International Journal of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Volume 18, Issue No. 01, Jan-June 2026
ISSN (0) 2321-2055 ISSN (P) 2321-2045

Diagnosis And Detection of Alzheimer's Disease Using Multimodal Fused Learning Algorithms

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***Abstract*—Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that leads to memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioural changes, primarily affecting elderly individuals. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease plays a crucial role in slowing the progression of the disease and improving patient care. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is widely used for analysing structural changes in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease. However, manual analysis of MRI scans is time-consuming and requires expert medical knowledge. Therefore, automated diagnostic systems using machine learning and deep learning techniques have gained significant importance in recent years. In this work, an automated Alzheimer's disease detection and classification system is proposed using a hybrid deep learning model based on Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM). The model analyses MRI brain scan images to determine whether Alzheimer's disease is present and, if detected, classifies the stage of the disease into four categories: No Impairment, Very Mild Impairment, Mild Impairment, and Moderate Impairment.The CNN component is used for extracting spatial features from MRI images, while the LSTM layer helps capture deeper feature dependencies to improve classification performance. The model is trained using a publicly available Alzheimer's MRI dataset and evaluated using various performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed CNN+LSTM approach effectively classifies Alzheimer's disease stages and achieves high classification accuracy. Additionally, confusion matrix analysis and performance plots are used to evaluate the model's prediction capability. The proposed system can assist medical professionals in early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease by providing an automated and efficient decision-support tool based on MRI image analysis.**

***Index Terms*—Alzheimer's disease, MRI image analysis, deep learning, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), hybrid deep learning model, automated diagnosis, classification, mild cognitive impairment, feature extraction, computer-aided diagnosis (CAD)**

I. Introduction

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that primarily affects memory, thinking ability, and behavior. It is one of the leading causes of dementia worldwide and poses a significant burden on patients, families, and healthcare systems [3], [4]. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is crucial for effective treatment and management, as it allows timely medical intervention and can slow down disease progression [2].

Traditionally, the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease relies on clinical assessments, cognitive tests, and neuroimaging techniques such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). However, manual analysis of MRI scans is time-consuming and subject to human error [6], [7]. With the advancement of machine learning techniques, automated approaches have been developed to assist in the diagnosis process, improving accuracy and efficiency [5], [8].

Machine learning algorithms such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN), and Random Forests have been widely used for Alzheimer's disease classification [10], [11] [12] These methods depend heavily on handcrafted features, which may not effectively capture complex patterns present in brain images [13]. As a result, their performance is often limited when dealing with large and high-dimensional medical datasets.

In recent years, deep learning approaches, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have shown remarkable success in medical image analysis [14], [17]. CNNs automatically extract hierarchical features from input images, eliminating the need for manual feature engineering [18]. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of CNN-based models for Alzheimer's disease detection using MRI data [21], [22].

Furthermore, Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), especially Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, have been introduced to capture temporal and sequential dependencies in data [23], [25]. Hybrid models combining CNN and LSTM have gained attention due to their ability to leverage both spatial and sequential information, leading to improved classification performance [26], [27].

Recent research focuses on developing advanced hybrid deep learning models that integrate multiple modalities and improve diagnostic accuracy [29], [30]. These models aim to provide automated, reliable, and scalable solutions for early detection of Alzheimer's disease, supporting clinicians in decision-making and improving patient outcomes.

In this work, a hybrid CNN-LSTM model is proposed for the classification of Alzheimer's disease using MRI images. The model aims to enhance diagnostic accuracy by combining spatial feature extraction with sequential learning, thereby contributing to the advancement of intelligent healthcare systems.

II. Literature Survey

Alzheimer's disease detection has gained significant attention in recent years due to its increasing prevalence and impact on human health. Several research works have focused on improving early diagnosis using machine learning and deep learning techniques. Neuroimaging data, particularly Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), has been widely used for identifying structural changes in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Earlier studies primarily used traditional machine learning techniques such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN), and Random Forest algorithms for classification [10]–[12]. These methods rely on handcrafted feature extraction, which requires domain expertise and often fails to capture complex patterns present in medical images [13]. Although these approaches provided moderate accuracy, their performance is limited when handling large-scale and high-dimensional datasets.

