



Yildirim, O., Talo, M., Ay, B., Baloglu, U. B., Aydin, G., & Acharya, U. R. (2019). Automated detection of diabetic subject using pre-trained 2D-CNN models with frequency spectrum images extracted from heart rate signals. *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 113, Article 103387. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combiomed.2019.103387>

Peer reviewed version

License (if available):  
CC BY-NC-ND

Link to published version (if available):  
[10.1016/j.combiomed.2019.103387](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.combiomed.2019.103387)

[Link to publication record on the Bristol Research Portal](#)  
PDF-document

This is the author accepted manuscript (AAM). The final published version (version of record) is available online via Elsevier at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010482519302641> . Please refer to any applicable terms of use of the publisher.

## University of Bristol – Bristol Research Portal

### General rights

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the reference above. Full terms of use are available: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-policy/pure/user-guides/brp-terms/>

# Automated detection of diabetic subject using pre-trained 2D-CNN models with frequency spectrum images extracted from heart rate signals

Ozal Yildirim<sup>a\*</sup>, Muhammed Talo<sup>a</sup>, Betul Ay<sup>b</sup>, Ulas Baran Baloglu<sup>c</sup>, Galip Aydin<sup>b</sup>, U Rajendra Acharya<sup>d,e,f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Computer Engineering, Munzur University, Tunceli, Turkey

<sup>b</sup> Department of Computer Engineering, Firat University, Elazığ, Turkey

<sup>c</sup> Department of Computer Science, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

<sup>d</sup> Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore

<sup>e</sup> Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Science and Technology, Singapore School of Social Sciences, Singapore

<sup>f</sup> School of Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Taylor's University, 47500 Subang Jaya, Malaysia.

Email Address: oyildirim@munzur.edu.tr

## Abstract

In this study, a deep-transfer learning approach is proposed for the automated diagnosis of diabetes mellitus (DM), using heart rate (HR) signals obtained from electrocardiogram (ECG) data. Recent progress in deep learning has contributed significantly to improvement in the quality of healthcare. In order for deep learning models to perform well, large datasets are required for training. However, a difficulty in the biomedical field is the lack of clinical data with expert annotation. A recent, commonly implemented technique to train deep learning models using small datasets is to transfer the weighting, developed from a large dataset, to the current model. This deep learning transfer strategy is generally employed for two-dimensional signals. Herein, the weighting of models pre-trained using two-dimensional large image data was applied to one-dimensional HR signals. The one-dimensional HR signals were then converted into frequency spectrum images, which were utilized for application to well-known pre-trained models, specifically: AlexNet, VggNet, ResNet and DenseNet. The DenseNet pre-trained model yielded the highest classification average accuracy of 97.62%, and sensitivity of 100%, to detect DM subjects via HR signal recordings. In the future, we intend to further test this developed model by utilizing additional data along with cloud-based storage, in order to diagnose DM via heart signal analysis.

*Keywords: Diabetes mellitus, heart rate signals, deep learning, transfer learning.*

## 1. Introduction

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) occurs when blood glucose level is above normal. Diabetes is the metabolic disorder can happen at any age and cause serious complications. There are two major types of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2 [1]. Type 1 DM occurs when there is no insulin in the

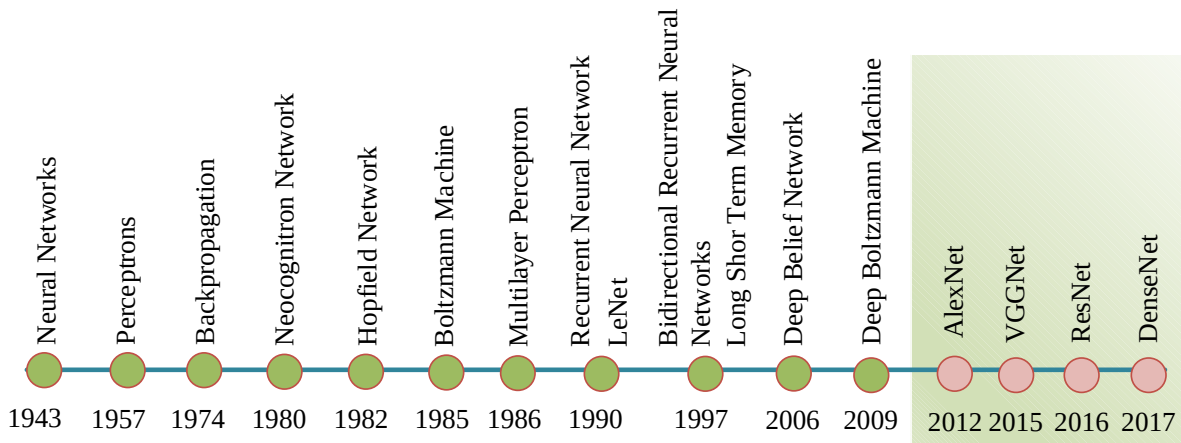
body or very little production. Type 1 DM, which is usually seen in children and adolescents (<30), causes coma and death risks if not treated. Type 2 DM is a disease that usually occurs in middle-aged or elderly patients (>40). It occurs when the produced insulin is not consumed in the body or sufficient insulin is not produced by the body.

As reported by International Diabetes Federation, 12 percent of global health spending is spent on diabetes and one person dies for every six seconds due to diabetes [2]. In order to diagnose diabetes, doctors use blood glucose tests. However, special care must be taken to prevent serious DM complications such as nephropathy (kidney), retinopathy (eye), cardiovascular, and neuropathy (nerve) diseases [3-5]. While one of the most unnoticed complications is cardiovascular autonomic neuropathy (CAN), other the least recognized and understood complications of diabetes is diabetic autonomic neuropathy (DAN) [4]. CAN causes cardiac abnormalities, therefore monitoring of abnormalities using heart rate variability (HRV) can help to detect at an early stage [5]. There are various noninvasive techniques reported using fundus images to detect diabetes and diabetic complications [6-13]. These studies provided recognition using images using features from multiple regions [11, 13] of fundus images [6, 7], tongue [8] and face [9,10,12].

Recently, many methods have been performed successfully using HRV signals to diagnose diabetes [14-20]. Acharya et al. [18] used discrete wavelet transform (DWT) features (of entropy and energy) obtained from the HRV signals and decision tree (DT) classifier to diagnose diabetes. Their method yielded an accuracy of 92.02%, sensitivity of 92.59%, and specificity of 91.46%. In another study [19], nonlinear features extracted from the HRV signals with AdaBoost classifier obtained the highest average accuracy of 90%, sensitivity of 92.5% and specificity of 88.7%. Same group [20] developed a novel diabetes index approach for the diagnosis of diabetic neuropathy using features extracted from HRV signals. In [21], time, frequency, and nonlinear domain techniques were used to analyze normal and diabetic HR signals. They showed that non-linear HRV analysis is more effective than frequency and time methods. Pachori et al. [22] classified diabetic and normal classes using features computed from intrinsic mode functions (IMFs) obtained from empirical mode decomposition (EMD) of RR-interval signals. Swapna et al. [23] used higher order spectra (HOS) method on HR signals. Their method obtained the maximum accuracy of 90.5% using Gaussian mixture model (GMM). Using linear regression

models, Nolan et al. [24] performed a gender-based relationship analysis between HRV measures and duration of type 2 diabetes. They reported gender-based distinctions among vagal-heart rate modulation, duration of diabetes, and total R-R variability in the HRV signals. Trunkvalterova et al. [25], used multiscale entropy (MSE) analysis to detect subtle abnormalities in young type 1 diabetes patients' cardiovascular system. Seyd et al. [26] applied frequency and time approaches to detect normal healthy people and DM patients by analyzing HR signals. For time and frequency domain analysis, they have used ECG signals of 16 DM patients and 16 normal subjects. Mercaldo et al. [27] used different machine learning methods to differentiate diabetes affected patients from not effected ones. Using the Hoeffding tree algorithm, they have obtained the best precision value of 77%.

