IJIREEICE ISSN (O) 2321-2004, ISSN (P) 2321-5526

International Journal of Innovative Research in Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation and Control Engineering

Impact Factor 8.021 ⁜ Peer-reviewed & Refereed journal ⁜ Vol. 13, Issue 4, April 2025

DOI: 10.17148/IJIREEICE.2025.13424

A METHOD OF SKIN DISEASE DETECTION USING IMAGE PROCESSING AND MACHINE LEARNING

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Abstract: Skin diseases are a growing health concern worldwide, and early detection is crucial for effective treatment and management. This paper presents a novel method for skin disease detection using image processing and machine learning techniques. The proposed system utilizes high-quality images of the skin, which are pre- processed to enhance features and reduce noise. Image processing techniques such as color normalization, edge detection, and segmentation are employed to extract relevant features from the images. These features are then used as inputs for machine learning models, specifically Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), which have demonstrated high performance in image classification tasks. The CNN model is trained on a large dataset of labelled skin disease images to distinguish between various skin conditions, including melanoma, eczema, psoriasis, and acne. The system is designed to automate the diagnostic process, reducing the reliance on manual examination by dermatologists and minimizing the risk of human error. Performance metrics, such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score, are evaluated to assess the efficiency and reliability of the system. The results demonstrate the potential of combining image processing and machine learning to provide a robust tool for early skin disease detection, offering a significant advantage in terms of speed and accessibility. The method's ability to provide accurate, real-time analysis can greatly aid healthcare professionals in diagnosing skin diseases promptly and can be used in both clinical and remote settings, facilitating broader access to dermatological care. This approach offers promising implications for improving the accuracy and efficiency of skin disease diagnosis, ultimately contributing to better patient outcomes and more accessible healthcare solutions.

Keywords: Skin disease detection, image processing, machine learning, classification, medical imaging, Automation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The early detection of skin diseases, including skin cancer, plays a crucial role in improving patient outcomes and reducing mortality rates. With the increasing prevalence of skin- related disorders globally, there is a growing need for efficient and accurate diagnostic methods. Traditional diagnostic approaches, which rely heavily on visual inspection by dermatologists, can be subjective and time-consuming. This has led to the exploration of automated techniques, such as image processing and machine learning, to assist in the accurate and rapid detection of skin diseases.

Image processing techniques enable the extraction of relevant features from dermatological images, such as color, texture, and shape, which are vital for distinguishing between different skin conditions. These methods often involve pre-processing steps like noise reduction, contrast enhancement, and segmentation, which improve the quality of the images and highlight the areas of interest. Machine learning, particularly deep learning algorithms, has gained significant attention for its ability to analyses these processed images and classify skin lesions based on patterns learned from large datasets.

In recent years, convolutional neural networks (CNNs), a type of deep learning model, have been widely adopted for skin disease detection due to their ability to automatically learn hierarchical features from raw images without manual feature extraction. These models are trained on labelled datasets and are capable of distinguishing between various types of skin lesions, such as melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, and benign nevi. The combination of image processing and machine learning offers a promising approach to not only automate the diagnostic process but also to enhance accuracy, reduce human error, and provide faster results, making it an essential tool for both healthcare professionals and patients.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The use of image processing and machine learning for skin disease detection has been extensively explored in recent literature, showcasing promising advancements in automated diagnostic systems. Several studies have focused on the application of image processing techniques for pre-processing dermatological images to improve accuracy.

