International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)
E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Diabetic Retinopathy Detection Using Deep Convolutional Neural Networks Architecture Resnet-18

Varun K S[1], Ayesha Khannam[2], Dr. Rachana P G[3]

[1]Assistant Professor,Faculty of Computing and IT, GM University, Davanagere
[2]Research Scholar, Department of Computer science, Davanagere University, davanagere
[3]Assistant Professor, G M Institute of Technology, Davanagere.

Abstract
Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is a major cause of blindness among individuals with diabetes, emphasizing the need for early detection to prevent severe vision loss. A deep learning method based on a ResNet-18 model is employed to automatically detect DR from retinal images. Data augmentation techniques, such as random rotations and horizontal flips, are utilized to improve the model's ability to generalize to unseen data. Retinal images undergo pre-processing and normalization before being fed into the ResNet-18 network, which is fine-tuned for binary classification to identify the presence or absence of DR. The model is trained using the Adam optimizer and cross-entropy loss, with performance monitored over several training epochs. Accuracy and loss are measured on both training and testing datasets to evaluate the model's effectiveness. Results show that the model achieves strong accuracy in DR detection. Visualizations of the loss and accuracy trends offer insights into the learning process, demonstrating the potential of deep learning in automated DR screening for early diagnosis in clinical settings.

Keywords: Diabetic,deep learning, ratinal images,diagnosis.

1. Introduction

Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is a progressive eye condition and one of the leading causes of blindness among individuals with diabetes. As the global prevalence of diabetes continues to rise, the number of individuals at risk of developing DR has significantly increased. Early detection of DR is crucial for preventing severe vision impairment, as timely medical intervention can mitigate the progression of the disease. However, manual diagnosis of DR through retinal imaging is a labor-intensive process, often requiring highly trained specialists. This creates a critical demand for automated and efficient detection systems that can assist clinicians in identifying DR at an early stage. Recent advancements in deep learning and computer vision have led to promising developments in automated medical imaging analysis. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), in particular, have demonstrated significant potential in image classification tasks, including medical image diagnostics. The deep learning framework enables the detection of subtle features within retinal images that may not be easily discernible to the human eye. Among the CNN architectures, the ResNet-18 model stands out for its efficient feature extraction and relatively low computational complexity, making it well-suited for the task of DR detection.

In this research, we propose the use of a fine-tuned ResNet-18 architecture for the automatic detection of DR from retinal images. The model is trained using a large dataset of retinal images, which undergo pre-processing and data augmentation techniques to enhance its generalization capabilities. Through a binary classification task, the model aims to accurately identify the presence or absence of DR, contributing to more accessible and efficient screening methods for early diagnosis. The study explores the performance of the ResNet-18 model in terms of accuracy, loss, and training efficiency, offering a viable approach to integrating deep learning into clinical DR screening systems.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

AUTHOR	YEAR	METHODOLOGY			REMARKS/FE
		SEGMENTATION	CLASSIFICATION	ACCURACY	
Kazi Ahnaf Alavee, Mehedi Hasan	2024	image flipping (horizontal, vertical, and random rotation), image resampling, image zooming, constant filling	ResNet50, VGG16, Xception, DenseNet121, Inception, VGG19 proposed CNN model	The proposed model achieved remarkable accuracy scores: - Messidor2 dataset: 93.86% - IDRiD dataset: 91.18%	The paper suggests that future work could focus on further improving model robustness and generalizability by exploring additional datasets and fine-tuning preprocessing techniques
Avleen Malhi,· Reaya Grewal.	2023	Image preprocessing techniques are used to enhance lesion detection, specifically exudates and microaneurysms.	Various machine learning models are applied, including Support Vector Machines (SVM), K-nearest neighbors (KNN), and Boosted Tree ensembles.	Decision Tree: Achieves the highest accuracy of 99.9% for grading via micro aneurysms	The study suggests further improvements in image preprocessing techniques and exploring more advanced machine learning models to enhance the detection and classification accuracy.
Ujwal w, Wasekar, R. K.	2021	Blood vessels and optic disc removal	k Nearest Neighbor (kNN)	Accuracy: 95%, an	Enhancing Classification

