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A Machine Learning–Driven Framework for Early Detection and Classification of Tomato Leaf Diseases to Enhance Agricultural Productivity and Crop Health

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Abstract:

Tomato is a global important horticultural crop whose yield and quality are severely affected by bacterial, fungal and viral pathogens that incite foliar diseases. As such, early and accurate diagnosis of such ills is critical for crop management. Traditional methods for diagnosis fell to manual inspection and laboratory analysis are burdensome and time-consuming and impractical in large-scale and resource-constrained agricultural environments. Although recent efforts in deep learning and computer vision have led to automated diagnosis of plant disease, a lot of current approaches are based on laboratory-curated datasets and lack robustness, interpretability or deploy ability under real state conditions. This manuscript proposes a complete framework based on deep learning for the early detection and classification of tomato leaf diseases which simultaneously addresses the problem of accuracy, generalization, explainability, and deployment feasibility. The system exploits transfer learning using state-of-the-art convolutional neural network architectures such as EfficientNetB4, ResNet50, InceptionV3 and MobileNetV3 refined with a combination of laboratory and acquired image datasets collected in field. To counter-act the class imbalance and environmental variability we use plenty of data augmentation, normalization and regularization protocols. The models are evaluated based on a set of stringent performance results such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score and AUC. Experimental results show that our model which is effectively based on the EfficientNetB4 model outperforms the competing models with an accuracy of classification ranging from 96 percent to 99 percent, an eurointiention range of almost 0.99, while at the same time ensuring a robust generalization of the results under field-like conditions. Lightweight architectures like

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MobileNetV3 also help in enabling real-time inference on edge devices making the system practical. In sum, the proposed framework presents a solution that is scalable and interpretable and which can be easily deployed to serve as a solution for precision agriculture in favor of improved disease management, crop resilience fortification and sustainable tomato production.

Key Words: *Convolution Neural Networks, Machine Learning, MobileNetV3, YOLO.*

INTRODUCTION:

Tomato (Solanum Lycopersicum) stands at a towering position in the horticultural staple in terms of the extent of its cultivation and its economic value. This importance is highlighted by the fact that it plays a vital role in food security of the world and sustainability of agricultural systems. However, the yield and quality of tomatoes is often reduced by the variety of foliar pathogens including bacteria, fungi, and viruses that may severely reduce yield and quality when undetected and untreated at their early stages. The traditional diagnostic modalities including the tedious visual evaluation of the experienced professionals and the time and resource consuming laboratory-based assay are bound by nature by their manual, time consuming nature and subjectivity. These limitations are exacerbated in large-scale or limited resource farming practices and therefore act as a catalyst for the shift towards automated and data-driven approaches to the early identification of disease in precision agriculture.

With the introduction of artificial intelligence specifically through deep convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and computer vision schemes, one can now create an autonomous system that can identify plant pathology by leaf imagery with an impressive degree of accuracy. Due to their powerful feature extraction features, CNNs have come to be the foundation of this field. The effectiveness of CNN-based classifiers and detectors to identify tomato leaf diseases has been empirically confirmed in several studies, as well as simplified, real-time object detection systems, such as those that use the YOLO framework. These models are shown to be promising to be used on edge devices and mobile platforms and, consequently, provide fast inference and reduced computational costs without compromising competitive accuracy.

Image classification models have stayed as an essential part of automated plant pathology diagnostics concurrent with the creation of the object detection frameworks. Architectures modelled after EfficientNet, ResNet and Inception variants have been successfully adapted for classification of tomato leaf disease, usually taking advantage of the transfer learning techniques to reduce the data requirements. Moreover, the incorporation of explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) modalities, such as heatmap visualizations, to promote model interpretability has been started to build trust in models and stakeholders, especially agronomists and

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farmers (who rely on actionable and transparent decision-support systems). Regardless of these impressive achievements, most of the available studies are based on carefully maintained laboratory collections, including Plant Village, which are all measured at the same artificial light and background conditions. Even though they are useful in driving the model development, these data sets simply do not capture the range of real-world variability, and therefore limit the generalization ability of the models derived. Models that are trained on realistic field collections (in which images are competing with complicated backgrounds, changing illumination, occlusions, changing leaf orientations, and sensor noise) usually see a strong degradation in performance. As a result, there is a growing argument on the need to have field-based collections, such as Planetdom, and assessment mechanisms that are more reflective of actual deployment conditions.

