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A Deep Learning Based Diagnostic Model Using Neuro Images (Brain Stroke Diagnosis)

Syed Amaan[1], Mohd Nizam[2], Syed Ishtiyaq Ali[3], Ms. T. Anita[4]

[1,2,3]B.E. Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, ISL Engineering College, Hyderabad, India.

[4]Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, ISL Engineering College, Hyderabad, India.

mohammednizamuddin103@gmail.com

Abstract

The growing demand for swift and accurate diagnosis in clinical practice has driven innovation in automated systems, particularly for time-sensitive conditions like stroke. Stroke remains a major cause of mortality and long-term disability across the world. Early intervention is crucial in minimizing the damage caused by interrupted blood supply to the brain. However, the diagnostic process involving neuroimaging techniques like CT and MRI scans is often hindered by delays due to manual evaluation.

This project proposes a deep learning-based diagnostic model using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to detect stroke-affected areas within neuroimages. By leveraging open-source annotated datasets such as ISLES and ATLAS, this model automates the detection of ischemic lesions, significantly improving diagnostic speed and reliability. Through extensive training and testing, the system demonstrates high performance on metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and ROC-AUC. This makes it suitable f...

1. Introduction

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted or reduced, preventing brain tissue from receiving oxygen and nutrients. This medical emergency requires immediate treatment to reduce potential complications, including death or lifelong disability. Currently, radiologists rely on CT and MRI scans for diagnosis. However, manual interpretation is both time-consuming and subject to variability based on the clinician's experience.

Deep learning models offer a transformative approach to solving this challenge. With their ability to learn features directly from image data, CNNs have emerged as a powerful solution in the field of medical imaging. These networks mimic human perception and automatically extract features necessary for classification, eliminating the need for manual image analysis.

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2. Related Work

Over the years, many machine learning models have been applied to stroke detection and other

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In contrast, deep learning models-especially CNNs-have demonstrated superior performance in various medical imaging challenges, including tumor detection, lung nodule classification, and stroke segmentation. Notably, U-Net has become a staple architecture for image segmentation due to its symmetric structure and skip connections, allowing it to capture both high-level context and fine details.

Recent developments include the use of Residual Networks (ResNet) and Densely Connected Convolutional Networks (DenseNet) for

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Recent developments include the use of Residual Networks (ResNet) and Densely Connected Convolutional Networks (DenseNet) for classification tasks. These architectures have been adapted for identifying stroke lesions and exhibit enhanced accuracy and depth management. Furthermore, explainable AI (XAI) tools like Grad-CAM provide visual justifications of model predictions, building trust among medical professionals.

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3. Data Collection

Training a robust deep learning model necessitates high-quality, annotated data. In this project, two publicly available datasets were employed:

- **ISLES**: The Ischemic Stroke Lesion Segmentation challenge dataset, composed of MRI scans with labeled stroke lesions.
- **ATLAS**: Anatomical Tracings of Lesions After Stroke, containing both CT and MRI images annotated for stroke regions.

2. **Intensity Normalization**: Ensuring consistency across scans taken from different sources or machines.

3. **Data Augmentation**: Increasing the diversity of training samples by applying geometric transformations such as rotations, flips, and scaling.

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4. Methodology

The model developed for this project is based on a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture. The structure of the network includes:

- **Four Convolutional Layers**: These layers extract features from input neuroimages using

