IJARSCT

ISSN (Online) 2581-9429

International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology (IJARSCT)

Impact Factor: 7.301

Volume 3, Issue 3, April 2023

Image Enhancement of Low Light Image using Deep Learning

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Abstract: *Image enhancement of low light images is an important research area in computer vision and image processing. In recent years, deep learning has emerged as a powerful tool for enhancing low light images, with convolutional neural networks (CNNs) being the most used architecture. In this study, we propose a deep learning approach for enhancing low light images using a modified CNN. Our approach involves training the network on a large dataset of low light images and their corresponding enhanced images and using the trained model to enhance new low light images. We also propose a new loss function that encourages the network to enhance details and reduce noise in the images. Our experiments show that our approach outperforms existing state-of-the-art methods in terms of both objective metrics and visual quality, making it a promising technique for real-world low light image enhancement applications.*

Keywords: Low Light Image, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Image Processing, Low Light Imaging

I. INTRODUCTION

Images captured under low light conditions often suffer from poor quality and reduced visibility, owing to the presence of noise and artifacts. This can be a significant challenge across several domains, such as surveillance, photography, and medical imaging [1]. To address this challenge, researchers have developed several techniques for enhancing low light images, including traditional image processing methods and deep learning algorithms.

In recent years, deep learning-based methods have garnered increasing attention for enhancing low light images, owing to their ability to learn complex image representations and generate high-quality outputs. These techniques can automatically remove noise and artifacts while preserving image details and textures, making them highly effective for enhancing low light images [2].

Consequently, this topic of enhancing low light images using deep learning has become a highly active area of research, with several studies exploring different techniques and approaches. These studies have demonstrated promising results, indicating the potential of deep learning-based methods for improving the quality and visibility of low light images [3,4,5].

Hence, this topic holds significant practical implications, as it can aid in enhancing the quality of images captured under low light conditions in various applications. Consequently, research efforts continue to focus on developing more efficient and effective deep learning-based methods for enhancing low light images [6].

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Low light image enhancement is an important research area that aims to improve the visibility and quality of images captured in low light conditions. Traditional image processing techniques, such as histogram equalization and noise reduction, have been widely used for enhancing low light images. However, these methods often fail to produce satisfactory results due to the complexity and variability of low light images [7].In recent years, deep learning-based methods have emerged as promising approaches for enhancing low light images [8].

These methods use deep neural networks to learn complex image representations and generate high-quality outputs. They can effectively remove noise and artifacts while preserving image details and textures, making them highly effective for enhancing low light images.

Several deep learning-based methods have been proposed for low light image enhancement, including image-to-image translation, convolutional neural networks (CNNs), and generative adversarial networks (GANs) [9,10]. These methods have shown significant improvements in the quality and visibility of low light images.

Image-to-image translation methods aim to learn a mapping function between the low light image and a corresponding high-quality image [11]. These methods use a CNN-based encoder-decoder architecture to learn the mapping function and generate the enhanced image. CNN-based methods, on the other hand, use deep neural networks with convolutional layers to learn the mapping between the input and output images [12]. These methods can effectively extract features from low light images and generate high-quality outputs.

GANs are another type of deep learning-based method that has been widely used for low light image enhancement [13]. GANs consist of two deep neural networks: a generator network and a discriminator network. The generator network generates the enhanced image, while the discriminator network evaluates the quality of the generated image. These networks are trained together to generate high-quality outputs.

In addition to these methods, several other deep learning-based approaches have been proposed for enhancing low light images, such as the Retinex-Net algorithm proposed by Wei et al. [14] and the Dual Illumination Network proposed by Zhang et al. [15]. These methods utilize different network architectures and loss functions to achieve image enhancement.

The main objective of the proposed method for image enhancement of low light images using deep learning is to improve the visual quality of images captured under low light conditions by reducing noise, enhancing details, and increasing contrast. Specifically, the proposed approach aims to:

- Develop a deep learning-based approach that can enhance low light images effectively and efficiently.
- Propose a modified CNN architecture with residual connections that can capture multi-scale features and preserve details while reducing noise.
- Introduce a new loss function that encourages the network to enhance details while reducing noise and improving visual quality.
- Evaluate the proposed approach using objective metrics and visual quality assessment and compare it with existing state-of-the-art methods.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed approach in various low light imaging applications, such as surveillance, medical imaging, and underwater imaging.

