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Article

Deep Learning Techniques for Crop Health Monitoring and Disease Detection

Rondik J. Hassan1, Kazheen Isamel Taher2

[1] Department of Information Technology, Akre Technical Institute, Akre University for Applied Science, Kurdistan Region, Iraq
rondik.hasan@auas.edu.krd
[2] Department of Information Technology, Technical Collage of Informatics Akre, Akre University for Applied Science, Kurdistan Region, Iraq
Kazheen.ismael@auas.edu.krd

Abstract: This paper explores how deep learning methods can be used to monitor the health of crops and identify diseases, particularly for the apple crop. As the need for food security and sustainable farming methods increases, there is a strong demand for early detection of crop diseases. We have used a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), based on the model of VGG16 architecture, since the model is known to be effective in image classification. The dataset contained 7771 training images for to enhance machines deep learning regarding plant diseases. Following that, validation image collection of 1747 images divided into four health conditions of the apple crops. In addition, the model was evaluated using 196 new images as a final test. To enhance the model capacity for recognizing diseases of real leaves rather than just memorize exact training pictures, data augmentation was used with ImageDataGenerator of TensorFlow. This means the training images were zoomed, rotated, and shifted to enable the machine detects more variations. Ten epochs of training were performed to measure the model accuracy. The results indicated that the model obtained significant improvement in training and validation accuracy from 56.43% to 78.12% and 92.94 to 96.93%, respectively. Most impressively, the final test dataset, which contained completely new images, scored an accuracy rate of 98%. The results indicate that in the architecture field the application of deep learning methodologies is effective, suggesting that automated detection of diseases by using sophisticated image analysis manages crop diseases identification efficiently. Combination of these methods successfully creates avenues for novel research to built real-time systems of crop disease monitoring, which help farmers increase their productions and farm their lands sustainably.

Keywords: Deep Learning, Crop Disease Detection ,Disease Classification ,CNN ,VGG16 Architecture ,Data Augmentation

1. Introduction

One of the most significant major pillars of the global economy is Agriculture. It serves as one of the primary sources to supply food security all over the world. As it is predicted that the world population will rise to almost ten billion by 2050, there will be significant requirement on agricultural output [1] [2]. Meanwhile, many environmental challenges, such as global warming, soil erosion, and water shortages affect agriculture, reducing the amount of food we will need. That is why new solutions are required urgently so as to enhance the health of crops and guarantee their maximum produce [3] [4] [5] Traditional forms of surveillance and monitoring, which in the majority of cases rely on a physical examination and laboratory testing, can be labor-intensive, time-consuming, and prone to human error. This has created a need for technological invention that can be used to automate such processes [6]. Artificial intelligence (AI), especially deep learning, has transformed several industries, such as healthcare, finance, and transportation, and is currently making noticeable advances in agriculture [7]. Deep learning is a subset of machine learning that uses multilayer artificial neural networks. It is especially successful in the tasks of pattern recognition and classification tasks [8]. Deep learning models, by analyzing large volumes of data, are capable of discovering features in images, and therefore, they are especially applicable in monitoring the health of crops and detecting diseases [9]. The use of these technologies has the potential to transform agricultural activities because it enables more precise, efficient, and timely assessments of the status of crops. Crop health monitoring is a crucial way of preventing outbreaks of diseases, controlling pests, and making decisions about the allocation of resources. Plant diseases that remain unnoticed may result in major losses to the economy and a decrease in food supply to both farmers and consumers [10] [11]. As an example, apple scab, powdery mildew, and fire blight are the types of diseases that easily propagate in the apple orchards, causing significant yield losses when uncontrolled. Thus, early disease detection will enable early interventions to be performed, and the use of chemical pesticides may be diminished, in favor of sound, sustainable practice [12] [13] [14]. The present study examines the possibility of applying deep learning methods, namely Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), to monitor the health of apple crops and identify diseases [15]. Using a collection of Apple photos, this study applies the VGG16 architecture, which is an established model in the image classification field, yet we will apply data augmentation to increase model strength. The present research aims to evaluate the model for classifying various health conditions of apple crops, as well as to determine the feasibility of incorporating such practices into the daily farming activities. The study's significance goes beyond the realm of academic research. These findings could support farmers' decision-making and lead to better productivity and sustainability as they provide a viable model for measuring crop health. In addition, the experience gained in this research is useful for broader applications of technologies in agriculture to improve the adoption of precision agriculture. As the agricultural landscape continues to change, so do the solutions that are needed to address the challenges and complexities of new farms, and the solutions presented in this study are very important in doing that. To discuss the related work in this area, we provided prior research and the progress in crop health monitoring in Section I. In Section II, the methodology that was adopted in this paper is presented, including the dataset, the model architecture, and the training procedures. The findings are then presented in Section IV, including the performance measures of the model and the results of the tests conducted. Section V presents the findings and possible future research, and Section VI is the conclusion, which summarizes the contribution and importance of this work to the area of agricultural technology.