The classical machine learning methods used to diagnose diabetes have many difficulties. Feature extraction is one of the most important steps in traditional machine learning systems. The performance of the machine learning system depends solely on the feature extraction. Extraction of the best performing features is done by trial and error method which is time consuming. The deep learning performs the automatic feature learning [28-30] and it mimics the structure of the human brain. The emergence of new approaches and powerful computational resources to compute and train the enormous amount of data have led to the rapid growth in the development of deep neural networks. Fig.1 shows the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI). There are many applications of deep learning in biomedical image and signal processing studies [31-37]. Pratt et al. [38] have used convolutional neural network (CNN) to classify diabetic retinopathy (DR) stages. Their network has reached classification accuracy of 75% using 5K validation images.



**Figure 1.** Evolution of artificial intelligence (AI).

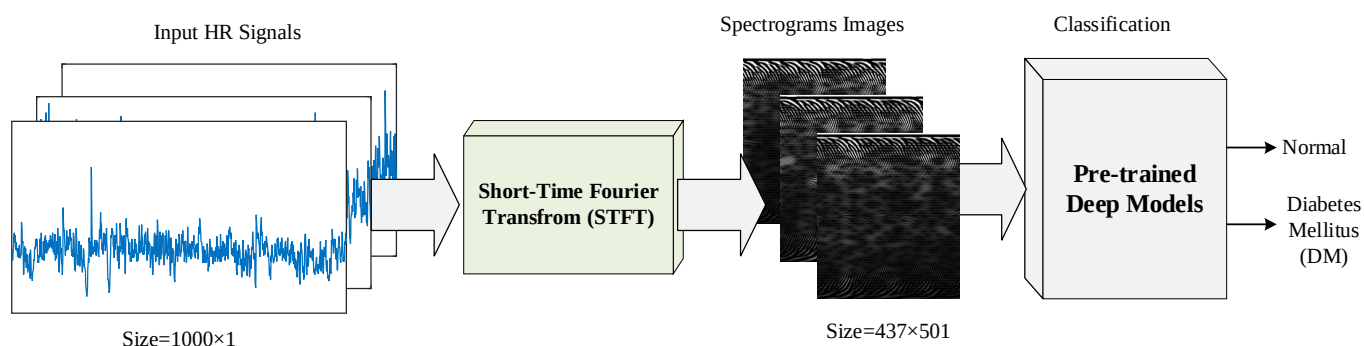
In this study, we used deep learning CNN models for the detection of diabetic subjects using HR signals. We have used the most popular deep learning pre-trained models, AlexNet, VggNet, DenseNet, and ResNet, trained using large image datasets, to achieve higher detection performance. We transformed the HR signals into spectrogram images to pre-trained models. In this way, we achieved significant improvement in classification performance. To the best of our knowledge, the proposed study is the first work to apply the 2-dimensional deep transfer learning approach using 1-dimensional HR signal data. The overall contribution of this study is summarized as follows:

- Provided an effective classification of DM subject with a complete end-to-end structure without requiring any hand-crafted feature extraction techniques.
- A deep learning-based approach has been developed using HR signals.
- Spectrogram images enabled pre-trained deep learning models to be trained on a small set (71 normal and 71 DM).
- Using deep transfer learning, the difficulties in the stages of model training and design is eliminated.

## 2. Material and Methods

In this study, a deep learning framework is proposed for the detection of DM using HR signals. In order to benefit from the performance of pre-trained deep learning models which has been

trained on the ImageNet database, HR signals are transformed into images having more visual representations. For this purpose, 1-dimensional signal data is converted to 2D gray images by the Short-Time Fourier Transform (STFT) method. The images having visual representations of the frequency spectra are used to train and test various popular pre-trained models. The block representation of the proposed method is shown in Fig.2.



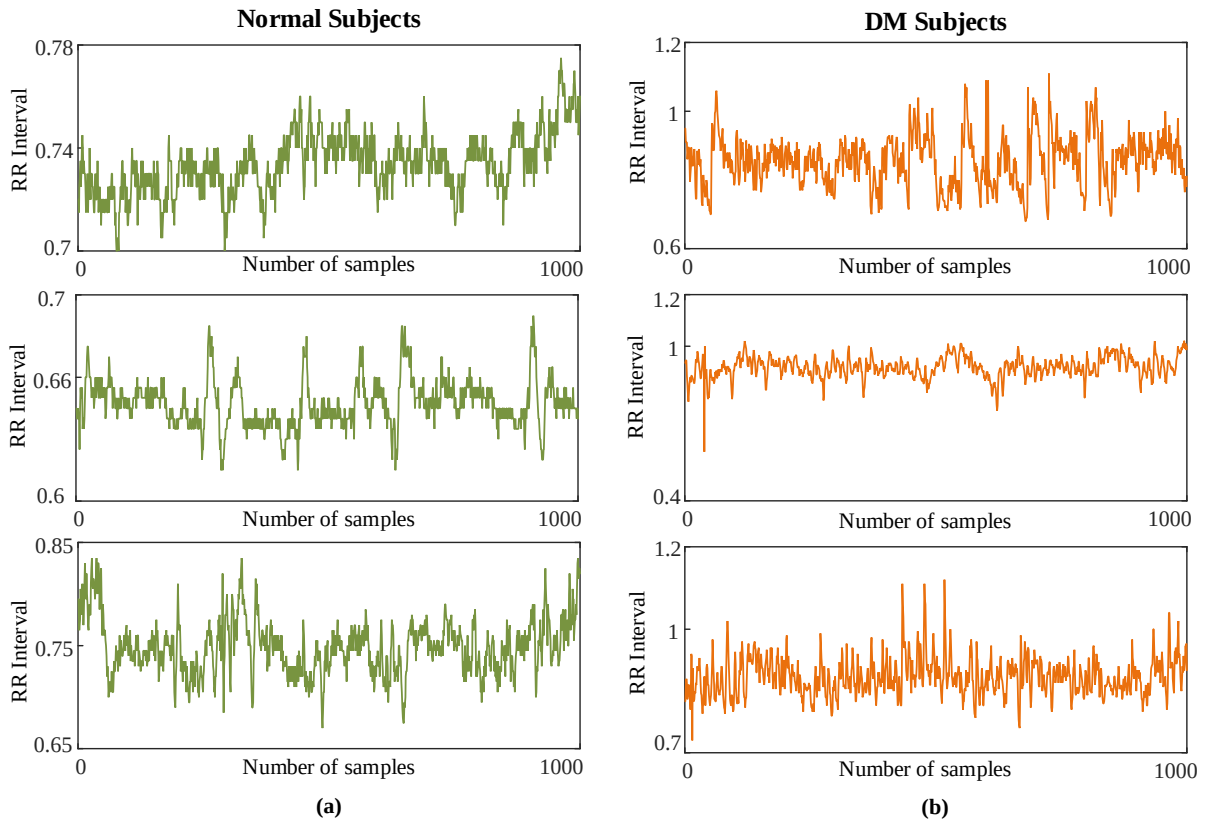
**Figure 2.** A block representation of the proposed recognition system.

## 2.1 HR Dataset

The ECG signals used in the study were obtained from 15 DM patients (7 females and 8 male) and 15 normal (5 females and 10 male) subjects for one-hour period duration [18]. In this study, the diabetes patients with 5-15 years of disease and ages ranging from 50 to 70 years were considered. The subjects in the normal group were between 40 and 60 years old. The ECG signals were recorded at Kasturba Medical Hospital (KMH), Manipal, India. The pre-processing steps performed on the signals were as follows:

- Signals were recorded at 500 Hz sampling rate using the BIOPACTM system.
- 15 Hz cut-off frequency low-pass filter for noise removal and 0.3 Hz cut-off frequency high-pass filter to remove baseline wander were used.
- A band reject filter (50 Hz central frequency) was applied to clear away the power-line interfacing noise.
- The Pan-Tompkins algorithm [39] was used for RR point detection.

