



Faculty of Engineering

**PREDICTING CHLOROPHYLL INTENSITY OF VARIOUS  
PLANTS USING IMPROVED CONVOLUTION NEURAL  
NETWORK**

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Bachelor of Engineering

Electrical and Electronics Engineering with Honours

2023



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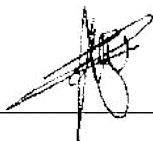
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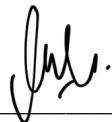
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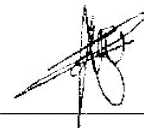
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**PREDICTING CHLOROPHYLL INTENSITY OF VARIOUS  
PLANTS USING IMPROVED CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL  
NETWORK**

**MICHELLE NASHRIN BAWAI**

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment  
of the requirement for the degree of  
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## ABSTRACT

Chlorophyll pigment is beneficial during photosynthesis to absorb sufficient light energy and provide nutrients to the plant to grow healthy. A convenient assessment of chlorophyll content is essential in smart management agriculture. Several attempts have been made to implement computer vision to enhance the precision agriculture techniques. However, problems still arise as the applied algorithms of machine learning are time consuming, very complex architectures, high computational cost, as well as less generalization towards various plant species and size of datasets. Hence, in this project, a rapid and straightforward convolutional neural network (CNN) algorithm was proposed to predict chlorophyll intensity of various plant species based on leaf reflectance spectra. The datasets were taken from ANGERS Leaf Optical Properties Database (2003). The proposed model consists of Hybrid CNN as a feature extractor and support vector regression (SVR) network as a predictor. Hybrid CNN was designed by modifying the architectures of AlexNet and PNet using MATLAB R2023a. The performance of Hybrid CNN with SVR (CNN-SVR) was also compared with AlexNet, PNet, and SVR. Results showed that the best CNN also can be designed with one input, four convolutional, four max-pooling and three fully connected layers which can be found in Hybrid CNN-SVR. The experimental results show that the prediction accuracy of chlorophyll intensity is satisfying with a mean square error (MSE) of 0.1558 and 1.149 for training and testing sets, respectively.



## **ABSTRAK**

Pigmen klorofil bermanfaat semasa proses fotosintesis untuk menyerap tenaga cahaya yang mencukupi dan membekalkan nutrien kepada tumbuhan untuk bertumbuh dengan sihat. Penilaian kandungan klorofil yang mudah adalah penting dalam pengurusan pertanian yang tepat. Beberapa percubaan telah dibuat dalam melaksanakan visi komputer untuk meningkatkan teknik ketepatan pertanian. Walau bagaimanapun, masalah masih timbul kerana algoritma pembelajaran mesin yang digunakan memakan masa, struktur yang sangat kompleks, kos komputasi yang tinggi, serta kurang generalisasi kepada pelbagai spesies tumbuhan dan saiz set data. Oleh itu, dalam projek ini, algoritma rangkaian neural berlingkaran (CNN) yang pantas dan mudah telah direka untuk meramalkan kandungan klorofil dalam pelbagai spesies tumbuhan berdasarkan spektrum pemantulan daun. Dataset diambil dari Pangkalan Data Harta Optik Daun ANGERS (2003). Model yang terlibat adalah Hybrid CNN sebagai pengekstrak ciri dan rangkaian regresi vektor sokongan (SVR) sebagai peramal. Hibrid CNN direka bentuk dengan mengubah suai seni bina AlexNet dan PNet menggunakan MATLAB R2023a. Prestasi Hibrid CNN dengan SVR (CNN-SVR) juga dibandingkan dengan AlexNet, PNet dan SVR. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahawa CNN terbaik juga dapat direka bentuk dengan satu input, empat convolutional, empat max-pooling dan tiga lapisan sambungan penuh yang boleh didapati dalam Hybrid CNN-SVR. Keputusan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa ketepatan ramalan kandungan klorofil adalah memuaskan dengan ralat min kuasa dua (MSE) masing-masing 0.1558 dan 1.149 untuk set latihan dan ujian.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF EQUATIONS</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>xiv</b>
<b>Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	4
1.3 Research Questions	6
1.4 Objectives	6
1.5 Hypothesis	7
1.6 Project Motivation	7
1.7 Project Scope	8
1.8 Chapter Outline	8
<b>Chapter 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Overview	10
2.2 Photosynthesis Pigments in a Leaf	10
2.2.1 The Intensity of Leaf Chlorophyll	10
2.3 Dataset of Plant Species	11
2.3.1 Leaf Spectra of Various Plant Species	12
2.3.2 Plant Species in ANGERS	13

