Improving Acne Detection and Severity Grading Using Deep Learning on Smartphone Images

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Primary Paper

Automatic Acne Object
Detection and Acne Severity
Grading Using Smartphone
Images and AI

Authors: Huynh, Q.T., Nguyen, P.H., et al.

Implementing a two-stage model combining:

- 1) Faster R-CNN (for acne object detection)
- LightGBM machine learning model (for severity grading)



Diagram 1: Picture of a woman with acne. Source: freepik.com

Problem Statement

Prevalence and Impact of Acne

- Global Reach: Affects approximately 9.38% of the world's population, impacting adolescents and adults alike.
- Diverse Manifestations:

 Inflammatory Lesions: Includes papules, pustules, and nodules.
 Non-Inflammatory Lesions: Includes blackheads and whiteheads.
- Health Consequences: Severe acne can lead to permanent scarring and significant psychological impacts, such as:
 - Anxiety
 - Low self-esteem

Current Limitations

Dependency on Specialists: Acne diagnosis and grading typically require a dermatologist, which



Limits accessibility for those in remote or underserved areas



Creates delays for individuals seeking timely assessments.

Solution Opportunity

Automated Detection and Grading:

- Leverage Computer Vision to identify and grade acne severity from smartphone images.
- Enables users to self-monitor and receive early intervention suggestions, fostering proactive acne management.
- Impact: Increases accessibility, empowers patient engagement, and supports timely care

Proposed Solution

Two-Stage Al System:

- Acne Object Detection Model: Detects different acne lesion types.
- Acne Severity Grading Model: Uses detected lesions to assign a severity grade.



Proposed Solution

- Acne Object Detection:
- Model Architecture: Implemented using Faster R-CNN with a ResNet50 backbone.
- Objective: Detects and classifies four acne types: blackheads/whiteheads, papules/pustules, nodules/cysts, and scars.
- Training and Evaluation: Trained on the ACNE04 dataset with bounding box annotations. Performance measured via mean Average Precision (mAP).
- 2. Acne Severity Grading:
- Model Architecture: LightGBM, utilizing output from the object detection model.
- Objective: Grades acne severity on the Investigator's Global Assessment (IGA) scale, from 0 (clear) to 4 (severe).
- Training and Evaluation: Assessed using metrics like accuracy and Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC).



Proposed Solution

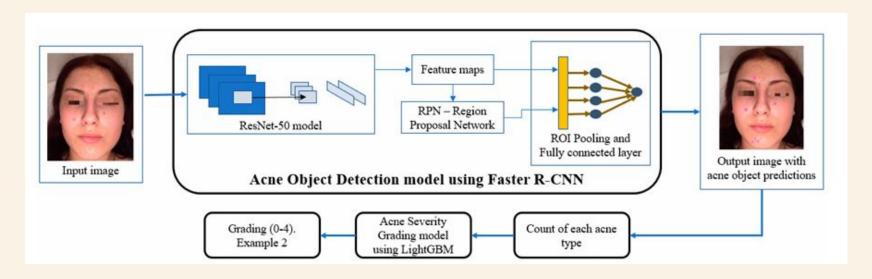


Diagram 2: Diagram of implementation of the R-CNN model for acne object detection to classify the types, then counting the number of each acne type and then implementing the LightGBM model for acne severity grading which grades acne from severity levels O(low) to 4(high)

Advantages of this Solution

Mimics
dermatologist
assessments by
considering lesion
counts and types.

Provides real-time analysis, allowing users to monitor and manage acne instantly without waiting for dermatologist appointments.

Uses smartphone images, enabling widespread accessibility.

Dataset: ACNE04

1. Contains high-resolution images of faces with annotated acne types and severity grades.

2. Labeled for four acne types: blackheads/whiteheads, papules/pustules, nodules/cysts, and acne scars.

3. Severity labels follow the Investigator's Global Assessment (IGA) scale, ranging from mild to severe.

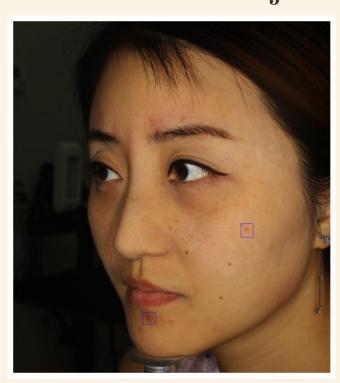




- 1. Data Imbalance: Augmented underrepresented severity grades to improve model accuracy across all grades.
- 2. Performance Optimization: Used GPU resources and dynamic learning rate adjustment to reduce training times.
- Bounding Box Accuracy: Enhanced faint or low-contrast lesions like blackheads with targeted data augmentation and refined bounding box annotations.

Results: Object Detection

Results of evaluating R-CNN with Resnet-50 backbone for Object (Acne) Detection



Detection Summary: Total detections after NMS: 2 Type 1: confidence = 0.8467 Type 1: confidence = 0.3067

Diagram 3: Results of evaluating R-CNN with Resnet-50 backbone for Object (Acne) Detection on sample image from ACNE04 dataset. Output generated from Python code.