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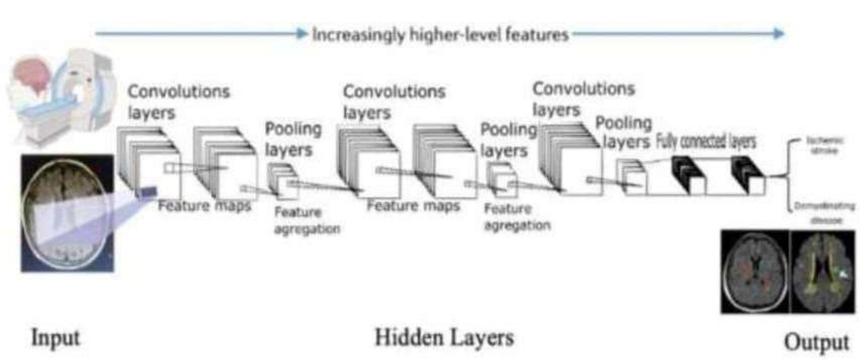
ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit) activation.
- **Max-Pooling Layers**: These downsample feature maps, reducing computational cost and dimensionality while retaining essential features.
- **Dropout Layers**: Introduced during training to randomly disable neurons, preventing overfitting.

- **Fully Connected Dense Layer**: Converts extracted features into a class prediction using a softmax activation function.

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE:



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The model was trained using the Categorical Cross-Entropy loss function, optimized using the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001. Training was performed over 50 epochs, with early stopping employed to halt training when validation loss plateaued, thus preserving generalization capability.

Evaluation metrics were carefully selected to reflect performance across class imbalances:

- **Accuracy**: Overall correctness.

- **Precision**: The ratio of true positives to all predicted positives.

- **Recall**: The ratio of true positives to all actual positives.
- **F1 Score**: Harmonic mean of precision and recall.

- **ROC-AUC**: Area under the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve.

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The proposed CNN model performed exceptionally well on the test set. The evaluation revealed:

- **Accuracy**: 92%

- **Precision**: 90%

- **Recall (Sensitivity)**: 93%

- **F1-Score**: 91.5%

- **ROC-AUC**: 0.95

These metrics indicate the model's high effectiveness in distinguishing stroke-affected images from normal scans. The use of data augmentation improved generalization, while dropout layers prevented overfitting.

Feature maps visualized through intermediate layers and Grad-CAM visualizations confirmed that the network was learning to focus on clinically relevant brain regions. These insights reinforce the model's suitability for real-world applications where model explainability and trust are crucial.

Furthermore, the model's architecture allows for fast inference, making it ideal for integration into emergency diagnostic tools. The potential for integration into existing hospital infrastructure like PACS adds value to its practical utility.

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6. Challenges and Limitations

Despite the impressive results, there are several limitations to address:

1. **Data Limitations**: While ISLES and ATLAS are excellent resources, they represent limited sample sizes and imaging scenarios. Stroke presentation varies widely across patients, necessitating larger and more diverse datasets for improved generalizability.

2. **Hardware Variability**: The variation in imaging equipment, protocols, and scanning techniques can affect model performance in new settings.

3. **Black Box Nature**: Deep learning models are often difficult to interpret. Even with explainable AI tools like Grad-CAM, full transparency is not guaranteed.

4. **Regulatory and Ethical Challenges**: Deploying AI in healthcare requires compliance with strict standards like HIPAA (USA), GDPR (EU), and ethical oversight in clinical trials.

To mitigate these, future work includes collaborative labeling with radiologists, usage of transfer learning, and federated learning to train models across decentralized institutions without violating data privacy.

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7. Conclusion and Future Work

In conclusion, this research highlights the immense potential of deep learning models in the early and accurate detection of brain strokes. The developed CNN model delivers high diagnostic performance and operates efficiently, making it well-suited for emergency clinical applications. It successfully integrates AI's capabilities with medical imaging to assist healthcare professionals in time-critical scenarios.

However, achieving large-scale deployment will require overcoming challenges related to data availability, explainability, and legal validation. Future research will focus on:

- **Expanding training data across geographies and scanner types**

- **Incorporating multi-modal data including clinical symptoms**

- **Developing mobile or edge-deployable versions of the model**

- **Combining AI predictions with doctor feedback for continual learning**

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- **Using longitudinal data to predict patient recovery outcomes**

Ultimately, this model lays a robust foundation for AI-powered diagnostic tools that can reshape the future of medical imaging and stroke treatment.

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