2.4	Measuring Actual Chlorophyll Intensity	19
2.4.1	SPAD Chlorophyll Meter	20
2.4.2	Spectrophotometer	21
2.4.3	Comparison between Conventional Non-Destructive Approaches to Measure the Actual Chlorophyll Intensity	22
2.5	Leaf Reflectance Spectrum as an Input Data	24
2.6	Reflectance Spectra Feature Extraction	24
2.6.1	Principle Component Analysis	25
2.6.2	Linear Discriminant Analysis	25
2.6.3	Artificial Neural Network	26
2.6.4	Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)	27
2.6.5	Comparison between the Approaches of Reflectance Spectrum Feature Extraction	28
2.7	Deep Learning Model	29
2.7.1	AlexNet	29
2.7.2	PNet	30
2.7.3	VGGNet	31
2.7.4	ShallowNet	32
2.7.5	Comparison between the Approaches of CNN	33
2.8	Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction	34
2.8.1	Random Forest	34
2.8.2	Binary Classification	35
2.8.3	Support Vector Regression	36
2.8.4	Comparison between the Approaches of Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction	37
2.9	Existing Methods related to Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction	38

2.9.1	Conventional Non-destructive Methods in Measuring the Actual Chlorophyll Intensity	38
2.9.2	Enhancing the Process of Feature Extraction	39
2.9.3	Designing the Optimal Deep Learning Model	39
2.9.4	Solving the Prediction Task	40
2.10	Summary	40
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>42</b>
3.1	Overview	42
3.2	Main Phases of The Prediction System	42
3.3	Software Tool	43
3.4	Dataset Preparation	43
3.5	Dataset Acquisition of Leaf Reflectance Spectrum	43
3.5.1	Training and Testing Sets	44
3.6	Leaf Spectra Analysis	44
3.6.1	Chlorophyll-specific Region	45
3.7	Feature Extraction	47
3.7.1	Introduction of Hybrid CNN	47
3.7.2	Convolution Layer	53
3.7.3	Pooling Layer	53
3.7.4	ReLU and LeakyReLU Layer	55
3.7.5	Fully Connected Layer	55
3.7.6	Optimizer	56
3.7.7	Loss Function	57
3.7.8	Summary of Hybrid CNN	58
3.8	Prediction Task	59
3.9	Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction System	60

3.10	Gantt Chart	61
3.11	Summary	63
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>64</b>
4.1	Overview	64
4.2	Design of Hybrid Convolutional Neural Network with Support Regression Vector	64
4.2.1	Hybrid Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)	65
4.2.2	Support Vector Regression (SVR)	66
4.2.3	The combination of Hybrid CNN with SVR	67
4.3	Completed Training of Hybrid CNN with SVR	67
4.3.1	Hyperparameters for Hybrid CNN	68
4.3.2	Optimizer for Hybrid CNN	72
4.4	Performance Evaluation of Hybrid CNN-SVR	73
4.4.1	Performance Indicator on Hybrid CNN-SVR and The Existing Models	73
4.4.2	Scatter Plots on Hybrid CNN-SVR and The Existing Models	75
4.5	Summary	76
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>77</b>
5.1	Overview	77
5.2	Conclusion	77
5.3	Limitations and Challenges	79
5.4	Future Works and Recommendations	79
5.5	Summary	80
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>81</b>
	<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>87</b>



## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Table 2.1:</b> ANGERS Plant Species	13
<b>Table 2.2:</b> Comparison of Conventional Non-Destructive Approaches to Measure Chlorophyll Intensity	23
<b>Table 2.3:</b> Comparison of Reflectance Spectrum Feature Extraction Approaches	28
<b>Table 2.4:</b> Comparison of CNN Approaches	33
<b>Table 2.5:</b> Comparison of Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction Approaches	37
<b>Table 3.1:</b> Specifications of the Workstation Used	43
<b>Table 3.2:</b> Basic Statistics of Wavelength and Reflectance within The Chlorophyll-Specific Region	46
<b>Table 3.3:</b> Comparison of Parameters for Original AlexNet and Modified AlexNet	50
<b>Table 3.4:</b> Gantt Chart of FYP1 Progress	61
<b>Table 3.5:</b> Gantt Chart of FYP2 Progress	62
<b>Table 4.1:</b> Layer Properties of Hybrid CNN	66
<b>Table 4.2:</b> Comparison of Training Setting with Various Hyperparameters	68
<b>Table 4.3:</b> Comparison of Training Completion Time with Four Different Models	74
<b>Table 5.1:</b> Objectives and Accomplishments of The Project	77

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
<b>Figure 1.1:</b> General Convolutional Neural Network Structure Diagram [6]	2
<b>Figure 1.2:</b> General Leaf Spectra based on Light Absorption (Image credits: Eric Brown de Colstoun)	3
<b>Figure 1.3:</b> Affected Respiration and Photosynthesis Rates as Climate Warming is Increasing [14]	4
<b>Figure 2.1:</b> ANGERS Leaf Optical Properties Database (2003)	12
<b>Figure 2.2:</b> SPAD-502 Chlorophyll Meter [25]	20
<b>Figure 2.3:</b> Data acquisition of a leaf using spectrophotometer [16]	22
<b>Figure 2.4:</b> Reflectance Spectrum as an Input Data for CNN Model [22]	24
<b>Figure 2.5:</b> Structure of ANN-BP for Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction [30]	26
<b>Figure 2.6:</b> General Structure of CNN layers for Feature Extraction [32]	27
<b>Figure 2.7:</b> Process at Convolution Layer [32]	28
<b>Figure 2.8:</b> Diagram of AlexNet Architecture [33]	30
<b>Figure 2.9:</b> Sample of PNet Architecture for Photosynthetic Pigment Prediction [11]	31
<b>Figure 2.10:</b> Diagram of VGGNet Architecture	32
<b>Figure 2.11:</b> Diagram of ShallowNet Architecture [4]	33
<b>Figure 2.12:</b> Illustration of Random Forest (RF) combines Multiple Randomized Decision Trees into an Output [35]	35
<b>Figure 2.13:</b> Illustration of Binary Classification for Two Classes	36
<b>Figure 2.14:</b> Illustration of Linear SVR	37
<b>Figure 3.1:</b> (a) Samples List of Leaf Reflectance Spectra (b) Folders of Various Plants Species	44
<b>Figure 3.2:</b> Regions of VIS-NIR-SWIR of ANGERS Dataset [40]	45
<b>Figure 3.3:</b> A sample of Tabular Format of Wavelength and Reflectance in a txt File	46
<b>Figure 3.4:</b> A sample of Leaf reflectance spectrum within the chlorophyll-specific region	47
<b>Figure 3.5:</b> (a) AlexNet Architecture (b) PNet Architecture	48
<b>Figure 3.6:</b> Customisation of Modified AlexNet and PNet Architecture	51
<b>Figure 3.7:</b> Stack Diagram of Hybrid CNN Model	52



