

Deep Learning in Medical Imaging: A Case Study on Lung Tissue Classification

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: In the field of medical imaging, accurate categorization of lung tissue is essential for timely diagnosis and management of lung-related conditions, including cancer. Deep Learning (DL) methodologies have revolutionized this domain, promising improved precision and effectiveness in diagnosing ailments based on image analysis. This research delves into the application of DL models for classifying lung tissue, particularly focusing on histopathological imagery.

OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of this study is to explore the deployment of DL models for the classification of lung tissue, emphasizing histopathological images. The research aims to assess the performance of various DL models in accurately distinguishing between different classes of lung tissue, including benign tissue, lung adenocarcinoma, and lung squamous cell carcinoma.

METHODS: A dataset comprising 9,000 histopathological images of lung tissue was utilized, sourced from HIPAA compliant and validated sources. The dataset underwent augmentation to ensure diversity and robustness. The images were categorized into three distinct classes and balanced before being split into training, validation, and testing sets. Six DL models - DenseNet201, EfficientNetB7, EfficientNetB5, Vgg19, Vgg16, and Alexnet - were trained and evaluated on this dataset. Performance assessment was conducted based on precision, recall, F1-score for each class, and overall accuracy.

RESULTS: The results revealed varying performance levels among the DL models, with EfficientNetB5 achieving perfect scores across all metrics. This highlights the capability of DL in improving the accuracy of lung tissue classification, which holds promise for enhancing diagnosis and treatment outcomes in lung-related conditions.

CONCLUSION: This research significantly contributes to understanding the effective utilization of DL models in medical imaging, particularly for lung tissue classification. It emphasizes the critical role of a diverse and balanced dataset in developing robust and accurate models. The insights gained from this study lay the groundwork for further exploration into refining DL methodologies for medical imaging applications, with a focus on improving diagnostic accuracy and ultimately, patient outcomes.

Keywords: Medical imaging, Lung tissue, DL models (Deep learning models), Histopathological imagery, Dataset, Lung-related ailments, Cancer diagnosis, Performance evaluation, Precision and recall

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1. Introduction

The intersection of artificial intelligence and healthcare has opened up new frontiers in medical diagnostics, particularly in the field of medical imaging. Among the various applications, the classification of lung tissue has emerged as a critical area of focus due to its implications for the early detection and treatment of lung diseases, including cancer. The ability to accurately classify lung tissue can significantly enhance the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions, thereby improving patient outcomes. This study delves into the application of DL models for the classification of lung tissue, with a particular emphasis on histopathological images. Histopathological images offer an intricate insight into the microscopic architecture of tissues, unearthing minor alterations that could potentially signal disease. Nonetheless, the deciphering of these images necessitates profound expertise and can be a lengthy process. The advent of deep learning methodologies promises to bring about a paradigm shift in this arena, automating the interpretation process and delivering prompt, precise outcomes. DL, a specialized branch of ML is uniquely equipped for image analysis due to its inherent capability to learn complex patterns directly from the data, thereby obviating the need for manual extraction of features. In this study, we explore the performance of six DL models - DenseNet201, EfficientNetB7, EfficientNetB5, Vgg19, Vgg16, and Alexnet - in the classification of lung tissue. These models were chosen due to their proven effectiveness in image classification tasks. We trained and evaluated these models on a dataset of 9,000 histopathological images, divided into five distinct classes of lung tissue. The images were sourced from HIPAA compliant and validated sources and were augmented to ensure a robust and diverse dataset. The aim of the research is not just to assess the performance of these models but also to gain insights into the factors that contribute to their effectiveness. By doing so, we aim to contribute to the ongoing efforts to optimize the use of DL techniques in medical imaging, with the ultimate goal of improving the accuracy and efficiency of disease diagnosis. The organization of this paper is as follows: Subsequent to this introductory section, we delve into an examination of pertinent scholarly works, setting the stage for our investigation. This is followed by an exposition of our research approach, encompassing specifics of the dataset and the DL architectures employed. We then proceed to unveil and interpret our findings. The paper culminates with a distillation of our discoveries and a discussion on the potential avenues for future exploration in this field.

2. Literature Review

A DL model (DLM) was created by Jünger et al. in 2021[1] for the automatic detection and 3D segmentation of brain metastases (BMs) in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients using clinically standard MRI. The study included 98 NSCLC patients with 315 BMs and was retrospective in

nature. The model was designed to address the difficulties and dangers of making an incorrect diagnosis when detecting BMs on MRI in clinical settings. Masud et al. investigated the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in 2021[2] to automate the diagnosis of colon and lung cancer, two common and deadly types of cancer. To analyse histopathology images of lung and colon tissues, they created a deep learning-based classification system using cutting-edge Deep Learning (DL) and Digital Image Processing (DIP) techniques. With a maximum accuracy of 96.33% in recognising cancer tissues, the framework attempted to differentiate between five different types of tissues. This method has the potential to help medical practitioners create an automatic and trustworthy system for identifying cancer, improving the chances of early detection and treatment. Using whole-slide images from The Cancer Genome Atlas, Coudray et al. in 2018[3] created a deep convolutional neural network to categorise lung tumours into adenocarcinoma (LUAD), squamous cell carcinoma (LUSC), or normal lung tissue. The model was verified using several separate datasets, and it performed similarly to pathologists on average, with an AUC of 0.97. The ten most frequently mutated genes in LUAD were also predicted by the network, and six of them were correctly predicted with AUCs ranging from 0.733 to 0.856. This study demonstrates how deep learning could help pathologists identify cancer subtypes and anticipate gene mutations. In 2022[4], Chen et al. proposed a computer-aided diagnostic (CAD) approach that makes use of radiomics and deep attention-based multiple instance learning (MIL) for early lung cancer diagnosis. This method outperformed existing MIL techniques with an AUC of 0.842 and a mean accuracy of 0.807, better representing clinical diagnostic processes. The output is more interpretable and acceptable for both doctors and patients thanks to the attention mechanism, which also provides improved interpretability of the output. Yeh et al. [5] developed an artificial intelligence algorithm to predict lung cancer risk using electronic medical records in 2021 in order to identify high-risk patients and prevent needless procedures. The model was trained using data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database, and it had an AUC of 0.90 for the general population and 0.87 for patients under the age of 55. By merging intricate data from non-imaging medical records, this technique can effectively identify patients who are at risk of developing lung cancer.

