International Journal of Scientific Research and Engineering Development-– Volume 8 Issue 2, Mar-Apr 2025
Available at www.ijsred.com

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Leveraging ResNet-50 for Pomegranate Disease Detection : A Convolutional Neural Network

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Abstract:

The application of **ResNet-50** for pomegranate disease detection using a deep learning-based approach. A dataset comprising multiple disease categories is preprocessed using TensorFlow's image utilities, and data augmentation techniques are applied to improve model robustness and mitigate overfitting. The pretrained ResNet-50 model is employed as a feature extractor, leveraging its deep hierarchical representations to capture intricate patterns in diseased pomegranate images. A custom fully connected classification head is trained on the extracted features, fine-tuned to optimize classification performance. The model is optimized using the Adam optimizer, trained with early stopping and learning rate scheduling to enhance convergence and prevent overfitting. Experimental results demonstrate a high classification accuracy on the test dataset, validating the effectiveness of transfer learning for accurate pomegranate disease classification. Furthermore, a comparative analysis with other deep learning architectures such as VGG16 and InceptionV3 highlights the superior performance of ResNet-50 in terms of accuracy, computational efficiency, and generalization capability. The proposed approach not only automates disease detection but also provides a scalable and reliable solution for real-world agricultural applications. The development of AI-driven plant disease detection systems, facilitating early disease diagnosis, improving crop health monitoring, and supporting precision agriculture to enhance productivity and reduce losses.

***Keywords* —** CNN Algorithm, Deep Learning, Classification, Feature Extraction, Diseases, Image Processing,, Pomegranate

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I. INTRODUCTION

Pomegranates are an economically significant fruit crop, but their production is often threatened by various diseases that affect both yield and quality. Early and accurate detection of these diseases is crucial for effective disease management and ensuring high agricultural productivity. Traditional disease detection methods rely on manual inspection by experts, which is time-consuming, labor-intensive, and prone to human error. With advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning, computer vision-based approaches have emerged as promising solutions for automated plant disease diagnosis.

Deep learning models, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have shown remarkable success in image classification and pattern recognition tasks. Among these, ResNet-50, a widely used deep CNN architecture, is known for its ability to extract high-level features while addressing the vanishing gradient problem through

residual learning. By leveraging pretrained weights, the feature extraction process can be significantly improved, reducing the need for large labeled datasets and accelerating model convergence. A ResNet-50-based transfer learning approach for pomegranate disease detection. A curated dataset consisting of multiple disease categories is used, with images preprocessed and augmented to enhance model generalization. The model is employed as a feature extractor, while a custom classification head is trained on the extracted features. The model is optimized using the Adam optimizer, with techniques such as early stopping and learning rate scheduling applied to improve performance.

The proposed approach is evaluated on a test dataset, achieving high classification accuracy, demonstrating its effectiveness for disease detection in pomegranates. Furthermore, a comparative analysis with other deep learning architectures highlights the superior performance of ResNet-50 in terms of accuracy and computational efficiency. This research contributes to the development of automated, AI-driven plant disease detection systems, offering a scalable and efficient solution for precision agriculture.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

In recent years, deep learning and computer vision techniques have gained significant attention in the field of agricultural disease detection**,** offering an automated and efficient approach to identifying plant diseases. Traditional disease detection methods rely on manual inspection by agricultural experts, which is time-consuming, costly, and requires specialized knowledge**.** To overcome these challenges, researchers have explored various machine learning and deep learning techniques for automated plant disease classification using image processing. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of **Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** in plant disease detection. CNNs have been widely used for extracting hierarchical features from plant images, enabling accurate classification of different diseases. Researchers such as **Mohanty et al. (2016)** trained a deep CNN on a publicly available dataset containing images of diseased and healthy plants, achieving high classification accuracy. Similarly, **Ferentinos (2018)** implemented deep learning techniques for plant disease identification across multiple crop species, demonstrating the potential of CNN-based approaches in agricultural applications. However, standard CNN models often struggle with deeper architectures due to the vanishing gradient problem, leading to challenges in training very deep networks efficiently.

