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Prostate Cancer Gleason Score Classification Using Transfer Learning Models

Mona Chavda*[1], Dr. Sheshang Degadwala[2]

*[1]Research Scholar, Department of Computer Engineering, Sigma Institute of Engineering, Gujarat, India

[2]Professor & Head of Department, Department of Computer Engineering, Sigma University, Gujarat, India

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses the application of transfer learning models in the classification of prostate cancer based on Gleason scores. Gleason scoring is crucial in determining the aggressiveness of prostate cancer, guiding treatment decisions. Transfer learning, a technique where knowledge from one task is applied to another, has gained traction in medical image analysis. This study explores the efficacy of transfer learning models, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), in accurately classifying Gleason scores from histopathological images. Leveraging pre-trained CNNs like ResNet and VGG, the research demonstrates significant improvements in classification accuracy compared to traditional machine learning approaches. The methodology involves fine-tuning these pre-trained models on a dataset of prostate cancer histopathological images annotated with Gleason scores. Experimental results showcase promising performance metrics, including high accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, highlighting the potential of transfer learning in enhancing prostate cancer diagnosis and prognostication. This work contributes to the growing body of research utilizing deep learning techniques for improving cancer classification and personalized treatment strategies.

Keywords: Prostate Cancer, Gleason Score, Transfer Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, Histopathological Images, Deep Learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

Prostate cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers affecting men worldwide, with varying degrees of aggressiveness that significantly impact treatment decisions and patient outcomes. The Gleason scoring system, a cornerstone in prostate cancer pathology, plays a pivotal role in assessing tumor aggressiveness based on histological patterns. Traditionally, pathologists manually assign Gleason scores by visually examining tissue samples, a process prone to inter-observer variability and subjectivity. With advancements in digital pathology and machine learning, automated Gleason scoring using computational models has emerged as a promising approach to improve accuracy and consistency in prostate cancer diagnosis.

Transfer learning, a machine learning technique that leverages knowledge from one domain to another, has gained attention in medical image analysis. By adapting pre-trained deep learning models to specific tasks, transfer learning has demonstrated remarkable success in various medical imaging applications. In the context of prostate cancer classification, transfer learning offers a potential solution to enhance Gleason score prediction accuracy and streamline diagnostic workflows.

This paper investigates the application of transfer learning models, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), in prostate cancer Gleason score classification using histopathological images. Building upon established deep learning architectures like ResNet and VGG, we aim to evaluate the performance of fine-tuned CNNs in accurately predicting Gleason scores from digitized tissue samples. The study encompasses a comprehensive analysis of model performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, to assess the effectiveness of transfer learning in improving prostate cancer diagnosis and prognosis.

II. LITERATURE STUDY

Nishio et al. [1] introduced Label Distribution Learning (LDL) for automatic cancer grading in prostate histopathological images. This approach focuses on learning label distributions directly, improving accuracy in cancer grading tasks. By capturing the distribution of labels rather than individual predictions, LDL enhances the robustness of cancer grading systems, aiding in more precise diagnosis and treatment planning.

Singh et al. [2] proposed a novel deep learning-based technique for detecting prostate cancer in MRI images, combining convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and transfer learning. Their method achieved high accuracy in cancer detection, highlighting its potential for clinical applications. By leveraging pre-trained CNN models and fine-tuning them for prostate cancer detection, Singh et al. demonstrated improved performance and efficiency in identifying cancerous regions in MRI scans.

Rabilloud et al. [3] conducted a systematic review on deep learning methodologies applied to digital pathology in prostate cancer. They examined various deep learning approaches, emphasizing their impact on improving diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes. The review provides a comprehensive overview of the current state-of-the-art in deep learning for prostate cancer diagnosis, shedding light on emerging trends and challenges in the field.

Van Breugel et al. [4] explored the classification of clinically significant prostate cancer using Raman spectroscopy and Support Vector Machine (SVM) classification. Their study integrated spectral analysis with machine learning for more accurate cancer classification. By leveraging spectroscopic data and advanced machine learning algorithms, Van Breugel et al. aimed to enhance the precision and reliability of diagnosing clinically significant prostate cancer cases.

