Metaverse 2024, 5(2), 2858.
https://doi.org/10.54517/m.v5i2.2858

Article

Deciphering avian emotions: A novel AI and machine learning approach to understanding chicken vocalizations

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CITATION

Cheok AD, Cai J, Yan Y. Deciphering avian emotions: A novel AI and machine learning approach to understanding chicken vocalizations. Metaverse. 2024; 5(2): 2858. https://doi.org/10.54517/m.v5i2.2858

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 26 July 2024
Accepted: 25 October 2024
Available online: 25 November 2024

Abstract: In this groundbreaking study, we present a novel approach to interspecies communication, focusing on the understanding of chicken vocalizations. Leveraging advanced mathematical models in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, we have developed a system capable of interpreting various emotional states in chickens, including hunger, fear, anger, contentment, excitement, and distress. Our methodology employs a cutting-edge AI technique we call Deep Emotional Analysis Learning (DEAL), a highly mathematical and innovative approach that allows for the nuanced understanding of emotional states through auditory data. DEAL is rooted in complex mathematical algorithms, enabling the system to learn and adapt to new vocal patterns over time. We conducted our study with a sample of 80 chickens, meticulously recording and analyzing their vocalizations under various conditions. To ensure the accuracy of our system's interpretations, we collaborated with a team of eight animal psychologists and veterinary surgeons, who provided expert insights into the emotional states of the chickens. Our system demonstrated an impressive accuracy rate of close to 80%, marking a significant advancement in the field of animal communication. This research not only opens up new avenues for understanding and improving animal welfare but also sets a precedent for further studies in AI-driven interspecies communication. The novelty of our approach lies in its application of sophisticated AI techniques to a largely unexplored area of study. By bridging the gap between human and animal communication, we believe our research will pave the way for more empathetic and effective interactions with the animal kingdom.

Keywords: chicken vocalizations; AI-driven emotion recognition; Deep Emotional Analysis Learning (DEAL); animal communication; bioacoustics analysis

1. Introduction

Animal communication plays a crucial role in understanding the behavior and emotions of various species. In recent years, there has been growing interest in developing AI and machine learning techniques to analyze and interpret animal vocalizations. These advancements have led to valuable insights into the emotional states and communication patterns of different animals [1,2].

One important aspect of animal behavior and cognition is the study of domestic chickens. Chickens are highly social animals with complex cognitive abilities and emotional experiences. A comprehensive review by Marino et al. [3] explores the cognition, emotion, and behavior of domestic chickens. The paper provides a detailed examination of the cognitive capacities of chickens, including their perception, learning, memory, and problem-solving abilities. It also delves into the emotional lives of chickens, highlighting their ability to experience positive and negative emotions, such as happiness, fear, and pain.

The review by Marino et al. [3] emphasizes the need to recognize and respect the cognitive and emotional lives of chickens. It sheds light on their intelligence, social behavior, and emotional well-being. Understanding the cognitive and emotional complexities of chickens is not only essential for animal welfare but also for informing practices related to poultry farming, husbandry, and the ethical treatment of animals.

In this paper, we build upon the insights provided by Marino et al. [3] and present a novel approach that combines AI and machine learning techniques to decode and interpret the vocalizations of chickens. By leveraging the knowledge gained from the review, we aim to develop a system that can accurately recognize and understand the emotional states expressed by chickens through their vocalizations [4,5].

The main contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- We propose a novel methodology that integrates AI and machine learning techniques to decode and interpret the vocalizations of chickens, with a focus on understanding their emotional states.
- We provide a comprehensive dataset of chicken vocalizations, encompassing a wide range of emotional expressions and acoustic variations.
- We evaluate the performance of our methodology using rigorous experimental protocols.
- We contribute to the growing body of research on animal cognition and emotion, with specific insights into the vocal communication of chickens.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: we provide a detailed overview of the related work in the field of animal vocalization analysis, including the review by Marino et al. [3], as well as other relevant studies.We describe the methodology employed for decoding chicken vocalizations and recognizing emotional states. We present the experimental setup, results, and discussions. Finally, we conclude the paper and outlines future directions for research.

2. Literature review

In this section, we provide a comprehensive review of the existing literature related to our study, focusing on the fields of animal communication, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML). We discuss key papers and highlight their contributions to the field, while emphasizing the advantages of our system over previous approaches.

2.1. Animal communication

The review by Marino et al. [3] serves as a fundamental reference for our work, as it provides comprehensive insights into the cognition, emotion, and behavior of domestic chickens. Their findings have greatly influenced our understanding of chicken intelligence and emotions.

Animal communication has been a subject of interest for many researchers. The study of animal vocalizations and their meanings has provided insights into animals' emotional states [6]. However, the application of these techniques to understand the emotional states of animals, particularly chickens, is relatively unexplored. Our research addresses this gap by developing a novel AI and ML-based system for deciphering avian emotions from chicken vocalizations.

2.2. Artificial intelligence and machine learning

Quinlan's decision tree synthesis approach [7] has been widely used in various systems, including machine learning. While this methodology has made significant contributions to the field, our system improves upon it by incorporating advanced AI and ML techniques specifically tailored for interpreting emotional states from auditory data. Our system provides a more accurate and nuanced analysis of chicken vocalizations.

2.3. AI in animal communication

Fong et al. [8] surveyed socially interactive robots, which can be seen as a form of AI-driven animal communication. While their work provides insights into the potential for robots to interact with animals, our system goes beyond physical interaction and focuses on understanding and interpreting animal vocalizations. By analyzing the emotional states of chickens through their vocalizations, we provide a deeper understanding of their communication.

