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| Deep learning methods for biotic and abiotic stresses detection and classification in fruits and vegetables: State of the art and perspectives | |  |

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| a r t i c l e | i n f o | a b s t r a c t |
| Article history:  Received 1 September 2022  Received in revised form 21 July 2023 Accepted 8 August 2023  Available online 10 August 2023 | | Deep Learning (DL), a type of Machine Learning, has gained significant interest in many fields, including agricul-ture. This paper aims to shed light on deep learning techniques used in agriculture for abiotic and biotic stress detection in fruits and vegetables, their benefits, and the challenges faced by users. Scientific papers were col-lected from Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, Springer, and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) using combinations of specific keywords such as:’Deep Learning’ OR’Artificial Intelligence’ in combination with |
| Keywords:  Deep learning  Prediction  Fruits  Vegetables  Stress  Agricultural yield | | fruit disease’, vegetable disease’, ‘fruit stress', OR ‘vegetable stress' following PRISMA guidelines. From the initial 818 papers identified using the keywords, 132 were reviewed after excluding books, reviews, and the irrelevant. The recovered scientific papers were from 2003 to 2022; 93 % addressed biotic stress on fruits and vegetables. The most common biotic stresses on species are fungal diseases (grey spots, brown spots, black spots, downy mildew, powdery mildew, and anthracnose). Few studies were interested in abiotic stresses (nutrient deficiency, water stress, light intensity, and heavy metal contamination). Deep Learning and Convolutional Neural Networks were the most used keywords, with GoogleNet (18.28%), ResNet50 (16.67%), and VGG16 (16.67%) as the most |

used architectures. Fifty-two percent of the data used to compile these models come from the fields, followed by data obtained online. Precision problems due to unbalanced classes and the small size of some databases were also analyzed. We provided the research gaps and some perspectives from the reviewed papers. Further re-search works are required for a deep understanding of the use of machine learning techniques in fruit and veg-etable studies: collection of large datasets according to different scenarios on fruit and vegetable diseases, evaluation of the effect of climatic variability on the fruit and vegetable yield using AI methods and more abiotic stress studies.

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| 1. Introduction | | | learning has become popular in recent years thanks to three main as- | | | |

pects: the ever-increasing power of computers, which allows the crea-

Fruits and vegetables contain dietary fiber, which helps to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity (Slavin and Lloyd, 2012). They also provide vitamins, particularly C and A, and minerals essential for human well-being. For example, 100 g of fruit contains 2 to 14.8 g of di-etary fiber, 61 to 89.1 g of water, and 90 to 646 Kcal of energy (Slavin and Lloyd, 2012). Despite their importance to human life, many stress factors induce a considerable loss of their productivity. Stressors include biotic factors caused by living organisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and abiotic factors, caused by non-living organisms such as light intensity, water quantity, nutrient deficiency, and other environ-mental and climate factors (Goncalves et al., 2005; Hao et al., 2020). For instance, early blight is one of the most common diseases on toma-toes and can cause severe yield losses and many fruit lesions (Blancard, 2012; Brahimi et al., 2017). Likewise, wilting of Solanaceae, namely to-mato, pepper, potato, and eggplant, is a genuine concern for farmers; to-mato wilt can cause losses up to 100% (Sikirou et al., 2015). As abiotic stress, weak or high light can significantly affect crop physiology and morphology (Hao et al., 2020). Furthermore, when irrigation is minimal, and the plants are exposed to high water stress, they will die without any possibility of recovery (Wakamori et al., 2020). Likewise, nutrient deficiency can cause many diseases that significantly affect plant yield. For instance, deficiencies in three major mineral elements of plants can be observed through blossom end rot (BER) for Calcium, green or yellow shoulder and mottled maturation for Potassium, and paler green and uniform yellow or chlorosis on leaves for nitrogen (Tran et al., 2019). When diseases are not quickly identified and treated ade-quately, the production of hectares of fields can be destroyed. Therefore early identification of crop diseases and stress is essential for best pro-ductivity. Common stress and disease detection approaches focus mainly on visual recognition (Ferentinos, 2018). However, not all farmers have the experience to recognize disease symptoms to apply the appropriate treatment. Then, they call on experts who are not al-ways available. In addition, visual recognition is a time-consuming and laborious task that often fails to meet recognition accuracy require-ments (Liu et al., 2020; Dutot et al., 2013). These errors lead to the abu-sive use of pesticides, destroying the soil and harming consumers' health. Thus, some approaches have been proposed to automate the classification of diseases. Those approaches are based on machine learn-ing and computer vision that use handcrafted features extracted from images by experts. Thus, the learning is not fully autonomous due to the dependence on handcrafted features (Breitenreiter et al., 2015; Brahimi et al., 2017). Deep Learning is an old concept based on artificial neural networks. It was first used in 1943 when Warren McCulloch and Walter Pitts published their first mathematical and computational

tion and training of neural networks with many hidden layers, the availability of big data and large datasets, and the possibility of using cloud computing. The functioning of biological neurons inspires ANN. ANN consists of an input layer, one or more hidden layers, and an output layer. Deep Learning consists of more than one hidden layer. Moreover, the hidden layers are of different types, such as convolutional and pooling layers. A DL system is self-teaching, learning by filtering infor-mation through many hidden layers. Due to its ability to extract raw data directly, DL is used to overcome the limitations of the methods based on handcrafted feature extraction. Since the first DL technique was introduced, many modifications have been made to achieve various architectures. Identifying the different DL techniques used so far, their limitations, and the users' main issues is important. A certain number of papers did similar works. For instance, Santos et al. (2020) provided a brief overview of DL applications in agriculture. They defined several DL architectures, including Deep Belief Networks (DBN), Fully Convolutional Networks (FCN), and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). They then discussed the various applications of DL in agriculture, including disease detection (focusing on 6 papers), crop identification (4 papers), land cover (3 papers), and weed identification (3 papers). Similarly, Paul et al. (2020) proposed a review of agricultural advance-ment based on machine learning and computer vision techniques. They focused on the details related to image acquisition and image pro-cessing techniques. They also presented the machine learning tech-niques commonly used, among which DL belongs. Singh et al. (2018) also reviewed recent works in which DL concepts were used for plant stress phenotyping from digital images. The review compared DL methods to other techniques in decision accuracy, data size require-ments, and applicability in various scenarios. Despite all these works, the real challenges of using DL for stress detection in fruits and vegeta-bles are missing in the literature. In addition, none of the authors used artificial intelligence and DL to address both abiotic stress and parasitic attacks in plants. The interest in focusing on biotic and abiotic stresses in plants is crucial since plants are designed to live in an environment where these two types of stress interact (Atkinson and Urwin, 2012). For example, drought stress can expose plants to pathogens. Therefore, focusing on the two types of stress would be an excellent asset for good monitoring to improve crop yield. This paper provided an analysis of the main stresses that face fruits and vegetables, the DL methods used to overcome them, their limitations, and some perspectives.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 clarifies the concepts and terminologies used in this paper. The methodology is described in Section 3. Section 4 then presents the findings and their discussion with the perspectives, and Section 5 concludes the

model of the biological neuron (McCulloch and Pitts, 1943). Deep work.

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2. Clarification of concepts and terminologies

This section provides the history of the concept of Deep learning and a brief definition of the different terminologies considered.

2.1. History of deep learning

Deep Learning is a subset of Machine Learning (ML), an Artificial In-telligence (AI) field. ML is a field of study that allows computers to learn without being explicitly programmed (Samuel, 1959). Deep learning is

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hand, the manual selection of the best hyperparameter values can be complex, even for the most experienced data scientists. Thus, there are simple search algorithms, such as Grid Search or Random Search, to explore the search space and retain the best-explored so-lution. These simple algorithms are beneficial if the number of possi-ble combinations of hyperparameter values is quite limited and the search space is simple. Still, their use becomes prohibitive for larger and more complex search spaces, as is the case for the most sophis-ticated models. The problem of optimizing the hyperparameters of a Machine Learning model is generally related to the optimization

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| built on artificial neural networks inspired by the human brain's func- | with | mixed | variables | (discrete/continuous). | Indeed, | some |

tioning. The concept of artificial neurons was first used in 1943 by McCulloch and Pitts, who showed that neurons could be combined to build a Turing machine (McCulloch and Pitts, 1943). In a neural net-work, successive layers are connected to learn concepts. The simplest

hyperparameters can take integer values, others real values, others strings of characters. Moreover, it is only possible to efficiently com-pute the gradients of the model performance (e.g., the accuracy score) concerning the hyperparameters. Finally, the search space

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| networks have only two layers: an input and an output layer, each of | can | be | pretty | significant | and | complex | if | the | number | of |

which can have several hundred, thousands, or even millions of neu-rons. As the number of neurons increases, so does the network's ability to learn more and more abstract representations. Rosenblatt (1958) invented the perceptron, a formal neuron, the smallest possible neural network, whose activation function is a step function called Linear Threshold Function. The perceptron has many inputs and weights for each input. The perceptron has an algorithm that allows it to learn the weights of the information from a set of data with labels (Rosenblatt, 1958). However, Minsky and Papert showed that perceptrons have some limitations (Minsky and Papert, 1969). Thus, research on neural networks was stopped for a decade. The following important milestone was multilayer perceptrons (MLPs) with the backpropagation algo-rithm introduced in 1985 by Ackley to revive the field. MLPs are neural networks that aim to classify more complex data than a perceptron. To do this, the MLP examines each piece of data and updates the weight of each neuron in each layer of its network to best classify that database. Later in 1988, Neocognitron, a hierarchical neural network capable of vi-sual pattern recognition, was proposed (Fukushima, 1988). Then, Convolutional Neural Network with Backpropagation for document analysis was developed by LeCun (LeCun et al., 1998). A so-called deep neural network has at least two hidden layers (there can be as many as desired). Deep learning has been revolutionized since the 2010s with the creation of several architectures.