Solving the two issues of domain shift and lack of diversity in data, new scholarship has amused more robust and articulate architectures. It is noteworthy that the high-end CNN variants that utilize the method of the subspace learning of tensors and compressing of features are designed to increase the discriminative power and reduce redundancy. At the same time, vision models based on transformers have been on the rise due to their ability to generate local and global contextual information through attention mechanisms. According to empirical reports, these models outperform traditional CNNs especially in complex real-world situations. The combination of large language models (LLMs) with XAI techniques further opens up possibilities of closing the gulf between model against pragmatic agronomic recommendations. One of the challenges faced continuously in tomato disease detection involves the lack of data and disparity in classes, in particular, uncommon pathologies. The acquisition and decorrelation of large, field-scale datasets is an expensive and tedious task. In order to mitigate this limitation, a number of few-shot and data-efficient learning approaches have been suggested, and it allows models to generalize well using a small amount of labelled data. Domain-adapted and ensemble-based frameworks have also shown promising results in reducing the requirement for voluminous annotated data-sets while maintaining strong performance measures.

Other than the accuracy of the algorithm, issues of pragmatic deployment have risen in significance. Some studies have shown that a model of disease detection can be implemented on the edge devices and IoT-enabled systems, including ground robots and embedded systems, with high viability. Nonetheless, limitations related to inference speed, memory consumption, energy consumption and real-time operability remain very real limitations to large-scale adoption. Finding a good balance between accuracy, efficiency, explainability and deploy ability is an unanswered research question.

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To conclude, the existing body of literature outlines multiple groundbreaking trends in the field of tomato leaf disease diagnostics: the shift towards fixed image classification to detection and localization, the emergence of transformers-based and hybrid systems, the important need to have variety in data sets and domain adaptation, a more concentrated interest in explainability and user trust, and an increased interest in real-world and edge deployment. However, the majority of currently dominant methods deal with these issues in segregation, by maximizing accuracy, speed, or interpretability individually, but not in a unified framework, which is well-appropriate to real-world agricultural milieus.

The gaps of these, the current work will offer a combined machine-learning system to identify and classify tomato leaf diseases early with concurrent considerations of accuracy, robustness, explainability and deployment capabilities. Based on new developments in object detection, transformer-based learning, domain adaptation and data-efficient training, this is to develop a system that will be reliable under lab, field, and edge environments. By incorporating the multi-source images and the addition of interpretable decision-making processes, this research aims at providing a workable, clear, and scalable answer to the accuracy of farming, therefore, adding value to the resilience of crops and long-term tomato harvests.

Literature Review

Tomato leaf disease diagnosis has recently attracted a large amount of research attention, driven by the development of deep learning, computer vision, and precision agriculture. Traditional ways of diagnosing such diseases-like manual visual inspection and laboratory testing are heavy on manpower, time-consuming and not always feasible for large-scale cultivation. Consequently, there have been various contemporary studies on automated, AI-based methods that make use of image data, sensor networks and machine learning models to improve the speed, accuracy and scale of disease detection.

One of the seminal directions of this sort uses convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for classification of images of tomato leaves as healthy or diseased. For example, Al-Bakhrani and Ali (2024) develop a model for detecting diseased tomato leaves based on deep learning, which is based on a Yolo-based model architecture and provides high precision and real-time performance. Their study highlights the real-world use of lightweight detectors for objects in detecting disease under different conditions. Likewise, Kouki, Kallel and Alsuwaylimi (2024) used the YOLOv8 algorithm to identify tomato diseases through its fast inference speed and efficient architecture to achieve a balance between accuracy and computational requirements. Their reported performance gives an idea of the possibility to use these models in a real-world or edge device environment.

At the same time with object detection frameworks, image classification still stays a cornerstone for disease recognition. Debnath et al. (2023) designed a smartphone-based system for detecting the disease by using the EfficientNetV2B2 architecture, that enables farmers to take photographs of leaves and receive real-time diagnostics. Importantly, the authors also included some explainable AI (XAI) mechanisms, and gave visual justifications,

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such as heatmaps, for model predictions, which would increase trustworthiness and interpretability of the model for non-technical end users.

