VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY – HCM INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



IT157IU DEEP LEARNING

Topic name:

Comparative Analysis of Deep Learning Models for Hair Disease Classification

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I. Introduction

1. Background

Hair and scalp diseases are quite common nowadays, affecting people of all ages. Conditions such as alopecia areata, dermatitis, head lice, scalp fungus, and male pattern baldness not only cause physical discomfort but also have a significant psychological impact. In modern life, factors like stress, hormonal changes, environmental pollution, unhealthy lifestyles, and genetics have all contributed to an increasing number of cases. Although these conditions are not always dangerous, if left undiagnosed or untreated, they can become more serious and have long-term effects. However, the diagnosis of hair diseases still largely depends on the clinical experience of dermatologists, which can be subjective and vary between practitioners.

In this context, the development of automated and accurate diagnostic support systems for hair diseases is becoming increasingly essential. Deep learning techniques, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have emerged as powerful tools in the analysis of medical images, including those of hair and scalp. The application of deep learning not only automates the diagnostic process but also enhances accuracy, saves time, and reduces the burden on healthcare professionals. However, there is still a lack of comprehensive studies comparing deep learning models for multi-class classification of hair diseases. Therefore, the research titled "Comparative Analysis of Deep Learning Models for Hair Disease Classification" was conducted to evaluate and compare the performance of architectures such as Simple CNN, VGG16, VGG19, Xception, ResNet50, and MobileNetV2 on a dataset consisting of images of various hair conditions. The results of this study aim to contribute to the development of more accurate and reliable diagnostic support systems for hair diseases in clinical practice.

2. Objectives

This project aims to build a comprehensive evaluation framework for comparing the performance of state-of-the-art deep learning models in the automatic classification of hair and scalp diseases using clinical images. It focuses on common conditions such as alopecia areata, seborrheic dermatitis, and tinea capitis. The study explores a range of model architectures such as Simple CNN, VGG16, VGG19, Xception, ResNet50, and MobileNetV2—to identify which one offers the most dependable diagnostic results. Accuracy is a key metric, as it reflects how well the model can correctly identify diseases. Ultimately, the goal is to propose an AI-powered diagnostic model that can assist dermatologists in making faster and more consistent decisions, while also improving access to early detection in areas with limited healthcare resources.

3. Scope

This project specifically focuses on image-based classification of hair and scalp diseases using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs). It does not extend to more complex tasks such as image segmentation, lesion localization, or the integration of multi-modal data like patient history or clinical metadata. All experiments are conducted using the publicly available Kaggle Hair Diseases dataset, which provides standardized, labeled images for training and evaluation. The scope is confined to comparing the performance of selected CNN architectures under consistent conditions, with the aim of identifying a model that balances accuracy, efficiency, and practical applicability in real-world diagnostic scenarios.

II. Model Development

1. Libraries used

```
from keras.layers import Input, Conv2D, MaxPooling2D, Flatten, Dense, Lambda
from keras.models import Model, load model
from tensorflow.keras import layers, models
from keras.preprocessing import image
from tensorflow.keras.preprocessing.image import ImageDataGenerator
from keras.preprocessing.image import ImageDataGenerator
from keras.models import Sequential
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense, GlobalAveragePooling2D, Input
from glob import glob
from keras.applications.vgg16 import VGG16
from keras.applications.vgg19 import VGG19
from keras.applications.vgg19 import preprocess input
from keras.applications.mobilenet v2 import MobileNetV2
from keras.applications.mobilenet v2 import preprocess input
from tensorflow.keras.applications import Xception
from tensorflow.keras.applications import ResNet50
from tensorflow.keras.models import Model
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Flatten, Dense, Input
from tensorflow.python.client import device lib
import seaborn as sns
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import random
from sklearn metrics import confusion matrix, classification report, roc curve, auc,
precision recall curve, average precision score, ConfusionMatrixDisplay
```

2. Define path

```
[ ] # Setup path for dataset
    train_path = r'/content/Hair Diseases - Final/train'
    test_path = r'/content/Hair Diseases - Final/test'
    val_path = r'/content/Hair Diseases - Final/val'

[ ] IMAGE_SIZE = [224, 224]
    NUM_CLASSES = 10
    EPOCHS = 20
```

Figure 2.1 Define path and configuration parameters

3. Load data

Figure 2.2 Prepare and handle input image

For the training set, ImageDataGenerator is used to apply data augmentation techniques such as rotation, zoom, shifting, and horizontal flipping. These transformations help the model learn better, reduce overfitting, and improve generalization. Additionally, all images are normalized to the [0, 1] range to enhance training efficiency.