<b>Figure 3.8:</b> Convolutional Layer of CNN [42]	53
<b>Figure 3.9:</b> General Operation Illustration of Max Pooling [43]	54
<b>Figure 3.10:</b> Max Pooling Layer [42]	54
<b>Figure 3.11:</b> Comparison of Before and After Applying Dropout [44]	56
<b>Figure 3.12:</b> Conceptual Diagram of Hybrid CNN	58
<b>Figure 3.13:</b> General Structure of SVR Network	59
<b>Figure 3.14:</b> Flowchart of Proposed Chlorophyll Intensity Prediction Model	60
<b>Figure 4.1:</b> The Architecture of Hybrid CNN in MATLAB's Live Editor	65
<b>Figure 4.2:</b> The 'fitsvm' Function in SVR Network	67
<b>Figure 4.3:</b> Training Settings 1 on Hybrid CNN	69
<b>Figure 4.4:</b> Training Settings 2 on Hybrid CNN	70
<b>Figure 4.5:</b> Training Settings 3 on Hybrid CNN	70
<b>Figure 4.6:</b> Training Settings 4 on Hybrid CNN	71
<b>Figure 4.7:</b> Comparison of MSE with SGDM, RMSProp and Adam Optimizers on Hybrid CNN	72
<b>Figure 4.8:</b> Comparison of MSE for Training and Testing Sets on AlexNet, PNet, SVR and Hybrid CNN	73
<b>Figure 4.9:</b> The Scatter Plots of Actual and Predicted Chlorophyll Intensity for Training and Testing Sets on AlexNet, PNet, SVR, and Hybrid CNN-SVR	75

## LIST OF EQUATIONS

<b>Equation</b>		<b>Page</b>
(1)– (2)	Chlorophyll Reflectance Index	22
(3)	Linear Activation Function	49
(4)	ReLU Activation Function	55
(5)	LeakyReLU Activation Function	55
(6) – (13)	Adam Optimizer	56 – 57
(14)	Loss Function MSE	57

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1D	-	One-Dimensional
3D	-	Three-Dimensional
Adam	-	Adaptive Momentum Estimation Optimizer
ANN	-	Artificial Neural Network
BP	-	Back Propagation
BPNN	-	Back Propagation Neural Network
CNN	-	Conventional Neural Network
CNN-SVR	-	Conventional Neural Network with Support Vector Regression
CO <sub>2</sub>	-	Carbon Dioxide Gas
FDA	-	Fisher Linear Discriminant Analysis
FYP1	-	Final Year Project 1
FYP2	-	Final Year Project 2
INRA	-	Institution for Agriculture Research
LCC	-	Leaf Chlorophyll Content
LCD	-	Liquid Crystal Display
LDA	-	Linear Discriminant Analysis
LED	-	Light-Emitting Diode
MAE	-	Mean Absolute Error
MATLAB	-	Matrix Laboratory
MLP	-	Multi-Layer Perceptron
MSE	-	Mean Square Error
nm	-	nanometer
ODbL	-	Open Database License

PCA	-	Principle Component Analysis
RBF	-	Radial Basis Function
ReLU	-	Rectified Linear Unit
RF	-	Random Forest
RMSProp	-	Root Mean Squared Propagation
SGDM	-	Stochastic Gradient Descent with Momentum
SPAD	-	Soil Plant Analysis Development
SVM	-	Support Vector Machine
SVR	-	Support Vector Regression
USDA	-	United States Department of Agriculture