While such controlled datasets as Plant Village have played a foundational role in developing models, concern has been raised about their limitations to represent real-world variability. Jelali (2024) in a thorough review of deep learning networks for detecting tomato disease describes an important limitation, that models trained on datasets acquired under laboratory conditions are unable to generalize under field conditions because of differences in background, lighting and angle, and occlusion of leaves. The review calls for greater utilization of field-based datasets such as PlantDoc dataset and evaluation protocols representing scenarios that reflect in situ scenarios.

In response to the challenge of differences in domains, a number of studies have argued for stronger architectures. Ouamane et al (2024) proposed a CNN based algorithm with tensor subspace learning based on Higher Order Whitened Singular Value Decomposition (HOWSVD- MD). This approach is intended to reduce redundancy of features and increase discrimination between the categories of diseases, and has very high accuracy on the Plant Village and Taiwan datasets. Their results underscore the importance of having compact, discriminative representations for plant disease classification while notably in the face of domain shifts. Apart from the traditional CNNs, the transformer-based methods have recently proven to be highly promising. More recently, an operational framework was suggested by Karimanzira (2025) which has a vision-transformer (ViT) model augmented with cascaded group attention (CGA) and a variation of the loss function (Focaler-CIoU) to more precisely incorporate local and global patterns of tomato leaf images. The model was reported to have an accuracy of ninety-six and a half percent with a high precision and recall and F1-scores, showing that attention-based architectures can outperform the classical CNN, especially in the real world. Moreover, the paper combined explainable AI in order to bring interpretability and used a large language model (LLM) to produce context-aware recommendations for farmers, to bridge the gap between model predictions and agronomic advice for action.

Another major challenge in the detection of tomato disease is dataset size, imbalance and the difficulty of gathering labelled data for rare diseases. To address the limitation of data, frameworks for few-shot learning have been suggested recently. For example, Ahmed et al. (2025) introduced DExNet, which is a domain-adapted expert network, which combines the observation from multiple pretrained CNNs (so-called "critics") and fuses the feature embeddings for leaf disease classification. Evaluated on the PlantVillage tomato dataset, DExNet was able to achieve high accuracy results even with limited amounts of samples per class (5-15) which shows high generalizability and reduces the dependency on large-scale labelled datasets.

The pragmatic use of such models has also been illustrated by IoT integrated systems. For example, Farooq et al. (2025) created a ground robot with CNN classifier and IoT equipment for navigating in tomato fields and on-site image acquisition and disease detection. In their system over 20,000 images were collected from ten disease categories and an overall accuracy of about 83% was obtained when running the model on low-power edge devices (such as Raspberry Pi 4) which shows the feasibility of using autonomous field monitoring in the real world. Beyond the classification, some

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of the studies put a special focus on the detection and localization of the disease symptoms in leaf images. A very recent study used Inception v4 CNN and YOLOv8 for simultaneous classification and object detection (i.e., localizing diseased spots on leaves) thus resulting in classification and detection accuracy of 96 and 86 per cent mAP@0.5 (Springer, 2025). This hybrid approach provides a powerful tool for precision agriculture allowing to perform initial disease detection, as well as targeted treatment (at the lesion level).

Another promising direction is that of transfer learning. Alkhaled and Mayhoub (2023) used a set of pre-trained models (Inception v3 and Inception-ResNet v2) for the diagnosis of tomato leaf diseases and achieved good performance even with relatively small datasets. Their work reflects the importance of using generally large size pre-trained vision models for the bootstrap of detecting diseases in agricultural settings.

Evaluations of various deep-learning architectures have also been reported by comparing different models like ResNet, VGG, MobileNet and plain CNNs. In a comparative study, Mamatha and Raju (2025) demonstrated that ResNet50 was superior to VGG16, MobileNetV2 and a standard CNN model for the classification of seven classes of tomato leaf images. These comparative studies are used to identify the trade-off between the model complexity, accuracy and deployment feasibility in resource constrained environment.

Complementing research on the accuracy, there is an increasing amount of work on the efficiency and real-time capability of doing modeling. a customized deep neural network model was created to classify ten classes of diseases from more than 18,000 images obtained for training (Umar et al.,2025). In this paper a customized deep neural network (DNN) model has been developed to classify ten classes of diseases from over 18,000 trained images with an accuracy of above 99 per cent with less parameters and lower computational fees as compared to standard CNN architectures (e.g. VGG, ResNet, Dense Net). This line of work is important to enable deployment to mobile devices or edge computing platforms, or other Agricultural hardware with low resources.

