



# APTOS 2019: Blindness Detection

Vancouver Kaggle Meetup

# Hello!

## I am Alice Roberts

- ★ Recent SFU graduate in Applied Mathematics & Statistics
- ★ Seeking a job in data science / data analytics

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Github: <https://github.com/aliceroberts10>



# Our Goal for Today:

- ★ Introduction
- ★ Overview of Data
- ★ Exploratory Data Analysis
- ★ Background Concepts
- ★ Top available solutions
- ★ Discussion/Conclusion



1.

# Introduction

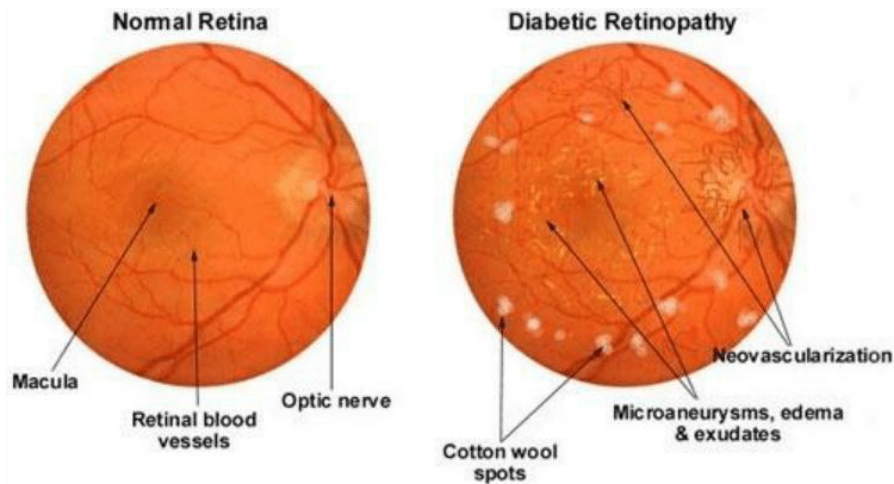
What is the problem?

# Blindness Detection: Diabetic Retinopathy

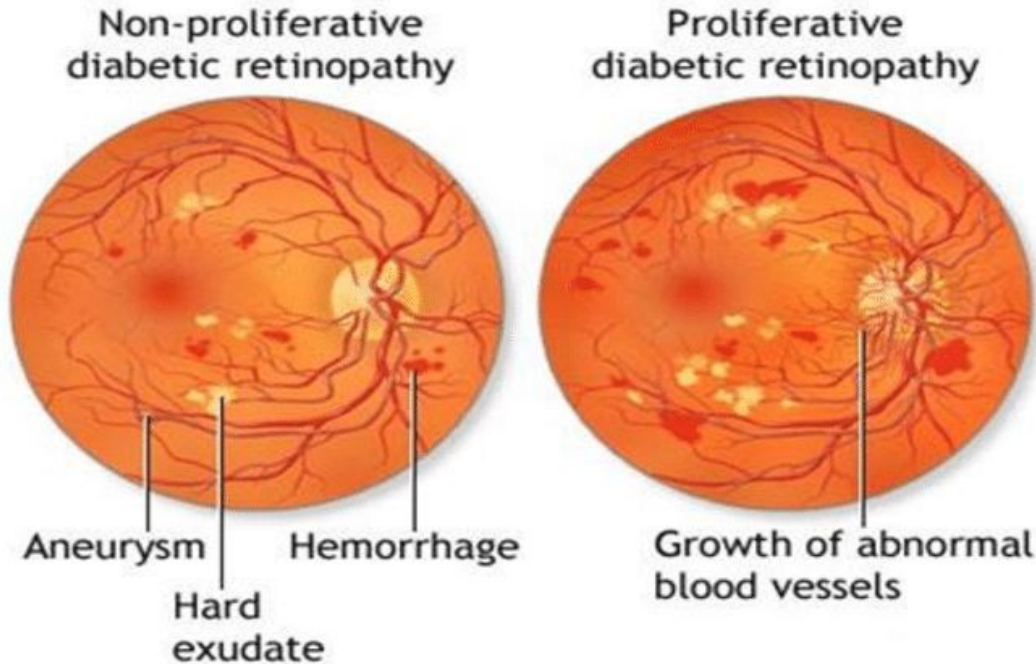
What is Diabetic Retinopathy?

Task:

Given thousands of images of retinas, can we classify whether or not the person has or is at risk of blindness?



# Non-Proliferative vs Proliferative DR



Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy:  
Abnormal blood vessel growth

# How Do Humans Classify DR?

**Early NPDR** – At least one microaneurysm present on retinal exam.

**Moderate NPDR** – Characterized by multiple microaneurysms, dot-and-blot hemorrhages, venous beading (when the walls of major retinal **veins** lose their normal parallel alignment) and/or cotton wool spots.

**Severe NPDR** – In the most severe stage of NPDR.

It is diagnosed using the "**4-2-1 rule**." as follows:

- Diffuse intraretinal hemorrhages and microaneurysms in **4 quadrants**
- Venous beading in  $\geq$  **2 quadrants**, or
- Intraretinal microvascular abnormalities (IRMA) in  $\geq$  **1 quadrant**.

**Proliferative NPDR** - Characterized by all symptoms above as well as abnormal blood vessel growth. At this point, sudden vision loss is highly probable/expected.

# Motivation

## Current Problem:

Aravind Eye Hospital technicians from India have to travel to rural areas to capture images and then rely on highly trained doctors to review the images and provide diagnosis.

## Proposed Solution :

Machine Learning Models can:

- Speed up disease detection
- Identify diabetic retinopathy automatically
- Prevent lifelong blindness
- Can be modified to detect other diseases such as glaucoma



# Competition Description

➡ 2,943 Teams

➡ 3,522 Competitors

➡ 60,678 Entries

Scoring Method:

Quadratic weighted kappa (0,1)

Winners	Cash Prize	Scores
1st place: Guanshuo Xu	\$25,000	0.936129
2nd place: [ods.ai] Eye of Private LB	\$12,000	0.934310
3rd place:[ka.kr] Save our eyes	\$8,000	0.933720
4th place: Best Over Fitting	\$5,000	0.933693

2.