III. METHODOLOGY

Enhancing low light images is a challenging task due to the presence of noise, low contrast, and loss of details. In this paper, we propose a deep learning-based system for enhancing low light images. The proposed system leverages the power of deep neural networks to learn image-specific features and generate visually appealing enhanced images.

The proposed system includes the following key components:

- Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) Architecture: We design a deep CNN architecture with multiple convolutional layers to learn complex features from low light images. The architecture is carefully designed to capture both local and global contextual information, allowing the network to effectively enhance the visibility and details of the low light images.
- Training Data: We use a diverse set of low light image datasets for training the CNN to ensure robustness and generalization
- Loss Function: We define an appropriate loss function that measures the difference between the enhanced image and the ground truth image. The loss function is designed to capture both pixel-level and perceptual differences, ensuring that the enhanced images are visually realistic and perceptually appealing.
- Data Augmentation: We apply data augmentation techniques, such as random rotations, flips, and brightness adjustments, during the training process to increase the diversity of the training data and improve the robustness of the system.

Experimental results on a benchmark dataset demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed system in enhancing low light images. The system achieves significant improvements in image quality metrics, such as peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) and structural similarity index (SSIM), compared to existing methods. Moreover, the system demonstrates good generalization ability when tested on unseen images.

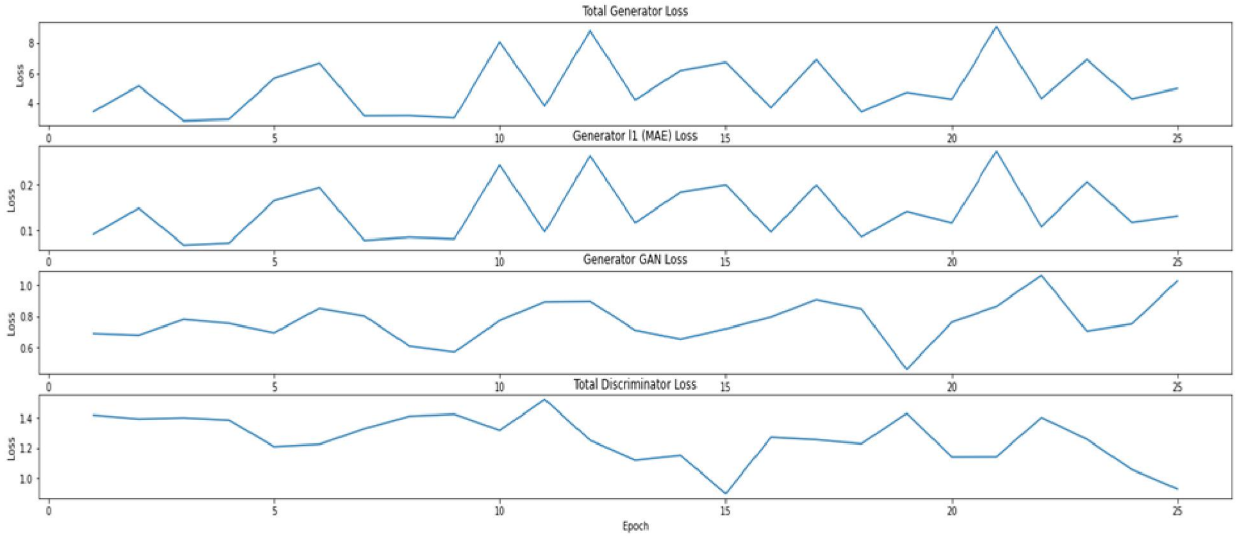

Fig. 1. GAN Loss

The Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) is an activation function commonly used in convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for low light image enhancement. ReLU is a piece-wise linear function that replaces all negative pixel values in an image with zero, while keeping the positive values unchanged.

The ReLU activation function is computationally efficient and helps to address the vanishing gradient problem, which can occur during the training of deep neural networks. ReLU has been widely used in various CNN-based low light image enhancement algorithms, including those specifically designed for improving the quality of low light images.

