Comparison of Various Data Mining Classification Techniques in the Diagnosis of Diabetic Retinopathy

Spandana Vadloori[1], Yo-Ping Huang[1,2,*] and Wei-Chi Wu[3,4]

[1]Department of Electrical Engineering, National Taipei University of Technology, Taipei, Taiwan 10608; yphuang@ntut.edu.tw

[2]Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Taipei University, New Taipei City, Taiwan 23741

[3]Department of Ophthalmology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou, Taoyuan, Taiwan 33333

[4]College of Medicine, Chang Gung University, Taoyuan, Taiwan 33333

*Corresponding author

Abstract: Diabetic retinopathy (DR) has been the most frequently occurring complication in the patients suffering from a long-term diabetic condition, that ultimately leads to blindness. Early detection of the disease through biomarkers and effective treatment has been proposed to prevent/delay its occurrence. Several biomarkers have been explored, to help understand the incidence and progression of DR. These included the presence of microaneurysms, exudates, hemorrhages, etc. in the retina of the patients, which contributes to the disease. Investigation of the retinal images from time to time has been proposed as a strategy to prevent blindness. Evaluating the retinal images manually is time-consuming and demands great expertise in the diagnosis of DR. To circumvent such issues computer-aided diagnosis are very promising in the detection of DR. In the present study, we used a DR dataset and applied different classification algorithms in machine learning to predict the occurrence of the DR. The classifiers employed herein, included K-nearest neighbor, random forest classifier, support vector machine, regression tree classifier, logistic regression and the Naïve Bayes theorem. Our results showed that the random forest classification model provided the significant detail of attributes in terms of their importance in the diagnosis of the DR. More importantly, our supervised classification models provided the prediction accuracy of the disease and Naïve Bayes classifier demonstrated highest accuracy of 80.15% in the prediction of DR compared to the others. Additionally, receiver operating characteristics (ROC) analysis, with the classifiers and the area under curve (AUC) represented the fitting results of each classifier. The presented approach can prove to be a potential tool for the ophthalmologist in the early diagnosis tool for DR.

Keywords: diabetic retinopathy (DR); data mining; retinal images; microaneurysms; exudates; classification

1 Introduction

Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is the most common, yet a serious condition that occurs in patients who are suffering from chronic, severe diabetes and may lead to damaged retinas, causing blindness if not diagnosed and treated in the early stages [1-3]. DR is commonly observed in 80% of the individuals who are suffering due to diabetes for more than 20 years [1]. Statistics reveal that the occurrence of DR is increasing at an alarming rate, and as stated by WHO (World Health Organization), DR reports for 4.8% of the 37 million cases of blindness that take place globally [4]. By 2030 more than 366 million people are estimated to suffer from DR [2].

DR is a progressive disease that develops gradually. The development of DR has been grouped into four stages, (1) mild-NPDR (non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy), (2) moderate-NPDR, (3) severe-NPDR and (4) proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) [5, 6]. Mild-NPDR is the early stage of DR characterized by the swelling of the retinal blood vessels. These balloon-like swollen blood vessels appear as dark red dots called microaneurysms (MAs) whose sizes range from 20 to 200 microns [7, 8]. Leakage of MAs is a noticeable and essential sign for the detection of DR. In the second stage of DR, known as moderate-NPDR, the retinal blood vessels swell and get blocked that leads to a state called diabetic macular edema (DME). This fluid further increases in the macular zone of the retina leading to the third stage called severe-NPDR where the DR symptoms become worse. Initially mild-, moderate- and severe-NPDR were classified as three different groups. However, later they were combined into a single group called NPDR. The final stage of the DR is called PDR, where more blood vessels are generated inside the retina and a fluid called vitreous gel is filled in the eyes. Such blood vessels are very fragile and prone to fluid leakage and bleeding consequently forming a scar tissue that leads to the retinal detachment. In addition to MAs, the other biomarkers for DR are exudates (EXU). These exudates are round or oval-shaped fatty protein-based particles found in the nerve fiber layers of the retina that are formed in the NPDR state due to fluid leakage from the damaged retinal blood vessels and had been linked to blindness [9]. Depending on their appearance EXUs were divided into two types, hard EXUs and soft EXUs, which appear as the hard waxy patches and softer EXUs respectively. These soft EXUs are also called cotton wool EXUs (Figure 1). Hard EXUs are located near MAs or at the edges of the retinal edema. Regular screening of the retinal images in diabetic patients has been proposed for early diagnosis of the DR diseases, which can prevent people from becoming blind [10, 11].

