

# Lesion Detection and Classification techniques for Diabetic Retinopathy



Jyoti P. Sawant, Sachin A. Naik, Santosh S. Chowhan

**Abstract:** Diabetes is a worldwide spread disease which is increasing rapidly and found in all age people. Diabetic Retinopathy is a retinal abnormality caused by diabetes. Which can lead to permanent vision loss or blindness. As Diabetic Retinopathy pathology damages retina without any early symptoms, it is very important to do the regular screening of retina and detection of Retinopathy. Ophthalmologist does the identification of Retinopathy manually which is time consuming and error prone. Hence, there is a need for early and correct automatic detection of Diabetic Retinopathy. Many researches have done for detection using Image Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Neural Network and Machine Learning. This paper presents a review on Diabetic Retinopathy Detection systems. This review highlights the public datasets available for the evaluation of the detection systems with different segmentation and classification techniques. We have discussed the analysis of different classification and segmentation techniques used in DR detection.

**Keywords:** Classification, Diabetic Retinopathy, Diabetic Retinopathy dataset, DR Lesions, DR Lesion Segmentation, Feature Extraction.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Diabetic is a disease found worldwide in both developing and developed countries. As per reports in 2017, 425 million cases of diabetes with both Type-1, Type-2 and other types. As per estimates in 2013 showing 382 million people with diabetes, actual figure is very high. It may increase globally by 48% in year 2045. Diabetic Retinopathy is a retinal abnormality caused by damage of retinal blood vessels due to diabetes. Diabetic Retinopathy can lead to the vision loss. As, its early symptoms are not seen there is high risk of blindness in diabetic patients. Regular and early eye screening is suggested by the doctor to avoid vision loss. All Type-1 diabetic patients and more than 60% Type-2 diabetic patients suffer with Diabetic Retinopathy. So, early as well as accurate screening and detection of Retinopathy lesions is important to resist from blindness. Fundoscopic images are mostly used for detection, analysis and diagnosis of lesions in Diabetic Retinopathy. For the accuracy of results scientists are developing different Computer Aided Diagnosis (CAD) techniques. In contrary, manual screening is time consuming and has low detection accuracy.

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Many researches have done on implementation of algorithms and Diabetic Retinopathy techniques for analysis of fundus, OCT and angiographic retinal images. These algorithms can efficiently and accurately does feature extraction, segmentation and classification of DR lesions and abnormalities. This paper presents analysis of existing Diabetic Retinopathy detection algorithms and techniques developed from 2008 to 2019.

The fundus image in “Fig. 1” shows the retinal image with pathologies of Diabetic Retinopathy. Which shows different lesions like microaneurysm, Hemorrhages, cotton wool spots, exudates and abnormal growth of blood vessels. In this paper we are presenting review on different automatic DR detection systems having few or all steps of feature extraction, segmentation, detection and classification techniques.

This paper describes the overview of Diabetic Retinopathy detection systems including lesion detection, segmentation and DR classification. Information of public datasets, available for the retinal analysis is provided. In this paper we have enlisted feature extraction techniques, segmentation techniques, classification techniques and their evaluated accuracy which provides the further research dimension in the field of diabetic retinopathy.

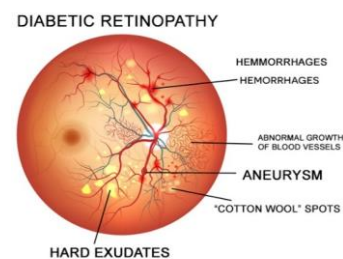


Fig. 1. Pathology of Diabetic Retinopathy

## II. OVERVIEW OF DIABETIC RETINOPATHY DETECTION SYSTEMS

### A. Types of DR Detection Systems

As observed in literature review Diabetic Retinopathy research can be categories depends upon type of study as follows:

1) Retina:

In this study all retinal factors are identified, segmented and classified. All DR lesions are identified. Focus is on full retina, so image analysis is done on full retina in [4], [5], [6], [7], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13].

Reference [1] proposed an automatic framework which classify and segment BRAO (Branch retinal artery occlusion) based on 3D Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography (SD-OCT) images. SVM Classifier is used for classification. A segmentation algorithm which detects optic disc and retinal exudates is proposed in [3]. Algorithm is compared with human graders on robustness and accuracy [3]. DR image classification using SVM and KNN classifiers is proposed in [19]. Images are analyzed with discrete wavelet transform.

### 2) Blood vessels:

This type of studies identifies and segments only blood vessels or vasculature of retina. It also identifies the early stage DR lesions related to blood vessels and abnormal growth of the blood vessels [11], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18], [20]. Authors have proposed a blood vessel segmentation method which has used Hessian matrix in [2]. Mathematical morphology is used for blood vessel segmentation by author in [8]. K. S. Argade et. al have combined data mining and image processing techniques for DR detection in [15].

