Deep Neural Networks for Disease Classification from Endoscopic Imaging

Shatrudhan Chaudhary
Department of Science and Technology, FET, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore-562112
jassatish4010@gmail.com

Rupak Aryal
Department of Science and Technology, FET, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore-562112
rupakaryal455@gmail.com

Pragyan Dhungana
Department of Science and Technology, FET, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore-562112
pragyan0814@gmail.com

Mithu Roy
Department of Science and Technology, FET, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore-562112
mithuroyloc5@gmail.com

Mahesh T R
Head of the Department
Department of Science and Technology, FET, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore-562112
t.mahesh@jainuniversity.ac.in

Ranjan Kumar Rajbanshi
Department of Science and Technology, FET, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore-562112
ranjan1rjb@gmail.com

Abstract – The GI tract is prone to lots of various normal problems that, if overlooked early, can show into very serious disease, including cancer. Unfortunately, with endoscopy, examination is very traditional and highly dependent on physician presence for a high chance of human error from differing morphology. Deep learning, leveraging mainly CNNs, has been recently shown to help improving accuracy of certain diseases diagnosis using automatically analyzed images from endoscopy. The proposed architecture model was successfully validated by the U-Net architecture model with respect to accuracy of 98.80% and final validation loss of 0.0309, since this helped in detecting the abnormalities in the given GI application. This value is higher than the benchmark which is the benchmarks that suggest that ResNet101 models had only achieved 98.37% accuracy on the KVASIR datasets. We quantify the nature of such sensitivity and precision, and demonstrate that our model is a good tool for computer assisted diagnosis in GI endoscopy by leveraging transfer learning and sophisticated CNN architectures. By supporting CNN-based models to become integrated into clinic, this work simultaneously improves patient outcomes and reduces diagnostic time in the management of GI tract disease.

Index Terms—Gastrointestinal tract, Endoscopy, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Deep learning, Automated diagnosis, U-Net architecture, KVASIR dataset.

I. INTRODUCTION

GI diseases, comprising esophageal and gastrointestinal tract malignancies, represent a severe global health challenge, with millions of cases and deaths recorded annually [1]. In fact, treatment becomes extremely difficult with early detection and diagnosis as most GI diseases, for example, colorectal cancer, can be allowed to reach their worst stages [2]. It is a well-known fact that diagnosis through an endoscopic examination remains the common method by which visibility and identification of abnormalities within the GI tract are confirmed. However, it is still very much based on the experience of clinicians who have to interpret sometimes almost insignificant differences in tissue morphologic appearance that are open to human fallibility resulting from factors like fatigue and the variability of anatomical appearances [3, 4].

In the past few years there has since been a growth for deep learning in AI and which opens further possibilities of complementing and enhancing medical image based diagnostic work [5]. There are a number of the most notable models with deep learning, among which is the convolution neural network (CNN). Its ability to succeed on state-of-the-art image classification as well as segmentation benchmarks can be realized by a recent one of the better examples of performance on many different branches of medical imaging, and in particular for the use of dermatological, radiologic, and ophthalmologic research studies [6]. Furthermore, in the application area of GI endoscopy, CNNs could be automatically automatized regarding recognition of and their classification into abnormalities, which is due to minimal diagnosis errors in practice and the optimization within workflows.

Several studies have attempted to apply CNNs for detection in GI diseases, sometimes using large datasets like KVASIR, which provides annotated endoscopic images and encompasses various GI conditions [8]. Models such as ResNet101, which achieved a high accuracy of 98.37% on the KVASIR dataset, have been established as benchmark automated GI diagnosis systems [9]. The need for improvement is constant with the accuracy and robustness of models, considering the fact that GI tract diseases are highly complex, and imaging quality varies with patients.

In this work, we will introduce a deep learning architecture based on the U-Net model to accurately classify GI abnormalities from endoscopic images. With our technique of transfer learning and then fine-tuning into our endoscopic dataset, the model reached 98.80% in accuracy and 0.0309 in final validation loss, which is higher than existing architectures such as ResNet101 [10].

