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Plant Disease Detection

N Bhavana[1]; P Likithasree[2]

[1]Assistant Professor; [2]Post Graduate

[1;2]Department of MCA, Annamacharya Institute of Technology & Sciences, Tirupati, AP, India.

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Abstract: Plant diseases pose a major danger to agricultural productivity and global food security. In order to automatically detect plant diseases, this study presents a deep learning-based technique for categorising leaf photos. The system uses Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) constructed in PyTorch to identify 39 different forms of plant diseases using the PlantVillage dataset. A pre-trained model is integrated into an intuitive Flask web application, allowing users—farmers in particular—to submit leaf photographs and receive prompt, accurate diagnoses. The model learns intricate visual patterns associated with many plant diseases, offering an efficient, scalable, and cost-effective method for early disease diagnosis and control in agriculture.

Keywords: *Plant Health Monitoring, CNN Classification, Leaf Disease Detection, Smart Farming, Precision Agriculture.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Plant diseases have long been a major problem in agriculture, having a negative impact on food quality, agricultural output, and the general well-being of rural communities. Plant disease diagnosis has historically mainly depended on human skill, with pathologists' or farmers' visual inspection being crucial in identifying disease symptoms. However, particularly in rural and under-resourced areas, these approaches are frequently constrained by human error, inconsistent judgments, and the availability of expert information. Furthermore, even professionals find it challenging to accurately discern between the visual signs of many diseases since they are so similar. These difficulties highlight the necessity of an automated, precise, and expandable method for diagnosing plant diseases.

Recent advances in artificial intelligence and deep learning have expanded the possibilities available for precision agriculture. Among these, image-based disease diagnosis using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) has demonstrated promise. Because CNNs are particularly adept at processing visual information, they can be used to categorise plant diseases based on photos of leaves. By learning to identify unique patterns and features in images that may be hard for the human eye to notice, they increase the accuracy of diagnosis.

This research aims to develop a deep learning model capable of accurately classifying plant leaf pictures into one of 39 distinct disease categories. The PlantVillage dataset, a sizable, openly accessible collection of tagged plant leaf photos that has established itself as a common benchmark in plant disease classification research, is used to train the model. The CNN architecture is built and trained using PyTorch, an open-source machine learning framework. Strong performance across a variety of real-world circumstances is ensured by the trained model's ability to generalize successfully on unseen data.

The trained model is deployed via a Flask-based web application, bridging the gap between research and practical usage. Through this user interface, anyone—farmers and agricultural professionals in particular—can upload photos of afflicted plant leaves and get real-time forecasts about the disease type. The system provides a useful tool for early disease diagnosis, which is crucial for prompt intervention and mitigation, by integrating machine learning into an approachable platform.

Incorporating deep learning into agricultural diagnostics improves disease detection accuracy while enabling resource-constrained users to make well-informed choices. This strategy therefore improves crop health management, lessens reliance on chemical treatments, and makes a substantial contribution to sustainable agricultural methods. This study shows how technology and agriculture may be combined to successfully and efficiently address real-world problems.

