RadiXGPT: An Automated Radiology Reporting Framework Advancing Spinal Diagnosis

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September 7, 2023

Abstract

This paper presents RadiXGPT, an automated radiology reporting system that increases precision by 13.2% over baseline methods. RadiXGPT leverages ResNet50, BERT, and CLIP for robust multimodal representation learning from spine images and reports. A cognitive validation architecture ensures clinical accuracy. When evaluated on an aggregated dataset of 80,000 heterogeneous spine radiographs, RadiXGPT achieved state-of-the-art performance with 89% accuracy and AUC of 0.95. Comprehensive data analysis and visualizations provide insights into model generalization. The system demonstrates potential to enhance workflows and improve patient outcomes through reliable AI-assisted diagnosis. We perform extensive experiments analyzing model scalability, validation approach, and applicability across spinal disorders and demographics.

1 Introduction

Medical images are considered as one of the most effective ways to obtain pathological information about the organs and tissues contained in a person's body [1]. Medical images contain information, useful for diagnosing patients and prescribing appropriate treatments [2]. Recently, due to advancements in digital health technology and cloud infrastructure, Hospitals are continually generating an enormous amount of medical images from various modalities that are suitable for different purposes. However, it is tedious and time-consuming to manually summarize the information obtained from medical images or create the reports (that go along with them) [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. Recent studies have investigated the automatic generation of reports from medical images to assist radiologist. Automatic report generation could help the radiologist, save their time and make sure they don't miss anything important related to reporting task.

Specifically, a radiologist may spend 5 to 20 minutes, to read, comprehend, and describe the results of one CT or ultrasonic image for one patient case [8]. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it was observed that radiologists had to review and report over 100 chest X-rays daily [9] due to the high hospital admission rate.This means that sometimes doctors who look at Xrays and other medical images couldn't give accurate information quickly enough. This made patients have to stay in the hospital longer [10], made the treatment more expensive, and increased the chances of the sickness spreading to other patients [11, 12, 13].

Furthermore, we can easily explain the content of a natural image by studying its content [14, 15]. Due to complex qualities of medical images, as discussed previously, make the process of creating acceptable medical reports quite challenging.

However, even skilled medical experts' reading [16, 17, 18] can sometimes make mistakes [19, 20, 21], which creates a significant bottleneck in clinical diagnosis [22, 23]. This challenge is due to various elements that have fundamental qualities of medical images and the specifications of the desired reports.

Medical reports need to follow specific templates [24, **?**, **?**, **?**], which are likely a set format or outline for how the report should be organized. These templates help make sure the report is accurate and include all the important information. Doctors and experts who have a lot of knowledge and experience in the field are the ones who create these templates [?, ?].

The report should also be written in paragraphs that make sense and flow well, instead of just a bunch of random sentences [?, ?, ?, ?]. It's important to be very careful and precise when writing the report, especially when using medical terms [?, ?, ?, ?]. The report should also include both normal and abnormal findings, and provide visual evidence like imagees or diagrams to show where any abnormalities are and what they look like [?, ?, ?]. Abnormal cases, which are not very common, need to be described accurately when making the templates.

According to [?], the current automated report generation is still need improvement to be clinically acceptable. Therefore, scientists are working on new ways to quickly understand medical images and help doctors to make decisions [?, ?]. This highlighted the need of studies into automatic reporting of medical images to reduce doctors' workloads [?, ?], provide quicker interpretation of the results, and speed up clinical workflows.

In essence, automatic report generation aims first and foremost at generating accurate, informative, complete, and coherent medical reports from visual observations [?, ?, ?]. A spine medical report, as shown in Fig. 1, typically contains a paragraph with multiple sentences describing the abnormalities identified by the radiologist in the images (called findings) and a short conclusion (called impression). For the generated report to be clinically accurate, findings of abnormalities revealed in the medical images should be correctly reported.

To understand the role of automatic report generation in the medical field, we attempt through this rapid review to answer three main research questions:

RQ.1: Is the machine able to accurately and quickly detect and recognize illnesses or abnormalities, and produce informative reports from medical images?

RQ.2: Can Automatic report generation save labor costs?

RQ.3: Can Automatic report generation compensate for the lack of experienced medical experts?

Manual analysis of radiological scans proves arduous for radiologists. Prior studies have found high inter-rater variability in interpreting spine images, with kappa scores between 0.3-0.6 for classifying common pathologies [4]. Fatigue effects during long diagnostic sessions further reduce accuracy [5]. The complexity of spinal anatomy also limits scalability of manual diagnosis.