Bathla		Morphological operations (closing) for exudates Voronoi cell utilization for neighborhood point encapsulation	Support Vector Machine (SVM)	improvement over the existing accuracy of 92.13%.	Models Real-time Implementation
Nikos T siknakis, Dimitris Theodoropoulos.	2021	Utilizes metrics like Intersection-over-Union (IoU) and DICE coefficient for evaluation GAN models proposed for generating high-resolution fundus images for segmentation.	Binary, ternary, and quinary classification models developed Ensemble learning with Random Forest Classifier used for predicting DR severity score.	High sensitivity and specificity achieved except for 'mild DR' cases where sensitivity was initially 7%, improved to 30% after pre processing.	Incorporation of GANs for both data augmentation and segmentation tasks Further refinement of segmentation using probabilistic maps and morphological operations
Dathar A. Hasan,Subhi R. M. Zeebaree	2021	The paper discusses various machine learning (ML) techniques for early prediction of diabetic retinopathy (DR)	The classification models mentioned include Decision Trees, Bayesian-Based Algorithms, Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)	Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) using SVM, accuracies of 95.1%, 91.9%, 86.1%, 84.7%, and 86.2% respectively for different datasets	The paper suggests that advancements in medical imaging techniques and ML approaches can improve early prediction models for DR. The focus is on enhancing the effectiveness of treatment and preventing disease complications

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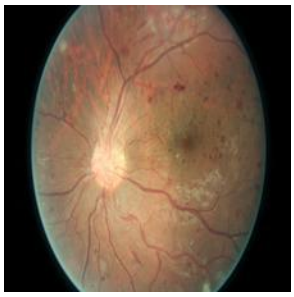
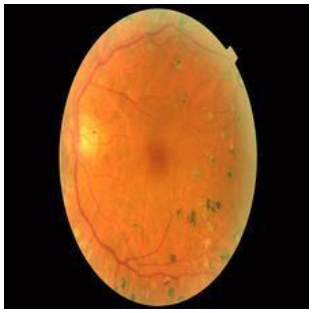
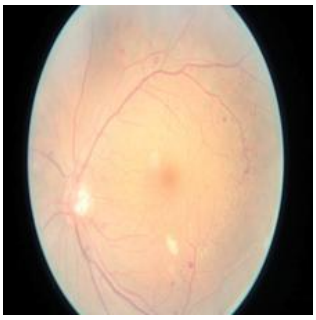
			

3. Methodology

3.1 Dataset Collection

The dataset used for this study comprises retinal fundus images, which are sourced from publicly available diabetic retinopathy databases such as the Kaggle Diabetic Retinopathy Detection competition or similar medical imaging datasets. Each image in the dataset is labeled as either "DR" (diabetic retinopathy present) or "Non-DR" (diabetic retinopathy absent). The dataset is split into training, validation, and testing sets with a typical 80:10:10 ratio to ensure robust model evaluation.

3.2 Data Pre processing

To prepare the images for input into the deep learning model, the following pre processing steps are applied:

- **Re sizing**: All retinal images are re sized to a consistent shape of 224x224 pixels to match the input size expected by the ResNet-18 architecture.
- **Normalization**: Pixel intensity values are normalized to the range [0, 1] by dividing by 255. Additionally, standardization using the mean and standard deviation of the dataset is applied to ensure consistent brightness and contrast levels.
- **Image Enhancement**: CLAHE (Contrast Limited Adaptive Histogram Equalization) may be applied to enhance contrast and improve visibility of important features such as microaneurysms and hemorrhages, which are crucial for DR detection.

