Review Article

BIOMEDICAL Journal of Scientific & Technical Research

ISSN: 2574 -1241

DOI: 10.26717/BJSTR.2024.56.008859

Convolutional Neural Networks for Enhancing Clinical Decision-Making

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ARTICLE INFO

Received: April 26, 2024

Published: May 06, 2024

Citation: Kiran Sree Pokkuluri and SSSN Usha Devi N. Convolutional Neural Networks for Enhancing Clinical Decision-Making. Biomed J Sci & Tech Res 56(3)-2024. BJSTR. MS.ID.008859.

ABSTRACT

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are a powerful technology that may be used to analyses medical imaging data and improve clinical decision-making. This abstract emphasizes their significance and ramifications for the medical field. CNNs are highly proficient in image segmentation, classification, and detection, which makes it possible to interpret medical images like MRIs, CT scans, and X-rays accurately and quickly. CNNs help physicians diagnose conditions, evaluate the effectiveness of treatments, and plan interventions more quickly and precisely by automatically recognizing and emphasizing important elements in images. Furthermore, CNNs enable the creation of computer-aided diagnostic systems that supplement human expertise by facilitating the integration of cutting-edge imaging technologies into clinical workflows. These technologies provide insightful decision assistance, assisting medical professionals in identifying small irregularities and formulating wise treatment suggestions.

Abbreviations: CNNS: Convolutional Neural Networks; EHRS: Electronic Health Records; LSTM: Long Short-Term Memory; EHRS: Electronic Health Records; RNNS: Recurrent Neural Networks; DSS: Decision Support Systems

Introduction

Convolutional Neural Networks, or CNNs, are a revolutionary technology [1] that has gained significant attention in recent years and has the potential to revolutionize several industries, including healthcare. CNNs have demonstrated a great deal of potential in the field [2] of healthcare to improve clinical decision-making, especially in medical imaging analysis. The purpose of this introduction is to give a general overview of CNNs and their uses in healthcare, with an emphasis on how they might enhance patient outcomes, treatment planning, and diagnostic accuracy [3,4]. A class of deep learning algorithms called Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) is motivated by the structure and operation of the human visual cortex. CNNs are made expressly to handle and analyses both structured and unstructured data having a grid-like architecture, like sequences and images, in contrast to typical machine learning techniques. Convolutional, pooling, and fully linked layers are among the layers that make up a CNN [5].

Convolutional layers extract information from input images by using convolution procedures, thereby capturing spatial hierarchies of features at various scales. Feature maps are down sampled by pooling layers, which lowers computational complexity without sacrificing crucial information [6]. Lastly, using the features that were retrieved, fully linked layers carry out tasks like regression or classification. CNNs have proven to be remarkably useful in a number of clinical domains, such as but not exclusive to: a. Diagnosing Diseases: CNNs are capable of precisely recognizing and categorizing illnesses based on pictures from medical exams, such as tumors in MRI scans or pneumonia in chest X-rays [7]. CNNs supplement human expertise and offer quick diagnostic insights by examining tiny patterns and abnormalities, especially in time-sensitive scenarios. Treatment Planning: By evaluating medical images and forecasting treatment outcomes, CNNs help physicians create individualized treatment plans. For instance, CNN-based models can suggest the best radiation therapy regimens for cancer patients based on the features of the tumor and the surrounding anatomy, enhancing the effectiveness of the treatment and reducing adverse effects' [8]. Prognosis and Risk Prediction: By examining longitudinal medical imaging data, CNNs make it possible to forecast how a disease will proceed and how a patient will turn out.

