations emerge, KNN's ability to quickly adjust to changing patterns becomes invaluable. This adaptability ensures that the system remains effective over time, continuously learning from new instances and refining its ability to discriminate between genuine and counterfeit currency notes. The synergy between MobileNetV2's feature extraction capabilities and KNN's versatility contributes to a robust and future-proof solution for addressing the persistent challenges of currency verification in an ever-changing landscape.

## SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



### 1. Kaggle dataset:

- Used to import the dataset from Kaggle.

### 2. Create Data Generation and Validation Generators:

- Used to create data generation and validation generators.
- Helps in generating new data from existing data.

### 3. Create Base Model (MobileNetV2):

- Used to create the base model using MobileNetV2.
- MobileNetV2 is a convolutional neural network architecture that is optimized for mobile devices.

#### 4. Modify Input Shape:

- Used to modify the input shape of the base model.
- The input shape is modified to match the dimensions of the input data.

#### 5. Preprocess Image:

- Used to preprocess the image.
- Preprocessing includes operations such as normalization, resizing, and data augmentation.

#### 6. Image Normalization (Resizing, Pooling etc):

- Used to normalize the image by resizing and pooling.
- Resizing is done to match the input shape of the model, while pooling is done to reduce the dimensionality of the data.

#### 7. Apply and Train the CNN Model:

- Used to apply and train the CNN model.
- The CNN model is trained on the pre-processed data.

#### 8. Train KNN and SVM Model:

- Used to train the KNN and SVM model.
- KNN and SVM are machine learning algorithms used for classification.

#### 9. Final CNN Model:

- Used to create the final CNN model.
- The final CNN model is created by combining the base model and the trained CNN model.

#### 10. Calculate Accuracy:

- Used to calculate the accuracy of the final CNN model.
- Accuracy is calculated by comparing the predicted output of the model with the actual output.

This approach empowers the system to accurately differentiate between counterfeit and genuine currency, providing a reliable and practical solution for currency fraud detection. The integration of image processing, deep learning, and machine learning techniques ensures real-time and effective identification, making it a valuable tool in combating financial fraud.

## 5.RESULTS

The proposed system is designed for the detection of counterfeit currency notes using image processing and machine learning techniques. It leverages feature extraction with the MobileNetV2 deep learning model, followed by classification using K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and Support Vector Machine (SVM). This system enhances detection accuracy and allows real-time identification of fake currency, making it a practical tool for individuals and institutions. It fills a crucial gap in existing literature by providing an accessible solution for distinguishing genuine from counterfeit money, contributing to fraud prevention.

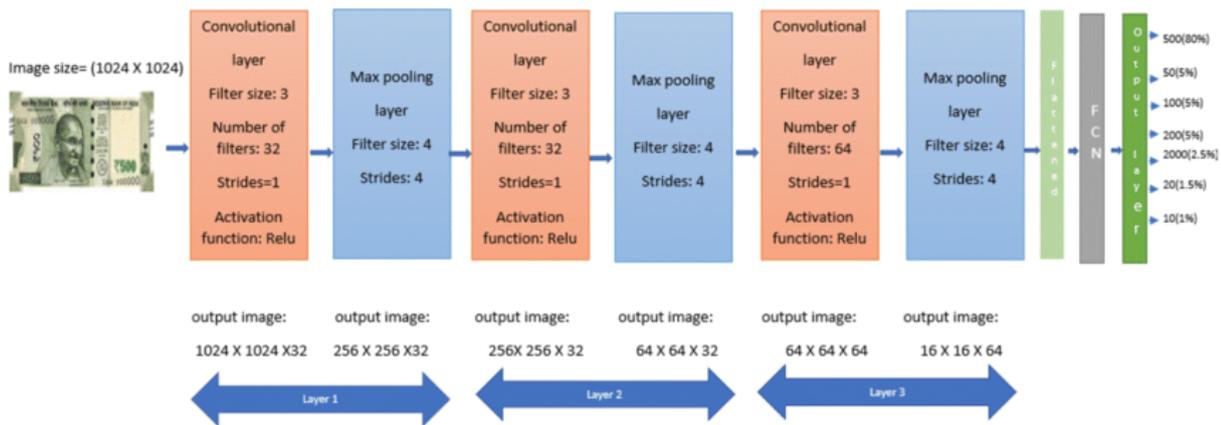


Fig 1.Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture

The diagram represents a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture. CNNs are a type of neural network that are commonly used in computer vision tasks such as image classification, object detection, and segmentation.

