



The Diagnosis of Diabetic Retinopathy: An Evaluation of Different Classifiers with the Inception V3 Model as a Feature Extractor

Farhan Nabil Mohd Noor¹, Wan Hasbullah Mohd Isa¹, Ismail Mohd Khairuddin¹,
Mohd Azraai Mohd Razman¹, Rabiuh Muazu Musa², Ahmad Fakhri Ab. Nasir^{1,3,4},
and Anwar P. P. Abdul Majeed^{1,3,5,6,7}(✉)

¹ Innovative Manufacturing, Mechatronics and Sports (iMAMS) Laboratory, Faculty of
Manufacturing and Mechatronic Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 26600 Pekan,
Pahang, Malaysia

amajeed@ump.edu.my

² Centre for Fundamental and Liberal Education, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT),
21030 Kuala Nerus, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu Darul Iman, Malaysia

³ Centre for Software Development and Integrated Computing, Universiti Malaysia Pahang,
26600 Pekan, Malaysia

⁴ Faculty of Computing, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 26600 Pekan, Malaysia

⁵ Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment, UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur
Campus, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

⁶ EUREKA Robotics Centre, Cardiff School of Technologies, Cardiff Metropolitan Univer-Sity,
Cardiff C5 2YB, UK

⁷ School of Robotics, XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang), Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool
University, Suzhou 215123, P. R. China

Abstract. Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is a type of eye disease that is caused by diabetes mellitus. The elevated blood glucose level causes the expansion of the blood vessels that results in the leaking of the blood and other fluids. DR is a silent disease in which those inflicted with it are unaware until irregularities in the retina have advanced to the point where treatment is difficult or impossible to administer, resulting in them losing their sight completely. However, it is worth noting that early treatment can solve this problem. Hence, the purpose of this study is to develop a transfer learning pipeline for diagnosing DR. The data in the present study was obtained from the Kaggle database, and the pre-trained InceptionV3 model was employed to extract the features from the images acquired. The features are fed into the three different classifiers, namely, Support Vector Machine (SVM), *k*-Nearest Neighbour (*k*NN) and the Random Forest (RF). It was shown from the present investigation that the InceptionV3-SVM pipeline demonstrated the best performance by achieving 100%, 98% and 96% classification accuracy for the training, testing and validation dataset. The results further suggest the possible deployment of the pipeline for the diagnosis of DR.

Keywords: Transfer learning · Diabetic retinopathy · InceptionV3 · kNN · RF · SVM