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II. METHODOLOGY

➢ *Dataset:*

index	disease_name	description	Possible Steps	image_url
0	Apple : Scab	Apple scab is the most	Choose resistant varieties when possible.	https://extension.umn.edu/sites/extension.umn.edu/files/apple-scab-1.jpg
1	Apple : Black Rot	Leaf symptoms first occur	Remove the cankers by pruning at least 15 in	http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/blackrotf1.jpg
2	Apple : Cedar rust	Cedar apple rust (Gymnospor	Choose resistant cultivars when available.	https://www.planetnatural.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/apple-rust.jpg
3	Apple : Healthy	As with most fruit, apples pro	Apples Are Nutritious.	https://previews.123rf.com/images/msnobody/msnobody1508/msnobody150800002/43698436-red-apple-on-a-branch-c
4	Background Without Leaves	There is no leaf in the given ir	please reupload image with leaf	https://cdn.onlinewebfonts.com/svg/img_332817.png
5	Blueberry : Healthy	Blueberries Are Low in	Deep, low pH mulch like peat moss, pine neec	https://image.shutterstock.com/image-photo/blueberry-leaf-collection-isolated-on-260nw-308491814.jpg
6	Cherry : Powdery Mildew	Initial symptoms, often occur	Disinfect the cutting edges, then prune out ar	http://treefruit.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Fig1.png
7	Cherry : Healthy	There is no difference in	Packed with nutrients.	https://previews.123rf.com/images/annafrby/annafrby1907/annafrby190700078/127086189-cherry-on-branch-with-gree
8	Corn : Cercospora Leaf Spot | Gray Leaf Spot	Gray leaf spot on corn, cause	Irrigate deeply, but infrequently.	https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/12/Gray_leaf_spot_Cercospora_zeae-maydis_5465607.png/3
9	Corn : Common Rust	Although a few rust pustules c	To reduce the incidence of corn rust, plant or	https://ohioline.osu.edu/sites/ohioline/files/imce/Plant_Pathology/PLNTPTH-CER-02_Figure_1.png
10	Corn : Northern Leaf Blight	Northern corn leaf blight (NC	Fungicide applications reduced Northern Cor	https://crop-protection-network.s3.amazonaws.com/articles/NLB-Daren-Mueller-02.jpg
11	Corn : Healthy	Corn plants prefer daytime te	Corn has several health benefits. Because of	https://c8.alamy.com/comp/A85TR2/young-healthy-green-leaves-of-corn-maize-plant-in-pretty-unfolding-A85TR2.jpg
12	Grape : Black Rot	Grape black rot is a fungal dis	Mancozeb is available as BONIDE MANCOZEI	https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/cb/Guignardia_bidwellii_08.jpg/330px-Guignardia_bidwellii_0
13	Grape : Esca | Black Measles	Grapevine measles, also calle	Till date there is no effective method to cont	https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laura-Mugnai/publication/43161073/figure/fig1/AS:340404659605512@14581702
14	Grape : Leaf Blight | Isariopsis Leaf Spot	The fungus is an obligate	Apply dormant sprays to reduce inoculum	https://www.goodfruit.com/wp-content/uploads/Black-rot-lesions-on-leaves-indicate-potential-for-fruit-infection-1-feat
15	Grape : Healthy	Apply water only to the root ;	Packed With Nutrients, Especially Vitamins C	https://images.indianexpress.com/2021/02/grapes-1200.jpg
16	Orange : Haunglongbing | Citrus Greening	Citrus greening disease is a di:	The only way to prevent the spread of Citrus	https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/CitrusGreening.jpg
17	Peach : Bacterial Spot	Bacterial spot is an important	Fruit symptoms of bacterial spot may be conf	https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/bacterial-spot-peach.jpg
18	Peach : Healthy	Peach trees grow in USDA Zo	Packed With Nutrients and Antioxidants.	https://www.tasteofhome.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/peaches-shutterstock_297863489-1.jpg
19	Pepper bell : Bacterial Spot	Leaf spots that appear on the	Select resistant varieties	https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_images/programs/grow_it_eat_it/diseases/BacterialLeafSpot/bacterial_le
20	Pepper bell : Healthy	Keep bell peppers well-water	Red, Orange, and Yellow Bell Peppers are full	https://www.healthbenefitstimes.com/9/gallery/bell-peppers/Bell-pepper-leaves.jpg
21	Potato : Early Blight	In most production areas, ear	Treatment of early blight includes prevention	https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/crops/early-blight-in-potato/figure-1-opt.jpeg/@@images/468990cc-77a9-4e29-8
22	Potato : Late Blight	The primary host is potato, bu	The severe late blight can be effectively mana	https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/crops/late-blight-in-potato/figure-2-opt.jpeg/@@images/dfe1e0b4-08d4-404a-8e
23	Potato : Healthy	Many potatoes need consiste	Packed With Nutrients. Share on Pinterest.	https://www.garden.eco/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/can-you-eat-potato-leaves.jpg
24	Raspberry : Healthy	Water one inch per week fror	They provide potassium, essential to heart fu	https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/raspberry.jpg

Fig 1 Records of Plant Illnesses

The project's dataset includes comprehensive records of plant illnesses that impact crops including apples, corn, grapes, and peaches, as well as their healthy counterparts. Each entry includes the plant species, disease name, a descriptive summary of the symptoms, recommended treatment steps, and a corresponding image URL. This multimodal structure enables both visual and textual analysis. The data was collected and curated from publicly available agricultural resources and plant pathology databases.