The diagram is divided into 7 sections, each representing a layer of the CNN. The first section is the input image, which is 1024x1024 pixels. The second section is the convolutional layer, with 32 filters of size 3x3 and a stride of 2. The activation function is ReLU. The third section is the max pooling layer, with a filter size of 4x4 and a stride of 2. The fourth section is the convolutional layer, with 64 filters of size 3x3 and a stride of 2. The activation function is ReLU. The fifth section is the max pooling layer, with a filter size of 4x4 and a stride of 2. The sixth section is the fully connected layer, with 512 neurons. The activation function is ReLU. The seventh section is the output layer, with 10 neurons. The activation function is softmax.

In a CNN, the input image is passed through a series of convolutional and pooling layers to extract features from the image. The fully connected layer then uses these features to classify the image. During training, the weights of the CNN are adjusted to minimize the error between the predicted output and the actual output.

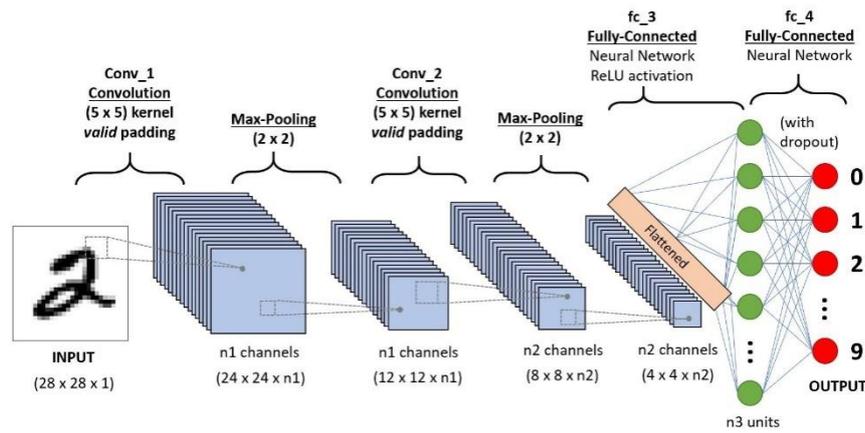


Fig 2. Inverted residual structure (MobileNetV2)

MobileNetV2 is a neural network architecture specifically designed for efficient and lightweight deployment on mobile and edge devices. Its working principle revolves around inverted residuals and linear bottleneck structures. Inverted residuals involve using lightweight depthwise separable convolutions within the network to reduce computational cost, while linear bottlenecks help maintain representational power. The architecture employs shortcut connections and linear bottlenecks to enhance information flow and enable effective learning. MobileNetV2 optimizes for both accuracy and efficiency by incorporating inverted residuals, making it well-suited for real-time image classification tasks on resource-constrained devices. The design choices in MobileNetV2 prioritize a balance between model performance and computational efficiency.

