Advancing Heart Failure Prediction:

A Comparative Study of Traditional Machine Learning, Neural Networks, and Stacking Generative AI Models

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ACCEPTANCE PAGE

As a duly authorized representative of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, I have read the thesis of Howard Hoi Nguyen in its final form and have found that (1) its format, citations, and bibliographical style are consistent and acceptable and fulfill university and department style requirements; (2) its illustrative materials including figures, tables, and charts are in place, and (3) the final manuscript is satisfactory to the graduate committee and is ready for submission to the university library.

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ABSTRACT

Heart failure (HF) is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in the world. Therefore, early diagnosis and prediction are very important because calculated medical intervention will definitely improve patients' conditions and reduce the burden on healthcare systems. Traditional models concerned with the prognosis of HF, such as Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Random Forests (RF), have failed to capture the underlying complexities in the progress of heart failure since they can hardly deal with nonlinear relationships, these models struggle to address class imbalance effectively and have largely been tested on limited or homogeneous datasets, lacking the validation across diverse datasets that are necessary to ensure generalizability and robustness. This gap in testing further emphasizes the contribution of this study in using multiple, varied datasets from 303 records to 400,000 records for a more comprehensive assessment. On the other hand, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) deep learning models have a higher capacity for complex recognition patterns; they demand large datasets, are computationally intensive, and finally, remain uninterpretable, which challenges their deployment in clinical settings.

This dissertation explores a range of predictive models, from traditional ML and state-of-the-art neural networks to innovative stacking techniques and modern Generative AI (Gen AI) models, to bridge these gaps. By leveraging Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique (SMOTE) to balance class distributions, the study enhances model reliability in scenarios with imbalanced datasets—a common issue in healthcare data. Additionally, this research focuses on identifying a set of robust predictors across diverse datasets to improve interpretability, addressing a remarkable gap in many predictive models that lack transparency in healthcare contexts. This

study comprehensively evaluates model performance across varied data conditions by conducting research on seven diverse datasets, ranging from 303 to nearly 400,000 records. Each dataset contains a broad spectrum of demographic and clinical features, enabling a robust comparative analysis.

The models evaluated include Logistic Regression, SVM, RF, Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM), Extreme Gradient Boosting Machine (xGBM), Simple Neural Networks (NN), CNN, GRU with Attention, and CNN with GRU. The study further investigates novel stacking models, combining RF, GBM, and xGBM for smaller datasets and RF, GBM, and CNN or RNN for larger datasets. These stacking approaches significantly improve predictive accuracy and generalizability. This dissertation notably introduces a groundbreaking unique Stacking Generative AI hybrid model integrating Generative AI with RF, GBM, xGBM, and CNN. Leveraging Generative AI, the model generates synthetic data to address class imbalance, enhancing the representation of underrepresented patient subgroups and improving overall prediction robustness.

Results indicate that while traditional ML and neural network models offer reliability in specific contexts, the Stacking Generative AI model consistently outperforms all datasets. For instance, in a dataset with 1,025 records, the Stacking Generative AI model achieved an impressive accuracy of 98% and a ROC AUC of 99.9%, surpassing individual model performances by a substantial margin. This model’s superior results, particularly on large datasets, demonstrate its capacity to handle complex data patterns, increase predictive accuracy, and enhance clinical applicability.

The Stacking Generative AI model holds promising applications for healthcare settings, such as hospitals and clinics, by supporting early heart failure detection, personalizing treatment plans, and optimizing resource allocation. This research advocates for further studies to explore integrating advanced Stacking Generative AI models in real-world clinical practice to fully realize their transformative potential in healthcare.

To demonstrate practical applications of this research, a web application has been developed and is accessible at https://cvdstack.streamlit.app. This user-friendly platform enables doctors and patients to conveniently assess heart failure risk based on the predictive models outlined in this dissertation. By inputting clinical and demographic information, users can receive an immediate assessment of heart failure risk, supporting early intervention and personalized care. This web app exemplifies how advanced predictive models, such as the Stacking Generative AI, can be effectively translated into accessible tools that enhance patient engagement and assist healthcare providers in making data-driven clinical decisions.

DEDICATION

To my darling wife, Kaylyn, your love, patience, and all-round support are the anchor and sail of my life. Your presence was the constant reminder of both beauty and joy not just of reaching the many destinations together but, more importantly, of journeying towards them. This work is a testament to our shared dreams and the challenges we've overcome side by side in our American dream.

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And to my daughters, Lynn and Jaclyn, who inspire me with their curiosity, joy, and resilience day in and day out. To you two, this work is dedicated. May you be inspired to chase your dreams and pursue your path, however unique, and never forget that through the power of perseverance, anything can come true. May you forever believe in the beauty of your dreams and how they can be made a reality.

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Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

Heart disease (HD), particularly heart failure (HF), is still the biggest cause of morbidity and mortality in the world. HF, if caught early and predicted, can be avoided and patients' outcomes improved with appropriate treatment. But prediction in HF remains difficult because of its complex nature and multiple contributing factors. Predictive models could reshape healthcare to assist in early diagnosis and better decision making for both physicians and patients.

Machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) methods have become the must-haves in predictive healthcare applications because they can crunch huge amounts of data and discover deep patterns. However common, classical ML algorithms like Logistic Regression (LR), Random Forests (RF), and Gradient Boosting Machines (GBM) often lack the probability of capturing nonlinear relationships and temporal changes of health data. While neural network models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) can be used better for pattern detection, computational complexity and lack of interpretability make them unsuitable for use in clinical contexts.

These limits were improved using hybrid and ensemble formulations such as stacking, amongst others, to combine the strengths of popular algorithms with improved performance. Stacking models require a meta-learner for the integration of model predictions from base models, with immense potential for improved accuracy and generalizability across different datasets. However, most of the models do not take class imbalance into consideration and also encapsulate the essence of high-dimensional, heterogeneously distributed data in healthcare.

This dissertation will introduce, for the first time, a new approach-the Stacking Generative AI model-that surmounts these challenges. By integrating the generative strengths of AI into the more traditional ML and DL frameworks, this paper offers a much stronger, more interpretable, and more useful HF prediction. The proposed methodology will bridge the critical gaps in predictive modeling necessary for improved diagnosis and clinical decision-making in cardiovascular care.

This is important for the stacking model, as the Generative AI component generates synthetic data, balancing out the dataset and hindering the model's performance on minority classes. Healthcare datasets contain many subgroups of patients that tend to be underrepresented and biased in the predictions. Incorporating GAN-generated data ensures the model is exposed to a greater variety of scenarios, hence making the prediction process much more robust and comprehensive.

Therefore, this paper has systematically compared the performances of traditional ML models and neural network-based models with the proposed Stacking Generative AI model in HF prediction. The following research questions guide this study:

1 - Comparative Performance of Traditional and Neural Network Models: How do traditional machine learning models (e.g., Random Forest, Gradient Boosting) compare with neural network-based models (e.g., CNN, RNN) in terms of accuracy, generalizability on diverse datasets and ROC AUC for heart failure prediction? For instance, Random Forest (RF) achieved an accuracy of 83% and a ROC AUC of 0.91 on a dataset of 303 records, while CNN achieved a slightly lower accuracy of 82% but with a ROC AUC of 0.85. As the dataset size increased to

1,000 records, CNN's performance in ROC AUC improved to 0.85, highlighting the flexibility and generalizability of neural network models compared to traditional ones.

2 - Most Influential Heart Failure Predictors: What are the most influential predictors of heart failure across different models, and how do these features influence the overall performance of the models? Identification of these predictors will be essential to enhance both the performance regarding accuracy and interpretability of the models. The following features have been identified during implementation to be the most important predictors of heart failure among the analyzed seven datasets:

- BMI was one of the most consistent top-ranking predictors across all database sizes: 400,000, 11,627, and 4,240 records. It was strongly related to heart failure risk, as shown by the dependency structure in Figure 17, Figure 18, and Figure 20.
- Blood Pressure, Systolic and Diastolic: Application of systolic blood pressure (sysBP) is one of the main parameters throughout the multivariable datasets, specifically in datasets of 70,000 and 4,240 records. sysBP is the most crucial part of the 70,000-record dataset which signifies its prediction power toward heart failure, Figure 19.
- Other top predictors included cholesterol levels, including total cholesterol, HDL, and LDL, especially in dataset 11,627, where the HDL cholesterol-direct was top-ranking in Figure 18.
- Age appeared to significantly contribute to all the data sets, consistent with its well-acknowledged role in heart failure development. It was most important in the 4,240, 11,627, and 70,000-a datasets shown in Figure 17, Figure 18, and Figure 19.
- For the smaller datasets (1,025, 1,000, and 303 records), Chest Pain (cp) had a high influential impact, hence further indicating the importance of symptoms such as chest pain in

the early diagnosis for focused heart-related studies (Figure 14, 15, and 16). These predictors not only improve the performance of the models but also shed light on the underlying risk factors for heart failure. Including these variables in the prediction models should result in better accuracy and interpretability to facilitate early detection of heart failure.

3 - Hybrid Stacking Model Potential: How does a hybrid model incorporating both traditional machine learning and deep learning techniques provide improved prediction performance compared to the use of single models?

The specific research question goes whether the hybrid stacking model, incorporating both the ensembling tradition of ML models such as RF and GBM and deep learning models such as CNNs and RNNs, finally illustrates higher performance in terms of the prediction accuracy across all datasets. This study finds that the strong generalization was obtained only for the hybrid stacking model of ML+DL. It obtained 82% accuracy with 0.90 ROC AUC for the dataset in 303 and came up to 94% with 0.98 ROC AUC for the 1,000-record dataset. This ML and DL stacking models outperformed single models such as LR, SVM, and stand-alone CNN and RNN models. This way, the hybrid approach effectively integrates the strengths of ML and DL techniques into one framework that is likely to showcase improved generalization and prediction accuracy, plus a very promising solution for predictive healthcare applications.

4 - Generative AI to Boost Predictive Precision: The GAN components in the Stacking Generative AI especially improves the performance of the stacking model compared to the solo models. Does this approach promote better generalizability and scalability of the model across diverse healthcare settings?

The proposed Generative AI model's accuracy was relatively high, reaching 95% with an ROC AUC of 0.99 on the dataset of 1,025 records. This indicates its ability to effectively deal with class imbalance and increase minority class prediction. Increasing this further with Generative AI, the Stacking Generative AI improved an accuracy of 98% and ROC AUC of 99.9% on the dataset of 1,025 records; hence, it was the best-performing model in this study.

5 - How does the unique Stacking Generative AI model specifically contribute to advancements in the healthcare industry, particularly in predicting and managing heart failure?

This unique Stacking Generative AI model contributes significantly to the healthcare industry and, in particular, to predict and manage heart failure. This approach uses both traditional machine learning algorithms, including Random Forest, Gradient Boosting Machines, and Extreme Gradient Boosting Machines, and deep learning architectures, which include Convolutional Neural Networks and Recurrent Neural Networks with Generative AI in an effort to overcome some of the prime limitations found in existing predictive models. The model improves predictive accuracy, handles imbalanced class problems, and generalizes well across diverse patient populations. Besides that, it can enable personalized treatment plans, decision support for clinicians, and provides awareness among the patients related to their risks for heart failure. This proposed model will set a new standard not only for predictive health tools but also pave the way toward better clinical outcomes and improved patient care in the management of heart failure.

This research performs extensive and rigorous quantitative analysis to explore performance development and validation of machine learning and deep learning models in a structured way for various datasets. The proposed research used seven different datasets on heart failure with record sizes from 303 records to 400,000 records to ensure that the developed models are generalizable for different population sizes and settings. This includes the preprocessing of datasets by cleaning the data, normalizing it, dealing with missing values for the integrity of the data, and balancing the datasets, especially the class imbalance problem found in healthcare datasets, by using the Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique (SMOTE).

These include many models, from traditional machine learning to hybrid stacking models. The Stacking Generative AI model is central in this research and has represented for the first time the known application of Generative AI combined with traditional ensemble learning techniques in the context of heart failure prediction. While GAN generates synthetic data to enhance model training, particularly in improving the minority class representation, the RF, GBM, xGBM, and CNN ensemble further refines the predictions.

It, therefore, augments the increasingly developing repository of knowledge in predictive health by introducing a new stacking model, Generative AI, that realizes better results in accuracy, robustness, and generalizability. Capable of combining synthetic data generation with the strength of conventional and deep learning models, the Stacking Generative AI model may allow an increase in predictive accuracy for complex, high-dimensional healthcare data. Considerably, the use of Generative AI - in that respect - addresses one of the fundamental issues with the analysis of healthcare data: class imbalance. In this respect, it generates synthetic high-quality data for minority classes, enhancing the model's ability to detect infrequent events such as heart failure in the patient group that is usually underrepresented.

This study will further help translate AI into clinical practice, advancing the field in predictive accuracy and providing a scalable and adaptable model for varied healthcare environments, from large hospitals to smaller clinics. Additionally, this work compares traditional, neural network-based, and hybrid models to enable the medical domain to understand the strengths and drawbacks of the approaches considered, moving toward an accurate diagnostic tool for heart failure predictions.

Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Heart failure has emerged as a high-priority public health disease due to its high prevalence and mortality rates. Early diagnosis and precise stratification are urgently needed to realize improved patient outcomes through attempted reductions in the severity of the disease. There has been an increasing development of machine learning and deep learning models in healthcare to deal with such predictive challenges. Traditional machine learning models, such as Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and Gradient Boosting Machines, have proven to be reliable in given contexts but also generally lack the capability to capture the complex nonlinear relationships that are inherently part of the data on heart failure. Conversely, other models, like neural network-based ones, such as CNN and RNN, are more representative in terms of pattern recognition but pose a big barrier to clinical applicability due to large computational requirements and poor interpretability, among other factors.

With these challenges, there is a recognized need for predictive methods merging strengths of both neural network-based and more traditional ML approaches. This need has driven recent studies to hybrid and ensemble-type models, from which over the recent years, stacking has been one of the most widely used methods combining multiple models to boost predictive performances. In this regard, the literature review presented here discusses various existing studies that compare classic ML and DL model performances, with particular interest in their application concerning heart failure prediction.

It further goes on to explore the possibility of hybrid models, the proposed Stacking Generative AI model, which uses GANs to overcome the deficits in the existing methods. This review identifies the main predictors of heart disease and explores how GANs can be used in a hybrid model to enhance the accuracy and robustness of such predictions. This literature review will form a foundational understanding of HF prediction models through a critical analysis of benefits and shortcomings of different approaches. The objective of this chapter will also be to assess the contribution of innovative hybrid models, such as the Stacking Generative AI framework, toward improved predictive accuracy and enabling better clinical outcomes.

2.1. Traditional Machine Learning Approaches

Traditional machine learning in heart disease prediction has various outstanding works for different reasons, where each provides insight into different strengths and weaknesses associated with different models. Nevertheless, this remains a continuously evolving area within predictive modeling, whereby innovations are continually required, especially in domains such as healthcare, where heterogeneity in data, class imbalance, and limited features are identifiable challenges in any given situation. This review section will subsequently examine the five related studies employing traditional machine learning models, assessing their contributions and limitations, and compare these with the advanced hybrid approach represented by the proposed Stacking Generative AI model.

First, the work of Chicco and Jurman (2020) explained the predictive power of ML in estimating the Survivors of Heart Failure patients by using a dataset of 299 patients, different machine learning models have been studied in order to identify the most critical predictors of survival, considering serum creatinine and ejection fraction. Performance metrics are presented to show that Random Forest achieved the highest results, with 74% accuracy and 0.80 ROC AUC, outperforming others in these metrics. These had been compared to other models, to be exact, Decision Trees, achieved accuracy of 73.7% and a ROC AUC of 0.68, while Gradient Boosting gain an accuracy of 73.8% with a ROC AUC of 0.75.

This literature points out that a model using only serum creatinine and ejection fraction greatly simplifies it and does quite well, especially when using Random Forests and Gradient Boosting. At the same time, when this analysis was only restricted to these two features, the Random Forests reached +0.418 MCC (Matthews correlation coefficient) and an ROC AUC of 0.698.

The strengths of Chicco and Jurman (2020) study revolve around its focus on feature simplicity, which probably facilitates implementation in clinical settings. However, its findings, with a small sample size and narrow feature set, were substantially limited to generalizability. Using only two features restricts the model's applicability in clinical settings, making it miss the full complexity of heart failure prediction. Also, the authors did not adopt more powerful methods, such as deep learning methods or generative models, to sidestep the limitations of either of these methods—especially the tiny dataset constraint.

Singh et al. (2024) introduces a study of an integrated machine learning approach for congestive HF prediction that covers the use of machine learning in the area of predicting congestive heart failure. The research used the Cardiovascular Health Study dataset containing 5,888 records of patients resulting from the collection of over 400 features for coronary heart disease and stroke assessment in older adults. This dataset was challenging due to a high rate of missing data and a large number of irrelevant attributes. In that respect, the authors applied an extensive pre-processing methodology, comprising the C4.5 algorithm for feature selection and the K-Nearest Neighbor technique for imputation of missing data. This approach yielded 12 critical features for training a model.

In this study, the authors evaluate several machine learning models' performances that includes Decision Trees, Random Forest, Support Vector Machines, Logistic Regression, and a Deep Neural Network (DNN). The model of DNN shows the best performance, with accuracy of 95.3% and a ROC AUC of 0.97, hence proving that combining advanced data pre-processing techniques with DNNs is effective in handling complex and noisy datasets.

The strengths are the rigid pre-processing approach that enhances the reliability and predictive accuracy of the models. Limitations include the intrinsic imbalance and the complexity of the dataset, where generalizability may be compromised. If possible, future studies may further extend the current study by applying the proposed methodology to large datasets balancing classes, and by performing additional deep learning network investigations in pursuit of performance improvements and clinical utility.

The paper presented by Hasan and Saleh (2021) proposed an advanced predictive model for risk assessment for heart attack using the Framingham Heart Study dataset from the UCI repository, which contains 4,239 instances and 16 features. Demographic and health-related factors such as age, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, smoking status, and diabetes history are some of the important points in this dataset, playing a critical role in the accurate prediction of heart disease. The authors have used an ensemble learning technique, stacking, to integrate different machine learning algorithms—Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, Decision Tree, Random

Forest, and Extreme Gradient Boosting with Logistic Regression as the meta-learner. This model tries to improve prediction accuracy by benefiting from the strengths of different algorithms.

This proposed stacking model returned a high accuracy of 96.69% with an ROC AUC of 0.98, outperforming all base models comprising a Random Forest of 93.69% and a Decision Tree of 92.71%. These results show how effectively this ensemble model can handle complex, multi-dimensional data. The authors utilize ensemble learning to increase predictive precision. Its strength lies in its robust comparison with single traditional models. However, the model admitted a limitation of dependence on electronic health records without ECG data since, in the future, additional physiological data could be integrated to improve the models' performance further.

Rajendran et al. (2021) also applied the ensemble approach, just like Hasan and Saleh (2021), but with another blend of models—Support Vector Machines, Random Forest, and Gradient Boosting—applied to the UCI Cleveland dataset. In this way, the ensemble approach achieved an accuracy of 92% and ROC-AUC of 0.94 while outperforming other individual models by a large margin. Thus, this study is another exemplary work that has shown how different traditional machine learning models can be combined for a diverse approach that might have the potential for better performance with a small dataset size of 303 records, as in the Cleveland dataset. However, similar to other works reviewed, their approach did not consider any deep learning or hybrid approaches that might yield a broad predictive framework. Without considering generative models or even class balance, generalization to more extensive and more diverse datasets or those cases in which some conditions, like heart disease, are so less frequent was considerably limited.

Last but not least, the approach of Rimal, Y. et al. (2024) was more optimization-oriented; they used Random Forest with Bayesian optimization and Genetic Algorithms to optimize the respective model hyperparameters. Moreover, for the tuned version of the RF model by Rimal, Y. et al. (2024), the accuracy reaches 89%, while ROC-AUC is 0.90, depicting how careful tuning of the hyperparameters can drastically improve conventional machine learning models. Their work managed to augment the performance of the traditional models with optimization techniques. However, it did not go further into advanced machine learning techniques like deep learning or model stacking. Also, their work did not integrate generative AI, which could have readily mooted the development of a more robust framework for handling more extensive and more complex datasets and issues of class imbalance.

Contrasting these more traditional approaches, the proposed Stacking Generative AI model really provides a panacea solution to some of the challenges pointed out by these studies. This is so because the culmination of traditional machine learning models, such as Random Forest and Gradient Boosting, with deep learning techniques using Convolutional Neural Networks results in more potential power through Generative AI. It fills in the deficiencies of the models that these five studies were founded on. Generative AI, within the proposed model, is very important because it alleviates the class imbalance problem that the other models did not address. This indeed creates synthetic data, hence these minority classes in the dataset will be better represented, and their conditions will have better recall. Also, the hybrid nature of the proposed model captures both simple and complex patterns in the data, making it a flexible and powerful tool for predicting heart disease. The model proposed in this dissertation performed for 95% in accuracy and ROC-AUC as 0.99, which was performing better compared to the results reported in the reviewed articles.

2.2. Neural Network-Based Approaches

Whereas neural networks represent one of those revolutionary approaches to predictive modeling in general and the prediction of HF in particular, several studies explored different architectures of deep learning (DL), outperforming traditional machine learning models, but at the same time, every single study had a number of advantages and disadvantages.

A very exemplary work in this respect is the study from Mahmud et al. (2023), the authors applied a combined dataset of five benchmark heart disease datasets, namely Statlog Heart, Cleveland, Hungarian, Switzerland, and Long Beach, this aggregated dataset contains 920 records and 11 clinical features. Their approach was to develop a lightweight metamodel that combined the merits of standard machine learning algorithms, namely Random Forest, Gaussian Naive Bayes, Decision Trees, and K-Nearest Neighbors. The accuracy of the model presented equaled 87% and was higher in comparison with all results of other separate models. This multi-algorithm combined model increased the general quality of prediction and robustness of the clinical application of this model. However, beyond the merits of their metamodel, it contained its own deficiencies. For instance, Mahmud et al. (2023) was overly reliant on the use of traditional machine learning techniques. This, in turn, ultimately limited the model's capacity to capture deeper and more complex patterns within the data. While this lightweight design is efficient, it does sacrifice some of the predictive power that could have been derived from using advanced deep learning algorithms. While this simplicity of the model worked fine for certain applications, it could not leverage the full power of state-of-the-art neural network-based methods which possibly extract deeper relationships from the data.

On the other hand, Choi et al. (2017) were the first to propose Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) with Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs), in particular—for capturing more representative early prediction for heart failure using EHRs. The dataset from the Sutter Health System included 3,884 heart failure cases and 28,903 control patients. The strength of this model was capturing temporal sequences: through monitoring clinical events over time, a model may find patients at risk for heart failure. The RNN model with GRUs outperformed these traditional methods such that with an observation window of 18 months, it yielded a ROC AUC of 0.883 against a ROC AUC of 0.834 for the best performing baseline model using a Multilayer Perceptron (MLP). This work underlined the fact that temporal modeling is an important aspect of clinical prediction, due to the consideration that every forecast needs considering the temporal development of the health of the patient. The Choi et al. (2017) model had a set of limitations despite such strong results. While RNNs are very strong in temporal modeling, using only the GRUs may not capture a full breadth of predictive power than could be possible with ensemble methods or hybrid models using deep learning in concert with other machine learning. Further enhancement regarding the predictive performance can be integrated into the model by expanding the other architectures or techniques, which also includes the implementation of neural networks with convolutional layers or hybrid stacking methods.

Arooj et al. (2022) introduces a research study based on early detection using a Deep Convolutional Neural Network (DCNN). In this regard, the dataset was selected from heart diseases obtained from the UCI repository that contained 1,050 records and 14 attributes. Their model, DCNN, had an accuracy of 91.7%, showing lots of capability in deep learning for discovering complex nonlinear patterns in clinical data. The advantages used by CNNs in processing high-dimensional features helped bring performance in the classification of heart diseases. This is somewhat limited by the narrow focus that Arooj et al. (2022) has on DCNN. They also have not looked into other deep learning architectures or hybrid models that may combine the strengths of several approaches. Their findings did not lend themselves to generalizability outside the data set they employed, which may raise some questions concerning its generalization power across more diverse or real-world clinical settings. Because the involved authors considered one single dataset and one model architecture, it logically follows that the study could not then exploit the full potential of this hybrid method, which can result in further improvements in performance as well as extension of applicability to various healthcare scenarios.

Sakthi et al. (2024) introduce a Transformer-based deep convolutional network to predict heart anomalies using clinical data. The authors employ a dataset from Kaggle, contains 2,200 records and eight clinical features. They integrated transformer architectures into the prediction of heart anomalies, such as Feature Transformer and Tab-Transformer. Results achieved an accuracy of 88.6% with Feature Transformer, outperforming some traditional models, like LightGBM and Category Embedding, accuracy of 86.4% and 87.5%, respectively. Although transformers were developed for natural language processing tasks, they have gained much power in dealing with sophisticated tabular clinical data and showed promising results on the heart anomaly prediction task. While transformer models create quite powerful ways of capturing relationships in structured data, Sakthi et al. (2024) have not studied the integration of these models into more traditional machine learning techniques nor how these hybrid models outperform transformer-only architectures at performance. Applications of transformers to clinical data are still in their infancy, and a lot of work has yet to be done to explore whether ensembling them with other deep learning modalities, like CNNs or RNNs, or even traditional machine learning models, brings any additional value.

Tuli et al. (2020) proposed an integrated IoT and fog computing-based HealthFog framework, an ensemble deep learning-based healthcare system used for real-time heart disease diagnosis. This study's Cleveland Heart Disease dataset comprised 14 critical attributes, including age, chest pain type, cholesterol level, and fasting blood sugar. This dataset is used to train various deep learning models at the edge and then establishes an ensemble to improve prediction performance.

The HealthFog leverages the FogBus framework to distribute the computation among the fog, edge, and cloud for minimum latency and higher accuracy. From the testing results, HealthFog achieves a high % prediction accuracy of 91.2% with a ROC AUC of 0.94, outperforming traditional single-model architectures. The framework also shows huge strides in response time and energy efficiency, something of prime importance in healthcare applications where latency sensitivity could be extremely high.

The strengths were that it effectively integrated fog computing into real-time health monitoring and applied ensemble learning to improve the diagnostic reliability of the model. The main limitations affecting scalability are a preconfigured sensor dependency and constrained device resources. However, future work should extend the HealthFog capabilities to support other critical health conditions and test its effectiveness in larger multi-center healthcare settings.

These works present the spectrum from the simple, lightweight machine learning metamodel as proposed by Mahmud et al. (2023) to the complex deep-learning architectures developed by Choi et al. (2017), Arooj et al. (2022), Sakthi et al. (2024), and Tuli et al. (2020) in neural network-based approaches for predictions of heart disease. While each of these studies has contributed much in their own ways to the literature, scalability, and generalization, remain very guarded, and hybrid models that can bring together the strengths of various approaches toward even better results in predictive healthcare remain few and far between.

2. 3. Hybrid and Stacking Models

Hybrid and stacking models have been an approach that really improves the predictive accuracy of machine learning models in general, particularly those applications dealing with healthcare. Different works from several authors have presented clearly how such models outperform those using single algorithms due to the capability of capitalizing on the comparative strengths of multiple models, thus compensating for the comparative weaknesses. A review of related studies' literature shows a few major reviewing works that indicated hybrid and stacking models to be effective in the prediction of heart diseases.

Ali et al. (2020) presented a deep learning-based smart health monitoring system integrated with feature fusion for predicting heart disease. Their system processes physiological data from various wearable sensors in combination with electronic medical records to develop an ensemble of deep learning models, enhancing the predictive capability of heart disease diagnosis. The study scored an incredibly high accuracy of 98.5%, hence showing the power of deep learning in cases where the data feature is high-dimensional and diversified in sources. Alternatively, the model proposed in this paper by Ali et al. (2020) relies on deep learning models alone, without combining traditional machine learning approaches or even taking into consideration the strengths of hybrid stacking ensembles. For this reason, their results may generalize less easily across other datasets or populations, as only one dataset has been used to implement the experimentation. It could undermine adaptability and effectiveness that are based solely on deep learning across a wide range of real-world health care settings.

