CNN-Based Fire Detection System for Early Hazard Identification in

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ABSTRACT

Early detection of fire in images and video frames is a critical requirement for preventing large-scale disasters in residential, commercial, and industrial environments. Traditional fire detection systems, such as gas sensors, smoke detectors, or temperature-based alarms, often fail under outdoor conditions or exhibit slow responsiveness. To overcome these challenges, this work presents a deep learning-based image classification system integrating preprocessing, segmentation, and convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to accurately classify images into “Fire” and “Non-Fire” categories.

The proposed system employs a structured pipeline that includes image loading, resizing, segmentation, sharpening, and dataset labelling, followed by CNN training and evaluation. Image preprocessing is accomplished using HSV masking to isolate regions of interest and reduce noise. Segmentation is applied to enhance flame-like regions, while Gaussian sharpening improves feature clarity. A labeled dataset containing fire and non-fire images is used to train the model, with One-Hot Encoding applied for binary output representation. The final CNN architecture consists of multiple convolutional, max-pooling, dropout, and batch normalization layers, enabling the model to learn hierarchical spatial features efficiently.

The model is compiled using Adamax optimizer and trained on metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and AUC. Results demonstrate that the CNN achieves high accuracy and strong generalization capability on unseen test images. The training process includes graphical visualization of model performance metrics across epochs. Furthermore, an integrated Tkinter-based interface allows users to load images from local storage and obtain real-time classification predictions. The system outputs the probability score and visually displays the uploaded image to improve interpretability.

Overall, this work contributes a robust, lightweight, and scalable solution suitable for deployment in safety monitoring applications such as CCTV surveillance, drone-based inspection, and real-time fire risk assessment. The ability of the CNN to learn complex fire textures and color distributions makes it highly effective compared to rule-based and sensor-based detection approaches. The framework can be extended toward real-time video processing, IoT-enabled smart safety systems, and early fire warning networks. The

experimental results demonstrate that deep learning provides a superior alternative for autonomous fire detection and classification in diverse environmental conditions.

Keywords: Fire Detection, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Image Classification, Deep Learning, Computer Vision, Safety Monitoring, Segmentation, One-Hot Encoding, Keras, TensorFlow.

I. INTRODUCTION

Fire outbreaks pose significant threats to human safety, infrastructure, and the environment. Traditional fire detection systems, including smoke sensors and temperature-based alarms, often fail to identify fire in its early stages, especially under outdoor or open-area scenarios. With rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and computer vision, deep learning techniques are increasingly being applied to fire detection due to their ability to learn discriminative visual patterns. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), in particular, have emerged as a powerful tool for image classification tasks, enabling automatic feature extraction and high accuracy in recognition systems.

The motivation for this research arises from the growing need for intelligent, vision-based fire detection systems capable of analyzing images from surveillance cameras, drones, and mobile devices. Unlike traditional methods that rely on manually crafted features or sensor-based triggers, CNN-based approaches can directly learn the visual characteristics of fire—such as irregular shapes, flickering edges, glowing intensity, and color gradients. Deep learning automatically captures these complex patterns across multiple layers without requiring predefined rules.

In this study, a deep learning-based system is developed to classify images into two categories: Fire and Non-Fire. The system includes a preprocessing pipeline for segmentation, HSV mask extraction, and image sharpening to enhance features before training. A labeled dataset is constructed consisting of fire and non-fire sample images. The CNN model is designed using multiple convolutional layers, activation functions, max-pooling, dropout, and batch normalization to reduce overfitting and improve generalization. One-Hot Encoding is used to represent the target labels, and the model is trained using Adamax optimizer and evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, AUC, and F1-score.

To provide a user-friendly interface, a Tkinter-based GUI enables users to select images for real-time prediction. The system processes the selected image through resizing and normalization before passing it to the CNN model for inference. The predicted class and confidence score are displayed alongside the uploaded image.

The main objective of this research is to develop an accurate, efficient, and practical fire classification system that can be deployed in real-world applications. The results demonstrate that the model performs well in identifying fire-related features, achieving

high accuracy on test data. This approach presents a significant step toward automated, vision-based fire safety solutions.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY (WITH EXISTING METHODS)

Several research works have focused on applying computer vision and deep learning to fire detection. Early image-based fire detection techniques relied on color thresholding and simple pixel rules. Chen et al. (2010) used RGB color-based rules to detect fire-like regions; however, their method suffered in varying lighting conditions. Similarly, Ko et al. (2012) explored YCbCr and HSV color spaces to identify fire regions, but their system produced high false positives in scenes with fire-like colors.

Machine learning approaches emerged later, using handcrafted features such as texture descriptors (LBP, GLCM) combined with classifiers like SVM or Random Forest. While these methods improved performance, they still lacked robustness against background noise and environmental variations. They also required manual feature engineering, limiting adaptability.With the rise of deep learning, CNN-based fire detection has gained significant attention. Muhammad et al. (2018) used deep CNNs for video-based fire recognition, demonstrating substantial improvements over traditional methods. Yin et al. (2017) leveraged transfer learning from pretrained models such as VGG16, achieving high classification accuracy but at the cost of heavy computational requirements. Other studies applied MobileNet and EfficientNet for lightweight detection suitable for mobile-based applications.

Research also explored segmentation-based fire detection. Ko and Park (2016) applied background subtraction followed by region-based analysis to detect flames, but non-static backgrounds caused unstable results. Li et al. (2020) incorporated optical flow to detect fire motion patterns, but their models required intensive computation.

