A Mobile Application Framework to Classify Philippine Currency Images to Audio Labels Using Deep Learning

Mary Grace Abellano Buban

College of Information Technology and Computer Science
University of the Cordilleras
Baguio City, Philippines
marygracebuban1117@gmail.com

Jovce Cadiz Malubay

College of Information Technology and Computer Science University of the Cordilleras Baguio City, Philippines joycemalubay@gmail.com

Natividad Ballesteros Concepcion

College of Information Technology and Computer Science
University of the Cordilleras
Baguio City, Philippines
nbconcepcion@uc-bcf.edu.ph

Lilibeth Abellano Buban

Department of Education School Division Office of Albay Legazpi City, Philippines lilibeth.buban@deped.gov.ph

Abstract—This research presents a mobile application framework designed to empower visually impaired individuals in Legazpi City by providing real-time audio feedback for currency identification. Leveraging deep learning techniques, the proposed framework employs a robust model trained on a comprehensive dataset of Philippine currency images. The deep learning model is capable of accurately classifying various denominations of bills and coins, enabling the development of an inclusive solution for the visually impaired community. The researcher employed a qualitative approach in this study, which included a focus group discussion. Respondents were chosen using purposive sampling. Among those who responded were masseuses, chiropractors, herbal street vendors, and students. Through an online meeting, the selected participants contributed to the focus group discussion. In addition, an in-depth informal interview was conducted to gather additional information for the development of an architectural framework. Based on the result of this study, it was discovered that by implementing this architectural framework, these groups would be able to more easily identify money, increasing efficiency and reducing errors in cash transactions. The use of audio labels is particularly helpful for visually impaired individuals, as it provides an accessible way for them to independently handle and identify money.

Keywords- Deep Learning, Image Captioning, Audio Mechanism, Android Application.

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's technologically advanced world, mobile-based applications have become a crucial tool in enhancing accessibility and improving the quality of life for various user groups, including visually impaired individuals. For the visually impaired community, identifying and recognizing currency notes is a significant challenge, as they heavily rely on tactile cues and assistance from others to determine the value of money. This limitation not only affects their financial independence but also restricts their overall mobility and participation in various economic activities. In Legazpi City, Albay, like many other urban areas, visually impaired individuals face these challenges on a daily basis. The absence of a reliable and accessible solution to accurately detect the currency denomination and read out its

value in real-time significantly hampers their ability to carry out transactions independently and with confidence.

The utilization of Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architectures for large-scale audio classification was explored. This underscored the efficacy of CNNs in processing audio signals for classification tasks, suggesting the potential adaptability of similar architectures for image data processing [1]. Furthermore, a unified framework, CNN-RNN, was proposed for multi-label image classification. This innovative approach seamlessly integrated CNNs and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) to proficiently handle multi-label classification tasks. These findings advocate for the exploration of a hybrid CNN-RNN architecture for classifying currency images to audio labels, given the task's multi-class nature [2].

Insights into self-supervised visual feature learning with deep neural networks were provided, highlighting the significance of learning visual representations sans human annotations. This approach holds promise in developing unsupervised models for currency image classification [3]. Additionally, deep adversarial metric learning for cross-modal retrieval was introduced,

focusing on learning a joint embedding space for different modalities. This technique holds relevance in aligning image and audio features for cross-modal classification, such as associating currency images with corresponding audio labels [4].

A study on audio-visual speech recognition employing deep learning demonstrated the efficacy of deep learning models in processing audio-visual inputs for speech recognition tasks. This insight could inform the development of a framework incorporating both visual (currency images) and audio (currency labels) inputs for classification [5]. Furthermore, design choices for deep audio embeddings were discussed, emphasizing the importance of feature representation and embedding design for audio classification tasks, which could inform the feature extraction process in the proposed framework [6]. Innovative image-to-audio translation using LSTM models was introduced, delving into the realm of cross-modal translation and enriching visual content interpretation [8].

Advancements in fintech were showcased through a study on currency note recognition, combining image processing with a minimum distance classifier to develop an automatic identification system [9]. Additionally, the potential of CNNs in detecting COVID-19 through chest X-ray analysis was discussed, highlighting deep learning's significance in medical imaging and disease diagnosis [10]. Environmental science benefited from deep learning research dedicated to mapping China's urban green spaces through satellite imagery analysis, aiding urban planning and environmental monitoring [11]. Novel image captioning and visual question answering methods employed both bottom-up and top-down attention mechanisms to refine tasks associated with image comprehension [12].

