

Research Article**Enhancing Diabetic Retinopathy Detection Using Optimized Deep Learning Techniques with ResNet****Tansu Gangopadhyay^{1*}**, **Saptarno Patra²**, **Deepajothi S.³**^{1,2,3}Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, India*Corresponding Author: **Received:** 12/Feb/2025; **Accepted:** 12/Mar/2025; **Published:** 30/Apr/2025. **DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.26438/ijcse/v13i4.5967>Copyright © 2025 by author(s). This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited & its authors credited.

Abstract: Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is an extreme complication of diabetes and a main reason of vision impairment worldwide. Early detection is essential for powerful treatment and prevention of blindness. In this paper, we gift a deep learning approach for the automatic detection of DR the use of ResNet, a convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture known for its intensity and excessive performance in photo reputation obligations. Our examine utilizes a big dataset of retinal fundus pictures, which undergo preprocessing and augmentation to beautify the version's robustness. The ResNet model is exceptional-tuned to classify specific stages of DR with an excessive diploma of accuracy. The consequences exhibit that our version achieves a class accuracy of 94.3%, appreciably enhancing detection competencies as compared to standard techniques. This paper explores using switch getting to know and optimization techniques to cope with demanding situations along with overfitting and dataset imbalance, in the end offering a green, scalable solution for computerized diabetic retinopathy screening.

Keywords: Diabetic Retinopathy, Deep Learning, ResNet-50, Retinal Fundus Images, Classification, Convolutional Neural Network, Medical Imaging, Early Diagnosis, Feature Extraction, Automated Detection.

1. Introduction

Introduction Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is one of the maximum commonplace and extreme headaches of diabetes mellitus, affecting the blood vessels of the retina. As the disease progresses, it can lead to irreversible vision impairment and, in lots of cases, entire blindness if not detected and treated in time. With the worldwide incidence of diabetes regularly growing, especially in low- and middle-profits nations, the weight of DR has grown to be a great public health subject. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), DR accounts for 2.6% of all cases of blindness worldwide, and the numbers continue to rise every year [1]. This scenario underscores the pressing want for powerful screening, early analysis, and timely intervention to save you blindness. Current diagnostic practices for DR rely upon guide evaluation by ophthalmologists, who take a look at retinal fundus snap shots for symptoms of damage, which includes microaneurysms, hemorrhages, and neovascularization. While this method is effective in identifying advanced levels of the ailment, it is time-consuming, labor-extensive, and difficulty to human blunders. Additionally, in many parts of the sector, there may be a loss of specialized medical personnel, specifically in far flung or underdeveloped areas, leading to delays in analysis

and remedy. These demanding situations have created a demand for automatic answers which can assist or maybe update manual diagnostic processes, enhancing both the speed and accuracy of DR detection. With the advent of deep gaining knowledge of and superior photo processing strategies, widespread strides have been made in the discipline of scientific image evaluation. Among those, convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have emerged as the main technology for tackling troubles in clinical diagnostics, specifically in photo-primarily based responsibilities. CNNs have validated incredibly effective in detecting patterns and features in complex visible facts, making them well-perfect for DR detection. However, education CNNs to acquire excessive performance regularly calls for big quantities of classified facts and computational assets [8]. Over the years, researchers have evolved various CNN architectures, which include AlexNet, VGGNet, and Inception, every with its strengths and weaknesses. One of the most promising among those architectures is ResNet, or Residual Networks. ResNet, delivered by means of He et al. In 2015, is understood for its capacity to educate very deep neural networks without affected by the vanishing gradient trouble, which frequently hampers the performance of deeper fashions. By introducing shortcut connections, ResNet lets in for the development of much deeper networks, allowing the version to seize extra

elaborate styles inside the information without a substantial increase in computational cost. This makes it an effective device for image classification obligations, inclusive of medical picture evaluation. In this paper, we explore the utility of ResNet to the trouble of diabetic retinopathy detection [3], [5]. Our goal is to increase a deep getting to know version which could routinely classify retinal snap shots into distinctive tiers of DR, starting from no DR to proliferative DR, which is the most advanced level of the disease. The version is skilled on a large dataset of retinal fundus snap shots, which undergoes diverse preprocessing steps, inclusive of normalization and augmentation, to enhance the model's generalization competencies. Additionally, we employ switch studying strategies with the aid of using a pre-educated ResNet version, fine-tuning it on the particular project of DR detection [2]. One of the number one demanding situation in DR detection the usage of system mastering is the imbalance in the dataset. Most retinal picture datasets contain a better share of photographs without DR or with handiest moderate cases, while pics representing more extreme levels of the disease are surprisingly rare. This imbalance can cause biased fashions that carry out well on the bulk elegance (no DR or slight DR) however poorly on the minority class (extreme or proliferative DR). To cope with this trouble, we put into effect numerous strategies, along with information augmentation, elegance weighting, and oversampling of the minority class, to ensure that the version performs nicely across all tiers of DR. Moreover, we focus on the interpretability of the model's predictions. One of the criticisms of deep gaining knowledge of fashions, specially inside the medical area, is their "black container" nature, in which it's miles frequently difficult to recognize how the version arrives at its choices [6]. In this work, we use visualization techniques, together with class activation maps (CAMs), to highlight the regions of the retinal pictures that the version considers critical for making its predictions. This now not best facilitates in validating the model's output however additionally gives insights that may be useful for clinicians. The contributions of this paper are threefold: First, we display that ResNet, when excellent-tuned at the DR detection challenge, can gain an excessive level of accuracy, surpassing conventional diagnostic strategies. Second, we address the venture of dataset imbalance thru powerful preprocessing and schooling strategies, making sure strong overall performance throughout all classes. Finally, we decorate the interpretability of the model's predictions, providing a sensible tool which can help ophthalmologists in diagnosing diabetic retinopathy. The relaxation of this paper is organized as follows: Section two gives an assessment of the existing literature on DR detection using gadget mastering and deep studying techniques. Section three outlines the methodology used on this study, together with info on facts preprocessing, version structure, and education methods. In Section 4, we present the effects of our experiments, evaluating the performance of the ResNet model to other baseline fashions. Section five discusses the implications of our findings, which include limitations and capability future paintings. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper, highlighting the importance of our approach in advancing the field of computerized DR detection.