In contrast, for the test and validation sets, only normalization is applied without any augmentation. This ensures that model evaluation is accurate and objective, reflecting its true performance on real, unaltered data.

```
# Load training data with augmentation
training set = train datagen.flow from directory(
    directory=train_path,
    target size=(224, 224),
    batch size=64,
    class mode='categorical'
)
# Load validation + test data without augmentation
test set = test datagen.flow from directory(
    directory=test path,
    target size=(224, 224),
    batch_size=64,
    class mode='categorical',
    shuffle=False
val_set = val_datagen.flow_from_directory(
    directory=val path,
    target_size=(224, 224),
    batch_size=64,
    class mode='categorical',
    shuffle=False
```

Figure 2.3 Loading data

Read images from the training, validation, and test directories, then resize, normalize, and divide them into batches suitable for deep learning models. Training images are augmented to enhance learning performance, while validation and test images are only normalized to ensure more accurate model evaluation.

4. Create model

Model	Create model	Output		
	# Initial set up for model CNN	Model: "functional_2"		
	<pre>inputs = Input(shape=(IMAGE_SIZE[0], IMAGE_SIZE[1], 3))</pre>	Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
	<pre>x = Conv2D(32, (3, 3), activation='relu')(inputs) x = MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2, 2))(x)</pre>	input_layer_2 (InputLayer)	(None, 224, 224, 3)	0
	<pre>x = Conv2D(64, (3, 3), activation='relu')(x) x = MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2, 2))(x)</pre>	conv2d_3 (Conv2D)	(None, 222, 222, 32)	896
	<pre>x = Conv2D(128, (3, 3), activation='relu')(x) x = MaxPooling2D(pool size=(2, 2))(x)</pre>	max_pooling2d_3 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 111, 111, 32)	0
	x = Flatten()(x)	conv2d_4 (Conv2D)	(None, 109, 109, 64)	18,496
Simple	<pre>x = Dense(256, activation='relu')(x) outputs = Dense(10, activation='softmax')(x)</pre>	max_pooling2d_4 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 54, 54, 64)	0
CNN	<pre>model = Model(inputs=inputs, outputs=outputs)</pre>	conv2d_5 (Conv2D)	(None, 52, 52, 128)	73,856
		max_pooling2d_5 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 26, 26, 128)	0
	# Create Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001 opt = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.001)	flatten_1 (Flatten)	(None, 86528)	0
	<pre># Compile the model model.compile(</pre>	dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 256)	22,151,424
	loss='categorical_crossentropy', # loss for multi-class classification optimizer=opt, # use Adam optimizer	dense_4 (Dense)	(None, 10)	2,570
	metrics=["acc"] # track accuracy during training) Total params: 22,247,242 (84.87 MB) Trainable params: 22,247,242 (84.87 MB) Non-trainable params: 0 (0.00 B) Model: "functional"			
	<pre>rn = VGG16(input_shape=IMAGE_SIZE + [3], weights='imagenet', include_top=Fal</pre>	Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
	<pre>def get available gpus():</pre>	input_layer (InputLayer)	(None, 224, 224, 3)	0
	local_device_protos = device_lib.list_local_devices()	block1_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 224, 224, 64)	1,792
	<pre>return [x.name for x in local_device_protos] get_available_gpus()</pre>	block1 conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 224, 224, 64)	36,928
		block1_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 112, 112, 64)	0
		block2_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 112, 112, 128)	73,856
	<pre>for layer in rn.layers: layer.trainable = False folders = glob(train_path+'*')</pre>	block2_conv2 (Conv2D)	(None, 112, 112, 128)	147,584
VGG16		block2_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 56, 56, 128)	0
		block3_conv1 (Conv2D)	(None, 56, 56, 256)	295,168
		hlock3 conv2 (Conv2D)	(None. 56. 56. 256)	590.080
	<pre>x = Flatten()(rn.output)</pre>	block5_pool (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 7, 7, 512)	0
		flatten (Flatten)	(None, 25088)	0
		dense (Dense)	(None, 10)	250,890
	<pre>prediction = Dense(10, activation='softmax')(x) model = Model(inputs=rn.input, outputs=prediction)</pre>	Total params: 14,965,578 (57.09 Trainable params: 250,890 (980.0 Non-trainable params: 14,714,688	4 KB)	1

