



Music Genre Classification Using Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficients and Artificial Neural Networks: A Novel Approach

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Abstract.

Purpose: Music is an artistic expression with many categories in various genres and styles, characterized by its melodic and harmonic compositions. Music genre classification is crucial because genres serve as descriptors commonly used to organize large music collections, especially on the internet and in widely used applications like JOOX and Spotify. The aim of this research is to implement the Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCC) feature extraction method to generate numerical features from a set of specific music tracks. This collection of information will then be classified using machine learning.

Methods: The method used in this study begins with combining the "GTZAN Dataset - Music Genre Classification" with additional data from TikTok and YouTube. The total dataset consists of 1,200 audio files, divided into 12 classes. The MFCC extraction process generates numerical representations of acoustic characteristics, which are then processed using Artificial Neural Networks.

Result: The experiments demonstrate that increasing the amount of data is crucial, as it can enhance both variation and accuracy. The average accuracy achieved in this study is 91.42%, while the highest accuracy reaches 92.16%. These findings indicate that this study outperforms previous studies.

Novelty: The novelty of this research lies in the integration of dynamic social media data (TikTok and YouTube) to enrich the standard GTZAN dataset, the repetition of the MFCC feature extraction process, and the combination of MFCC with Artificial Neural Networks (ANN).

Keywords: Music genre classification, Mel frequency cepstral coefficients, Artificial neural networks

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INTRODUCTION

Music, as a form of expression of human emotions and feelings, plays a significant role in various contexts, such as music recommendation systems, automatic music generation, music therapy, and music visualization. According to Yang et al. (2022) [1], music can be viewed as an extension of the human thought process. Choosing the right music genre can increase calmness and efficiency in daily human activities. Recognizing music genres requires a careful approach in feature extraction, given the complexity of audio signals. Several studies have utilized the Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCC) method combined with classification models such as Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN). The MFCC method has proven effective and can achieve a recognition rate of more than 85% [2]–[4].

In a related study, Bawitlung and Dash [5] used Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for music genre classification based on the GTZAN audio dataset. Their study achieved 85% accuracy through careful CNN model design and feature extraction using MFCC. Another study by Cai and Zhang [6] proposed a new classification framework that integrates auditory image features with traditional acoustic and spectral features. This approach resulted in improved accuracy, reaching 91.8% on several datasets, including GTZAN and ISMIR2004.

The following researchers, Mu [7] applied the K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) algorithm, Miri et al. [8] explored various deep learning models such as CNN on MFCC features, Xie et al. [9] used Residual Gated CNN and Transformer models, and Liu et al. [10] introduced Locally Activated Gated Neural Networks (Lgnet) for music genre classification. Finally, Kakarla and colleagues [11] used Recurrent Neural

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Networks (RNN), specifically exploring Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Independent RNN (IndRNN) for music genre classification, achieving an accuracy of 82.71%.

Although many previous studies have used MFCC [12]–[14] in combination with CNN and RNN for music genre classification, challenges such as overfitting and dataset limitations are still common. Many previous studies are limited to the GTZAN dataset or pre-defined datasets with limited genres, as shown by Miri et al. [8] and Liu et al. [10]. Furthermore, exploring the integration of dynamic social media data, such as from TikTok and YouTube, is needed to increase data variation and model complexity. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by integrating data from more diverse and broader sources, which is expected to improve model accuracy and generalization. This study offers a novel contribution to improving music genre classification by utilizing optimized MFCC [15]–[17] and ANN techniques through the inclusion of additional social media data. With the rapid growth of digital technology and the multimedia industry today, it is hoped that the findings of this study will help in achieving the desired music genre classification for users.

METHODS

This section describes the dataset used, the proposed method, and the evaluation process.

Dataset

This study utilizes the GTZAN Dataset - Music Genre Classification obtained from Kaggle. The dataset consists of 10 subjects or classes (10 genres/types), where each class contains 1,000 music tracks (1,000 audio files). Additionally, the dataset was expanded with 2 more classes by adding 200 audio files downloaded from TikTok and YouTube. This brings the total data to 1,200 music tracks. In this study, two experiments were conducted. The first experiment involved extracting MFCC features once for each song, while in the second experiment, MFCC extraction was repeated 10 times for each song. The second experiment resulted in a total of 720,000 pieces of music information, obtained from 12,000 rows × 60 columns. All this music data was then divided into testing and training datasets, with 80% used for training and 20% for testing. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the dataset distribution.