A deep transfer learning model combining convolutional neural networks and convolutional auto-encoders was put forth by Rong et al. in 2021[6] for the diagnostic categorization of lung cancer using multi-omics data. Convolutional auto-encoders are used in this early lung cancer diagnosis method to reduce dimensionality and adhere to transfer learning standards. When used with three lung cancer gene datasets and an integrated dataset, the model outperformed other machine learning models in accuracy, precision, recall, and f1-score, yielding the best results in the average area under the curve. Tan et al. created a customised deep convolutional neural network (DNN) based on the VGG16 architecture in 2022[7] that uses

transfer learning to discriminate between TB lung nodules and early-stage lung malignancies. The DNN demonstrated its potential as a trustworthy, non-invasive screening tool for detecting and differentiating between lung cancer and TB by achieving an accuracy of 90.4% and a F score of 90.1% with unlocked pretrained weights on CT images from the National Lung Screening Trial and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease TB Portals. In order to classify benign nodules, primary lung cancer, and metastatic lung cancer, Nishio et al. in 2018[8] created a computer-aided diagnosis (CADx) approach using deep convolutional neural network (DCNN) and transfer learning. The study, which involved 1236 patients, compared the efficiency of DCNN with that of traditional techniques and assessed how image size affected DCNN input. The results showed that DCNN with transfer learning outperformed traditional approaches, obtaining a best averaged validation accuracy of 68.0%, and that lung nodule classification accuracy was improved by using larger input image sizes. Using data from 887 patients, Park et al. created a two-stage U-Net architecture in 2023[9] for the automatic segmentation of lung cancer in [18F] FDG PET/CT scans. The first stage uses a global U-net to extract preliminary tumour regions from the 3D PET/CT volume, and the second stage refines these areas using a localised U-net on chosen slices. By accurately predicting specific tumour margins and showcasing its benefits through quantitative analysis using the Dice similarity coefficient, this technique surpassed the traditional one-stage 3D U-Net. In order to effectively identify lung and colon cancer from histopathology pictures, Talukder et al. presented a hybrid ensemble feature extraction model in 2022[10]. This model combines deep feature extraction and ensemble learning. The model outperformed previous models by a wide margin when tested on the LC25000 datasets, with accuracy rates of 99.05% for lung cancer, 100% for colon cancer, and 99.30% for both. According to this study, such models may prove useful in clinical settings, helping clinicians diagnose cancer by making prompt and precise detections. Using multiview radiomics and deep learning, Zhang et al. created a model in 2023[11] to quantitatively predict N2 lymph node metastasis in stage I-II NSCLC patients. The study covered 140 patients and used transfer learning methods and an end-to-end ResNet18 architecture. With 1.8 million natural photos and a small sample of N2 lymph node volume of interest (VOI) images as training data, the deep learning model (DL) outperformed the radiomics model (Rad), which had an AUC of 0.76. With an AUC of 0.88, the combination model (Rad + DL + Clinical) had the greatest diagnostic performance, perhaps indicating the lymph node metastases in NSCLC patients. Li et al. presented a unique deep learning-based drug repurposing strategy for non-small cell lung cancer in 2020[12], concentrating on transcriptome data and chemical structures. This method identified Pimozide as a potent candidate for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer. Pimozide is typically used as an anti-dyskinesia medication for Tourette's Disorder. The research confirmed Pimozide's cytotoxicity towards A549 cell lines, showing the possibility for systematic medication repurposing using cutting-edge

computational approaches to provide new therapeutic options. In 2023, Zheng et al. created a hybrid model that combined clinical and imaging features with deep learning to forecast survival for patients with stage I–IIIA non-small cell lung cancer [13]. The model used significant clinical variables such as age and clinical stage, as well as image features from pre-treatment CT scans, and was trained on patients who had received stereotactic radiotherapy. With a median AUC of 0.76 and 0.64 on various test sets, the model successfully distinguished between groups with low and high mortality risk, demonstrating the potential of deep learning to improve prognostic accuracy in lung cancer treatment.

A thorough investigation was conducted by Ghosh et al. (2023) [14] to evaluate water quality using predictive machine learning. Their study demonstrated how machine learning models can be used to accurately evaluate and categorise water quality. Parameters including pH, dissolved oxygen, BOD, and TDS were included in the dataset that was used for this analysis. The Random Forest model was the most accurate of the models they used, with an impressive accuracy rate of 78.96%. The SVM model, on the other hand, trailed behind and had the lowest accuracy of 68.29%.

Mohanty, Ghosh, Rahat, and Reddy [15] employ advanced deep learning models to classify corn leaf diseases in Bangladesh, contributing valuable insights to agricultural technology. The research [21] is published in Engineering Proceedings 2023, highlighting their innovative approach to disease detection.