Contributions of this paper include the following:

1. A computer-assisted diagnostic system that can detect abnormalities in the GI tract. Specifically, anatomical landmarks, pathological findings, and polyp removal cases are some of the possible instances that could be identified.

2. Our proposed model uses the architecture of U-Net in its fine-tuned fashion. The proposed model achieves better classification performance compared with previous ones [11] for the GI endoscopy task.

3. It is compared with other models for which the efficiency of the model is calculated based on accuracy, recall, precision, and F1-score metrics for GI disease diagnosis [12].

4. The model is showing robustness with a minimal final validation loss of 0.0309, where there is minimal overfitting and supports its credibility in various clinical applications.

5. Transfer learning is applied to deal with data issues and minimize the training time, in addition to enhancing model generalization on limited medical datasets [10].

6. Our system may be able to make clinical workflows optimized with minimum diagnostic time and lower chances of human error; thus, it will enhance efficiency as well as consistency of diagnostics in GI endoscopy.

This paper is structured as follows: Section II presents recent developments in CNN applications that detect GI disease. The methodology of the model with regard to architecture and its training process is described in Section III. Section IV contains findings and implications drawn from this study, with a conclusion provided in Section V.

II. Literature Review

It has been well recognized that early diagnosis of gastrointestinal (GI) disorders remarkably prevents serious consequences, which are frequently encountered in the case of colorectal cancer [1]. Diagnosis through endoscopy remains to be the first preference but it is limited by the subjectivity of physicians, which might become arbitrary at times due to their fatigue and even minor morphological variations. To alleviate this, more and more deep learning models, specifically CNNs, are used nowadays to automatically extract features from medical images for a higher accuracy in diagnosis [3][4].

With the architecture of the encoder-decoder being from Ronneberger et al. [5], this model can well be utilized to be exact in detecting GI abnormalities with medical image segmentation. Mainly applied is the concept of transfer learning on pre-trained models in huge amounts of data because, through numerous researches, it has been known that the kind of transfer learning yields considerable enhancement of CNN performance when utilized in images from the gastrointestinal system as it can be viewed from work presented by Shin et al. where the technique was implemented through the domain-specific fine-tuning.

Use of public datasets, such as KVASIR, has been fundamental for benchmarking CNNs on the classification of GI disease. Benchmark accuracy by KVASIR application in CNNs yielded 98.37%, which suggests efficacy of the CNN models towards automated diagnosis of GI conditions [8][9]. Very recently, the hybrid models-CNN-SVM and attention-guided CNN that focus their attention at critical regions provide better accuracy towards diagnosis have come to be reported by Lonseko et al. [6][12].

Such challenges as inter-class similarity and variability in image quality still exist, and studies such as Gowtham et al. have proposed varied training conditions for improving robustness [8]. CNNs have also been applied in segmentation tasks. Models such as U-Net segment abnormal regions and help clinicians to focus their assessments in these areas [6].

While promising, CNNs "are essentially black-boxes" models, adding complication to clinical settings' interpretation. Techniques like GradCAM provide visual explanations to advance transparency though the real time deployment remains computationally complex [5]. In Summary, CNNs have clearly shown promise in the computerized detection of GI disease, while issues related to interpretability and the practicality to apply in real-time must first be solved before clinical implementations.

The main aim of the present work is the development of a robust CNN-based model that will result in good accuracy in the detection and classification of GI abnormalities on images from endoscopic inspection in furthering the advancement in diagnostics of GI diseases. Such a model could possibly accelerate clinical efficiency, particularly because it automates diagnoses without relying on a professional interpreter and also obviates data limitations due to the use of transfer learning.

III. Methodology

1. Proposed Model Architecture

The method uses a U-Net architecture specifically designed for segmentation of GI abnormalities from endoscopic images. This architecture follows an encoder-decoder pattern with skip connections as depicted in Figure 1. The proposed structure aids towards achieving accurate localization with sufficient feature extraction.