Table 1. Dataset distribution	
Type	Amount
Audio files	1,200
MFCC Coefficients	20
MFCC Variance	240,000
MFCC Mean	240,000
Filename	12,000
Length (66149)	12,000
Chroma STFT	24,000
RMS	24,000
Spectral Centroid	24,000
Spectral Bandwidth	24,000
Roll Off	24,000
Zero Crossing Rate	24,000
Harmony	24,000
Perceptual	24,000
Tempo	12,000
Labels	12,000
Total Features	720,000
Data Type	String, Float

Pre-processing

Before extracting features using MFCC, the music files captured in .wav, .au, or .mp3 formats undergo a pre-processing stage. This involves reading the audio data using libraries such as librosa.display and IPython.display.

In this pre-processing step, two key pieces of information are extracted: the sample data from the audio file and its sample rate. For this study, only the first second of each audio file is analyzed. The amount of data extracted from each file is determined by multiplying the sample rate by the duration (in seconds). In this case, feature extraction is set at 720,000 for 12,000 rows, meaning that each audio file will contain 60 feature columns.

However, since the wavelengths are normalized and truncated to the same length, certain columns containing wavelength-related information (e.g., Length, Filename, and Label genre) are unnecessary and are thus removed from the dataset. As a result, the processed dataset includes 57 columns for each of the 12,000 audio samples, totaling 68,400 feature values that represent the characteristics of each song, as shown in Table 2.

Frame to - n	Signal value (y)
0	-0.28111
1	-0.39162
2	-0.45754
...	...
57	-0.33805

Mel frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCC) feature extraction

MFCC are based on the Mel frequency scale, which is designed to emulate the human auditory system. This approach helps compensate for channel distortions and has become one of the most widely used techniques for feature extraction in speech, audio, and video recognition. MFCC works by modeling the distribution of spectral energy coefficients and uses critical band frequency resolution along with logarithmic power waves, which are key parameters in analyzing acoustic signals. The Mel frequency scale itself is constructed using paired sinusoidal waves.

The MFCC extraction process involves several key steps:

1. Pre-processing: The initial step involves preparing the signal before feature extraction begins. This includes normalizing the audio signal.
2. Framing: The audio signal is divided into small overlapping frames that maintain the periodicity of the information, helping to preserve important details in each segment.
3. Windowing: Each frame is multiplied by a window function (such as the Hamming window) to reduce discontinuities at the beginning and end of each frame, which could lead to distortions.
4. Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT): The time-domain audio frames are transformed into the spectral frequency domain using DFT. The resulting spectral magnitudes are then filtered through a filter bank to focus on the most relevant frequency components.
5. Logarithmic Transformation and Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT): The output of the filter bank is subjected to a logarithmic transformation, followed by the inverse DFT, specifically the DCT, which results in a set of coefficients called the MFCC. These coefficients, including their average values (MFCC-Mean), are treated as multidimensional features for each frame.

The complete output matrix produced by this process is the MFCC, which provides a compact representation of the audio signal's spectral properties.

Using MFCC is particularly effective because, over small-time intervals, the audio signal does not change much, making it easier to analyze frame lengths between 20 to 40 milliseconds. If the frame is too short, the spectral estimate may be inaccurate due to insufficient samples. Conversely, a longer frame may capture sudden changes in the audio signal, causing potential distortions.

To calculate the power spectrum for each frame, periodograms can be used to identify the dominant frequencies within that frame. The relationship between frequency and the Mel scale, denoted as $Mel(f)$, is expressed in Equation (1).

$$Mel(f) = 2595 \cdot \log_{10} \left(1 + f/100 \right) \quad (1)$$

Where $Mel(f)$ represents the Mel frequency and f is the frequency in Hz. This transformation allows the MFCC to use a filter bank in which higher frequencies occupy more bandwidth than lower frequencies, but the time resolution remains constant. The final step is to apply the DCT to filter the resulting output. The MFCC extraction process can be broken down into the following stages:

1. Normalized Processing: This step normalizes the input audio signal $x(n)$ to prepare it for subsequent stages.
2. Framing: The normalized audio vector is converted into a matrix of frames. Each time series is transformed into a sequence of overlapping frames, with zero padding applied if necessary.
3. Windowing is applied to reduce frame discontinuities that occur after framing. Common window functions include the Hamming window (default), rectangular window, and triangular window. The Hamming window is mathematically defined in Equation (2).

$$w(n) = 0.5 \cdot \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n}{N-1}\right)\right), 0 \leq n \leq N-1 \quad (2)$$

4. Fast Fourier Transform (FFT): The FFT is applied to the windowed data, transforming it into the frequency domain, as shown in Equation (3).

$$X_a(k) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x(n)e^{-j\omega_k n}, 0 \leq k \leq N \quad (3)$$

Where N is the length $x(n)$ above that is the input sound of the $\omega_k = \frac{2\pi}{N}k$ signal.