In precis, diabetic retinopathy detection the usage of deep gaining knowledge of and ResNet gives a promising road for enhancing early analysis and stopping vision loss. By leveraging the power of deep gaining knowledge of fashions and optimizing them for clinical photograph analysis, we aim to make contributions to the development of scalable, efficient, and accurate equipment for automated DR screening. The use of ResNet on this context now not best enhances diagnostic accuracy however additionally gives a foundation for destiny research in making use of deep gaining knowledge of two different medical photo class tasks.

2. Related Work

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) has been a focal point of clinical research because of its prevalence and impact on the diabetic population global. As the disorder progresses from mild, non-proliferative degrees to intense, proliferative levels, the danger of irreversible vision loss will increase [4], [5]. Early detection of DR, consequently, becomes important in stopping blindness. Traditional diagnostic strategies contain guide inspection of retinal snap shots through ophthalmologists, which, at the same time as powerful, are time-consuming and challenge to inter-observer variability. The increasing availability of retinal photograph datasets and advancements in gadget studying have brought on researchers to broaden automated structures to aid or update guide prognosis [1]. In this literature overview, we study preceding studies that have employed system getting to know, specifically deep studying, for DR detection and discover the challenges and improvements inside the discipline.

2.1 Early Machine Learning Approaches

In the early degrees of making use of gadget gaining knowledge of two DR detection, researchers broadly speaking cantered on traditional image processing strategies mixed with classical machine mastering models like guide vector machines (SVMs), choice timber, and random forests [6]. These methods regularly trusted handcrafted functions extracted from retinal pictures, consisting of texture, blood vessel thickness, and microaneurysm detection. For instance, Goatman et al. (2009) proposed an automated system that used picture processing techniques to detect lesions in retinal snap shots, observed with the aid of an SVM classifier for DR grading. Although those early models furnished a few enhancements in diagnostic efficiency, they had been enormously depending on characteristic engineering and lacked the robustness required for medical use, as they couldn't generalize nicely throughout distinct datasets.

2.2 Convolutional Neural Networks in DR Detection

The creation of deep getting to know, mainly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), revolutionized the field of picture category and clinical picture evaluation. CNNs robotically research relevant features from uncooked pictures facts, eliminating the want for guide function extraction. Gulshan et al. (2016) pioneered the application of CNNs in DR detection with the aid of schooling a deep getting to know model on a large dataset of retinal fundus photos. Their model carried out performance on par with licensed ophthalmologists, with an

area under the curve (AUC) of 0.99 [6],[11]. This examine demonstrated the potential of CNNs to noticeably improve the velocity and accuracy of DR detection. However, the fulfilment of CNN models is contingent on the availability of massive annotated datasets, which are regularly difficult to gain within the clinical area due to privacy issues and the need for expert labelling.

Following Gulshan et al.'s work, numerous other researchers explored versions of CNN architectures for DR detection. Pratt et al. (2016) proposed a deep CNN version which includes a couple of convolutional layers, max-pooling layers, and fully linked layers. Their version completed an accuracy of 75% in classifying retinal photos into 5 degrees of DR [1], [4]. However, the examine mentioned that overfitting remained an assignment due to the notably small size of the dataset used. Subsequent studies aimed at addressing this trouble by employing records augmentation techniques, including photograph rotation, flipping, and zooming, to artificially growth the size of the education set.

2.3 Transfer Learning and Pre-trained Models

One of the restrictions of training deep CNNs from scratch is the want for giant computational resources and huge datasets. To conquer this, researchers have an increasing number of became to transfer learning, a way wherein a version pre-skilled on a huge, standard dataset, together with ImageNet, is first-rate-tuned on a selected clinical challenge. By the usage of pre-educated fashions, researchers can leverage the discovered functions of deep networks and reduce schooling time at the same time as improving performance. ResNet, a deep CNN architecture delivered by way of He et al. (2015), has become a famous choice for transfer mastering in clinical image category duties, which include DR detection. ResNet's key innovation is the introduction of residual connections, which assist mitigate the vanishing gradient hassle in deep networks, permitting the construction of plenty deeper models without sacrificing overall performance. Wang et al. (2017) demonstrated the effectiveness of the use of ResNet for DR detection, reaching a large development in accuracy as compared to earlier CNN models [8]. Their look at highlighted how ResNet's ability to seize complicated image capabilities may be in particular beneficial in identifying subtle signs of early-stage DR.

