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A Comparative Study of Deep Convolutional Neural Network Models for Pneumonia Classification in Chest X-ray Images

Presented by:

- **Mr. Mohammed Lamine Behmene**
- **Mr. El hadj Ali Bougoffa**
- **Mr. Abdeldjabar Benttoati**

In front of the jury:

- **Pr. Fella CHERIF**	**Chairman**
- **Pr. Djamel SAMAI**	**Supervisor**
- **Dr. Farid KADRI**	**Examiner**

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To My Family

With great pleasure and a heart full of joy, I dedicate this work to my dear father and my lost mother Khadidja BOUMAKEL and my lost grand farher Djellole BEHMENE. You gave me life, love, and the courage to succeed in my studies. All I can give you cannot express my gratitude. In this testimony, I offer you my sincere thanks for your sacrifices and the passion with which you have always surrounded me.

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الملخص

يُعد الالتهاب الرئوي (Pneumonia) من الأمراض التنفسية الخطيرة التي لا تزال من بين الأسباب الرئيسية للأمراض والوفيات في جميع أنحاء العالم. ويُعتبر التشخيص المبكر والدقيق عاملاً أساسياً لتحسين فعالية العلاج ورفع فرص تعافي المرضى. في السنوات الأخيرة، أظهرت التطورات المتسارعة في مجال الذكاء الاصطناعي والتعلم العميق إمكانات كبيرة في مساعدة أطباء الأشعة من خلال التحليل الآلي للصور الطبية. تقدم هذه المذكرة دراسة مقارنة لثلاثة نماذج متقدمة من الشبكات العصبية الالتفافية (CNN)، وهي ResNet50 وDenseNet121 وEfficientNet-B0، بهدف تصنيف حالات الالتهاب الرئوي اعتماداً على صور الأشعة السينية للصدر. أظهرت النتائج التجريبية أن نموذج EfficientNet-B0 حقق أفضل أداء عام بدقة بلغت 96 %، متفوقاً على نموذجي ResNet50 وDenseNet121 اللذين حققا دقتين قدرهما 93 % و95 % على التوالي. وتؤكد هذه النتائج فعالية نماذج التعلم العميق المعتمدة على التعلم بالنقل (Transfer Learning) في الكشف الآلي عن الالتهاب الرئوي، كما تبرز ملاءمة نموذج EfficientNet-B0 كأداة موثوقة للتشخيص بمساعدة الحاسوب (CAD) لتحليل صور الأشعة السينية للصدر.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تصنيف الالتهاب الرئوي، صور الأشعة السينية للصدر، التعلم العميق، الشبكات العصبية الالتفافية، التعلم بالنقل، EfficientNet-B0، التشخيص بمساعدة الحاسوب.

Abstract

Pneumonia is a serious respiratory disease that remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Early and accurate diagnosis is essential for effective treatment and improved patient outcomes. In recent years, advances in Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning have demonstrated significant potential to assist radiologists through the automated analysis of medical images. This thesis presents a comparative study of three state-of-the-art Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architectures, namely ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0, for pneumonia classification using chest X-ray images. Experimental results demonstrate that EfficientNet-B0 achieved the best overall performance with an accuracy of 96 %, outperforming ResNet50 and DenseNet121, which obtained accuracies of 93 % and 95 %, respectively. The obtained results confirm the effectiveness of deep transfer learning models for automated pneumonia detection and highlight the suitability of EfficientNet-B0 as a reliable Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) tool for chest X-ray analysis.

Keywords: Pneumonia Classification, Chest X-ray Images, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, Transfer Learning, EfficientNet-B0, Computer-Aided Diagnosis.

Résumé

La pneumonie est une maladie respiratoire grave qui demeure l'une des principales causes de morbidité et de mortalité dans le monde. Un diagnostic précoce et précis est essentiel pour assurer un traitement efficace et améliorer les résultats cliniques des patients. Ces dernières années, les avancées de l'intelligence artificielle et de l'apprentissage profond ont démontré un potentiel considérable pour assister les radiologues grâce à l'analyse automatisée d'images médicales. Ce mémoire présente une étude comparative de trois architectures avancées de réseaux de neurones convolutifs (CNN), à savoir ResNet50, DenseNet121 et EfficientNet-B0, pour la classification de la pneumonie à partir d'images radiographiques thoraciques. Les résultats expérimentaux montrent qu'EfficientNet-B0 a obtenu les meilleures performances, avec une précision de 96 %, surpassant ResNet50 et DenseNet121, qui ont atteint respectivement 93 % et 95 %. Ces résultats confirment l'efficacité des modèles d'apprentissage profond basés sur le transfert d'apprentissage (Transfer Learning) pour la détection automatique de la pneumonie et soulignent la pertinence d'EfficientNet-B0 en tant qu'outil fiable de diagnostic assisté par ordinateur (CAD) pour l'analyse des radiographies pulmonaires.

Mots-clés : Classification de la pneumonie, Radiographie thoracique, Apprentissage profond, Réseaux de neurones convolutifs, Transfert d'apprentissage, EfficientNet-B0, Diagnostic assisté par ordinateur.

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General Introduction

Medical imaging has become an indispensable diagnostic tool for most diseases, including respiratory infections. Information derived from medical images plays a pivotal role in clinical decision-making across various stages of patient care, including detection, characterization, and follow-up. Despite significant advancements in medical imaging technologies, the analysis and interpretation of these images remain a major challenge for radiologists. Any diagnostic error can lead to incorrect treatments, potentially endangering patients' lives. Due to increasing workload and variability in clinicians' expertise, there is a pressing need for reliable decision-support tools to enhance diagnostic accuracy.

Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) systems, powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), have emerged as transformative solutions in pulmonary medicine. These systems help analyze complex medical data, reduce diagnostic variability, and improve patient outcomes. Pneumonia, a severe form of acute respiratory infection that affects the lungs, poses unique diagnostic challenges due to its varied manifestations on chest X-ray (CXR) images. Differentiating between viral and bacterial pneumonia is a critical task that requires precise identification to optimize treatment planning. Traditional diagnostic methods, often reliant on manual histopathological or sputum analysis, can be subjective and time-consuming.

This dissertation addresses these challenges by proposing an Adaptive Deep Learning framework for automated pneumonia classification. Our approach integrates state-of-the-art Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to enhance feature extraction and classification accuracy. Specifically, we:

1. **Develop a Transfer Learning-based pipeline:** Leveraging pre-trained models on massive datasets to capture discriminative spatial features in grayscale Chest X-ray images.
2. **Evaluate Multiple Deep Architectures:** Investigating and benchmarking the performance of, ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0 to achieve high diagnostic precision.

3. **Validate the framework:** Test and validate the proposed system on an independent test partition to ensure clinical applicability and robust evaluation metrics.

This work is organized into three chapters: Chapter 1 provides an overview of pneumonia pathology, clinical diagnostic protocols, and the role of AI in medical imaging. Chapter 2 details our proposed methodology, including Deep Transfer Learning principles, CNN architectures, and data augmentation techniques. Chapter 3 presents experimental results, comparative analysis, and performance validation using various evaluation metrics.

Chapter I: Pneumonia Recognition and Diagnostics

I.1. Introduction

Pneumonia is a complex respiratory infection that originates in the lungs, a critical component of the human respiratory system. Due to its infectious nature and the similarity of its early symptoms to those of other lung conditions, timely recognition and accurate diagnosis are vital. In this chapter, we explore the pathophysiology of pneumonia, its various viral and bacterial types, and the revolutionary changes occurring in medical diagnosis. With advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD), early detection is becoming more efficient, reducing complications and improving patient recovery rates [2].

I.2. Understanding Lung Pathologies

Pneumonia is an acute respiratory infection that targets the pulmonary parenchyma. To fully grasp its impact, it is essential to explore its fundamental nature, classifications, and clinical progression. The following sections delve into the anatomy of the lower respiratory tract, the distinct mechanisms of the disease, and the evolving landscape of its treatment and research. This foundational knowledge will provide clarity on the disease's mechanisms and current medical advancements.

I.2.1. Respiratory System Anatomy (Lower Tract)

The lower respiratory system plays a crucial role in the body's gas exchange process. It helps maintain life by transporting oxygen into the bloodstream and removing carbon dioxide. The lungs are the primary organs involved, protected by the thoracic cage and consisting of a complex network of bronchi, bronchioles, and alveoli. Lymphocytes and macrophages in lung tissue act as the body's first line of defense against inhaled pathogens. When an infection bypasses these defenses, it can pose a serious threat to the entire body by attacking the alveoli, where oxygenation occurs [1].

The lower tract is responsible for managing the airflow and ensuring that the air reaching the alveoli is filtered. Pneumonia occurs when these tiny air sacs grow inflamed and fill with fluid or pus, making breathing painful and limiting oxygen intake [1].

