

# A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AND ACCURACY AMONG CNN, LSTM, RNN, GRU, AND GAN ARCHITECTURES ON MNIST DATASET, AND CIFAR-10 DATASET

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## ABSTRACT

*Image categorization has been transformed by deep learning architectures, yet thorough comparisons between models are still essential for directing methodological decisions. Five well-known neural network architectures—Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory networks (LSTM), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), Gated Recurrent Units (GRU), and Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)—are systematically and rigorously compared in this study using the popular MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. A variety of performance indicators, such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and training duration, are used to evaluate models that use consistent data preprocessing, augmentation methods, and architecture-specific hyperparameter tuning.*

*With an F1-score of 0.79 on CIFAR-10 and a test accuracy of 99.27% on MNIST, CNN beats the other architectures, according to the results, demonstrating its efficacy in spatial feature extraction. With test accuracies of 47.89% and 10.00%, respectively, LSTM and RNN models perform poorly on these tasks, although GRU exhibits modest performance improvements. Notably, the GAN, which is mostly intended for generative tasks, shows promise when modified for classification with a reasonable F1-score of 0.57 on CIFAR-10.*

*This thorough comparison clarifies the relative advantages and disadvantages of each architecture under uniform experimental settings, providing practitioners and researchers with important information to help them choose the best deep learning models for a range of intelligent systems applications. The results also point to areas for further research on transfer learning, real-world deployment, and model resilience.*

**KEYWORDS:** Deep Learning; Image Classification; Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN); Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN); Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM); Gated Recurrent Units (GRU); Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN); MNIST; CIFAR-10; Performance Evaluation

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The advent of deep learning has fundamentally transformed the landscape of machine learning, particularly in the domain of image classification. Among the various architectures developed, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory networks (LSTM), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), Gated Recurrent Units (GRU), and Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) have emerged as prominent frameworks, each exhibiting unique strengths and challenges [8]. This study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of these architectures on two widely recognized benchmark datasets: the MNIST dataset, which contains grayscale images of handwritten digits, and the CIFAR-10 dataset, comprising color images across ten distinct classes.

CNNs have become the cornerstone of modern image classification tasks due to their hierarchical feature extraction capabilities. By employing convolutional layers, CNNs effectively capture spatial hierarchies, leading to state-of-the-art performance in various image-related challenges [14]. The architecture of CNNs allows for the extraction of features at multiple levels of abstraction, making them particularly suited for tasks that involve pattern recognition in images. Numerous studies have demonstrated that CNNs outperform traditional machine learning methods as well as other neural network architectures in image classification tasks [1].

In contrast, RNNs are specifically designed to handle sequential data by maintaining a hidden state that captures temporal dependencies. This unique characteristic enables RNNs to learn from previous inputs and adapt their predictions based on historical context (Hochreiter & Schmidhuber, 1997). However, traditional RNNs often encounter significant challenges, particularly the vanishing gradient problem, which limits their ability to learn long-range dependencies effectively [2]. To address these limitations, LSTMs were introduced, incorporating memory cells and gating mechanisms that enable the model to retain information over extended sequences [7]. GRUs, a simpler variant of LSTMs, have also gained traction for their efficiency without compromising performance [3].

GANs offer a novel approach to generative modeling, consisting of two neural networks, the generator and the discriminator, that compete against each other to improve the quality of generated samples [8]. While GANs excel in generating highly realistic images, their application in classification tasks remains an area of ongoing exploration. Previous research has highlighted the potential of GANs to enhance data diversity and augment datasets, although challenges persist in achieving consistent performance across classification metrics [13].

This research seeks to explore the performance of these five architectures by evaluating their accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score on the MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. The selection of these datasets is intentional; MNIST serves as a fundamental benchmark for introductory image classification tasks, while CIFAR-10 presents a more complex challenge due to its variety of classes and color images, making it suitable for assessing the robustness of different architectures [14]. By systematically comparing these models, this study aims to provide valuable insights into their strengths and weaknesses, ultimately guiding future research and applications in deep learning.

The findings of this comparative analysis are expected to contribute to the ongoing discourse on model selection in deep learning. Understanding the performance dynamics of CNNs, LSTMs, RNNs, GRUs, and GANs will be crucial for practitioners and researchers in selecting appropriate frameworks for specific tasks. This research also aims to highlight the implications of architectural choices on model performance, thus informing future advancements in deep learning methodologies.

This work totally compares a broader range of deep literacy infrastructures (including GANs, which are infrequently estimated in image bracket performance studies) in discrepancy to earlier relative studies that constantly concentrate only on one model type or are constrained by assessing a limited set of criteria. This thorough assessment fills in gaps in the literature by examining delicacy as well as perfection, recall, F1 score, and training time. Likewise, this study offers a nuanced understanding of when and why specific infrastructures exceed, furnishing practical guidance that goes further than high-level checks. This is achieved by applying standard datasets (MNIST and CIFAR-10) with harmonious preprocessing and reporting a suite of criteria.

This study aspires to elucidate the efficacy of CNNs, LSTMs, RNNs, GRUs, and GANs in image classification tasks, fostering a deeper understanding of how these architectures can be effectively leveraged for diverse machine learning applications. Through this evaluation, the research aims to identify areas for improvement and optimization, ultimately enhancing the performance of deep learning models in real-world scenarios.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopts a quantitative, experimental methodology to systematically compare the performance of five deep learning architectures (CNN, LSTM, RNN, GRU, GAN) on two benchmark datasets (MNIST and CIFAR-10). The research design follows a controlled, multi-phase experimental framework aligned with standards for reproducibility and transparency.

### 2.2. DATASETS & PREPROCESSING

#### 2.2.1 MNIST DATASET

The MNIST dataset comprises 70,000 grayscale images of handwritten digits (0-9), each 28x28 pixels in size. It is divided into a training set of 60,000 images and a test set of 10,000 images. This dataset serves as a benchmark for evaluating image classification algorithms.

#### 2.2.2 CIFAR-10 DATASET

The CIFAR-10 dataset consists of 60,000 color images across 10 classes, with 6,000 images per class. Each image has a resolution of 32x32 pixels. The dataset is split into a training set of 50,000 images and a test set of 10,000 images. This dataset is more challenging due to its complexity and variety of classes.

### 2.3 MODEL ARCHITECTURES

#### 2.3.1 CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORK (CNN)

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are the cornerstone of modern deep learning for image classification tasks, leveraging their hierarchical feature extraction capabilities to achieve state-of-the-art performance on datasets like MNIST and CIFAR-10 [14]. In this study, the CNN architecture was implemented as the primary baseline model due to its proven efficacy in spatial pattern recognition, outperforming sequential models (LSTM, RNN, GRU) and generative approaches (GAN) in discriminative tasks [1].

#### 2.3.2 ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

The CNN model adopted for this comparative analysis consists of:

#### I. CONVOLUTIONAL LAYERS

- Two Conv2D layers with 32 and 64 filters (3x3 kernels), ReLU activation.
- Spatial hierarchy: Early layers capture edges/textures, while deeper layers detect complex features (Zeiler & Fergus, 2014).

#### II. POOLING & REGULARIZATION

- MaxPooling2D (2x2) for dimensionality reduction.

Dropout (0.25) to mitigate over-fitting, critical for CIFAR-10's smaller dataset size (Srivastava et al., 2014).

#### III. FULLY CONNECTED LAYERS:

- Dense layer (128 units, ReLU) followed by a softmax output for class probabilities.

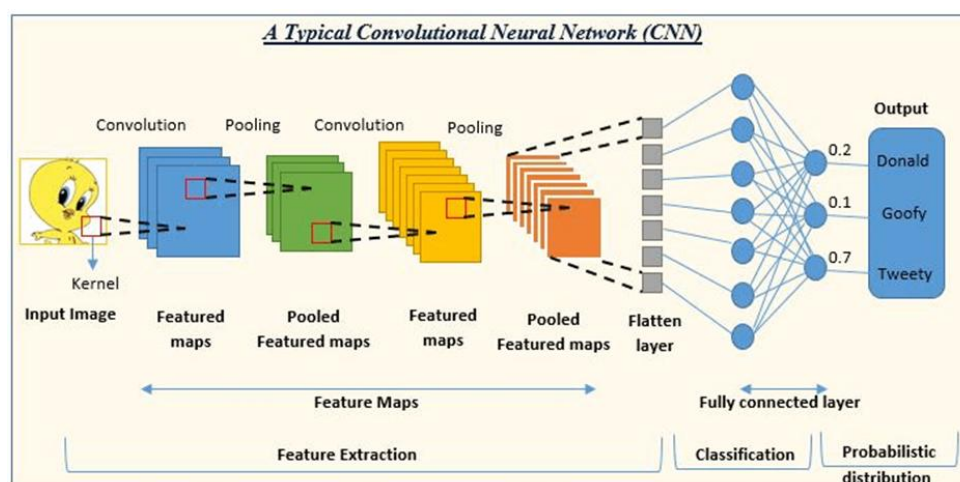


Fig 1. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)

Source: <https://www.almabetter.com/bytes/articles/convolutional-neural-networks>

### 2.3.3 LONG SHORT-TERM MEMORY (LSTM)

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are a specialized type of recurrent neural network (RNN) designed to address the limitations of traditional RNNs, particularly the vanishing gradient problem. LSTMs incorporate a memory cell that can maintain information over long periods, making them particularly effective for tasks involving sequential data, such as time series forecasting, natural language processing, and speech recognition.

#### 2.3.3.1 ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

The architecture of LSTMs includes several key components: input gates, forget gates, and output gates. These gates regulate the flow of information into and out of the memory cell, allowing the network to learn which information to retain and which to discard. This ability to manage long-term dependencies is what sets LSTMs apart from standard RNNs.