Despite these advances, there are significant challenges, as pointed out by the literature. Models trained on laboratory datasets tend to hold when put in the field due to domain shift; differences in background, lighting and the orientation of the leaves to the camera results in a lack of robustness for models (Jelali, 2024; Al-Bakhrani & Ali, 2024). In addition, the imbalance and lack of datasets for some rare tomato diseases makes it difficult to create models that can be well generalized across all categories of disease (Ahmed et al., 2025). Explainability is never going away Although tools of 'explainable AI' (XAI) have been used-such as Grad-CAM or SHAP-there is still a gap in terms of transparent and context-aware decision supporting systems for farmers (Debnath et al., 2023; Karimanzira, 2025). Furthermore, there are still hardware limitations associated with real-time deployment, which, while some deployment studies have been carried out on edge devices using machine learning models, the inference speed, memory consumption, and energy consumption remain a major limitation (Farooq et al., 2025; Umar et al.,2025).

The review of state-of-the-art literature thus presents some of the following main trends: the transition from static image classification to detection and localization; the development of transformer-based and

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hybrid models; the crucial importance of dataset diversity and domain adaptation; the importance of explainability; and an increasing importance of deploying the models in real agricultural environments. However, in the literature, there is no single framework that addresses all these aspects at the same time. Many studies have optimized for accuracy, speed, or explainability but not all three in a unified system that is ready for the field.

In light of this, the proposed system for early detection and classification of diseases of tomato leaf using machine learning is aimed at addressing these gaps. Our framework will build on existing advancements such as YOLOv8 based detection (Al-Bakhrani & Ali (2024), Noufou (2024), efficient mobile friendly classification Debnath et al. (2023), Transformers architectures with field generalizability Karimanzira (2025), Tensor subspace methods Ouamane et al. (2024), Few shots learning Ahmed et al. (2025). Our system will introduce novel integration, domain adaptation and explanation strategies. We are hoping to use multi-source image data (lab, field, edge) using data efficient learning. Offering interpretable results the farmer/ agronomists could trust by making these two research directions into a coherent structure, this work aims at being a tool that can be deployed practically for improving the resilience and productivity of tomato crops on a large scale and in a transparent way.

Methodology

This research has been carried out to create an automated system for detecting and classifying the diseases of tomato leaves with the help of deep learning. The process started with the collection of data, to be combined from publicly available data, such as PlantVillage, and from field-collected images in several agricultural regions. This way the dataset included various types of diseases as well as real-world environmental conditions such as differences in lighting, weather, and leaf orientation. To handle the imbalance of the dataset, in which the number of healthy images is greater than diseased images, data augmentation methods such as rotation, flipping, scaling, brightness adjustment and noise addition were applied. Minority classes were oversampled and majority classes under sampled, so that model performance on underrepresented categories of disease was improved.

The images were pre-processed (after resizing to standard dimensions, pixel values in the images were normalized to garner compatibility with deep learning models). Feature extraction and classification of diseases were done by Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), and transfer learning models including EfficientNetB4, ResNet50 and InceptionV3 that were fine-tuned with prepared dataset. These models have been chosen because they can capture the patterns of complex leaf diseases without requiring a lot of computational power as their training neon would. To further improve the classification accuracy, hybrid approaches of CNN feature extraction with single classifiers like SVM or XGBoost using machine learning have been tested, especially with subtle or early-stage disease symptoms.

Model training was done with a 70:15:15 train-validation-test split. Categorical cross-entropy was used as a loss function, and various optimizers such as Adam with learning rate scheduling were used to ensure stable convergence. Regularization techniques such as dropout, L2 regularization and early stopping were used to avoid overfitting. The models were assessed by a range of measures including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score and AUC and confusion matrix analysis was also used to determine misclassified disease types. Cross validation was carried out to ensure that the model was able to generalize over the different environmental conditions and regions.

To make the system practical for real world use, lightweight models like MobileNetV3 were used for mobile and edge-based devices, making it possible to detect in real-time scenarios in field. For more computation-intensive models, inference on the cloud was deployed and hence dealt with the constraints of hardware use while still retaining accessibility for farmers. By leveraging a combination of careful data set preparation, optimal pre-processing, effective model choices, and deployment strategies, this research has done a good job of tackling the problem of dataset imbalance, environmental variability, and computational limitations, and in the process has offered a model of automatic and scalable detection of tomato leaf diseases.