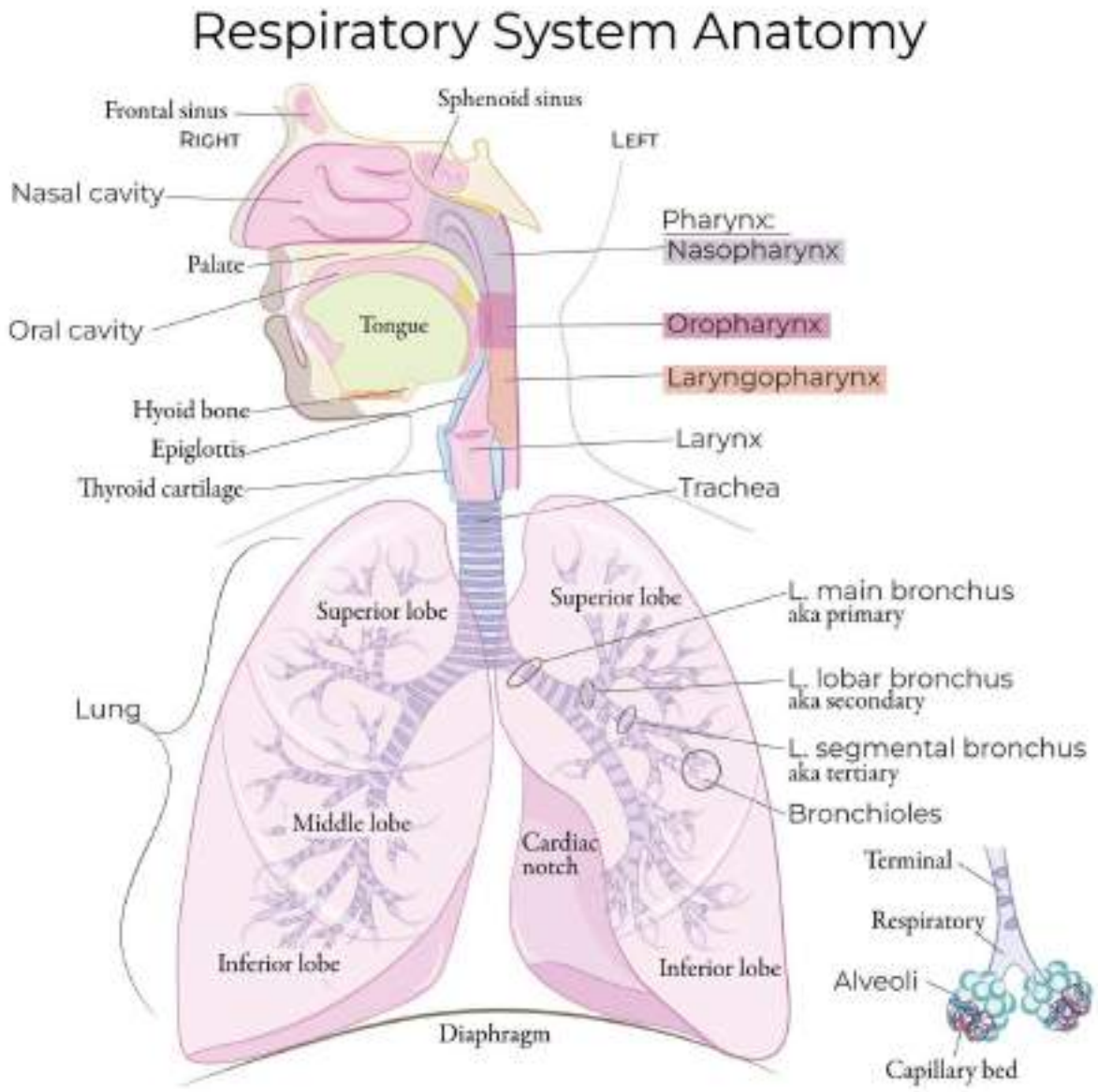


Figure 1.1: Anatomy of the human respiratory system [1].

I.2.2. Pathophysiology of Pneumonia (Bacterial vs. Viral)

There are primarily two main types of pneumonia classified based on the causative agent and their clinical behavior [3]:

✓ **Bacterial Pneumonia:**

- A type of infection often caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae
- Typically characterized by high fever, productive cough with thick mucus, and rapid onset.
- Common in adults and can affect individuals with weakened immune systems.
- Symptoms: Chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, and localized lung consolidation.
- Diagnosis: Chest X-rays often show "lobar" consolidation, in which a specific section of the lung appears opaque.

✓ **Viral Pneumonia:**

- An infection caused by viruses such as influenza or RSV.
- Usually presents with a dry cough, headache, and muscle pain.
- Can be less severe initially but may lead to secondary bacterial infections.
- Symptoms: Fever, dry cough, weakness, and diffuse lung involvement.
- Diagnosis: Medical exams and imaging (CXR) often show "interstitial" patterns, appearing as more scattered, wispy shadows compared to the more diffuse shadows of bacterial types.



Figure 1.2: Comparative chest X-ray patterns of normal, bacterial, and pneumonia cases [3].

I.2.3. Global Impact and the Need for Automated Screening

Pneumonia remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, especially among children under five and the elderly. The global impact of this disease is profound, with millions of cases reported annually, placing a heavy burden on healthcare systems [3]. The challenge is particularly acute in resource-constrained environments where access to expert radiologists is limited. This scarcity of professional expertise leads to diagnostic delays and increases the risk of complications. Therefore, there is a critical need for automated screening tools that can provide rapid, consistent, and accurate preliminary assessments. By leveraging Artificial Intelligence, medical facilities can optimize their workflow, ensuring that high-priority cases are identified and treated promptly [2].

I.3. Clinical Diagnosis Protocols

The diagnosis of pneumonia involves a multi-step clinical approach designed to confirm the presence of infection and determine its severity. Standard protocols ensure that clinicians can differentiate pneumonia from other respiratory ailments through a combination of physical assessment and clinical testing.

I.3.1. Physical Examination and Symptomatology

A Medical Examination, also known as a Physical Examination, is a routine procedure that assesses a person's respiratory health and notes any clinical signs of infection. During the physical exam, the healthcare provider looks for specific abnormalities that could indicate pneumonia, such as increased respiratory rate or the use of accessory muscles for breathing. Benefits of a Physical Examination [1]:

- ✓ Early detection of respiratory distress and initiation of immediate supportive care.
- ✓ Increase the likelihood of detecting localized lung involvement during auscultation.
- ✓ Determine whether the patient exhibits systemic symptoms such as high fever or cyanosis.
- ✓ Evaluate the patient's heart rate and oxygen saturation levels.
- ✓ Ensure the patient maintains adequate hydration and stable vital signs.
- ✓ Develop a clinical baseline to monitor the effectiveness of subsequent treatments.

I.3.2. Laboratory and Sputum Culture Limitations

Laboratory tests, such as complete blood counts (CBCs) and sputum cultures, can help detect bacterial or viral pathogens. However, they have significant limitations in the context of rapid diagnosis:

- ✓ Time-consuming: Sputum cultures often take 24 to 48 hours to yield results, which is too slow for urgent cases.
- ✓ Invasiveness: Obtaining a high-quality sputum sample can be difficult, especially for children or the elderly.
- ✓ Sensitivity Issues: Laboratory tests may sometimes produce false negatives or fail to distinguish between colonization and active infection.
- ✓ Resource Intensive: These tests require specialized laboratory equipment and trained technicians, which may not be available in all clinical settings [3].

I.3.3. Imaging Examination (The Rationale for Chest X-ray)

Chest X-ray (CXR) imaging remains one of the most widely used diagnostic tools for detecting pulmonary diseases such as Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, COVID-19, and Lung Cancer. Compared to Computed Tomography (CT), Chest X-ray imaging is inexpensive, fast, and available in most hospitals and medical centers. In addition, it exposes patients to a lower radiation dose, making it suitable for routine clinical screening.

Despite these advantages, interpreting Chest X-ray images remains difficult because many lung diseases exhibit similar radiographic patterns. Subtle opacities, infiltrates, and consolidations may be challenging to identify manually, particularly under high clinical workloads. Therefore, integrating Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning techniques into Chest X-ray analysis has become an important research direction to improve diagnostic accuracy and reduce radiologist workload [2][3].

I.4. Diagnosis based AI

Recent advances in artificial intelligence have revolutionized pneumonia diagnosis, enabling more accurate and efficient detection methods. AI systems can analyze complex medical imaging data at unprecedented scales, helping clinicians make faster, more precise diagnostic decisions [2]. These technologies are particularly valuable in respiratory health due to the subtle radiographic features that distinguish pneumonia from other lung pathologies [3].

