Neural Computing and Applications
https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-018-3689-5

S.I. : COMPUTER AIDED MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS

A deep learning approach for Parkinson's disease diagnosis from EEG signals

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Received: 4 July 2018 / Accepted: 9 August 2018

Abstract
An automated detection system for Parkinson's disease (PD) employing the convolutional neural network (CNN) is proposed in this study. PD is characterized by the gradual degradation of motor function in the brain. Since it is related to the brain abnormality, electroencephalogram (EEG) signals are usually considered for the early diagnosis. In this work, we have used the EEG signals of twenty PD and *twenty* normal subjects in this study. A *thirteen*-layer CNN architecture which can overcome the need for the conventional feature representation stages is implemented. The developed model has achieved a promising performance of 88.25% accuracy, 84.71% sensitivity, and 91.77% specificity. The developed classification model is ready to be used on large population before installation of clinical usage.

Keywords Computer-aided detection system · Convolutional neural network · Deep learning · Parkinson's disease

1 Introduction

The human brain, at the time of birth, contains the maximum number of nerve cells also called neurons [1]. These nerve cells cannot get fixed on their own as the other cells of our body. With age, the neurons die out and hence become irreplaceable [2]. PD typically arises with the death of neurons [3]. The neurons produce a chemical substance known as dopamine, and the main function of this is to control the movement of the body. Hence, as neurons die, the amount of dopamine produced in the brain decreases. As a result, this neurological condition starts to take place very slowly and influences various communication modes in the brain [4]. It has been observed that people around the age of 50 or older have been diagnosed with PD. The primary symptoms of this disease are unstable posture, stiffness in the muscle, slow movements, tremor, loss of balance, and damaged fine motor skill [4].

This disease has taken over almost 10 million people based on the statistics provided by the World Health Organization [5]. There have been difficulties in diagnosing the disease when no apparent motor or non-motor symptoms were observed. Therefore, computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) system may be able to help in the early detection of any abnormalities [6, 7]. The CAD system is an automated detection system that can objectively diagnose PD using electroencephalogram (EEG) signals. The functions of the cortical and subcortical parts of the brain are easily identified with the help of the EEG. The neurological diseases like epilepsy, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's can also be determined using the EEG signals

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Published online: 30 August 2018

[8–11]. Therefore, we have used EEG signals to develop the CAD system for the detection of PD in this study.

According to previous studies, EEG signals are complex and nonlinear in nature, and hence, many linear feature extraction approaches are unable to accurately characterize these signals [6]. When the EEG signal displays complexity, aggravation of the PD is observed. This is due to the nonlinear components present in the EEG signals [12–15]. Hence, it can be noted that the employment of nonlinear features extraction techniques would be useful in the differentiation of normal and PD EEG signals.

However, a subdivision of machine learning called deep learning has been successfully implemented in diverse areas of pattern recognition and the processing of natural language in recent years [16]. The convolutional neural network (CNN) is one of the most popular forms of deep learning that researchers adopted [17–23]. It allows the learning of higher level features without human intervention through training of the data, unlike most traditional machine learning algorithms. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper to implement the deep CNN for the CAD system for PD. We have implemented a novel *thirteen*-layer deep CNN to characterize the two classes (PD and normal). Figure 1 illustrates the architecture of the proposed network. The details of the network and each layer are presented in the subsequent sections.

2 Deep learning

It is a type of machine learning which effectively combines both feature extraction and classification processes [17–20]. Features extracted from the input data are used to build a robust CNN model and afterward to test the diagnosis performance of the developed model during the testing phase. The CNN model has been successfully developed in the recent papers of Acharya et al. [21, 22] to automatically detect seizure and depression, respectively, using EEG signals.

2.1 Convolution neural network

The basic layers of the CNN include the convolution, max-pooling, and fully connected (dense) layer [23, 24]. Typically, the network tends to learn better as the network gets deeper [24]. However, this may affect the computational time. Hence, we have carefully designed the network architecture which requires shorter computational time. The highest classification performance is obtained with parameters which are finely tuned during the training phase.