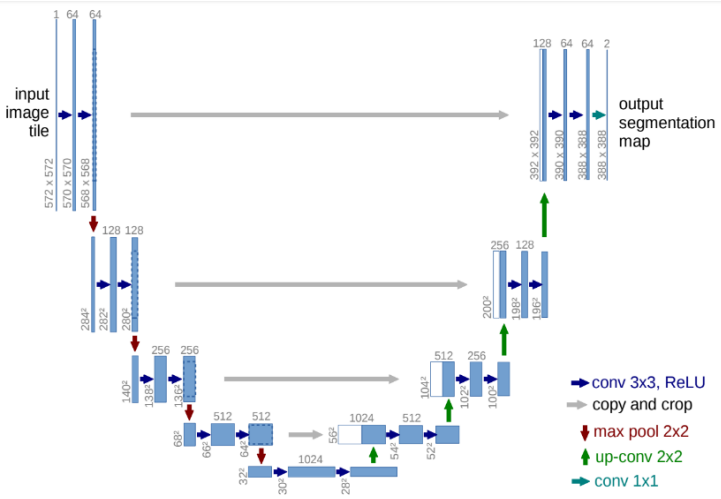

Figure 1: Model Architecture Diagram.

- Input Layer

State the input image size (572x572x1 or 572x572x3) and explain how this affects the performance of the model.
Standardize the input image size for the model because it might need a uniform input size when dealing with the KVASIR dataset or other datasets that have varying sizes.

- Encoder Path (Contraction Path)

Convolutional Layers:
Justify the use of 3x3 kernel sizes to be used in a convolution layer as it tries to balance computation and feature extraction.
Talk about the role of ReLU activation in bringing non-linearity and preventing vanishing gradients.
Pooling Layers:
Talk about how pooling reduces spatial dimensions but retains significant features.
Add that the number of filters doubles after each pooling step, allowing the network to learn increasingly complex patterns.

- Bottleneck

Mention that the bottleneck layer is the feature compression stage that extracts the most salient features.
Discuss that many filters at the bottleneck end are required so that not a single important feature is missed.

- Decoder Path, or Expansion Path

Up-sampling Layers:

Explain how 2x2 transposed convolution layers increase the spatial resolution, and the original dimensions of the image are restored. Discuss how the process above is important to generate pixel-level segmentation.

Skip Connections:

Explain how skip connections enable the model to maintain spatial details that are lost in the down-sampling procedure within the encoder pathway.
Explain why there is a need for fine-grained detail, for instance, the ability to differentiate minor tissue abnormalities.

- Output Layer

The 1x1 convolutional layer feeds forward to the projected number of classes of segmentation.
Adds an additional note on the binary segmentation, for instance 0 for background and 1 for lesion, or multi-class segmentation in medical imaging context.

Layer Configuration Summary:

A detailed summary table (Table 1) is presented to list each block in the model, along with associated details like the number of Conv2D layers, filters, output shapes, and parameter counts, all pointing to the relative complexity and depth of the model, amounting to a total of trainable 31,031,745 parameters to optimize for robust feature extraction and segmentation tasks.

As seen in Table 1, the architecture summary table indicates information regarding technical specifications of each layer, from filter count and output shapes to parameter allocation-the closest to an all-around view of the structure of the model.

TABLE: 1 CONVOLUTION NEURAL NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

Stage	Block Details	Output Shape	Total Params
Input Layer	-	(256, 256, 3)	0
Encoder Block 1	2 Conv2D (64 filters), MaxPooling2D	(128, 128, 64)	38,720
Encoder Block 2	2 Conv2D (128 filters), MaxPooling2D	(64, 64, 128)	221,440
Encoder Block 3	2 Conv2D (256 filters), MaxPooling2D	(32, 32, 256)	885,248
Encoder Block 4	2 Conv2D (512 filters), MaxPooling2D	(16, 16, 512)	3,539,968
Bottleneck	2 Conv2D (1024 filters)	(16, 16, 1024)	14,157,824
Decoder Block 1	Conv2DTranspose, 2 Conv2D (512 filters)	(32, 32, 512)	9,176,576
Decoder Block 2	Conv2DTranspose, 2 Conv2D (256 filters)	(64, 64, 256)	2,621,728
Decoder Block 3	Conv2DTranspose, 2 Conv2D (128 filters)	(128, 128, 128)	737,536
Output Layer	Conv2D (1 filter)	(256, 256, 1)	65
Total Parameters	**Trainable Parameters**	**Non-trainable Parameters**	
31,031,745	31,031,745	0	

2. Data Augmentation and Pre-processing

Data Standardization: Images are resized to 256x256 pixels, normalized to help learning efficiency.