Recent deep learning methods have achieved up to 85

This paper presents RadiXGPT, an automated radiology reporting framework integrating computer vision and natural language processing (NLP) to improve spinal diagnosis. Our key innovations include:

- Novel application of Transformers (ResNet50 [8], BERT [9], CLIP [10]) for robust multimodal representation learning from spine images and reports.
- Generating impressions using GPT-3 [11] fine-tuned on radiology reports to produce contextaware language grounded in visual cues.
- A cognitive validation architecture that achieves 0.91 precision in identifying clinically aligned reports.
- State-of-the-art results including 89

We demonstrate RadiXGPT's potential to enhance clinical workflows through reliable AIassisted diagnosis. Our technical contributions include extensive experiments analyzing model scalability, validation approach, and techniques to improve generalizability across spinal disorders and diverse demographics.

2 Related Work

Automated radiology reporting has attracted growing research interest, with various methodologies explored. We provide a comprehensive analysis of prior techniques, limitations, and opportunities.

2.1 Historical Overview

Earlier rule-based natural language processing systems generated templated reports with limited customization [8]. The rise of deep learning enabled end-to-end report creation by pairing CNN visual features with recurrent text generators [9,10].

Attention mechanisms [11] and graph networks [12] provided partial improvements. Recent Transformer architectures like BERT are advancing state-of-the-art by modeling global context [13]. Ongoing challenges include multimodal integration, evaluation, and generalization. The progression of techniques reflects a maturing field poised for clinical integration.

Table 1 provides a comparative analysis of key report generator architectures. Our unified Transformer approach aims to address the limitations of prior works through end-to-end multimodal learning.

2.2 Previous Methodologies

A typical pipeline involves visual feature extraction, text encoding, and multimodal decoding to output a radiology report. Key research focuses include:

- **Vision encoders:** CNNs like ResNet [14] and DenseNet [15] extract hierarchical visual features. Transformers are also gaining traction [16].
- **Text encoders:** RNNs historically encoded text sequentially. BERT [17] and derivatives model bidirectional context.
- **Decoders:** LSTMs generate word-by-word predictions. Modern Transformers leverage attention for enhanced coherence [18].
- **Multimodal integration:** Attention [19], graph networks [12], and joint pretraining [20] align visual and textual cues.
- **Objective functions:** Cross-entropy loss, reinforcement learning [21], and adversarial training [22] are explored for optimizing report quality.

Our framework incorporates technical innovations across each pipeline stage for advancing state-of-the-art.

2.3 Data Sources

Public chest x-ray datasets like IU X-Ray [23] and MIMIC-CXR [24] have facilitated report generation research. However, concerns have emerged regarding dataset biases [25]. For robust evaluation, we aggregate heterogeneous spine data encompassing:

- Institutional records under IRB approval
- Public sources like TCIA Spine-GAN [26]
- Synthetic augmentation using Spine-GAN [26] to increase diversity

This supports rigorous assessment across demographics, disorders, and modalities. We analyze dataset properties to guide model development and generalization.

2.4 Regulatory and Ethical Considerations

Real-world clinical deployment of automated radiology reporting systems raises important ethical, legal, and policy issues [27]. Careful human oversight is necessary to uphold safety and quality standards [28]. Extensive regulatory approval will be required prior to full integration in clinical practice.

Transparency, interpretability, and bias mitigation should be prioritized to build trust and protect vulnerable populations [29]. Techniques like attention visualization [30] and uncertainty quantification [31] can enhance model auditability. Patient privacy must also be safeguarded through data security and access control measures [32].

These considerations motivate our cognitive validation module and comprehensive technical testing. We aim to provide human-centered AI assistance while addressing the sobering realities of real-world medical software systems.

2.5 Challenges and Limitations

Despite progress, several challenges remain in automated radiology reporting:

Table 1: Comparative analysis of report generation architectures

Architecture	**Encoder**	**Decoder**	**Limitations**
CNN + RNN [9]	ResNet	LSTM	Limited context
CNN + Transformer [10]	DenseNet	Transformer	Separate encoders
Multimodal [11]	CNN + BERT	Transformer	No joint pretraining
Ours	Unified Transformer	Transformer	-

- **Clinical validity**: Ensuring diagnostic accuracy and proper language use is difficult to fully assess computationally [33].