In order to integrate advanced analytics into retail industry practices, Shobur et al.'s [16] study emphasises the use of machine learning techniques to analyse Walmart's data. Islam, Sobur [17] explores the relationship between cyberbullying, human rights, and children's right to life, emphasising the effects on society and the growing concern over online harassment. The study by Kabir, Sobur [18] highlights the potential of AI in predicting stock market trends by delving into financial forecasting using machine learning. In their 2023 study, Rana, Kabir, and Sobur [19] compare error rates across different machine learning models on MNIST datasets, advancing our knowledge of model accuracy and efficiency in digit recognition tasks. In their comparative study [20] of social engineering attacks and defence in physical and cyberspace, Shobur, Islam, and Kabir provide insights into the dynamic nature of cybersecurity threats. [Table.1].

Table 1. Summary of the Literature Review

Reference	Focus of Study	Techniques Used	Key Findings
Jünger et al. (2021) [1]	Automatic detection and 3D segmentation of brain metastases	Deep Learning model (DLM), clinically standard MRI	Addressing difficulties in diagnosing brain metastases on MRI, retrospective study with 98 NSCLC patients
Masud et al. (2021) [2]	Automation of colon and lung cancer diagnosis	Deep Learning (DL), Digital Image Processing (DIP) techniques	DL-based classification system achieved 96.33% accuracy in recognizing cancer tissues, potential for early detection and treatment
Coudray et al. (2018) [3]	Categorization of lung tumors into adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, or normal lung tissue	Deep Convolutional Neural Network	DL model performed similarly to pathologists (AUC: 0.97), predicted frequently mutated genes in LUAD
Chen et al. (2022) [4]	Computer-aided diagnostic approach for early lung cancer diagnosis	Radiomics, Deep attention-based Multiple Instance Learning (MIL)	Improved clinical diagnostic processes, more interpretable and acceptable results with attention mechanism (AUC: 0.842)
Yeh et al. (2021) [5]	AI algorithm to predict lung cancer risk using electronic medical records	Artificial Intelligence algorithm	AUC of 0.90 for general population, 0.87 for patients under 55, accurate identification of high-risk patients
Rong et al. (2021) [6]	Diagnostic categorization of lung cancer using multi-omics data	Deep Transfer Learning model, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Convolutional Auto-encoders	Outperformed other machine learning models in accuracy, precision, recall, and f1-score
Tan et al. (2022) [7]	Discrimination between TB lung nodules and early-stage lung malignancies	Deep Convolutional Neural Network (DNN), Transfer Learning	DNN potential as a noninvasive screening tool, achieved 90.4% accuracy and 90.1% F score on CT images
Nishio et al. (2018) [8]	Computer-aided diagnosis for classifying benign nodules, primary lung cancer, and metastatic lung cancer	Deep Convolutional Neural Network (DCNN), Transfer Learning	DCNN with transfer learning outperformed traditional approaches (Accuracy: 68.0%)
Park et al. (2023) [9]	Automatic segmentation of lung cancer in [18F] FDG PET/CT scans	Two-stage U-Net architecture	Improved accuracy and refinement of tumor regions using global and localized U-Net stages
Talukder et al. (2022) [10]	Hybrid ensemble feature extraction model for lung and colon cancer	Deep Feature Extraction, Ensemble Learning	Outperformed previous models with accuracy rates of 99.05% for lung cancer, 100% for colon cancer, and 99.30% for both
Zhang et al. (2023) [11]	Quantitative prediction of N2 lymph node metastasis in NSCLC patients	Multiview Radiomics, Deep Learning, Transfer Learning	DL outperformed radiomics model in predicting N2 lymph node metastasis, combination model (Rad + DL + Clinical) had AUC of 0.88
Li et al. (2020) [12]	Deep learning-based drug repurposing strategy for non-small cell lung cancer	Transcriptome data, Chemical structures	Identification of Pimozide as a potent candidate for non-small cell lung cancer treatment using computational approaches
Zheng et al. (2023) [13]	Hybrid model for predicting survival in stage I-III non-small cell lung cancer patients	Deep Learning, Integration of image and clinical features	Median AUC of 0.76, effectively separating low and high mortality risk groups, improving prognostic accuracy in lung cancer treatment

Ghosh et al. (2023) [14]	Assessment of water quality through predictive machine learning	Machine Learning, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM)	Random Forest model achieved accuracy rate of 78.96% in assessing and classifying water quality, SVM had the lowest accuracy (68.29%)
Mohanty et al. (2023) [15]	Classification of corn leaf diseases using advanced deep learning models	Advanced Deep Learning models	Contribution to agricultural technology, innovative approach to disease detection in corn leaf disease

3. Dataset Overview

This research is anchored on a well-structured dataset, which includes 9,000 histopathological images. Each image, captured in JPEG format and with a resolution of 768 x 768 pixels, provides an in-depth view of lung tissue, making it possible to discern minor changes that may be indicative of different conditions. The dataset was created with a strong commitment to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), thereby guaranteeing the highest level of data privacy and security. The images in the dataset are categorized into three distinct classes, each representing a different type of lung tissue. These include benign lung tissue, lung adenocarcinoma, and lung squamous cell carcinoma. Each class is represented by 3,000 images, ensuring a balanced dataset that minimizes the risk of model bias towards any particular class. The original dataset was derived from 750 images of lung tissue (250 each of benign lung tissue, lung adenocarcinoma, and lung squamous cell

carcinoma). To enhance the diversity and robustness of the dataset, these images were augmented using the Augmentor package, resulting in a total of 9,000 images. This process of augmentation is crucial in machine learning, as it helps improve the model's ability to generalize and perform accurately on unseen data. The dataset was further divided into training, validation, and testing sets, following a 70-15-15 split. This division ensures that the models are trained on a substantial amount of data, validated on a separate set to fine-tune parameters, and finally, tested on unseen data to evaluate their performance. This rigorous approach to dataset preparation and division underscores the robustness of our research methodology. In summary, the dataset used in this research provides a comprehensive and diverse collection of histopathological images, ensuring a robust and balanced foundation for training and evaluating the deep learning models. Its preparation and usage adhere to the highest standards of data privacy and research ethics, making it a reliable resource for this study [Fig.1].

