



# FAB classification of acute leukemia using an ensemble of neural networks

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## Abstract

Acute leukemia is the most frequently occurring malignancy present in human blood and a kind of liquid cancer. This hematological disorder can impinge on bone marrow and lymphatic system. Accordingly, a computer-aided classification system is proposed for French–American–British classification of Acute Leukemia using an ensemble of neural networks which is validated on 180 microscopic blood images taken from online benchmark dataset. As per the requirement of pathologists in real-life examination scenario various objectives are formulated as (i) correct nucleus segmentation in blood cell image, (ii) correct classification of FAB classes of acute leukemia (L1, L2, L3, M2, M3, and M5). To accomplish these research objectives the proposed method consist of segmentation section, feature extraction section, feature pruning section and classification section. The classification of the proposed method consists of two subsections as subsection1 is comprised of single six class PCA based neural network as PCA-NN0 (L1/L2/L3/M2/M3/M5) and subsection 2 contains an ensemble of 15 binary PCA based neural network classifiers as PCA-NN1 (L1/L2), PCA-NN2(L1/L3), PCA-NN3(L1/M2), PCA-NN4(L1/M3), PCA-NN5(L1/M5), PCA-NN6(L2/L3), PCA-NN7(L2/M2), PCA-NN8(L2/M3), PCA-NN9(L2/M5), PCA-NN10(L3/M2), PCA-NN11(L3/M3), PCA-NN12(L3/M5), PCA-NN13(M2/M3), PCA-NN14(M2/M5), PCA-NN15(M3/M5). The achieved accuracy for experiment 1 is 86.4% using PCA-NN0. The output of two most plausible classes predicted by PCA-NN0 is passed to other binary PCA based neural network i.e. PCA-NN1 to PCA-NN15. After passing all the test images to subsection 2, the achieved accuracy is 94.2% from the exhaustive experiment 2. The outcome of the work verifies the capabilities of computer-aided classification system to substitute the conventional diagnostic systems.

**Keywords** Acute leukemia · Leukemia classification · Feature extraction · Ensemble neural network

## 1 Introduction

The assessment of the peripheral blood smear is an imperative indicator of hematological and other unusual conditions that influence the body of a human being. In general, when most people hear the word cancer, then they usually think of

a mass that is formed by rapid division of a group of cells. This mass can be seen by eyes and can be considered as the root of a problem that needs to be cured either through medicine or with surgery or chemotherapy. Due to this reason leukemia is difficult to visualize and understand as compared to other cancers [1, 2]. To be specific, leukemia is a blood cell cancer that contains red blood cells (RBCs) that are required for carrying the oxygen, platelets which are not cells but the chunk of cells that stops bleeding through the formation of blood clots and various kinds of white cells that are required to provide immunity. These cells constitute blood cells but are not made inside the blood but instead inside the bones. If the bone is analyzed, it is observed that the bones are not solid throughout and consists of a hollow cavity at their center which is filled with spongy red tissue that is called bone marrow. It is where these types of blood cells are produced. Figure 1 is illustrating the difference between normal blood cell and cancerous blood cell.

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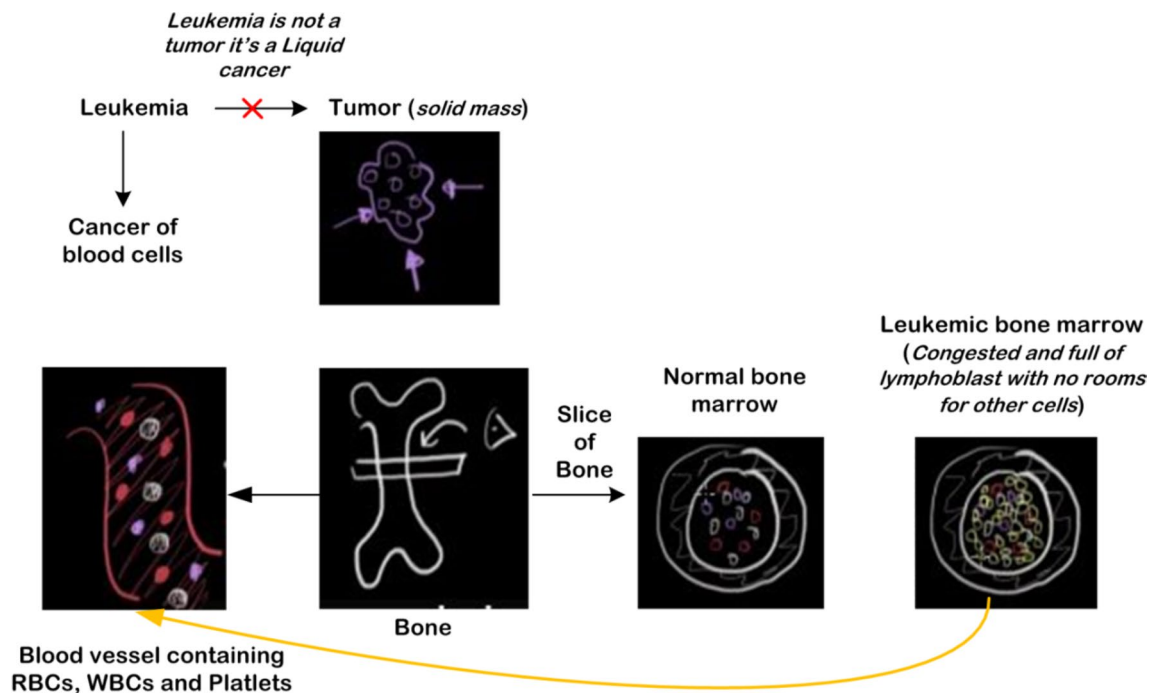


Fig. 1 Formation of Leukemic cells in bone marrow [2]

Inside the bone marrow, it can be seen that in normal cases platelets, red and white blood cells are being made while in case of leukemia, any of the platelets, red or white blood cells start multiplying way faster than the normal and overtake the bone-marrow as seen in Fig. 1. That results in mainly two abnormalities, firstly, the rapidly dividing cells that constitute leukemic cell causes malfunctioning of normal cell i.e. if these are red blood cells then they would not carry oxygen, if are white cells then they would not provide any immunity and if platelets then they would not form any kind of blood clots. Thus, it leads to wastage of energy and space inside the bone-marrow as it is being used to produce the cells that occupy the entire circulatory system but does not perform its function. Secondly, if any of these cells divide rapidly then a lot of space is occupied inside the bone-marrow leaving very narrow space to food for remaining cells which is required for their growth and this disables bone-marrow from producing the required amount of healthy cells and lacks in supplying healthy cells into the blood which ultimately causes problems of fewer WBCs, RBCs and platelets within the blood and leads to improper functioning of these cells irrespective of the blood cell subjected to cancer.

Later, when leukemic cells are short of space for growth within the bone-marrow then they would leak out into blood [1, 2], and thus different types of cells are present in the blood which are reproduced within the bone marrow. Moreover, all of these different cells originate from the same cell

called a hematopoietic stem cell. This hematopoietic stem cell can segment into any type of blood cell, and this newly made immature cell is known as blast cell which is big and has a large nuclei.

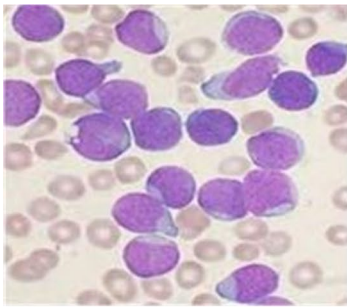
As it can be seen, the nucleus occupies almost the entire cell and comprises of disorganized and loose DNA but the cell doesn't stay immature forever. Eventually, it shrinks in size along with DNA in such a manner that the nucleus takes up a smaller portion of the cell and even the DNA inside the nucleus changes in appearance and becomes more organized. The cell matures through various stages until it reaches its final stage where it is a lot smaller than earlier and the DNA inside the nucleus is present in compacted and organized manner. Acute leukemia generally affects the most immature growth stage of blood cells. ALL (Acute lymphoblastic leukemia) is the most common type of cancer among children and is generally associated with people with Down syndrome.

Basic symptoms of leukemia are (i) fewer erythrocytes (fatigue, shortness of breath, pale skin), (ii) fewer thrombocytes (easy bruising) and (iii) fewer leukocytes (infections) and due to rapid division of these leukemic cells which consumes a lot of energy, the symptoms like (iv) significant weight loss (v) weakness. Moreover, leukemia cells ultimately start to propagate into the wall of the bone that results in bone pain throughout the body.

The morphology of acute leukemias (AML and ALL) in clinical manner with elaboration of different characteristics

of various classes (L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5) of acute leukemia is explained in Fig. 2.

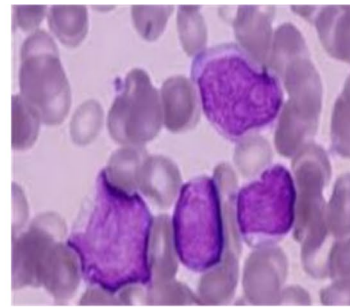
Once a patient begins to show the symptoms associated with leukemia, the doctor will generally get the blood test of that patient done where the lack of healthy cells or in some



L1

[Lymphoblastic leukemia with homogeneous structure]

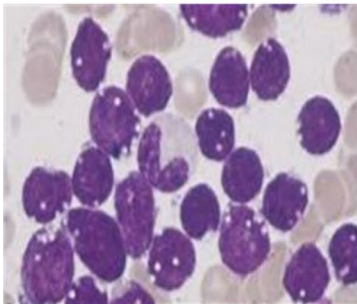
The Frequency of L1 cases ranges from 20% to 30% in Adults and 85% in children. In L1, blasts and chromatin are homogeneous, nucleus is regular and cytoplasm is scanty.