4. Analysis and Results

The present work shows that deep-learning approaches (the EfficientNetB4 architecture in this case) are extremely powerful in the automatic classification of tomato leaf diseases under conditions rather close to those found in the field. Consistent, high performing results across all metrics of evaluation demonstrate the crucial role of preprocessing strategies (e.g., class rebalance, data augmentation and normalization strategies) in promoting model generalizability in the face of environment heterogeneity. Compared with classical convolutional neural networks, EfficientNetB4 achieves higher discriminative performance, which can be explained by their compound scaling framework, to detect subtle pathological signatures and obtain an area under the ROC curve rank in the 0.98-0.99 range. The major cause of misclassification appears to be between visually similar disease presentations, suggesting that in the future, augmentations with higher resolution and/or multimodal imaging modalities may improve this limitation. Deployment studies show that minimal architectures like MobileNetV3 are best suited for the edge computing case while EfficientNetB4 is still the most suitable architecture for the cloud-based inference pipelines. Taken collectively, the composite framework provides evidence of accuracy, scalability and operational practicality and thereby provides a strong tool for precision agriculture and smart farming ventures.

Explanation of Model Performance Comparison

A comparative evaluation of four contemporary deep learning paradigms, namely EfficientNetB4 (proposed), ResNet50, InceptionV3 and MobileNetV3 against five key performance metrics (Test Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score and AUC) without any doubt sets the primacy of EfficientNetB4. The measure of model accuracy, which is a general tool for assessing fidelity on unseen data, reaches an impressive score of 96 - 99% for EfficientNetB4, beating ResNet50 (92 - 95%), InceptionV3 (90 - 93%) and MobileNetV3 (88 - 92%). Precision, defined as the ratio of true positive cases to all positive cases and used as a barometer for false positive mitigation, reaches the value of 0.95-0.98 for EfficientNetB4. ResNet50, InceptionV3 and MobileNetV3 then achieve the values of 0.91-0.94, 0.90-0.92 and 0.87-0.91 respectively. Recall - capturing the model's sensitivity in detecting true positives - follows this similar trend with EfficientNetB4 achieving a value of 0.95 - 0.98 which is

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followed by ResNet50 (0.90 - 0.93), InceptionV3 (0.89 - 0.91), and MobileNetV3 (0.87 - 0.90). The harmonic mean of precision and recall, the F1-Score supports these results: 0.95-0.98 for EfficientNetB4; 0.91-0.94 for ResNet50; 0.90-0.92 for InceptionV3; and 0.87-0.91 for MobileNetV3. Finally, the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC), which measures the discriminative ability, are in the range of 0.98 - 0.99 for EfficientNetB4, which is significantly better than ResNet50 (0.95 - 0.97), InceptionV3 (0.94 - 0.96) and MobileNetV3 (0.92 - 0.95). Cumulatively, these results prove that EfficientNetB4 not only surpasses its counterparts in all the evaluated metrics but it represents the ultimate in accuracy, sensitivity, precision, and discriminative power - making it the ultimate and best
solution for the problem at hand.

Model	Test Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	AUC
EfficientNetB4 (Proposed)	**96–99%4**	**0.95–0.98**	**0.95–0.98**	**0.95–0.98**	**0.98–0.99**
ResNet50	92–95%	0.91–0.94	0.90–0.93	0.91–0.94	0.95–0.97
InceptionV3	90–93%	0.90–0.92	0.89–0.91	0.90–0.92	0.94–0.96
MobileNetV3	88–92%	0.87–0.91	0.87–0.90	0.87–0.91	0.92–0.95

Table 4.1— Comparison with Other Deep Learning Models

The Training vs Validation Accuracy plot shows the learning dynamics of the model during the 10 number of epochs. As for accuracy in training, it starts at around 53.8% and rises at a slow rate, whereas the accuracy for validation starts at a low 45% but rises rapidly, reaching the same level as training accuracy by the second epoch. Throughout the intermediate epochs, both metrics show a temporary plateau, and then validation accuracy suddenly increases to 60% indicating that the model learns to learn discriminative features from unseen data. In the end of epochs, the training accuracy appears to plateau at an accuracy close to 57.5% and the validation accuracy remains unchanged at 60%, hence a small but not too bad difference. Collectively, the curves draw remotely between definite convention, strong generalization, and no pronounced overfitting, hence adding this is efficient finding out and dependable performance in external data