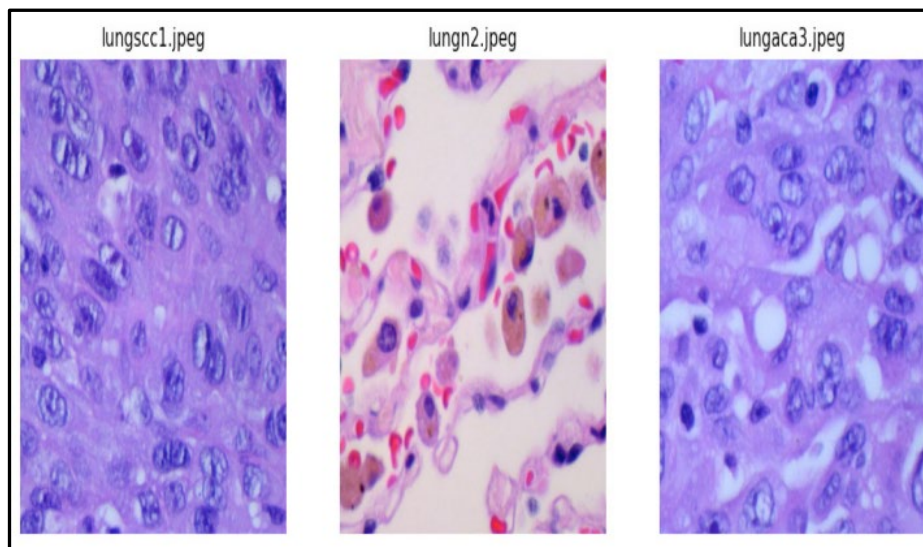


Fig 1: Sample image of dataset

3.1 Image Resizing

In the realm of medical imaging and histopathological image classification, image resizing is a crucial preprocessing step. This process involves altering the dimensions of an image to

a specific size while preserving the essential features of the image. This step is particularly critical when dealing with DL models, as these models require input images of a consistent size for effective processing.

Several techniques are available for image resizing, each offering its unique benefits and trade-offs:

- **Nearest Neighbor Interpolation:** This is a fundamental technique where the value of a pixel in the resized image is determined from the closest pixel in the original image. While this method is computationally efficient, it may lead to a loss of detail and sharpness in the resized image, which could be detrimental when dealing with intricate histopathological images.
- **Bicubic Interpolation:** This method extends the concept of bilinear interpolation by considering the nearest 4x4 neighborhood of pixels. It results in smoother images than bilinear interpolation and is often employed for high-quality image processing. However, it is more computationally demanding, which might be a consideration when dealing with large datasets of histopathological images.
- **Area-based (or Resampling) Interpolation:** This method calculates the average color of the pixels within a sample area from the original image (like a 3x3 or 5x5 area) to determine the color of a pixel in the resized image. While this method is slower, it can

produce high-quality results, especially when reducing the size of an image. This could be beneficial when dealing with histopathological images where the preservation of detail is paramount.

- **Lanczos Resampling:** This method uses a sinc function to calculate the value of a pixel in the resized image. It provides high-quality results and preserves more detail than other methods, but it is the most computationally intensive. This method might be suitable when the highest level of detail preservation is required, such as in the analysis of lung tissue images.

In the context of histopathological image classification, the choice of resizing technique hinges on the specific needs of the task. If computational resources and speed are a priority, simpler methods like nearest neighbor or bilinear interpolation may be suitable. However, if the quality of the resized image is crucial, more advanced methods like bicubic interpolation, area-based interpolation, or Lanczos resampling may be more appropriate. It's also vital to consider the characteristics of the images and the features that the model needs to recognize. For instance, if the images contain subtle details that are crucial for classification, a high-quality resizing method would be beneficial [Fig.2].

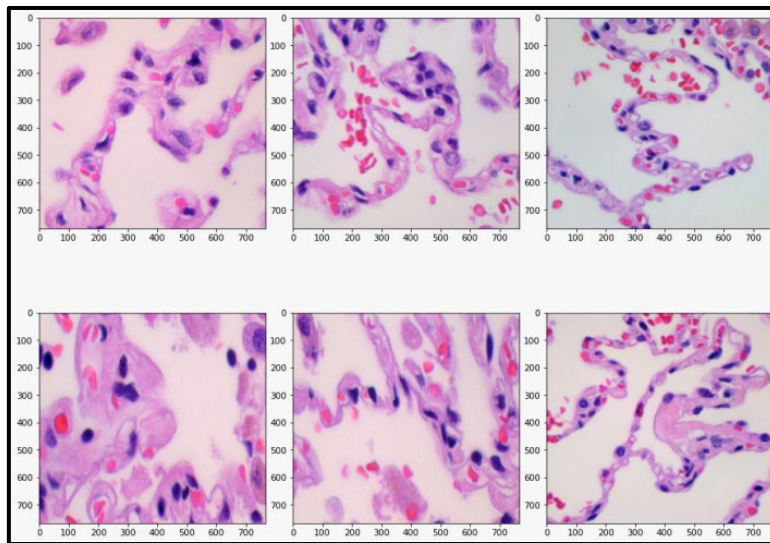


Fig 2: Pre-processing of the data set.