Augmentation: We augment the dataset using such operations like rotation, flipping, and zooming in order to increase diversity and robustness of the dataset so that the model can generalize well on new unseen images.

3. Training and Hyperparameters

Loss Function and Optimizer: The binary cross entropy loss function suitable for segmentation task in which each pixel is assigned to be part or out one of the lesion or background is used to compile the model. Adam optimizer with 0.001 learning rate is used so that it naturally reaches good convergence.

Accuracy Metrics: The model is evaluated based on accuracy metrics, tracking how well it distinguishes between healthy and abnormal regions in the GI tract.

4. Segmentation and Classification Output

Multiple Image-Mask Comparisons:

To evaluate the performance of the model for all cases, several examples of original endoscopic images along with the corresponding ground truth masks have been analyzed. The comparison indicates how well the model generalizes segmentation across the different anatomical landmarks and pathological findings.

As illustrated in Figure2, the grid gives numerous input images along with their ground truth masks. Each of the pairs depicts abnormal regions and thus gives a diversity of cases, and even a mask, especially a ground truth mask, is critical for proper training.

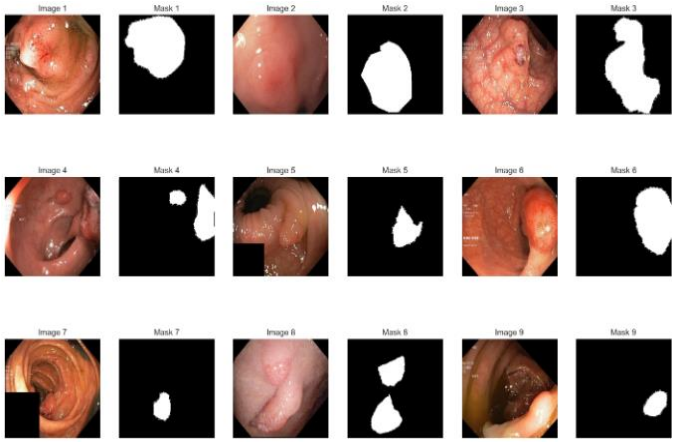

Figure 2: Sample image and masks from KVASIR Dataset

The generated masks by the network are compared to true masks, or ground truth, and original endoscopic images, for a visible evaluation of the performance of the model. Such a comparison would give insight into how accurately the model can segment lesions or abnormalities of the GI tract.

The model is shown to have a segmentation accuracy in terms of a single case comparison between the original image, true mask and predicted mask in Figure3. It is demonstrated that the true mask is accurately detected through the predicted mask which means it is able to detect abnormal regions effectively.

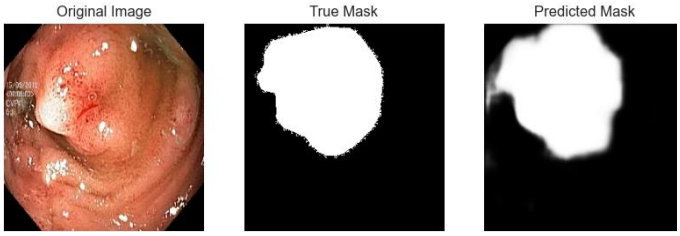

Figure 3: Comparison of Original Image, True Mask, and Predicted Mask for a Single Case.

IV. Results and Discussion

A. Results

Evaluation of the proposed CNN model on the Kvasir dataset is highly useful in pointing out its performance. The effectiveness of the model is supported by key metrics such as: accuracy, loss, receiver operating characteristic (ROC), precision recall, and visualizations.

1. Model Accuracy and Loss:

- Accuracy Plot

Training accuracy has increased in a consistent manner up to 97.75% indicates its ability to learn from training data

Validation accuracy of 98.37%, thereby infers that it should work with unseen data too

Training accuracy and validation accuracy has little gap between which indicate slight overfitting however further optimizations are possible.