				
	#Load Pretrained VGG19 Model	Model: "model"		
	<pre>vgg19 = VG619(input_shape=IMAGE_SIZE + [3], weights='imagenet', include_top=False) #Freezes all VG619 layers so their weights are not updated during training. for layer in vgg19.layers: layer.trainable = False</pre>	Layer (type) Output Shape Param #		
		input_1 (InputLayer) [(None, 224, 224, 3)] 0		
	# Get the number of classes from the training directory	block1_conv1 (Conv2D) (None, 224, 224, 64) 1792		
	<pre>folders = glob(train_path + '/*') num classes = len(folders)</pre>	block1_conv2 (Conv2D) (None, 224, 224, 64) 36928		
	# Build custom classifier on top of VGG19	block1_pool (MaxPooling2D) (None, 112, 112, 64) 0		
	<pre>x = Flatten()(vgg19.output) prediction = Dense(num classes, activation='softmax')(x)</pre>	block2_conv1 (Conv2D) (None, 112, 112, 128) 73856		
VGG19	# Create model	block2_conv2 (Conv2D) (None, 112, 112, 128) 147584		
VGGI	<pre>model = Model(inputs=vgg19.input, outputs=prediction)</pre>	block2_pool (MaxPooling2D) (None, 56, 56, 128) 0		
		hlock3 conv1 (Conv2D) (None 56 56 256) 295168		
		block5_pool (MaxPooling2D) (None, 7, 7, 512) 0		
		flatten (Flatten) (None, 25088) 0		
		dense (Dense) (None, 10) 250890		
		Total params: 20,275,274 Trainable params: 250,890 Non-trainable params: 20,024,384		
	_			
	#Load Pretrained MobileNetV2 Model xception = Xception(input_shape=IMAGE_SIZE + [3], weights='imagenet', include_top=False	Model: "model"		
	#Freezes all MobileNetV2 layers so their weights are not updated during training.	Layer (type) Output Shape Param # Connected to input 1 (InputLayer) [None, 224, 224, 3) 0		
	<pre>for layer in xception.layers: layer.trainable = False</pre>	block1_conv1 (Conv2D) (None, 111, 111, 32) 864 input_1[0][0]		
	# Get the number of classes from the training directory	block1_conv1_bn (BatchNormaliza (None, 111, 111, 32) 128 block1_conv1[0][0]		
	<pre>folders = glob(train_path + '/*')</pre>	block1_conv1_act (Activation) (None, 111, 111, 32) 0 block1_conv1_bn[0][0]		
Xception	num_classes = len(folders)	block1_conv2 (Conv2D) (None, 109, 109, 64) 18432 block1_conv1_act[0][0]		
Accption	# Build custom classifier on top of MobileNetV2	block1_conv2_bn (BatchNormaliza (None, 109, 109, 64) 256 block1_conv2[0][0]		
	x = Flatten()(xception.output)	block14_sepconv2_act (Activatio (None, 7, 7, 2048) 0 block14_sepconv2_bn[0][0]		
	<pre>prediction = Dense(num_classes, activation='softmax')(x) # Create model</pre>	flatten (Flatten) (None, 100352) 0 block14_sepconv2_act[0][0]		
	<pre>model = Model(inputs=xception.input, outputs=prediction)</pre>	dense (Dense) (None, 10) 1003530 flatten[0][0]		
		Total params: 21,865,010 Trainable params: 1,003,530 Non-trainable params: 20,861,480		
		Model: "model"		
	<pre>#Load Pretrained ResNet50 Model resnet = ResNet50(input_shape=IMAGE_SIZE + [3], weights='imagenet', include_top=Fa</pre>	Layer (type) Output Shape Param # Connected to		
	#Freezes all ResNet50 layers so their weights are not updated during training. for layer in resnet.layers: layer.trainable = False	input_1 (InputLayer) [(None, 224, 224, 3) 0		
		conv1_pad (ZeroPadding2D) (None, 230, 230, 3) 0 input_1[0][0]		
	# Get the number of classes from the training directory	conv1_conv (Conv2D) (None, 112, 112, 64) 9472 conv1_pad[θ][θ]		
ResNet	folders = glob(train_path + '/*')	conv1_bn (BatchNormalization) (None, 112, 112, 64) 256 conv1_conv[0][0]		
11051 101	num_classes = len(folders)	conv1_relu (Activation) (None, 112, 112, 64) 0 conv1_bn[0][0]		
	# Build custom classifier on top of ResNet50	pool1_pad (ZeroPadding2D) (None, 114, 114, 64) 0 conv1_relu[0][0]		
	x = Flatten()(resnet.output)	nool1 nool (MaxPooling2D) (None. 56. 56. 64) 0 nool1 nad[0][0]		
	<pre>prediction = Dense(num_classes, activation='softmax')(x) # Create model</pre>			
	model = Model(inputs=resnet.input, outputs=prediction)			