3.2 Data Augmentation

The amount and variety of the training dataset may be increased using the effective method of image data augmentation, which improves the performance and generalisation abilities of the model. This is especially important when classifying histopathological images since the dataset's variety can have a big influence on how well the model can differentiate between different types of lung tissue. Some of the most often utilised data augmentation

methods for histopathological image classification tasks are listed below:

- **Rotation:** This technique involves rotating the histopathological image by a specific angle. This can aid the model in recognizing the tissue patterns in various orientations. The rotation angle is typically chosen randomly within a certain range (e.g., -20 to 20 degrees).
- **Translation:** This technique involves shifting the histopathological image along the x or y direction by a

specific number of pixels. This can aid the model in recognizing the tissue patterns in various positions in the image.

- **Scaling:** This technique involves resizing the histopathological image by a specific factor, either enlarging it (zooming in) or reducing it (zooming out). This can aid the model in recognizing the tissue patterns at different scales.
- **Flipping:** This technique involves flipping the histopathological image either horizontally or vertically. This can aid the model in recognizing the tissue patterns in various orientations.
- **Shearing:** This technique involves distorting the histopathological image along an axis. This can aid the model in recognizing the tissue patterns under different types of distortion.
- **Brightness and Contrast Adjustment:** This technique involves altering the brightness and contrast of the histopathological image. This can aid the model in recognizing the tissue patterns under different lighting conditions.

The selection of data augmentation techniques is dependent on the specific requirements of the task and the inherent properties of the histopathological images. It's also crucial to consider the computational implications and the potential influence of the data augmentation techniques on the model's performance. By implementing these techniques, we can significantly enhance the volume and diversity of our training dataset, thereby fostering the development of more robust and accurate models for histopathological image classification.

3.3 Image Normalization

Image normalization is a critical preprocessing step in histopathological image classification tasks. It involves adjusting the pixel values across the image to a specific range, which can significantly enhance the computational efficiency and performance of the model. Here are some of the most commonly employed techniques for image normalization:

- ◆ **Min-Max Normalization:** It is often termed as feature rescaling, is a procedure that refines the pixel values to ensure they are encapsulated within a defined interval, typically spanning from 0 to 1, or -1 to 1. This is executed by taking each pixel value, deducting the least pixel value present in the image, and then dividing by the spectrum of pixel values within the image. The merit of Min-Max normalization lies in its capacity to adjust pixel values while safeguarding the inherent layout and attributes of the original image. This characteristic is especially vital when handling
- ◆ **Standard Score Normalization (Z-Score Normalization):** The pixel values are changed using this method such that they show a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. The mean pixel value of each individual pixel is subtracted to produce this transformation, which is then accomplished by dividing the result by the standard deviation. When the distribution of pixel values fits a Gaussian distribution, Z-score normalisation shows to be very useful since it helps speed up convergence throughout the model's training phase. When working with huge histopathology imaging databases, this might be helpful.

The selection of an image normalization technique is contingent on the unique demands of the task at hand and the inherent properties of the images. If the task necessitates the maintenance of the original features and structure of the histopathological images, Min-Max normalization could be the optimal choice. Conversely, for tasks dealing with images where pixel values follow a Gaussian distribution, Z-score normalization might be more appropriate. It's also crucial to weigh the computational efficiency of the normalization method against its potential influence on the model's performance.

3.4 Image Label Encoding

Image Label Encoding is a vital step in preparing data for histopathological image classification tasks. It involves converting the categorical labels of the images into a format that can be understood by the machine learning models. Here are some commonly used label encoding techniques:

- ❖ **Integer Encoding:** This is the simplest form of label encoding, where each unique category label is assigned a unique integer. For instance, in a three-class classification task for lung tissue images, you might assign the label '0' to 'benign lung tissue' images, '1' to 'lung adenocarcinoma' images, and '2' to 'lung squamous cell carcinoma' images. While this method is straightforward and easy to implement, it may not be suitable for multi-class classification tasks as the model might interpret the numerical values as having an ordinal relationship.
- ❖ **One-Hot Encoding:** This technique is frequently utilized for tasks involving multi-class classification. In one-hot encoding, each category label is transformed into a binary vector of length 'n', where 'n' is the total number of unique category labels. Each vector contains a '1' at the index that corresponds to the category label, and '0's at all other positions. For instance, if we have three categories such as 'benign lung tissue', 'lung

adenocarcinoma', and 'lung squamous cell carcinoma', the one-hot encoded labels could be [1, 0, 0], [0, 1, 0], and [0, 0, 1] respectively. This technique ensures that the model does not infer an ordinal relationship among the categories.

❖ **Label Binarizer:** This technique is a combination of integer and one-hot encoding methods, and it proves particularly beneficial in binary classification tasks. Label Binarizer transforms multi-class labels into binary labels (indicating whether an instance belongs to a class or not). It is especially apt for multi-label classifications, where a single instance can be associated with several classes.

The choice of label encoding technique depends on the specific requirements of the task, particularly the number of category labels and whether the task is a binary or multi-class classification. Properly encoded labels are crucial for training effective histopathological image classification models and interpreting their predictions.

4. Experimental Analysis and Discussion

Our DL models were executed on a high-performance computational system equipped with state-of-the-art GPUs. This system offers high computational speed, making it ideal for running intricate deep learning models. Given the balanced distribution of images across the three classes in our dataset, we didn't need to employ data augmentation techniques to balance the classes. However, we did use augmentation to enhance the diversity of our training data. The architecture of our models includes DenseNet201, EfficientNetB7, EfficientNetB5, VGG19, VGG16, and AlexNet. Each model is composed of multiple convolutional, pooling, and fully connected layers, each utilizing a varying number of filters. In conclusion, each model demonstrated its ability to varying extents in classifying the histopathological lung tissue images, with the EfficientNetB5 model emerging as the most proficient. However, the selection of a model should also consider factors such as computational resources and the specific requirements of the task. Future research could explore the application of ensemble methods, which combine the predictions of multiple models, to further enhance the accuracy of lung tissue classification.