I.4.1. Branches of AI in Medical Imaging

Modern AI applications in pneumonia diagnosis primarily utilize specialized domains to interpret chest radiographs:

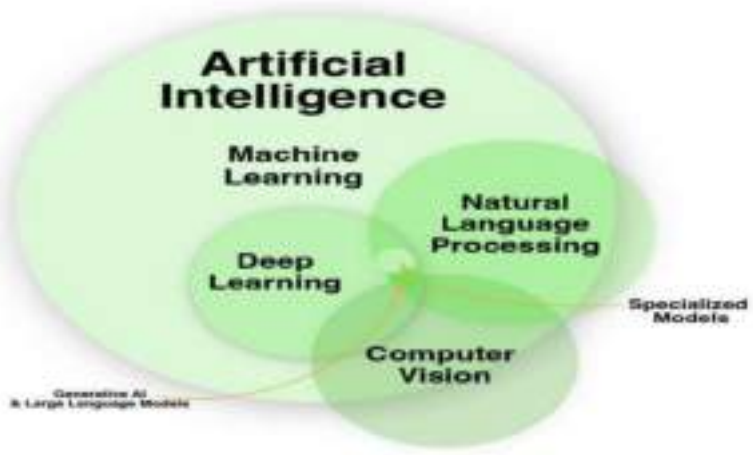


Figure 1.3: Branches of AI in Medical Imaging [3].

- ✓ Computer Vision (CV): This is the most critical branch for our study. Automated image analysis systems can quantify pulmonary opacities with precision that matches that of expert radiologists. These systems significantly reduce inter-observer variability identifying of pneumonia-related infiltrates [2].

- ✓ Machine Learning (ML): While traditional ML relied on manually extracted features, it laid the groundwork for pattern recognition in medical datasets. Early studies achieved significant accuracy in distinguishing normal from abnormal chest scans [3].
- ✓ Deep Learning (DL): As a subfield of ML, DL represents the core of our project. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) excel at analyzing X-ray imaging by automatically learning hierarchical features directly from the raw pixels, eliminating the need for manual intervention [4].

Table 1.1 Machine Learning VS Deep Learning [4].

Machine Learning	Deep Learning
Requires handcrafted feature extraction	Learns features automatically
Depends on expert knowledge	Learns directly from data
Lower classification performance	Higher diagnostic accuracy
Limited representation capability	Strong hierarchical feature learning

Several publicly available Chest X-ray datasets have been widely utilized in Deep Learning-based medical imaging research. Among the most popular datasets are ChestX-ray14, CheXpert, and the Kaggle Pneumonia Dataset.

ChestX-ray14 contains more than 112,000 radiographic images covering 14 thoracic diseases, while CheXpert includes over 224,000 chest radiographs collected from Stanford University hospitals. These large-scale datasets are commonly used for multi-label disease classification tasks.

In this study, the Kaggle Chest X-ray Pneumonia Dataset was selected because it provides a clear binary classification structure between Normal and Pneumonia classes. Furthermore, the dataset is well-organized, widely adopted in the literature, and suitable for evaluating transfer learning architectures for medical image analysis.

I.4.2. Evolution towards Deep Feature Learning

The shift from traditional machine learning to Deep Feature Learning marks a major milestone in medical CAD systems. In the past, engineers had to "hand-craft" features (like texture or edge detection), which often failed to capture the complexity of pneumonia. Deep Learning, however, utilizes multiple layers to capture discriminative patterns in X-rays. By employing Transfer Learning, we can leverage knowledge from massive datasets like ImageNet and fine-tune it for the specific task of identifying pneumonia, significantly reducing the required training time and data [5][10].

I.4.3. Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) Systems

Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) systems represent a transformative partnership between artificial intelligence and clinical expertise in pneumonia diagnosis. These sophisticated tools analyze medical images with remarkable precision, identifying subtle patterns that might escape human detection during lengthy diagnostic workflows. By processing large-scale datasets of historical chest X-rays, CAD provides quantitative assessments of lung consolidation, ensuring consistency across evaluations [2].

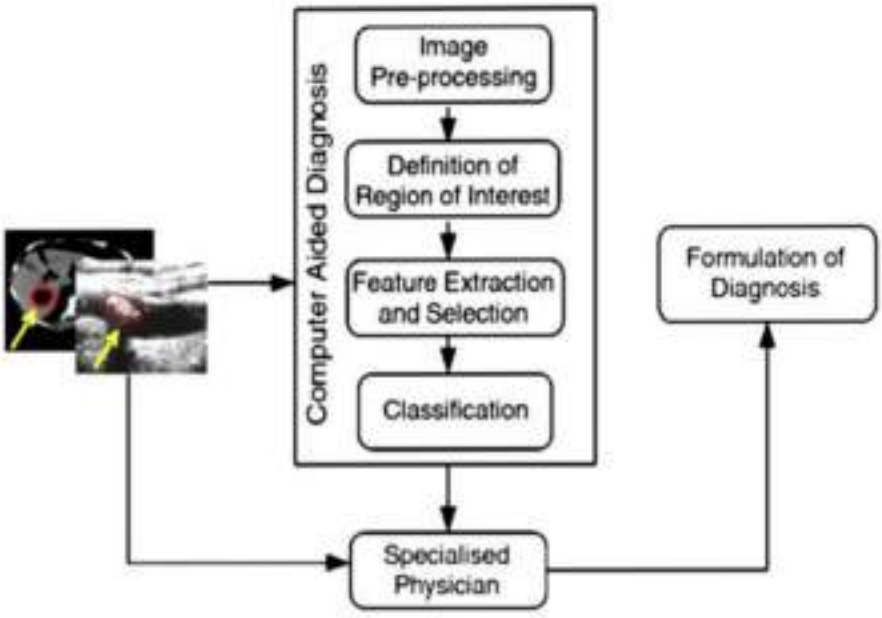


Figure 1.4: General Architecture of a Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) System and the Role of a Specialized Physician [3].

Clinical studies demonstrate CAD's particular value in emergency scenarios, such as distinguishing viral from bacterial pneumonia under pressure. The technology doesn't replace radiological judgment but rather enhances it, serving as a decision-support tool that reduces diagnostic latency by 30% to 40% while maintaining high accuracy [3].

I.5. Deep Learning CAD System Design

I.5.1. Training Phase: Learning from Datasets

During the training phase, the Deep Learning classifier is trained to learn hierarchical patterns and features from a large-scale labeled dataset, such as the Kaggle Chest X-ray dataset. This process involves feeding the CNN model a representative sample of pulmonary images, allowing it to iteratively adjust its internal weights and biases to minimize prediction errors. The selection of training data is critical, as the model's ability to generalize to unseen pneumonia cases depends heavily on the dataset's quality, diversity, and balanced distribution [4][10].

In the context of pneumonia classification, the training set consists of thousands of X-ray images, each annotated as "Normal" or "Pneumonia." The architecture must be sufficiently deep to capture complex pathological signatures while leveraging Transfer Learning to mitigate overfitting, especially when working with medical datasets that may have fewer samples than general computer vision tasks [5].

Beyond raw pixel data, the efficiency of the training phase is influenced by preprocessing steps. Operations such as normalization and data augmentation are applied to enhance the model's robustness and eventual diagnostic accuracy [10].

In computer-aided diagnosis systems, raw medical images acquired in clinical environments often exhibit significant variations in scale and resolution [3][10]. To guarantee absolute compatibility with deep neural architectures and accelerate learning convergence, a streamlined, deterministic pre-processing pipeline is implemented directly within the data input architecture [4][6]. This optimization bypasses complex traditional handcrafted pixel transformations and traditional filtering in favor of computational feature normalization:

1. **Spatial Image Resizing:** Raw chest radiographs inherently exhibit varied pixel dimensions [3]. To establish architectural uniformity, all images are spatially resampled using bilinear interpolation to a fixed input tensor resolution of 224×224 pixels. This geometric standard meets the spatial structural requirements of feature-extraction backbones, including ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0 [6][10].
2. **Intensity Value Rescaling:** To stabilize vector weight adjustments during backpropagation, raw 8-bit integer pixel intensities spanning [0, 255] are normalized to a uniform continuous floating-point distribution bounded within [0, 1] [4]. This is achieved through a localized normalization operation
3. **Pseudo-Channel Tensor Transformation:** Pretrained CNN backbones are structurally configured to process three-channel input shapes [6]. Since medical radiographs are fundamentally single-channel grayscale arrays, the normalized 2D matrix is replicated identically across three continuous structural channels. This architectural adaptation ensures seamless compatibility with the input tensor format (224, 224, 3) required by the network cores without introducing any artificial color transformations to the monochromatic clinical data [4][10].

❖ **Feature Extraction Methods**

- ✓ Traditional Methods: These involve manual creation of descriptors (hand-crafted) by specialists. While interpretable, they often fail to capture the full complexity of pneumonia [5].
- ✓ Deep Methods: This is the core of our methodology. Deep Learning architectures (CNNs) automatically learn hierarchical and abstract representations. Models like DenseNet121 act as automated feature extractors that adapt to the specific textures of pneumonia through parameter updates [4][10].

I.5.2 Classification Phase: End-to-End Automated Decision

The system processes the extracted deep descriptors through a classification head (typically a Dense layer with a Sigmoid activation) that assigns the X-ray to one of two diagnostic categories: Normal or Pneumonia.

❖ **Tasks of Classification**

From a computational perspective, the diagnostic automation developed in this framework is modeled as a strict, well-defined **Binary Classification Task** [3][4]. The mathematical framework maps high-dimensional features from chest radiographs into a discrete binary output space.

- **Class 0 (NORMAL):** Represents a structurally healthy respiratory status, showing clear lung fields and no signs of acute consolidation [3].
- **Class 1 (PNEUMONIA):** Represents a pathological respiratory status characterized by visible lung consolidations and increased radiodensity indicative of bacterial or viral infection [3][10].

