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Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Detection using Deep Learning

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Abstract: Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) remains a leading cause of vision impairment among diabetic patients worldwide. The early detection of DR is critical for preventing irreversible blindness; however, traditional diagnostic approaches rely heavily on manual examination by ophthalmologists, making the process time-consuming and susceptible to human error. In this research, we propose an advanced deep learning framework for the automated classification of DR severity, leveraging Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and state-of-the-art ResNet-50 architec- ture. The proposed model is trained on a large dataset of retinal fundus images subjected to preprocessing techniques such as image normalization and augmen- tation to enhance classification accuracy and reduce overfitting. By integrating transfer learning and feature extraction methods, the system efficiently distin- guishes between different severity levels of DR, namely No DR, Mild, and Severe cases. The model undergoes rigorous evaluation using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, demonstrating superior performance compared to conventional machine learning approaches. This research not only enhances diagnostic reliability but also introduces a scalable and computationally efficient solution for real-world deployment in clinical settings. The findings underscore the potential of deep learning in revolutionizing ophthalmic disease detection, thereby reducing the global burden of diabetic retinopathy-related blindness

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