Challenges of limited labeled data for deep learning models were addressed through a semi-supervised learning strategy, combining CNNs with uncertainty filtering to enhance façade defect classification [13]. Further developments in remote sensing included a technique integrating superpixel pooling CNNs with transfer learning for hyperspectral image classification [15], while Unicoder-vl presented a universal encoder through cross-modal pre-training, pushing the envelope of vision and language task convergence [16]. In the automotive industry, deep learning showcased its revolutionary capabilities in tasks like autonomous driving, vehicle diagnostics, and predictive maintenance, marking a significant shift towards AI integration in the sector [17]. The adaptability of deep learning was evident in deep transfer learning for machine diagnosis, transferring knowledge from audio recognition to bearing fault detection and underscoring its versatility [18].

In bioacoustics, deep learning facilitated bird species classification through an augmented CNN, bolstering biodiversity monitoring [29]. A deep CNN-based strategy for animal sound classification tackled the complexities of acoustic environment analysis, aiding wildlife monitoring and ecological studies [30]. The intelligent diagnosis of brain tumors through

deep CNNs and SVM algorithm integration in MRI analysis contributed significantly to medical image analysis, enhancing diagnostic and treatment planning accuracy [31]. Furthermore, attention-based models gained popularity in computer vision for generating natural language descriptions from images, setting new benchmarks for image captioning and visual question answering tasks [34].

Attentional Generative Adversarial The Network (AttnGAN) introduced attention-driven, multi-stage refinement for fine-grained text-to-image generation [35]. Additionally, the system for automatically generating natural language descriptions from images involved content planning and surface realization, enhancing the narrative of visual content [36]. Inspired by neuroscience, a recurrent CNN (RCNN) was proposed for object recognition by incorporating recurrent connections into each convolutional layer [37]. The Parti model was introduced to generate high-fidelity photorealistic images support content-rich synthesis involving complex compositions and world knowledge [38]. Furthermore, to push the boundaries of vision-and-language pretraining data, the Conceptual 12M (CC12M) dataset with 12 million image-text pairs was introduced, specifically meant for vision-and-language pre-training [39]. The exploration of bi-directional mapping between images and their sentence-based descriptions dynamically builds a visual representation of the scene as a caption is generated or read [40].

City Social Welfare and Development Office Legazpi under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), reported that the total number of households is 46, 445 and the registered visual disability as of September, 2023. There are 369 Males and 359 Females, for a total of 728. The majority of selfemployed individuals with disabilities who earn an income in Legaspi City, Albay, have mobility impairments, compared to nearly half who are hearing-impaired. However, the group of people who depend the most on transfer income is the visually impaired, closely followed by the hearing-impaired. In addition, both the mobility- and hearing-impaired got the highest proportion of members who rely a lot on transfer income. The visually impaired, on the other hand, rely heavily on wages as well as self-employment, like masseurs. Therefore, this study may help most of the visually-impaired earners in identifying currency value. The challenges faced by the visually impaired in currency identification have led to research and development efforts aimed at addressing this issue. Various studies have explored the use of technology, particularly mobile applications, to provide assistance.

Therefore, this study presents the overall framework model to classify Philippine currency images to audio labels using deep learning using a learning-based convolutional neural network model running on a mobile application. The researcher also discusses the measurement requirements and classification process that can be used in designing a suitable application. The researcher believes that adapting the framework to the field of assistive technology for the visually impaired this study endeavors to create a robust and user-friendly mobile application that can potentially be extended to benefit visually impaired communities in other regions as well. By promoting financial independence and empowering the visually impaired with a tool that ensures seamless currency recognition and value comprehension, we envision a more inclusive and equitable

society, where every individual can participate actively in economic activities and lead a self-reliant life.

II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

A. Dataset Description

The researcher downloaded the Philippine Money datasets from the Roboflow website, as shown in Table 1, and captured some of them, resulting in 625 images. The researcher then created five captions for each image, resulting in 3,125 unique caption pairs, as shown in Table 2. Finally, datasets were loaded into COLAB in preparation for training, using the image processing technique. The goal of this study is to identify currency notes based on their denominations. The tflite model is important aspects of these tools provide a classified model for the project. In addition, the researcher used the CNN classification algorithm during the classification process. The process is followed by the capture of currency and then recognition output in the form of voice The model created serves not only as a recognizer but also as a calculator, as it automatically adds all of the currency denominations it recognizes, eliminating the need to manually enter them. gTTS makes it simple to add speech functionality to Python scripts, allowing you to generate audio files from any text voice.