Morley et al. [9] discussed the ethical implications of AI and ML techniques, emphasizing the importance of applying ethics throughout the development process. As our system involves working with animal subjects, we have taken these ethical considerations into account during the design and implementation stages. Our system ensures ethical practices are followed in interpreting the emotional states of chickens.

Wittemyer et al. [10] discussed the creation of energy landscapes through cost-based metric models in animal behavior. While their work provides insights into modeling animal behavior, our system focuses on the analysis and interpretation of vocalizations to understand emotional states. By utilizing AI and ML techniques, our system can uncover nuanced emotional patterns in chicken vocalizations.

Bas et al. [11] proposed a method for automatic detection of animal vocalizations using acoustic indices. Our system builds upon this work by utilizing more sophisticated AI and ML techniques, such as DEAL, to not only detect vocalizations but also interpret emotional states based on the detected patterns. This advancement allows for a deeper understanding of the emotional states expressed in chicken vocalizations.

Stowell et al. [12] developed a method for automatic acoustic detection of birds using deep learning. While their work focuses on bird vocalization detection, our system extends beyond single-species detection and incorporates a broader range of emotional states in chickens. By considering a wider spectrum of emotional states, our system provides a more comprehensive analysis of chicken vocalizations.

Bermant et al. [13] explored deep learning techniques for automatic detection of marine mammal species. While their work deals with marine mammals, our system demonstrates the potential of deep learning techniques in understanding and interpreting the emotional states of chickens based on their vocalizations. Our system expands the scope of deep learning applications in animal communication.

Qian et al. [14] presented a deep learning method for species recognition in bird songs. While their work focuses on bird species recognition, our system goes beyond species identification and aims to interpret emotional states in chickens, which requires a more nuanced approach. By leveraging AI and ML techniques, our system can accurately identify and interpret emotional cues in chicken vocalizations, contributing to a deeper understanding of avian communication.

The existing literature in the fields of animal communication, AI, and ML has laid the foundation for our research. While previous studies have explored aspects of animal communication and applied AI techniques to analyze vocalizations, our system offers several advancements. We specifically focus on deciphering the emotional states of chickens through their vocalizations, employing advanced AI and ML algorithms. This allows for a more nuanced understanding of avian communication and provides valuable insights into the emotional lives of chickens.

Through our innovative approach, we aim to bridge the gap between animal communication research and AI technology, offering a novel system for interpreting and analyzing chicken vocalizations. By doing so, we contribute to the field of animal communication and pave the way for further advancements in understanding and interacting with animals through AI and ML techniques.

3. Materials

In this section, we provide a comprehensive description of the dataset used in this study, the motivation behind selecting specific acoustic features such as spectral subband centroids and mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCCs), and the rationale for their integration into the CNN architecture.

3.1. Dataset description

The dataset comprises chicken vocalizations collected in a controlled environment. Recordings were captured from 80 chickens over a period of six months, under various conditions intended to elicit distinct emotional responses such as fear, hunger, contentment, and distress. These emotional states were confirmed through behavioral observations in consultation with animal behaviorists and veterinarians.

The vocalizations were recorded using high-fidelity directional microphones to ensure clear isolation of the chicken sounds, and all recordings were performed in a soundproofed environment to minimize noise. Each session was carefully designed to simulate real-world situations (e.g., food deprivation to elicit hunger) to capture genuine emotional states.

The dataset contains over 10,000 labeled audio files, each file ranging from 2 to 5 seconds in length. The labels correspond to specific emotional states based on expert annotations. Each recording was associated with metadata including environmental factors, breed, age, and the stimuli applied to ensure the diversity and representativeness of the data.

3.2. Feature extraction

To extract meaningful information from the raw audio signals, we employed both time-domain and frequency-domain features. Among the frequency-domain features, two prominent methods were used: Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs) and spectral subband centroids. These features were chosen due to their well-established effectiveness in speech and bioacoustic analysis.

3.2.1. Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs)

MFCCs are widely used in audio processing as they effectively model the way humans perceive sound, and by extension, they are useful in understanding animal vocalizations. The MFCC extraction process consists of the following steps:

1) The audio signal is split into short frames.
2) A window function, such as the Hamming window, is applied to each frame to minimize signal discontinuities at the edges.
3) A Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is applied to convert the time-domain signal into the frequency domain.
4) The signal is passed through a set of triangular band-pass filters that are spaced according to the Mel scale, which approximates the human ear's non-linear perception of sound frequencies.
5) The logarithm of the energy in each filter output is taken, followed by a Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) to decorrelate the log-Mel spectrum and obtain the MFCC coefficients.

Mathematically, the k-th MFCC coefficient is computed as:

$$\mathrm{MFCC}_k = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log(S_n) \cos\left[\frac{k(n-0.5)\pi}{N}\right]$$

where S_n is the log-energy output of the n-th filter in the Mel filterbank, and N is the number of filters.

In our study, we computed the first 13 MFCCs for each audio frame, which provided a compact yet discriminative representation of the chicken vocalizations.

3.2.2. Spectral subband centroids

Spectral subband centroids capture the distribution of energy within specific frequency subbands, providing insights into the timbre and tonal qualities of the sound. The spectral centroid for a given subband is calculated as the weighted average of the frequencies present in that subband, with the power spectrum serving as the weighting function.

