International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 09 Issue: 05 | May - 2025 SJIF Rating: 8.586 ISSN: 2582-3930

Fruit Disease Detection System Using Deep Learning

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Abstract

Timely identification of fruit diseases is essential for enhancing crop yields and reducing financial setbacks in agriculture. This research introduces an advanced detection system based on deep learning, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), combined with OpenCV and associated libraries. The proposed model is built to detect and classify a variety of fruit diseases by learning visual patterns from high-quality fruit images. The dataset includes both healthy and infected fruits, capturing diverse scenarios. To prepare the data, preprocessing methods like augmentation, resizing, and normalization are implemented via OpenCV to improve dataset quality and variety. A CNN architecture is designed to extract deep visual features and achieve accurate classification. Techniques like transfer learning help optimize the model's accuracy while keeping resource usage efficient. Experimental evaluations show excellent performance in terms of precision, recall, and accuracy, indicating strong applicability in real-world settings. This system significantly outperforms traditional manual approaches, providing scalable and swift decision-making tools for agricultural professionals. It lays the groundwork for integrating intelligent systems into precision agriculture to foster more efficient and eco-friendly farming.

Key Words: Fruit Disease Detection, Convolutional Neural Networks, Deep Learning In Agriculture, OpenCV.

1.INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of global food supply and economic stability. One pressing issue in this domain is the outbreak of fruit diseases, which drastically affect yield quality and overall production, ultimately hurting farmers' earnings and disrupting the market. Detecting these diseases early and accurately is critical for loss prevention and timely intervention. Traditional methods relying on human expertise and visual examination are slow, labor-intensive, and error-prone, particularly in large-scale agricultural settings.

Recent progress in artificial intelligence (AI) and computer vision has opened the door to smart solutions for this problem. Among these, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have become a leading approach for image recognition and classification due to their high performance and ability to learn features directly from image data. CNNs are widely applied across sectors—from healthcare diagnostics to autonomous systems—and are increasingly being used in agricultural applications.

However, deploying CNNs in agricultural disease detection comes with challenges such as the scarcity of annotated datasets. To mitigate this, methods like transfer learning and data augmentation are employed. Transfer learning utilizes pre-trained models, originally trained on extensive image datasets, to extract relevant features from smaller, agriculture-specific datasets. Data augmentation, through techniques like flipping, rotation, and zooming, helps simulate a larger and more diverse dataset from limited samples.

This study aims to develop a reliable and scalable fruit disease detection system using CNNs, enhanced by computer vision tools such as OpenCV. The goal is to improve the precision of disease classification while overcoming limitations posed by small datasets. The proposed solution offers a modern, automated alternative to traditional inspection methods and supports the evolution of AI-powered smart farming.

2. Methodology

Dataset Acquisition:

For this study, a dataset consisting of RGB images of both healthy and infected fruits was compiled. The images were sourced from publicly accessible platforms like PlantVillage, Forestry Images, and various regional agricultural databases. The dataset includes several classes of fruit diseases to ensure diversity and comprehensive representation of real-world conditions.

Image Preprocessing:

To standardize the dataset for training, several preprocessing steps were applied. Each image was resized uniformly to 224×224 pixels and normalized to bring pixel values into the [0, 1] range. To address the issue of data scarcity and enhance model generalization, data augmentation techniques such as horizontal flipping, zoom (up to 20%), rotation (up to 40°), and width/height shifts (up to 15%) were utilized. These transformations increased dataset variability and reduced the risk of overfitting.

Model Design:

The system uses the MobileNetV2 architecture—a lightweight, efficient CNN model suitable for deployment on mobile and edge devices. This architecture was initially trained on the large-scale ImageNet dataset. For this specific task, the pre-trained weights were fine-tuned to improve classification accuracy on fruit disease images. A dense layer followed by a softmax activation function was appended to generate final classification results.

Training Setup:

Training was conducted using the Adam optimizer, initialized with a learning rate of 0.001. The loss function used was sparse categorical cross-entropy. The model was trained over 20 epochs with a batch size of 16. To ensure reliable performance evaluation, the dataset was divided into training and validation sets in an 80:20 ratio.

Evaluation Metrics:

The model's effectiveness was measured using key performance indicators.

precision, **recall**, and **F1-score**. A confusion matrix was also analyzed to assess class-wise prediction accuracy and highlight misclassification trends. A macro-average F1-score was calculated to summarize the model's overall capability across all categories.