2.2. Deep learning architectures

Modifications of model architecture are an essential factor in im-

hyperparameters is high enough. Based on this reflection, this is an ideal application for optimization algorithms.

2.3. Plants abiotic and biotic stresses

Stress can be defined as any state of discomfort for the plant. Many stressors, including abiotic and biotic factors, can slow or inhibit plant development and growth. Biotic factors include diseases, infections, and pest attacks. Infections can be bacterial, fungal, or viral. Viral dis-eases are caused by viruses which are tiny micro-organisms with a ge-nome composed of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) and Ribonucleic Acid (RNA). They reproduce inside a living organism. Filamentous parasitic fungi cause fungal diseases. These fungi are disseminated by spores or mycelium present in the soil and penetrate the plant organism through stomata or roots. They then appear as spots on fruits, leaves, or seedlings and cause wilting, leaf dieback, and root rot. In contrast, phytopatho-genic bacteria cause bacterial diseases. These bacterias live as parasites on the plants and cause cankers and soft rots. Abiotic stress factors in-clude drought (water stress), excessive watering (waterlogging), ex-treme temperatures (cold, frost, and heat), salinity, mineral toxicity (Verma et al., 2013), nutrient deficiencies, and soil contamination by heavy metals such as cadmium and lead. In response to stress, plants slow down their metabolism and decrease energy expenditure. Stress reduces growth, photosynthesis, and therefore yield. When a plant is stressed, it prevents its normal development, and its yield can no longer be optimal.

proving the performance of models. The first Deep Learning has ex- 3. Methodology

perienced considerable modifications up to the present day. Such

modifications include structural reformulation, regularization, nor-malization, and parameter optimizations (Alzubaidi et al., 2021). These mainly occurred due to the reorganization of the processing

The methodology was organized into three subsections. The first de-scribed the research strategy, the second defined the research ques-tions, and the last presented the literature synthesis and statistical

unit and the development of novel blocks. In particular, the most analyses.

novel results were performed using network depth. Some examples

of Deep Learning architecture are AlexNet, ZefNet, Visual geometry group (VGG), GoogLeNet, ResNet, Inception-V3, Inception–V4, DenseNet, ResNet, Xception, Recurrent neural networks (RNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), Gated Recurrent Units (GRU), Autoencoders, Restricted Boltzmann Machines, Deep belief net-

3.1. Description of the research strategy   
 Scientific articles were searched in databases such as Google Scholar, Science Direct, Web of Science, Scopus, Springer, and Direc-tory Of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The following keywords were

works. used: ‘Deep Learning’ OR ‘Artificial Intelligence’ in combination:

‘AND’ with ‘fruit disease’, ‘vegetable disease’, ‘fruit stress’, OR ‘vegeta-

2.2.1. Importance of optimization techniques   
 In Machine Learning, optimization is done each time a model is trained: the learning algorithm optimizes the values of the model pa-rameters to minimize the prediction error on the training dataset. However, the hyperparameters are not optimized during training. The number of layers in a neural network, the number of neurons per layer, etc., are hyperparameters that are not optimized during training. The choice of values for the hyperparameters influences the quality of the final model, sometimes strongly. On the other

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By screening the titles and abstracts, 363 other papers were excluded. After the content screening, we removed 50 irrelevant articles, 12 lit-erature reviews, and 15 book chapters. Among the irrelevant articles, some address stress on species other than fruits and vegetables using artificial intelligence or Deep Learning, while others refer to stress but do not use artificial intelligence or Deep Learning methods. Before ex-cluding them from the final selection, we checked references cited in systematic reviews, books, and articles on related topics. Finally, 132 articles were included in the study. Thirteen of the 132 articles were not free of charge. We have therefore used only their abstracts. The methodology described was inspired by the Preferred Systematic Re-views and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines (Page et al., 2021) and

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3.2. Definition of the research questions

Research questions help to structure better the systematic literature reviews. Our first concern was the objective behind using AI and DL methods to detect stress in fruits and vegetables. Then, we identify the species to which the techniques were applied and the type of stress involved. Data being an essential element for any model, we defined the data's type, size, and source. We also looked at the countries where the authors have installed experiments to collect the data. In addition, several algorithms and implementation frameworks in the literature are used for given tasks. Thus, we have defined them through the selected studies. Moreover, we sought to determine the models'

Fig. 1 summarizes it. hyperparameters, performances, and evaluation metrics. Finally,

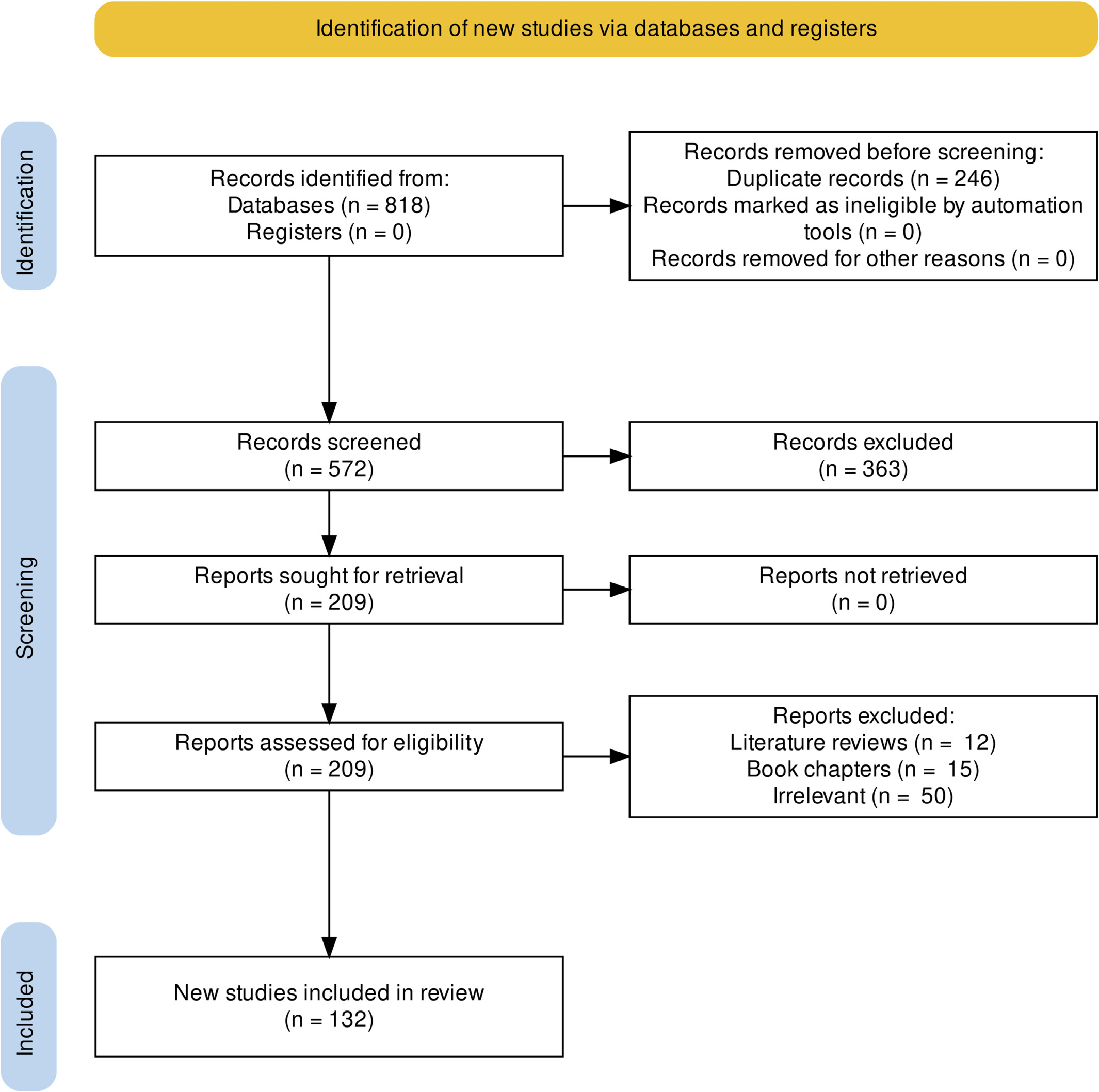


Fig. 1. PRISMA flow diagram of the selection process.