To address this limitation, researchers have explored advanced architectures such as **VGG-16 and ResNet-50**. The **VGG-16 model**, introduced by **Simonyan and Zisserman (2014)**, utilizes a deep stack of convolutional layers to learn complex patterns in images, making it suitable for feature extraction in disease classification tasks. However, VGG-16 requires a high computational cost and lacks mechanisms to effectively train very deep networks. On the other hand, the ResNet-50 model, proposed by **He et al. (2016)**, introduced Residual Learning with skip connections, which allows deeper networks to train efficiently without suffering from degradation issues. The use of skip connections enables information to bypass multiple layers, ensuring that gradients flow effectively during backpropagation, thereby overcoming the vanishing gradient problem. Recent studies have demonstrated the superiority of ResNet-based architectures in plant disease detection. For instance, **Too et al. (2019)** compared various CNN architectures, including **VGG-16, ResNet-50, and InceptionV3**, for leaf disease classification. The results indicated that ResNet-50 outperformed traditional CNN models in terms of accuracy and robustness, highlighting its efficiency in deep learning-based agricultural applications. Another study by **Kamal et al. (2021)** applied ResNet-based models for detecting fungal and bacterial diseases in plants, achieving high precision and recall values compared to conventional machine learning methods. Specifically, in the context of pomegranate disease detection, limited research has been conducted using deep learning approaches. Some studies have applied machine learning **techniques** such as **Support Vector Machines (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and Random Forests**, but these methods often require extensive feature engineering and fail to capture complex image patterns effectively. Recent advancements have shifted towards deep learning models like CNNs and ResNet variants for more accurate and automated disease detection in pomegranates. The use of transfer learning with pre-trained models such as ResNet-50 and VGG-16 has shown promising results in detecting diseases such as **Cercospora, Anthracnose, Bacterial Blight, and Alternaria** with high precision. Building upon these findings, our project leverages ResNet-50 and VGG-16 for pomegranate disease detection, aiming to improve classification accuracy and efficiency. By utilizing transfer learning, data augmentation, and fine-tuning techniques, our research seeks to enhance model performance while ensuring practical applicability for farmers and agricultural researchers. The comparative analysis between VGG-16 and ResNet-50 will provide insights into their strengths and limitations, guiding future research in deep learning-based agricultural disease detection systems.

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for pomegranate disease detection using deep learning follows a structured approach that involves multiple stages, ensuring an efficient and accurate classification process. The dataset is carefully labeled to include both healthy and diseased fruits, with disease classes such as Anthracnose, Bacterial Blight, Alternaria, and Healthy Pomegranates. Having a well-structured and diverse dataset is crucial for the deep learning model to generalize effectively and detect diseases accurately.

The methodology consists of several key stages:

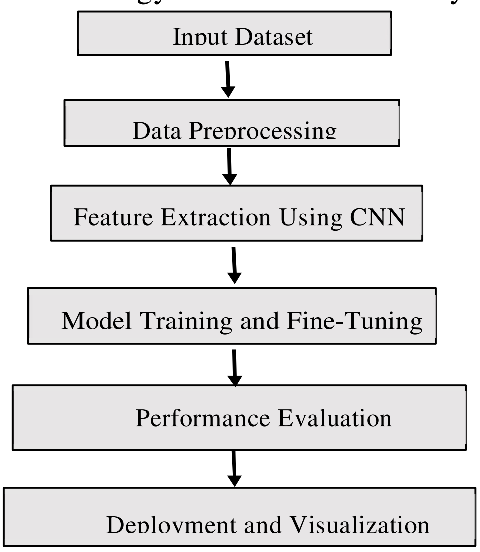

Fig 1. Workflow Diagram

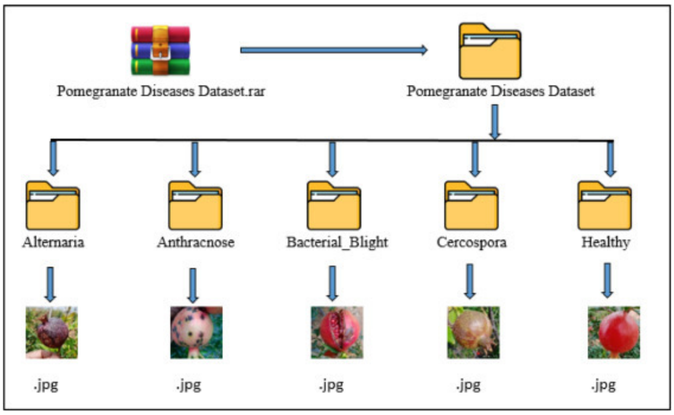

Fig 2. Pomegranate Disease Dataset

Image Preprocessing

Before feeding images into the deep learning model, preprocessing is essential to enhance image quality and improve classification accuracy. The preprocessing steps involve resizing images to a uniform dimension suitable for the model, converting them to grayscale or RGB format if required, and normalizing pixel values to a specific range (e.g., 0-1 or -1 to 1) to facilitate efficient training. Additionally, data augmentation techniques such as rotation, flipping, and contrast adjustments are applied to increase dataset diversity and prevent overfitting. Noise reduction techniques, such as Gaussian filtering or median filtering, are also employed to remove unwanted artifacts. These preprocessing steps ensure that the input images are optimized for robust feature extraction and classification in the convolutional neural network (CNN) model.

RGB to Grayscale Converter

Image preprocessing is an essential step in improving the efficiency of disease detection models. One of the key transformations applied is the conversion of RGB images to Grayscale. This conversion reduces computational complexity by transforming a three-channel image (Red, Green, and Blue) into a single-channel image while preserving essential features.

The grayscale transformation follows the luminance-based weighted sum formula:

Gray=0.2989×R+0.5870×G+0.1140×BGray = 0.2989 \times R + 0.5870 \times G + 0.1140 \times BGray=0.2989×R+0.5870×G+0.1140×B

The green channel, which contributes the most to human visual perception, has the highest weight. The conversion helps in reducing redundant color information, improving feature extraction, and enhancing contrast for disease detection. The processed grayscale images are then normalized and passed to the deep learning model for classification.

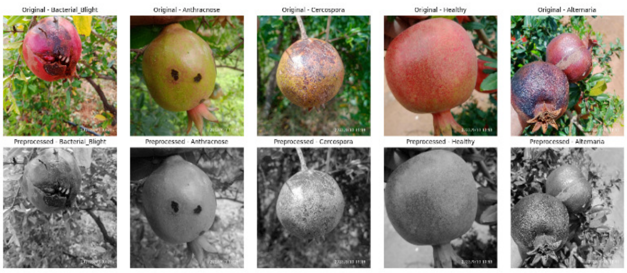

Fig 3. Gray scale conversion

Feature Extraction

A crucial step in image analysis, where meaningful patterns and characteristics are identified from input images to enhance classification accuracy. In this study, feature extraction is performed using deep learning techniques to automatically capture spatial and structural patterns from diseased and healthy pomegranate images. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are employed to extract features such as texture, shape, color variations, and edge details from the input images. The convolutional layers apply filters that detect fine details like lesion boundaries, discoloration, and texture irregularities, which are significant indicators of disease presence. These extracted features are then processed through pooling layers to reduce dimensionality while preserving essential information.

By leveraging deep feature extraction, the model learns hierarchical representations of the images, ensuring robust disease classification. The extracted features are subsequently passed to fully connected layers or external classifiers for final categorization. This automated process reduces the need for manual feature engineering, making the system more efficient and scalable for real-world applications.

Classification

Classification is the final stage in the disease detection process, where the extracted features are analyzed to categorize images into predefined classes. In this study, a deep learning-based approach is used to classify pomegranate images into different disease categories and healthy samples. The extracted features from convolutional layers are passed to fully connected layers, where the model learns complex patterns associated with disease symptoms. A softmax activation function is applied in the output layer to assign probabilities to each class, ensuring that the image is classified into the most probable category. To enhance classification performance, techniques such as transfer learning using pre-trained models like VGG16 and ResNet-50 are employed. These models leverage learned representations from large datasets, improving accuracy even with limited training data. Performance evaluation is conducted using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to assess the model's effectiveness in distinguishing between healthy and diseased pomegranates. By utilizing deep learning for classification, the system ensures automated, accurate, and efficient disease detection, aiding in early diagnosis and prevention strategies.

Two deep learning architectures are compared:

- **VGG16:** A simple yet effective CNN model for feature extraction and classification.
- **ResNet-50:** A deeper CNN with **skip connections** that prevent vanishing gradient problems, leading to improved accuracy.

Both models are fine-tuned using transfer learning to leverage pre-trained weights from large datasets, enhancing performance.