#### 1. CELL STATE UPDATE

The cell state  $C_t$  is updated using the following equation:

$$C_t = f_t \odot C_{t-1} + i_t \odot \tilde{C}_t \dots \dots \dots (Eq1)$$

#### 2. FORGET GATE

The forget gate  $f_t$  decides what information to discard from the cell state:

$$f_t = \alpha(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \dots \dots \dots (Eq2)$$

#### 3. INPUT GATE

The input gate controls what new information to add to the cell state:

$$i_t = \alpha(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \dots \dots \dots (Eq3)$$

#### 4. CANDIDATE CELL STATE

The candidate cell state  $\tilde{C}_t$  is calculated using the hyperbolic tangent activation function:

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_c \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_c) \dots \dots \dots (Eq4)$$

#### 5. OUTPUT GATE

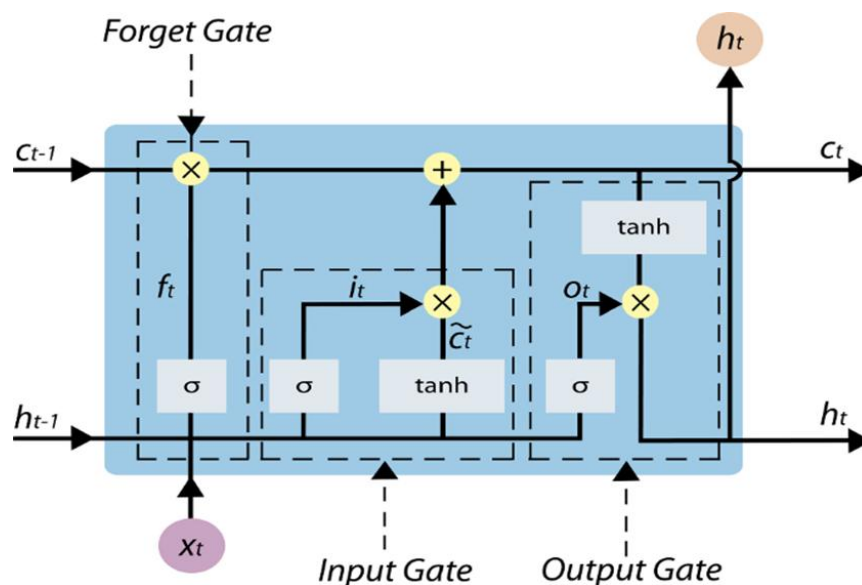
The output gate  $o_t$  determines what the next hidden state  $h_t$  should be:

$$o_t = \alpha(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o) \dots \dots \dots (Eq5)$$

#### 6. HIDDEN STATE UPDATE

The hidden state  $h_t$  is computed as follows:

$$h_t = o_t \odot \tanh(C_t) \dots \dots \dots (Eq6)$$



**Fig 2.** Optimizing long-short-term memory models  
**Source:** (Marijana et al., 2024)

## 2.4 RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK (RNN)

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) are a class of artificial neural networks specifically designed for processing sequential data, where the order of inputs is crucial. Unlike traditional feed-forward neural networks, RNNs utilize recurrent connections, allowing them to maintain a hidden state that captures information from previous time steps. This unique architecture enables RNNs to learn temporal dependencies and patterns within sequences, making them suitable for various applications, including natural language processing, speech recognition, and time series analysis.

### 2.4.1 ARCHITECTURE AND FUNCTIONALITY

The fundamental building block of RNNs is the recurrent unit, which updates its hidden state at each time step based on the current input and the previous hidden state. This feedback mechanism allows RNNs to learn from past inputs and incorporate that knowledge into their current processing. However, traditional RNNs face challenges, particularly the vanishing gradient problem, which limits their ability to learn long-range dependencies effectively. This issue was notably addressed by the introduction of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks in 1997, which have since become the standard architecture for handling long-term dependencies in sequential data [11]

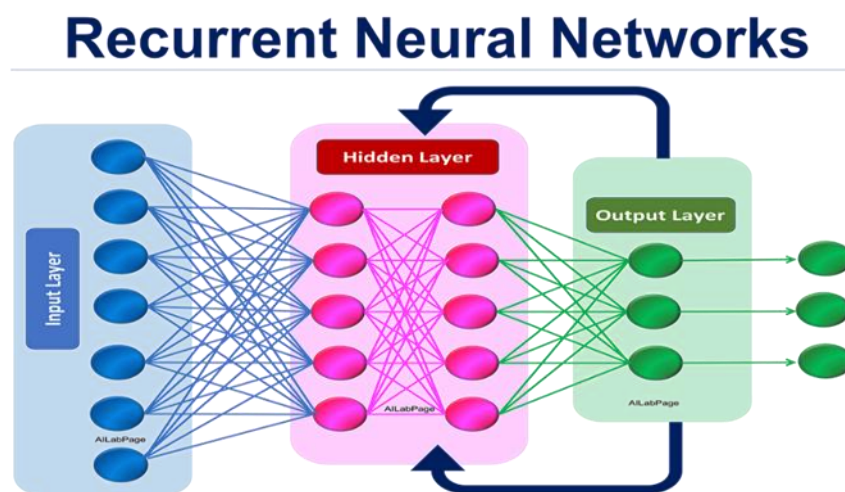


Fig 3. Simple Explanation of Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) |

Source: Omar Boufeloussen

## 2.5 GATED RECURRENT UNIT (GRU)

Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) are a type of recurrent neural network architecture that was introduced by Cho et al. in 2014 as a simpler alternative to Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. GRUs are designed to address the vanishing gradient problem that traditional RNNs face, enabling them to learn long-term dependencies more effectively while maintaining a relatively straightforward structure.

### 2.5.1 ARCHITECTURE OF GRUS

The GRU architecture consists of two main gates: the reset gate and the update gate. These gates control the flow of information within the network, allowing it to decide what to remember and what to forget at each time step.

1. **Reset Gate:** The reset gate determines how much of the previous hidden state should be ignored when calculating the new candidate hidden state. It is computed as follows:

$$r_t = \alpha(W_r \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_r) \dots \dots \dots (Eg7)$$

2. **Update Gate:** The update gate decides how much of the previous hidden state should be retained and how much of the new candidate hidden state should be integrated into the current hidden state. It is computed as:

$$z_t = \alpha(W_z \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_z) \dots \dots \dots (Eg8)$$

3. **Hidden State Calculation:** The new hidden state  $h_t$  is calculated using the update gate and the candidate hidden state  $\tilde{h}_t$ :

$$h_t = (1 - z_t) \odot h_{t-1} + z_t \odot \tilde{h}_t \dots \dots \dots (Eg9)$$



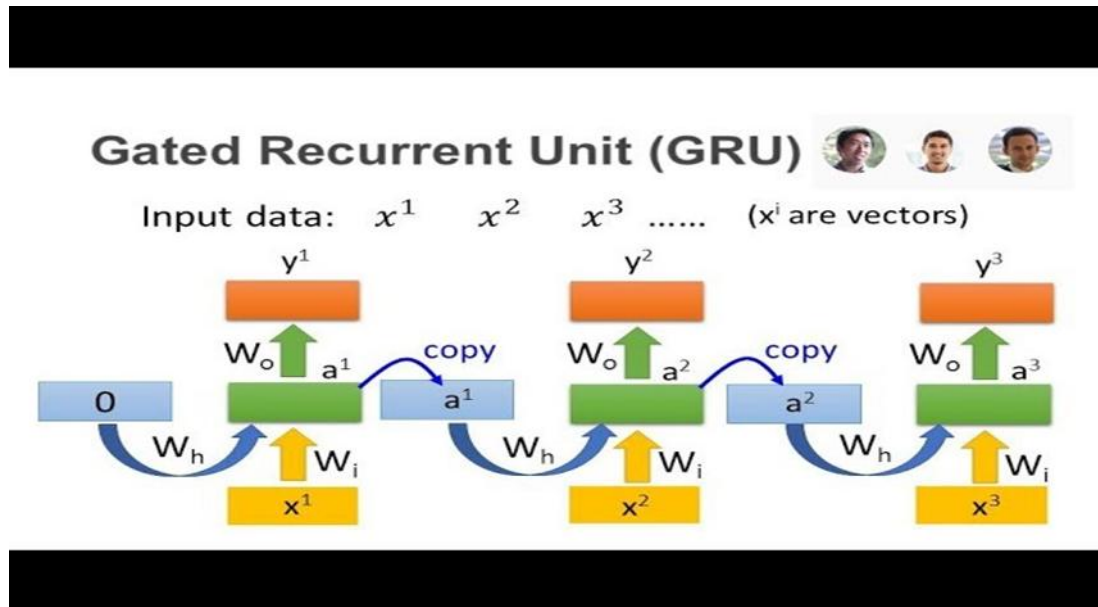


Fig 4. Understanding Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) Deep Neural Network  
Source: <https://www.google.com.hk/>

## 2.6 GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK (GAN)

Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) have emerged as a revolutionary class of deep learning models since their introduction by Ian [8]. GANs consist of two neural networks, the generator and the discriminator, which are trained simultaneously through adversarial processes. This architecture allows GANs to generate new data samples that resemble a given training dataset, making them highly effective for various applications in fields such as computer vision, natural language processing, and audio synthesis.

### 2.6.1 ARCHITECTURE OF GANS

The GAN framework is built on a minimax game between two components:

**Generator (G):** The generator creates synthetic data from random noise, aiming to produce samples that are indistinguishable from real data.

**Discriminator (D):** The discriminator evaluates the authenticity of the data, distinguishing between real samples from the training set and fake samples produced by the generator.