TABLE I. TOTAL DATASETS FROM DOWNLOADED AND CAPTURED IMAGES

Denomination	Datasets		
Denomination	Downloaded	Captured	Total
1 cent	0	2	2
25 cent	14	10	24
1 peso	14	20	34
5 pesos	14	18	32
10 pesos	20	28	48
20 pesos	32	69	101
50 pesos	42	71	113
100 pesos	23	62	85
200 pesos	34	67	101
500 pesos	32	20	52
1000 pesos	23	10	33

Table 1 displays specific datasets, the number of images downloaded and captured, and the total number of images obtained.

TABLE II. TABLE TYPE STYLES

	Datasets		
Denomination	Total Images	Caption per Image	Image with unique captions
1 cent	2	5	10
25 cent	24	5	120
1 peso	34	5	170
5 pesos	32	5	160
10 pesos	48	5	240
20 pesos	101	5	505
50 pesos	113	5	565

	Datasets		
Denomination	Total Images	Caption per Image	Image with unique captions
100 pesos	85	5	425
200 pesos	101	5	505
500 pesos	52	5	260
1000 pesos	33	5	165

Table 2 displays the total image and is multiplied by 5 with a unique caption, resulting in a total of 3,125.

B. Components of Model

- gTTS (Google Text-to-Speech), a Python library and CLI tool to interface with Google Translate's text-to-speech API. Writes spoken mp3 data to a file, a file-like object (bytestring) for further audio manipulation, or stdout.
- Google Colab is a hosted Jupyter Notebook service that requires no setup to use and provides free access to computing resources, including GPUs and TPUs. Colab is especially well suited to machine learning, data science, and education.
- TensorFlow is defined as an open-source platform and framework for machine learning, which includes libraries and tools based on Python and Java designed with the objective of training machine learning and deep learning models on data.
- Keras is a neural network Application Programming Interface (API) for Python that is tightly integrated with TensorFlow, which is used to build machine learning models. Keras' models offer a simple, user-friendly way to define a neural network, which will then be built for you by TensorFlow.Units

C. Hardware and Software Specifications

The research used different libraries including OpenCV (cv2 version 4.8.0) for image processing, TensorFlow (version 2.15.0) for model simulation and validation, and Matplotlib (version 3.5.2) for visualizing results. It experimented with four optimization techniques (SGDM, RMSProp, Nadam, and Adam) on Google Colab's deep learning server using TensorFlow and Keras. The hardware setup included an Nvidia GeForce RTX 3050 Laptop GPU (version 512.78) and an AMD Ryzen 7 4800H CPU 8GB with 2.90 GHz. Mobile application testing was performed on a Realme GT Master Edition Android smartphone equipped with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 778G with Oualcomm Adreno 642L GPU.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter contains a detailed presentation and discussion of data gathered from participants in focus group discussions and informal interviews. As well as the measurement requirements and classification process.

Classifying or identifying money is important for everyone, it is especially important for those who are blind or visually impaired and can only do so by touching it. The main issue that these people are dealing with is determining the true amount of single money given to them. The majority of these people work as masseuses, chiropractors, herbal street vendors, and students. Therefore, it matters most for them that the money given is

exactly right. In addition, some people take advantage of their disability and give them money that differs from the amount received.

Type of Works	Responses	Affected (%)
masseuses	uncertain about the salary received	45%
chiropractors and herbal street vendor	others take advantage of not paying the exact amount.	30%
students	unsure about the change given to them by a driver and eatery	25%

Figure 1. Existing Issues/Problem Faced by a Visually Impaired Person.

According to the data in the figure above, 45% of visually impaired masseuses are unsure of the salary received. Some people take advantage of not paying the exact amount for the purchased products, according to chiropractors and herbal street vendors with 30%. Some visually impaired students with 25% are also unsure of the change given by a driver and an eatery.

Person Involved	Response	
Department of Social Welfare and	only offer limited assistance to workers and students with visual impairment	
Development (DSWD)	only offer non-technological assistance.	
masseuses, chiropractors, and herbal street vendor	although assistance is helpful, they believe they are being treated unfairly in terms of monetary compensation.	
students	daily transportation difficulties without assistance from other passengers	

Figure 2. Existing Issues/Problems Encountered by the existing Persons Involved.

