

Detection and Classification of Diabetic Retinopathy Using Deep Learning Techniques

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Abstract

This project delves into the evaluation of three prominent deep learning architectures Basic CNN, ResNet, and DenseNet for their efficacy in detecting diabetic retinopathy from retinal images. Utilizing a diverse dataset, the study employs standard deep learning frameworks to train and validate each model. The focus extends to exploring the potential benefits of transfer learning on a limited dataset. Evaluation metrics like specificity, sensitivity, and accuracy are employed for a comprehensive a comparison study of the models. The results and ensuing discussion reveal nuanced performance characteristics, highlighting potential tradeoffs between accuracy and computational demands. This research contributes valuable insights to the field of medical imaging and analysis, aiding in the selection of optimal models for the precise detection of diabetic retinopathy. The findings are highly significant for healthcare professionals and researchers as they provide valuable insights that can guide future efforts in enhancing and refining deep learning models specifically designed for the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy. This advancement has the potential to improve early detection, treatment, and overall management of the condition, ultimately benefiting patients and contributing to the field of medical research.

Keywords: Diabetic retinopathy, fundus images, convolutional neural architecture. sensitivity, accuracy, medical imaging, model evaluation, computational demands, healthcare, early detection, treatment, medical research

INTRODUCTION

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a serious global health issue that is becoming more prevalent and is known to be the primary cause of vision impairment among individuals with diabetes. Timely identification and categorization of DR are critical for effective intervention to prevent irreversible vision loss. However, traditional diagnostic approaches relying on manual assessment of retinal fundus images by ophthalmologists face challenges, including scalability issues because of the increasing prevalence of diabetes and a shortage of eye care specialists.

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This study explores the potentially revolutionary deep learning approaches, namely utilizing Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for DR detection and classification. One interesting approach for automated medical picture interpretation is deep learning, a subset of machine learning. The study examines pertinent literature and highlights recent developments in the use of deep learning in retinal image analysis. It talks about how important it is to preprocess datasets before training robust models and suggests a particular deep learning architecture designed for DR classification. This study adds to the current

attempts to improve the effectiveness and precision of screening procedures by examining the junction of deep learning and diabetic retinopathy diagnosis, potentially transforming the approach to managing this critical healthcare challenge and improve patient outcomes.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- a. *Clinical diabetic retinopathy*: The primary application is in the field of healthcare, specifically for the accurate and timely detection of diabetic retinopathy. The project aims to assist in the growth of reliable deep learning models that can assist healthcare professionals in diagnosing diabetic retinopathy from retinal images.
- b. *Early intervention and patient care*: Deep learning models have the potential to early intervention in diabetic retinopathy cases, enabling healthcare providers to initiate timely treatments and prevent the progression of vision-threatening complications.
- c. *Resource-efficient healthcare solutions*: By conducting a detailed analysis of computational efficiency and trade-offs, the project can provide insights into resource-efficient models. This is essential for real-world implementation in healthcare settings where computational resources may be limited.
- d. *Decision support system for clinicians*: The project outcomes can participate in the creation of a decision support system for clinicians. This system can aid healthcare professionals in making informed decisions by leveraging the strengths of specific models for deep learning tailored for diabetic retinopathy.
- e. *Telemedicine and remote healthcare*: The project's findings can have implications for telemedicine applications, enabling the remote screening and monitoring of diabetic retinopathy. This is particularly relevant for patients in underserved or remote areas with limited access to specialized eye care.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Zago *et al.* introduced a novel approach utilizing neural networks and convolutional networks for the identification of diabetic red lesion localization retinopathy [1]. Their method employed two CNNs, leveraging a pre-trained VGG16 model alongside a custom CNN, to diagnose fundus images as either indicative of Diabetic Retinopathy non-DR based on the probability of lesion patches. Training was conducted on the DIARETDB1 dataset, while testing utilized several datasets including IDRiD, Messidor, Messidor-2, DDR, DIARETDB0, and Kaggle. Remarkably, the dataset for Messidor yielded the most promising results, achieving a sensitivity rate of 0.94. This research underscores the potential of CNNs in advancing the accuracy and efficiency of DR diagnosis, offering insights into the optimization of deep learning techniques for medical image analysis in combating this critical healthcare challenge [1].
2. Jiang *et al.* developed an innovative model for diabetic retinopathy (DR) classification, employing three distinct convolutional neural networks (CNNs): Inception-v3, ResNet152, and Inception-ResNet-v2 [2]. Their approach focused on classifying fundus image datasets into referable DR or non-referable DR categories. Before CNN training, the images underwent preprocessing steps including resizing, enhancement, and augmentation, followed by integration using the Adaboost technique. The Adam optimizer was employed for updating network weights. Impressively, their system achieved an accuracy rate of 88.21%. This study highlights the potential of ensemble deep learning models in enhancing the interpretability and accuracy of DR diagnosis, offering valuable insights into the utilization of advanced CNN architectures and optimization techniques in medical imaging for tackling this critical healthcare issue [2].
3. Pratt *et al.* presented a comprehensive approach to diabetic retinopathy (DR) classification, utilizing convolutional neural networks (CNNs) designed especially for the analysis of fundus images from a single dataset [3]. In order to achieve their goal, they had to build a CNN architecture with 10 Kaggle convolutional layers, 8 max-pooling layers, and 3 fully connected layers that would eventually provide an softmax classifier. The main goal of 9 was to classify fundus images into groups according to the severity of DR, ranging from 1 to 5. The color fundus