Data mining is a process of analyzing the raw information from a large information database and turning it into useful information where meaningful patterns and trends of the data emerge [12]. Data mining has been potentially useful in various areas of healthcare [13, 14]. Today, the healthcare industry produces copious data about patients, clinical symptoms, disease detection techniques, etc. Extracting healthcare data could be very useful to perform medicinal evaluations to diagnose or cure disease. Particularly data mining has gained momentum in identifying the risk of cardio-vascular diseases [15, 16], lung diseases [17], cancer [18], diabetes [19], etc.

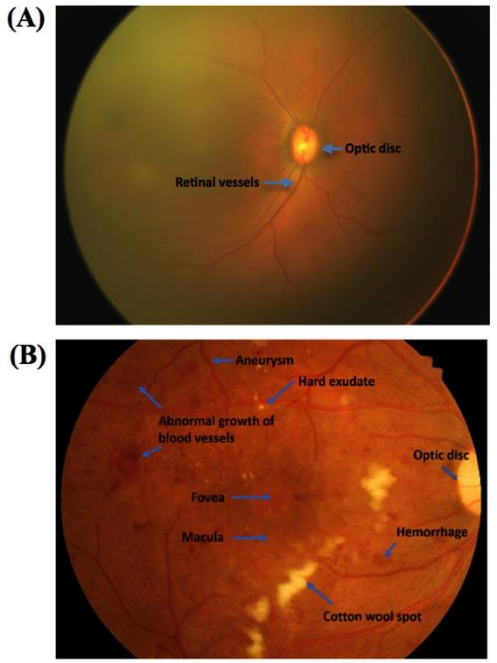

Figure 1
Comparison of the retinal images from (A) normal and (B) with the lesion of NPDR

In the present study, we focused on evaluation of the DR dataset by using various data mining classification techniques. This strategy enabled us to determine the prediction accuracy of the DR. We further evaluated the performance of the classifier models by calculating the sensitivity and specificity of these models. Our results showed that the Naïve Bayes classifier was the most efficient classification model compared to the others and also addressed the significant contribution of attributes in the diagnosis of DR.

This paper has been organized as follows. Dataset used to test different classifiers were introduced in Section 2. Test results and discussions were presented in Section 3. The conclusions and future work were given in Section 4.

2 Detailed Attributes of Dataset

In the present study, we tested the Diabetic Retinopathy Debrecen (DRD) dataset accessible from UCI Machine Learning Repository [20]. The dataset comprised of the attribute features extracted from Messidor images. In light of this dataset, we anticipated whether the image has indications of having DR or no DR. Based on Hidden Markov Random fields (HMRF) [21] the quality of the images in the dataset was assessed. The retinal images were characterized during the initial pre-screening step and all the attributes features were extracted [22]. This information was accessible from the dataset and we performed analysis on this dataset. But the problem is that there is no report, on which those attributes, that are critical for the annotation of patients with DR are available. The detailed features and attributes in the dataset and image description are given in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

Table 1
Details of the featured indices of the dataset

Dataset characteristics	
Number of instances	1151
Attribute characteristics	Integer, Float
Number of attributes	20
Associated tasks	Classification

Table 2
Dataset attributes and their descriptions

Attribute	Description
1	Binary result of quality assessment 0: bad 1: sufficient quality
2	Binary result of pre-screening 0: Lack of retinal abnormality 1: presence of retinal abnormality
3-8	Results of Micro aneurysm detection revealing the number of Micro aneurysms at varying confidence levels alpha =0.5 to 1
9-16	The exudates contained the same information as microaneurysms (3-8), where they are represented by a set of points instead of number of pixels constructing the lesions. These features were normalized by dividing the number of lesions with the diameter of the ROI to compensate different image sizes
17	Euclidean distance between the center of the macula and the center of the optic disc
18	Optic disk diameter
19	The binary result of AM/FM classification
20	Presence or absence of DR 1: Presence of DR (accumulation of 1,2,3 stages in Messidor) 0: Healthy

MAs were identified by preprocessing method and candidate extractor ensembles [23], while EXUs were detected by optimal combinations of ensemble-based system through voting system [24]. They did not mention among the candidate factors which MAs and EXUs were critical in determining DR. In this study, the dataset containing 1151 samples was cleaned by removing bad quality samples from the dataset. Furthermore, we also preprocessed for outliers using Python program by setting a threshold to 3. The final dataset contained 983 samples, which were later divided into 60% for training and 40% for prediction dataset. Figure 2 illustrates the framework of the methodology used.