1. **skin lesions from background noise**, enhancing the reliability of subsequent classification. Gonzalez et al. (2018) explored the use of segmentation algorithms to isolate in their study, they applied methods such as thresholding, edge detection, and region growing for effective lesion segmentation. Additionally, deep learning algorithms, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have become widely adopted for skin disease classification [1].
2. **Classifying skin lesions into malignant and benign categories,** achieving performance comparable to experienced dermatologists. Estevan et al. (2017) demonstrated the effectiveness of CNNs for achieving performance comparable to experienced dermatologists. Their model was trained on a large dataset of over 100,000 images, showcasing the power of deep learning in handling vast amounts of dermatological data [2].
3. **Optimize image quality for further analysis** Additionally, image enhancement methods like contrast adjustment and noise reduction are frequently employed to Zhang et al., (2019). With the advancement of machine learning, particularly deep learning, models such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have become a dominant approach in skin disease detection [3].
4. **Showing a high sensitivity in detecting skin cancer** those by Haenssle et al. (2018), reinforced the effectiveness of CNNs, showing a high sensitivity in detecting skin cancer types like basal cell Carcinoma and melanoma [4].
5. **Showing a high sensitivity in detecting skin cancer** those by Haenssle et al. (2018), reinforced the effectiveness of CNNs, showing a high sensitivity in detecting skin cancer types like basal cell carcinoma and melanoma [4].
6. **Other machine learning techniques,** including support vector machines (SVM) and random forests, have also been applied for skin disease classification. Kumar et al. (2018) investigated the combination of handcrafted features with SVM classifiers, demonstrating good performance in classifying benign and malignant skin lesions [5].
7. **Robust and generalized models** Furthermore, Tschandl et al. (2020) highlighted the importance of large, diverse datasets like the HAM10000 dataset, which allows for more robust and generalized models across different skin types [6].
8. **Combine image processing and machine learning,** Research by Chouhan et al. (2021) and Pratama et al. (2020) has explored hybrid models that combine image processing and machine learning, achieving better performance by addressing challenges such as class imbalance and overfitting [7].
9. **Train deep learning models** Recent work by Tschandl et al. (2020) has further emphasized the importance of utilizing large, diverse, and annotated datasets to train deep learning models. Their study on the HAM10000 dataset, which includes over 10,000 images from multiple sources, highlighted the value of large-scale data for developing models capable of accurately diagnosing skin diseases across various populations [8].
10. **Region-growing algorithms** Khan et al. (2019) used morphological operations in conjunction with region-growing algorithms to detect skin lesions, which resulted in higher accuracy for early- stage melanoma detection. [10].

III. PROPOSED SYSTEM

A proposed system for skin disease detection using image processing and machine learning involves a multi-step approach that combines advanced image analysis techniques with intelligent algorithms to accurately classify various skin conditions. Initially, the system captures high- resolution images of the skin lesion using a digital camera or smartphone. These images are then pre-processed to enhance quality, remove noise, and standardize the data for better analysis. Image processing techniques such as segmentation, feature extraction, and texture analysis are applied to identify key attributes of the skin lesion, such as colour, shape, and size, which are critical for distinguishing between different types of diseases. Subsequently, a machine learning model, such as a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) or Support Vector Machine (SVM), is trained using a large dataset of labelled images to recognize patterns and classify the skin lesions into various categories, such as melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, or benign moles. The model's performance is continuously evaluated and optimized to ensure high accuracy and reliability. Additionally, the system can be integrated with a mobile app or web platform, enabling users to upload their skin images for real- time diagnosis and recommendations for further medical consultation. This system has the potential to provide early detection and assist in reducing the burden of skin diseases through automated, Accessible, and efficient technology.

IV. MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

STEP 1: Initialize the Components: Develop a robust skin disease prediction system that employs multiple machine learning models to classify images of skin diseases into predefined categories.

DOI: 10.17148/IJIREEICE.2025.13424

1. **Programming Language:** Python
2. **Web Framework:** Flask
3. **Machine Learning Libraries:** TensorFlow, Keras, Scikit-learn, Joblib
4. **Frontend:** HTML/CSS (Flask Templates) [1].

STEP 2: Modules:

A. Model Loading and Preparation:

Description: Loads pre-trained machine learning models and sets up the necessary configurations for predictions.

Key Components:

1. **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) Model:**
   Purpose: Classifies images into specific skin disease categories. **Model file:** skin_cnn.h5
   Algorithm: Convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers for image classification.
2. **K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) Model:**
   Purpose: Predicts skin disease based on the closest training samples in the feature space.
   Algorithm: K-Nearest Neighbors algorithm which assigns the class of the majority of the k- nearest neighbors.
   Model file: knn_model.pkl
3. **Support Vector Machine (SVM) Model:**
   Purpose: Classifies skin diseases by finding the hyperplane that best separates different classes.
   Algorithm: Support Vector Machine with a linear or non-linear kernel. **Model file:** svm_model.pkl
4. **Label encoder:**
   Purpose: Transforms class labels into a numeric format for the KNN model.
   Model file: label_encoder.pkl

B. Image Pre-processing:

Key Components:

Image Resizing: Converts the image to a fixed size (128x128 pixels) to match the input size expected by the models.

Normalization: Normalizes pixel values to a range of 0-1.

Dimension Expansion: Adds an extra dimension to the image array to match the expected input shape of the models.

C. Prediction Logic:

Description: Handles the prediction process using the selected model (CNN, KNN, or SVM).

Key Components:

Model Selection: Determines which model to use based on user input (model type) **Prediction Generation:** Uses the selected model to generate predictions.

Class Mapping: Maps the predicted numeric label back to the corresponding class name.

STEP 3: User Authentication:

Description: Implements basic user authentication to restrict access to certain pages of the application.