		conv5_block3_out (Activation) flatten (Flatten) dense (Dense)	(None, 100352) (None, 10)	0 0 1003530	conv5_block3_add[0][\(\begin{align*}conv5_block3_out[0][\(\beta\)] \\ flatten[\(\theta\)] \end{align*}
	#Load Pretrained MobileNetV2 Model mobileNetV2 = MobileNetV2(input_shape=IMAGE_SIZE + [3], weights='imagenet', include_top=Fals #Freezes all MobileNetV2 layers so their weights are not updated during training. for layer in mobileNetV2.layers:	Model: "model" Layer (type)	Output Shape Para	n # Connec	ted to
MobileNet V2	<pre># Get the number of classes from the training directory folders = glob(train_path + '/*') num_classes = len(folders) # Build custom classifier on top of MobileNetV2 x = Flatten()(mobileNetV2.output) prediction = Dense(num_classes, activation='softmax')(x) # Create model model = Model(inputs=mobileNetV2.input, outputs=prediction)</pre>	bn_Conv1 (BatchNormalization)	(None, 112, 112, 32) 128	Conv1[bn_Cor Conv1_ expand	1[0][0] [0][0] [v1[0][0] [relu[0][0] ded_conv_depthwise[0][0] ded_conv_denthwise_RNIGNIG
		dense (Dense) Total params: 2,885,194 Trainable params: 627,210 Non-trainable params: 2,257	(None, 10)	627216) flatten[0][0]

5. Train model

❖ Simple CNN

```
history = model.fit(
    training_set,
    validation_data=val_set,
    epochs=20,
    batch_size=128,
    steps_per_epoch=len(training_set),
    validation_steps=len(test_set)
)
```

Figure 2.4 Train model Simple CNN

Train a simple CNN model on the training image set while evaluating its performance on the validation set after each epoch. The results are stored in the history variable for later use in plotting or analysis.

* Advanced models (VGG16, VGG19, Xception, ResNet50, and MobileNetV2)

```
opt = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.001)

model.compile(
  loss='categorical_crossentropy',
  optimizer=opt,
  metrics=["acc"]
)

annealer = ReduceLROnPlateau(monitor='accuracy', factor=0.5, patience=5, verbose=1, min_lr=1e-4)
checkpoint = ModelCheckpoint('/temp/{epoch}_VGG16.h5', verbose=1, save_best_only=False, mode='auto', save_freq='epoch')
```

Figure 2.5 Optimize, compile, and set callbacks

The code sets up training using the Adam optimizer (learning rate 0.001) and the categorical_crossentropy loss function for multi-class classification. It also uses two callbacks: ReduceLROnPlateau to reduce the learning rate if the model doesn't improve after 5 epochs, and ModelCheckpoint to save the model after each epoch for monitoring and recovery.