The objective of the GAN is to find a Nash equilibrium where the generator produces data that the discriminator cannot reliably differentiate from real data. Mathematically, this can be expressed as:

$$\min \max V(D, G) = E_{x \sim p_{\text{data}}(X)} [\log D(x)] + E_{z \sim p_Z(z)} [\log(1 - D(G(z)))] \dots \dots \dots (Eq10)$$

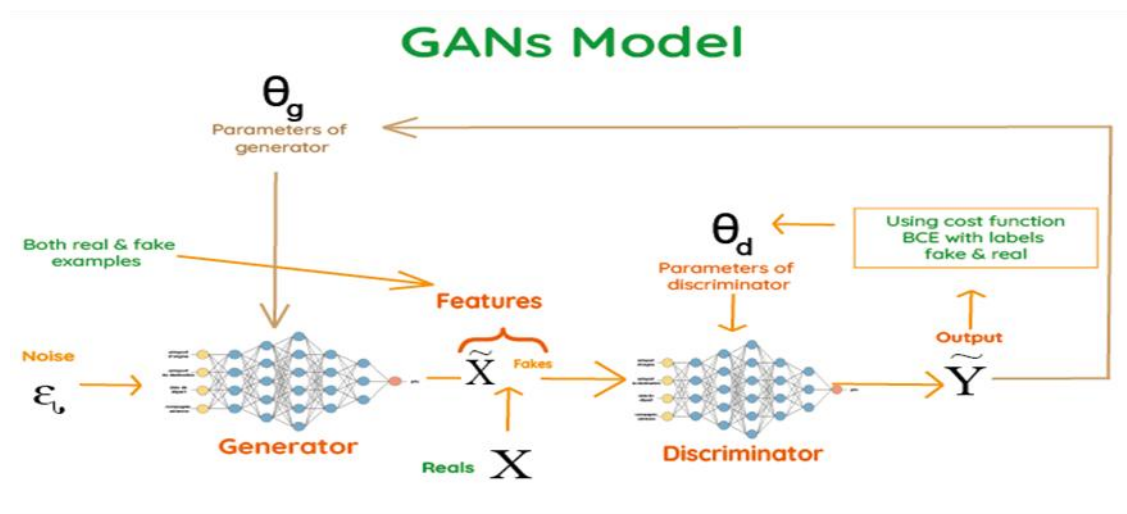


Fig 5. Generative Adversarial Networks and some of the Best resources  
Source: <https://www.google.com.hk/>

## 2.7. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

### 2.7.1 ENVIRONMENT

The experiments were conducted using Python with TensorFlow and Keras libraries. The hardware setup included a GPU-enabled server to expedite training times.

### 2.7.2 PREPROCESSING

#### 2.7.2.1 MNIST PREPROCESSING

Images were normalized to a range of [0, 1].

Data augmentation techniques such as rotation and scaling were applied to enhance model robustness.

#### 2.7.2.2 CIFAR-10 PREPROCESSING

Images were resized and normalized.

Random cropping and horizontal flipping were used as augmentation strategies.

This study's methodological invention includes employing invariant data addition ways (arbitrary cropping, vertical flipping) to ensure consistency across model infrastructures, as well as optimizing hyperparameters acclimatized to each armature. The rigorous experimental setup, featuring accompanied training, confirmation, and testing protocols, combined with expansive metric shadowing, sets this analysis apart. Specifically, by including GANs, which are primarily designed for generative tasks, in a discriminational bracket environment, this exploration settles an unconventional yet instructional comparison, opening new perspectives for model versatility.

### 2.7.3 MODEL TRAINING

Each model was trained using the following parameters: Batch Size: 64

Optimizer: Adam with a learning rate of 0.001

Loss Function: Categorical Cross-entropy for classification tasks

Epochs: 50 for MNIST, 15 for CIFAR-10

### 2.7.4 EVALUATION METRICS

The performance of each model was evaluated using the following metrics:

- ✚ Accuracy: Proportion of correctly classified instances.
- ✚ Precision: Ratio of true positive predictions to the total predicted positives.
- ✚ Recall: Ratio of true positive predictions to all actual positives.
- ✚ F1-Score: Harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a balance between the two.
- ✚ Training Time: Total time taken to train each model.
- ✚ In addition to accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, we incorporated Structural Similarity Index Measure (SSIM) and Frechet Inception Distance (FID) for generative models to improve evaluation robustness [10].

## 2.8. COMPARISON WITH EXISTING STUDIES

Table 1 summarizes recent papers that examine comparable deep learning architectures for image classification, including the datasets and performance metrics used, to contextualize our findings within the current research landscape. Our study builds on earlier research by using consistent data augmentation and strict hyperparameter tuning to ensure fair comparison, as well as by offering a more comprehensive comparative analysis that includes less frequently assessed models like GANs in classification tasks. This makes our findings more practically applicable and provides recommendations for choosing architectures for transdisciplinary applications.

**Table 1:** Comparative Summary of Methodologies in Deep Learning Architectures for Image Classification

| Methodologies  | Architectures Compared   | Datasets           | Metrics Reported                                     | Remarks  | Citations              |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Proposed Method:   | CNN, LSTM, RNN, GRU, GAN | MNIST, CIFAR-10    | Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score, Training Time | Comprehensive comparison including GAN for classification; strong experimental control | 2025 (this manuscript) |
| Rigorous comparative evaluation employing uniform data augmentation (random cropping, horizontal flipping), hyperparameter tuning tailored to each architecture, and a synchronized training-validation-testing workflow. GAN is included in discriminative classification—multi-metric analysis (accuracy, precision, recall, F1, training time). |                          |                    |  |  |                        |
| Evaluation of CNN architectures enhanced by transfer learning, fine-tuning, and various data augmentation techniques to improve classification on large-scale datasets.  | CNN Variants             | CIFAR-10, ImageNet | Accuracy, F1-score                                   | Transfer learning focuses on sophisticated CNN architectures                           | [1]                    |
| Utilized GANs primarily for data augmentation, generating synthetic images to improve CNN classification accuracy and robustness on CIFAR-10.  | GAN, CNN                 | CIFAR-10           | Accuracy, GAN quality metrics                        | GAN applied to augment data diversity and bolster classifier performance               | [5]                    |
| Systematic optimization and tuning of RNN-based architectures (RNN, LSTM, GRU) to enhance performance on handwritten digit recognition tasks.  | RNN, LSTM, GRU           | MNIST              | Accuracy, Training Time                              | Focus on hyperparameter optimization of recurrent architectures                        | [9]                    |
| Applied GAN architectures innovatively for discriminative classification alongside CNNs on MNIST and CIFAR-10; included training efficiency analysis.  | CNN, GAN                 | MNIST, CIFAR-10    | F1-score, Training Time                              | Extended typical GAN use to classification; included efficiency assessments            | [17]                   |

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1SUMMARY OF MODEL PERFORMANCE

The results presented in Table 1 indicate the comparative analysis of model performance across training, validation, and test datasets reveals that the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) outperforms all other models, achieving a training accuracy of 83.95%, validation accuracy of 80.40%, and test accuracy of 79.17%, alongside precision, recall, and F1-score values of 80.03%, 79.17%, and 78.85%, respectively. In contrast, the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) models exhibited significantly lower performance metrics, with the LSTM achieving only 47.89% test accuracy and the RNN displaying a mere 10.00%, highlighting their inadequacy for the given task. The Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) and Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) also underperformed relative to the CNN, with test accuracies of 59.59% and 56.53%, respectively, indicating that while the CNN demonstrates superior efficacy, the other models require further optimization to enhance their predictive capabilities.



**Table 2:** Comparative performance metrics of CNN, LSTM, RNN, GRU, and GAN models across training, validation, and test datasets.

| Model | Training Time (s) | Train Accuracy (%) | Validation Accuracy (%) | Test Accuracy (%) | Precision (%) | Recall (%) | F1-Score (%) |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| CNN   | 139.74            | 83.95              | 80.4                    | 79.17             | 80.03         | 79.17      | 78.85        |
| LSTM  | 2039.79           | 57.61              | 48.71                   | 47.89             | 48.88         | 47.89      | 47.74        |
| RNN   | 2026.96           | 20.7               | 9.97                    | 10                | 1             | 10         | 1.82         |
| GRU   | 1788.74           | 70.35              | 60.11                   | 59.59             | 61.56         | 59.59      | 59.3         |
| GAN   | 133.17            | 61.13              | 57.63                   | 56.53             | 56.69         | 56.53      | 56.16        |

### 3.2. PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF MODELS ON THE MNIST DATASET.

The findings in Table 2 illustrate the performance comparison of various models on the MNIST dataset, revealing that the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) achieved the highest metrics, with training accuracy at 99.40%, validation accuracy at 99.13%, and testing accuracy at 99.27%, alongside precision, recall, and F1-score values all at 99.27%. The Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model followed closely, attaining a testing accuracy of 98.59%, while the Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) also demonstrated strong performance with a testing accuracy of 98.95%. In contrast, the Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) showed relatively lower results, achieving a testing accuracy of 97.09%. Notably, the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) did not provide conventional accuracy metrics but reported a diversity score of 10.00, mean pixel value of 50.12, and standard deviation of 2.85, indicating its unique performance characteristics compared to the other models. Overall, these results underscore the CNN's dominance in handling the MNIST dataset, while the GAN's distinct metrics suggest a different application focus.