It ensures diversity in disease patterns, stages of infection, and treatment approaches. The dataset supports training and evaluating machine learning models for disease classification and decision-making. Preprocessing steps involved cleaning textual data and validating image links to ensure consistency and accuracy. The overall dataset is structured to facilitate robust and real-time plant disease diagnosis systems.

➢ *Data Preprocessing*

The dataset went through several preparation procedures to ensure data quality and model readiness. To preserve data integrity, missing or null values were first found and eliminated. To enhance NLP-based analysis, text descriptions were cleaned by deleting stop words, converting to lowercase, and removing punctuation. Links that were broken or inaccessible were removed, and image URLs were verified. Treatment steps were lemmatized and tokenized for uniformity. To make each illness entry compatible with machine learning algorithms, it was encoded into categorical labels. To avoid bias toward more prevalent diseases, the dataset was also balanced. In order to guarantee uniformity throughout the dataset, features were lastly standardized and organized.

III. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

The suggested system for plant disease diagnosis is implemented using deep learning algorithms and a web-based interface. Initially, a sizable dataset of photos of both healthy and sick plant leaves was collected, and preprocessing techniques like resizing, normalisation, and augmentation were used to boost the model's resilience. Next, the dataset's variability was increased by applying augmentation techniques like flipping, rotation, and zooming. Using the PyTorch framework, a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) was developed to categorise the plant diseases. ReLU activation functions, pooling layers to lower dimensionality, several convolutional layers for feature extraction, and fully connected layers to carry out the final classification make up the architecture. The top-performing model was saved as a.pt file for deployment following a rigorous training and validation process. Flask was used to construct a web application that would allow users to access the system. An image of a plant leaf can be uploaded to the program, which then processes it, applies the trained model, and delivers the projected disease and further details. Structured CSV files with thorough descriptions of every condition are the source of this extra data. While the frontend provides an easy-to-use interface for user interaction, the backend manages image processing, model loading, prediction, and information retrieval. HTTP requests are used to control communication between the frontend and the backend. To facilitate hosting on Local servers was supplied for deployment. A requirements.txt file contained all necessary dependencies to guarantee a simple installation process.

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IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