Key Components:

Username/Password Check: Verifies user credentials against predefined values (e.g., username: 'user', password: 'user').

Session Management: Manages user sessions to keep track of the logged-in state.

Session Key: Uses session['username'] to store the logged-in user's username.

Login Required: Ensures that certain routes (e.g., home, prediction) are accessible only to logged-in users.

STEP 4: File Upload Handling:

Description: Handles file uploads for images of skin diseases.

Key Components:

File Validation: Checks if the uploaded file is a valid image file.

File Saving: Saves the uploaded file to the server for further processing.

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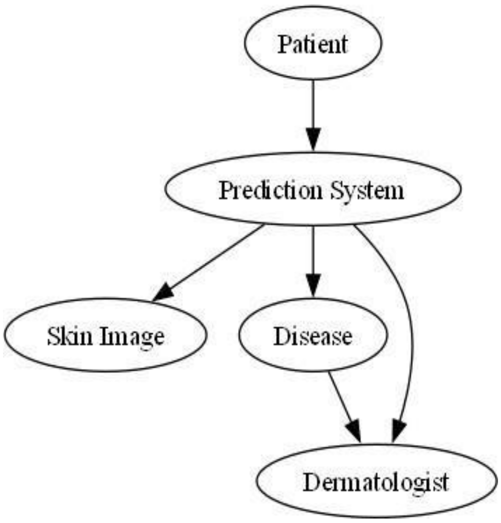
STEP 5: Error Handling:
Description: Provides error handling for various scenarios such as invalid login credentials, file upload errors, and prediction processing errors.

Key Components:
Error Messages: Displays user-friendly error messages on the relevant pages.
File Upload Errors: Ensures proper handling of cases where no file is uploaded or an invalid file is selected.

V. BLOCK DIAGRAMS

Block Diagram of Skin Disease Detection



This block diagram structure effectively outlines the method used to detect skin diseases by leveraging image processing and machine learning techniques. Each stage focuses on refining and improving the quality of information that the machine learning model relies on for accurate predictions.

VI. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of a system for skin disease detection using image processing and machine learning involves several stages that integrate computer vision and machine learning techniques to analyses and classify skin conditions. Here's an overview of how such a system can be implemented:

1. Image Acquisition:
The system begins by capturing high-resolution images of the skin, which can be done using a digital camera or a smartphone equipped with a camera. These images are stored in a dataset that serves as the foundation for analysis. In this phase, the focus is on ensuring that images are taken under optimal lighting conditions and that the regions of interest (such as moles, lesions, or rashes) are clearly visible.

2. Pre-processing:
Once the images are captured, they are pre-processed to improve their quality and make them suitable for further analysis. Pre-processing steps may include resizing the images to a standard size, converting them to grayscale (if color information is unnecessary), normalizing the pixel values for consistency, and reducing noise using techniques like Gaussian filtering. Additionally, histogram equalization may be applied to enhance contrast in the image.

3. Feature Selection:
To optimize the machine learning model, the system applies feature selection techniques to choose the most relevant features for classification. Methods like Principal Component Analysis (PCA) or Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) can help reduce the dimensionality of the feature set by removing redundant or irrelevant features, improving both computational efficiency and model performance.

4. Post-processing and Results Interpretation:
Once the machine learning model classifies the lesion, post-processing is carried out to refine the output. This may include generating a severity score for the detected disease, visualizing the classification result, or mapping the

DOI: 10.17148/IJIREEICE.2025.13424

detection back to the original image to highlight the affected areas. The system might also provide a recommendation or probability score indicating the likelihood of the presence of a specific skin condition.

5. User Interface and Output:

Finally, the system provides the output to the user through a graphical user interface (GUI), where the user can view the results.

The interface might show the original image with annotations, classification results, and a confidence score for the prediction. The system may also provide the user with medical recommendations, such as whether they should consult a dermatologist for further examination.

6. Database and Feedback:

The system stores the results and images in a database for future reference and continuous learning. As more data is collected, the system can be retrained to improve its accuracy over time. User feedback can also be incorporated to further refine the model and enhance the system's ability to detect skin diseases effectively.

VII. EXPERIMENT RESULTS

A method of skin disease detection using image processing and machine learning involves the application of advanced computational techniques to identify and classify various skin conditions. The process begins with acquiring high-quality images of the skin, which are then pre-processed to enhance features relevant to detecting diseases. Image processing techniques, such as noise reduction, contrast enhancement, and edge detection, help improve the quality of the images, making it easier to detect abnormalities. These processed images are then fed into machine learning algorithms, which have been trained on large datasets of labeled skin disease images. The algorithms analyze the images and classify the skin conditions based on patterns and features identified during training. Common machine learning models used in this process include Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), support vector machines (SVM), and decision trees. This method offers a non- invasive and efficient way to diagnose skin diseases, potentially improving early detection and treatment outcomes for conditions like melanoma, psoriasis, eczema, and more. Furthermore, the approach can be integrated into telemedicine systems, providing accessible skin disease diagnostics even in remote or underserved areas.