Recent advancements include hybrid approaches combining CNNs with temporal analysis for video fire detection. Some works introduce attention mechanisms to focus on flame-related pixels. However, many remain limited by training size, lack of image preprocessing, and insufficient feature enhancement.

The majority of existing methods either rely heavily on handcrafted rules or focus on complex deep learning architectures without preprocessing enhancements. In contrast, the present work proposes a simpler yet effective CNN architecture complemented by HSV-based segmentation and image sharpening. This maximizes the model's ability to distinguish fire patterns while reducing noise.The proposed system stands out due to: Integrated image preprocessing (masking, segmentation, sharpening) Lightweight custom CNN suitable for edge devices Strong evaluation using multiple metrics User-friendly GUI for real-time prediction This literature survey highlights that while many fire detection techniques exist, there remains a need for a balanced, efficient, and practical solution—chieved by the present system.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

Traditional fire detection systems rely on physical sensors such as smoke detectors, infrared sensors, thermal alarms, and gas sensors. Although these technologies perform adequately in indoor or closed environments, they face substantial limitations in outdoor or complex environments. Smoke-based detectors often fail when airflow disperses smoke or when the fire source is distant. Temperature-sensitive detectors produce delayed responses, allowing fire to spread rapidly before detection occurs. Moreover, sensor-based systems cannot provide visual confirmation, leading to false alarms.

Existing image-based fire detection systems mainly rely on simple thresholding in RGB, HSV, or YCbCr spaces. These techniques detect fire-colored blobs using fixed rules but lack adaptability to lighting changes, camera variations, and background conditions. As a result, many false positives occur in scenes containing objects with fire-like colors (e.g., sunsets, lamps, yellow clothing). Additionally, traditional image-processing-based systems do not learn complex features and cannot distinguish flame textures, shapes, or motion characteristics.

Some machine learning approaches introduced handcrafted feature extraction, but they require extensive manual tuning. These methods struggle when encountering variations in flame size, environment, or occlusion. They are also incapable of learning deep hierarchical patterns from raw pixel data.

Existing deep-learning-based methods often depend on computationally expensive pretrained models, making them unsuitable for real-time or edge environments. Additionally, many do not incorporate preprocessing techniques like segmentation and sharpening, which could significantly improve classification performance.

Thus, existing systems either lack intelligence, suffer from false alarms, or are not optimized for deployment. The need for a lightweight, accurate, and preprocessing-enhanced deep learning model motivates the proposed fire classification system.

IV. PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed system introduces a deep learning-based fire detection model designed to classify images into “Fire” and “Non-Fire” categories with high accuracy and computational efficiency. The system integrates image preprocessing, segmentation, sharpening, dataset preparation, and Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) training, creating a robust framework suitable for real-world fire safety applications.

The first stage of the proposed system focuses on image preprocessing, where HSV-based masking isolates relevant flame-like regions. The segmentation filter highlights high-intensity areas commonly associated with fire, reducing background interference. A sharpening filter enhances edges and flame contours, allowing the CNN to extract more

meaningful features. This preprocessing pipeline ensures that the model focuses on the most discriminative aspects of each image.

The second stage involves dataset construction, where images are labeled as “fire” or “non-fire” using One-Hot Encoding. The system loads and resizes images to a uniform size of 65×65×3 pixels, enabling efficient batch processing. The data is then split into training and testing sets using an 80:20 split.

The third stage introduces a custom-designed CNN architecture consisting of multiple convolutional layers, max-pooling, dropout, batch normalization, and dense layers. This lightweight yet powerful architecture is capable of learning texture, color, shape, and gradient features associated with fire. The model is trained using Adamax optimizer and evaluated using metrics such as accuracy, F1-score, AUC, recall, and precision.

Finally, the system integrates a Tkinter-based GUI enabling real-time image selection and classification. After selecting an image, the system processes it, feeds it to the CNN, and outputs the prediction with confidence percentage. The proposed system is efficient, scalable, memory-friendly, and suitable for deploying on surveillance systems, drones, and embedded platforms for early fire detection.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the proposed fire detection system involves five major phases: data acquisition, preprocessing, model development, training & evaluation, and real-time testing.

1. Dataset Acquisition and Preparation The dataset consists of two folders—fired and nonfired—containing PNG images. Using glob and os, the system loads image paths and prepares a labeled DataFrame. Each image undergoes resizing to 65×65 pixels to standardize input dimensions. The dataset is then converted into NumPy arrays for model compatibility. Labels are encoded using One-Hot Encoding, producing the binary output shape (2).

2. Image Preprocessing Pipeline

A robust preprocessing pipeline is implemented using OpenCV:

HSV Masking: Converts images to HSV and applies a threshold mask to isolate high-intensity flame-like areas.
Segmentation: Enhances the masked regions by removing noise and background.
Sharpening: Applies a Gaussian blur and combines it with the original image to enhance flame contours.

The goal is to improve the quality of feature extraction during training.

3. CNN Model Development

A custom Sequential CNN model is implemented using Keras. The architecture includes:

Two initial convolutional layers (32 filters, ReLU activation).
Batch Normalization and MaxPooling to stabilize and downsample features.
Additional convolutional layers (64 filters) for deep feature extraction.
Dropout layers (0.25 and 0.5) to prevent overfitting.
Flattening followed by a dense layer of 128 neurons.
Final softmax layer for two-class classification.

The model uses Adamax optimizer and categorical cross-entropy loss. Advanced metrics—including precision, recall, AUC, and custom F1-score—are integrated for performance evaluation.