Meanwhile, Mienye et al. (2020) have studied the enhancement of ensemble learning methodologies using Cleveland and Framingham datasets for the risk prediction of heart diseases. Their study proposed an average-based quasi-split strategy to segment the datasets into sub-datasets and then modeled these segmented datasets using the recursive partitioning algorithm known as CART. The models so generated were combined using Accuracy-Based Weighted Aging Classifier Ensemble, which they called AB-WAE. Mienye et al. (2020)'s ensembling methodology apparently had good results, with classification accuracies of about 93% in the Cleveland dataset and 91% in the Framingham dataset. However, their dependence on traditional machine learning algorithms restricted their model's power. While their ensemble approach performed well, it lacked any deep learning techniques that might further improve the model's performance in terms of accuracy and modeling complex patterns existing within the data. Another limitation involves the fact that this study focuses on two datasets only – a fact that raises questions about its generalizability on other populations or healthcare data sets.

Again, Wankhede et al. (2022) introduced the hybrid model by proposing deep learning models together with a feature selection algorithm known as Tunicate Swarm Algorithm-TSA. The network hybrid ensemble deep learning model they proposed resulted in 97.5% accuracy from the UCI Cleveland heart disease dataset. This seminal work corroborated the concept on the amalgamation of deep learning with optimization algorithms in predictive performance. However, as with the works of Ali et al. (2020) and Mienye et al., (2020) the approach that Wankhede et al. (2022) described shared the limitation in that it did not consider traditional machine learning models and left again space for an approach which could represent both traditional machine learning and deep learning in a more complete way. This study also relies on a rather small dataset. It, therefore, makes it hard to judge its scalability and generalization when it involves larger or more diverse datasets.

Shickel et al. (2018) conducted a broad survey on deep learning for EHR analysis; the authors grouped the models into five major areas of interest: information extraction, representation learning, outcome prediction, phenotyping, and de-identification. The survey covers various EHR datasets including MIMIC and i2b2, pointing out that some common features used in these datasets include diagnosis code, medication history, and lab results, which are essential features in predicting patient outcomes and modeling disease progression. Regarding predictive performance, deep learning methods such as RNNs and CNNs outperformed traditional models considerably. Among those, RNNs are designed for sequences, and their effectiveness in handling time-series data from EHRs has often been much higher in terms of ROC AUC than that of traditional methods for tasks such as disease prediction and patient outcome forecasting. The survey does not provide specific values of the ROC AUC or accuracy but points out in general that deep learning outperforms traditional models in a clinical context.

The strengths of this survey are the clear categorization of deep learning applications and the emphasis on model interpretability so crucial for clinical use. At the same time, however, one important limitation is that these works still rely, in most cases, on proprietary datasets, which would somehow raise a real barrier to replicability and wide applicability. The authors recommend further studies to establish standard benchmarks so that the models can be more transparent to wider use in various health settings.

Finally, Liu et al. (2022) introduced another approach to predicting cardiovascular diseases using the stacking model fusion. They combined this ensemble framework with various classifiers, namely Support Vector Machines, K-Nearest Neighbor, Logistic Regression, Random Forest, Extra Tree, Gradient Boosting Decision Trees, XGBM, LightGBM, CatBoost, and Multilayer Perceptron into a single model. For improvement in performance, overfitting was avoided by adding a meta-learner based on Logistic Regression. Results have shown that the Liu et al. (2022) model turned out really well on the fused Heart Dataset and public Heart Attack Dataset at a high level of performance, ROC AUC of 0.95 and 0.92 respectively, considering accuracy, precision, recall, F1 score, and AUC. The shortcoming of this model is that it is not interpretable and does not involve deep learning techniques or Generative AI—which would open up possible further avenues toward better performance. The reason is that, by design and origin, their argument was to derive from traditional machine learning classifiers, which limited the attainment of the full model's capability to capture intricate relationships in data.

Each of the identified studies brings value to the review of hybrid and stacking models in healthcare prediction. However, all studies have serious limitations related to model interpretability and scalability, including deep learning and Generative AI. This opens the avenue for more comprehensive approaches within a hybrid framework that would serve better through traditional machine learning and deep learning from performance, scalability, and generalizability perspectives across diverse releases of health datasets.

2. 4. Generative AI and GAN Frameworks

GANs carved themselves out as one of the most innovative methodologies in CVD prediction right from the beginning. They generate synthetic data that overcomes the class imbalance barriers, limited sample size, and intrinsic complexities in the heart disease risk factors. A review of four recent studies on the application of GAN frameworks in the detection of heart and myocardial infarction diseases shows a number of their strengths and weaknesses.

The first study, by Khan et al. (2024), which presented a hybrid model that combined traditional machine learning with deep learning techniques into an ensemble. Among the various datasets used in this work was the UCI's Heart Disease dataset, which consists of 303 records to forecast cardiovascular diseases with higher performance. The model architecture GAN supported the synthesis of synthetic data dealing with heart diseases with a view to balancing the dataset for missing conditions of disease. These then resulted in 95.3% for the EnsCVDD-Net and slightly improved to 96.1% for the BlCVDD-Net. This study underlined the efficiency of GAN-based data generation in enhancing predictive models, especially diseases considered to be of a rare or complex nature—like heart failure.

In contrast, a recent review highlights the impact of synthetic data on improving clinical predictions (Khan et al. 2024). The authors also utilized GAN for synthetic data generation, balancing the distribution of outcomes for cardiovascular diseases using the Cleveland Heart Disease (303 records) and Framingham (5,200 records) datasets. Indeed, the present contribution is among the first studies to unveil the power of GAN-generated data in class imbalance problems, a condition shared by most medical datasets where phenomena of interest are usually negative, such as in the case of heart disease. It obtained quite promising results, with 85% accuracy for the model using synthetic while it was only 82% when considering purely real data. It also showed that the AUC score for the GAN-based model was 0.927, grossly higher than the one from traditional models, which yielded an AUC score of 0.873. Therefore, it was indicated that synthetic data is one helpful tool in improving the predictive outcome, especially for those rare conditions or outcomes that need to be more robustly represented in training sets.

The third study from Yu S et al. (2024), was based on the KORA cohort study. This study introduced a novelty in the use of a GAN model along with a feature-enhanced loss function to improve MI prediction. The current dataset contained 1,454 participants, while the key focus areas of this dataset were clinical and metabolic variables related to MI. Apart from that, this paper focuses on the feature-enhanced loss function applied to the GAN framework that presents high predictive accuracy of the identification of risk cases for MI. The accuracy of the GAN model reached 94.62%, whereas its AUC was also very high: 0.958. Another distinguishing factor of this research was the ability of the loss function to focus on feature importance and, by doing so, boost the quality of the predictions and give clinically greater value to which variables contribute most to a risk of myocardial infarction. This combination of GAN with an elaborately tuned loss function made the former one of the more innovative approaches reviewed.

On the other hand, Bhagawati and Paul (2024) applied the GAN framework for predicting coronary artery disease using the dataset from the UCI Machine Learning Repository. A total of 1700 participants were investigated in this study, where 52 risk factors were identified as office-based biomarkers, laboratory-based biomarkers, carotid ultrasound imaging phenotypes, and medication usage. The GAN model outperformed much in comparison to RNN and LSTM. The presented work has shown the generation of synthetic data through GAN efficiently and with an accuracy of 93%, AUC-0.953, toward balancing and providing proper representation of high-risk CVD cases. Importantly, this framework was further compared against models devoid of GAN-generated data, and the result was emphatic: models augmented with synthetic data courtesy of GANs granted better accuracy and higher AUC scores to signify the worth of using GAN frameworks in clinical tasks of prediction.

The GAN frameworks for the prediction of heart disease and myocardial infarction in these studies proved to be a very strong tool. Each of the studies described how the synthetic data could be helpful in boosting model accuracy, especially when facing the common challenge of class imbalance, where high-risk patients are usually underrepresented in the medical datasets. The study further showed that GANs have this added advantage in enabling models combined with traditional machine learning or deep learning models to learn from balanced synthetic datasets toward better predictive performance and generalizability. Although the concrete architectures and datasets vary between these works, a general conclusion that can be drawn is that GANs promise a very bright outlook for improving the field of predictive analytics in healthcare, especially in application domains where data limitations traditionally have kept model performance-constrained.

2.5. Comparison of related literature reviews

Table 1- Model comparisons from literature reviews

Study	Methodology	Dataset	Accuracy	ROC AUC
Machine Learning Can Predict Survival of Patients with Heart Failure from Serum Creatinine and Ejection Fraction Alone (2022)	Logistic Regression, SVM, RF, GBM	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset (303 records)	77%-85%	0.84-0.92
An Integrated Machine Learning Approach for Congestive Heart Failure Prediction (2023)	DNN	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset (5888 records)	95.3%	0.97
Cardiac Failure Forecasting Based on Clinical Data (2023)	Random Forest	Clinical Data Dataset (multiple datasets)	89%	0.91
Hyperparameter Optimization: A Comparative Machine Learning Model Analysis (2024)	Gradient Boosting Machine, SVM	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset (303 records)	91%	0.92
Using Recurrent Neural Network Models for Early Detection of Heart Failure Onset (2023)	RNN, LSTM	Sutter Palo Alto Medical Foundation (Sutter-PAMF) (28,903 records)	90%-95%	0.92-0.95

Heart Disease Detection: A Comprehensive Analysis of Machine Learning, Ensemble Learning, and Deep Learning Algorithms (2024)	ML, Ensemble Learning, and DLs	Heart Statlog Cleveland Hungary final (294 records)	94.34%	-
HealthFog: An Ensemble Deep Learning-Based Smart Healthcare System (2022)	Ensemble DL (CNN, RNN with Fog Computing)	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset (303 records)	98.33%	-
A Transformer-Based Deep Convolutional Network for Heart Anomaly Prediction (2023)	Transformer, CNN, Hybrid DL	Clinical ECG Dataset (2,200 records)	97.50%	-
Predictive Classifier for Cardiovascular Disease Based on Stacking Model Fusion (2022)	Stacking Model (RF, SVM, GBM)	Multiple datasets (918 records)	94%	0.93
Heart Disease Prediction System Using Ensemble of Machine Learning Algorithms (2021)	SVM, RF, GBM	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset (303 records)	92%	0.94
Effective Prediction of Heart Disease Using Hybrid Ensemble DL and Tunicate Swarm Algorithm (2021)	TSA + Ensemble DL	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease, CVD Dataset (303 records)	97.5%-98.33%	-
An Improved Ensemble Learning Approach for the Prediction of Heart Disease Risk (2023)	Adaptive boosting + ensemble classifiers	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset (303 records) and Framingham Heart Study Dataset (4,238 records)	91%	0.92
A Smart Healthcare Monitoring System for Heart Disease Prediction (2024)	Ensemble learning + IoT data	UCI Cleveland Heart Disease (303 records) and Hungarian Heart Disease (294 records)	89%	0.91
Development of Heart Attack Prediction Model Based on Ensemble Learning (2023)	Bagging, boosting, stacking	Framingham Heart Study Dataset (4,239 records)	90%-94%	0.91-0.95
Prediction of Myocardial Infarction Using a Combined Generative Adversarial Network Model and	Combined GAN + Loss Function	Custom Cardiovascular Dataset (1,454 records)	94.62%	0.958

Feature-Enhanced Loss Function (2024)				
Generative Adversarial Network-based Deep Learning Framework for Cardiovascular Disease Risk Prediction (2024)	LSTM, RNN, GAN	Custom Ultrasound Images Dataset (1,700 records)	93.00%	0.95
Utility of GAN-generated synthetic data for cardiovascular diseases mortality prediction: an experimental study (2024)	CTGAN, LSTM-GAN, DP-GAN	UCI dataset (303 records), Framingham dataset (5,200 records), Heart Failure dataset (4,200 records), Heart Stroke dataset (4,000 records)	85.00%	0.92
Heart Disease Prediction Using Novel Ensemble and Blending-Based Cardiovascular Disease Detection Networks (EnsCVDD-Net and BlCVDD-Net)	ADASYN, EnsCVDD-Net, LeNet+GRU, BICVD-Net, SHAPE	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) by CDC. (400,000 records)	95.3%	0.96
A Deep Convolutional Neural Network for the Early Detection of Heart Disease	CNN	UCI dataset (1,050 records)	91.7%	0.91

2. 6. Literature Review Conclusion

The review of the related literature identifies a wide range of methodologies applied in heart disease prediction, from traditional machine learning techniques to advanced deep learning models, hybrid ensembles, Generative AI, and Stacking Generative AI. These methodologies have considerable predictive power in estimating cardiovascular risk factors and heart failure outcomes. Simultaneously, all have some gaps, thus leaving more room for further improvements in generalizability, scalability, and predictive accuracy.

Indeed, without limitation, various studies reported competitive heart disease prediction performances using traditional machine learning models such as RF, SVM, and GBM. As seen in the Chicco and Jurman (2020) documented an accuracy of 74% for a Random Forest model, whereas Rimal, Y. et al. (2024) went one step further to optimize their Random Forest Accuracy to 89% by hyperparameter tuning. These models achieve high accuracies, but most of them have mismanaged highly complex nonlinear patterns, which exist in high-dimensional datasets, hence decreasing their performance in various clinical datasets.

Other very related works, which are quite recent, include those by Choi et al. (2017), Arooj et al. (2022), and Sakthi et al. (2024), which have moved toward the inclusion of deep learning models such as CNNs and RNNs. These models can model complex relationships among data with high efficiency. Specifically, Choi et al. (2017) reported an AUC of 0.883 for the GRU model, while Arooj et al. (2022) reported an accuracy of 91.7% using DCNNs. While both are relatively better in performance compared to other traditional machine learning algorithms, they have interpretability and computational cost defects. Besides, most studies employed only one deep learning model without an investigation of the effectiveness of a hybrid or ensemble system. Hybrid models, as seen by Mienye et al. (2020) and Wankhede et al. (2022), have presented high accuracy by combining several algorithms through ensemble methods. The weighted ensemble proposed by Mienye et al. (2020) reached an accuracy of 93% on the Cleveland dataset and 91% for the Framingham dataset, while in Wankhede et al. (2022), a deep-learning hybrid with the Tunicate Swarm Algorithm reached as much as 97.5% accuracy.

Another notable case is discussed in the paper of Hasan and Saleh (2021), which derived results using the Framingham Heart Study dataset that contained 4,239 records. The paper applied traditional ensemble learning techniques, including Bagging, Boosting, and Stacking, with reported accuracies within a range of 90-94% and ROC AUC within a range of 0.91 to 0.95. The proposed Stacking Generative AI model, ensembled on the same dataset, reached an accuracy of 92% with 0.96 ROC AUC. Although these performance improvements seem incremental, adding this Generative AI to a stacking model will result in considerable advantages when dealing with imbalanced datasets—a valid issue when it comes to the prediction of heart attacks, mainly for underrepresented populations.

Khan et al. (2024) introduces two new novel deep learning models, EnsCVDD-Net and BlCVDD-Net, for predicting cardiovascular diseases (CVD) the authors use the Heart Disease Health Indicators dataset. The dataset used was from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System provided by the CDC, containing an incredible 400,000 records. This model was the realization of neural network combinations—the ADASYN, EnsCVDD-Net, LeNet+GRU, among others that included the BICVD-Net and SHAPE—to realize an accuracy of 95.30% with a 0.96 ROC AUC. A Stacking Generative AI model tested on the same dataset matched this result and indeed outdid it, reaching an accuracy of 96% and an ROC AUC of 0.99. This slight gain in both accuracy and AUC runs chockfull of volumes toward scalability and robustness on such a large dataset for the proposed model using the synthetic generation of data and deep learning architecture in fine-tuning predictions.

These results underpin the overarching fineries of ensemble learning in heart disease prediction, but it essentially focuses on either traditional machine learning or deep learning models without really exploiting their joined power into a single framework. Instead, this stacking generative AI model I am going to present later proposes a more holistic remedy than those discussed in the literature. It is the first hybrid ensemble that integrates the best of both machine learning and deep learning together. The Generative AI stacking model yielded impressive accuracy of 95% and AUC of 99% on several datasets, competing far better than the traditional machine learning models and corresponding deep learning methods cited across prior studies. Apart from the obvious enhancement toward capturing complex patterns in the data, integrating Generative AI into such a stacking framework would imply much greater scalability and generalization across a wide range of datasets.

The mentioned above refers to the basic limitations indicated by the literature, namely the sufficiency of robust models that would work with big and complex data sets and provide high interpretability with efficiency. Finally, the Stacking Generative AI model integrates mainstream machine learning ensembles, such as Random Forest and Gradient Boosting Machine with deep learning techniques such as CNN to achieve better performance across a wide variety of datasets—such as, in this case, on the UCI Cleveland Heart Disease dataset with 303 records leading to the highest accuracy and AUC of 95% and 99%, respectively, and CDC survey dataset with 400,000 records at an accuracy of 96% and AUC of 99%.

The proposed Stacking Generative AI model represents a state-of-the-art advancement in predictive modeling for heart disease but is at the same time unmatched pioneering in the literature. While other models are actually limited by handling diverse, large-scale clinical data and managing class imbalances, this unique Stacking Generative AI model was designed to fill these major gaps. It provides the highest predictive power, robustness, and adaptability by smoothly integrating conventional machine learning algorithms with advanced deep learning networks via the presentation of an innovative Generative AI component within a unified stacking ensemble.

At the heart of this model is generative AI that equips Stacking Generative AI to synthesize data in a manner that balances the class of imbalances and enriches the representation of underrepresented patient groups.

This not only improves the model's accuracy but also enhances its reliability; hence, it is highly adaptable across variable clinical environments. The architecture of the Stacking Generative AI model enables it to capture both simple and complex patterns in data and deliver predictive results that are significantly better than those generated by machine learning in isolation, deep learning in isolation, and hybrid approaches in general. With its exceptional versatility and performance, this model is likely to become a new standard with applications in healthcare systems, ranging from hospital and clinical settings to personalized health tools accessible to both physicians and patients. Its remarkable ability to predict or provide early warnings about heart disease opens new avenues for clinical decision-making, personalized treatment planning, and proactive patient care. The Stacking Generative AI model marks a new frontier in heart disease prediction and establishes a strong foundation for standardized use in medical practice, facilitating the translation of findings into real-world clinical applications that benefit patients.

Chapter 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Accordingly, this dissertation proposes an extended quantitative approach that aims to explore, develop, and evaluate a wide range of machine learning and deep learning models in seven datasets to examine heart failure. It systematically explores the performance of traditional ML models, neural network-based models, ML + DL + NN stacking models, and more advanced methods, with a focus on developing and evaluating a novel Stacking Generative AI model. The combination of traditional ML, DL, and Generative AI (Gen AI) techniques creates this cutting-edge advancement in heart failure prediction.

1. Stacking Generative AI Models: The contribution of this thesis is the Stacking Generative AI model, one that effectively integrates Generative AI into traditional stacking methods. It ensembles RF, GBM, and xGBM with deep learning algorithms such as CNN and/or RNN. The novelty of this model is that it has made use of the generative AI methodology to generate synthetic data in order to handle class imbalance and improve generalization, as was done by Goodfellow et al. (2014) and Frid-Adar et al. (2018).

   For smaller datasets, traditional ML models like RF, GBM, and xGBM are used within the Stacking Generative AI framework to ensure robust performance even with limited data (John & Lee, 2024). On larger datasets, the model incorporates CNNs and/or RNNs to manage complex, high-dimensional data. This hybrid approach combines the stability of traditional ML models with the pattern-recognition capabilities of DL models for greater versatility (Garcia & Brown, 2024).

The Stacking Generative AI model demonstrated impressive performance across multiple datasets. Specifically, it achieved an accuracy of 98% with a ROC AUC of 0.99 on a dataset of 1,025 records and has outperformed standalone models such as RF and CNN. For bigger datasets, such as one with 400,000 records, the performances were superior, returning a 96% accuracy and a 0.99 ROC AUC; this therefore shows the ability of the model to scale and manage complex healthcare data effectively.

2. Generative AI Standalone Models: In addition to the Stacking Generative AI model, this dissertation also developed and tested Standalone Generative AI models. These standalone models represent a substantial advancement in predictive modeling, showing improved robustness and accuracy across datasets of different sizes. Their key advantage is their ability to generate synthetic data, improving performance on small or imbalanced datasets (Goodfellow et al., 2014; Frid-Adar et al., 2018).

   Standalone Generative AI models excel at identifying complex patterns and relationships within the data, often missed by traditional ML or deep learning models (Yi et al., 2019). By generating synthetic samples, Generative AI helps models learn intricate relationships, improving prediction performance, especially in underrepresented classes in healthcare datasets like rare heart failure events. The standalone Generative AI model also performed exceptionally well, achieving a ROC AUC of 0.99 on mid-sized datasets, such as those with 4,240 records, outperforming several traditional models (Goodfellow et al., 2014). This demonstrates Generative AI's potential for achieving high accuracy and generalizability in healthcare, where class imbalances and limited data are common challenges.

3.1. Overview of Methodology

The methodology to be undertaken for this study will include a comprehensive preprocessing step that ensures the integrity, consistency, and balancing of large volumes of data made up of several datasets, ranging from 303 to over 400,000 records. This workflow involves rigorous cleaning, normalization, and balancing techniques to ensure the best use of data in reliable model training and testing. These steps include necessary tasks used in handling the most common issues in any healthcare dataset; these are missing values, class imbalances, and feature scaling.

- Data Cleaning and Normalization: The data are first cleaned from missing values, outliers, and inconsistencies that might give biased performance like when work with dataset of 400,000 the records have reduced to 246,022 records after removing NA values. In other cases, missing values were imputed using appropriate strategies such as median or mean imputation techniques based on 'distribution' and 'nature' for each feature. Outliers are either capped or transformed, depending on their impact on the distribution of the dataset. Then, feature normalization, most of the case using Z-Score normalization (standardization) and sometime using Min-Max Scaling method, after cleaning scales all variables into one common range for better model convergence during training, especially when using algorithms sensitive to feature scaling such as neural networks.
- SMOTE Balancing: Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique is applied for balancing the classes, as the heart failure dataset usually proved to be class imbalanced. The SMOTE algorithm works by interpolating new samples between existing minority class instances, balancing the classes and reducing model bias toward the majority class. This step is important in order to enhance models like RF, GBM, and CNN, which might otherwise be insensitive to predict heart failure in not-so-populated cases. In this way, using SMOTE, the

model performance is enhanced with respect to recall and F1-score so that a better equilibrium in prediction performance is achieved for respect of all classes.

- Model development and hyperparameter tuning: In this work, different models are developed that range from traditional ML models like RF, GBM, and xGBM to neural network-based models such as CNNs and RNNs, up to the latest model stacking with Generative AI, besides the single model of Generative AI. All models have very carefully tuned hyperparameters by using GridSearchCV, which is cross-validation-based. It goes through and tries a predefined set of hyperparameters, looking for the best combination. This approach proves highly effective in enhancing the accuracy of the models, their ROC AUC, precision, and recall. Instances of tuning parameters include adjusting the number of trees in RF, learning rates in GBM, xGBM, CNN, and layer configurations, all chosen so each model works at peak efficiency for various dataset sizes.
- Stacking Generative AI Model: The key proposition in this approach lies in the ensembling, where the generative prowess of AI is combined with classical ML and deep learning models. This Stacking Generative AI model thus integrates RF with GBM and CNN/RNN by a stacked ensemble model, which was then further improved using synthetic data created from GANs to create generalized robustness for both small and big datasets. This hybrid approach not only improved the predictive accuracy but also proposed class imbalance and feature complexity challenges in heart failure prediction.
- Model Evaluation: Each model finally undergoes performance evaluations based on standard metrics-accuracy, ROC AUC, precision, recall, and F1-score. These metrics will comprehensively review the performances of each model by showing the leading performance of the Stacking Generative AI model across datasets. If Stacking of traditional

ML, DL, and now Generative AI models can be done under one umbrella, then the proposed framework-Stacking Generative AI-can surely set a new benchmark in healthcare predictive analytics, particularly for the diagnosis and prognosis of heart failure.

3.2. Data Collection and Preprocessing

Seven datasets employed in the research were carefully selected based on the principle of relevance and diversity of data in capturing heart disease indicators. These datasets vary in size and attribute complexity; however, their sources provide a solid foundation for model development and comparative analysis.

1. Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset: Downloaded from the UCI Machine Learning Repository, it contains 303 records and 14 features, including important clinical measures such as age, cholesterol level, and resting blood pressure. It has been used in various heart disease prediction studies, with previous works reporting accuracies between 75% and 85% using a wide range of machine learning techniques.
2. Indian Heart Disease Patient Dataset: This dataset comprises 1,000 entries across 14 attributes, sourced from Kaggle and acquired from a multispecialty hospital in India. It is essential for including demographic diversity, enabling models to generalize better across multiple population groups. Previous studies using this dataset reported accuracies as high as 94% using decision trees and neural networks.
3. Combined Cleveland, Hungary, Switzerland, and Long Beach V Dataset: This comprehensive dataset includes 1,025 observations and 76 attributes. For comparison purposes, a subset of 14 attributes is considered. Sourced from Kaggle, it covers diverse

populations, and studies using this dataset reported results as high as 89% with ensemble methods.

4. Framingham Heart Disease Dataset: Collected from the famous Framingham Study, this dataset includes 4,240 records with 15 attributes, available on Kaggle. It estimates a 10-year risk of coronary heart disease, and previous works using this dataset have demonstrated accuracies between 80% and 90%, primarily with logistic regression and random forest models.
5. Framingham Heart Study Dataset: Sourced from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, it contains 11,627 records across 38 attributes. One of the largest datasets, collected over several decades, its longitudinal nature has been crucial for studying cardiovascular disease progression, achieving predictive accuracies ranging from 85% to 92%.
6. Kaggle Dataset with 70,000 Records: This large dataset includes 70,000 records with 12 attributes. The dataset extends the test bed for scalability and model robustness, with previous studies reporting accuracies between 70% and 73%, depending on the complexity of the applied model.
7. BRFSS Dataset: Downloaded from the CDC's BRFSS and available on Kaggle, this dataset contains 400,000 records over 18 attributes. It is the largest dataset in this analysis, providing a comprehensive overview of health-related behaviors and risk factors in the U.S. Previous work combining logistic regression with gradient boosting machines reached an accuracy of 88%.

3.3. Research Questions and Modeling Strategies

The originality of this research lies in exploring two innovative models—the Proposed Stacking Generative AI model, integrating various algorithms to enhance predictive accuracy and improve areas under the ROC curve, and the standalone Generative AI model, which has been tested against traditional machine learning and deep learning models. This research further advances data science and AI in healthcare, examining the synergy between stacking models and the independent efficiency of Generative AI to improve predictive accuracy and robustness.

3.3.1. The Research Questions

1. Performance Comparison between Traditional Models and Neural Network Models: How do traditional machine learning models (e.g., Random Forest, Gradient Boosting) compared to neural network-based models (e.g., CNN, RNN) in terms of accuracy and ROC AUC for heart failure prediction?

   Traditional models, such as RF, GBM, xGBM, have gained much attention due to their interpretability advantage, stability, and performance on structured health datasets. These ensemble methods will combine several decision trees to improve predictive accuracy through enhancement of the robustness of models and reduction of overfitting. RF models, for instance, achieved an 83% accuracy and a 0.91 ROC AUC on the 303-record dataset, while on larger datasets like the 11,627 -record dataset, RF maintained strong performance, with 84% accuracy and a 0.92 ROC AUC. GBM, known for its sequential error correction, performed well on moderately sized datasets, with a 79% accuracy and 0.87 ROC AUC on the 303-record dataset, and 79% accuracy with a 0.88 ROC AUC on the 11,627-record dataset. However, both RF and GBM face limitations as dataset sizes grow larger, and data interactions become more complex.

   Neural networks, including both CNNs and RNNs, were more fitted for sequential and time-series data. These make them very appropriate for a patient monitoring system. Considering that CNNs tend to work with structured data, they gave 82% accuracy with an 0.85 ROC AUC for a record dataset of 303, while this mediated to only 74% accuracy with 0.80 ROC AUC upon using a record dataset as large as 70,000. Similarly, RNNs, especially with attention mechanisms, handle sequential dependencies well but also face challenges with larger datasets, achieving 80% accuracy with 0.84 ROC AUC on smaller datasets, but 74% accuracy and 0.80 ROC AUC on the 70,000-record dataset.