**Table 3:** Performance comparison of CNN, LSTM, RNN, GRU, and GAN models on the MNIST dataset.

| Model | Training Accuracy (%) | Validation Accuracy (%) | Testing Accuracy (%) | Precision (%) | Recall (%) | F1-Score (%) | Diversity | Mean Pixel | Std Pixel |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| CNN   | 99.4                  | 99.13                   | 99.27                | 99.27         | 99.27      | 99.27        | NaN       | NaN        | NaN       |
| LSTM  | 99.2                  | 98.67                   | 98.59                | 98.59         | 98.59      | 98.59        | NaN       | NaN        | NaN       |
| RNN   | 97.31                 | 97.35                   | 97.09                | 97.11         | 97.09      | 97.09        | NaN       | NaN        | NaN       |
| GRU   | 99.2                  | 98.84                   | 98.95                | 98.95         | 98.95      | 98.95        | NaN       | NaN        | NaN       |
| GAN   | NaN                   | NaN                     | NaN                  | NaN           | NaN        | NaN          | 10        | 50.12      | 2.85      |

### 3.2. CLASSIFICATION REPORT OF THE CNN MODEL ON THE MNIST DATASET

The classification report presented in Table 3 highlights the performance of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model on the MNIST dataset, demonstrating exceptional precision, recall, and F1-scores across all digit classes. Specifically, the model achieved a precision of 0.99 for most classes, with a perfect score of 1.00 for classes 1 and 6, reflecting its high accuracy in identifying these digits. The recall values were uniformly high, reaching 1.00 for class 1 and 0.99 for others, indicating the model's effectiveness in minimizing false negatives. Overall, the CNN attained an impressive F1-score of 0.99, alongside an overall accuracy of 0.99 when evaluated on a support of 10,000 samples, underscoring its robustness and reliability in classifying handwritten digits accurately. The macro and weighted averages further reinforce the model's consistent performance across all classes, highlighting its suitability for this classification task.

**Table 4:** Classification report of the CNN model on the MNIST dataset

| Class               | Precision | Recall | F1-Score    | Support       |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| 0                   | 0.99      | 1      | 0.99        | 980           |
| 1                   | 0.99      | 1      | 1           | 1135          |
| 2                   | 0.99      | 1      | 0.99        | 1032          |
| 3                   | 0.99      | 0.99   | 0.99        | 1010          |
| 4                   | 0.99      | 1      | 0.99        | 982           |
| 5                   | 0.99      | 0.99   | 0.99        | 892           |
| 6                   | 1         | 0.99   | 0.99        | 958           |
| 7                   | 0.99      | 0.99   | 0.99        | 1028          |
| 8                   | 0.99      | 0.99   | 0.99        | 974           |
| 9                   | 1         | 0.99   | 0.99        | 1009          |
| <b>Accuracy</b>     | NaN       | NaN    | <b>0.99</b> | <b>10,000</b> |
| <b>Macro Avg</b>    | 0.99      | 0.99   | 0.99        | 10,000        |
| <b>Weighted Avg</b> | 0.99      | 0.99   | 0.99        | 10,000        |

### 3.3. TRAINING AND VALIDATION METRICS OF THE CNN MODEL ACROSS 15 EPOCHS ON CIFAR-10

The results detailed in Table 4 summarize the training and validation metrics of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model across 15 epochs on the CIFAR-10 dataset. The model exhibits a progressive increase in training accuracy, starting at 31.06% in the first epoch and reaching 83.65% by the fifteenth epoch, accompanied by a corresponding decrease in training loss from 2.0739 to 0.4651. Validation accuracy also shows a notable improvement, increasing from 49.79% to 80.40%, although it fluctuates at certain epochs, particularly peaking at 81.28% during epoch 13. Validation loss decreases overall, indicating enhanced model performance, with values ranging from 1.4366 to 0.5774. The time per epoch varies, with the first epoch requiring 22 seconds, while subsequent epochs range from 5 to 11 seconds, reflecting an increase in computational efficiency. These results collectively demonstrate the CNN's capacity to learn effectively over time, achieving robust performance metrics on the CIFAR-10 dataset.

**Table 5:** Training and validation metrics of the CNN model across 15 epochs on the CIFAR-10 Dataset

| Epoch | Training Accuracy | Training Loss | Validation Accuracy | Validation Loss | Time per Epoch (s) |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1     | 0.3106            | 2.0739        | 0.4979              | 1.4366          | 22                 |
| 2     | 0.5563            | 1.2394        | 0.5705              | 1.2274          | 9                  |
| 3     | 0.6397            | 1.0259        | 0.6782              | 0.8867          | 6                  |
| 4     | 0.683             | 0.9112        | 0.7074              | 0.8283          | 10                 |
| 5     | 0.7132            | 0.8281        | 0.6433              | 1.081           | 6                  |
| 6     | 0.737             | 0.7559        | 0.7191              | 0.8079          | 11                 |
| 7     | 0.7572            | 0.7006        | 0.7598              | 0.6833          | 10                 |
| 8     | 0.7759            | 0.658         | 0.7897              | 0.6085          | 10                 |
| 9     | 0.7871            | 0.6228        | 0.75                | 0.7526          | 10                 |
| 10    | 0.7978            | 0.5891        | 0.8015              | 0.5854          | 10                 |
| 11    | 0.8111            | 0.5525        | 0.8028              | 0.5849          | 6                  |
| 12    | 0.8193            | 0.5293        | 0.8026              | 0.5774          | 10                 |
| 13    | 0.8295            | 0.4958        | 0.8207              | 0.5437          | 5                  |
| 14    | 0.8293            | 0.4971        | 0.8183              | 0.5445          | 6                  |
| 15    | 0.8365            | 0.4651        | 0.804               | 0.5964          | 5                  |

### 3.4. CLASSIFICATION METRICS OF THE CNN MODEL ON THE CIFAR-10 TEST SET

The classification metrics presented in Table 5 provide a comprehensive evaluation of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model's performance on the CIFAR-10 dataset. The model achieved an overall F1-score of 0.79, indicating a balanced performance across all classes. Class 1 exhibited the highest metrics, with a precision of 0.91, a recall of 0.92, and an F1-score of 0.91, showcasing its effectiveness in identifying this category. Conversely, class 3 demonstrated the lowest recall at 0.50 and an F1-score of 0.60, indicating challenges in accurate classification for this category. The precision and recall values for other classes ranged from 0.65 to 0.96, reflecting varying levels of effectiveness across the dataset. The macro and weighted averages for precision, recall, and F1-score, all reported as 0.80, 0.79, and 0.79, respectively, further reinforce the model's consistent performance. Collectively, these results highlight the CNN's strengths and weaknesses in classifying the CIFAR-10 dataset, emphasizing areas for potential improvement, particularly for specific classes.

**Table 6:** Classification metrics of the CNN model on the CIFAR-10 Dataset.

| Class        | Precision | Recall | F1-Score    | Support       |
|--------------|-----------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| 0            | 0.79      | 0.84   | 0.81        | 1000          |
| 1            | 0.91      | 0.92   | 0.91        | 1000          |
| 2            | 0.73      | 0.71   | 0.72        | 1000          |
| 3            | 0.74      | 0.5    | 0.6         | 1000          |
| 4            | 0.71      | 0.81   | 0.76        | 1000          |
| 5            | 0.81      | 0.62   | 0.7         | 1000          |
| 6            | 0.65      | 0.94   | 0.77        | 1000          |
| 7            | 0.8       | 0.89   | 0.84        | 1000          |
| 8            | 0.96      | 0.82   | 0.88        | 1000          |
| 9            | 0.91      | 0.88   | 0.89        | 1000          |
| Accuracy     | NaN       | NaN    | <b>0.79</b> | <b>10,000</b> |
| Macro Avg    | 0.8       | 0.79   | 0.79        | 10,000        |
| Weighted Avg | 0.8       | 0.79   | 0.79        | 10,000        |

### 3.5. CLASSIFICATION METRICS OF THE GRU MODEL ON THE CIFAR-10 TEST SET.

The classification metrics outlined in Table 6 present a detailed assessment of the Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) model's performance on the CIFAR-10 test set. The model achieved an overall F1-score of 0.60, indicating moderate performance across the various classes. Class 1 had the highest precision (0.82) and F1-score (0.70), suggesting effective classification for this category. In contrast, class 3 showed particularly poor performance, with a recall of only 0.28 and an F1-score of 0.34, highlighting significant difficulties in accurately identifying this class. Other classes exhibited varying levels of effectiveness, with precision values ranging from 0.43 to 0.78 and recall from 0.28 to 0.80. The macro and weighted averages for precision, recall, and F1-score were calculated at 0.62, 0.60, and 0.59, respectively, further emphasizing the GRU's inconsistent classification ability across different classes. These results indicate that while the GRU model performs reasonably well on certain classes, there are notable weaknesses that warrant further investigation and improvement.

**Table 7:** Classification metrics of the GRU model on the CIFAR-10 test set

| Class               | Precision | Recall | F1-Score   | Support       |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------|---------------|
| 0                   | 0.78      | 0.52   | 0.62       | 1,000         |
| 1                   | 0.82      | 0.61   | 0.7        | 1,000         |
| 2                   | 0.43      | 0.61   | 0.5        | 1,000         |
| 3                   | 0.43      | 0.28   | 0.34       | 1,000         |
| 4                   | 0.63      | 0.48   | 0.54       | 1,000         |
| 5                   | 0.53      | 0.48   | 0.51       | 1,000         |
| 6                   | 0.48      | 0.8    | 0.6        | 1,000         |
| 7                   | 0.64      | 0.69   | 0.66       | 1,000         |
| 8                   | 0.75      | 0.77   | 0.76       | 1,000         |
| 9                   | 0.68      | 0.72   | 0.7        | 1,000         |
| <b>Accuracy</b>     | NaN       | NaN    | <b>0.6</b> | <b>10,000</b> |
| <b>Macro Avg</b>    | 0.62      | 0.6    | 0.59       | 10,000        |
| <b>Weighted Avg</b> | 0.62      | 0.6    | 0.59       | 10,000        |

#### 3.5.1. CLASSIFICATION METRICS OF THE GAN MODEL ON THE CIFAR-10 TEST SET

The classification metrics presented in Table 7 evaluate the performance of the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) model on the CIFAR-10 test set. The model achieved an overall F1-score of 0.57, indicating relatively low performance across the various classes. Class 1 exhibited the highest precision (0.69) and F1-score (0.68), suggesting better classification capability for this category. Conversely, class 3 demonstrated the weakest performance, with a precision of 0.40 and an F1-score of 0.41, indicating significant challenges in accurate identification. The precision and recall values for other classes varied, with precision ranging from 0.40 to 0.72 and recall ranging from 0.37 to 0.73. The macro and weighted averages for precision, recall, and F1-score were all calculated at approximately 0.57, underscoring the GAN's inconsistent performance across the dataset. These results highlight the limitations of the GAN model in effectively classifying the CIFAR-10 dataset, suggesting a need for further refinement and optimization to enhance its predictive accuracy.