A total of 142 data files with each file containing 1000 samples were used. Hence, we have used 71 DM and 71 normal data files in this work. Fig.3 shows the sample HR signals belonging to normal and DM subjects.

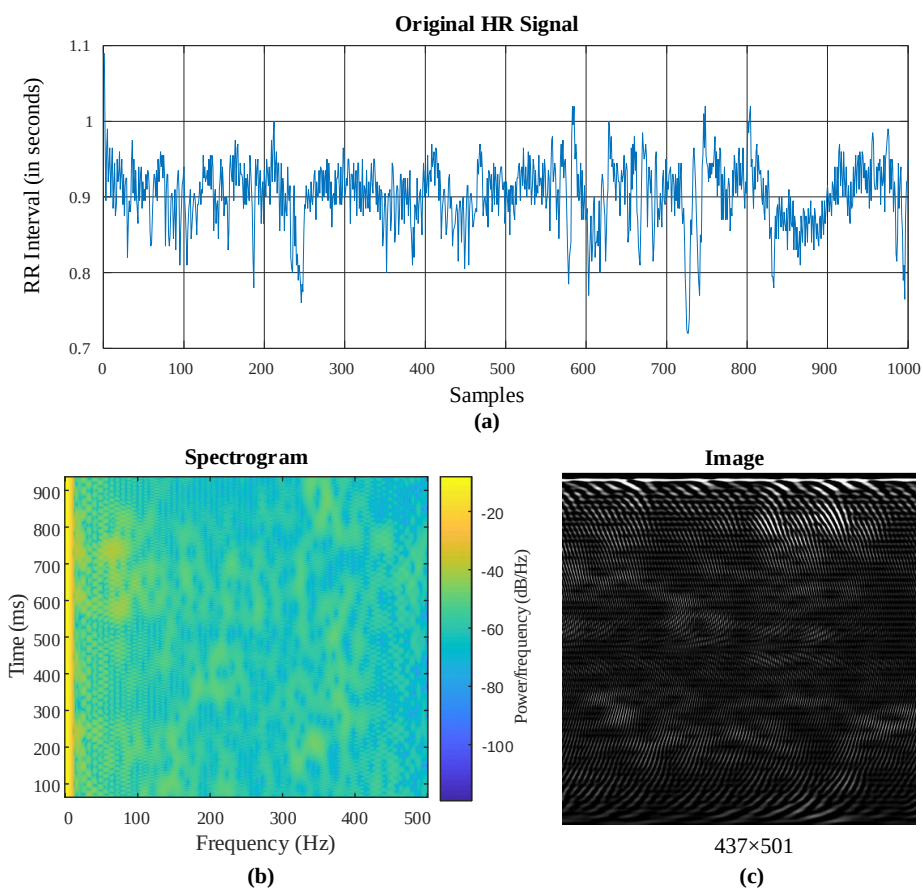


**Figure 3.** Typical HR signal samples: a) Normal, and b) DM subjects.

## 2.2 Spectrogram Images

The Fourier transform (FT) is a crucial methodology which is not useful when the signal is nonstationary, and its spectral content is changing [40]. The HR signals represent the non-stationary behavior by having altering frequencies and amplitudes over time. This change cannot be captured by FT based analysis. Therefore, we preferred to use a method which could capture these changes. The short-time Fourier transform (STFT) is a general-purpose FT based function, which can help the deep learning structure to extract the hidden features from the spectrogram images effectively. STFT has been used in the past with CNN and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) architectures for speech recognition [41] and motor imagery brain computer interface recognition [42] tasks. The speech signal is a time-varying signal and STFT can create a 2D representation of this signal. From the segmented audio data, STFT is used to generate binary images of speech and music [43]. Similarly, STFT can be used to generate a 2D representation of HR signals. In another signal classification study, STFT and CNN combination has been

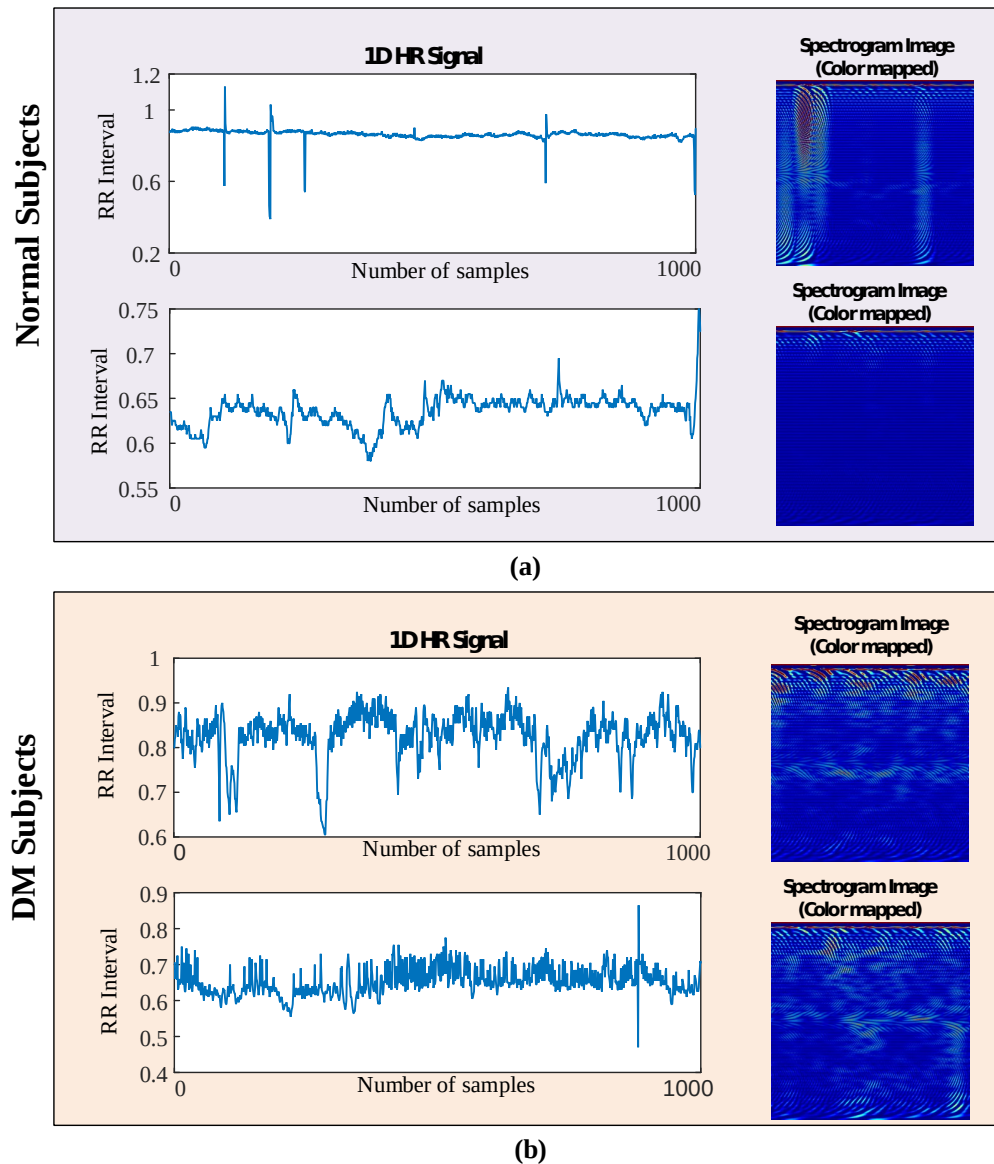
successfully applied to EEG signals [44]. Salem et al. [45] have used spectrogram images of ECG signals for the classification based on deep transfer learning. In our present study, we have converted HR signals to spectrogram images to use pre-trained 2D CNN models. In Fig.4, the flow of the conversion of the original HR signals to spectrogram images is provided.