5. Filter Bank Processing: The Mel filter bank, designed to replicate human hearing, is applied to the power spectrum. The filter's center frequencies are distributed along the Mel scale and are calculated using Equation (4).

$$f(l) = \frac{N}{F_s} f^{-1} \left(f(L_l) + l \cdot \frac{f(U_l) - f(L_l)}{M+1} \right) \quad (4)$$

Where F_s is the actual gain frequency, N is the FFT length, M is the number of filters, $f(U_l)$ is the upper frequency of a single filter, $f(L_l)$ is the lower limit frequency of a single filter, and f^{-1} is the representation of inverse the f function, which can be calculated from the Equation (4).

6. Logarithmic Transformation: The power spectrum is transformed using a logarithmic function to simulate the human ear's logarithmic response, as shown in Equation (5).

$$S(m) = \ln(\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} |X_a(k)|^2 H_m(K)), 0 \leq m \leq M \quad (5)$$

Where $H_m(k)$ is the frequency of the triangle filter and $\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} H_m(K) = 1$, M is the number of right triangles, the value is generally 22-26.

7. MFCC Calculation: The MFCC coefficients are computed using the Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT), as shown in Equation (6).

$$C(n) = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} s(m) \cos\left(\frac{\pi n(m-0.5)}{M}\right), n = 1, 2, \dots, L \quad (6)$$

Where L is the sum of MFCC coefficients, the values are generally 13–39, and M is the number of triangular filters [18].

Geometric Transformation:

The value of the cepstral coefficients will be used as input parameters for training each class in the machine learning model.

Evaluation of the confusion matrix

The Evaluation Method is a way to determine the evaluation metrics used in the challenge to assess how well the model recognizes audio data in a specific music genre or class. One commonly used evaluation method is the confusion matrix.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The experiment begins with the pre-processing stage by testing a specific song to be used as an example or as a tester for classification prediction, utilizing feature functions from the librosa library in Python. One example is the song Tetap Dalam Jiwa by Isyana Sarasvati, in .mp3 format. There is a parameter for the number of MFCCs, as shown in Figure 1. MFCC [19] coefficients from mfcc_1 to mfcc_20 can be observed in the framing waveforms represented by white lines, where each line represents MFCC features from 1 to 20, with specific power levels in decibels ranging from -400 dB to +100 dB. In the following section, there is a time parameter in seconds, with an approximate duration of 3 minutes and 20 seconds.

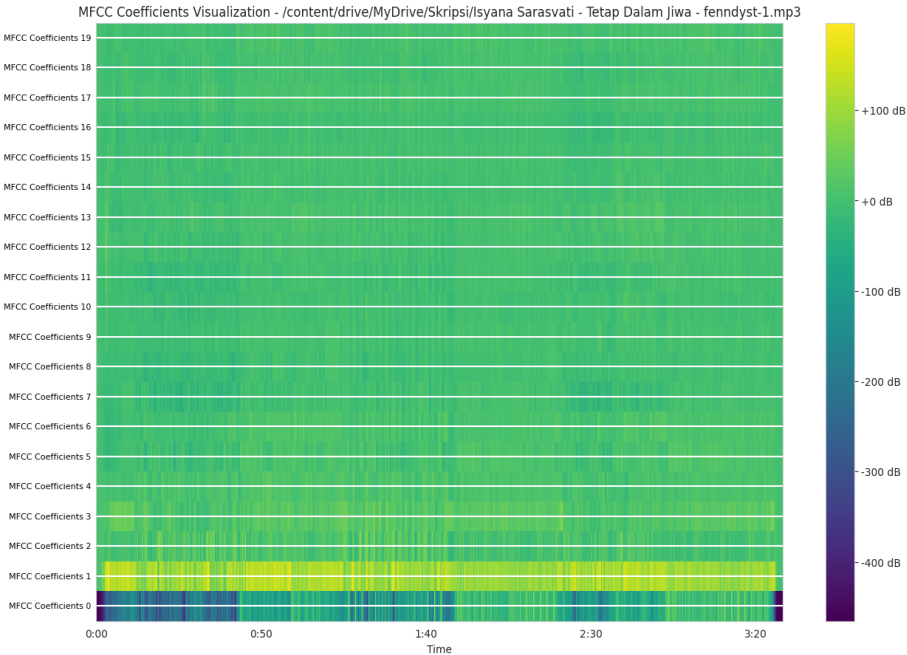


Figure 1. Visualization of 20 MFCC features from isyana sarasvati’s song "stay in the soul"

The results of the MFCC for each sampling rate can be visualized in the form of a mel frequency wave graph, as shown in Figure 2.