# Data Overview

Testing, Training, Sample Submission

# What was given?

- ★ train.csv - the training labels
- ★ test.csv - the test set
- ★ sample\_submission.csv
- ★ train.zip - the training set images
- ★ test.zip - the public test set images

# Training set: (3,662)

	id_code <fctr>	diagnosis <int>
1	000c1434d8d7	2
2	001639a390f0	4
3	0024cdab0c1e	1
4	002c21358ce6	0
5	005b95c28852	0
6	0083ee8054ee	4
7	0097f532ac9f	0
8	00a8624548a9	2
9	00b74780d31d	2
10	00cb6555d108	1

## Labels:

0 - No DR

1 - Mild

2 - Moderate

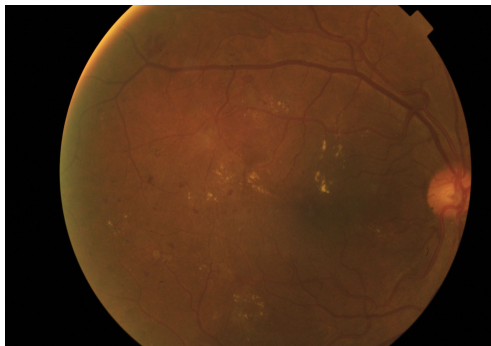
3 - Severe

4 - Proliferative DR

# Example:

Id Code:

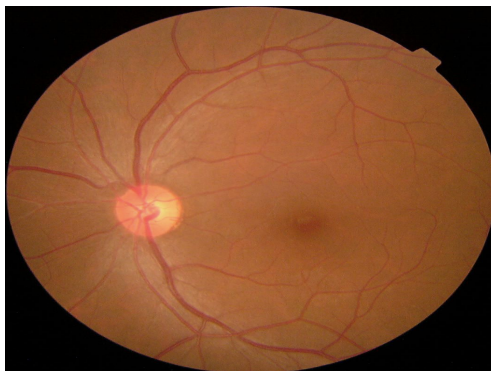
000c1434d8d7



Diagnosis:

2

002c21358ce6



0

**Labels:**

0 - No DR

1 - Mild

2 - Moderate

3 - Severe

4 - Proliferative  
DR

# Test Set: (1,928)

	<b>id_code</b> <fctr>
1	0005cfc8afb6
2	003f0afdcd15
3	006efc72b638
4	00836aaacf06
5	009245722fa4
6	009c019a7309
7	010d915e229a
8	0111b949947e
9	01499815e469
10	0167076e7089

# Sample Submission:

	<b>id_code</b> <fctr>	<b>diagnosis</b> <int>
1	0005cfc8afb6	0
2	003f0afdcd15	0
3	006efc72b638	0
4	00836aaacf06	0
5	009245722fa4	0
6	009c019a7309	0
7	010d915e229a	0
8	0111b949947e	0
9	01499815e469	0
10	0167076e7089	0

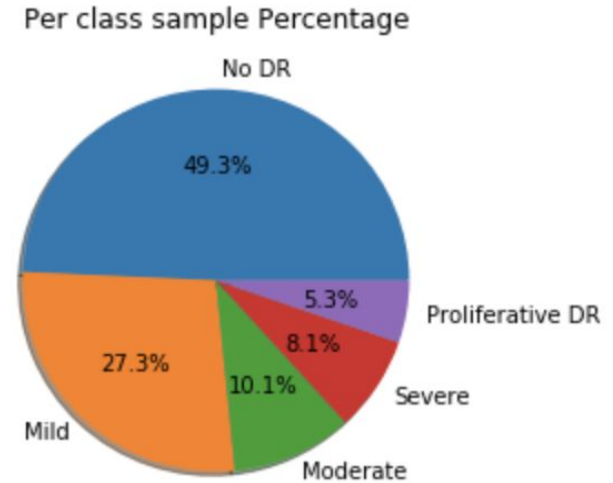
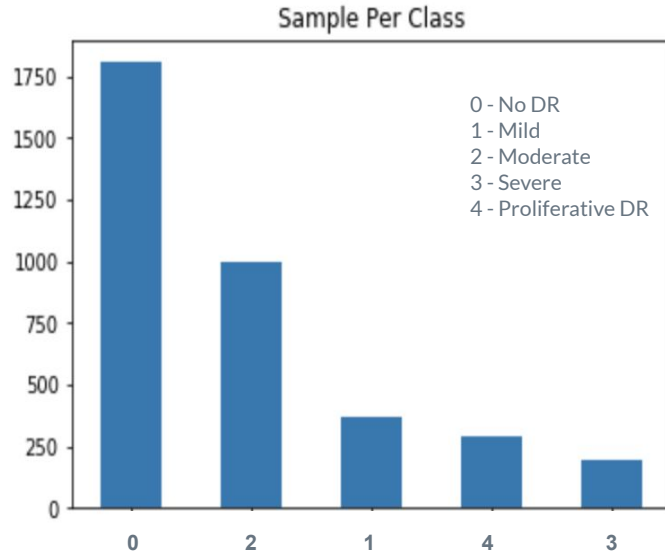
# 3. EDA