2. Related Work

Deep learning methods have received significant attention in the field detecting plant disease, because such methods can capture the detailed patterns from complex visual data. Previous research in deep learning illustrated that one of the most effective models in recognizing patters is CNNs, which able to detect plant diseases directly from leaf images. This facilitates the way for improvements in the training methods and design of CNN architectures. In recent years, with the increase use of deep learning, plant disease detection has changed. Nowadays, its models enable an accurate, scalable and automated monitoring system of crop diseases. Complex visual symptoms, small training sets, and variability in real-world data have led to the development of recent studies using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), attention mechanisms, and hybrid architectures.

[16] designed a MobileNet-based CNN model that uses an attention-enhanced mechanism to classify apple leaf diseases. The model was able to effectively focus on the regions of leaves affected by the disease by incorporating the channel-wise attention mechanisms. The results of the experiments showed an accuracy of 98.7%, which exceeded that of the basic MobileNet and ResNet architectures, especially when it comes to the ability to distinguish between diseases that are visually similar, such as apple scab and powdery mildew.

(Ataman and Eroğlu, 2024) evaluated several deep CNN architectures (VGG16, ResNet50, MobileNetV2, and InceptionV3) on a multi-crop plant disease dataset. Their results indicated that VGG16 showed the highest performance stability (accuracy >96%) while the MobileNetV2 had faster inference speeds with slightly lower accuracy. The study emphasized that the VGG16 network with transfer learning and data augmentation is robust.

Further, the comparison was extended by adding DenseNet201, EfficientNet-B3, and VGG16 for plant disease classification under various imaging conditions by [18]. They tested DenseNet and VGG16 on their augmentation methods, showing both networks achieved a higher accuracy of more than 97% for their experiments, especially when using more aggressive augmentation methods. The authors highlighted that despite the newer models, VGG models are still competitive. Deep learning models with hybrid characteristics have been receiving attention.

[19] proposed an improved deep learning model for the diagnosis of apple leaf disease in which convolutional block attention mechanisms are introduced along with Ghost networks and YOLOv8 detection model. They achieved a better performance in localization and classification of the diseases, showing the benefits of using attention mechanisms together with object detection models for the monitoring of agricultural diseases.

To enhance the model's adaptability for different environmental conditions, [20] proposed a multi-dataset deep learning method. They identified that models trained with multiple datasets clearly outperform models trained with single datasets, which is a limitation of the lab-based training, and also increases the capacity of deployment in the real world.

[21] suggested a hybrid deep learning system called “CTPlantNet,” which combined convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and vision transformers (ViTs) for apple leaf disease detection. Their results showed outstanding accuracy of 98.28% with the Plant Pathology 2020-FGVC-7 dataset and 95.96% on the Plant Pathology 2021-FGVC-8 dataset, outperforming the state-of-the-art models.

[22] proposed a machine learning approach for the detection of diseases in pigs, using feeding behavior traits. Their study examined 794,509 observation days of 10,261 pigs, on the basis of variables such as the number of visits made to the feeders each day (NVD), the time spent feeding at the daily feeder (TPD), and the daily feed intake (DFI). These results were respectable with a seven-day window model with an AUC of 80%, sensitivity of 67%, and specificity of 73%. However, the accuracy was fairly poor, which was attributed to the low frequency of the symptoms observed, the authors said. The findings in this study underline the potential benefits of using data on the feeding behavior of automated systems to improve the detection of disease in pigs, but also show that there are still problems with the data imbalance and with the level of accuracy of the predictions.

[23] proposed a novel approach using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for the classification of apple leaf diseases using a large dataset of images. The approach consists of preprocessing and data augmentation to boost the model performance, along with hyperparameter optimization. The CNN performance reached 99% accuracy, with promising performance in the detection of early diseases in apple production and the consideration of the environmental and image factors. Future research will focus on expanding the data set and increasing the robustness of the model to better detect and predict.

[24] designed an application for mobile phones that was able to classify maize leaf diseases using a pretrained CNN architecture called VGG16. The model can accuracy diagnose northern corn leaf blight, common rust, and gray leaf spots in maize leaves in tropical conditions. The images used for generating the underlying model consisted of 3024 images, including publicly available and field-collected. With a smaller number of training parameters, the model achieved a training accuracy of 95.16% and a testing accuracy of 93%. The approach offers farmers an early warning system for identifying plant diseases, so they can take action proactively before significant reductions in yield become an issue.