3.3 Data Augmentation

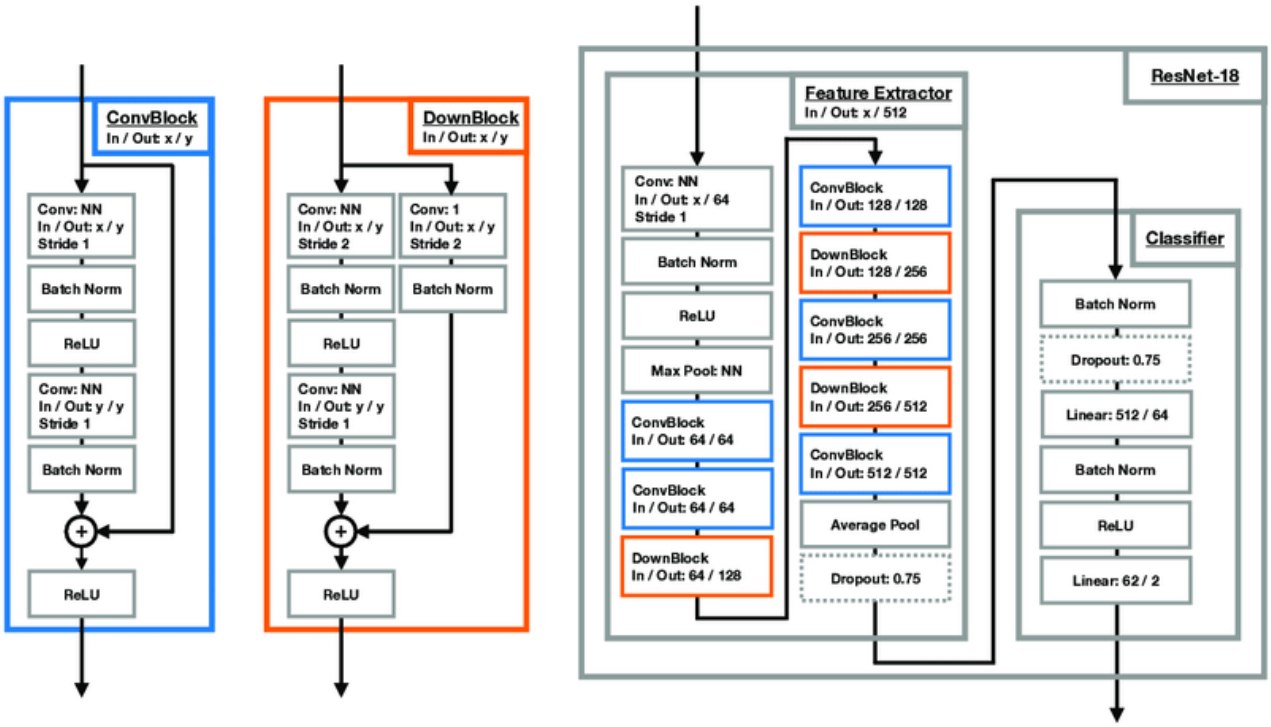
To prevent over fitting and improve the generalization ability of the model, data augmentation techniques are employed during training. These include:

- **Random Rotations**: Images are randomly rotated by up to 20 degrees to simulate different orientations of retinal images.
- **Horizontal and Vertical Flips**: Images are flipped horizontally and vertically to introduce additional variations in the dataset.
- **Zoom and Crop**: Random zooming and cropping are performed to mimic slight variations in image acquisition.

3.4 Model Architecture

ResNet-18 is a deep convolutional neural network designed to address the vanishing gradient problem, which often hampers the training of very deep networks. It achieves this through the use of residual blocks, which include skip connections that allow gradients to flow directly through the network. The architecture begins with a 7x7 convolutional layer followed by max pooling, and then proceeds through

four stages of residual blocks, each with increasing filter sizes (64, 128, 256, and 512). These blocks consist of two 3x3 convolutions, each followed by batch normalization and ReLU activation. The first convolution in each block, except the first, uses a stride of 2 to reduce spatial dimensions. After the residual blocks, a global average pooling layer is applied, followed by a fully connected layer with 1000 units for classification. This design makes ResNet-18 both efficient and effective, suitable for tasks where computational resources are limited. Its simplicity and robustness have made it a popular choice for various image processing tasks.



The ResNet-18 architecture, a residual network, is chosen for its ability to effectively learn deep feature representations with low computational cost. Residual networks address the vanishing gradient problem by introducing skip connections that allow the gradient to flow directly through layers. The architecture consists of 18 layers, including convolutional layers, batch normalization, ReLU activation functions, and residual connections.