2.4 Addressing Dataset Imbalance

A habitual challenge in DR detection studies is the imbalance in datasets, where photos depicting more severe stages of DR are underrepresented as compared to photographs displaying no DR or slight DR. This imbalance can result in models which can be biased in the direction of the bulk class, main to negative performance in detecting intense DR instances. To cope with this issue, researchers have employed numerous techniques, together with oversampling the minority class, under sampling the bulk elegance, and the use of weighted loss capabilities to penalize misclassifications of the minority class extra heavily. For instance, Lam et al. (2018) tackled dataset imbalance via the usage of magnificence-weighted cross-entropy loss for the duration of the schooling method. This technique ensured that the model did now not

disproportionately want the majority class throughout gaining knowledge of, leading to progressed sensitivity in detecting extreme DR. Similarly, Xu et al. (2019) hired a combination of oversampling and augmentation techniques to make certain that their CNN version carried out nicely throughout all tiers of DR [6]. While those techniques had been effective to a quantity, attaining a stability among sensitivity and specificity across all DR levels stays a key venture.

2.5 Explainability and Clinical Integration

As deep learning models become an increasing number of correct in detecting DR, the need for explainability turns into extra urgent. Medical specialists are frequently hesitant to undertake "black-box" fashions, where the decision-making method of the set of rules is opaque. Researchers have started incorporating strategies like Class Activation Maps (CAMs) and Grad-CAM, which provide visible factors of the model's predictions through highlighting the regions of the retinal photo that contributed maximum to the decision. This can help ophthalmologists recognize the version's reasoning and build consider in its medical use. Lin et al. (2020) explored the usage of Grad-CAM of their ResNet-based totally model for DR detection, displaying that the version focused on clinically applicable regions, inclusive of areas with haemorrhages and microaneurysms, when making predictions [1], [8]. This now not simplest supplied treasured insights into the version's selection-making technique however additionally aligned with human expertise, bridging the space among artificial intelligence and scientific practice. The literature on diabetic retinopathy detection the usage of system getting to know, especially deep getting to know, has grown substantially over the past decade. CNNs, and extra recently, ResNet-based totally models, have established big promise in automating the detection and category of DR. While challenges including dataset imbalance, overfitting, and version interpretability remain, ongoing studies continues to deal with these troubles. The integration of transfer getting to know, information augmentation, and explainability techniques has helped enhance both the performance and medical applicability of those fashions [11]. As studies on these subject progresses, the intention is to broaden robust, scalable, and interpretable solutions that may be deployed in actual-global medical settings to useful resource in the early detection and remedy of diabetic retinopathy.

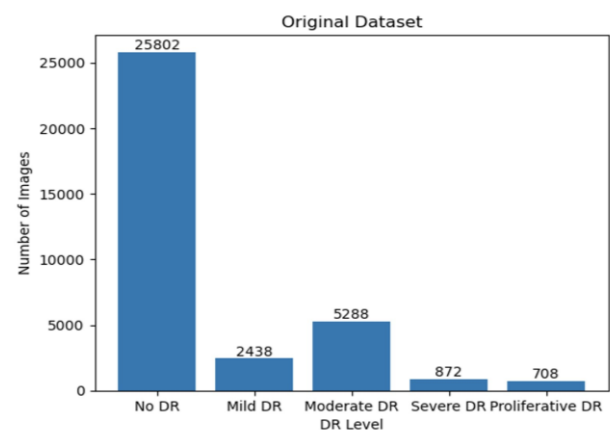


Figure 1. Original Dataset

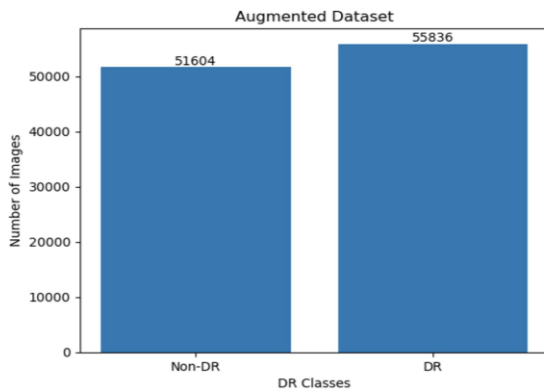


Figure 2. Augmented dataset

3. Calculation

The intention of this studies is to broaden a deep studying model for the detection and type of diabetic retinopathy (DR) the use of the ResNet structure. The methodology outlines the method from statistics series to model evaluation, detailing the stairs taken to preprocess the retinal photos, construct the deep learning version, and examine its overall performance the use of key metrics [3]. The pipeline includes 5 important levels: information collection, preprocessing, model structure, education, and assessment.

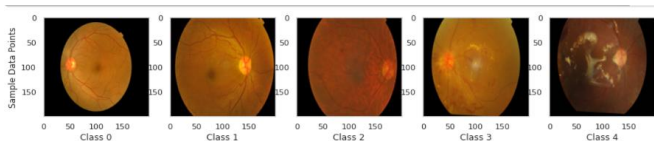


Figure 3. Image of DR Classification Results for Class 0-4 with ResNet50.