Base on Figure 2, some of the problems encountered by CSWDO-Legazpi includes only limited assistance offered for workers and students and can only offers non-technological assistance. Also, some masseuses, chiropractors, and herbal street vendor stated that although assistance is helpful, they still feel they are being treated unfairly in terms of monetary compensation. The students with same situation also mention that the daily transportation is difficult for them without assistance from other passengers.

A. Images and Text Preprocessing

After loading the images and creating caption text for each value in the dataset, the researcher applied some preprocessing to both the images and the text. For images, the researcher used a feature vector for image preprocessing which is a list of numbers used to characterize the contents of an image, (see Figure 3). The researcher also uses the text preprocessing to converts the text to a lower string, removed punctuation and extra spaces, and inserts start and end special tokens to indicate the beginning and end of a sentence. Word cloud is also used by the researcher to provide an excellent option for analyzing text data through visualization in the form of tags or words, where the importance of a word is explained by its frequency. (see Fig. 3).



Figure 3. Word Cloud

The researcher use image preprocessing techniques such as noise reduction, contrast enhancement, image resizing, color correction, segmentation, and feature extraction to improve image quality and thus make them more suitable for analysis and further processing. Similar to the research, this study focuses on preserving the intrinsic structure of both images and text, resulting in more meaningful and context-aware representations. The use of deep learning in this context improves the ability to capture complex relationships between images and text [41].



Figure 4. Image Preprocessing

Figure 4 shows the preprocessed images use in this study. In addition, one notable study investigated high-resolution image synthesis using latent diffusion models and demonstrated the potential of attention mechanisms in producing high-quality, realistic images. Similarly, other research indicates that semantic attention can effectively capture the salient regions of an image, resulting in more accurate image descriptions. Furthermore, this adaptive attention mechanism demonstrated promising results in creating more contextually relevant image captions. Another study showed that attention mechanisms can generate highquality, realistic images. On the other hand, the study proposed a method for effectively inpainting missing regions in images using contextual attention. Other studies on image segmentation have demonstrated that scale-aware attention mechanisms can improve the performance of image segmentation algorithms by adaptively focusing on regions of varying scales [42], [43], [44], [45], [46], [47].

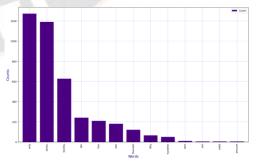


Figure 5. Maximum Frequency Words

The researcher uses graphical representations of word frequency shows in the figure above to highlight words that appear more frequently in a source text.

IV. PROPOSED ARCHITECTURAL FRAMEWORK

A control flow diagram is a tool that can aid visually impaired people in grasping intricate procedures. It shows the points where control commences and concludes, and the potential paths for divergence. The challenge is greater because the intended audience is blind and unaware of the conditions of their surroundings, including other objects, lighting, contrast, and whether the object of interest is within the camera's view. The system should be capable of handling a variety of images that the user might capture. If the program cannot identify the currency, the user must continue scanning until the currency is detected and announced.

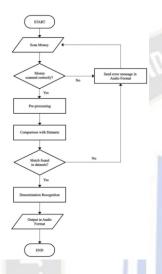


Figure 6. Flowchart of the proposed emobile application framework

Figure 6 depicts the framework's flow, which begins with Scan Money and proceeds to pre-processing. If the datasets are not matched or found, an error message in audio format is sent, and the money must be scanned again. If a match is found in the datasets, the denomination is recognized, and the output in audio format is automatically displayed.

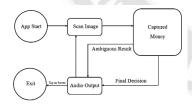


Figure 7. Control flow diagram of the proposed mobile application framework

Figure 7 depicts how the app will begin by scanning the image and then capturing money. If the result is unclear, the audio output will scan the image again, and if the captured money has the final decision, the audio output will be displayed.

CONCLUSION

This system is designed to assist various groups of people, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), masseuses, chiropractors, herbal street vendors, and students. These are groups that might frequently handle cash

transactions and could benefit from an easier method of identifying banknotes. The framework was presented because it can assist with the following:

- 1. Masseuses and chiropractors often work in low-light environments where it can be difficult to distinguish between different banknotes.
- 2. Herbal street vendors and students might handle a high volume of cash transactions and need to quickly and accurately identify banknotes.
- 3. The DSWD could use this technology to assist visually impaired individuals in their care.

By implementing this architectural framework, these groups would be able to more easily identify money, increasing efficiency and reducing errors in cash transactions. The use of audio labels is particularly helpful for visually impaired individuals, as it provides an accessible way for them to independently handle and identify money.

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