Results of evaluating R-CNN with Resnet-50 backbone for Object (Acne) Detection



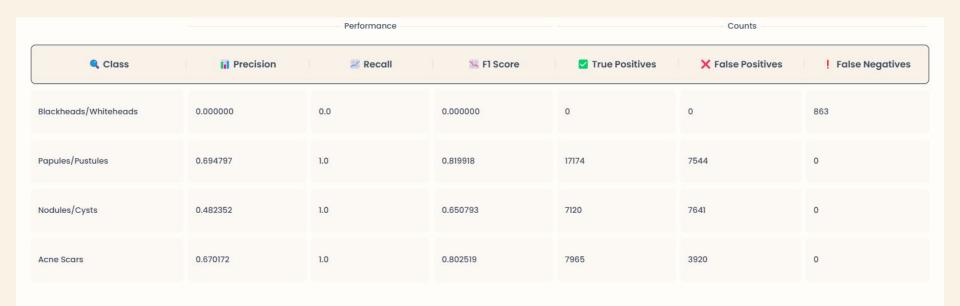
Detection Summary:

Total detections after NMS: 37 Type 1: confidence = 0.8830Type 1: confidence = 0.8609Type 1: confidence = 0.8503 Type 1: confidence = 0.8386 Type 1: confidence = 0.8218 Type 1: confidence = 0.8210 Type 1: confidence = 0.7615 Type 1: confidence = 0.7403 Type 1: confidence = 0.7261 Type 1: confidence = 0.6845 Type 1: confidence = 0.6329 Type 1: confidence = 0.5848 Type 1: confidence = 0.4905 Type 1: confidence = 0.4489 Type 1: confidence = 0.3910 Type 1: confidence = 0.3773 Type 1: confidence = 0.3769 Type 1: confidence = 0.3671 Type 1: confidence = 0.3555

Type 1: confidence = 0.3391 Type 1: confidence = 0.3340 Type 1: confidence = 0.3281 Type 1: confidence = 0.3244 Type 1: confidence = 0.3049 Type 1: confidence = 0.3019 Type 2: confidence = 0.5490 Type 2: confidence = 0.4795Type 2: confidence = 0.4662 Type 2: confidence = 0.4473 Type 2: confidence = 0.4357 Type 2: confidence = 0.4351 Type 2: confidence = 0.4349 Type 2: confidence = 0.4196 Type 2: confidence = 0.3354 Type 2: confidence = 0.3220 Type 2: confidence = 0.3219 Type 2: confidence = 0.3100

Diagram 4: Results of evaluating R-CNN with Resnet-50 backbone for Object (Acne) Detection on sample image from ACNE04 dataset. Output generated from Python code.

Metrics for Object Detection





Results: Severity Grading

Results of evaluating LightGBM Model on Image for Severity Grading



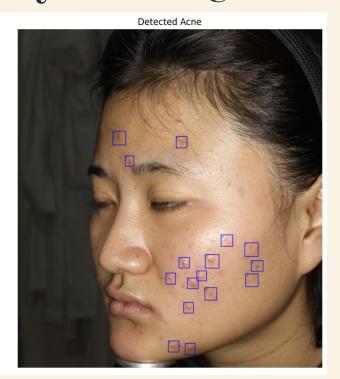


Diagram 5: Results of evaluating LightGBM Model on sample image from ACNE04 dataset for Severity Grading. Output generated from Python code.

Severity Grading Confusion Matrix

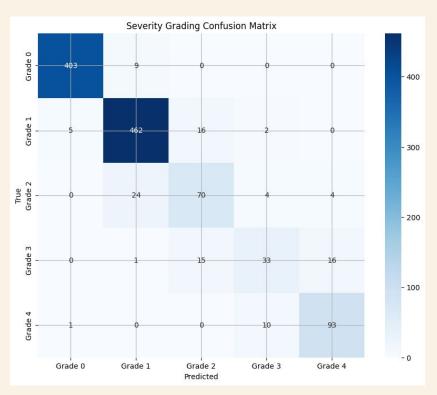


Diagram 6: Confusion Matrix for Severity Grading generated by Python code

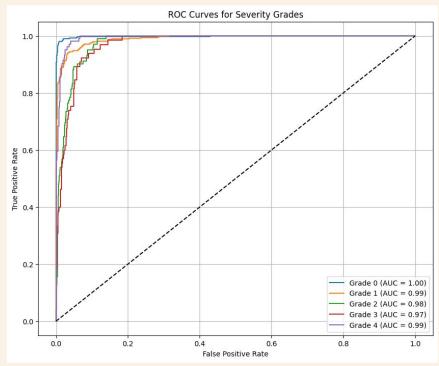
Classification report for Severity Grading

Z Grade	Precision	Recall	🙎 F1-Score	Support Support
Grade 0	0.99	0.98	0.98	412
Grade 1	0.93	0.95	0.94	485
Grade 2	0.69	0.69	0.69	102
Grade 3	0.67	0.51	0.58	65
Grade 4	0.82	0.89	0.86	104

Table 2: Table values generated via Python code and formatted by MyLens.ai



ROC Curves for Severity Grading







Evaluation Summary

- l. Strengths
- High interpretability with bounding box outputs, allowing clear visual inspection of detected lesions.
- 2. Weaknesses
- Limited accuracy for faint lesions like scars, suggesting the need for further enhancements in data quality or model tuning.



Future Work

- 1. Improvements
- Add more data to better represent rare acne lesions and severe cases.
- Explore semi-supervised learning methods to enhance model performance with limited labeled data.
- 2. Potential Applications
- Expand the model to detect and grade other skin conditions, such as rosacea or psoriasis, using similar techniques.



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?