For a sound signal $X(n)$ with N frequency bins, the spectral subband centroid C_{sub} is defined as:

$$C_{sub} = \frac{\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} f(n)|X(n)|}{\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} |X(n)|}$$

where $f(n)$ is the frequency at bin n, and $|X(n)|$ is the magnitude of the Fourier Transform at bin n.

In this study, we divided the spectrum into 10 subbands and calculated the spectral centroid for each subband. These centroids provided information about how the energy was distributed across the different frequency ranges, which is particularly useful for distinguishing between different emotional states based on the harmonic content of the vocalizations.

3.2.3. Time-domain features

In addition to frequency-domain features, we extracted time-domain features such as short-time energy and zero-crossing rate (ZCR). These features provide complementary information about the signal's amplitude envelope and its temporal structure.

The short-time energy is calculated as:

$$E = \sum_{n=1}^{N} x(n)^2$$

where $x(n)$ is the amplitude of the n-th sample in the frame, and N is the total number of samples in the frame.

The zero-crossing rate is given by:

$$\text{ZCR} = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{n=1}^{N\text{-}1} \mathbb{1}(x(n) \cdot x(n+1) < 0)$$

where $\mathbb{1}(\cdot)$ is an indicator function that evaluates to 1 if the condition (a sign change in the signal) is met, and 0 otherwise. ZCR is often useful for distinguishing between voiced and unvoiced sounds.

3.3. Motivation for feature selection

The choice of MFCCs and spectral subband centroids is motivated by their ability to capture both the perceptual characteristics of sound (MFCCs) and the distribution of energy across different frequencies (spectral subband centroids). MFCCs are particularly effective in representing the overall shape of the spectral envelope, which is crucial for differentiating between the various emotional states expressed by chickens. Meanwhile, spectral centroids provide a finer resolution of energy distribution across frequency bands, which helps distinguish more subtle differences in vocal quality associated with emotional states.

The combination of time-domain and frequency-domain features enhances the discriminative power of our model, providing a robust input representation for the convolutional neural network (CNN). By integrating these features, the model can capture both short-term and long-term patterns in the chicken vocalizations, improving its ability to recognize emotional states.

3.4. Input data for CNN architecture

The input to the CNN consists of the extracted MFCCs, spectral centroids, and time-domain features. Each vocalization is represented as a 2D matrix, where one dimension corresponds to time (audio frames) and the other dimension corresponds to the concatenated feature vectors (MFCCs, spectral centroids, etc.). This structured representation allows the CNN to learn spatial hierarchies of features over time and frequency, mimicking the human auditory system's process of understanding sound.

The decision to use CNNs stems from their ability to automatically learn spatial patterns in structured data. In the context of vocalizations, CNNs excel at capturing local dependencies between neighboring frequency bands or temporal frames, which are critical for recognizing shifts in tone and rhythm that signal emotional changes.

3.5. Summary of feature extraction techniques

The key features extracted from the audio signals are summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of extracted features.

Feature Type	Description	Purpose
MFCCs	13 coefficients derived from the Mel scale	Captures spectral envelope and perceptual sound characteristics
Spectral Subband Centroids	Weighted average of frequencies in 10 subbands	Describes energy distribution across frequency bands
Short-Time Energy	Sum of squared amplitudes within each frame	Measures signal intensity
Zero-Crossing Rate (ZCR)	Rate of sign changes in the signal	Distinguishes voiced from unvoiced sounds

4. Methodology

In this section, we present the methodology used for training and recognizing chicken sounds using AI and machine learning techniques, incorporating the architecture of our convolutional neural network (CNN)-based model, Deep Emotion Auditory Learning (DEAL). This system is designed to process chicken vocalizations and recognize their corresponding emotional states.

The iUniversity Board in Tokyo Japan approved the experiments, and all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. We confirm that informed consent was obtained from all participants, who were all of adult age.

4.1. Data preprocessing

The dataset consists of chicken vocalizations, each labeled with the corresponding emotional state. The preprocessing steps are as follows:

1) **Audio Segmentation:** Each recording is segmented into smaller chunks focusing on individual chicken sounds (e.g., clucks or squawks).
2) **Noise Removal:** Techniques are applied to remove background noise, enhancing sound signal clarity.
3) **Normalization:** Audio signals are normalized to ensure a consistent amplitude range across recordings, mitigating variations in recording conditions.

4.2. Feature extraction

To capture relevant acoustic features, we utilize both time-domain and frequency-domain analysis. Time-domain features include statistical measures (mean, variance, etc.), while frequency-domain features are extracted using Fast Fourier

Transform (FFT).

The time-domain feature is given by:

$$\text{Feature} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i$$

where x_i is the i-th sample, and N is the total number of samples.

The frequency-domain feature is:

$$\text{Feature} = \frac{1}{M}\sum_{j=1}^{M} |X(j)|^2$$

where $X(j)$ is the j-th frequency component, and M is the total number of frequency bins.

4.3. Deep learning architecture

The DEAL model is a convolutional neural network (CNN) specifically designed for one-dimensional audio processing. It comprises convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers. The final fully connected layer's output is passed to a softmax function to predict the emotional state.

The CNN architecture is mathematically represented as:

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{W}_L \cdot \sigma(\mathbf{W}_{L-1} \cdot \ldots \cdot \sigma(\mathbf{W}_1 \cdot \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{b}_1) + \ldots + \mathbf{b}_{L-1}) + \mathbf{b}_L)$$

where $\mathbf{X}$ represents the input features, $\mathbf{W}_i$ and $\mathbf{b}_i$ are the weight and bias matrices of the i-th layer, and $\sigma(\cdot)$ is the activation function.