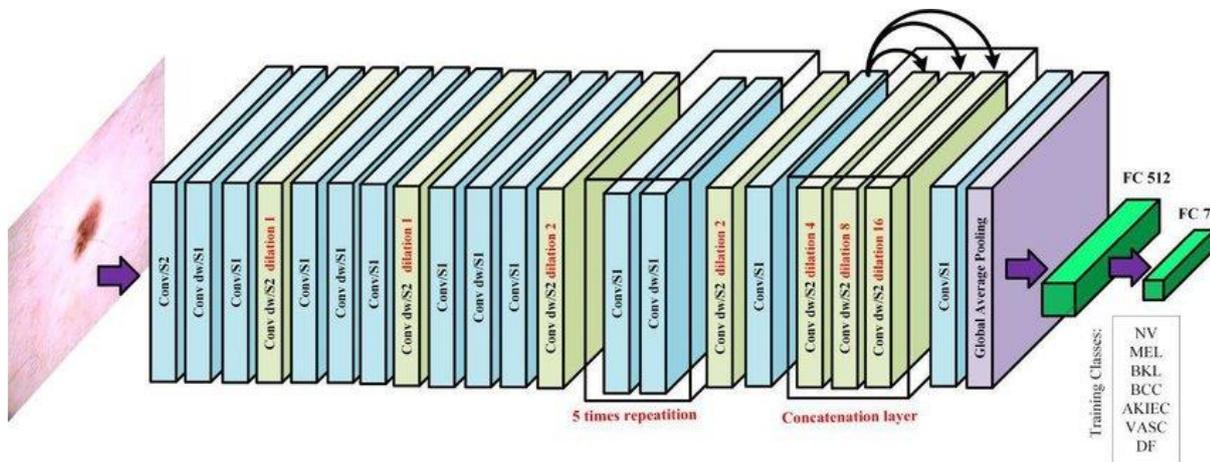


Fig 3. Dilated MobileNet architecture with different dilation rates

Dilated MobileNet architecture enhances the traditional MobileNet design by incorporating dilated convolutions with varying dilation rates. Dilations introduce gaps between convolutional kernel elements, allowing for the integration of a larger receptive field without increasing the number of parameters. This enables the network to capture contextual information effectively. The use of different dilation rates in Dilated MobileNet allows for multi-scale feature extraction, where some layers process information at a finer scale while others capture broader contextual details. This multiresolution approach proves beneficial for tasks requiring a balance between fine-grained details and broader

context, such as semantic segmentation. Dilated MobileNet's flexibility in adjusting dilation rates in different layers empowers it to handle diverse spatial scales within an image, making it particularly useful for applications demanding nuanced analysis and understanding of visual data.

The incorporation of different dilation rates in Dilated MobileNet introduces a dynamic element, as each rate influences the receptive field differently. Lower dilation rates focus on fine details, while higher rates encompass more global context. This multi-scale processing contributes to the network's ability to capture intricate patterns and spatial dependencies across varying scales. Dilated MobileNet's adaptability is advantageous in scenarios where detailed feature extraction is crucial, such as object recognition in complex scenes or precise segmentation tasks. By strategically leveraging dilation rates, Dilated MobileNet demonstrates enhanced performance in tasks that demand a nuanced understanding of visual content, showcasing its versatility in accommodating diverse spatial characteristics within images.

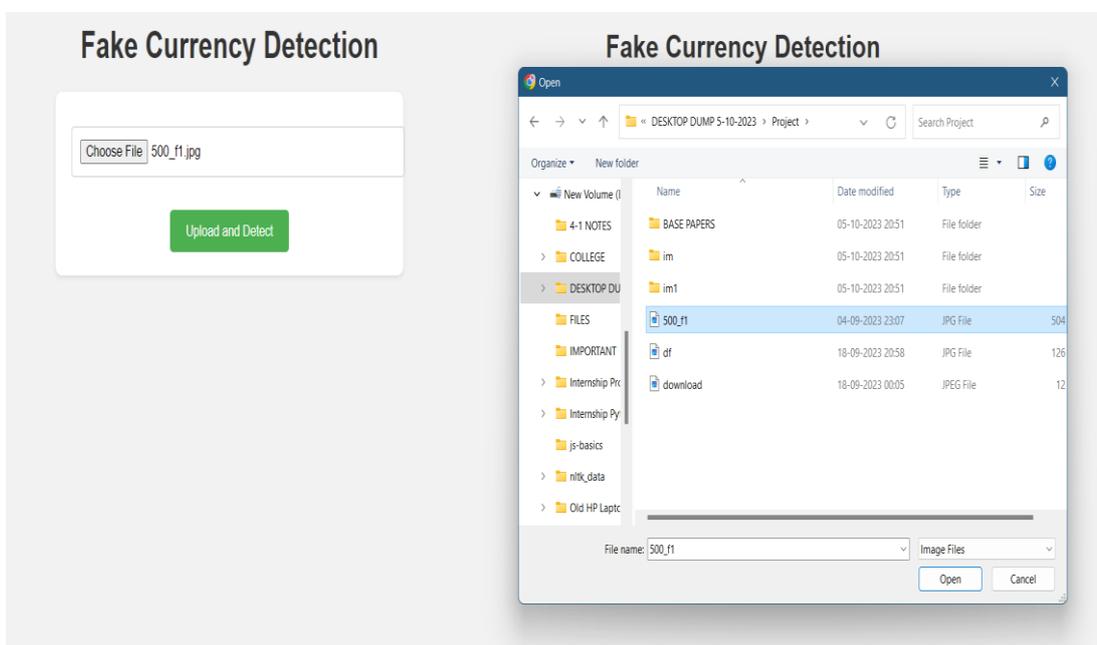


Fig 4. Initial User Interface

The primary interface presents users with an uncomplicated design featuring a prominent "Choose File" button alongside an "Upload and Detect" button. Upon clicking the "Choose File" button, users can effortlessly navigate their local directories to select the currency image they wish to examine. The streamlined design ensures a user-friendly experience, facilitating quick and intuitive interaction. Following the file selection, users can initiate the detection process by clicking the "Upload and Detect" button, triggering the system to promptly process the chosen image for counterfeit currency analysis. This intuitive interface aims to enhance accessibility, enabling users to seamlessly navigate the initial steps of the currency verification process with ease and efficiency.