For detecting fruit diseases from high-resolution images, [25] proposed a deep learning method based on VGG16 architecture. This method relies on pre-trained models that are fine-tuned using a large amount of data to accurately classify diseases such as apple scab and citrus greening using a convolutional neural network (CNN).A large collection of both healthy and diseased leaves of apple crops are used in model training under several light conditions. Applying these techniques in the training was for the purpose of mimicking the real healthy states of the apple crops. Moreover, the evaluation illustrates that the model detects the plant diseases sufficiently. This is evidenced in the model results in accuracy rate, F1-score value, recall and precision. This automated crop disease detection provides farmers with effective system for monitoring crop health, reducing pesticide use, and improving the use of resource at all times. With a high accuracy of 96.5, the VGG16-based model offers a new solution for early disease detection, supporting sustainable farming and keeping plants healthy .

Recent studies have shown that deep learning models detect plant diseases effectively. The models such as; CNN-based and hybrid obtained an accuracy ranging between 97% and 99%. The generalization and robustness of such models heavily depend on three essential techniques that attention mechanisms, data augmentation, and transfer learning. Inspired by these findings from the existing literature, the current study uses a transfer learning model VGG16 in which massive data augmentation techniques were used to sufficiently detect apple crop diseases, achieving precise and reliable disease classification.

3. Methodology

A-Dataset

Obviously, the performance and success of any deep learning model is depended on the variety and the quality of the data used. In the present study, a dataset that was built for monitoring crop health was used, particularly apple crop diseases were focused on. The dataset contains a total number of 9714 images. These images are categorized into four classes that are apples with apple scalp, apples with powdery mildew, apples with fire blight, and healthy apples. The quality and variety of the data largely determine the success of any deep learning model. In this work, a dataset designed for crop health monitoring was used, focusing on apple crops. The total number of images in the dataset is

9,714 and it is divided into four different classes that are healthy apples, apples with apple scab, apples with powdery mildew, and apples with fire blight. The pictures are obtained form open-source databases and agricultural research sources, providing a broad range of various apple health conditions. The image acquisition process was planned carefully to grantee the realizability and robustness of the dataset. Various lightening conditions, backgrounds, and angels were used in capturing the images to reflect the real-world conditions. This enables the model to achieve high accuracy and strong generalization when processing unobserved images. The dataset divided into three subcategorizations as presented table 1.

Table 1: Dataset Composition And Splitting

Subset	**Number of Images**	**Percentage**
Training Set	7,771	~80%
Validation Set	1,747	~18%
Test Set	196	~2%
Total	9,714	100%

B- Data Preparation and Augmentation

For preparing model training data one of the most crucial steps is to preprocess the data. In this study, all images were edited to a fixed size of 224 x 224 pixels, ensuring that all the images are consistent when being inputted in the CNN model. Preprocessing of the data is a crucial step in preparing the data for model training. First of all, all the images were resized to a fixed size of 224 x 224 pixels so that they are all consistent when input to the CNN. This process is essential since fixed sizes of inputs are typically required in models of deep learning. In order to further improve the dataset and make the model more resistant to overfitting, we used data augmentation methods with ImageDataGenerator of TensorFlow. Data augmentation artificially increases the size of the training set, using random transformations on the existing pictures, to increase the variability and enabling the model to be trained on diverse images. The augmentations employed in this study are detailed in Table 2, which outlines the specific techniques and their corresponding parameter values.

Table 2: Applied data augmentation techniques

Technique	**Parameter Value**
Rotation	±20 degrees
Width shift	0.1
Height shift	0.1
Shear transformation	Applied
Zoom	Up to 20%
Horizontal flip	Enabled

Moreover, pixel values were normalized by rescaling them to the range of 0 to 1. This is an important step for normalization to ensure that all features in the input contribute equally during training, and model convergence is rapid.

C- Model Architecture

This paper classifies apple crop diseases using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture, based on the VGG16 model. VGG16 was selected because of its reputation as a deep hierarchical network that performs well in image classification tasks. By applying transfer learning, it was possible to use pre-trained weights trained on the ImageNet dataset to enhance the performance of feature extraction and generalization. The general structure and the workflow of the proposed model are depicted in Figure 1 which shows the sequence of transformations of the input images by the VGG16 convolutional base and the proposed classification layers.