L2

[Lymphoblastic leukemia with varied structure]

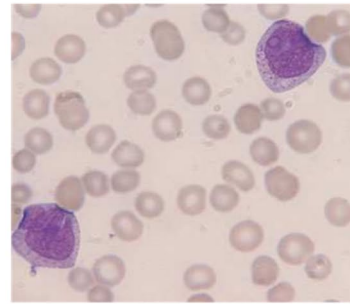
The Frequency of L2 is 70% in adults, and 14% in children. The Morphology of L2 as Nucleus is irregular and chromatin is heterogeneous with large nucleoli.



L3

[Burkitt's leukemia]

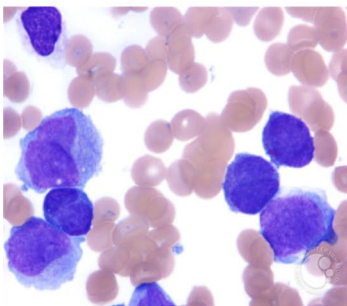
The Frequency of L3 is they are Rare and found less than 1% to 2% of cases. The structure contains large blasts, prominent nucleoli, stippled homogeneous chromatin structure, abundant cytoplasm, abundant cytoplasmic vacuolation covering the nucleus.



M2

[Acute myeloblastic leukemia with maturation]

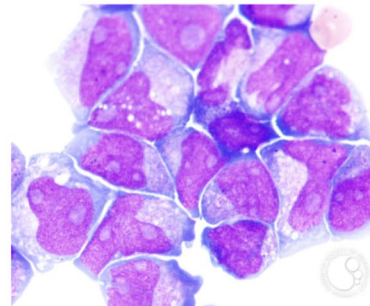
The structure is like containing small to medium-sized blasts with high nucleus: cytoplasm (n:c) ratio and rounded nuclei sometimes located in a corner of the cytoplasm.



M3

[Promyelocytic leukemia]

The Morphology of M3 as it is abundant, intensely azurophilic granulation. The nucleus is reniform and bilobed with a deep cleft, splinter shaped crystalline cytoplasmic inclusions with clumps.



M5

[Acute monocytic leukemia]

The morphology of M5 as it is having large blasts with rounded nucleus and dispersed, immature chromatin and moderately large and intensely basophilic cytoplasm.

**Fig. 2** French–American–British (FAB) classification of acute myeloblastic leukemia and acute myeloblastic leukemia

cases the leukemic cells can be observed in blood as well. This observation leads to the anonymity of patient being leukemic and needs to be confirmed through observing the insides of bone-marrow which is done by microscopic analysis of bone marrow by hematologist which is a tedious task. To automate the process and to assist the expert, there is a requirement of computer-aided classification tool that would be able to categorize the FAB subtypes of acute leukemia [2].

The FAB is the international standard that classifies the leukemia disorder into Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia or ALL and Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia or AML. Then these two classes further classified into their subtype as ALL divided into 3 subclasses L1, L2, L3, and AML can be categorized into 8 subtypes, M0–M7 based on the maturity of blood cell into bone marrow [15]. This work focuses on classifying the FAB subclasses of acute leukemia into six classes as L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5.

## 2 Literature review

The literature perceives that a variety of classification frameworks exist for the identification of leukemic cell from the normal one [3–30]. The literature regarding the classification of leukemia and their subclasses tabulated in Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6 based on different extracted features as single features as *texture only*, *shape only* as well as combined feature extraction methods as *texture + shape*, *texture + color*, *shape + color*, *texture + shape + color* according to available state of art methods.

Figure 3 illustrated the literature related to the existing classification frameworks that are able to classify the normal blood cells from the ALL (Acute lymphoblastic Leukemia) cells. The study observed that the highest classification accuracy for the normal blood cells and ALL cells is 99.2% obtained in the study [3] using SVM (support vector machine).

In Fig. 4, studies associated with classification of normal blood cells and AML cells. From Fig. 4, the maximum precision for the classification of normal blood cells and AML cells is 98% observed [22, 23], that is obtained through extraction of different shape, texture features and colour from both types of cells images using the classifier like SVM. In Fig. 4, the existing studies are alienated into three parts as (i) *shape + texture* feature-based studies that represented by only one study with the accuracy of 97% [24], (ii) *shape + texture + color* feature-based studies that include two studies with a maximum accuracy of 98% [23,

25] and (iii) *texture-based* study that includes one study with the highest accuracy of 98% [22].

There is only one study [27] in which ALL and AML classes are discriminated by extracting the texture and shape features only. It also depicted four studies [26, 28–30], in which computer-aided classification system classified the ALL and AML classes by obtaining the multiple features on segmented cell images as shape, color and various texture features.

Similarly, In Fig. 5, the uppermost accuracy of 99.8% is obtained for AML and ALL classification by applying SRG classifier [26].

In Fig. 6, the studies are done on acute leukemia classification. The first study is based on the hierarchical classification problem. In which all images are discriminated in the acute myeloid leukemia (AML), acute lymphoid leukemia (ALL) from the normal cell images. Additionally, these classes are classified into their FAB classification as AML into M2, M3, and M5 and ALL into L1, L2, and L3 applying various SVM kernels. This study reveals the overall accuracy of 98.3%. Sometimes it is not suitable to perform hierarchical classification by the pathologist for some classification problems where classes are atypical in most cases; they need a classification framework for multiclass characterization. At this point of time accuracy is not a matter of concern, there would be a need of CAC system based on the multiclass classifier. Therefore, the present study represents a multiclass classification framework. The second study is a multiclass classification based on an ensemble of neural network classifier and discriminates six classes of acute leukemia into L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5 respectively.

From the broad study of background and literature, it can be observed that there is less work available regarding the present problem where all the normal cell is distinguished from leukemic cells and later the leukemic cell is classified into AML and ALL cells with additional sub-classification of AML and ALL cells into their FAB classes (M2, M3, M5, L1, L2 and L3).

The main objectives of current work are (i) segmentation of nucleus (ii) extraction of shape, texture and colour features of the nucleus (iii) six-class (L1, L2, L3, M2, M3, and M5) classification of acute leukemic cells. To accomplish these purposes, the nucleus of white blood cell is extracted from the background of the cell. Then many types of features are calculated from the segmented image of the nucleus for precise classification. Then an ensemble binary ANN classifier is used to recognize six classes of acute leukemia.

The outcome of this study illustrates that the present method used with the amalgamation of various feature vectors assists to discriminate between dissimilar acute leukemia types with an overall accuracy above 90%.