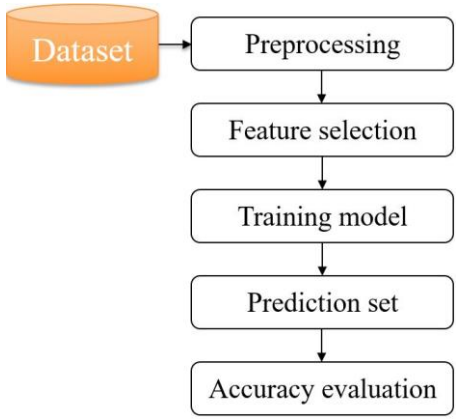

Figure 2
Framework for classification methodology

The performance of all these models was evaluated by calculating the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy based on the formulas given below:

$$Sensitivity = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \times 100\% \tag{1}$$

$$Specificity = \frac{TN}{FP + TN} \times 100\% \tag{2}$$

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + FP + TN + FN} \times 100\% \tag{3}$$

where TP: true positive; TN: true negative, FN: false negative, FP: false positive.

Additionally, we performed Area Under the Curve (AUC) and Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) curve to display the performance of the models. In AUC, the value always lies between 0 and 1 [25]. This is useful to visualize the classification problems to distinguish between the classes.

3 Results and Discussions

In this study, we analyzed a total of 983 samples from the dataset. This dataset included 51.3% of patients diagnosed with DR (indicated by 1), while the remaining 48.7% were not diagnosed with DR (indicated by 0). Attributes with higher variance were proposed to have valuable information [26]; therefore, we performed attribute scores (Table 3) and removed the low-scoring attributes which were almost zero, namely EC.DIST. and OPT.DIA.

The dataset was characterized by using various classifiers with a motivation to predict the occurrence of DR, derive the rules in diagnosis of DR and understand the importance of attributes in detection of the DR. Six classification models were evaluated for the disease prediction accuracy, which included K-NN, random forest, regression tree, SVM, logistic regression, and Naïve Bayes. All the experiments were carried out in XLSTAT.

Initially, the classification model was trained and the prediction results from the test dataset were analyzed by the classifier using the DR attributes, MAs and EXUs, etc. The prediction accuracy of each classifier model was evaluated based on the result that determines the presence or absence of the disease. Later, we evaluated all the classification models tested in the study, and compared the accuracy of each of the models in detection of DR. The attributes and their statistical representations are given in Table 3.

Table 3
Summary statistics (training/quantitative) of the dataset

Attribute	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. deviation	Score
MAœ=0.5	1.00	151.00	38.43	25.62	0.47
MAœ=0.6	1.00	132.00	36.91	24.11	2.91
MAœ=0.7	1.00	120.00	35.14	22.81	14.02
MAœ=0.8	1.00	105.00	32.30	21.11	38.75
MAœ=0.9	1.00	97.00	28.75	19.51	60.79
MAœ=1.0	1.00	89.00	21.15	15.10	66.31
EXU1	0.35	403.90	64.10	58.49	4.60
EXU2	0.00	167.10	23.09	21.60	29.69
EXU3	0.00	106.10	8.71	11.57	18.88
EXU4	0.00	59.77	1.84	3.92	1.03
EXU5	0.00	51.42	0.56	2.48	37.38
EXU6	0.00	20.10	0.21	1.06	23.40
EXU7	0.00	5.94	0.09	0.40	16.46
EXU8	0.00	3.09	0.04	0.18	7.36
EC. DIST.	0.37	0.59	0.52	0.03	0.00
OPT.DIA.	0.06	0.22	0.11	0.02	0.00
AM/FM	0.00	1.00	0.34	0.47	0.13

In K-NN classification, the class of the query is obtained based on the nearest neighbors to that of the example query. K-NN searches the pattern to the closest data and then assigns to data that is unknown [27]. In this classification, we used Euclidean distance as a criterion along with 10-fold cross validation to predict the class label from the prediction dataset. With K-NN classification system, 71.25% of accuracy was achieved from the prediction dataset as shown in Table 4. The results based on prediction class showed 205 samples without DR, while 188 samples showed the occurrence of DR. The results were given in Table 5, where the first 10 predicted results in each class were shown as representation for all the test cases from the dataset. Here, the terminology PredObs indicates with the sample number from the prediction dataset. For example, PredObs1 means that the 1st out of 393 patients was predicted to be no DR. Similarly, PredObs7 indicates that the 7th patient was predicted to have DR. In K-NN, we obtained AUC value of 0.707 (Figure 3).