The convolutional layer convolves with the input signal using a kernel (window) [25, 26]. A feature map for the next layer is generated after the convolution. After that, the batch normalization layer is applied to normalize the input training data to flow between the intermediate layers. The purpose is to enable faster learning and boosting. Then, the rectified linear unit is applied to threshold the input data and reduced the redundancies in the data. To reduce the size of the feature map, the max-pooling layer is used. Finally, every neuron of the max-pooling layer is connected to every neuron in the fully connected layer where the output predicts the outcome (normal or PD) of the input signal [27, 28].

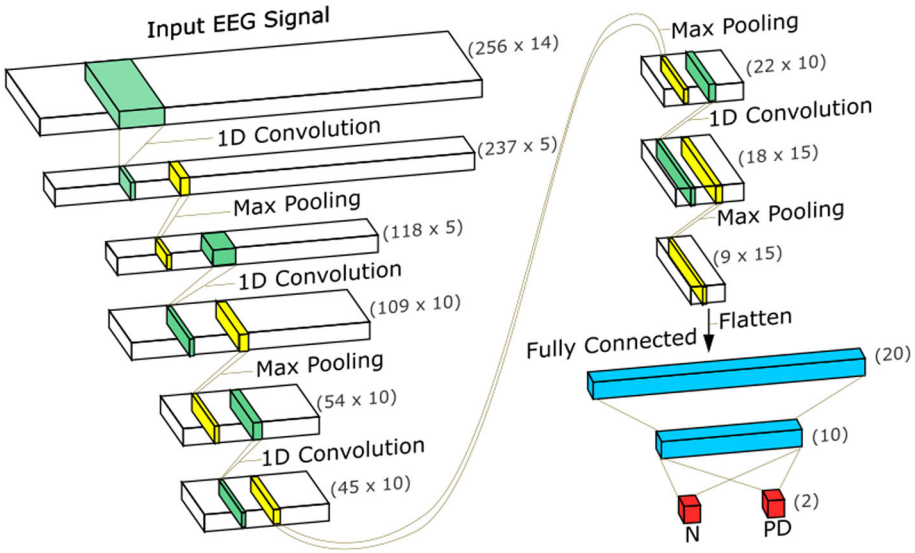

Fig. 1 The proposed CNN architecture

2.2 Proposed CNN architecture

The overview of the proposed architecture is given in Fig. 1. The validation of the model is carried out in two steps: first, training the data and then testing the model. During training, stratified tenfold cross-validation is introduced, where the full data are split into 10 uniform portions. Out of 10 parts, 9 are used to train the model, whereas the rest are kept for testing. This procedure is iterated ten times so that all the ten parts will be involved in both the training and testing phases. Second, in order to assess the progression of the training at the end of each epoch, 20% of the cross-validation training data are allocated for validating the model. Adam optimization [29] with a learning rate of 0.0001 is used, and we have used a few activation functions such as Relu for all layers and softmax for the last layer. The dropout is set to 0.5 for dropout layer. Table 1 shows the internal details of all layers. All the parameters are tuned accordingly to the training set provided that gives the optimum training accuracy. The kernel size and number of filters are obtained through the brute force technique.

3 Experimental results

3.1 Normal and PD subjects

The EEG signals of 20 PD patients (10 women and 10 men) with an age range between 45 and 65 years old were collected upon the approval from the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Ethics Committee. These patients have an average period of PD of 5.75 ± 3.52 years (ranging from 1 to 12 years). The Hoehn and Yahr stages [30] are as follows:

Stage (i) had 2,
Stage (ii) had 11 and
Stage (iii) had 7 PD patients.

The mini-mental status examination (MMSE) results were observed to be inside the range of the normal limits [26.90 ± 1.51 (range 25–30)]. The exclusion specification involves the existence of additional neurological conditions like epilepsy or psychiatric disorders such as depression and other acute mental disorder. Levodopa (L-dopa) drugs were consumed by PD patients to reduce the non-uniformity in the medication.