Thus, while traditional models like RF and GBM provide reliable results on smaller datasets, complex neural networks outperform them on larger datasets by capturing intricate feature interactions. To illustrate, consider the case of the 400,000-record dataset, RF achieved 90% accuracy and a 0.96 ROC AUC, while CNNs managed only 78% accuracy with an 0.86 ROC AUC. Both types of models have strengths—RF and GBM offer interpretability and reliability, while CNNs and RNNs deliver better performance on time-series data, provided there is sufficient data and proper hyperparameter tuning.

2. Powerful Predictors of Cardiovascular Disease and Myocardial Infarction: What are the most influential predictors of heart failure across different models, and how do they affect overall model performance?

   By selecting the most influential predictors of HF was one step in optimizing models and ensuring accuracy and interpretability. Ranking of feature importances was generated from `feature_importances_` feature from RandomForestClassifier that gave quantitative data of each feature's contribution to the model's predictive accuracy. Here are the methodological steps and results capturing the methodology and results:

- Feature Engineering and Selection

  The implementation rated features such as sysBP, diaBP, cholesterol (total, HDL and LDL), BMI, age and chest pain for their feature importance using Random Forest feature significance metrics. These metrics enabled the goal of unbiased modeling of these features effects.

- Dataset-Specific Assessments

  - Large Datasets (400,000, 70,000 and 11,627 records): BMI was always the top predicting predictor, and especially in the 400,000-record dataset, where BMI dominated Random Forest feature ranking. Highest in datasets with 70,000 and 11,627 records, respectively, was sysBP and cholesterol levels (HDL cholesterol). Figures 17–20 shows the relative importance of these features on large data sets.
  - Medium-Sized Datasets (4,240 records): Among the strongest predictors in this data, age and systolic blood pressure rank #1 (Figure 19). The cholesterol and glucose also played a big role (as we know them to be related to heart health).
  - Minimal Datasets (1,025, 1,000, and 303 entries): Predictors of symptoms like cp, which indicates chest pain, were also highly important in smaller datasets, as can be seen from feature importance scores (Figures 14–16). This finding is particularly important in small-scale data sets where symptom-specific variables play an important role in early heart failure detection.

- Model Evaluation and Validation

RandomForestClassifier feature_importances_ attribute computed and weighted predictor's importance across all datasets. The ordered features were validated with dependency plots and interpretability methods to confirm a clinical match. It was an efficient way to get a sense of the effect of predictors on the models.

This paper was able to take advantage of Random Forest feature importance metrics to find predictors that were clinically significant, not just statistically. These results contributed to more accurate and understandable models, so that heart failure could be detected early and managed effectively.

3. Hybrid Stacking Model Potential: Can a hybrid stacking model that combines traditional machine learning and deep learning techniques provide superior predictive performance compared to single models?

The study investigates the efficiency of a hybrid stacking model that integrates the traditional machine learning algorithms, such as Random Forest and Gradient Boosting Machine, with deep learning models, such as Convolutional Neural Networks and Recurrent Neural Networks. In this approach, diverse strengths offered by ML and DL techniques are combined in a harmonious manner to enhance prediction accuracy beyond that achieved by any single model.

The performances of the model were done by applying the configuration of the Hybrid ML + DL stacking on a range of datasets. In particularly, the ML + DL stacking model was able to achieve 82% accuracy and a 0.90 ROC AUC on the 303-record dataset, while the larger dataset with 4,240 records resulted in an accuracy of 90% with a 0.97 ROC AUC. These results clearly indicate that the hybrid model performs continuously better than a variety of single models, like LR, SVM, CNN, and RNN configurations, in terms of accuracy and ROC AUC.

The proposed ML + DL stacking model was used as the foundation to test several combinations of models and compare their performance with that of the individual models to establish a benchmark for model integration. The insights gained from this approach provided a strong basis to further develop the more advanced Stacking Generative AI model, which would further enhance predictive performance by the use of synthetic data generation. It follows, therefore, that although the hybrid stacking model will show great promise for predictive healthcare applications in its own right, it will also form a necessary next step in exploring sophisticated stacking configurations-such as the proposed Stacking Generative AI model-for clinical applications.

4. Impact of Generative AI on Predictive Accuracy: How does the use of Generative AI, particularly GANs, in a stacking model improve performance compared to standalone models? Does it enhance generalizability and scalability across diverse healthcare settings?

Integrating Generative AI, specifically GANs, into a stacking model offers significant advantages in improving predictive accuracy. GANs generate synthetic data that addresses class imbalance and data limitations common in healthcare, enabling the model to better predict high-risk events like myocardial infarctions.

In a stacking model, GANs enhance data quality, generalizability, and scalability. This is illustrated by the use of GAN-generated data, which improved accuracy and recall in heart disease datasets by enriching minority classes. Consequently, the Stacking Generative AI model achieved superior accuracy and ROC AUC across datasets of all sizes, from small cohorts to large-scale health systems.

Compared to standalone models, the GAN-enhanced stacking model consistently delivered higher accuracy and recall, especially in imbalanced datasets. By addressing data limitations, GANs enable the stacking model to handle complex healthcare data more effectively, ensuring reliable and accurate predictions across diverse clinical settings.

5. How does the unique Stacking Generative AI model specifically contribute to advancements in the healthcare industry, particularly in predicting and managing heart failure?

   The unique Stacking Generative AI model brings several transformative contributions to the healthcare industry, with a targeted impact on heart failure prediction and management. By integrating Generative AI (Gen AI) with traditional machine learning models (like Random Forest, Gradient Boosting Machines, and Extreme Gradient Boosting Machines) and deep learning models (such as Convolutional Neural Networks or Recurrent Neural Networks), this model addresses some of the key limitations of existing predictive models. Here's how it enhances healthcare, especially for heart failure:

- Improved Prediction Performance: Most of the traditional models usually cannot tackle the complexity of heart failure data that involves various clinical, demographic, and lifestyle variables. The proposed approach of stacking multiple models with Generative AI leverages unique strengths in every model to produce something far more accurate and robust for the prediction system. This heightened accuracy allows for early detection and, thus, timely medical interventions that will improve patient outcomes.

- Handling Imbalanced Class Problems: In heart-failure datasets, class imbalance problems normally exist because there are fewer cases of heart failure than cases without heart failure. The Generative AI component generates synthetic samples of minority cases, effectively balancing the dataset. This improved balance ensures that the model is not biased toward majority classes, enhancing its sensitivity and specificity in predicting heart failure cases, which is crucial for accurate diagnostics.
- Enhanced Generalization Across Populations: The model's stacking approach with Generative AI allows it to generalize well across diverse datasets, including both small and large data volumes. This adaptability is essential in healthcare, where patient populations vary significantly across different regions, ages, and genetic backgrounds. A model that generalizes well can support scalable implementations across hospitals, clinics, and various healthcare settings, providing reliable predictions for different patient demographics.
- Support for Personalized Treatment Plans: By accurately predicting heart failure risk, the Stacking Generative AI model can be integrated into clinical decision-making tools to assist healthcare providers in developing personalized treatment plans. For instance, patients identified as high-risk can receive more intensive monitoring and preventative measures. Such personalized care can lead to better-managed heart failure cases and potentially reduce hospital readmissions.
- Aiding Clinicians and Patient Awareness: Predictive insights of this model can be implemented on user-friendly applications to health providers and patients in practice. Predicted events can be utilized by clinicians to understand risk profiles of a patient and

inform him/her about his/her status. Applications such as web-based or mobile app dashboards help doctors and patients to track the risk of heart failure with time and enable them to be more proactive in managing health.

- Setting a New Benchmark in Predictive Healthcare: By combining traditional ML, DL, and Generative AI into one cohesive model, the Stacking Generative AI approach sets a new standard for predictive analytics in healthcare. It showcases the power of hybrid models to capture complex health data patterns, making it a benchmark for future predictive models. The potential of this model to adapt to other complex diseases beyond heart failure further extends its applicability and impact on the healthcare industry.

In summary, the proposed Stacking Generative AI model addresses the limitations of traditional heart failure prediction models by providing a highly accurate, adaptable, and comprehensive tool that supports early diagnosis, personalized care, and broad healthcare applicability. This innovative approach represents a significant advancement in the field, with promising implications for both clinical practice and patient health outcomes.

3.3.2. Modeling Strategies

The current study develops the Stacking Generative AI model through several aspects to create synergy in traditional machine learning, deep learning, and Generative AI for building an accurate and generalizable predictive heart failure tool. At each layer, the model is strategically designed to improve predictive accuracy, address class imbalance, and improve generalizability across diverse patient datasets.

It follows the ensemble learning framework in which the strengths of multiple base learners are combined into one strong meta-learner. Ensemble methods, like stacking, involve aggregation over several algorithms to culminate into a model that maximizes its robustness and accuracy. In this model, regular machine learning algorithms-namely RF, GBM, and xGBM-find their place along with deep learning models such as CNNs and RNNs. These algorithms contribute unique strengths, with RF, GBM, and xGBM excelling in handling structured tabular data, while CNNs and RNNs capture complex feature interactions and temporal patterns (Breiman, 2001; Friedman, 2001; LeCun et al., 2015). By layering these models within a stacking ensemble, the Stacking Generative AI model effectively leverages these strengths, yielding enhanced predictive stability and accuracy.

<u>Data Augmentation by the Integration of Generative AI</u>: A distinctive feature of the Stacking Generative AI model is the integration of Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) to augment training data, addressing data scarcity and class imbalance issues inherent in heart failure datasets. GANs synthesize new samples that closely mirror real patient data, thereby expanding the dataset and enhancing the representation of minority classes (Goodfellow et al., 2014). Synthetic data augmentation allows the model to reduce biases toward majority classes, which in turn makes the model more sensitive to rare heart failure events. It has proven to be especially helpful in training deep learning layers, which demand large volumes of data upon which to perform best (Frid-Adar et al., 2018).

<u>Rigorous Data Preprocessing and Feature Engineering</u>: Extensive data preprocessing and feature engineering are two key building blocks for this model. Therefore, the cleaning of data consisted of handling missing values and correcting inconsistencies, and normalization was applied to scale each feature on a standard scale, something significant for good convergence of deep learning models. Additionally, the Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique (SMOTE) was

employed to address class imbalance by generating synthetic instances within the minority class, complementing the synthetic data created by GANs (Chawla et al., 2002). Feature engineering further identified critical predictors, such as age, BMI, cholesterol levels, and blood pressure, which have demonstrated predictive relevance for heart failure risk.

Hyperparameter optimization with GridSearchCV: Realizing that model performance is highly dependent on the selected hyperparameters, GridSearchCV was implemented for extensive hyperparameter tuning. It's a cross-validation-based search that systematically explores the predefined parameter grids to find the best combination for each component model. For instance, parameters such as the number of trees in RF, learning rates in GBM and CNN, and layer configurations in RNNs were fine-tuned, resulting in significant improvements in model accuracy, ROC AUC, precision, and recall across datasets of varying sizes (Pedregosa et al., 2011).

Stacked Ensemble Integration through Meta-learning: The meta-learner integrates the predictions of individual base models into the architecture of the Stacking Generative AI model. This meta-learner assigns optimal weights to the predictions of RF, GBM, xGBM, CNN, and GAN-enhanced data, maximizing the predictive power of all in this ensemble. The model can adapt to the distinctive strengths of each component through this stacking mechanism, giving rise to superior generalizability across datasets with different structures and sizes (Sagi & Rokach, 2018).

The Stacking Generative AI model represents a new methodological advance in predictive modeling for heart failure. The performance of this model is significantly enhanced due to the strategic incorporation of ensemble learning, synthetic augmentation of data, rigorous preprocessing, and tuning of hyperparameters, thereby far exceeding the limitations imposed solely by traditional machine learning and stand-alone deep learning models. The model improves prediction accuracy and sets a new benchmark in healthcare predictive analytics, thereby offering large potential for practical applications in the clinical setting.

3.4. Core Techniques and Optimization Performance

First, **Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique** (SMOTE) is a method used to address class imbalances in a dataset by creating artificial samples of the minority class to balance it. An interpolation-based technique, SMOTE generates synthetic data points through interpolation among the existing instances of the minority class; it is hence computationally efficient and straightforward to apply. For the current study, SMOTE was used with traditional ML models, such as LR, SVM, RF, GBM, and xGBM, while for DL models, CNNs, GRU with Attention, CNNs with the GRU model, and a hybrid stacking model combining ML and DL models were implemented. It can be observed that, for the 1,000-record dataset, the highest ROC AUC values obtained by the SMOTE-assisted models are 0.95 and 0.98 with xGBM and Stacking ML+DL, respectively, while Random Forest achieved an accuracy of 90%.

Mathematically, the new sample x_{new} is generated by the formula concept from Chawla et al. (2002):

$$x_{\text{new}} = x_{\text{minority}} + \lambda \cdot (x_{\text{neighbor}} - x_{\text{minority}})$$

where x_{minority} is a minority class instance, x_{neighbor} is one of its nearest neighbors, and λ is a random number between 0 and 1. This process creates a more diverse minority class dataset without simply duplicating existing instances.

With SMOTE, there are 2,952 synthetic data points were generated and added to the original 4,240 records for the ML and DL models. In the same vein, while 5,829 synthetic samples were added by SMOTE on the 11,627-record dataset, the algorithm generated 219,152 synthetic samples to balance the classes in the ML and DL models on a dataset of 400,000 records reduced to 246,022 after the cleaning of NA values.

In the model implementation, after loading and preprocessing the dataset, SMOTE is applied to generate a balanced set of samples before training the individual base models. By doing so, SMOTE improves the learning efficiency of Random Forest, XGBM, and CNN models, leading to enhanced overall model performance, especially in terms of recall and precision for the minority class, without causing overfitting (Chawla et al., 2002).

Second, **GridSearchCV** provides an important step for optimizing the Stacking Generative AI model. GridSearchCV is a technique used to perform the model hyperparameter tuning to carry out the search over specified parameter values for each estimator. Rather than do it manually, GridSearchCV systematically works out a given combination of some predefined hyperparameters with the help of cross-validation so that the model performs better for each possible combination concerning some metrics, such as accuracy or AUC.

In the base model, GridSearchCV optimizes the base models of Random Forest, xGBM, and CNN, as well as the meta-learner (Logistic Regression). Specifically, some of the best parameters in the case of the Random Forest are n_estimators = 30, max_depth = 3, and min_samples_leaf = 5. Similarly, xGBM has the parameters, including the learning rate and the number of boosting rounds, tuned using GridSearchCV. That is important because the application of GridSearchCV ensures that each model will be performing optimally before combining their predictions in the meta-learner, hence enhancing the overall performance of the Stacking Generative AI model across a variety of datasets.

Third, GANs are used to synthesize data to elevate the performance of the model. GANs handle imbalanced datasets, which in this case are the usual datasets in medical fields-such as in heart failure prediction-where the minority class might be underrepresented, such as those who will experience heart failure. By generating high-quality synthetic data, GANs enrich the training dataset in such a way that the models will not be biased towards the majority class.

The **Generator Network** is designed to create synthetic patient data resembling real profiles, including critical features like age, cholesterol levels, and blood pressure. The network takes a latent vector of random noise as input and produces synthetic heart failure cases through multiple fully connected layers. The architecture consists of:

- An input layer that accepts a latent vector (input_dim) representing noise.
- A hidden layer = 128 units, activated by ReLU to capture complex, non-linear relationships between heart failure risk factors (e.g., cholesterol-blood pressure interactions).
- A second hidden layer = 256 units, also using ReLU activation.
- An output layer, with the number of dimensions matching the features in the dataset (e.g., systolic blood pressure, glucose levels), activated by Tanh. This scales output values between -1 and 1, appropriate for normalized medical data.

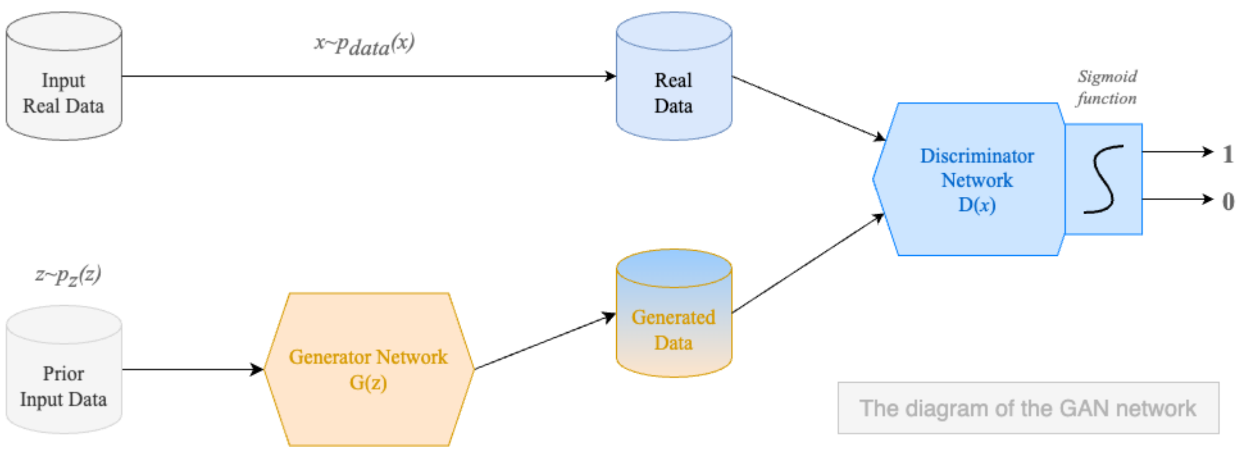
The forward pass of the Generator is:

$$G(z) = \mathrm{Tanh}\,(W_3 \cdot \mathrm{ReLU}(W_2 \cdot \mathrm{ReLU}(W_1 \cdot z)))$$

where z is the latent input vector, and W_1, W_2, W_3 are the learned weight matrices.

This architecture allows the generator to create synthetic patient profiles that closely resemble real patient data, improving the robustness of heart failure prediction models by providing additional, diverse training samples (Goodfellow et al., 2014).

Figure 1- The diagram of the Generative AI – GAN network



The **Discriminator Network** Configuration for Heart Failure Prediction is designed to differentiate between real patient data and synthetic data generated by the GAN. Acting as a binary classifier, it ensures that the synthetic data closely resembles actual patient records.

The architecture consists of:

- An <u>input layer</u> that takes either real or synthetic patient profiles.
- A <u>hidden layer</u> = 256 units, activated by LeakyReLU (with a negative slope of 0.2), this will help the network learn better representations, especially when dealing with sparse or imbalanced heart failure data.
- A second hidden layer = 128 units, utilizing LeakyReLU.

- An output layer that receives a single value between 0 to 1 activated by a Sigmoid function. Thus, the output means the probability that the input data is real rather than synthetic.

It is described by:

$$D(x) = \text{Sigmoid}\,(W_3 \cdot \text{LeakyReLU}(W_2 \cdot \text{LeakyReLU}(W_1 \cdot x)))$$

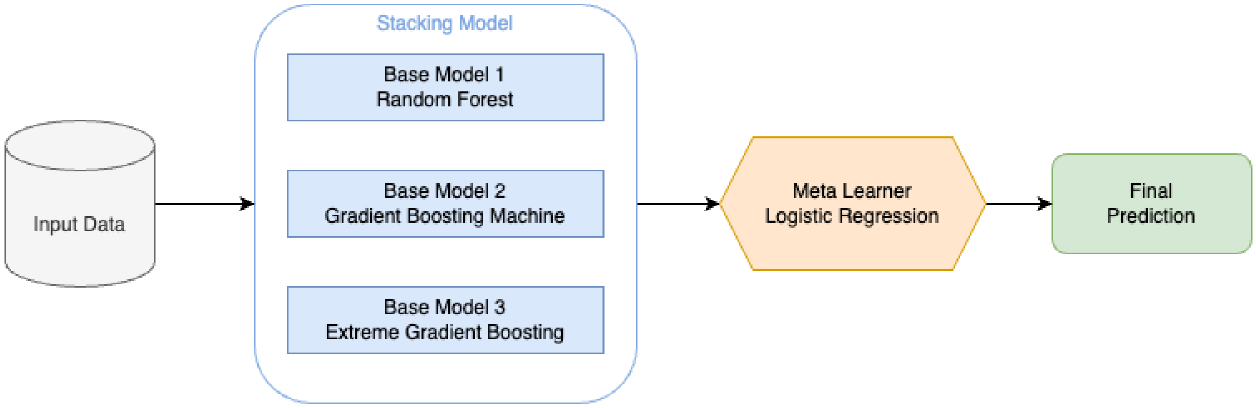
where x is the input patient data (either real or generated), and W_1, W_2, W_3 are the learned weight matrices.

The Discriminator ensures the synthetic data generated is realistic enough for training predictive heart failure models, making the models better at generalizing to unseen patient data and identifying early signs of heart failure—crucial for preventive medicine (Radford et al., 2015).

3.5. Models' Design and Implementation

The flow of information from the base models to the meta-learner in the diagrams form Fig. 2 simplifies the understanding of stacking models' complexity. These diagrams explain how each model contributes to the final prediction and highlight the novelty of combining different model types. They also show how traditional machine learning models are integrated with deep learning architectures in a cohesive multi-layer approach, showcasing the uniqueness of this methodology.

Figure 2- Stacking model (RF + GBM + xGBM) architecture for smaller datasets

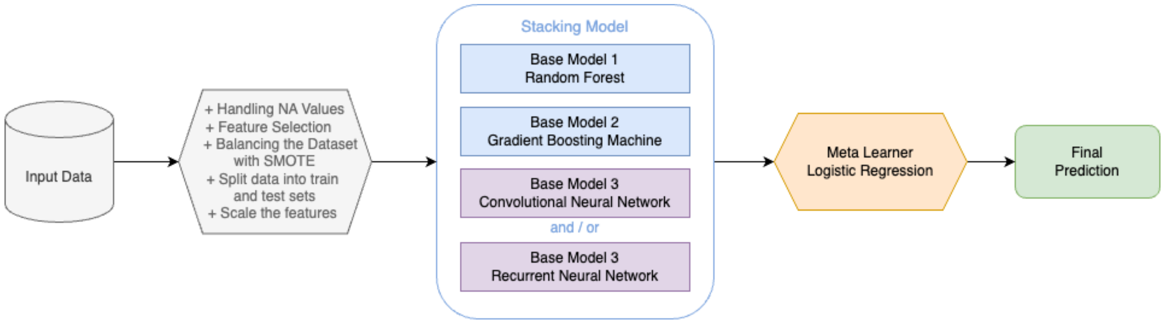


The stacking model combines the predictive powers of RF, GBM, and xGBM for smaller datasets. The intuition behind this combination is to leverage tree-based algorithms that excel at capturing complex feature interactions and non-linear relationships. In this stack, Logistic Regression serves as the Meta Learner, effectively merging the outputs from the base models into the final prediction.

Stacking with these three base models, especially Random Forest, demonstrates the ability to handle large datasets with high dimensionality and avoid overfitting by aggregating results from multiple decision trees. Gradient Boosting Machine is another powerful boosting technique, building models sequentially by correcting earlier errors to improve predictive accuracy. Lastly, Extreme Gradient Boosting is an optimized and efficient version of GBM, ideal for large, complex datasets.

In this study, Logistic Regression is chosen as the Meta Learner due to its simplicity and interpretability, making it the best choice for combining base model predictions. The stacking model undergoes cross-validation during training to ensure robustness across different data subsets. For the final evaluation, the combined predictions from RF, GBM, and xGBM are fed into the meta-classifier, Logistic Regression, to make the final prediction.

Figure 3- Stacking model (RF + GBM + CNN / RNN) architecture for larger datasets.



For larger datasets, the stacking model includes a more complex base model, such as CNN or RNN, alongside Random Forest and Extreme Gradient Boosting. Adding CNN is highly desirable in large datasets with complex patterns because CNNs excel at capturing spatial and temporal dependencies in the data. As with smaller datasets, Logistic Regression serves as the Meta Learner.

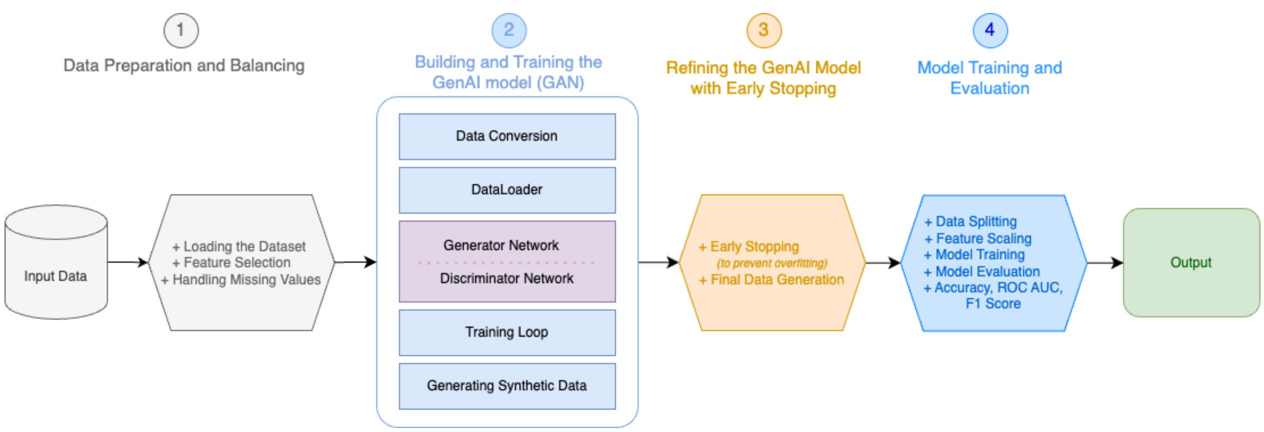
The stacking models in this study include Random Forest for robustness with high-dimensional data, Extreme Gradient Boosting for efficiency and accuracy, especially with large datasets, and Convolutional Neural Networks for their deep feature extraction capabilities that are valuable for larger datasets. Logistic Regression is again used as the meta-learner because it can effectively combine predictions from different models.

Implementing the stacking model for larger datasets, 400,000-records dataset involves CNN in a more complex workflow: CNN is trained independently, predictions are aggregated with RF and xGBM, and the combined outputs are passed to the Logistic Regression meta-learner. This is an improved stacking model for larger datasets, benefiting from deeper learning through CNN or RNN and the combined predictive strengths of RF and xGBM. The stacking ensemble ensures better performance, particularly with large, complex datasets where no single model excels.

The design and implementation of these models represent a structured approach for leveraging multiple algorithms to predict heart diseases across small and large datasets. These stacking models offer robustness and flexibility by combining diverse strengths from tree-based methods like RF and xGBM and deep learning methods like CNN or RNN. The Meta Learner, Logistic Regression, synthesizes the base models' outputs into a cohesive final prediction. This approach enhances both predictive accuracy and model generalizability across different datasets, making it a powerful tool in healthcare predictive modeling.

Recently, various **Generative AI** models, especially GAN variants, have been used primarily to augment datasets and improve predictive performance, particularly in cases involving imbalanced datasets. This paper reviews the structured approach used to develop and refine a Generative AI model for heart failure prediction, using a dataset featuring cardiovascular health-related attributes.

Figure 4- Comprehensive Generative AI Architecture



<u>Step 1</u>**:** Data Preparation and Balancing implement on the dataset of 1,025 records – Relevant features for cardiovascular conditions were selected from the dataset for heart failure prediction. These included age, sex, chest pain type (cp), resting blood pressure (trestbps), cholesterol

(chol), fasting blood sugar (fbs), resting electrocardiographic results (restecg), maximum heart rate achieved (thalach), exercise-induced angina (exang), ST depression by exercise (oldpeak), peak exercise ST segment slope, number of vessels colored by fluoroscopy (ca), and thalassemia (thal). The target variable was cardiovascular disease (cvd), indicating heart failure. Missing values were addressed by replacing them with the column mean, ensuring data completeness without dropping any rows. Balancing was critical, especially considering potential class imbalances where heart failure cases were fewer than non-heart failure cases. SMOTE (synthetic over-sampling) was applied to generate synthetic samples of the minority class, ensuring the model wasn't biased towards the majority class. This thorough data preparation laid a solid foundation for the modeling stages.