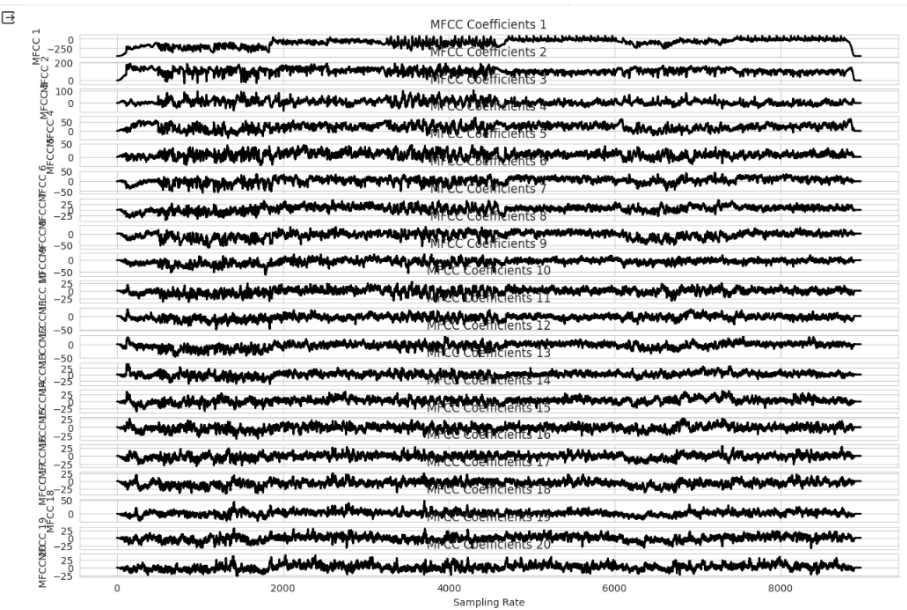


Figure 2. Mel frequency spectrogram of isyana sarasvati’s song "stay in the soul"

The number of spectral coefficients typically used is 12 and 24. Higher-order coefficients tend to perform better than lower-order ones [20]. The selection of 20 coefficients in this study was made to maintain consistency with the GTZAN dataset available on Kaggle. This dataset only provides 20 coefficients in the features_30_sec file, so this number was chosen to ensure equality in the number of acoustic features among the music samples in genre classification. It is important to ensure that no feature dominance skews the training and testing process of the model. Additionally, the length used in this analysis is 66,149, to ensure that each music track has a fair segment and a uniform signal wavelength. This ensures that comparisons between music tracks in genre classification are not influenced by differences in signal length. This is illustrated in Figure 3.

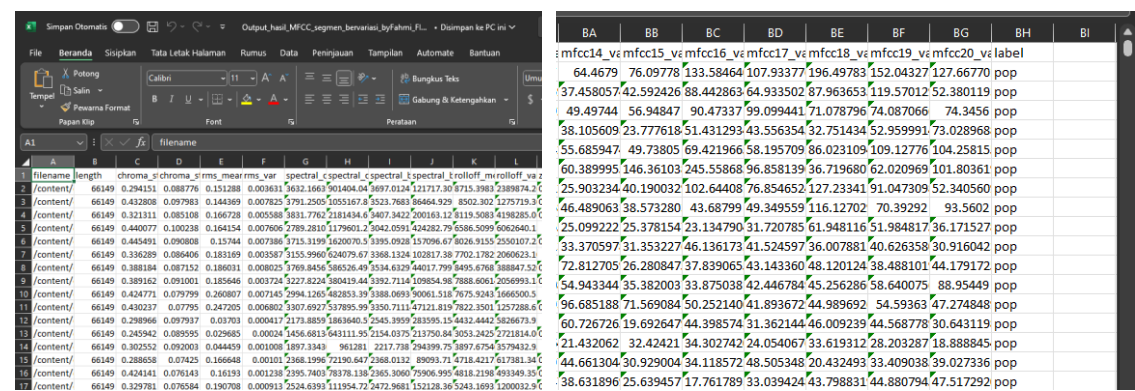


Figure 3. Results of MFCC extraction with consistent signal length

In the dataset, there are columns such as filename, length, chroma_mean, chroma_var, rms_mean, rms_var, spectral_centroid_mean, spectral_centroid_var, spectral_bandwidth_mean, spectral_bandwidth_var, and mfcc1 through mfcc20, with the genre label information at the end. The total number of columns is 60, while the row index is $1,200 \times 10 = 12,000$ rows, resulting in a total of 720,000 data points. This is illustrated in Figure 4. To explore the data, it can be differentiated based on the label, where the genre label contains 12 classes, each with 1,000 samples, totaling 12,000 rows and 60 columns.