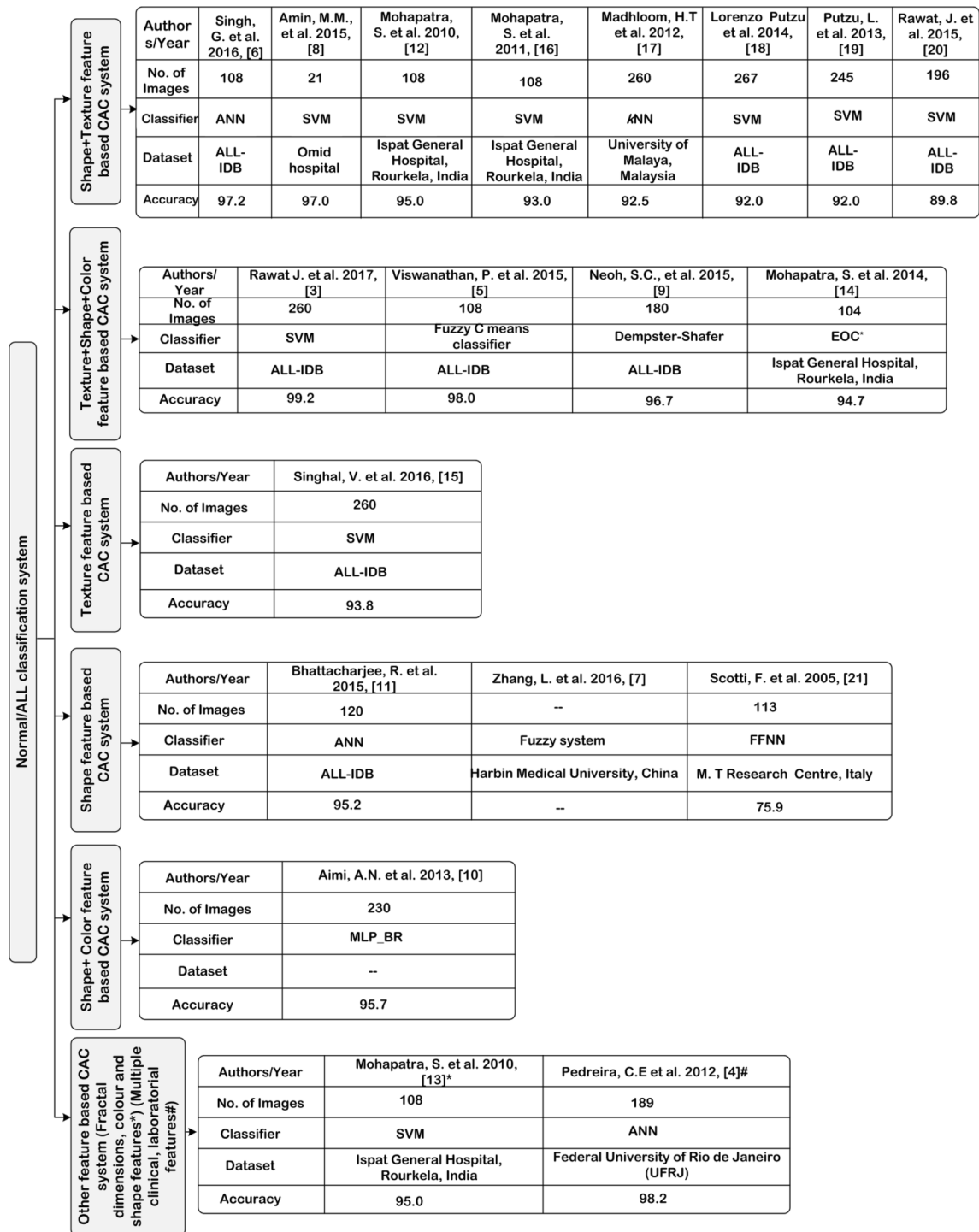


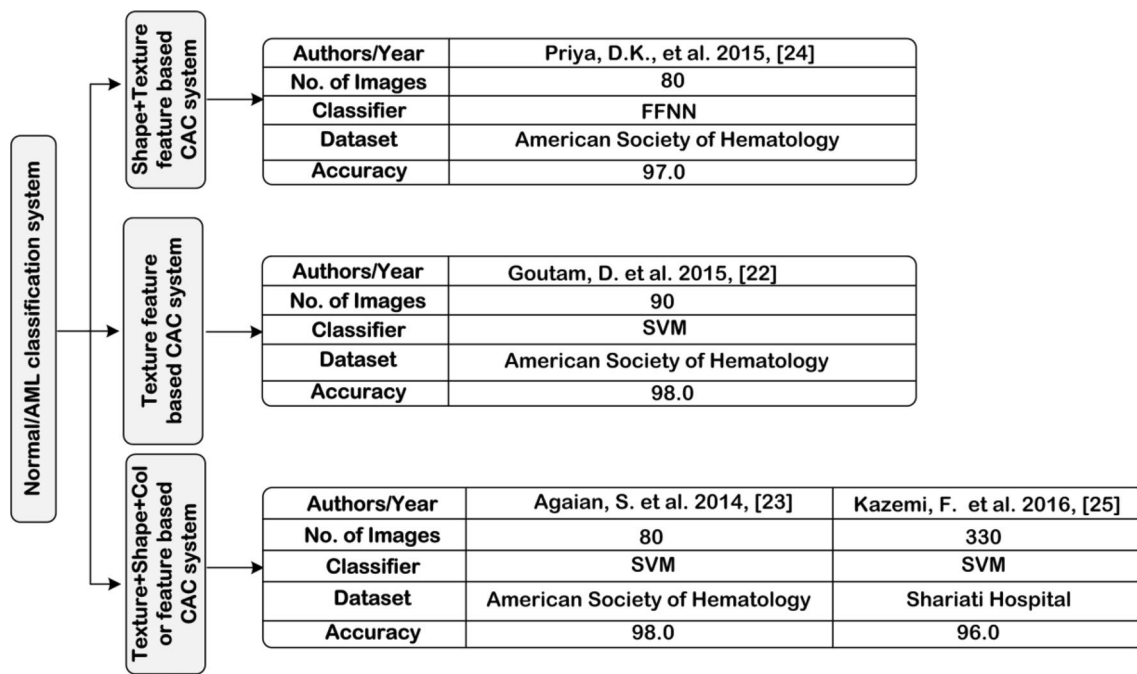
Fig. 3 State of art available for the Normal blood cells and Acute lymphoblastic leukemia classification

## 3 Material and methods

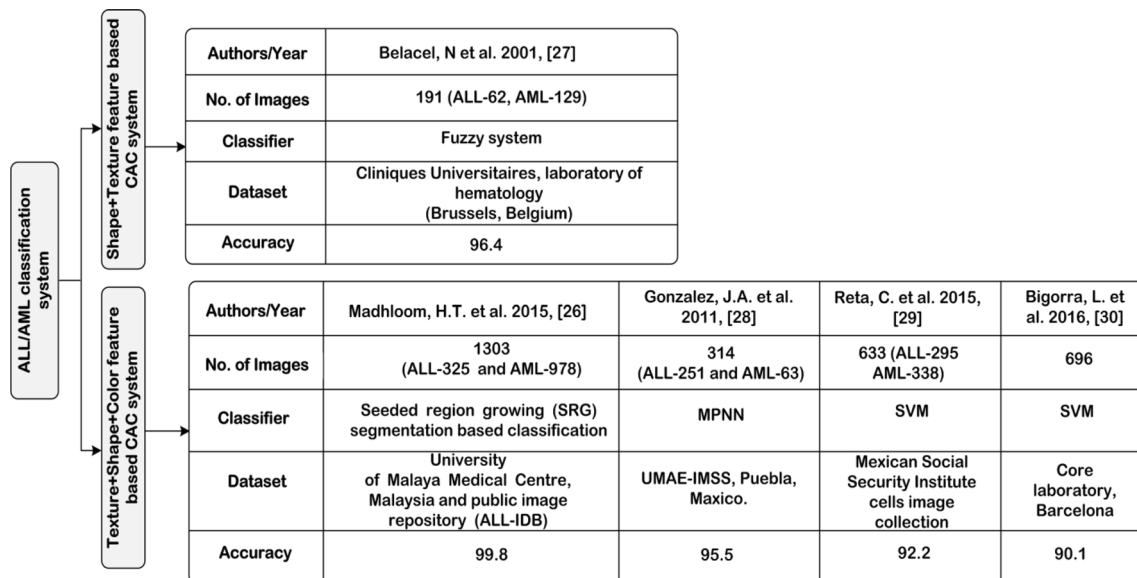
### 3.1 Database description

To build up an automated classification system for leukemia, one need to train the classifiers with wide-ranging

data sets tends to represent each subclass of leukemia. In this study, a combined set of images has taken from the online image repositories as American society of hematology (ASH) and ALL-IDB [31, 32]. The database for this study contains total 280 sub-images or region of interest (ROIs) including different kind of leukemia subclasses as



**Fig. 4** State of art available for the Normal blood cells and Acute Myeloblastic leukemia classification. EOC-Ensemble of Naive Baiyes, *k*NN, MLP-SVM, RBFN-SVM and SVM classifiers. L1, L2, and L3 are the FAB classes of Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (cancerous cell)



**Fig. 5** State of art available for the AML and ALL classification. EOC Ensemble of Naive Baiyes, *k*NN, MLP-SVM, RBFN-SVM and SVM classifiers. L1, L2 and L3 are the FAB classes of Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (cancerous cell)

64 sub-images of L1, 46 sub-images of L2, 30 sub-images of L3, 54 sub-images of M2, 38 sub-images of M3 and 48 sub-images of M5. Additionally, these images are labeled by the participating hematologists and classification of

ground truth into six class's i.e. L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5.

The short depiction of used dataset and its divergence in testing and training set is illustrated in Fig. 7.