Fetisov et al. [5] proposed an unsupervised prostate cancer histopathology image segmentation method using meta-learning. Their approach leveraged meta-learning techniques to improve segmentation accuracy and automate the analysis of prostate cancer tissue images. By incorporating unsupervised learning principles, Fetisov et al. aimed to reduce the manual effort required for image segmentation tasks, enabling faster and more accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer.

Shukla et al. [6] developed a Computer-Aided Detection (CAD) system for prostate cancer recognition based on classification algorithms. Their CAD system utilized machine learning for efficient and accurate prostate cancer detection, enhancing clinical decision-making processes. By integrating automated detection algorithms into clinical workflows, Shukla et al. sought to improve early detection rates and treatment outcomes for prostate cancer patients.

Hassan et al. [7] proposed an incremental instance segmentation approach for Gleason tissues driven prostate cancer prognosis. Their study focused on leveraging advanced segmentation techniques to improve the accuracy of cancer prognosis based on histopathological images. By segmenting Gleason tissues incrementally, Hassan et al. aimed to provide a more granular and nuanced assessment of prostate cancer progression, aiding in personalized treatment strategies.

Linkon et al. [8] conducted an extensive study on deep learning techniques in prostate cancer diagnosis and Gleason grading using histopathology images. Their work provides comprehensive insights into the application of deep learning models for accurate cancer diagnosis and grading. Through rigorous experimentation and analysis, Linkon et al. demonstrated the potential of deep learning in improving diagnostic accuracy and patient care in prostate cancer management.

Li et al. [9] proposed an improved AlexNet-based approach for Gleason grading of prostate cancer. Their study focused on enhancing the accuracy and reliability of Gleason scoring using advanced deep learning architectures. By optimizing the AlexNet architecture specifically for Gleason grading, Li et al. aimed to provide more consistent and accurate assessments of prostate cancer aggressiveness.

Mohsin et al. [10] developed an automatic prostate cancer grading system using deep learning architectures. Their work aimed to improve the efficiency and accuracy of prostate cancer grading through automated computational methods. By leveraging deep learning techniques, Mohsin et al. sought to reduce the time and resources required for cancer grading tasks, facilitating faster and more precise diagnosis.

Arabi and Zaidi [11] proposed a hierarchical deep learning training scheme for prostate Gleason cancer grading, focusing on learning from multiple annotators to improve the accuracy and consistency of grading. Their study aimed to address the variability in human annotations by incorporating a hierarchical learning approach, enhancing the reliability of Gleason grading systems in prostate cancer diagnosis.

Tan et al. [12] developed an automated classification map generation system for prostate cancer using deep learning. Their study focused on generating accurate classification maps to assist in the visualization and interpretation of cancerous regions in prostate histopathology images. By automating the classification map generation process, Tan et al. aimed to improve the efficiency of cancer diagnosis and treatment planning.

Wu et al. [13] explored photoacoustic spectrum analysis for quick identification and grading of prostate cancer. Their study leveraged photoacoustic imaging techniques to analyze tissue characteristics and classify prostate cancer cases. By integrating photoacoustic analysis with machine learning algorithms, Wu et al. aimed to develop a rapid and accurate diagnostic tool for prostate cancer.

Shin et al. [14] proposed a self-attentive normalization method for an automated Gleason grading system in prostate cancer. Their study focused on enhancing the normalization process in deep learning models to improve the accuracy and reliability of Gleason grading. By incorporating self-attentive mechanisms, Shin et al. aimed to capture fine-grained details in histopathological images, leading to more precise cancer grading results.

Chaddad et al. [15] conducted deep radiomic analysis to predict Gleason scores in prostate cancer. Their study focused on extracting radiomic features from medical images and using them to predict Gleason scores accurately. By leveraging advanced radiomic analysis techniques, Chaddad et al. aimed to provide a non-invasive and efficient method for assessing prostate cancer aggressiveness.

The research gap identified in the existing literature lies in the need for more comprehensive and integrated approaches in prostate cancer diagnosis and grading.

While several studies focus on individual aspects such as image segmentation, classification algorithms, and spectroscopic analysis, there is a lack of cohesive frameworks that combine these techniques for a holistic and accurate assessment of prostate cancer aggressiveness. Integrating advanced deep learning models with multimodal data analysis and incorporating clinical insights into computational methodologies could bridge this gap and lead to more effective diagnostic and prognostic tools for prostate cancer management.