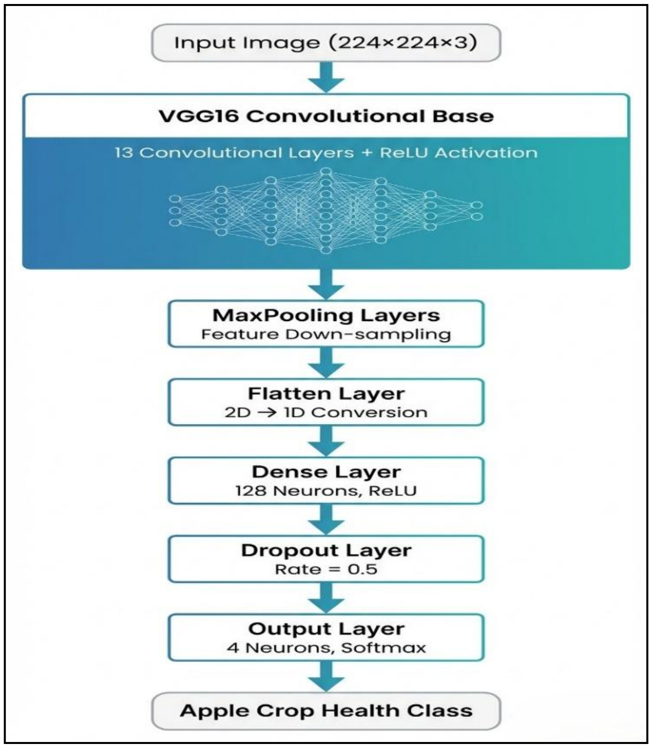

Figure 1: Proposed VGG16-based CNN architecture

As shown in the figure 1 the VGG16 convolutional base was used with include top = False, allowing the removal of the original fully connected layers and enabling adaptation to the four-class apple disease classification task. The base model consists of 13 convolutional layers with ReLU activation functions, interspersed with MaxPooling layers that reduce spatial dimensionality and extract hierarchical features. To tailor the model for classification, custom layers were appended after the convolutional base. A Flatten layer converts the extracted feature maps into a one-dimensional vector, followed by a Dense layer with 128 neurons and ReLU activation. A Dropout layer with a rate of 0.5 was incorporated to reduce overfitting. Finally, a Softmax output layer produces probability distributions for the four apple health classes. The processed CNN model configuration with all its details is outlined in Table 3. It’s configuration matches with the flowchart that together facilitate the reproduction of the identical model by other researchers.

Table 3: Summary of the proposed CNN model architecture

Layer / Block	**Configuration / Description**
Input Layer	224 × 224 RGB image
VGG16 Convolutional Base	13 convolutional layers with ReLU activation
MaxPooling	Spatial down-sampling
Flatten	Converts feature maps to 1D vector
Dense Layer	128 neurons, ReLU
Dropout	Rate = 0.5
Output Layer	4 neurons, Softmax

D-TRAINING PROCESS

Efficient improvement of the model was achieved using the Adam Optimizer, which automatically adjusts the learning speed of the model. Since the images were categorized into four classes, categorical cross-entry was used as loss function in the model. The following procedures were performed in the training process:

Epochs: The dataset was used over ten epochs in training the model. This may seem limited, but the model learning stopped at this point as it was illustrated by initial validation errors and evaluation of convergence.

Batch Size: A batch size of 32 images was chosen to guarantee optimal balance between computational efficiency and model generalization. This batch size was applied during the training to competently utilize the GPU memory.

Monitoring Metrics: The accuracy rates of validation and training were observed throughout the training process to provide the insight about how successfully the model achieved its aims in real time. Additionally, all the information in across 10 epochs was maintained to smoothly detect limitations and enable visual accuracy.

E-CALLBACKS

Several callbacks were applied using Keras, to improve the model training process:

Early stopping: This was an automatic call that paused the training when the validation loss obtained no progress for five epochs in row. Furthermore, it prevented time wasting and power and protected the model from overfitting.

Model checkpoint: This was of the essential features of the model that saved the best version throughout the training process. It also allowed for recovery of the best version.

By applying such methodologies, the study aimed to configure a model that is robust and able to monitor the crop health conditions accurately and detect diseases efficiently. This enables the users to user to apply the model in real world practices of the agriculture.