Modeling Analysis

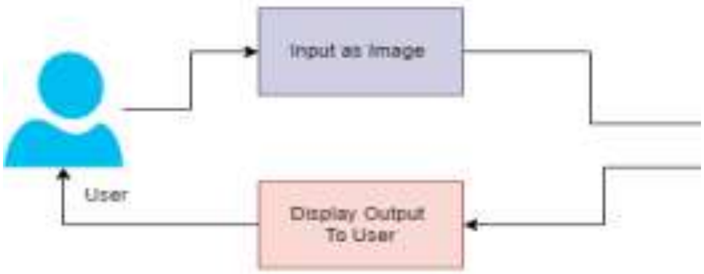

Figure 1: Architecture Flow Diagram.

CNN Workflow in Fruit Disease Detection (Paraphrased)
Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) play a crucial role in fruit disease detection systems due to their exceptional performance in image processing and classification tasks. The typical CNN pipeline in this application involves the following components:

1. **Input Layer:**
The system begins by receiving high-resolution RGB images of fruits. Each image is preprocessed—resized to a consistent dimension (such as 224x224 pixels) and normalized—to ensure uniformity and enhance learning efficiency.
2. **Convolutional Layers:**
These layers are responsible for extracting key features from the images. Initially, basic patterns like edges and textures are captured. As the network deepens, more complex and disease-specific features are learned. The convolution filters identify and preserve spatial hierarchies crucial for accurate classification.
3. **Pooling Layers:**
Pooling operations—commonly max pooling—are applied to reduce the dimensionality of feature maps. This helps in retaining the most important features while decreasing computational load, enabling faster and more efficient processing.
4. **Fully Connected Layers:**
After feature extraction, the network flattens the data and passes it through dense (fully connected) layers. These layers interpret the features and produce predictions about the class of the input image, whether healthy or affected by a particular disease.
5. **Softmax Output Layer:**
The final layer utilizes a softmax activation function to generate a probability distribution across all target classes (such as Healthy, Scab, Mildew, or Rot), indicating the most likely classification for the given fruit image.

Structured Process and Result Explanation for the Fruit Disease Detection System (Paraphrased)

1. **Dataset Construction:**
   - A comprehensive image dataset is compiled, containing visuals of both infected and healthy fruits.
   - Each sample is meticulously labeled with its corresponding disease symptoms to ensure effective model training.
2. **Image Selection:**
   - Users can select a specific fruit image for testing via a graphical interface (GUI) by clicking the "Select Image" button.
3. **Image Preprocessing:**
   - The chosen image is resized to standard dimensions to maintain consistency across the dataset.
   - A color conversion step (e.g., RGB to grayscale) is performed.
   - Histogram equalization is applied to improve image contrast and clarity.
4. **Segmentation:**
   - The preprocessed image is segmented using clustering techniques such as fuzzy c-means to isolate the infected areas from the rest of the fruit.
5. **Feature Extraction:**
   - Key statistical properties like mean, variance, skewness, and kurtosis are computed to quantify and describe the characteristics of the diseased region.
6. **Disease Detection and Classification:**
   - The extracted features are passed through a CNN model trained for classification tasks.
   - The system outputs the predicted disease (e.g., “Apple – Bitter Rot”) along with a confidence score.
7. **Result Presentation:**
   - The predicted disease label is displayed to the user along with the time taken to complete the detection process.

Conclusion (Paraphrased) :

This research introduces a deep learning-based approach for identifying fruit diseases using Convolutional Neural Networks, which delivers highly accurate and dependable results. By incorporating the MobileNetV2 architecture alongside techniques like transfer learning and data augmentation, the model showcases the practical advantages of AI in tackling issues within the agricultural domain. The findings validate the system's efficiency in classifying different fruit diseases, establishing it as a promising asset for precision farming.

Furthermore, the application of preprocessing methods—including image resizing, normalization, and augmentation—contributes significantly to the model's stability and performance, even with limited training data. This reinforces the potential of such intelligent systems in supporting farmers with faster, scalable, and more consistent disease diagnosis, ultimately advancing modern agricultural practices.
These results suggest that integrating AI and computer vision in agriculture can enhance disease control strategies, reduce financial losses, and encourage more sustainable farming practices. Moving forward, research should aim to broaden the dataset by including more fruit varieties and disease categories, thereby improving the model's generalizability. Incorporating edge computing technologies will also be key in making the system more scalable and suitable for widespread use in diverse agricultural environments. These developments will further validate the system's effectiveness and support its adoption for global agricultural needs.

VI. References

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3. CONCLUSIONS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The classified disease is displayed along with the execution time for detection. .

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