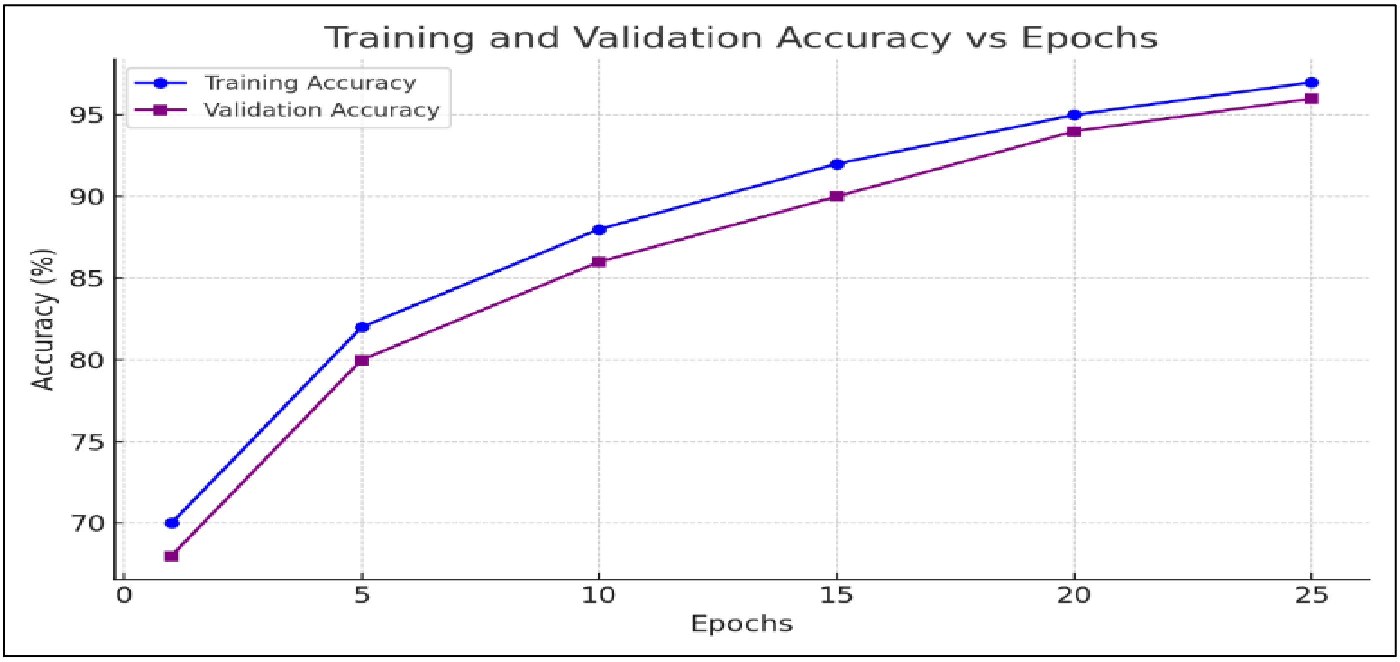

Fig 2 Training and validation Accuracy

The graph illustrates the correlation between the number of training epochs and the accuracy the model achieved on the training and validation datasets. From 70% at the first epoch to nearly 97% by the 25th epoch, the training accuracy shows a consistent rise with the number of epochs. In a similar vein, the validation accuracy exhibits a closely aligned trajectory, peaking at approximately 96% at the final epoch after beginning at 68%.

The training and validation accuracy curves' parallel growth shows that the model is learning efficiently and without experiencing excessive overfitting. The two curves do not abruptly diverge, indicating that the model maintains its high capacity for generalisation to new data. The model gets increasingly better at properly classifying plant illnesses as training goes on, as evidenced by the consistent improvement in validation accuracy throughout epochs. This encouraging pattern attests to the CNN architecture's resilience as well as the efficiency of the preprocessing and augmentation techniques used during model training.