A total of 20 normal subjects in the same age group (9 men and 11 women with a mean age of 58.10 ± 2.95) with no past record or indications of neurological or mental disorder were enlisted. The MMSE results for the healthy participants were 27.15 ± 1.63 years. The normal and PD subjects are right-handed and were verified by the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory. Also, these subjects declared to have perfect hearing conditions. The participant's consent was sought for the study by explaining to them the probability of the risks involved.

3.2 EEG recordings and pre-processing

The recordings lasted 5 min in resting state (to attain a state of relaxed wakefulness) at 128 Hz sampling rate. An emotive EPOC neuroheadset of 14 channels was used. The participants were asked to sit comfortably in a quiet room and were informed before the recording to refrain from body movements (e.g., blinking of eyes) during the

Table 1 Details of parameters belonging to different layers of the developed CNN model

Layers	Layer name	Kernel size	No. of filters	Stride	Output shape	No. of trainable parameters	Regularization
0	Input	–	–	–	256 × 14	0	–
1	1D convolution	20 × 1	5	1	237 × 5	1400	–
2	Max-pooling	2 × 1	5	2	118 × 5	0	–
3	1D convolution	10 × 1	10	1	109 × 10	500	–
4	Max-pooling	2 × 1	10	2	54 × 10	0	–
5	1D convolution	10 × 1	10	1	45 × 10	1000	–
6	Max-pooling	2 × 1	10	2	22 × 10	0	–
7	1D convolution	5 × 1	15	1	18 × 15	750	–
8	Max-pooling	2 × 1	15	2	9 × 15	0	–
10	Dense	–	–	–	20	2720	Dropout (0.5)
12	Dense	–	–	–	10	210	Dropout (0.5)
13	Dense	–	–	–	2	22	–
					Total	6602	

recording session. After the recording, the signals were segmented into 2-s window length.

A threshold technique was used to discard the signal amplitudes exceeding ± 100 μV to remove the eye blinking artifacts. Then, a 6th-order bandpass Butterworth filter with forward reverse filtering technique was employed to filter the frequency range of 1–49 Hz. Finally, 1588 artifact-free epochs were processed for further analysis. Figure 2 shows a sample of normal and PD EEG recordings.

3.3 Results

All the EEG signals were subjected to the proposed CNN model. The CNN network was designed in Python language using Keras and was executed on a computer with a system configuration of two Intel Xeon 2.40 GHz (E5620) processors with a 24 GB random access memory.

The evaluation parameters, namely the accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity, were used. The best diagnostic performance is achieved with the learning rate of 0.0001.