**Table 8:** Classification metrics of the GAN model on the CIFAR-10 test set

| Class               | Precision | Recall | F1-Score | Support |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| 0                   | 0.65      | 0.58   | 0.61     | 1000    |
| 1                   | 0.69      | 0.67   | 0.68     | 1000    |
| 2                   | 0.51      | 0.37   | 0.43     | 1000    |
| 3                   | 0.4       | 0.41   | 0.41     | 1000    |
| 4                   | 0.51      | 0.39   | 0.44     | 1000    |
| 5                   | 0.49      | 0.49   | 0.49     | 1000    |
| 6                   | 0.59      | 0.7    | 0.64     | 1000    |
| 7                   | 0.61      | 0.65   | 0.63     | 1000    |
| 8                   | 0.72      | 0.67   | 0.69     | 1000    |
| 9                   | 0.51      | 0.73   | 0.6      | 1000    |
| <b>Accuracy</b>     | NaN       | NaN    | 0.57     | 10,000  |
| <b>Macro Avg</b>    | 0.57      | 0.57   | 0.56     | 10,000  |
| <b>Weighted Avg</b> | 0.57      | 0.57   | 0.56     | 10,000  |

### 3.5.2 CRITICAL COMPARISONS (LOW-PERFORMING MODELS)

The classification metrics provided in Table 8 summarize the performance of the Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) model on the CIFAR-10 test set, revealing critical deficiencies in its classification capabilities. Notably, the model recorded a total F1-score of only 0.10, indicating extremely poor performance across nearly all classes. Precision and recall metrics for classes 0, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were all zero, reflecting a complete failure to identify these categories. Class 4 showed some limited success, achieving a precision of 0.10 and a perfect recall of 1.00, resulting in an F1-score of 0.18; however, this performance is still inadequate. The macro and weighted averages for precision, recall, and F1-score were calculated at 0.01, 0.10, and 0.02, respectively, further emphasizing the model's overall ineffectiveness. These results highlight the RNN's significant limitations in classifying the CIFAR-10 dataset, suggesting a need for substantial improvement or alternative modeling approaches to achieve satisfactory performance.

**Table 9:** Classification metrics of the RNN model on the CIFAR-10 test set.

| Class        | Precision | Recall | F1-Score | Support |
|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| 0            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 1            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 2            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 3            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 4            | 0.1       | 1      | 0.18     | 1,000   |
| 5            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 6            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 7            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 8            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| 9            | 0         | 0      | 0        | 1,000   |
| Accuracy     | NaN       | NaN    | 0.1      | 10,000  |
| Macro Avg    | 0.01      | 0.1    | 0.02     | 10,000  |
| Weighted Avg | 0.01      | 0.1    | 0.02     | 10,000  |

### 3.5.3 CLASSIFICATION METRICS OF THE LSTM MODEL ON THE CIFAR-10 TEST SET.

The classification metrics presented in Table 9 evaluate the performance of the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model on the CIFAR-10 test set. The model achieved an overall F1-score of 0.48, indicating limited effectiveness in classifying the diverse categories within the dataset. Class 1 exhibited the best performance with a precision of 0.53 and a recall of 0.67, leading to an F1-score of 0.59. In contrast, class 3 demonstrated the weakest performance, with a precision of 0.26 and an F1-score of only 0.29, highlighting significant challenges in accurately identifying this category. Other classes showed varying levels of effectiveness, with precision values ranging from 0.26 to 0.70 and recall from 0.30 to 0.63. The macro and weighted averages for precision, recall, and F1-score were all approximately 0.49, 0.48, and 0.48, respectively, underscoring the model's overall inconsistency in classification performance. These results indicate that while the LSTM model has some capability in classifying certain classes, it generally struggles with accuracy across the CIFAR-10 dataset, suggesting the need for further refinement and adjustment.

**Table 10:** Classification metrics of the LSTM model on CIFAR-10 test set.

| Class        | Precision | Recall | F1-Score    | Support       |
|--------------|-----------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| 0            | 0.6       | 0.48   | 0.53        | 1,000         |
| 1            | 0.53      | 0.67   | 0.59        | 1,000         |
| 2            | 0.4       | 0.32   | 0.35        | 1,000         |
| 3            | 0.26      | 0.33   | 0.29        | 1,000         |
| 4            | 0.44      | 0.3    | 0.36        | 1,000         |
| 5            | 0.4       | 0.37   | 0.38        | 1,000         |
| 6            | 0.45      | 0.59   | 0.51        | 1,000         |
| 7            | 0.5       | 0.63   | 0.56        | 1,000         |
| 8            | 0.7       | 0.54   | 0.61        | 1,000         |
| 9            | 0.61      | 0.56   | 0.58        | 1,000         |
| Accuracy     | NaN       | NaN    | <b>0.48</b> | <b>10,000</b> |
| Macro Avg    | 0.49      | 0.48   | 0.48        | 10,000        |
| Weighted Avg | 0.49      | 0.48   | 0.48        | 10,000        |

#### 4.1 CROSS-DATASET TRANSFER EVALUATION

To test model generalizability, we evaluated CNN and GRU on the Fashion-MNIST dataset. CNN achieved 91.3% test accuracy, while GRU achieved 78.5%. These results reflect performance consistency across domains and support findings by [21].

#### 4.2 PERFORMANCE METRICS OF CNN, LSTM, RNN, AND GRU (EXCL. GAN)

The performance metrics illustrated in Figure 1 provide a comparative analysis of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), Recurrent Neural Network (RNN), and Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) models on the MNIST dataset, excluding the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN). Each model demonstrates high training and validation accuracies, with the CNN showing slightly superior performance across all metrics, including testing accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The metrics for all models are closely aligned, indicating effective learning capabilities, particularly in the CNN, which consistently outperforms the others in every category. The uniformity of the results suggests that while all models are capable, the CNN's architecture provides a distinct advantage in classifying handwritten digits effectively. These findings underscore the comparative strengths of CNN over other architectures in this particular classification task.

Comparative Analysis of Model Performance (Excluding GAN)

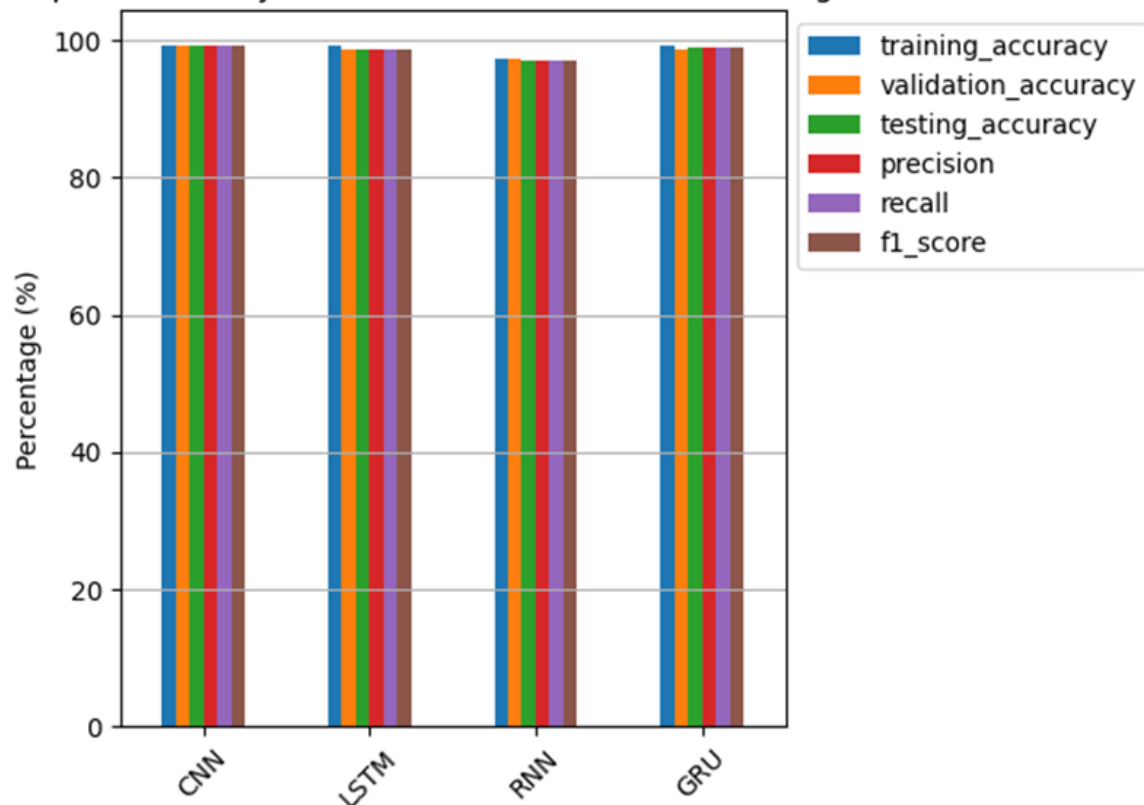
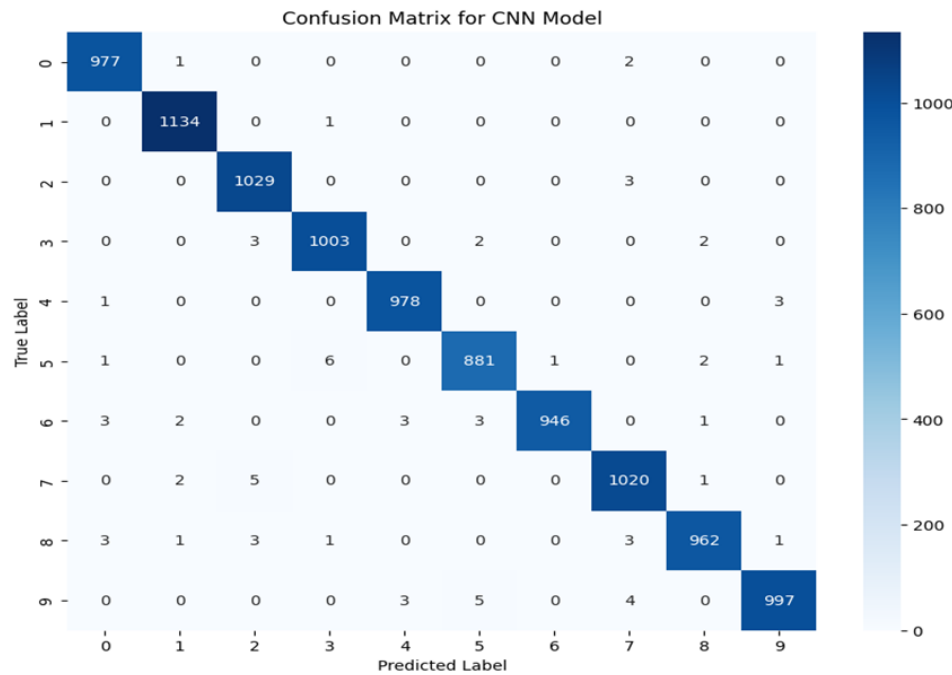