While clinical datasets often exhibit structural differences between healthy controls and pathological cases, this distribution is stabilized by real-time stochastic augmentation during the training pipeline to maintain fairness [4]. The single-neuron classification head employs a Sigmoid activation function to optimize the decision margin, ensuring a clear, interpretable clinical screening output [6][10].

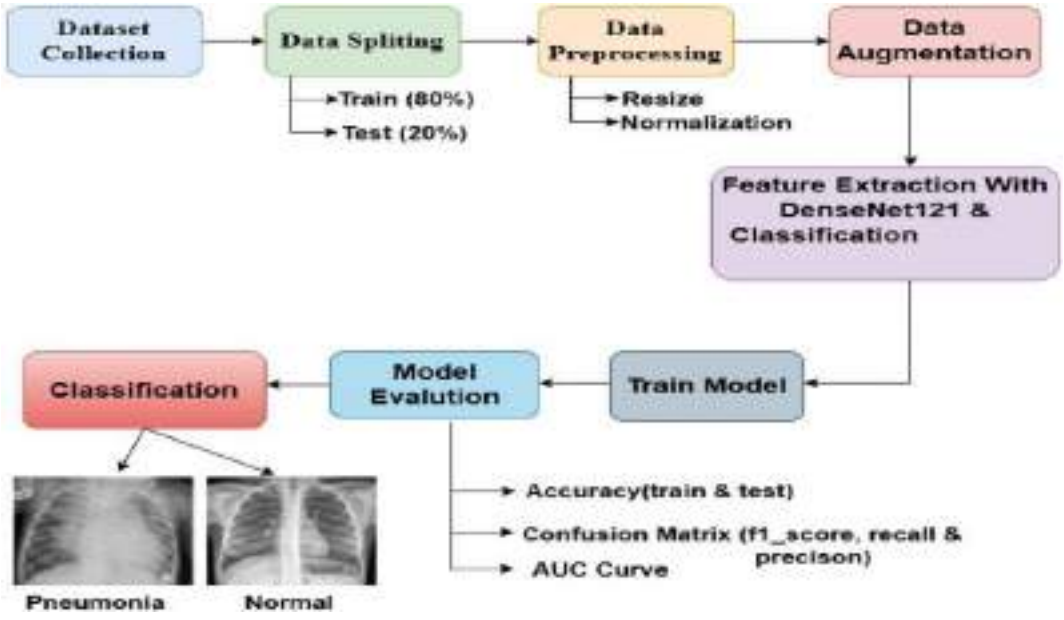


Figure 1.5: Workflow Architecture of a Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) System for Pneumonia Classification Using Deep Learning [3].

I.6. Conclusion

The diagnosis of pneumonia has advanced significantly from traditional clinical examinations to sophisticated Deep Learning technologies that improve both diagnostic accuracy and processing speed. While automated tools, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and CAD systems, assist with complex pattern detection and lung opacity analysis, they are designed to support, rather than replace, human clinical expertise. Challenges remain, including the ongoing need for diverse, large-scale datasets and robust human oversight. Future developments aim to further refine these Deep Learning models, blending autonomous feature extraction with physician judgment to enhance respiratory patient care globally [2][3].

Chapter II. Deep Transfer Learning and Methodology

II.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the theoretical foundation and the proposed methodology for our pneumonia classification system using Deep Transfer Learning. We transition from traditional image analysis to modern autonomous feature learning, where Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) serve as the primary engine for pattern recognition. We detail the foundational layers of CNNs and the specific architectures utilized in this study: ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0. By leveraging the Knowledge Transfer principle from the ImageNet database, we aim to build a robust diagnostic tool that identifies pneumonia patterns in Chest X-ray images with high precision and optimized computational efficiency.

II.2. Modern Feature Representation Theory

Modern computer vision has shifted towards learning representations directly from data. This section outlines the evolution from manual feature engineering to deep hierarchical learning.

II.2.1. Limitations of Traditional Hand-crafted Features

Before the dominance of Deep Learning, Computer-Aided Diagnosis (CAD) relied on "hand-crafted" features, in which specialists manually designed descriptors to capture textures or edges (e.g., LBP or LPQ). However, these methods face significant challenges in medical imaging:

1. Domain Expertise Dependency: They require deep knowledge to decide which features are relevant for pneumonia.
2. Fragility: Traditional features are highly sensitive to noise, lighting variations, and rotation in X-ray scans.
3. Limited Abstraction: They fail to capture the high-level, complex semantic relationships present in pathological lung consolidations [4][5].

II.2.2. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) Foundations

CNNs have redefined image analysis by automating feature extraction through a series of specialized layers. The core idea is to apply "filters" that slide across the image to detect local patterns.

❖ The Convolution Operation:

The primary building block of a CNN is the convolutional layer. Mathematically, for an input image I and a filter (kernel) K of size $m \times n$, the output feature map $S(I,j)$ is computed [4][10].

$$S(i,j) = \sum_m \sum_n I(i+m, j+n)K(m,n) \quad (2.1)$$

❖ Nonlinear Activation (ReLU):

To allow the network to learn complex non-linear patterns, an activation function is applied. The Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) is the standard choice. This ensures that only positive signals (relevant features) are passed to the next layers, speeding up the training process [4].

$$ReLU(X) = max(0, x) \quad (2.2)$$

❖ Pooling Layer:

Pooling reduces the spatial dimensions of feature maps, decreasing computational cost while preserving the most significant information.

$$P = max_{x \in R(X)} \quad (2.3)$$

❖ Fully Connected and Output Layers:

At the end of the architecture, the extracted 2D features are "flattened" into a 1D vector and passed through Dense layers. For binary classification (Normal vs. Pneumonia). A sigmoid function is commonly used to produce the final prediction.

$$\sigma(X) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}} \quad (2.4)$$

II.3. Proposed System: Deep Transfer Learning

The core of our proposed diagnostic framework relies on Deep Transfer Learning (DTL), a paradigm that has revolutionized medical imaging by allowing models to leverage prior knowledge from large-scale datasets [5]. Given the limited availability of annotated pneumonia X-ray images compared to general datasets, this approach is essential for achieving high generalization and precision without retraining from scratch [10].

Transfer Learning operates on the premise that features learned for a broad task can be effectively repurposed for a specialized target task [5]. In our system, the CNN architectures (ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0) are initialized with weights pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset, which contains over 1.4 million images [10].

The fundamental logic is that the initial layers of a CNN learn "low-level" features such as edges and textures [4]. These features are generic and remain highly relevant when analyzing Chest X-rays for pneumonia-induced consolidations [11]. By transferring these pre-learned weights, our model bypasses the erratic initial training phase, leading to faster convergence and mitigating the risk of overfitting on the specific pneumonia dataset [5][11].

II.4. Implementation Architecture

The practical deployment of our pneumonia detection system requires a structured pipeline that ensures data compatibility and model stability. This architecture transforms raw Chest X-ray images into a format suitable for deep convolutional layers, ensuring that the features extracted are both discriminative and generalizable [4].

II.4.1. Data Pre-processing (Normalization & Resizing)

- The first stage involves preparing the input data to meet the architectural constraints of the pre-trained CNNs. Since medical images are often acquired from different sources with varying dimensions, standardizing the input is a critical step [10].
- Resizing: Each X-ray image is resized to a fixed resolution (e.g., 224×224 or 299×299 pixels) to match the input requirements of architectures like ResNet50 [6][10].

- Normalization: Pixel intensities are scaled from their original range [0, 255] to a normalized interval [0, 1] or [-1, 1]. This process accelerates convergence of gradient descent by ensuring that the features have a similar distribution [4].

II.4.2. Data Augmentation

To improve the robustness of our Deep Learning model and prevent overfitting, we apply Data Augmentation [5]. This technique artificially expands the training dataset by generating modified versions of the existing X-ray images, forcing the CNN to learn invariant pathological patterns rather than memorizing specific image orientations [11].

The transformations applied include:

- Rotation & Shearing: Slight rotations (up to 20°) to simulate different patient positions during the X-ray procedure [10].
- Horizontal Flipping: Flipping images to double the dataset size while maintaining the biological structure of the chest [5].
- Zooming: Focusing on specific lung regions to enhance the model's sensitivity to localized pneumonia infiltrates [11].