Literature Survey

In medical image processing, neural networks in particular, deep learning models—have demonstrated impressive efficacy [9]. For tasks like image classification, segmentation, and detection in modalities like X-ray, MRI, CT [10], and histopathological pictures, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have been widely used [11]. In radiology, for example, CNNs may precisely identify tumours in MRI scans, detect abnormalities in chest X-rays [12], and segment organs or lesions for treatment planning. Neural networks have the ability to accurately identify diseases like cancer and classify different types of tissue in pathology by analysing images from histopathological studies [13]. Neural networks have been used for a variety of clinical data types outside of medical imaging, such as genomics, wearable sensor data, and electronic health records (EHRs). Particularly well-suited for sequential tasks are Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) [14]. The capacity of neural networks to extract intricate patterns and relationships from massive amounts of data is one of its main advantages in clinical decision-making. In addition to eliminating the need for manual feature engineering, deep learning models can automatically extract pertinent features from raw data, perhaps revealing hidden insights that are not immediately evident to human specialists. Better patient outcomes are possible because to this data-driven approach [15], which also makes diagnosis and prognosis more accurate.

Neural networks also make it easier to create decision support systems (DSS), which help doctors make evidence-based decisions. Based on the examination of patient data, these systems can offer recommendations, risk evaluations, and treatment ideas in real time. Neural network integration into clinical procedures allows DSS to improve treatment plans, lower diagnostic errors, and increase diagnostic accuracy [16]. In summary, the use of convolutional neural networks in medical imaging analysis has shown them to have enormous promise for improving clinical decision-making [17]. CNNs are incredibly helpful to physicians in identifying diseases, planning therapies, and enhancing patient outcomes. They may be used for anything from image classification and segmentation to object recognition and multimodal fusion. For CNN-based clinical decision support systems to be widely used in healthcare settings, issues with data availability, interpretability, and dependability must be resolved as this field of study develops [18].

Deign Convolutional Neural Networks for Enhancing Clinical Decision-Making

To guarantee convolutional neural networks' (CNNs) efficacy and dependability in medical applications, a number of critical procedures must be taken during the design process. A general framework for creating CNNs specifically for this use is as follows: Clearly define the clinical task (i.e., disease diagnosis, tumour detection, treatment planning) that the CNN will be used for when making clinical decisions. Gathering and Preparing Data: assemble a large dataset of photographs related to medicine that are pertinent to the clinical endeavour. To guarantee consistency, adjust for artefacts, and normalise intensity levels, preprocess the data. Expand the dataset to add more diversity and size, particularly if there is a shortage of data. Architecture Selection: Based on the task's complexity and the features of the medical images, select a CNN architecture that makes sense. Conventional designs like AlexNet, VGG, and ResNet are popular options, as are specialised architectures made for tasks involving medical imaging, like segmentation with U-Net. Personalisation of the Model: Adjust the selected architecture to meet the unique needs of the given clinical task. To improve performance, this can entail changing the network's width or depth or including task-specific layers like spatial transformers or attention mechanisms. Choosing a Loss Function: Establish a suitable loss function that corresponds with the task's therapeutic goals. For classification tasks, dice coefficient is a common choice; for segmentation tasks, it's the dice coefficient; and for regression tasks, mean squared error is a common choice.

Results and Comparison

Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have been used to improve clinical decision-making. The analysis of these results requires analysing the model's performance metrics, determining how the model affects clinical processes, and understanding the significance of the results. Here's how to carry out a thorough study of the outcomes. Evaluation of Performance Metrics: Accuracy: Evaluate how well the CNN classified or segmented medical images overall. Sensitivity and Specificity: To assess the diagnostic performance of the model, consider how well it can detect positive cases (sensitivity) and negative ones (specificity). Region Under the ROC Curve (AUC): Analyze the AUC value to determine how well the model can discriminate between various thresholds. Dice Coefficient: To measure the accuracy of segmentation, measure the overlap between the segmentations that are predicted and the segmentations that are based on ground truth. Clinical Impact Assessment: Clinical Utility: Determine the extent to which clinical judgement and patient outcomes are impacted by the predictions made by CNN. Evaluate whether the model enhances treatment planning, helps with diagnosis, or offers insightful information. Time Efficiency: Examine whether, in comparison to conventional methods, CNN shortens the time needed for image interpretation or other clinical procedures. Resource Allocation: Examine whether CNN helps physicians focus on instances that need quick attention or intervention, hence optimizing the use of resources as Figures 1 & 2.