## Exploratory Data Analysis

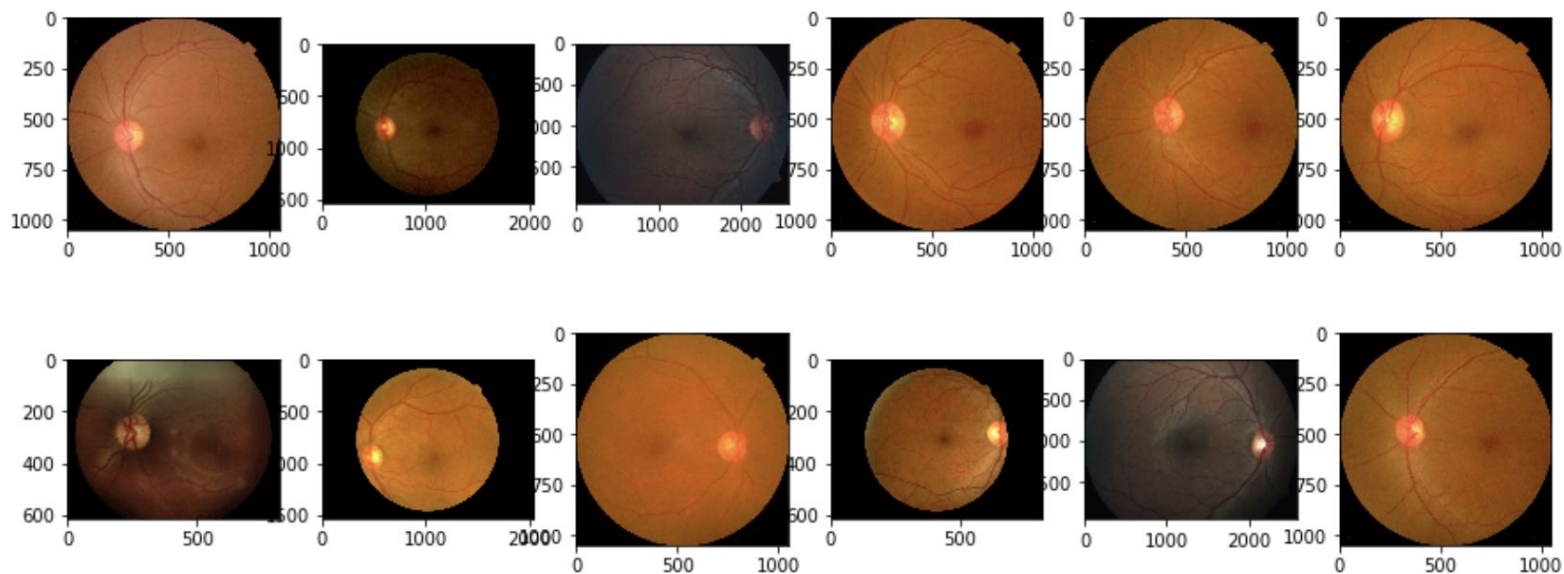


# Summary



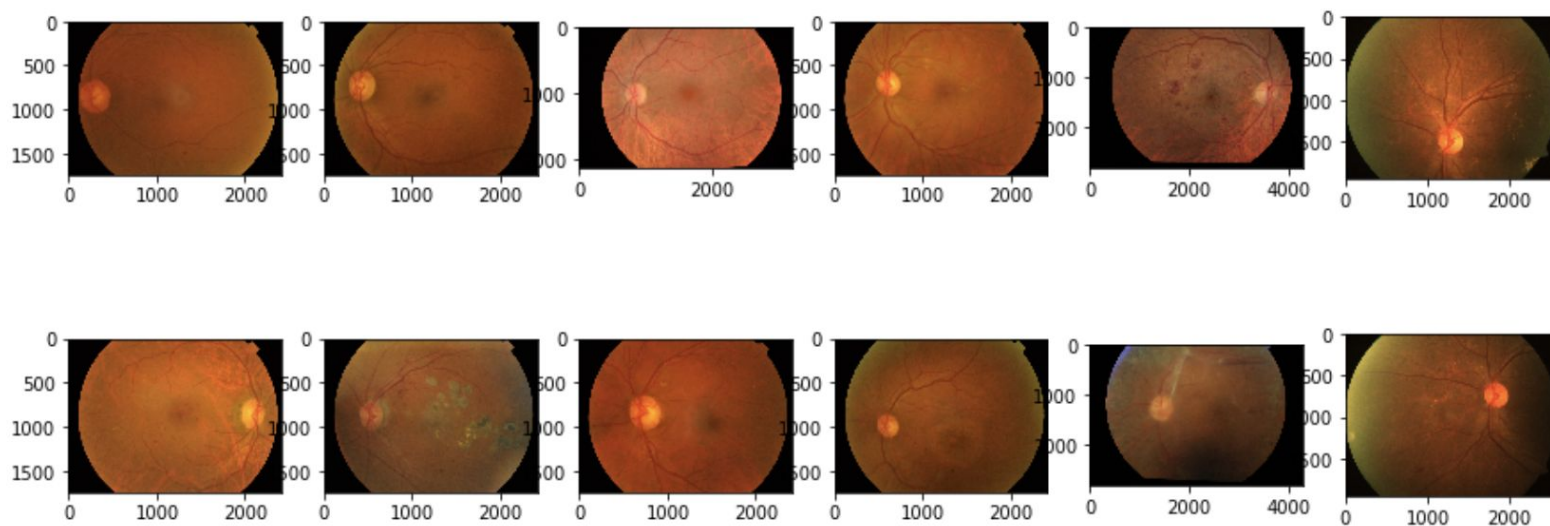
# 0 - No DR

No DR



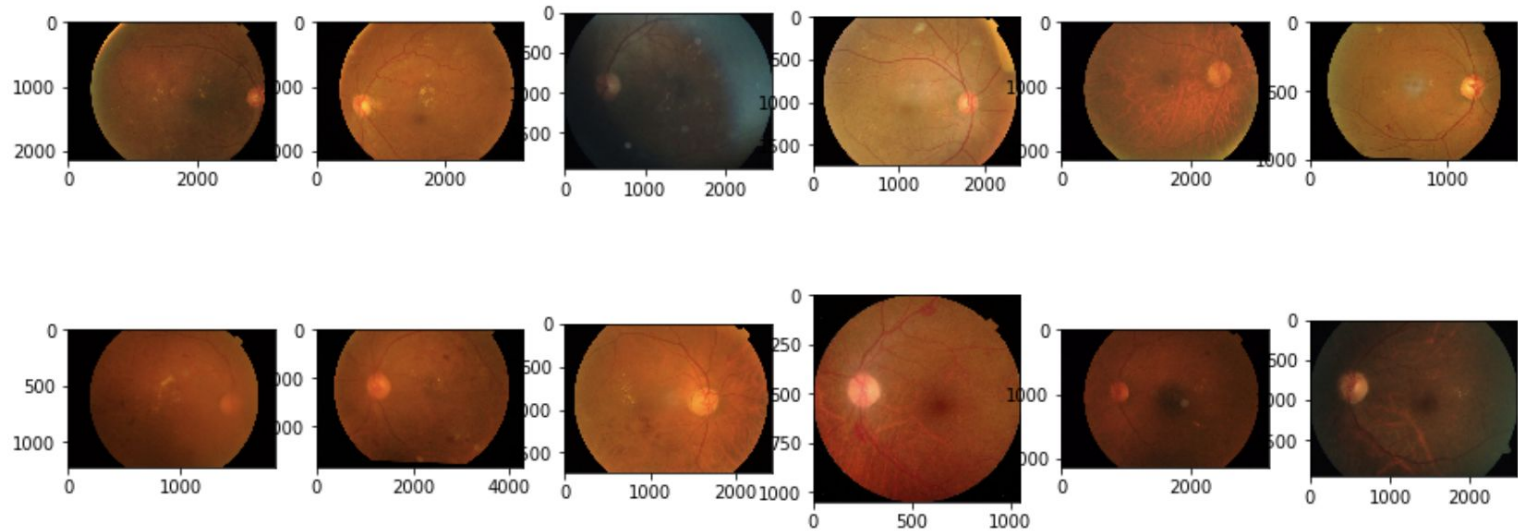
# 1 - Mild DR

Mild