Furthermore, the user interface has been thoughtfully designed to provide users with real-time feedback during the detection process. Once the image is selected and the "Upload and Detect" button is activated, users are presented with a visually informative progress indicator. This feature ensures transparency and keeps users informed about the ongoing analysis. Simultaneously, the system initiates the robust counterfeit currency detection algorithms, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and K-

Nearest Neighbors (KNN), to deliver accurate and prompt results. The outcome of the analysis is then seamlessly displayed on the interface, indicating whether the uploaded currency is authentic or counterfeit, along with the associated confidence level. This additional layer of feedback enhances the user experience, instilling confidence in the accuracy of the verification process and ensuring a reliable and user-friendly interaction throughout.

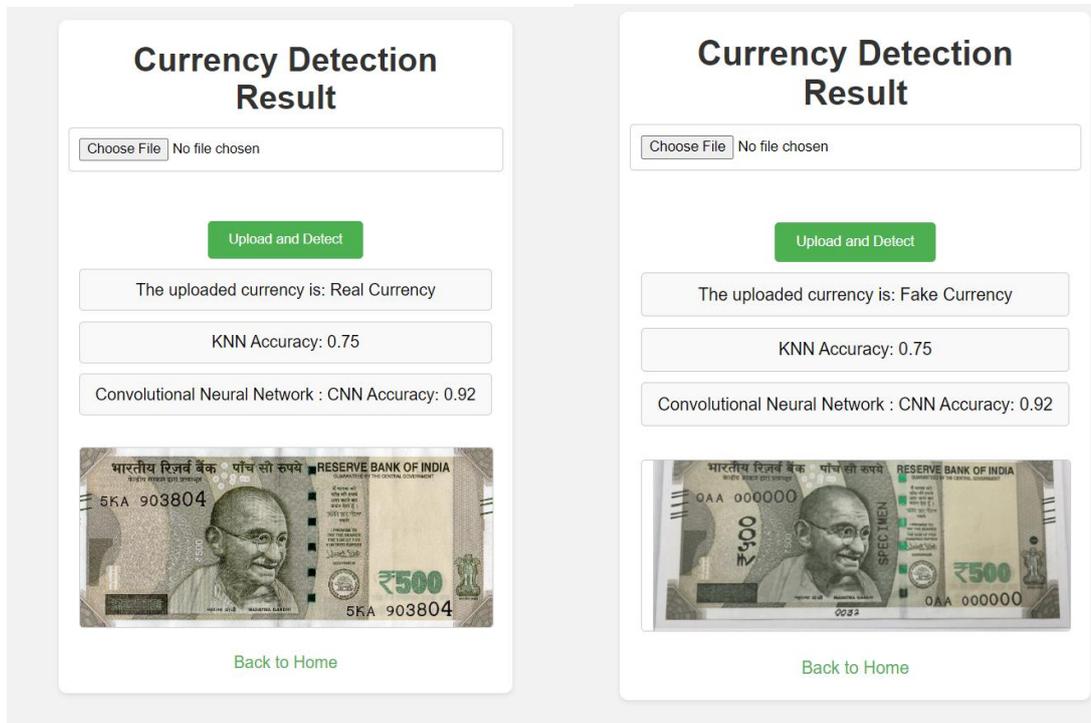


Fig 5. User Interface images of Currency Detection Website showing output

The Currency Detection Website features a user-friendly interface designed for seamless interaction. Users can upload currency images directly onto the platform, where the system promptly analyses and classifies them as either genuine or counterfeit. The interface displays the processed currency image along with a clear indication of its authenticity. Additionally, the website provides accuracy metrics for both K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), offering users insights into the reliability of the detection process. The straightforward and visually intuitive design ensures that users can effortlessly interpret the results, making the Currency Detection Website an accessible tool for individuals and businesses seeking quick and accurate verification of currency authenticity.