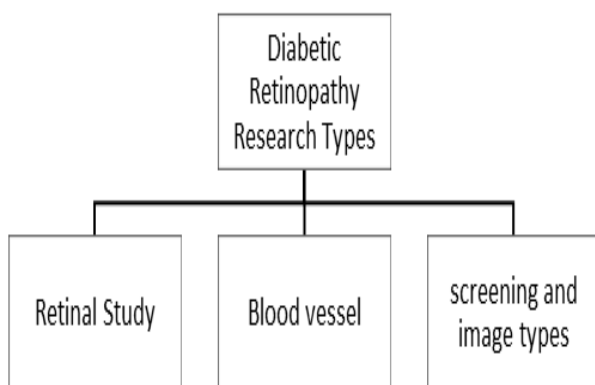
### 3) Fundus Images:

DR studies can be categories on the basis of type of acquisition and retinal images. These types are Fundus images [3], [4], [7], [9], [17], [19], [20], fluorescein angiography, 2D, and 3D images. The proposed system is tested on color fundus images in [3].

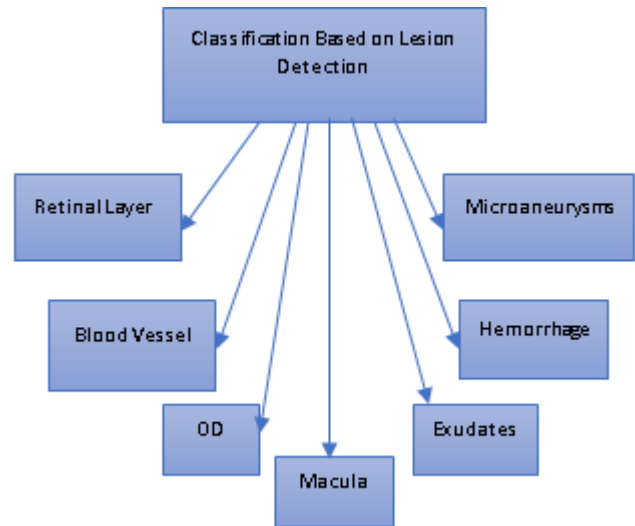
“Fig. 2” shows categories of DR research as per literature review.

## B. Classification of DR Detection Systems Based on Detection of Abnormalities in Retina

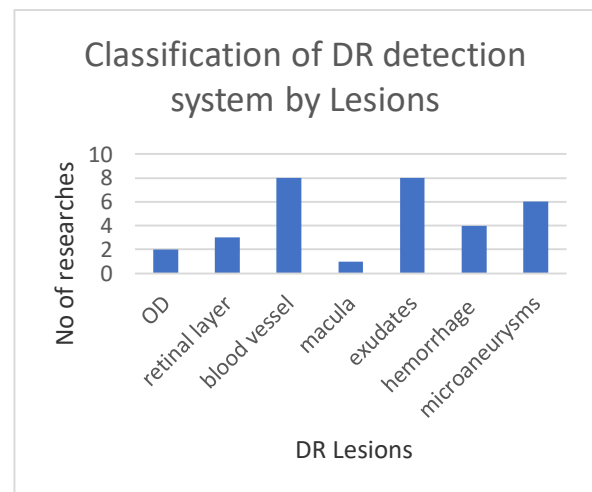
DR detection systems are classified by considering type of lesions they detect. The lesions considered for classification are OD (Optical Disk), retinal layer, blood vessel, macula, exudates, hemorrhage and microaneurysms. “Fig. 3”, shows the classification of DR detection systems by its lesion detection type. We found that these seven types of lesions are detected to identify the DR stages and its severity. “Fig. 4.”, describes the articles presented in literature as per the lesions. We observed that less work is done on multiple lesion detection.



**Fig. 2. DR Research Types**



**Fig. 3. Classification of DR detection systems by its lesion detection type**



**Fig. 4. Classification of DR detection Systems based on Lesions used for the Detection**

## C. Datasets

Many public databases are available online. Few researches have used local primary datasets. Table 1 shows Review on Public DR Dataset available for the study. Many authors have used their own datasets. We observed that for the evaluation of the DR detection systems standard datasets are rarely used. Hence, in future researches algorithms can be tested on multiple datasets to get the efficient detection systems with accurate results.

## III. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Feature Extraction Techniques:

J. Guoa et al. proposed a technique which has inner retina. extraction from the original image depends on segmented layer [1].