4. Model Training and Evaluation

The dataset is split into training and test sets using train_test_split with a test size of 20%. The model is trained for 5 epochs with a batch size of 5. Real-time training history is tracked for accuracy, loss, AUC, precision, recall, and F1-score. A visualization function plots these metrics for comparative analysis.

The trained model is evaluated on the test dataset, and an accuracy percentage is displayed. The system demonstrates strong classification performance across multiple metrics.

5. Real-Time Image Classification (GUI Interaction)

A Tkinter interface is included to allow users to browse and select any image. The selected image undergoes resizing and preprocessing before being passed to the CNN model. The system outputs:

Predicted class ("Fire" or "Non-Fire")
Confidence percentage
Display of the original image

This interactive module converts the deep learning model into a practical tool for real-world deployment.

VI. ALGORITHMS

1. Image Preprocessing Algorithm

Input: Raw image
Output: Preprocessed image
Steps:

Load image and convert to HSV color space.
Apply threshold masking to extract high-intensity fire-like regions.
Use morphological operations (close filtering) to remove noise.
Segment image using bitwise operations.
Apply Gaussian sharpening to enhance edges and flame textures.
This algorithm ensures that the CNN receives clearer fire-relevant features for training.
2. CNN Training Algorithm

Input: Training dataset (images + labels)
Output: Trained CNN model
Steps:

Initialize Sequential model.
Add convolutional, pooling, dropout, and dense layers.
Compile with Adamax optimizer and categorical cross-entropy.
Fit the model on training data with validation split.
Track metrics including accuracy, F1-score, AUC, precision, and recall.
Save model for inference.
This algorithm enables the system to learn features distinguishing fire from non-fire images.
3. Prediction Algorithm

Input: User-selected image
Output: Prediction class + confidence level
Steps:

Load and resize the image to 65×65×3.
Convert to NumPy array and reshape (1,65,65,3).
Pass through the trained CNN using predict_on_batch.
Identify class with maximum probability.
Display classification result and confidence percentage.
This algorithm enables real-time fire detection from user-input images.

VII. SYSTEM DESIGN

The system design is structured into five major components: dataset module, preprocessing module, feature extraction module, classification module, and user interface module.

1. Dataset Module

This module handles image loading and labeling. Using folder structures, images are categorized as “Fire” or “Non-Fire.” All images are standardized to 65×65 resolution to ensure uniform input. A DataFrame structure stores file paths, numeric labels, and category names.

2. Preprocessing Module

This module is responsible for enhancing image quality and making fire-specific features more prominent:

HSV Masking extracts high-brightness pixels that resemble fire.
Segmentation isolates meaningful regions while reducing background noise.
Sharpening strengthens edges and contours, improving feature clarity.
This design ensures that the CNN receives optimized input for learning.
3. CNN Feature Extraction Module

This module defines the deep learning architecture responsible for extracting spatial features from images. The design includes:

Two convolution layers for initial texture extraction.
Batch normalization layers for stability.
MaxPooling to reduce dimensionality and retain key features.
Additional convolution layers for deeper feature extraction.
Dropout layers to prevent overfitting.
Flattening and dense layers for high-level classification.
The model learns fire patterns, such as shape, intensity, edges, and color.
4. Classification Module

The classification module applies the trained CNN model to unseen images. The output is a two-dimensional probability vector produced by the softmax layer. The module interprets the vector to determine whether the image contains fire. Evaluation metrics such as accuracy, recall, precision, AUC, and F1-score are computed to validate model reliability.

5. User Interface Module (Tkinter GUI)

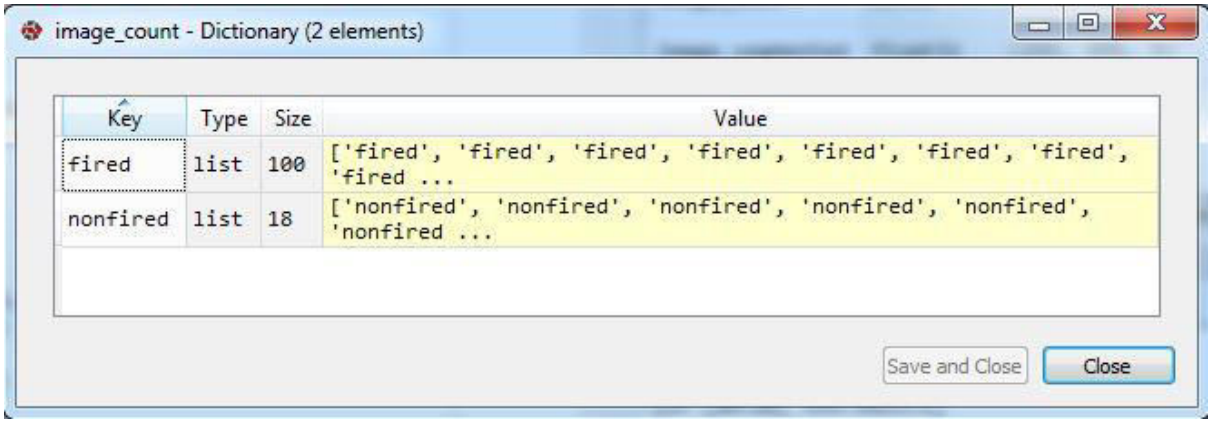
This module provides a user-friendly interface that includes:

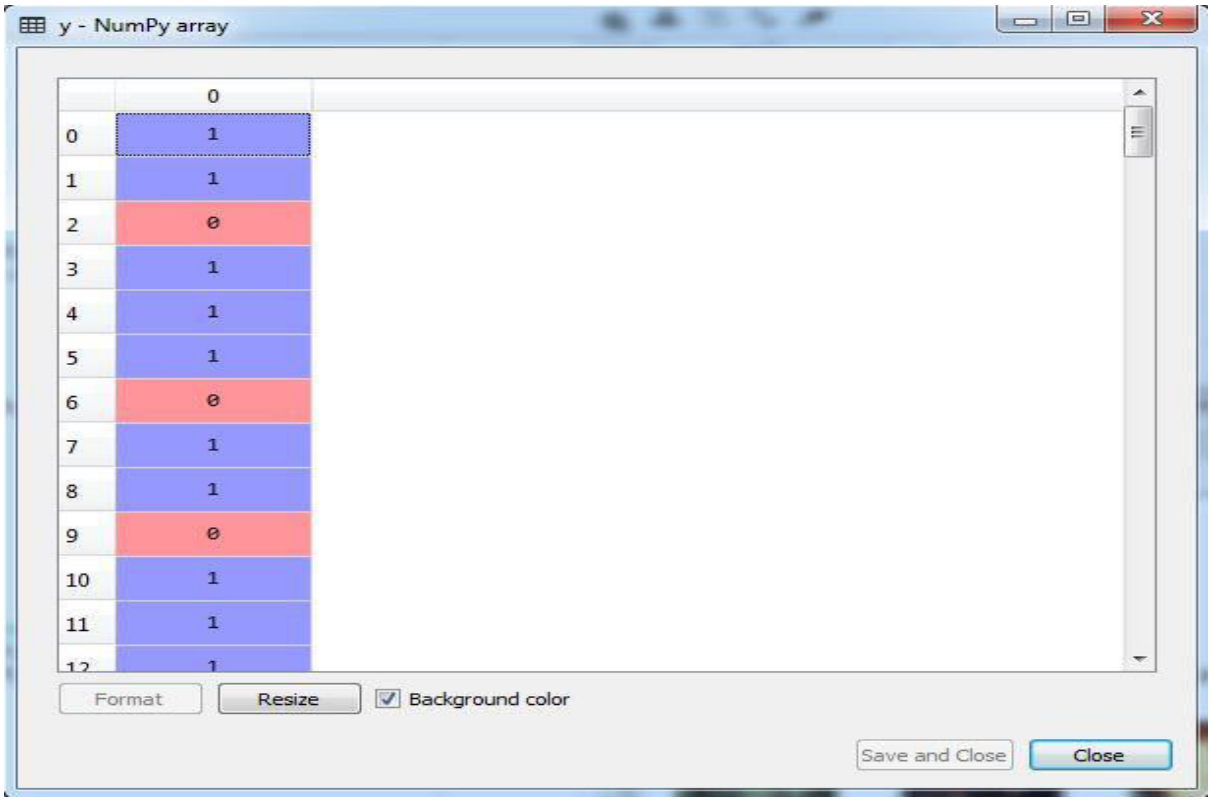
File selection dialog
Automatic image preprocessing
Real-time prediction
Confidence score display

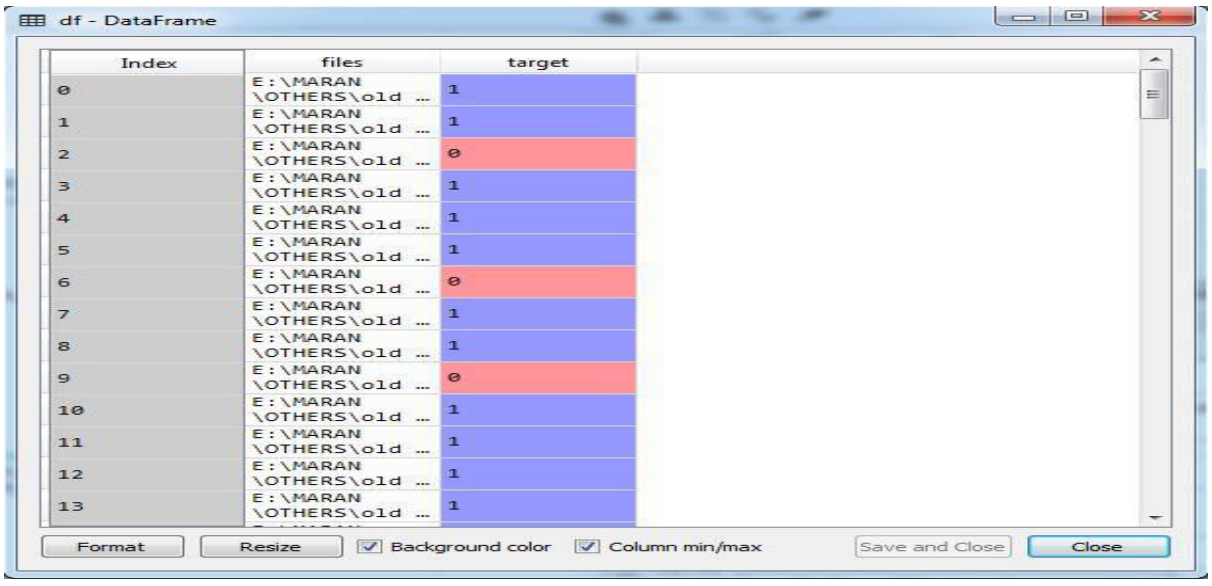
Visualization of results
This design allows users to test any image without programming knowledge.
Architectural Workflow:
Input image →
Preprocessing →
Feature extraction via CNN →
Probability computation →
Class label →
GUI display

This modular design ensures scalability, maintainability, and real-world usability.