With the advancement of deep learning, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have been extensively applied for medical image analysis. CNN models automatically extract spatial features from MRI images and eliminate the need for manual feature engineering [14], [15]. Several researchers have successfully used CNN-based architectures for Alzheimer's disease classification, achieving higher accuracy compared to conventional methods [19], [20]. Deep architectures such as VGG and ResNet further improved performance by enabling deeper feature learning and reducing training errors [16], [17].

In addition to CNNs, Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks have been introduced to capture temporal dependencies in data [23], [24]. LSTM networks are capable of learning long-term dependencies and have shown promising results in sequential data analysis [25]. However, when used independently, they are not sufficient for extracting spatial features from medical images.

To overcome these limitations, hybrid models combining CNN and LSTM have been proposed. In such approaches, CNN is used for spatial feature extraction, while LSTM captures sequential relationships among features [26], [27]. These hybrid models have demonstrated improved classification performance and robustness, making them suitable for complex medical imaging tasks.

Furthermore, recent studies have explored multimodal approaches by integrating MRI with other data sources such as PET scans and clinical information [5], [8]. These approaches aim to enhance diagnostic accuracy but require extensive data and computational resources. Recent advancements also focus on developing automated and scalable systems for real-time clinical applications [28]–[30].

Overall, the literature indicates a shift from traditional machine learning techniques to advanced deep learning and hybrid approaches. The proposed CNN-LSTM model builds upon these advancements to provide a more accurate and reliable system for Alzheimer's disease detection.

III. Objectives

The primary objective of this work is to develop an efficient and accurate deep learning-based system for the early detection and classification of Alzheimer's disease using MRI brain images. The proposed system aims to assist medical professionals in diagnosing the disease at an early stage, thereby improving treatment outcomes.

Another objective is to design a hybrid deep learning architecture that combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The CNN is used for spatial feature extraction, while the LSTM captures sequential dependencies to enhance classification performance.

The work also focuses on preprocessing MRI images using techniques such as resizing, normalization, and noise reduction to improve data quality and ensure better learning by the model.

Furthermore, the system aims to perform multi-class classification of Alzheimer's disease into categories such as non-impaired, very mild, mild, and moderate stages, enabling better understanding of disease progression.

An additional objective is to evaluate the model using performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to ensure reliability and effectiveness.

Finally, the study aims to develop an automated and scalable diagnostic framework that can be extended for real-time clinical applications.

IV. Proposed Methodology

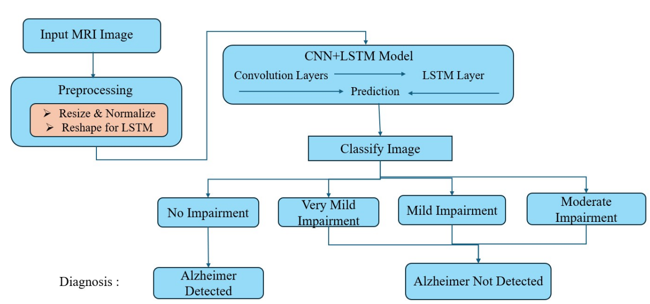

Fig. 1: Proposed sytem

The proposed methodology focuses on developing an efficient system for the detection and classification of Alzheimer's disease using MRI brain images. The system is designed using a hybrid deep learning model that combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. This combination helps in improving the accuracy of the system by capturing both spatial and sequential features present in the MRI images.

The process begins with the input of MRI brain images, which are collected from a standard dataset. These images may vary in size, quality, and intensity, which can affect the performance of the model. Therefore, a preprocessing stage is applied to improve the quality and consistency of the images. In this stage, all images are resized to a fixed dimension and normalized so that pixel values are scaled within a specific range. Additionally, the images are reshaped in a suitable format to make them compatible with the LSTM layer.

After preprocessing, the images are passed to the CNN model, which plays a major role in feature extraction. The CNN consists of multiple convolutional layers that automatically extract important spatial features such as edges, textures, and structural patterns from the MRI images. Pooling layers are used to reduce the size of the feature maps while preserving the important information. This step helps in reducing computational complexity and improving efficiency.

The feature maps generated by the CNN are then reshaped and given as input to the LSTM network. The LSTM layer is responsible for learning the relationships between the extracted features. It captures sequential dependencies and helps in identifying complex patterns that may not be detected by CNN alone. This improves the overall performance of the system.