Figure 4. Results of data check in the dataset

A correlation heatmap for the average variables in Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCC) is used to analyze the relationships between different features or dimensions in the MFCC data. By examining the correlation heatmap, one can identify patterns of positive or negative relationships between these variables. Additionally, this heatmap aids in feature selection by highlighting variables with high correlations, thus facilitating decision-making regarding dimensionality reduction or the removal of features that may not provide additional information. This offers crucial insights for signal processing and model development decision-making. This is illustrated in Figure 5.

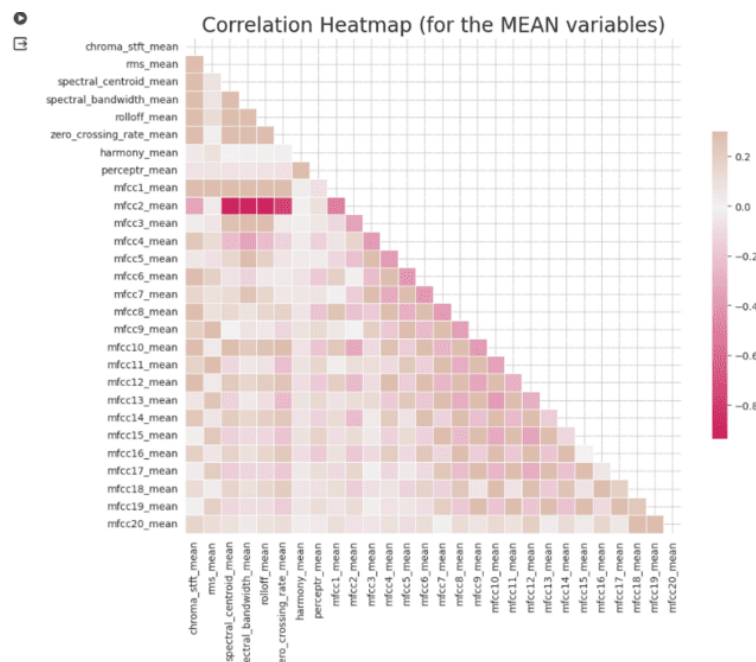


Figure 5. Correlation heatmap of MFCC mean variables

The box plot for each music genre, as seen in Figure 6, provides information on beats per minute or tempo within the music itself. From pop music to DJ remixes, each genre has its own rhythmic flow that can vary—some are slow, while others are fast. If we draw a conclusion, the larger the box plot (e.g., blues), the more variation in tempo exists within that genre, indicating a wide range of songs with different tempos. On the other hand, a narrower box plot (e.g., disco) suggests that the genre is more uniform, with songs having similar tempos. From this, it can be concluded that the music genres with the highest tempo variability are classical, reggae, and blues, while genres with more stable and moderate tempos include disco. For slower tempo genres, we observe DJ-remix, country, or national anthems.

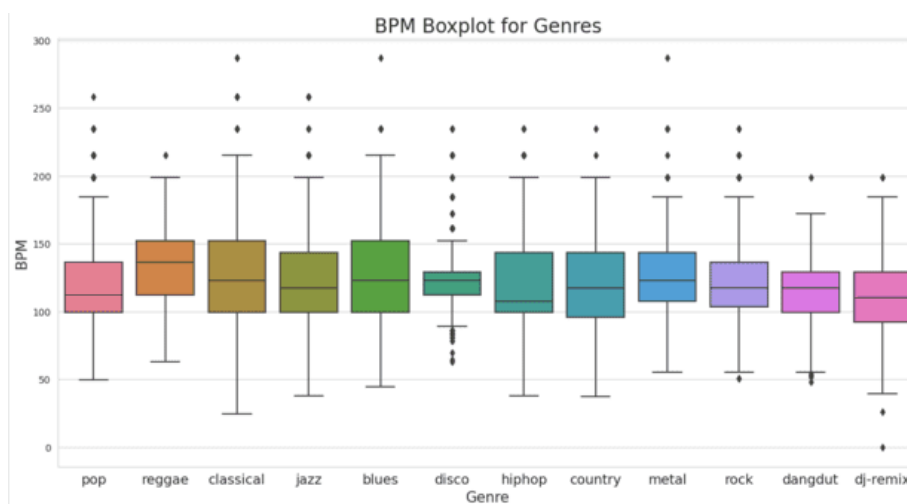


Figure 6. BPM or tempo results for each genre

In Figure 7, the application of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to the music genres offers several advantages. PCA helps in understanding the distribution and variation of song data across different genres. By identifying the principal components, PCA emphasizes the most significant variations within the data, making it easier to analyze and grasp the relationships between different music genres. This technique enables simplified data representation, improved computational efficiency, and provides deeper insights into the musical characteristics that are unique to each genre.