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we have identified the challenges that researchers and practitioners face. An explicit reformulation of each research question is given in Table 1.

3.3. Literature synthesis and analysis

The literature synthesis was done in three parts. The first part con-cerns the bibliometric analysis and some general descriptive statistics. VOSviewer was used for the network of the keywords co-occurrence (van Eck and Waltman, 2022). VOSviewer provides a range of intuitive visualization, mainly for analyzing bibliometric maps. The second part focuses on the answers to the research questions. The occurrences of each response were used to calculate the frequencies. Similar terms were merged to make analysis easy. Some variables were analyzed to-gether to get insight from their study. Results were presented in tables, pie charts, or bar charts. The data analysis was conducted in the Ana-conda environment using the Spyder Notebook framework, with Py-thon 3.9.12. The libraries used to synthesize data frames Figures were Pandas, Matplotlib and Numpy. We have also used the function: ‘ggplot’of the package: ‘ggplot2’ (Wickham, 2016) of R software (R Core Team, 2021). Furthermore, the geographical location of the collection sites was represented using QGis. The last part was synthesizing the gaps and ranking them based on their relevance and making recommendations for new studies.

4. Results and discussion

The use of Artificial intelligence in classifying and detecting biotic and abiotic stresses in fruits and vegetables is recent, as shown in Fig. 2. The first papers in this area appeared in 2003, followed by one paper in 2006. A rapid progression was observed from 2019 to 2021, with a peak of 34 papers in 2020. This increase is evidence of re-searchers' interest in using AI and DL methods for early disease detec-tion, as precision agriculture has become a necessity to face the challenges related to food security. Twelve papers were published from January 2022 to July 2022. Most of the papers are journal articles. Conference proceedings account for about 36% of the total number of

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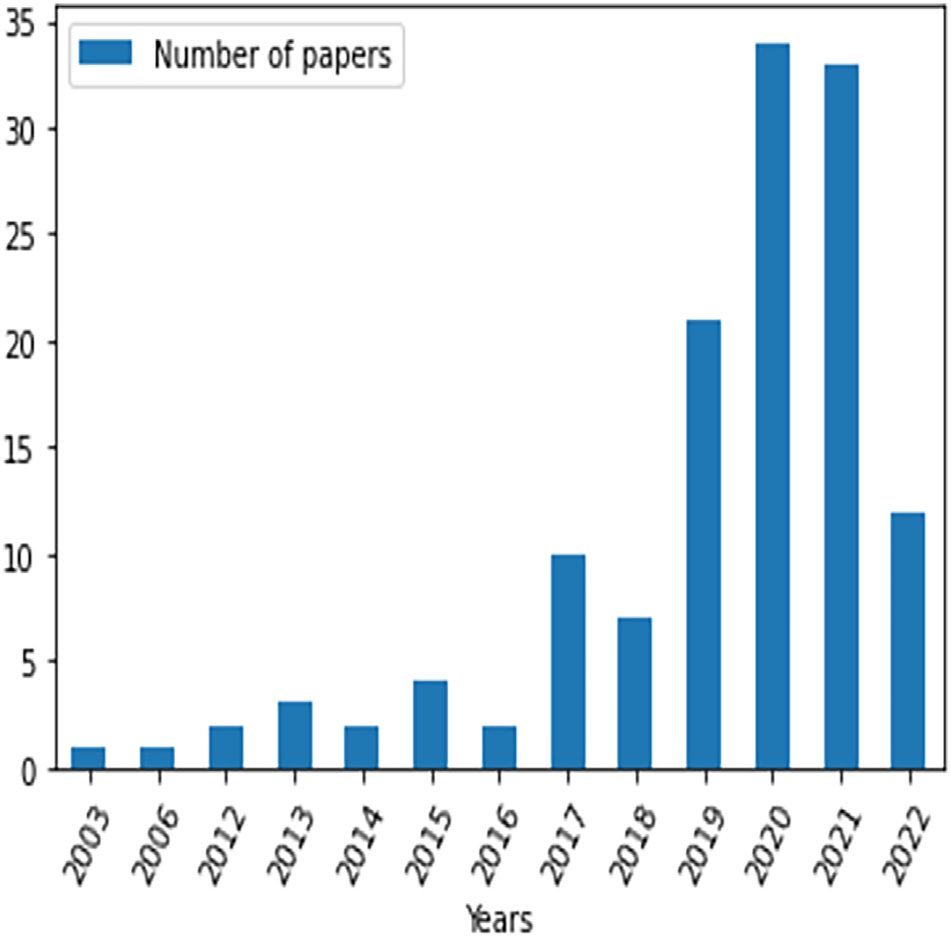


Fig. 2. Year-wise distribution of the articles.

history of detecting and classifying diseases and stress in fruits and veg-etables using artificial intelligence methods. The first period, the first cluster of the map, concerns the time when classical machine learning methods were employed through segmentation using k-means cluster-ing. The K-means clustering algorithm groups pixels with common at-tributes that belong to a particular segment. The support vector machine (SVM) constitutes the core of this cluster. It has 13 occurrences and 22 connections (Table 2) with other words, including ‘artificial neu-ral networks (ANN)’, ‘k-means clustering’, ‘decision tree’, ‘disease detec-tion’, ‘defect detection’, etc. Indeed, k-means clustering was used to segment images. In contrast, SVM, ANN, random forest, and decision tree classified the diseases. The emergence of deep learning methods

papers. marks the second period represented by the second cluster. Deep learn-

ing constitutes the cluster's core with 36 occurrences, 29 connections,

4.1. Bibliometric analysis of keywords   
 Keywords are the words or groups of words that inform the critical

and 72 total link strengths (Table 2). The group of words ‘deep learning’is linked to other keywords such as: ‘Convolutional neural network’, ‘re-current neural network’, ‘feature extraction’, ‘data augmentation’, ‘gen-

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| aspects addressed by a research paper. For more precision, we elimi- | erative | adversarial | network’, | ‘transfer | learning’, | ‘fine | tuning’, |

nated inconsistencies by merging similar keywords such as ‘CNN’,‘cnns’, and ‘convolutional neural networks’. Table 2 shows the top 10 most frequent keywords of the reviewed articles, their number of occur-rences, weight links, and total link strength. The weight links are the number of connections of a keyword with other keywords indicating its importance. The total link strength represents the total strength of the co-occurrence links of a given keyword with other keywords. Fig. 3 completes Table 2 by illustrating the keyword co-occurrence net-

‘classification’, ‘agriculture’ etc. Indeed, deep learning methods such as convolutional neural networks and recurrent neural networks were born during this period. Unlike classical machine learning methods, these methods aim to extract features directly from images. Their performance has improved thanks to the increased databases using algorithms such as generative adversarial networks. In addition, using pre-trained models through transfer learning, the models are fine-tuned and can classify images with much better accuracy for

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| work. According to this figure, we distinguish two main periods in the | | precision agriculture. | | |  |
| Table 1 | | Table 2 | | |
| Research questions. | | Top 10 most used keywords from the assessed papers. | | |
| Nubmer | Research questions | Keywords | Occurrences | Weight Links | Total link strength |
| 1 | What is the objective behind the use of the DL or AI technique? | Deep Learning | 36 | 29 | 72 |
| 2 | What species was concerned? | Convolutional Neural Networks | 28 | 29 | 56 |
| 3 | What type of stress was involved? | Feature extraction | 16 | 25 | 43 |
| 4 | What are the types and source of data used? | Support Vector Machines | 13 | 22 | 33 |
| 5 | What is the countries-wise distribution of the self made-data? | Image processing | 12 | 17 | 23 |
| 6 | What models were used? | Transfer learning | 10 | 15 | 26 |
| 7 | What are the hyper-parameters used to implement the models? | Classification | 9 | 11 | 17 |
| 8 | What are the evaluation metrics? | Machine learning | 8 | 12 | 17 |
| 9 | What are the performances achieved? | k-means clustering | 7 | 8 | 12 |
| 10 | What are the gaps and perspectives? | Artificial neural network | 6 | 9 | 11 |