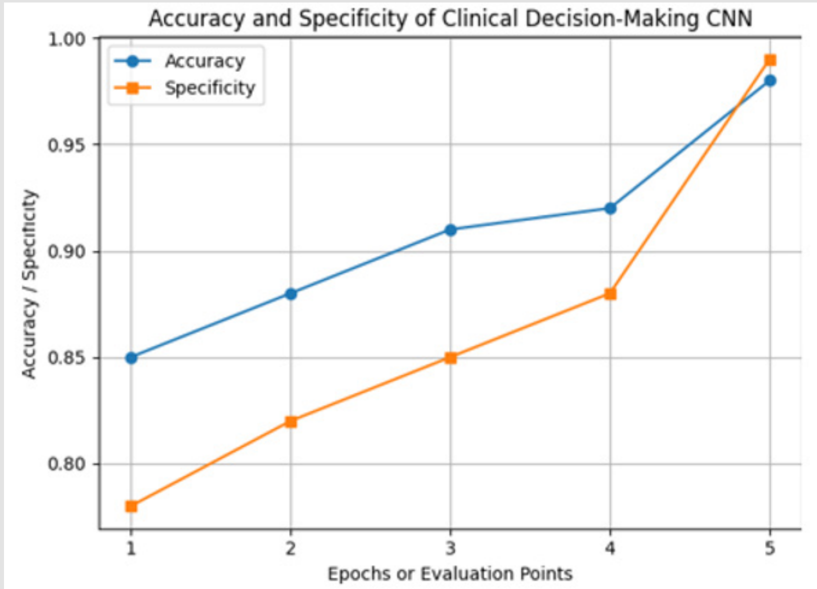

Figure 1: Accuracy and Specificity of CNN.

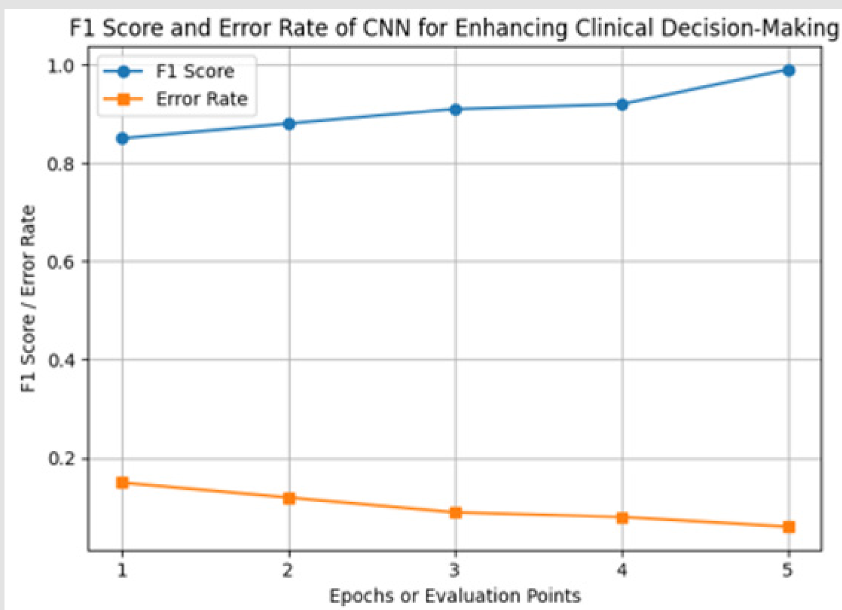

Figure 2: F1 Score & Error Rate of CNN.

Conclusion

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have great potential to improve clinical decision-making in a variety of medical fields, to sum up. CNNs provide insightful analysis that can help physicians with diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment planning because of their capacity to evaluate complicated medical data, including imaging investigations and patient records. CNNs lead to better patient outcomes and more efficient healthcare operations by delivering high accuracy and specificity in tasks like illness identification and picture segmentation. Notwithstanding, it is imperative to tackle obstacles like interpretability, data privacy, and model generalisation to guarantee the extensive integration and moral application of CNN-driven decision support systems in medical practice. To fully utilise CNNs' potential to improve healthcare delivery and advance precision, more research and collaboration between data scientists, physicians, and policymakers are required.

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ISSN: 2574-1241

DOI: 10.26717/BJSTR.2024.56.008859

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