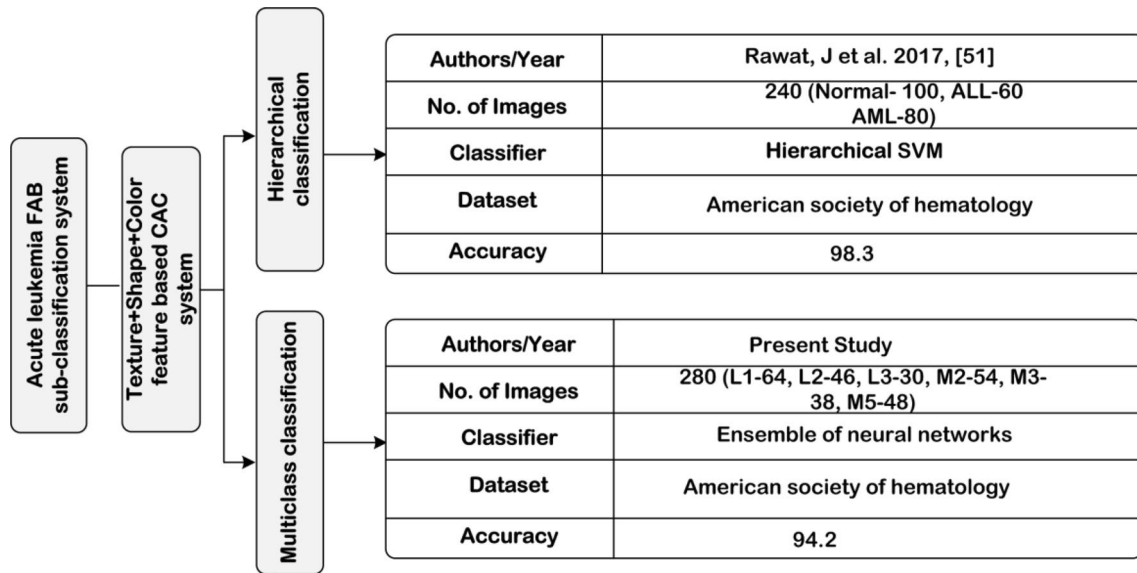
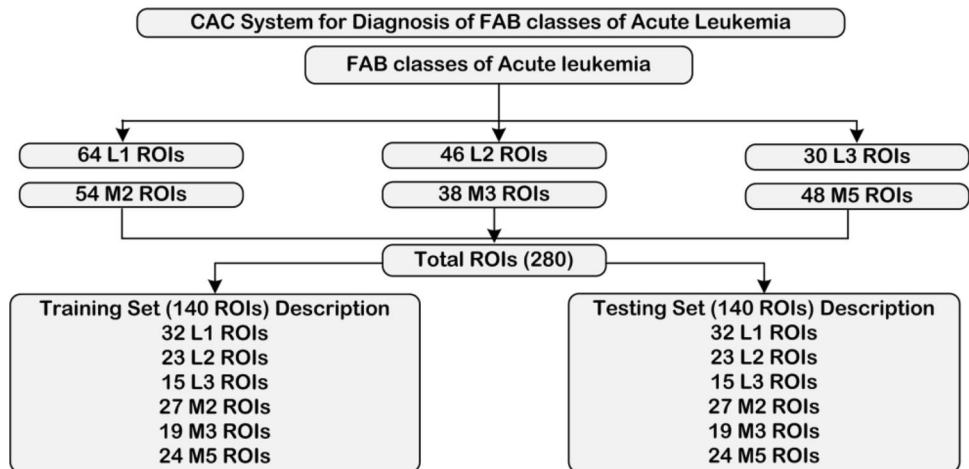


Fig. 6 State of art available for the Acute leukemia classification

Fig. 7 Dataset and their division into testing and training sets



### 3.2 Proposed acute leukemia classification framework

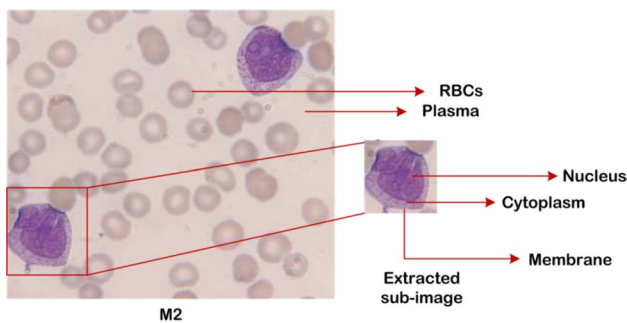
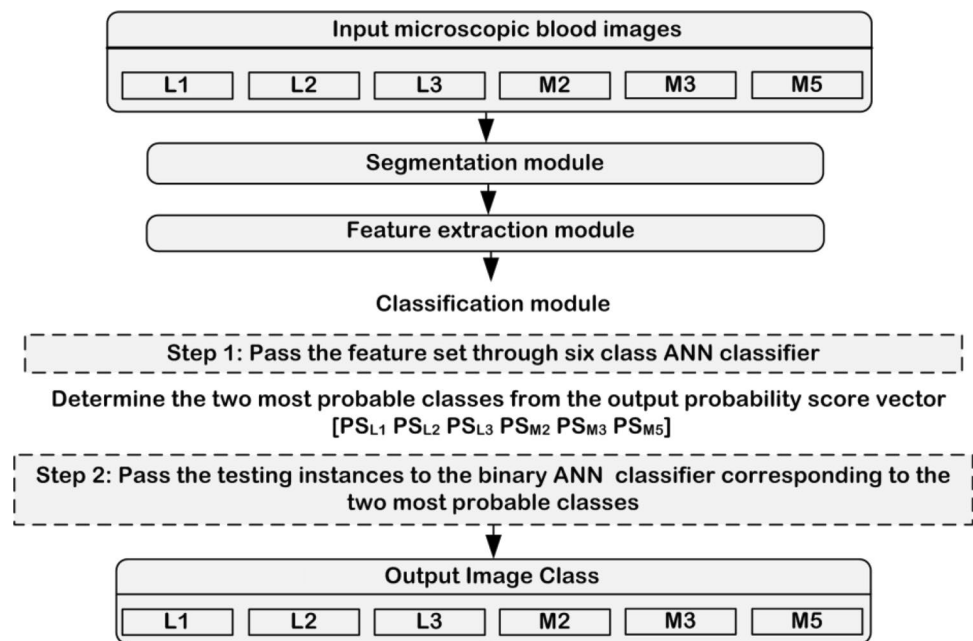
The acute leukemia classification is represented through the diagram given in Fig. 8. The proposed method contains various modules i.e. segmentation, feature extraction, feature selection and their classification. Here, first of all, segmentation is done for the separation of nuclei from the cell background. Then various features are extracted to detect the morphological, chromatic and textural distinctions between different classes of the acute leukemic cell, it is followed by the process of feature selection. After selecting some prominent features, all the selected features fed into the classifier to obtain the correct classification result. The brief details of each module are specified in subsequent segments.

#### 3.2.1 Segmentation module

After preprocessing and de-noising, segmentation is the next step which allows separating the region of interest (nucleus part) from the cell image and gets ready to apply techniques for different operations like features extraction, selection and their classification [3, 33]. In the present work, the PCA fusion-based hybrid method of segmentation is implemented. Consequently, this step slices the object of interest i.e. nucleus from the cell image. The input cell image is cropped using the nominal rectangle to completely hold a connected part based on intensity values is utilized to distinguish a required cell nucleus in every sub-image as is represented in Fig. 9.

The algorithm with steps regarding the segmentation of sub-image is depicted in Fig. 10.

**Fig. 8** Proposed Acute leukemia classification framework



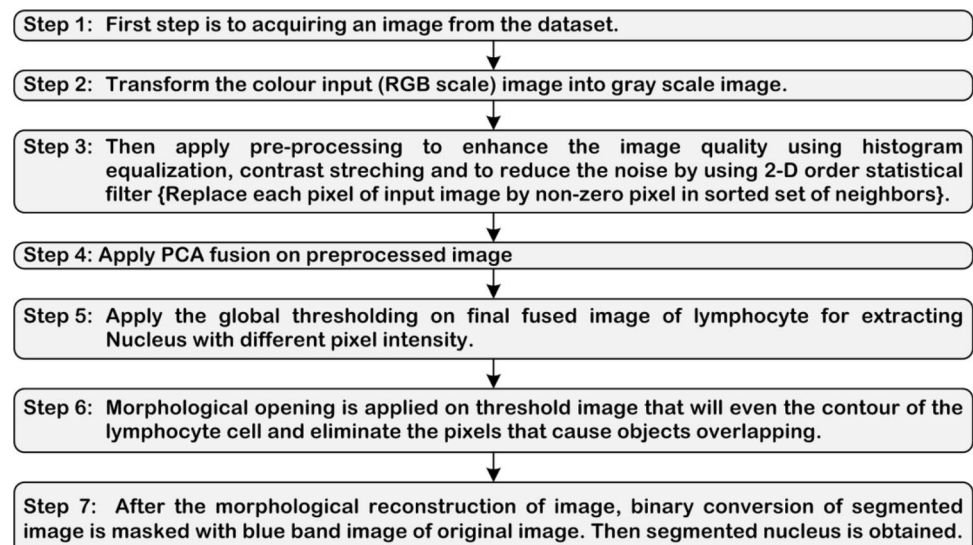
**Fig. 9** Nuclei sub-image selection of input cell image

The quality of medical images can interfere with different noises. Therefore, image pre-processing is required that includes noise removal and enhancement. In this segmentation method, input sub-image is converted into gray scale, and then other enhancements and morphological operations are performed. The brief depiction is represented in Fig. 11 and discussed in the study [3].

### 3.2.2 Feature extraction module

Extracting the different feature descriptors of any image is a well-known method and optimized in various pattern recognition and image processing areas. However, the selection of prominent features for the recognition of leukemic cells from

**Fig. 10** Algorithm for Segmentation of nucleus using hybrid segmentation method





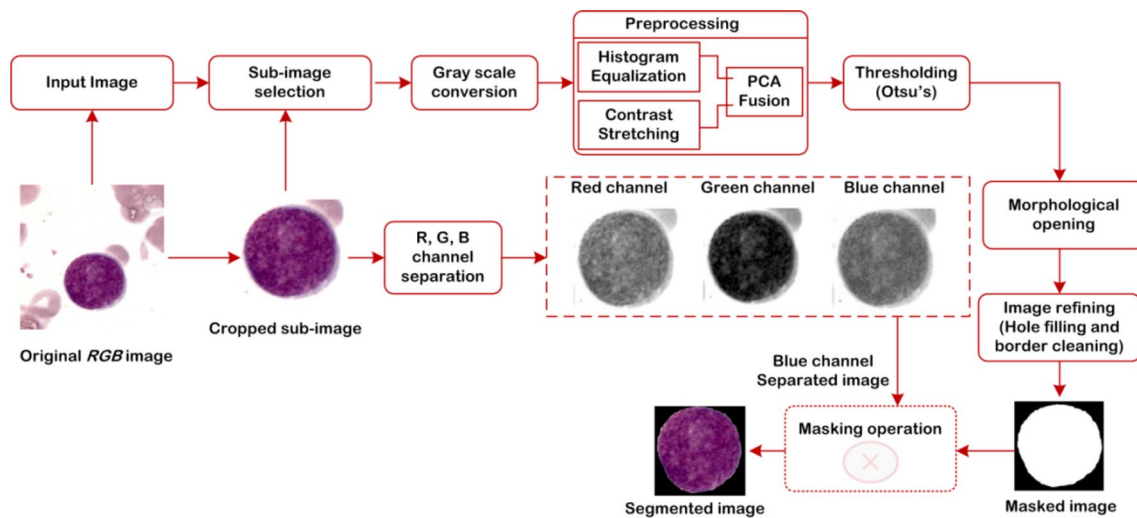


Fig. 11 Segmentation of nucleus region

the pathological images is the major difficulty. The foremost step for the extraction of features is to select the strongest associated and correlated to the predicted classes and to choose the strong feature descriptor with the ability of high discrimination [34–42]. In this work, various texture, shape features and colour are grouped for separating six classes of acute leukemia.