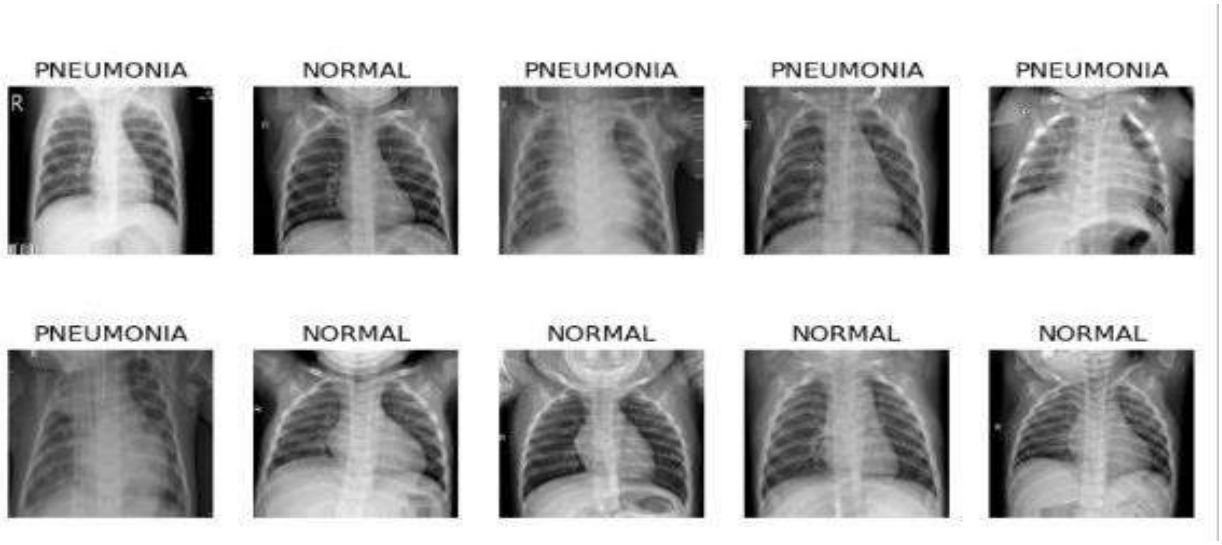


Figure 2.3: Data Augmentation [5].

II.4.3. Optimization and Loss Function (Adam, Cross-Entropy)

The final component of our architecture is the learning engine, which determines how the model updates its weights based on the classification error [4].

Binary Cross-Entropy (BCE) Loss: Since our task is binary classification (Normal vs. Pneumonia), we use BCE to measure the performance. The loss L is calculated as: [11]

$$L = -\big(y\ log(p) + (1-y) log(1-p)\big) \tag{2.5}$$

y: is the ground truth label

p: is the predicted probability

- ✓ Adam Optimizer: We utilize the Adam optimizer, which adaptively adjusts the learning rate for each parameter. It combines the advantages of AdaGrad and RMSProp, making it highly efficient for training deep CNNs on medical data [4].

II.5. Performance Evaluation Metrics

To objectively assess the diagnostic capabilities of our proposed Deep Learning framework, we utilize a set of standard quantitative metrics derived from the confusion matrix. These indicators are crucial for measuring how well the CNN architectures generalize to unseen Chest X-ray images and their ability to correctly distinguish between "Normal" and "Pneumonia" cases [10].

- **Accuracy:** This represents the overall ratio of correct predictions (both True Positives and True Negatives) to the total number of samples evaluated [10].

$$\text{accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN} \tag{2.6}$$

Where,

TP: true positives

TN: true negatives

FP: false positives

FN: false negatives

- **Precision:** Also known as the positive predictive value, it measures the accuracy of the "Pneumonia" predictions [11].

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} \tag{2.7}$$

- **Recall (Sensitivity):** In medical diagnostics, this is the most critical metric as it measures the model's ability to detect all actual pneumonia cases, thereby minimizing False Negatives (FN) [11]. It is calculated as:

$$\text{recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} \tag{2.8}$$

- **F1-Score:** This provides the harmonic mean of Precision and Recall, offering a balanced measure of the system's performance, especially if there is a class imbalance in the dataset [10].

$$\text{F1} = \frac{2*\text{Precision}*\text{Recall}}{\text{Precision}+\text{Recall}} \tag{2.9}$$

- **AUC-ROC Curve:** The Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve illustrates the trade-off between the true positive rate and the false positive rate across different decision thresholds [10][11].

II.6. Conclusion

This chapter established a robust methodological framework for pneumonia classification using state-of-the-art Deep Learning techniques. By integrating advanced CNN architectures such as ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0 with a Deep Transfer Learning strategy, we

address the common challenges of data scarcity and high computational requirements in medical imaging. The implementation pipeline—encompassing rigorous pre-processing, data augmentation, and optimization via the Adam algorithm—is designed to maximize feature discriminability while maintaining high efficiency. The combination of these deep learning components lays the essential groundwork for an accurate and adaptive diagnostic system, whose results will be validated experimentally in the following chapters to demonstrate the potential of computer-aided diagnosis in clinical environments.

Chapter III. Experimental Results and Comparative Analysis

III.1. Introduction

Deep learning techniques play an important role in medical image analysis by automatically extracting relevant features from chest X-ray images. In this study, three pre-trained convolutional neural network (CNN) models, namely ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNetB0, were evaluated using transfer learning for binary pneumonia classification. This chapter presents the experimental environment, dataset description, implementation details, and comparative performance results of the proposed system.

III.2. Experimental Environment

All experiments were conducted on Google Colab using a NVIDIA Tesla T4 GPU. The implementation environment used Python and the TensorFlow/Keras deep learning libraries.

All training and evaluation experiments in this study were conducted within a standardized computing environment utilizing a local workstation host coupled with remote cloud acceleration. The precise hardware and software specifications are configured as follows:

- GPU: NVIDIA Tesla T4
- Programming Language: Python 3
- Deep Learning Framework: TensorFlow and Keras
- Supporting Libraries: NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, and scikit-learn

III.3. Dataset and Imaging Characteristics

In this study, the Kaggle Chest X-ray Pneumonia Dataset was selected because it provides a clear binary classification structure between Normal and Pneumonia classes. Furthermore, the dataset is well organized, widely adopted in the literature, and suitable for evaluating transfer learning architectures in medical image analysis.

III.3.1. Dataset Rationale: Kaggle (Kermany et al.)

The baseline validation of our transfer learning models uses the prominent chest X-ray dataset compiled by Kermany et al., which is publicly available on Kaggle. This dataset was specifically selected to help identify clear structural differences between healthy pulmonary tissues and pneumonia chest X-ray patterns and consolidations using standard anterior-posterior radiographs. To guarantee high diagnostic fidelity, every digital X-ray image was included.

The dataset contains real chest X-ray images collected under various imaging conditions, thereby improving the robustness of the trained CNN models.

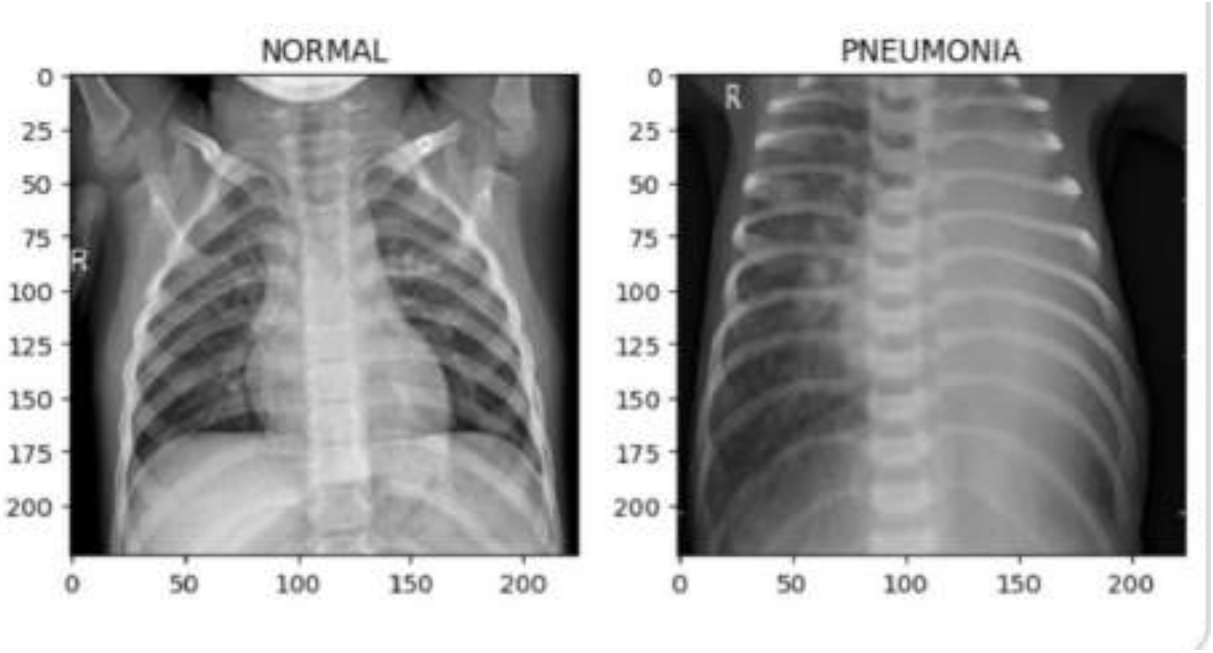


Figure 3.1. **Examples of the chest X-ray conditions contained in the dataset, respectively.**

III.3.2. Data Distribution

To prevent data leakage during the training cycles and ensure that the final evaluation metrics reflect genuine generalization capabilities, the image archive was partitioned into three strictly isolated subsets. Each split performs a concrete operational role within the convolutional pipeline. The training subset is directly accessed by the network layers to compute cross-entropy loss gradients and update internal filter weights, while the validation subset is monitored at the end

of each epoch to detect early signs of overfitting. Finally, the testing subset remains completely unseen throughout all optimization cycles, serving as a blind evaluation pool for computing the final performance indicators.