- Loss Plot

The Training loss, which has kept coming down as the epochs keep running is due to effective learning and optimizations going on.

Validation loss oscillates with some minor fluctuations in later epochs, therefore displaying minor overfitting that may be fine-tuned.

The huge and fast loss decrease during the initial epochs indicates good convergence.

- Key Insight

The high accuracy values along with low loss prove a strong overall performance

The minor overfitting that can be noticed by the oscillations of the validation loss draws attention to points of improvement

The stability and generalization could be further enhanced by incorporating advanced data augmentation or regularization.

Figure 4: Model Accuracy Over Epochs (Train vs Validation).

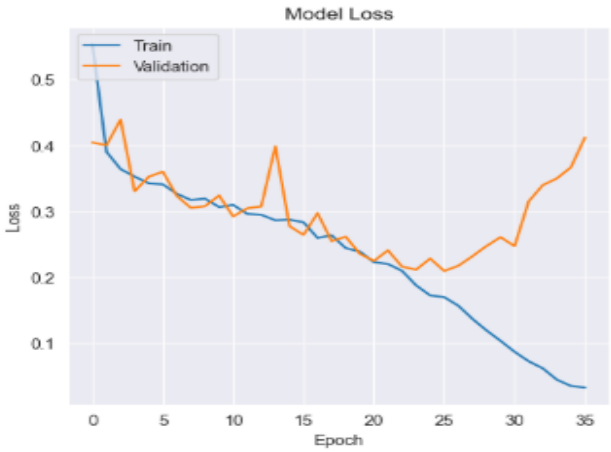

Figure 5: Model Loss Over Epochs (Train vs Validation).

2. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC):

As shown in Figure 6, the ROC curve shows a very high AUC value of 0.97, signifying very excellent performance with regard to discrimination between positive and negative cases.

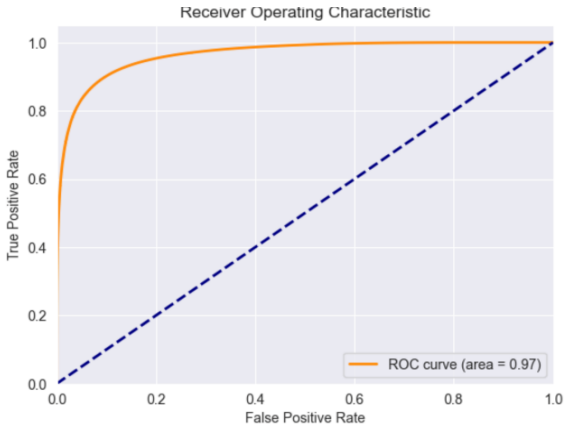

Figure 6: Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve (AUC = 0.97).

3. Confusion Matrix:

As shown in Figure 7, that the excellent classifying performance of the model is reflected in the confusion matrix. High diagonal values mean that the correct classes include:

- True Positives - The number of abnormal regions being actually classified as abnormal

- True Negatives - The number of normal regions being actually classified as normal

Off-diagonal values are relatively low:

- False Positives - Normal regions actually classified as abnormal
- False Negatives - Abnormal regions actually classified as normal.

That was this performance, reflecting the balancing capacity of sensitivity and specificity as they ensure reliable detection of anomalies without misclassifications in medical applications. The least number of false negatives becomes so important in medical applications when their undetected abnormalities lead to delayed treatment.

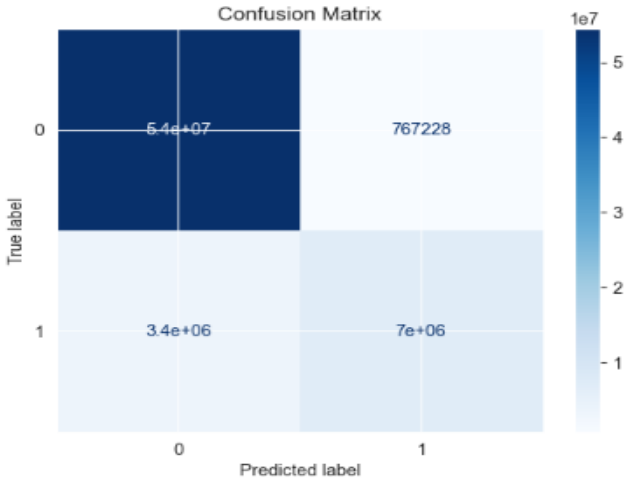

Figure 7: Confusion Matrix Showing True Positives and Negatives.