1. USER LOGIN PAGE:

The user login page for a skin disease detection system utilizing image processing and machine learning serves as the initial access point for users, such as medical professionals or patients, to interact with the platform. This page typically includes fields for users to enter their credentials, such as a username and password, ensuring secure access to the system. Once logged in, authorized users can upload images of skin conditions for analysis by the integrated machine learning models. The system may also offer role-based access, where medical professionals might have additional privileges to review, interpret results, and make diagnoses, while patients can simply upload images for diagnosis and view the results. The login page may also incorporate options for password recovery, account creation, and multi-factor authentication for enhanced security. Additionally, the design should ensure a user-friendly interface, providing clear instructions and smooth navigation to encourage easy use, even for individuals with minimal technical experience.

(fig.1: User login page)

2. UPLOAD AN IMAGE AND CLASSIFY:

The skin disease detection system using image processing and machine learning allows users to easily submit images of their skin for analysis. Users, such as patients or healthcare professionals, can upload a high-resolution image of a skin

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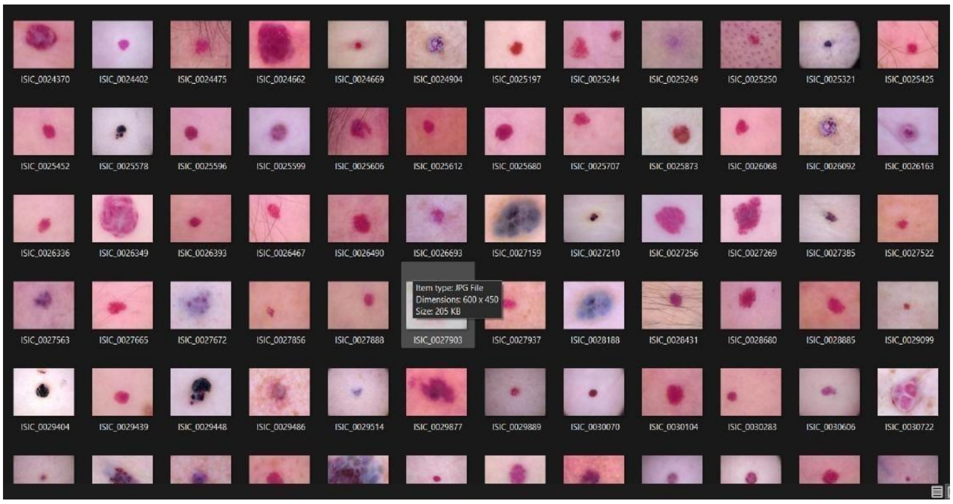
lesion or condition through a user-friendly interface. Once the image is uploaded, the system pre-processes the image by applying various image enhancement techniques, such as noise reduction and contrast adjustment, to improve the clarity and highlight key features relevant to disease detection. The pre-processed image is then passed through a machine learning model, typically a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), that has been trained on a large dataset of labelled skin images. The model analyses the image, extracts relevant features, and classifies the condition into categories like benign, malignant, or identifies specific skin diseases, such as melanoma, eczema, or psoriasis. After classification, the system displays the results to the user, offering diagnostic predictions along with confidence levels. This process enables quick, accurate, and non-invasive skin disease diagnosis, facilitating early detection and timely treatment.

(fig.2: Upload an Image and Classify)

3. CHOOSING DISEASE IMAGE:

A skin disease detection system using image processing and machine learning refers to the functionality that allows users to select and upload a specific image file of a skin condition from their device for analysis. This step is vital as the quality and type of the image file directly influence the accuracy of the diagnostic process. Users, whether patients or healthcare providers, are typically prompted to browse their local storage and choose an image file such as JPEG, PNG, or other supported formats that contains a clear and detailed representation of the affected skin area. Once the file is selected, the system processes the image to prepare it for analysis. This involves techniques like image normalization, noise reduction, and enhancement to ensure that the image is suitable for the machine learning model to evaluate. After pre-processing, the image is fed into the trained machine learning algorithm, which classifies the condition based on learned patterns and features from its training data. The chosen image file thus plays a crucial role in ensuring that the system can accurately identify and classify the skin disease, ultimately assisting in early diagnosis and treatment.