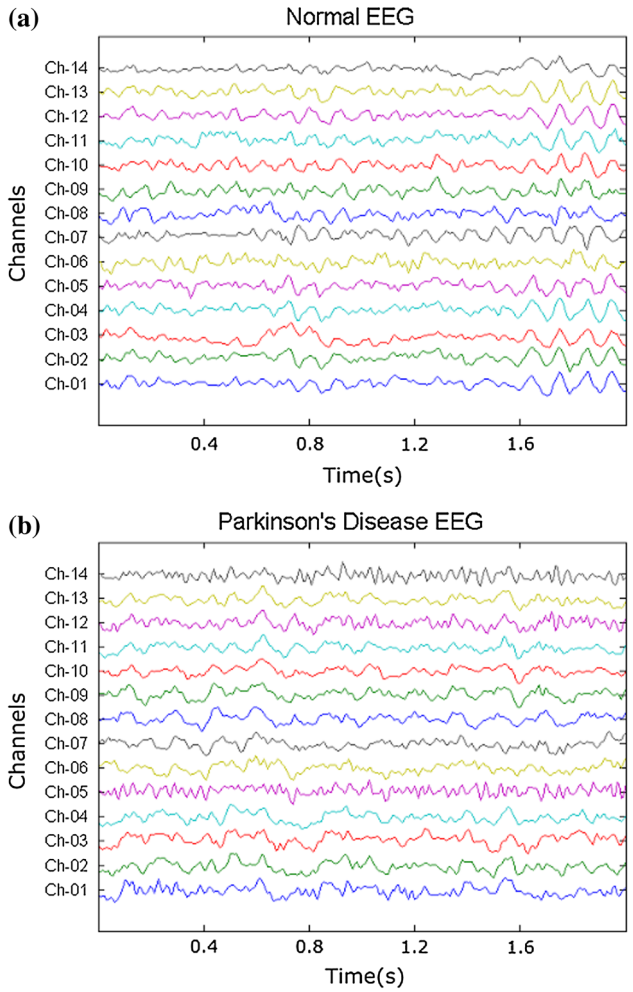

Fig. 2 A sample of **a** normal and **b** PD EEG signal

The proposed CNN model yielded an accuracy of 88.25%, sensitivity, and specificity of 84.71% and 91.77%, respectively. Figures 3 and 4 show the performance of the model with and without dropout layer, respectively. It can be noted that without the dropout layer, there is a possibility of overfitting of data. In Fig. 3, the accuracy of the training set does not differ much from the accuracy of the validation set, whereas, in Fig. 4, the accuracy of the validation set performs a lot worse as compared to the training data.

Figure 5 shows the confusion matrix of our results. It can be observed that 11.34% of normal subjects are misclassified as PD and 11.51% of the PD EEG signals are wrongly categorized into the normal class.

4 Discussion

In the past several years, several noninvasive techniques have been proposed to identify PD using voice [31–33] and gait [34] signals. Different automated techniques were explored to develop the best automated model to differentiate normal and PD subjects. Chen et al. [31] suggested that feature reduction method could eliminate the unwanted information from the PD voice signals. Moreover, they have reported an average diagnostic accuracy of 96.07% with the principal component analysis feature reduction technique and the fuzzy k-nearest neighbor (FKNN) classifier. Later, the accuracy was improved by Zuo et al. [32] using swarm intelligence algorithm supplemented with FKNN classifier in classifying normal and PD voice signals. In addition, Ma et al. [33] proposed a combination of clustering algorithm with a kernel-based extreme learning machine classifier to characterize PD voice signal from normal voice signal and reported an average accuracy of 99.49%. On the other hand, Daliri [34] achieved a classification accuracy of 91.20% by using feature discriminant