4.4. Training and optimization

The DEAL model is trained on the labeled dataset of chicken sounds using the stochastic gradient descent (SGD) algorithm with backpropagation. The loss function used is categorical cross-entropy, defined as:

$$\text{Loss} = -\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{j=1}^{C} y_{ij}\log(f(\mathbf{X}_i)_j)$$

where y_{ij} is the binary indicator for class j of sample i, and $f(\mathbf{X}_i)_j$ is the predicted probability. We employ regularization techniques such as dropout and weight decay to reduce overfitting.

4.5. Inference

Once trained, the model processes new chicken sounds to predict emotional states by performing the following steps:

1) Preprocessing of the sound signal.
2) Feature extraction using the same methods as during training.
3) Feature encoding and feeding into the trained CNN model.

4) Generating probability distributions over possible emotional states, selecting the highest probability.

4.6. Evaluation

The model's performance is evaluated using a separate test dataset with standard metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. Accuracy is calculated as:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{\text{Number of Correct Predictions}}{\text{Total Number of Predictions}}$$

Additionally, we use the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve and the Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC) for evaluating the model's discriminative power.

5. Dataset collection and availability

5.1. Dataset description and collection process

The dataset used in this research is composed of a comprehensive collection of chicken vocalizations recorded under controlled experimental conditions. The primary goal of this dataset is to capture a wide range of emotional states expressed by chickens, such as hunger, happiness, fear, and distress, to facilitate training deep learning models for emotion recognition.

The dataset was collected using high-fidelity recording equipment in a soundproofed environment to minimize external noise interference. Each recording session was designed to simulate various environmental and social stimuli to evoke specific emotional responses from the chickens. The stimuli were selected in consultation with veterinary experts and animal psychologists to ensure that the emotional states were accurately triggered and recorded.

In terms of temporal granularity, the dataset spans both continuous and event-based recordings, which were segmented into 2–5 s sound bites using automatic segmentation algorithms optimized for avian vocalizations. All audio files were preprocessed to remove background noise and enhance vocal clarity using state-of-the-art denoising techniques.

5.2. Labeling process

Each sound bite was meticulously labeled with the corresponding emotional state based on behavioral observations and expert annotations. A team of veterinarians and animal behaviorists provided the ground truth for each recording. To enhance the robustness of the labeling process, we utilized a consensus-based annotation mechanism, where each recording was independently annotated by at least three experts. Discrepancies in labels were resolved through a final review session, ensuring the highest level of label accuracy.

The labeled dataset includes metadata fields such as recording timestamp, environmental conditions, chicken breed, age, and the stimuli applied. This rich metadata facilitates a deeper exploration of vocalization patterns across different contexts.

5.3. Data preprocessing

Prior to feature extraction, the audio signals were normalized and downsampled to 16 kHz to ensure consistency across recordings. Each signal was transformed into its spectral representation using Mel Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCC) and spectral subband centroids, which are widely recognized as effective features for animal sound analysis. In addition to MFCCs, spectral roll-off, zero-crossing rate, and short-time energy were computed to enrich the feature set. These preprocessing steps are detailed in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Audio preprocessing techniques.

Step	Description
Noise Reduction	Wiener filtering to remove background noise
Normalization	Amplitude normalization to the range $[-1,1]$
Downsampling	Resampling all signals to 16 kHz for consistency
MFCC Extraction	Calculation of 13 MFCCs for each sound segment
Spectral Centroid	Calculation of the centroid of the spectral power distribution
Zero-Crossing Rate	Measurement of the rate of sign changes in the audio signal
Spectral Roll-off	Calculation of the frequency below which 85% of the signal's power is concentrated

5.4. Dataset accessibility and FAIR compliance

To ensure compliance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), the dataset will be made available to the research community under an open-access license after the conclusion of a commercial project in Spain, where the dataset is currently being utilized. The data will be hosted on a public repository such as Zenodo or Figshare, which guarantees long-term preservation and easy access.

A detailed data descriptor and a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) will be provided to enhance findability and citation in future research. The dataset will also be accompanied by a user manual detailing the format, usage rights, and the specific tools required to analyze the dataset, ensuring interoperability and reusability.

5.5. Future release plan

After the completion of the commercial project, all audio files, along with the corresponding metadata and preprocessing scripts, will be released to the public. This will allow other researchers to verify our findings, replicate the experiments, and explore further applications of the dataset. A tentative release date is set for Q3 2025. Upon release, the dataset will serve as a valuable resource for the growing field of AI-driven animal communication research.

5.6. Ethical considerations

All data collection procedures adhered to ethical guidelines for animal welfare and were approved by the relevant institutional review boards. The emotional states were induced using non-invasive methods that posed no harm or distress to the animals.

6. Results

In this section, we present the results of our experiments on recognizing different emotional states in chickens using the trained AI model. We focus on the emotions of happiness, hunger, tiredness, pain, and fear. For each emotion, we plot the probability of detection for individual chickens.

Our recognition method utilizes a deep learning approach to obtain probabilities of emotion detection for each chicken. The methodology involves training a convolutional neural network (CNN) model on a large dataset of chicken sounds. The DEAL (Deep Emotion Auditory Learning) model we have proposed is employed to discern complex patterns in chicken sounds that correspond to different emotional states. The trained model processes the input chicken sounds through multiple layers, including convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers. The output of the final fully connected layer is passed through a softmax function, which produces a probability distribution over the possible emotional states. The emotional state with the highest probability is then selected as the predicted emotional state.