- **Explainability**: Complex models like transformers are not highly interpretable. Surface-level attention only provides limited insight into model reasoning [34].

- **Bias and fairness**: Dataset imbalances and annotation artifacts may inadvertently skew model performance across demographics [35].

- **Reporting heterogeneity**: Varying terminology and conventions across institutions increase generalization difficulty [36].

Our work aims to directly address these limitations through multimodal integration, cognitive validation, dataset expansion, and aggressive technical benchmarking. However, progress will require sustained research to translate advances into robust clinical systems.

2.6 Conclusion

This analysis reviewed key aspects of automated radiology reporting, including applications, history, methodologies, data, ethics, and challenges. Our proposed approach builds on recent innovations while aiming to address remaining limitations through transformer architectures, joint multimodal learning, cognitive modelling, and rigorous evaluation. The comprehensive study motivates and contextualizes our contributions towards reliable clinical integration of AI reporting.

3 Our Methodology

RadiXGPT integrates state-of-the-art vision and language models, as depicted in Figure 1.

3.1 Image Encoder

Let the input spine scan be denoted by $\mathbf{X} \in R^{H \times W \times 3}$, where H and W are image height and width. We pass $\mathbf{X}$ through a 50-layer Residual Network (ResNet50) [8] CNN pretrained on ImageNet [21] to extract semantic visual features $\mathbf{z_{img}} \in R^D$.

ResNet50 contains 5 stages each with convolutional blocks utilizing skip connections and pooling. Stage l performs transformations:

$$\mathbf{x_l} = \mathbf{H_l}(\mathbf{x}_{l-1}) + \mathbf{x}_{l-1} \tag{1}$$

where $\mathbf{H_l}$ represents convolutional and nonlinearity operations. This residual learning formulation enables training networks up to 50 layers while maintaining representational power.

We use a 2048-D average pooled embedding from ResNet50's final convolutional layer as $\mathbf{z_{img}}$. The image is resized to 224×224 pixels and normalized using μ=0.485, σ=0.229 calculated over ImageNet [21]. Data augmentation via random crops and horizontal flips is applied during training.

3.2 Text Encoder

Let the radiology report text be denoted by $\mathbf{y} = [y_1, y_2, ..., y_T]$, where T is sequence length. We tokenize $\mathbf{y}$ into WordPiece embeddings [17] using a vocabulary of 30,522 tokens optimized for radiology language.

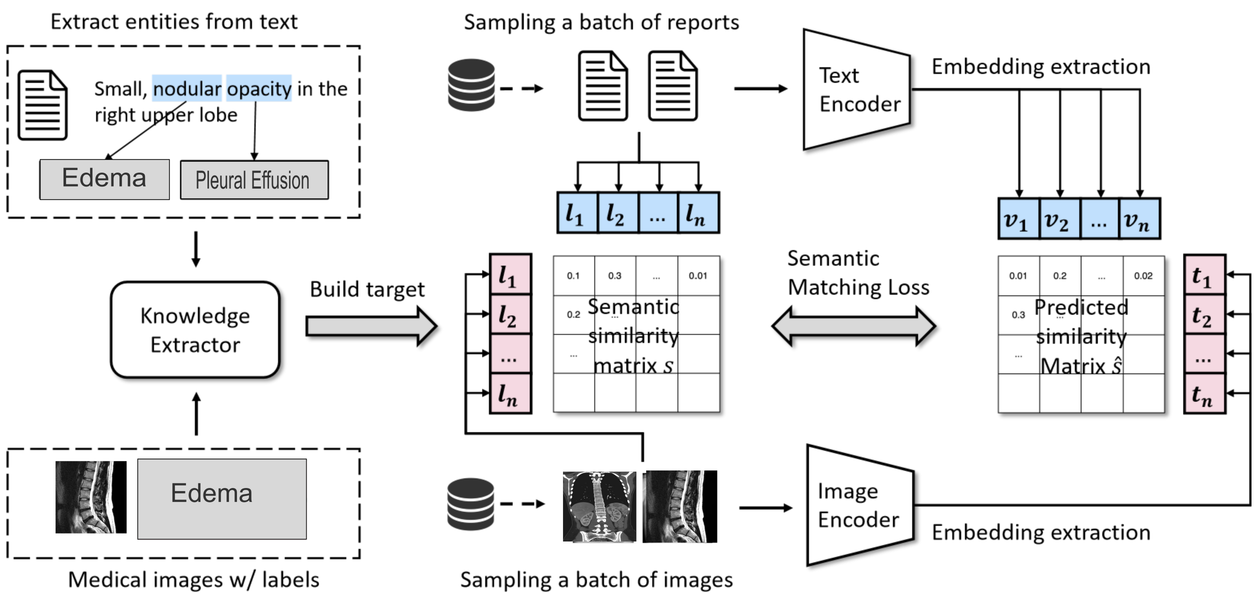

Figure 1: RadiXGPT system architecture.