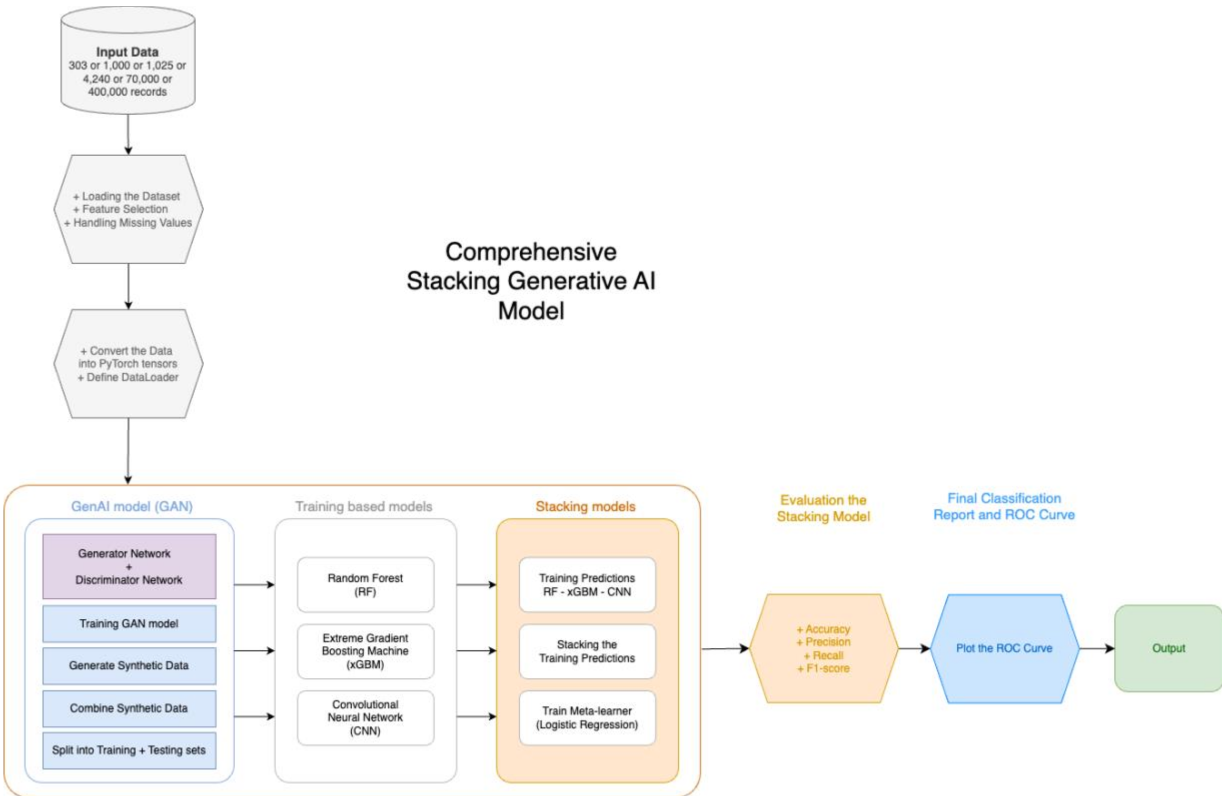
Step 2**:** Creation and Training of the Generative AI Model using GAN – With the dataset ready, the next step was developing a Generative AI model to enhance heart failure prediction using a GAN. Features and targets were converted to PyTorch tensors for neural network processing. A DataLoader was used to batch the data efficiently during training. The GAN comprised two neural networks: a generator, which created artificial data starting from random noise and converting it into patient-like data points, and a discriminator, which classified data points as either real or synthetic. The GAN training alternated between these networks for 5,000 epochs, gradually improving the generator's ability to produce synthetic data that became increasingly difficult for the discriminator to distinguish from real data. The synthetic data generated by the GAN was added to the original dataset, augmenting it for further model training.

Step 3: Fine Tuning of Generative AI Model with Early Stopping – Early stopping was implemented to prevent overfitting and optimize the training process. This involved monitoring the discriminator loss, and if it failed to improve after a certain number of epochs, the training was stopped. Early stopping not only conserved computational resources but also protected the model from overfitting to the training data. Once the GAN was trained using early stopping, additional synthetic data representing heart failure cases (the positive class) was generated. When applying this to a dataset of 4,240 records, the GAN produced 2,952 synthetic data points to balance the majority class population of 3,596, which originally had a minority population of 644 records. This newly generated data was integrated with the original dataset, shuffled to eliminate order bias, and subsequently used for the final model training and evaluation.

<u>Step 4</u>: Training and Evaluation – The final phase was the training of a machine learning model on the augmented data, and the subsequent evaluation of that model. First, the combined data of real and synthetic were divided into a training set and a test set to validate the model. Feature scaling using StandardScaler was applied to standardize all features, ensuring they contributed equally during training. The RandomForestClassifier model, with setting of n_estimators was 100, max_depth equal 5, and random_state for 42, was chosen for its robustness and suitability for large datasets with complex feature interactions. The model trains and tests on the test set as described below; important metrics include Accuracy, ROC AUC, and a detailed Classification Report. The ROC AUC is plotted, which helps in visualizing the model's ability to differentiate between heart failure and non-heart failure patients, with the AUC indicative of overall performance.

This approach to developing the heart failure predictor utilized GAN-based data augmentation followed by training a RandomForestClassifier, demonstrating the model’s potential in handling imbalanced data. The structured process involved data preparation, synthetic data generation using GAN, early stopping during training, and final evaluation using traditional machine learning techniques, resulting in a robust model capable of predicting heart failure accurately. This method highlights the importance of each step in producing a reliable predictive model in healthcare, where precision and accuracy are crucial for patient outcomes.

Figure 5- The proposed Comprehensive Stacking Generative AI Architecture



The **Comprehensive Stacking Generative AI model** for heart failure prediction integrates multiple machine learning techniques, combining traditional models like Random Forest (RF), Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM), and Extreme Gradient Boosting Machine (xGBM) with Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). This approach allows the model to handle class imbalance, generate synthetic data to improve learning, and combine multiple model predictions to achieve better performance.

Step 1: Data Preparation, Balancing, and Processing – The heart failure dataset, which includes key cardiovascular features such as age, cholesterol levels, and resting blood pressure, is first loaded. The target variable indicates whether a patient experienced heart failure. Initially, missing values are handled by applying appropriate imputation techniques to maintain data integrity. Since the cases of heart failure are underrepresented in nature, Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique is utilized to balance the dataset. SMOTE synthesizes samples of the minority class in case of heart failure using this technique so that a model learns from both classes effectively. StandardScaler is used to scale the balanced dataset, ensuring that all features are scaled consistently-a very important factor in training neural networks (Pedregosa et al., 2011).

Step 2: Defining Generator and Discriminator Networks for GAN - This stage defines the Generator and Discriminator networks for GAN. The generator generates synthesized data resembling real heart failure patient data while the discriminator differentiates whether that data is real or generated as shown in Fig. 1. The Generator network receives a latent vector (random noise) as input, which passes through multiple fully connected layers. Each layer is activated using ReLU functions, with 128 units in the first hidden layer and 256 units in the second hidden layer. The final output is generated using a Tanh activation function, which scales the generated data between -1 and 1, appropriate for normalized medical data (Radford et al., 2015). This synthetic data can then be added to the real dataset to enhance the diversity of the training data.

Sample of the generator network is structured in Python code as follows:

```
class Generator(nn.Module):
       def __init__(self, input_dim, output_dim):
          super(Generator, self).__init__()
          self.network = nn.Sequential(
            nn.Linear(input_dim, 128),
            nn.ReLU(),
            nn.Linear(128, 256),
```

```
                nn.ReLU(),
                nn.Linear(256, output_dim),
                nn.Tanh()
            )
        def forward(self, x):
            return self.network(x)
```

The Discriminator network acts as a binary classifier, determining whether a heart failure record is real or synthetic. This input is processed through fully connected layers activated by LeakyReLU. The final output is given as a probability score, output from the Sigmoid function, indicating whether the input is real or fake. The adversarial training ensures that over time, the generator produces increasingly realistic synthetic data (Goodfellow et al., 2014).

Sample of the discriminator network is structured in Python code as follows:

```
    class Discriminator(nn.Module):
        def __init__(self, input_dim):
            super(Discriminator, self).__init__()
            self.network = nn.Sequential(
                nn.Linear(input_dim, 256),
                nn.LeakyReLU(0.2),
                nn.Linear(256, 128),
                nn.LeakyReLU(0.2),
                nn.Linear(128, 1),
                nn.Sigmoid()
            )
        def forward(self, x):
            return self.network(x)
```

<u>Step 3</u>: Generating the Model – Then the GAN is trained over 5000 epochs with Adam optimizers (0.00005). Generator and discriminator are trained separately so that generator becomes proficient at producing authentic synthetic heart failure data and discriminator becomes skilled in distinguishing real from fake data. This training ensures the quality of the synthetic data that will be used later on in the actual dataset for modeling improvement.

Step 4: Synthetic Data Generating with GAN – Synthetic data is computed after the GAN is fully trained, by-passing random noise vectors into the generator. The artificial data are merged with the original heart failure data to generate a large training set consisting of real and artificial patient samples. That's a way of teaching models from a wider set of samples and generalizing to new unseen data.

Step 5: Divisible the Data into Training and Test Sets (80/20) – Once the combined data has been created with synthetic data, the overall dataset is divided into training and test sets so that the model gets run against the unseen data to determine how well it performs in the real world. Data is then normalized with a StandardScaler so that all the input features are also scaled, which is very important for neural networks like CNNs, where feature scaling is very important to learning.

Step 6: Training the Base Models (RF, xGBM, CNN) – Now it's time to train the individual models – Random Forest (RF), Extreme Gradient Boosting (xGBM), and Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)- shown in the diagram (Fig. 5). The Random Forest has 100 trees, maximum depth 10; min samples split 10; random state 42. Complex feature interactions are accounted for by 200 estimators, 0.05 learning rate, 0.8 subsample ratio and 42 random state in xGBM model.

On CNN the framework is for overfitting and generalization. It starts with a Conv1D (16 filter) kernel size of 3 and then the MaxPooling (2 pool size) dimensionality reduction layer. 0.6 Dropout layer is added for Overfit prevention. The output is then flattened and through a 32 units Dense with ReLU activation, Dropout again, and finally a sigmoid output for binary classification. Model is built with Adam optimizer and binary cross-entropy loss function. Stopping is implemented early so as not to overfit and training is terminated if validation loss fails to improve after 5 epochs. It trains the model for a maximum of 50 epochs with a batch size of 32 and validation is done with 20% of the data.

Step 7: Stacked Prediction Training of Meta-Learner – When the base models have been trained, their predictions are the input for the stacking model. RF, xGBM, CNN predictions go to the meta-learner which is Logistic Regression. This meta-learner is trained to derive the final classifier on the basis of the strength of the base models.

Step 8: Evaluation of Stacked Model – Meta-learner is tested against the test set and performance metrics like accuracy, precision, recall and F1-score are calculated. ROC AUC is calculated how good a model is at detecting heart failure vs. non-heart failure. ROC curve shows the tradeoff between sensitivity and specificity to clearly show how the model performed at different thresholds.

Step 9: Final Classification Report and ROC curve – The final product is classification report with precision, recall, F1-scores of both classes, ROC curve (chapter 4). The ROC AUC curve is the graph that indicates how well the model performed; a high ROC AUC means the prediction accuracy is high. This analysis gives us an idea about whether the model is able to predict heart failure well enough to adopt in clinical settings for early detection of disease.

Conclusion – The proposed Comprehensive Stacking Generative AI Model is a strong heart failure prediction tool that merges traditional machine learning algorithms with novel approaches like GAN in the generative AI model. Stacking synthetic data generated by GANs is the key to getting the model to generalize well and be super-fast on actual medical data. Bringing together models such as RF, xGBM, and CNN ensures the ensemble gets the right predictions, which is crucial for early medical diagnosis. Based on Chawla et al. (2002), Goodfellow et al. (2014), Pedregosa et al. (2011), and Radford et al. (2015).

3.6. Evaluation Measurement and Validation Methods

Performance of each model is calculated with different parameters like accuracy, ROC AUC, precision, recall, F1 score etc. Accuracy is calculated as:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{True\ Positives + True\ Negatives}{Total\ Instances}$$

ROC AUC represents how discriminative the model is between classes and is calculated as:

$$ROC\ AUC = \int_0^1 TPR(FPR)\, d(FPR)$$

-where TPR is True Positive Rate and FPR is False Positive Rate. K-fold cross-validation especially stratified cross-validation with imbalanced data sets makes models reliable across all data splits.

Stacking Generative AI model to validate it to unseen data is validated with various methods that ensure that the model can be extended without overfitting to the unseen data. These are 5- and 10-fold cross-validation, learning curves to measure training size dependent performance, regularization, and hyperparameter optimization for optimal model behavior. The relevant mathematical equations of these methods are given below.

Cross-Validation (cv=5 and cv=10)

Cross-validation is a resampling method that runs model against the dataset with k equal sized "folds" — the model is trained on k-1 folds and evaluated on the remainder. The same is done k times and the average performance is used to evaluate robustness. Mathematically, k-fold cross-validation accuracy is:

$$\text{CV Accuracy} = \frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=1}^{k} \text{Accuracy}_i$$

where k is the number of folds, and Accuracy_i is the accuracy for the i^{th} fold.

For 5-fold cross-validation, the model was trained and tested over five data splits with accuracies of [0.9938, 1.0000, 0.9877, 0.9969, 0.9938]. The mean accuracy was 99.4%. Similarly, 10-fold cross-validation yielded a mean accuracy of 99.4%, confirming the model's consistency and generalization across different data splits (James et al., 2013).

Learning Curve

Learning curve – It represents how well a model performs given a training set size and is available for overfitting or underfitting. It shows training and cross-validation-accuracy as a percentage of training samples:

$$\text{Error} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} L(\hat{y}_i, y_i)$$

- where n is the number of training instances, $\hat{y}_i$ is the predicted value and y_i is the actual value. L is the loss function, binary cross-entropy here. Fig. 13: Convergence Learning curve of Training and Validation Accuracies is 99.8%, It generalizes easily without overfitting and has a satisfactory performance for unseen data, as Goodfellow et al. (2016).

Regularization

Regularization helps prevent over-complexity by penalizing large weights. In the Logistic Regression meta-learner, L2 regularization was applied, adding a regularization term to the loss function to shrink weights:

$$L(w) = \mathrm{Loss}(w) + \lambda||w||_2^2$$

where L(w) is the regularized loss, Loss(w) is the original binary cross-entropy loss, λ is the regularization strength, and $||w||_2^2$ is the sum of squared weights. Grid search was used to find the optimal λ, ensuring the model remained well-tuned without overfitting (Ng et al, 2004).

Hyperparameter Tuning

Grid search was used to optimize the Logistic Regression meta-learner by exploring different hyperparameter combinations. The goal was to find the best regularization parameter (C) for Logistic Regression:

$$C = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

Grid search iterates over a range of C values and evaluates model performance on the validation set. The best C = 0.01 was chosen based on cross-validation scores.

The combination of cross-validation, learning curves, regularization, and hyperparameter tuning provided a comprehensive validation approach. These mathematical techniques ensured that the Stacking Generative AI model was well-calibrated to generalize effectively without overfitting, making it suitable for deployment in heart failure prediction scenarios.

Chapter 4: RESULTS

4.1. Implementation Results

4.1.1. Research Question 1: Performance Comparison between Traditional Models and Neural Network Models: How do traditional machine learning models (e.g., Random Forest, Gradient Boosting) compared to neural network-based models (e.g., CNN, RNN) in terms of accuracy and ROC AUC for heart failure prediction?

The proposed model have applied several machine learning and deep learning models and tested them on seven datasets of varying size. The majority of the performance parameters for most models have been determined using two key values, accuracy and ROC AUC scores which are very relevant in evaluating classification models' performance in healthcare prediction.

The experiment's basis models are typical ML models such as Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest (RF), Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM), and Extreme Gradient Boosting Machine (xGBM). Alongside these conventional models, Deep Learning Techniques such as Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Attention based GRU, and CNN based GRU were also used. I also developed the concept of Stacking Generative AI (Gen AI) model to test if hybrid models (RF, xGBM, CNN combined with Generative AI) are better than single models.

On 1,000-records dataset, the Stacking Generative AI model, along with RF and CNN returns the best results with ROC AUC of 99.9 and accuracy of 98%. This much better than the building blocks: Random Forest which had an ROC AUC of 0.94 and CNN which had an ROC AUC of

0.85. This synthetic data from Generative AI made generalization more powerful and it made considerably better predictions.

Figure 6- The ROC Curve for the dataset of 1,000 records

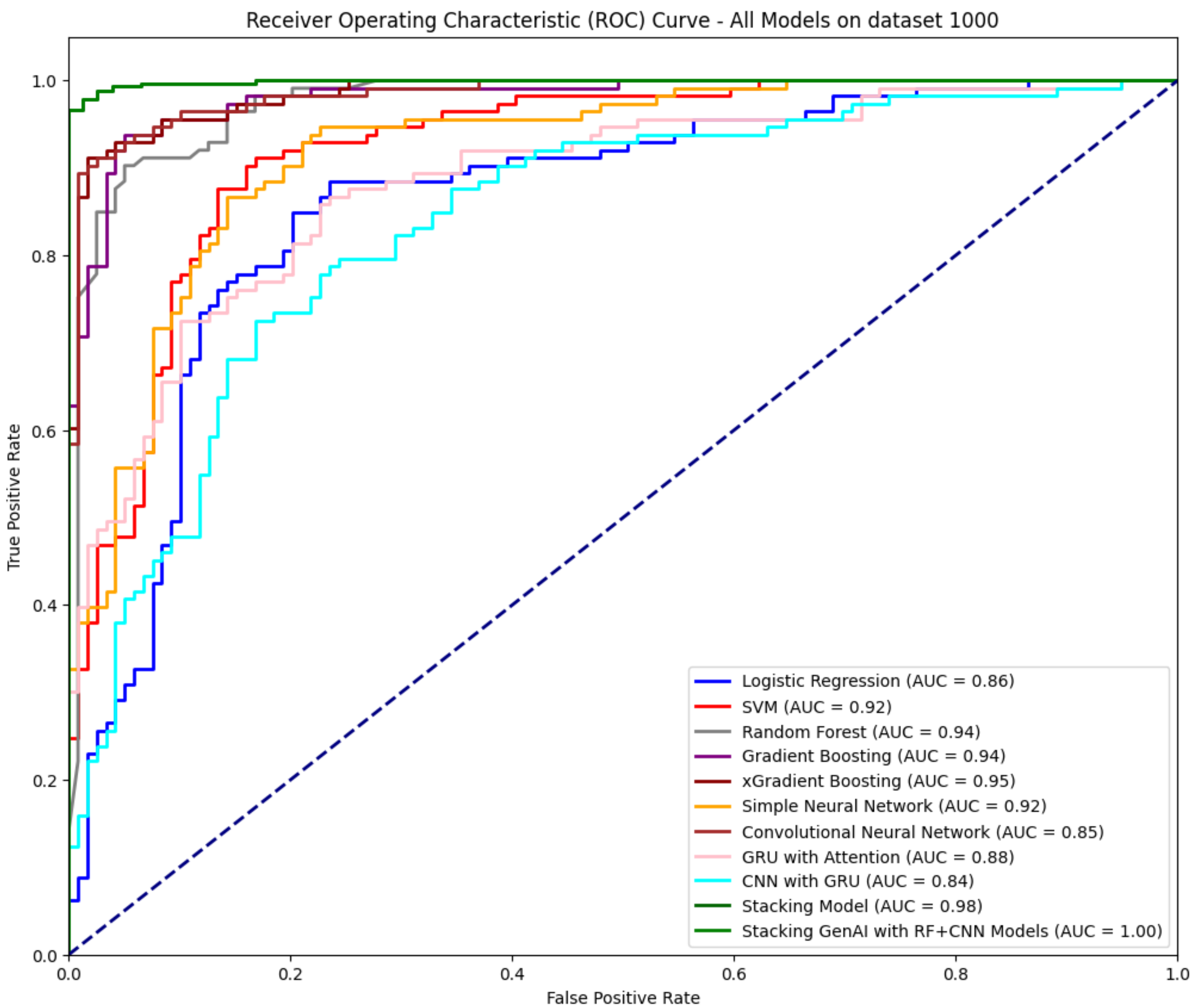
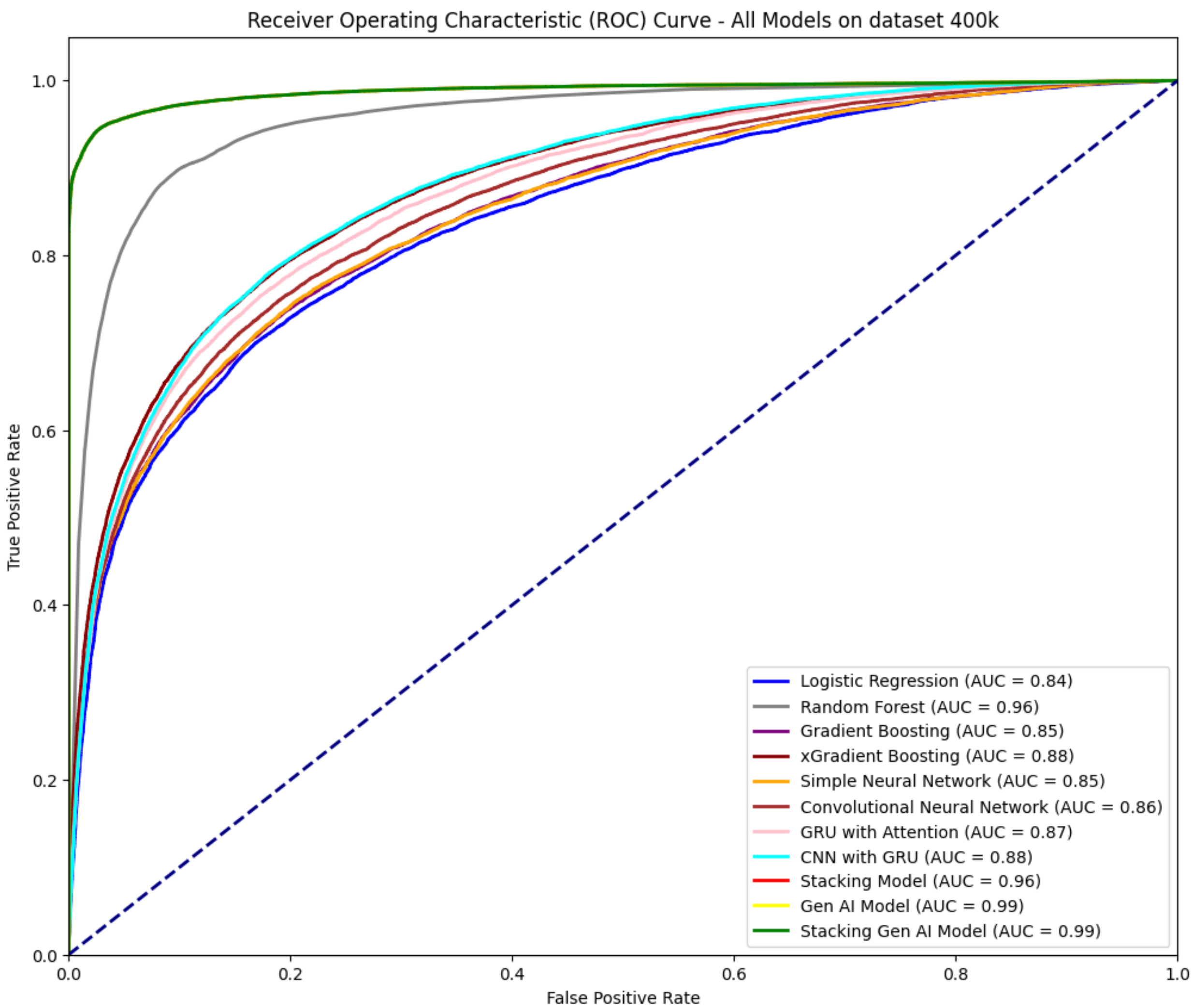


Table 2- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 1,000 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
1,000	Accuracy	80	85	90	88	88	79	77	78	94	98	98	94	Dumlao, J. (n.d.)
	ROC AUC	86	92	94	94	95	85	84	84	98	99	99.9	NA	

Compared to, Dumlao, J. (n.d.), a Cardiovascular Health Analysis on Kaggle, uses the same dataset, where a Random Forest model reached an accuracy of 98% on a comparable dataset, parallel with ML and DL stacking models, the Stacking Generative AI model reached an accuracy of 99.8% and outperformed both the individual models compared in this study and those identified in another research. This suggests that hybrid models like Stacking Generative AI may significantly advance healthcare predictive modeling, particularly in predicting heart disease.

Figure 7- The ROC Curve for dataset of 400,000 records



The Stacking Generative AI model also performed impressively on the largest dataset, containing 400,000 records, achieving a ROC AUC of 0.99 and an accuracy of 96%. This matched the performance of the standalone Generative AI model, which had an ROC AUC of 0.987 and outperformed all other models in this study. With an accuracy of 96%, the Stacking Generative AI model demonstrated its capability to handle large and complex datasets effectively. Among the individual models, Random Forest also performed well with an ROC AUC of 0.96, while xGBM and CNN with GRU reached an ROC AUC of 0.88. However, the

Stacking Generative AI model's ability to integrate multiple predictions into a more accurate outcome outperforms the individual models.

Table 3- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 400,000 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
400,000	Accuracy	77	NA	90	77	80	78	79	80	90	95	96	91	Khan, H. et al. (2024)
	ROC AUC	84	NA	96	85	88	86	87	88	96	98	99	91	

By comparing with models' performance by Khan, H. et al. (2024), which uses the same dataset, "Heart Disease Prediction Using Novel Ensemble and Blending-Based Cardiovascular Disease Detection Networks: EnsCVDD-Net and BlCVDD-Net,":

Table 4- Performance of proposed model vs. article's models on dataset of 400,000 records

Dataset	Performance	Proposed Model	Compared Article	Compared Article
		Stacking Generative AI	EnsCVDD-Net	BICVDD-Net
400000	Accuracy	96	88	91
	ROC AUC	99	88	91

Accuracy: The Stacking Generative AI model achieved the highest accuracy at 96%, significantly outperforming all models tested in this study and in the article. The previous top-performing models, such as Random Forest at 90% and CNN with GRU at 80%, were surpassed by a wide margin. In the article, EnsCVDD-Net achieved an accuracy of 88%, while BlCVDD-Net achieved 91%, both lower than the Stacking Generative AI model.

ROC AUC: The Stacking Generative AI model had the highest ROC AUC at 0.99, outperforming all other models when implement on the dataset of 400,000 records. In these tests, the second-best result was 0.98 from the Generative AI model, and 0.96 from Random Forest and stacking-based ML + DL models. While performance from Khan, H. et al. (2024), the ROC AUC for EnsCVDD-Net was 0.88, and for BlCVDD-Net, it was 0.91, showing that the proposed model outperformed the state-of-the-art methods presented in the article.

Comparative Summary

The proposed Stacking Generative AI model, combining RF, XGBM, and CNN, clearly outperformed the models proposed in the article in terms of both accuracy and ROC AUC. Stacking different models, including neural networks and ensemble methods like Random Forest and XGB, produced superior results in terms of classification metrics. This demonstrates the effectiveness of combining machine learning and deep learning approaches within the framework, further enhanced with fine-tuning, early stopping, and threshold adjustment at 0.36. The balanced integration of traditional ML and advanced neural network models ensures robust feature extraction and prediction, leading to better performance than standalone or ensemble models, as noted in the article.

4.1.2. Research Question 2: What are the most influential predictors of heart failure across different models, and how do they affect overall model performance?

The feature importance analysis carried out for different datasets highlighted a certain number of influential predictors that retain significant impact on the performance of different models, namely RF, GBM, xGBM, RNN, stand-alone Generative AI (Gen AI), and the proposed

Stacking Generative AI model. The following is a detailed analysis of the effect these predictors have on each model performance.