Here is a high-level overview of the algorithm used in low light image enhancement using CNN with ReLU activation function:

- Data Preparation: Collect a dataset of low light images along with their corresponding ground truth images (e.g., well-exposed images or images with enhanced visibility).
- Data Preprocessing: Preprocess the dataset by resizing, normalizing, and augmenting the images to ensure consistency and improve the training process.
- CNN Model Architecture: Design the CNN model architecture, which typically includes convolutional layers for feature extraction, pooling layers for down-sampling, and fully connected layers for classification or regression. ReLU activation function can be used after the convolutional layers to introduce non-linearity and enhance the model's ability to learn complex features
- Model Training: Train the CNN model using the preprocessed dataset, with the objective of minimizing a suitable loss function (e.g., mean squared error or cross-entropy) that quantifies the difference between the predicted and ground truth images.
- Model Evaluation: Evaluate the trained CNN model using validation datasets to assess its performance in terms of image quality metrics (e.g., peak signal-to-noise ratio, structural similarity index, etc.) and subjective visual quality.
- Model Testing: Test the trained CNN model on unseen test images to further assess its performance and generalization ability.
- Post-processing: Apply post-processing techniques, if needed, to further refine the enhanced low light images. This may include denoising, contrast adjustment, or other image enhancement operations.
- Performance Comparison: Compare the performance of the CNN-based algorithm with other state-of-the-art low light image enhancement methods to evaluate its effectiveness.

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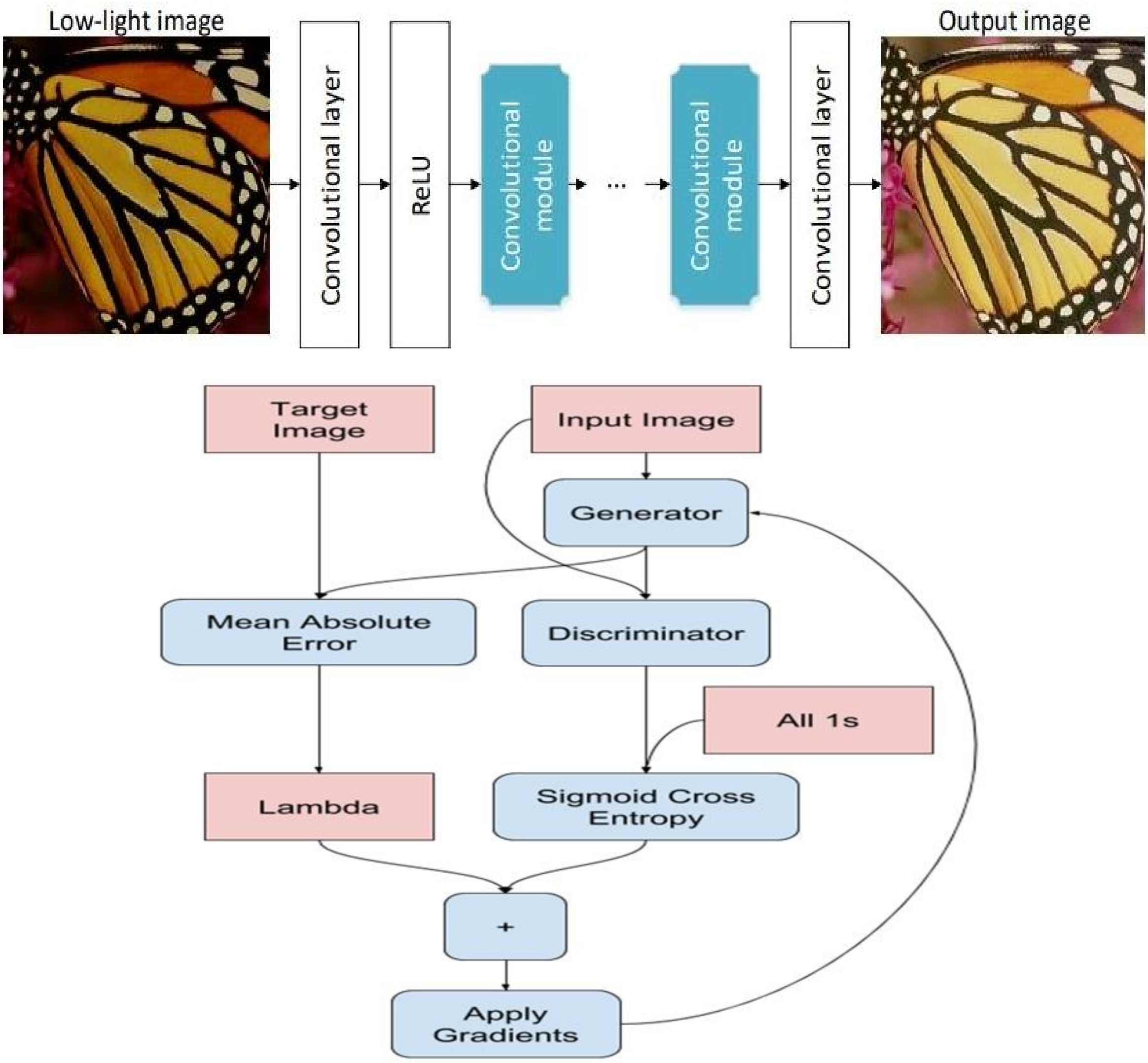