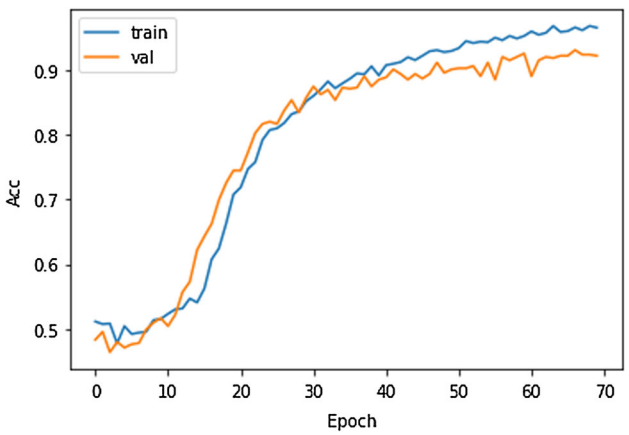

Fig. 3 Accuracy versus different epoch plot

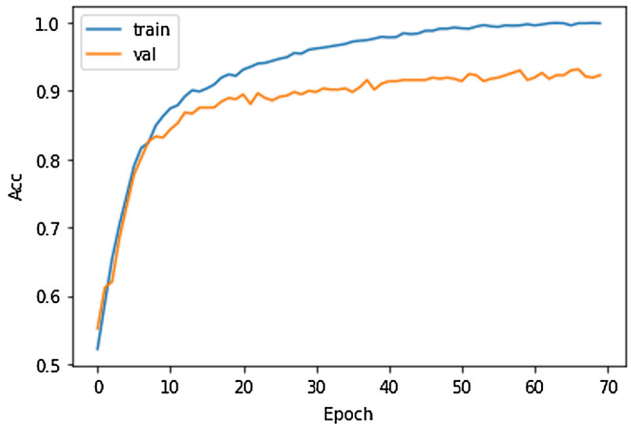

Fig. 4 Accuracy versus different epoch without dropout layer plot

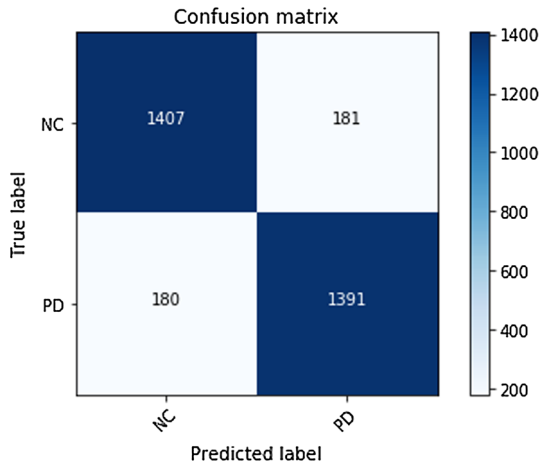

Fig. 5 Confusion matrix of the proposed method

ratio based on Fourier transform in the differentiation of normal and PD gait signals.

However, the number of studies using EEG signals to diagnose PD is limited. Based on the studies conducted (see Table 2), it can be noted that various machine learning techniques were adopted to discriminate the EEG signals in normal and PD subjects. Han et al. [6] conducted an experiment to investigate the characteristics of normal and PD EEG signals. They reported that the entropy values of PD EEG signals were significantly higher than those of normal EEG signals. This showed that the PD EEG signals are more complex. Yuvaraj et al. [7] employed higher-order statistics (HOS) feature extraction technique to differentiate the two classes of signals. It was reported that the HOS can explicitly represent the concealed nonlinear traits of the PD EEG signals for classification.

Nevertheless, in this study, we have proposed a deep CNN architecture to detect PD. The novelty of this method is the formulation of a *thirteen*-layer network to differentiate between PD and normal subjects using EEG signals. Furthermore, no hand-picked features are required in this study. This significantly minimizes the process of experimenting and selecting the best set of features for classification.

In addition, to further improve the efficiency of the CAD system, we have proposed a web-based diagnosis technique that could be initiated in the future. Figure 6 describes the workflow of the web-based CAD system. This system uses the Internet to diagnose the PD patients. The EEG signals collected from patients are stored in the local storage server in the clinic and sent through the cloud where our developed CNN model is placed. The diagnosis is sent back from the cloud to the clinic. Furthermore, the advantage of this web-based application is that the diagnosis can be sent directly to the patient via text message. Hence, with the installation of this system, clinicians in the clinics will be able to significantly reduce their workload.

The main advantages of this proposed technique are:

1. A *thirteen*-layer CNN model is designed to automatically identify PD using EEG signals.
2. Extraction, selection, and classification of features are not required in the proposed CNN model.
3. The model is validated with a stratified tenfold cross-validation technique.
4. This is the first work to implement the deep learning technique for the detection of PD using EEG signals.
5. It obtains good performance even with less number of normal and PD subjects. Hence, the developed is robust.