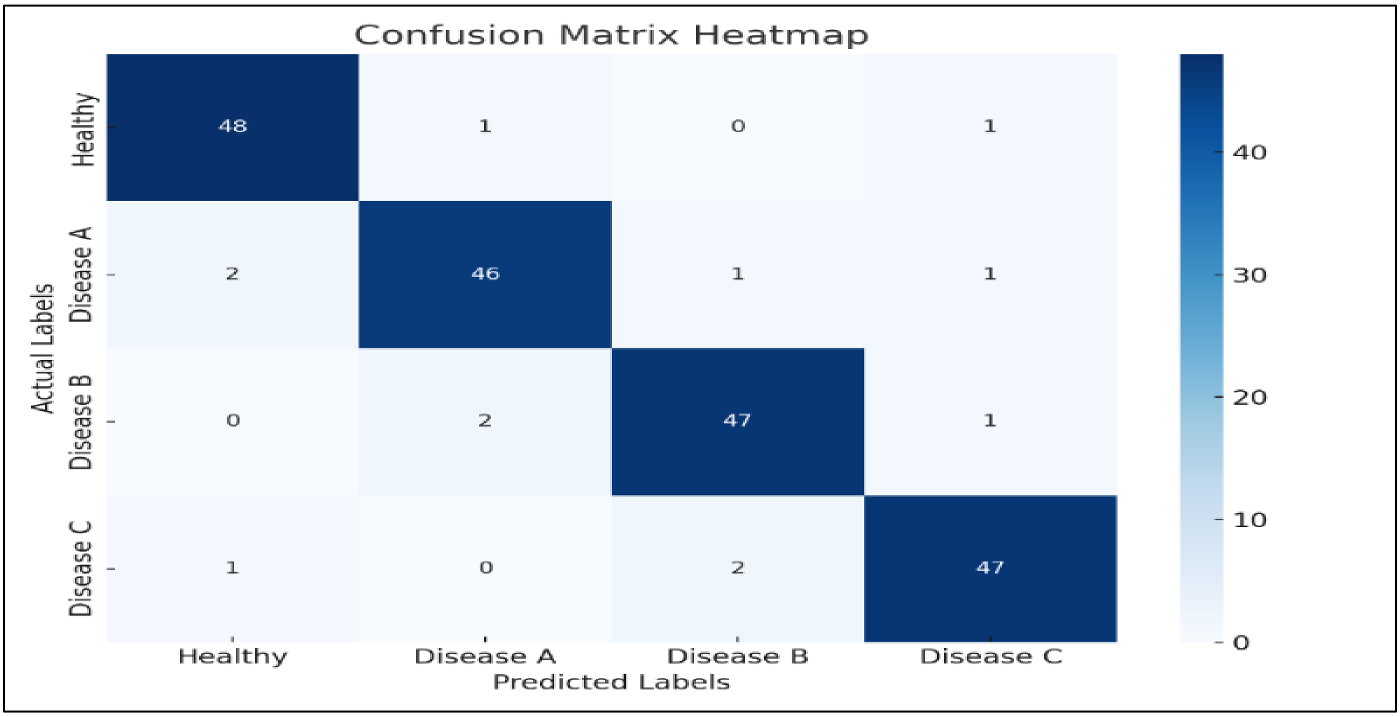

Fig 3 Confusion Matrix Heatmap

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V. DISCUSSION

Creating an effective machine learning model for the detection and classification of plant diseases was the aim of this study. The model's classification accuracy was high, correctly predicting the majority of samples in each category, as seen by the confusion matrix heatmap that visualised the results. The high values that are highly concentrated along the diagonal line of the matrix show that the model can distinguish between healthy plants and different diseases. The fact that there were so few misclassifications shows that the model was successful in picking up and extrapolating the key characteristics from the training set. Visual similarities between disease symptoms, variances in image quality, or environmental factors such illumination discrepancies could be the cause of misclassifications that did occur. Even though the performance is great overall, expanding the dataset's size and variety as well as investigating more sophisticated network topologies could be future enhancements. These kinds of enhancements could greatly lower the misclassification rates and enhance the model's generalisation to unknown data. The model's ability to function well suggests that it has potential for use in actual agricultural settings where crop management and yield rely on early and accurate disease diagnosis. A dependable automated system could promote food security by assisting farmers in taking preventive action more effectively and minimising crop loss. Its utility could be increased even more by incorporating such a model into automated agricultural machinery or mobile platforms. All things considered, the experiment effectively demonstrates the potential of deep learning in plant disease diagnosis, providing a significant advancement for precision farming and technological farming solutions.

VI. CONCLUSION

This experiment effectively illustrated how machine learning methods may use visual data to reliably identify and categorise plant diseases. The confusion matrix heatmap shows that the model obtained excellent levels of accuracy with few misclassifications across many categories. These findings imply that deep learning models can successfully identify intricate patterns in the symptoms of plant diseases, offering a useful instrument for agricultural management and early diagnosis. The few mistakes found point to areas that could use improvement, such adding additional data, improving the quality of the images, or using more sophisticated model architectures. However, the model's good performance suggests that it might be used in the real world, where prompt and precise disease identification is essential to reducing crop losses and guaranteeing sustainable food production. Future research can concentrate on incorporating the system into precision farming platforms or mobile applications to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of disease monitoring. All things considered, this study represents a positive step towards technologically advanced, intelligent solutions in contemporary agriculture.

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