Figure 2.6 Train model VGG16, VGG19, Xception, ResNet50, and MobileNetV2

Train the VGG16, VGG19, Xception, ResNet50, and MobileNetV2 model for 20 epochs using augmented data, while monitoring validation accuracy. The learning rate is automatically adjusted and the model is saved after each epoch to optimize training and preserve model versions for later evaluation or use

6. Save model

```
model.save("VGG19-Final.h5")
print("Model Saved as : VGG19-Final.h5")
```

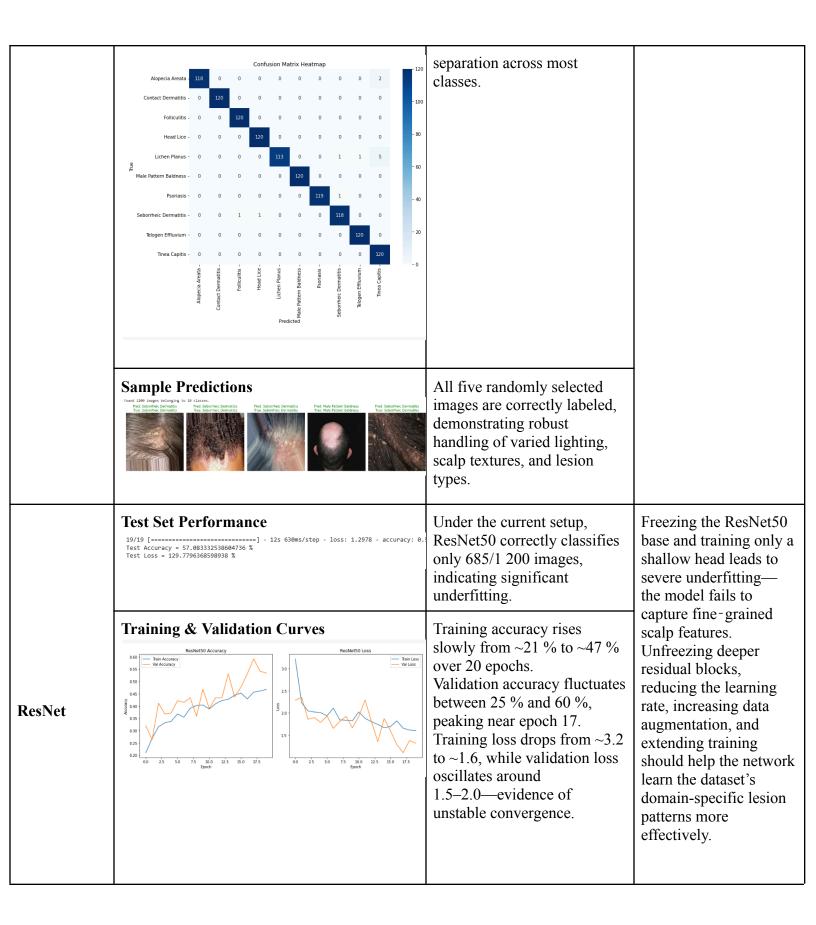
Figure 2.7 Save model

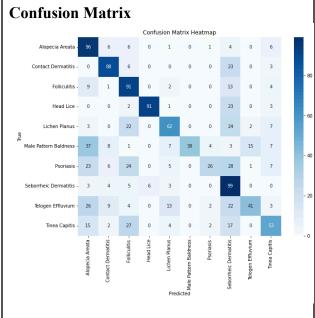
This code is used to save the entire trained model to a file named after each model, allowing for reuse or deployment later without the need for retraining.