photos underwent scaling and normalizing processes before being trained by CNN. The use of dropout and L2 regularization approaches helped to reduce overfitting. With a 75% accuracy, 30% sensitivity, and 95% specificity, the model produced encouraging findings. This research underscores the efficacy of CNNs in DR severity classification, showcasing the significance of tailored architectures and regularization methods in improving diagnostic performance and assisting in the advancement of automated medical image analysis for DR detection [3].

4. In their study on retinal vessel segmentation, Hua *et al.* employed a novel approach utilizing bracket-shaped convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and round-wise features aggregation [4]. Specifically, they focused on extracting retinal blood vessels from images within the DRIVE dataset. Leveraging a ResNet-101 pre-trained network, they selected four feature maps and integrated them to generate a single map. Prior to CNN processing, fundus images underwent augmentation to enhance performance. By combining the best feature maps, the model achieved remarkable results with an accuracy of 0.951, a sensitivity of 0.793, and a specificity of 0.9741. This research underscores the effectiveness of innovative CNN architectures and feature aggregation techniques in improving retinal vessel segmentation accuracy, contributing to advancements in automated medical image analysis for retinal disease diagnosis and treatment planning [4].

PROPOSED SYSTEM DESIGN

System Architecture

In order to categorize people with diabetes the identification of retinal diseases and using deep learning is an advanced framework intended to examine retinal pictures for signs of this retinopathy. At its core, the architecture consists of multiple interconnected components. Initial stages involve preprocessing, cleaning of input images to enhance their suitability for analysis. The core of the system lies develop a reliable deep learning model selection and assessment for a measure of the severity of diabetic retinopathy [5].

The model is able to identify patterns related to the condition through a training phase on a carefully selected dataset (Figure 1). During the forecast stage, the trained model is deployed to make accurate predictions on new, unseen images, facilitating prompt and precise identification of diabetic retinopathy levels [6–8].

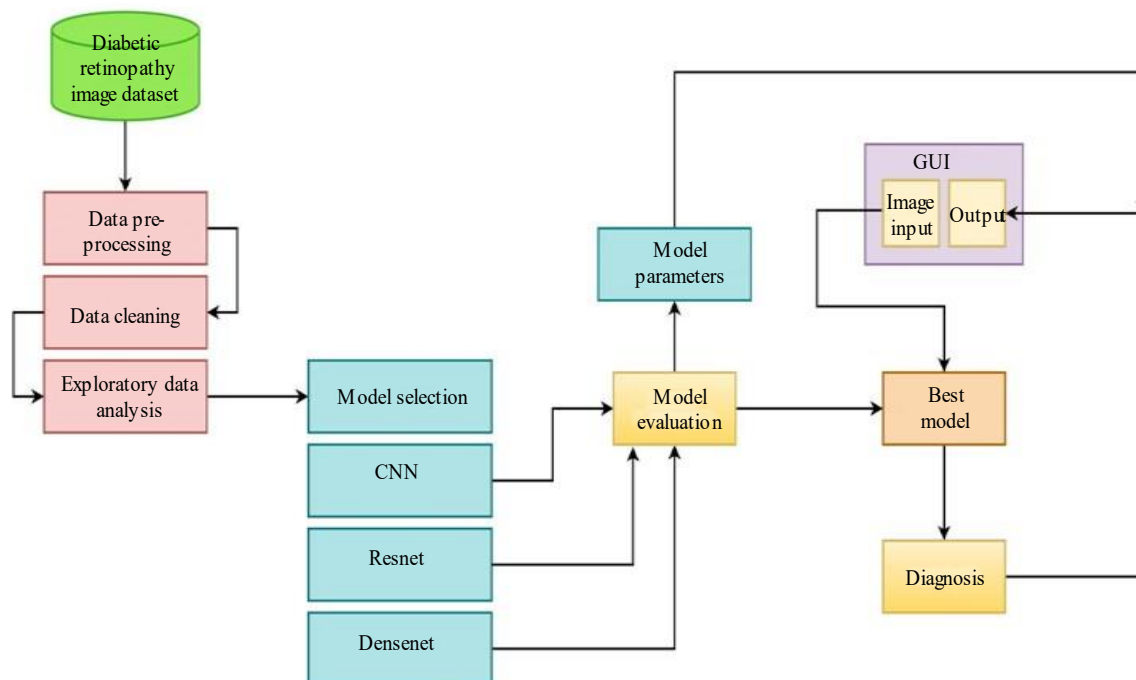


Figure 1. System architecture.