The objective of this research is to provide an advance blood cell characterization method even in the existence of deprived quality or low magnification blood cell images. In order to differentiate among leukemic cells types, computation of different features of the input sub-images that lead to enhanced separability of six-classes by classifiers is needed. Combining various individual features collectively permits to recompense rate of error and increases their classification consistency to certain level.

The brief explanation of the extracted features is tabulated in Fig. 12

### 3.2.3 Feature reduction through Principal component analysis (PCA)

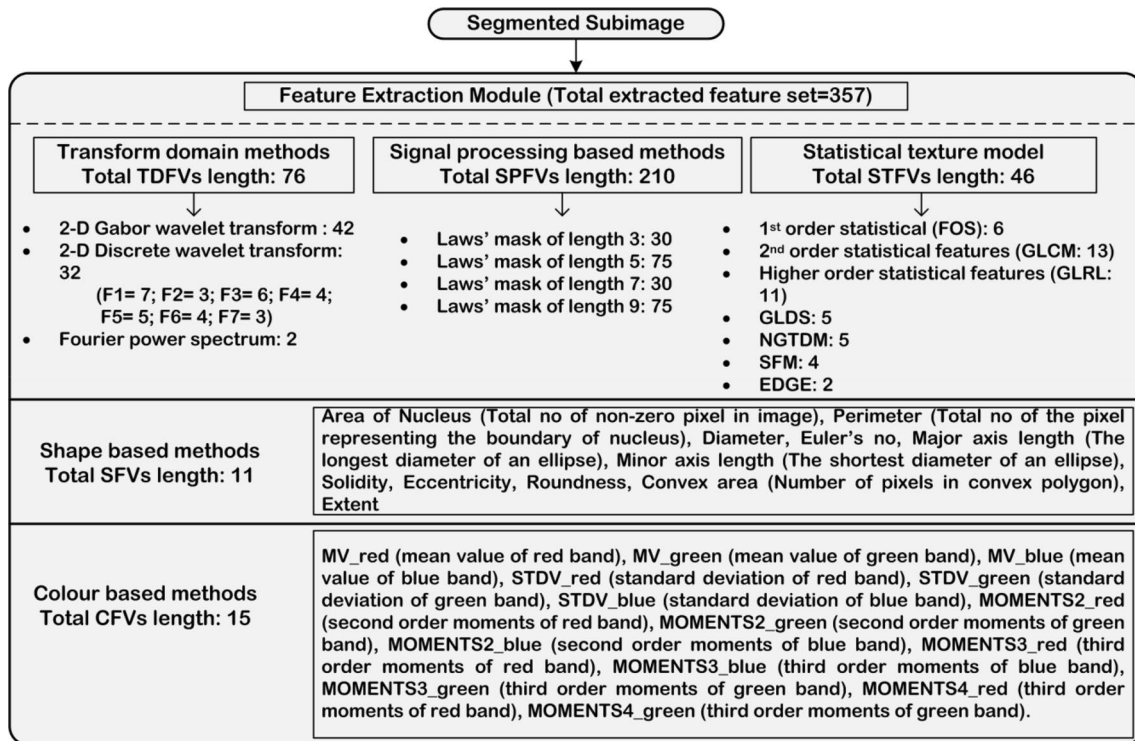
The unnecessary dimensionality of various features can increase the cost of computation; the combination of non-linear or linear features has been applied through high dimensional data projection on space with lower dimensions that has also optimized the classifier correctness [43, 79]. Different methods for reduction of non-linear dimensionality are introduced for maintaining the finest features and components. In present work, PCA is implemented on complex and immense dimensional spaced feature vectors in order to deduce it into simplified and compact space dimensionality for efficient analysis of features by using the principal component structure of the given set. The deviation is observed

in results of classification when varying values for PC are used on the set of extracted features by implementing PCA [3, 79]. This deviation of projection for each PC value can be measured through its Eigenvalue. In the given problem, each existing subset of the feature vector of different size of feature descriptor for shape, texture and colour are taken into consideration for feature selection. In order to evaluate optimum value for PC, the broad number of experiments are done for every classification by taking value for pc ranging from 2 to 15 i.e. initially pc is taken as 2,3,4,..., 15. The brief working steps for PCA is given in Fig. 13.

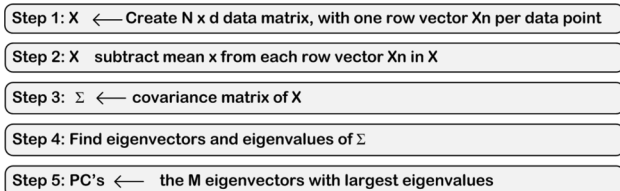
### 3.2.4 Classification module

The classification section of the proposed method consists of 2 subsections as (i) subsection1 is comprised of single six classed PCA neural network as PCA-NN0 (L1/L2/L3/M2/M3/M5) and Sect. 2 contains an ensemble of 15 binary PCA based neural network classifiers as PCA-NN1 (L1/L2), PCA-NN2 (L1/L3), PCA-NN3 (L1/M2), PCA-NN4 (L1/M3), PCA-NN5 (L1/M5), PCA-NN6 (L2/L3), PCA-NN7 (L2/M2), PCA-NN8 (L2/M3), PCA-NN9 (L2/M5), PCA-NN10 (L3/M2), PCA-NN11 (L3/M3), PCA-NN12 (L3/M5), PCA-NN13 (M2/M3), PCA-NN14 (M2/M5), PCA-NN15 (M3/M5) used in classifying blood cell images as L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5. The implemented module is given in Fig. 14. The detailed study of an artificial neural network is available in different research works [44–52].

**Classification module one** It comprises of a six-classed PCA ANN classifier (PCA-NN0) gives probability score vector (PSV) for the testing object to the corresponding class. Feature reduction module takes input feature space for simplification of its dimensionality. The ideal pc value is evaluated by taking a range of values from 2 to 15.



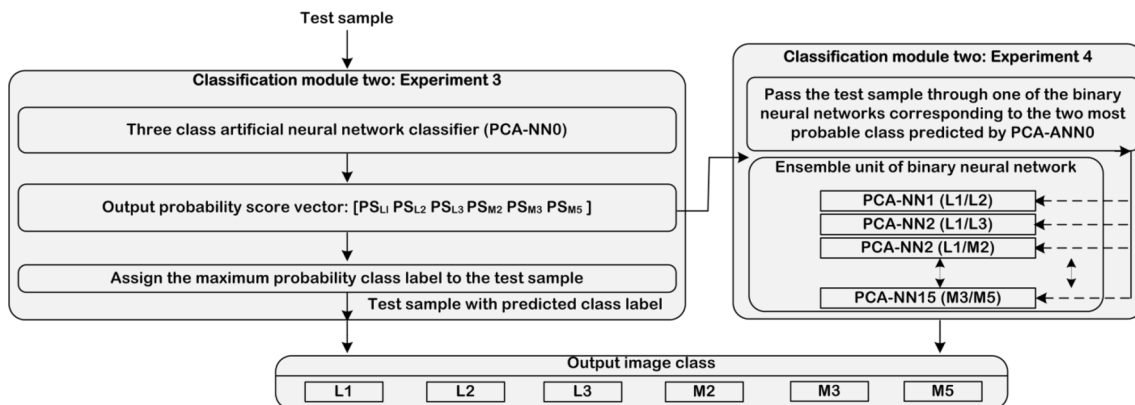
**Fig. 12** The list of total extracted features for classification of Acute leukemia. *TDFVs* Transform domain feature vectors; *SPFVs* Signal processing based feature vectors; *STFVs* Statistical texture feature vectors; *SFVs* Shape feature vectors; *CFVs* Colour feature vectors



**Fig. 13** Working steps for PCA

PCA-NN0 performance is depicted in Table 1. The division of instances of each class of testing and training data for the given classifier is represented in Fig. 15.