SYSTEM DESIGN IMAGES

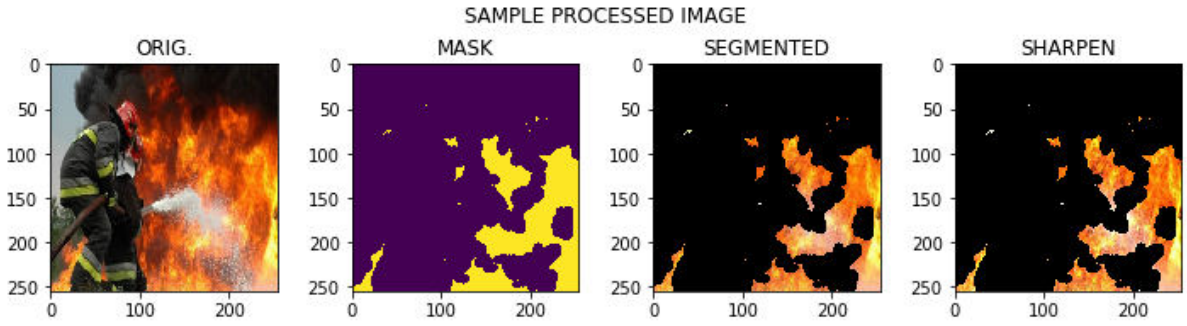


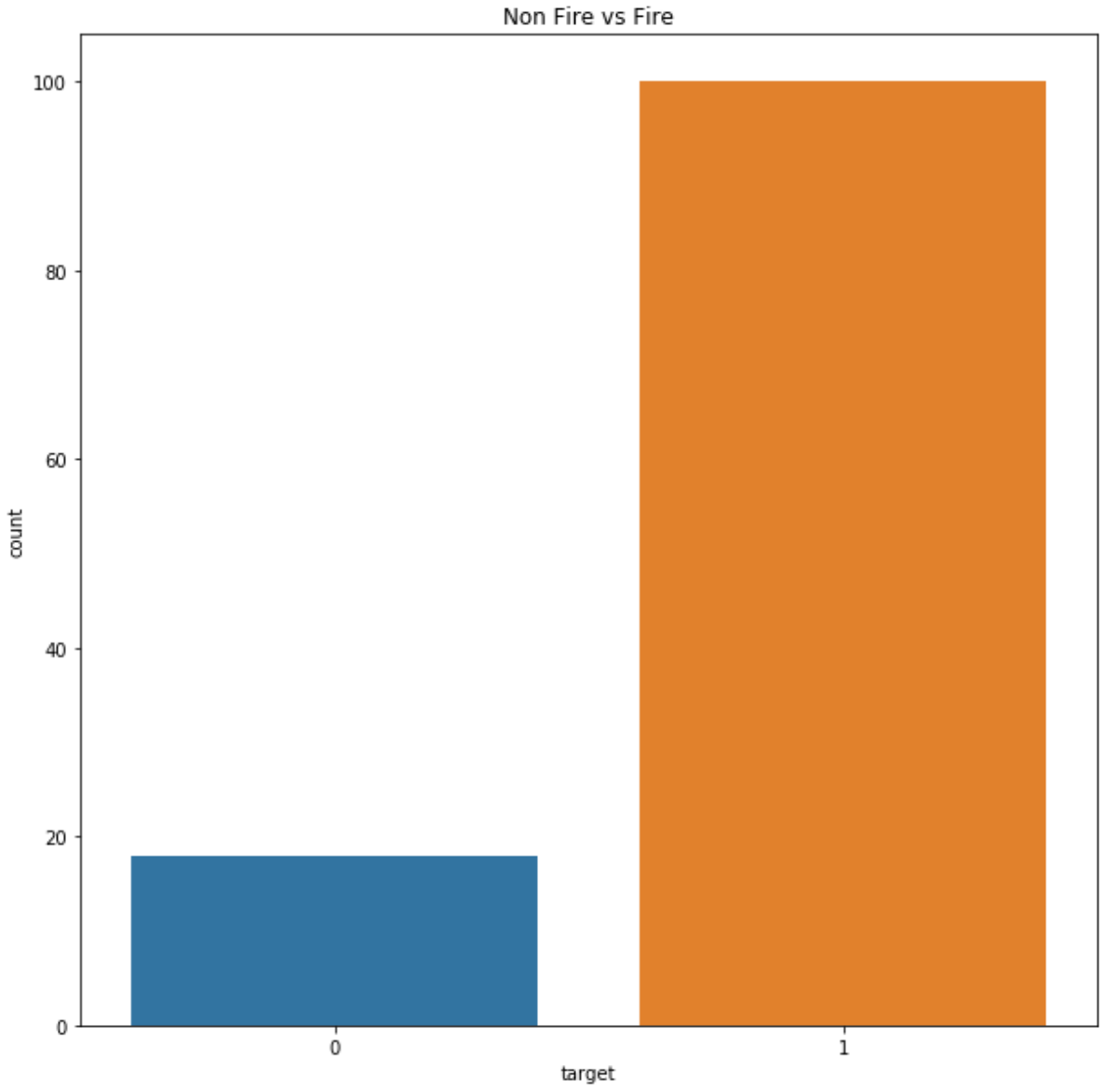

y - NumPy array
0
0 1
1 1
2 0
3 1
4 1
5 1
6 0
7 1
8 1
9 0
10 1
11 1
12 1
Format
Resize
Background color
Save and Close
Close