**Figure 4.** Conversion of the original HR signals to frequency spectrum representative images: a) 1D HR signal, b) spectrogram of (a), and c) 2D grayscale image of (b).

HR signals with 1000 samples after passing through STFT are converted into spectrograms, which represent the frequency spectra. The spectrogram, indicate the changes in the frequency spectra of the original signal which can be observed over time. The grayscale images (Fig.4 (c)) of STFT images of size 437×501 pixels is presented. Fig. 5 shows the original HR signals of two normal and two DM subjects and the corresponding spectrogram images.





**Figure 5.** Graphical representation of spectrogram images and respective HR signals: a) Normal subject b) DM subject.

### 2. 3. Deep Networks

Deep learning is of great importance in many areas as well as in the medical field. Deep learning models, especially CNNs, have been successfully used in medical applications such as detection [46] and classification [47]. Krizhevsky et al. [48] ranked the first by successfully classifying images in the ImageNet large-scale visual recognition challenge (ILSVRC) with the developed

deep learning-based CNN model (AlexNet) in 2012. In 2014, the VGGNet [49] CNN model demonstrated a better classification performance than AlexNet in ILSVRC. In the following year, the ResNet model developed by He et al. [50] won the first place for classification, detection, and segmentation tasks in ILSVRC 2015. ResNet model, which developed with the skip connection technique which is deeper than the previous models (AlexNet and VggNet). The skip connections also known as residual connections attach every residual block to the next blocks. This technique enables information flow through the whole network. Therefore, it allows to train the CNN even with 1000 layers. Huang et al. [51] introduced densely connected convolutional networks (DenseNet) using similar short cut technique which connects every layer of the network to the later layers. DenseNet architecture generally showed high performance in classification problems such as ResNet architecture. However, DenseNet architecture used fewer parameters and requires less computations than ResNet in training the model. In addition, one of the advantages of DenseNet model is that, it shows better classification performance using small datasets [51].

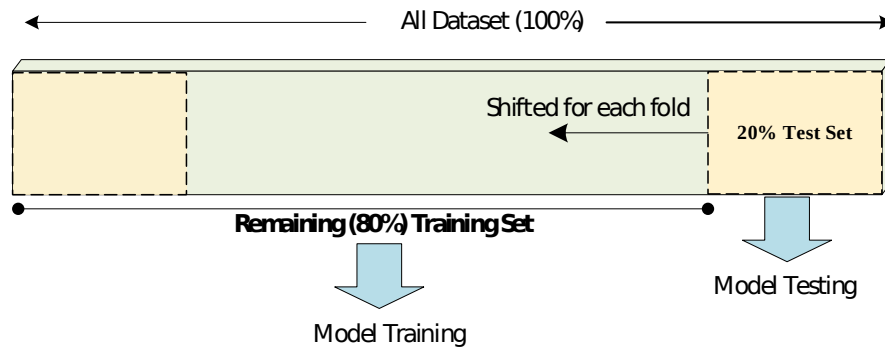
The transfer learning method plays an important role in finding solution for the classification problems. A CNN usually requires huge dataset to train with large number of labeled data and requires higher computational power. One of the main problems in medical data analysis is the limited number of annotated data. The process of labeling data by experts is expensive and time consuming. Therefore, instead of training the CNN model from scratch, we used the weights of the pre-trained models which already learned the distinguishing representations from different but a similar task. In other words, in transfer learning technique, the weights of pre-trained models are transferred to the present model. In this way, the small datasets are trained with low computation costs.

### **3. Experimental Results**

In this study, HR signals are used for the detection of diabetes patients and these signals are classified using deep learning based approaches. We have performed this in two steps. First a CNN model is designed for raw HR signals and the performance of this model is investigated. In the second step, we have tried to increase detection performance by examining the cases where

the developed CNN model is inadequate. Therefore, the input signals are converted to the image datasets. Then, the obtained images are classified with pre-trained models.

The training and testing of the proposed deep models are carried out on a Linux server with Ubuntu 16.04 operating system using 11 GB of memory, including an NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1080 TI graphics card. The results are evaluated using k-fold cross validation (CV) strategy. Thus, one of the folds is used as a validation set and the rest of them are used as training set. The k value for HR signals is set to 5. Therefore, 20% of the data is reserved for testing, while the remaining 80% is used in the training phase. Fig. 6 shows the block representation of the training and testing dataset presented to the proposed models.



**Figure 6.** Graphical representation of the test and training data sets for the 1D-CNN model.

### 3.1. 1D CNN Model

For the classification of HR signals, a 16-layer CNN model is constructed. The  $1000 \times 1$  HR signals are fed as input to this model. The CNN model composed of convolution, pooling, and dense layers and includes a dropout layer to prevent the overfitting. Table 1 presents the layer parameters of the proposed model. The model parameters are adjusted by the brute-force technique like our previous deep learning works done using ECG and EEG signal data [31, 33, 46, 47]. The Keras deep learning library is used to construct, train, and test the model.

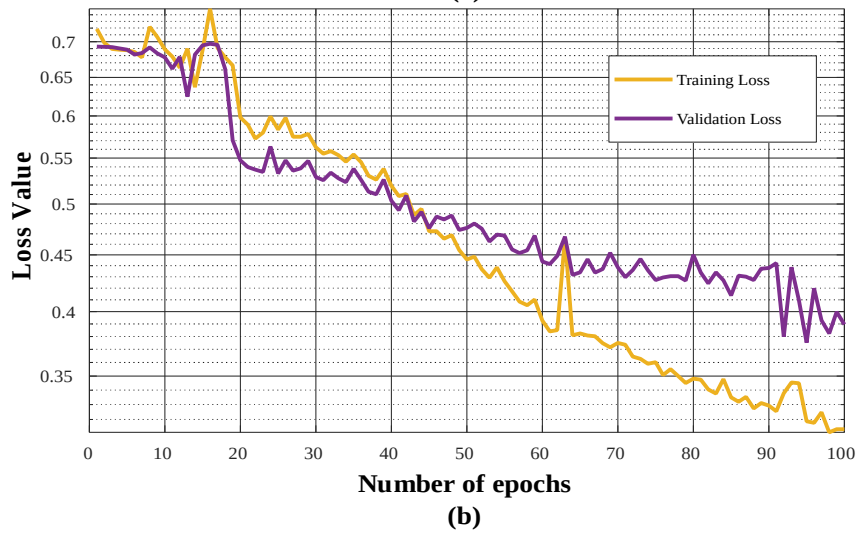
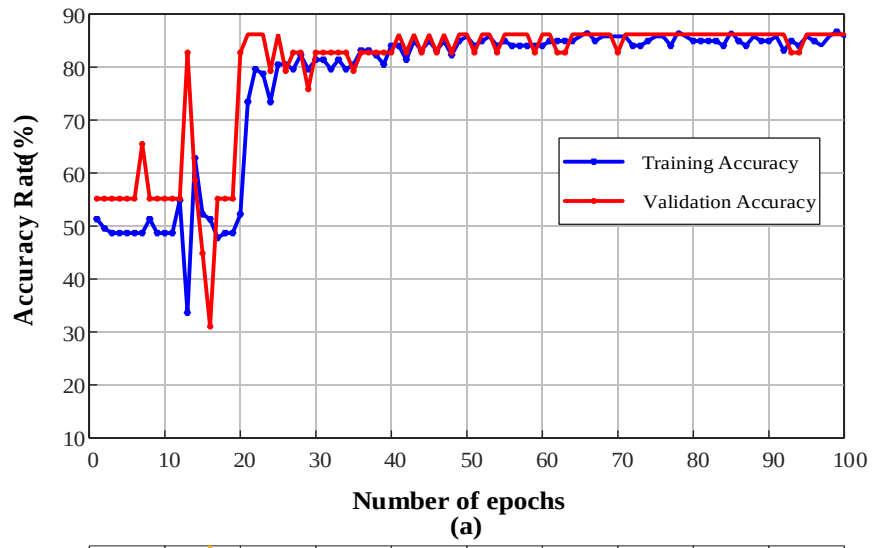
**Table 1.** The layers and layer parameters of 1D-CNN model designed for this work.