**Classification module two** It comprises of an ensemble of fifteen mutually independent binary ANN classifiers i.e. [PCA-NN1 (L1/L2), PCA-NN2 (L1/L3), PCA-NN3 (L1/M2), PCA-NN4 (L1/M3), PCA-NN5 (L1/M5), PCA-NN6 (L2/L3), PCA-NN7 (L2/M2), PCA-NN8 (L2/M3),

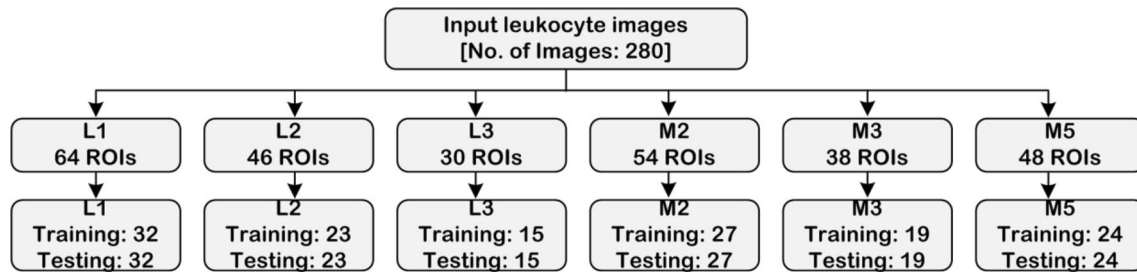


**Fig. 14** Architecture of module for Acute leukemia classification

**Table 1** Description of each neural network model, training accuracy and optimal number of pc value

Experiment no.	Model no.	'pc' value	Description of neural network layers (I:H:O)	Training accuracy (%)
<i>Experiment 1</i>	PCA-NN0	8	331:10:6	86.4
<i>Experiment 2</i>	PCA-NN1	6	331:10:2	100
	PCA-NN2	10	331:10:2	98
	PCA-NN3	11	331:10:2	97.3
	PCA-NN4	8	331:10:2	100
	PCA-NN5	7	331:10:2	98.6
	PCA-NN6	5	331:10:2	99.6
	PCA-NN7	4	331:10:2	95.5
	PCA-NN8	3	331:10:2	100
	PCA-NN9	6	331:10:2	100
	PCA-NN10	8	331:10:2	100
	PCA-NN11	9	331:10:2	100
	PCA-NN12	12	331:10:2	99.6
	PCA-NN13	7	331:10:2	99.3
	PCA-NN14	9	331:10:2	99.6
	PCA-NN15	13	331:10:2	100

pc principal component value, I:H:O: Input: Hidden: Output layer

**Fig. 15** Division of instances of each class of training and testing data for classifier PCA-NN0

PCA-NN9 (L2/M5), PCA-NN10 (L3/M2), PCA-NN11 (L3/M3), PCA-NN12 (L3/M5), PCA-NN13 (M2/M3), PCA-NN14 (M2/M5), PCA-NN15 (M3/M5)] used in classifying input images as L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5. Two labels of classes with the highest probability are decided through PSV given by PCA-NN0, which are then used as input to corresponding binary PCA-NN to perform classification in these two classes. The ideal pc value is evaluated by taking a range of values from 2 to 15 for every NN based classifier.

#### Artificial neural network classifier

The artificial neural network is inspired by biological neural network which processes given input to produce the corresponding output based on the intelligence of the organism. This biological neural network has a basic processing unit called a neuron. This neuron serves as a basis for the development of artificial neuron and a group of these neurons can be utilized to work together through a network for processing given set of inputs. This network is what

constitutes artificial neural network, and can be made more accurate by implementing three ideas [53–58].

The basic architecture of ANN classifier is illustrated in Fig. 16, gives details of working of the neural network, its topology, different layers and various variables representing the weights that each connection associates with each input of the respective layer.

A time-scale element is subjected to the majority of the neural system inactivity rule, local standards characterize the way neuron activities changes due to one-another. In this system, the action principle of each layer depends regularly on the weights [54–60]. The change in these weights associated with two corresponding layers determines the learning principle which occurs generally on an extended time scale as compared to the time size related to the movement standards.

Image processing has improved with broader use due to neural system restoration that is introduced through

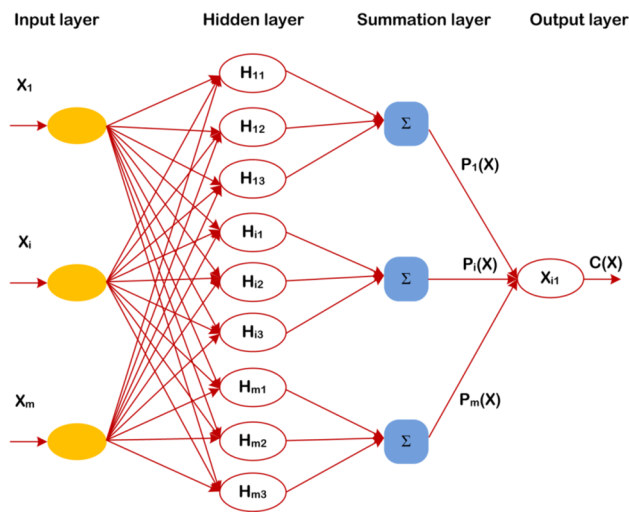


Fig. 16 Architecture of ANN classifier

various statistical pattern recognition methods introduction. Initially, linear and quadratic discriminant and Parzen density estimator were used for unraveling the pattern recognition issues [61–78]. Moreover, feature extraction is must if the object for recognition is worthwhile and must be analyzed deeply. If anything, else is used then the classification cannot produce as a reliable result as are yielded from the feature extraction modules.

The division of instances of each class of training and testing data for given classifiers is represented in Fig. 17.

The ideal pc value which produces highest accuracy for the classification in every binary ANN is shown in Table 1.

### 3.2.5 Experiments and results

**3.2.5.1 Environmental setup** The complete dataset are kept at HP Z420 workstation and MATLAB-2018 environment is used for performing the experiments. The specification of the used workstation is mentioned as Intel Xeon e5-1607, CPU @ 3.0 GHz, 16 GB RAM, NVIDIA QUADRO and 512 GB SSD.

**3.2.5.2 Result analysis** *Experiment 1* It comprises of a six-class PCA ANN classifier (PCA-NN0) that gives the PSV (probability score vector) of test sample which belongs to a specific class. The highest value of PSV is allocated to a test sample class label. The performance of six-class PCA-NN0 is mentioned in Table 2.

From Table 2, it is observed that overall classification accuracy (OCA) for the given classifier is 86.4% (121/140). It depicts that 121 of 140 test instances are accurately classified. The individual class accuracy (ICA) is 93.7% (30/32), 86.9% (20/23), 86.6% (13/15), 85.1% (23/27), 84.2% (16/19), and 79.1% (19/24) for L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5, respectively.

From the experiment 1, it has been observed that the 19 of 140 testing instances are inaccurately classified. Among 19 misclassified instances, 2 instances belong to L1 is classified as L2 & L3, 3 instances belong to L2 is classified as L1 & L3, 2 instances belong to L3 is classified as L2, 4 instances belong to M2 is classified as M3 & M5, 3 instances belong to M3 is classified as M2 & M5 and 5 instances belong to M5 class is classified as M2 & M3. These misclassified instances are passed to the next level according to their PSV values. Table 3 describes each of these 140 instances following output of module one.

<b>PCA-NN1(L1/L2)</b>		<b>PCA-NN2(L1/L3)</b>		<b>PCA-NN3(L1/M2)</b>	
Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set
L1: 32	L1: 32	L1: 32	L1: 32	L1: 32	L1: 32
L2: 23	L2: 23	L3: 15	L3: 15	M2: 27	M2: 27
<b>PCA-NN4(L1/M3)</b>		<b>PCA-NN5(L1/M5)</b>		<b>PCA-NN6(L2/L3)</b>	
Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set
L1: 32	L1: 32	L1: 32	L1: 32	L2: 23	L2: 23
M3: 19	M3: 19	M5: 24	M5: 24	L3: 15	L3: 15
<b>PCA-NN7(L2/M2)</b>		<b>PCA-NN8(L2/M3)</b>		<b>PCA-NN9(L2/M5)</b>	
Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set
L2: 23	L2: 23	L2: 23	L2: 23	L2: 23	L2: 23
M2: 27	M2: 27	M3: 19	M3: 19	M5: 24	M5: 24
<b>PCA-NN10(L3/M2)</b>		<b>PCA-NN11(L3/M3)</b>		<b>PCA-NN12(L3/M5)</b>	
Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set
L3: 15	L3: 15	L3: 15	L3: 15	L3: 15	L3: 15
M2: 27	M2: 27	M3: 19	M3: 19	M5: 24	M5: 24
<b>PCA-NN13(M2/M3)</b>		<b>PCA-NN14(M2/M5)</b>		<b>PCA-NN15(M3/M5)</b>	
Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set	Training set	Testing set
M2: 27	M2: 27	M2: 24	M2: 24	M3: 19	M3: 19
M3: 19	M3: 19	M5: 24	M5: 24	M5: 24	M5: 24

Fig. 17 The division of instances for each class of testing and training data for ensemble of fifteen binary classifiers (PCA-NN1 to PCA-NN15)