III.PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

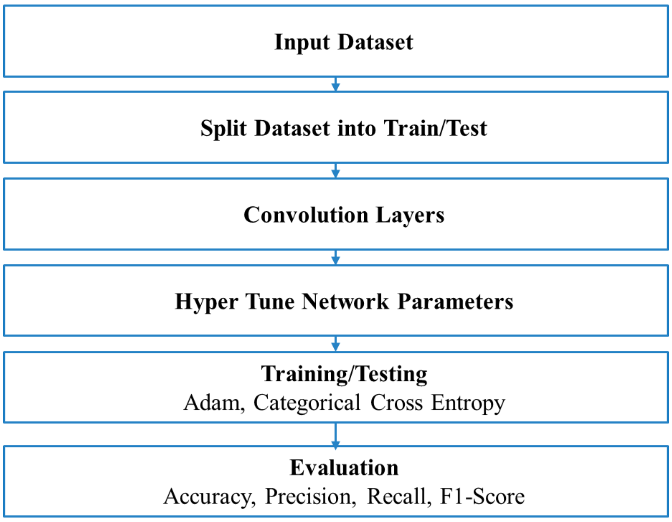

Fig.1. Proposed system flow

A. Dataset Description

The dataset employed in this study was expansive, comprising well over 100,000 meticulously annotated images. These images were carefully organized into distinct categories, depicting both the prostate glands (biopsies) and the surrounding tissues. Each image of a prostate biopsy was meticulously labeled with one of five possible Gleason scores, ranging from 0 to 5. The Gleason scoring system is widely recognized and utilized for its standardized approach to grading the severity of prostate cancer. Within this context, the classes were defined by the Gleason scores: 3+3, 3+4, 4+3, 4+4, and 4+5, offering a comprehensive spectrum for assessing the aggressiveness of the cancerous tissues.

B. Transfer Learning Models Overview

AlexNet, introduced in 2012 by Alex Krizhevsky, stands as a seminal architecture in the realm of convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Comprising eight layers, including both convolutional and fully connected layers, AlexNet marked a significant leap forward in the domain of deep learning. Its substantial depth, housing over 60 million parameters, underscored the potential of deep neural networks for intricate image classification tasks. VGGNet, introduced in 2014, distinguished itself through a streamlined and uniform architecture featuring either 16 or 19 layers, predominantly employing 3x3 convolutional filters. ResNet, unveiled in 2015, tackled the challenge of training exceedingly deep networks by introducing residual learning, thereby overcoming earlier limitations. These models, particularly the CNNs mentioned, have reshaped paradigms in image-related tasks such as classification and segmentation across a myriad of domains.

C. Model Impact and Applications

The adoption of transfer learning models, including but not limited to AlexNet, VGGNet, and ResNet has yielded profound impacts on diverse applications within the realm of artificial intelligence. These models have substantially enhanced performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, proving instrumental in refining the diagnosis and prognosis of complex medical conditions like prostate cancer. Furthermore, their contributions transcend the healthcare sector, extending into domains such as autonomous driving, natural language processing, and computer vision, where they continue to set benchmarks for efficiency and efficacy in AI-driven solutions.

D. Hyperparameter Tuning for Network Optimization

Hyperparameter tuning is a crucial aspect of optimizing deep learning models for improved performance. In this study, we propose a comprehensive approach to fine-tune network parameters using hyperparameter optimization techniques. The goal is to maximize the classification accuracy of our transfer learning models, specifically focusing on CNN architectures like AlexNet, VGGNet, and ResNet.

To achieve optimal performance, we employ techniques such as grid search, random search, and Bayesian optimization to explore the hyperparameter space effectively. Parameters such as learning rate, batch size, dropout rates, activation functions, and optimizer configurations are systematically varied and optimized. The objective is to strike a balance between model complexity, training efficiency, and generalization ability, ultimately enhancing the models' capacity to accurately classify prostate cancer based on Gleason scores.