The dataset contains real-world cases organized into two target diagnostic classes, with the exact numerical image distribution structured as follows:

- Training set: 5216 images total, spanning 1341 Normal scans and 3875 Pneumonia cases.
- Validation set: 16 images total, balanced equally with 8 Normal scans and 8 Pneumonia cases.
- Testing set: 624 images total, consisting of 234 Normal scans and 390 Pneumonia cases.

The complete operational cohort used in our framework comprises 5856 digital radiographs.

Table 3.1 Dataset Distribution

Dataset Split	NORMAL	PNEUMONIA
Training Set	1341	3875
Validation Set	8	8
Test Set	234	390

III.4. Methodology Implementation

This section presents the implementation details of the proposed transfer learning system, including the software environment, training configuration, and hyperparameter settings used for the four CNN models.

III.4.1. Software Stack (Python, TensorFlow, Keras)

All model configuration, data preparation, and transfer learning training cycles were executed using a highly optimized open-source software environment setup. The complete technical implementation pipeline was orchestrated using the following software dependencies:

- Development Language: The system was implemented in Python 3 due to its rich ecosystem of libraries and efficient support for numerical computations.
- Deep Learning Framework: The models were developed using the Keras high-level API with a TensorFlow backend, enabling efficient model design, training, and deployment.
- Mathematical Operations: NumPy and Pandas were used for handling multidimensional data, performing numerical operations, and organizing evaluation results.
- Image Processing: Image preprocessing and augmentation were performed using Pillow and image data generators.

III.4.2. Hyperparameter Configuration for the Four Models

To establish a perfectly fair and scientifically balanced comparative environment, a unified hyperparameter training protocol was applied across all four deep convolutional neural network backbones. This baseline configuration ensures that any variation in diagnostic precision stems entirely from the unique architectural designs of ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0 rather than customized optimization bias.

The experimental parameters for the four deep transfer learning networks were configured under fixed execution rules:

- Optimization Engine: The Adam optimizer was chosen for all models to provide adaptive learning-rate adjustments based on running averages of recent gradient updates.
- Learning Rate Value: Meticulously locked at a small constant value of $\eta = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ to ensure careful weight updates in the newly added classification head without damaging the generic features already pre-trained on ImageNet.
- Loss Function Criteria: Utilizing Binary Cross-Entropy loss to perfectly match our two-class (Normal vs. Pneumonia) diagnostic classification boundary.
- Memory Management: The mini-batch size was set to 32 image samples per step to maximize parallel GPU VRAM efficiency.

- Training Bounds: The optimization loop was capped at 30 epochs, dynamically controlled by an early-stopping mechanism with a patience of 5 epochs to prevent unnecessary overfitting if the validation loss plateaus.

Table 3.2 Hyperparameter Configuration

Parameter	Value
Image Size	224 × 224
Batch Size	32
Epochs	30
Optimizer	Adam
Learning Rate	0.0001
Loss Function	Binary Crossentropy

Table 3.3 CNN Architectures Used in the Study

Model	Architecture Type	Main Characteristics
ResNet50	CNN	Residual skip connections
DenseNet121	CNN	Dense connectivity
EfficientNetB0	CNN	Efficient feature scaling

III.5. Classification Results (Performance Evaluation)

This section presents a comprehensive assessment of our proposed deep transfer learning system, evaluating its diagnostic performance boundaries and analyzing the evolutionary classification behaviors of the selected deep architectures. The empirical validation compares four distinct operational modes under standardized execution constraints to isolate the efficacy of feature extraction.

III.5.1. Comparative Performance Analysis of the Three Architectures

1. ResNet50

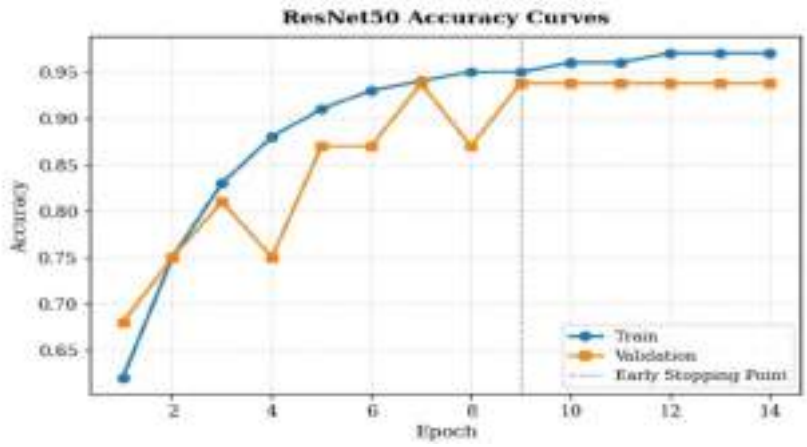


Figure 3.2: ResNet50 accuracy curves where the validation accuracy stabilizes effectively at 93% at the designated early stopping boundary.

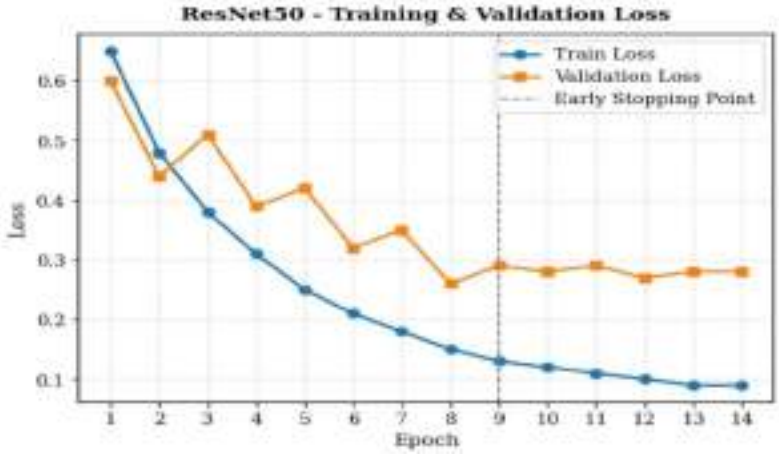


Figure 3.3: ResNet50 loss curves showing proper convergence, reaching a validation loss baseline of 0.29 at Epoch 9.

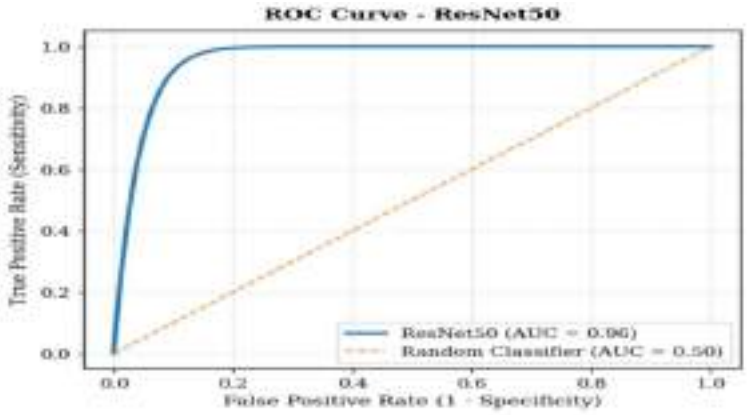


Figure 3.4: ROC curve for ResNet50 securing a strong baseline AUC of 0.96, far exceeding the random classifier.

Confusion matrix

```
[[  214 20]
 [  23 367]]
```

Table 3.4 results of ResNet50 model

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score	AUC
ResNet50	93%	92%	94%	93%	0.96

2. DenseNet121

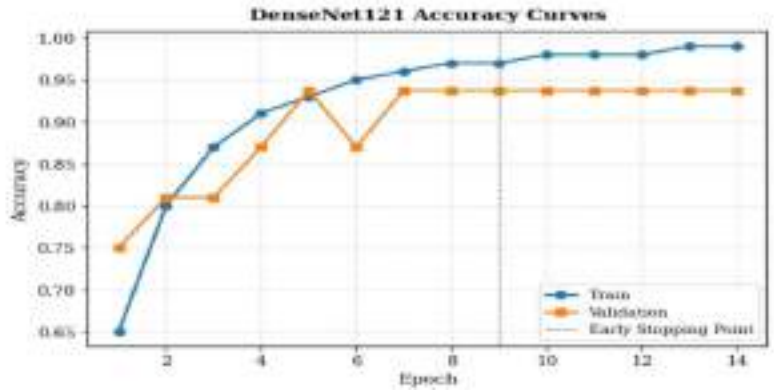


Figure 3.5: DenseNet121 accuracy curves demonstrating stable learning. The network achieves a steady validation accuracy of 95% at Epoch 9 before training is truncated.