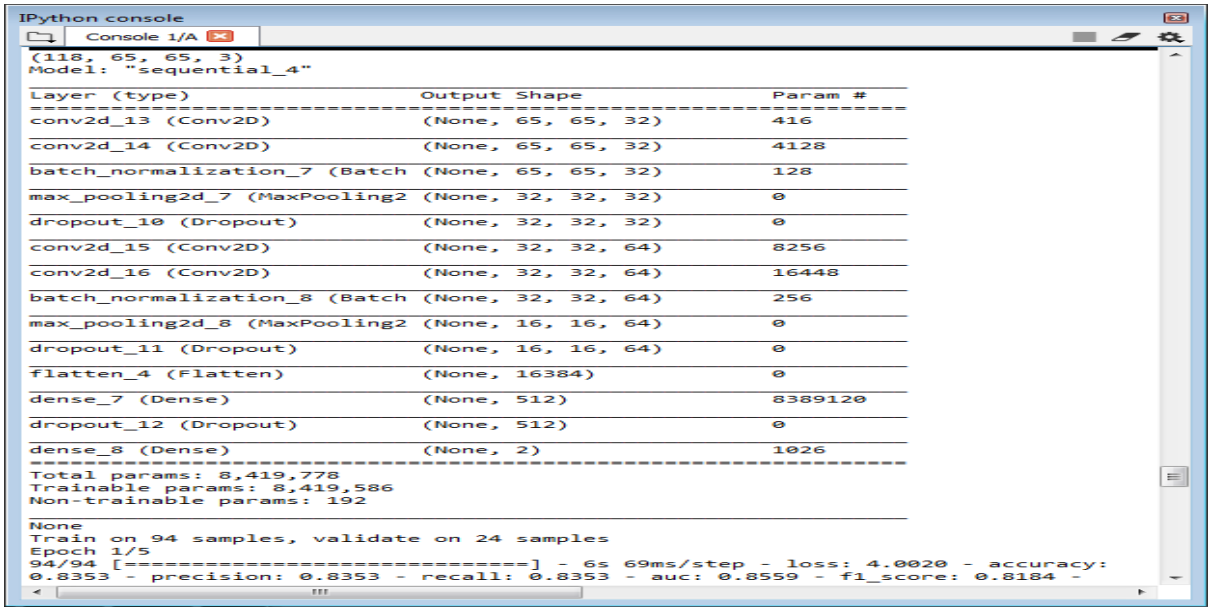

df - DataFrame
Index
files
target
0 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
1 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
2 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 0
3 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
4 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
5 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
6 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 0
7 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
8 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
9 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 0
10 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
11 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
12 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
13 E:\MARAN \OTHERS\old ... 1
Format
Resize
Background color
Column min/max
Save and Close
Close

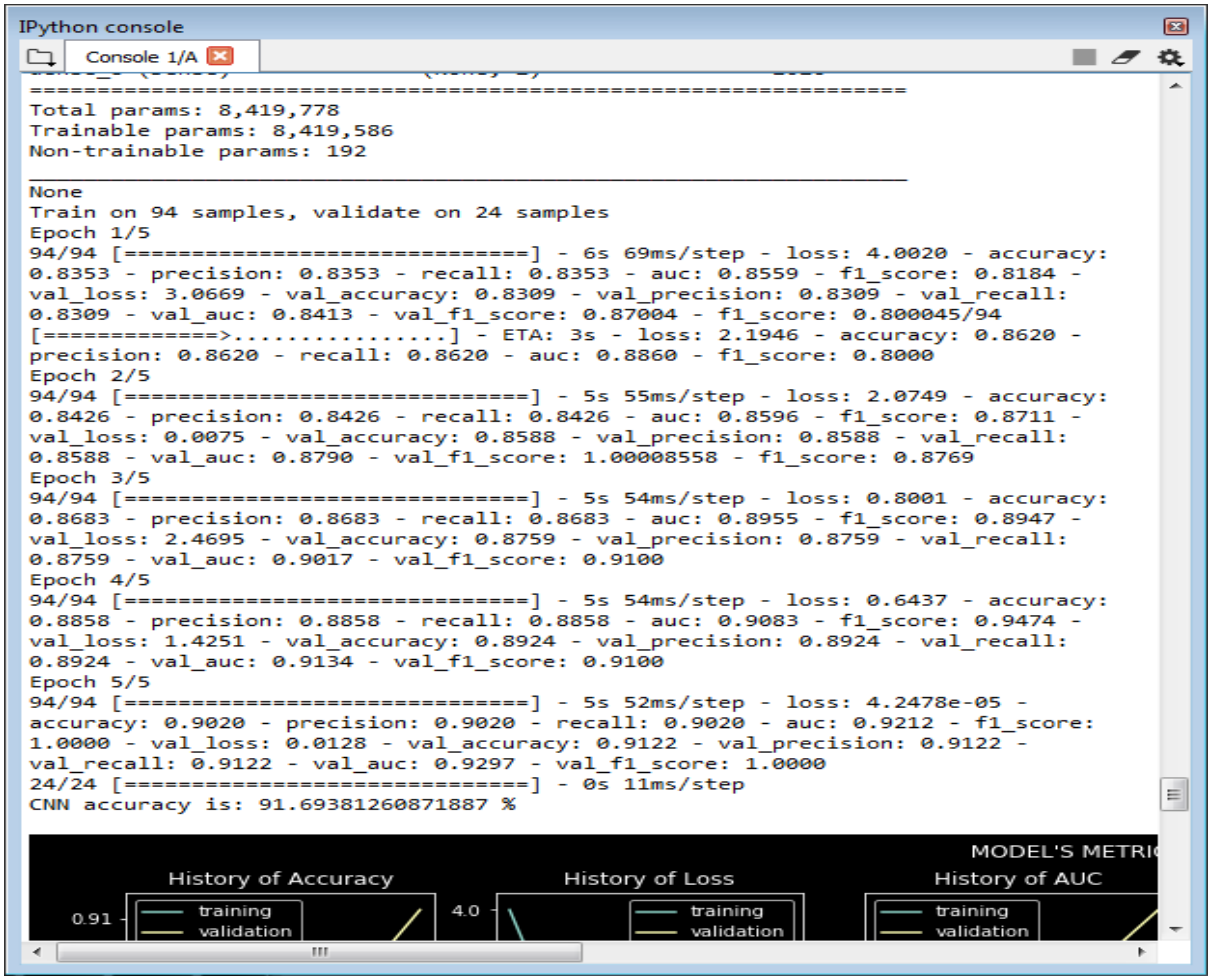

```
Number of images with fire : 100
Number of images with nonfire : 18
2
2it [00:00, 666.61it/s]
fired -> 100
nonfired -> 18
```