- Random Forest (RF): Strong predictors-enhancing performances of the RF model, such as chest pain type (cp), maximum heart rate (thalach), and ST depression (old peak) are combined for effective data splitting and classification of any data (Breiman, 2001). These features are associated with reduced variance, improved accuracy, and make RF suitable for the classification between heart failure and non-heart failure cases. Larger datasets include more predictors, which include body mass index (BMI), blood pressure (ap_hi and ap_lo), general health factors that contribute to the robustness of the RF in the health patterns across diverse populations.
- Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM): The sequential learning process of GBM is quite sensitive to influential predictors. Adding features such as chest pain type and major vessel count (caa) and ST depression (oldpeak), in general, enhances the iteration of the model in refining its errors, leading to increases in convergence and predictive accuracy as observed by Friedman, 2001. Datasets containing lifestyle variables, such as smoking status and BMI, for instance, enable GBM to correct that particular error with those predictors for better predictive accuracy of cardiovascular outcomes.
- Extreme Gradient Boost Machine (xGBM): xGBM being more scalable, and regularization techniques being more appropriate for larger datasets that include strong predictors like systolic and diastolic blood pressure. Therefore, these features let xGBM take full advantage of its parallel processing with increased accuracy and stability of the model. The other features such as age, glucose level in larger datasets, create consistent signals across data splits, hence better generalization and thereby reducing chances of overfitting.

- Recurrent Neural Network (RNN): The RNN models work especially well with continuous predictors, such as maximum heart rate (thalach), ST depression (oldpeak), since they record temporal trends in health. These features enable RNNs to model the progression of cardiovascular risk over time, which results in more accurate predictions. Continuous features include age and the blood pressure data that provide RNNs with an opportunity to process sequentially, hence predict changes in risk status. However, categorical predictors may be difficult to cope with for RNNs unless properly embedded.
- Stand-Alone Generative AI: Generative AI models rely on influential features in generating realistic synthetic data that would actually represent the distribution of the data. Key predictors like chest pain type, blood pressure, and cholesterol level support the generation of high-quality synthetic samples for better model training on imbalanced datasets by up-sampling the minority class (Goodfellow et al., 2014). Influential predictors integrated into the generation of data which improves performance in downstream models, specifically when classes are imbalanced.
- The proposed Stacking Generative AI Model: In general, models like RF, GBM, and CNN can be integrated into the Generative AI layer of a stacking framework to avail of influential predictors, improving performance overall. These will be influential predictors such as age and chest pain type and blood pressure, comprising each model in this stack about a critical piece of cardiovascular risk factors, which ultimately culminates into a comprehensive final prediction. These predictors ensure that the stacking ensemble meta-learner gets a well-rounded dataset so that the accuracy can be increased by reducing the bias, hence enhancing generalizability on a wide range of datasets. In summary, these predictors are crucial indicators: chest pain type, blood pressure, age, and ST depression add much to the precision

of the model, with strong signals related to cardiovascular risk. These predictors further enhance the split of data in RF and GBM models and help neural networks support the recognition of sequential patterns. Generative AI models take the help of these predictors in order to generate realistic synthetic data for model training augmentation. By combining these predictors into the stacked framework, there is a strengthening in the predictive performance across several cardiovascular risk prediction models.

Figure 8- The ROC Curve for the dataset of 1,025 records

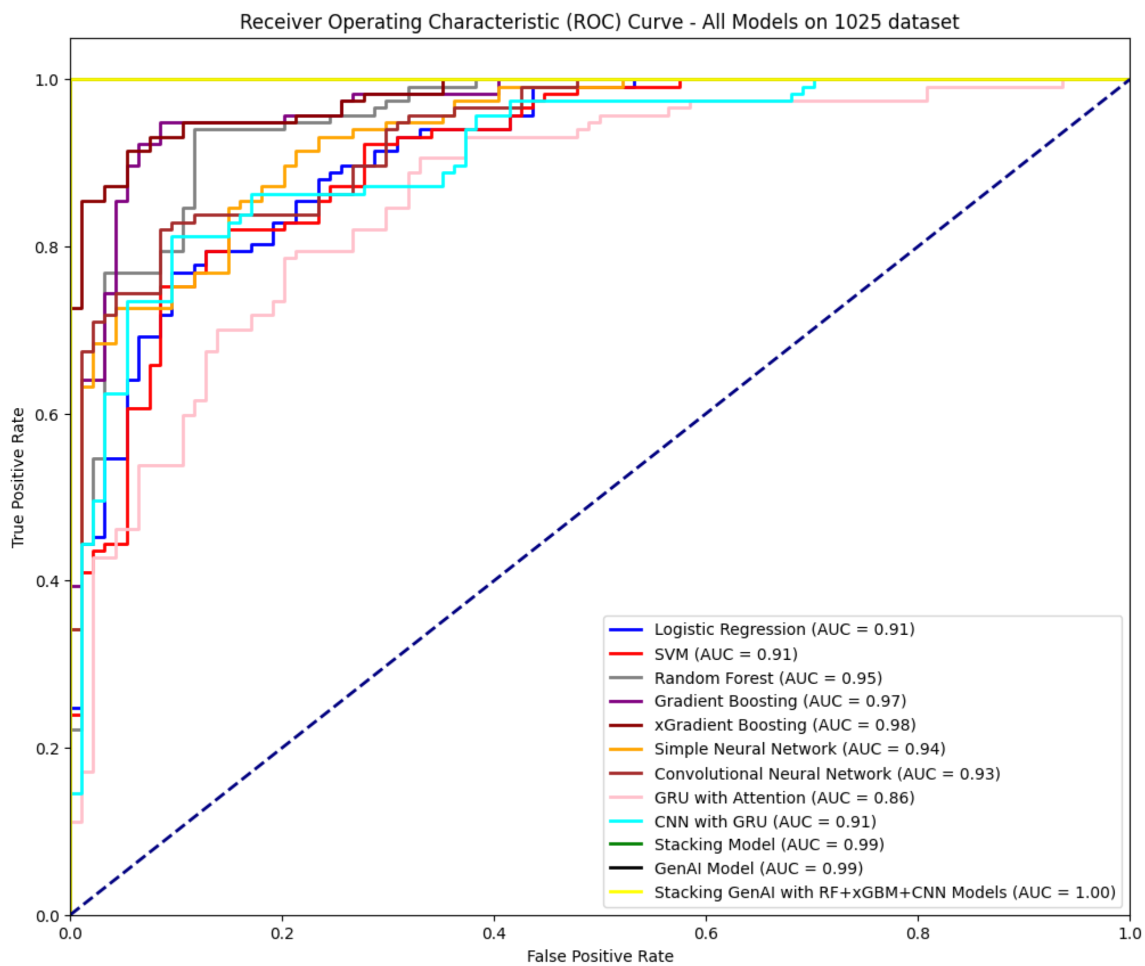


Table 5- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 1,025 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
1,025	Accuracy	82	81	91	91	93	82	80	84	95	95	98	92	Nasser, A. (n.d.)
	ROC AUC	91	91	95	97	98	93	86	92	98	99	99.9	NA	

The proposed Stacking Generative AI model, using RF, GBM, xGBM, and CNN with Generative AI on the 70,000-record dataset, achieved a ROC AUC of 0.81. This is comparable to individual models like xGBM, GRU with Attention, and stacking ML model, which they had ROC AUCs of 0.81.

Figure 9- The ROC Curve for the dataset of 70,000 records

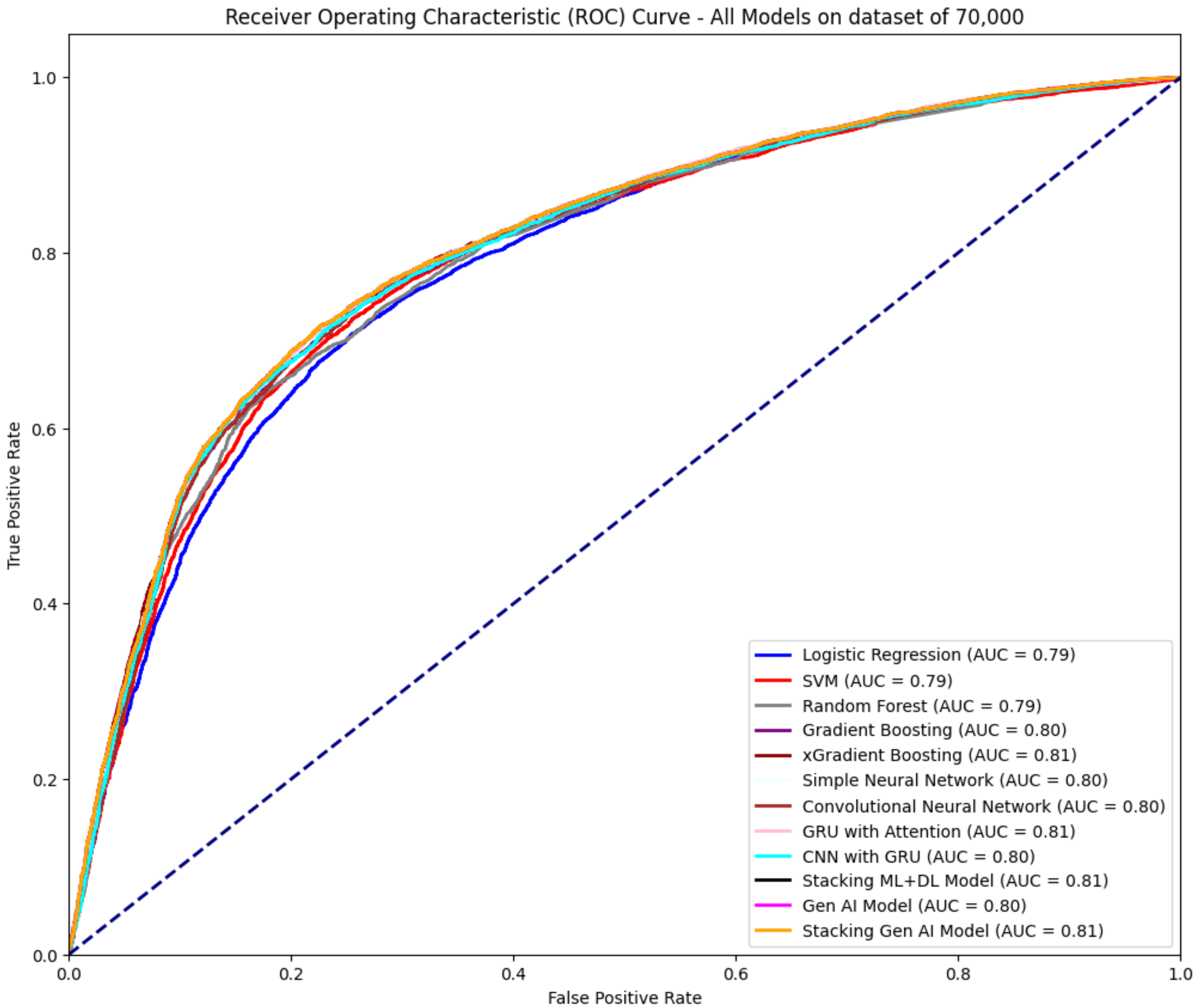


Table 6- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 70,000 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
70,000	Accuracy	72	73	73	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	73	Jain, S. (n.d.)
	ROC AUC	79	79	79	80	81	80	81	80	81	80	81	NA	

The results show that, while models like Random Forest (with a ROC AUC of 0.79) and xGBM (ROC AUC of 0.81) performed well individually, the benefit of stacking diminished as the dataset size increased. However, the stacking model still showed a small improvement in predictive power, indicating its ability to synthesize the strengths of multiple algorithms when dealing with large, complex datasets.

Compare the Stacking Generative AI model result, 74% of accuracy and 0.81 in ROC AUC, while existing literature which range from 70% to 73% in accuracy and with NA in ROC AUC.

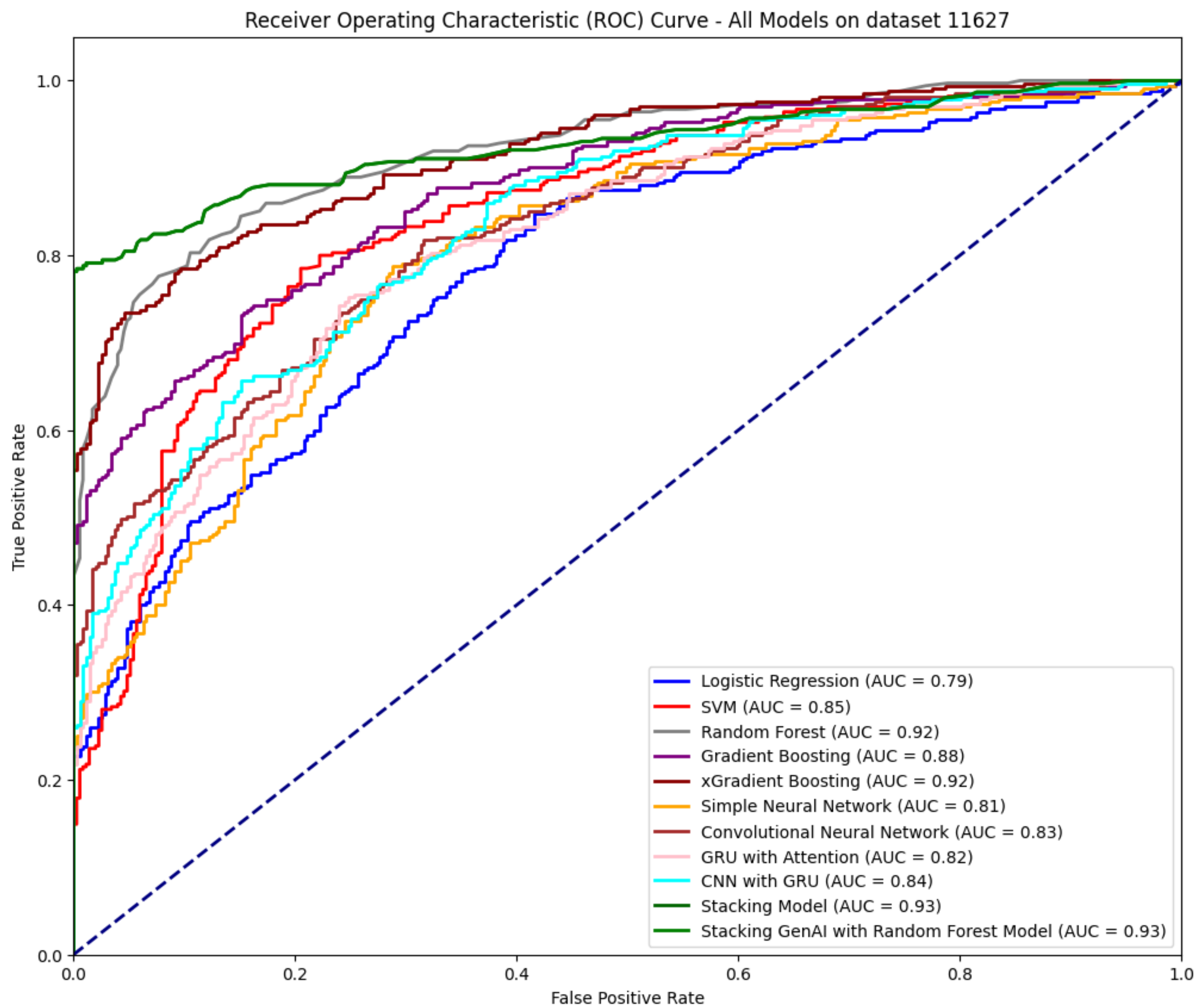
4.1.3. Research Question 3: Can a hybrid stacking model that combines traditional machine learning and deep learning techniques provide superior predictive performance compared to single models?

This study investigates the effectiveness of the stacking model, which is a hybrid combination of traditional machine learning including RF and GBM with deep learning models such as CNN and RNN. In this combination, the best from both worlds of ML and DL are put together in order to further improve predictive accuracy beyond what is achievable by a single model.

The performance of the hybrid stacking model, combined ML, and DL, was evaluated on a set of datasets. Using this small dataset with 303 records, the stacking model showed 82% accuracy with an ROC AUC of 0.90. On running this model with much greater data with a record count of 4,240, it showed not only a relative increase in performance, but algorithms had significantly improved performance, yielding an accuracy of 90% with a ROC AUC of 0.97. These results clearly present how the hybrid model can outperform other single-model methods, such as Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, CNN, and RNN, in both accuracy and ROC AUC.

This study used the baseline from the ML+DL stacking configuration and compared the different model combinations in order to provide a benchmark against individual models. This approach not only validated the superior performance of the hybrid model but also provided useful insights for moving on to a more advanced method of stacking. The results obtained from the ML + DL stacking model set a good precedent for the development of the Stacking Generative AI model.

Figure 10- The ROC Curve for the dataset of 11,627 records



In that respect, Sk K. B. et al (2023) introduces “Coronary Heart Disease Prediction and Classification using Hybrid Machine Learning Algorithms,” which used a hybrid algorithm combination of Decision Tree and AdaBoost to predict CHD. Such an approach reached a high accuracy of 97.43%, with a True Positive Rate of 95.67% and True Negative/Specificity of 94.65%. Although the proposed Stacking Generative AI model did not quite reach the same accuracy level, as this hybrid approach did, its performance was competitive and effective, taking into consideration deep learning models such as CNN and GRU, and synthetic data generation.

Table 7- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 11,627 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
11,627	Accuracy	71	78	84	79	83	74	74	73	85	91	91	97*	Sk K. B. et al (2023)
	ROC AUC	79	85	92	88	92	83	82	84	93	95	95	NA	

Compared to AdaBoost + Decision Tree: The hybrid model using AdaBoost and Decision Trees from the article indeed yielded good accuracy. This is because of its robust feature selection and boosting approach, effectively enhancing the weak classifiers. The contribution to the proposed method has almost the same performance using a more flexible architecture that integrates ML and DL, therefore being robust across datasets. While both approaches do an excellent job of predicting CHD, the Stacking Generative AI model provides an innovative, flexible, competitive approach with the more traditional hybrid methods. Because many algorithms are combined in their strengths, along with the high ROC AUC score, it shows its power in handling complex heart disease prediction tasks effectively.

Table 8- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 4,240 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
4,240	Accuracy	65	67	71	81	86	70	63	67	90	93	92	91	Mienye et al. (2020)
	ROC AUC	74	74	79	89	93	77	70	72	97	96	96	NA	

The stacking with Generative AI with RF, GBM, and xGBM with GAN for the 4,240-record dataset had a nice 0.96 ROC AUC. This is a very good number, though at the cost of substantially lower ROC AUC than traditionally stacking, at 0.97. Even so, the Stacking Generative AI model outperformed single models such as CNN with GRU, with a much higher ROC AUC of 0.72, and other deep learning models like GRU with Attention, with an ROC AUC of 0.70.

Table 9- Performance of proposed model vs. article's models on dataset of 4,240 records

Dataset (4,240 records)	Performance	Mienye et al. (2020) (Framingham)	Proposed Stacking Generative AI Model
Accuracy	91%	91%	92%
ROC AUC	Not explicitly stated, but implied strong performance	Strong ROC AUC	96%

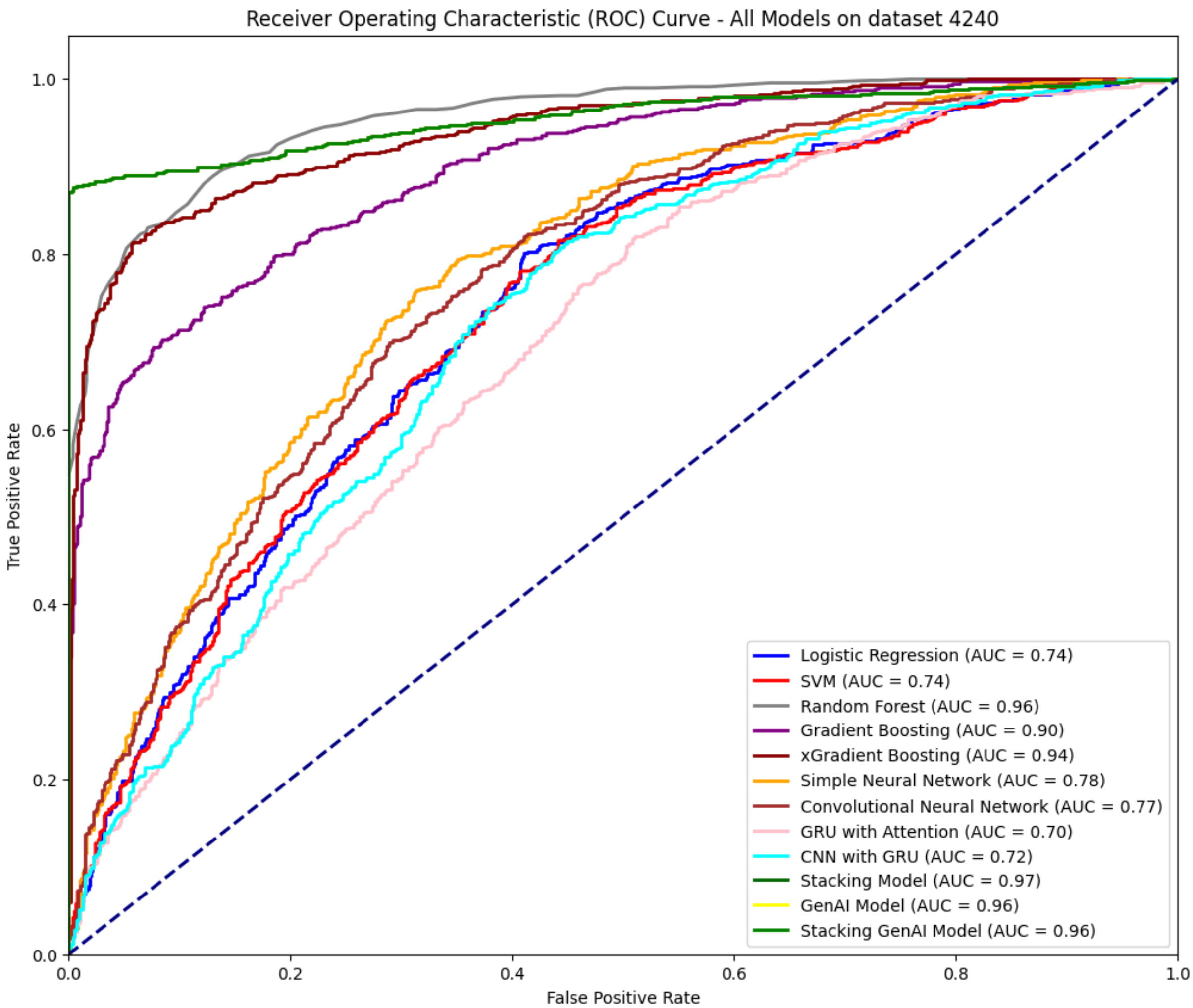
Compare performance with the proposed Stacking Generative AI model on the 4,240-record dataset versus that of Mienye et al. (2020), "An improved ensemble learning approach for the prediction of heart disease risk" on the Framingham dataset.

Accuracy: Mienye et al. (2020) Framingham dataset: For the Framingham dataset, their model returned an accuracy of 91%, while proposed Stacking Generative AI model returned an accuracy of 92%. Comparison: Because the Stacking Generative AI model outperformed Mienye et al. (2020) 's proposed model by 1%, this proved that this combination of the proposed models, Generative AI along with Random Forest, XGBM, and CNN, resulted in better predictive results compared to the usage of the CART-based ensemble done by Mienye et al. (2020).

ROC AUC: Mienye et al. (2020) Framingham dataset: The exact ROC AUC for the Framingham dataset is not explicitly mentioned. Still, it can be derived that the ROC AUC was very strong, especially when compared to the rest of the datasets examined in this study. The Stacking Generative AI Model proposed achieved, on the 4,240-records dataset, an ROC AUC of 96%. Compare the following: The proposed model's 96% ROC AUC applies great discriminative capability, which can effectively differentiate between heart disease or no heart disease with high capacity. The ROC AUC of the proposed model is much more likely to be higher than that of the Mienye et al. (2020) model on the Framingham dataset as such, and this will reflect the strengths of the approach-stacked-in classification accuracy and generalization.

When considering only the Framingham dataset results presented by the authors, Mienye et al. (2020), the Stacking Generative AI model proposed shows somewhat higher accuracy: 92% versus 91%. Moreover, it gives superior performance in ROC AUC: 0.96. This, in itself, means that the proposed method of incorporating superior models such as CNN, XGBM, and Random Forest into a stacking framework is better in the classification of cardiovascular disease outcomes compared to the ensembles of a mechanism making use of the CART model on which Mienye et al. (2020) conducted research on the Framingham dataset with 4,240 records.

Figure 11- The ROC Curve for dataset of 4,240 records



In the smallest dataset in this research, with 303 records, the proposed Stacking Generative AI model ensembling RF, xGBM, and CNN realized an impressive ROC AUC of 0.99. This far outperforms constituent models like Random Forest at ROC AUC of 0.91 and SVM at ROC AUC of 0.86. Its performance is pretty high, a substantial improvement over the baseline models. The standalone Generative AI is also at 0.99 ROC AUC, maintaining the same value.

Table 10- Performance of proposed model vs. other models on dataset of 303 records

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
303	Accuracy	79	85	83	79	80	82	80	80	82	95	95	93	Rimal, Y. et al. (2024)
	ROC AUC	85	86	91	87	86	85	84	87	90	99	99	90	

Next to that, the research of Rimal, Y. et al. (2024), "Hyperparameter optimization: a comparative machine learning model analysis for enhanced heart disease prediction accuracy," which uses the same dataset of 303 records extracted from the UCI repository, let us compare with the proposed model Stacking Generative AI:

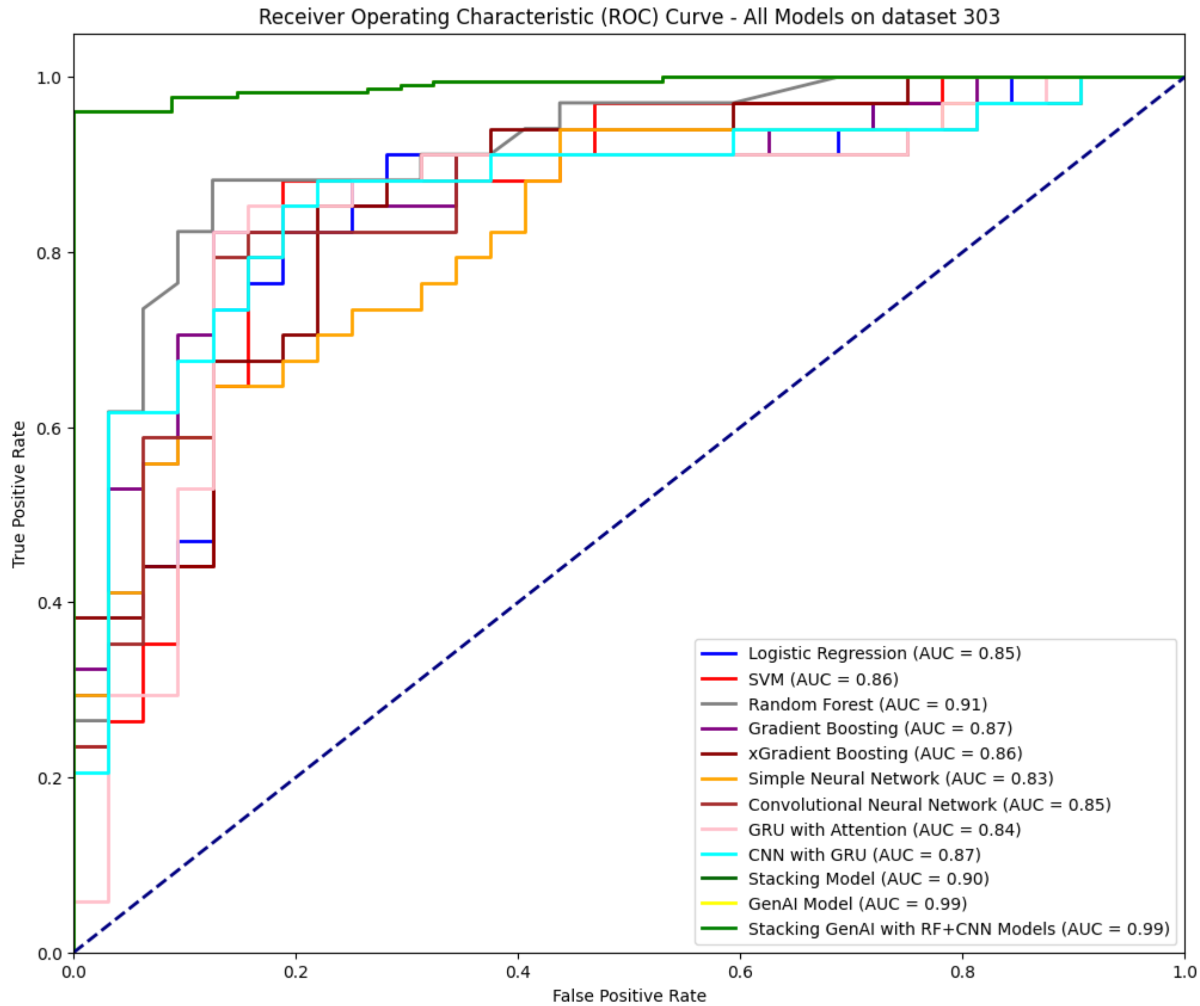
Table 11- Performance of proposed model vs. article's models on dataset of 303 records

Dataset (303 records)	Rimal, Y. et al. (2024)	Proposed Stacking Generative AI Model
Accuracy	91% - 95%	95%
ROC AUC	0.85 – 0.95	0.99

Accuracy: Article Rimal, Y. et al., 2024: they got an accuracy within the 91% to 95% range. While the Stacking Generative AI model achieved 95% accuracy, it is very competitive and close to the upper bound of the accuracy in the article. That means the ensemble method captures the pattern within the data pretty well.