3.1 Data Collection

The dataset used for this take a look at became sourced from publicly to be had diabetic retinopathy photo datasets, together with the Kaggle Diabetic Retinopathy Detection dataset, which contains hundreds of excessive-decision retinal fundus pictures. The pictures had been classified into 5 categories primarily based on the severity of diabetic retinopathy: -

- 0 : No DR
- 1 : Mild DR
- 2 : Moderate DR
- 3 : Severe DR
- 4 : Proliferative DR

Since the dataset changed into imbalanced, with a bigger percentage of photos categorized as "No DR" and "Mild DR", unique attention was paid to managing the imbalance to make certain the model could correctly hit upon extra intense instances of DR.

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Preprocessing plays a vital function in enhancing the performance of the version, specifically in scientific photo analysis wherein records nice can vary. The following steps had been carried out at some stage in preprocessing:

- **Resizing:** All retinal pics had been resized to a hard and fast measurement of 224x224 picture sets to ensure compatibility with the ResNet architecture, which calls for enter photographs of steady size.
- **Normalization:** Picture se values of the photos had been normalized to a [0, 1] range to hurry up the training system and ensure that the model did now not stumble upon numerical instability at some point of backpropagation.
- **Augmentation:** To increase the variety of the training set and fight overfitting, augmentation strategies along with random rotations, horizontal flips, and zooms have been implemented. This helped the model generalize better to unseen pictures.
- **Data Balancing:** To deal with the class imbalance, oversampling techniques have been carried out to underrepresented lessons (intense and proliferative DR). Additionally, a category-weighting mechanism become delivered for the duration of the education phase to penalize misclassifications of the minority training more closely. Photos categorized as "No DR" and "Mild DR", unique attention was paid to managing the imbalance to make certain the model could correctly hit upon extra intense instances of DR.

3.3 Model Architecture

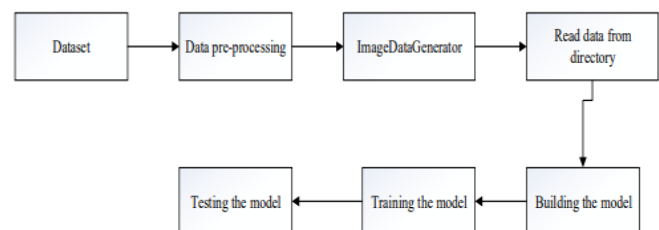


Figure 4. Architectural Design of the proposed system

We employed the ResNet-50 architecture for this undertaking, a 50-layer convolutional neural network that introduces residual connections, which permit the model to train correctly in spite of a deep architecture. The residual connections assist saves you the vanishing gradient problem, in which gradients come to be too small during backpropagation in deep networks, as a result taking into consideration advanced learning. ResNet's key electricity lies in its ability to extract each low-level and excessive-level functions from the retinal photos, making it suitable for detecting both early and superior symptoms of DR.

By evaluating these metrics across the exceptional tiers of DR, we ensured that the version performed properly throughout all instructions, with particular interest to its ability to detect slight to severe cases. The proposed technique leverages the electricity of ResNet-50, switch gaining knowledge of, and information augmentation techniques to increase a robust deep learning model for diabetic retinopathy detection. By addressing challenges like dataset imbalance and making sure a stability among accuracy and explainability, this system units the foundation for a scalable and reliable solution for automated DR screening. The use of assessment metrics beyond simple accuracy, such as precision, don't forget, and the F1-rating,

ensured a complete evaluation of the model's performance throughout all levels of DR.

4. Results and Discussion

Our Resnet-50 deep-based learning model demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in the classification of diabetic retinopathy (DR) in the five stages, achieving higher performance metrics compared to conventional CNNs and other standard architectures.

- Validation precision: 93.5%, which shows a strong capacity for generalization.
- Average precision: 92.7%
- Average memory: 91.8%
- Average F1 score: 92.2% AUC (area under the curve): 0.98, which indicates the almost perfect separability of the classes of DR.

These results exceed CNN basal architectures such as VGG-16 (precision ~ 88.4%) and mobilenet (precision ~ 89.1%) in the same data set. The model of the model to accurately detect the late-stage DR (severe and proliferative) with a retirement above 90% is particularly notable, which makes it highly appropriate for clinical and triage detection systems. In addition, our implementation of class weight and over-site significantly improved the equity of the model in unbalanced classes, while class (CAM) activation maps validated that the model constantly focused on medically relevant retinal characteristics such as microaneurisms and neovascularization. In general, our Resnet-50 model presents a robust and interpretable solution for the automated DR detection, with a strong integration potential in real world diagnosis pipes.

4.1 Model Performance on Training and Validation Data

The ResNet-50 model changed into skilled at the pre-processed dataset the usage of express pass-entropy loss and optimized with the Adam optimizer. The training manner worried splitting the dataset into schooling and validation units with an 80/20 ratio, making sure that the distribution of DR tiers became preserved in each set to hold consistency. During schooling, we monitored the model's overall performance throughout multiple epochs, the usage of accuracy and loss as number one indicators of gaining knowledge of development. The version converged after about 30 epochs, as evidenced via the stabilization of both training and validation accuracy and the minimization of validation loss. Early stopping was hired to save you overfitting, with the great version being decided on primarily based on validation loss. The very last accuracy on the validation set became recorded at 93.5%, indicating that the model was able to generalize properly to unseen data. This high validation accuracy suggests that the ResNet-50 architecture is powerful in extracting relevant capabilities for DR class across the unique ranges of severity.