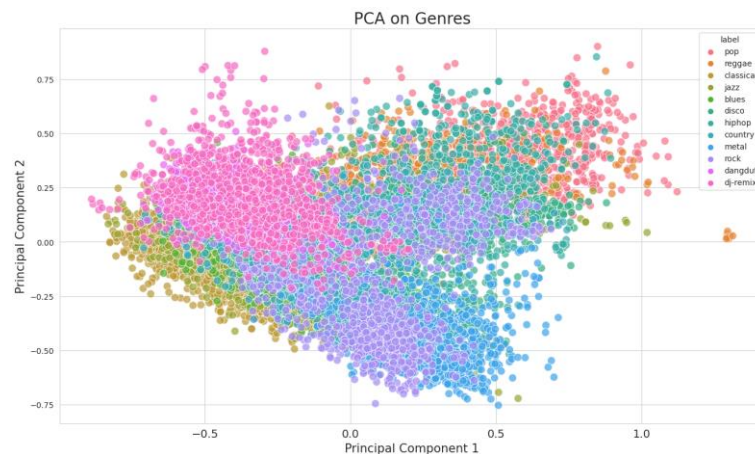


Figure 6. Results of PCA showing variation distribution across genres

The experiment was conducted using two different optimizers, namely SGD and Adam, with 100 epochs. This time, a dropout of 0.3 ($DO = 0.3$) was applied, which improved the model's stability over long iterations. The results are shown in Figures 8 and 9. Using dropout helped stabilize training and led to better results at higher epochs.

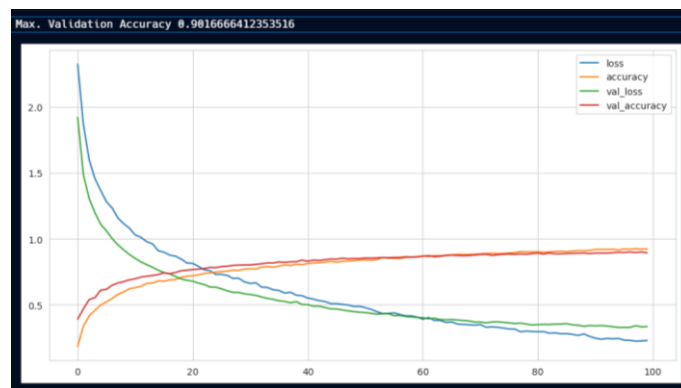


Figure 8. Accuracy history of the ANN model with SGD optimizer

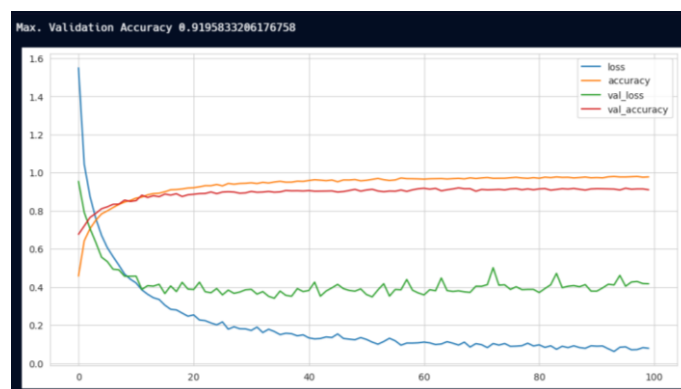


Figure 9. Accuracy history of the ANN model with adam optimizer

In Figure 10, the maximum validation accuracy achieved was 91.95%. When compared to Figure 11, where the validation accuracy reached 92.16%, it is evident that the Adam optimizer provided slightly better results. Figure 12 displays the confusion matrix, with the red boxes highlighting the recall values for each genre. The classification report containing detailed metrics such as recall, accuracy, F1-score, support, and precision for each genre. The recall values for each genre are as follows: pop 91%, reggae 90%, classical