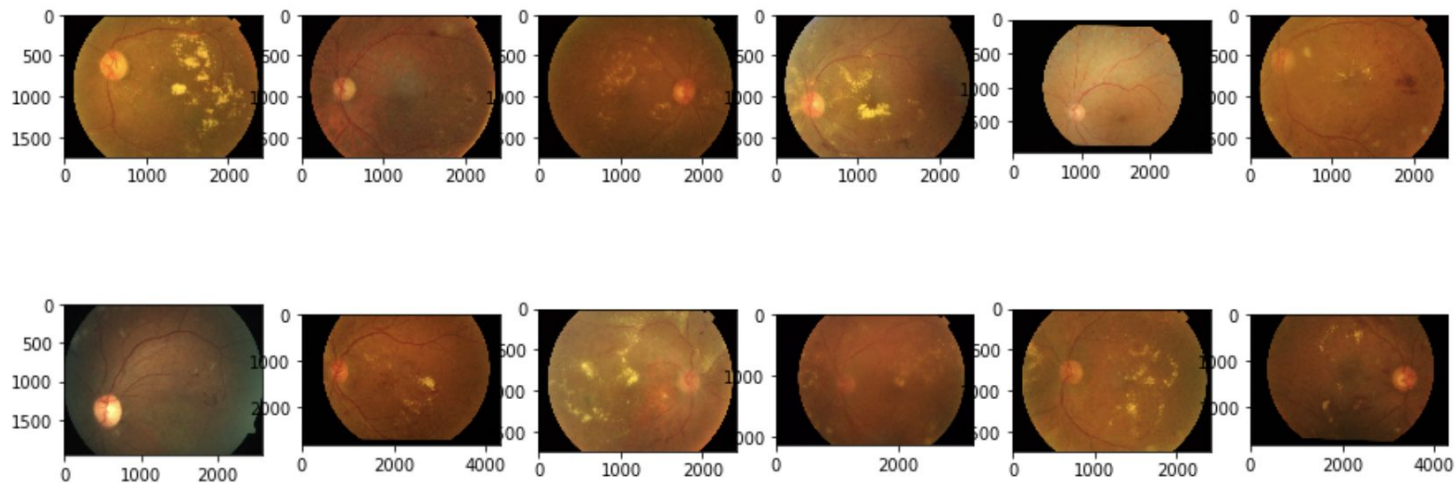
## 2 - Moderate DR

Moderate



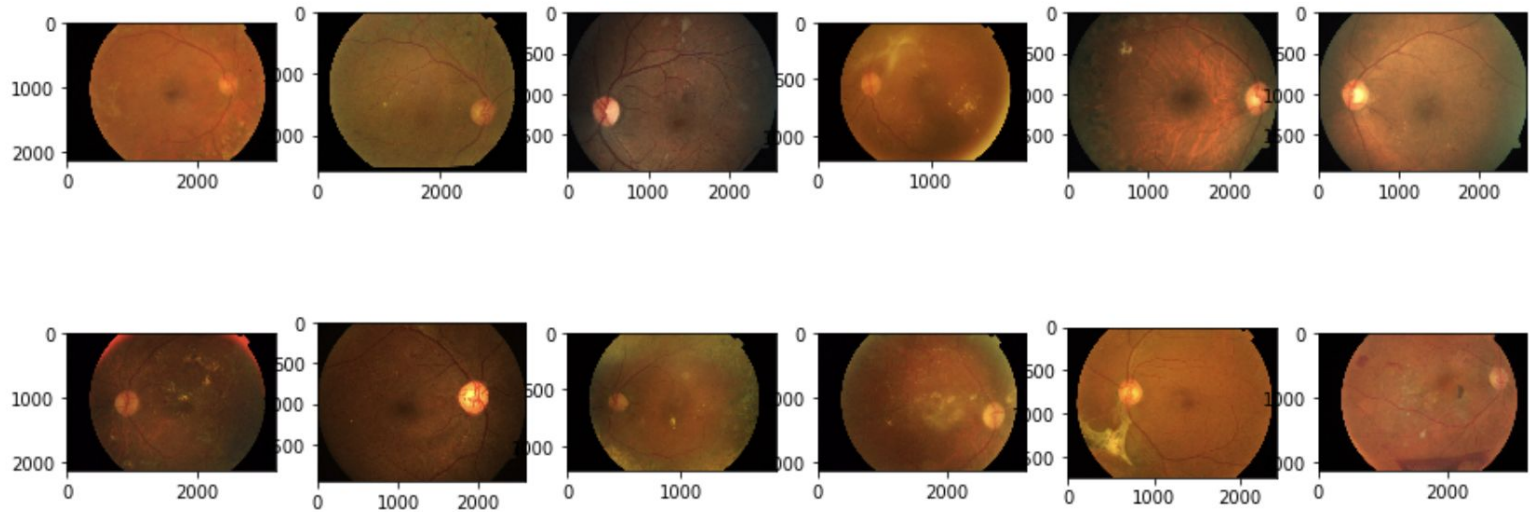
# 3 - Severe DR

Severe



# 4 - Proliferative DR

Proliferative DR



4.