Table 4

K-NN based classification

Confusion matrix (prediction dataset)				
from \ to	0	1	Total	%
0	146	54	200	73.00
1	59	134	193	69.43
Total	205	188	393	71.25

Table 5

K-NN prediction results by class

Class	0	1
Objects	205	188
	PredObs1	PredObs7
	PredObs2	PredObs10
	PredObs3	PredObs11
	PredObs4	PredObs14
	PredObs5	PredObs16
	PredObs6	PredObs17
	PredObs8	PredObs19
	PredObs9	PredObs28
	PredObs12	PredObs30
	PredObs13	PredObs32

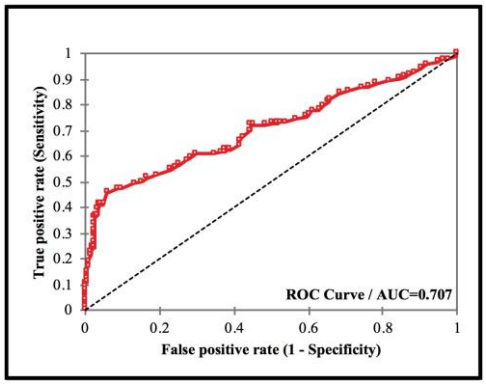

Figure 3
ROC for K-NN model

The next classification system we tested was random forest. In this type of classification, many small decision-trees are merged into a forest that displays the classification table of well-classified observations. Usually this classifier is fast and robust to noise and has better explanation and visualization of its output [28]. This classifier does eliminate the possibility of overfitting the data. Importantly, random forest classifier in our study has identified the most important attributes from the training dataset. Here, we used bagging approach to obtain more accurate results. We observed MAs and EXUs were two critical attributes in detecting DR. Among all the MAs, MA0.5 was seen as a critical attribute. In the case of EXUs, EXU7 was critical followed by EXU1 (Figure 4). In this classification model an accuracy of 72.71% (Table 6) was achieved in the training set and 71.76% with the prediction set. Here, we obtained AUC value of 0.715 (Figure 5).

Table 6
Accuracy as determined by using random forest classifier

Confusion matrix –Training set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	210	88	298	70.47
1	73	219	292	75.00
Total	283	307	590	72.71
Confusion matrix –Prediction set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	147	49	196	75.00
1	62	135	197	68.53
Total	209	184	393	71.76

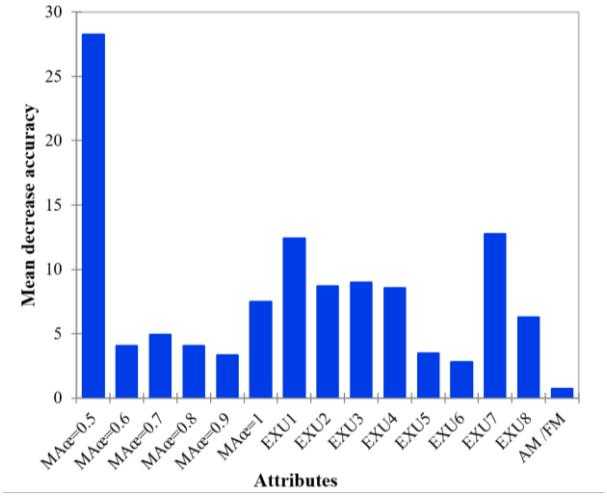

Figure 4
Significance of attributes classified by random forest classifier

We also tested the classification by the regression tree method. This classifier uses the trained dataset and generates itself correctly in order to generate a decision tree. Such decision trees are quite easy to understand and analyze. In this model the decisions are predicted by following the decisions from the root node and to the leaf node. The response of occurrence of the DR is present in the leaf node. Depending on the working process of learning, any new input data would be classified in generation of decision tree [29].