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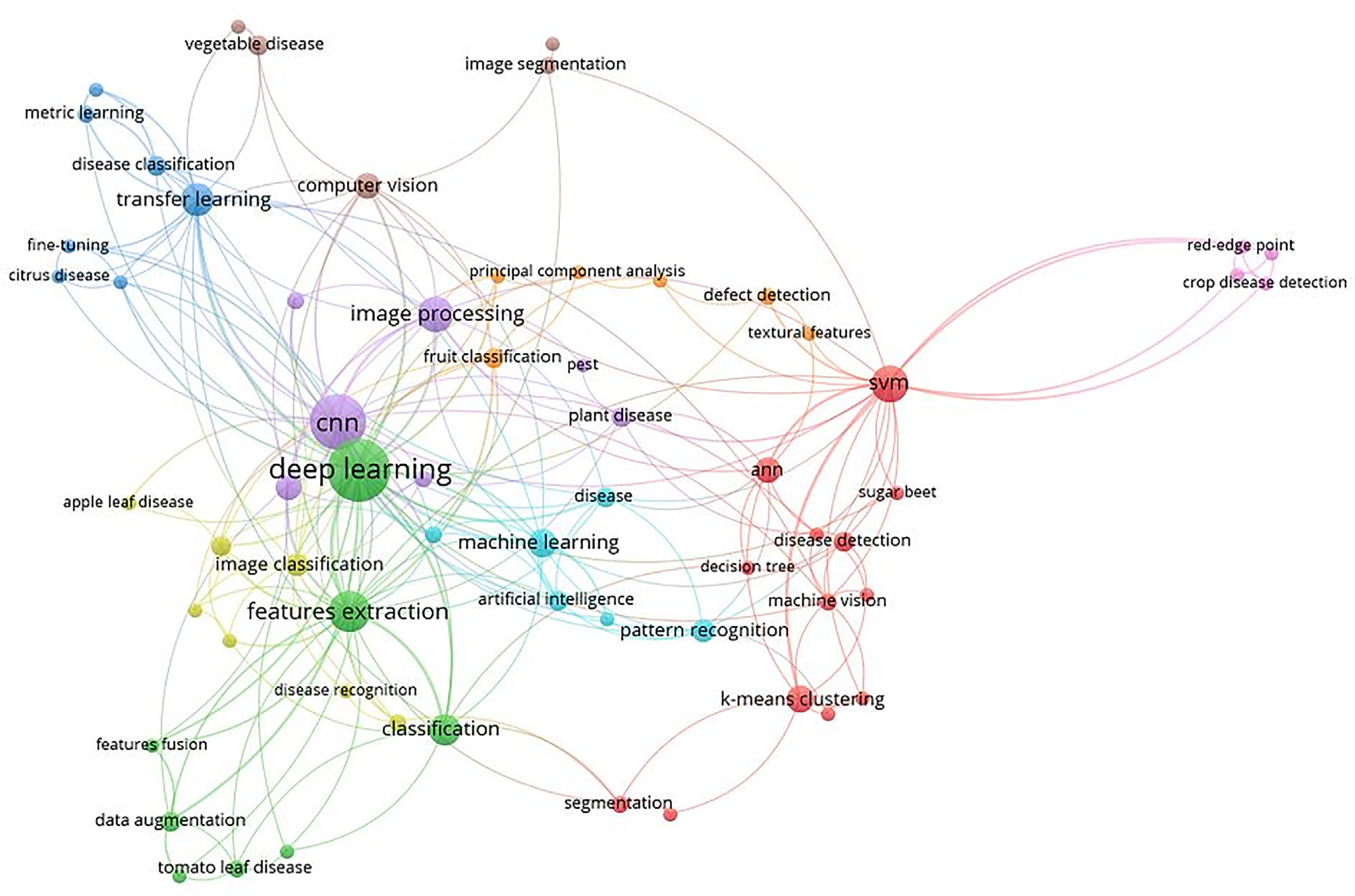


Fig. 3. Map of the most used keywords network.

4.2. RQ1:What is the objective behind the use of the DL or AI techniques?

According to the authors, the objectives behind using Deep Learning and AI techniques are diverse. After careful analysis of each paper, we have grouped these objectives into three main categories: the detection of biotic stress, the detection of abiotic stress, and the improvement of the robustness of the models.

In the first group, we have four sub-objectives. The first was the au-tomatic detection of diseases in 46.46% of the collected papers. The sec-ond sub-objective of this group was the detection of vegetable diseases (9.45%). The third of this group concerned the detection of both fruit and vegetable diseases in 7.87% of the papers. The fourth is the fruits and vegetable disease segmentation in 3.94% of the papers. The second main objective of 5.5% of the articles was the automatic detection of abi-otic stress, including nutrients deficiency, water stress, light stress, and metal contamination. The last main group includes three sub-objectives.

avium L.), banana (Musa paradisiaca L.), mango (Mangifera indica L.), po-tato (Solanum tuberosum L.), pepper (Capsicum annuum L.), lettuce (Lactuca sativa L.), pear (Pyrus communis L.), guava (Psidium guajava L.), pomegranate (Punica granatum L.), cabbage (Brassica oleracea L.), sugar beet (Beta vulgaris L.), raspberry (Rubus idaeus L.), carrot (Daucus carota L.), pumpkin/Squash (Cucurbita spp.), jackfruit (Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam.), olive (Olea europaea L.), plum (Prunus domestica L.), avocado (Persea americana Mill), pineapple (Ananas comosus L.) and papaya (Carica papaya L.) (Table 4). Of all these species, apple and tomato are the most investigated, with 35 and 33 occur-rences, respectively, representing 16.67% and 15.71%. This is easily ex-plained because apple is the most consumed fruit in the world (Feng et al., 2021) while tomato is the second most consumed vegetable after the potato (Kabas et al., 2022). In 2019 the world production of ap-ples reached 7,620,288 t (Oviedo-Mireles et al., 2021) while the world's annual tomato production was 160 million tonnes (Bazrafshan et al.,

The first is using complex backgrounds to improve the robustness of the 2022).

models. It accounts for 11.02% of the papers. The second represents 8.66% of the documents that use hybrid models to improve algorithms' robustness. The use of transfer learning to improve the accuracy of pre-diction models and reduce the time and cost of calculations in 7.09% of

The worldwide interest in these two products justifies that they are the object of enough essential work to increase their productivity. After

the articles constitute this group's last sub-objective. Table 3 illustrates Table 3

the objectives thus described and the percentage values given to each. 4.3. RQ2: What are the species of fruits and vegetables considered?

Objectives behind the use of DL or AI methods for stress detection.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Objective category | Objectives | Frequency (%) |
|  | Fruits diseases | 46.46 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Papers considered in this review focused on 28 different species of | Biotic stress detection | Vegetables diseases | 9.45 |
| Fruits and vegetables diseases | 7.87 |
| fruits and vegetables, namely: apple (Malus domestica Borkh.), tomato | Abiotic stress detection |
| Fruits and vegetable segmentation | 3.94 |
| (Solanum lycopersicum L.), grape (Vitis vinifera L.), lemon (Citrus lemon | Abiotic stress | 5.51 |
| L.), peach (Prunus persica L.), orange (Citrus sinensis L.), cucumber | Model improvement with | complex background | 11.02 |
| hybrid models | 8.66 |
| (Cucumis sativus L.), strawberry (Fragaria anassa L.), cherry (Prunus |
| transfer learning | 7.09 |

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Table 4

Common and scientific names of species and occurrence frequency.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Common name | Scientific name | Occurrence | Frequency (%) |
| Apple | Malus domestica | 35 | 16.67 |
| Tomato | Solanum lycopersicum | 33 | 15.71 |
| Grape | Vitis vinifera | 16 | 7.62 |