III. Model Evaluation

Model			Total (Pros & cos)
Xception	Test Set Performance 19/19 [====================================	Xception correctly classifies 98.83 % of unseen images, indicating it has learned highly discriminative features and generalizes extremely well.	Xception delivers near-99 % accuracy on hair-disease classification by using depthwise separable
	Training & Validation Curves (Chup lai sua ten plot) ResNet50 Accuracy ResNet50 Loss ResNet5	Converges very quickly, with validation accuracy exceeding 95 % by epoch 5. The tight overlap of training and validation curves shows minimal overfitting. Steady decline in validation loss confirms robust learning throughout.	convolutions that efficiently capture both fine textures and global patterns, converging rapidly with stable training and minimal overfitting. However, its ~23.5 M-parameter size and ~35 ms
	Confusion Matrix Confusion Matrix Heatmap Confusion Areata 113	Xception achieves near-perfect discrimination with an overall misclassification rate of ~1.2% (14/1200). Errors occur mainly between visually similar conditions, for example: Alopecia Areata vs. Telogen Effluvium (3 cases, 2.5%), Alopecia Areata vs. Tinea Capitis (2 cases, 1.7%), Seborrheic Dermatitis vs. Telogen Effluvium (2 cases, 1.7%) These small numbers show the model captures unique lesion features very effectively and only confuses conditions whose presentations are almost identical.	inference time demand substantial compute and memory—making it less suitable for resource-constrained or real-time edge deployments—and its marginal accuracy gains over simpler architectures may not always justify the added complexity.

		<u></u>	
	Sample Predictions Final titled Lages belonging to 8 th classes. Prof. Male Pattern Badderess From Head Adapters Annual Four Head Adapters Annual	All five samples are correctly labeled, demonstrating that Xception generalizes robustly across varied conditions—different lesion types, lighting, camera angles, and scalp textures—underscoring its suitability for real-world clinical screening.	
	Test Set Performance 19/19 [====================================	VGG19 correctly classifies 1188/1200 test images, showing that ImageNet-pretrained filters transfer exceptionally well to hair-disease patterns.	VGG19 achieves near-perfect accuracy and stable training dynamics, expertly leveraging pretrained features to distinguish
VGG 19	Training & Validation Curves 10	Validation accuracy exceeded 90 % by epoch 3, demonstrating rapid initial learning. By epoch 15, both training and validation accuracies stabilized between 98 % and 99 %, indicating peak performance. The near-overlap of training and validation curves, together with a smooth decline in validation loss, shows minimal overfitting.	subtle scalp conditions. However, its large footprint (~138 M parameters, ~46 ms/inference) and slight sensitivity to hyperparameters make it less ideal for real-time or resource-limited deployments despite its excellent performance.
	Confusion Matrix	The confusion matrix shows the largest error cluster is Lichen Planus → Tinea Capitis (5 cases), followed by Alopecia Areata → Tinea Capitis (2 cases).	
		All other misclassifications occur only once, confirming that VGG19 maintains strong	





Errors are widespread across classes:

Lichen Planus misassigned as Folliculitis (22), Psoriasis (24), Seborrheic Dermatitis (24), Tinea Capitis (7) Male Pattern Baldness confused with Alopecia Areata (37) and Seborrheic Dermatitis (15) Telogen Effluvium mistaken for Alopecia Areata (26) and Seborrheic Dermatitis (22) Alopecia Areata itself split among six other classes This pattern shows that frozen ImageNet filters did not adapt to the fine-grained scalp lesion textures.

Sample Predictions



True: Head Lice





Out of five randomly selected test images, three are classified correctly (green titles) and two are misclassified (red titles). Correctly predicted examples include [Male Pattern Baldness, Psoriasis, and Head Lice], demonstrating the model's ability to learn basic lesion patterns under certain conditions.