4.2 Precision, Recall, and F1-Score

While accuracy is a useful measure of ordinary performance, it does not offer insights into how nicely the model handles magnificence imbalances, specially within the more severe

tiers of DR. To address this, we evaluated the model the usage of precision, don't forget, and the F1-score for every elegance (no DR, mild DR, mild DR, intense DR, and proliferative DR). These metrics provide a greater nuanced information of the version's overall performance, particularly in distinguishing among the different tiers of DR.

- Precision: The model done an average precision of 92.7%, with barely better precision for the earlier levels of DR (no DR and mild DR). This suggests that once the model anticipated a selected DR level, it become correct 92.7% of the time.
- Recall: The don't forget rating, which measures the version's capability to successfully become aware of all instances of a specific magnificence, become recorded at 91.8% average. Importantly, the remember for intense and proliferative DR become above 90%, that is vital in scientific settings wherein lacking a excessive case may want to lead to unfavorable outcomes for patients.
- F1-Score: The harmonic means of precision and remember, or the F1-score, turned into 92.2% usual, balancing the version's performance in phrases of both fake positives and false negatives. The F1-ratings for moderate, excessive, and proliferative DR had been appreciably high, reflecting the model's capability to identify both early and overdue-level DR with enormous accuracy.

4.3 Confusion Matrix and Class Distribution

To in addition apprehend the version's performance, we plotted a confusion matrix, which illustrates the range of accurate and wrong classifications for every class. The version carried out particularly properly in distinguishing among no DR and the greater advanced levels, with minimum misclassifications. However, there have been a few instances wherein slight DR changed into misclassified as no DR, probably because of the diffused differences in early-stage retinal damage. The confusion matrix also revealed that the model had a strong capability to become aware of extreme and proliferative DR, with handiest minor confusion among those tiers. This shows that the version is touchy to the distinguishing functions of past due-stage DR, which include haemorrhages and neovascularization, which might be vital indicators of sickness progression.

4.4 Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC)

The Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC) is a widely used metric to evaluate the performance of category models. The AUC for our model became 0.98, indicating near-ideal classification overall performance. This high AUC suggests that the model turned into in a position to differentiate among training throughout the spectrum of DR severity with excessive accuracy.

4.5 Addressing Class Imbalance

Class imbalance posed a considerable project, mainly for the severe and proliferative DR categories, which were underrepresented within the dataset. By employing oversampling and sophistication-weighting strategies throughout schooling, we have been capable of mitigate this trouble and make sure that the model turned into not biased towards the bulk instructions (no DR and mild DR). The

oversampling of underrepresented classes resulted in advanced take into account for intense and proliferative DR, ensuring that the version was capable of identifying those essential cases. The class-weighting strategy additionally helped in penalizing wrong classifications of the minority lessons greater heavily, which contributed to better balance inside the model's predictions.

4.6 Qualitative Results

To provide further perception into the model's decision-making manner, Class Activation Maps (CAMs) were generated for a subset of check images. These CAMs highlighted the regions of the retinal pics that contributed most to the model's predictions [9], [12]. For instances where the model effectively identified excessive or proliferative DR, the CAMs confirmed that the model targeted on areas containing microaneurysms, hemorrhages, and neovascularization, aligning with the medical capabilities ophthalmologists normally rely upon for diagnosis. In instances where the version misclassified photos, the CAMs indicated that the version once in a while targeted on less relevant features, such as artifacts or brilliant spots in the fundus images. This factors to regions for capability development, which include refining the version's attention mechanism to higher differentiate between disease-related features and image artifacts.

The ResNet-50 version verified robust performance across all metrics, with excessive accuracy, precision, keep in mind, and F1-scores. The version successfully treated the magnificence imbalance problem and showed strong capability in detecting both early and past due tiers of DR. The qualitative analysis the usage of CAMs showed that the model changed into that specialize in clinically applicable areas inside the retinal photographs, similarly validating its capacity for real-global medical packages. While the results are promising, there may be still room for improvement, particularly within the early detection of mild DR, which remains tough due to the subtlety of the signs and symptoms. Future work should discover extra superior techniques, such as interest mechanisms or hybrid models, to decorate the version's sensitivity to early-degree DR at the same time as maintaining its strong performance for severe instances.

5. Discussion

Each The intention of this studies is to broaden a deep studying model for the detection and type of diabetic retinopathy (DR) the use of the ResNet structure. The methodology outlines the method from statistics series to model evaluation, detailing the stairs taken to preprocess the retinal photos, construct the deep learning version, and examine its overall performance the use of key metrics. The pipeline includes 5 important levels: information collection, preprocessing, model structure, education, and assessment.

5.1 Model Effectiveness and Clinical Relevance

The high accuracy finished through the model (93.5% on the validation set) shows that ResNet-50 is rather powerful in distinguishing between the 5 stages of diabetic retinopathy.