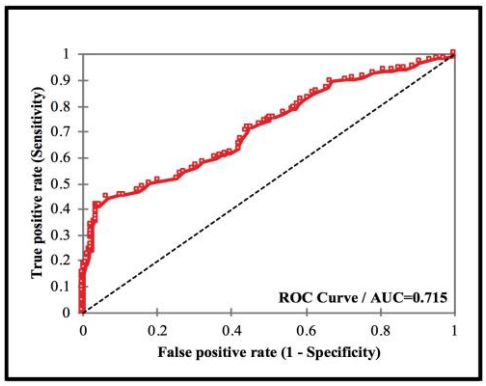

Figure 5
ROC for random forest model

This classification system also generated the rules with the critical attribute relating to the possibility of occurrence of DR (Table 7). The rules predict the number of cases with and without DR, based on the individual attributes and also

the combination of different attributes. These rules show 80% of the cases were without DR when the attribute EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and 10% of the case were with DR when the EXU7 ≥ 0.136501. 27.1% of the cases are with no DR when the EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAα=0.5 ≤ 18. 7.8% of the cases are no DR when the EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and the value of MAα=0.5 ≤ 18. 17.5% of the cases are with DR when the value of the EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and the value of the MAα=0.5 is between 18 and 38. 14.7% of the cases are with DR when the value of EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAα=0.5 is between 46 and 61, etc. (Table 8). Moreover, this system also evaluates the most possible prediction using the combination of the attributes. This process involves several dimensions including splitting criterion, stopping rules, branch condition, etc. In this study, an accuracy of 72.71% on training dataset and 72.77% on the prediction dataset was achieved (Table 8) in classifying the occurrence/non-occurrence of DR. By this model AUC of 0.749 was obtained (Figure 6).

Table 7

Rules of the attributes generated by regression tree classifier in diagnosis of DR

DR (Pred)	Rules
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 80% of cases
1	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 10% of cases
1	If EXU7 > 0.136501 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 10% of cases
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 ≤ 18 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 27.1% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (18, 38] then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 17.5% of cases
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (38, 46] then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 7.8% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (46, 61] then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 14.7% of cases
1	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 ≤ 9.74204 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 6.3% of cases
0	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 (9.74204, 19.4151] then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 2.0% of cases
1	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 > 19.4151 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 1.7% of cases
0	If EXU7 > 0.136501 and EXU5 ≤ 0.275714 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 0.3% of cases
1	If EXU7 > 0.136501 and EXU5 > 0.275714 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 9.7% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (18, 38] and MAœ=0.7 MAœ=0.8 ≤ 16 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 1.2% of cases
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (18, 38] and MAœ=0.7 MAœ=0.8 > 16 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 16.3% of cases

1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (38, 46] and MAœ=0.9 ≤ 35 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 2.7% of cases
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (38, 46] and MAœ=0.9 > 35 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 5.1% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (46, 61] and EXU4 ≤ 0.747636 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 8.8% of cases
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 (46, 61] and EXU4 > 0.747636 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 5.9% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 > 61 and EXU1 ≤ 34.5626 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 7.6% of cases
0	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 > 61 and EXU1 (34.5626, 66.7516] then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 4.6% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 > 61 and EXU1 > 66.7516 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 0.7% of cases
1	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 ≤ 9.74204 and MAœ=0.9 ≤ 41 then CLASS LABLE = 1 in 3.4% of cases
0	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 ≤ 9.74204 and MAœ=0.9 (41, 45] then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 0.7% of cases
1	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 ≤ 9.74204 and MAœ=0.9 > 45 then CLASS LABLE = 1 in 2.2% of cases
0	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 (9.74204, 19.4151] and OPTDIA ≤ 0.089971 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 0.5% of cases
1	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 (9.74204, 19.4151] and OPTDIA (0.089971, 0.100454] then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 0.3% of cases
0	If EXU7 (0.01029, 0.136501] and EXU3 (9.74204, 19.4151] and OPTDIA > 0.100454 then CLASS LABEL = 0 in 1.2% of cases
1	If EXU7 ≤ 0.01029 and MAœ=0.5 > 61 then CLASS LABEL = 1 in 12.9% of cases

Table 8

Classification of dataset based on regression tree

Confusion matrix –Training set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	241	38	279	86.38
1	123	188	311	60.45
Total	364	226	590	72.71
Confusion matrix –Prediction set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	159	66	225	70.67
1	41	127	168	75.60
Total	200	193	393	72.77