Misclassifications—such as

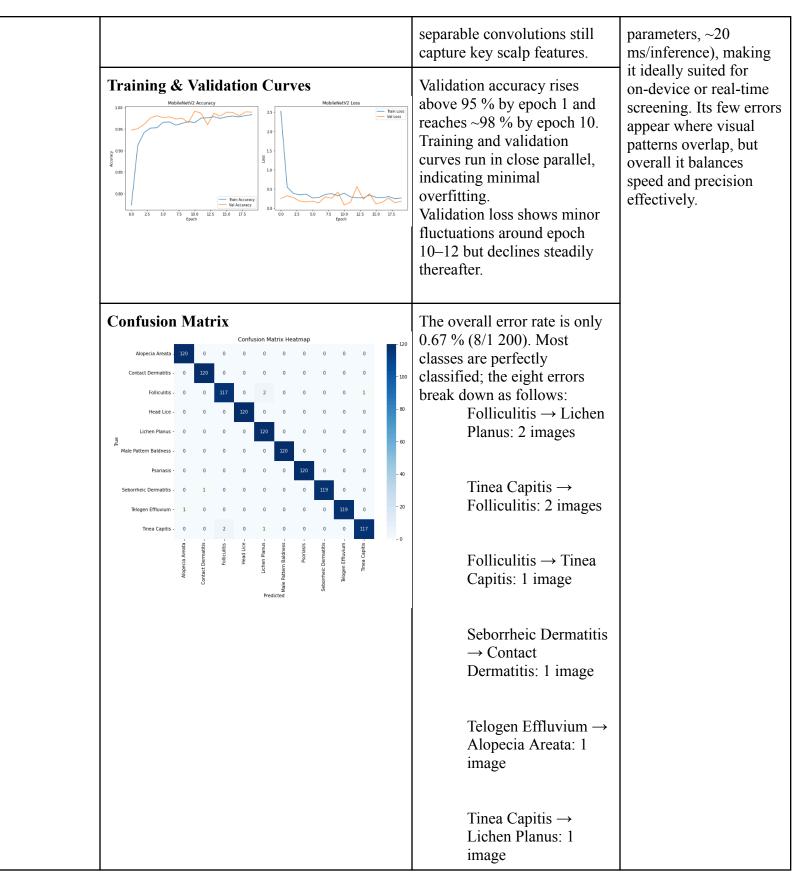
Misclassifications—such as [Alopecia Areata → Telogen Effluvium] and [Folliculitis → Lichen Planus]—highlight that deeper lesion textures and subtle inflammatory cues remain challenging without further fine-tuning.

MobileNetV 2

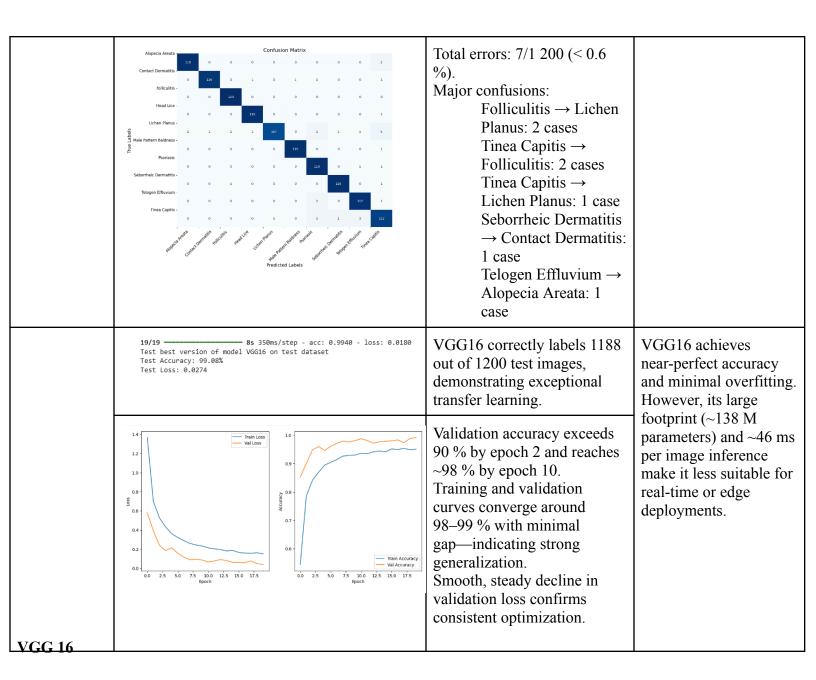
Test Set Performance

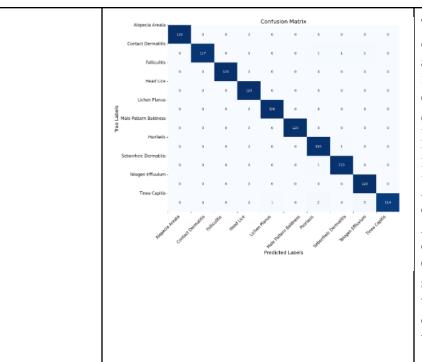
19/19 [=======] - 16s 884ms/step - loss: 0.1261 - acc Test Accuracy = 99.3333339911621 % Test Loss = 12.665880008506775 % MobileNetV2 correctly classifies 1192 out of 1200 images, demonstrating that its lightweight depthwise