The output obtained from the LSTM layer is passed through fully connected layers, which perform the final classification. A softmax function is used in the output layer to classify the MRI images into four categories: No Impairment, Very Mild Impairment, Mild Impairment, and Moderate Impairment. Based on the classification result, the system determines whether Alzheimer's disease is detected or not.

If the input image is classified under the No Impairment category, the system outputs that Alzheimer's disease is not detected. If the image belongs to Very Mild, Mild, or Moderate Impairment categories, the system indicates that Alzheimer's disease is detected. This approach provides an automated and reliable method for early diagnosis.

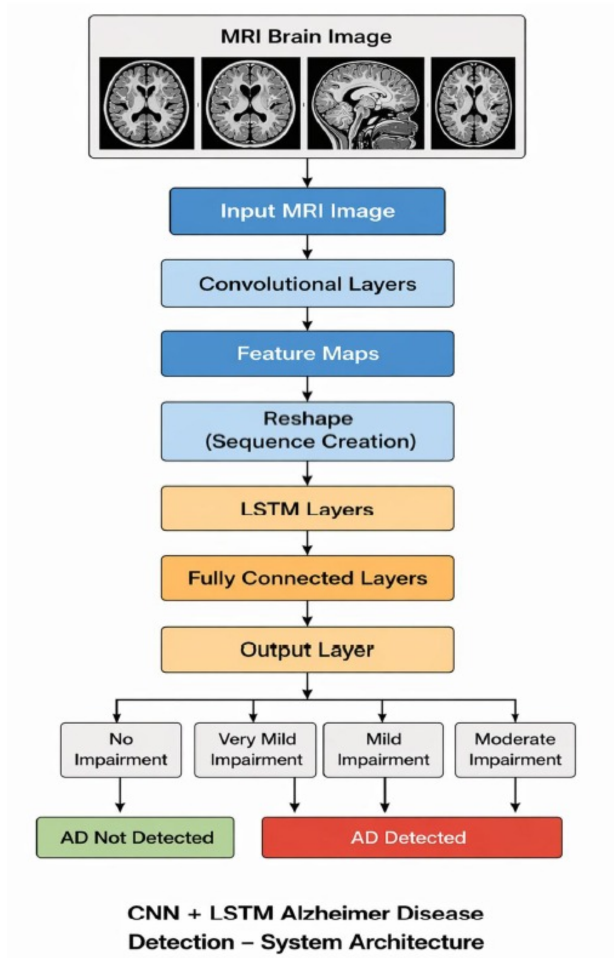

Fig. 2: CNN+LSTM Model Architecture

A. Working Principle

The working principle of the proposed system is based on a structured pipeline where each block performs a specific operation to transform the input MRI image into a meaningful diagnostic output. The system integrates preprocessing, feature extraction, sequence learning, and classification stages to achieve accurate detection of Alzheimer's disease.

1) Input MRI Image: The process begins with the input of MRI brain images obtained from a standard dataset. These images contain detailed structural information about different regions of the brain, which is essential for identifying abnormalities caused by Alzheimer's disease. However, the input images may vary in size, resolution, and intensity levels due to differences in imaging equipment and acquisition conditions. These variations can affect model performance if not handled properly. Therefore, it is necessary to process the images before feeding them into the model.

2) Preprocessing: The preprocessing stage plays a crucial role in improving the quality and consistency of the input data. In this stage, all MRI images are resized to a fixed dimension to ensure uniformity across the dataset. This helps the model process all images in a consistent manner. The pixel values are normalized to a standard range, typically between 0 and 1, which improves numerical stability and speeds up the training process.

In addition, noise present in the images is reduced using filtering techniques. Noise removal is important because it eliminates irrelevant variations that may negatively impact feature extraction. Data reshaping is also performed to convert the images into a suitable format required for further processing. These preprocessing steps collectively enhance the quality of the data and improve the learning capability of the model.

3) CNN Feature Extraction: After preprocessing, the images are passed through the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), which acts as a feature extractor. The CNN consists of multiple convolutional layers, where each layer applies filters to the input image to detect important spatial features such as edges, textures, and patterns. These features are essential for identifying structural changes in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Activation functions such as ReLU are applied after each convolution operation to introduce non-linearity into the model. Pooling layers are used to reduce the size of the feature maps while retaining important information. This reduces computational complexity and helps prevent overfitting. As the data passes through multiple layers, the CNN learns increasingly complex and abstract features that are useful for classification.