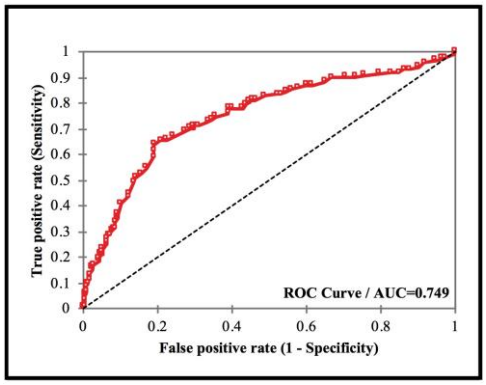

Figure 6
ROC for regression tree model

Next, we performed SVM classification, which is a supervised learning method and belongs to family of linear classification. It is one of the powerful methods in classification where a decision boundary is created through which the class labels are predicted from the feature vectors. SVM is good at recognizing patterns in complex datasets. However, there is no particular "best" kernel to recognize the patterns. The only way to select the best kernel is by trial and error [30]. We used linear Kernel and preprocessed by rescaling. We performed data validation using 150 samples for better fitting of the model since the model resulted in over-fitting. In this model, we obtained the accuracy of 74.32% on training set, 70.23% on prediction set (Table 9) and 64.67% on validation set. Performance metrics from this classifier indicated the sensitivity (recall) and specificity (Table 10). AUC was 0.809 with SVM model (Figure 7).

Table 9
Classification of dataset based on SVM

Confusion matrix –Training set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	201	27	228	88.16
1	86	126	212	59.43
Total	287	153	440	74.32
Confusion matrix –Validation set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	55	7	62	88.71
1	46	42	88	47.73
Total	101	49	150	64.67
Confusion matrix –Prediction set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	170	19	189	89.95

1	98	106	204	51.96
Total	268	125	393	70.23

Table 10
Performance metrics (Class label of DR 0 / 1)

Statistic	Training set (%)	Validation set (%)
Accuracy	0.743	0.647
Precision	0.700	0.545
Recall	0.882	0.887
F-score	0.781	0.675
Specificity	0.286	0.280
FPR	0.714	0.720
Prevalence	0.457	0.367
NER	0.518	0.413

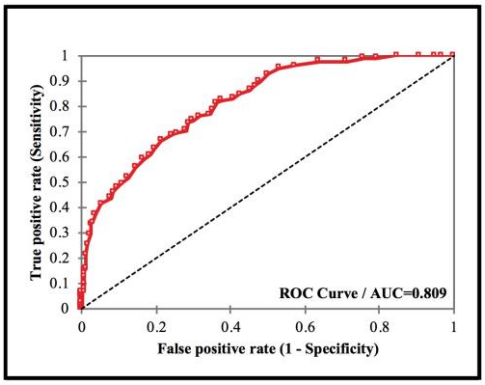

Figure 7
ROC for support vector machine

Logistic regression, a machine learning algorithm and a kind of linear regression classification model, for predictive analysis based on probability that depends on the linear measurement of the samples. It is the most commonly used statistical classification when the dependent variable is dichotomous, i.e., either positive or negative. This regression model inspects the bond between the independent and dependent variables of binary outcome and is extensively used in applications like medical and biomedical research, to predict the outcome. The logistic regression equation was used to estimate the possibility of specified consequence [31]. In the present study, we found that the logistic regression showed an accuracy of 74.41% for training set and 73.28% for the prediction set (Table 11). Here, we obtained AUC value of 0.764 (Figure 8), signifying 76.4% of the chance this model can distinguish correctly between those with or without DR. Our results show a higher AUC representing good performance of the model.

Table 11
Accuracy from logistic regression classification

Confusion matrix –Training set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	234	49	283	82.69
1	102	205	307	66.78
Total	336	254	590	74.41
Confusion matrix –Prediction set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	164	32	196	83.67
1	73	124	197	62.94
Total	237	156	393	73.28