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grape, orange, peach, pepper, potato, raspberry, soybean, squash, straw-berry, and tomato. Diseases are bacterial, fungal, and viral infections. The remaining 18% used data from AI Challenger 2018, ImageNet, Crowd AI, PlantDisease, Coffee leaf, etc. The sensors used to collect this data are cameras, smartphones, and drones.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lemon | Citrus lemon | 14 | 6.67 | 4.6. RQ5: What is the countries-wise distribution of the self made-data? |
| Peach | Prunus persica | 13 | 6.19 |
| Orange | Citrus sinensis | 12 | 5.71 | Fig. 4 presents the map of the experimental site of data collection |
| Cucumber | Cucumis sativus | 11 | 5.24 |
| from the selected studies. It shows that most papers used data collected |
| Strawberry | Fragaria anassa | 10 | 4.76 |
| Cherry | Prunus avium | 9 | 4.29 | in Asia (14, 6, 4, and 3, respectively, from China, India, South Korea, and |
| Banana | Musa paradisiaca | 8 | 3.81 | Bangladesh), followed by the United States of America, Europe (Italy, |
| Mango | Mangifera indica | 8 | 3.81 |
| Germany, United Kingdom, Greece, and Latvia). In addition, there |
| Potato | Solanum tuberosum | 6 | 2.86 |
| were some efforts from North Africa (Algeria and Egypt), Austral |
| Pepper | Capsicum annuum | 5 | 2.38 |
| Lettuce | Lactuca sativa | 4 | 1.90 | Africa (South Africa), and East Africa (Tanzania). From the selected |
| Pear | Pyrus communis L. | 4 | 1.90 | studies, West Africa was not represented (Fig. 4). |
| Guava | Psidium guajava | 3 | 1.43 |
| Pomegranate | Punica granatum | 3 | 1.43 | 4.7. RQ6: What models were used? |
| Cabbage | Brassica oleracea | 2 | 0.95 |
| Sugar beet | Beta vulgaris | 2 | 0.95 | Deep Learning applications have accelerated exponentially over the |
| Raspberry | Rubus idaeus | 2 | 0.95 |
| Carrot | Daucus carota | 2 | 0.95 | last five years thanks to the advancement of powerful computing de- |
| Pumpkin/Squash | Cucurbita spp. | 2 | 0.95 |
| vices such as graphics processing units (GPU). Thus, this section con- |
| Jackfruit | Artocarpus heterophyllus | 1 | 0.48 |
| siders the classical machine learning algorithms and ends with deep |
| Olive | Olea europaea | 1 | 0.48 |
| Plum | Prunus domestica | 1 | 0.48 | learning. |
| Avocado | Persea americana | 1 | 0.48 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pineapple | Ananas comosus | 1 | 0.48 |
| Papaya | Carica papaya | 1 | 0.48 |

apple and tomato, grape, lemon, peach, orange, cucumber, and straw-berry came next with 16, 14, 13, 12, 11, and 10 occurrences, respec-tively. The least considered species are jackfruit, olive, plum, avocado, pineapple, and papaya, with one study for each.

4.4. RQ3: What type of stress was studied?

The species of fruits and vegetables identified face two types of stress: biotic and abiotic. Diseases constitute about 85% of the biotic stress factors, and pest attacks make up 7.93%. Viral, fungal, and bacte-rial infections are fruits and vegetables' main biotic stress factors. Fungal diseases are the most dominant. All species' most common fungal dis-eases are grey spots, brown spots, black spots, downy mildew, powdery mildew, and anthracnose. Regarding abiotic stress, only 6.34% of assessed papers deal with it and address aspects such as light intensity, nutrient deficiency, heavy metal contamination, and water stress. Three studies (Tran et al., 2019; Fuentes et al., 2017; Li et al., 2021) focused on nutrient deficiencies in respectively grape, tomato, and sugar beet. In addition, three other studies were about the cadmium concentration, the lead concentration, and the light intensity of lettuce (Xin et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2020; Hao et al., 2020). We did not get any article that used DL to predict abiotic stress due to climate change. The low per-centage of abiotic stress indicates the lack of interest in this stress detec-tion on fruits and vegetables using artificial intelligence and DL.

4.5. RQ4: What are the type and the source of data used?

Training of the DL models requires large input databases. Because

4.7.1. Classical machine learning algorithms for stress detection in fruits and vegetables   
 Classical Machine Learning methods are either supervised, semi-supervised, unsupervised, or reinforcement based. In supervised learn-ing, the datasets are labeled, which means that the output parameters and expected results must be specified. Accuracy must also be adjusted during the learning process. Examples of algorithms in supervised learning are linear regressions, support vector machines (SVM), deci-sion trees, etc. Semi-supervised learning methods combine labeled and unlabelled data. Algorithms of this type are fuelled by certain infor-mation through labeled categories, suggestions, and examples. Then they create their labels by exploring the data on their own, according to a rudimentary scheme or the guidance of data scientists. One exam-ple is the naive Bayes classifier that uses Bayes' theorem based on con-ditional probabilities. Researchers employ this algorithm to recognize classes of objects on labeled data sets. Then, the algorithm is trained on unlabelled data. Once this cycle is completed, the researchers associ-ate the labels and restart the training. This technique is mainly used in the context of natural language processing. Unlike supervised algo-rithms, unsupervised algorithms are not trained. Unsupervised algo-rithms depend on extensive learning methods to identify patterns by combing unlabelled training data sets and observing correlations. Some examples are K-means clustering, Principal Component Analysis (PCA), and A priori. Reinforcement learning algorithms are built on re-ward and penalty systems. The algorithm is assigned a goal and tries to get closer to it to obtain maximum compensation. It relies on limited information and learns from its previous actions. These algorithms may depend on a pattern (a model); they must follow predefined steps, and the number of errors and trials is limited. Other algorithms do not rely on a scheme and interpret with each new attempt. Supervised and un-supervised methods are most commonly used for stress detection in

data is the most important input of models, it is necessary to ensure fruits and vegetables.

their quality. The data used are essentially images (92%). The other

data types are climatic data: mean temperature, minimum tempera-ture, maximum temperature, rainfall, wind speed, humidity, solar, and sunlight. The reviewed papers used about 50% of the data they collected in the field, while 28% relied on the plant village databases ([www.kaggle.com/charuchaudhry/plantvillage-tomato-leaf-dataset](http://www.kaggle.com/charuchaudhry/plantvillage-tomato-leaf-dataset)). PlantVillage is a free downloadable web dataset containing images of 54,303 healthy and diseased leaves, divided into 38 categories by species and disease. Species include apple, blueberry, cherry, corn,

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Fig. 4. Countries-wise distribution of self-data collected.

three classes considered. Nine classification algorithms are used for jackfruit disease classification in Bangladesh (Habib et al., 2022).

(2012) provided a system based on mathematical binarization and de-fect segmentation using color-based classifiers.

Among the algorithms, Random Forest performed better than all other

classifiers, with an accuracy of almost 90%. In addition, Vakilian and Massah (2013) implemented a device for detecting two fungal diseases of cucumbers. Inoculated plants are used as input for the ANN backpropagation algorithm, giving an acceptable performance. Zhang and Wu (2012) developed a classification method based on multiclass SVM in several steps. The first step consisted of the background removal of acquired images with a split-and-merge algorithm. The second step involved extracting each fruit image's color histogram, texture, and shape features for feature space composition. In the final step, the multiclass SVM was constructed. They come up with the Gaussian Ra-dial Basis Kernel achieving the highest classification accuracy of 88.2%. In Razmjooy et al. (2012), they used SVM sequential minimal optimiza-tion (SMO) to reach 95% accuracy for the classification of potato defects.

4.7.1.2. Unsupervised machine learning. Dubey et al. (2013) proposed the defect segmentation of apple fruits using k-means clustering in two steps. The first step consisted of pixel clustering based on color and spe-cial features. The second step used the merged clustered block to a spe-cific number of regions. Likewise, K-means clustering was used for segmentation in the case of any infection (Samajpati and Degadwala, 2016). Moreover, Omrani et al. (2014) employed K-means clustering to segment the region of interest in apple leaves. However, wavelet and grey-level co-occurrence matrix techniques were used to get the texture features. Also discussing segmentation of the diseased region, Rozario et al. (2016) suggested a computer vision-based approach in fruits and vegetables using K-means clustering, modified K-means clus-tering, and the Otsu method. In Bangladesh, an agromedical expert sys-tem for detecting and classifying papaya fruits has been developed (Habib et al., 2020). The system uses K-means clustering to detect the disease-infested region on a leaf. Still, in Bangladesh, another agro-medical expert system for jackfruit detection and classification has been developed (Habib et al., 2022). The system also uses K-means clus-tering to detect the disease-infested region on a leaf. PCA was employed to reduce the dimensions of the feature space in Zhang and Wu (2012). Moreover, for potato defect detection and size sorting, Razmjooy et al.