Use Case Diagram

The use case comprises a user and a processor, wherein the user supplies the system with input and the processor processes the input data to generate output. The flow is depicted in the Figure 2. The model and library packages are imported and loaded when the user runs the system and executes the code. Following the code run, the output is shown based on the supplied data input.

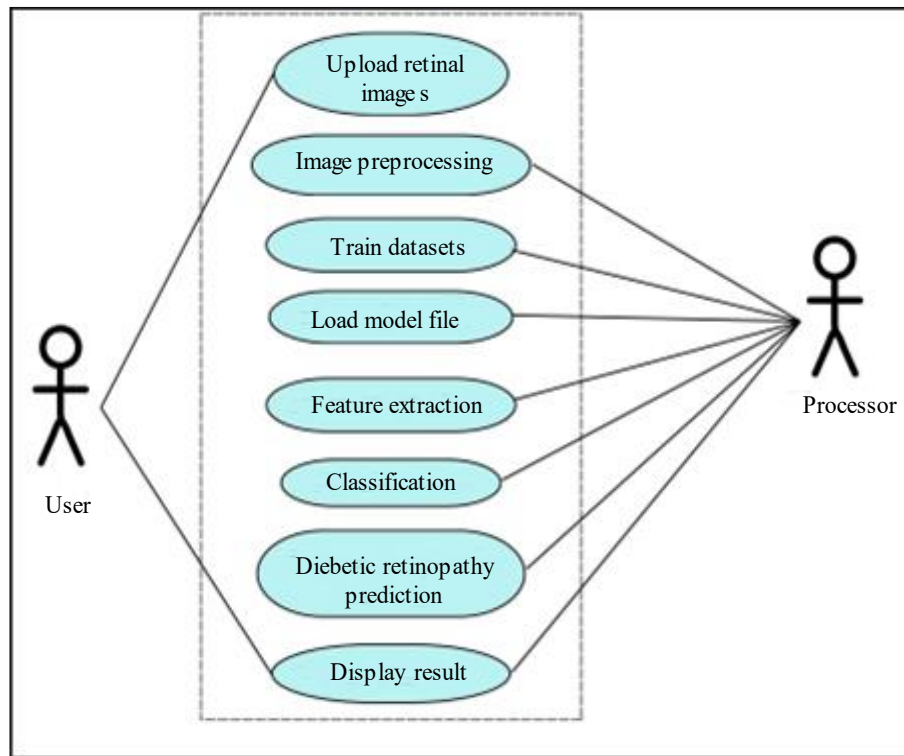


Figure 2. Use case diagram.

Sequence diagram

As seen in Figure 3, the sequence diagram is made up of five distinct blocks: user, processor, scaling, model, and labels. The user will supply the input data via picture files that are already saved in the system. These files undergo differentiator parameter preprocessing before being placed in the memory unit [9, 10].

The trained model file is loaded after the dataset has been preprocessed and stored, and its features are extracted in order to categorize the output. Following output classification, prediction values are shown.

SYSTEM DESIGN

The discussion would delve into several key aspects related to the study's findings, methodology, and implications. Here is how the discussion might be structured:

Interpretation of Results

- Interpret the performance metrics (e.g., accuracy, sensitivity, specificity) achieved by the deep learning models in detecting and classifying diabetic retinopathy.
- Discuss any variations in performance among different deep learning architectures or datasets used in the study.
- Address any unexpected findings or challenges encountered during model development and evaluation.