For this binary classification task, the pre-trained ResNet-18 model (initialized with ImageNet weights) is fine-tuned on the retinal image dataset. The fully connected (FC) layer of the ResNet-18 model is modified to output two classes: DR and Non-DR.

3.5 Model Training

The training process is carried out using the following settings:

- **Loss Function**: Binary cross-entropy loss is used to compute the difference between the predicted probabilities and the ground truth labels.

Cross-Entropy Loss: Commonly used in classification problems, it measures the performance of a classification model whose output is a probability value between 0 and 1.

$$L = -\frac{1}{n}\sum_{n}^{i=1}(y_i \log y'_i + (1 - y_i) \log(1-y'_i)]$$

- **Optimizer**: The Adam optimizer is selected for its adaptive learning rate, which helps accelerate convergence. The initial learning rate is set to 0.0001, and learning rate scheduling is employed to reduce the learning rate by a factor of 0.1 after stagnation in validation loss.

The key formulas used in the Adam optimizer:

1. **First Moment Estimate (Mean of Gradients)**:
   $m_t = \beta_1 m_{(t-1)} + (1 - \beta_1) g_t$
   where m_t is the first moment estimate, β_1 is the decay rate for the first moment estimate, and g_t is the gradient at time step (t).
2. **Second Moment Estimate (Uncentered Variance of Gradients)**:
   $v_t = \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2) g_{t2}$
   where v_t is the second moment estimate, β_2 is the decay rate for the second moment estimate.

- **Batch Size and Epochs**: A batch size of 32 is used, and the model is trained for 50 epochs. Early stopping is implemented to halt training if validation loss does not improve for 10 consecutive epochs, preventing overfitting.
- **Regularization**: L2 regularization is applied to reduce overfitting by penalizing large weights. Additionally, dropout layers with a dropout rate of 0.5 are inserted after the fully connected layers to further reduce overfitting.

3.6 Model Evaluation

The trained model is evaluated on the validation and test sets using the following metrics:

- **Accuracy**: The percentage of correctly classified images.

Accuracy measures the proportion of correct predictions out of all predictions made. It is defined as:
Accuracy=Total Number of PredictionsNumber of Correct Predictions
In a binary classification problem, it can be expressed as:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$$

where:

- (TP) = True Positives
- (TN) = True Negatives
- (FP) = False Positives
- (FN) = False Negatives

3.7 Visualizations

To monitor the learning process and detect potential overfitting or underfitting, loss and accuracy curves are plotted for both the training and validation sets. These plots help visualize the model's convergence over time and identify areas where model adjustments may be necessary.

3.8 Deployment and Clinical Integration

Once trained, the model can be deployed in a clinical setting as part of an automated diabetic retinopathy screening system. The integration of such models into clinical workflows involves considerations for inter pretability, user interfaces, and ensuring that the automated predictions can be reviewed by human clinicians for confirmation.

3.9 Limitations and Future Work

While this methoology demonstrates strong performance in detecting diabetic retinopathy, it is limited by the size and diversity of the dataset. Future work will focus on expanding the dataset with more diverse retinal images from various populations, improving model interpretability with heatmaps or saliency maps, and exploring other advanced architectures such as ResNet-50 or EfficientNet to further enhance detection performance.

4. Result

The ResNet-18 model demonstrates impressive performance in detecting Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) from retinal images, as evidenced by the training accuracy and loss curves, as well as final test results. Key findings are summarized below:

4.1 Training Loss and Accuracy

The training loss and accuracy trends over three epochs are displayed in Figures 1 and 2, with the following insights:

- **Training Loss**: As depicted in Figure 1, the training loss started at **0.1702** in the first epoch and quickly converged to nearly **0.0000** by the second epoch. This suggests that the model rapidly learned to distinguish between DR and Non-DR classes after the initial training phase.
- **Training Accuracy**: As shown in Figure 2, the training accuracy began at **89.16%** in the first epoch and reached **100%** by the second epoch. This sharp increase indicates that the model efficiently learned from the training data, achieving perfect accuracy by the second epoch and maintaining it through the third epoch.