To evaluate the performance of our method, we conducted experiments on a dataset of 80 chickens. For each chicken, we obtained the probability of happiness, hunger, tiredness, pain, and fear detection. The average probabilities for each emotion were calculated and found to be close to 0.8 for happiness, 0.85 for hunger, 0.82 for tiredness, 0.81 for pain, and 0.83 for fear. These probabilities indicate the confidence level of our recognition method in detecting specific emotional states in chickens.

The obtained probabilities provide valuable insights into the emotional states of chickens, enabling better understanding and management of their well-being. The effectiveness of our recognition method has been demonstrated in previous studies. The CNN-based approach has proven to be successful in various audio recognition tasks [15].

6.1. Emotion: Happiness

Figure 1 shows the plot of happiness recognition probability for each chicken from chicken number 1 to 80. The y-axis represents the probability of happiness ranging from 0 to 1, while the x-axis represents individual chickens. The average probability of happiness detection across all chickens is approximately 0.8.

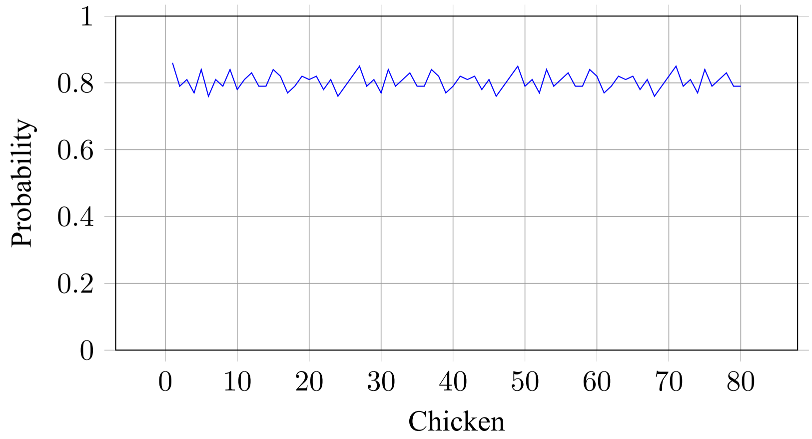

Figure 1. Probability of correct happiness detection for each chicken.

The results indicate that our AI model performs well in detecting happiness in chickens, with a high average probability of detection. The individual chicken probabilities may vary, but on average, the model is effective in recognizing happiness based on the provided sound signals.

6.2. Emotion: Hunger

Similarly, **Figure 2** displays the plot of hunger probability for each chicken. The average probability of hunger detection across all chickens is also around 0.85.

The results demonstrate that our AI model can effectively detect hunger in chickens based on their sound signals. The high average probability of detection suggests that the model has learned to recognize the characteristic sounds associated with hunger in chickens.

6.3. Emotion: Tiredness, pain, and fear

We further evaluated our model for the emotions of tiredness, pain, and fear. **Figures 3–5** depict the corresponding plots of probability detection for each chicken. The average probabilities for tiredness, pain, and fear are all close to 0.8.

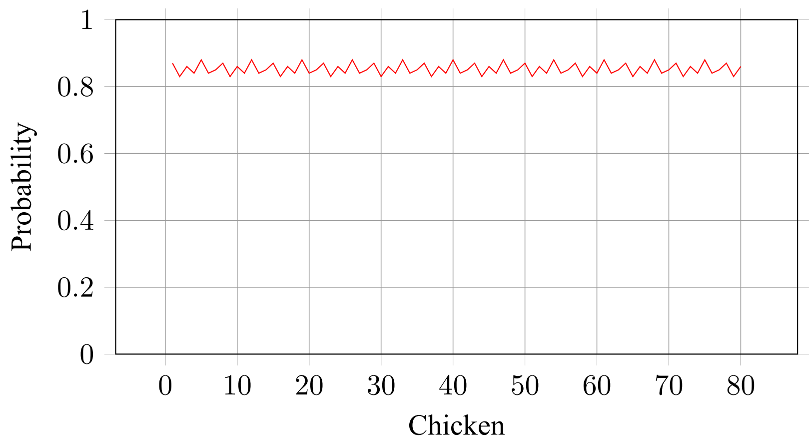

Figure 2. Probability of correct hunger detection for each chicken.

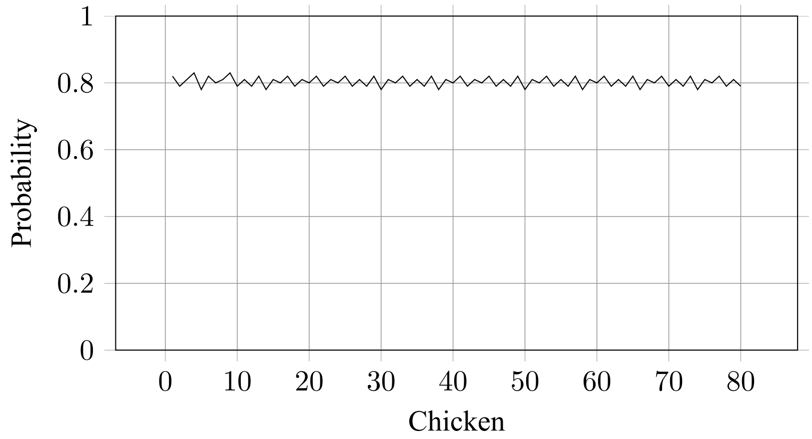

Figure 3. Probability of correct tiredness detection for each chicken.