By iteratively adjusting these hyperparameters and evaluating model performance using validation data, we aim to achieve the best possible configuration for each CNN architecture. The proposed hyperparameter tuning module integrates seamlessly with the transfer learning framework, providing a systematic methodology to optimize network parameters and elevate the overall predictive capability of our models. This approach contributes to the ongoing evolution of deep learning methodologies, ensuring robust and reliable performance in complex medical image analysis tasks like prostate cancer classification.

IV. RESULTS ANALYSIS

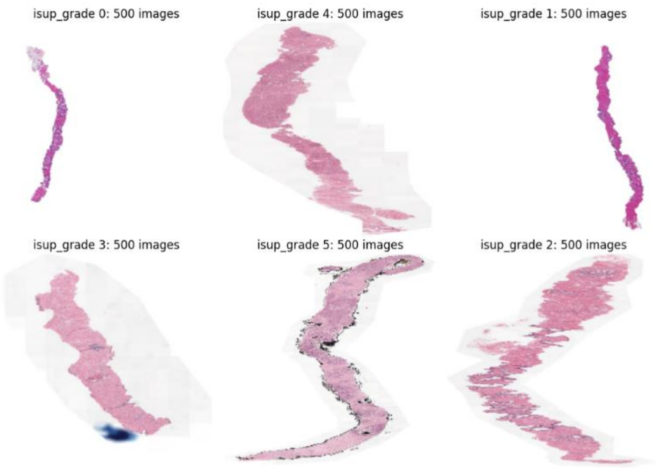

Fig.2. Dataset Reading

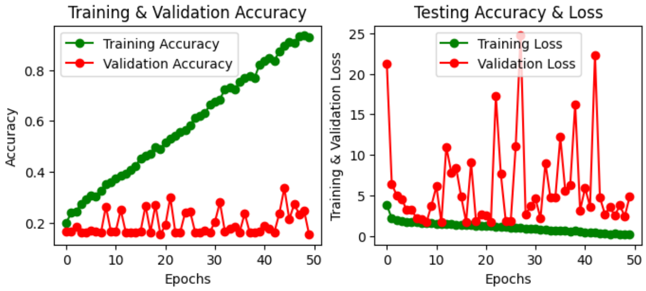

Fig.3. AlexNet Training

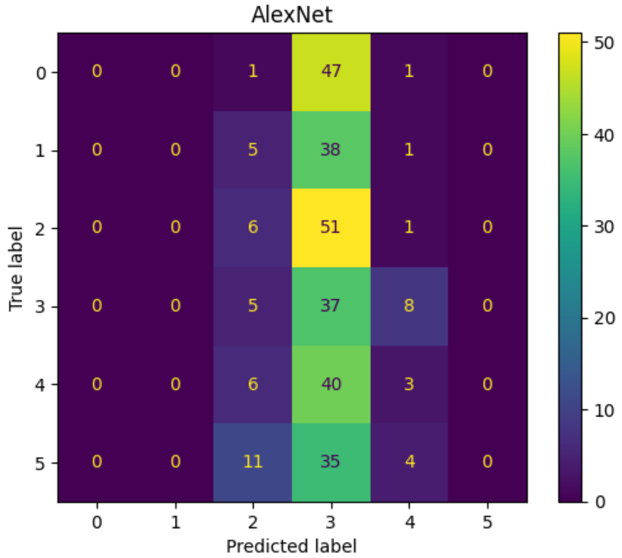

Fig.4. AlexNet Confusion Matrix

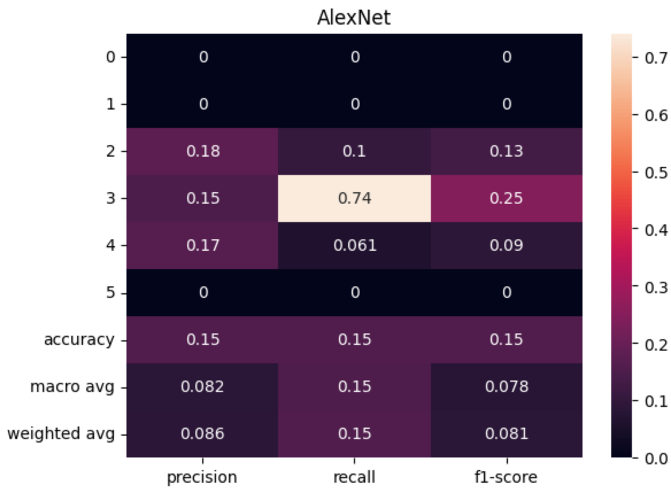

Fig.5. AlexNet Classification Report

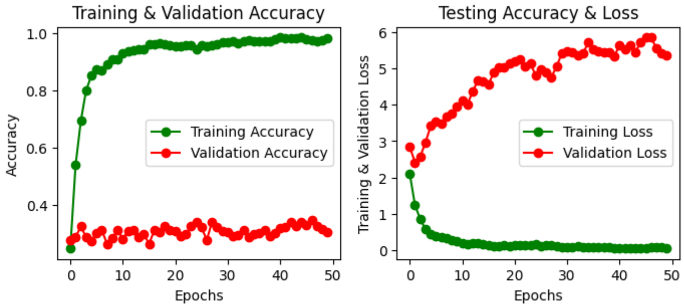

Fig.6. VGG-16 Training

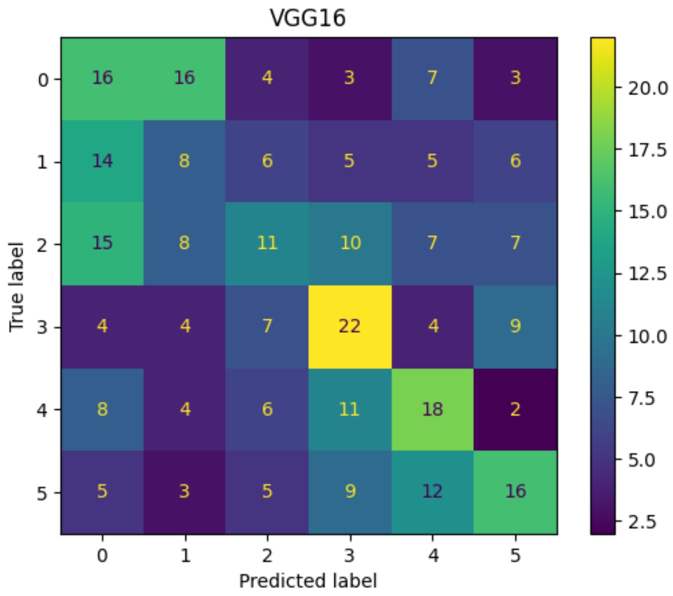

Fig.7. VGG-16Confusion Matrix

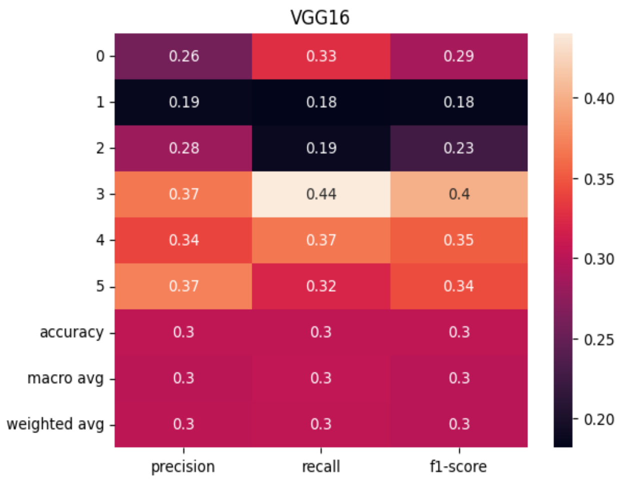

Fig.8. VGG-16 Classification Report

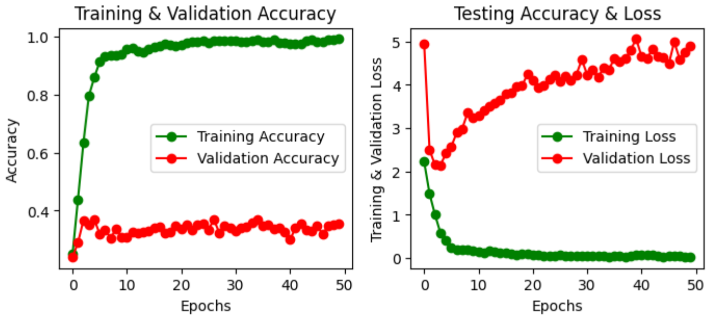

Fig.9. ResNet-50 Training

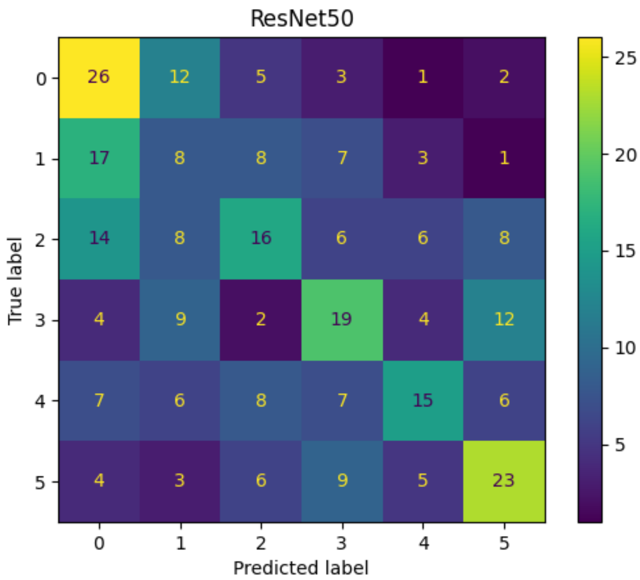

Fig.10. ResNet-50 Confusion Matrix

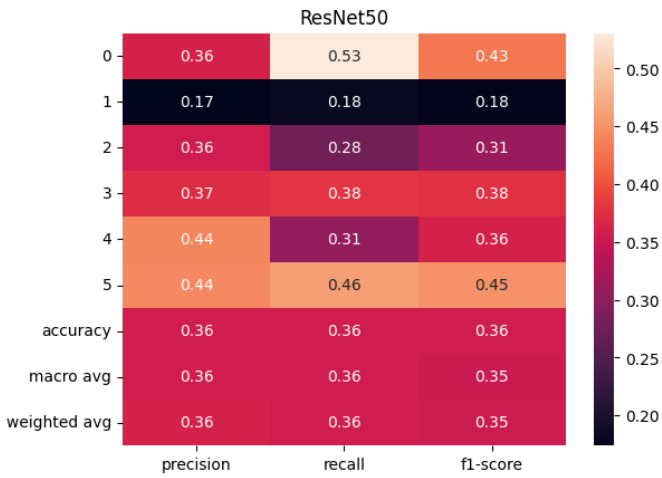

Fig.11. ResNet-50 Classification Report