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healthy and diseased. Fig. 5 shows that most papers used GoogleNet, ResNet50, and VGG16 for stress classification in fruits and vegetables. These are the architectures of convolutional neural networks (CNN). The CNN technique has performed well on tasks such as disease identi-fication on apple fruit (Agarwal et al., 2019; Alharbi and Arif, 2020; Jiang et al., 2019; Sheikh et al., 2020), detection and diagnosis of damage to jackfruit by pests and diseases (Orano et al., 2019; Kukreja and Dhiman, 2020), tomato disease identification (Ashok et al., 2020; Mkonyi et al., 2020; Afifi et al., 2021; Brahimi et al., 2017), mango dis-ease classification (Chouhan et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2018), guava dis-ease detection (Farhan Al Haque et al., 2019; Howlader et al., 2019), strawberry disease diagnosis (Park et al., 2018; Sheikh et al., 2020; Afifi et al., 2021; Ferentinos, 2018), abiotic light stress grading in lettuce leaves (Hao et al., 2020), citrus disease identification (Pan et al., 2019), diagnosis of multiple cucumber infections (Tani et al., 2018), and grape diseases classification (Thet et al., 2020; Sheikh et al., 2020). One can attribute the widespread use of CNNs to their outstanding per-formance in solving a wide range of problems, particularly those involv-ing images (Alzubaidi et al., 2021). In addition to performance, there are other advantages to using CNN models. For instance, the reduction of weight and convolutional neurons (Agarwal et al., 2019), the capability to transfer learning (Afifi et al., 2021; Thet et al., 2020), the possibility to

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deploy the models in a mobile application (Orano et al., 2019; Ferentinos, 2018; Sheikh et al., 2020; Pan et al., 2019), the alleviation of training time required (Atabay, 2017), the lower computational com-plexity (Ferentinos, 2018), and the simplicity of the model (Singh et al., 2018). Moreover, several open-source CNN software have been made available. However, unbalanced data often hurt CNN models perfor-mance (Hao et al., 2020). Apart from CNNs, there are other supervised deep learning models, including Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN).

The Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) technique is specialized in sequences of data x tð Þ ¼ x 1 ð Þ, . . . , x τ ð Þ with the time step index t rang-ing from 1 to τ. It uses the knowledge gained from its previous state as an input value for the current prediction. Therefore, it can help achieve short-term memory in a network and effectively manage time-based data systems. There are two different types of RNN: Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) and Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs). The LSTM is con-ceived to use memory to forecast data in temporal sequences. It has three gates: input, output, and oblivion. The GRUs also predict time se-quences via memory but have two gates: Update and Reset. The RNN method works best for tasks where a single input is connected to a sin-gle output and a single input is associated with such an output se-quence. It also works best with a series of inputs that produce a single output, such as sentiment analysis, and a set of inputs that create a set

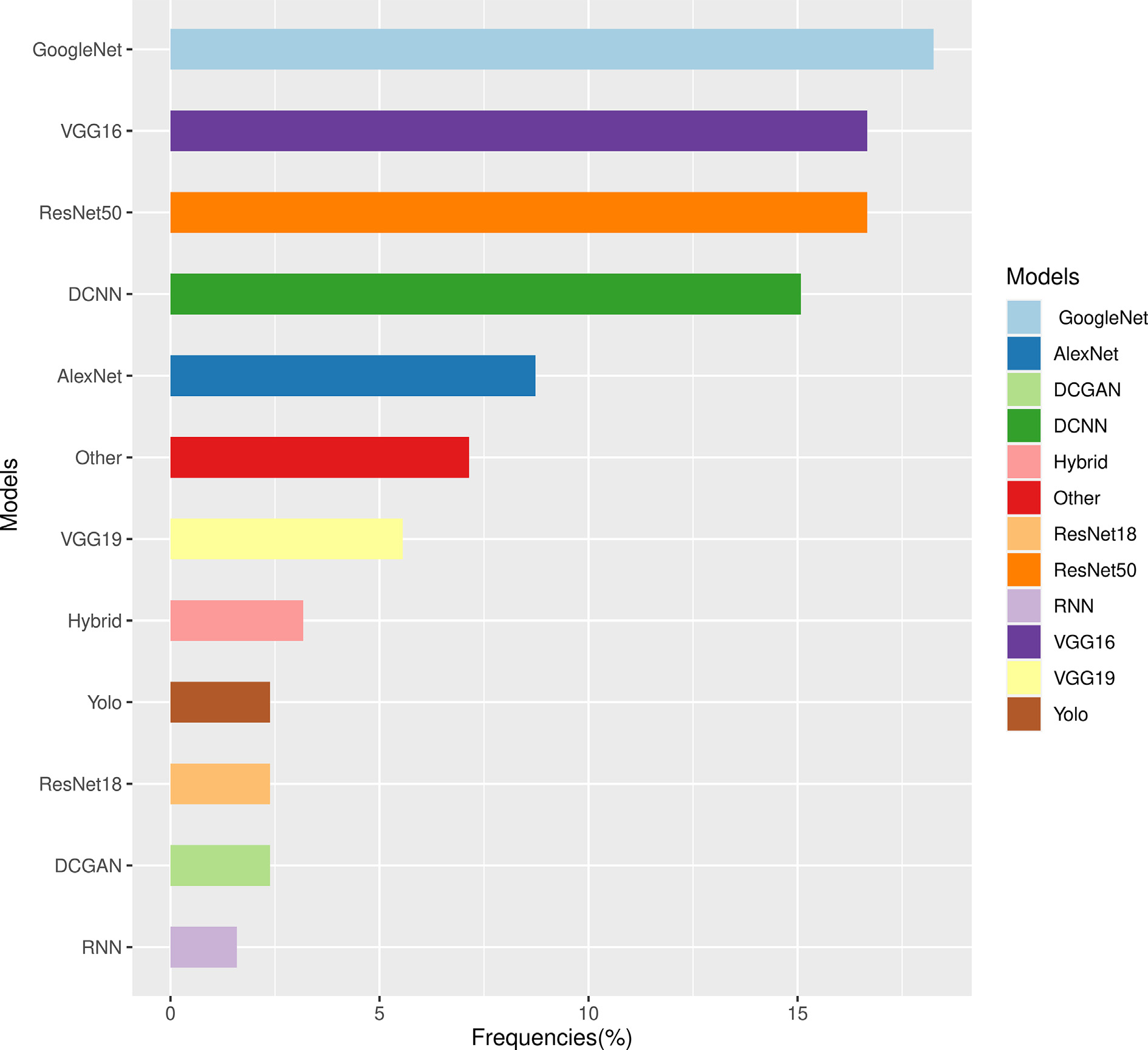


Fig. 5. Deep Learning models considered in the assessed papers.   
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of outcomes. The technique is used to measure water stress in tomato

Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture 9 (2023) 46–60 information from the data sorting and computational effort (Singh

plants based on images, environmental data (temperature, relative hu- et al., 2019).

midity, vapor pressure difference, and scattered light), and stem diam-

eter (Wakamori et al., 2020).

4.7.2.2. Deep semi-supervised learning. In Deep semi-supervised learning, the learning process is based on partially-labeled datasets. That is, we are in a situation where few labeled learning examples are available and many unlabelled samples (Ouali et al., 2020). The proportion of la-beled examples is generally relatively small, ranging from 1 to 10% of the total number of instances (Ouali et al., 2020). Text document classi-fiers are among the most common examples of semi-supervised learn-ing applications because it is challenging to retrieve large numbers of labeled text documents. Generative adversarial networks (GANs) are sometimes used in the same way as this technique. GANs are composed of two models: the Generator, which generates new samples based on the approximate distribution of the original dataset, and the Discrimina-tor, which is used to distinguish the original dataset from the data gen-erated by the Generator. Another variant of GANs techniques is Deep Convolutional Generative Adversarial Networks (DCGANs). DCGANs techniques helped in estimating the severity of citrus diseases, improv-ing the model learning performance (Zeng et al., 2020). The advantage of these techniques is to minimize the amount of labeled data needed (Alzubaidi et al., 2021). One of the drawbacks of this technique is irrel-evant input functions that exist in training data and can lead to incorrect decisions (Alzubaidi et al., 2021). GANs techniques are also known to be unstable to train (Zeng et al., 2020).

4.7.2.3. Deep unsupervised learning. This technique allows running the learning process without labeled data available. The model is supposed to organize the data on its own, based on the input data's features, to discover the data's unknown structure or relationship. This approach often includes Generation network technology, dimensionality reduc-tion, and clustering. Some members of the DL family are working well on Nonlinear dimensionality reduction and clustering tasks. These in-clude Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM) and Autoencoder.

The Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM) or Boltzmann Ma-chine: is a generative unsupervised model that learns a probability distribution from the original dataset and infers data it has never seen before. The RBM has an input layer and one or more hidden layers. It uses a neural network with neurons connected to neurons in the same layer and other neurons in other layers. The nodes are connected in a circle. In contrast to all deterministic network models, the RBM model is called stochastic. It is ideal for system monitoring and handwritten digit recognition (eg: check verification and crimi-nal evidence). The advantage of RBM is its possibility to encode any distribution due to its expressiveness and computational efficiency. In addition, using hidden layer activation as input to other models is a helpful feature to improve performance. This technique is more challenging to train.

Autoencoders are unsupervised deep learning techniques used to learn efficient data coding (Kunapuli and Bhallamudi, 2021). They consist of four or five flat, two symmetric deep belief networks. Half of the network encodes, and the other half decodes. The autoencoder learns essential functions in the data by minimizing re-construction errors between input and output data (Abirami and Chitra, 2020). There are an equal number of neurons in the output layer and the input layer with Autoencoders. Autoencoders are flex-ible due to both linear and nonlinear transformations in encoding (Abirami and Chitra, 2020).