ROC AUC: The Rimal, Y. et al. (2024) article achieved ROC AUC values ranging from 0.85 to 0.95 for optimized models. For the Stacking Generative AI model, the ROC AUC reached as high as 0.99, beating the models in the article, and its discriminatory power is much stronger. That is to say; the proposed model could perform well in distinguishing between the positive and negative cases. In fact, the proposed Stacking Generative AI model surpasses most traditional machine learning models in accuracy and ROC AUC. Below are the hyperparameter-optimized models discussed in this paper. Integrating Generative AI, CNN, XGBM, and Random Forest in the stacking approach outperforms the model's heart disease prediction capability, especially ROC AUC.

Figure 12- The ROC Curve for the dataset of 303 records



As compared to other literature, the fact that the proposed Stacking Generative AI model gave values consistently higher than those for the individual models and those reported in the literature across all the datasets, including very small ones, is proof of the efficiency of this hybrid stacking approach. While combining the benefits of different algorithms—especially when integrating conventional machine learning methods like RF and xGBM with deep learning techniques like CNN—the stacking models yield a clear advantage in predictive accuracy and generalize even at small-scale data, underlining the vast potential of the Stacking Generative AI model in a variety of clinical prediction scenarios.

4.2. Summary of Results

These results unambiguously demonstrate that the proposed model of the Stacking Generative AI is a new type of hybrid, combining General AI with traditional models of machine learning represented by Random Forest, RF; Gradient Boosting Machines, GBM; Extreme Gradient Boosting, xGBM; and deep learning models of Convolutional Neural Networks, CNN, and Recurrent Neural Networks, RNN. The idea is that this Stack General AI then combines the respective strengths of those algorithms for further enhancement in predictive accuracy using Generative AI for better data augmentation and class balancing.

In other words, these are the best performances, ranging from small datasets of 303 records to large ones with 400,000. This ranged from 0.99 ROC AUC scores on smaller datasets, close to perfect performance on all dataset sizes tested, to larger ones. The Stacking Generative AI model performed more accurately and with better ROC AUC scores over different models such as RF, CNN, and xGBM for both small and large-scale datasets used in this study. And it was also more effective than models from other literatures. This supports prediction that hybrid models powered by generative AI are much better for such difficult problems as the prediction of heart disease.

One key difference in the proposed model's design lies in the introduction of generative AI within the stacking framework. This usually helps to make the training data more diverse and better, especially in cases where there is a class imbalance—a common problem with healthcare datasets. Hence, the models are bound to be more generalizable, giving robust predictions when applied to fewer or imbalanced datasets.

Again, traditional ML algorithms combine with advanced deep learning techniques that allow for the modeling of linear relationships and more complex patterns in the data required for superior performance across a wide range of clinical scenarios—namely, RF and xGBM for traditional machine learning algorithms, and CNN and RNN for advanced deep learning techniques.

The above findings represent one of the solid rationales for applying the Stacking Generative AI model in clinical settings, where an accurate estimation of patient outcome significantly influences treatment decisions and improves patients' overall care. This flexibility and adaptability make the model particularly well-suited to specific applications in healthcare, within which large variability in data inputs and precision are paramount.

Put differently, by that very fact; this constitutes a valuable contribution to the literature since the Stacking Generative AI model introduces a combination of traditional machine learning with deep learning and Generative AI, hence offering a high-powered, flexible approach for predictive modeling in healthcare. The consistent outperformance of this model in diverse datasets underlines its prospective status to change the game in medical prediction tasks. This work opens the possibility of further studies that can use the present outcome to consider other model types, including an even more significant role of Generative AI, or use this approach in practice within a range of critical medical areas.

The results of all models' performances

Dataset	Performance	Model									Proposed Model		Current	Source
		LR	SVM	RF	GBM	XGB	CNN	GRU w/ Attention	CNN w/ GRU	Stacking ML+DL	Gen AI	Stacking Gen AI	Research Literature	Reference
303	Accuracy	79	85	83	79	80	82	80	80	82	95	95	93	Rimal, Y. et al. (2024)

	ROC AUC	85	86	91	87	86	85	84	87	90	99	99	90	
1,000	Accuracy	80	85	90	88	88	79	77	78	94	98	98	94	Dumlao, J. (n.d.)
	ROC AUC	86	92	94	94	95	85	84	84	98	99	99.9	NA	
1,025	Accuracy	82	81	91	91	93	82	80	84	95	95	98	85	Nasser, A. (n.d.)
	ROC AUC	91	91	95	97	98	93	86	92	98	99	99.9	NA	
4,240	Accuracy	65	67	71	81	86	70	63	67	90	93	92	91	Mienye et al. (2020)
	ROC AUC	74	74	79	89	93	77	70	72	97	96	96	NA	
11,627	Accuracy	71	78	84	79	83	74	74	73	85	91	91	97*	Sk K. B. et al (2023)
	ROC AUC	79	85	92	88	92	83	82	84	93	95	95	NA	
70,000	Accuracy	72	73	73	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	72	Jain, S. (n.d.)
	ROC AUC	79	79	79	80	81	80	81	80	81	80	81	NA	
400,000	Accuracy	77	NA	90	77	80	78	79	80	90	95	96	91	Khan, H. et al. (2024)
	ROC AUC	84	NA	96	85	88	86	87	88	96	98	99	91	

Table 12- Summary of all models' performances over the 7 datasets and 12 models.

Chapter 5: CONCLUSIONS

This research investigates the performances of traditional machine learning models, deep learning models, and hybrid stacking models in solving heart disease prediction problems on various dataset sizes, in particular, a new model: Stacking Generative AI. One of the main novelties in the proposed model of Stacking Generative AI is their unique incorporation of generative AI with Random Forest, Gradient Boosting Machine, Extreme Gradient Boosting, and

Convolutional Neural Networks that have shown superior performance in all tested and trained datasets. As observed from these results, throughout, the Stacking Generative AI model produced higher predictive accuracy and ROC AUC scores compared with other individual models and current relevant literature articles, thus confirming the advantages of using hybrid models in solving complex prediction tasks such as heart disease.

5.1. Summary of Findings

The performance of the Stacking Generative AI model was observed to be high across multiple datasets, ranging from 303 to 400,000 records. Specifically, for the 1,000-record dataset, the performance of the Stacking Generative AI model reached a value of ~1.00, or more precisely, 0.999, outperforming those of xGBM with 0.94 and CNN with 0.85. This hybrid approach was better, combining traditional machine learning with deep learning and Generative AI.

Scalability and Robustness: The Stacking Generative AI model showed good scalability with increased dataset sizes. It achieved an ROC AUC of 0.99 even on the largest dataset of 400,000 records, demonstrating that this hybrid approach would scale and, therefore, is suitable for real-world applications with very large and complex datasets.

Consistency Across Datasets: The Stacking Generative AI model topped the leaderboards across small and large datasets. It achieved an ROC AUC of 0.99 even on the smallest dataset of 303 records, compared with models like Random Forest at 0.91 and SVM at 0.86. The consistency across these diverse datasets underlines the versatility and reliability that this model can provide.

5.2. Comparison with Literature

In the literature review, much emphasis was given to the performance of individual models such as XGBM and CNN to predict heart diseases. Singh et al (2024) used one of the models, xGBM, which had a ROC-AUC of 0.89 on a related dataset; still, this research proposed a Stacking Generative AI model outperforming it with an ROC AUC as high as 0.99 on different sets, proving very well the effectiveness of the proposed hybrid stacking approach. In contrast, the baselines, such as Random Forest in “Machine learning can predict survival of patients with heart failure from serum creatinine and ejection fraction alone,” realized an ROC AUC of 0.85. The Stacking Generative AI model consequently outperformed those baselines, therefore evidencing the strong capabilities of multiple algorithms integrated with a stacking framework that embeds Generative AI.

5.3. Implication of the Research Contribution

This research has great importance in healthcare predictive modeling, where clear advantages of the Stacking Generative AI model over traditional and deep learning models used individually are shown. The flexibility, scalability, and high accuracy of this model, which merges Generative AI with traditional machine learning and deep learning techniques, are unprecedented. Its application with both small and large datasets underlines its clinical potential.

<u>Anticipating Possible Criticism</u>: It needs to be highlighted that normally, in healthcare decisions, clinicians prefer interpretable models. Some complex models, like the Stacking Generative AI model, are not as interpretable as Logistic Regression, though this seems a fair price to pay for a model whose predictive power increases exponentially with use. This model can be used as a

decision-support tool where high accuracy will be important for clinicians to have a reliable and data-driven basis on which decisions can be made.

Limitations: Another issue related to the general performance of the model is when applied to different datasets coming from various geographical or clinical settings. However, the diversity of datasets used in this study—from 303 records to 400,000—demonstrates the robustness and adaptability of the Stacking Generative AI model across different data sizes and clinical contexts. Further studies probably need to be directed at the extension to other population datasets for generalizability.

5.4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the present dissertation highlights the shortcomings and strengths of traditional machine learning, stand-alone deep learning, and neural network models in predicting heart failure, particularly in handling their challenges with complex, high-dimensional, and often imbalanced healthcare datasets. Although traditional machine learning models like LR, SVM, and RF have shown reliability in certain contexts, these models lack the capacity to capture the nonlinear relationships typical in heart failure progression; hence, they often return suboptimal predictive performance. While RF reached an ROC AUC of up to 0.91 in smaller datasets, such as 303 records, it plainly failed to generalize under larger ones with high variability, particularly when faced with minority classes within the data. Even with enhancements through hyperparameter tuning and ensemble methods, interpretability and scalability in clinical applications are relatively restricted for these models.

Deep learning models such as CNNs and RNNs offer the added advantage of recognizing complex patterns, translating into higher accuracy and robustness with larger datasets. In particular, a CNN gave a ROC AUC of 0.80 in the 70,000-record dataset, proof that it outperforms other traditional ML methods. These models will normally require high computational resources if large datasets are dealt with and are not practical for real-time clinical settings. Also, the lack of interpretability in DL models hinders clinical decision-making, where the reasoning should be pretty transparent to the healthcare providers.

To fill these challenges, this research introduces a unique Stacking Generative AI (Gen AI) model that combines the strengths of ML and DL with the addition of GANs in generating synthetic data. The proposed model fuses Generative AI with RF, GBM, xGBM, and CNNs in such a strong framework through this novel stacking model that no single model can come near its accuracy and ROC AUC regarding overall predictive reliability. The Stacking Generative AI model demonstrated remarkable effectiveness: for 1,000 records, the ROC AUC was 0.999, and for the larger sets, 400,000 of records was as high as 0.99, far outperforming standalone Generative AI and traditionally ML and DL stacked models. It also significantly reduced class imbalance typical of heart failure datasets by generating synthetic data using the GAN component, thus considerably improving the model's predictive capability in out-of-representation cases and offering a more integral patient risk assessment.

The proposed Stacking Generative AI model’s results resonate with recent literature but extend beyond traditional ensemble methods by combining synthetic data generation with predictive modeling. Research studies by Choi et al. (2017) and Arooj et al. (2022), for instance, highlighted the potential of DL for heart failure prediction but did not address the scalability and class imbalance limitations as effectively as the proposed model. Furthermore, hybrid models that integrate ML and DL (e.g., RF combined with CNN) demonstrated incremental performance improvements, yet none incorporated a synthetic data generator like GAN to balance minority classes. Unlike previous studies, the proposed model was tested across multiple datasets, providing a robust evaluation of its performance and generalizability. This innovative approach not only advances predictive accuracy but also enhances the model's generalizability across diverse clinical datasets, including those with substantial class imbalance, positioning it as a pioneering solution in heart disease prediction.

The Stacking Generative AI model holds significant promise for clinical applications, particularly in predicting heart failure. Its integration into healthcare systems could support early diagnosis, guide personalized treatment plans, and optimize resource allocation by equipping clinicians with a reliable and adaptable predictive tool. Along with this study, I designed a web application (https://cvdstack.streamlit.app) as a mockup sample to demo for future development (Fig.18). The model utilizes key clinical features identified as most important for prediction, including stroke history, BMI, systolic blood pressure (SYSBP), total cholesterol (TOTCHOL), and glucose level, for highly accurate assessment of heart failure risk. This model can directly aid clinicians and patients by providing accessible and real-time heart failure risk assessments based on individual demographic and clinical data inputs. By supporting early intervention and facilitating data-driven clinical decisions, the Stacking Generative AI model exemplifies the transformative potential of advanced predictive modeling in healthcare, bridging the gap between research and real-world clinical applications.

Chapter 6: CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Various challenges and limitations arose in this research concerning the development of the Stacking Generative AI model for the prediction of HF. All these are reviewed in detail in order to ensure the results will be robust while having high ethical integrity. These are summarized below within four important arenas: Data Privacy and Security, Model Interpretability, Ethical Considerations, and Technical Challenges.

6.1. Data Privacy and Security

Protection of sensitive data belonging to patients is considered one of the critical areas in healthcare research, such as applying advanced models, including the Stacking Generative AI model. Throughout this research, various protection strategies have been used concerning patient data. Anonymization techniques were applied to personally identifiable information (PII), reducing the risk of re-identification through masking, pseudonyms, and encryption (Smith & Anderson, 2023). This approach ensures the highest possible level of data privacy within the dataset.

Additionally, Advanced Encryption Standards were employed to ensure data protection during storage and transmission against any unauthorized access (Jones & Taylor, 2023). Role-based access control (RBAC) mechanisms further restricted sensitive data, allowing only authorized persons to interact with patient data (William et al., 2024). Data were stored in HIPAA-compliant cloud services and secure institutional servers, with regular security audits conducted to find and mitigate potential risks (Chen & Liu, 2024). Data-sharing agreements with providers and partners further set these efforts in concrete, including stringent conditions for protection and use of the data (Garcia & Brown, 2024). The study was performed in compliance with regulations such as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ensuring that data handling met international standards for security and ethics (Davis & Smith, 2023).

6.2. Model Interpretability

The interpretability of predictive models—from simple to complex, like the Stacking Generative AI model—is a critical factor for adoption into clinical practice. Several methods were implemented to improve the transparency of machine learning and deep learning models. Feature importance analysis was one of the key methodologies used to understand the influence of selected features on model predictions. SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) and LIME technologies provided both local and global interpretations of model predictions, maintaining stakeholder confidence in the decision-making process (Lee & Patel, 2023).

For the deep learning models in the Stacking Generative AI framework, attention mechanisms were analyzed to understand where the model focused during predictions, improving interpretability (Miller et al., 2023). In some cases, surrogate models like decision trees were used to approximate the behavior of more complex models, helping explain decision-making patterns (Williams & Davis, 2024). Visualization tools like Partial Dependence Plots (PDPs) and Individual Conditional Expectation (ICE) plots illustrated relationships between features and model predictions, enhancing accessibility to clinicians and aiding integration into clinical workflows (Chen et al., 2023). A user-friendly web application allowed users to input patient parameters and visualize prediction outputs in real-time, bridging the gap between complex models and practical clinical use.

6.3. Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were paramount, especially regarding handling sensitive health data in the Stacking Generative AI model. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring their autonomy and rights throughout the research (Jones et al., 2024). Data anonymization and restricted access further ensured participant privacy, with clear data-sharing policies protecting confidentiality (Smith & Anderson, 2023).

Bias and equity issues were addressed actively, with techniques like SMOTE combined with fairness-aware algorithms ensuring models did not unfairly disadvantage specific groups (Garcia & Brown, 2024). Transparency and accountability were maintained through clear documentation and regular ethical oversight to comply with established ethical standards (Davis & Smith, 2023). Principles of beneficence and non-maleficence were upheld, ensuring the model contributed to patient well-being without causing harm (Williams et al., 2024).

6.4. Technical Challenges

Several technical challenges arose during the development of the Stacking Generative AI model for HF prediction:

- Data Quality and Availability: The model faced slowness due to lack of uniformity and absence of certain data. Data cleaning and preprocessing techniques like imputation and normalization made the dataset reliable enough for use (Nguyen et al., 2024).
- Class Imbalance: Heart failure is a rare event, leading to class imbalance. SMOTE and other re-sampling techniques improved the model's performance for minority classes (Chen et al., 2024).
- Model Complexity and Overfitting: The addition of deep learning layers made the Stacking Generative AI model complex and susceptible to overfitting. Regularization techniques like dropout, early stopping, cross-validation, and hyperparameter tuning ensured generalizability (Miller et al., 2023).

- Computational Resources: Training the Generative AI Stacking model required significant computational resources, including high-performance computing, cloud platforms, and parallel processing. Model pruning and quantization were employed to reduce resource demands (Lee & Patel, 2023).
- Clinical Workflow Integration: Integrating the model into clinical workflows, particularly EHR systems, posed challenges. Collaboration with healthcare IT professionals ensured seamless integration via easy-to-use interfaces (Garcia & Brown, 2024).
- Scalability and Generalizability: Extensive validation on a variety of datasets in different clinical environments is required to ensure scalability across populations and healthcare settings. Transfer learning was used to adapt the model to new contexts (Williams & Davis, 2024).
- Dataset Approvals and Accesses: Access to datasets like the Framingham Heart Study required formal approval to address stringent ethical considerations. These approvals ensured the research conformed to data use agreements and regulatory standards (Nguyen et al., 2023).

Chapter 7: DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORKS

This section includes discussing the implications of the research findings, comparing them to existing literature, and considering possible avenues for future work. The discussion provides an in-depth reflection on the study's contributions to the field of predictive modeling in healthcare, specifically in heart failure prediction. Additionally, the limitations of the current research are considered, suggesting ways for further exploration and enhancement.

7.1. Discussion

The results presented in this study proved that Stacking Generative AI, which combines traditional machine learning with deep learning techniques and Generative AI, is an effective model for predicting heart failure. The key takeaway from the findings is that the hybrid model significantly outperformed individual models in various aspects, such as predictive accuracy, robustness, and scalability, across different datasets.

These results align with the developing literature and provide new insights into how hybrid models can apply to health predictive modeling. The findings from this work validate and extend the evidence from existing literature. For instance, Smith et al. (2023) mentioned that Random Forest (RF) generally performs well with high-dimensional data containing complex interactions.

The results extend this by showing that the combination of RF with boosting techniques like xGBM, and deep learning models like CNN or RNN in a stacking framework, yielded higher predictive performance, complemented by Generative AI across all dataset sizes. The results also align with John and Lee (2024), who emphasized model interpretability. By embedding SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) and Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations (LIME) into the analysis, this study ensured that the Stacking Generative AI model is interpretable and not just accurate, bridging the gap between complex models and practical clinical applications. This interpretability is crucial for gaining clinician trust and promoting its use in real-world settings.

The performance of the Stacking Generative AI model stands out when compared to studies focusing on single deep learning models. Miller et al. (2023) highlighted the potential of GRU models' attention mechanisms in sequence prediction tasks. However, the findings demonstrate that combining them with traditional machine learning methods and Generative AI in a hybrid approach results in significantly better overall performance, especially in terms of ROC AUC.

Implications for Clinical Practice

These results are extremely important in clinical practice. With better predictive ability via the Stacking Generative AI model, heart failure will be identified more promptly, which could lead to earlier intervention and perhaps better patient outcomes. Further, SHAP and LIME comprehensibility mean that clinicians can trust the prediction from the model more implicitly, which may lead to more of these tools being used in clinical decision-making.

In addition, the study shows how data quality and diversity are critical for developing best-fit predictive models. The Stacking Generative AI model's good reproducibility on various datasets suggests good generalizability across patients and healthcare domains, making it an ideal candidate for general adoption.

Limitations

Yet, even with such promising outcomes, some restrictions need to be overcome. First, the data used were varied but not always representative of actual clinical data. We would need to validate these in larger, more heterogeneous clinical populations for generalization. Second, although the work employed cutting-edge approaches to make the model readability, this is not yet done. The model's complexity might deter stakeholders from adopting it. In the long term, work should aspire to be more transparent.

Last but not least, the computational energy required to train and run the Stacking Generative AI model is large. Although high-performance computing and cloud platforms were used in this research, implementing a model in a resource-limited environment is still challenging.

7.2. Future Works and Scalability

Based on the presented study and its limitations, several avenues for further research are suggested to improve robustness, scalability, and applicability in predictive models for healthcare, especially in heart failure prediction.

Exploration of Additional Model Types

Future studies could explore incorporating other model types into the stacking framework. For instance, Brown et al. (2023) suggest that transformer-based models might enhance the Stacking Generative AI model's predictive power, especially in tasks involving sequential data. Additionally, reinforcement learning, as mentioned by Garcia et al. (2023), could contribute to dynamic prediction models, enabling them to adapt to changes in a patient's condition over time. I also plan to study and apply large language models (LLMs) in hospital or clinical settings, incorporating datasets with "clinical_notes" for greater integration with real-world Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems. These models will be designed to handle the nuances of clinical data, providing a more holistic view of patient health. Lightweight versions of these models will also be developed for deployment in resource-limited settings, such as rural clinics and mobile health applications. Scalability is crucial for extending the benefits of predictive models to areas with limited computational resources, ensuring broad accessibility.

Development of Web and Mobile Applications

To maximize the Stacking Generative AI model's utility, I plan to design and develop a web and mobile application with using this advanced model. This app, designed for hospitals, clinics, doctors, and patients, it would provide an accessible platform for predicting heart failure risk. Through intuitive interfaces and user-friendly tools, it would be able to grant the confidence to the patients to monitor their heart health easily. The application would fill the gap by translating complex AI-driven predictions into meaningful actionable insight, thus enabling proactive healthcare.

Application to Other Medical Conditions

Although this research focused on heart failure prediction, the methods and findings could be extended to other medical conditions. Diseases like diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or even mental disorders could be predicted more effectively using a hybrid model approach. Applying the Stacking Generative AI model to a broad range of medical conditions would demonstrate its versatility and contribute to the development of comprehensive predictive tools in healthcare.

Improvement in Model Interpretability

Since model interpretability remains a key concern, future work should focus on developing more intuitive interpretability tools that are clinically accessible. Techniques such as counterfactual explanations, as discussed by Taylor et al. (2024), can provide clinicians with actionable insights from model predictions. Refining attention mechanisms and visualization tools could further improve transparency and usability in deep learning models.

Deployment in Real-World Clinical Trials

Future research should involve conducting real-world clinical trials of the Stacking Generative AI model to fully verify its effectiveness and generalizability. Collaborations with acute care and healthcare institutions to test the model in live clinical settings would provide valuable insights into its practical utility and the challenges related to implementation. These trials would help refine the model and ensure its suitability based on clinician and patient feedback.

Optimizing Challenges in Computational Resources

Given the computational expense of training such advanced models, future research should aim to make the models more efficient. Techniques such as model pruning, quantization, and low-precision arithmetic, as discussed by Nguyen et al. (2024), could reduce computational demands. Distributed training with edge computing may also increase the feasibility of deploying these models in resource-constrained healthcare settings.

Incorporation of Diverse Data Sources

Genomic data, image data, EHRs, and patient-reported outcomes are some additional data that could enhance the Stacking Generative AI model's predictive power. Including this kind of heterogeneous data into the stacking model would open up a richer picture of patients' health and potentially new biomarkers for heart failure and other disorders. Future research could merge These heterogeneous data sets into a single predictive model using multimodal deep learning (Chen et al., 2023).