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

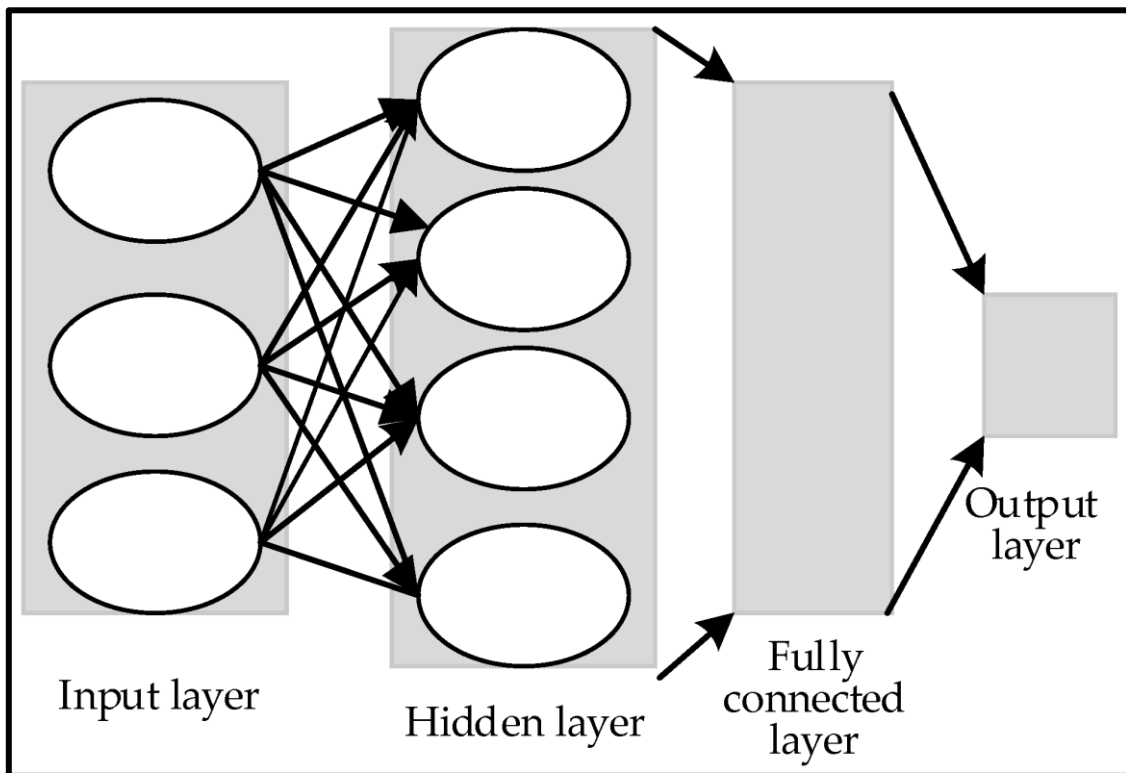
### 1.1 Background

Every plant contains vital green pigments known as chlorophyll which can indicate the concentration of the elements for the synthesis of chlorophyll such as nitrogen, iron, and magnesium [1][4]. Furthermore, chlorophyll is beneficial during photosynthesis to absorb sufficient light energy and provide nutrients to the plant. Thus, the crop diseases and yield predictions are assuredly assessed depending on the intensity of the green pigments in the leaves [5].

Various advanced computer technological methods have been proposed previously to predict the intensity of chlorophyll based on the plant leaves. Conventional methods for chlorophyll intensity prediction are either destructive or non-destructive [5]. For the destructive method, the pigments are crushed and extracted from the leaf sample using solvent extraction and subsequent spectroscopic chlorophyll analysis. However, this method needs cautious disposal of the extraction solvent waste, the high number of samples required, and the estimation parameters are restricted and time consuming [6].

Meanwhile, for the non-destructive method, the chlorophyll intensity is quantified by using specialised devices such as chlorophyll fluorescence [6], spectrometer [7], and Soil Plant Analysis Development (SPAD) [8]. These methods are categorised as conventional non-destructive measurement devices. The measurement of chlorophyll intensity using these conventional methods are mainly done by analysing the leaf surface without destroying the samples. Nonetheless, the devices required large samples to maintain culture sterility [6], as well as are still costly and difficult in generating reflectance spectrum data for both personal and commercial purposes. Due to these reasons, several alternative with advanced non-destructive approaches were developed to reduce the involvement of massive labour and rapid progress.

In previous studies, Artificial Neural Network (ANN) is commonly applied for commercial agricultural purposes in order to predict leaf area, classify the leaf and predict the crops yield, chlorophyll content quantification and fruits weight [2]-[4]. It is also widely used due to the higher accuracy in deciding the prediction results based on the digital image data of the plants [5]. The architecture of ANN consists of three layers of processes which are the input layer, the implicit layers, and the output layer. Nonetheless, as the development of machine learning approaches is getting fast to be improved, there are several drawbacks discovered in the application of ANN for agricultural field. For instance, feature extraction task is much complicated as the developer needs to manually design the best features using raw digital image data [7].