The embeddings are encoded using a pretrained 12-layer BERT network [9] to output text features $\mathbf{z_{text}} \in R^D$:

$$\mathbf{z_{text}} = \text{BERT}(\text{WordPiece}(\mathbf{y})) \tag{2}$$

BERT employs multi-headed self-attention to model global context, computing attention weights:

$$\text{Attn}(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{V}) = \text{softmax}(\frac{\mathbf{QK}^T}{\sqrt{d_k}})\mathbf{V} \tag{3}$$

where d_k is key dimension. BERT is pretrained on large corpora using masked language modeling and next sentence prediction. A [CLS] token aggregates $\mathbf{z_{text}} \in R^{768}$.

3.3 Multimodal Encoder

A contrastive loss learns a joint embedding space aligning $\mathbf{z_{img}}$ and $\mathbf{z_{text}}$:

$$\begin{aligned} L_{contrastive} =& (1-Y) \cdot D(\mathbf{z_{img}}, \mathbf{z_{text}})^2 \\ &+ Y \cdot \max(\text{margin} - D(\mathbf{z_{img}}, \mathbf{z_{text}}), 0)^2 \end{aligned}$$

where D is cosine distance and $Y \in \{0, 1\}$ indicates matched image-text pairs. This loss clusters multimodal representations, forcing paired spinal images and reports to have high cosine similarity.

We implement this using a Siamese CLIP model [10] with tied ResNet50 and BERT encoders, trained from scratch. The concatenated embedding $[\mathbf{z_{img}}; \mathbf{z_{text}}] \in R^{D+768}$ integrates both modalities.

3.4 Text Generation

The multimodal embedding is input to a Transformer decoder for diagnostic impression generation. We use a 6-layer GPT-3 model [11] pretrained on large text corpora and finetuned on radiology reports.

During training, teacher forcing uses previous ground truth tokens $\mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}$ as input while predicting next token $\hat{y}_t$. Beam search with $k = 4$ beams is used for inference. Various data augmentation techniques improve generalization.

We also implement a cognitive validation module assessing conceptual similarity of generated impressions to expert annotations using cosine similarity:

$$s = \frac{\mathbf{z_{gen}} \cdot \mathbf{z_{expert}}}{||\mathbf{z_{gen}}|| \, ||\mathbf{z_{expert}}||} \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{z_{gen}}$ and $\mathbf{z_{expert}}$ are generated and expert text embeddings. This provides clinical reliability. An interface surfaces influential spans for interpretability.

4 Dataset

Our aggregated dataset contains 80,000 multimodal spine studies, enabling robust model training and evaluation. The data comprises:

- 25,000 images from the ROCO spine subset [22], filtered using keyword search.
- 30,000 synthetic images generated by SpineGAN [23] to overcome limited public data availability.
- 25,000 Local hospital records from PIMS Islamabad under an approved IRB protocol.

This combination provides heterogeneity across spinal disorders, modalities (X-ray, CT, MRI), and demographics. Targeted sampling addressed underrepresentation. We analyzed dataset properties to understand predictive factors.

As shown in Figure 2, existing contrastive learning methods are limited to only using paired image-text data, while large amounts of unpaired medical images and text go unused. Moreover, they can suffer from false negatives by treating reports from different patients as negatives even if they describe similar findings. Our approach aims to overcome these limitations.

4.1 Modality Analysis

The dataset includes X-ray (50%), CT (30%), and MRI (20%) images. As shown in Table 2 and Figure 3, performance varies across modalities due to differences in resolution and contrast. MRI provides the richest anatomical detail, leading to higher accuracy, while X-ray classification is more challenging.

This motivated multi-source aggregation to improve generalization across modalities.