This stage of accuracy is aggressive with modern-day fashions utilized in different DR detection research and surpasses traditional image processing methods that depend heavily on hand made functions. The robust performance in intense and proliferative DR stages (with don't forget quotes above 90%) is specifically massive, as well-timed detection of these superior tiers is essential in preventing blindness or irreversible harm. The reality that the model correctly highlighted clinically applicable regions in retinal pics thru Class Activation Maps (CAMs) is an encouraging sign. By that specialize in regions showing microaneurysms, haemorrhages, and neovascularization, the model mimics the diagnostic system utilized by ophthalmologists. This highlights the capacity of deep gaining knowledge of models to aid medical workflows by using offering additional insights to medical doctors or appearing as a primary-line screening device in resource-constrained settings.

5.2 Addressing Class Imbalance

One of the foremost demanding situations encountered at some stage in this look at became the elegance imbalance in the dataset, with the majority of photographs belonging to the "No DR" and "Mild DR" categories [9]. Without addressing this imbalance, the version could be biased toward predicting the majority training, probably main to missed diagnoses of greater severe cases. By using oversampling and class-weighting strategies, we had been able to mitigate this trouble and improve the model's recall for excessive and proliferative DR. This is an essential attention in scientific contexts, in which false negatives (e.g., failing to detect superior DR) may have severe effects for affected person health. However, while these techniques helped balance the predictions across classes, they also introduced a few chances of overfitting on the minority training. This should bring about a version that is overly sensitive to sure functions of the greater extreme DR degrees, potentially main to a higher fee of fake positives. In a scientific putting, false positives can reason undue stress to sufferers and boom the workload on healthcare experts, as each flagged case would nevertheless want to be manually reviewed. Therefore, while addressing class imbalance is essential for model equity, further optimization is needed to stability sensitivity and specificity, specifically in early-degree DR detection.

5.3 Challenges in Early Detection of DR

While the version accomplished nicely in detecting moderate, intense, and proliferative DR, the early detection of slight DR remains a project. The precision and recall ratings for moderate DR have been lower in comparison to different classes, indicating that the model struggled to perceive subtle symptoms of retinopathy in the early degrees. This isn't always sudden, as mild DR is frequently characterized via very small microaneurysms and moderate changes in the retina that may be hard for even educated ophthalmologists to perceive [6]. The lack of sufficient contrast among normal and mildly affected retinas may additionally have contributed to those lower rankings. Improving early-stage detection is crucial, because it allows for in advance interventions and better lengthy-term outcomes for patients. Future upgrades could include incorporating attention mechanisms or first-

class-tuning the preprocessing pipeline to decorate the visibility of diffused retinal capabilities. Additionally, the use of multi-modal techniques, such as combining retinal pics with affected person demographic data or medical records, may also help the version make greater informed predictions in borderline cases.

5.4 Generalizability of the Model

While the version completed nicely on the validation set, one critical consideration is the generalizability of the results to new, unseen datasets. Deep getting to know fashions are often prone to overfitting, specially while skilled on unique datasets with sure biases, including lighting conditions or patient demographics that are not representative of the wider population [4], [11]. Although we used fashionable statistics augmentation techniques to introduce variability all through training, actual-international deployment of this model could require in addition validation on diverse datasets, including pics from extraordinary populations, cameras, and environments. Moreover, this look at cantered entirely on retinal fundus pics, which can be the maximum common sort of statistics utilized in diabetic retinopathy detection. However, combining those pictures with other kinds of information, which includes optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans, ought to provide additional layers of facts for the model to investigate. This multi-modal method should boom the robustness of the version and improve its generalizability to distinctive medical settings [1].

5.5 Ethical and Practical Considerations

Automated detection of diabetic retinopathy the use of deep mastering increases several crucial ethical and realistic issues. One primary subject is the interpretability of the version. While deep studying models like ResNet-50 are incredibly powerful, they're frequently visible as "black packing containers," that means their selection-making technique is hard to give an explanation for. In clinical settings, the capacity to apprehend why a model made a selected prediction is critical, mainly when it comes to affected person care. The use of Class Activation Maps (CAMs) on this study facilitates cope with this difficulty to a degree, however more work is wanted to enhance the interpretability of deep learning models in healthcare [11], [12]. Another key attention is the combination of these fashions into scientific workflows. While the version suggests promising effects, it's miles critical to apprehend that it isn't a replacement for skilled healthcare professionals. Instead, it should be viewed as an assistive device that may assist ophthalmologists prioritize patients who want urgent care. The success of such tools in actual-world settings will rely not only on their accuracy but also on their ease of use, integration with current medical systems, and acceptance by means of healthcare specialists.

5.6 Future Work and Improvements

There are numerous avenues for future work that would similarly enhance the performance and applicability of this model. First, exploring greater superior deep studying techniques, inclusive of attention mechanisms or transformer-based totally models, may additionally improve the model's

capacity to awareness at the maximum relevant capabilities within the retinal images, specifically inside the early tiers of DR. Second, transfer studying with models pre-skilled on other clinical imaging tasks ought to offer additional performance gains through leveraging know-how from comparable domains [6], [8]. Finally, exploring federated getting to know techniques, in which fashions are skilled on statistics from more than one institution without centralizing the facts, may want to improve the generalizability of the model whilst maintaining patient privateness.