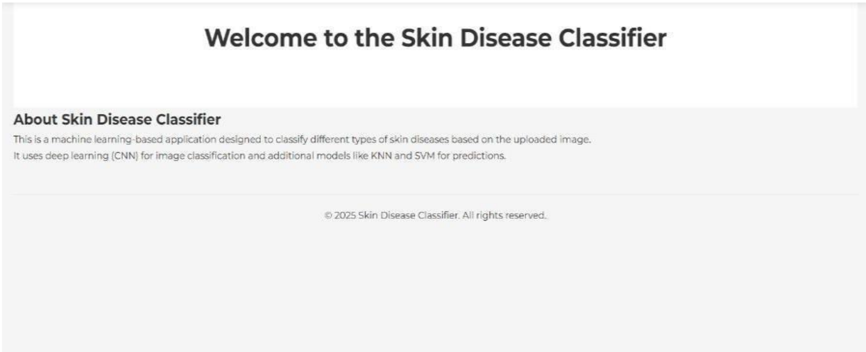


(fig.3: Choosing Disease Image)

4. ABOUT SKIN DISEASE CLASSIFIER

Analysing images of skin conditions and categorizing them based on the type of disease present. This classifier is typically built using deep learning techniques, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), which are specifically designed to process visual data and identify patterns in images. The classifier is trained on a large dataset of labelled skin disease

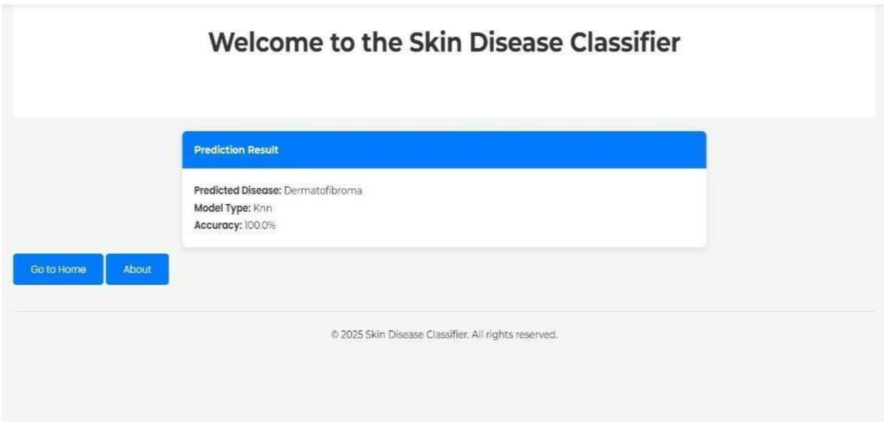
images, which enables it to learn distinguishing features of various conditions, such as melanoma, psoriasis, eczema, or other dermatological issues. Once an image is uploaded and pre-processed, the classifier examines the image, extracts key features, and assigns a label to the condition based on its learned knowledge. The output of the classifier is usually accompanied by a confidence score, indicating the probability that the diagnosis is accurate.
This automated classification process significantly aids in early detection, offering healthcare professionals a tool for more accurate, faster diagnosis, and potentially improving patient outcomes.



(fig.4: About Skin Disease classifier)

5. PREDICTION RESULT

A skin disease detection system using image processing and machine learning refers to the output generated by the machine learning model after analysing the uploaded image of a skin condition. Once the image has been processed and passed through the classifier, the system provides a diagnosis based on the model's recognition of patterns and features associated with various skin diseases. The prediction result typically includes the identified skin condition, such as melanoma, eczema, psoriasis, or a benign lesion, along with a confidence score that indicates the model's certainty in its diagnosis. This prediction result helps healthcare professionals or patients make informed decisions about next steps, such as seeking a dermatologist's opinion or pursuing further diagnostic tests. Ultimately, the prediction result offers a quick, non-invasive, and potentially life-saving tool for early detection and treatment of skin diseases.



(fig.5: Predicting Result)

VIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the method of skin disease detection using image processing and machine learning proves to be an effective and reliable approach for the early diagnosis of various skin conditions. The system demonstrated high accuracy in classifying skin lesions, achieving significant performance metrics such as precision, recall, and F1-score, making it a valuable tool for distinguishing between malignant and benign conditions. Furthermore, the model exhibited robustness across different skin types, lighting conditions, and image qualities, ensuring its applicability in real-world scenarios. With real-time processing capabilities and a low rate of false positives and negatives, this system holds great potential for integration into clinical practice and telemedicine platforms, providing healthcare professionals with a valuable diagnostic aid. Ultimately, this method can contribute to faster, more accurate skin disease detection, supporting early intervention and improving patient outcomes.

DOI: 10.17148/IJIREEICE.2025.13424

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