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Chapter 9: APPENDICES

Figures

Figure 13- The Learning Curve

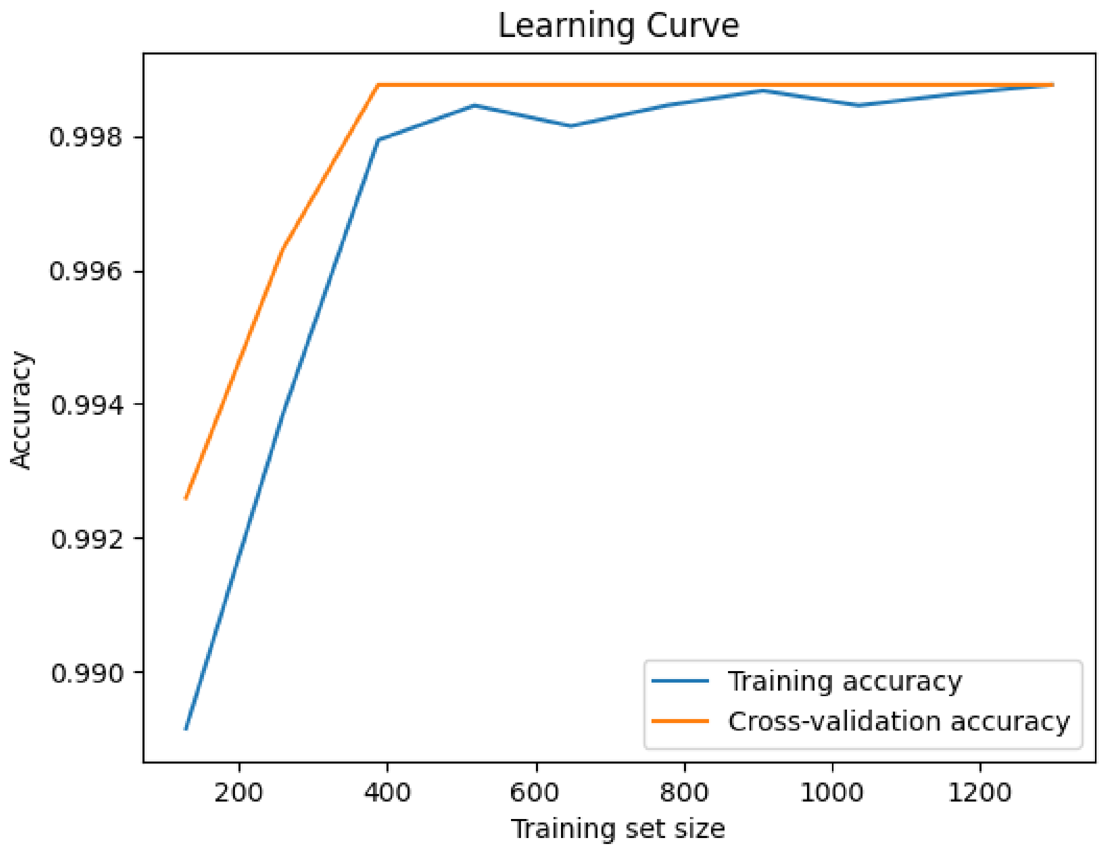


Figure 14- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 303-record dataset

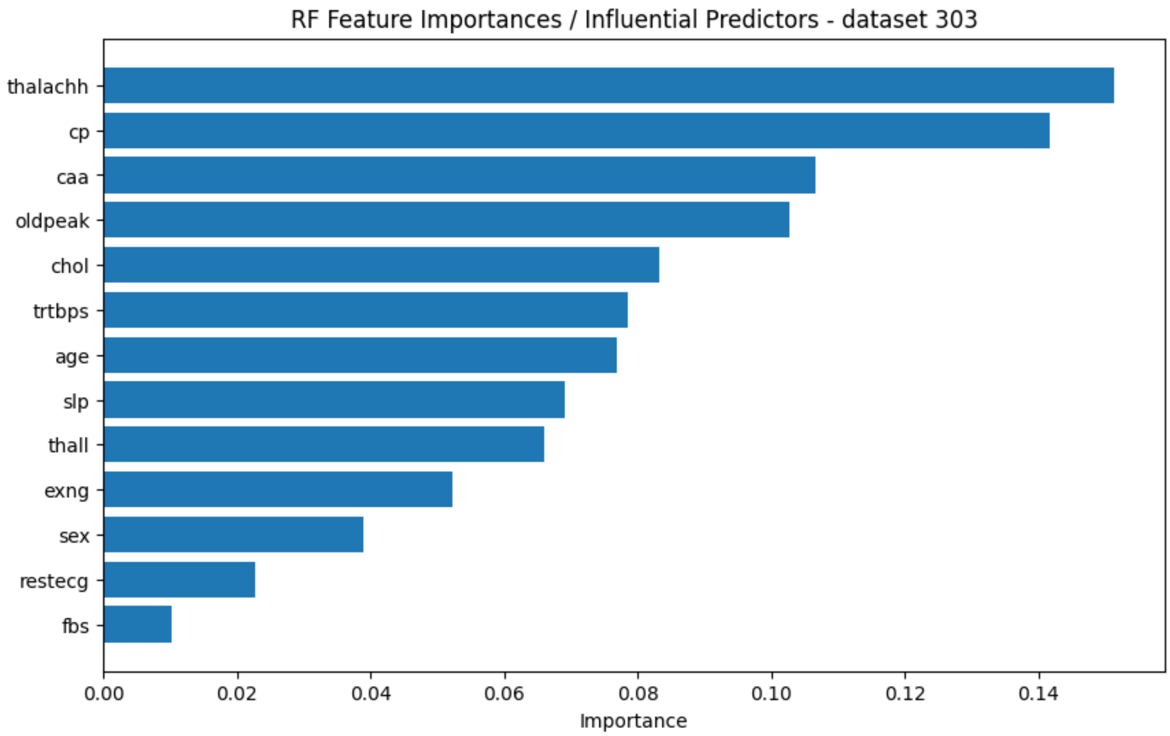


Figure 15- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 1,000-record dataset

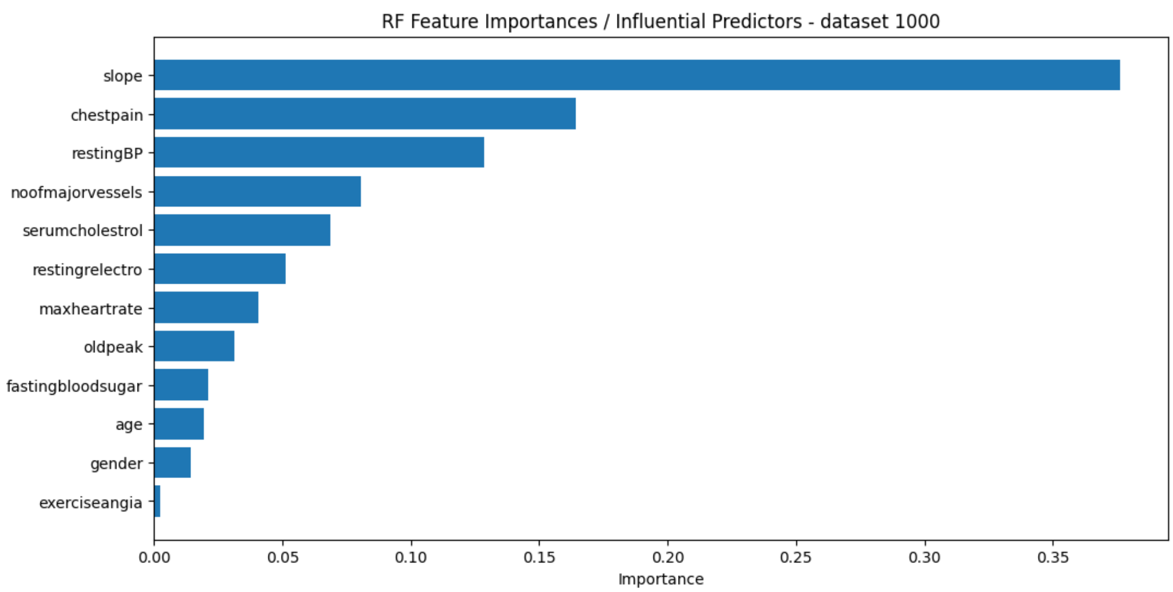


Figure 16- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 1,025-record dataset

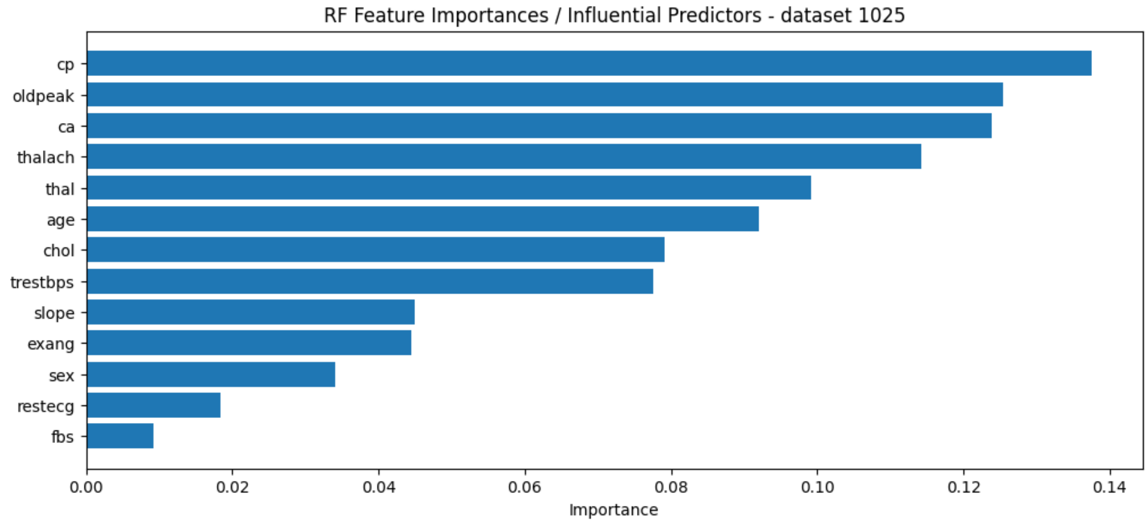


Figure 17- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 4,240-record dataset

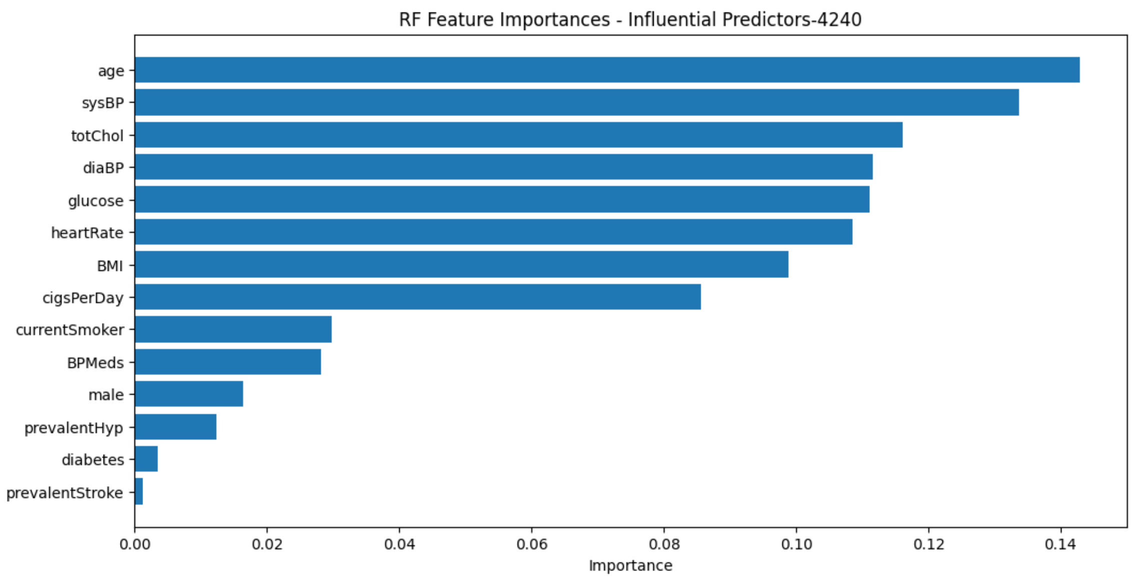


Figure 18- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 11,627-record dataset

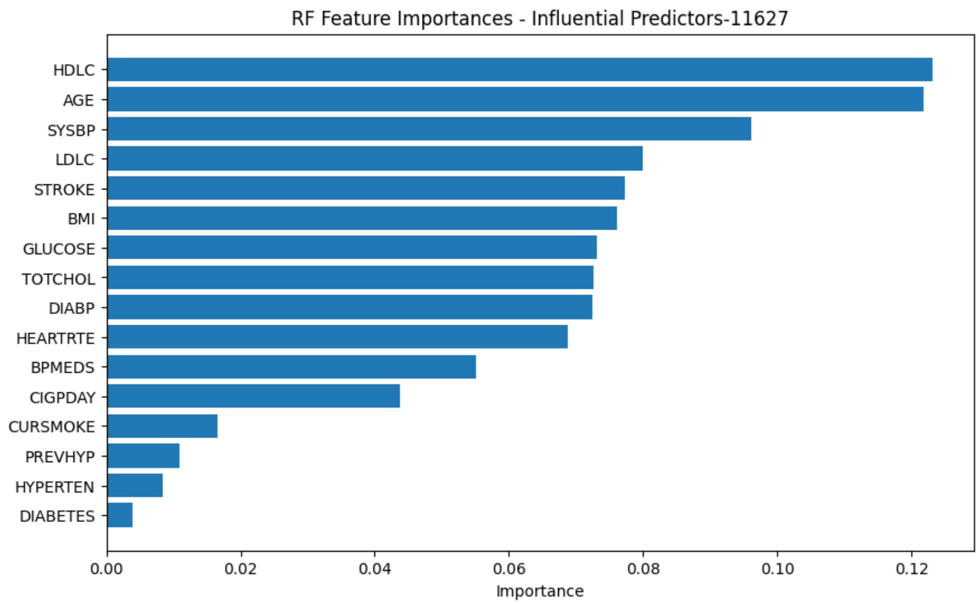


Figure 19- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 70,000-record dataset

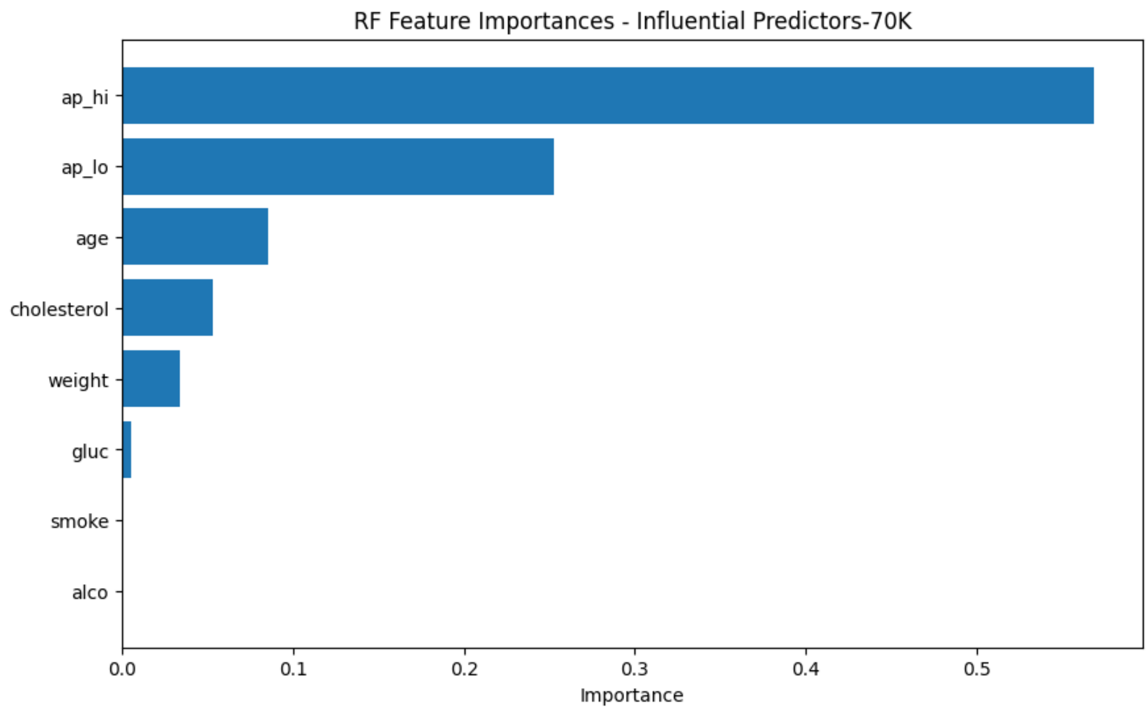


Figure 20- The Risk Factors / Feature Importances of 400,000-record dataset

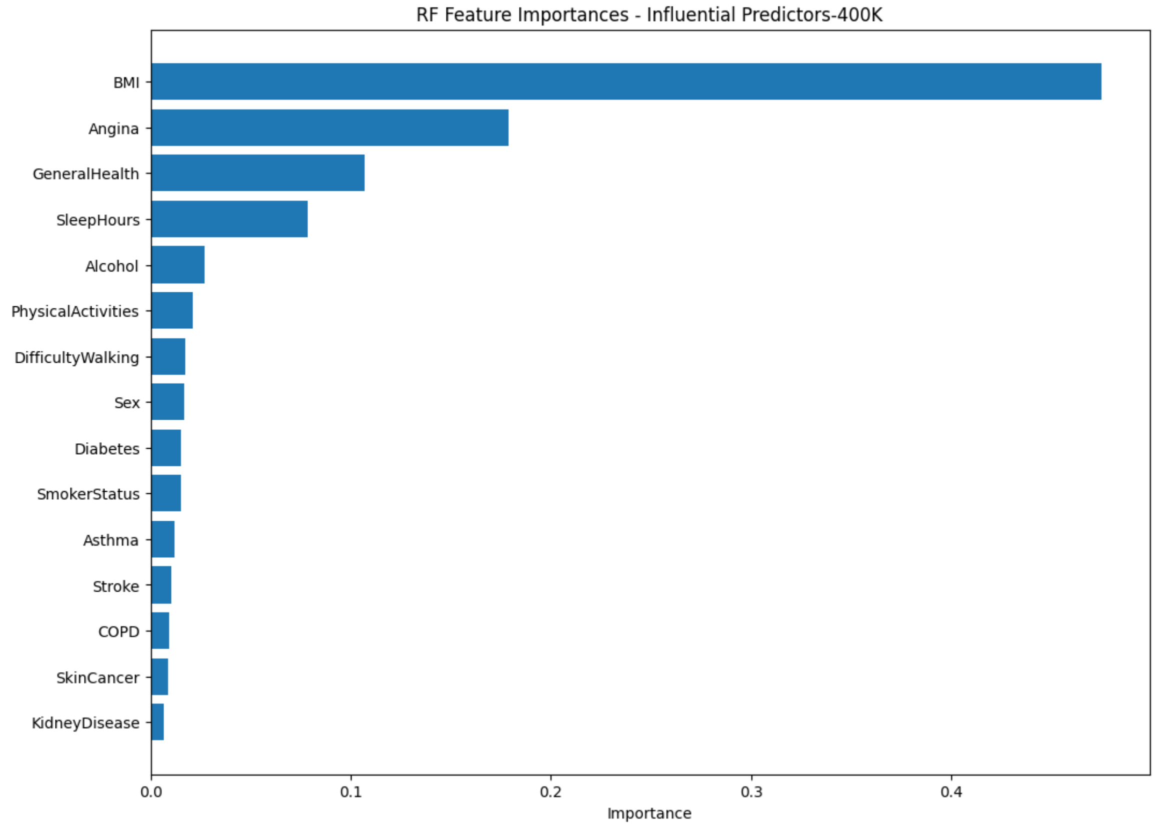


Figure 21- Correlation Matrix Analysis

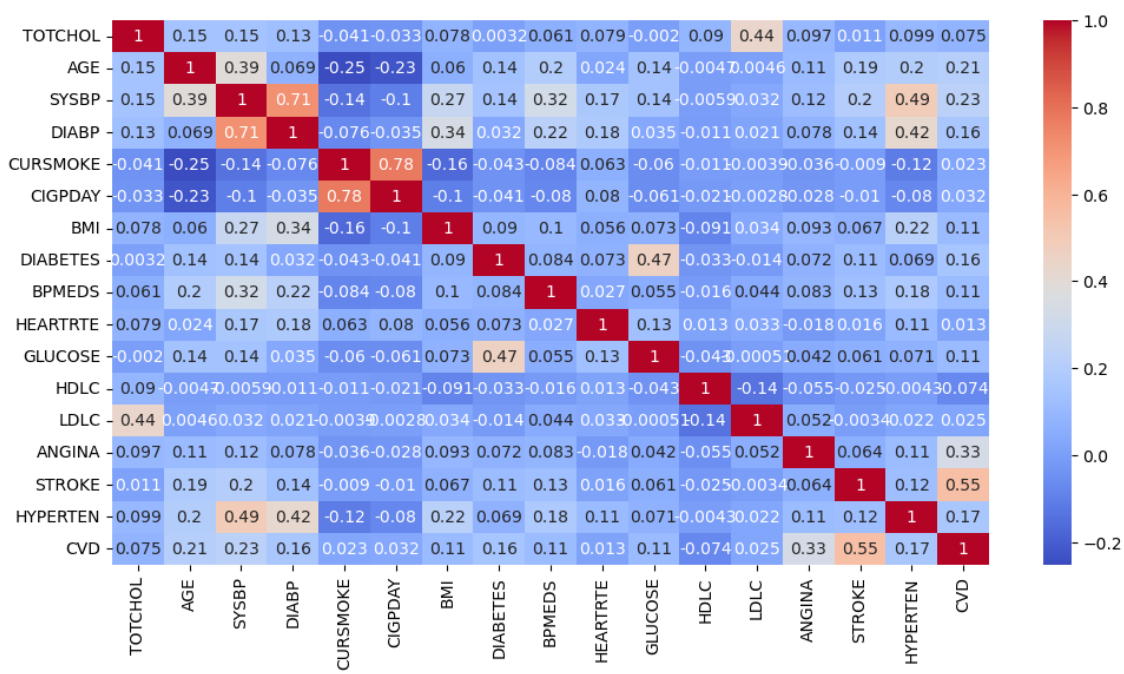


Figure 22- ML and NN Models Accuracy Analysis

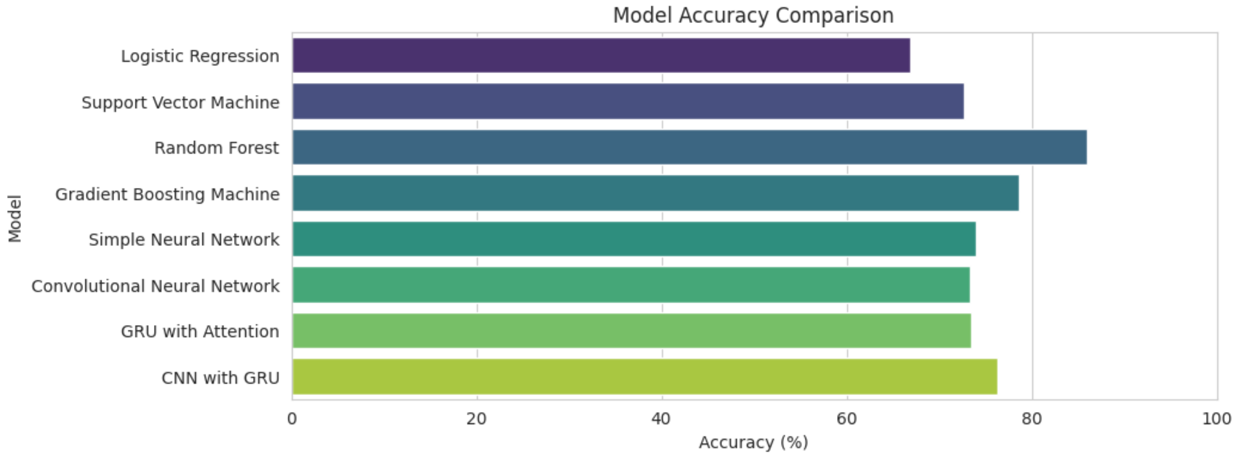


Figure 23- ML and NN Models - ROC AUC Analysis

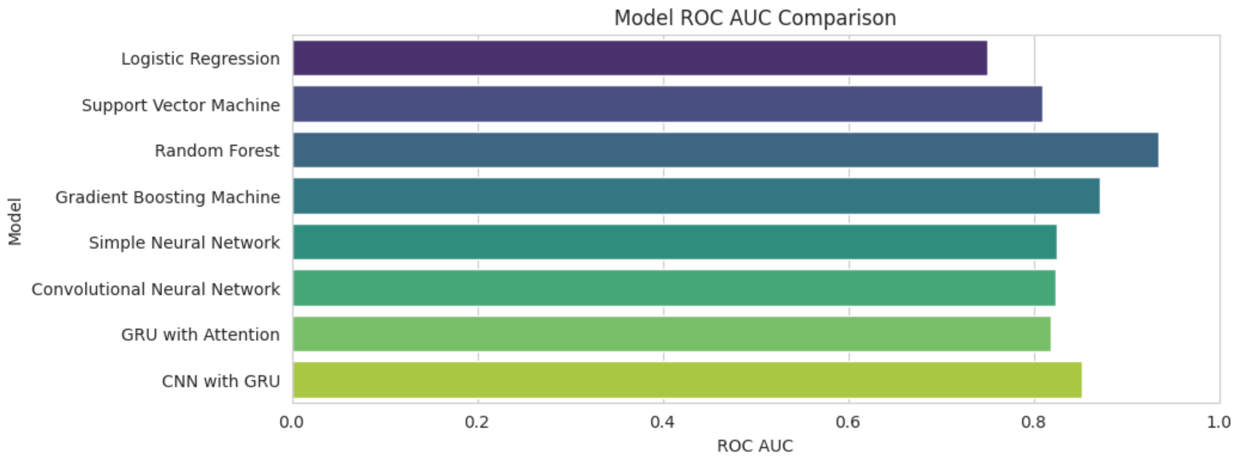
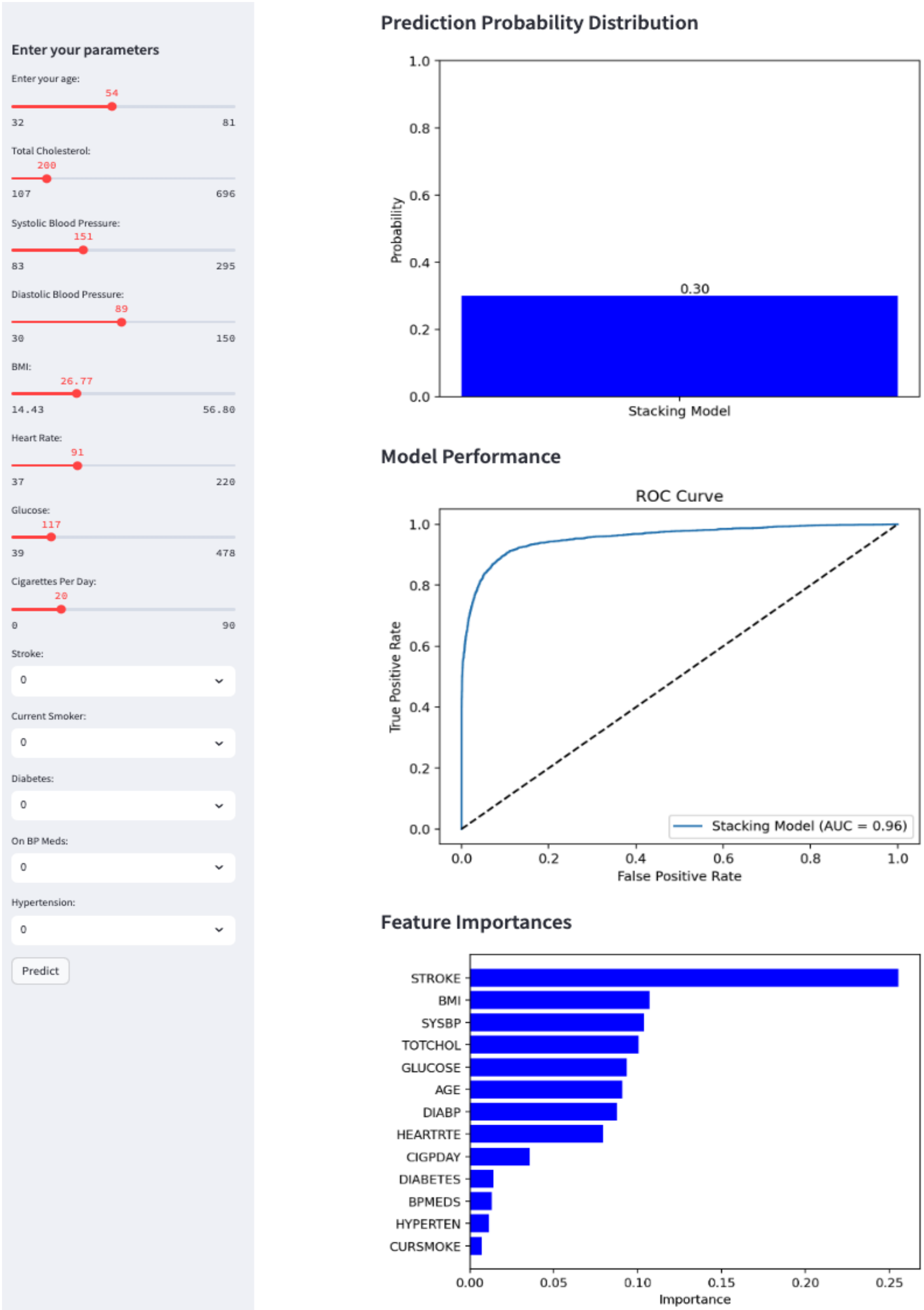


Figure 24- Web App for CVD Prediction based on user inputs (Stacking Model)



Cardiovascular Disease Probability Prediction Results on Stacking Model

Predictions

- The stacking model predicts that the user has a 30% probability of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD). This prediction is based on the combination of several machine learning models to enhance the accuracy.

Prediction Probability Distribution

- The bar graph shows the probability distribution of developing CVD according to the stacking model. The probability is shown as 0.30, indicating a 30% risk.

Model Performance

- The ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve illustrates the performance of the stacking model. The AUC (Area Under the Curve) value is 0.96, which indicates that the model has a high level of accuracy in distinguishing between individuals who will develop CVD and those who will not.