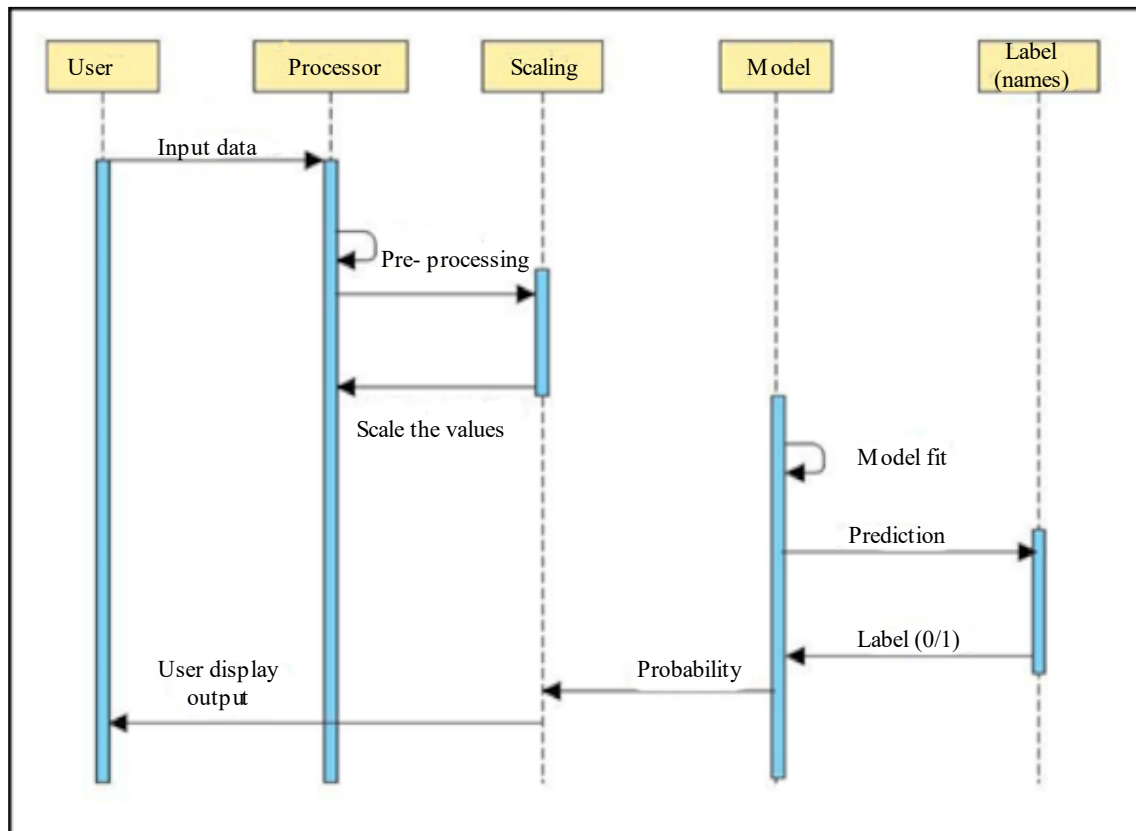


Figure 3. Sequence diagram.

Comparison with Existing Literature

- Examine how well the suggested deep learning approaches perform in comparison to earlier studies that employed traditional methods or alternative machine learning algorithms for diabetic retinopathy detection.
- Highlighting the benefits of deep learning strategies with regard to scalability, automation, and potential for real-time diagnosis compared to conventional methods.
- Discuss how the results align with or diverge from findings reported in related research, emphasizing any novel contributions or improvements.

Clinical and Practical Implications

- Discuss the potential impact among the models for deep learning on clinical practice, including their role in facilitating early detection, personalized treatment planning, and improving patient outcomes.
- Address the scalability and accessibility of the proposed techniques in real-world healthcare settings, considering factors such as computational resources, model deployment, and integration with existing diagnostic workflows.

Limitations and Future Directions

- Acknowledge the limitations of the study, such as dataset size, diversity, and generalizability of the models.
- Propose avenues for future research to address current limitations and further enhance the performance and robustness of deep learning-based approaches for detection of diabetic retinopathy.
- Suggest potential enhancements to the methodology, such as incorporating multi-modal imaging data, transfer learning, or ensemble techniques to improve model performance and generalization.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the project marks a significant stride towards the future of healthcare and medical diagnostics. By delving into the capabilities of advanced machine learning, particularly in the detection of diabetic retinopathy, this study has illuminated pathways for ongoing advancements in patient care.

The comparative analysis of deep learning models: Basic CNN, ResNet, and DenseNet, not only offers current insights but also sets the stage for future model refinements. As technology evolves, the project's exploration of transfer learning lays the foundation for more sophisticated techniques that can adapt and excel with limited datasets, thereby addressing challenges posed by varying data availability.

Looking forward, the outcomes of this project hold promise for the integration of resource-efficient models into telemedicine, remote healthcare, and decision support systems for clinicians. Open-sourcing the code and models encourages collaborative efforts, fostering a collective drive towards enhanced diagnostic tools. As technology continues to advance, the project's findings will serve as a dynamic reference, propelling the future of medical image analysis and contributing to improved patient outcomes on a global scale.

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