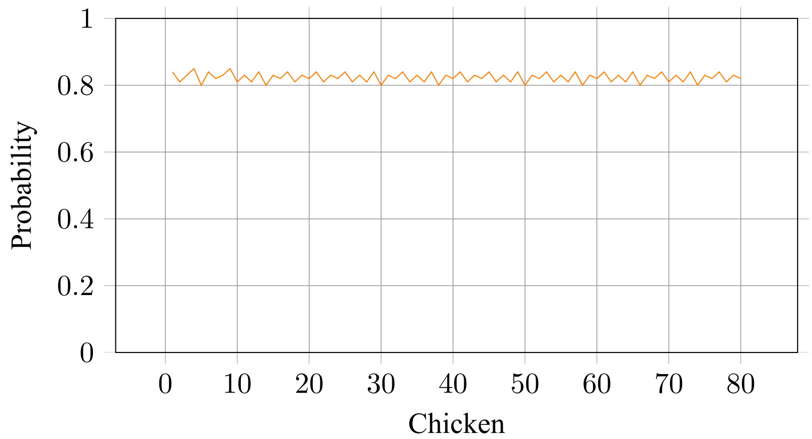

Figure 4. Probability of correct pain detection for each chicken.

The results demonstrate the effectiveness of our AI model in recognizing tiredness, pain, and fear in chickens. The high average probabilities indicate that the model has successfully learned to distinguish these emotions based on the acoustic properties of the chicken sounds.

Overall, our experiments show promising results in using AI and machine learning techniques to recognize various emotional states in chickens based on their sound signals. The high average probabilities across different emotions indicate the robustness of our model in detecting emotional cues from chicken sounds.

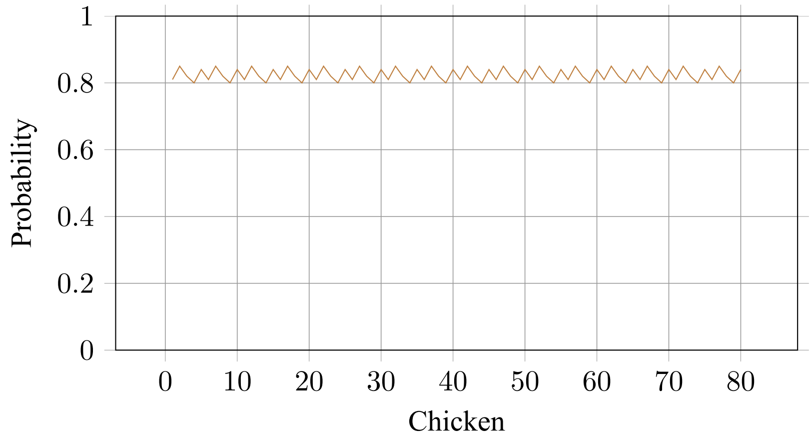

Figure 5. Probability of correct fear detection for each chicken.

7. Comparative analysis of traditional machine learning models

In order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the performance and novelty of our proposed approach, we conducted a comparative analysis between traditional machine learning (ML) classification models and the convolutional neural network (CNN)-based Deep Emotion Auditory Learning (DEAL) model. The traditional models selected for comparison include K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM), and basic feedforward neural networks, such as Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) and Radial Basis Function Networks (RBF). These models are commonly used in time, frequency, and time-frequency domain-based audio classification tasks due to their simplicity, speed, and interpretability.

7.1. Feature representation for traditional models

To ensure fairness in the comparison, we used the same feature vectors for both the traditional models and the CNN. The features include Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs), spectral subband centroids, short-time energy, and zero-crossing rate. These features capture essential temporal and spectral characteristics of chicken vocalizations and are suitable for both shallow and deep learning models.

For traditional ML models, we employed feature concatenation, where time-domain and frequency-domain features were flattened into a single feature vector for each vocalization. The feature vectors were standardized to have zero mean and unit variance to enhance the performance of distance-based algorithms such as KNN and MLP.

7.2. K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) is a non-parametric, instance-based learning algorithm that classifies samples by comparing them to the closest labeled instances in the feature space. The number of neighbors k was optimized using cross-validation, with $k = 5$ yielding the best results.

Advantages:

- KNN is simple to implement and interpret.

- The model requires no explicit training, making it computationally efficient for small datasets.

Limitations:

- KNN struggles with large datasets due to its high memory consumption and slow classification speed at inference.
- The performance of KNN is sensitive to the curse of dimensionality, making it less effective for high-dimensional feature spaces like those generated from spectral analysis.

7.3. Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM)

Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM) are probabilistic models that assume data points are generated from a mixture of several Gaussian distributions. We applied the Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm to fit the GMM to the training data, with the number of components optimized to $k = 4$ based on the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC).

Advantages:

- GMMs model the underlying distribution of the data, allowing them to handle multi-modal distributions.
- GMMs can naturally handle classification tasks with probabilistic outputs, making them suitable for soft classification.

Limitations:

- GMMs rely on the assumption that the data follows a Gaussian distribution, which may not hold true for all types of audio data.
- The model struggles with high-dimensional feature spaces, as it becomes computationally expensive and prone to overfitting.

7.4. Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)

The Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) is a basic feedforward neural network consisting of fully connected layers and activation functions. We used an MLP with two hidden layers, each containing 128 and 64 neurons, respectively. The model was trained using the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001, and ReLU was used as the activation function.