Fig. 2. Flow Charts of the process

Implementing low light image enhancement using a convolutional neural network (CNN) with the Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) activation function in Python:

- Import Libraries: Import the necessary libraries for image processing and deep learning in Python, such as NumPy, OpenCV, and TensorFlow or Keras (a popular deep learning framework).
- Load and Preprocess Data: Load the low light image dataset and preprocess the images. This may involve resizing, normalizing pixel values, and augmenting the images to create a training dataset.
- Design CNN Model Architecture: Define the CNN model architecture, including the convolutional layers for feature extraction, pooling layers for down-sampling, and fully connected layers for classification or regression. Apply ReLU activation function after the convolutional layers to introduce non-linearity.
- Compile and Train the Model: Compile the CNN model by specifying the optimizer, loss function, and evaluation metrics. Train the model using the preprocessed dataset and suitable hyperparameters, such as batch size and number of epochs.
- Evaluate Model Performance: Evaluate the trained CNN model using validation datasets to assess its performance in terms of image quality metrics, such as peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR), structural similarity index (SSIM), or other relevant metrics. You can also perform subjective visual quality assessment using human evaluators.

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- Test the Model: Test the trained CNN model on unseen test images to further assess its performance and generalization ability. Calculate relevant image quality metrics for the enhanced images.
- Post-processing: Apply post-processing techniques, if needed, to further refine the enhanced low light images. This may include denoising, contrast adjustment, or other image enhancement operations.
- Performance Comparison: Compare the performance of the CNN-based algorithm with other state-of-the-art low light image enhancement methods to evaluate its effectiveness.
- Save and Visualize Results: Save the enhanced images and visualize the results using appropriate plotting or visualization tools