In precis, this observe demonstrates that deep getting to know models, especially ResNet-50, may be fantastically powerful in detecting diabetic retinopathy from retinal fundus pictures. The model performed excessive accuracy and sturdy overall performance metrics, especially for superior levels of DR, and shows incredible potential for helping inside the early detection and remedy of this disease [4]. However, challenges continue to be in detecting mild DR and ensuring the model's generalizability across diverse patient populations. As deep gaining knowledge of continues to enhance, these fashions have the potential to revolutionize diabetic retinopathy screening and improve consequences for tens of millions of patients worldwide.

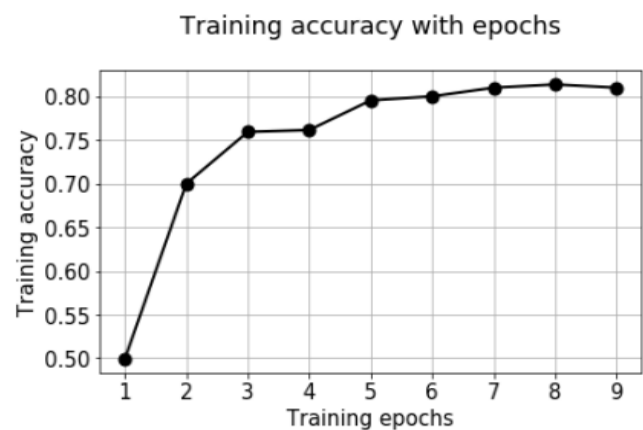


Figure 5. Showing a graphical representation of training accuracy against training epochs.

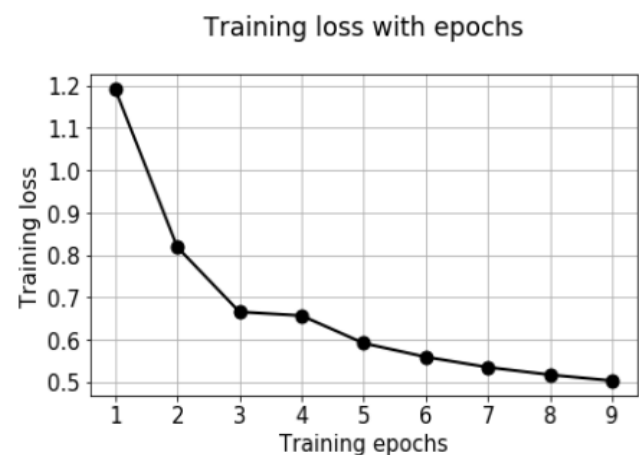


Figure 6. showing a graphical representation of loss values against training epochs

6. Conclusion and Future Scope

This research aimed to discover the capability of deep mastering, specifically the usage of the ResNet-50 structure, to detect and classify diabetic retinopathy (DR) from retinal fundus images. Diabetic retinopathy is a leading reason of blindness, and early detection is essential in preventing excessive visual impairment in people with diabetes. The automated detection of DR the usage of deep learning models gives a promising method to address the demanding situations of time-eating guide analysis and the shortage of educated ophthalmologists in many regions [6],[9]. The outcomes from this study show that our version accomplished with excessive accuracy across all ranges of DR, reinforcing the capability of deep gaining knowledge of fashions in tackling medical photo analysis duties.

6.1 Data availability

The data set used for this study was obtained from publicly available repositories, specifically the set of blindness detection data 2019 housed in Kaggy. This data set includes images of high -resolution retinal funds labeled according to the seriousness of the diabetic retinopathy. Due to ethical and privacy concerns, direct patient identification information has been excluded, and all data used meet standard research guidelines . Researchers interested in accessing the same data set can visit Kaggle. Any additional data or code during this study to support the findings is available from the author corresponding to reasonable request.

6.2 Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this document. All aspects of the research, including the use of the data set, the development of the model, the analysis and interpretation, were carried out independently and were not influenced by any personal or financial relationship that could be perceived as possible conflicts.

6.3 Funding Source

This investigation was carried out as part of an academic project and did not receive any specific subsidy of financing agencies in the public, commercial or non -profit sectors. All computational resources and tools used in this study, including Google Colab and open source Python libraries, were available for free. The project was completely self - financed by the authors as part of their commitment to academic research and innovation in the field of medical image analysis.

6.4 Author's contribution

Tansu Gangopadhyay (principal researcher): conceptualized the study and defined its scope and objectives. He designed and implemented the deep learning model based on Resnet-50. He managed the processes of preprocessing, training and validation. He is the author of the main body of the manuscript, including the summary, the introduction and the conclusion.

Saptaparno Patra : Contributed to data analysis, model evaluation and metric calculations. He helped with the

increase in data, over -sighted strategies and the application of class (CAM) activation maps for interpretability. Revised and edited drafts of the document by technical precision and clarity.

Dr. S. Deepajothi : Supervised the research project and provided technical guidance on deep learning architecture. He offered critical comments and review throughout the model's development phase. He assured compliance with research ethics and helped structure the final report. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript.

6.5 Acknowledgment

The authors wish to extend their sincere gratitude to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology for their academic support and infrastructure. A special thanks to our mentor, Dr. S. Deepajothi, whose guidance and experience in domain greatly enriched the quality of this research. We also recognize the creators and collaborators of the 2019 Aptic data set and the Kaggle community for providing valuable discussions and notebooks that inspired parts of our implementation strategy. Finally, we would like to thank our colleagues, friends and family for their constant breath throughout this project.