Morphological operators and thresholding are used for feature extraction in [2], [3], [5], [14], [16], [6]. M. Paranjpe et al. have done texture feature extraction using Gray Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM) and blood vessel was extracted by Morphological Operations [26].

K-means clustering is used by [4] and [8]. Ketki S. Argade et al. have used Sobel edge extraction technique to extract lesions [15]. S. Kaur et al. have used PCA (Principle Component Analysis) for feature extraction and blood vessel segmentation, extracted features are optimized by Lion Optimization Algorithm [18].

Following are the Feature Extraction techniques used by the researchers in DR detection systems,

- 1) Morphological Operations
- 2) Gray Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM)
- 3) Sobel edge extraction technique
- 4) Fuzzy C Means based

M. Habib et al. have proposed a microaneurysms detection by using ensemble classifier. In the methodology they did MA candidate detection where 70 features were extracted. Fleming's features, shape features & Moment Invariants, Gaussian features, Intensity features and Morphological features [11]. V. Kurilova et al. have used combination of morphological operations for blood vessel extraction.

These are White top-hat transform (WTH) to extract bright artefacts and black top-hat transform (BTH) to extract dark artefacts.

$$WTH = X - (X \circ B) \quad (1)$$

$$BTH = (X \cdot B) - X \quad (2)$$

WTH as a subtraction using structural element B and BTH as a subtraction of input image X [27].

**TABLE- I: Review on Public DR Datasets**

SrNo	Dataset Name	Description
1	ROC dataset (Retinopathy Online Challenge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• microaneurysm set</li> <li>• 100 images: 50 training images and 50 testing images.</li> </ul>
2	DIARETDB1 v2 DIARETDB0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• microaneurysm set</li> <li>• DIARETDB1 v2.1 - 89 images</li> <li>• DIARETDB0 -130 images</li> </ul>
3	MESSIDOR database1 (Methods to Evaluate Segmentation and Indexing Techniques in the field of Retinal Ophthalmology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pupil dilated 800 images and 400 images without dilation</li> <li>• French dataset</li> </ul>
4	DRIVE (Digital Retinal Images for Vessel Extraction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400 images of diabetic patients of age group 25-90 years</li> <li>• Dataset from Netherland</li> <li>• JPEG compressed images</li> <li>• Designed for blood vessels segmentation.</li> </ul>
5	STARE (STructured Analysis of the RETina)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400 images</li> <li>• Netherland database</li> <li>• Developed for blood vessel segmentation.</li> </ul>
6	ARIA online (Automatic Retinal Image Analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 143 color fundus images</li> <li>• UK dataset</li> <li>• Designed for vessel detection.</li> <li>• Three image classes:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)-23</li> <li>2) Healthy control-group-61</li> <li>3) Diabetic-59</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
7	HRF (High-Resolution Fundus Image Database)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy images-15, DR images-15 and glaucomatous images-15</li> <li>• Binary gold standard for each image</li> <li>• For vessel segmentation</li> </ul>
8	VICAVR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58 images</li> <li>• Used in A/V Ratio computation</li> <li>• Maintained by VARIA group</li> </ul>
9	CHASE, CHASE_DB1 (Child Heart and Health Study in England)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 images of 14 children</li> <li>• retinal images of multiethnic children from England</li> </ul>

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10	IDRiD (Indian Diabetic Retinopathy Image Dataset)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 516 images</li> <li>• Designed for Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) and Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)</li> <li>• IEEE databases</li> <li>• created at Eye Clinic, Nanded, (M.S.), India</li> </ul>
11	DR HAGIS database (Diabetic Retinopathy, Hypertension, Age-related macula degeneration and Glaucoma ImageS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39 high-resolution color fundus images</li> <li>• UK database</li> <li>• Designed for vessel extraction</li> </ul>
12	FIRE (Fundus Image Registration Dataset)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 129 retinal images with 134 image pairs</li> <li>• Greece dataset</li> </ul>