No	Layer Name	Filter Size	Kernel Size	Other Parameters	Output Size
0	Input Layer	-	-	-	$1000 \times 1$

1	Conv-1D	64	5	Strides=3	332×64
2	Conv-1D	64	3	Strides=1	330×64
3	Max-Pooling			Strides=2, Pool size=2	165×64
4	Dropout	-	-	Rate=0.1	165×64
5	Conv-1D	128	3	Strides=1	163×128
6	Conv-1D	128	5	Strides=1	159×128
7	Max-Pooling	-	-	Strides=2, Pool size=2	79×128
8	Conv-1D	256	2	Strides=1	78×256
9	Conv-1D	256	3	Strides=1	76×256
10	Max-Pooling	-	-	Strides=2, Pool size=2	38×256
11	Conv-1D	64	3	Strides=1	36×64
12	Conv-1D	64	5	Strides=1	32×64
13	Max-Pooling	-	-	Strides=2, Pool size=2	16×64
14	Flatten	-	-	-	1024
15	Dense (Relu)	-	-	Hidden units=64	64
16	Dense (Softmax)	-	-	Hidden units=2	2

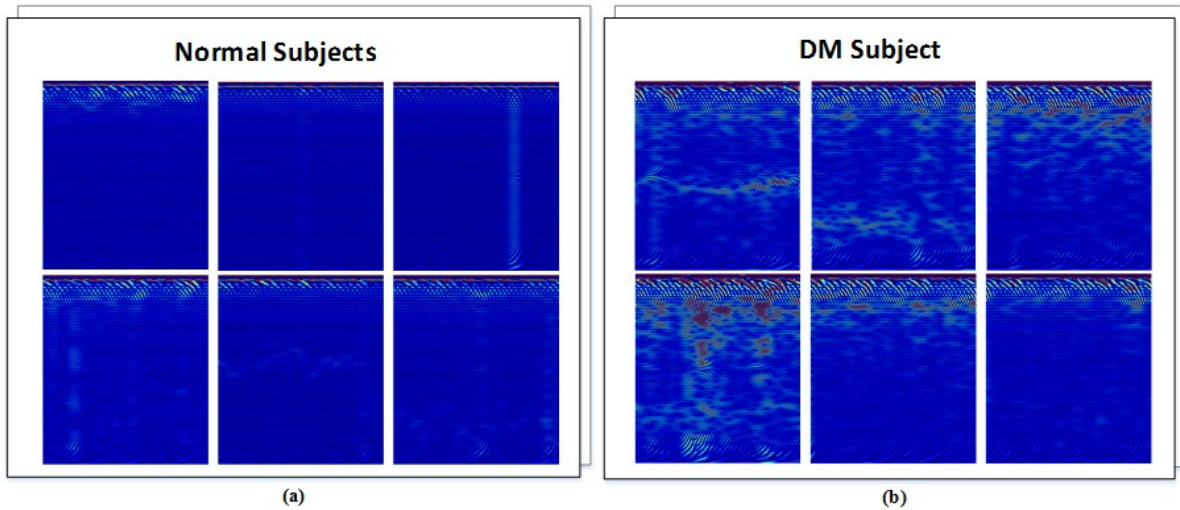
\*Hyper Parameters: Optimizer=Adam, Batch size=8, Learning rate=0.001

In this work, 80% of the HR signals were used for training and the remaining 20% for validation. The performance evaluations are made using 5-fold CV strategy. The training and validation accuracy and loss graphs of the model for a fold over a period of 100 epochs are given in Fig. 7. The CNN model completed the training process without having any overfitting problem on one dimensional HR signals. After the training, the training accuracy reached 86.73%, while the validation accuracy remained at 86.21%. Table 2 presents the performance values of the CNN network using 5-fold CV strategy. The CNN network is able to reach 86.21%  $\pm$  4.22 average accuracy with 5-fold CV. In the end we concluded that, the 1D CNN model did not reach the desired level of success.



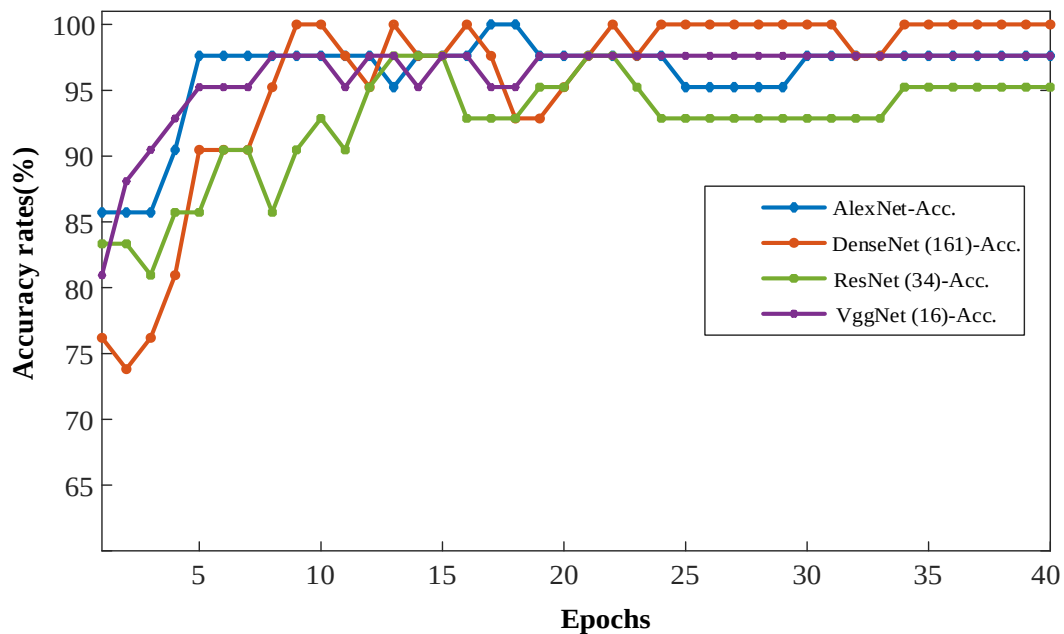
### 3.2 Pre-Trained 2D CNN Models

The most important stage of the experimental studies is to convert HR signals into images that can be processed with pre-trained 2D-CNN models to improve classification performance. Popular pre-trained models such as AlexNet, VggNet, DenseNet, and ResNet are trained and tested on these image data. For this purpose, the STFT method is used on 1-dimensional HR signals to obtain 2-D images which indicate the visual representations of frequency spectra. Fig. 8 shows few images that represent frequency spectrum corresponding to normal and DM subjects.



**Figure 8:** Sample images obtained after converting HR signals to frequency spectrum images:  
a) Normal subject, and b) DM subject.