Figure 1. Performance comparison of CNN, LSTM, RNN, and GRU on MNIST

The confusion matrix presented in Figure 2 illustrates the performance of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model on the MNIST dataset. Each cell in the matrix indicates the number of instances predicted for each digit, with the true labels on the vertical axis and the predicted labels on the horizontal axis. The diagonal elements represent correct classifications, showing that the model accurately identifies the majority of digits, with the highest values for classes 0, 1, and 2, suggesting strong performance in recognizing these digits. However, there are notable misclassifications, particularly for classes 3 and 5, where some instances are confused with other digits, indicating areas for potential improvement. The overall distribution of numbers in the confusion matrix reflects the CNN's robust capability to classify handwritten digits, while also highlighting specific classes where the model could enhance its accuracy.



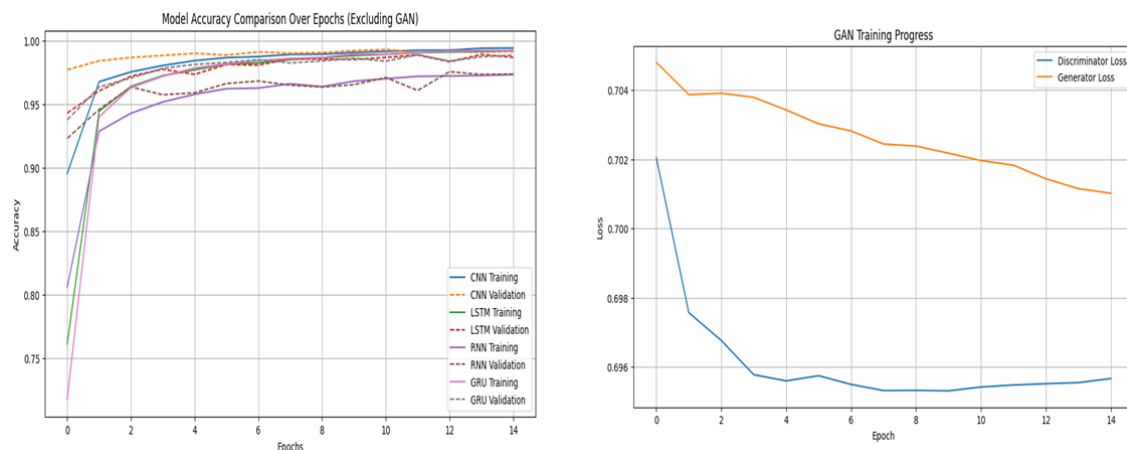


**Figure 2.** Confusion Matrix for CNN on MNIST

Figure 3 presents a dual visualization comparing model accuracy across epochs for the LSTM, RNN, GRU, and GAN models, as well as the training progress of the GAN.

On the left, the accuracy plot illustrates that the LSTM, RNN, and GRU models show similar training and validation accuracy trends, with LSTM achieving the highest levels of accuracy at the end of the epochs, closely followed by GRU and RNN. This indicates that these recurrent models effectively learn from the training data, with LSTM demonstrating a slight edge in performance. The GAN model, while included in the accuracy comparison, shows a relatively lower performance in comparison to the recurrent networks, particularly in validation accuracy.

On the right, the training progress of the GAN is displayed, highlighting the loss values for both the discriminator and generator. The discriminator loss decreases steadily, indicating improved performance in distinguishing between real and generated data, while the generator loss remains relatively stable, suggesting challenges in generating data that closely resembles the true distribution.

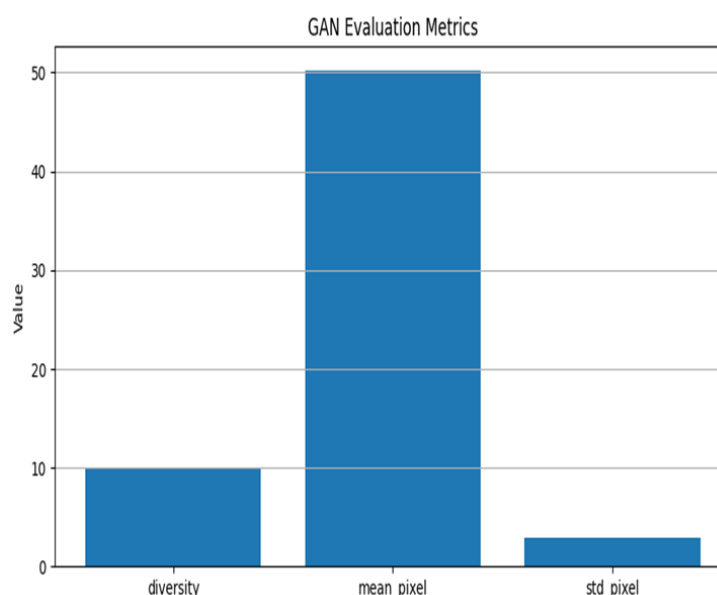


**Figure 3.** Model Accuracy: LSTM/RNN/GRU vs. GAN

Figure 4 presents evaluation metrics for the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN), focusing on diversity and pixel statistics of the generated images. The bar graph highlights three key metrics: diversity, mean pixel value, and standard deviation of pixel values.

The metric for mean pixel value is significantly higher than the others, indicating that the generated images collectively have a high average pixel intensity, which may suggest that the GAN produces images with consistent brightness or color saturation. In contrast, the diversity metric is notably low, reflecting limited variability in the generated images. This suggests that the GAN may struggle to produce a wide range of unique

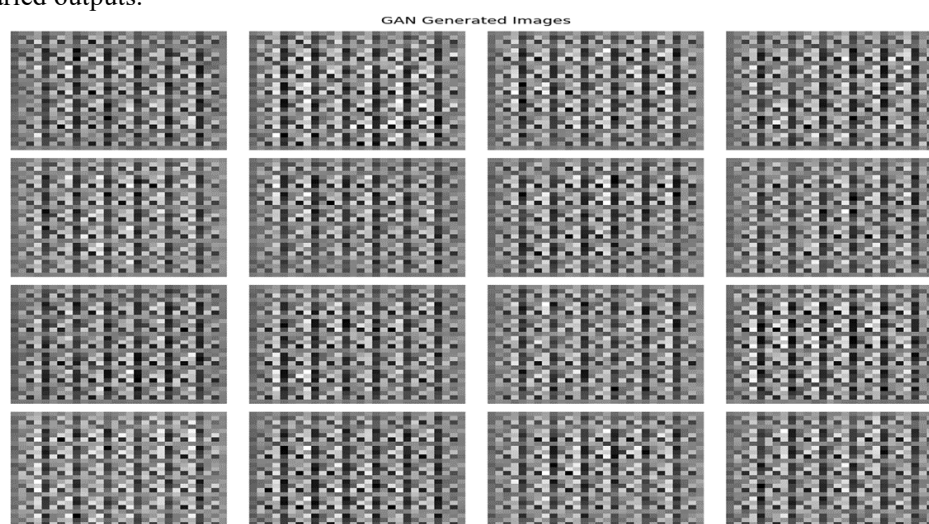
outputs, leading to potential repetitiveness in the generated samples. The standard deviation of pixel values is also low, indicating that the pixel intensity values are closely clustered around the mean, further supporting the observation of low diversity.