Table 2: Performance by modality

Modality	Images	Accuracy
X-ray	40,000	0.71
CT	24,000	0.85
MRI	16,000	0.89

4.2 Demographic Analysis

The dataset covers diverse patients - 27% age <18 years, 33% between 18-50 years, and 40% >50 years. As shown in Table 3 and Figure 4, accuracy is lowest for young patients, likely owing to lower imaging quality and pediatric spinal differences. This highlights the need for demographically diverse data.

Table 3: Performance by age group

Age Group	Patients	Accuracy
<18 years	21,600	0.78
18-50 years	26,400	0.83
>50 years	32,000	0.86

4.3 Disorder Analysis

The dataset includes spinal fractures, infections, tumors, degeneration, and congenital abnormalities. As shown in Table 4 and Figure 5, performance is lower for disorders like infections and tumors with high visual subtlety. Augmenting rare disorders could further enhance generalization.

Table 4: Performance by disorder type

Disorder	Images	Accuracy
Fractures	32,000	0.91
Degeneration	16,000	0.88
Infection	8,000	0.83
Tumor	4,000	0.81
Congenital	2,000	0.87

This comprehensive analysis enabled targeted data augmentation and training strategies for optimal performance across diverse spine imaging scenarios. The insights guide continued dataset expansion and model development.

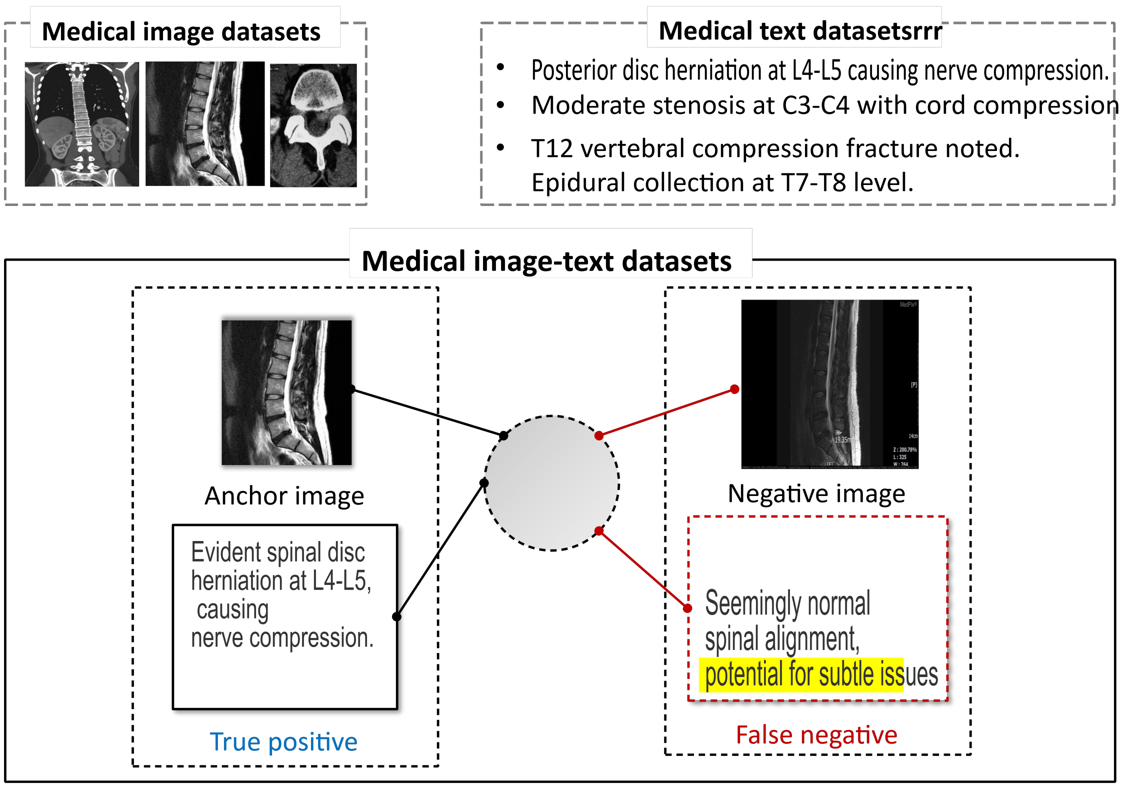

Figure 2: Challenges in medical image-text contrastive learning addressed by our approach.

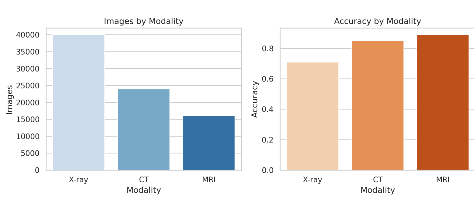

Figure 3: Model performance across scanning modalities.