It is difficult to discriminate the two classes (normal/DM) using spectrogram images visually. Deep learning methods are able to perform the recognition process with high performance by extracting abstract features from these images. The performance of the networks can be significantly increased, especially with the use of pre-trained models which are trained on large data. In our study, we used AlexNet, DenseNet, ResNet and VggNet pre-trained models which performed well for image classification task in the field of deep learning. We have trained only the last layers (fully-connected) of pre-trained models. Fig. 9 shows the training performance of pre-trained models using the same-fold data.



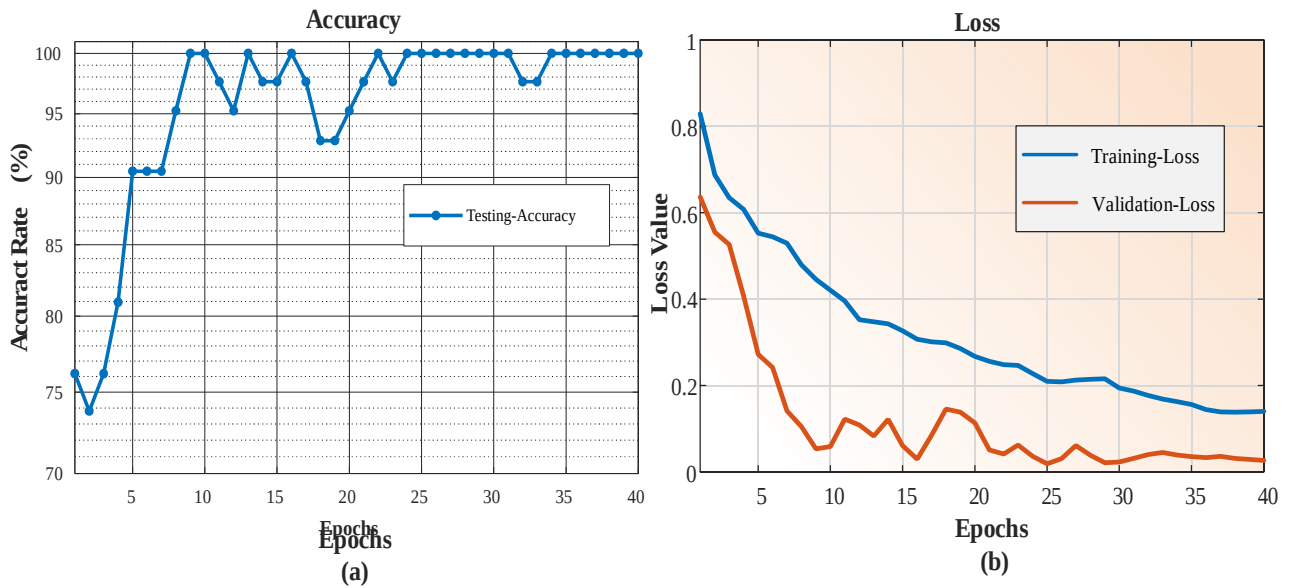
**Figure 9.** Graphs of accuracies obtained for different epochs with various pre-trained models: AlexNet (blue line), DenseNet (orange line), ResNet (green line) and VggNet (purple line).

The proposed pre-trained models are trained for 40 epochs. When the performances of the pre-trained models are evaluated, we witnessed that DenseNet pre-trained model obtained the best classification accuracy among others. While the performance of AlexNet and VggNet are close to each other, the lowest performance is achieved with ResNet. The sensitivity, specificity, precision, F1-score and accuracy measurements are used to evaluate the performance of the pre-trained models. The performance values of the proposed pre-trained models for the 5-fold cross validation (CV) strategy are given in Table 3.

**Table 3** The performance values obtained by various pre-trained models with 5-fold test data (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation).

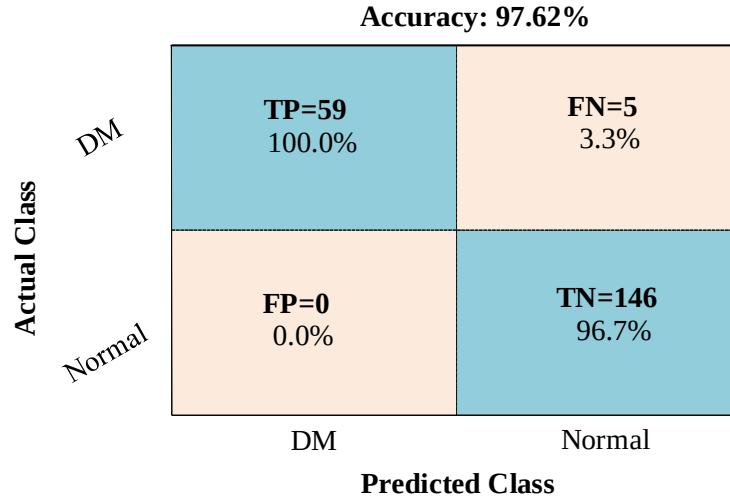
<b>Models</b>	<b>Sensitivity (%)</b>	<b>Specificity (%)</b>	<b>Precision (%)</b>	<b>F1-Score (%)</b>	<b>Accuracy (%)</b>
AlexNet	93.66 $\pm$ 3.6	96.60 $\pm$ 0.1	92.13 $\pm$ 0.7	92.87 $\pm$ 1.9	95.72 $\pm$ 1.0
VggNet (16)	95.26 $\pm$ 4.3	97.29 $\pm$ 2.8	94.13 $\pm$ 5.7	94.51 $\pm$ 2.0	96.67 $\pm$ 1.3
ResNet (34)	93.80 $\pm$ 3.5	96.59 $\pm$ 0.1	92.13 $\pm$ 0.7	92.93 $\pm$ 1.6	95.72 $\pm$ 1.0
DenseNet (161)	100	96.72 $\pm$ 3.3	92.33 $\pm$ 7.6	95.88 $\pm$ 4.1	97.62 $\pm$ 2.3

The classification performances of the AlexNet and ResNet-34 models are interestingly close to each other. The average accuracy values of both networks showed the lowest performance of  $95.72\% \pm 1$ . The highest average accuracy of  $97.62\% \pm 2.3$  is obtained using DenseNet-161. In addition, the sensitivity value of DenseNet-161 is increased to as high as 100% with 5-fold CV strategy. Fig. 10, shows the accuracy and loss graphs of DenseNet-161 model during 40 epoch periods for a fold.





confusion matrix acquired with 5-fold cross validation (CV) strategy using DenseNet-161 model using diabetes test data.



**Figure 11.** Overall confusion matrix obtained with 5-fold for DenseNet-161 model.

The model misclassified only five images in the DM class and correctly classified all normal class images in all folds. The 5-fold average classification accuracy value is 97.62% ± 2.3. The performance of DenseNet-161 model on each fold data is given in Table 4.

**Table 4.** The performances of DenseNet-161 model for each of 5-fold DM classification.

<b>Fold Number</b>	<b>Sensitivity (%)</b>	<b>Specificity (%)</b>	<b>Precision (%)</b>	<b>F1-Score (%)</b>	<b>Accuracy (%)</b>
Fold-1	100	100	100	100	100
Fold-2	100	96.77	91.67	95.65	97.62
Fold-3	100	93.10	86.67	92.86	95.24
Fold-4	100	93.75	83.33	90.91	95.24
Fold-5	100	100	100	100	100

Our developed 16-layer CNN model has been trained from scratch. Initially, the weights of the proposed network are set randomly and then adjusted through back-propagation. The whole network is trained until the optimal performance is reached. However, for our 2-d data, we have used pre-trained models (AlexNet, VggNet, ResNet and DenseNet) to detect diabetic subject using frequency spectrum images. These pre-trained models have been already trained to

perform other classification task. We have transferred the weights of proposed pre-trained models. During the training of pre-trained CNN models, we have only trained the fully connected layers of the pre-trained models. Therefore, the deep learning model used for 1-d data has been trained from scratch requires more epochs (100) than the pre-trained models.