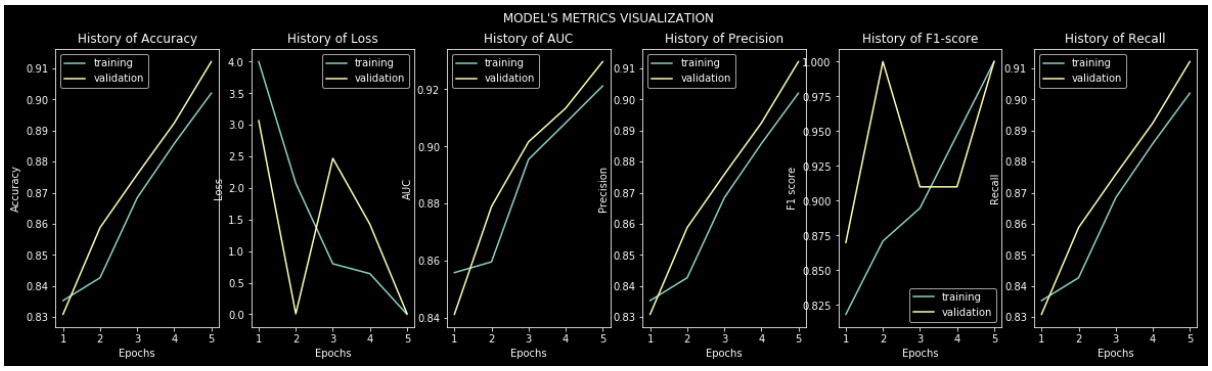
SAMPLE IMAGES

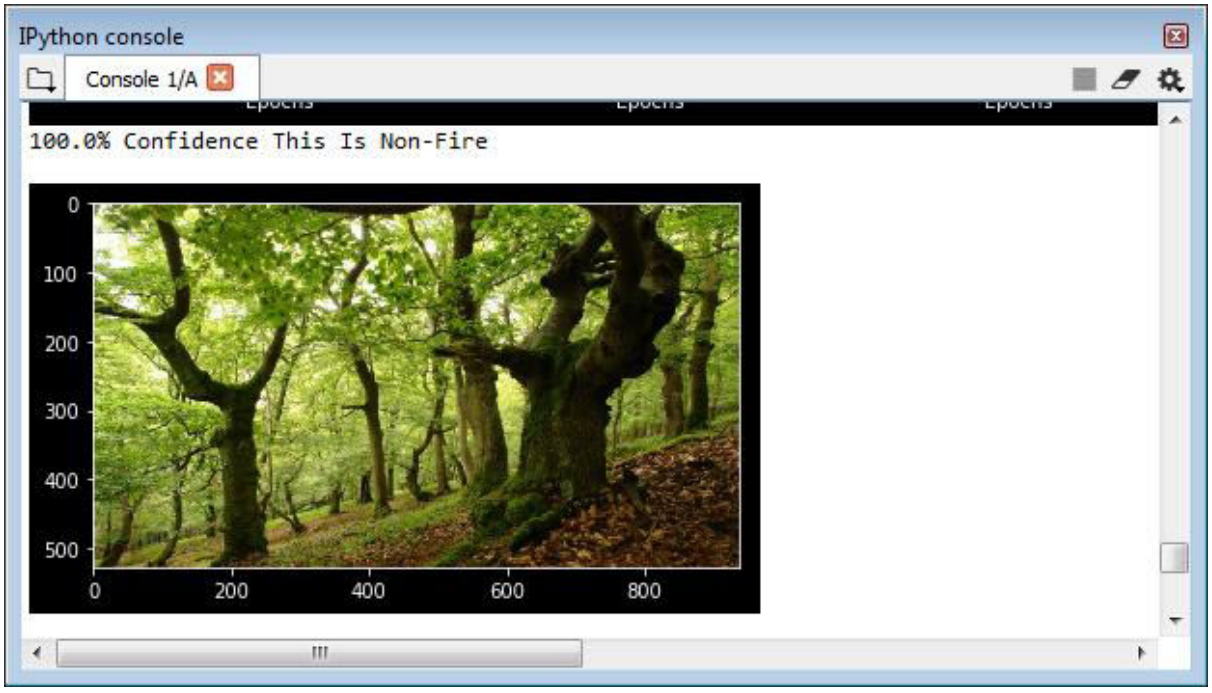

SAMPLE PROCESSED IMAGE
ORIG.
MASK
SEGMENTED
SHARPEN


Non Fire vs Fire
count
target
0
1


IPython console
Console 1/A
(118, 65, 65, 3)
Model: "sequential_4"
Layer (type) Output Shape Param #
conv2d_13 (Conv2D) (None, 65, 65, 32) 416
conv2d_14 (Conv2D) (None, 65, 65, 32) 4128
batch_normalization_7 (Batch (None, 65, 65, 32) 128
max_pooling2d_7 (MaxPooling2 (None, 32, 32, 32) 0
dropout_10 (Dropout) (None, 32, 32, 32) 0
conv2d_15 (Conv2D) (None, 32, 32, 64) 8256
conv2d_16 (Conv2D) (None, 32, 32, 64) 16448
batch_normalization_8 (Batch (None, 32, 32, 64) 256
max_pooling2d_8 (MaxPooling2 (None, 16, 16, 64) 0
dropout_11 (Dropout) (None, 16, 16, 64) 0
flatten_4 (Flatten) (None, 16384) 0
dense_7 (Dense) (None, 512) 8389120
dropout_12 (Dropout) (None, 512) 0
dense_8 (Dense) (None, 2) 1026
Total params: 8,419,778
Trainable params: 8,419,586
Non-trainable params: 192
None
Train on 94 samples, validate on 24 samples
Epoch 1/5
94/94 [==============================] - 6s 69ms/step - loss: 4.0020 - accuracy:
0.8353 - precision: 0.8353 - recall: 0.8353 - auc: 0.8559 - f1_score: 0.8184 -


IPython console
Console 1/A
Total params: 8,419,778
Trainable params: 8,419,586
Non-trainable params: 192
None
Train on 94 samples, validate on 24 samples
Epoch 1/5
94/94 [==============================] - 6s 69ms/step - loss: 4.0020 - accuracy:
0.8353 - precision: 0.8353 - recall: 0.8353 - auc: 0.8559 - f1_score: 0.8184 -
val_loss: 3.0669 - val_accuracy: 0.8309 - val_precision: 0.8309 - val_recall:
0.8309 - val_auc: 0.8413 - val_f1_score: 0.87004 - f1_score: 0.800045/94
[=============>.............] - ETA: 3s - loss: 2.1946 - accuracy: 0.8620 -
precision: 0.8620 - recall: 0.8620 - auc: 0.8860 - f1_score: 0.8000
Epoch 2/5
94/94 [==============================] - 5s 55ms/step - loss: 2.0749 - accuracy:
0.8426 - precision: 0.8426 - recall: 0.8426 - auc: 0.8596 - f1_score: 0.8711 -
val_loss: 0.0075 - val_accuracy: 0.8588 - val_precision: 0.8588 - val_recall:
0.8588 - val_auc: 0.8790 - val_f1_score: 1.00008558 - f1_score: 0.8769
Epoch 3/5
94/94 [==============================] - 5s 54ms/step - loss: 0.8001 - accuracy:
0.8683 - precision: 0.8683 - recall: 0.8683 - auc: 0.8955 - f1_score: 0.8947 -
val_loss: 2.4695 - val_accuracy: 0.8759 - val_precision: 0.8759 - val_recall:
0.8759 - val_auc: 0.9017 - val_f1_score: 0.9100
Epoch 4/5
94/94 [==============================] - 5s 54ms/step - loss: 0.6437 - accuracy:
0.8858 - precision: 0.8858 - recall: 0.8858 - auc: 0.9083 - f1_score: 0.9474 -
val_loss: 1.4251 - val_accuracy: 0.8924 - val_precision: 0.8924 - val_recall:
0.8924 - val_auc: 0.9134 - val_f1_score: 0.9100
Epoch 5/5
94/94 [==============================] - 5s 52ms/step - loss: 4.2478e-05 -
accuracy: 0.9020 - precision: 0.9020 - recall: 0.9020 - auc: 0.9212 - f1_score:
1.0000 - val_loss: 0.0128 - val_accuracy: 0.9122 - val_precision: 0.9122 -
val_recall: 0.9122 - val_auc: 0.9297 - val_f1_score: 1.0000
24/24 [==============================] - 0s 11ms/step
CNN accuracy is: 91.69381260871887 %
MODEL'S METRI
History of Accuracy
History of Loss
History of AUC
0.91
4.0
training
validation
training
validation
training
validation





VIII. CONCLUSION

This project successfully develops a deep learning-based system for fire and non-fire image classification using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). The approach integrates image preprocessing, segmentation, sharpening, feature extraction, and real-time prediction, making it a comprehensive solution for early fire detection. The custom CNN architecture demonstrates strong performance, achieving high accuracy and robust evaluation metrics across multiple test images.

One of the significant strengths of the system lies in its preprocessing pipeline, which enhances fire-like features and suppresses background noise. This improves the effectiveness of the CNN, enabling it to learn key flame characteristics such as color

gradients, texture variations, and irregular flame shapes. The resulting model generalizes well across diverse images.

The integration of a Tkinter-based GUI enhances the system's practical applicability by allowing real-time image classification. Users can load any image and instantly receive predictions with confidence percentages, making the system suitable for security monitoring, drone surveillance, and safety applications.

Overall, the system is lightweight, scalable, and adaptable, capable of running on low-resource devices. Future enhancements may include real-time video fire detection, transfer learning with deeper CNNs, integration with IoT-based alert systems, and deployment on edge devices such as Raspberry Pi. This work demonstrates that AI-driven fire detection is a powerful alternative to traditional sensor-based systems and has significant potential for real-world implementation.

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