The main disadvantages of this proposed technique are:

Table 2 The summary of CAD system developed using EEG signals to diagnose PD

Authors	Year	Techniques	Performances (%)		
			Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity
Han et al. [6]	2013	Wavelet packet entropy AR Burg	–	–	–
Yuvaraj et al. [7]	2016	HOS and bi-spectrum features Support vector machine classifier Parkinson's disease diagnosis index	99.62	100.00	99.25
Present work	2018	*Thirteen*-layer CNN	88.25	84.71	91.77

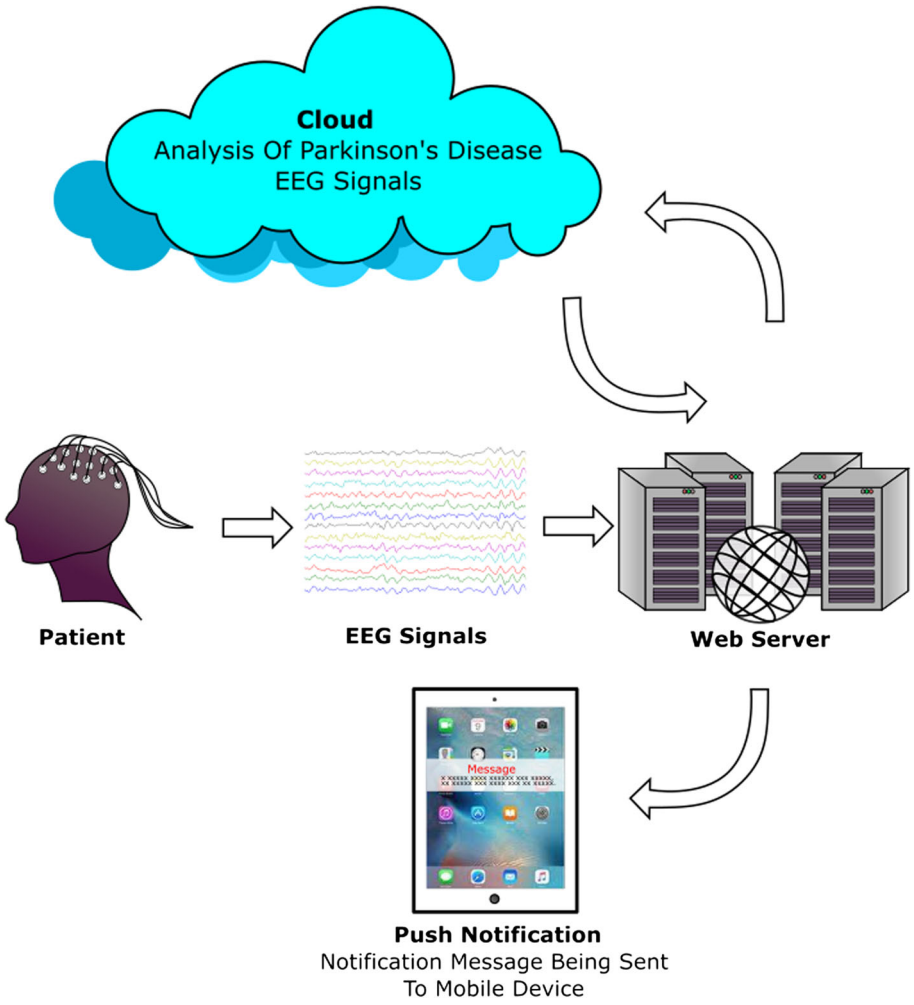

Fig. 6 Web-based CAD system to diagnose PD

1. It uses limited number of (20 normal and 20 PD) subjects to develop the CNN model.
2. The CNN structure is computationally expensive as compared to the conventional machine learning techniques.

In the future, authors intend to use the developed model with huge database from different race and age groups. Also, such techniques can be used to detect other brain abnormalities like autism, Alzheimer's disease, depression, and sleep disorders.

5 Conclusion

An automated *thirteen*-layer CNN model to diagnose PD using EEG signals is proposed. Furthermore, this is the first study which implemented the deep learning concept to diagnose the PD using EEG signals. We have obtained an accuracy of 88.25%, sensitivity of 84.71%, and specificity of 91.77% despite the limited number of subjects. Based on the positive performances achieved, the presented model may be able to serve as a trusted and long-term tool to assist clinicians in PD diagnoses. In the future, authors propose to test the developed model with a huge number of subjects and also aim to detect the early stage of PD.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declared no conflict of interest in this work.

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