Our results show that the results obtained using pre-trained models have yielded better classification accuracy using 2-d data than the proposed 16-layer deep learning model with 1-d data. The AlexNet, VggNet, ResNet, and DenseNet pre-trained CNN models have been trained with more than million images belonging to 1000 different categories. These CNN models have already learned valuable representations from various images. We have used this gained knowledge by implementing transfer learning technique for 2-d data. For 1-d data, the proposed deep learning model only learned the representations from the given data. Therefore, the classification accuracy of the constructed model is lower than the pre-trained CNN models. In future, we hope that such transfer learning techniques can also be employed for 1-d data to obtain high performance.

#### **4. Discussion**

There are few important state-of-the-art studies performed for the automated detection of DM subjects using HR signals. In these studies, discrete wavelet transform (DWT) [18], empirical mode decomposition (EMD) [22], higher order spectra (HOS) [23], non-linear analysis [21], statistical methods [20] has been employed for feature extraction. For automated detection of DM, obtained features are fed to the shallow-structured classifiers such as decision tree (DT) [18], AdaBoost [19, 20], Gaussian mixture model (GMM) [23], and support vector machines (SVM) [49]. Few other signal processing methods coupled with machine learning methods have been used detect DM automatically [21, 22]. The accuracies obtained using these studies range between 90-92%. Our present study employed deep learning-based approach for DM detection. With this completely end-to-end structure, the signals are classified without requiring any hand-crafted feature extraction. Table 5 shows the comparison of performances for automated detection of diabetes using same HRV signal database. The proposed study achieved  $97.62\% \pm$

2.3 average accuracy and sensitivity of 100% which outperformed existing state-of-the-art studies in the literature.

**Table 5:** The comparison of performances for automated detection of diabetes using same HRV signal database.

<b>Study</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Results/Findings</b>
Acharya et al. [18]	DWT & Decision Tree	Sen=92.59%, Acc = 92.02%
Acharya et al. [19]	Nine nonlinear measures & AdaBoost	Sen=92.50%, Acc=90.00%
Acharya et al. [20]	Diabetic integrated index & AdaBoost	Sen=87.50%, Acc= 86.00%
Faust et al. [21]	Six non-linear features & student t-test	Non-linear analysis is more effective than frequency and time domain analysis
Pachori et al. [22]	EMD & Kruskal–Wallis statistical test	Significant difference between diabetic and normal classes (p<0.05)
Swapna et al. [23]	HOS & GMM	Sen=85.70%, Acc=90.50%
Jian and Lim [52]	HOS & SVM	Sen=70.97%, Acc= 79.93%
This study	End-to-end 1D HR signals & 1D-CNN model	Sen=92.55% ±7.5, Acc= 86.21% ±4.2
This study	End-to-end 2D frequency spectrum images & 2D-CNN DenseNet161	Sen=100%, Acc=97.62% ±2.3

The advantage of the present study is the transfer of weights from popular models, which trained on two-dimensional large image data, to a small number of signal data. Thus, the constraint in the construction and training phase of deep models is eliminated. Also, such developed model (in our present work) has yielded higher classification performance. In future, we can use this model detect the diabetes at an early stage and also can be used to detect other diseases using biomedical signals. The main disadvantage of this work is that, we have used small database. Deep learning models consist of many layers with millions of parameters in these layers. Models process data iteratively to obtain optimal parameters during the training phase. Repeated processing of data in various problems with small data causes the model to memorize the

training data and fail recognize the test data which it has not seen (overfitting problem). This overfitting problem can be tackled using transfer learning technique by employing the models that has been previously trained on large data sets. Using this method, it is possible to optimize the existing parameters (learned features) instead of setting all the parameters of the model from zero.

## 5. Conclusion

In this study, we proposed a deep transfer learning based approach using spectrogram images obtained from HR signals to detect the diabetes subjects automatically. AlexNet, VggNet, Resnet, and DenseNet CNN pre-trained models trained on 2D image data are used for the evaluation of one-dimensional HR signals. A total of 142 segments (71 normal and 71 DM) obtained from 30 subjects (15 normal and 15 DM) are used in this study. The DenseNet-161 CNN model achieved  $97.62\% \pm 2.3$  accuracy and 100% sensitivity performances with 5-fold CV strategy. Hence, the diabetes subjects can be detected accurately using the pre-trained 2D-CNN models with frequency spectrum images extracted from heart rate signals. In future, we intend to improve the accuracy of the model by training it with more data and also focus on early detection of diabetes. We also plan to explore the possibility of using more HR signals to evaluate performance of our developed model.

**Conflict of Interest:** All authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in this work

## References

- [1] Benjamin I, Griggs RC, Wing EJ, Fitz JG. Andreoli and Carpenter's Cecil Essentials of Medicine E-Book. Elsevier Health Sciences; 2015.
- [2] International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas. 8th Edition, 2017. <http://www.diabetesatlas.org/resources/2017-atlas.html>.
- [3] Cade WT. Diabetes-related microvascular and macrovascular diseases in the physical therapy setting. *Physical therapy* 2008; 88(11): 1322-1335.
- [4] Vinik AI, Maser RE, Mitchell BD, Freeman R. Diabetic autonomic neuropathy. *Diabetes care* 2003; 26(5): 1553-1579.

- [5] Vinik AI, Ziegler D. Diabetic cardiovascular autonomic neuropathy. *Circulation* 2007; 115(3): 387-397.
- [6] Niemeijer M, et al. Retinopathy online challenge: automatic detection of microaneurysms in digital color fundus photographs. *IEEE transactions on medical imaging* 2009; 29(1): 185-195.
- [7] Acharya UR, Lim CM, Ng EYK, Chee C, Tamura T. Computer-based detection of diabetes retinopathy stages using digital fundus images. *Proceedings of the institution of mechanical engineers, part H: journal of engineering in medicine* 2009; 223(5): 545-553.
- [8] Zhang B, Kumar BV, Zhang D. Detecting diabetes mellitus and nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy using tongue color, texture, and geometry features. *IEEE transactions on biomedical engineering* 2013; 61(2): 491-501.
- [9] Zhang B, Zhang D. Noninvasive diabetes mellitus detection using facial block color with a sparse representation classifier. *IEEE transactions on biomedical engineering* 2013; 61(4): 1027-1033.
- [10] Shu T, Zhang B, Tang YY. An extensive analysis of various texture feature extractors to detect Diabetes Mellitus using facial specific regions. *Computers in biology and medicine* 2017; 83: 69-83.
- [11] Li J, Zhang D, Li Y, Wu J, Zhang B. Joint similar and specific learning for diabetes mellitus and impaired glucose regulation detection. *Information Sciences* 2017; 384: 191-204.
- [12] Shu T, Zhang B, Tang YY. An improved noninvasive method to detect Diabetes Mellitus using the Probabilistic Collaborative Representation based Classifier. *Information Sciences* 2018; 467: 477-488.
- [13] Li J, Zhang B, Lu G, You J, Zhang D. Body surface feature-based multi-modal learning for diabetes mellitus detection. *Information Sciences* 2019; 472: 1-14.
- [14] Acharya UR, Fujita H, Sudarshan VK, Sree VS, Eugene LWJ, Ghista DN, San Tan R. An integrated index for detection of sudden cardiac death using discrete wavelet transform and nonlinear features. *Knowledge-Based Systems* 2015; 83: 149-158.
- [15] Cheng Y, Wang F, Zhang P, Hu J. Risk prediction with electronic health records: A deep learning approach. In *Proc. 2016 SIAM International Conference on Data Mining*; 2016; 432-440.
- [16] Mookia MRK, Acharya UR, Chua CK, Lim CM, Ng EYK, Laude A. Computer-aided diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy: A review. *Computers in biology and medicine* 2013; 43(12): 2136-2155.
- [17] Mookiah MRK, Acharya UR, Martis RJ, Chua CK, Lim CM, Ng EYK, Laude A. Evolutionary algorithm based classifier parameter tuning for automatic diabetic retinopathy grading: A hybrid feature extraction approach. *Knowledge-based systems* 2013; 39: 9-22.
- [18] Acharya UR, Vidya KS, Ghista DN, Lim WJE, Molinari F, Sankaranarayanan M. Computer-aided diagnosis of diabetic subjects by heart rate variability signals using discrete wavelet transform method. *Knowledge-based systems* 2015; 81: 56-64.
- [19] Acharya UR, Faust O, Kadri NA, Suri JS, Yu W. (2013). Automated identification of normal and diabetes heart rate signals using nonlinear measures. *Computers in biology and medicine* 2013; 43(10): 1523-1529.

