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Maksymilian Drzezdzon

C15311966

Degree: TU060/1

Module Coordinator: John Gilligan

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**Date: 2021/03/24**

Investigating ways of Improving Diagnosis of Schizophrenia with SVM Machine Learning Model



***Maksymilian Drzezdzon***

*C15311966*

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of requirements of Technological University Dublin for the degree of

M.Sc. in Computer Science

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# DECLARATION

I certify that this dissertation which I now submit for examination for the award of MSc in Computer Science, is entirely my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save and to the extent that such work has been cited and acknowledged within the test of my work.

This dissertation was prepared according to the regulations for postgraduate study of the Technological University Dublin and has not been submitted in whole or part for an award in any other Institute or University.

The work reported on in this dissertation conforms to the principles and requirements of the Institute’s guidelines for ethics in research.

**Signed: Maksymilian Drzezdzon**

**Date:**

# ABSTRACT

Machine learning classifiers can be used with MRI and fMRI images in order to help clinicians avoid misdiagnosis. Young girls tend to not be diagnosed with ADHD because how unalike its manifestation is when compared to boys, having better tools for diagnosing disorders will greatly improve people’s quality of life.

There have been a few short comings in diagnosing of serious mental health disorders, there is no process to date that properly diagnoses D.I.D, despite it being acknowledged as a mental illness in the 1950s, research between then and now has been conducted but were later found fraudulent or difficult to reproduce.

Disassociation and schizophrenia are very disabling mental health disorders with huge time requirements to attain a diagnosis, a patient could avoid years of misdiagnosis if less severe symptoms were to be diagnosed or acknowledged sooner through better diagnostic tools.

The goal of this study is to overview state-of-the-art techniques and approaches on applying machine learning to mental health diagnosis, provide quick scopes of schizophrenia and MRI image formats and the DICOM standard which provides a central medium for imaging modalities.

Then investigate potential ways related to improving diagnosis of schizophrenia among other serious disorders through prototyping of classification models based on state-of-the-art preprocessed MRI and fMRI images along with suggesting potential avenues for future work with a review of potential ethical concerns regarding machine learning and mental disorder diagnosis.

Keywords: Machine Learning, Mental Health, Diagnosis Prediction, Disorder Classification, Schizophrenia, Precision Psychiatry, Support Vector Machine, Neural Network

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Dataset used for this thesis is from a

Collection of this dataset was made at the [Mind Research Network](http://www.mrn.org/) under an NIH NIGMS Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant 5P20RR021938/P20GM103472 to Vince Calhoun (PI).

Notes for later:

Thank supervisor etc

# LIST OF FIGURES

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# INTRODUCTION

## Background

Machine learning is gaining popularity in many industries, one industry that is having difficulty adopting machine learning is diagnostics in healthcare which require explainable results, some of the most powerful machine learning techniques available don’t produce explainable models. Having said that machine learning still has the capability to be used as a tool in the hands of trained clinicians and fill a much-needed short coming in psychiatric diagnosis.

A diagnosis for dissociative disorders and schizophrenia among other disorders rely on the interpretation of an assessment completed by a clinician, (HSE, 2021) this can be difficult when a patient does not exhibit more severe symptoms such as delusions or the flattening of emotions which is a condition where a person is unable to express emotions the same way other people might. (Timothy J. Legg, 2017) Similar overlapping symptoms can cause a misdiagnosis and lead a patient astray for years before finally being diagnosed for instance with schizophrenia or a disassociation disorder.

Currently there is no non-invasive methods for diagnosing schizophrenia and no established biomarker for diagnosis besides using the process of elimination. (add citation form below, don’t forget)

One way to reduce misdiagnosis is with the use of machine learning classification in conjunction with MRI and fMRI images. Once a biomarker for other illnesses such as depression or anxiety can be identified they can then be acknowledged and ‘omitted’ when searching for definitive biomarkers that help hone in on schizophrenia or disassociation disorders. Following the very traditional approach of elimination with a little more precision that could cater to different demographics as expressed in precision medicine, however that is outside the scope of this project.

An obstacle that occurs when one begins collecting data to analyze, apart from privacy concerns and difficulty obtaining such data due to regulations, schizophrenia only afflicts ~1% of the population making it very scarce. (mentalhelp.net, 2021) When working with images one can rotate them to create more samples.

## Research Problem

Usually, MRI images are used for detecting mental health disorders. This project investigates the use of coordinates provided in the dataset extracted from MRI images, the methods used to acquire these coordinates are currently unknown. Coordinates provided are FNC which are correlation values which stand for between brain maps over time. They describe the connection level between pairs of brain maps over time. SBM are standardized weights. They describe the expression level of ICA brain maps derived from grey-matter concentration.

Other than one on one assessments in conjunction with trial and error no none invasive ways of diagnosing schizophrenia currently exist, especially when trying to identify patients with milder symptoms.

If this can be accomplished, what is the accuracy of the new model, how does it compare to other methods, how accurate is it if applied to other mental health disorders?

## Research Objectives

There are a few objectives for this project. The first is to perform a deeper literature review and investigate how these coordinates were derived from fMRI and MRI images in order to get acquainted with the topic. Then research how one could better select features from such a dataset. Dimension reduction can be used for feature selection to potential identify biomarkers and record any positive effects when making predictions. Finally build and evaluate a classification model prototype with appropriate metrics exploring the effect of feature selection on such a models performance using the data provided.

## Research Methodologies

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## Scope and Limitations

The scope of this project is to build a classification model and identify its performance when feature selection is employed.

## Document Outline

Chapter 2 - Literature review

Existing literature covering mental illness classification using machine learning is reviewed and discussed. The aim is to become acquainted with current research and apply machine learning classification algorithms to processed fMRI and MRI images. Along with what led to this research.

Chapter 3 - Design and methodology

This chapter focusses on how the project is conducted, the dataset used, preparation and the proposed solution. Evaluation is discussed along with a description of how the project will be conducted providing methods employed to test the hypothesis.

Chapter 4 - Results and evaluation

This chapter focusses on summarizing results of the experiment and evaluate the proposed method. The chapter concludes with a discussion on strengths and limitations of the proposed solution highlighting potential improvements.

Chapter 5 - Conclusion

A summary of key findings, conclusions and areas for future research.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## Introduction

This chapter covers all required components of this project. A quick overview of schizophrenia will be provided along with a review of papers and methods used to synthesize the dataset from MRI and fMRI images. This will be augmented with a short list of popular classification methods used in disorder classification in respect to current literature. Finishing with an account on machine learning application in mental disorder classification.

## Overview of schizophrenia

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## Functional Network Connectivity – FNC

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## Sourced-Based Morphometry – SBM

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## Machine learning & Deep learning

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### Support Vector Machine

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### Neural Network

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## Machine learning for precision psychiatry

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## Conclusion

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