**Table- II: Different Segmentation techniques in DR detection systems**

Sr.no.	Author	Segmentation Technique	Segmentation Accuracy
1	J. Guoa et al.	Bayesian posterior probability Graph Search-Graph Cut threshold-based	Not Available
2	P. Anupama et al.	Blood vessel segmentation using eigen values	94%
3	T. Walter et al.	Morphological filtering technique watershed transformation	92.40%
4	A. Merjora et al.	Optic disc location using K means clustering algorithm	Not Available
5	A. Sopharak et al.	Threshold image using Ostu algorithm	The sensitivity of the exudate detection algorithm is 80% and specificity is 99.5%.
6	R. Tanthuwapathom et al.	adaptive thresholding process, local thresholding with green channel	85% accuracy of exudate detection
7	J.David et al.	Haar wavelet, exudates are detected using thresholding	Not Available
8	G. Hassan et al.	K-means clustering algorithm	best accuracy-96.25% with average accuracy-95.10%
9	L. Tang et al.	Splat based segmentation	Not Available
10	K. Argade et al.	optic disc and cup detection using Sobel Edge Extraction and Ellipse fitting	Not Available
11	S. Chowhan et al.	1) morphological operation 2) dilation residue edge detector and erosion residue edge detector	Not Available
12	R. Afrin et al.	Morphological opening technique	Not Available
13	S. Kaur et al.	edge detection using canny edge operator	96.17%
14	M. Rehman et al.	Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT)	Not Available
15	B. Thakar et al.	OD elimination	95% accuracy for optic disc elimination and 56% accuracy for microaneurysms detection.

### B. Classification and Segmentation Techniques:

It is found that Diabetic Retinopathy can be classified in following stages:

- 1) Normal DR
- 2) Mild Non- Proliferative DR
- 3) Moderate Non- Proliferative DR
- 4) Severe Non- Proliferative DR
- 5) Proliferative DR

Table II shows the different segmentation techniques found in DR detection systems with their accuracy in existing literature.

Table III shows the Literature Review which shows different classification techniques used by different DR detection systems with their accuracy. It also describes the no of classification stages of DR classifiers. M. Rehman et al. [19] uses KNN and SVM classifiers which gives highest DR classification accuracy 98.16 % and 97.85 % respectively.

Table II describes the segmentation techniques used by different researchers in last decade. S. Kaur et al. has proposed a segmentation of DR using edge detection with canny edge operator with 96.17% accuracy [18]. G. Hassan

et al. got higher accuracy by using K-means Clustering algorithm with 95.10% accuracy [8]. A. Merjora et al. [4] and B. Thakar et al. [20] both used OD elimination for segmentation. Morphological operators are mostly used by researcher for segmentation in DR detection systems [3], [16], [17]. Learning Vector Quantization (LVQ) network [7], back propagation network [7], [14] and deep learning-based CNN classifier [12] are used by researchers for multi-stage Diabetic Retinopathy detection and classification.

**Table- III: DR detection systems classification techniques with accuracy of the system**

Sr. no.	Author name	Classification technique	Accuracy	No of classification stages
1	J. Guoa et al.	SVM classifier	91.4%	2
2	J. David et al.	Learning Vector Quantization (LVQ) network and back propagation network.	back propagation network - 95% and LVQ- 90.3%	4
3	G. Hassan et al.	K-means clustering	average accuracy is 95.10% and best accuracy is 96.25%.	2
4	L. Tang et al.	kNN (K-Nearest Neighbor) classifier, classification is Splat based	93%	2
5	S. Bourouis et al.	multi-class SVM classifier	e-optha (85.34), HRIS (91.22), MESSIDOR (90.09), DIARETDB1(85.55), VDIS (86.61), DRIVE (84.99), and HRF (86.55)	2
6	M. Habib et al.	Tree ensemble classifier	90%	2
7	H. Pratta et al.	deep learning-based CNN classifier with 5-class classification	accuracy- 75%	5
8	C. Lee et al.	A modified version of the VGG16 convolutional neural network used as the deep learning classification model.	92.64%	2
9	W. Yun et al.	backpropagation algorithm for classification of the four stages of eye images	84%	4
10	R. Afrin et al.	Fuzzy Classification	95.63%	2
11	S. Kaur et al.	Naïve Bayes Classifier	96.17%	2
12	M. Rehman et al.	KNN and SVM	KNN- 98.16%, SVM - 97.85%	2

#### IV. RESEARCH GAP

With reference to literature review, classification of multi stage DR detection systems is a need for early detection of DR. Existing detection techniques needs to be tested on multiple types of standard databases in terms of fundus, blood vessels, retina. Authors proposed multiple segmentation techniques but no work on multi- lesion segmentation techniques for retina images has been proposed. Child diabetic retinopathy needs to be studied.

#### V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This paper gives the review on public datasets, feature extraction techniques and classification techniques used in current Diabetic Retinopathy detection systems. Type of lesions which are the early symptoms of Diabetic Retinopathy are described. This paper gives the overall view on current researches and also highlights the research gaps.

Evaluation of DR systems on multiple and standard databases is done by very few researchers. Further research can be done on DR detection system mainly focus on blood vessel segmentation. Segmentation of all lesions DR detection system is also a challenge for future work. After literature review, we observe that, classification of Diabetic Retinopathy in multiple stages depending upon severity of the disease is also an important area which is less focused.

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