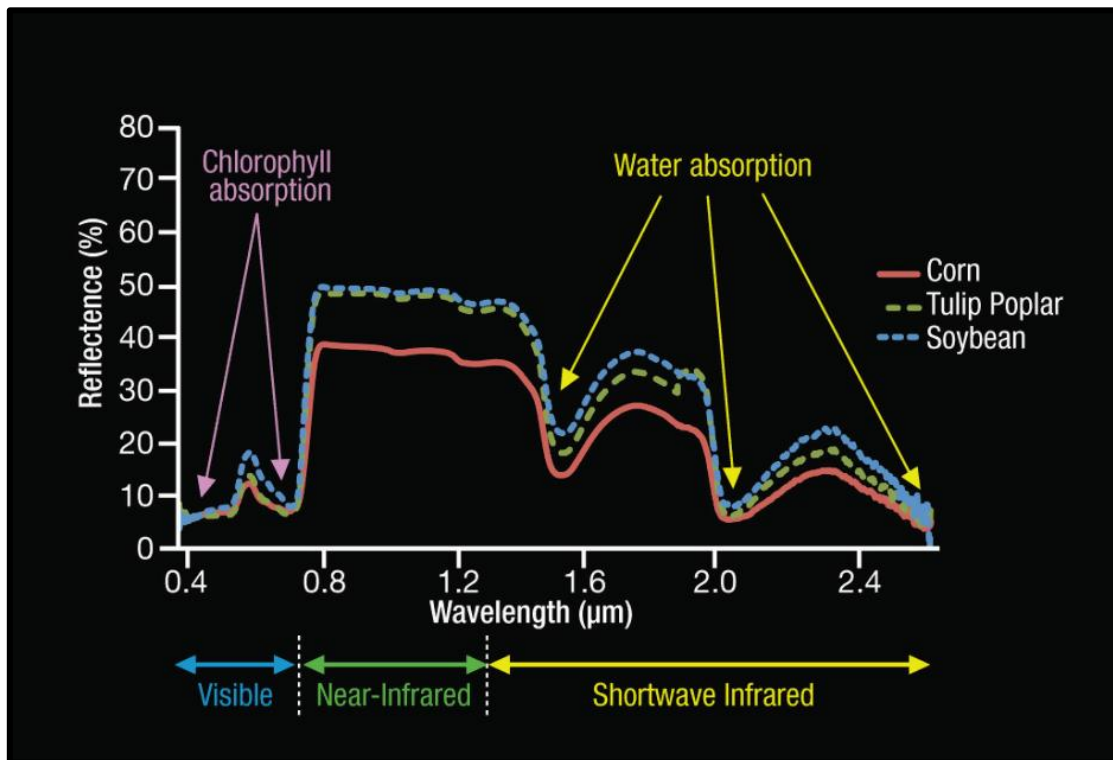


**Figure 1.1:** General Convolutional Neural Network Structure Diagram [6]

Therefore, ANN model is less automated compared to the famous architecture deep learning which is Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. CNN model can reduce the developer's effort and knowledge limitations in designing the feature extraction. Morphological image segmentation led directly to the term of convolutional. A convolutional matrix is used to detect edges, blur, and sharpen an image [7]. In recent studies, the algorithms of CNN on plant were mainly aiming the nutrient deficiency [9],

species classification [10], disease and health detection [9],[10], and photosynthetic pigments quantification [13] based on digital images and reflectance spectra data.

CNN commonly is utilized to handle digital image data with two or three dimensions. Based a previous study, photosynthetic pigments of a plant have been predicted by processing plant leaves digital images using CNN. Hence, CNN can produce simultaneous predictions of the three different pigment contents including chlorophyll, carotenoid, and anthocyanin. The results showed that the performance of CNN is remarkable in representing the relationship of non-linear models between the photosynthetic pigment contents and its plant digital images. Leaf reflectance spectrum is a one-dimensional (1D) data [12].