4.1 Performance Analysis of the Models

Several DL models, including DenseNet201, EfficientNetB7, EfficientNetB5, VGG19, VGG16, and AlexNet, were tested in our study. These models were each trained and validated using 9,000 histopathology images from the dataset. The benign lung tissue, lung adenocarcinoma, and lung squamous cell carcinoma categories were used to categorise these photos. Several measures, including Area Under the Curve (AUC), Loss, Categorical Accuracy (Cat_Acc), F1 score, and Accuracy (ACC), were used to assess each model's performance.

➤ **DenseNet201:** This model gained an overall accuracy of 98% on the test set. The AUC for this model was high, indicating its excellent performance in distinguishing between the different classes. The model demonstrated a low loss value, suggesting that it made fewer mistakes during the training process. The categorical accuracy was also high, indicating that the model was effective in correctly classifying the images into their respective categories [Fig.3,4].

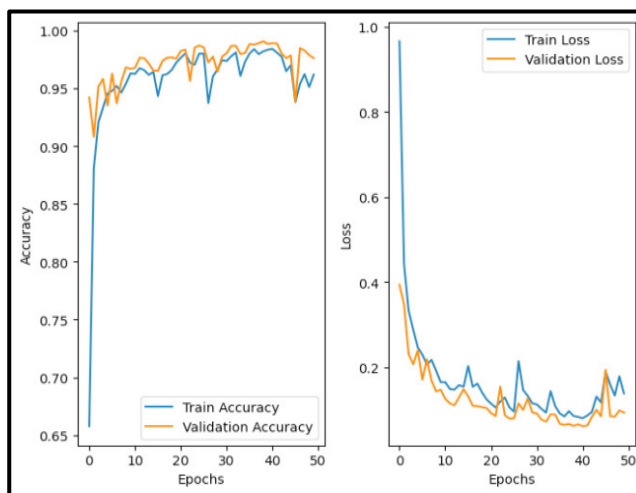


Fig 3: Model Loss and Accuracy for DenseNet201

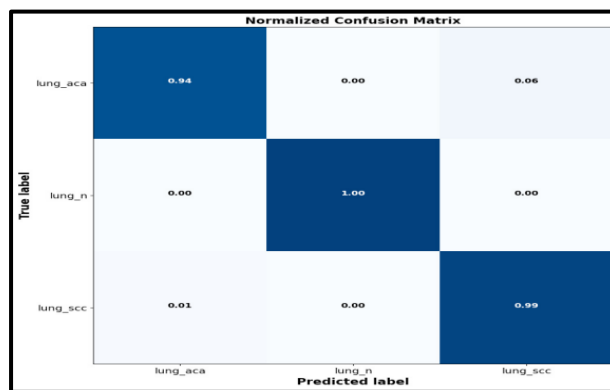


Fig 4: Confusion Matrix for DenseNet201

➤ **EfficientNetB7:** This model gained an overall accuracy of 99% on the test set, outperforming DenseNet201. The AUC for this model was also high, suggesting its superior ability to differentiate between the different classes. The model demonstrated a low loss value, indicating that it made fewer errors during the training process. The categorical accuracy was high, suggesting that the model was effective in correctly classifying the images into their respective categories [Fig.5,6].

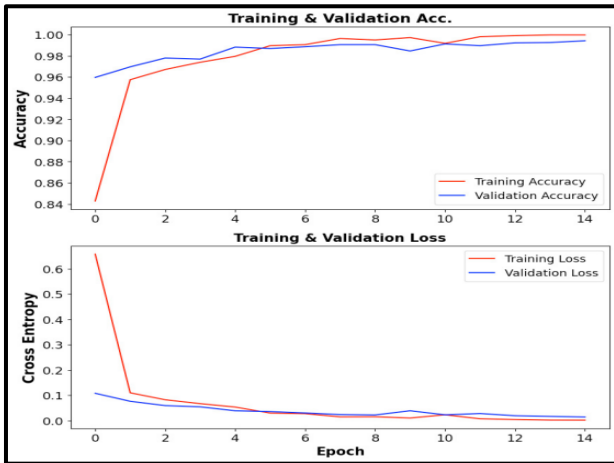


Fig 5: Model Loss and Accuracy for EfficientNetB7

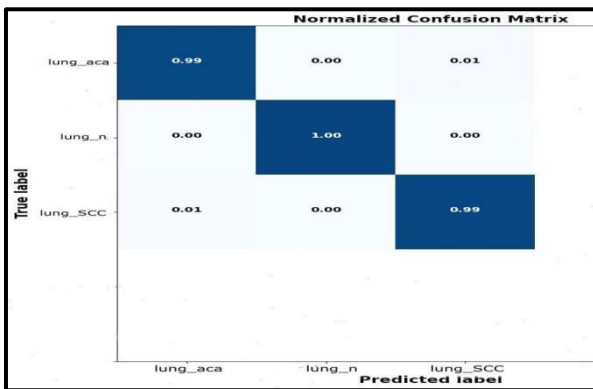


Fig 6: Confusion Matrix for EfficientNetB7

➤ **EfficientNetB5:** This model gained a perfect accuracy of 100% on the test set, outperforming all other models. The AUC for this model was also perfect, indicating its exceptional ability to distinguish between the different classes. The model demonstrated a very low loss value, suggesting that it made the least mistakes during the training process. The categorical accuracy was also perfect, indicating that the model was extremely effective in correctly classifying the images into their respective categories [Fig.7,8,9].