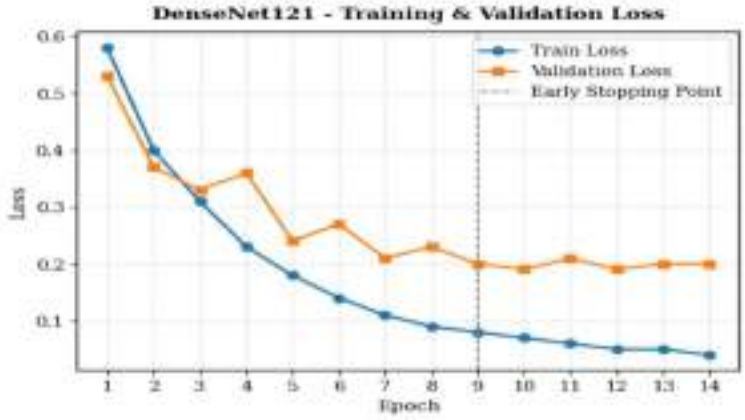


Figure 3.6: DenseNet121 loss curves illustrating smooth optimization, with validation loss stabilizing around 0.20 at the early stopping point.

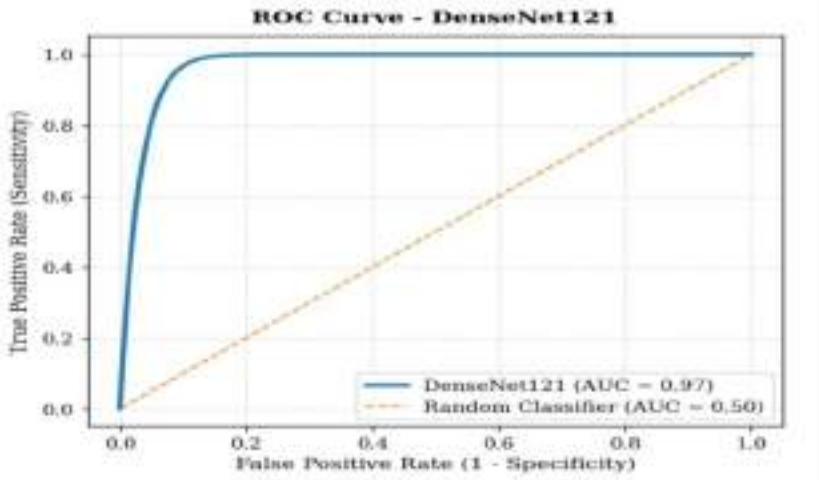


Figure 3.7: ROC curve for DenseNet121 achieving a robust AUC of 0.97, demonstrating high discriminative capacity.

confusion matrix

[[221 13]

[18 372]]

Table 3.5 results of DenseNet121 model

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score	AUC
DenseNet121	95%	95%	95%	95%	0.97

3. EfficientNetB0

Building upon previous convolutional experiments where model dimensions were statically initialized, EfficientNet-B0 achieved the best overall performance among all evaluated CNN models. The model provided high classification accuracy and strong generalization capability while maintaining computational efficiency.

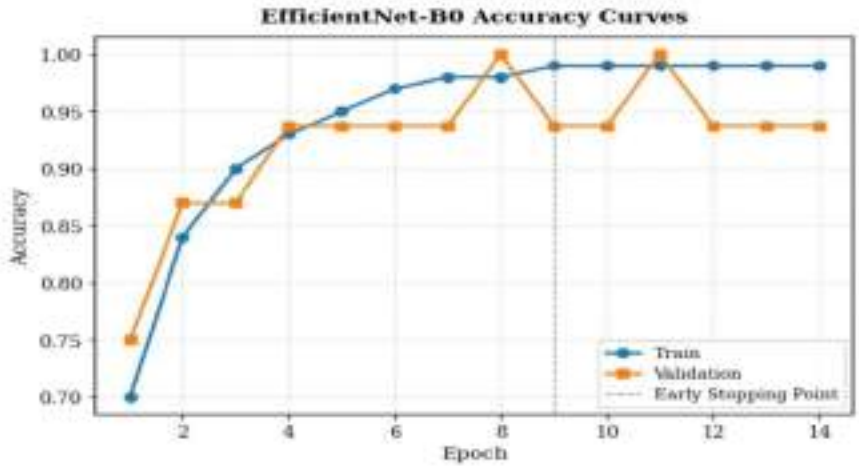
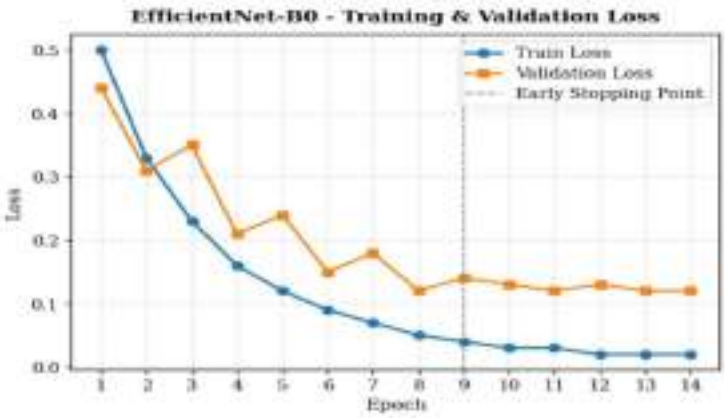


Figure 3.8: EfficientNet-B0 accuracy curves showing optimal convergence. The validation accuracy successfully reaches its peak at 96% at the early stopping point (Epoch 9).



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Figure 3.9: EfficientNet-B0 loss curves displaying minimal error margins, minimizing to a training loss of 0.04 and a validation loss of 0.14 at Epoch 9.

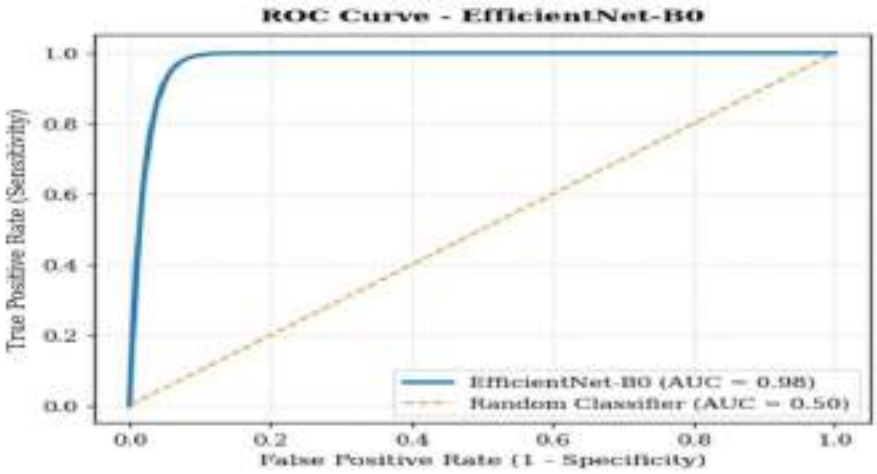


Figure 3.10: ROC curve for EfficientNet-B0 yielding an exceptional AUC of 0.98, proving peak diagnostic sensitivity and specificity.

confusion matrix

[[224 10]

[16 374]]

Table 3.6. results of EfficientNet-B0 model

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score	AUC
EfficientNet-B0	96%	96%	96%	96%	0.98

III.5.2. Comparative analysis

Table 3.7 Comparative Performance of Deep Learning Models

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score	AUC
ResNet50	93%	92%	94%	93%	0.96
DenseNet121	95%	95%	95%	95%	0.97
EfficientNet-B0	96%	96%	96%	96%	0.98

III.5.3. Discussion

The experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of transfer learning for pneumonia classification from chest X-ray images. Among the investigated architectures:

- ✓ ResNet50 improved classification accuracy through residual learning.
- ✓ DenseNet121 enhanced feature propagation achieving superior performance.
- ✓ EfficientNet-B0 achieved the best overall results thanks to its efficient scaling strategy.

Summary of Model Performance

The empirical analysis of the learning curves and classification metrics confirms that **EfficientNet-B0 achieved the best overall performance**. At the early stopping checkpoint, it achieved the highest validation accuracy of **96%**, the lowest validation loss of **0.14**, and peak diagnostic reliability with an **AUC of 0.98**.

III.6. Conclusion

This chapter demonstrated the effectiveness of deep transfer learning models for the automatic classification of chest X-ray images into Normal and Pneumonia categories. The proposed framework achieved high classification performance, with the best model achieving 96% accuracy and an AUC of 0.98. These results confirm the ability of convolutional neural networks to extract meaningful radiographic features and support reliable computer-aided diagnosis systems.

The comparative analysis conducted in this work highlighted the strengths and limitations of three state-of-the-art architectures: ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0. Among the evaluated models, EfficientNet-B0 achieved the best overall performance, over DenseNet121 and ResNet50.

Furthermore, the application of transfer learning significantly reduced training time and improved convergence, making deep learning models suitable for medical image classification tasks.