Autoencoder was used to predict and classify early and late phe-nomena resulting from macronutrient deficiencies in tomato plants (Tran et al., 2019) and for detection of lead concentration in lettuce (Xin et al., 2020). In general, the most crucial drawback of unsuper-vised learning methods is their inability to provide accurate

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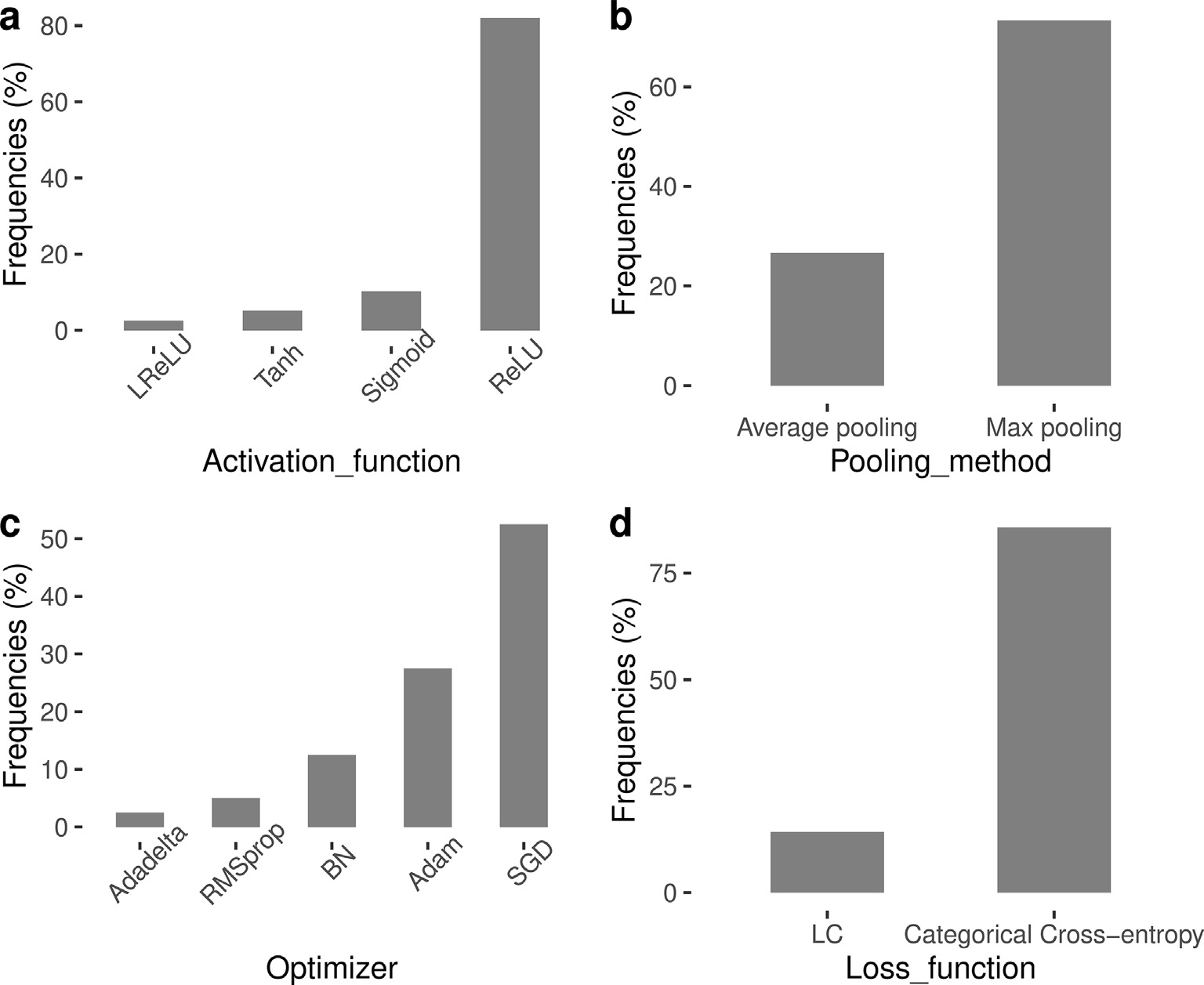


Fig. 6. Hyper parameters: (a) activation functions, (b) Pooling methods, (c) Optimizers, (d) Loss functions.

label as annotated beforehand by the author (Kamilaris and Prenafeta-Boldu, 2018). When precision (P) is the fraction of true positives (TP, correct predictions) from the total amount of relevant results, the Recall (R) is the fraction of TP from the total amount of TP and false negatives (FN). The F1 score is the harmonic average of precision (P) and recall (R). For multi-class classification problems, each metric gets averaged among all the classes. The following formulas are used to compute them (Kamilaris and Prenafeta-Boldu, 2018):

4.10. RQ9: What are the performances achieved?

We consider the most used evaluation metric (accuracy) to group the best-performing models reported by the authors into five classes. The five classes are defined as follows: class 1 from 95 to 99.99%, class 2 from 90 to 94.99%, class 3 from 80 to 89.99%, class 4 from 70 to 79.99%, and class 5 from 50 to 69.99%. We then calculated the occur-rence of each model in a class and reported it as a frequency. This was

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CA ¼ TP þ TN | Þ= TP þ TN þ FN þ FP | | | Þ | ð1Þ | done for two purposes. The first one is to identify the best models of |
| all those written by the authors. The second purpose is to check if the |
| P ¼ TP= TP þ FP | | Þ | | ð2Þ | best ones are also the most commonly used. We assume that a model |
| would be best if it has been mentioned each time with at least a 90% ac- |
| R ¼ TP= TP þ FN | | Þ | | curacy value. Thus, a model must fulfill two criteria to be considered |
| ‘best’. The first criterion is that it has to be represented in the first |
| F1 ¼ 2 ∗ TP ∗ FP | | Þ= TP þ FP | Þ | ð3Þ | class. The second criterion is that the model is neither in class 3 nor in |
| class 4 or 5. According to Fig. 8, only ResNet 50 and AlexNet meet the |

The R2 and the root mean square error (RMSE) are the few ob-served regression metrics. The RMSE is the square root of the mean square error. It is used to measure the standard deviation of the re-siduals. The coefficient of determination or R-square is the propor-tion of the variance of the dependent variable that the linear regression model explains. The R2 is a scale-free score, which means that regardless of whether the values are small or large, the R-square value will be less than one. The R2 and RMSE are calculated using the following formulas.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| RMSE ¼ s ffiffiffiffi~~ffi~~ffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffiffi i¼1�yi �by�2  R2¼ 1 �∑ yi � by� �2 Þ2 | ð4Þ  ð5Þ |

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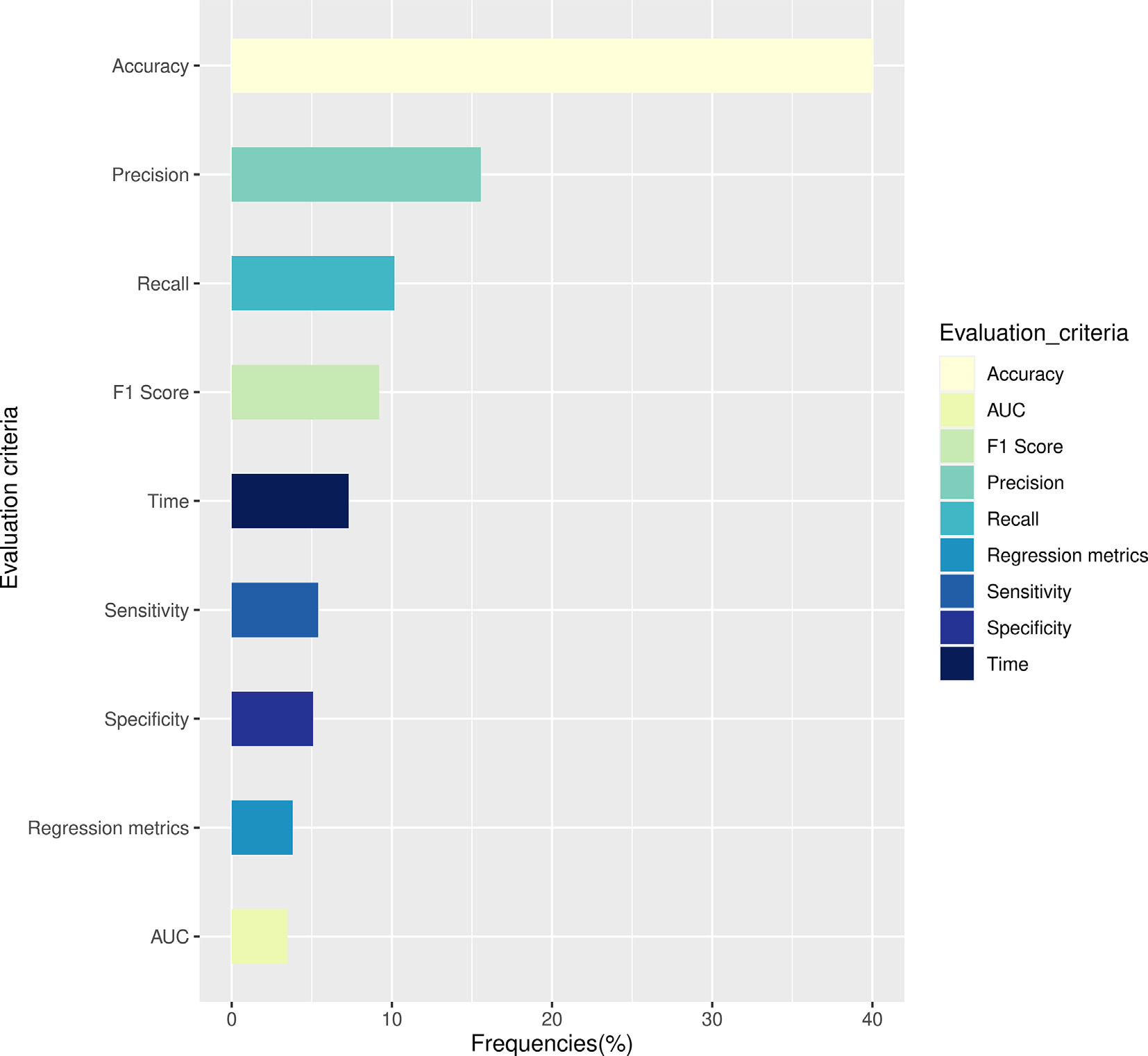