93%, jazz 89%, blues 91%, disco 80%, hip-hop 97%, country 89%, metal 94%, rock 81%, dangdut 97%, and DJ-remix 94%.

```
Accuracy: 0.9050
Accuracy: 90.50%
Precision: 0.9049
Recall: 0.9050
F1 Score: 0.9045

Classification Report:
precision    recall  f1-score   support

   pop       0.90     0.91     0.91       100
  reggae     0.92     0.90     0.91       100
 classical   0.92     0.93     0.93       100
   jazz     0.86     0.89     0.88       100
   blues     0.95     0.91     0.93       100
   disco     0.89     0.80     0.84       100
  hiphop     0.90     0.97     0.93       100
  country    0.89     0.89     0.89       100
   metal     0.92     0.94     0.93       100
   rock      0.84     0.81     0.82       100
 dangdut     0.93     0.97     0.95       100
 dj-remix    0.94     0.94     0.94       100

 accuracy    0.90     0.90     0.91      1200
 macro avg   0.90     0.90     0.90      1200
weighted avg   0.90     0.91     0.90      1200
```

Figure 10. Comprehensive classification report of the ANN model

The overall results are summarized in Table 3. An additional experiment was conducted with more epochs, specifically 100 epochs, yielding the following results.

Table 3. Accuracy results – different optimizers							
E	D	O	L	A	VL	VA	Max V_A
1	null	Adam	0.01	0.99	0.56	0.91	0.9216
2	0.3	Adam	0.07	0.97	0.41	0.90	0.9195
3	0.3	SGD	0.22	0.92	0.33	0.89	0.9016
Average			0.10	0.97	0.43	0.90	0.9142

Description: L = Loss, E = Experiment, A = Accuracy, DO = Dropout, VL = Validation Loss, O = Optimizer, and VA = Validation Accuracy.

In Table 3, it is evident that when evaluating the model, it's crucial to not only focus on accuracy but also consider loss and validation loss. These metrics provide a more comprehensive picture when deciding which ANN model and parameters perform best for the task. This approach ensures optimal results in predicting song genre classification.

From the data, we observe that in the first experiment, the maximum validation accuracy reached 92.16%, which is quite high. However, the validation loss is also the highest. The second experiment shows a more balanced performance, with moderate accuracy and low validation loss. The third experiment has the lowest validation loss (33%), though the accuracy is slightly lower than in the first experiment. Despite this, model_3 is chosen for the song genre classification task due to its significantly lower validation loss.

The average results from all three experiments are as follows. The model demonstrated an average loss of 10.28%, with an overall accuracy of 97.37%. The validation loss was observed to be 43.85%, while the validation accuracy averaged 90.68%. Additionally, the maximum validation accuracy across the experiments reached an average of 91.42%. These metrics indicate a robust performance, with high accuracy and relatively low loss, suggesting that the model was well-optimized for the task at hand. Thus, when selecting the best model, it is recommended to prioritize minimizing validation loss, even if the difference in accuracy is marginal.

Once the song is selected, the system records the file using specific functions. Feature extraction is then performed on the song, and the model predicts its genre. The prediction is displayed in the "prediction text view" within the Android XML layout, as shown in Figure 11 (from the LDPlayer emulator) and Figure 12 (from the actual Android device).