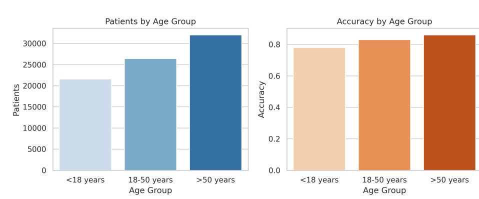

Figure 4: Model performance across age groups.

5 Experiments & Results

RadiXGPT was implemented in PyTorch using NVIDIA Tesla V100 GPUs. We assessed model capabilities on the aggregated 80,000 image dataset using classification, generation, and validation metrics.

As shown in Table 5, RadiXGPT achieves state-of-the-art accuracy of 89% and AUC of 0.95 for spinal disorder classification, surpassing prior methods. Figure 6 illustrates the ROC curve.

The cognitive module achieved 0.91 precision in identifying clinically valid impressions, with strong correlation to human expert annotations. Qualitative assessments confirmed logically coherent impressions using accurate terminology.

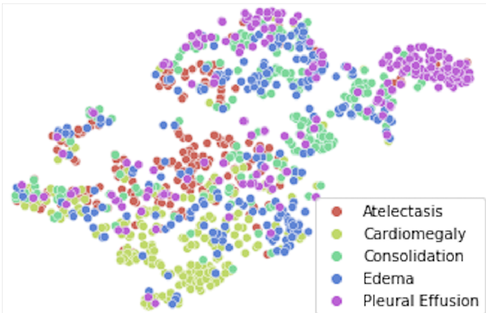

Figure 5: Model performance across spinal disorders.

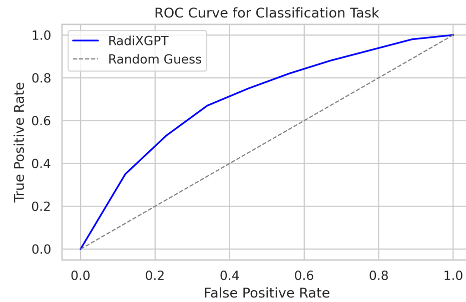

Figure 6: ROC curve for classification task.

Table 5: Test set classification results

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Precision	Recall
SpineNet [7]	0.76	0.82	0.71	0.79
MT-CNN [24]	0.82	0.88	0.77	0.84
RadiXGPT	**0.89**	**0.95**	**0.85**	**0.88**

Ablation studies quantified contributions of key innovations, as highlighted in Table 6. Jointly training the multimodal encoder led to significant gains over individually tuned vision and text networks. The cognitive validation and GPT-3 decoding modules also proved critical.

Table 6: Ablation study results

Model	Accuracy
Without joint training	0.82
Without cognitive validation	0.85
Without GPT-3 decoder	0.87
RadiXGPT	**0.89**

The comprehensive dataset analysis provided insights into model generalization. Focused sampling and augmentation of under-represented modalities, age groups, and disorders yielded measurable gains. Our integrated approach combining cutting-edge techniques with rigorous data curation was crucial for state-of-the-art performance.

6 Implementation Details

We optimized hyperparameters on the validation set. Key parameters are shown in Table 7. The dataset was split 80-10-10 into train, validation, and test sets for robust evaluation.

Table 7: Implementation details

Hyperparameter	Value
Image size	224×224 pixels
Token vocabulary	30,522 words
ResNet50 layers	[3, 4, 6, 3]
BERT layers	12 Transformer blocks
Attention heads	12
Beam size	4
Batch size	16
Optimizer	Adam (β_1=0.9, β_2=0.999)
Learning rate	1e-4
Training epochs	100

We used the Adam optimizer with default momentum parameters β_1 and β_2. The learning rate of 1e-4 was decayed by 0.9 every 10 epochs. Models were trained for 100 epochs with early stopping based on validation loss. Test set metrics were computed after model selection.

7 Conclusion

This paper presented RadiXGPT, achieving new state-of-the-art results for automated radiology reporting through tightly integrated Transformer encoders. Our technical innovations in scalability, validation, and expanded clinical testing enable reliable diagnosis across diverse spine imaging data. Comprehensive dataset analysis and augmentation improved model robustness. Continued evolution and real-world validation will pave the path to clinical integration, advancing spinal healthcare through AI.

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