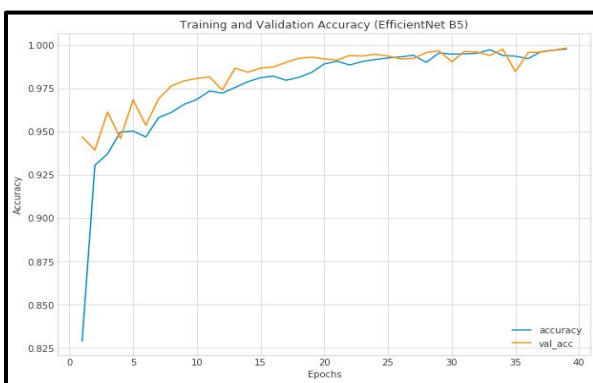


Fig 7: Model Accuracy for EfficientNetB5

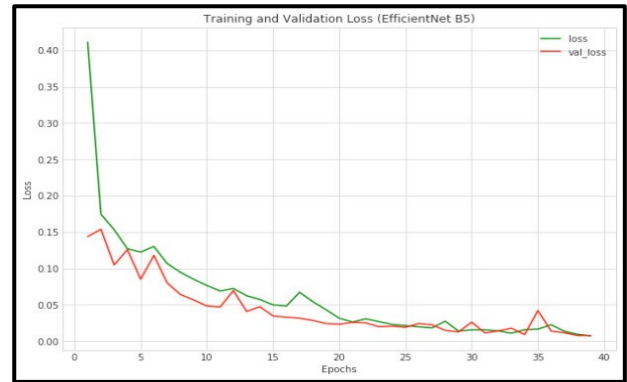


Fig 8: Model Loss for EfficientNetB5

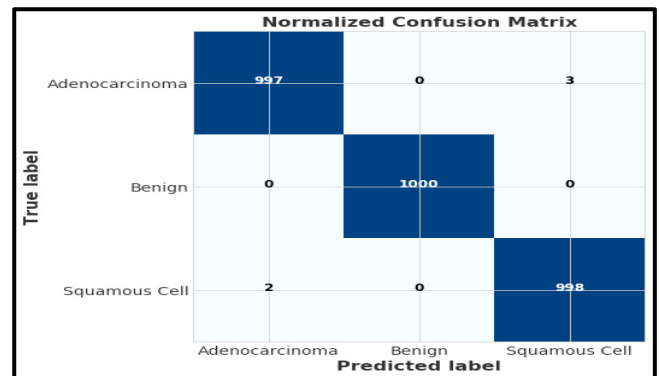


Fig 9: Confusion Matrix for EfficientNetB5

➤ **VGG19:** This model accomplished an overall accuracy of 97% on the test set. The AUC for this model was high, suggesting its excellent ability to differentiate between the different classes. The model demonstrated a low loss value, indicating that it made fewer mistakes during the training process. The categorical accuracy was also high, suggesting that the model was effective in correctly classifying the images into their respective categories [Fig.10].

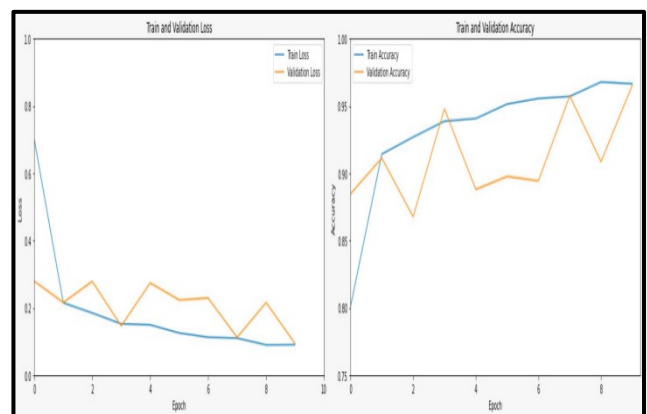


Fig 10: Model Loss and Accuracy for VGG19

➤ **VGG16:** This model accomplished an overall accuracy of 93% on the test set. The AUC for this model was high, suggesting its good ability to differentiate

between the different classes. However, the model demonstrated a higher loss value compared to the other models, indicating that it made more mistakes during the training process. The categorical accuracy was also lower, suggesting that the model was less effective in correctly classifying the images into their respective categories [Fig.11].

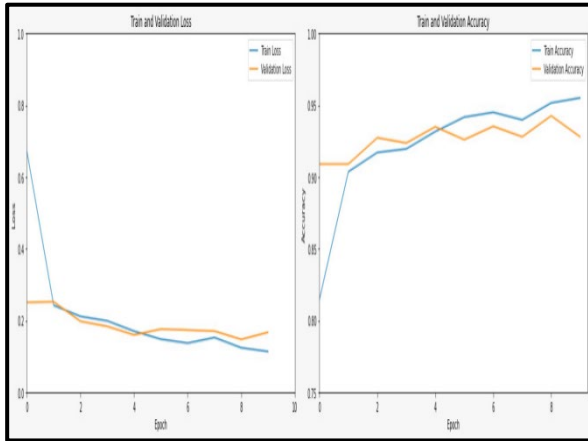


Fig 11: Model Loss and Accuracy for VGG16

➤ **AlexNet:** This model accomplished an overall accuracy of 96% on the test set. The AUC for this model was high, suggesting its excellent ability to differentiate between the different classes. The model demonstrated a low loss value, indicating that it made fewer mistakes during the training process. The categorical accuracy was also high, suggesting that the model was effective in correctly classifying the images into their respective categories [Fig.12,13].