- [20] Acharya UR, Faust O, Sree SV, Ghista DN, Dua S, Joseph P, Ahamed VIT, Janarthanan N, Tamura T. An integrated diabetic index using heart rate variability signal features for diagnosis of diabetes. *Computer methods in biomechanics and biomedical engineering* 2013; 16(2): 222-234.
- [21] Faust O, Acharya UR, Molinari F, Chattopadhyay S, Tamura T. Linear and non-linear analysis of cardiac health in diabetic subjects. *Biomedical Signal Processing and Control* 2012; 7(3): 295-302.
- [22] Pachori RB, Avinash P, Shashank K, Sharma R, Acharya UR. Application of empirical mode decomposition for analysis of normal and diabetic RR-interval signals. *Expert Systems with Applications* 2015; 42(9): 4567-4581.
- [23] Swapna G, Acharya UR, VinithaSree S, Suri JS. Automated detection of diabetes using higher order spectral features extracted from heart rate signals. *Intelligent Data Analysis* 2013; 17(2): 309-326.
- [24] Nolan RP, Barry-Bianchi SM, Mechetiuc AE, Chen MH. Sex-based differences in the association between duration of type 2 diabetes and heart rate variability. *Diabetes and Vascular Disease Research* 2009; 6(4): 276-282.
- [25] Trunkvalterova Z, Javorka M, Tonhajzerova I, Javorkova J, Lazarova Z, Javorka K, Baumert M. Reduced short-term complexity of heart rate and blood pressure dynamics in patients with diabetes mellitus type 1: multiscale entropy analysis. *Physiological measurement* 2008; 29(7): 817.
- [26] Seyd PA, Ahamed VT, Jacob J, Joseph P. Time and frequency domain analysis of heart rate variability and their correlations in diabetes mellitus. *International Journal of Biological and Life Sciences* 2008; 4(1): 24-27.
- [27] Mercaldo F, Nardone V, Santone A. Diabetes mellitus affected patients classification and diagnosis through machine learning techniques. *Procedia computer science* 2017; 112: 2519-2528.
- [28] LeCun Y, Bengio Y, Hinton G. Deep learning. *Nature* 2015; 521(7553): 436.
- [29] Goodfellow I, Bengio Y, Courville A. Deep learning. MIT press; 2016.
- [30] Coşkun M, Yildirim Ö, Uçar A, Demir Y. An overview of popular deep learning methods. *Eur J Tech* 2017; 7(2): 165-176.
- [31] Yildirim O, Baloglu UB, Acharya UR. A deep learning model for automated sleep stages classification using psg signals. *International journal of environmental research and public health* 2019; 16(4): 599.
- [32] Pandey SK, Janghel RR. Recent Deep Learning Techniques, Challenges and Its Applications for Medical Healthcare System: A Review. *Neural Processing Letters* 2019; 1-29.
- [33] Baloglu UB, Talo M, Yildirim O, San Tan R., Acharya UR. Classification of myocardial infarction with multi-lead ECG signals and deep CNN. *Pattern Recognition Letters* 2019; 122: 23-30.
- [34] Oh SL, Ng EY, San Tan R, Acharya UR. Automated beat-wise arrhythmia diagnosis using modified U-net on extended electrocardiographic recordings with heterogeneous arrhythmia types. *Computers in biology and medicine* 2019; 105: 92-101.

- [35] Faust O, Hagiwara Y, Hong TJ, Lih OS, Acharya UR. Deep learning for healthcare applications based on physiological signals: A review. *Computer methods and programs in biomedicine* 2018; 161: 1-13.
- [36] Michielli N, Acharya UR, Molinari F. Cascaded LSTM recurrent neural network for automated sleep stage classification using single-channel EEG signals. *Computers in biology and medicine* 2019; 106: 71-81.
- [37] Mamoshina P, Vieira A, Putin E, Zhavoronkov A. Applications of deep learning in biomedicine. *Molecular pharmaceutics* 2016; 13(5): 1445-1454.
- [38] Pratt H, Coenen F, Broadbent DM, Harding SP, Zheng Y. Convolutional neural networks for diabetic retinopathy. *Procedia Computer Science* 2016; 90: 200-205.
- [39] Pan J, Tompkins WJ. A real-time QRS detection algorithm. *IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng* 1985; 32(3): 230-236.
- [40] Nisar S, Khan OU, Tariq M. An efficient adaptive window size selection method for improving spectrogram visualization. *Computational intelligence and neuroscience* 2016; 2016.
- [41] Lim W, Jang D, Lee T. Speech emotion recognition using convolutional and recurrent neural networks. In *2016 Asia-Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association Annual Summit and Conference (APSIPA) 2016*; 1-4.
- [42] Wang Z, Cao L, Zhang Z, Gong X, Sun Y, Wang H. Short time Fourier transformation and deep neural networks for motor imagery brain computer interface recognition. *Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience* 2018; 30(23): e4413.
- [43] Neammalai P, Phimoltares S, Lursinsap C. Speech and music classification using hybrid form of spectrogram and fourier transformation. In *Signal and Information Processing Association Annual Summit and Conference (APSIPA), 2014 Asia-Pacific 2014*; 1-6.
- [44] Lu Y, Jiang H, Liu W. Classification of eeg signal by stft-cnn framework: Identification of right-/left-hand motor imagination in bci systems. In *The 7th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Networks 2017*; 299: 1.
- [45] Salem M, Taheri S, Yuan JS. ECG Arrhythmia Classification Using Transfer Learning from 2-Dimensional Deep CNN Features. In *2018 IEEE Biomedical Circuits and Systems Conference (BioCAS) 2018*; 1-4.
- [46] Yıldırım Ö, Pławiak P, Tan RS, Acharya UR. Arrhythmia detection using deep convolutional neural network with long duration ECG signals. *Computers in biology and medicine* 2018; 102: 411-420.
- [47] Talo M, Baloglu UB, Yıldırım Ö, Acharya UR. Application of deep transfer learning for automated brain abnormality classification using MR images. *Cognitive Systems Research* 2019; 54: 176-188.
- [48] Krizhevsky A, Sutskever I, Hinton GE. Imagenet classification with deep convolutional neural networks. In *Advances in neural information processing systems 2012*; 1097-1105.
- [49] Simonyan K, Zisserman A. Very deep convolutional networks for large-scale image recognition. *arXiv preprint 2014*; arXiv:1409.1556.

- [50] He K, Zhang X, Ren S, Sun J. Deep residual learning for image recognition. In Proceedings of the IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition 2016; 770-778.
- [51] Huang G, Liu Z, Van Der Maaten L, Weinberger KQ. Densely connected convolutional networks. In Proceedings of the IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition 2017; 4700-4708.
- [52] Jian LW, Lim TC. Automated detection of diabetes by means of higher order spectral features obtained from heart rate signals. Journal of Medical Imaging and Health Informatics 2013; 3(3): 440-447.