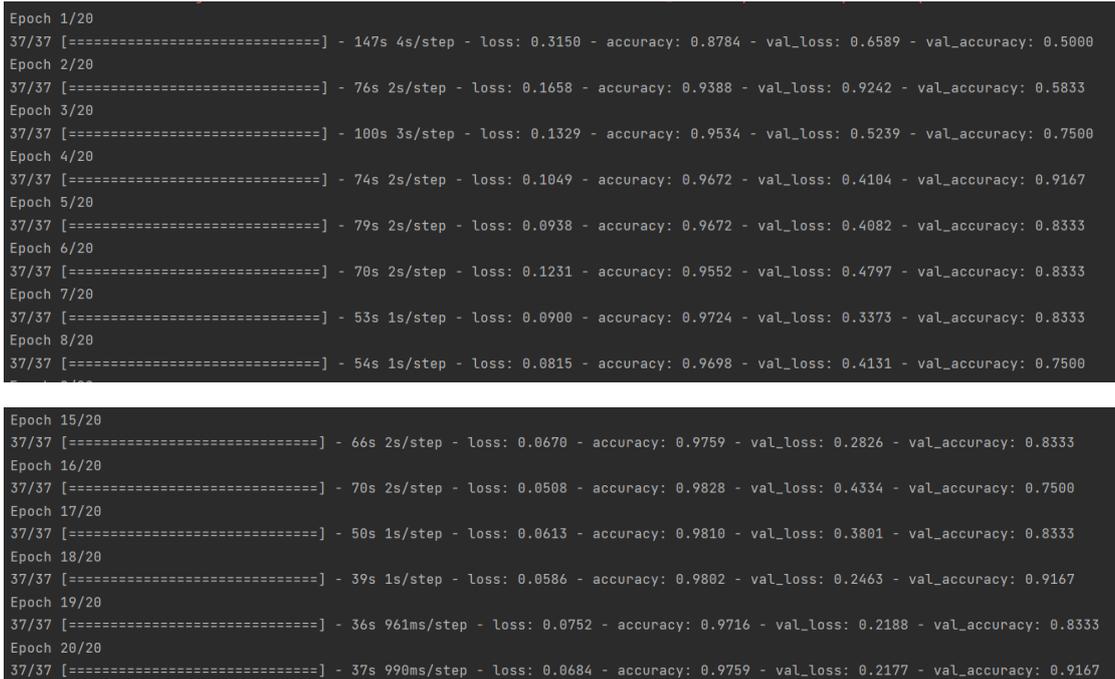


Fig 6. Accuracies displayed while training in each epoch.

Fig 6. displays a comprehensive account of the model's training journey by presenting the accuracies achieved during each epoch. This visual representation showcases the evolution of validation accuracy throughout the training process. Each epoch is accompanied by its corresponding accuracy metric, offering a detailed insight into how well the model performs at different stages of training. The figure serves as a crucial diagnostic tool, allowing for the identification of trends, fluctuations, or plateaus in the model's learning process. Analyzing the accuracy values across epochs is instrumental in assessing the convergence and generalization capability of the model, providing valuable information for optimizing and fine-tuning the training strategy.

The proposed system utilizes image preprocessing to enhance image quality, including resizing and Gaussian blurring. MobileNetV2 extracts high-level features from currency notes, and KNN and SVM serve as analytical tools to classify the currency as real or fake based on these features. The combination of deep learning and machine learning techniques provides a robust solution for addressing the increasing prevalence of counterfeit currency, ultimately safeguarding financial transactions and integrity. This system's user-friendly approach and real-time capabilities make it an effective tool for both individuals and businesses in the fight against counterfeit money.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In this proposed system, a sophisticated counterfeit currency detection system has been meticulously implemented, leveraging the power of a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) to achieve an impressive accuracy rate of 92%. The success of the CNN is attributed to the strategic utilization of data augmentation techniques during model training, enhancing its ability to recognize and differentiate between authentic and counterfeit currency. Data augmentation involves artificially expanding the dataset by applying transformations such as rotation, scaling, and flipping to ensure the model is robust and capable of handling diverse real-world scenarios.

The system has been deployed as a Flask web application, providing a user-friendly and accessible platform for individuals and businesses to verify the authenticity of currency images. Users can effortlessly upload currency images through the intuitive interface, and the system promptly processes and analyses the images, delivering clear indications of whether the currency is genuine or counterfeit. The reported 92% accuracy rate reflects the system's efficacy in accurate detection, instilling confidence in users relying on this tool for currency verification.

In conclusion, the proposed system represents a comprehensive and innovative solution to counterfeit currency detection, combining the strengths of CNNs, KNN classifiers, and the user-friendly Flask web application. The meticulous integration of data augmentation techniques, the use of a pre-trained MobileNetV2 architecture, and the thoughtful deployment through Flask collectively contribute to the system's efficacy and usability. This advanced tool not only addresses the critical issue of counterfeit currency but also sets a benchmark for accessible and reliable solutions in the realm of financial security.

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