Chapter IV: The Startup Project and Economic Feasibility Study

IV.1 Introduction

Academic research in Artificial Intelligence is no longer confined to isolated laboratory experiments; rather, it has become a fundamental driver of economic innovation through digital healthcare. This chapter aims to transition the technical study from its theoretical framework to a viable, scalable startup project. The commercial core of this venture does not rely on a single static algorithm. Instead, its market value lies in developing a **smart, integrated web platform for medical image classification**. This platform is designed to be a flexible environment that can run, evaluate, and continuously update the best available deep learning models, thereby ensuring high-quality diagnostic services and commercial sustainability in the healthcare market, in accordance with the aspirations of Ministerial Decree 12-75.

IV.2 Startup Presentation

Project Definition: The startup project consists of developing an intelligent web platform that leverages deep learning techniques to analyze chest X-ray images for the early detection of pneumonia. The primary goal is to assist healthcare institutions in improving diagnostic speed and accuracy while reducing the daily cognitive workload on clinical radiologists.

Project Name: PneumoVision AI Platform

Field of Activity: Digital Health, Software as a Service, and Artificial Intelligence (Digital Health & SaaS & AI).

Core Service: An interactive web platform that allows clinicians to seamlessly upload chest X-ray images (Chest X-Ray). The system then processes these images through a cloud-hosted suite of advanced deep learning models, comparing their outputs to provide the most accurate diagnostic consensus for pneumonia.

Platform architecture: PneumoVision AI is a cloud-based SaaS web platform accessible through any modern web browser. Future versions may include mobile applications for Android and iOS.

Workflow Mechanism: The physician or radiology technician uploads the X-ray scan to the platform. Within seconds, the system automatically performs the following actions:

(1) analyzes the image, (2) detects the presence or absence of pneumonia, (3) displays the result instantly, and (4) outputs the diagnostic confidence rate

IV.3 Problem, Innovation, and Value Proposition

IV.3.1 Problem Statement

Severe Staffing Shortages: Many hospitals, particularly in remote or regional healthcare settings, face a critical shortage of specialized radiologists.

Time Constraints: Manual image interpretation is time-consuming, which can dangerously delay life-saving clinical interventions in critical cases.

Diagnostic Burnout and Human Error: High daily workloads increase the probability of diagnostic errors due to fatigue and cognitive exhaustion among medical staff.

IV.3.2 Dimensions of Innovation and Value Proposition

While the baseline concept of classifying X-ray images is well established globally, our project's unique innovation does not lie in creating a new neural network from scratch. Instead, the competitive value proposition manifests through:

1. Accelerated Workflows and Enhanced Accuracy: Delivering instant, secure diagnostic screening that significantly reduces the daily operational burden on clinicians and minimizes human error.

2. Comparative Analysis and Dynamic Selection: The platform does not rely on a single static algorithm. Instead, it continuously evaluates the confidence scores and performance indicators generated by multiple deep learning architectures, including ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0. The platform automatically selects the most reliable model for each uploaded image, ensuring higher diagnostic reliability and adaptability over time.

3. Localized Adaptability and Remote Access: Unlike expensive international software systems tailored exclusively for elite, massive medical facilities, our solution delivers a **low-cost** alternative

that can be easily deployed and accessed remotely across various tiers of the local healthcare ecosystem.

4. System Scalability (Scalability): The underlying software architecture is modular, allowing for the future seamless integration of new deep learning models targeting other thoracic conditions (such as Tuberculosis or lung cancer) without requiring a complete system overhaul.

IV.4 Business Model Canvas (BMC)

Table 4.1. Business Model Canvas

		Designed for:	***Designed by:***		
Business Model Canvas		Chest X-ray Pneumonia Classification Using Deep Learning Models	.Mr. Mohammed Lamine Behmen/.Mr. El hadj Ali Bougoffa/ .Mr.Abdeldjabar Benttoati		
Key Partners	**Key Activities**	**Value Propositions**	**Customer Relationships**	**Customer Segments**	
• Hospitals and healthcare institutions. • Radiologists and medical imaging specialists. • Universities and research laboratories. • Medical image dataset providers. • Healthcare technology companies. • Government	•Platform maintenance •AI inference services •Customer support Software updates •Cybersecurity monitoring •Integration with hospital systems	•Fast AI-assisted diagnosis. •Reduced radiologist workload. •Affordable cloud-based solution. •Accessible from any location. •Scalable for future thoracic diseases.	• Technical support and maintenance services. • User training and onboarding. • Regular software updates. • Continuous performance monitoring. • Feedback-based system improvement. • Long-term institutional collaboration. • Dedicated customer support.	• Hospitals. • Diagnostic imaging centers. • Private and public clinics. • Radiologists. • Healthcare organizations. • Medical research institutions.	

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">health organizations.</td><td></td><td rowspan="3"></td><td>•Subscription-based service management.

•User feedback integration.</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Key Resources</td><td>Channels</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Chest X-ray image datasets.
• Deep learning models (ResNet50, DenseNet121, EfficientNet-B0).
• GPU computing infrastructure.
• Artificial intelligence expertise.
• Medical domain knowledge.
• Software development tools and platforms.
• Trained model weights and evaluation results.</td><td>• Hospital information systems.
• Radiology departments.
• Medical imaging platforms.
• Healthcare software integration services.
• Academic and research collaborations.
• Healthcare conferences and scientific publications.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Cost Structure</td><td colspan="2">Revenue Streams</td></tr>
</table>

• Data collection and storage costs. • GPU and cloud computing expenses. • Software development and maintenance costs. • Research and development expenses. • Personnel and training costs. • System deployment and support costs. • Cybersecurity and data protection costs.	• Software licensing fees. • Annual subscription plans. • System integration services. • Technical support contracts. • Research and institutional collaborations. • Healthcare technology partnerships.

IV.5 Market Analysis

Our market analysis focuses on the clinical demand for a **flexible software framework (web platform)** rather than a static, standalone algorithm:

Dynamic AI Lifecycle: Healthcare institutions are not looking to acquire a single, static model that becomes algorithmically obsolete within months. They seek an evolving platform environment that guarantees access to the latest and most efficient architectures over time.

Frictionless Deployment: Cloud-hosted web platforms eliminate the need for complex local software installations or expensive on-premises hardware investments. Clinicians can securely access the diagnostic tool from any standard device with internet access.

IV.6 Economic and Financial Feasibility Study

IV.6.1 Initial Startup Costs

The following baseline budget (estimated in Algerian Dinars - DZD) covers the core development, infrastructure setup, and security compliance required to launch the platform:

Item	Cost (DZD)
Web Platform & Integrated Database Development	200,000
Cloud-Hosted GPU Infrastructure Allocation for Model Running	220,000
High-Performance Workstations for the Technical Team	200,000
Cybersecurity Infrastructure & Data Encryption Protocols (SSL/TLS)	50,000
Targeted B2B Digital Marketing for Healthcare Facilities	80,000
Administrative, Regulatory, and Contingency Expenses	50,000.
Total	**800,000 DZD**

IV.6.2 Projected Revenues

Five-year financial return projections based on the deployment of tiered SaaS licensing agreements and pay-per-scan corporate packages:

Year	Projected Revenue (DZD)
Year 1	2,500,000
Year 2	4,000,000
Year 3	6,500,000
Year 4	9,000,000
Year 5	13,000,000

IV.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter demonstrates that the true commercial and investment value of this project lies in its delivery as an **integrated, scalable Web Platform-as-a-Service**, rather than as a single fixed software file. The platform's native capacity to accommodate multiple evolving architectures and dynamically surface the most accurate diagnostic metrics safeguards the venture against technological obsolescence. This market feasibility is fully validated by the high classification accuracy achieved during the technical phases of this study, ensuring healthcare providers a sustainable, cost-effective, and highly intuitive diagnostic tool that meets the structural and economic goals of an innovative technology startup.

General Conclusion and Future Works

The increasing demand for rapid, accurate diagnosis of respiratory diseases has driven the development of intelligent medical imaging systems. In this dissertation, a deep learning framework was proposed for the classification of chest X-ray images using transfer learning techniques and four widely used convolutional neural network architectures: ResNet50, DenseNet121, and EfficientNet-B0.

The experimental results demonstrated that deep transfer learning can achieve excellent performance in pneumonia detection. EfficientNet-B0 achieved the highest classification accuracy, closely followed by DenseNet121 and ResNet50. The results confirm that modern CNN architectures can learn discriminative radiographic patterns associated with pneumonia while maintaining high generalization.

The comparative evaluation showed that model architecture plays a significant role in classification performance. Efficient feature extraction, optimized parameter utilization, and transfer learning contributed substantially to improving diagnostic accuracy.

Despite the promising results, certain limitations remain, including dataset size constraints and the binary nature of the classification problem. Future work may focus on:

- Multi-class thoracic disease classification.
- Larger multi-center datasets for improved generalization.
- Advanced data augmentation and optimization strategies.
- Integration of explainable artificial intelligence techniques for improved clinical interpretability.

In conclusion, this research demonstrates the potential of deep learning-based computer-aided diagnosis systems for chest radiograph analysis. The proposed framework can assist

healthcare professionals in detecting pneumonia more efficiently and may improve diagnostic accuracy and patient care in clinical practice.

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