# Background Concepts

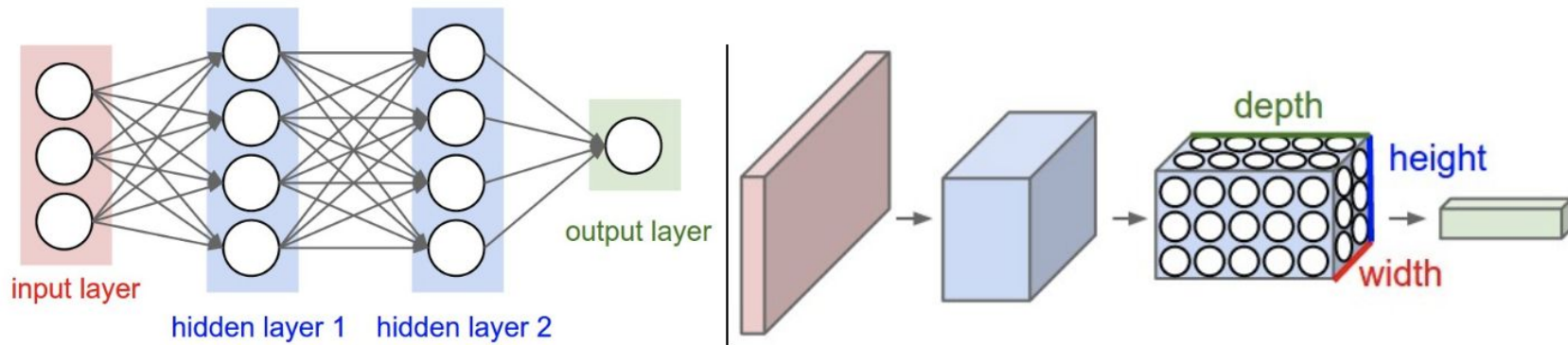
CNNs, EfficientNets, etc.

# Overview

- Convolution Neural Networks
- Vanishing Gradient Problem
- ResNets
- EfficientNets
- DenseNets
- InceptionNets
- Squeeze-and-Excitation Networks



# Convolution Neural Networks



*Note: Regular Neural Nets don't scale well to full images.*

CovNet architectures make the explicit assumption that the inputs are images. The layers have neurons arranged in 3D: width, height and depth.

# Problems with Deeper CNNs

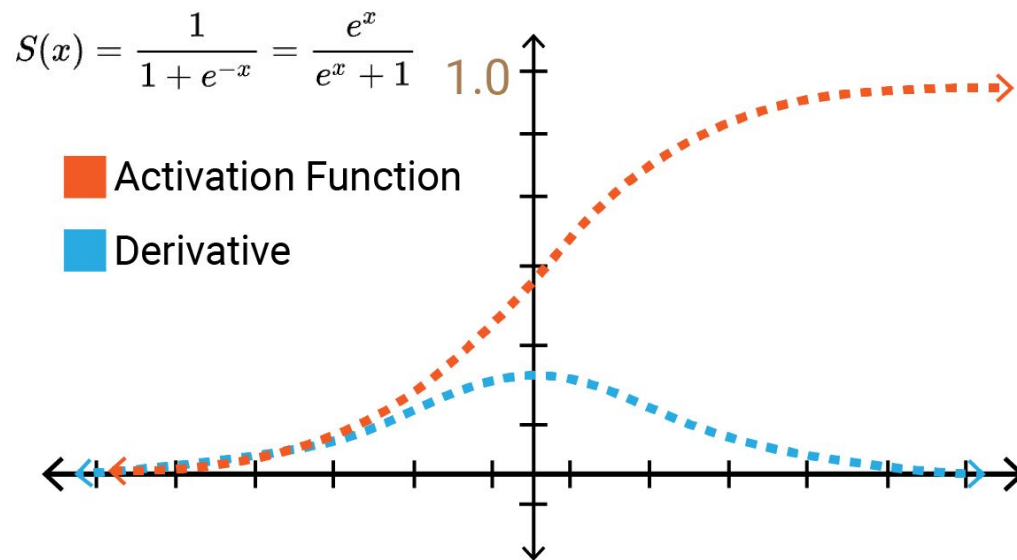
**Universal approximation theorem:** we know that a feedforward network with a single layer is sufficient to represent any function.

However, the layer might be massive and the network is prone to overfitting the data. Therefore, there is a common trend that our network architecture needs to go deeper.

However, increasing network depth does not work by simply stacking layers together.

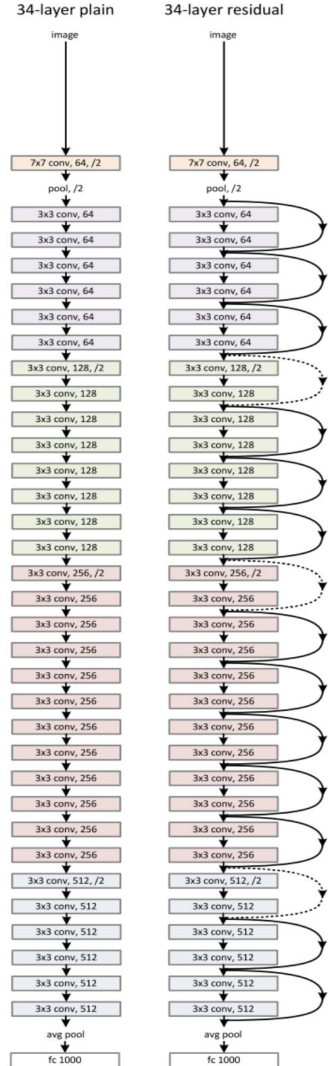
**Why?**

# Vanishing Gradient Problem



When the network is too deep, the gradients from where the loss function is calculated easily shrink to zero after several applications of the chain rule.

This results in the weights never updating its values and therefore, no learning is being performed.



# What are ResNets?

“The deeper the better”? Well not when it gets too deep!

Problem? Vanishing Gradient Problem

**ResNets solves this problem!**

With ResNets, the gradients can flow directly through the skip connections backwards from later layers to initial filters.

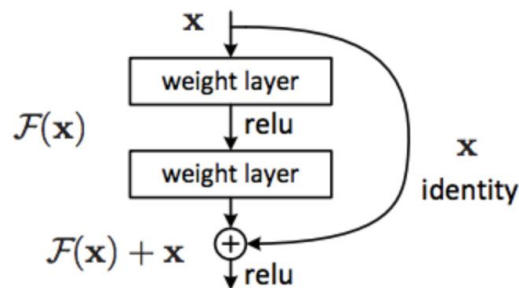
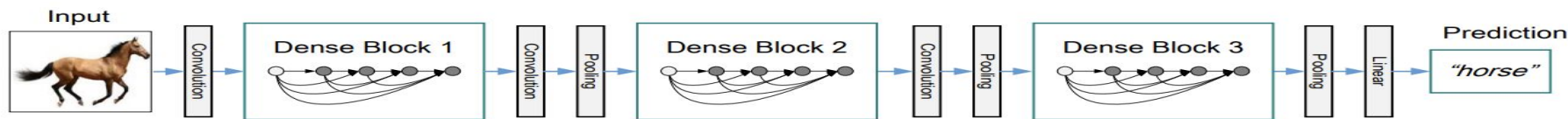


Figure 2. Residual learning: a building block.