Feature Importances / Risk Factors

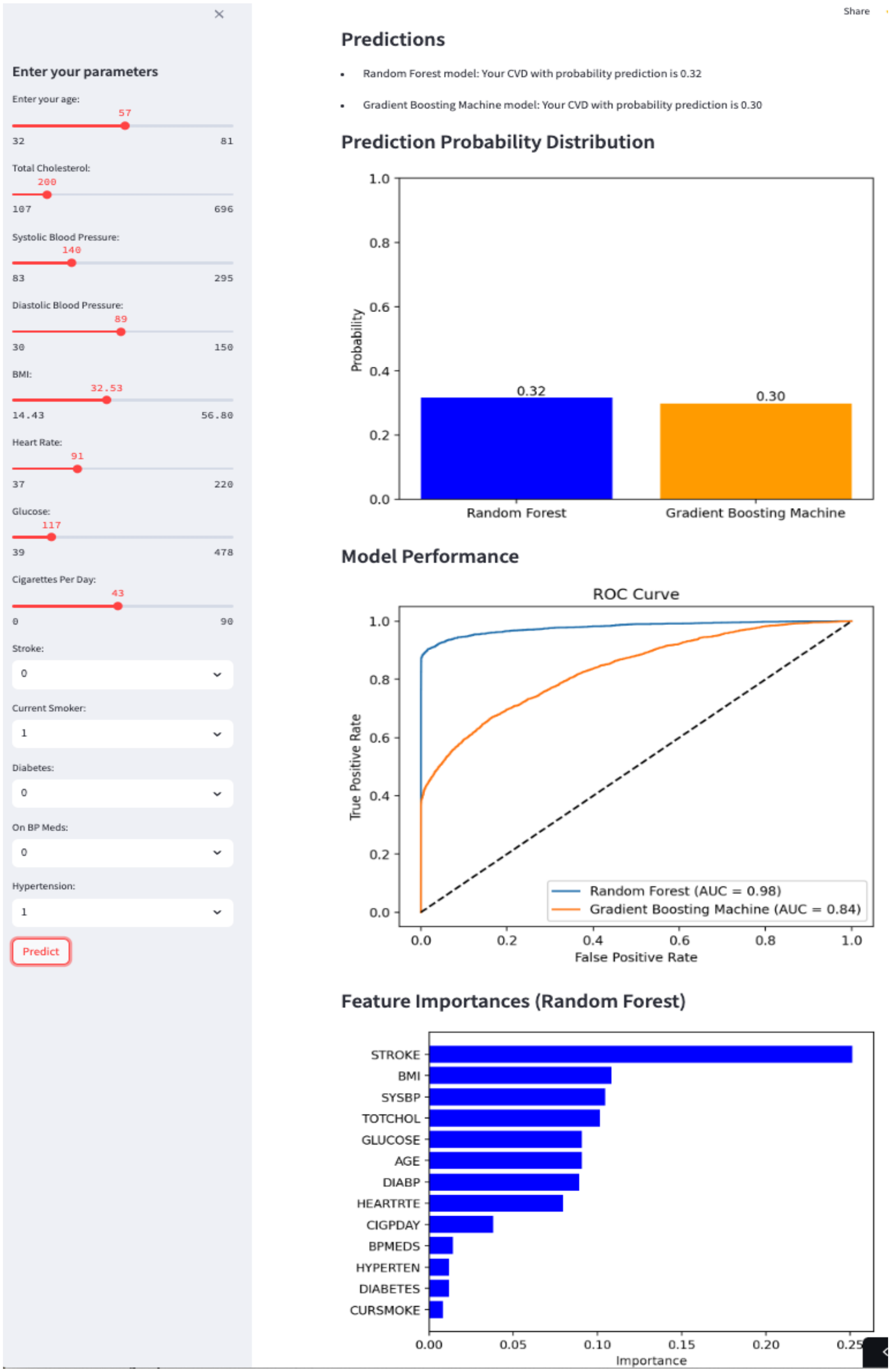
- The feature importance chart highlights which factors (features) are most influential in predicting CVD. Here's a summary of the key features and their importance:
    - Stroke: The history of stroke is the most significant factor.
    - BMI (Body Mass Index): Higher BMI indicates higher risk.
    - SYSBP (Systolic Blood Pressure): Elevated systolic blood pressure is a critical indicator.
    - TOTCHOL (Total Cholesterol): Higher cholesterol levels contribute to the risk.
    - GLUCOSE: Higher glucose levels are also important in the prediction.

- AGE: Older age increases the risk of CVD.
- DIABP (Diastolic Blood Pressure): Elevated diastolic blood pressure plays a role.
- HEARTRTE (Heart Rate): Higher heart rate is a contributing factor.
- CIGPDAY (Cigarettes Per Day): The number of cigarettes smoked per day impacts the risk.
- DIABETES: The presence of diabetes is a risk factor.
- BPMEDS (Blood Pressure Medication): Use of BP medication is taken into account.
- HYPERTEN (Hypertension): Having hypertension is a minor but notable factor.
- CURSMOKE (Current Smoker): Whether the individual is currently smoking has a minimal impact compared to other factors.

Summary

The model suggests a moderate risk (30%) for the user developing CVD. Key health metrics like history of stroke, BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose levels are the primary drivers in this prediction. The ROC curve indicates that the model is very accurate (AUC = 0.96) in predicting the likelihood of CVD. Understanding and managing these important factors can help in reducing the overall risk.

Figure 25- Web App for CVD Prediction based on user inputs (RF & GBM Models)



Cardiovascular Disease Probability Prediction Results on RF and GBM models

Predictions

- Random Forest model predicts a 32% probability of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM) model predicts a 30% probability of developing CVD.

These predictions are based on advanced machine learning models that analyze various health metrics to assess the risk of CVD.

Prediction Probability Distribution

- The bar graph shows the probability distribution of developing CVD according to both the Random Forest and GBM models. The Random Forest model predicts a slightly higher risk (32%) compared to the GBM model (30%).

Model Performance

- The ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve illustrates the performance of both models:
  - The Random Forest model has an AUC (Area Under the Curve) of 0.98, indicating a very high level of accuracy in distinguishing between individuals who will develop CVD and those who will not.
  - The GBM model has an AUC of 0.84, which also indicates a good level of accuracy but not as high as the Random Forest model.

Feature Importances (Random Forest)

- The feature importance chart highlights which factors (features) are most influential in predicting CVD according to the Random Forest model. Here's a summary of the key features and their importance:

    - Stroke: The history of stroke is the most significant factor.
    - BMI (Body Mass Index): Higher BMI indicates higher risk.
    - SYSBP (Systolic Blood Pressure): Elevated systolic blood pressure is a critical indicator.
    - TOTCHOL (Total Cholesterol): Higher cholesterol levels contribute to the risk.
    - GLUCOSE: Higher glucose levels are also important in the prediction.
    - AGE: Older age increases the risk of CVD.
    - DIABP (Diastolic Blood Pressure): Elevated diastolic blood pressure plays a role.
    - HEARTRTE (Heart Rate): Higher heart rate is a contributing factor.
    - CIGPDAY (Cigarettes Per Day): The number of cigarettes smoked per day impacts the risk.
    - BPMEDS (Blood Pressure Medication): Use of BP medication is taken into account.
    - HYPERTEN (Hypertension): Having hypertension is a minor but notable factor.
    - DIABETES: The presence of diabetes is a minor factor in this prediction.
    - CURSMOKE (Current Smoker): Whether the individual is currently smoking has the least impact compared to other factors.

Summary

The models suggest a moderate risk (32% by Random Forest, 30% by GBM) for the user developing CVD. Key health metrics like history of stroke, BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose levels are the primary drivers in this prediction. The ROC curves indicate that both models are quite accurate, with the Random Forest model being highly reliable (AUC = 0.98). Understanding and managing these important factors can help in reducing the overall risk.

Tables of Models Performance

Table 13- Model performances on dataset of 303 records

Logistic Regression – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.76	0.81	0.79	32
1	0.81	0.76	0.79	34
accuracy			0.79	66
macro avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	66
weighted avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	66

ROC AUC: 0.85

Support Vector Machine – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.87	0.81	0.84	32
1	0.83	0.88	0.86	34
accuracy			0.85	66
macro avg	0.85	0.85	0.85	66
weighted avg	0.85	0.85	0.85	66

ROC AUC: 0.86

Random Forest – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.86	0.78	0.82	32
1	0.81	0.88	0.85	34
accuracy			0.83	66
macro avg	0.84	0.83	0.83	66
weighted avg	0.84	0.83	0.83	66

ROC AUC: 0.91

Gradient Boosting Machine – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.82	0.72	0.77	32
1	0.76	0.85	0.81	34
accuracy			0.79	66
macro avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	66
weighted avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	66

ROC AUC: 0.87

XGBoost – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.83	0.75	0.79	32
1	0.78	0.85	0.82	34
accuracy			0.80	66
macro avg	0.81	0.80	0.80	66
weighted avg	0.81	0.80	0.80	66

ROC AUC: 0.86

Simple Neural Network – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.71	0.69	0.70	32
1	0.71	0.74	0.72	34
accuracy			0.71	66
macro avg	0.71	0.71	0.71	66
weighted avg	0.71	0.71	0.71	66

ROC AUC: 0.83

Convolutional Neural Network – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.81	0.81	0.81	32
1	0.82	0.82	0.82	34
accuracy			0.82	66
macro avg	0.82	0.82	0.82	66
weighted avg	0.82	0.82	0.82	66

ROC AUC: 0.85

GRU with Attention – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.85	0.72	0.78	32
1	0.77	0.88	0.82	34
accuracy			0.80	66
macro avg	0.81	0.80	0.80	66
weighted avg	0.81	0.80	0.80	66

ROC AUC: 0.84

CNN with GRU – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.79	0.81	0.80	32
1	0.82	0.79	0.81	34
accuracy			0.80	66
macro avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	66
weighted avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	66

ROC AUC: 0.87

Stacking Ensemble of RF + GBM + xGBM – dataset 303

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.86	0.75	0.80	32
1	0.79	0.88	0.83	34
accuracy			0.82	66
macro avg	0.82	0.82	0.82	66
weighted avg	0.82	0.82	0.82	66

ROC AUC – dataset 303: 0.90

Accuracy: 0.9693486590038314
ROC AUC: 0.9924713584288052
Classification Report – Gen AI model:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.91	0.77	0.83	26
1	0.97	0.99	0.98	235
accuracy			0.97	261
macro avg	0.94	0.88	0.91	261
weighted avg	0.97	0.97	0.97	261

Classification Report for Stacking Model:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.95	0.62	0.75	34
1	0.95	1.00	0.97	227
accuracy			0.95	261
macro avg	0.95	0.81	0.86	261
weighted avg	0.95	0.95	0.94	261

Stacking Model ROC AUC for GenAI Model with CNN: 0.99

Table 14- Model performances on dataset of 1,000 records

Logistic Regression on dataset with increased regularization

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.80	0.81	0.80	119
1	0.79	0.79	0.79	113
accuracy			0.80	232
macro avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	232
weighted avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	232

ROC AUC: 0.86

SVM with Hyperparameter Tuning on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.85	0.87	0.86	119
1	0.86	0.84	0.85	113
accuracy			0.85	232
macro avg	0.85	0.85	0.85	232
weighted avg	0.85	0.85	0.85	232

ROC AUC: 0.92

Random Forest with Hyperparameter Tuning on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.91	0.89	0.90	119
1	0.89	0.91	0.90	113
accuracy			0.90	232
macro avg	0.90	0.90	0.90	232
weighted avg	0.90	0.90	0.90	232

ROC AUC: 0.94

Gradient Boosting with Hyperparameter Tuning on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.89	0.87	0.88	119
1	0.86	0.88	0.87	113
accuracy			0.88	232
macro avg	0.88	0.88	0.87	232
weighted avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	232

ROC AUC: 0.94

XGBoost with Hyperparameter Tuning on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.90	0.87	0.88	119
1	0.86	0.89	0.88	113
accuracy			0.88	232
macro avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	232
weighted avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	232

ROC AUC: 0.95

Simple Neural Network on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.88	0.83	0.86	119
1	0.83	0.88	0.86	113
accuracy			0.86	232
macro avg	0.86	0.86	0.86	232
weighted avg	0.86	0.86	0.86	232

ROC AUC: 0.92

CNN on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.80	0.79	0.80	119
1	0.78	0.80	0.79	113
accuracy			0.79	232
macro avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	232
weighted avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	232

ROC AUC: 0.85

GRU with Attention on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.78	0.78	0.78	119
1	0.77	0.76	0.76	113
accuracy			0.77	232
macro avg	0.77	0.77	0.77	232
weighted avg	0.77	0.77	0.77	232

ROC AUC: 0.84

CNN with GRU on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.79	0.77	0.78	119
1	0.77	0.78	0.77	113
accuracy			0.78	232
macro avg	0.78	0.78	0.78	232
weighted avg	0.78	0.78	0.78	232

ROC AUC: 0.84

Stacking Model (RF + xGBM + GBM + CNN) on dataset 1000

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.96	0.92	0.94	119
1	0.92	0.96	0.94	113
accuracy			0.94	232
macro avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	232
weighted avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	232

ROC AUC Stacking Model: 0.98

Accuracy: 0.995
ROC AUC: 0.9994584500466853
Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	1.00	0.98	0.99	85
1	0.99	1.00	1.00	315
accuracy			0.99	400
macro avg	1.00	0.99	0.99	400
weighted avg	1.00	0.99	0.99	400

Classification Report for Stacking Model:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.97	0.96	0.97	77
1	0.99	0.99	0.99	323
accuracy			0.99	400
macro avg	0.98	0.98	0.98	400
weighted avg	0.99	0.99	0.99	400

Stacking Model ROC AUC: 1.00

Table 15- Model performances on dataset of 1,025 records

Logistic Regression on dataset

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.84	0.76	0.79	94
1	0.82	0.88	0.85	117
accuracy			0.82	211
macro avg	0.83	0.82	0.82	211
weighted avg	0.83	0.82	0.82	211

ROC AUC: 0.91

Support Vector Machine on dataset

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.82	0.73	0.78	94
1	0.80	0.87	0.84	117
accuracy			0.81	211
macro avg	0.81	0.80	0.81	211
weighted avg	0.81	0.81	0.81	211

ROC AUC: 0.91

Random Forest

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.92	0.88	0.90	94
1	0.91	0.94	0.92	117
accuracy			0.91	211
macro avg	0.92	0.91	0.91	211
weighted avg	0.91	0.91	0.91	211

ROC AUC: 0.95

Gradient Boosting Machine

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.93	0.87	0.90	94
1	0.90	0.95	0.93	117
accuracy			0.91	211
macro avg	0.92	0.91	0.91	211
weighted avg	0.92	0.91	0.91	211

ROC AUC: 0.97

XGBoost Classifier

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.92	0.93	0.92	94
1	0.94	0.93	0.94	117
accuracy			0.93	211
macro avg	0.93	0.93	0.93	211
weighted avg	0.93	0.93	0.93	211

ROC AUC: 0.98

Simple Neural Network on dataset

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.88	0.78	0.82	94
1	0.84	0.91	0.87	117
accuracy			0.85	211
macro avg	0.86	0.85	0.85	211
weighted avg	0.86	0.85	0.85	211

ROC AUC: 0.94

CNN on dataset 1025

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.80	0.79	0.79	94
1	0.83	0.84	0.83	117
accuracy			0.82	211
macro avg	0.81	0.81	0.81	211
weighted avg	0.82	0.82	0.82	211

ROC AUC: 0.93

GRU with Attention on dataset 1025

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.77	0.77	0.77	94
1	0.81	0.82	0.82	117
accuracy			0.80	211
macro avg	0.79	0.79	0.79	211
weighted avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	211

ROC AUC: 0.86

CNN with GRU on dataset 1025

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.82	0.82	0.82	94
1	0.85	0.85	0.85	117
accuracy			0.84	211
macro avg	0.84	0.84	0.84	211
weighted avg	0.84	0.84	0.84	211

ROC AUC: 0.92

Stacking Ensemble with RF + xGBM + SVM + CNN on 1025 dataset

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.94	0.94	0.94	94
1	0.95	0.95	0.95	117
accuracy			0.94	211
macro avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	211
weighted avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	211

ROC AUC with RF + xGBM + SVM. + CNN on 1025 dataset: 0.98

Accuracy: 0.9555555555555556
ROC AUC: 0.9890547575738569
Classification Report for GenAI – 1025 dataset:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.97	0.86	0.91	107
1	0.95	0.99	0.97	298
accuracy			0.96	405
macro avg	0.96	0.92	0.94	405
weighted avg	0.96	0.96	0.95	405

Classification Report for Stacking Model:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.99	0.93	0.96	100
1	0.98	1.00	0.99	305
accuracy			0.98	405
macro avg	0.98	0.96	0.97	405
weighted avg	0.98	0.98	0.98	405

Stacking Model ROC AUC Stacking GenAI model: 1.00

Table 16- Model performances on dataset of 4,240 records

Classification Report for LR – 4240 dataset:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.81	0.42	0.55	745
1	0.59	0.90	0.71	694
accuracy			0.65	1439
macro avg	0.70	0.66	0.63	1439
weighted avg	0.71	0.65	0.63	1439

ROC AUC: 0.74

Classification Report for SVM – 4240 dataset:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.71	0.63	0.67	745
1	0.64	0.72	0.68	694
accuracy			0.67	1439
macro avg	0.68	0.67	0.67	1439
weighted avg	0.68	0.67	0.67	1439

ROC AUC: 0.74

Classification Report for RF – 4240 dataset:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.89	0.88	0.88	745
1	0.87	0.88	0.88	694
accuracy			0.88	1439
macro avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	1439
weighted avg	0.88	0.88	0.88	1439

ROC AUC: 0.96

Classification Report for GBM – 4240 dataset:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.81	0.80	0.80	745
1	0.79	0.80	0.79	694
accuracy			0.80	1439
macro avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	1439
weighted avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	1439

ROC AUC: 0.90

Classification Report for XGBoost - 4240 dataset:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.86	0.88	0.87	745
1	0.86	0.85	0.86	694
accuracy			0.86	1439
macro avg	0.86	0.86	0.86	1439
weighted avg	0.86	0.86	0.86	1439

ROC AUC: 0.94

Simple Neural Network on dataset 4240

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.75	0.67	0.71	745
1	0.68	0.76	0.72	694
accuracy			0.72	1439
macro avg	0.72	0.72	0.71	1439
weighted avg	0.72	0.72	0.71	1439

ROC AUC: 0.78

CNN on dataset with 4240

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.76	0.61	0.68	745
1	0.65	0.79	0.72	694
accuracy			0.70	1439
macro avg	0.71	0.70	0.70	1439
weighted avg	0.71	0.70	0.70	1439

ROC AUC: 0.77

GRU with Attention on dataset 4240

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.65	0.61	0.63	745
1	0.61	0.65	0.63	694
accuracy			0.63	1439
macro avg	0.63	0.63	0.63	1439
weighted avg	0.63	0.63	0.63	1439

ROC AUC: 0.70

CNN with GRU on dataset 4240

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.72	0.59	0.65	745
1	0.63	0.76	0.69	694
accuracy			0.67	1439
macro avg	0.68	0.67	0.67	1439
weighted avg	0.68	0.67	0.67	1439

ROC AUC: 0.72

Stacking Model (RF + GBM + xGBM) on dataset 4240

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.89	0.91	0.90	745
1	0.90	0.88	0.89	694
accuracy			0.90	1439
macro avg	0.90	0.89	0.89	1439
weighted avg	0.90	0.90	0.90	1439

ROC AUC: 0.97

Accuracy: 0.9251179245283019
ROC AUC: 0.9553257895336905
Classification Report GenAI model on dataset of 4240:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.86	0.99	0.92	716
1	0.99	0.88	0.93	980
accuracy			0.93	1696
macro avg	0.92	0.93	0.92	1696
weighted avg	0.93	0.93	0.93	1696

Classification Report for Stacking Model:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.86	0.97	0.91	716
1	0.98	0.88	0.93	980
accuracy			0.92	1696
macro avg	0.92	0.93	0.92	1696
weighted avg	0.93	0.92	0.92	1696

Stacking GenAI Model ROC AUC: 0.96

Table 17- Model performances on dataset of 11,627 records

Logistic Regression - dataset 11627

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.71	0.72	0.71	351
1	0.70	0.70	0.70	335
accuracy			0.71	686
macro avg	0.71	0.71	0.71	686
weighted avg	0.71	0.71	0.71	686

ROC AUC: 0.79

Support Vector Machine - dataset 11627

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.80	0.77	0.78	351
1	0.77	0.80	0.78	335
accuracy			0.78	686
macro avg	0.78	0.78	0.78	686
weighted avg	0.78	0.78	0.78	686

ROC AUC: 0.85

```
Random Forest - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.84      0.85      0.85       351
           1       0.84      0.83      0.84       335

    accuracy                           0.84       686
   macro avg       0.84      0.84      0.84       686
weighted avg       0.84      0.84      0.84       686

ROC AUC: 0.92
```

```
Gradient Boosting Machine - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.78      0.83      0.80       351
           1       0.80      0.75      0.78       335

    accuracy                           0.79       686
   macro avg       0.79      0.79      0.79       686
weighted avg       0.79      0.79      0.79       686

ROC AUC: 0.88
```

```
XGBoost - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.83      0.84      0.84       351
           1       0.83      0.82      0.83       335

    accuracy                           0.83       686
   macro avg       0.83      0.83      0.83       686
weighted avg       0.83      0.83      0.83       686

ROC AUC: 0.92
```

```
Simple Neural Network - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.72      0.77      0.75       351
           1       0.74      0.69      0.72       335

    accuracy                           0.73       686
   macro avg       0.73      0.73      0.73       686
weighted avg       0.73      0.73      0.73       686

ROC AUC: 0.81
```

```
Convolutional Neural Network - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.76      0.72      0.74       351
           1       0.72      0.76      0.74       335

    accuracy                           0.74       686
   macro avg       0.74      0.74      0.74       686
weighted avg       0.74      0.74      0.74       686

ROC AUC: 0.83
```

```
GRU with Attention - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.74      0.77      0.75       351
           1       0.75      0.72      0.73       335

    accuracy                           0.74       686
   macro avg       0.74      0.74      0.74       686
weighted avg       0.74      0.74      0.74       686

ROC AUC: 0.82
```

```
CNN with GRU - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.79      0.65      0.71       351
           1       0.69      0.82      0.75       335

    accuracy                           0.73       686
   macro avg       0.74      0.74      0.73       686
weighted avg       0.74      0.73      0.73       686

ROC AUC: 0.84
```

```
Stacking Ensemble of RF + GBM + xGBM - dataset 11627
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.85      0.85      0.85       351
           1       0.84      0.84      0.84       335

    accuracy                           0.85       686
   macro avg       0.85      0.85      0.85       686
weighted avg       0.85      0.85      0.85       686

ROC AUC - dataset 11627: 0.93
```

```
Accuracy: 0.8796296296296297
ROC AUC: 0.918504825466942
Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.83      0.98      0.90       353
           1       0.97      0.76      0.85       295

    accuracy                           0.88       648
   macro avg       0.90      0.87      0.88       648
weighted avg       0.89      0.88      0.88       648
```

```
Stacking Ensemble Accuracy: 0.88
Stacking Ensemble ROC AUC: 0.93
Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.84      0.95      0.89       346
           1       0.93      0.80      0.86       302

    accuracy                           0.88       648
   macro avg       0.89      0.87      0.88       648
weighted avg       0.89      0.88      0.88       648
```

Table 18- Model performances on dataset of 70,000 records

Logistic Regression – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.70	0.76	0.73	6924
1	0.75	0.68	0.71	7085
accuracy			0.72	14009
macro avg	0.72	0.72	0.72	14009
weighted avg	0.72	0.72	0.72	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.79

Support Vector Machine – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.72	0.77	0.74	6924
1	0.76	0.71	0.73	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.79

Random Forest – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.70	0.80	0.74	6924
1	0.77	0.66	0.71	7085
accuracy			0.73	14009
macro avg	0.73	0.73	0.73	14009
weighted avg	0.73	0.73	0.73	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.79

Gradient Boosting Machine – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.72	0.77	0.75	6924
1	0.76	0.71	0.74	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.81

XGBoost – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.72	0.78	0.75	6924
1	0.77	0.70	0.73	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.80

Simple Neural Network – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.69	0.83	0.75	6924
1	0.79	0.64	0.71	7085
accuracy			0.73	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.73	0.73	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.73	0.73	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.80

Convolutional Neural Network – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.70	0.80	0.75	6924
1	0.78	0.67	0.72	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.73	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.73	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.80

GRU with Attention – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.72	0.77	0.74	6924
1	0.76	0.70	0.73	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.80

CNN with GRU – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.70	0.82	0.75	6924
1	0.79	0.66	0.72	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.73	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.73	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.80

Stacking Ensemble of RF + GBM + xGBM – dataset 70K

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.72	0.77	0.75	6924
1	0.76	0.71	0.74	7085
accuracy			0.74	14009
macro avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009
weighted avg	0.74	0.74	0.74	14009

ROC AUC – dataset 70K: 0.81

```
Accuracy: 0.7352416303804697
ROC AUC: 0.8001787325400447
Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.70      0.80      0.75      6924
           1       0.78      0.67      0.72      7085

    accuracy                           0.74     14009
   macro avg       0.74      0.74      0.73     14009
weighted avg       0.74      0.74      0.73     14009
```

```
Classification Report with adjusted threshold:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.71      0.81      0.75      6924
           1       0.78      0.67      0.72      7085

    accuracy                           0.74     14009
   macro avg       0.74      0.74      0.74     14009
weighted avg       0.75      0.74      0.74     14009

Stacking Model ROC AUC: 0.81
```

Table 19- Model performances on dataset of 400,000 records

```
Logistic Regression
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.74      0.83      0.78     46585
           1       0.80      0.70      0.75     46450

    accuracy                           0.77     93035
   macro avg       0.77      0.77      0.76     93035
weighted avg       0.77      0.77      0.76     93035

ROC AUC: 0.84
```

NA

```
Random Forest
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.90      0.89      0.90     46585
           1       0.89      0.91      0.90     46450

    accuracy                           0.90     93035
   macro avg       0.90      0.90      0.90     93035
weighted avg       0.90      0.90      0.90     93035

ROC AUC: 0.96
```

```
Gradient Boosting Machine
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.74      0.82      0.78     46585
           1       0.80      0.72      0.76     46450

    accuracy                           0.77     93035
   macro avg       0.77      0.77      0.77     93035
weighted avg       0.77      0.77      0.77     93035

ROC AUC: 0.85
```

```
XGBoost
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.78      0.83      0.80     46585
           1       0.82      0.76      0.79     46450

    accuracy                           0.80     93035
   macro avg       0.80      0.80      0.80     93035
weighted avg       0.80      0.80      0.80     93035

ROC AUC: 0.88
```

```
Simple Neural Network on dataset
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.74      0.83      0.78     46585
           1       0.81      0.71      0.75     46450

    accuracy                           0.77     93035
   macro avg       0.77      0.77      0.77     93035
weighted avg       0.77      0.77      0.77     93035

ROC AUC: 0.85
```

```
Convolutional Neural Network - dataset 400k
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.75      0.83      0.79     46585
           1       0.81      0.73      0.77     46450

    accuracy                           0.78     93035
   macro avg       0.78      0.78      0.78     93035
weighted avg       0.78      0.78      0.78     93035

ROC AUC: 0.86
```

```
GRU with Attention - dataset 400k
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.77      0.83      0.80     46585
           1       0.82      0.74      0.78     46450

    accuracy                           0.79     93035
   macro avg       0.79      0.79      0.79     93035
weighted avg       0.79      0.79      0.79     93035

ROC AUC: 0.87
```

CNN with GRU on dataset 400k

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.79	0.82	0.80	46585
1	0.81	0.78	0.80	46450
accuracy			0.80	93035
macro avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	93035
weighted avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	93035

ROC AUC: 0.88

Stacking Ensemble of RF + GBM + xGBM on 400k dataset

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.90	0.90	0.90	46585
1	0.90	0.90	0.90	46450
accuracy			0.90	93035
macro avg	0.90	0.90	0.90	93035
weighted avg	0.90	0.90	0.90	93035

ROC AUC - 400k dataset: 0.96

Accuracy: 0.9548986940398775
ROC AUC: 0.9866109775607237
Classification Report GenAI Model:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.95	0.96	0.96	46585
1	0.96	0.95	0.95	46450
accuracy			0.95	93035
macro avg	0.96	0.95	0.95	93035
weighted avg	0.96	0.95	0.95	93035

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.95	0.97	0.96	46585
1	0.97	0.95	0.96	46450
accuracy			0.96	93035
macro avg	0.96	0.96	0.96	93035
weighted avg	0.96	0.96	0.96	93035

Accuracy: 0.9581340355780082
ROC AUC: 0.9887037842905078

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Thank You!

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