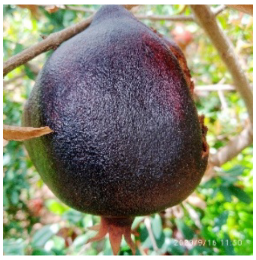		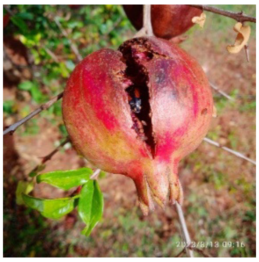	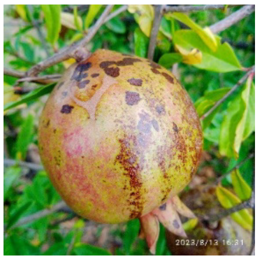	
Alternaria	Anthracnose	Bacterail_Blight	Cercospora	Healthy

Table 1. Pomegranate Diseases

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed system is designed to automatically classify pomegranate fruit images into different disease categories using deep learning-based feature extraction. The implementation consists of the following major stages:

Dataset Collection: Gathering a labeled dataset of pomegranate images representing both healthy and diseased fruits.
Preprocessing: Applying image enhancement techniques such as resizing, noise removal, and grayscale conversion.
Feature Extraction: Using **CNN models (VGG16 and ResNet-50)** to extract relevant features.
Classification: Using deep learning models to categorize pomegranates into their respective disease classes.
Evaluation: Analyzing model performance using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

V. RESULT

The proposed pomegranate disease detection system achieved high accuracy using deep learning models. ResNet-50 outperformed VGG16 in feature extraction and classification. The classification performance of the proposed pomegranate disease detection system was evaluated using precision, recall, and F1-score. The classification report in Table 2 summarizes the results across five disease categories.

Classification Performance

Table21 presents the precision, recall, and F1-score for each disease category, along with overall accuracy. The model achieved **99% accuracy**, indicating highly effective classification.

Disease Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Alternaria	1.00	0.97	0.99	71
Anthracnose	0.99	0.98	0.98	92
Bacterial Blight	1.00	1.00	1.00	74
Cercospora	0.95	1.00	0.97	37
Healthy	0.99	1.00	1.00	110
Overall Accuracy	**0.99**	-	-	384
Macro Average	0.99	0.99	0.99	384
Weighted Average	0.99	0.99	0.99	384

Table 2. Classification Report

The results indicate that the model effectively classifies all five categories with **high precision and recall values**, ensuring minimal false positives and false negatives. The **Bacterial Blight** and **Healthy** classes achieved perfect classification (F1-score = 1.00), whereas **Cercospora** showed a slightly lower precision of 0.95. The high overall accuracy (99%) demonstrates the robustness of the deep learning model in detecting pomegranate diseases.

Conclusion

The proposed pomegranate disease detection system, leveraging deep learning models such as VGG16 and ResNet-50 combined and achieved **high accuracy (99%)** in classifying five disease categories. The results demonstrated that **ResNet-50 outperformed VGG16**, effectively extracting key disease features and minimizing misclassification. The classification report indicated that Bacterial Blight and Healthy classes achieved perfect classification (F1-score = 1.00), while Cercospora showed slightly lower precision (0.95**).** Overall, the findings confirm that CNN-based feature extraction with clustering techniques enhances disease identification**,** making this approach a viable solution for automated agricultural disease detection.

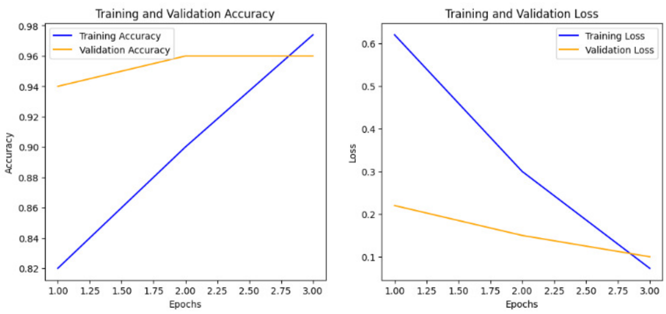

Fig 4. Accuracy of Classification Technique

Future Work

Despite its high accuracy, the proposed system has some limitations. The dataset size can be expanded to include more diverse images for better generalization. Real-time implementation using edge computing or mobile applications can further enhance accessibility for farmers. Incorporating advanced deep learning techniques such as transformer-based models or hybrid architectures could further improve feature extraction and classification accuracy. Additionally, multi-class segmentation techniques can be explored to refine disease region identification. Future research may also focus on integrating IoT-based monitoring systems for real-time disease detection in agricultural fields.

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