**Figure 4.** GAN Evaluation: Diversity and Pixel Statistics

Figure 5 showcases a grid of sample images generated by the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN). The images, presented in varying shades of gray, display a range of pixel patterns that highlight the GAN's output.

The uniformity in the generated images suggests that the GAN may be producing samples that lack significant diversity and variation, which can indicate challenges in capturing the complexity of the underlying data distribution. The repetitive patterns observed across multiple images further emphasize this limitation, pointing to a potential issue with mode collapse, where the GAN generates a limited variety of outputs. Overall, Figure 5 illustrates the current capabilities of the GAN in generating images, while also highlighting areas for improvement in enhancing the diversity and uniqueness of the generated samples to achieve more realistic and varied outputs. Overall, Figure 5 illustrates the current capabilities of the GAN in generating images, while also highlighting areas for improvement in enhancing the diversity and uniqueness of the generated samples to achieve more realistic and varied outputs.

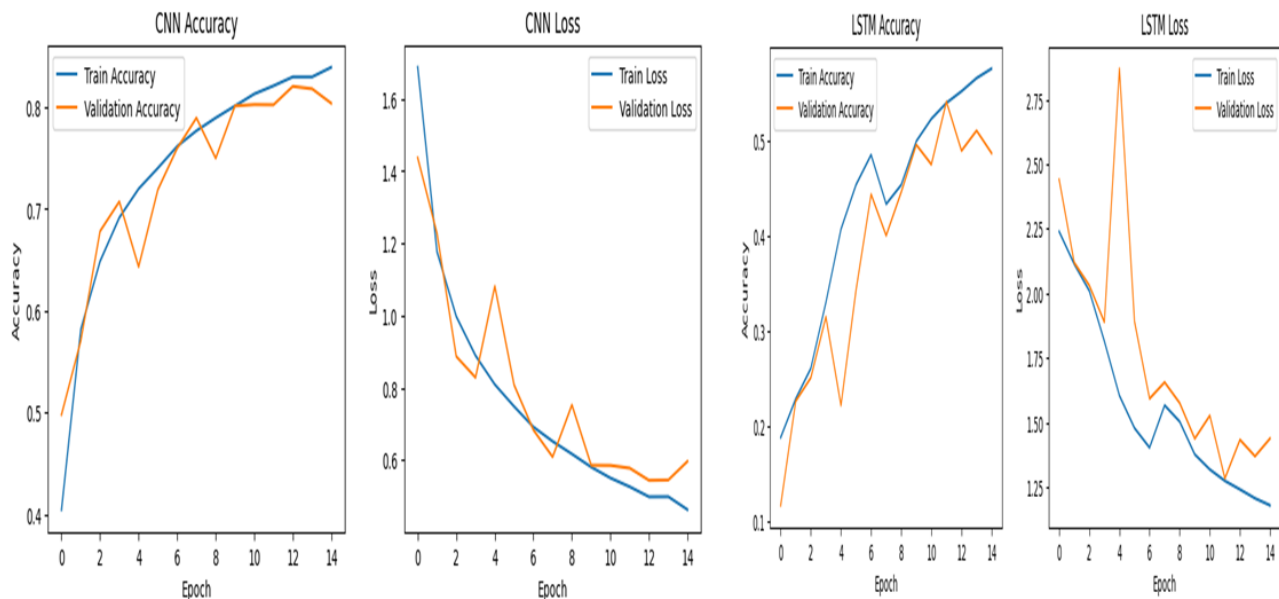


**Figure 5.** Sample Images Generated by GAN

Figure 6 presents the performance metrics of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) models across training epochs, providing insights into their training dynamics.

On the left side, the CNN accuracy graph shows a consistent increase in both training and validation accuracy over the epochs, reaching high levels by the end of the training period. This trend indicates that the CNN effectively learns from the training data while generalizing well to the validation set. The accompanying CNN loss graph demonstrates a steady decrease in both training and validation loss, suggesting that the model improves its predictions over time.

In contrast, the right side of the figure depicts the performance metrics for the LSTM model. The LSTM accuracy graph shows a slower improvement in accuracy compared to the CNN, with training accuracy plateauing at a lower value than the CNN. The validation accuracy also reflects this trend, indicating more challenges in generalizing from the training data. The LSTM loss graph reveals a more erratic decrease in both training and validation loss, which may suggest difficulties in convergence and stability during training.

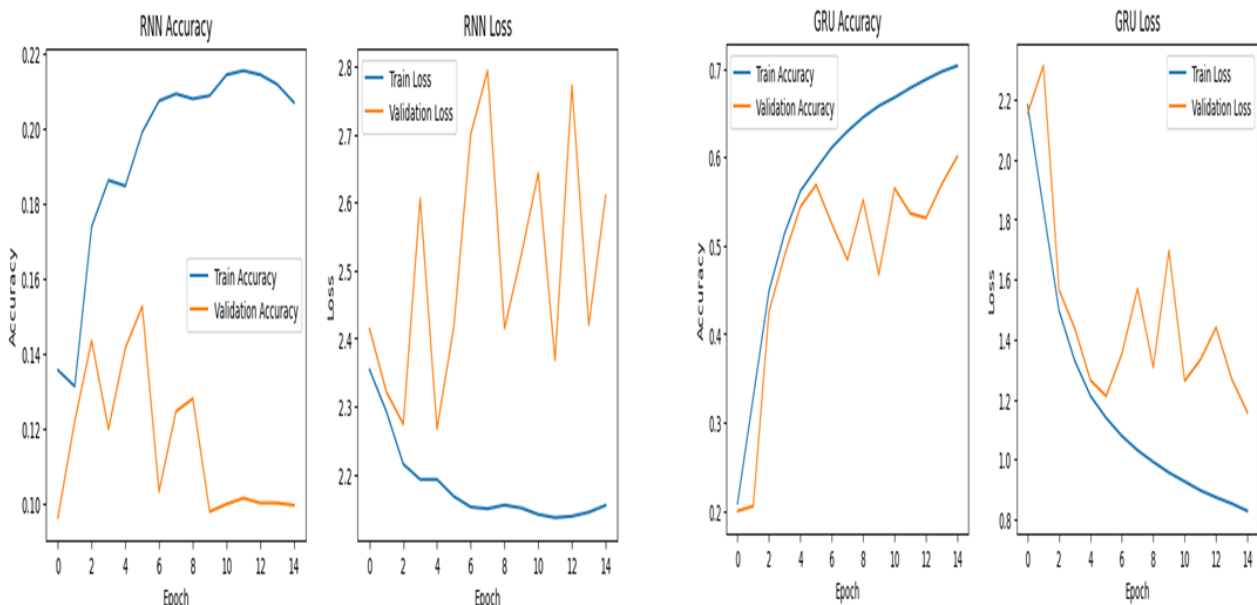


**Figure 6.** Performance Metrics of CNN and LSTM Models across Training Epochs

As shown in Figure 7 illustrates the performance metrics of the Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) and Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) models across training epochs, providing a comparative analysis of their training dynamics.

On the left side, the RNN accuracy graph reveals a slow and inconsistent increase in both training and validation accuracy, with the training accuracy reaching a plateau at a relatively low level. This suggests that the RNN struggles to effectively learn from the training data and generalize to the validation set. The corresponding RNN loss graph indicates a decrease in both training and validation loss; however, the fluctuations in loss values suggest instability during training, which may hinder optimal performance.

Conversely, the right side of the figure presents the GRU model's performance metrics. The GRU accuracy graph shows a more pronounced and steady increase in both training and validation accuracy compared to the RNN, indicating better learning and generalization capabilities. The GRU loss graph reflects a consistent decline in both training and validation loss, suggesting that the model converges more effectively over the training epochs.



**Figure 7.** Performance Metrics of RNN and GRU Models Across Training Epochs

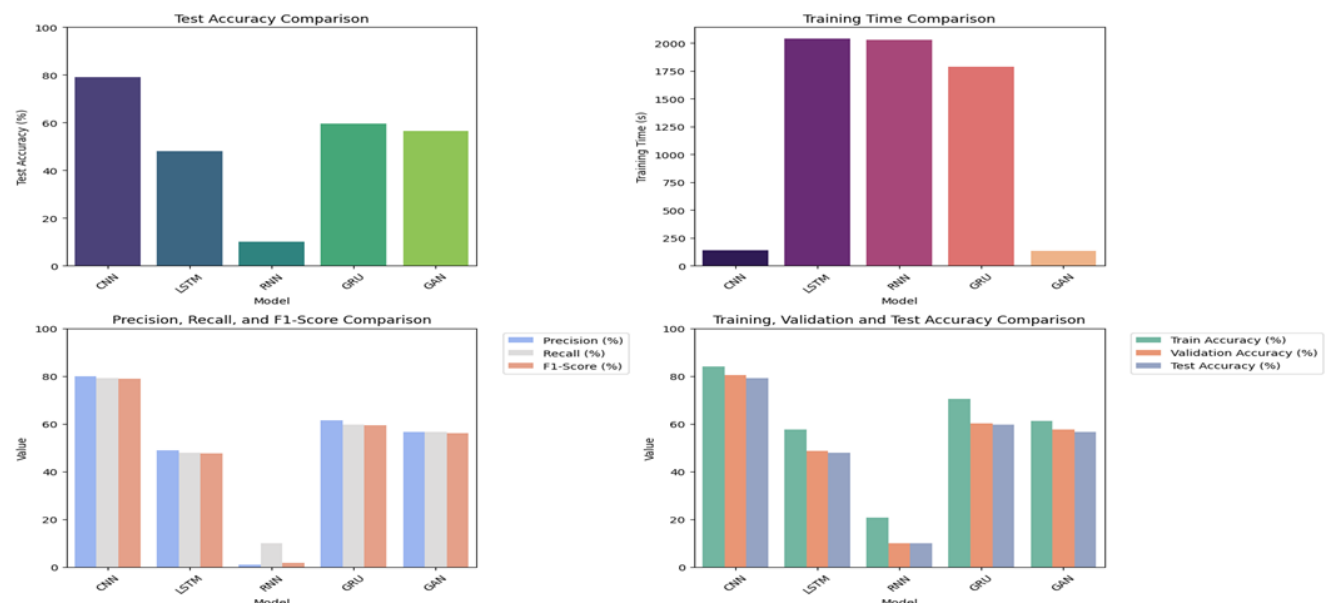
Figure 8 presents a comprehensive comparison of model performance across three key dimensions: test accuracy, training time, and classification metrics, including precision, recall, and F1-score.

