

when compared with features gained from the pre-trained VGG16 model.

4 CONCLUSIONS

We proposed to apply and adapt pre-trained *Image Classification Convolutional Neural Networks* (ImageNet) on scalogram images of *Phonocardiogram* (PCG) for the task of normal/ abnormal heart sound classification. Deep PCG representations extracted from a task-adapted version of the popular ImageNet VGG16 were shown to be more robust for this task than the widely used COMPARE audio feature set. The combination of learnt VGG features and a *Support Vector Machine* (SVM) significantly ($p < .001$ by one-tailed z-test) outperformed the COMPARE based baseline system. We speculate this success is due to the autonomous nature of the feature extraction associated with the ‘learnt VGG’ topology; the representations are adapted to the dataset and therefore are more robust than a ‘fixed’ conventional feature set.

In future work, data augmentation will be investigated for heart sound classification to compensate for the unbalanced nature of the dataset. Further, a new ImageNet topology based on the scalogram images will be developed and validated on a variety of heart sound datasets, e. g., AudioSet⁴, to build a robust ImageNet for heart sound classification.

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⁴https://research.google.com/audioset/dataset/heart_sounds_heartbeat.html