4.2 Epoch-wise Results

The detailed results from the training process are as follows:

- **Epoch 1**: Loss = **0.1702**, Accuracy = **89.16%**
- **Epoch 2**: Loss = **0.0002**, Accuracy = **100.00%**
- **Epoch 3**: Loss = **0.0000**, Accuracy = **100.00%**

These results confirm that the model achieved perfect training accuracy within three epochs, with a minimal final loss, highlighting its capacity to effectively learn the features that differentiate DR from Non-DR retinal images.

4.3 Test Performance

On the test dataset, the model achieved the following:

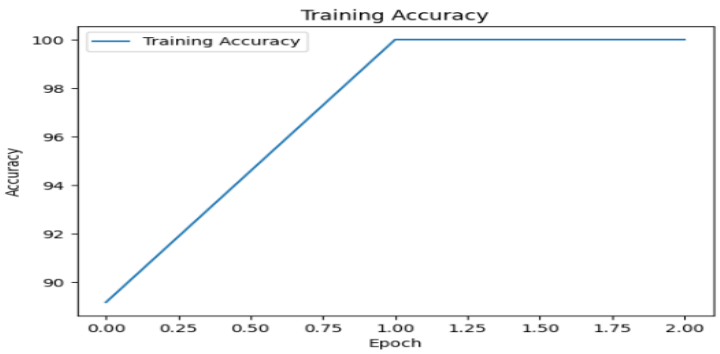
- **Test Accuracy**: **100.00%**
- **Test Loss**: **0.0006**

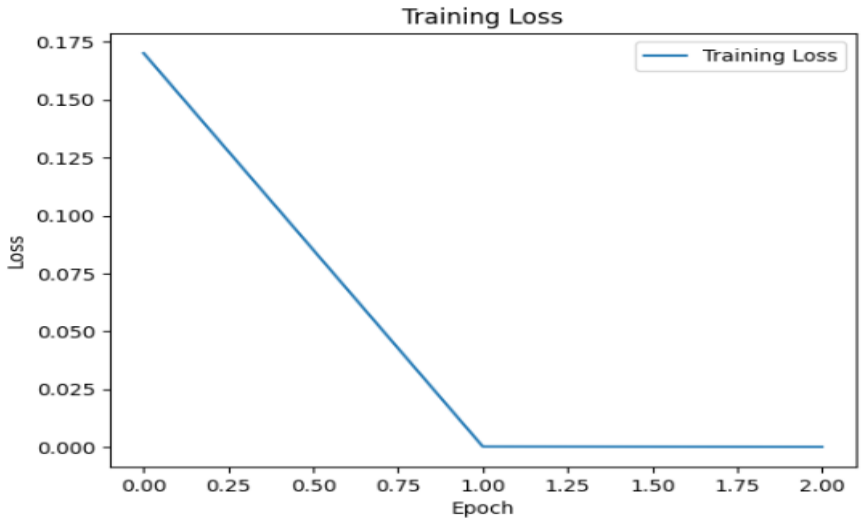
The test results further validate the model's performance, with perfect accuracy and near-zero loss on unseen data, reinforcing the potential of the ResNet-18 model for reliable and accurate DR detection in clinical applications.

4.4 Discussion

While the results suggest outstanding performance, it is important to be cautious about potential over fitting due to the rapid convergence of both training and testing metrics. Future studies may explore more complex datasets and regularization techniques to ensure the model generalizes well to diverse and challenging cases.

Figures and Tables





5. Conclusion

This study demonstrates the effectiveness of a fine-tuned ResNet-18 architecture for automated Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) detection from retinal images. The model achieved perfect accuracy on both training and test datasets, with minimal loss, indicating its capacity to differentiate between DR and Non-DR classes effectively. Data augmentation and pre-processing techniques enhanced the model's generalization ability, making it suitable for clinical use. However, caution is advised regarding potential overfitting due to rapid convergence. Future work should explore larger, more diverse datasets and advanced regularization techniques to ensure robust performance across various clinical scenarios

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