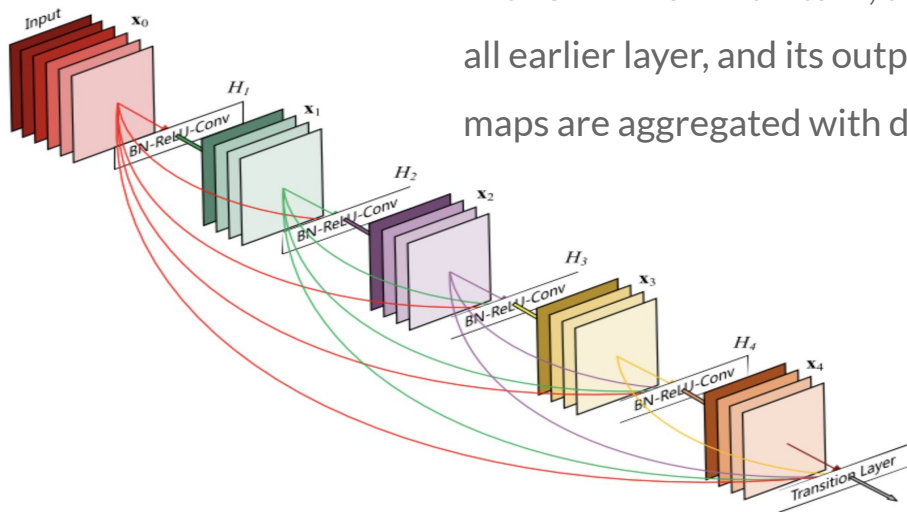
the residual connection directly adds the value at the beginning of the block,  $x$ , to the end of the block ( $F(x)+x$ ). This residual connection doesn't go through activation functions that “squashes” the derivatives, resulting in a higher overall derivative of the block.



# What are DenseNets?

DenseNet further exploits the effects of shortcut connections — it connects all layers directly with each other.

In this novel architecture, the input of each layer consists of the feature maps of all earlier layers, and its output is passed to each subsequent layer. The feature maps are aggregated with depth-concatenation.

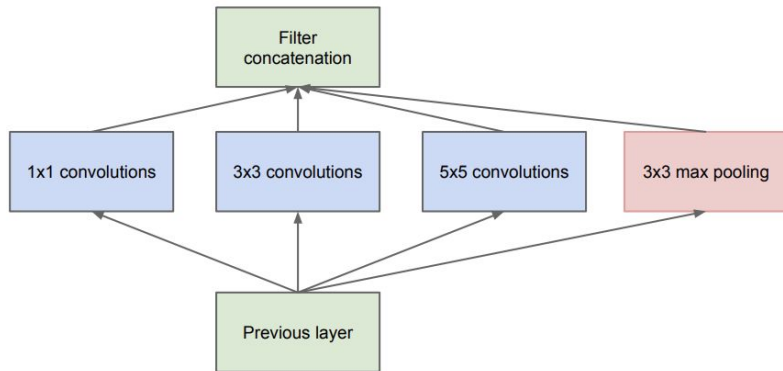


## Benefits of DenseNets:

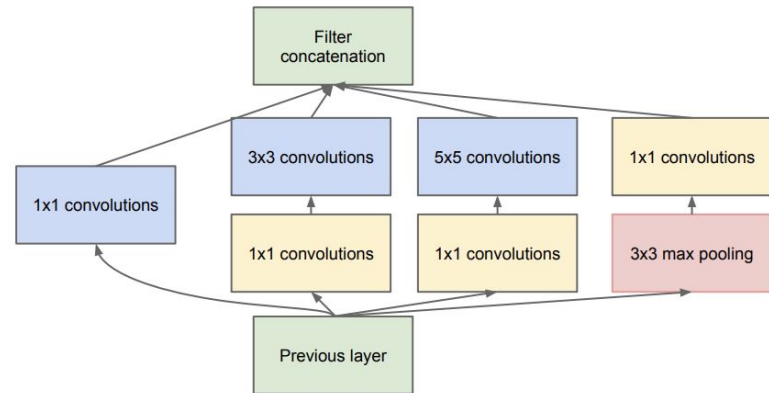
- ★ Vanishing gradients problem
- ★ Encourages feature reuse
- ★ Making network highly parameter-efficient

# What are Inception Networks?

design that allows for increasing the depth and width of the network while keeping the computational budget constant