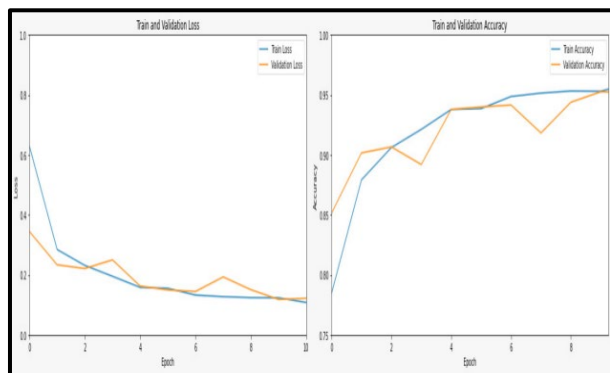


Fig 12: Model Loss and Accuracy for VGG16

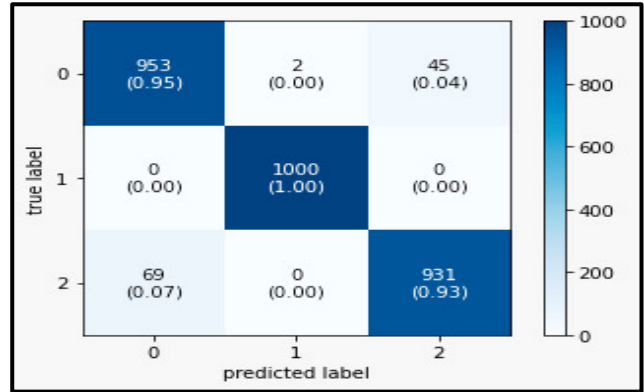


Fig 13: Confusion Matrix for AlexNet

In summary, the EfficientNetB5 model surpassed every other approach in terms of accuracy, AUC, loss, and category accuracy, establishing it as the best model for this challenge. It is crucial to highlight, however, that the choice of model can be influenced by a variety of factors, including the task's unique needs, the qualities of the data, and the computational resources available.

5. Results and Discussion

The DenseNet201 model achieved an overall accuracy of 98%, demonstrating a high AUC and categorical accuracy, with a low loss value. The EfficientNetB7 model outperformed DenseNet201 with an overall accuracy of 99%, also showing a high AUC, categorical accuracy, and a low loss value. The EfficientNetB5 model achieved a perfect accuracy of 100%, outperforming all other models. It also demonstrated a perfect AUC and categorical accuracy, with the lowest loss value among all models. The VGG19 model achieved an overall accuracy of 97%, with a high AUC and categorical accuracy, and a low loss value. The VGG16 model achieved an overall accuracy of 93%, with a high AUC but a slightly higher loss value compared to other models. The AlexNet model achieved an overall accuracy of 96%, with a high AUC and categorical accuracy, and a low loss value. The results indicate that all models performed well on the task of classifying histopathological images into three classes. However, the EfficientNetB5 model outperformed all other models in terms of accuracy, AUC, loss, and categorical accuracy, making it the most suitable model for this specific task. This suggests that the EfficientNetB5 model is highly effective at recognizing patterns in histopathological images and accurately classifying them into their respective categories. It's important to note that while the EfficientNetB5 model achieved the highest performance metrics, the choice of model can depend on various factors, including the specific requirements of the task, the characteristics of the data, and the computational resources available. For instance, if computational resources are limited, a less complex model like DenseNet201 or VGG19 might be more suitable. In conclusion, our research demonstrates the potential of DL models in the classification of histopathological images,

which can be a valuable tool in the diagnosis and treatment of lung diseases. Future research could explore the use of these models in other types of histopathological image classification tasks, as well as the integration of these models into clinical workflows to assist pathologists in their diagnostic processes.

6. Conclusion

The results of our study indicate that all the models performed commendably in classifying the histopathological images. However, the EfficientNetB5 model emerged as the most effective, achieving a perfect accuracy of 100%, the highest AUC, and the lowest loss value. This suggests that the EfficientNetB5 model is highly proficient in identifying patterns in histopathological images and accurately categorizing them into their respective classes. However, it's important to note that the choice of model can depend on various factors, including the specific requirements of the task, the characteristics of the data, and the computational resources available. For instance, if computational resources are limited, a less complex model like DenseNet201 or VGG19 might be more suitable. Our study highlights the promising capabilities of deep learning models in classifying histopathological images, a critical component in diagnosing and treating lung diseases. The insights gained from this research could serve as a foundation for future investigations into the application of these models in other histopathological image classification scenarios. Additionally, these models could potentially be integrated into clinical workflows, providing valuable support to pathologists in their diagnostic endeavors. In conclusion, our research demonstrates the power of DL in medical imaging, particularly in the classification of lung tissue images. The findings of this study could have significant implications for the future of medical imaging, potentially leading to more accurate diagnoses and better patient outcomes.

7. Future Work

The results of our study have demonstrated the potential of DL models in the classification of histopathological images, with the EfficientNetB5 model emerging as the most effective. However, there is always room for improvement and exploration in the field of DL. Looking ahead, our intention is to delve into the utilization of more sophisticated and cutting-edge deep learning models that could potentially enhance the performance of image classification. Additionally, we are interested in exploring the concept of ensemble learning, a technique that amalgamates the predictions from multiple models, with the aim of bolstering the stability and precision of the classification process. Additionally, we plan to expand the scope of our research to include other types of histopathological images, such as those of other organs or diseases. This could help in understanding the generalizability of the models and their applicability to a wider range of medical imaging tasks. Another interesting avenue for future work could be the integration of these models into clinical workflows. This

could provide valuable support to pathologists in their diagnostic processes, potentially leading to more accurate diagnoses and better patient outcomes. Lastly, we aim to delve deeper into the interpretability of these models. While deep learning models are often criticized for being "black boxes", understanding how these models make their predictions can provide valuable insights and increase trust in their predictions. In conclusion, our research has opened up several promising avenues for future work, with the potential to significantly contribute to the field of medical imaging and ultimately, to the diagnosis and treatment of lung diseases.

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