4. RESULTS

For the evaluation efficiency of the deep learning model a set of metrics that recorded while processing each epoch was employed. First of all, a detailed flowchart of the whole workflow was shown to offer a comprehensive view of the model evaluation process and development. Next, the results of each training epoch were recorded in a table. After that, the variations of the accuracy and the loss trends were visualized in graphs, predictions of the model were illustrated on unobserved images. Finally, the result of the final evaluation test was presented. Together these steps highlight the learning development of the model, reliability, and its performance of classification the health conditions of the apple crops (apple scalp, powdery mildew, fire blight, and healthy)

A-WORKFLOW FLOWCHART

The entire process of the proposed system aimed at monitoring health conditions and disease detection of the apple crop was presented. In a consecutive and organized manner, the primary procedures in creating, training and evaluating the learning model is shown the flowchart. In Figure 2, the overall process of the proposed apple crop health monitoring and disease detection system is shown. The flowchart shows the important steps in creating, training, and evaluating the deep learning model in an organized and sequential manner. This systematic approach ensures reproducibility, robustness, and clarity in the experimental procedure.

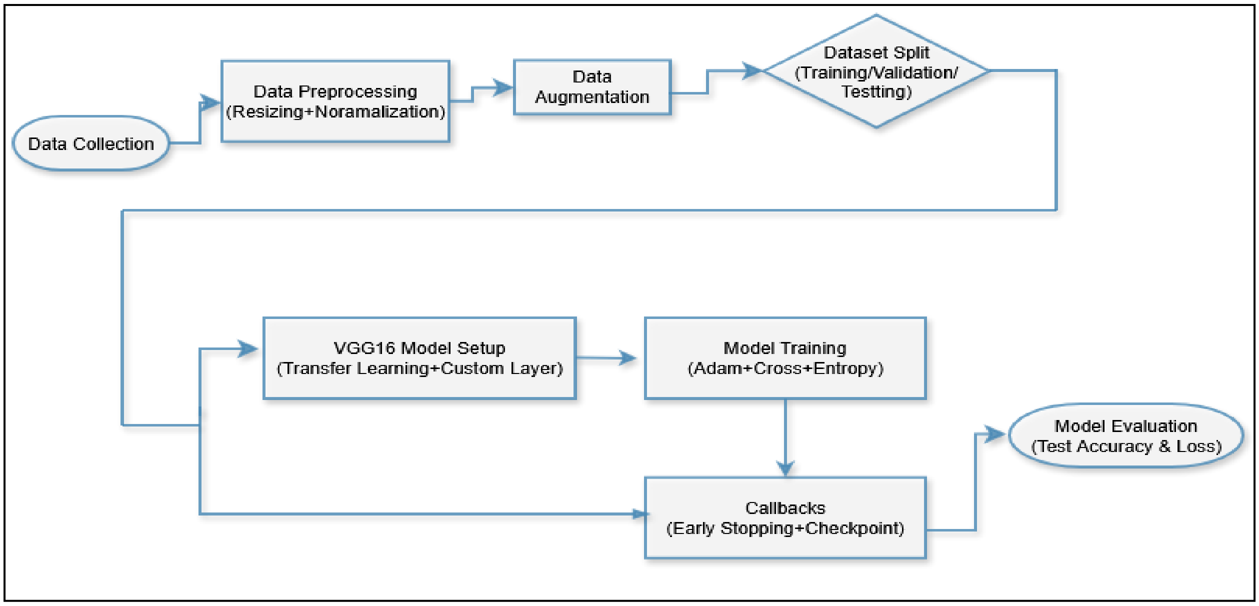

Figure 2: Proposed Apple Crop Health Monitoring and Disease Detection System

At first, all of the data was collected, consisting of 9714 pictures of apple leaves classified into the four health classes: healthy, apple scab, powdery mildew, and fire blight. The images are considered realistic because they obtained from accurate data from agricultural assessments and publicly shared sources that reflect natural variations in light sources, background and leaf orientation. The data is then preprocessed to fit the input dimension required by the VGG16 model, which is 224 x 224 pixels. The next step is to normalize the values to the range [0, 1] using pixel normalization, which helps to improve numerical stability and the rate of convergence when training the model. After preprocessing, the data augmentation method is applied only to training set to increase the diversity of the dataset and prevent overfitting. Augmentation operations consist of random rotations, width and height shifts, shearing, zooming, and horizontal flipping. These transformations provide simulated real-field variability and enhance the capability of the model to extrapolate to unobserved data. The augmented data is then fed into the model architecture setup. In this step, the convolutional base is the VGG16 model that is pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset and is used in the transfer learning method. It is replaced by fully connected layers of the original VGG16 architecture, and the layers that are added to enable the original model to fit the four-class classification problem are custom layers, such as a flatten layer, a dense layer with ReLU activation, a dropout layer to regularize the model, and a SoftMax output layer. The training is done in ten epochs with a batch size of 32. The progress of learning is constantly monitored during training with the help of validation accuracy and validation loss to identify possible overfitting. In order to maximize training further, the workflow also incorporates callback mechanisms. Training can be stopped by using early stopping when the validation loss stops improving a set number of epochs, while model checkpointing maintains the best model weights. The final evaluation of the optimized model is carried out with an independent test dataset of 196 images after training. To conduct the evaluation process of the

model's generalization capacity, performance indicators like test accuracy and test loss are calculated. The evaluation demonstrated that suggested methods were which operative since a high classification accuracy is shown with unknown data. The workflow diagram presents a comprehensive overview of the proposed system, including data collection as the first step to the final evaluation, highlighting the application of deep learning, transfer learning and data augmentation techniques for accurate and reliable apple crop disease detection.