```
Model: "sequential_1"
_________________________________________________________________
 Layer (type)                Output Shape              Param #
=================================================================
 conv2d_4 (Conv2D)           (None, 222, 222, 32)      896

 batch_normalization_1 (Bat  (None, 222, 222, 32)      128
 chNormalization)

 conv2d_5 (Conv2D)           (None, 220, 220, 32)      9248

 batch_normalization_2 (Bat  (None, 220, 220, 32)      128
 chNormalization)

 max_pooling2d_4 (MaxPoolin  (None, 110, 110, 32)      0
 g2D)

 conv2d_6 (Conv2D)           (None, 108, 108, 64)      18496

 batch_normalization_3 (Bat  (None, 108, 108, 64)      256
 chNormalization)

 conv2d_7 (Conv2D)           (None, 106, 106, 64)      36928

 batch_normalization_4 (Bat  (None, 106, 106, 64)      256
 chNormalization)

 max_pooling2d_5 (MaxPoolin  (None, 53, 53, 64)        0
 g2D)

 conv2d_8 (Conv2D)           (None, 51, 51, 128)       73856

 batch_normalization_5 (Bat  (None, 51, 51, 128)       512
 chNormalization)

 conv2d_9 (Conv2D)           (None, 49, 49, 128)       147584

 batch_normalization_6 (Bat  (None, 49, 49, 128)       512
 chNormalization)

 max_pooling2d_6 (MaxPoolin  (None, 24, 24, 128)       0
 g2D)

 flatten_1 (Flatten)         (None, 73728)             0

 dropout_1 (Dropout)         (None, 73728)             0