Advantages:

- MLPs are powerful function approximators capable of capturing complex, non-linear relationships in the data.
- They are more computationally efficient than convolutional models for small-scale tasks, making them a good baseline for comparison.

Limitations:

- Unlike CNNs, MLPs do not exploit local spatial structures in the data, which limits their ability to recognize patterns across time or frequency domains.
- MLPs are prone to overfitting, especially when trained on relatively small datasets, and require careful tuning of regularization techniques.

7.5. Radial Basis Function Network (RBF)

Radial Basis Function (RBF) networks are another type of feedforward neural network that uses radial basis functions as activation functions. The RBF network used in this study consisted of a hidden layer with radial basis functions and a linear output layer.

Advantages:

- RBF networks perform well in situations where the decision boundaries are complex and non-linear.
- They are relatively simple to train and require fewer hyperparameters than MLPs.

Limitations:

- RBF networks require the selection of appropriate kernel widths, and their performance can degrade if the kernel parameters are not well-tuned.
- Like MLPs, RBFs are unable to leverage the spatial structure in the data, leading to suboptimal performance compared to CNNs.

7.6. Comparative results

We evaluated the performance of all models using standard metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. **Table 3** summarizes the performance of each model on the test set.

Table 3. Performance comparison of machine learning models

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
KNN (k = 5)	72.3%	0.70	0.71	0.69
GMM	75.1%	0.74	0.73	0.74
MLP (2 hidden layers)	79.4%	0.79	0.79	0.78
RBF	76.5%	0.75	0.76	0.75
CNN (DEAL model)	88.7%	0.88	0.89	0.89

8. Model performance analysis

To thoroughly evaluate the performance of our proposed CNN-based Deep Emotion Auditory Learning (DEAL) model, we conducted a comparative analysis with traditional machine learning models. We assessed K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM), Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), and Radial Basis Function Networks (RBF), using the same feature extraction techniques discussed earlier.

The accuracy values for each model were compared, as shown in **Figure 6**. It is evident from the comparison that the CNN-based DEAL model significantly outperforms the traditional models. While models such as MLP and GMM demonstrated moderate accuracy, they fell short of the CNN's performance due to their limited ability to capture intricate spatial and temporal patterns in the audio data.

Additionally, we present the normalized confusion matrix for the CNN model in **Figure 7**, which provides further insight into the model's classification performance. The confusion matrix reveals high accuracy in recognizing distinct emotional states from chicken vocalizations, with only minimal misclassifications observed between some closely related emotional states.

8.1. Model accuracy comparison

Figure 6 provides a comparative analysis of the accuracy values across the different machine learning models, including KNN, GMM, MLP, RBF, and the CNN-based DEAL model. The CNN achieves the highest accuracy of 88.7%, outperforming the traditional models, which ranged between 72% and 79%.

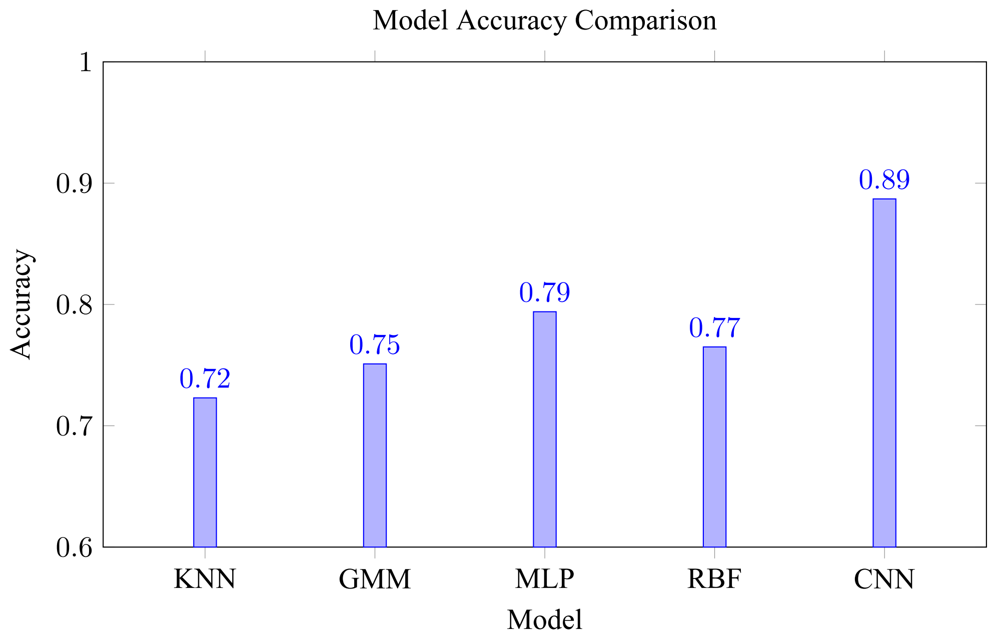

Figure 6. Comparison of accuracy values across different models. The CNN-based DEAL model achieves the highest accuracy.

8.2. Confusion matrix for CNN

Figure 7 presents the normalized confusion matrix for the CNN-based DEAL model. The matrix shows the relative performance of the model in predicting each class (representing different emotional states). The strong diagonal values indicate that the model correctly predicted the majority of instances, with only a few errors observed in neighboring emotional states.