Fig. 7. Evaluation metrics used within the reviewed papers.

of data. Collecting data representing the characteristics of several dis-eases at different stages requires careful monitoring, financial means, time, and patience. It constitutes a constraint for researchers who, to remedy this, use online databases to train their models. For example, in more than 45% of the papers studied, the data used were obtained on-line (Hong et al., 2020; Zeng et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2021; Adedoja et al., 2019; Agarwal et al., 2019; Pan et al., 2019; Zheng et al., 2019; Rangarajan et al., 2018). Plantvillage is the most popular of all the online databases and is found in 28% of the articles reviewed. They offer the possibility of having many images of several species. However, these are images taken in the laboratory. These pictures are mostly infested leaves with a homogeneous background (El-Kereamy et al., 2016). They do not show different illumination levels given the time of day the photo would be taken in the field, the crop substrate, or any other features observed in a natural field environment. As a result, these images do not reflect what is happening in the field. Another challenge related to the data is their small quantity which sometimes creates an imbalance in classes. Indeed, there are some diseases whose symptoms are not easily observed in the field. Thus, collecting data to balance these rare classes with other frequent classes is not always straightforward. From the reviewed papers, many authors faced unbalanced classes problem in their training data (Fenu and Malloci, 2021; Tani et al., 2018; Kodors et al., 2021; Fuentes et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2020). In addi-tion, if the number of observations in some classes is minimal, it will be challenging to represent between the classes, which will cause problems in validation or creating test samples. For instance, Fuentes et al. (2017) considered 0.9% of their dataset for the minimum class

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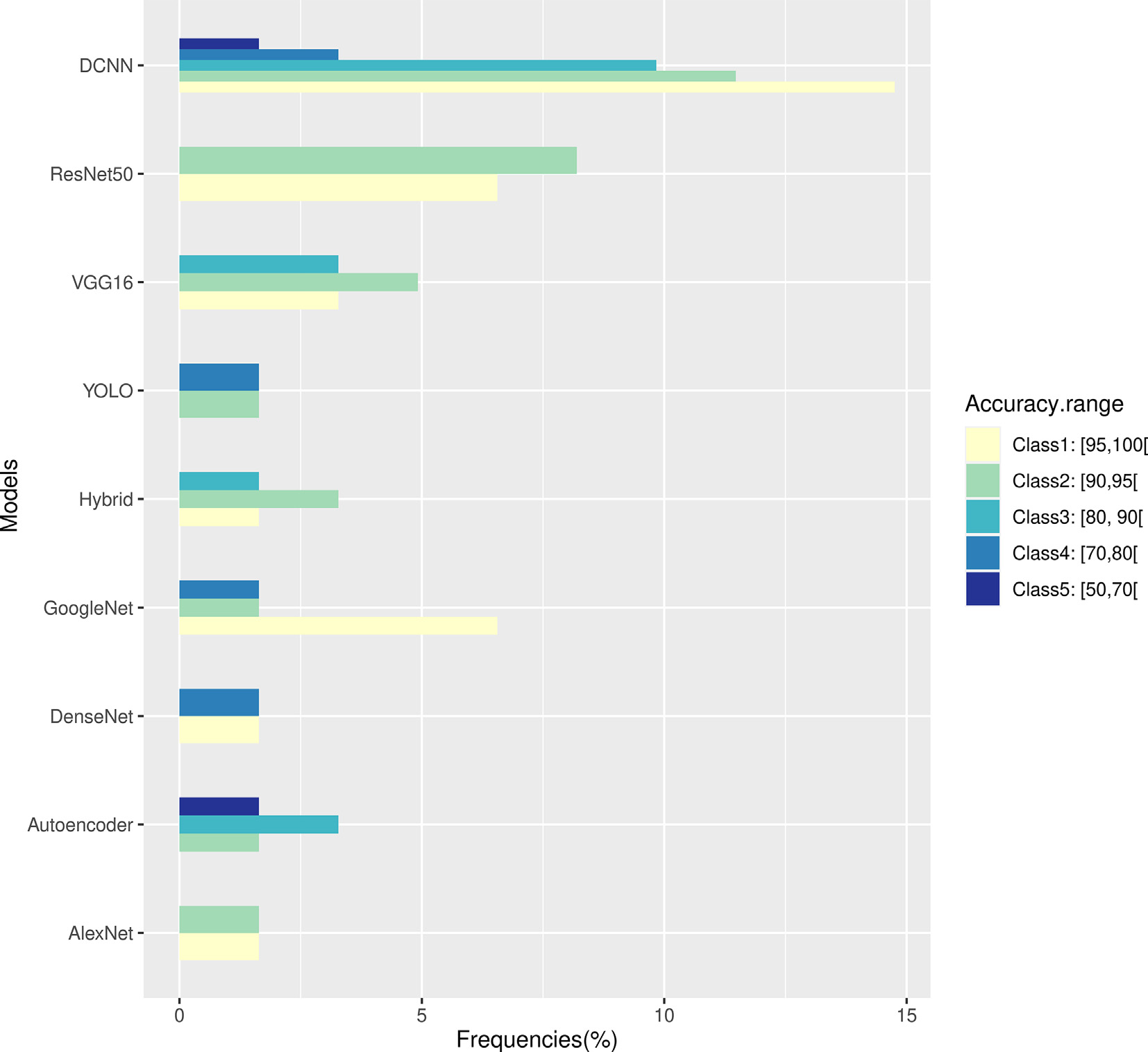


Fig. 8. Models classification based on the achieved performances.

to avoid losing everything. The fourth gap is related to the types of stress studied. Most of the work focuses on the early detection of biotic stress, such as diseases. Very little work has focused on abiotic stress due to nutrient deficiency, water (water stress), heavy metal contamination,

deep learning techniques used had a good performance but needed to be improved. This review also provides research guidelines for scientists who intend to work in this area.

and light quantity. At the same time, no work has been done on Funding

predicting stress due to climate change in fruits and vegetables. Indeed,

climate change has many side effects in our lives. Thus, we recommend that AI-based models be developed to predict the impact of abiotic stress related to climate change on fruits and vegetables. It would allow us to start thinking about finding mitigation measures. Finally, the early detection of several diseases on the same leaf using AI methods remains a real challenge. Because, in the field, it is not uncommon to find several diseases or pest attacks on the same leaf. Experiments should be implemented to collect mega data with various characteris-tics on different species of fruits and vegetables. These data should be made available to researchers to have robust models that work well in real situations.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influ-ence the work reported in this paper.

5. Conclusion References

Applications of Deep Learning in agriculture have been steadily ad-vancing in recent years. This review presented recent work in agricul-ture to identify and classify biotic and abiotic stresses in fruits and vegetables. The effectiveness of the models was evaluated based on the data sources, the models used, the hyper parameters adopted, and the evaluation metrics used. Finally, the limitations of the papers and some perspectives were presented. The finding is that most of the

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