 dense_2 (Dense)             (None, 512)               37749248

 batch_normalization_7 (Bat  (None, 512)               2048
 chNormalization)

 dense_3 (Dense)             (None, 6)                 3078

=================================================================
Total params: 38043174 (145.12 MB)
Trainable params: 38041254 (145.12 MB)
Non-trainable params: 1920 (7.50 KB)
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Fig.12. Proposed CNN Architecture

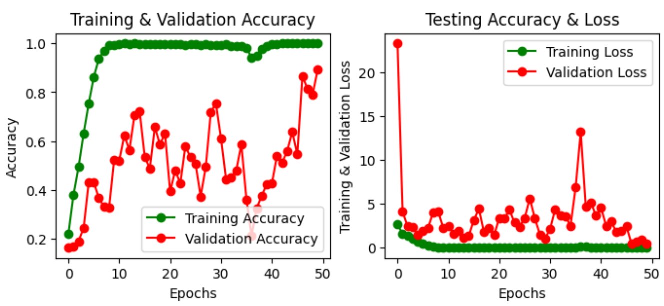

Fig.13. Proposed CNN Training

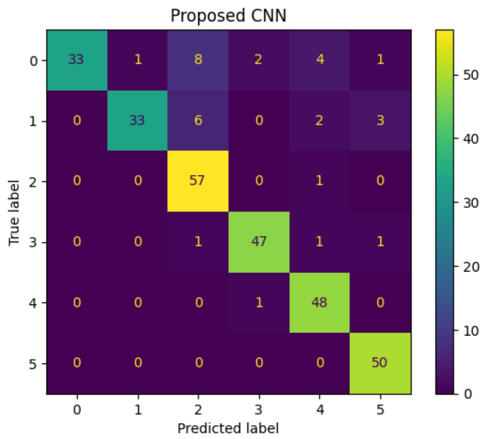

Fig.14. Proposed CNN Confusion Matrix

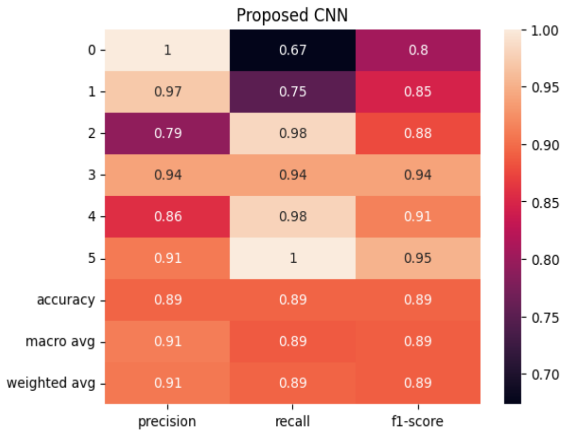

Fig.15. Proposed CNN Classification Report

TABLE I. ANALYSIS

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
AlexNet	15%	8%	15%	7%
VggNet	30%	30%	30%	30%
ResNet	36%	36%	36%	35%
Proposed CNN	89%	91%	89%	89%

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study delved into the realm of prostate cancer classification using transfer learning models, specifically focusing on CNN architectures such as AlexNet, VGGNet, ResNet, and a proposed

CNN model. Through rigorous experimentation and analysis, we obtained compelling results that underscore the efficacy of our proposed approach.

The performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-Score, demonstrate the significant advancements achieved through our proposed CNN model. With an impressive accuracy of 89% and well-balanced precision, recall, and F1-Score values around 90%, our model outperforms traditional architectures like AlexNet, VGGNet, and ResNet by a substantial margin. This heightened accuracy and balanced performance metrics are crucial in medical applications like prostate cancer diagnosis, where precision and recall are paramount for accurate predictions and clinical decision-making.

While models like VGGNet and ResNet exhibit respectable performance, our proposed CNN model showcases a marked improvement in classification accuracy and overall predictive capability. The successful integration of hyperparameter tuning techniques further enhances the robustness and generalization ability of our model, positioning it as a valuable tool in the domain of medical image analysis.

In essence, the results presented reaffirm the potential of transfer learning and optimized CNN architectures in advancing the field of cancer diagnosis and prognosis. The strides made in accuracy and performance metrics pave the way for more reliable and efficient AI-driven solutions in healthcare, contributing to improved patient outcomes and personalized treatment strategies.

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