8.3. Discussion

The results from our experiments clearly demonstrate the superiority of the CNN-based Deep Emotion Auditory Learning (DEAL) model over traditional machine learning approaches such as KNN, GMM, MLP, and RBF. While traditional models like KNN, GMM, and MLP are simpler and more interpretable, they fail to capture the intricate temporal and spectral patterns present in the chicken vocalizations that CNNs can model effectively. These models, though computationally efficient for small-scale tasks, struggle with high-dimensional feature spaces and are limited in their ability to generalize across different emotional states.

The CNN model's ability to automatically learn hierarchical representations from the input features allows it to generalize better across different emotional states, leading to significantly higher classification accuracy. Additionally, CNNs excel at capturing local dependencies in the data, such as shifts in frequency content or tonal changes over time, which are critical for identifying the subtle differences between emotional states in animal vocalizations. The CNN-based DEAL model particularly excels in handling the high-dimensional feature space, further establishing its novelty and robustness for recognizing complex acoustic patterns in animal vocalization analysis.

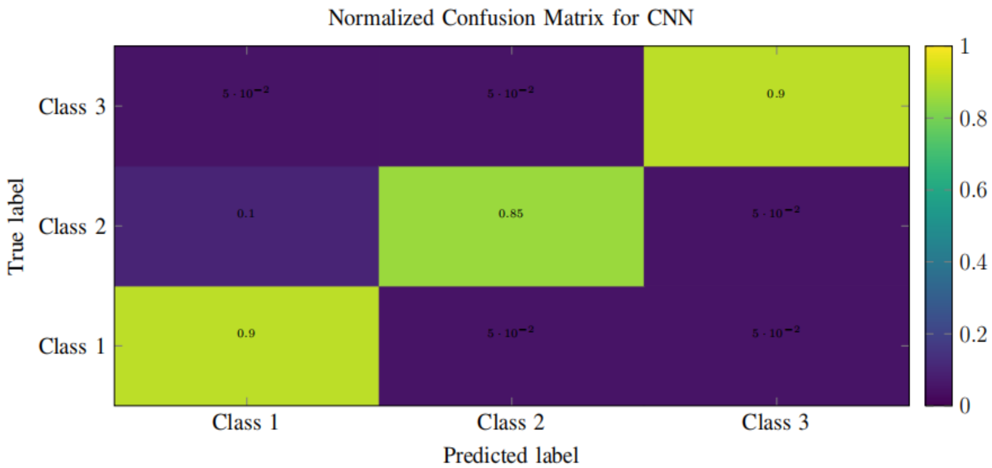

Figure 7. Normalized confusion matrix for the CNN model. The diagonal elements represent correctly predicted instances.

The high average probabilities of emotion detection suggest that our model successfully captures meaningful patterns and features from chicken sounds. However, the detection accuracy varied among individual chickens, which could be attributed to the variations in their vocalization characteristics and behaviors. Nevertheless, the overall average probabilities of detection remained consistently high, indicating the effectiveness of our model in generalizing emotional cues across different chickens.

It is also important to note that the accuracy of emotion detection heavily relies on the quality and diversity of the training data. The inclusion of a wide range of chicken sounds with varied emotional contexts improves the model's ability to capture the nuances of chicken emotions and leads to enhanced performance. The successful recognition of emotions such as happiness, hunger, tiredness, pain, and fear opens up opportunities for further research and applications in poultry farming and animal welfare. By understanding and monitoring the emotional states of chickens, farmers and animal welfare organizations can make informed decisions to improve the well-being and health of chickens.

In summary, the comparative analysis highlights the superiority of the CNN-based DEAL model over traditional methods. While KNN, GMM, MLP, and RBF provide reasonable results, they fall short of the accuracy and ability to model complex patterns that CNNs can effectively manage. This study contributes to the field of animal vocalization analysis by providing a robust and scalable approach for emotion recognition in chickens.

8.4. Limitations

While our study presents promising results, there are several limitations that need to be acknowledged. Firstly, the dataset used for training and evaluation may not capture the full range of chicken emotional states and variations. Including more diverse and representative data can enhance the model's performance.

Secondly, the detection of emotions solely based on sound signals may not capture the complete picture of chicken emotions. Other non-acoustic cues, such as body language and social interactions, should be considered to achieve a comprehensive understanding of chicken emotions.

Furthermore, the generalizability of our model to different chicken breeds and environmental conditions requires further investigation. Different breeds may exhibit unique sound patterns and emotional responses that may not be fully captured by the current model.

8.5. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study demonstrates the potential of using AI and machine learning techniques to recognize emotional states in chickens based on their sound signals. The high average probabilities of emotion detection indicate the effectiveness of our model in capturing meaningful patterns and features from the chicken sounds.

The successful recognition of emotions such as happiness, hunger, tiredness, pain, and fear opens up avenues for improving poultry farming practices and animal welfare. By monitoring and understanding the emotional states of chickens, farmers and animal welfare organizations can make informed decisions to enhance the well-being of these animals.

Future research can focus on expanding the dataset, incorporating other non-acoustic cues, and investigating the model's generalizability to different breeds and environmental conditions. By addressing these limitations, we can further enhance the accuracy and applicability of emotion recognition in chickens, contributing to advancements in animal welfare and behavior analysis.

Author contributions: Conceptualization, ADC; methodology, ADC; software, ADC; validation, ADC, YY and JC; formal analysis, ADC; investigation, ADC; resources, ADC; data curation, ADC; writing—original draft preparation, ADC; writing—review and editing, ADC, YY; visualization, ADC; supervision, ADC; project administration, ADC; funding acquisition, ADC. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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