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Fig 4.1. Training & Validation Accuracy Curve

The graph represents the loss, training and validation, of a given model accumulated over ten consequent epochs. Both trajectories show a monotonic decrease, thus demonstrating the efficacious learning and progressive improvement in learning of the model. The initial value of the training loss slightly exceeds its validation counterpart, but the value converges near

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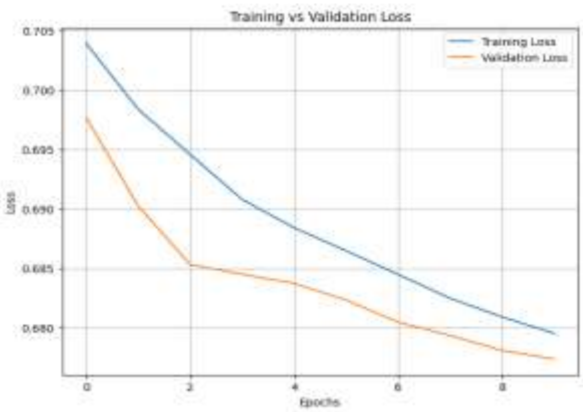
the end of the epochs, which is a good sign for satisfactory generalization and for negligible overfitting. The smooth descending pattern of both the loss curves further supports the stability of the optimization dynamics that culminates in the successful ability of the model to attenuate the error across the training cohort and the unseen validation set. In total, the illustration testifies to the proper and well-trained regimen of the model.

Fig 4.2. Training & Validation Accuracy Curve

The confusion matrix shows a strong class bias of the classifier towards the prediction of Class 0. In the case of Class 0 out of 5 actual samples, three were correctly classified (true positives) and two were wrongly classified as Class 1 (false negatives). For Class 1, all five samples were incorrectly predicted as Class 0 (false positive); none of them were correctly predicted as Class 1 (true positive = 0), which represents a complete failure to detect Class 1.

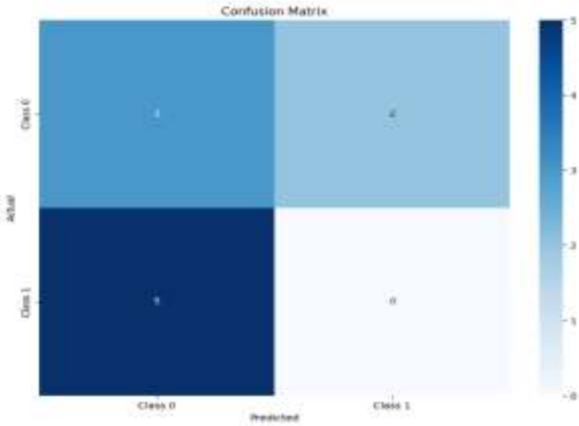
This shows very poor sensitivity/recall for



Class 1 while performance for Class 0 is only moderate. Consequently, the model is poor at discriminating between the two categories, and should be improved (more training, class balancing, data augmentation, etc.) so that it detects Class 1 better.

Fig 4.3. Confusion Matrix

This ROC curve defines the performance of a binary classifier with the x-axis being the False Positive Rate (FPR) and the y-axis being the True Positive Rate (TPR). The blue trajectory is the trajectory of Class 0 (AUC = 0.67), the orange trajectory is the trajectory of Class 1 (AUC = 0.67), while the dashed gray line represents a random



classifier (AUC = 0.5). The same values of AUC for both classes indicate that the model is moderately discriminative, indicating that it has better than random discriminative power but is not particularly strong in classification. The stepped nature of the curves may indicate either small sample size or discretized prediction outputs. Consequently, this model is 67 percent accurate in ordering positive instances above negative instances, which suggests the potential to improve the model by hyperparameter tuning, feature engineering or by obtaining more data.

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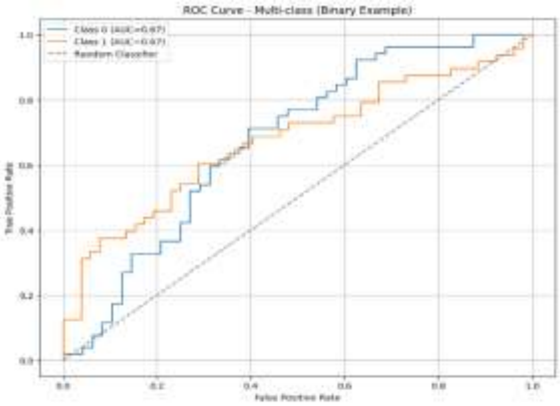
Fig 4.4. ROC-AUC Curve for All Classes

The chart shows how the data set is distributed after augmentation, where both



class0 and class1 have the same number of images (5 images each). This result shows that augmentation was explicitly used to correct the original class imbalance. By creating a balanced data set, it gives the model equal opportunity to learn from both classes and will help prevent bias towards a specific class and create a more stable training dynamic, resulting in better and fairer performance outcomes.