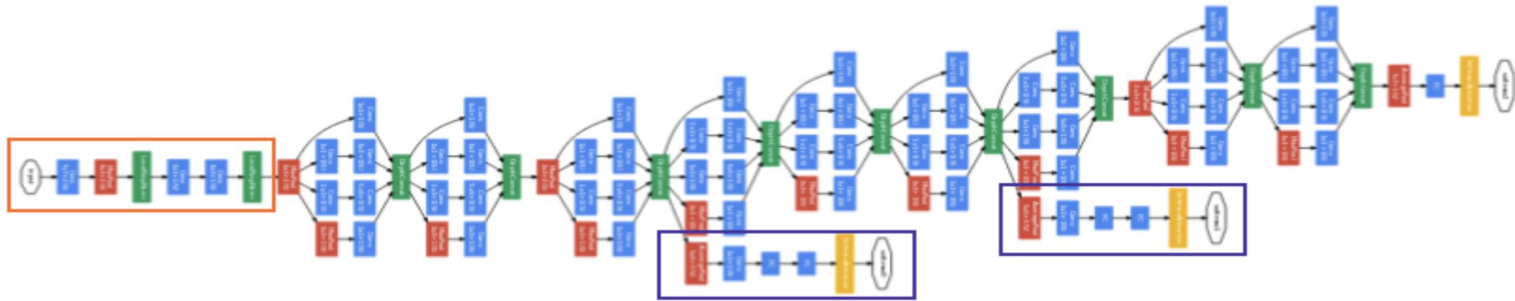
(a) Inception module, naïve version



(b) Inception module with dimension reductions

# What are Inception Networks?

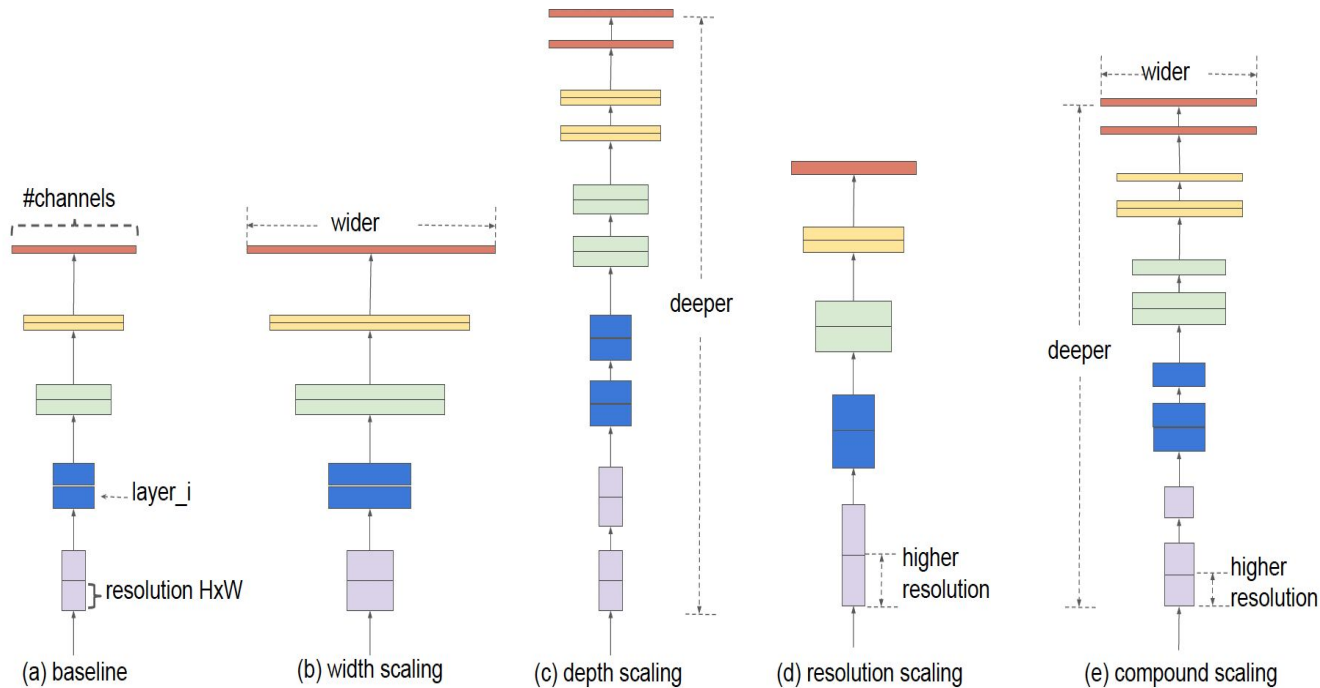
Using the dimension reduced inception module, an NN architecture was built



To prevent the **middle part** of the network from the vanishing gradient problem, **two auxiliary classifiers** were introduced.

They essentially applied softmax to the outputs of two of the inception modules, and computed an **auxiliary loss** over the same labels.

# What are EfficientNets ?

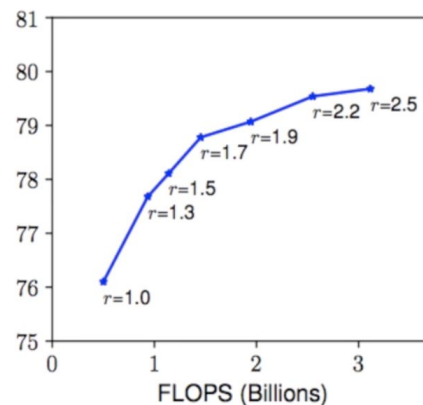
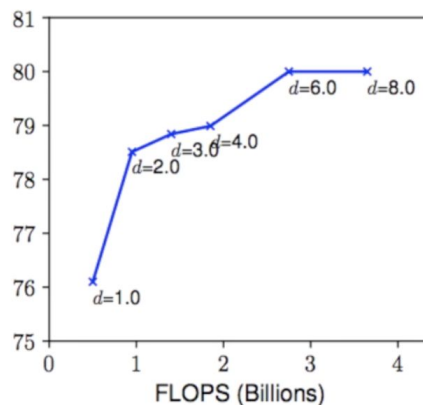
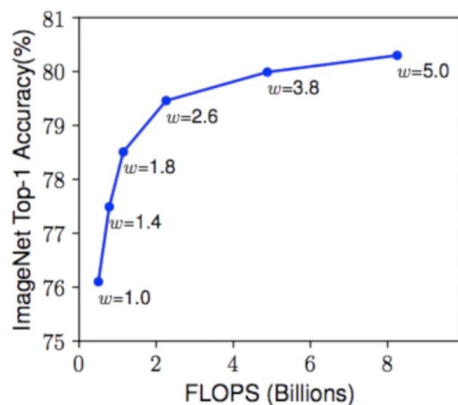


Achieves state of the art accuracy in image classification

Rethinks the way we scale CNN's up



# What are EfficientNets ?



Compound scaling is the way to go!