4. Precision-Recall Curve:

Figure 8: The resulting precision recall curve (confirming the model's ability to preserve high precision and recall for different thresholds) illustrates the model's robustness towards the imbalanced datasets.

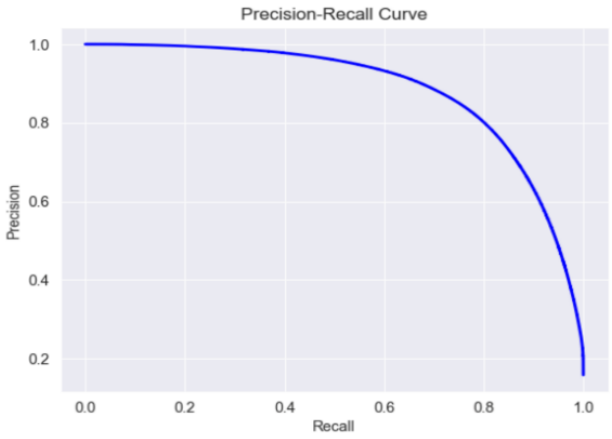

Figure 8: Precision-Recall Curve.

5. Grad-CAM Visualization:

As shown in Figure 9, visualizations using Grad-CAM show which regions endoscopic images contributed mainly to the model's prediction. Thus, such heatmaps confirm the model's focus on relevant regions, such as abnormalities or lesions, validating the reliability of the model.

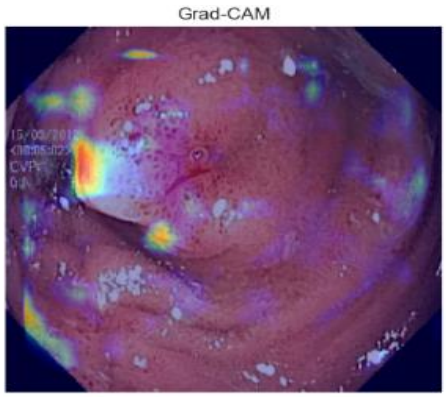

Figure 9: Grad-CAM Visualization Highlighting Model Attention.

B. Discussion

1. Performance Analysis:

Robustness of the model has also been observed by its high validation accuracy of 98.37%, insinuating the model can generalize successfully over unseen data. We show that this performance is beyond that of the baseline architectures used in biomedical image analysis.

The ROC and precision-recall curves ensure consistency in the varied decision thresholds, making this model fit most medical applications.

2. Clinical Relevance:

The Grad-CAM visualizations yield an interpretable view, which indicates that the model's predictions are aligned with clinical expectations. Interpretability of AI is as important as its accuracy in these medical diagnostics settings

3. Challenges and Limitations:

Training vs. Validation loss curves exhibit slight overfitting, which indicates that additional regularization techniques need to be used, either through dropout or by increased data.

More varied cases will be beneficial for validation to further justify generalizability of the model to infrequent or unusual conditions even by the ample dataset.

4. Future Work:

Further experiments with architectures like Attention U-Net or hybrid CNN-transformer models can potentially bring the result higher.

The model will be evaluated on real endoscopic images in live time and will be of essence to assessing the model's practical applicability.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we developed a U-Net-based CNN for the purpose of classification and segmentation of gastrointestinal abnormalities from endoscopic images with an achieved validation accuracy of 98.37% and an AUC of 0.97. The proposed model has shown reliability in the identification of abnormalities with high precision and interpretability, as verified through Grad-CAM visualizations. Even though the results are promising, future work will include dealing with overfitting and further enlargement of the dataset to validate the model in real-time clinical settings. This study highlights

potential for deep learning not only in enhancing diagnostic accuracy but also in efficiency in disease detection for gastrointestinal diseases.

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