B-Epoch-Wise Performance Table

A calculation of the performance metrics for the both training and validation sets was recorded from the first epochs to the last one. In Table 4 summarizes the accuracy and loss for each training round. However, some fluctuations were recorded that are common in machine learning settings with data augmentation, a consonant growth in accuracy obtained at the training.

Table 4: Epoch-Wise Performance Metrics of the Model

Epoch	Training Accuracy	Training Loss	Validation Accuracy	Validation Loss
1	0.5643	1.0020	0.9294	0.3791
2	0.5625	0.9451	0.9282	0.3731
3	0.6781	0.7172	0.9294	0.2994
4	0.4688	0.9686	0.9190	0.3051
5	0.7081	0.6513	0.9346	0.2468
6	0.6250	0.7236	0.9381	0.2338
7	0.7283	0.5981	0.9537	0.1839
8	0.7188	0.4543	0.9473	0.2063
9	0.7292	0.5930	0.9705	0.1237
10	0.7812	0.4992	0.9693	0.1273

In generally, from the epoch 1 to epoch 10 the training accuracy increased from 56.43% at the beginning of the training to reach 78.12% at the tenth epoch. This indicates that the overall performance has progressed, reflecting effective learning from the augmented dataset. Furthermore, validation accuracy was high from the first epoch as it was 92. 94% . It increased gradually and reached the pick 96.93% in the last epoch. While the training loss was declined from 1.0020 to 0.4992 which demonstrated a significant generalization. Likewise, the validation loss was decreased as it started from 0.3791 and reduced to 0.1273, demonstrating convergence and minimizing errors. The unpredictability of the data augmented and processed into batches may influence training metrics such as decline in Epoch 4, while constant validation metrics also implies that the point of the model obtained is reliable.

C-Accuracy and Loss plot

Plots of accuracy and loss were created to monitor the variations of the model performance throughout 10 epochs, as illustrated in Figure 3.

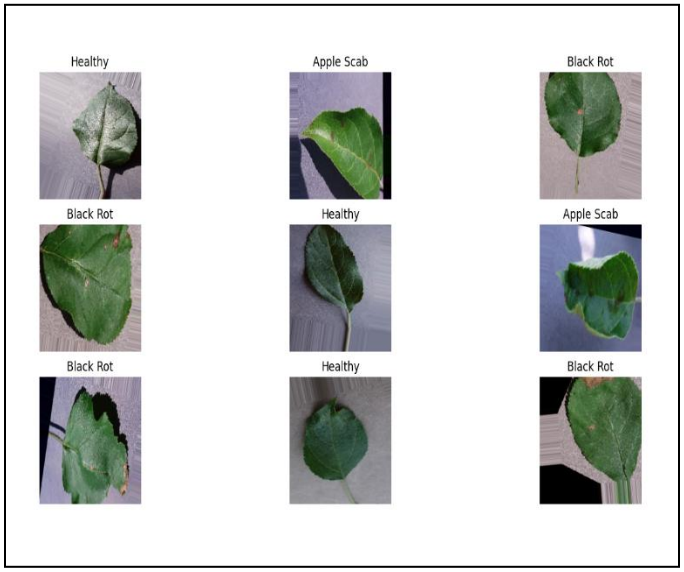

Figure 3: Model Accuracy and Loss Trends

The graphs show the impact of transferring learning of the VGG16 and using data augmentation; the accuracy in the validation set increased swiftly above the training accuracy, demonstrating that the pre-trained weights were convenient initially and helped the model to understand and generalize more sufficiently. The decrease of the error curves shows the model did not overfit, as the training curve adjacent to the validation curve as the epochs increase, successfully diminishing the error in classification.

D-Sample Model Predictions

To obtain qualitative insights about the present classification model capability, Figure 4 presents a grid of a collection of the images from the dataset, labeled by the ground truth and also by the model. This visualization enables the model to accurately classify each plant health condition and also shows some misclassifications when the symptoms are not that pronounced.