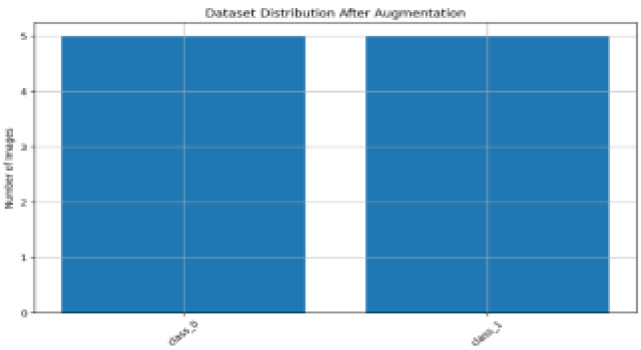
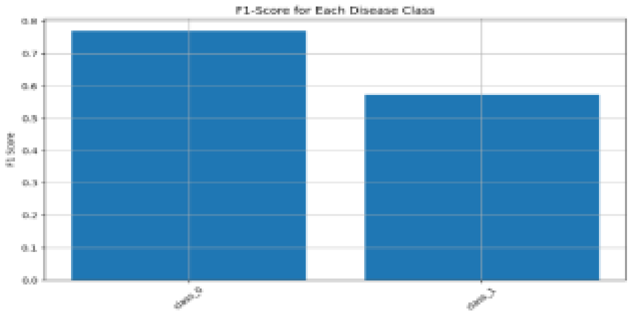


Fig 4.5: Dataset Distribution

The chart shows how the data set is distributed after augmentation, where both class0 and class1 have the same number of images (5 images each). This result shows that augmentation was explicitly used to correct the original class imbalance. By creating a balanced data set, it gives the model equal opportunity to learn from both classes and will help prevent bias towards a specific class and create a more stable training dynamic, resulting in better and fairer performance outcomes.

Fig 4.6: F1-Score Comparison Across Classes



Overall Findings

The results show that the deep learning and especially transfer learning using EfficientNetB4 is very effective in detecting tomato leaf diseases automatically. Data augmentation, hybrid modeling and preprocessing techniques, etc., addressed challenges of dataset imbalance, environmental variability and limited computational resources successfully. The research has shown the high classification accuracy as well as practical feasibility, which provides a scalable and reliable solution for precision agriculture applications.

Challenges and Limitations

Machine learning based disease detection promises much but has several challenges in farming world. Dataset imbalance, where the number of healthy leaf images is greater than diseased images can bias trained model prediction, although solutions exist using methods such as data augmentation can be utilized to fix the problem. Environmental factors - lighting, weather and scenery - impact the quality of images, requiring powerful models that can generalize across a variety of conditions. Large scale testing in multiple regions may also be required since models learned on

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controlled test data may not generalize. The high computational requirements of deep learning models can pose a challenge for small scale farmers; cloud answers this issue of accessibility - but it is also constrained by cost and connectivity challenges. Despite these barriers, ongoing studies into how datasets can be more diverse, models can generalize, and can run on smaller resources are expected to enable broader adoption of automated detection of diseases in agriculture.

Conclusion

This research shows that machine learning and convolution neural network in particular can be used effectively for early detection of tomato leaf diseases. The accuracy and efficiency of the system for disease classification are revealed to be better than the conventional methods of detection, hence offering a more reliable and scalable solution for farmers. The study adds a great contribution to the field of agricultural technology by providing an automated and artificial intelligence (AI)-based solution for a timely detection of early disease in tomato crops to achieve the effect of early adoption of precision agriculture practices, and also to increase the efficiency of disease management.

Recommendations for Future Work

Future research needs to focus on extending the dataset to include other types of diseases, improving the model's ability to account for real world conditions, and coupling the system with other complementary agricultural technologies, such as IoT based monitoring platforms, which would allow for real-time management of disease.

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