4) Feature Reshaping: The feature maps generated by the CNN are high-dimensional and need to be converted into a format suitable for sequential processing. In this stage, the feature maps are reshaped into a sequence of feature vectors. This transformation allows the model to treat the extracted features as sequential data, which is required for input to the LSTM network.

This step is important because it bridges the gap between spatial feature extraction and sequential learning. Without proper reshaping, the LSTM would not be able to process the data effectively.

5) LSTM Layer: The reshaped feature sequences are then fed into the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) network. The LSTM is a type of recurrent neural network that is capable of learning long-term dependencies between data points. It uses memory cells and gating mechanisms to retain important information and discard irrelevant data.

In this system, the LSTM captures relationships between the extracted features and identifies patterns that indicate different stages of Alzheimer's disease. By analyzing the sequential dependencies among features, the LSTM enhances the model's ability to make accurate predictions. This combination of CNN and LSTM significantly improves performance compared to using CNN alone.

6) Fully Connected Layers: The output from the LSTM layer is passed to fully connected (dense) layers, which perform high-level reasoning and classification. These layers combine all the learned features and map them to the output classes. The dense layers help in refining the feature representation and preparing it for final classification.

Regularization techniques such as dropout may also be applied in this stage to reduce overfitting and improve generalization. This ensures that the model performs well not only on training data but also on unseen test data.

7) Output Layer and Classification: In the final stage, the processed data is passed through an output layer with a softmax activation function. The softmax function converts the output into probability values for each class. Based on the highest probability, the MRI image is classified into one of the four categories: No Impairment, Very Mild Impairment, Mild Impairment, or Moderate Impairment.

After classification, the system provides a final diagnostic result. If the image is classified as No Impairment, the system indicates that Alzheimer's disease is not detected. If the image belongs to any of the other categories, the system indicates that Alzheimer's disease is detected. This automated output can assist doctors in early diagnosis and decision-making.

8) Overall System Flow: Thus, the proposed system follows a well-defined flow starting from input acquisition, preprocessing, feature extraction, sequence learning, and final classification. Each block contributes to improving the accuracy and reliability of the system. By combining spatial and sequential learning, the model provides an effective solution for Alzheimer's disease detection.

V. Results and Discussion

A. A. Experimental Setup

The proposed CNN-LSTM based system was evaluated using a dataset consisting of MRI brain images categorized into four classes: No Impairment, Very Mild Impairment, Mild Impairment, and Moderate Impairment. The dataset was divided into training and testing sets to ensure proper evaluation of the model.

The model integrates spatial and sequential feature extraction techniques using CNN and LSTM architectures. The CNN is responsible for extracting spatial features such as edges, textures, and structural patterns, while the LSTM captures relationships between these features. The performance of the system was validated through both training and testing phases.

B. B. Confusion Matrix Analysis

The confusion matrix is a key tool used to evaluate the performance of the proposed CNN-LSTM model. It provides a clear visualization of correct and incorrect predictions made by the system during classification of MRI brain images.

Based on the confusion matrix results:

- True Positives (TP = 1272): Total correctly classified MRI images across all classes
- False Predictions (FP + FN = 7): Total number of misclassified images

The confusion matrix shows that most of the predicted values lie along the diagonal, indicating that the model correctly classifies the majority of MRI images into their respective categories. Only a very small number of misclassifications are observed, mainly between closely related classes such as Mild and Very Mild impairment. This behavior is expected due to the similarity in their features.

Overall, the confusion matrix demonstrates that the proposed model has a strong ability to distinguish between different stages of Alzheimer's disease with high accuracy.

C. C. Performance Metrics

The performance of the proposed system is evaluated using standard metrics such as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score. These metrics provide a comprehensive understanding of the model's effectiveness.

Accuracy

Accuracy represents the ratio of correctly classified MRI images to the total number of images used for testing.

$$Accuracy = \frac{\text{Correct Predictions}}{\text{Total Predictions}} \tag{1}$$

$$Accuracy = \frac{1272}{1279} \approx 99.45\% \tag{2}$$

This result indicates that the CNN-LSTM model correctly classifies almost all MRI images into their respective Alzheimer's disease stages.