The idea is to balance the up sampling of width, depth and resolution by scaling them with a constant ratio. Determined by alpha, beta and gamma

$$\text{depth: } d = \alpha^\phi$$

$$\text{width: } w = \beta^\phi$$

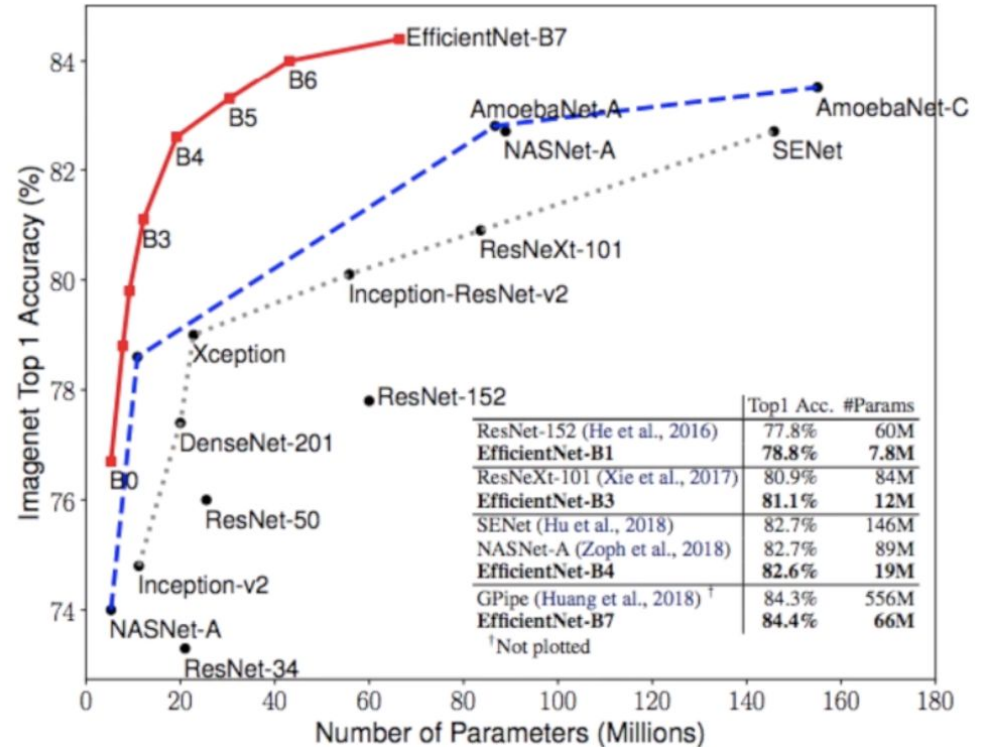
$$\text{resolution: } r = \gamma^\phi$$

$$\text{s.t. } \alpha \cdot \beta^2 \cdot \gamma^2 \approx 2$$

$$\alpha \geq 1, \beta \geq 1, \gamma \geq 1$$

# What are EfficientNets ?

- ★ Top 5% imagenet accuracy.
- ★ Much more computationally efficient
- ★ Much less parameters





5.

# Top Solutions Summary

1st place, 2nd place, 11th place

# Best Available Solution - 0.926

Preprocessing: Preprocessing copied from joorarkesteijn's kernel which used ideas from Neuron Engineer's kernel. They used the gaussian blur subtraction method for the DenseNet model only. The images were normalised using appropriate values for the model's pretrained weights.

- Models:
- EfficientNet B3 - ord regression - 256px - radius reduction preproc - flip TTA
  - EfficientNet B3 - ord regression - 300px - radius reduction preproc - flip TTA
  - DenseNet101 - ord regression - 320px with Ben's preprocessing - no TTA

Loss Function: BCEWithLogitsLoss with modified label smoothing.

Last Pool Layer: generalized mean pooling (better than original average pooling)

Augmentations:

- flip\_lr,
- brightness,
- Contrast,
- rotate(360)

Optimiser: Adam

# First Place Solution - 0.936129

Preprocessing: Just resizing, nothing special

Models:

```
2 x inception_resnet_v2, input size 512
2 x inception_v4, input size 512
2 x seresnext50, input size 512
2 x seresnext101, input size 384
```

Loss Function: nn.SmoothL1loss()

Last Pool Layer: generalized mean pooling (better than original average pooling)

Augmentations:

```
contrast_range=0.2,
brightness_range=20.,
hue_range=10.,
saturation_range=20.,
blur_and_sharpen=True,
rotate_range=180.,
scale_range=0.2,
shear_range=0.2,
shift_range=0.2,
do_mirror=True,
```

# Second Place Solution - 0.933693

Preprocessing: Cropped black background and resized images

Models: EfficientNets :    B3 image size: 300  
                                     B4 image size: 460  
                                     B5 image size: 456

Loss Function: Mean Square Error (typically used in regression)

Augmentations:

- Blur
- Flip
- RandomBrightnessContrast
- ShiftScaleRotate
- ElasticTransform
- Transpose,
- GridDistortion
- HueSaturationValue
- CLAHE
- CoarseDropout.

Secret Ingredient: pseudo-labeled current test data and then fine-tune networks again using  
train+pseudolabeled test.

6.



# Discussion

& conclusion

# Top Methods :

1. EfficientNets
2. InceptionNets
3. DenseNets
4. SeResNext50



# Best Loss function ?

- ★ `nn.SmoothL1Loss()`
- ★ Mean Square Error
- ★ WingLoss
- ★ Cauchy loss.
- ★ Huber loss (aka smooth L1 loss)

# Related Postings

[Google AI Blog](#)  
[\(2016\)](#)

Deep Learning for Detection  
of Diabetic Eye Disease

[Kaggle Competition](#)  
[\(2015\)](#)

Diabetic Retinopathy  
Detection

[FDA](#)  
[\(2018\)](#)

FDA permits marketing of  
artificial intelligence-based  
device to detect certain  
diabetes-related eye  
problems

# Thank you!

Any questions? 😊

# References

- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/tanlikesmath/intro-aptos-diabetic-retinopathy-eda-starter>
- ★ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diabetic\\_retinopathy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diabetic_retinopathy)
- ★ <https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.11946>
- ★ <https://arxiv.org/abs/1512.03385>
- ★ <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1608.06993.pdf>
- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/tanlikesmath/intro-aptos-diabetic-retinopathy-eda-starter>
- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/c/aptos2019-blindness-detection/discussion/108065#latest-628246>
- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/c/aptos2019-blindness-detection/discussion/107926#latest-627944>
- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/lextoumbourou/2-x-b3-densenet201-blend-0-926-on-private-lb>
- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/c/aptos2019-blindness-detection/discussion/107947>
- ★ <https://arxiv.org/abs/1409.4842>
- ★ <https://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/eyeforum/tutorials/Diabetic-Retinopathy-Med-Students/Classification.htm>
- ★ <https://www.kaggle.com/aroraaman/quadratic-kappa-metric-explained-in-5-simple-steps>
- ★ <https://towardsdatascience.com/the-problem-of-vanishing-gradients-68cea05e2625>