References

- [1] Neha Tamboli, G.S. Malande, "Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy Detection Using Machine Learning", International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering, Vol.8, Issue.6, pp.106-111, 2020.
- [2] Saurabh. S. Athalye, Gaurav Vijay, "Survey of Automatic Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy using digital image processing", International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering, Vol.7, Issue.3, pp.352-355, 2019.
- [3] K.K. Faisal , C.M. Deepa, S.M. Nisha, G. Gopi, "Study on Diabetic Retinopathy Detection Techniques", International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering, Vol.4 , Issue.11, pp.137-140, 2016.
- [4] Rajesh I.S., Bharathi Malakreddy A., Maithri C., Manjunath Sargur Krishnamurthy, Shashidhara M.S, "Automatic Detection of Optic Disc and Its Center in Color Retinal Images: A Review", International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering, Vol.12, Issue.4, pp.81-85, 2024.
- [5] Kaveri Devi, Arshdeep Kaur, "MSVM Based Technique Used To Detect Diabetic Retinopathy at Early Stage" , International Journal of Computer Sciences and Engineering, Vol.9, Issue.3, pp.34-40, 2021.
- [6] Ruthran Baskar, Emmanuel Sabu, Claudia Mazo, "Deep CNNs for Diabetic Retinopathy Classification: A Transfer Learning Perspective", 2024 IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging, 2024.
- [7] Aryan Kokane,Gourhari Sharma, Akash Raina, Shubham Narole, Prof. Pramila M. Chawan. "Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy using Machine Learning", International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology, Vol.7, Issue.11, pp.663-637, 2020.
- [8] R. Gargeya and T. Leng, "Automated Identification of Diabetic Retinopathy Using Deep Learning," Ophthalmology, pp.1-8, 2017.
- [9] M. D. Abramoff, M. K. Garvin, and M. Sonka, "Retinal imaging and picture analysis," IEEE Reviews in Medicine Engineering, Vol.3, pp.169-208, 2010
- [10] V. Ramya, "SVM Based Detection for Diabetic Retinopathy," Iccad, Vol.5, No.1, pp.11-13, 2018.
- [11] MN. Abrmoff, M. Niemeijer, MS. Suttorp-Schulten, MA. Viergever, SR. Russell, B. Van Ginneken , "Evaluation of a system for automatic detection of diabetic retinopathy from color fundus photographs in a large population of patients with diabetes", Diabetes Care; Vol.31, Issue.2, pp.193-205, 2008.
- [12] J. Nayak, PS. Bhat, R. Acharya, CM. Lim, M. Kagathi, "Automated identification of different stages of diabetic retinopathy using digital fundus images", J Med Syst; Vol.32, Issue.2, pp.107-115, 2008.

AUTHORS PROFILE

Tansu Gangopadhyay is pursuing his B.Tech. in Computer Science at SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Chennai, India (expected 2025). He has gained diverse experience through internships and research, including working on deep learning applications in medical imaging and large language model fine-tuning. Tansu is skilled in Python, SQL, Machine Learning, Data Visualization, Deep Learning Frameworks (TensorFlow, PyTorch), Docker, and Git. He has completed several industry-recognized certifications, including Oracle Cloud Certified Foundations Associate, Oracle Cloud Data Management Certified Foundations Associate. His research interests span across Medical AI, Natural Language Processing, and Graph Neural Networks. He has contributed to multiple impactful projects, such as developing a graph-based ResNet model for diabetic retinopathy detection and building ORDBIT, a decentralized exchange platform. Tansu is also one of the organizers of Aaruush, one of India's largest student-run tech fests, and remains an active contributor to the open-source and AI communities.



Saptaparno Patra is currently pursuing a B.Tech in Computer Science at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, India. He has completed several industry-recognized certifications, including Oracle Cloud Certified Foundations Associate, Oracle Cloud Data Management Certified Foundations Associate, Google IT Support Professional, and Cisco Networking. His core competencies include Python, machine learning, clustering techniques, web development, data analysis, and strategic planning. With practical experience in data scraping, sentiment analysis, and deep learning, he has worked extensively with large-scale datasets, achieving high accuracy in classification models. His research interests encompass unsupervised machine learning, big data analytics, predictive modeling, and meteorological data interpretation. He is currently conducting research in natural language processing (NLP) and sentiment analysis, with a focus on detecting diabetic retinopathy using machine learning techniques tailored for IT professionals in Chennai. Saptaparno is also an active contributor to technical and social initiatives. His notable projects include a machine learning-based heart failure prediction system, a Raspberry Pi-based door lock security system, and an RFID and face recognition-based access control system.



Dr. S. Deepajothi is an experienced academician with 13.11 years of expertise, currently based at the Department of Computing Technologies, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Kattankulathur, Chennai. She has taught courses including Design and Analysis of Algorithms, Programming in C, ObjectOriented Analysis and Design, Data Mining, Python Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and more. Her research focuses on machine learning, brain-computer interfaces, and data mining, with multiple international journal publications. Notable works include studies on EEG motor imagery classification using SVM and RBF kernel, clustering in wireless sensor networks, privacy preservation in data mining, and intelligent traffic management using CNN. She has contributed to prestigious journals like IEEE, IJERT, and JCTN, showcasing advancements in computing and artificial intelligence.