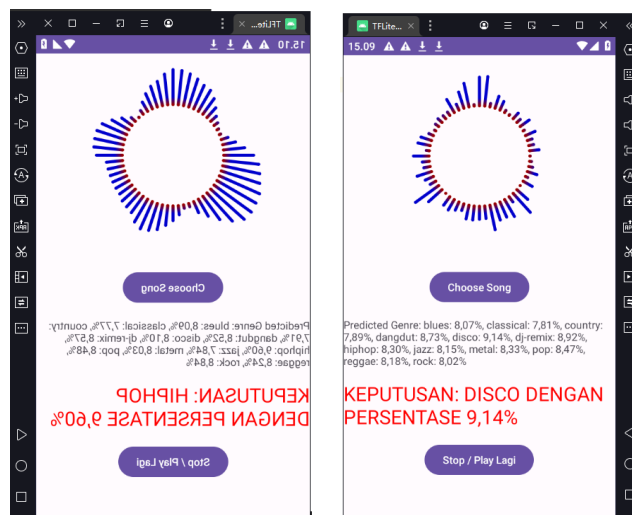


Figure 11. Song type category classification results on emulator

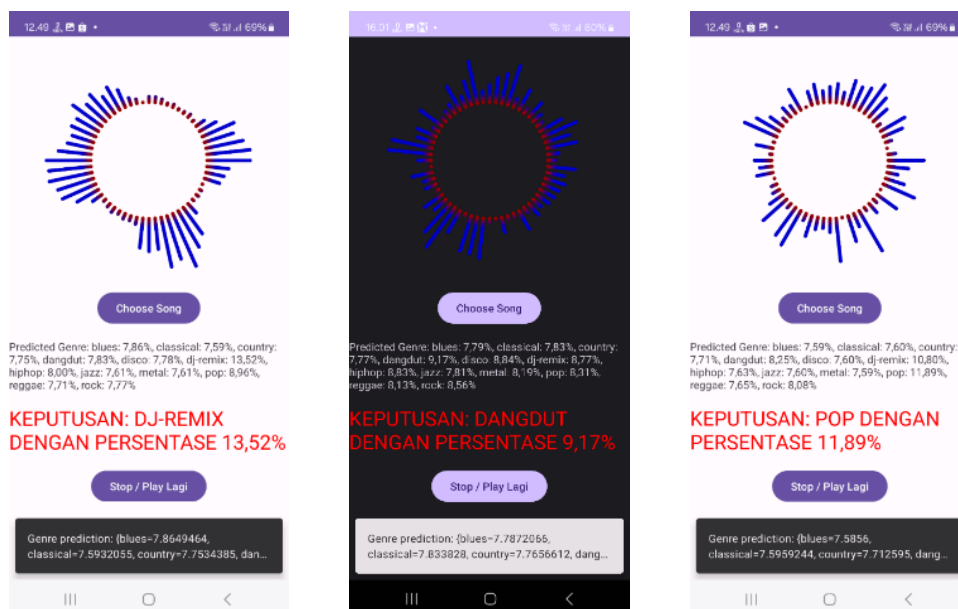


Figure 12. Song type category classification results on samsung galaxy smartphone

In the blue status info section, the song's filename is displayed (e.g., "ANJI – DIA (Official Music Video).mp3"), based on the user input, as shown in Figure 13. Below that, in the green status_info section, the music genre prediction is displayed. However, it should be noted that in some cases, the predicted results may not align with expectations.

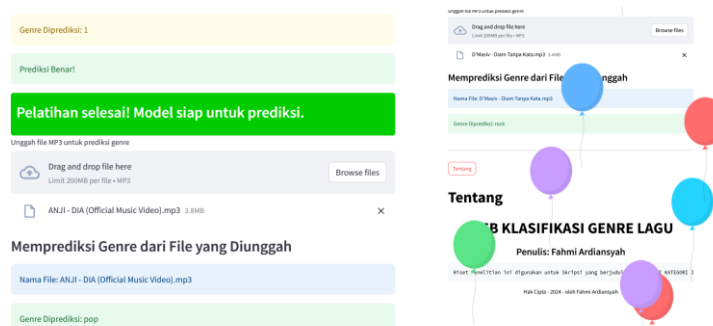


Figure 16. System implementation results on streamlit-based web application

The system implementation on both Android and web platforms was successful, yielding intriguing predictive results. However, it was observed that in some cases, songs by the vocalist D'MASIV were incorrectly classified as the rock genre, even though they belong to the pop genre. This misclassification is likely due to the time limitation in processing, where only the first 30 seconds of the song were analyzed. As a result, the feature extraction during this time frame may not capture the full essence and characteristics of the song. To improve prediction accuracy and better align with the actual genre of the music, further computational refinement may be necessary. Despite this limitation, the study offers valuable insights into music genre classification across both Android and web platforms.

This research demonstrates that the correct combination of methods and approaches can significantly enhance the accuracy of music genre classification. Using the Librosa library from the pre-processing stage, feature extraction with the MFCC method, and dividing the dataset into training, development, and testing sets with specific percentages, the model was fine-tuned by selecting appropriate hyperparameters such as Epochs, Batch Size, Dropout Rate, Activation Functions, and Optimizers. By applying the Feedforward Propagation Fully Connected Multilayer Perceptron (FFP-FCMLP) [21] algorithm in an ANN with a carefully calibrated composition, the study achieved high accuracy in genre classification [9], [20], [22]–[24] surpassing results from previous studies. For a detailed comparison, refer to Table 4.

Table 4. Comparison of results

Research	Accuracy (%)
(Bawitlung & Dash, 2024) [5]	85
(Cai & Zhang, 2022) [6]	91.8
(Mu, 2023) [7]	89.03
(Miri et al., 2020) [8]	75
(Xie et al., 2023) [9]	83
(Liu et al., 2023) [10]	82.71
(Kakarla et al., 2022) [11]	84
Proposed Method	92.16

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and experiments conducted in this study, the utilization of MFCC successfully extracted relevant audio features. With the combination of MFCC and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), this study achieved the highest accuracy of 92.16% and an average accuracy of 91.42%, demonstrating that this method is highly effective in classifying music genres. Additionally, increasing the amount of data through feature extraction repetition (10 times per song) and adding data from dynamic sources like TikTok and YouTube significantly enhanced data diversity and model accuracy. This highlights the importance of data variation in improving classification model performance.

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