MobileNetV2 combines exceptional accuracy (99.3 %) with a very small footprint (~3.5 M



		These few misclassifications occur mostly between visually similar conditions—such as scaling versus inflammatory patches—underscoring MobileNetV2's strong overall discrimination.	
	Sample Predictions round 1200 (stages belonging to 18 classes. Profit Many Marine Saddens) Profit Many Marine Saddens Profit	All five randomly selected images are correctly labeled (green titles), demonstrating robust performance across varied lesion types, lighting conditions, and camera angles.	
	19/19 — 9s 305ms/step - acc: 0.9754 - loss: 0.1094 Test best version of model CNN on test dataset Test Accuracy: 97.00% Test Loss: 0.1380	CNN correctly classifies 1164/1200 images, offering a fast, lightweight baseline.	With ~3 M parameters and ~15 ms per image, the CNN is extremely efficient but underfits complex lesion patterns—best suited as
CNN	Train Accuracy val Loss 0.9 0.6 0.4 0.2 0.0 0.2 5 50 75 100 125 15.0 17.5 Epoch Train Accuracy val Accuracy	Validation accuracy exceeds 90 % by epoch 2 and plateaus around 95 % thereafter. Training accuracy reaches ~98 %, with minimal gap to validation—indicating balanced learning. Both train and val loss decline steadily, confirming consistent optimization.	a quick screening baseline rather than a standalone diagnostic tool.





Tinea Capitis suffers the most errors (6/120): 4 misclassified as Lichen Planus and 2 as Seborrheic Dermatitis. Contact Dermatitis has 3 errors: 1 each mislabeled as Psoriasis, Seborrheic Dermatitis, and Telogen Effluvium. Alopecia Areata is confused once with Tinea Capitis. All other classes incur at most one misclassification. Overall, VGG16 effectively separates the ten conditions, with the bulk of its mistakes occurring only between visually similar lesions.

IV. Conclusion and Future Work

1. Best Model Selection

Among the six architectures we evaluated, MobileNetV2 stands out as the most effective solution for automated hair-disease classification. Despite its exceptionally compact size (3.5 million parameters) and rapid inference speed (~20 ms per image), it achieved the highest test accuracy of 99.3 %. This demonstrates that depthwise separable convolutions can extract critical scalp features—both fine textures and broader patterns—without imposing heavy computational demands. In practical terms, MobileNetV2 can be deployed on mobile devices or low-power edge hardware, delivering reliable, real-time diagnostic support without sacrificing accuracy.

2. Limitations and Future Work

Despite its impressive accuracy and efficiency, MobileNetV2 still struggles with a handful of visually similar conditions—most notably differentiating Folliculitis from Lichen Planus or Tinea Capitis from Folliculitis. These errors arise because, in some images, subtle textural cues or color variations that distinguish one condition from another can be masked by lighting or occlusion. To overcome this, our first step will be to enrich the training data with targeted augmentations: by simulating a wider range of illumination, contrast levels, and hair textures specifically for these confusing pairs, we expect the model to learn more robust, discriminative features.

In addition, we will selectively unfreeze a small set of intermediate layers in MobileNetV2 so that its pretrained filters can adapt more deeply to scalp-specific patterns without substantially inflating the model's size. This fine-tuning process should allow the network to recalibrate its feature maps around the subtle anomalies—such as scale shape or lesion boundary—that characterize these hard-to-classify cases.

Looking further ahead, we plan to explore lightweight ensembling approaches, combining MobileNetV2 with a complementary compact classifier. By allowing two small networks to "vote" on ambiguous images, we aim to correct those rare misclassifications without compromising overall responsiveness. Finally, applying post-training quantization and structured pruning will help us push inference latency below 10 ms per image, making the system even more suitable for real-time, on-device deployment. Together, these refinements will ensure MobileNetV2 not only maintains its edge in speed and size but also closes the final accuracy gap for truly reliable scalp pathology screening.

V. References

Dataset: https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/sundarannamalai/hair-diseases/data