Precision

Precision measures how many of the predicted positive cases are actually correct.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \tag{3}$$

Average Precision $\approx 99.37\%$

A high precision value indicates that the model produces very few false positive predictions while identifying Alzheimer's stages.

Recall (Sensitivity)

Recall measures the ability of the model to correctly identify all actual Alzheimer's disease cases.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \tag{4}$$

Average Recall $\approx 99.38\%$

A high recall value shows that the model successfully detects most of the MRI images belonging to each Alzheimer's stage.

F1 Score

The F1 score represents the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

$$F1 = \frac{2 \times (Precision \times Recall)}{Precision + Recall} \tag{5}$$

F1 Score $\approx 99.37\%$

This value indicates that the model maintains a balanced performance between precision and recall, ensuring reliable classification results.

TABLE I: Classification Report

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-score	Support
Mild Impairment	0.98	0.99	0.99	179
Moderate Impairment	1.00	1.00	1.00	12
No Impairment	1.00	1.00	1.00	640
Very Mild Impairment	0.99	0.99	0.99	448
Accuracy		0.99		1279
Macro Avg	0.99	1.00	0.99	1279
Weighted Avg	0.99	0.99	0.99	1279

D. D. Discussion of Results

The high performance of the proposed system is mainly due to the hybrid CNN-LSTM architecture. The CNN effectively extracts spatial features such as brain structure variations, while the LSTM captures relationships among these features. This combination enables the model to detect subtle differences between different stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Compared to traditional methods, the proposed system reduces misclassification and improves overall accuracy. The preprocessing techniques such as normalization and resizing also contribute to improved performance by ensuring consistent input data.

E. E. Comparison with Baseline Models

The proposed model is compared with traditional machine learning models and standalone CNN models. Conventional models rely on handcrafted features, which limits their performance. CNN-only models lack sequential understanding, which reduces their ability to capture relationships between features.

The hybrid CNN-LSTM model overcomes these limitations and provides better accuracy and reliability. The results show a significant improvement in classification performance compared to baseline approaches.

F. F. Model Performance Analysis

The training and validation accuracy graphs indicate that the model learns effectively over time. The accuracy increases gradually with each epoch, while the loss decreases, showing stable learning behavior. The small gap between training and validation accuracy suggests that the model is not overfitting and generalizes well to new data.

G. G. Limitations

Despite achieving good performance, the proposed system has certain limitations:

- High computational complexity due to the use of CNN and LSTM layers
- Sensitivity to image quality and noise in MRI scans
- Limited dataset size may affect generalization

H. H. Summary

Overall, the experimental results demonstrate that the proposed CNN-LSTM model provides high accuracy and reliable performance for Alzheimer's disease detection. The system effectively classifies MRI images into different stages and can assist medical professionals in early diagnosis and decision-making.

VI. Conclusion

In this work, a hybrid deep learning model based on Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks is proposed for the detection and classification of Alzheimer's disease using MRI brain images. The model effectively combines spatial feature extraction and sequential learning to improve classification performance.

The proposed system successfully classifies MRI images into four categories: No Impairment, Very Mild Impairment, Mild Impairment, and Moderate Impairment. The preprocessing techniques such as resizing, normalization, and noise removal contribute significantly to improving data quality and enhancing model performance. The CNN extracts important spatial features from the images, while the LSTM captures relationships among these features, leading to better understanding of disease patterns.

The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed model achieves high accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, indicating strong performance in detecting Alzheimer's disease. The confusion matrix analysis shows that most of the predictions are correct, with very few misclassifications. This confirms that the model is capable of distinguishing between different stages of Alzheimer's disease with high reliability.

Compared to traditional machine learning approaches and standalone CNN models, the hybrid CNN-LSTM model provides improved performance due to its ability to capture both spatial and sequential information. The system also shows good generalization capability, as indicated by consistent training and validation results.

Although the proposed system achieves high accuracy, there are certain limitations such as dependency on dataset quality and computational complexity. Future work can focus on improving the model by using larger and more diverse datasets, incorporating multimodal data such as PET scans, and optimizing the model for real-time clinical applications.

Overall, the proposed system provides an effective, reliable, and automated solution for early detection of Alzheimer's disease. It can assist medical professionals in diagnosis and decision-making, thereby contributing to improved healthcare outcomes.

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