**Table 2** Results of module one (PCA-NN0) classifier

	CM						Accuracy (%)						
	L1	L2	L3	M2	M3	M5	OCA	ICA <sub>L1</sub>	ICA <sub>L2</sub>	ICA <sub>L3</sub>	ICA <sub>M2</sub>	ICA <sub>M3</sub>	ICA <sub>M5</sub>
L1	30	1	1	0	0	0	86.4	93.7	86.9	86.6	85.1	84.2	79.1
L2	1	20	2	0	0	0							
L3	0	2	13	0	0	0							
M2	0	0	0	23	3	1							
M3	0	0	0	2	16	1							
M5	0	0	0	2	3	19							

CM confusion matrix; OCA overall classification accuracy; ICA<sub>L1</sub> individual class accuracy for L1; ICA<sub>L2</sub> individual class accuracy for L2; ICA<sub>L3</sub> individual class accuracy for L3; ICA<sub>M2</sub> individual class accuracy for M2; ICA<sub>M3</sub> individual class accuracy for M3; ICA<sub>M5</sub> individual class accuracy for M5

**Table 3** Description of 140 test instances in accordance with results produced by module one

Total testing instances	Accurately classified instances <sup>#</sup>	Misclassified instances	Instances with 2nd highest probability for accurate class	Instances with 3rd highest probability for accurate class	Instances with 4th highest probability for accurate class	Instances with 5th highest probability for accurate class	Instances with 6th highest probability for accurate class
L1: 32	30	2	2	0	0	0	0
L2: 23	20	3	2	1	0	0	0
L3: 15	13	2	1	1	0	0	0
M2: 27	23	4	2	1	1	0	0
M3: 19	16	3	1	1	1	0	0
M5: 24	19	5	3	2	0	0	0
Total: 140	121	19	11	6	2	0	0

Accurately classified instances<sup>#</sup>: instances with most probability

The output PSV of the classification module one, PCA-NN0 gives probability score related to every test sample for corresponding class. From Table 3, it is observed that 19 wrong classified instances consists of 2 instances of L1, 3 instances of L2, 2 instances of L3, 4 instances of M2, 3 instances of M3 and 5 instances of M5.

**Experiment 2** In this experiment, the output PSV [PS<sub>L1</sub>, PS<sub>L2</sub>, PS<sub>L3</sub>, PS<sub>M2</sub>, PS<sub>M3</sub> and PS<sub>M5</sub>] yielded through

PCA-NN0 the number of testing instances that pass through the each binary PCA-NN classifier is shown in Fig. 18.

After the passing each test sample through the respective binary PCA-NN classifier, the obtained results given in Table 4. It depicts the accurate or inaccurate classification of testing instances by module 2.

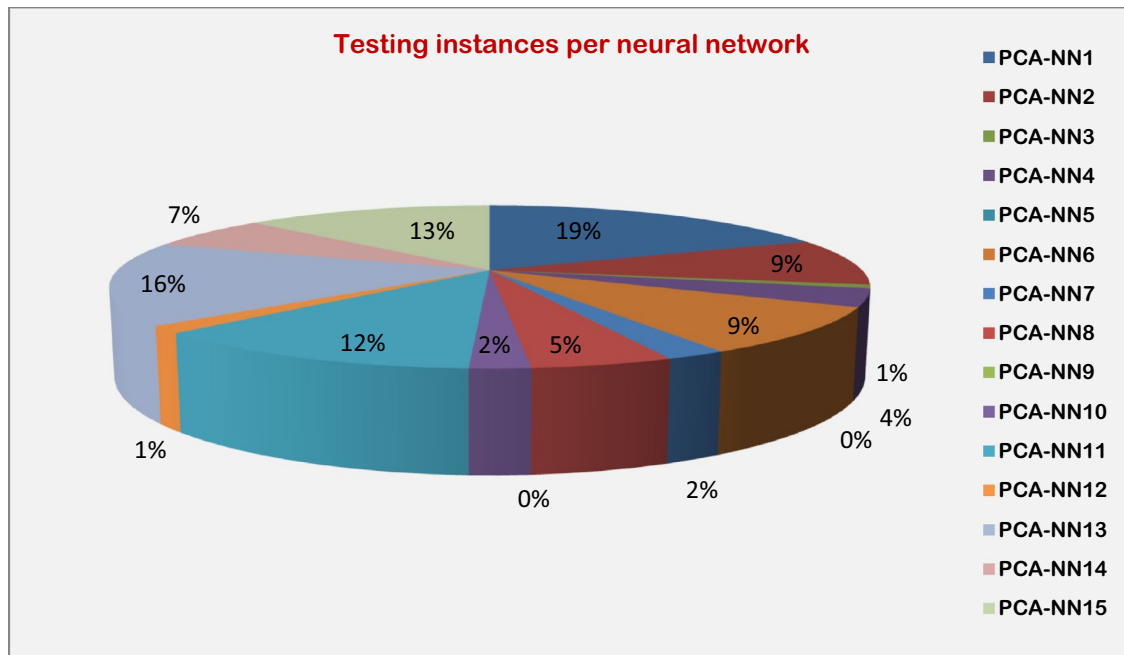
The results obtained from experiment 2 shows 132 out of 140 test instances are classified accurately while remaining 8 i.e. (140–132) were inaccurately classified by implementing module 2. Inaccurately classified instances can be calculated by:

$$TMI_s = \sum_{i=1}^{15} MIs(PCA - NN_i) \quad (1)$$

or

$$TMI_s = \sum MIs(PCA - NN1), MIs(PCA - NN2), \dots, MIs(PCA - NN15)$$





**Fig. 18** The total number of testing instances that passes through the each binary PCA-NN classifier

**Table 4** Description of accurate or inaccurate classification of testing instances by module 2

Binary neural network	Testing instance		Instances description	
	No. of instances	Description	No. of Classified	No. of Misclassified
PCA-NN1	26	26 of L1	26 of L1	—
PCA-NN2	13	13 of L3	12 of L3	1 of L3 is misclassified as a L1
PCA-NN3	1	1 of L1	1 of L1	—
PCA-NN4	5	5 of L1	5 of L1	—
PCA-NN5	—	—	—	—
PCA-NN6	13	13 of L2	13 of L2	1 of L2 is misclassified as a L3
PCA-NN7	3	3 of L2	2 of L2	—
PCA-NN8	7	7 of L2	7 of L2	—
PCA-NN9	—	—	—	—
PCA-NN10	3	3 of M2	2 of M2	1 of M2 is misclassified as a L3
PCA-NN11	17	17 of M3	15 of M3	1 of M3 is misclassified as a L3 and 1 of M3 is misclassified as a M5
PCA-NN12	2	2 of L3	2 of L3	—
PCA-NN13	23	21 of M2, 2 of M3	20 of M2 and 2 of M3	1 of M2 is misclassified as an M3
PCA-NN14	9	3 of M2, 6 of M5	3 of M2 and 5 of M5	1 of M5 is misclassified as a M2
PCA-NN15	18	18 of M5	17 of M5	1 of M5 is misclassified as a M3

Here TMIs represents total wrongly classified instances and MIs represents misclassified instances in Eq. 1. Therefore, total wrongly predicted test samples are 8. Among 8 samples, one sample is from L2, one sample is L3, two samples are from M2, two samples are from M3 and remaining two

samples are from M5 class respectively. After the successful execution of experiment 2, the obtained result of module 2 is shown in Table 5.

From the Table 5, it can be noticed that OCA rises to 94.2% (132/140) for six-classed classifier i.e. 132 of 140 test

**Table 5** Performance of secondary classifier: PCA-NN1 to PCA-NN15

	CM						Accuracy (%)						
	L1	L2	L3	M2	M3	M5	OCA	ICA <sub>L1</sub>	ICA <sub>L2</sub>	ICA <sub>L3</sub>	ICA <sub>M2</sub>	ICA <sub>M3</sub>	ICA <sub>M5</sub>
L1	32	0	0	0	0	0	94.2	100	100	93.3	92.5	89.4	91.6
L2	0	22	0	1	0	0							
L3	1	0	14	0	0	0							
M2	0	0	1	25	1	0							
M3	0	0	1	0	17	1							
M5	0	0	0	1	1	22							

**Table 6** Misclassified test instances for classification

Experiments	Class name	Total no. of sample	Misclassified instances	TMI
Experiment 1	L1	30	2	19
	L2	20	3	
	L3	13	2	
	M2	23	4	
	M3	16	3	
	M5	19	5	
Experiment 2	L1	32	0	8
	L2	22	1	
	L3	14	1	
	M2	25	2	
	M3	17	2	
	M5	22	2	

**Table 7** Comparative analysis of results

Experiment no	Accuracy (%)	TMI_Accuracy (%)	PPV (%)	TPR (%)
Experiment 1	86.4	13.6	93.7	96.7
Experiment 2	94.2	5.8	100	96.9

instances are classified accurately. The ICA observed to be 100% (32/32), 100% (22/22), 93.3% (14/15), 92.5% (25/27), 89.4% (17/19) and 91.5% (22/24) for L1, L2, L3, M2, M3 and M5 respectively.

**3.2.5.3 Misclassification analysis** Table 6 describes the misclassified test instances observed in experiments 1 and 2.

From the Table 6, it can be noticed that 19 test instances are inaccurately classified by module 1. Whereas only 8 test instances are inaccurately classified by module 2. Eight misclassified instances comprise of 1 instance of L2, one instance of L3, two instances of M2, two instances of M3 and two instances of M5. It should be noticed that every test instance of L1 is classified accurately by module 2.