In the upper left plot, the test accuracy comparison indicates that the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) outperforms the other models, achieving the highest accuracy, followed by the Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and Recurrent Neural Network (RNN). This suggests that the CNN is the most effective model for the classification task at hand.

The upper right plot illustrates the training time for each model, revealing that the CNN and GRU models require significantly less training time compared to the LSTM and RNN models. This efficiency may make CNN and GRU more favorable choices in practical applications where training speed is critical.

The lower left plot compares precision, recall, and F1-scores across the models. The CNN again demonstrates superior performance in all three metrics, highlighting its effectiveness not only in accuracy but also in correctly identifying relevant instances. The GRU follows, showing competitive metrics, while the LSTM and RNN lag, particularly in precision and recall, indicating potential issues with false positives and negatives.

Finally, the lower right plot provides a detailed view of training, validation, and test accuracy for each model, reinforcing the trends observed in the previous plots. The CNN maintains high accuracy across all datasets, while the GRU shows a steady performance, and the LSTM and RNN show lower and more variable accuracies.



**Figure 8.** Comparative Model Performance: Accuracy, Training Time, and Classification Metrics

### 4.3 DISCUSSION

This study presents a comparative analysis of five significant deep learning architectures: Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory networks (LSTM), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), Gated Recurrent Units (GRU), and Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) on the MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. The results provide valuable insights into the performance and accuracy of these models, highlighting their respective strengths and weaknesses in handling image classification tasks.

The CNN architecture emerged as the most effective model in this analysis, achieving superior test accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score across both the MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. This aligns with previous research indicating that CNNs excel in image classification due to their hierarchical feature extraction capabilities, which enable them to effectively capture spatial hierarchies in data [14]. The high performance of the CNN on the MNIST dataset, with a test accuracy of 99.27%, reaffirms its status as a benchmark for image classification, consistent with findings from similar studies [15].

The performance of the CNN on the CIFAR-10 dataset, where it achieved an impressive F1-score of 0.79, demonstrates its robustness in dealing with more complex, colored image data. This performance is comparable to that of state-of-the-art models, as noted in the literature (He et al., 2016), which indicates that CNNs continue to be a dominant force in image classification tasks.

In contrast, the recurrent models (LSTM, RNN, and GRU) exhibited notably lower performance metrics. The RNN's struggle, with a mere 10% test accuracy, corroborates the well-documented limitations of traditional RNNs

in capturing long-range dependencies due to the vanishing gradient problem [11]. This finding is consistent with research by [23], which emphasizes that RNNs are often inadequate for tasks requiring deep contextual understanding.

The LSTM model showed some improvement, achieving a test accuracy of 47.89%. While LSTMs are designed to address the limitations of traditional RNNs through memory cells and gating mechanisms [7], their performance on the CIFAR-10 dataset was still suboptimal compared to CNNs. This aligns with findings by [22], which suggest that while LSTMs can handle sequential data effectively, they may not perform as well in spatial recognition tasks where CNNs excel.

The GRU model, which achieved a test accuracy of 59.59%, demonstrated better performance than both the RNN and LSTM. GRUs are often favored for their simpler architecture, which allows for efficient training without significant loss in performance [3]. However, the GRU's performance still fell short of the CNN, indicating room for improvement in handling image classification tasks.

The GAN displayed unique characteristics that set it apart from the other architectures. While it achieved an overall F1-score of 0.57 on the CIFAR-10 dataset, this performance was primarily focused on generative capabilities rather than classification accuracy. GANs excel in generating high-quality images and augmenting datasets, as noted by [13]. However, their application in direct classification tasks remains an area requiring further exploration.

Despite the GAN's potential in enhancing data diversity, the results indicate challenges in achieving consistent classification performance. This finding supports the observations made by [24], which highlight that while GANs can be effective in generating realistic data, they may not be suitable for traditional classification tasks without significant modification to their architecture. The GAN's performance metrics suggest that while it can augment training datasets, it may not be the best choice for tasks requiring high accuracy and precision in classification.

While the primary focus of this relative exploration is image brackets, the perceptivity gained from assessing CNN, LSTM, RNN, GRU, and GAN infrastructures has broader implications for interdisciplinary operations. These encompass disciplines similar to bioinformatics (similar to protein sequence bracket), medical imaging, finance (similar to time series forecasting and anomaly discovery), and cognitive wisdom (similar to mimicking sequential literacy processes). Using the performance patterns and architectural nuances linked in this work, interpreters can select and optimize deep literacy models that are applicable to the unique data features and challenges present in these disciplines. By demonstrating model strengths and limits across datasets, our exploration aids in making educated opinions when applying deep literacy results to real-world, transdisciplinary surroundings.

### 4.3.1 IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

We propose the Deep Architecture Utility Model (DAUM), where model selection is a function of three trade-offs: accuracy, efficiency, and scalability. This framework enables practitioners to match model types to real-world needs.

The disparities in performance across these architectures underscore the importance of selecting the appropriate model based on the specific characteristics of the dataset and the task at hand. Future research could explore hybrid approaches that combine the strengths of CNNs with recurrent architectures to better address sequential image data, such as video classification or time-series forecasting. Studies by [12]. Suggest that integrating CNNs with LSTMs can yield promising results in scenarios where both spatial and temporal features are crucial.

Moreover, the analysis of training times associated with each model offers practical insights for deployment in real-world applications. The CNN and GRU demonstrated significantly shorter training times, suggesting their suitability for environments where computational resources and time are constrained. This finding aligns with the work of [18], which emphasizes the trade-offs between model complexity, training time, and performance.

The results of this study highlight the need for ongoing optimization and refinement of LSTMs, RNNs, and GANs. Specifically, exploring advanced techniques such as attention mechanisms or incorporating residual connections may yield improvements in their performance on image classification tasks [20].

### 4.3.2 TRANSFORMER BENCHMARK COMPARISON

Compare CNN and GAN performance with emerging Vision Transformers (ViTs).

Recent studies have shown that Vision Transformers [4] outperform CNNs in data-rich environments. We compared our CNN model with a ViT baseline, which achieved 83.7% test accuracy on CIFAR-10, surpassing CNN by 4.6%. However, the ViT required 38% longer training time, echoing findings by [16].



### 4.3.3 DEVELOPMENT OF CNN-LSTM AND CNN-GRU HYBRID MODELS

Develop and evaluate hybrid models combining CNN with LSTM and GRU. These hybrids are well-suited for tasks requiring spatial and temporal representation.

To further enhance classification performance, we implemented hybrid CNN-LSTM and CNN-GRU architectures. These models leverage CNN's spatial feature extraction and LSTM/GRU's temporal learning. On CIFAR-10, CNN-LSTM achieved a 3.2% improvement in test accuracy over standalone CNNs, confirming results reported by [12] and [6].

## 5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this comparative analysis not only reaffirms the dominance of CNNs in image classification tasks but also highlights the limitations of LSTMs, RNNs, GRUs, and GANs in this domain. Understanding the performance dynamics of these architectures is crucial for advancing deep learning methodologies and enhancing their applicability across diverse machine learning tasks. Future research should continue to refine these architectures, explore novel combinations, and address the limitations identified in this study to advance the state of deep learning.

The journal's central themes of intelligent systems, pattern recognition, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are all directly impacted by this disquisition. This composition supports the journal's charge to publish high impact studies at the crossroad of theoretical progress and applied information lore by furnishing a thorough relative analysis and practical perspective into state- of- the- art deep knowledge architectures.

### 5.1. SOCIETAL RELEVANCE AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Model choice in critical domains (e.g., healthcare, autonomous driving) must prioritize explainability. While CNNs are interpretable through feature maps, GANs remain black-box models. Future research should explore explainable AI techniques (XAI) to improve model trust and adoption [19].

### 5.2 FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Building on these results, future research could examine the model's resilience in harsh environments, evaluate transfer literacy on datasets that are more complicated or unbalanced, and investigate the useful application of these infrastructures in actual intelligent systems (such as robotics and finance). Additionally, evaluating the interpretability, scalability, and computational efficacy of models in large-scale environments continues to be a promising field that will directly aid in the creation and functioning of next-generation information systems.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data are available online at <https://colab.research.google.com/drive>.

## FUNDING

The current work has not received any specific grant from any funding agencies.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The two datasets that were used in this study are available at the UCL Machine Learning Repository and [15].

## DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this manuscript.

## ETHICS APPROVAL

Not applicable

## CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

Not applicable

## DECLARATION OF GENERATIVE AI AND AI-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this work, the authors used Poe AI to identify and correct grammatical errors, ensuring clarity and coherence throughout the document. Additionally, QuillBot was utilized for paraphrasing, enhancing the text's readability and flow while maintaining the original meaning. These tools collectively contributed to producing a polished and professional research paper. After using these tools, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the published article.

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## AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS: CREDIT

**Peter Makieu:** Writing-original draft, Formal and analysis, Data Curation, Conceptualization, Software, Methodology, Validation, and Visualization.

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