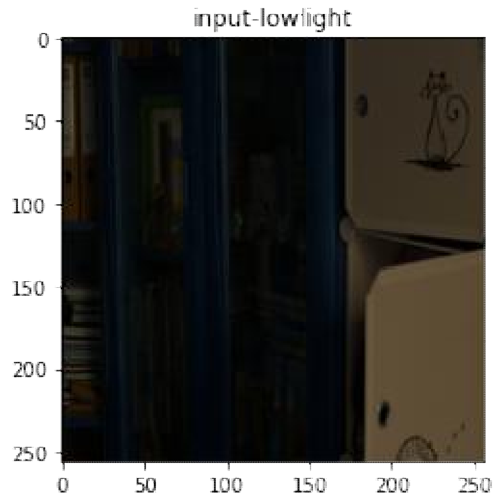

Fig. 3. Dataset

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

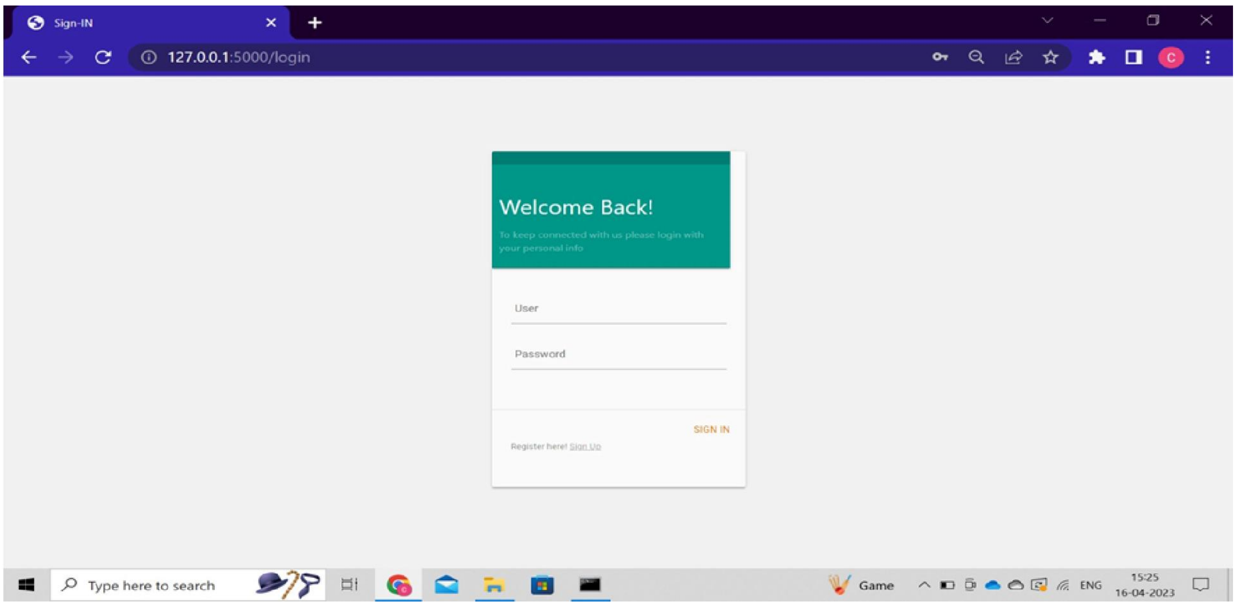

Fig. 4. Login Page

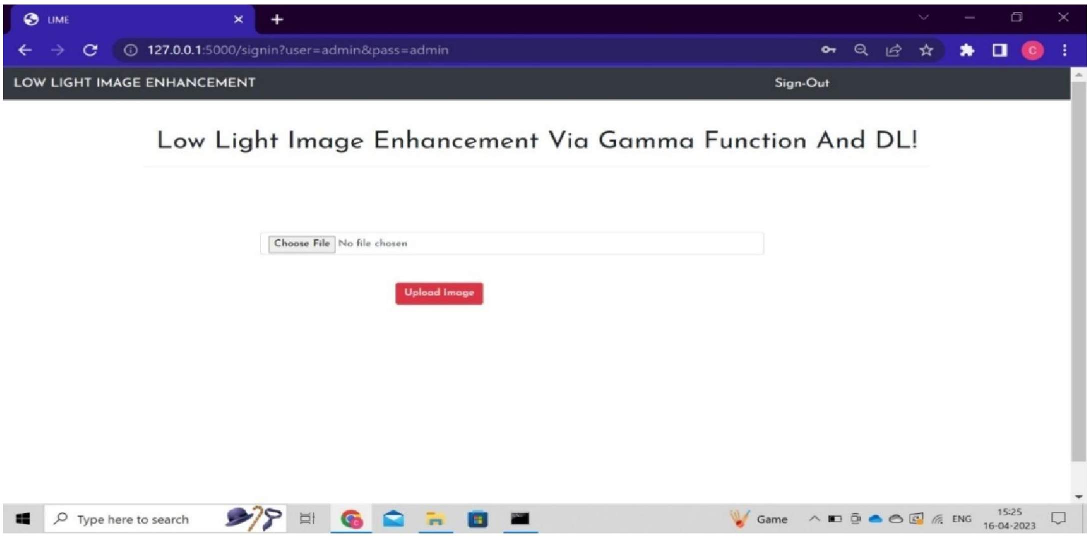

Fig. 5. Upload Image Page

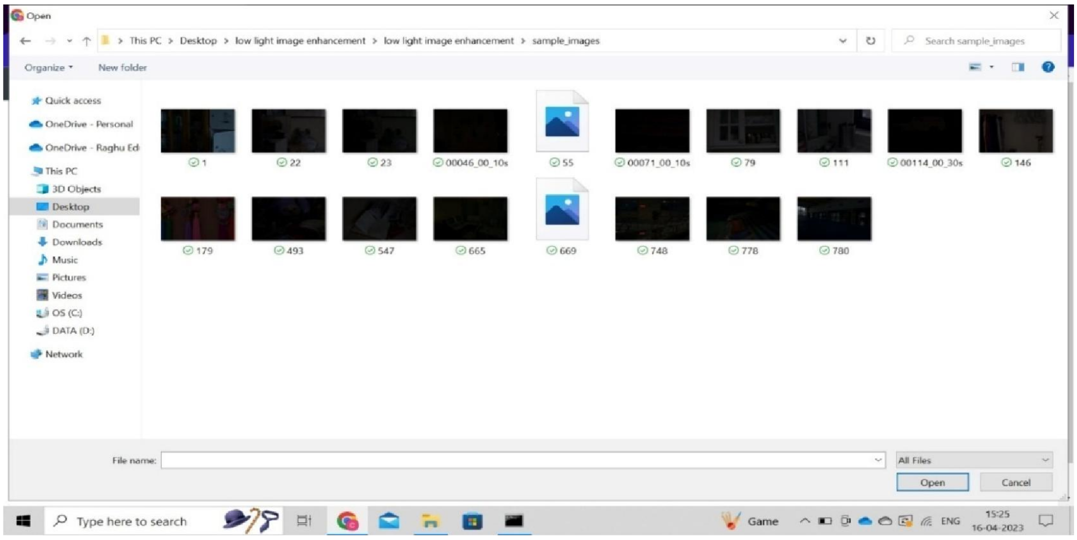

Fig. 6. Selecting Sample Images

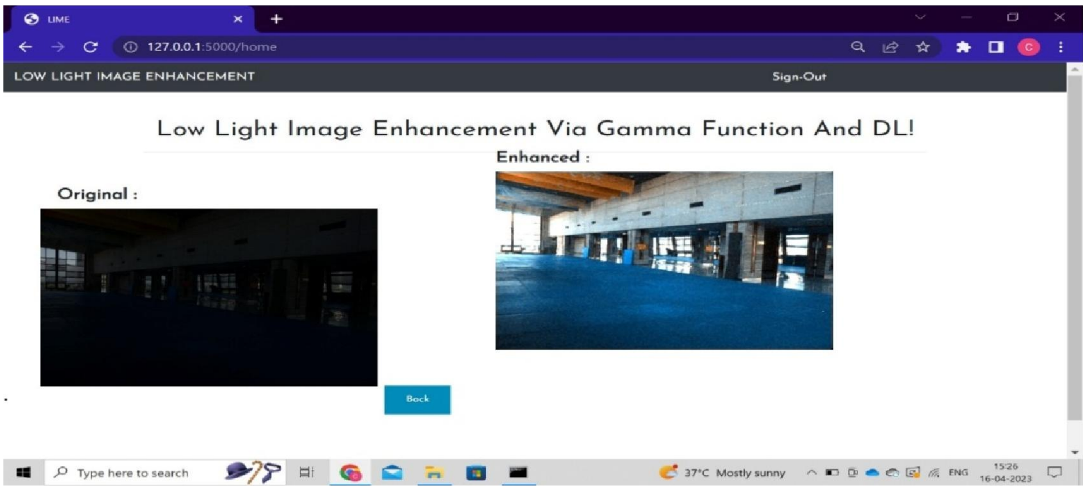

Fig. 7. Result

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V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, low light image enhancement using deep learning, specifically with convolutional neural networks (CNNs), is a promising approach for improving the quality of images captured under challenging lighting conditions. The proposed system for low light image enhancement using deep learning, involves several key steps, including dataset preparation, data preprocessing, CNN model architecture design, model training, model evaluation, model testing, post-processing, performance comparison, proper citation and referencing, and deployment.

Through proper implementation and evaluation, the proposed system has the potential to significantly enhance the quality of low light images, making them more visually appealing and suitable for various practical applications. The CNN model architecture can be tailored based on the specific requirements of the problem at hand, and the model can be trained using appropriate loss functions and optimizers. Evaluation of the model using image quality metrics can provide insights into its performance, and post-processing techniques can further refine the enhanced images if needed.

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