**Figure 1.2:** General Leaf Spectra based on Light Absorption (Image credits: Eric Brown de Colstoun)

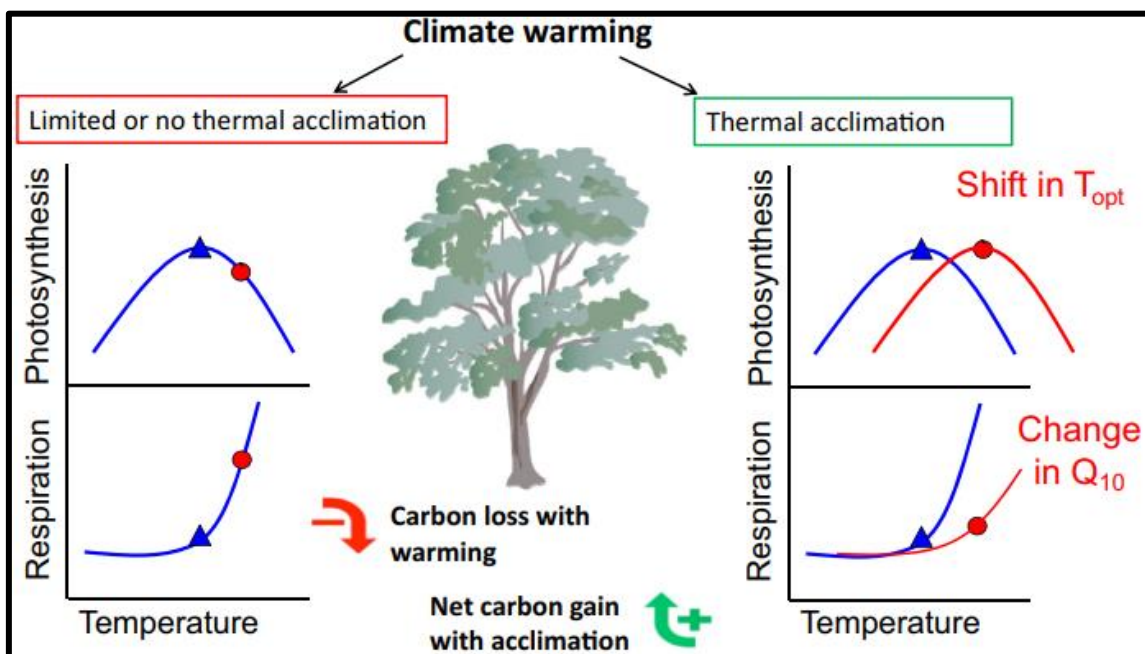
CNN have certain accuracy and generalization in many domains and have the potential to solve problems stated. CNN has the difficulty in designing the optimal architecture as the accuracy of CNN is determined by CNN architecture in terms of its kernel sizes, number of layers, types of layers and connection sequence of these layers. However, this concern can be solved with number of finding, readings, and understanding [13]related to the prediction techniques of this photosynthetic pigment so an effectively

and user-friendly system can be utilized easily as well as, giving the contribution to agriculture industry.

In this research, a non-destructive and real-time model of CNN is proposed as a main tool to predict the intensity of chlorophyll content.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Recently, plant physiological has been triggered by climate warming. It affects the physiological processes in plants such as photosynthesis, respiration, and decomposition. The recent temperature predictions of 2 °C until 5 °C warming is most likely experienced by many plants in the ecosystem [14]. Thus, the plants have to make immediate physiological adjustments toward warmer conditions in order to maintain the gain of carbon. However, plants do have its own considerable capacities that can affect their growths. Warmer climates have led the plants to reduce their growth, photosynthetic capacity, carbon gain, and respiration rates. Therefore, the intensity of chlorophyll content affects the production of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Figure 1.3 shows the illustration of affected respiration and photosynthesis rates as the temperature is getting warmer which increased the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> exchange in the atmosphere.



**Figure 1.3:** Affected Respiration and Photosynthesis Rates as Climate Warming is Increasing [14]