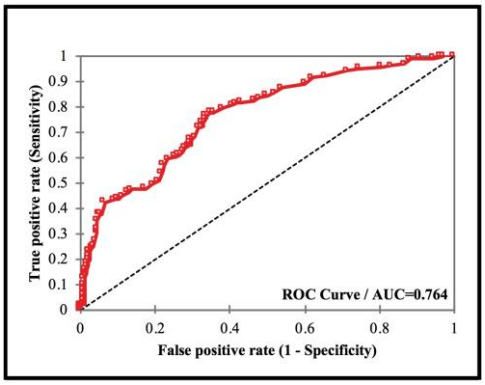

Figure 8
ROC for logistic regression model

Finally, we examined Naïve Bayes classification model for analyzing the dataset. Naïve Bayes is a supervised machine learning algorithm that classifies the observations based on the instructions set by the algorithm itself. Naïve Bayes is one of the efficient and effective classifier that works on the principle of Bayes theorem. Naïve Bayes has proven to be robust and simple probabilistic and was known for its best performance in the classification of medical data [32]. Compared to other classifiers this classification was found to be more effective computationally, where a small training dataset is sufficient enough for more accurate prediction of disease [33]. It was also reported to diagnose the disease just like a physician, considering the available attributes for the prediction analysis [34]. In this classification, the system was initially trained with the set of inputs from the training dataset that were further refined and classified for the prediction dataset. Here, we used 10-fold cross validation to predict the classes from the prediction dataset. Therefore, in the present study, 590 cases were considered as training dataset (Table 12) and the remaining cases were taken as test dataset.

Based on this classification system, the class label results predicted 212 cases without DR, while 181 cases were with DR. The first 10 predicted results in each class were shown as representation for all the test cases from the dataset (Table 13). In this study, Naïve Bayes method showed 83.56% of accuracy on training set and 80.15% of accuracy on prediction set in determining the occurrence of DR. Here, we obtained AUC value of 0.816 (Figure 9). When comparing the results shown in Table 13 to Table 5, we found some inconsistencies from the classifications. For example, PredObs1 and PredObs3 were classified to Class 0 by K-NN but were group to Class 1 by Naïve Bayes classifier. By contrast, PredObs2 was classified to Class 0 by both classifiers.

Table 12

Naïve Bayes classification on training set

Confusion matrix –Training set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	257	22	279	92.11
1	75	236	311	75.88
Total	332	258	590	83.56
Confusion matrix – Prediction set				
From \ to	0	1	Total	Accuracy (%)
0	167	33	200	83.50
1	45	148	193	76.68
Total	212	181	393	80.15

Table 13

Prediction accuracy from Naïve Bayes classification on test dataset

Class	0	1
Objects	212	181
	PredObs2	PredObs1
	PredObs4	PredObs3
	PredObs5	PredObs9
	PredObs6	PredObs10
	PredObs7	PredObs11
	PredObs8	PredObs13
	PredObs12	PredObs14
	PredObs15	PredObs18
	PredObs16	PredObs25
	PredObs17	PredObs28

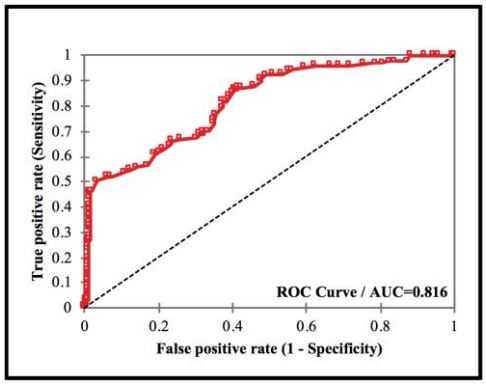

Figure 9
ROC for Naïve Bayes model

Among all the six classifiers that were studied thoroughly in the current study, our results suggested that the Naïve Bayes model of classification displayed the best accuracy followed by logistic regression model (Table 14).

Table 14
Accuracy achieved by different classification models

No.	Classification model	Accuracy (%)
1	K-NN	71.25
2	Random forest	71.76
3	Regression tree	72.77
4	SVM	70.23
5	Logistic regression	73.28
6	Naïve Bayes	80.15

Conclusions

Diabetic retinopathy is the main cause of blindness for patients suffering from diabetes mellitus. In spite of the fact that early identification of retinal images for the disease symptoms have been proposed and could prevent or delay its occurrence, the approach falls short, due to the limited availability of human expertise and lack of infrastructure to detect DR manually. Nevertheless, data mining serves as an essential tool to carry out classification and diagnose the disease. In the present study, we assessed the Messidor DR dataset, employed various classification models and evaluated their prediction accuracy in diagnosis of DR. We determined the significant role of attributes individually and in combination with other attributes crucial in the development of DR. Naïve Bayes performed best, among the six classifiers, in terms of accuracy and performance in evaluation.

In the future, we aim to develop deep learning algorithms to automatically pre-screen images for the diagnosis of DR.

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