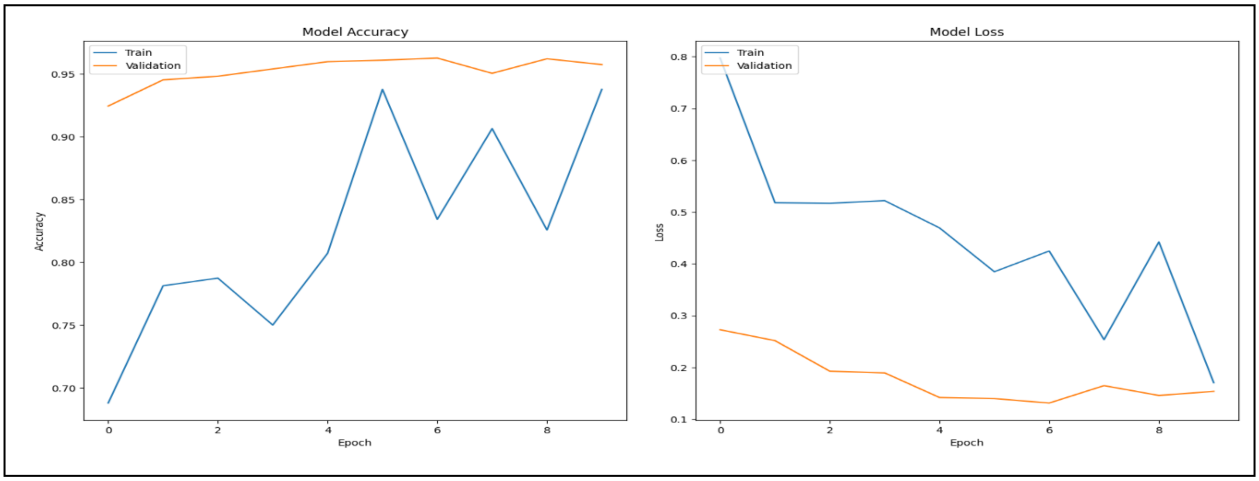

Fig. 4. Sample Apple Leaf Images with True and Predicted Labels

The model had a high recognition ability for healthy leaves and a clear recognition ability for apple scab in most images of the analyzed samples. However, there were also some misidentifications, such as a picture of a healthy leaf being misidentified as Black Rot. This misclassification was occurred because there were a few minor visual differences that could be mistaken for natural differences at the early stage of the disease regression. The examples show the high accuracy of the model in detecting strong features along with areas that can be improved. Namely, a more diverse collection of edge case images (such as images of different stages of the disease and environmental conditions) in future training may increase its reliability, particularly when dealing with ambiguous images. Overall, this discussion shows that in real-world situations, the performance of the model should be continuously improved.

E- Test Evaluation

Following validating extensively and training, the model was tested on a dataset that contains 196 images from four classes. The model was evaluated in seven steps. The results indicated an impressive test accuracy as the model obtained 98% of the predictions correctly. While the test loss was significantly low of 0.1069. It demonstrated that the test was effective. The obtained results are evidences of strong generalization to unobserved data and verified that the VGG16 architecture works effectively when combined with data augmentation. These results were corroborated by an analysis of the confusion matrix presented in Figure 5. The matrix displays a high correct classification rate in each class, with most of the misclassifications occurring mainly in the image-ambiguous scenarios, such as early-stage diseases that can be confused with healthy states.

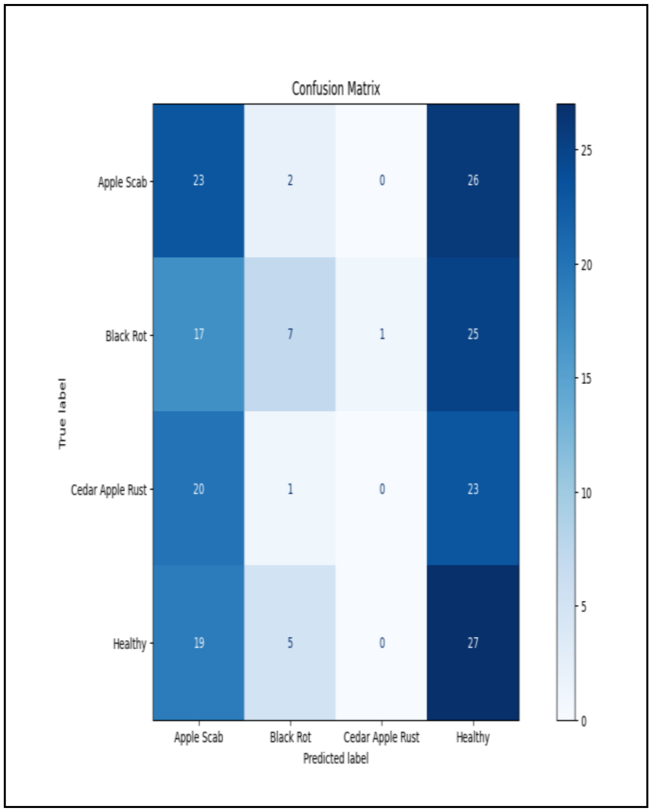

Figure 5: Confusion Matrix for Model Evaluation

In addition to accuracy, precision and recall were calculated for each class, providing further insights into the model's performance, as summarized in Table 5:

Table 5: Precision and Recall Metrics for Each Class

Class	**Precision**	**Recall**
Apple Scab	1.00	0.47
Black Rot	0.14	0.02
Cedar Apple Rust	0.00	0.00
Healthy	0.84	0.59

- Apple Scab is the most precise, with low recall, which means that the model is accurate in the positive predictions but fails to capture numerous real cases of the given type.
- Black Rot: There is low precision and recall, implying that the model is having a major problem with this category.
- Cedar Apple Rust has no true positives, which means that there is a need to change the model or the data.
- A healthy class is highly precise but might be improved in terms of recall.

Overall, the results show the efficacy of the model in accurately estimating crop health, and its potential for monitoring agricultural health in real-time and detecting diseases. This can be useful, with action taken through a timely implementation, to keep a major bulk of the crop. Together, this collection of epoch tables, flowcharts, plots, and prediction examples demonstrates the ongoing development and ability of the model and the potential for future improvements of sustainable agriculture practices.

5. Discussion

The findings of the research indicate the flexibility and strength of the deep learning algorithms in agricultural field such as monitoring crop disease and management industries. Among such algorithms Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) has proven its effectiveness in agricultural disease diagnosis. The test accuracy that reached 98% is evidence of capability of this model in identifying and classifying the apple crop health conditions. This accuracy rate allows the farmers and the experts to diagnose apple crop disease in early stages and collect information, and help them make urgent plans in case the disease is found, depending on advance image processing.

These methods offer distinct implications for sustainable agriculture. The model capability in detecting crop diseases at early stages and implementing eco-friendly practices, which are significant requirements due to the Sustainable Development Goals, contribute to decreasing chemical pesticide. The process of automating the identification of crop diseases offers benefits such as boosting efficiency, simultaneously condenses the costs, leading to significant improvement in both quantity and quality of the production. Furthermore, because of the flexibility of this solution, the model can be applied to various crops for identifying their diseases. That is why it plays crucial role in ongoing discussions about the food security and management in the agricultural setting.

However, the results are promising, certain limitations have to be acknowledged. One of the limitations is that the dataset lucks renormalizability, although; its diversity suggests that larger dataset could enhance the applicability of the model. Moreover, the model misclassifies crop healthy conditions, particularly between the healthy apples and the ones that in the young stage of the disease. This demonstrates that the model accuracy in this context needs to be improved. Addressing such limitations is essential in developing deep learning models to function as effectively as they aimed to be. In general, the findings of the present study confirm that advanced image analysis algorithms in agricultural applications are practicable and could mark a paradigm shift in current farming approaches toward more effective, efficient, and accurate crop management. The results are in alignment with the international need for modern approaches in food production as farmers face economic and environmental challenges within a more complex agricultural environment.

6. Conclusion

This study highlights the significant capability of the deep learning models, namely Conventional Neural Networks (CNNs), in improving disease detection and crop health monitoring in the agricultural practices. VGG16 architecture with data augmentation was used , achieving a fantastic 98% accuracy. This illustrates that the model works effectively for classifying apple crop health conditions and technologies could actually be applied in agricultural situations in real world. The findings demonstrate that advance image analysis provides farmers with crucial tools needed for timely and accurate decision making. That is why it can significantly impact sustainable farming practices. By providing right tools, the model helps farmers make timely and necessary decisions. The model aids farmers to detect the diseases in early stages which result in a decreased use of chemical pesticides. Furthermore, it encourages techniques that increase environmentally friendly agriculture and also contributes to the present discourses on food production. Although the results are hopeful, some limitations are identified in the present study. These limitations include the size of the dataset and the probability of misclassification. Such challenges show the significance of the research in this field and they promote refermenting to improve the accuracy of the model and its generalizability in numerous agricultural settings. To conclude, the present study provides valuable details into the use of deep learning in the agricultural field, leading to developing, inventing smarter and more accurate models, and farming practices that are much more sustainable and efficient. Successfully combining these strategies can revolutionize the way farming is managed, supporting goals such as food security and sustainable farming.

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