**3.2.5.4 Comparative analysis** The comparative analysis of extensive experiments carried out for this work is done on the basis of classification accuracy, Positive Predictive Value (PPV), True Positive Rate (TPR) and misclassification accuracy. The mathematical expression for PPV and TPR are is given in Eq. 2 and Eq. 3.

$$PPV = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

$$TPR = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \times 100 \quad (3)$$

where TP: True positive samples, FP: false positive samples, FN: False negative samples.

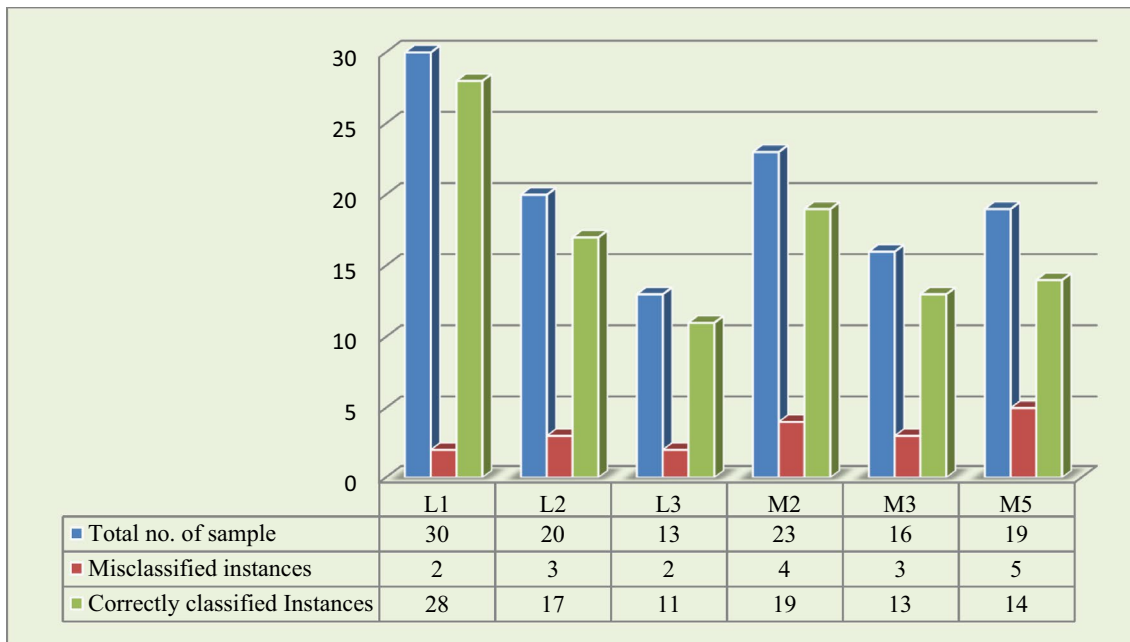
The comparative analysis of results is given in Table 7.

The graphical representation of obtained results for both experiments shown is shown in Fig. 19.

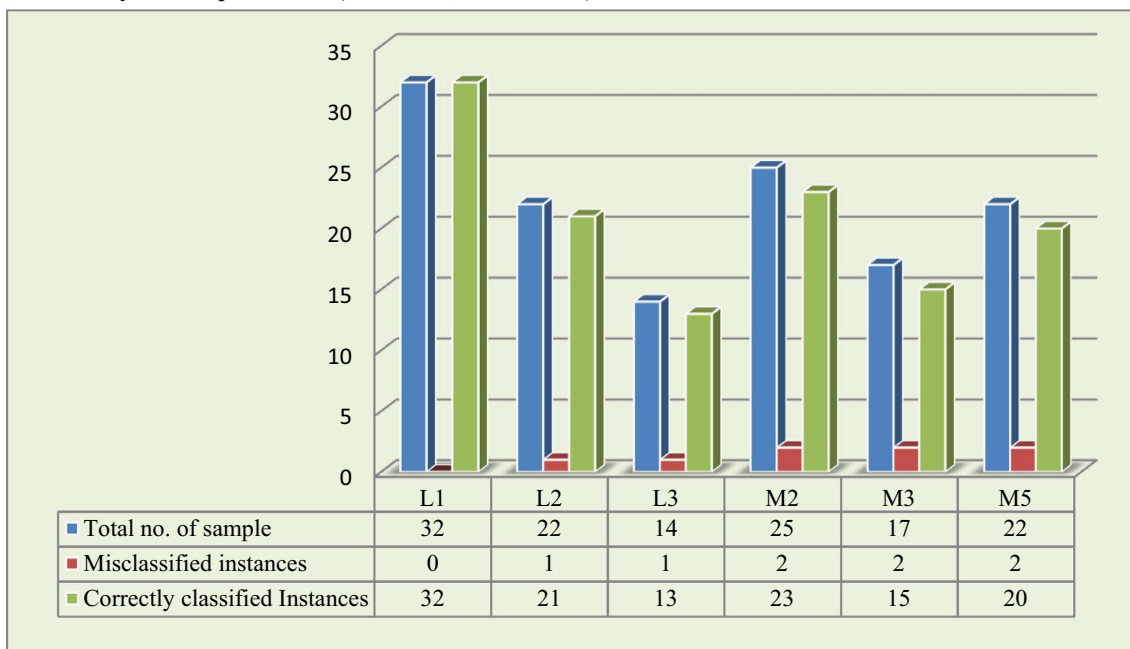
After the comparative analysis of results obtained from the experiment 1 and experiment 2, shows that the experiment 2 provides better results and suitable for the clinical environment. Therefore, the proposed CAC system for the six-class acute leukemia classification is shown in Fig. 20.

## 4 Conclusion

The suspicion of acute leukemia can be confirmed by microscopic analysis of bone marrow by hematologist which is a tedious task. In order to automate the process and to assist



**Result analysis of Experiment 1 (PCA-NN0, Acc: 86.4 %)**



**Result analysis of Experiment 2. ((PCA-NN1 to PCA-NN15, Acc: 94.2 %)**

**Fig. 19** Comparative analysis of results

the expert, there is a requirement of computer-aided classification tool that would be able to distinguish the widespread subset of acute leukemia into its FAB classes. This work gives an automated classifier for acute leukemic cells based on an ensemble of binary ANN classification methods. The accuracy of 86.4% is achieved using single six-class PCA based ANN classifier. These test instances are further

classified by the ensemble of binary neural network which yields the 94.2% accuracy. Proposed work administered by hematologist can be utilized for detection of acute leukemia from a set of input data set of images, can distinguish the data of leukemic images from normal images and can further classify these acute leukemic pronounced images into various subtypes.

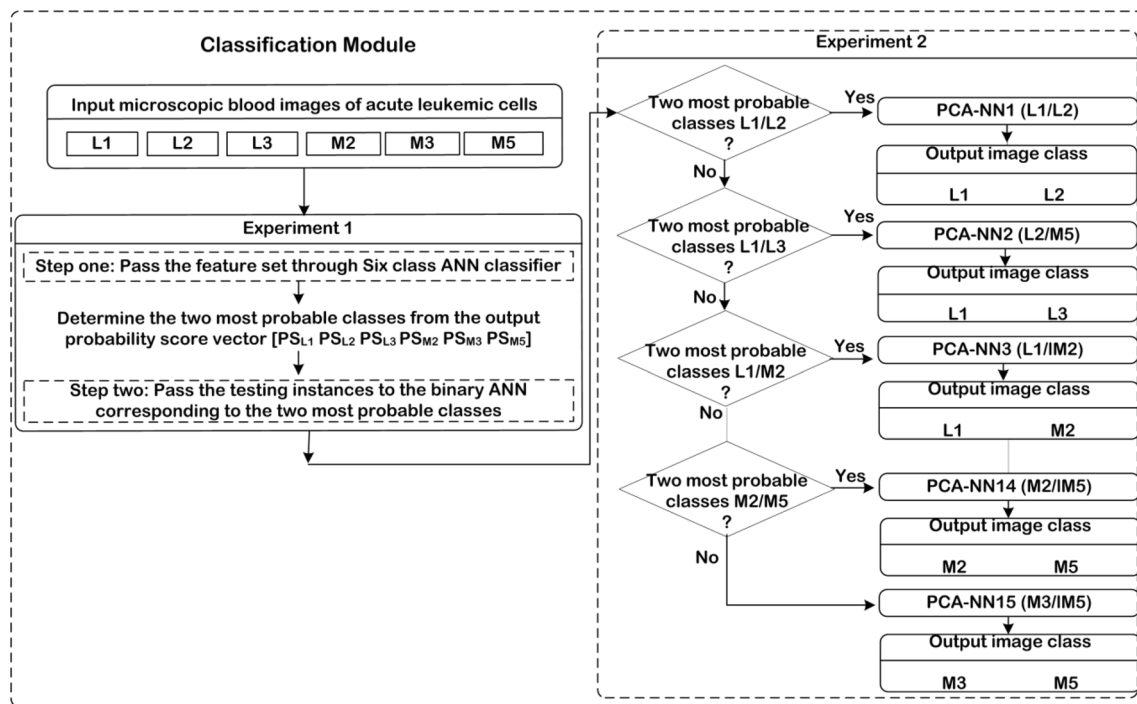


Fig. 20 Proposed classification framework for six-class Acute leukemia classification

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